

# Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

The Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking (Culturally Specific Services Program or CSSP) creates a unique opportunity for culturally specific community-based organizations to address the critical needs of victims of domestic/sexual violence in a manner that affirms a victim's culture and effectively addresses language and communication barriers.

**GRANTEES MAY EITHER BE A CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY-BASED program with existing expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence, or a culturally specific community-based program that partners with another organization with expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence.**

## 75 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015, 75 unique grantees reported activities funded by the CSSP Program.

## 3,445 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 3,445 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 376 Immigration Matters

On average, grantees provided assistance with immigration matters to 376 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

*Latina and African American women who are sexually assaulted may bear an additional burden in seeking support, as they are disproportionately affected by income and asset poverty, and may have limited access to legal, medical, and social support services that may aid in violence prevention and recovery.<sup>418</sup>*



### NC • Grantee Perspective

CSSP funding has allowed us to grow as an organization and to build our infrastructure by expanding in many directions to offer a comprehensive range of services to South Asian victims of domestic violence. It has helped us shore up our partnerships and collaborations, leverage each others' resources to go that extra mile for our clients, conduct community education and public awareness campaigns, and build the capacity of mainstream organizations and first responders on the culture-specific considerations unique to the South Asian cultures. It has helped Kiran mainstream South Asian clients to access resources which our clients could not do in the past, due to cultural and linguistic barriers.

**KIRAN, INC., NORTH CAROLINA**



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Prior to the grant, KAFSC did not have enough staff or an extensive enough program to provide comprehensive DV services to a large number of Korean American (KA) victims. However, with the growth of our DV program, we are receiving referrals from other agencies and we are able to accommodate them all with culturally and linguistically competent services for their KA clients. Also with these collaborative relationships, we are able to increase our resource database and refer KA victims to mainstream agencies, with confidence that they will be well taken care of and respected at other agencies.

**KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTER, CALIFORNIA**



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Without this funding we would be unable to provide a comprehensive, holistic, interlocking system of services to limited English proficiency (LEP), immigrant Asian victims of domestic violence. We utilize the Public Health services model and adhere to the Ecological theory to inform our practice. This grant not only funds our direct services program for victims (CSSP), but also much-needed legal services (LAV); housing support, otherwise scarce in this climate (Transitional Housing); and finally, funds critical cultural competence education and outreach services for community members and professionals (EMY). This grant is a central component in our ability to provide extensive services to the LEP, immigrant Asian population. In our small office, we provide services that are often inaccessible in the community and the only option for many victims.

**ASIAN TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MASSACHUSETTS**

CSSP enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting community-based culturally specific projects to address and prevent domestic/sexual violence. Purpose areas include:

- Increase communities' capacity to provide culturally specific resources and support for victims and their families;
- Enhance traditional services to victims through the leadership of culturally specific programs offering services to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Work in cooperation with the community to develop education and prevention strategies highlighting culturally specific issues and resources regarding victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Provide culturally specific resources and services that address the safety, economic, housing, and workplace needs of victims, including emergency assistance;
- Provide culturally specific programs for children exposed to domestic/sexual violence;
- Work with state and local governments and social service agencies to develop and enhance effective strategies to provide culturally specific services to victims;
- Strengthen criminal justice interventions, by providing training for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities on culturally specific responses to domestic/sexual violence; and
- Examine the dynamics of culture and its impact on victimization and healing.

VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons**. VAWA 2013 also modified the focus of CSSP by redefining "culturally specific" to mean primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act ("American Indians [including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts]; Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics"). As of FY 2014, Underserved Program now focuses on services for Deaf or hard of hearing victims, LGBT victims, and victims from underserved religious/ethnic backgrounds.

