

# 2016

## OHIO FAMILY VIOLENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT



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## Contents

Acknowledgements .....	3
Introduction .....	4
Part I: Online Survey .....	4
Demographics .....	5
Agency Type .....	5
Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities .....	6
Results .....	7
Major Issues and Barriers .....	7
Specialized Units .....	8
Training .....	8
Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities .....	8
Economic Justice .....	8
Agency-Specific Results .....	9
Courts ( <i>N</i> = 25) .....	9
Law Enforcement ( <i>N</i> = 39) .....	11
Non-Profit/Direct Service Providers ( <i>N</i> = 95) .....	12
Prosecution ( <i>N</i> = 24) .....	16
Other ( <i>N</i> = 11) .....	18
Part II: Regional Focus Groups .....	19
Barriers to Victims of Domestic Violence .....	20
Barriers to Victims of Sexual Assault .....	22
Barriers to Victims of Stalking .....	24
Barriers to Service Underserved Communities .....	26
Access to Interpreters .....	27
Gaps in Programming and Resources .....	29
Public Education and Awareness Efforts .....	30
Creating a Coordinated Response .....	31
Barriers to Maintaining Services .....	32
Culturally-Specific Agencies and Serving the Underserved .....	33
Summary and Recommendations .....	36
Appendix A: Full Needs Assessment Survey .....	38
Appendix B: Breakdown of Regional Focus Group Responses .....	79

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Many thanks are also extended to those individuals that assisted with survey development and feedback. The Advisory Council's STOP VAWA Implementation Planning committee ensured that the survey portion of the assessment captured essential details and ensured inclusivity among communities and disciplines. These individuals were relied on as key connections in disseminating the survey to service providers across the state. Thank you.

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# Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment

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## Introduction

Through the combined efforts of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) and the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council (Advisory Council), a statewide needs assessment was conducted in 2016 to determine gaps in services for families and individuals who are affected by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Information was collected from direct service providers in law enforcement, courts, prosecution, non-profit organizations and various other direct service provider agencies. This two part assessment will be used by OCJS and the Advisory Council to establish priorities in funding and policy change as they work to increase the safety of the victims<sup>1</sup> of these crimes in Ohio.

## Part I: Online Survey

In late 2015, OCJS and the Advisory Council's Services\*Training\*Officers\*Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Planning Subcommittee collaborated to develop the 2016 Needs Assessment Survey. This survey was developed for several purposes, including:

- ❖ To gather quantitative data on the gaps and strengths in victim services within the State's service provider community;
- ❖ To gain baseline information from direct service providers prior to conducting regional focus groups; and
- ❖ To allow for comparisons in strengths and weaknesses with previously identified factors from the *2013 Ohio Family Needs Assessment (Revised)*.

To make comparisons with the 2013 needs assessments, the survey was largely based on categories and questions used for the 2013 *Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment*<sup>2</sup> survey. The full survey may be viewed in the Appendix A. Survey participation was based on invitations to participate sent through committee member and OCJS listservs and was open from February 9<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016<sup>3</sup>. Additional participation requests were made in May of 2016 and so the survey was reopened for a brief period of time to accommodate additional representation requests. Survey items consisted of questions related specifically to the field of services provided by the participant (i.e. law enforcement, prosecution, courts, non-profit, and other) as well as general questions on services, training, funding, and culturally specific and underserved communities. Surveys were voluntary, with no monetary incentive provided, and

<sup>1</sup> In practice it is recognized that individuals who experience the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking may identify as a victim, a survivor, or both as they move through the recovery process. As such, the terms "victim" and "survivor" are used interchangeably throughout this document.

<sup>2</sup> Ellis, M. (2013) *Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment*. Office of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Public Safety.

<sup>3</sup> An overall response rate is unable to be determined given that it is unknown how many individuals received the invitation to participate through the listservs that were used to distribute the survey along with the number of individuals who may have had the survey forwarded to them after the initial emails were sent through listservs.

participation was anonymous. Two hundred and sixty-six individuals participated in the survey, with 72.9% (194 individuals) completing the survey<sup>4</sup>.

## Demographics

### Agency Type

A majority of participants (49.0%) represent victim services/non-profit organizations, followed by 20.1% representing law enforcement agencies, 12.4% from prosecutors, and 12.9% representing courts. An additional 5.7% fell within the “Other” category and includes individuals who primarily offer prevention and education services, coalition oversight, and offender treatment.

The above categories were the primary demographic focus of the survey given that the S.T.O.P. VAWA Formula Grant administered by the United States Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) mandates allocation of grant funds within these categories. The breakdown of allocations is as follows:

- ❖ **25%** of funds toward law enforcement programs
- ❖ **25%** of funds toward prosecutor programs
- ❖ **30%** for victim services (10% of which must be distributed to culturally specific, community-based organizations)
- ❖ **5%** of funds toward courts
- ❖ **15%** of funds toward discretionary distribution

At the conclusion of the survey, participants were also asked to identify the counties where they provided services to victims. These counties were used to identify which region of Ohio the agencies serve (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Survey respondents by category and Ohio region (N = 151)

<b>Category</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>Southeast</b>	<b>All Ohio Counties</b>
<i>Victim Services/Non-profit</i>	11.3%	23.9%	21.1%	12.7%	14.1%	16.9%
<i>Law enforcement</i>	20.6%	41.2%	14.7%	11.8%	8.8%	2.9%
<i>Prosecution</i>	10.5%	26.3%	42.1%	10.5%	10.5%	---
<i>Courts</i>	11.1%	44.4%	11.1%	27.8%	---	5.6%
<i>Other</i>	---	55.6%	---	22.2%	---	22.2%

<sup>4</sup> Survey participation was not restricted to one individual per agency. As such, it is possible that multiple respondents from the same agency/organization provided feedback.

### Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities

Given that a percentage of STOP VAWA Program funds must be distributed to culturally specific, community-based organizations, the survey also assessed those agencies that provide culturally-specific services for various racial and ethnic communities<sup>5</sup> (Figure 1) and traditionally underserved communities (Figure 2). An organization was determined to *primarily serve* these communities if they met each of the following criteria:

- ❖ Responded that they primarily served a given community;
- ❖ Responded that the above referenced community is seen very frequently by the agency; and
- ❖ Responded that the agency is very well equipped, or at a minimum, equipped to serve the specific community.

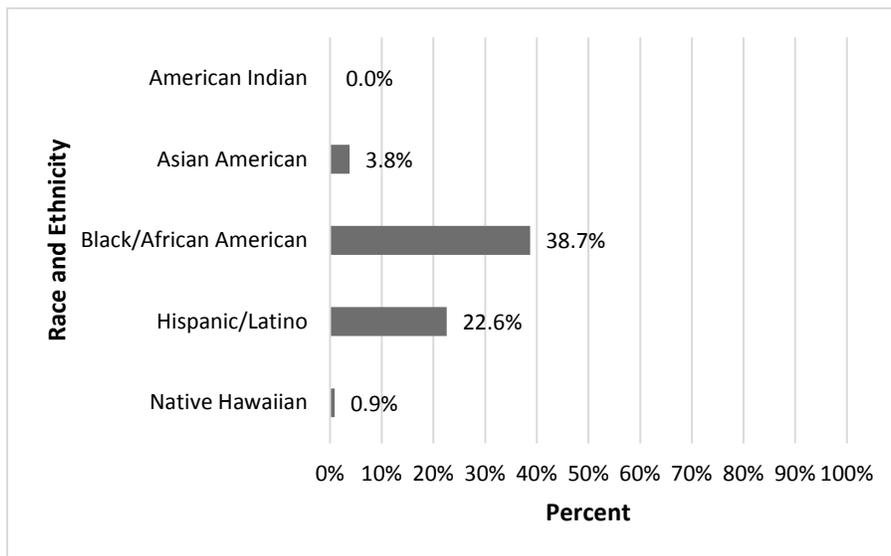


Figure 1. Percentage of non-profit victim service agencies who reported having a primary focus on given racial and ethnic communities (N = 106).

- ❖ Very few respondents in the victim service non-profit category were categorized as a culturally-specific agency. Of those that primarily serve racial and ethnic minority groups, none reported serving American Indians, and less than 5% reported primarily serving individuals from Asian American or Native Hawaiian communities, whereas 38.7% and 22.6% reported primarily serving individuals from Black/African American or Hispanic/Latino Communities, respectively.

<sup>5</sup> The racial and ethnic communities covered under the term culturally specific agencies are defined by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which defines culturally specific agencies in accordance with the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g)) as “primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups” and further defines the term “racial and ethnic minority groups” to include “American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Blacks, and Hispanics.”

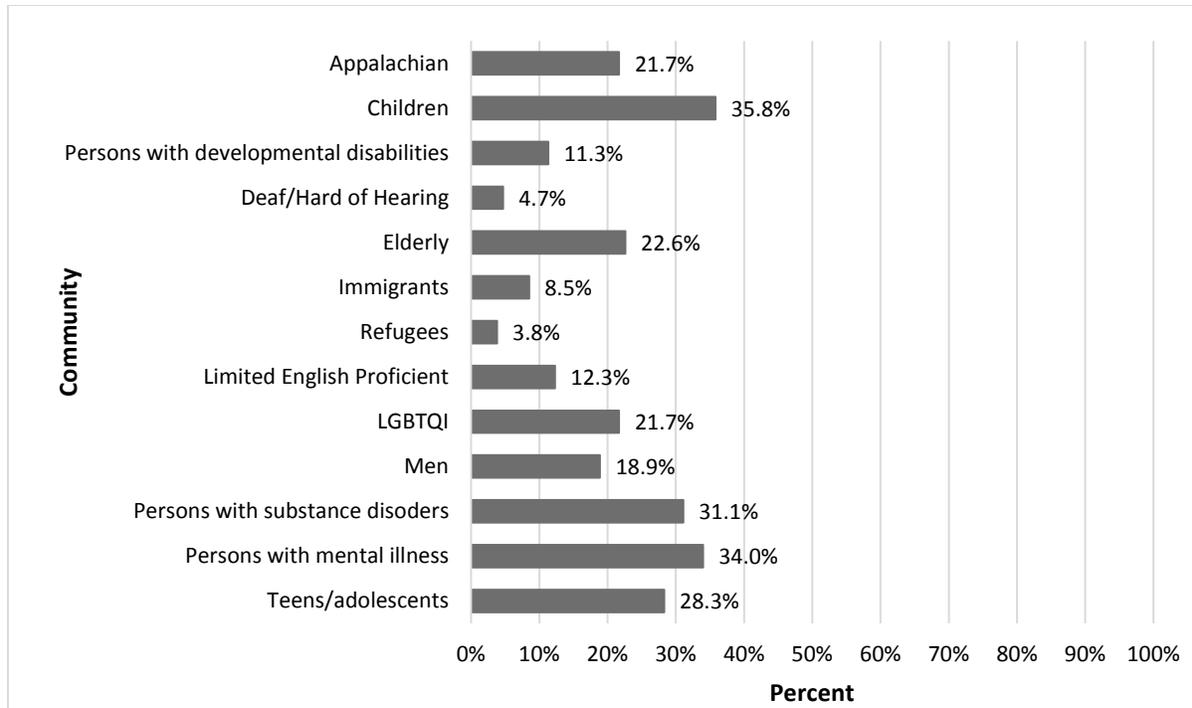


Figure 2. Percentage of non-profit victim service agencies who reported having a primary focus on underserved communities (N = 106).

- ❖ Underserved communities least served by respondents with a specific emphasis on the community included refugees (3.8%), Deaf/Hard of Hearing (4.7%), Immigrants (8.5%), individuals with developmental disabilities (11.3%), and Limited English Proficient (12.3%).

## Results

The following sections provide an overview of results from the Needs Assessment survey. Each respondent, regardless of agency, was presented with questions pertaining to issues faced when serving victims, need for developing specialized units, training needs for specific stakeholders, and services for underserved communities.

### Major Issues and Barriers

In general, respondents identified the following as “*very serious*” issues facing victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking<sup>6</sup>:

- ❖ Difficulty obtaining affordable housing (53.6%);
- ❖ Inadequate legal representation for victims (41.1%);
- ❖ Inconsistent enforcement of current laws (41.0%);
- ❖ Child custody cases involving reports of child sexual abuse (38.1%); and
- ❖ Difficulty obtaining child care (35.8%).

<sup>6</sup> Please note that these items are not ranked and are based on the modality of the response “*very serious*”. When conducting further analyses few differences were found in the mean responses of these items.

### Specialized Units

- ❖ Development of specialized prosecutors, courts, and law enforcement units for sexual assault cases were rated most important when compared to development of specialized units for domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

### Training

- ❖ The following groups were identified by at least half of the respondents as having a *high need* for training in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking:
  - Law enforcement (61.5% of respondents reported a high need for training);
  - Judges (55.8%);
  - Correctional staff (55.6%);
  - Prosecutors (54.4%); and
  - Probation officers (52.3%).
- ❖ Perceived training needs were lowest for advocates, sexual assault nurse examiners, and volunteers.

### Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities

- ❖ On average, respondents reported being least equipped to serve:
  - Refugees;
  - American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); and
  - Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.
- ❖ Roughly half (52.6%) of agencies provided services in languages other than English (Figure 3) whereas 59.8% of agencies provide written materials in additional languages (Figure 4).

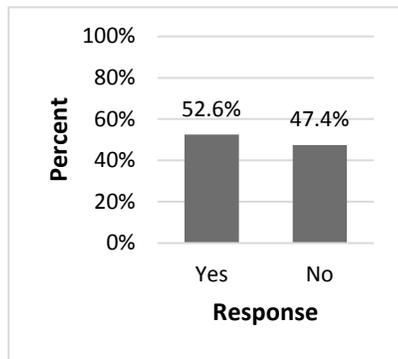


Figure 3. Percent of respondents who reported that their agency did or did not provide services in languages other than English.

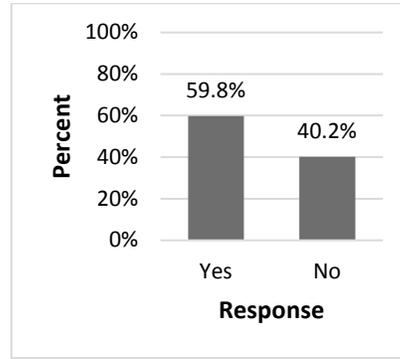


Figure 4. Percent of respondents who reported that their agency did or did not provide written materials in languages other than English.

### Economic Justice

Thirty-two percent (32.6%) of reporting agencies stated that they have made specific efforts to address economic justice.

- ❖ Courts: Twenty percent (20.0%) of respondents in this category have made specific efforts to address economic justice. Examples include:
  - Ordering child support and spousal support in civil protection orders; and
  - Pro se clinics free of charge to clients.

- ❖ Law Enforcement: Eleven percent (11.1%) of respondents in this category have made specific efforts to address economic justice. Examples include:
  - Provision of transportation and cell phones for victims; and
  - Referrals to domestic violence shelters who offer specific programming.
- ❖ Non-Profit/Direct Service Providers: Forty-six percent (46.0%) of respondents in this category have made specific efforts to address economic justice. Examples include:
  - Utilizing the Allstate Move Ahead Financial Curriculum;
  - Working to receive child support and spousal support as early in legal proceedings as possible;
  - Providing transitional housing for an extended period of time (e.g. up to two years) to allow for financial independence;
  - Providing “Financial Empowerment” groups and task forces that provide financial literacy training along with additional services; and
  - Enrolling individuals in job readiness, placement, and GED programming.
- ❖ Prosecutors: Twenty-two (22.7%) of respondents in this category have made specific efforts to address economic justice. Examples include:
  - Working cooperatively with Job and Family Services and local domestic violence shelters; and
  - Receiving grants in order to provide legal advocacy through offices.
- ❖ Other: None (0%) of the respondents in this category have made specific efforts to address economic justice for victims.

### Agency-Specific Results

In addition to those questions asked of each respondent, each agency type was presented with a specific subset of questions pertaining to services the agencies provide. These items, along with a specific breakdown of the above general questions are provided below.

#### Courts (N = 25)

- ❖ Twenty-five of the participants that completed the survey represented Courts from Butler, Champaign, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Henry, Knox, Lake, Licking, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Montgomery, Morrow, Summit, Tuscarawas, and Warren Counties.
- ❖ In general, Court respondents identified the following as serious issues facing agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking<sup>7</sup>:
  - The ability to provide services to victims with multiple problems (45.8% *serious*);
  - Difficulty in obtaining affordable housing (39.1% *serious*); and
  - Difficulty in obtaining child care (30.4% *very serious*).
- ❖ Court respondents identified law enforcement as those having the highest current need for training. Forty-three percent (43.5%) of respondents stated that there was a high need for

<sup>7</sup> Please note that these items are not ranked and are based on the modality of the response “serious” and “very serious”. When conducting further analyses few differences were found in the mean responses of these items.

training related to serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- ❖ Less than half of the respondents reported that judicial resource guides (i.e. bench books) and specialized domestic violence dockets were available and sufficient to meet the needs of the community (Figure 5). In fact, 56% of respondents reported that specialized dockets were unavailable in their communities.
- ❖ A majority of court respondents (60%) responded that court-certified interpreters are available and sufficient to address the need (Figure 5). However, there remain challenges dependent on the location of the interpreter (i.e. if the interpreter is local or through the Supreme Court Language Line). Some respondents reported that it is difficult and time consuming to use the Language Line throughout the hearing process.

