

# BLACK, INDIGENOUS, & LATINA WOMEN, INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, AND POLICE EXPERIENCES

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is more prevalent and severe among Black, Indigenous, & Latina women.

1 in 3 women in the US report IPV in their lifetime.

## *Prevalence rises*

1 in 2 Black/African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and multiracial women of color have experienced IPV (sexual and/or physical violence; stalking) in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

When women are killed, 40-50% are killed by an intimate partner.

## *Homicide risk is heightened*

For African American and Indigenous girls/women, homicide is among the top five leading causes of death.<sup>2</sup>

African American women are more likely than White women to be at risk of attempted, completed, and multiple nonfatal strangulations by an intimate partner.<sup>3</sup>

**BLACK,  
INDIGENOUS, &  
LATINA  
WOMEN FACE  
UNIQUE  
BARRIERS TO  
SEEKING HELP**

"I have heard countless Black survivors share stories about delayed responses to their calls for help. Their stories of severe physical abuse are sometimes discounted because their dark complexion camouflages their injuries."

*Bernadine Waller, Social Work  
Doctoral Student*<sup>4</sup>

**Of the 847,230 known incidents of intimate partner violence in 2018, only 45% were reported to police.**<sup>5</sup>

## Fear of police brutality:

- Women with IPV histories are nearly 3x more likely to report police violence than women without IPV histories.<sup>6</sup>
- Black people are 3x more likely to be killed than white people when interacting with police.<sup>7</sup>
- Black women face higher risk of sexual violence by police.<sup>8,9</sup>

# SYSTEMIC RACISM CREATES BARRIERS FOR ACCESSING SERVICES

## Past negative experiences with police

- The partners of Latina victims are more likely to be arrested and charged compared to White victims in cases of IPV.<sup>11</sup>
- Blacks/African Americans & Latinx/Hispanics comprise 32% of US population but represent 56% of US incarcerated population.<sup>12</sup>
- Blacks/African Americans are 5x more likely to be incarcerated than whites.<sup>12</sup>

## Language & Immigration Barriers

- 1 in 5 foreign-born Latina DV hotline callers reported that their immigration status prevented them from accessing DV services.<sup>13</sup>
- 45% of foreign-born Latina DV hotline callers reported fear of calling police or going to court for help due to immigration status.<sup>13</sup>

- Black IPV survivors are often re-victimized by police and social service systems that employ stereotypes to diminish the pain, significance, & trauma of their experience.<sup>7</sup>
- American Indian and Alaskan Native IPV victims report that sometimes police fail to enforce a tribal protective order if not registered with the state court or locatable law enforcement data bases.<sup>10</sup>

## Disproportionate & Disparate Criminal Justice Outcomes

- Nearly 1 in 3 Spanish-speaking female IPV hotline callers reported not being able to access linguistically appropriate services for domestic violence.<sup>13</sup>
- Despite having 37,000 undocumented women survivors of intimate partner violence, the US only allowed 10,000 U-VISAS - a special immigrant visa set aside for victims of crime, including domestic violence.<sup>14</sup>

# RESOURCES

Search for domestic violence and sexual assault resources in your state on the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website ([www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)).



Call your local domestic violence/sexual assault hotline.

Contact community-based intimate partner violence/sexual assault services, including shelters.



Contact grassroots community self-policing organizations (e.g., Men Standing Up Against Violence).

Download [myPlan](#), a free app to help with safety decisions if you, or someone you care about, is experiencing intimate partner violence.



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