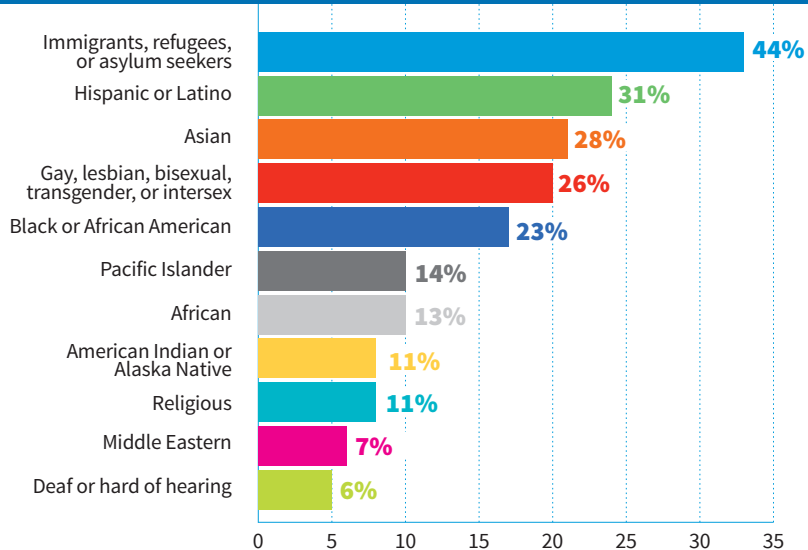
## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **75** individual grantees for the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 progress reporting period.

- **6** (8%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Enhanced traditional services to victims through the leadership of culturally specific programs offering services to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
  - Increased communities' capacity to provide culturally specific resources and support for victims and their families; and
  - Worked in cooperation with the community to develop education and prevention strategies.

**Figure 1**

Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2013–June 2015 (6-month average)



## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, advocacy, counseling, court and medical accompaniment, and community education to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **75** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **95** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.



## IL • Grantee Perspective

Thanks to the CSSP grant funding, Apna Ghar has been able to hire a veteran Education and Training Coordinator with 25 years of community education and violence prevention experience. The Education and Training Coordinator served on Apna Ghar's Board soon after it was established, and she joined the staff as a Community Educator and Legal Advocate in 1992-1995. She is able to provide a longitudinal perspective on critical changes in options for abused immigrant women (VAWA, T visa, etc.) that advocates have won since the early 1990s, while observing the ongoing systemic barriers, such as language access, to receiving equal and basic services from the police and courts. She has engaged her broad network of contacts and her experience in training design to develop templates for trainings that are accessible to professionals in the criminal justice, social service, and healthcare systems.

APNA GHAR, INC. (OUR HOME), ILLINOIS



## WA • Grantee Perspective

During this reporting period, we provided three trainings to over 56 providers. We provided training on best practices in serving LGBT victims of sexual violence to military sexual assault advocates; the first training of its kind offered to military personnel from military bases and installations across the Pacific Northwest. We also offered training on inclusive, culturally responsive service provision to LGBT victims of intimate partner violence. One session was offered as a pre-conference institute at the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence, drawing a large, interdisciplinary crowd of DV advocates, medical and mental health professionals, government officials, state coalition staff, and many others.

THE NW NETWORK OF BI, TRANS, LESBIAN & GAY SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, WASHINGTON

**Table 1** | Staff supported with CSSP grant funds, July 2013–June 2015: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>95</b>	
Victim advocates	25	26%
Program coordinators	22	23%
Administrators	10	11%
Counselors	10	10%
Outreach workers	8	9%
Trainers	8	8%
Support staff	5	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **62** (83%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **831** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **15,889** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**14%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**10%**), culturally specific staff (**9%**), and law enforcement officers (**8%**).

## Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community, highlighting culturally specific issues and resources, to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people across cultural differences with a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities, inclusive of all members.**<sup>i</sup>

- **64** (85%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **2,062** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **67,839** people.

<sup>i</sup> Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.

**Table 2** | People educated with CSSP grant funds, July 2013–June 2015: **Selected groups**

Community members educated	2-year total	
<b>Total community members educated</b>	<b>67,839</b>	
Community members	32,404	48%
Middle/high school students	6,390	9%
Parents/guardians	6,286	9%
Faith-based groups	5,934	9%
University or college students	5,522	8%
Community groups	3,251	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



**NY • Grantee Perspective**

Prior to receiving the CSSP grant, there was little or no communication between agencies and organizations dealing with DV and SA issues. The grant also allowed us to build strong partnerships with law enforcement and community-based service providers to make sure we can meet all of the needs of the victims: legal, educational, supportive, housing, etc., in a holistic way. Throughout the duration of the grant, we have had a steady and increasing flow of clients who have learned about our DV services through our comprehensive outreach efforts, word of mouth, and a cross-referral relationship with various key partners outlined in this report. We have distributed thousands of informational brochures and maintained a strong presence at all major immigrant-focused events, conferences, and festivals, regionally and throughout New York.