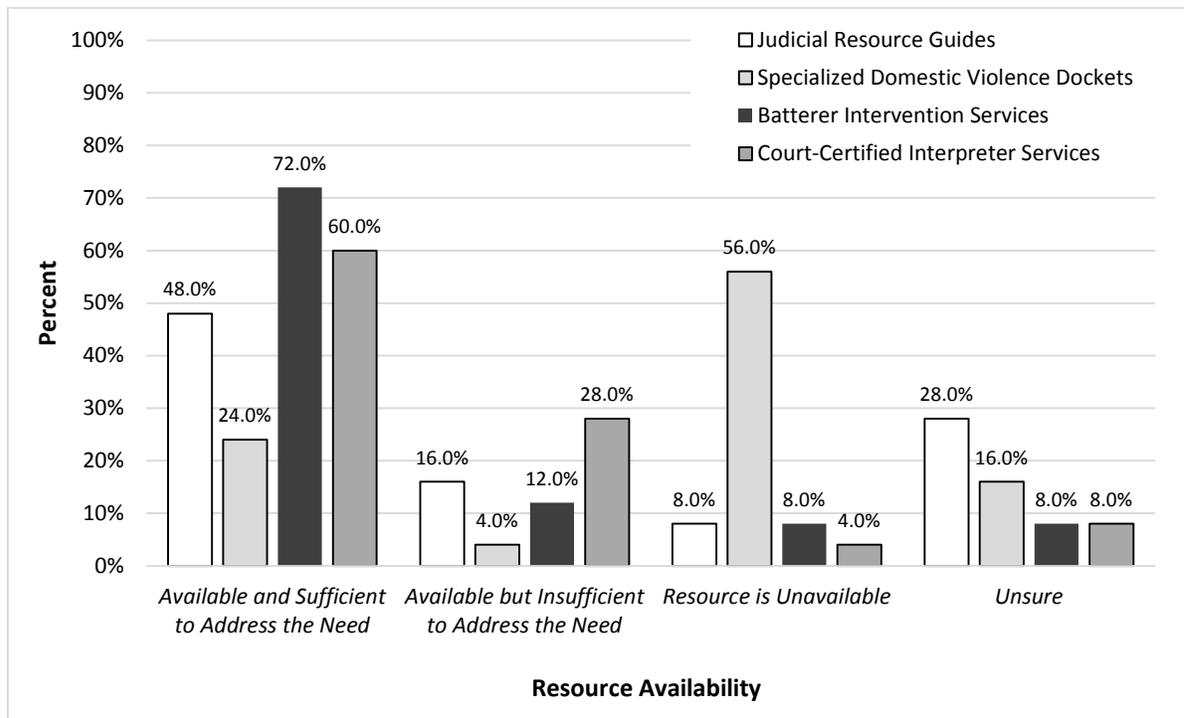


Figure 5. The extent to which Judicial Resource Guides, Specialized Domestic Violence Dockets, Batterer Intervention Services, and Court-Certified Interpreters are available within the community.

- ❖ As an open-ended response, several respondents reported the following communities or populations are particularly challenging to provide services for:
  - Individuals who are facing a combination of hearing and language barriers in addition to cultural barriers;
  - Individuals who speak a very specific dialect of a language. While Language Line may offer a vast coverage of languages, it can still be challenging to identify region-specific languages; and
  - Child victims of intra-family juvenile sex offenses.

- ❖ A majority of respondents reported that victims of domestic violence (92%), dating violence (56%), sexual assault (76%), and stalking (56%) have access to advocates. Forty percent of court respondents have advocates available on-site.

#### Law Enforcement (*N* = 39)

- ❖ Thirty-nine of all participants that completed the survey represented law enforcement from Allen, Ashland, Belmont, Clermont, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Gallia, Geauga, Hancock, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Miami, Montgomery, Pickaway, Portage, Scioto, Shelby, Stark, Summit, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Williams, and Wood Counties and State law enforcement.
- ❖ Of those who reported as law enforcement on the survey, 5.1% (2 individuals) identified themselves as advocates within their respective law enforcement agency.
- ❖ Most respondents in the law enforcement category did not have special units dedicated to domestic violence (84.2%), sexual assault (60.5%), or stalking (84.2%). Those agencies who did have specialized units experience the following successes:
  - Increased number of cases investigated and prosecuted;
  - Better victim support and satisfaction; and
  - Increased collaboration with local agencies, such as the county Job and Family Services.
- ❖ In general, law enforcement respondents tended to classify most issues as only “somewhat serious” or “not a serious problem”. While severity ratings tended to be low, in general law enforcement respondents identified the following as the most serious issues facing agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking<sup>8</sup>:
  - The ability to provide services to victims with multiple problems (33.3% );
  - The growing number of victims seeking assistance (33.3%); and
  - Insufficient funding to maintain general operations (30.6%).
- ❖ On average, law enforcement respondents identified prosecutors, medical professionals, and advocates as groups having the highest need for training when serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- ❖ Since 2013, less than half of the law enforcement respondents had received training on serving victims with limited-English proficiency (23.7%), serving individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (21.1%), or training on serving culturally specific groups (39.5%; Figure 6).

<sup>8</sup> Please note that these items are not ranked and are based on the modality of the response “serious”. When conducting further analyses few differences were found in the mean responses of these items.

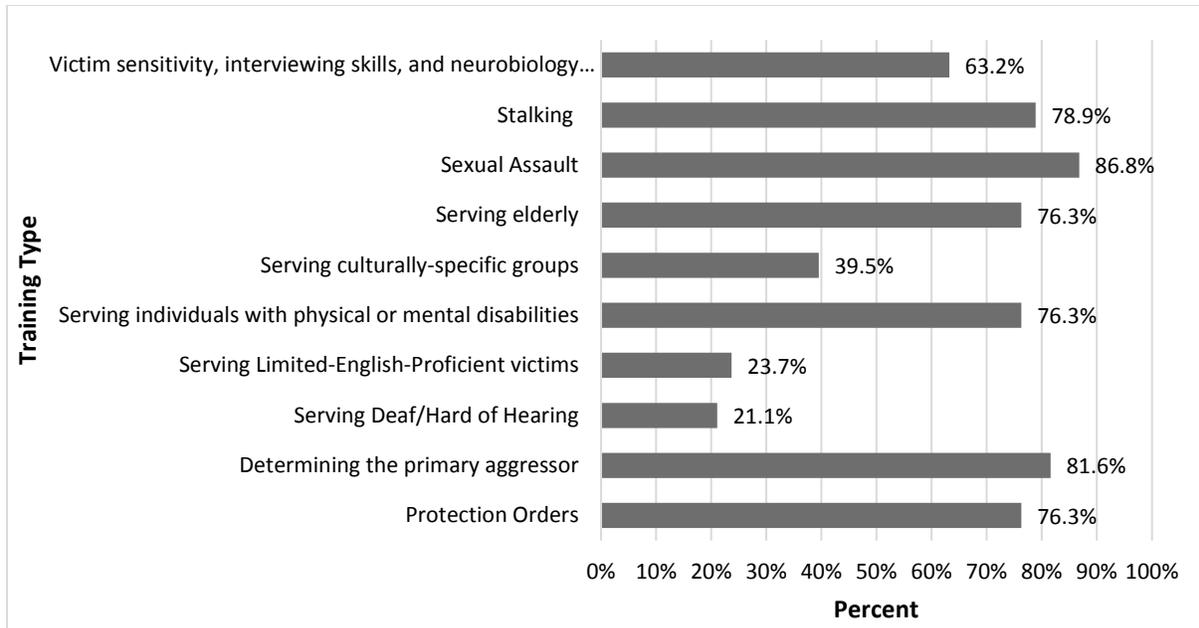


Figure 6. Percentage of law enforcement respondents who reported receiving training on the given topics.

- ❖ Law enforcement respondents also reported in an open-ended format that the following training topics should also be required for law enforcement to assist in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking:
  - Processes for filing proper documentation related to cases, including report writing and applying for protection orders;
  - Evidence collection, including the necessity of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and interviewing sexual offenders; and
  - Refresher courses on current laws and enforcement requirements.
- ❖ While interviewing skills was a topic addressed in Figure 6, a majority of respondents reiterated the need for interview training and best practices when it comes to interacting with victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- ❖ On average, law enforcement respondents reported that their department or agency is least successful at:
  - Providing interpretation services;
  - Decreasing the number of cases dropped after an arrest; and
  - Increasing effective intervention with victims and alleged offenders.

#### Non-Profit/Direct Service Providers ( $N = 95$ )

- ❖ Ninety-five of all participants that completed the survey represented Non-Profit/Direct Service Providers in each Ohio County with the exception of Lorain and Warren Counties.

- ❖ On average, respondents in the direct service provider category identified the following as the most serious issues facing agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, with over 50% of respondents rating these issues as “very serious”<sup>9</sup>:
  - Difficulty in obtaining affordable housing (75.9%);
  - Inconsistent enforcement of laws (58.6%);
  - Inadequate legal representation for victims (55.2%); and
  - Child custody cases involving reports of child sexual abuse (50.0%).

*Specifically related to inadequate legal representation, one respondent stated “From my legal aid attorney view, caps on attorney fees, low hourly rate, [inability] to represent on holistic legal needs, and administrative hassles to collect attorney fees from the Government for representing domestic violence victims is a massive barrier to obtaining meaningful legal representation for domestic violence victims that would allow them to move forward in their lives.”*

- ❖ Additionally, respondents identified the following issues:
  - Transportation for victims;
  - Adequate, trauma-informed services for victims who have substance use issues and/or mental health concerns; and
  - Basic resources and specialized units for victims in small, rural communities.
- ❖ Over half of the direct service provider respondents identified the following groups as having a high need for training in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking:
  - Law enforcement (72.0%);
  - Judges (66.3%);
  - Correctional staff (64.2%);
  - Prosecutors (63.9%);
  - Probation officers (58.5%);
  - Court staff (54.2%); and
  - Medical professionals (53.7%).
- ❖ Non-Profit/Direct Victim Service respondents were asked specific questions pertaining to the needs for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Out of the 95 respondents, 85 (89.5%) reported serving victims of domestic violence, 79 (86.8%) reported providing services for victims of dating violence, 74 (84.1%) reported providing services for victims of sexual assault, and 78 (88.6%) provide services for victims of stalking.
- ❖ Resources least likely to be available for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking were:
  - Specialized prosecutors;
  - Supervised visitation<sup>10</sup>; and

<sup>9</sup> Please note that these items are not ranked and are based on the modality of the response “very serious”. When conducting further analyses few differences were found in the mean responses of these items.

<sup>10</sup> Questions pertaining to supervised visitation were only presented in reference to cases of domestic and dating violence.

- Transitional housing.

*Domestic Violence and Dating Violence*

- ❖ Resources most available to victims of domestic violence and dating violence through providers, and sufficient to handle the need, include safety planning, Helplines, 24-hour crisis hotlines, and information and referrals for services (Figure 7).

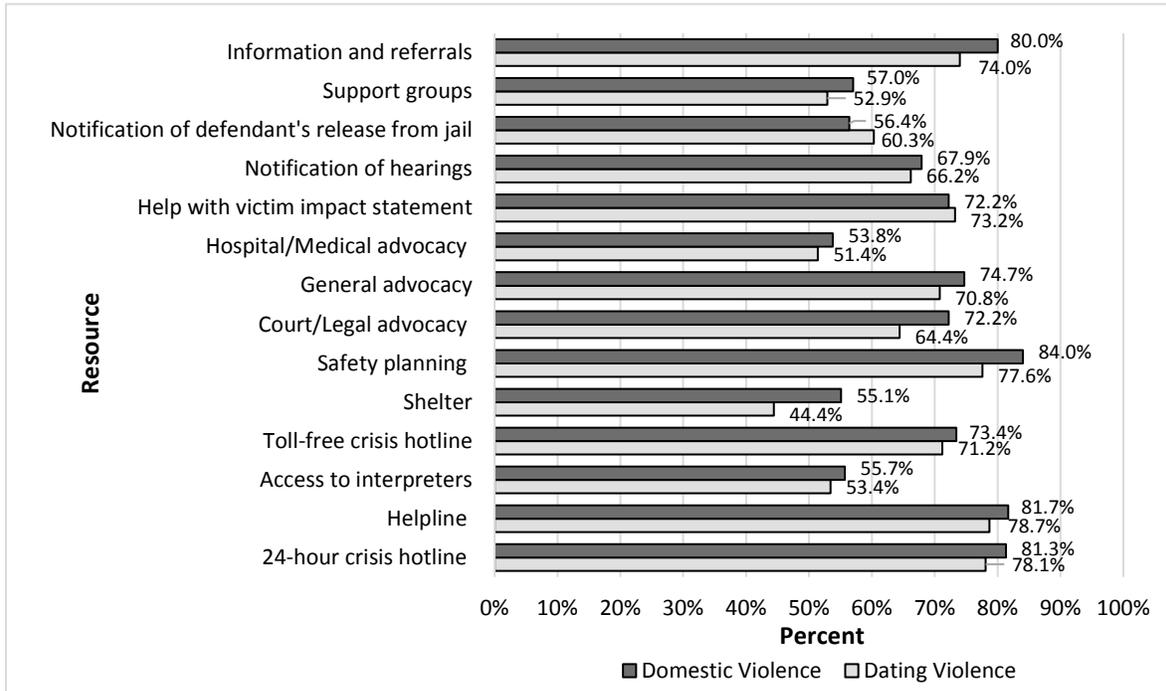


Figure 7. Percentage of respondents who reported that resources were “Available and sufficient to handle the need” for victims of domestic violence in the communities that agencies serve. These resources include those that a majority (i.e. over 50%) of respondents reported that needs were being sufficiently met.

- ❖ Over half of the respondents identified the following resources as “Available but insufficient to meet the needs” for victims of domestic violence and dating violence in the communities being served:
  - Civil attorneys/Legal Aid (69.2%);
  - Substance abuse and treatment services (64.0%);
  - Financial assistance (53.3%); and
  - Child care (52.0%).

*Sexual Assault*

- ❖ Resources most available and sufficient to handle the need for victims of sexual assault include Helplines, information and referrals for services, general advocacy, and safety planning (Figure 8).

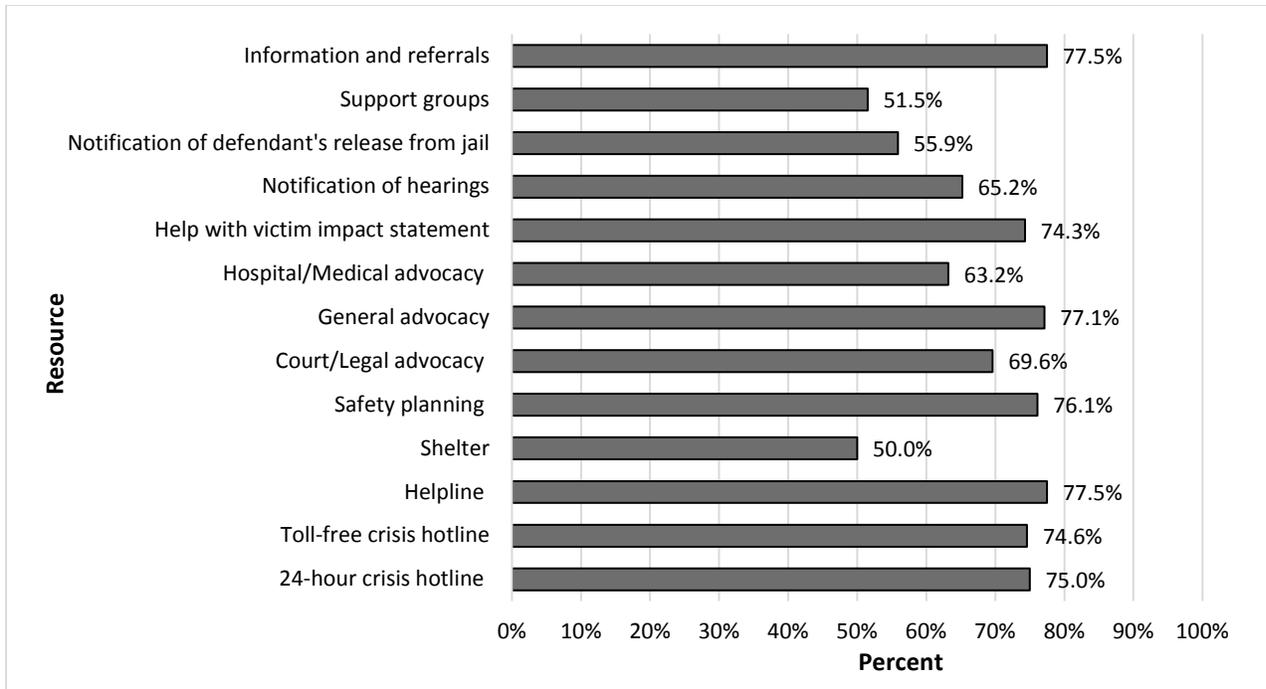


Figure 8. Percentage of respondents who reported that resources were “Available and sufficient to handle the need” for victims of sexual assault in the communities that agencies serve. These resources include those that a majority (i.e. over 50%) of respondents reported that needs were being sufficiently met.

- ❖ Roughly half or more of the respondents identified the following resources as “Available but insufficient to meet the needs” for victims of sexual assault in the communities being served:
  - Civil attorneys/Legal Aid (62.3%);
  - Individual counseling (51.5%);
  - Substance abuse and treatment services (50.7%); and
  - Trauma trained counselors (49.3%).

#### Stalking

- ❖ Resources most available and sufficient to handle the need for victims of stalking include Helplines, information and referrals for services, general advocacy, and safety planning (Figure 9).

