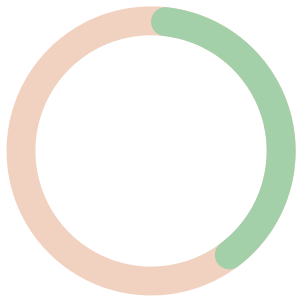


BARRIERS TO JUSTICE:

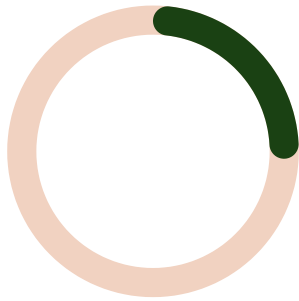
Identifying the Hidden Ways Survivors are Punished in Domestic Violence Court

SEPTEMBER 2021

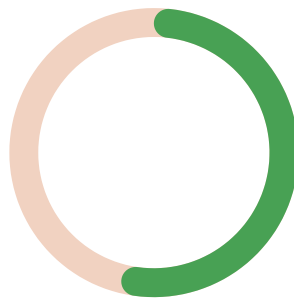
DATA CONTRADICTS THE COMMON NARRATIVE THAT WHITE, CISGENDER WOMEN IN HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:



41.5% OF ILLINOIS WOMEN



25.9% OF ILLINOIS MEN



54% OF TRANS + NON-BINARY PEOPLE IN THE US

The majority of DV hotline calls in Cook County are made by Black survivors.

Lethality of domestic violence for Black survivors may be up to 87%, compared to around 12% from Latine/Hispanic people and less than 5% for white people.

Everyone can experience this kind of harm, but, advocates say LGBTQIA, Black, Brown, immigrant, and/or non-English speaking survivors struggle the most to obtain justice and protection from the courts.

HOW ARE THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS INACCESSIBLE TO SURVIVORS?

- Only 57% of trans and gender non-conforming people said they feel uncomfortable asking police for help if they need it. **Of trans and gender non-conforming people who experienced the legal system, 53% report hearing discriminatory comments about their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression while in the courts.**
- At least 84% of Latine domestic violence survivors report having difficulty seeking justice - with 39% reporting they *fear* seeking legal help - due to their immigration status. **Over 18% of Latine survivors said they had trouble accessing advocacy or court services because services were not offered in their language.**
- White respondents accused of domestic violence are the least likely to be prosecuted, **whereas cases with Black survivors are more likely to be referred to the police but less likely to be prosecuted.**

COMMENTS FROM COOK COUNTY ADVOCATES:

"THERE IS A REAL, PALPABLE SENSE THAT [COURTS ASSUME] EVERY BLACK PERSON IS A DEFENDANT."

"I HONESTLY THINK SHE ONLY GOT [THE ORDER OF PROTECTION] BECAUSE HE ADMITTED THAT HE DID IT."

"THE PERCEPTION OF PEOPLE'S PRESENTATION IN THE COURTROOM AS SURVIVORS DEFINITELY INFLUENCED WHETHER THEY GOT AN ORDER OF PROTECTION OR NOT."

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Support anti-racist, feminist, and identity-specific survivor-centered social service organizations. Go to The-Network.org for Cook County specific information.
- Follow Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts for more updates on DV Court in Cook County. Go to ChicagoAppleseed.org for details.

SOURCES: Infonet (2015) US Transgender Survey; The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence (2021); The National Latina Network (2021).