**HISPANIC RESOURCE CENTER OF LARCHMONT AND MAMARONECK, NEW YORK**

## Victim Services

Victims of domestic/sexual violence within diverse cultures experience unique barriers when seeking and utilizing assistance. Culturally competent services for these victims may include providing advocacy and support to those who seek protection orders; accompaniment during medical procedures, such as a sexual assault forensic examination; providing interpretation or translation services; assistance with safety planning; accompaniment to court; shelter and transitional housing assistance; or immigration assistance. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **69** (92%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **3,445** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:**

- Victim advocacy services to **1,856** victims;
- Counseling services to **1,833** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **1,388** victims;
- Language services (i.e. interpretation or translation) to **511** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **462** victims;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **459** victims; and
- Civil legal assistance services to **320** victims.

**Grantees used 22 specific languages for these activities:**

*Acholi, Arabic, ASL, Creole, English, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Korean, Lingala, Mai Mai, Nepali, Portuguese, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish, Sudan Arabic, Tamil*

**Grantees used 52 specific languages when responding to these requests for information or assistance:**

*Acholi, Arabic, ASL, Bangla, Bangladeshi, Bengali, Burmese, Cantonese, Chinese, Creole, English, Farsi, Filipino, French, Gambian, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Kannada, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Korean, Lao, Lingala, Mai Mai, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi, Mongolian, Moroccan, Nepali, Pakistani, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Sudan Arabic, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Telegu, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish*



**NY • Grantee Perspective**

CSSP funding has supported AVP in strengthening and deepening our community-based services in every borough, transforming us into a truly City-wide service provider, and increasing our engagement with marginalized LGBT and HIV-affected communities, particularly transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) people and LGBT people of color (POC). Since 2010, AVP has increased our engagement with TGNC victims by nearly 150%, up to 15-20% of clients served, and with POC by nearly 20%, up to more than 75% of clients served. Additionally, we have brought more TGNC POC onto staff (now 5 staff members identify as TGNC POC), and are working with local TGNC POC community leaders to coordinate on continuing to raise awareness and build safety within all communities. This is essential, as AVP understands how pervasive and deadly domestic/sexual violence remain in our communities, and how they intersect with other forms of violence, for example, hate violence and institutional (i.e. police) violence.

**NEW YORK CITY GAY AND LESBIAN ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT**

**Other services:**

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **6,049** times;
- Grantees received a total of **23,159** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**64%**) came from victims.

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided assistance with the following immigration matters:**

- U visa services for **163** victims;
- VAWA self-petition services for **84** victims;
- Work authorization services for **79** victims;
- T visa services for **7** victims;
- Cancellation of removal matters for **6** victims; and
- Other immigration matters for **81** victims.

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

**Table 3** | Victims sheltered with CSSP grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,451</b>
Transitional housing	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,148</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,599</b>

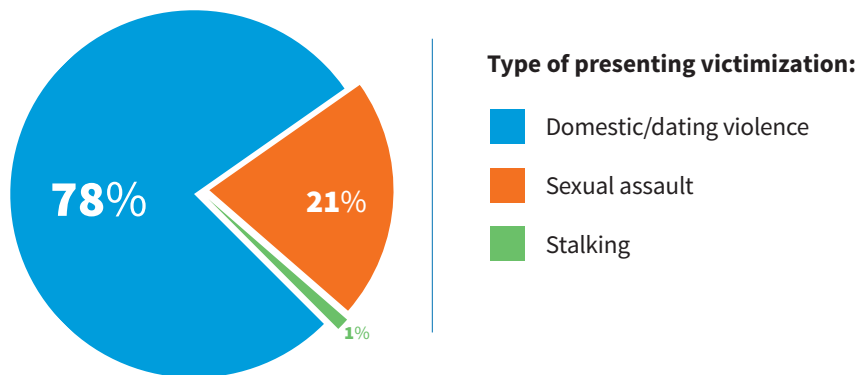
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (78%).