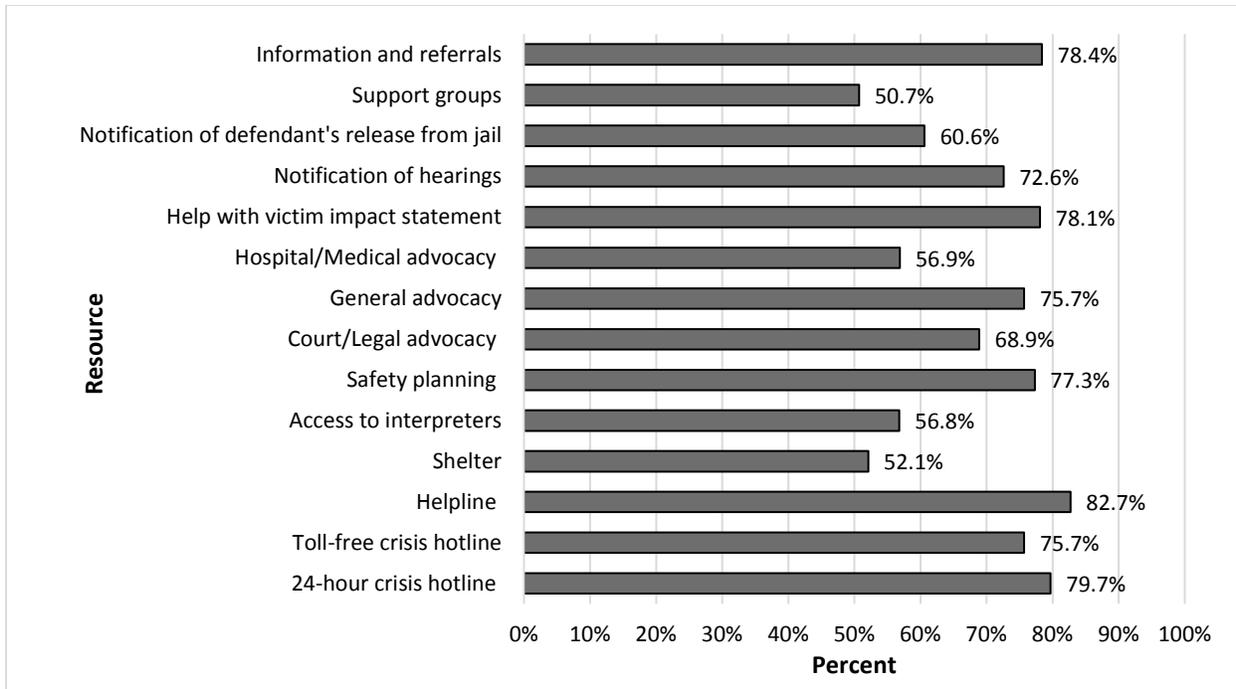


Figure 9. Percentage of respondents who reported that resources were “Available and sufficient to handle the need” for victims of stalking in the communities that agencies serve. These resources include those that a majority (i.e. over 50%) of respondents reported needs were being sufficiently met.

- ❖ Roughly half or more of the respondents identified the following resources as “Available but insufficient to meet the needs” for victims of stalking in the communities being served:
  - Civil attorneys/Legal Aid (62.3%);
  - Individual counseling (51.5%);
  - Substance abuse and treatment services (50.7%); and
  - Trauma trained counselors (49.3%).

#### Prosecution (N = 24)

- ❖ Twenty-four of all participants that completed the survey represented Prosecutors from the Cuyahoga, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Mahoning, Morgan, Sandusky, Stark, Summit, and Washington Counties.
- ❖ On average, prosecution respondents identified the following as the most serious issues facing agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking<sup>11</sup>:
  - Difficulty in obtaining affordable housing (59.1%);
  - Insufficient funding to maintain general operations (54.5%); and
  - Difficulty obtaining child care (40.9%).

<sup>11</sup> Please note that these items are not ranked and are based on the modality of the response “very serious”. When conducting further analyses few differences were found in the mean responses of these items.

*One respondent elaborated on specific barriers by stating “I think that if we enforce current laws, create ways to economically support victims who lose “bread-winning” defendants to jail/prison, create co-located services that victims actually want (like day care for court appearances, etc.) we’d go a long way. Society’s need is to stop DV/SA and hold systems’ feet to the fire to ensure perpetrators are held accountable and that victims and children are protected. Provider’s and funder’s needs are to meet the victims where they are at in this larger endeavor of perpetrator accountability and support them through it, standing (financially) in whatever the gap is that’s been created by incarcerating their abusive partner. Advocate’s needs are to provide access to this help, provide support to get the long-term success for victims.”*

- ❖ Prosecution respondents identified Judges as those having the highest current need for training in services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- ❖ Over half of respondents reported being extremely successful at:
  - Keeping victims informed (60.9%); and
  - Ensuring victims are familiar with the criminal court system, its processes, and protocols (56.5%).
- ❖ Respondents reported being least successful with:
  - Effectively dealing with reluctant or recanting victims; and
  - Utilizing expert testimony.
- ❖ Most prosecution respondents (54.2%) reported that they have specialized units for domestic violence. However, only 31.8% and 47.8% have specialized units for sexual assault and stalking, respectively. Those who reported having specialized units reported the following successes:
  - Consistency of services and prosecution;
  - Improved victim involvement and decreased recantation; and
  - Improved collaboration with law enforcement and county prosecutors.
- ❖ Prosecution respondents also had the opportunity to share specific challenges that they face when working with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The following are examples of those reported challenges:
  - Lack of resources within the community (this response primarily came from those serving predominately rural counties)
  - Recanting victims; and
  - Low enforcement of firearms disability and protection orders, and specific laws in general.
- ❖ Since 2013, most prosecution respondents had received training on assessing and trying stalking cases, sexual assault cases, and domestic violence cases as well as training on trauma informed practice, sexual violence evidentiary issues, and competently serving clients from diverse populations relative to cultural differences (Figure 10).

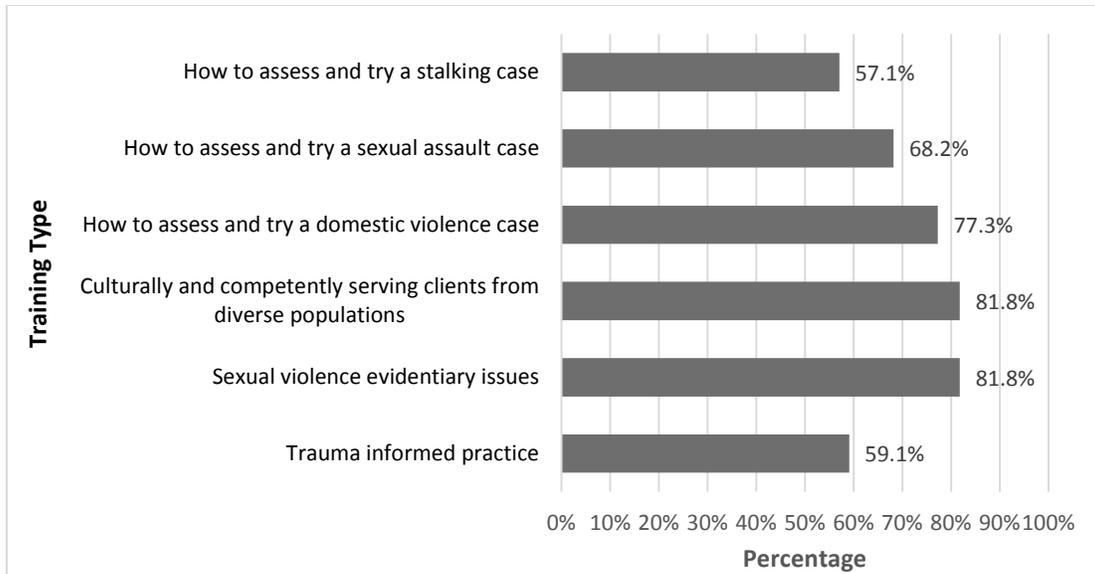


Figure 10. Percentage of prosecution respondents who reported receiving training on the given topics.

#### Other (N = 11)

- ❖ Eleven (5.7%) of all participants that completed the survey represented agencies in Adams, Ashtabula, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Hamilton, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Warren Counties and at the State level.
- ❖ On average, respondents identified the following as “very serious” issues facing agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking<sup>12</sup>:
  - Difficulty obtaining affordable housing (63.6%);
  - Storage and testing of anonymous sexual assault evidence collection kits (54.5%);
  - Lack of services for specific populations (54.5%);
  - Difficulty accessing SANEs at local hospitals (54.5%); and
  - Testing sexual assault evidence collection kits/backlog (54.5%).
- ❖ Respondents identified law enforcement as those having the highest current need for training in services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking with 90.9% of respondents stating there is a “high need”.

<sup>12</sup> Please note that these items are not ranked and are based on the modality of the response “very serious”. When conducting further analyses few differences were found in the mean responses of these items.

## Part II: Regional Focus Groups

In addition to the online survey, regional focus groups were conducted throughout Ohio to assess gaps in services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Questions were primarily taken from the 2013 *Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment*, with additional questions constructed to capture information related to specific actions that have been taken to address gaps identified in the 2013 assessment. The following questions were addressed in each of the focus groups:

1. From your perspective, what are the barriers to services for victims of domestic violence in your community? [2013]
2. From your perspective, what are the barriers to services for victims of sexual assault in your community? [2013]
3. From your perspective, what are the barriers to services for victims of stalking in your community? [2013]
4. Over the last two years what types of actions have been taken to address gaps in services provided to underserved and marginalized communities? [NEW]
5. What are the barriers in your community regarding access to interpreters? [2013]
6. If funding were not an issue, what programming would you like to see implemented to help victims and survivors? [2013]
7. Since 2014, what public education and awareness efforts have been made around domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking? [NEW]
8. How have your communities established a coordinated response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking? [2013]
9. From your perspective, what are the barriers to maintaining your current level of service? [NEW]

A total of six focus groups were conducted throughout Ohio during the month of June 2016. Each focus group ran 90 minutes long and included 52 total participants representing direct service providers, sexual assault nurse examiners, law enforcement, courts, prosecutor's offices, and agencies that serve culturally-specific and traditionally underserved communities. Five of the focus groups were regionally based, including: Northwest Ohio, Northeast Ohio, Central Ohio, Southwest Ohio, and Southeast Ohio. Each of these focus groups offered a combination of service providers from urban and rural communities in order to obtain various perspectives of the Ohio communities that are served. A sixth focus represented various groups and agencies whose primary purpose is to provide services to culturally-specific and underserved populations.

The following sections provide an overview of common themes identified across the focus groups for each question. Themes are organized in tables, which provide specific details from the focus groups on the themes identified. These details are taken directly from statements made during the focus groups. Additional region-specific information can be viewed in Appendix B. Given the nature of the culturally-specific and underserved populations focus group, an additional section provides an overview responses separate from the five regional focus groups.

### Barriers to Victims of Domestic Violence

The table below (Table 2) provides an overview of the major themes identified collectively from the six focus groups as they relate to barriers in serving victims of domestic violence. Included with each theme are examples of key points made during focus group discussion. For a breakdown of Major Barriers by Region, please see Appendix B.

**Table 2.** Major barriers in serving victims and survivors of **domestic violence** identified in every focus group.<sup>13</sup>

<b>Justice System</b>			
<i>Description:</i> From the victim services/non-profit perspective, courts do not have the capacity to serve all of the domestic violence cases efficiently. This leads to a delayed response to crimes or, in some instances, cases not pursued at all.	<i>Description:</i> Often times domestic violence cases are not prosecuted, but rather are referred for a civil protection order, which is then not enforced.	<i>Description:</i> Emergency legal assistance is unavailable or insufficient in most regions.	<i>Description:</i> In certain regions of the state, LGBTQI <sup>14</sup> couples are not recognized as a couple due to biases of court personnel. For international victims of domestic violence, victims are not aware of their rights and do not understand the legal system.
<b>Survivor Access to Resources</b>			
<i>Description:</i> Access to resources such as child care and flexible work schedules greatly impacts cases when survivors need to be physically present throughout the justice process. The lack of these resources is a contributing factor when individuals are not able to be present at hearings.	<i>Description:</i> Many survivors need counseling or ongoing medical care, but are unable to obtain it privately due to the offender being the primary individual insured under an insurance policy.	<i>Description:</i> With regard to financial resources, victims will often want a case dismissed or recant due to lack of financial stability once away from the abuser. Although spousal support and child support are quickly applied for, these sources are often tied up in court.	<i>Description:</i> Transportation is another resource that, when unavailable, has a significant impact on case outcomes. Several of the focus group participants stated that travel vouchers are available for transportation, but travel via public transportation can take a significant amount of time. Additionally, in rural counties shelters and other essential services are not available in the county or centralized, and transportation is essential for access.

<sup>13</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

<sup>14</sup> Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex

<b>Program Resources</b>			
<p><i>Description:</i> Limited funding of services, including legal assistance, counseling services, health services, etc. impacts the amount of staff that can be hired, and the amount that each person is paid. These then have impact on staff retention and overall quality of service provided and the number of people that can be seen by programs.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Service providers often see co-occurring problems in domestic violence cases, including mental health or substance use issues. In many counties, there is a severe shortage in mental health services (including funding) to address these problems in combination with the domestic violence services.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Culturally-specific programs that serve underserved populations also identified multi-lingual staff and resources as a significant barrier and resource need in best serving their populations. This includes culturally-specific public awareness materials, interpreters, and individuals with knowledge on immigration law.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> For underserved communities, there is a significant gap in appropriate resources and staff equipped to address the different needs that individuals may present. This includes needs for individuals of the LGBTQI community, as well as those multi-cultural and multi-lingual communities being served. For example, shelters are not well-equipped to manage varying social norms and dietary preferences for serving individuals from varying cultures and nationalities.</p>
<b>Education and Awareness</b>			
<p><i>Description:</i> There is a lot of emphasis on helping individuals leave the cycle of abuse, but there are situations in which that is not a realistic option right away. Rather than the emphasis being put on plans to leave, safety planning for those individuals who are unable to leave the abuser should be a priority as well.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Victim blaming was a large problem described in victim services and the justice system. More specifically, there is a significant gap in law enforcement's understanding of trauma's impact on the brain and the severity of domestic violence.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Likewise, victim blaming as a cultural and media norm was addressed. The general public, including the media, should receive education on domestic violence to move away from the mentality of "why doesn't he/she just leave the abuser?" Instead of framing situations focusing on the victim/survivor's role in the relationship, the emphasis should be put on the offender's actions.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> For many survivors there is fear around reporting domestic violence. Whether it's the fear of being alone, fear of the offender, fear of the legal process and the unknowns that are associated with it, or fear of deportation (for those individuals who are not documented citizens). Many of these fears are tied to the unknown, and would benefit greatly from education and awareness efforts around what domestic violence is, and the common legal practices to address crime.</p>

### Barriers to Victims of Sexual Assault

The table below (Table 3) provides an overview of the major themes identified collectively from the six focus groups as they relate to barriers of serving victims and survivors of sexual assault. Included with each theme are examples of key points made during focus group discussion. For a breakdown of Major Barriers by Region, please see Appendix B.

**Table 3.** Major barriers in serving victims and survivors of **sexual assault** identified in every focus group.<sup>15</sup>

<b>Survivor Access to Resources</b>		
<p><i>Description:</i> Similar to barriers faced by victims and survivors of domestic violence, victims and survivors of sexual assault have trouble accessing transportation and child care to receive support and justice services, such as counseling and pursuing sexual assault cases through the court system. Likewise, survivors likely need counseling services but are unable to access due to limited insurance coverage, or no insurance at all.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Particularly in small, rural communities, access to sexual assault nurse examiners is limited. In some communities, the hospital can only afford contract nurses, and so this creates limited availability or long waits when an exam is needed. Likewise, the number of SANE contracts is limited in rural communities which leads to a small number of staff covering large parts of the state.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> While not a direct gap in resources for victims, communication between service providers for victims/survivors was mentioned throughout the focus groups. More specifically, a lack of communication between law enforcement and advocates and the detrimental impact it had on ongoing cases were discussed during the focus group.</p>
<b>Training and Education</b>		
<p><i>Description:</i> Given the importance of the forensic exams in pursuing cases, first responders training needs were identified for sexual assault and evidence collection using trauma-informed practices. A gap in education for healthcare providers was also identified when discussing shortages in SANE coverage.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Cultural sensitivity and competency training was voiced as a need across each of the focus groups. This is a need identified for law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, and service providers alike.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Each of the focus group regions emphasized sexual assault training needs for law enforcement. Specifically, the need for mandatory, victim-centered training, with an emphasis on report writing It was also acknowledged that the standards of sexual assault according to the criminal definition do not always align with the cultural definition and this can impact the interactions that law enforcement officers have with victims/survivors.</p>

<sup>15</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

<b>Courts and the Justice System</b>			
<p><i>Description:</i> Participants identified that there are not enough prosecutors designated to sexual assault cases in order to meet the needs of caseloads.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> A barrier in serving victims of sexual assault and domestic violence from the court and law enforcement perspective is that cases are not able to move forward unless the victims is physically present for hearings.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> The number of times that victims have to share their experience of the crime is a large burden on victims. Particularly in situations where the crime occurred in a university setting, in which case Title IX exacerbates the number of times a victim shares his/her experience.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> In several regions, service providers reported that there is inconsistent support from law enforcement, which results in victim hesitancy in moving forward with a case.</p>
<b>Perceptions of Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault</b>			
<p><i>Description:</i> All groups discussed the barriers that are presented by the culture around sexual assault. More specifically, culture within communities tends to put blame on the victim for the actions of others (e.g. “the victim shouldn’t have put himself/herself in the risky situation in the first place”), rather than putting the responsibility of the crime on the offender.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> In addition to victim blaming, credibility of victims is often questioned. Law enforcement tend to question whether or not the victim has made false accusations. Particularly, victims with developmental disabilities (who are often targeted <i>because of</i> their disability), are oftentimes unable to communicate what occurred to them. Given that this communication barrier impacts the believability of the case, victimization continues.</p>	<p><i>Description – Underserved Communities:</i> In certain communities (e.g. Amish communities), reporting can lead to being ostracized and punishment of the women. This further exacerbates the fear of reporting the crime.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Victims want to remain anonymous when reporting, particularly in small communities where the stigmatization that comes with reporting sexual assault will likely impact their work and personal relationships.</p>

*In several of the focus groups, concerns over building layouts were discussed that impact victims' involvement in the justice system. In the groups, participants brought up concerns over the layout of the courthouses and precautions that are not being taken to ensure that victims do not encounter the offender when both are required to be in a building at the same time.*

*Likewise, there are some buildings that are not easily accessible for persons with disabilities. In one specific example, in order for the victim to gain access to the county prosecutor's office, he/she needed to call ahead of time to ensure that someone would be at the only wheelchair accessible door, which was locked, to let him/her in. Otherwise, the individual would not have had access to the building.*

### Barriers to Victims of Stalking

The table below (Table 4) provides an overview of the major themes identified collectively from the six focus groups as they relate to barriers of serving victims and survivors of stalking. Included with each theme are examples of key points made during focus group discussion. For a breakdown of Major Barriers by Region, please see Appendix B.

**Table 4.** Major barriers in serving victims and survivors of **stalking** identified in every focus group.<sup>16</sup>

<b>Enforcement</b>		
<i>Description:</i> In some cases it is difficult to establish a pattern of conduct, and one weakness in the case can negate the entire case.	<i>Description:</i> Protection orders are not always enforced. This is partly because it is difficult to catch the offender in the act. In some counties, even obtaining a protection order is difficult and officers are slow to arrest offenders.	<i>Description:</i> In rural areas specifically, there are times when maintaining separation between the victim and offender is not easily accomplished. For example, the victim lives on the only road that allows access to amenities, or there is only one grocery store in the community where the victim and offender live. It is difficult to enforce the protection order in these towns because the offender may have a seemingly legitimate reason for being at those locations.
<b>Education and Identification</b>		
<i>Description:</i> In many cases, the victims themselves do not realize that the behavior they're experiencing is stalking behavior. When	<i>Description:</i> There was an identified need for training of law enforcement in each region. Many officers/deputies are not able to identify	<i>Description:</i> Likewise, there was also an identified need for training of prosecutors and judges on the stalking laws. For those stalking cases brought to the court

<sup>16</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

<p>taking single events into account, the behavior may technically be legal, but when looking at the events as a collective they form a pattern of behavior that meets the definition of stalking.</p>	<p>incidents as stalking. They are likely responding to a specific incident rather than recognizing a pattern or history, which is related to a gap in knowledge of the stalking law. As a result, in some regions very few stalking charges are brought to court.</p>	<p>the cases will be plead down and tried as another crime.</p>
<p><b>Technology</b></p>		
<p><i>Description:</i> With technology advances, stalking is difficult to detect. For example, if the offender utilizes an internet protocol (IP) overseas, there is no way to trace the physical location of the offender.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> It is difficult to get data and information from social media companies such as Facebook or dating apps for evidentiary purposes.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> There are evidentiary issues when collecting data from victims' personal cell phones. Often times, getting data requires the law enforcement agency to take the cell phone, which can lead to further victimization. For example, victims may be more isolated given that they are unable to communicate easily with their support network or there may be information unrelated to the stalking case that the individual does not want to share or be seen.</p>

### Barriers in Serving Underserved Communities

The table below (Table 5) provides an overview of the major themes identified collectively from the six focus groups as they relate to barriers of serving victims in those communities that are traditionally underserved, or include specific racial or ethnic groups as defined by OVW. Although the intent of this question was to identify services that are available to underserved populations, each of the groups emphasized barriers experienced by victims they serve. During this portion of the group a significant amount of time was spent discussing interpreter service issues, however interpreter services barriers are presented in Table 6. For a breakdown of Major Barriers by Region, please see Appendix B.

**Table 5. Barriers in serving underserved communities.**<sup>17</sup>

<b>Education and Outreach</b>			
<i>Description:</i> In some cultures (e.g. national cultures such as Samoan, Somali, Latino, Japanese as well as communities of faith such as Amish), it is difficult for service providers to access those individuals who are at risk because the cultural community is so close knit and it is taboo to discuss sexual violence/domestic violence.	<i>Description:</i> There was a significant need for outreach in the schools for those underserved populations that may be otherwise difficult to access within their community. Each focus group emphasized that prevention education within the schools is not done early enough.	<i>Description:</i> Although reaching specific communities is challenging, many of the victim service providers from non-profit agencies provided examples of educational and outreach materials available for underserved and specific racial and ethnic communities.	<i>Description:</i> Another point that was emphasized by the focus groups is that education curriculum should be adapted to the community’s culture. For example, for some communities it is taboo to teach sex education and so modification to the way the information is communicated may be a better approach when feasible.
<b>Gaps in Services within Rural Communities</b>			
<i>Description:</i> Specifically in rural communities, underserved populations expand beyond racial and ethnic groups to the severely impoverished. In these communities, it is not uncommon for victims to be isolated, without transportation, telephone service, and internet access. In these situations, contact with victims is limited or nonexistent.	<i>Description:</i> In rural communities, there is typically very little diversity within the communities. One participant specifically stated that “we do not have resources to serve [underserved or specific ethnic populations] because we do not have the population.”	<i>Description:</i> In rural communities, it is common for the responding agency (whether it is seeing victims of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault) to fill many roles. As one participant stated “Some agencies need to be everything for everybody.”	

<sup>17</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

**Successes in serving underserved and specific racial and ethnic communities**

*In addition to the challenges noted above, participants shared successes in serving these communities and the resources that have been provided. While this only captures those individuals who participated in the 5 regional focus groups, more details are provided in Table 11 from the Culturally Specific Focus Group.*

Specific programming and amenities for underserved communities include:

- ❖ Bringing the victim’s culture into the shelter, depending on needs. This includes culturally specific food available or letting the individual cook as it was noted that food and cooking are great cultural and social comforts for many communities.
- ❖ Having the correct haircare products on hand.
- ❖ Hiring bilingual staff. While this was noted by one agency as a success, it is also a significant challenge as there are not many

**Access to Interpreters**

The table below (Table 6) provides an overview of the major themes identified collectively from the six focus groups as they relate to access to interpreter services and the quality of such services. Included with each theme are examples of key points made during focus group discussion. For a breakdown of Major Barriers by Region, please see Appendix B.

**Table 6.** Access to and quality of interpreter services.<sup>18</sup>

<b>Quality of Interpreters</b>			
<i>Description:</i> While many focus group participants expressed the use of Language Line and court certified interpreters, there were many concerns and complaints voiced about the gap in knowledge and sensitivity needed when providing interpreter services for victims of domestic violence, sexual	<i>Description:</i> In some instances it is difficult for the service provider to trust what is being communicated between the interpreter and the victim. Participants shared that some interpreters will befriend the victims and offer opinions on the case rather than accurately	<i>Description:</i> While interpreting for victims and service providers is the primary focus of interpreter services, literacy concerns were also voiced by focus group participants. There are large gaps in ensuring	<i>Description:</i> Even when interpreters are present, English words may not translate properly in a different language (including American Sign Language). Focus group participants stated that emphasis is not kept on simplifying language while

<sup>18</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

<p>assault, and stalking. The topics are often times difficult and the interpreters are not equipped to handle questions related to the case.</p>	<p>interpreting the information. In other instances, an individual who required an American Sign Language interpreter utilized a video call in order to communicate. Using this service in the hospital resulted in delayed or inaccurate information sharing.</p>	<p>that victims are aware of what legal documents are stating prior to signing. Service providers and interpreters alike are not focusing on the individual's ability to read legal documents.</p>	<p>maintaining a thorough account of the information.</p>
<p><b>Lack of Resources</b></p>			
<p><i>Description:</i> Participants stated that victims are more comfortable speaking with an interpreter that understands the community and the culture, but has the advocacy perspective. This is often not available. Law enforcement access Language Line and the courts utilize the court-certified interpreters, but these services are not ideal in all settings given that these interpreters do not typically have advocacy training related to the crime that has occurred</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> In rural counties, interpretations services are particularly scarce given that there is little perceived need by the service agencies. Several participants from southeast Ohio stated that they have only ever encountered the need for an interpreter once.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Interpreter services are not ideal in emergency situations, given that it takes to time to access services. In situations where slang is being used services can take longer (e.g. days) to translate specific terms. This impacts the speed at which the case can be pursued.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Interpretation services are very expensive, particularly when taking quality of services into account, and funding for services is often limited.</p>
<p><b>Interpreter Confidentiality</b></p>			
<p><i>Description:</i> Many communities that utilize interpreters are very close knit, and so confidentiality is a concern. In some communities, for confidentiality to remain true an interpreter from outside of the county needs to be used.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> In instances where the interpreter does not respect confidentiality, victims may be ostracized for reporting domestic violence or sexual assault because the interpreter has shared the report within the community.</p>	<p><i>Description:</i> Participants also shared cases where the same interpreter was used for both the victim and the perpetrator. Even though unintentional, the interpreter inadvertently shared information with the victim or perpetrator that otherwise should have been kept confidential.</p>	

### Gaps in Programming and Resources

One of the focus group questions emphasized desired programming if funding limitations were not an issue. The following items (Table 7) were identified.

**Table 7.** Themes identified by focus group participants if funding was not a concern.<sup>19</sup>

<b>Training</b>			
<i>Description:</i> Focus group participants identified law enforcement training on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking as desired programming if funding limitations were not imposed. This includes funding that would cover the attendance and over-time expenses for law enforcement agencies, or at minimum record a training that can be shared agency-wide.	<i>Description:</i> Likewise, diversity training and cultural competency/humility training was mentioned as a need by each of the focus groups, covering direct service providers, law enforcement, court, and prosecution. This includes considerations for individuals with disabilities (both cognitive and physical), non-English speaking victims, and foreign national victims.	<i>Description:</i> Participants also voiced a desire for increased SANE and Forensic Interview training, particularly for those cases that involve children and individuals with disabilities.	<i>Description:</i> Lastly, participants discussed trainings that emphasize a coordinated community response and the continuum of care for victims, including networking resources to connect service providers within their service region, shared successes from Sexual Assault Response Teams, and other mentor-style relationships between those who have experience in creating a coordinated response and those who are just starting.
<b>Additional Resources</b>			
<i>Description:</i> Additional resources included safe houses for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Often times the shelters are unable to offer space for victims right away, so these safe houses would be an intermediate place that allows the individual to leave abusive situation.	<i>Description:</i> Focus group participants also noted the desire for transportation resources, particularly in rural counties where services are not centrally located.	<i>Description:</i> Participants recommended funding for culturally-specific advocates and those individuals who are trained in cross-cultural settings.	<i>Description:</i> Participants also emphasized the increased need SANES. While the need for SANES continues to rise, SANE Programs that exist aren't able to increase their service capacity.

<sup>19</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

### Public Education and Awareness Efforts

In general, training for the public was emphasized as an unmet need that has less funding directed towards its outcomes. While it was described as a component of the previous section, greater detail was provided as focus group participants discussed what actions have been taken to inform the public on stalking, sexual assault, and domestic violence, as well as the resources that service providers are able to offer.

The table below (Table 8) provides a general overview of trainings emphasized by focus group participants.

**Table 8.** Training emphasized by focus group participants.<sup>20</sup>

<b><i>Education in High School and Middle School</i></b>
Many of the participants stated that there are ongoing prevention efforts in high school and middle school, but there needs to be more. Service providers referenced social media awareness campaigns and other initiatives that emphasize healthy dating relationships, such as the Safe Dates <sup>21</sup> program model which specifically targets middle school and high school students. Direct service provider participants recommended collaborating with schools in order to meet the unfunded requirements set by the Tina Croucher Act, which requires schools to incorporate dating violence into policies that prohibit harassment, intimidation, and bullying. This includes dating violence prevention education in the health class curriculum in grades 7 through 12. <sup>22</sup>
<b><i>Education at the university level</i></b>
In addition to education at the high school level, a large push for training at the university level was also discussed. These trainings focus on addressing the overall culture of rape and victim blaming, and bystander intervention.
<b><i>Community-level education</i></b>
Non-profit victim service agencies at the focus groups highlight training and education opportunities with citizen groups in the communities. For example, women’s groups and churches are visited and presented with information. These community groups tend to be connected to the community-at large, and so the information that is shared with specific individuals is then passed on to others in the community. Culturally-specific participants also highlighted that community classes such as cooking classes or even social gatherings were a key place to provide information rather than relying on formal presentation settings.

<sup>20</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=142>

<sup>22</sup> Tina Croucher Act (2010), R.C. §3313.60, 3313.666, 3314.35, 3319.073, 3319.39, and -§3327.10

### Creating a Coordinated Response

As previously stated, focus group participants represented various geographic regions of the state, disciplines, and communities. Given the various geographic regions represented, the ability to provide a coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking varied greatly. Based on participant responses there were apparent gaps in each region of the state. Given that participants offered a variety of perspectives some of the groups discussed very specific teams and task forces as a “coordinated response”, while others talked about general collaboration between stakeholders in the region (Table 9). As such, Table 9 may not provide a comprehensive overview of the services available/unavailable in a particular region.

**Table 9.** Summary of regional coordinated responses discussed during focus groups.<sup>23</sup>

<b>Northwest Ohio</b>
Focus group participants in Northwest Ohio stated that many counties, such as Wood County, have a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) but an established coordinated response to domestic violence is missing. On the other hand, counties like Allen County have a coordinated response to Domestic Violence, but do not have a SART. Laws that also prevent information sharing about alleged offenders were also noted as a barrier in creating a collaborated response for non-government agencies (i.e. shelters) serving victims of stalking. The individual who made this comment was specifically referring to sharing information about a perpetrator if the individual is a suspect in an ongoing case.
<b>Northeast Ohio</b>
Like other regions of Ohio, Northeast Ohio has specialized domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking teams in the densely populated urban centers of the state. Focus group participants representing service providers in smaller communities commented that although there are designated task forces for drugs, but nothing specifically for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. At least one of the representatives provided insight of a domestic violence specialized docket, but again, this service is county-specific and many of the counties do not have the resources or buy-in to support a specialized docket.
<b>Central Ohio</b>
The Central Ohio focus group emphasized that each county should have a mandated inter-disciplinary team through Job and Family Services. These teams pull service agencies together, but they are not standardized in their approach. It was emphasized that each county tends to do things differently depending on the resources available within the community. Currently these teams are working on standardizing the language and definitions that are being used to create a more coordinated response and consistency between counties. Adult Protective Services (APS) was discussed as a great resource in some counties, while others do not have an APS.
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>
Participants at the Southwest Ohio focus group felt that the counties in their region had the right people at the table in terms of following protocol for serving victims, but there is a lack of enforcement of the laws for responding to cases appropriately. For example, the SANE program in the area serves 28 facilities, and although hospitals are required to provide forensic exams, they do not always call. Likewise, law enforcement and medical staff do not always call an advocate to the hospital in sexual assault cases.

<sup>23</sup> Descriptions provided in the table are based on comments made during the focus groups by participants. As such, statements may not reflect the views of each community within the State, but rather offer context for the identified theme.

<b><i>Southeast Ohio</i></b>
Much like the other regions of the state, a coordinated community response largely depends on the county and resources available. Several participants from the Southeast Ohio focus group voiced that they typically reach out to victims and survivors individually. While some focus group participants said they did not have a formal response team within their community, the key service providers (law enforcement, victim services, and prosecutors) communicate well and work together.

### Barriers to Maintaining Services

Given the spectrum of services that are available through providers, and the limited resources available across the different agencies, focus group participants were asked to identify those things that are impacting program sustainability, or the ability to maintain services. Several key themes were identified and are presented in Table 10.

**Table 10.** Factors that influence the sustainability of program services.

<b><i>Funding</i></b>
In general funding was identified as the top reason program activities are difficult to sustain. While funding was mentioned most frequently, there were key components within this category identified. This includes funding restrictions. Oftentimes grant funding that is available is limited to specific project outcomes. Most participants noted that funding available for prevention education is limited, or is the first thing to be cut when budget adjustments need to be made.
<b><i>Community and Political Buy-In</i></b>
Community and political buy-in and their impact on agencies varies greatly. Participants discussed that although laws are in place, consistent support through the courts and prosecutors and enforcement of the laws has a critical impact on service outcomes. Not only is there a need for consistency across the different criminal justice representatives and agencies, but also across geographic regions.  From a different perspective, community support has an impact on funding sustainability. In larger communities, having key community stakeholders supporting the agencies can translate into financial support and increased services. This was voiced as a barrier for smaller, rural communities however. Even with community support, rural providers are not able to rely on stakeholders for a large amount of funding to cover operating costs.
<b><i>Evidence Based Practices and Adaptability of Programming</i></b>
Several participants discussed the use of evidence-based practices and adaptability of programming as a key factor in sustaining their services. One law enforcement representative stated that beyond using best practices, the ability to consistently adapt to the needs and new evidence was key in sustaining services for victims.

### Culturally-Specific Agencies and Barriers when Serving the Underserved

As previously stated, at each focus group there was at least one representative from an agency that primarily served traditionally underserved populations, including specific racial and ethnic populations. While these representatives provided great insight to the culture and challenges faced by these communities, a focus group dedicated to cultural perspectives was held. Participants at this focus group were asked the same questions as the regional focus groups, however key themes surfaced that focused primarily on victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As such, clear responses are not available for each individual question as was the case in the previous section. Key points made by culturally-specific agencies in the regional focus groups may also be included in this section to highlight the challenges faced by communities outside of those that were represented at this focus group meeting.