**Figure 2** | Provision of victim services by CSSP grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served by type of victimization (6-month average)



**Table 4** | Victims seeking services with CSSP grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>3,489</b>	
Victims served	3,284	94%
Victims partially served	162	5%
Victims not served	44	1%

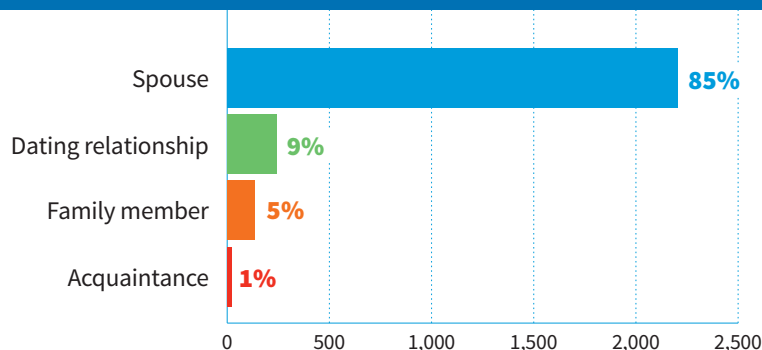
**NOTE:** “Partially served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CSSP grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CSSP grant.

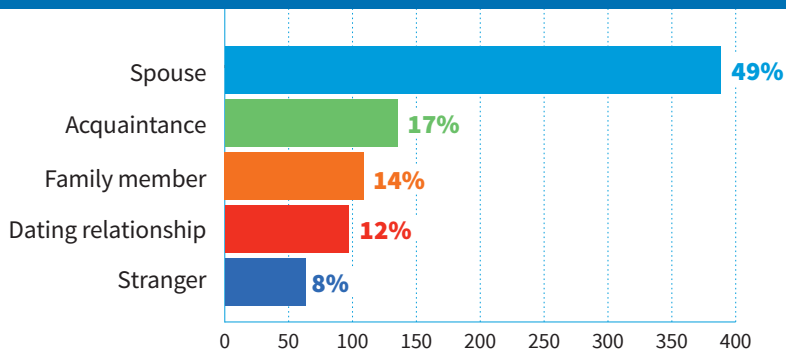
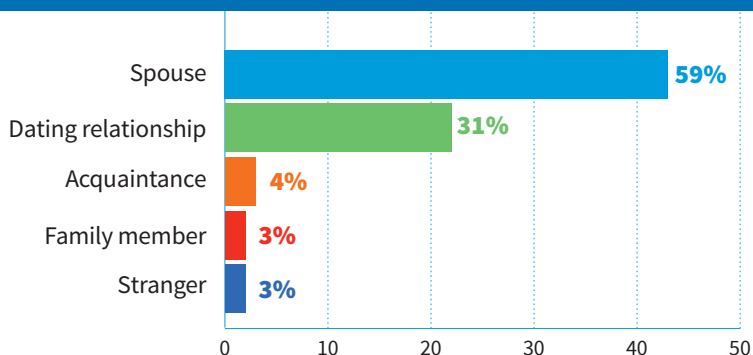
### Victims’ Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (76%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (10%) or by another **family or household member** (7%).

**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: Domestic/dating violence



**Figure 4** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault****Figure 5** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**

## Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

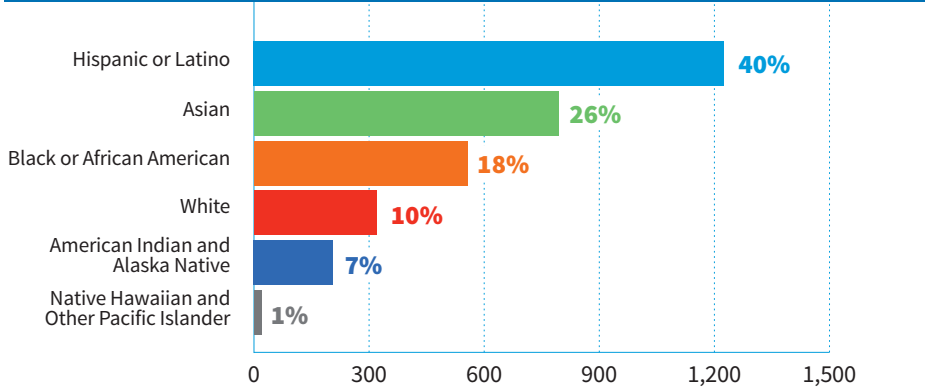
- Program reached capacity;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Hours of operation;
- Conflict of interest; or
- Transportation.

## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

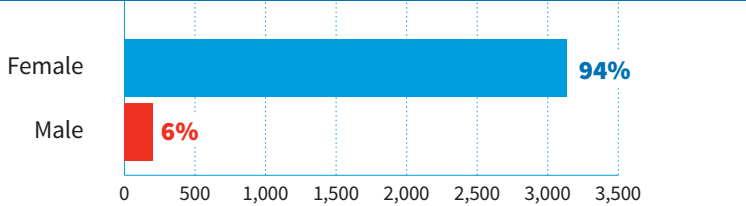
Grantees served or partially served an average of **3,445** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of victims served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (40%), **female** (94%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (80%).



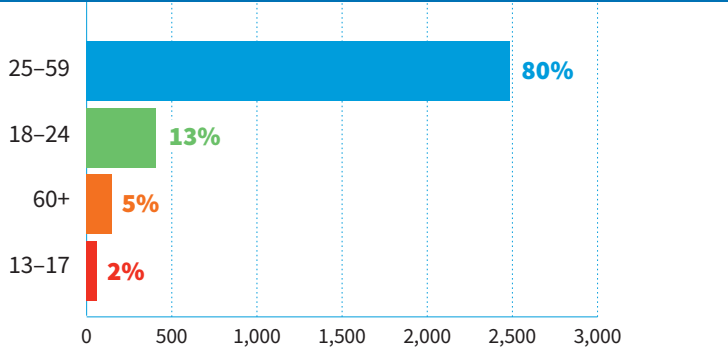
**Figure 6** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



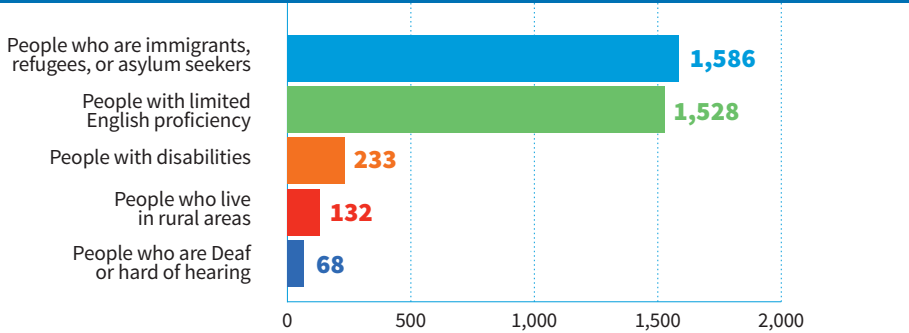
**Figure 7** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 9** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)





### NY • Grantee Perspective

LGBT/LGBT People of Color are less likely to report when they are victims of a crime than their heterosexual and/or white counterparts due largely in part to the fear (whether real or anticipated) of being re-victimized by systems (e.g. criminal justice, medical, mental health) that have been historically unfavorable to their communities. Lack of culturally competent providers, inadequate screening tools, antiquated beliefs around what constitutes domestic violence/sexual assault (e.g. it has to be between a man and a woman, a man cannot be raped, a woman cannot abuse/rape another woman), are still prevalent in today's society and some law enforcement and service providers subscribe to that thinking, which affects the services and care that they provide/fail to provide to LGBT victims.

IN OUR OWN VOICES, NEW YORK



### DC • Grantee Perspective

Many Asian/Pacific Islander victims do not understand or distrust the American legal system. Consequently, DVRP staff spend a significant amount of time explaining domestic legal systems and processes, allaying fears, and discussing options. All of this information can sometimes be overwhelming for fluent English speakers who are familiar with the legal system, but the sense of confusion and frustration can be exponentially greater for the population that DVRP serves. DVRP staff does what it can to assist and support Asian/Pacific Islander victims, but the lack of affordable, culturally competent legal service providers, who are capable of speaking to them in their native language, remains a significant challenge. Without sufficient legal representation, some clients face adverse legal dispositions regarding their custody, divorce, order of protection, or immigration cases. The most heartbreaking experiences are those in which victims feel so weary and frustrated by the process that they simply withdraw from the legal proceedings, resulting in devastating consequences.