Participant Representation: Participants included a number of representatives from agencies involved with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network’s Women of Color Caucus with representatives from the faith community, Asian-American communities, and Hispanic and Latino communities. Representatives from those who serve Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing communities also participated in the focus group. A majority of focus group participants also represented agencies that serve immigrants and non-English speaking victims. Below (Table 11) are key themes that were identified when discussing barriers in services for those in underserved communities:

**Table 11.** Barriers when Serving the Underserved.

<b>Language Barriers and Access to Interpreters</b>		
Participants voiced concerns over the quality of interpreters. While interpreters may be certified, there is a difference between an interpreter and a case manager. Interpreters are not qualified to gather details of a case the way that case managers are and so key/critical information may be missed. Likewise, when interpreters are used in a hospital setting, the interpreter may not be familiar or able to explain medical terminology, and so critical information is not being communicated.	While there are concerns over confidentiality with interpreters, the bigger concern for focus group participants was how things are interpreted and whether or not the message that is communicated is accurate. Numerous instances were discussed in which the focus group participants (many of whom are multi-lingual) have seen and heard the interpreter give misinformation. Part of this is because the interpreter does not know how to translate specific terms related to domestic violence and sexual assault.	In each of the communities represented it was highlighted that appropriate efforts were not being made to ensure victims and survivors understood their rights in medical and legal settings and what was occurring during these processes. Victims may also be illiterate, and rely on interpreters to read documents to them prior to signing. In many cases this clarification is not provided so victims are signing documents that they do not understand. Focus group participants noted that they also work with English-speaking individuals who are illiterate and very adept at hiding it.
<b>Cultural Barriers</b>		
Like each of the regional focus groups, participants noted that the culture of	Likewise, along with acceptance of domestic violence, there is an expectation that any	Participants highlighted that much of the prevention education is focused on how to leave

<p>acceptance of domestic violence is a significant barrier in serving victims of certain populations. Participants expressed examples of communities where it is expected that the wife will face consequences if she disobeys her husband.</p>	<p>conflict between family members and the community remains private. In certain communities, such as the Amish community, rather than reporting to law enforcement, the conflict will be overseen by a community leader (e.g. a Bishop in the Amish community). In these cases, focus group participants shared that it is not uncommon for the offender to be sent away for some time and left untreated, which results in continued victimization.</p>	<p>the abuser. For many of the communities being served, it is not acceptable to leave a marriage. In these situations, focus group participants highlighted that it would be more beneficial to educate those at-risk on how to remain safe in their homes and relationships.</p>	
<p><b><i>Fear of Reporting and the Justice System</i></b></p>			
<p>Many immigrants served by the agencies do not want to report domestic violence and sexual assault because they are afraid of potential legal issues that may arise when they become involved with the justice system.</p>	<p>Although victims of domestic violence or sexual assault who are immigrants do not necessarily have to worry about deportation, and law enforcement agencies want to help, the victims are not aware of how United States and Ohio systems work to know that they are protected.</p>	<p>Participants highlighted situations, particularly those where the abuser is a United States citizen, where the abuser uses this fear of deportation to control the victims who are not citizens on the United States. For example, threats are made such as “If you don’t do ‘x’, then you will be deported”</p>	<p>Outside of fear of reporting, focus group participants also noted that there is a general distrust in law enforcement and the justice system from underserved populations in general. Participants discussed distrust rooted in past experiences victims and the communities have had with law enforcement that is centered on unresponsiveness, victim blaming, or the inability to effectively communicate.</p>
<p><b><i>Knowledge of Services</i></b></p>			
<p>Knowledge of services that are available was discussed as a key barrier to victims and survivors accessing resources. Participants discussed extensive outreach efforts that are done to address these gaps.</p>	<p>Even when certain agencies and resources are known, focus group participants stated that there is a general lack of trust of those “mainstream”, and larger service agencies that do not primarily work with the populations. Although there are ongoing trainings in these agencies, there are still significant gaps in the familiarity with the</p>	<p>From the community perspective, information on and referrals to services is critical to accessing and utilizing available resources. During the focus group, community health workers were emphasized as a key factor in reaching underserved populations who have a lack</p>	<p>While victim and survivor access to resources may be limited due to knowledge gaps, agency knowledge of providers who can assist underserved populations is also a barrier. Outside of their own services and those of agencies that they work with directly, many of the participants voiced that they were not aware of the assistance available to certain populations or where to refer individuals to.</p>

	culture and how to best serve the target population.	of trust in formal services available.	
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One of the focus group questions emphasized desired programming if funding limitations were not an issue. The following items (Table 12) were identified by those participants of the culturally-specific and underserved communities focus group.

**Table 12.** Themes identified by focus group participants if additional funding were available.

<b>Training</b>		
<i>Description:</i> Training was identified as a need to serve specific, traditionally underserved communities. For example, sexual assault and rape education was identified as a need for faith and Deaf/Hard of Hearing communities, including appropriate and inappropriate relationships for guardians and other persons in a position of authority.	<i>Description:</i> While it would be ideal to have services for specific ethnic and racial communities provided by individuals from their own communities, participants stated that cultural competency and cultural humility training would greatly improve the interactions and understanding of these communities in public agencies that serve them.	<i>Description:</i> Participants of the focus group prioritized prevention education at a younger age. Given that some communities are so guarded to outsiders, participants recommended that educating youth in the school setting would assist in their ability to identify unhealthy relationships at home. Participants did note, however that there are often issues that arise with parental permission when training is done in schools.
<b>Additional Resources</b>		
<i>Description:</i> Transitional housing, particularly housing that takes into account the cultural needs of the victims/survivors was prioritized by several participants. This was noted as something that would provide additional comfort for families and their children.	<i>Description:</i> Collaboration and educational opportunities between culturally-specific agencies and mainstream agencies that assist underserved populations was a critical point made through the focus group.	<i>Description:</i> Participants would also recommended cultural accommodations within the shelter setting. Certain actions such as providing food specific to a victim’s culture and norms has a substantial impact on feelings of safety and trust when in the shelter. Likewise, several participants noted that accommodations for individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing are not typically seen in the shelter setting and so this perpetuates feelings of isolation.

## Summary and Recommendations

As a result of the 2016 Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment representatives from direct service/non-profit agencies, law enforcement, court personnel, prosecutors and health care professionals provided critical feedback on the service environment for victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Although the survey assessment and focus groups each highlighted unique barriers and challenges there are common themes throughout the needs assessment.

These themes focused on:

- Gaps in resources available to victims and service providers alike;
- The need for increased training and education; and
- Major gaps in services available for traditionally underserved populations, including a shortage of quality interpreter services.

### Resource Gaps

Major issues that were most frequently identified in both the needs assessment survey and focus groups were additional resource needs accessible for victims. This includes child care, transportation to services, transitional housing and emergency shelter, legal assistance, and supervised visitation for survivors of domestic violence. During the focus groups many of the direct service providers discussed that much of the responsibility of pursuing justice is placed on those who have been victimized (e.g. victims need to be physically present for cases to move forward, they are required to share their experience with different parties in the justice system, etc.), and when resources such as easily accessible child care or transportation are unavailable, this increases the burden that is placed on the victim. Considering the compounding responsibilities of victims once cases are reported, it was not uncommon to hear that some of the largest hurdles faced by victims are those that occur even before reaching courtrooms and challenges that impact the likelihood of victims coming forward to report abuse.

### Increased Training and Education for Justice Systems

Training and education, for various disciplines, was emphasized in the needs assessment survey results as well as in each of the focus group. Training topics and target population ranged from specific disciplines/occupations (e.g. law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, etc.) to the general public and students, with the consensus being that there was not enough funding dedicated for training and that it is often the first thing to be cut from budgets when adjustments need to be made.

From the survey perspective, law enforcement was identified as the discipline with the highest training need. This need was reiterated in focus groups, emphasizing the need for training on the neurobiology of trauma to inform officer-victim interactions and training on report writing and evidence collection. Likewise, training needs for law enforcement were also heavily emphasized in the 2013 assessments. This informed additional questions on training for those individuals who took the 2016 survey. Based on survey responses, a majority (i.e. over 50%) of law enforcement respondents who participated in the survey have received training on victim sensitivity, interviewing skills, and neurobiology of trauma but did not receive training on serving culturally-specific and underserved groups, including individuals with limited-English proficiency and serving individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

While law enforcement was rated as the discipline with the highest need for training, training needs were also frequently identified for judges, prosecutors, and medical professionals. Many of the training needs for each of these groups discussed during the focus groups emphasized that each of these disciplines works together to create the best community response for victim and survivor justice.

### **Increased Training and Education for the General Public**

In addition to training for specific disciplines, training and prevention education was emphasized at each focus group. Several of the focus group participants stated that they provide prevention education for community groups, but the majority of participants agreed that more training should occur at a younger age and in the schools.

### **Interpreter Services**

Results of the needs assessment survey and focus groups indicate a significant gap in interpreter services. While there are mandated interpreter services available for law enforcement, medical staff, and courts, the quality of these services was reported as highly questionable. Issues that arose included availability of interpreter services, particularly for specific dialects, confidentiality of interpreters, reliability of the information that is communicated between the interpreter, victims/survivor, and case worker, and the impact that accessibility of interpreters has case outcomes.

### **Multicultural Considerations**

In addition to interpreter services, victim and survivor services that take into account cultural considerations were also voiced as a key barrier for underserved populations and the agencies that serve them. As discussed during the focus groups, cultural considerations can have a significant impact on the quality of services that are provided and positive outcomes for victims, including examples of the knowledge and education on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, willingness to report abuse to these agencies, and a victim's feelings of safety and trust when interacting with criminal justice agencies and case workers.

### **Conclusions**

Through the many individuals that freely shared their invaluable insight in serving victims, this report sheds light on the means by which Ohio service providers work with victims and survivors to increase the safety in Ohio communities. Moving forward, the above overview provides considerations that should be taken into account when determining priorities for improving the safety of those most at-risk of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in Ohio.



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

### Survey Purpose

**The Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors Program (S.T.O.P.) of the Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A.) formula grant program promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council and Ohio's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) within the Ohio Department of Public Safety have collaborated to develop the following needs assessment survey. The assessment will be used by the Council and OCJS to establish priorities as they work to improve the safety and well-being of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims.**

**As a key stakeholder in the field, you are invited to participate in the following needs assessment survey. The survey should take no longer than 10-15 minutes to complete. Responses will remain anonymous, as no personally identifying information is collected. Participation in the survey must be completed by close of business Thursday, February 25th, 2016 to be included in the needs assessment. Results of the assessment will be shared with the public and will be available Fall 2016 on the OCJS website ([www.ocjs.ohio.gov](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov)). For Frequently Asked Questions on the STOP formula grant, please visit: [http://www.doj.state.or.us/victims/pdf/2014\\_consolidated\\_stop\\_faqs\\_bla.pdf](http://www.doj.state.or.us/victims/pdf/2014_consolidated_stop_faqs_bla.pdf)**

**As a participant in the care of those affected by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, the insight you provide is invaluable in shaping future priorities throughout the state. Thank you for your participation and consideration. Should you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Kristina Nicholson ([kcnicholson@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:kcnicholson@dps.ohio.gov); 614-466-0346).**

**\*The Ohio Department of Public Safety Office of Criminal Justice Services is the state administrator for the STOP VAWA formula grant program. The program is administered federally through the Office of Justice Programs, Office of Violence Against Women within the U.S. Department of Justice.**



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

\* 1. Please select your type of agency from the list below.

- Court
- Prosecution
- Law enforcement
- Other (please specify)
- Victim Services/Non-profit
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)/healthcare program



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

\* 2. Are you an advocate within a law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office?

- No - I work in a law enforcement agency, but am not an advocate.
- No - I work in a prosecutor's office, but am not an advocate.
- Yes, I am an advocate in a law enforcement agency.
- Yes, I am an advocate in a prosecutor's office.



2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

3. Which communities do you serve?

- Appalachian
- Children
- Developmentally Disabled
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Elderly
- Immigrants
- Refugees
- Limited English Proficient
- Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender
- Men
- Persons with substance abuse/addiction issues
- Persons with mental illness
- Teens/adolescents
- American Indian (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts)
- Asian American
- Blacks/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders
- Other (please specify)

\* 4. Does your agency primarily serve culturally-specific, marginalized, or underserved communities such as those selected in the previous question?

Yes

No



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

\* 5. Do you provide services for victims of domestic violence?

Yes

No



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

6. Please indicate the extent to which the following services are available to meet the needs of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE victims of the community your agency serves. The service does not need to be offered by your agency specifically, but should be available to those you serve. Please check only one cell for each type of service.

	Available and sufficient to handle the need	Available but insufficient to handle the need	Service is not available	Unsure
24-hour crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toll-free crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help line (information and referral line)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transitional housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apartment (first month's rent and security deposit)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessible housing for elderly victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to interpreters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial assistance (from a domestic violence agency or outside entity)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supervised visitation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized prosecutors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil attorneys/legal aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Available and sufficient to handle the need	Available but insufficient to handle the need	Service is not available	Unsure
Court/legal advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hospital/medical advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help with victim impact statement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of hearings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of defendant's release from jail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trauma-trained counselors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Life skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job placement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and referral	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance abuse/treatment services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

\* 7. Do you provide services for victims of dating violence?

Yes

No



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

8. Please indicate the extent to which the following services are available to meet the needs of DATING VIOLENCE victims of the community your agency serves. The service does not need to be offered by your agency specifically, but should be available to those you serve. Please check only one cell for each type of service.

	Available and sufficient to handle the need	Available but insufficient to handle the need	Service is not available	Unsure
24-hour crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toll-free crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help line (information and referral line)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transitional housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apartment (first month's rent and security deposit)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessible housing for elderly victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to interpreters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial assistance (from a domestic violence agency or outside entity)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supervised visitation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized prosecutors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil attorneys/legal aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Available and sufficient to handle the need	Available but insufficient to handle the need	Service is not available	Unsure
Court/legal advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hospital/medical advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help with victim impact statement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of hearings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of defendant's release from jail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trauma-trained counselors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Life skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job placement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and referral	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance abuse/treatment services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

\* 9. Do you provide services for victims of sexual assault?

Yes

No



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

10. Please indicate the extent to which the following services are available to meet the needs of SEXUAL ASSAULT victims of the community your agency serves. The service does not need to be offered by your agency specifically, but should be available to those you serve. Please check only one cell for each type of service.

	Available and sufficient to handle the need	Available but insufficient to handle the need	Service is not available	Unsure
24-hour crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toll-free crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help line (information and referral line)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transitional housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apartment (first month's rent and security deposit)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessible housing for elderly victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SANE available 24/7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to a SANE for forensic evidence collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to interpreters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized prosecutors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil attorneys/legal aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Court/legal advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Available and sufficient to handle the need	Available but insufficient to handle the need	Service is not available	Unsure
Hospital/medical advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help with victim impact statement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of hearings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of defendant's release from jail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rape crisis counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trauma-trained counselors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and referral	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance abuse/treatment services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

\* 11. Do you provide services for victims of stalking?

Yes

No

12. Please indicate the extent to which the following services are available to meet the needs of STALKING victims of the community your agency serves. The service does not need to be offered by your agency specifically, but should be available to those you serve. Please check only one cell for each type of service.

	Available and <i>sufficient</i> to handle the need	Available but <i>insufficient</i> to handle the need	Service is not available	Unsure
24-hour crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toll-free crisis hotline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help line (information and referral line)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to interpreters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil legal counsel/legal representation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized prosecutors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Court/legal advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hospital/medical advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help with victim impact statement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of hearings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notification of defendant's release from jail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trauma-trained counselors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and referral	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

### Law enforcement

13. How successful is your department in achieving the following?

	Extremely successful	Successful	Moderately successful	Not successful at all	Unsure
Increasing effective intervention with victims and alleged offenders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decreasing the number of cases dropped after an arrest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing collaboration with other agencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishing consistent evidence collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consistently identifying a priority rating of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking calls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accurately determining the primary aggressor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decreasing the number of dual arrests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing interpretation services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Screening or assessing for lethality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. In cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, have protocols been developed for the following? Cases may also include dating violence.

Improving the quality and quantity of physical evidence collection	<input type="text" value=""/>
Timely victim sensitive evidence collection	<input type="text" value=""/>
Expedited transfer of evidence to a forensic lab	<input type="text" value=""/>
Consistent completion of mandatory police reports	<input type="text" value=""/>

15. What specialized training should law enforcement officials receive to assist them in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking? (Ex. Primary aggressor, enforcement of CPOs, etc.)

16. Since 2013, have you or others in your office completed training on any of the following topics?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Protection Orders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Determining the primary aggressor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving Deaf/Hard of Hearing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving individuals with physical or mental disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving culturally-specific groups(e.g. American Indians, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, Blacks/African Americans, or Hispanic/Latinos)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving elderly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual assault	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stalking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Victim sensitivity, interviewing skills, and neurobiology of trauma	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. Does your department have a specialized office or unit for:

Domestic violence (may  
include dating violence)

Sexual assault

Stalking

18. If yes, what successes have resulted? (Ex. Increased number of cases being investigated, increased victim satisfaction and support for victims, etc.)

19. If no and there is a need, what barriers are there to having a specialized unit or office for domestic violence (may include dating violence), sexual assault, or stalking?

20. What challenges have you experienced in working on cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?

21. Do victims of domestic violence, dating violence sexual assault, or stalking have access to an advocate?

Yes

No



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

### Law Enforcement: Connecting Victims with Advocates

22. Advocates are available for...

- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Victims of Dating Violence
- Victims of Stalking
- Victims of Sexual Assault
- Unsure

23. Please select the method(s) by which victims are referred to advocates:

- Advocate available within agency
- Referral information provided by phone, e-mail, or website directly to the victim
- Contact the victim advocate directly to have the advocate assist the victim in court
- Provide Ohio Crime Victim Rights Booklet (formerly "Picking Up the Pieces")
- Contact of service provider while at the crime scene with immediate response by victim advocate
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)



2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

Prosecution

24. How successful is your office in achieving the following?

	Extremely successful	Successful	Moderately successful	Not successful at all	Unsure
Consulting with victims throughout the process	<input type="radio"/>				
Keeping victims informed on their case status	<input type="radio"/>				
Ensuring victims are familiar with the criminal court system, its processes and protocols	<input type="radio"/>				
Effectively dealing with reluctant/recanting victims	<input type="radio"/>				
Utilizing rape shield law to protect sexual assault victims	<input type="radio"/>				
Completion of comprehensive evidence collection	<input type="radio"/>				
Utilizing expert testimony	<input type="radio"/>				
Providing interpretation services	<input type="radio"/>				

25. Does your office have a specialized office or unit for:

Domestic violence (may include dating violence)	<input type="text" value=""/>
Sexual assault	<input type="text" value=""/>
Stalking	<input type="text" value=""/>

26. If yes, what successes have resulted? (Ex. Increase in consistency of prosecution, improved investigation and victim involvement, etc.)

27. What challenges have you experienced in working on cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?

28. Do victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking have access to advocates?



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

### Prosecution: Connecting Victims with Advocates

29. Advocates are available for...

- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Victims of Dating Violence
- Victims of Stalking
- Victims of Sexual Assault
- Unsure

30. Please select the method(s) by which victims are referred to advocates:

- Advocate available within office
- Provide referral information by phone, e-mail, or website directly to the victim
- Contact advocate to meet the victim at court hearing, arraignment, preliminary hearing, or Grand Jury
- Provide Ohio Crime Victim Rights Booklet (formerly "Picking Up the Pieces")
- Advocate initiates contact with victim after victim is identified
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)



2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

Prosecution - Training

31. Since 2013, have you or others in your office completed training on any of the following topics?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Trauma informed practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual violence evidentiary issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Culturally and competently serving clients from diverse populations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to asses and try a domestic violence case	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to asses and try a sexual assault case	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to asses and try a stalking case	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. What specialized training should prosecutors receive to assist them in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking?



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

**Court**

33. Please indicate the extent to which the following resources are available in your community:

	Available and sufficient to address the need	Available but insufficient to address the need	Resource is unavailable	Unsure
Judicial resource guides (bench books)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized domestic violence dockets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Batterer Intervention Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Court-Certified Interpreter Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. Do victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking have access to advocates ?

- yes
- no
- unsure

35. What types of court-based programs have been supported with STOP VAWA funds?



2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

Court: Advocate Accessibility

36. Advocates are available for...

- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Victims of Dating Violence
- Victims of Stalking
- Victims of Sexual Assault
- Unsure

37. Please select the method(s) by which victims are referred to advocates:

- Advocate available within court
- Referral information provided by phone, e-mail, or website directly to victim
- Contact the victim advocate directly to have the advocate assist the victim in court
- Provide Ohio Crime Victim Rights Booklet (formerly "Picking Up the Pieces")
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

**General**

38. Rate the importance of developing/expanding specialized DOMESTIC VIOLENCE units for each of the following:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	N/A - there is no need to develop/expand a specialized unit
Law enforcement	<input type="radio"/>				
Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Prosecution	<input type="radio"/>				

39. Rate the importance of developing/expanding specialized DATING VIOLENCE units for each of the following:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	N/A - there is no need to develop/expand a specialized unit
Law enforcement	<input type="radio"/>				
Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Prosecution	<input type="radio"/>				

40. Rate the importance of developing/expanding specialized SEXUAL ASSAULT units for each of the following:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	N/A - there is no need to develop/expand a specialized unit
Law enforcement	<input type="radio"/>				
Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Prosecution	<input type="radio"/>				

41. Rate the importance of developing/expanding specialized STALKING units for each of the following:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	N/A - there is no need to develop/expand a specialized unit
Law enforcement	<input type="radio"/>				
Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Prosecution	<input type="radio"/>				



2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

General

42. Rate the seriousness of the following issues currently facing agencies serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking:

	Very serious	Serious	Somewhat serious	Not a serious problem	Unsure
Insufficient funding to maintain general operations	<input type="radio"/>				
Ability to provide services to victims with multiple problems	<input type="radio"/>				
Growing number of victims seeking assistance	<input type="radio"/>				
Inadequate legal representation for victims	<input type="radio"/>				
Difficulty obtaining affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>				
Inconsistent enforcement of current laws	<input type="radio"/>				
Lack of services for specific populations	<input type="radio"/>				
Difficulty obtaining medical care	<input type="radio"/>				
Difficulty accessing SANEs at local hospitals	<input type="radio"/>				
Testing sexual assault evidence collection kits/backlog	<input type="radio"/>				
Storage and testing of anonymous sexual assault evidence collection kits	<input type="radio"/>				

	Very serious	Serious	Somewhat serious	Not a serious problem	Unsure
Prosecuting drug facilitated sexual assault cases	<input type="radio"/>				
Child custody cases involving reports of child sexual abuse	<input type="radio"/>				
Difficulty obtaining child care	<input type="radio"/>				

If you'd like to provide further detail regarding any of the above, you may do so here.

43. Are there any other serious issues currently facing agencies other than those listed above? If so, please briefly describe below.

44. Has your agency made any specific efforts to address economic justice (i.e. financial stability)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide a brief explanation.



**2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey**

**Training**

45. Rate the current need of training for the following groups in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

	No Current Need for Training		Moderate Need for Training		High Need for Training	Unsure
Advocates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil attorneys	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Correctional Staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Counselors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Court staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Judges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical professionals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Probation officers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prosecutors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SANEs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff/volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

46. How often does your agency serve the following communities?

Appalachian	<input type="text"/>
Children	<input type="text"/>
Developmentally Disabled	<input type="text"/>
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	<input type="text"/>
Elderly	<input type="text"/>
Immigrants	<input type="text"/>
Refugees	<input type="text"/>
Limited English Proficient	<input type="text"/>
Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender	<input type="text"/>
Men	<input type="text"/>
Persons with substance abuse/addiction issues	<input type="text"/>
Persons with mental illness	<input type="text"/>
Teens/adolescents	<input type="text"/>
American Indian (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts)	<input type="text"/>
Asian American	<input type="text"/>
Blacks/African American	<input type="text"/>
Hispanic/Latino	<input type="text"/>
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders	<input type="text"/>

47. Please indicate how well equipped your agency is to serve the following underserved communities:

Appalachian	<input type="text"/>
Children	<input type="text"/>
Developmentally Disabled	<input type="text"/>
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	<input type="text"/>
Elderly	<input type="text"/>
Immigrants	<input type="text"/>
Refugees	<input type="text"/>
Limited English Proficient	<input type="text"/>
Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender	<input type="text"/>
Men	<input type="text"/>
Persons with substance abuse/addiction issues	<input type="text"/>
Persons with mental illness	<input type="text"/>
Teens/adolescents	<input type="text"/>
American Indian (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts)	<input type="text"/>
Asian American	<input type="text"/>
Blacks/African American	<input type="text"/>
Hispanic/Latino	<input type="text"/>
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders	<input type="text"/>

48. What programs and services do you offer for victims from underserved communities?

49. Does your agency provide services in languages other than English?

Yes

No

50. Does your agency provide written materials in languages other than English?

Yes

No

51. What process does your agency have in place to provide interpreter services?

52. Are there any people in your community for whom providing services is especially challenging? If so, please describe the group as specifically as possible and which services are most problematic. (Examples may include crisis hotlines for Spanish-speaking populations or counseling for an unaccompanied minor.)

53. Are there services for underserved communities that you feel your agency does not provide and should? If so, what are those services?



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

### Funding

54. Were you familiar with the STOP VAWA formula grant and its purpose prior to completing this survey?

- Yes
- No

55. Has your agency applied for STOP VAWA funding through OCJS within the last 5 years?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

56. Are you currently receiving STOP VAWA funding through OCJS?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to respond

57. Please list in the space below services your agency is no longer able to provide due to reductions in funding.

58. Please list in the space below services your agency has added or dropped due to the type of programs funding agencies will support. Be sure to indicate whether the service(s) was added or dropped.

59. Please select the counties served by your agency.

- |  |                                     |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Ohio counties | <input type="checkbox"/> Guernsey   | <input type="checkbox"/> Muskingum  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noble      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allen             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hancock    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ottawa     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashland           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardin     | <input type="checkbox"/> Paulding   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashtabula         | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison   | <input type="checkbox"/> Perry      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athens            | <input type="checkbox"/> Henry      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickaway   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auglaize          | <input type="checkbox"/> Highland   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pike       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belmont           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hocking    | <input type="checkbox"/> Portage    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown             | <input type="checkbox"/> Holmes     | <input type="checkbox"/> Preble     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butler            | <input type="checkbox"/> Huron      | <input type="checkbox"/> Putnam     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carroll           | <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson    | <input type="checkbox"/> Richland   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Champaign         | <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ross       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clark             | <input type="checkbox"/> Knox       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandusky   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clermont          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake       | <input type="checkbox"/> Scioto     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton           | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence   | <input type="checkbox"/> Seneca     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbiana        | <input type="checkbox"/> Licking    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelby     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coshocton         | <input type="checkbox"/> Logan      | <input type="checkbox"/> Stark      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crawford          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lorain     | <input type="checkbox"/> Summit     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuyahoga          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lucas      | <input type="checkbox"/> Trumbull   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darke             | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuscarawas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defiance          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mahoning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Union      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware          | <input type="checkbox"/> Marion     | <input type="checkbox"/> Van Wert   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erie              | <input type="checkbox"/> Medina     | <input type="checkbox"/> Vinton     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfield         | <input type="checkbox"/> Meigs      | <input type="checkbox"/> Warren     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fayette           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mercer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin          | <input type="checkbox"/> Miami      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fulton            | <input type="checkbox"/> Monroe     | <input type="checkbox"/> Williams   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gallia            | <input type="checkbox"/> Montgomery | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geauga            | <input type="checkbox"/> Morgan     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyandot    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greene            | <input type="checkbox"/> Morrow     |                                     |



## 2016 OCJS STOP VAWA Needs Assessment Survey

Thank You

**We appreciate your time in completing this survey. Thank you for your continued efforts in providing meaningful services to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Please visit the OCJS Grants website for future funding solicitations: <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm>. If you have any questions regarding the purpose and dissemination of results, please contact Kristina Nicholson at [kcnicholson@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:kcnicholson@dps.ohio.gov).**

## Appendix B: Breakdown of Regional Focus Group Responses

Throughout each of the regional focus groups, staff from the Office of Criminal Justice Services as well as members of the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan Committee attended for the purpose of taking notes on the topics of discussion. These notes are summarized statements of the information that was communicated during the focus group by each of the participants. The table below provides a detailed overview of the comments made in response to each question, broken down by region. Major themes were identified for each focus group, and responses were categorized appropriately.

When the information was available, the discipline of the individual who made the comment is also available in parentheses.

Key	
(CS) = Culturally Specific <sup>1</sup>	(SANE) = Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
(C) = Court Specific	(US) = Underserved
(J) = Judge	(VS) = Victim Services
(LE) = Law Enforcement	
(PR) = Prosecutor	

**Please note that the below information is an outline of statements made by individuals during regional focus groups to inform challenges and gaps in resources for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services nor the author of this report. Likewise, the statements may not reflect best practices within the field, and so should not be viewed as a prescriptive resource without further considerations.**

<sup>1</sup> Throughout the table “CS” and “US” may be referenced generally, or they may be followed by a specific population (e.g. US – LGBTQI) depending on the respective population that the agency primarily serves.

<b>Barriers to Victims of Domestic Violence</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>			
	<b>Justice System - Courts</b>	<b>Survivor Access to Resources</b>	<b>Program Resources</b>	<b>Victim Perceptions and Education</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The court system struggles to handle cases effectively due to the sheer volume of them (PR)</li> <li>- Domestic violence offenses are often treated as misdemeanors in the court and the offender is not properly held accountable (PR)</li> <li>- Victims do not always want to report their crimes because they do not believe the court will do anything to help them (PR)</li> <li>- The burden of the case falls upon the victim’s shoulders. For the case to move forward, the victim has to show up, testify and may be re-traumatized in the process. If the victim is not there, the case is dropped. (PR)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Having resources centralized in one locale would be beneficial for the victim in reducing additional trauma (VS)</li> <li>- Resources are not always within reach of the victim. Common issues are shelters being too far away or a lack of appropriate services in the county of the victim. (VS)</li> <li>- Additional issues are the lack of transportation to get to court, lack of child care options, lack of pet care and victims are not always able to get work off for court (all)</li> <li>- Many victims also need counseling but cannot get this service because the victim and perpetrator may share a medical card. (VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Services are often limited in their funding which effects the services they are able to provide.</li> <li>- There is a lack of <b>appropriate</b> resources for differing communities, meaning services tailored to one population may not fit another. We need appropriately equipped staff to help various populations (LGBTQ)</li> <li>- Shelters are not always equipped to serve different cultures. There is a need to have interpreters present. (VS/CS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Victims often believe “this is how I am supposed to be treated” so they do not reach out for help. It is very difficult to break the cycle (PR/VS)</li> <li>- Victims often fear their abuser and may worry about repercussions for their actions. (VS)</li> <li>- Undocumented victims fear the threat of deportation if they report or pursue a case (CS)</li> <li>- Sometimes the victim is not aware of what next steps are available to them. They are not aware of the resources out there. (CS)</li> </ul>
	<b>Northwest Ohio</b>			
	<b>Disability</b>	<b>Programming Resources</b>		<b>Education and Training</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sometimes a victim is completely dependent on a family member to provide care as a result of a disability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mental health services need to be improved because there are victims, as well as perpetrators, with mental health</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jurors need additional education on crimes such as domestic violence</li> </ul>

<p>or health condition. This makes it difficult for the victim to come forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victims may recant their confession because they need the care the individual provides.</li> <li>- Disabled victims may be hesitant to report because there is not a facility or crisis center available for them to go to get care.</li> </ul>	<p>and substance abuse issues. There is a need for higher quality services to assist them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The difficulty in improving mental health services is often due to the lack funding given to them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The media should be utilized as a tool to educate the public and influence the culture surrounding domestic violence. Increasing emphasis should be put on changing the language to stop blaming the victim.</li> <li>- In helping domestic violence victims, the focus should be on keeping them safe, not just leaving the abuser. This is not always possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Northeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Stigma around SA</b>	<b>Justice System - Courts</b>	<b>Justice System - Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Program Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a stigma around shelters and being a victim. Victims do not want to go to shelters because they do not want to be identified as a victim. (PR)</li> <li>- There is a blanket stigma in culture surrounding sexual assault and domestic violence. Comments are thrown around that “it is just foreplay”, “the victim will recant”, “rape does not happen in marriage”. Inappropriate comments such as these degrade the victim. (PR)</li> <li>- There is a great need for continuing community education and increased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Domestic violence victims have large financial needs within court. They need finances to hire attorneys, to participate in qualifying crime programs and to access victim services. (PR)</li> <li>- The judge and the victim are not always on the same page. Judges may get angry at victim if they don’t testify and are very opinionated on domestic violence and the victim not leaving (PR/VS)</li> <li>- The cultural and criminal definitions of DV are not the same, there are different standards. (VS)</li> <li>- There are cultural barriers in victims not understanding their rights because they cannot speak</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law enforcement lacks knowledge and understanding of the severity of domestic violence as a crime. (LE)</li> <li>- Protection orders are difficult to enforce. Perpetrators are intelligent and avoid being caught. (VS)</li> <li>- Small departments struggle to keep up with best practices. There’s a need for continuing education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programs are often limited by not having enough staff (CS-Hispanic)</li> <li>- There’s a need for more advocacy services. Advocates greatly help with explaining what is going on to the victim (CS-Hispanic)</li> <li>- There’s a cultural and language barrier in shelter’s and other victim services. More interpreters are needed and an overall better understanding of cultural differences (CS-Hispanic)</li> </ul>

<p>cultural competency surrounding domestic violence</p>	<p>the language or do not understand (CS- Hispanic) - Transportation for clients to court is barrier (CS- Hispanic)</p>		
<b>Southeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Justice System - Courts</b>		<b>Victim Access to Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emergency legal assistance is often unavailable. (VS)</li> <li>- “Victims are not eligible for compensation and so they slip through the cracks.” (VS)</li> <li>- Perpetrators are often charged with assault rather than DV. (LE)</li> <li>- LGBTQ couples are not acknowledged as a couple in some courts. Given that they are not viewed as couple, then the case cannot be pursued as DV. (US - LGBTQI)</li> <li>- Protection orders are filed as civil protection orders rather than in criminal courts.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No available housing for victims. Even with a housing voucher, victims are still unable to get housing. (VS)</li> <li>- Lack of transportation to get to necessary appointments (counseling, legal services, etc.). (VS)</li> <li>- Cannot leave county without a car (VS)</li> <li>- Victims cannot afford an attorney. (VS)</li> <li>- Lack of jobs available, which perpetuates the inability to leave the abuser. (VS)</li> <li>- Financial support is typically bound up in court in cases where a victim is pursuing spousal support. (VS)</li> <li>- Some victims do not even have a phone to call for help, which contributes to further isolation. (VS)</li> <li>- Victims want case dismissed because they rely on the abuser for finances support. (PR)</li> </ul>	
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>			
<b>Barriers when interacting with law enforcement</b>	<b>Victim Access to Resources</b>		<b>Justice System</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Victims are a barrier to themselves whether its fear of being alone or of the suspect” (LE)</li> <li>- Victims sometimes don’t cooperate [when reporting domestic violence].</li> <li>- Law enforcement sees that some victims use the system for retaliation against the abuser, and so law enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victims don’t know what resources are available or they are not confident with resources in place. For example, victims aren’t confident that protection orders will be enforced.</li> <li>- Transportation to SANE services and domestic violence exams is a barrier, especially in situations where the victims need to travel long distances (e.g. out of county).</li> <li>- There is a need for shelters, particularly in rural areas. Given the lack of shelters, victims often drop out from the justice seeking process.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The criminal justice setting is intimidating and a lot of pressure is put on survivors to drive the process. (VS)</li> <li>- Logistic issues are a barrier, there is a disconnect between victims and key players in the criminal justice process. Victims don’t want to be near the offender, but sometimes there are not many</li> </ul>