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE PROJECT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

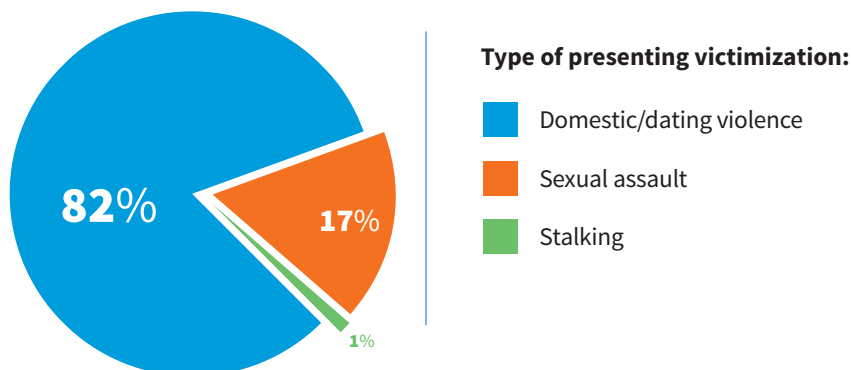
## Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic/sexual violence, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **815** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

**Figure 10** Provision of services to secondary victims by CSSP grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Secondary victims served by type of victimization (6-month average)



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited **access to interpretation and translation services for victims** as their biggest unmet need. The inability to understand and be understood by law enforcement, service providers, and court personnel **can discourage victims from seeking assistance.**

Grantees also reported a need for more **culturally and linguistically appropriate victim services**, especially:

- Mental health services; and
- Legal services.

Several grantees emphasized the need to provide **training to law enforcement, first responders, courts, and service providers on culturally sensitive, trauma-informed practices, especially within marginalized communities.**

Many grantees felt that more **community education and outreach was needed in the communities in which they worked** in order to:

- Combat cultural taboos against discussions of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Engage men in discussions about domestic/sexual violence;
- Reach underserved populations, especially youth and elders; and
- Increase awareness of available services.

Finally, grantees often struggled to **help victims meet basic needs**, including:

- Emergency, transitional, and long-term housing;
- Transportation;
- Employment; and
- Child care.



**NJ • Grantee Perspective**

Education remains the single most significant area of remaining need with regard to improving services to victims. From the community’s perspective, there is a stigma associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and a large percentage of the community continues to sweep the issues under the proverbial rug, pretending that they do not exist. As mental health professionals, we know all too well that our community is not immune to issues of abuse. Nonetheless, we regularly hear that community leaders, educators, parents, volunteers, camp counselors, etc. are simply unaware of what signs of abuse, assault, and neglect look like. In other situations, parents do not know how to address the topic of sexual abuse with their young children.

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AND CHILDREN’S CENTER, NEW JERSEY**



**CA • Grantee Perspective**

Access means being able to go into a place for assistance and know that you can fully and effectively communicate with people there. For a Deaf individual requesting a sign language interpreter, the request is often responded to with hostility or just denied. The DV/SA service system forces the victim to either read lips, write notes back and forth or use her/his child to interpret. Daunted and exhausted by having to advocate for her/his communication needs every step of the way, too often the victim is re-victimized and will drop any efforts to seek justice. It is just too much work to have what seems to be a basic right - access to communication.

**NORCAL SERVICES FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, CALIFORNIA**



**OH • Grantee Perspective**

With the continued implementation of the SafeZone program and subsequently having more shelters that are SafeZone members, it is still true that of Ohio’s 80+ shelters, only 12 DV shelters have been identified by BRAVO and our MOU partner, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (the statewide DV coalition), as serving male-identified and transgender victims. There continues to be a lack of understanding that those in LGBT relationships also face domestic violence, battering, and power and control issues.

**BUCKEYE REGION ANTI-VIOLENCE ORGANIZATION, OHIO**