<p>questions victim credibility and intent. (LE)                  - Law enforcement has the wrong mindset about victims</p>	<p>- The lack of civil legal services and legal aid is a barrier. Victims also are in need of assistance with smaller DV related issues (eviction, etc.).                  - Children’s services in court is lacking.</p>	<p>options to avoid potential interactions or contact. (SANE)                  - There is no county consistency on how to serve victims.</p>
<b><i>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities</i></b>		
<b>Victim Access to Resources</b>	<b>Program Resources</b>	<b>Cultural Barriers</b>
<p>- Undocumented victims of domestic violence do not want to report out of fear of immigration and legal issues (both for the victim and the offender) that could arise if they come forward. (Hispanic)                  - Being married to nationals, threat of deportation (Immigrant)                  - For victims who have ongoing health concerns such as HIV, ongoing treatment is a necessity. However, when healthcare is tied to abuser, it is very common for the abuser to know what victim is doing based on information reported to insurance companies. (Women of Color)</p>	<p>- There is a need for community health workers who have been cross-trained on domestic and sexual violence. These individuals are typically well-connected to the communities they serve so they are good to have as a person to connect the community to services. (Asian)                  - We need more federal qualified, cultural health centers, or places to go without insurance that have counseling and other services. (Asian)                  - Need multiple advocates that understand the culture and language. (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)                  - Lack of interpreters within service organizations. Very difficult to communicate. (Hispanic)                  - Need funding for prevention trainings within churches. Faith community has negative culture surrounding these topics, and this can be addressed through education. (Faith-based)                  - Advocates need to focus on stay plans for victims rather than solely focusing on leaving. (Immigrant)</p>	<p>- Most individuals who have immigrated to the United States do not understand the legal system and health care systems that are in places. (Immigrant)                  - Need more cultural competence and cultural humility in working with individuals. Service providers should recognize that unless they are a part of the culture, they may never be truly competent in serving certain populations. (All)</p>

<b>Barriers to Victims of Sexual Assault</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>		
	<b>Resource Gaps</b>	<b>Victim Disability &amp; Credibility</b>	<b>Society Perception</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Major barrier in the lack of available resources. Specifically in childcare, transportation and bi-lingual counselors. (CS, VS)</li> <li>- Most shelters are not set up for different populations, specifically culturally specific and cognitively impaired populations (VS)</li> <li>- There is a lack of funding and grant money to cover resources. This creates gaps in services and providers are having to spend money out of pocket.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victims are often targeted because they do not appear credible. Courts do not believe them (PR)</li> <li>- If victims are disabled, they may struggle with communicating and cannot say who assaulted them therefore nothing is done.</li> <li>- They also may be completely dependent on the assailant for care and cannot afford losing them.</li> <li>- The perpetrator may also be isolating the victim so they do not have the chance call the police (VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Society needs to change the victim blaming attitude and start holding offenders accountable for their actions (PR)</li> <li>- There needs to be a shift in the perception and understanding of the system. The process needs to work for victims. (PR)</li> </ul>
	<b>Northwest Ohio</b>		
	<b>Victim Disability &amp; Credibility</b>	<b>Education/Training</b>	<b>Justice System - Courts</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Courts and law enforcement struggle with developmentally disabled victims and their believability. There needs to be more education on the effects of trauma and how to handle survivors that seem not credible.</li> <li>-The disbelief in the credibility or believability of a victim may in turn victimize them further.</li> <li>- Disabled victim’s need education on how to report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specific training should be offered to law enforcement to help them gain a better understanding of trauma and its effects on the brain.</li> <li>- Court personnel, prosecutors and judges all need the same training and education as others.</li> <li>- Victim’s need assistance getting through the system</li> <li>- Communication between advocates and officers needs to be improved.</li> <li>- There is a lack of SANE nurses and resources to fund them. Some counties do not have a SANE and it is a much more lengthy process for victims.</li> <li>- Sexual assault needs to be looked at as a public health issue. It should be treated with education and awareness campaigns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a lack of prosecutions occurring in cases because of a lack of information, evidence and follow through.</li> <li>- There is a barrier with juries. Juror mindsets need to be changed. Changing their perceptions of sexual assault and the rate of false accusations is important for case results.</li> </ul>	

<b>Northeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Justice System - Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Resource Gaps</b>	<b>Victim Mentality</b>	<b>Justice System - Courts</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police officers need more training on how to best intervene in DV/SA situations and more education on the effects of trauma (LE)</li> <li>- Training for LE should be victim centered and mandatory. Officers need to see this type of violence as a public health problem (LE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are issues when it comes to victims with children. Lack of childcare options, they don't want to bring kids to court, fear losing support for the kids if they report, and don't want to go to shelter without their kids (LE/VS)</li> <li>- Many victims want counseling but have no access to health insurance or have a limited budget (CS-Hispanic)</li> <li>- Hispanic immigrant women have different access to different services. (CS)</li> <li>- Undocumented victims have legal concerns of deportation (CS)</li> <li>- The Amish population is very private. Women will often be ostracized and punished if they report. (LE)</li> <li>- There are also problems in CFS, housing and medical services (CS-Hisp)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The victim often does not believe anyone cares so they do not report (LE)</li> <li>- Victims often have low levels of confidence. (LE) (CS- Hispanic)</li> <li>- There's brainwashing in victims by perpetrators. (PR)</li> <li>- We, as responders, need to focus on giving victims their power back (CS-Hispanic)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We do not have a specialized sexual assault prosecutor (PR)</li> <li>- The courts should be able to move forward without having the victim physically present but they cannot at this time (VS/LE)</li> <li>- Having the victim come and testify is traumatizing (VS)</li> </ul>
<b>Southeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Community Culture</b>	<b>Justice System – Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victims remain anonymous because of small communities and the fear of judgment. In these communities the victim may also have to work with offender. (VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Underreporting is a problem because the system itself is barrier. It's not user friendly and victims do not want the humiliation and shame.</li> <li>- Victims fall through the system. (LE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to sexual assault exams in smaller counties is limited. Access to exams requires transportation which is difficult given the limited resources. (VS)</li> </ul>	

	<p>- In rural communities, people are scared to come forward. They don't feel safe. (CS-LGBTQI; CS-International Students)</p>	<p>- What is being taught about sexual assault is different than criminal definition. There are different definitions in the law [compared to the social standard of sexual assault]. As a result, victims come forward and are then told by law enforcement that what they experienced is not sexual assault. (LE)          - Victims constantly have to tell people what happened to them. Particularly on college/university campuses given that Title 9 exacerbates the number of people that are reported to. (LE)</p>	<p>- Victims are often facing financial problems. As a result victims often just request a dismissal because of the many barriers. (C)          - Time in court is very burdensome on victim. (VS)</p>
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>			
<b>Justice System</b>		<b>Society Perception</b>	
<p>- Negative law enforcement interactions and inconsistent support causes victim hesitancy in moving forward with a case. (PR)          - Sexual assault cases take longer to try in court and have more layers. (VS)          - Investigative process in sexual assault cases makes victims feel less safe. (VS)</p>		<p>- There is a need not only for a change in sexual assault legislation, but also culture around rape as well. (VS)          - Survivors often feel blamed and like they aren't believed. (VS).</p>	
<p>- Education is needed for first responders. (SANE)          - Special Unit detectives know what they are doing in the hospital setting as it relates to sexual assault cases, whereas street cops do not. (PR)          - It is each agency's responsibility to keep up with trainings on domestic violence and sexual assault laws/policy. Cincinnati PD does one training each year to keep up with case law and procedures but this is not the case for every agency. (LE)          - Agencies should have law enforcement train one another. (LE)</p>			

	<b><i>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities</i></b>		
	<b>Education/Training</b>	<b>Resource Gaps</b>	<b>Mainstream Agency Issues</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The faith community needs to be held accountable. More education is needed regarding what sexual assault is. (US-Faith-based)</li> <li>- There is a need for more education on what rape is and what is an appropriate relationship (US – Deaf/Hard of Hearing)</li> <li>- Cultural sensitivity training is necessary. Victims need to see people who understand and relate to their culture. (US/CS - Immigrant)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need for more resources directed towards cultural communities and more community health workers. (all)</li> <li>- There is a need for hospitals and health care advocates to follow the system and regulations that are in place. (US – Deaf/Hard of Hearing)</li> <li>- There is a critical need for advocates and staff who understand cultural layers. This gives victims a sense of trust and comfort. (US/CS - Immigrant)</li> <li>- Some service providers who provide referrals do not know where resources are to even send victims to within specific communities. (US - Women of Color, All)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is little diversity in mainstream organizations. (All)</li> <li>- There are differences within races and ethnic groups that also need specific resources to them. (US - Women of Color, Deaf/Hard of Hearing)</li> <li>- There is a lack of trust between nonmainstream agencies. Ego of mainstream agencies results in the agencies not sending clients to the appropriate services.</li> </ul>
<b>Barriers to Victims of Stalking</b>	<b><i>Central Ohio</i></b>		
	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victims do not realize what is happening to them is stalking. It is difficult to point out a pattern when behaviors are technically legal (LE, VS)</li> <li>- Law enforcement responds and only looks at the present issue rather than recognizing the pattern or history of it (LE, VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protection orders are not always fully enforced (VS, CS). This in part is due to the fact that perpetrators are smart, they know how to avoid apprehension and it is difficult catch them red handed.</li> <li>- Stalking via technology is difficult to track because companies (FB, dating apps) will not always cooperate with handing over evidence (PR)</li> <li>- There is a lack of education when it comes to law enforcement. There is no stalking training. Officers need to know how to record an incident and ask about patterns of behavior. (LE/VS)</li> </ul>	

<b>Northwest Ohio</b>			
<b>Education &amp; Identification</b>		<b>Enforcement</b>	<b>Technology</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many officers are not able to identify incidents as stalking. They need more education on identifying stalking incidents</li> <li>- There is the same issue with disabled persons. Stalking behaviors are not being identified as such – i.e. someone stealing prescription drugs from a disabled individual is not seen as stalking</li> <li>- Judges also need more education on what the stalking law is.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Officers are not doing a good job of documenting and following through on stalking cases</li> <li>- There is difficulty in enforcing protection orders. Perpetrators are often smart and deviant, they find a way around the orders.</li> <li>- GPS tracking for protection orders should be implemented as a way to hold perpetrators accountable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-With stalking via technology, overseas cyber stalking is not traceable. Even with a specific address, officials cannot get the evidence needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Northeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Education &amp; Identification</b>		<b>Enforcement</b>	<b>Courts/Prosecution</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victims themselves do not understand or recognize their situation as stalking. (LE)</li> <li>- Law enforcement need more education on stalking law and how to apply it. (LE)</li> <li>- Since there is a high turnover of officers, many young unexperienced officers are out in the field. They may not be able to identify stalking or know how to correctly respond in stalking situation. (PR)</li> <li>- Trainings on stalking should be state mandated (big and small departments) and include both psychological and social aspects. (LE)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Officers are often slow to arrest. Victims have to fight to get the perpetrator arrested (VS/LE)</li> <li>- A stalking task force is needed like ones in place for other crimes (human trafficking or drugs). It's a public health problem. (VS)</li> <li>- Stalking is difficult to prove because there usually is not any physical evidence. It's difficult to fit a situation into the stalking definition. (CS- Hispanic)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prosecutors are often slow to prosecute these cases (VS)</li> <li>- There is a lack of consistency in courts with judges and how they handle stalking cases.</li> <li>- The burden of proof is often on the victim, they have a lot to do themselves to move a case a long (VS)</li> <li>- Prosecutors need training as well (PR)</li> </ul>
<b>Southeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Technology</b>	<b>Justice System</b>	<b>Education &amp; Identification</b>	<b>Rural Areas</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technology issues make everything more difficult to track (e.g. Facebook). (VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Courts prosecutors confuse victims with non-lay language, hard to follow and burden is on victim to prove they are a victim. (US)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police are responding to a single incident and not the long history behind it. Need to be able to identify stalking. (LE)</li> <li>- Need to educate the public on stalking so they are able to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In rural areas, only one road or one grocery store. Nothing victim or law enforcement can do to avoid the perpetrator</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phones with GPS can lead attacker to victim (VS)</li> <li>- Evidentiary issue – taking victims’ cell phones for digital evidence may make them feel more victimized (LE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to establish pattern of conduct, hard to prove in court, one weakness negates case (LE)</li> <li>- Protection orders are not doing much and hard to get. Need to amend these laws. (LE/VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify when it is occurring. (VS)</li> <li>- There are little to no stalking charges in court, often classified as other things (telecom harassment). (PR)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>because the perpetrator must take that way.</li> <li>- Victims feel unprotected. (VS/LE)</li> </ul>
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>				
	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Gaps in Resources</b>		<b>Culture</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stalking is not recognized as stalking by law enforcement because of the way it started out (i.e. it started out as DV or dating violence). (LE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Getting a protection order is difficult for stalking cases.</li> <li>- Resources are unknown to victims.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The culture around stalking is to minimize its severity and impact.</li> </ul>
<b>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities<sup>2</sup></b>				
	N/A			
	N/A			
<b>Programming for Underserved Communities</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>			
	<b>Rural Communities</b>	<b>Education</b>		<b>Cultural Accommodations</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rural counties have such small minority populations that minorities often do not stay because they do not fit in or have a community. “We don’t have the resources because we do not have the population” (VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efforts should be made to educate kids in school districts at a young age (PR)</li> <li>- Violence is a “people issue” meaning it involves everyone. We need to educate all groups of people including children (VS-LGBTQ)</li> <li>- The public needs to understand brainwashing occurs in victims.</li> <li>- We need to continue education outside of schools. We should utilize social media, pop culture and online classes to do this. (PR)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have different materials in different languages which is very helpful (VS)</li> <li>- We need to educate cultures in a way that works for them, in some cultures sex-education is taboo and they cannot attend. We need to know where to reach out (CS - Muslims)</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Participants at this focus group were asked the same questions as the regional focus groups, however key themes surfaced that focused primarily on victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As such, no information is available that specifically relates to barriers for stalking victims within these communities.

<b>Northwest Ohio</b>			
<b>Victim Disability</b>		<b>Cultural Accommodations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need more programming to address the needs of disabled victims.</li> <li>- We need crisis centers that are accessible to people with disabilities and more mental health services across the board.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We carry iSpeak cards which are helpful materials to hand out.</li> <li>- There are good interpreter services in some areas (Putnam Co.)</li> </ul>	
<b>Northeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Cultural Accommodations</b>	<b>Resource/Program Growth</b>	<b>Interpreting Issues</b>	<b>Education/Outreach</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have shelters that accommodate different cultures. Victims are able to have culturally specific food available to them or have the option to cook their own food. They do small things like having correct hair care products which goes a long way. (VS)</li> <li>- There is always a continuous need for bi-lingual staff. (VS/CS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building relationships with other resources in the community is a great way to help underserved clients. Having a contact person at other agencies helps victims skip long wait process (CS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need to improve the quantity and quality of interpreters. Language line is not always good at interpreting correctly. (LE when discussing ICE inmates)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need more community outreach and education about domestic violence incidents for underserved communities. (LE)</li> </ul>
<b>Southeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Rural Communities</b>	<b>Drugs</b>		<b>Interpreting Issues</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There are underserved in isolated/rural areas, not just ethnic minorities. (VS)</li> <li>- Programming fails to account for poverty, sometimes victims do not have internet access, no access to media or access to transportation. (LE)</li> <li>- With isolated victims, there is no way to contact them. (VS)</li> <li>- Some organizations have to be everything for everybody, including law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other crimes contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault problems (e.g. mail order brides, human trafficking, drugs). (LE)</li> <li>- Victims will not come forward because they are afraid of getting in trouble for using drugs (LE)</li> <li>- Attached to perp because they supply drugs. Drugs part of abuse (LE/VS)</li> <li>- Afraid of losing kids to CPS (LE)</li> <li>- Getting treatment involves leaving kids with abuser, drug use keeps them from shelters (VS)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The university is very diverse internationally, but different populations difficult to reach because it is unclear what languages providers should translate materials into. (VS)</li> </ul>

	enforcement, advocates, legal advisors, etc. (LE)	- Drug use destroys credibility and functioning of victim. (LE)		
	<b>Southwest Ohio</b>			
	<b>Language and Cultural Considerations</b>	<b>Education and Outreach</b>		<b>Resource/Program Growth</b>
	- Agencies are trying to staff people with the experience needed to make the connection with the communities. (Bi-lingual advocates)	-Education and outreach for Spanish speaking communities - Service providers are not seeing representation in victims that they know are out there. Need more outreach in marginalized communities. - Education in schools and day cares should be a high priority. Presenting at young ages is a better start but education needs to continue through middle and high school.		- Alliance for Immigrants in Hamilton - Churches and Hispanic Health Coalition - Project Women (comprehensive week long program) - Need more SANEs.
	<b>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities<sup>3</sup></b>			
	N/A			
	N/A			
<b>Access to Interpreters</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>			
	<b>Interpreter Quality</b>	<b>Community Size</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	- There needs to be special clearances or certifications for interpreters. Topics such as DV and SA are especially difficult for translators and not always translated correctly (CS)	- Minority communities are often very small which makes it difficult to find an interpreter that is not related to the victim or does not personally know them (VS) - Sometimes the same interpreter is used for the perpetrator and the victim which may unintentionally lead to the sharing of information (CS)	- Police often use Language Line. They are certified to a certain level but they have difficulty interpreting slang texts. Time is then lost because these messages cannot be interpreted right away resulting in delayed reactions (LE)	- Interpreters are often extremely expensive (VS)

<sup>3</sup> Given the participants of the focus group and the purpose of hearing from those underserved communities, it is assumed that the programming discussed in the Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities focus group is programming needed to address the needs for underserved communities. Please refer to additional regions for further discussion on specific barriers.

<b>Northwest Ohio</b>					
<b>Cultural Barriers</b>		<b>Interpreter Quality</b>		<b>Lack of Resources</b>	
<p>- In certain cultures, individuals are taught to keep problems within the family and not speak out. This makes it difficult for victims to come forward and report.</p>		<p>- The interpreter provided may not be equipped to handle questions on such difficult subject matter</p> <p>- Some interpreters have questionable confidentiality.</p> <p>- It's problematic when the interpreter tries to become friends with the victim rather than just interpreting. Vice versa, it is also difficult when the victim latches onto a specific interpreter.</p>		<p>- There are no local agencies or programs that directly work with underserved populations.</p> <p>- There are interpreters out there but they are not always available spur of the moment (Deaf)</p>	
<b>Northeast Ohio</b>					
<b>Lack of Resources</b>		<b>Interpreter Quality</b>		<b>Community Size</b>	
<p>- There is a need for more interpreters and advocates within agencies. Survivors are more comfortable with advocates that understand the community and culture (VS)</p>		<p>- It is problematic when interpreters give their opinion instead of just interpreting or when they try to make friends with the victim instead just interpreting (CS-Hispanic)</p> <p>- Sometimes interpreters are hesitant to provide the graphic but necessary details (LE)</p> <p>- There is a need for more certified interpreters. The courts have them but LE has to go looking for one (LE)</p>		<p>-In such small communities, the victim can be kicked out for reporting (CS-Hispanic)</p> <p>- There is a need for more interpreters outside of the community because the interpreter may know the perpetrator if they are from the same community (CS-Hispanic)</p>	
<b>Southeast Ohio</b>					
<b>Low Need</b>	<b>Cultural Barriers</b>		<b>Lack of Resources</b>		<b>Community Size</b>
<p>- Only ever needed one interpreter. (VS)</p> <p>- Have access to university but don't often need an interpreter. (LE)</p> <p>- Have court interpreters in place if needed. (J)</p>	<p>- Cultural barriers with gender in focus on "she" rather than being inclusive. Language around sexual assault and domestic violence should be changed to be more inclusive (US -LGBTQI)</p> <p>- Barrier for people seeking the system but not normatively fitting. Difficult for them (J)</p>		<p>- No male support groups. (CS)</p> <p>- Have to contract out to Columbus for rape kits (CS)</p> <p>- Cultural comfort issues: need more cultural support groups,</p>		<p>- Difficult for victim to find support group because of small community and knowing each other. Have to refer to group outside of county.</p> <p>- To avoid local connections in small community, partner with Columbus or contract</p>

		- Need more atmosphere of openness, ask victims what they need rather than what you think they need. (VS)	and also incorporate food and other customs.	out with other companies over the phone (VS)
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>				
<b>Interpreter Accessibility</b>			<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barrier in accessing court interpreters.</li> <li>- No barriers with hospital interpreters given that they are already mandated.</li> <li>- Different dialects pose a problem.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law enforcement uses Language Line (LE)</li> <li>- Disconnect with law enforcement in confidentiality with Jane Does and SANEs. More education needed for law enforcement. (LE)</li> <li>-Lack of communication within law enforcement (LE)</li> </ul>	
<b>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities</b>				
<b>Lack of Resources</b>		<b>Interpreter Quality</b>		<b>Illiteracy Barrier</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need more community health workers and need more medically qualified interpreters. (CS - Asian)</li> <li>- Need more collaboration between agencies to understand who is out there to help (CS - Immigrant)</li> <li>- Need both case manager and interpreter, crucial. Interpreter cannot do case manager job of getting second layer of info (CS - Asian)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need more of a focus on interpreter quality and using simple words rather than getting people in and out quickly. (CS/US - Immigrant)</li> <li>- Problems in cases where an interpreter is not getting what victim is saying (Immigrant)</li> <li>- Quality of interpreter depends on how invested they are (CS/US - Immigrant)</li> <li>- Certification for deaf advocates is a “hot mess”. Even after training some advocates, they aren’t able to properly translate or interpret. Ohio needs a different system; recommend something like Utah’s. (US – Deaf/Hard of Hearing)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Problem with illiteracy in that victims do not know or understand their rights but sign legal documents.</li> <li>- Service providers and advocates need to be able to spot illiteracy b/c people try to hide it (CS – Asian; Women of Color)</li> </ul>
<b>Programming without Funding Limitations</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>			
	<b>Education</b>		<b>Victim Resources</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We would like to do more bystander outreach to try and shift attitudes away from victim blaming</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like to implement more in-home child care, transportation (PR), home-based therapies (VS), websites with online education for victims (LE) and an app for victims to hide from perpetrator (VS)</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Also want to increase shelter options, especially for LGBTQ, and allow longer time limits for temporary housing (LGBTQI)</li> <li>- Would like to see more attorneys hired for civil needs or legal aid (PR)</li> </ul>	
<b>Northwest Ohio</b>			
<b>Education</b>		<b>Training</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We would like to increase community education and awareness around DV/SA issues.</li> <li>- Want to start providing education in schools at even younger ages.</li> <li>- We would like to create bystander intervention campaigns to train people on how to help when they see something going on.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like to have forensic interview trainings for those dealing with children and disabled persons</li> <li>- Increase the number of SANE trainings to have more SANE nurses available</li> <li>- Have officer led trainings to understand the brain's response to trauma</li> </ul>	
		<b>Changes in Law</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like to create change in preliminary hearings and hearsay laws by allowing hearsay to be permitted for the purpose of not re-traumatizing the victim again by testifying.</li> </ul>	
		<b>Resources</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be able to provide more culturally specific advocates</li> </ul>	
<b>Northeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Education</b>		<b>Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like to have more prevention education efforts (VS/LE)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We would like to be able to have more transportation options available, especially in rural counties (VS)</li> <li>- Create more housing assistance programs (VS)</li> <li>- Be able to hire more staff (CS-Hispanic)</li> </ul>	
		<b>Training</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Have more training courses for officers so law enforcement is all on the same page (PR)</li> </ul>	
<b>Southeast Ohio</b>			
<b>Education</b>		<b>Training</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More community outreach, particularly in rural areas. (VS)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law Enforcement training. (VS)</li> <li>- Diversity training.</li> </ul>	

	- Have safety coordinator position to give presentations and have different speakers (VS)	- Trainings for everyone, update them with current best practices and make sure up to date (LE, CS) - Emergency room training. (J) - Funding to cover the attendance and over-time from trainings. (VS) - Record the trainings and use on webinars. (VS)	
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>			
	<b>Training</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	- More coordinated response trainings	- Safe houses that take people for both DV and SA. These would be an intermediate place before shelter. - Transportation for victims. - SANE Programs – improve them as the need increases so that demand can be met. - Increased SAFE funding for resources.	- More collaborative communication within communities, entice collaboration regardless of funding.
<b>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities</b>			
	<b>Education</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Changes in Law</b>
	- Get into middle schools to start prevention education early. - Address home level issues in the school. (CS/US - Immigrant) - Educate deaf children on basics that they are not getting at home. (US – Deaf/Hard of Hearing)	- Transitional housing for everyone (US – Deaf/Hard of Hearing) - Have comfort food tailored to each culture in shelters. Collaborate with local pantries. (CS - Asian) - Have more resources available and increased collaboration for survivor’s benefit. (CS - Immigrant) - Advocacy groups in Spanish (Immigrant)	- Address language barrier when defining crimes in different languages. A term is not always fitting the criminal definition when translated (e.g. human trafficking in different languages means something very different compared to the English definition). (CS - Asian)
<b>Public Education Gaps and Efforts</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>		
	<b>Service-Provider Education</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Rural Gaps</b>
	- We are educating different parties and different team members involved in the process so we know	- We have victim advocates for every judge (PR)	- Each county is different, there are good resources available in Franklin county but rural counties are still

<p>as a community how to best respond (VS)                  - We have the “Where’s the Line” campaign. It addresses unhealthy relationships in teenagers (VS)</p>	<p>- One Stop Shops (PR) or County level inter-disciplinary teams are great. They have everything in one place and they pull organizations together (VS). We need these in every county.                  - We have a Masset team for disabled victims.</p>	<p>working on training, uniformity, standardizing definitions, etc. (VS)</p>
<p><b>Northwest Ohio</b></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Methods of Teaching</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Education in Schools</b></p>
<p>- We need to be using a more generationally consistent approach and teach in ways students understand.                  - Society needs to model healthy behaviors and if we utilize athletes in the community to be positive role models, this will have a good impact on youth.</p>	<p>- We need education on these topics to start in middle and elementary schools and to include students with disabilities.                  - Waiting to teach about relationships until age 18 is too late, education needs to be early on with “good touch, bad touch”,                  - We should have prevention education for DV and SA like there is for drugs.</p>	
<p><b>Northeast Ohio</b></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Education in Schools</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community Education</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Changing the Narrative</b></p>
<p>- We need more efforts in the educational system (middle and high school). We should have sex education classes discuss what is not appropriate with regards to relationships. (PR/LE)                  - We have a prevention education program in certain schools with a 5 day curriculum. We teach primary prevention, positive behaviors, etc. (VS)</p>	<p>- We are doing PSA’s with Sexual Assault. We are going to universities and having important people speaking out to make it noticeable (VS)                  - We put on Amish Safety Day to educate and provide resources to the Amish (LE)                  - We are utilizing social media to post statistics, victim service resources and community education on Sheriff Facebook page (LE)</p>	<p>- We need to continuously work to improve the downplaying of sexual violence in the media. The wording in culture affects perception of severity (VS)</p>
<p><b>Southeast Ohio</b></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Changing the Narrative</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community Education</b></p>
<p>- We need shift in narrative from “do not walk alone” to “do not rape” (CS-LGBT)                  - With advocates on campus. Continue to teach safety planning but not blaming victim (VS)</p>		<p>- We have a citizens’ group that we teach a class on domestic violence and sexual assault. Those people go out and spread information to their network of peers. (VS)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Currently using social media campaigns. (VS)</li> <li>- People are not interested in learning until they need to/it happens to them. This should change. (LE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A class on relationship abuse had more participants than any other class. People do not know what healthy relationship is (VS)</li> <li>- Teach at churches, women’s clubs and schools (VS)</li> <li>- Social media is huge for education. People will read what is posted but we need to make sure it is the correct info. (VS)</li> <li>- Need to teach bystanders how to intervene.</li> <li>- Address suspects in education efforts as well.</li> </ul>	
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>		
<b>Prevention Education</b>		<b>Law Enforcement Education</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth in high school and middle school need education the most.</li> <li>- Some teachers are also requesting intervention since students are disclosing assault and violence at home.</li> <li>- More education related to sexual assault.</li> <li>- The need to present to younger groups is increasing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training and education for law enforcement is needed more frequently.</li> <li>- Education for first responders and law enforcement is needed to better inform them, particularly around trauma informed care.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities</b>		
<b>Service Provider Education</b>	<b>Community Programming</b>	<b>Community Education</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education outreach to service providers. Get word out of each other’s resources and improve networking so you know where to send/who to call for victims. Promote collaboration. (US - Women of Color)</li> <li>- Remind mainstream organizations that there is space to improve. (US – Deaf/Hard of Hearing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have all communities included in programs. They all have similar problems within. Have them all talk together about rights and relationships (Asian)</li> <li>- Have community classes (cooking), pair women together and they talk. Works for those not coming to agencies (US - Women of Color)</li> <li>- We do trainings all over the region for different groups including law enforcement and religious centers. (US - Women of Color)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of commercials and videos to get information out about specific populations. It shows the community that there are agencies serving a particular community. (Deaf)</li> <li>- Attend Health Fairs to create awareness (US - Women of Color; CS/US - Immigrant)</li> <li>- Need more funding for outreach in faith community. Change culture, remove denial, and raise leaders. (US - Faith)</li> </ul>

<b>Status of Community Coordinated Response</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>		
	<b>County Response</b>		<b>Education Efforts</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some counties have all the resources in the same place which helps reduce the trauma a family goes through (Franklin Co.)</li> <li>- The county mandated inter-disciplinary teams are great but we need them standardized and in all counties.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are educating kids across school districts but we now need to be sure it is reaching all populations (VS)</li> <li>- Utilizing social media and education outside of schools are both ways to further education</li> <li>- We address education prevention by having materials available in different languages.</li> </ul>
	<b>Northwest Ohio</b>		
	<b>Disability Response</b>	<b>County Response</b>	<b>Stalking</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have a good law enforcement response generally but it lacks when working with individuals with disabilities (Allen Co.)</li> <li>- Services are not always available for persons with disabilities.</li> <li>- The prosecution is not always interested in helping or pursuing cases involving persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many counties have a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) but there is no domestic violence coordinated response. (Wood Co.)</li> <li>- Allen County on the other hand has a good response with domestic violence but not sexual assault.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There's a barrier for a coordinated response with the use of public records. There is a law in place that prevents information sharing about potential perpetrators.</li> </ul>
	<b>Northeast Ohio</b>		
	<b>County Resources</b>		<b>Lack of consistency and education</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In one county we have a specialized domestic violence program with a felony domestic violence court. This is a great resource.</li> <li>- We have relationships with other agencies in the field. This helps in being a unified front especially with the underserved communities and getting them assistance</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We would like to see state mandated yearly trainings on specific issues like DV. This would create consistency throughout the various agencies.</li> <li>- We would like to have more coordinated prevention education efforts</li> </ul>
	<b>Southeast Ohio</b>		
<b>Low Formality</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community works semi-closely together (VS). Less of a team approach and more individuals from agencies reaching out to others for assistance. (LE)</li> <li>- No real protocol in place. Previous SART team fizzled out. Now it's just individuals that work with local agencies. (VS)</li> <li>- We have a domestic violence task force but not sexual assault task force (LE).</li> <li>- No enforcement of the mandated collaboration at the county level, there is nothing formal. (VS)</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victim advocates are involved quickly. (PR)</li> <li>- Have SANES for sexual assault but nothing for domestic violence. (VS)</li> </ul>		
	<b>Southwest Ohio</b>		
	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Enforcement/Consistency</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of funding to pay for 24 hour victim assistance</li> <li>- Sustainable SANE programs are folding because there is not enough funding.</li> <li>- Coordinated response trainings are unavailable, highlights a need for collaborative communication and evaluation of protocols.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The right people are at the table in regard to protocol but need better enforcement for participation.</li> <li>- Lack of consistent services, sometimes hospital and law enforcement are not calling advocates consistently</li> <li>- Lack of resources to enforce the law regarding forensic exams.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities</b>		
	<b>Networking</b>	<b>Community Education and Connections</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More collaboration is needed with different populations. We need to build networks to know where to send clients with specific and various needs.</li> <li>- When you get a group as diverse as [this focus group], then ideas come up and we learn and understand how other agencies work. Networking is crucial and best practices on how to work with certain populations need to be shared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trainings should be held within the community to share what services are provided through specific agencies.</li> <li>- Agencies should reach out to other service providers within the community that are serving others to let them know what services your [culturally specific] agency provides.</li> </ul>	
<b>Barriers to maintaining Current Level of Service</b>	<b>Central Ohio</b>		
	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Within the Workplace</b>	<b>Community Buy In</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall, need more funding. Agency trainings are more influential than the police academy education but since education gets cut first in the budget, we need finances to make sure trainings still happen. (LE)</li> <li>- There is limited staff in small agencies (VS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law enforcement needs to have updated trainings on how to investigate DV/SA/Stalking issues and how to write reports that can be used in court. There should be some sort of standardization (VS/PR)</li> <li>- There are good guidelines in place, hospitals just need to follow protocol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need people (both consumer and provider) to buy into the need for ongoing education and services.</li> <li>- There are things that can be tapped into but law enforcement must be willing. We need their cooperation (VS)</li> </ul>
	<b>Northwest Ohio</b>		
	<b>Within the Workplace</b>	<b>Society</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need consistent updated trainings for LE, advocates, healthcare, prosecutors, judges and all other parties involved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There's a barrier in the public's perception of topics such as sexual assault, we need people's mindsets to change on false accusations and other stereotypes, especially with jurors.</li> </ul>	

<b>Northeast Ohio</b>		
<b>Funding</b>		<b>Within the Workplace</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are administrative challenges. There are high expectations for services but few funds to support them.</li> <li>- We need to continue funding what is already around and working, not just new programs.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We must continue to use best practices and evidence-based methods in law enforcement. We must be consistently adapting (LE)</li> <li>- Staffing sustainability is a barrier. With staff constantly changing it is difficult to continue at same level.(VS)</li> </ul>
<b>Southeast Ohio</b>		
<b>Funding</b>		<b>Resource Limitations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Even with community support, programs cannot sustain without [grant] funding, especially those agencies in rural areas because there aren't large companies or foundations to provide additional support. (VS)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It would be good to have supervised Visitation centers. Both parents would get to see their kids and it gives the victimized parent a sense of comfort (VS)</li> </ul>
<b>Southwest Ohio</b>		
<b>Consistency</b>	<b>Within the Workplace</b>	<b>Resource Limitations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barriers in legislation, political support and enforcement of laws</li> <li>- Need consistency across counties and follow through in protocol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to find qualified applicants to join staff that can serve and train</li> <li>- Need positive work culture</li> <li>- Advocates should have continuous training on safety planning</li> <li>- More collaboration between types of advocates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Burnout in SANE program</li> <li>- Need more employment options and resources to cover victim while they pursue their case</li> </ul>
<b>Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities</b>		
<b>Resource Sharing and Collaboration</b>		<b>Staff Retention and Funding</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need better collaboration between agencies.</li> <li>- Best practices need to be shared.</li> <li>- Networking is crucial; by identifying a variety of services agencies are better able to serve their communities.</li> <li>- Agencies need to work together.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small agencies, need more people.</li> </ul>