

# **Domestic Violence Victim Report**

**A Survey of Identified Domestic Violence  
Victims in Franklin County**

**A Project of:**



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### **Caution to the Reader**

It is important to understand that this report does not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County. The individuals responding to this survey were already part of the criminal justice, medical, or social service systems that respond to domestic violence victims. The results of this Domestic Violence Victim Report are based upon voluntary responses to a survey that was distributed at various locations that provide domestic violence services. It is not a random survey of the entire population of Franklin County domestic violence victims.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report would not have been possible without the assistance of the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence Victim Services Task Force, Domestic Violence Needs Assessment Subcommittee members. This subcommittee assisted with the development of the survey instrument and reviewed drafts of the Domestic Violence Victim Report. Their reviews contributed invaluable insights to the data and this report.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Purpose of the Assessment**

The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence Victim Services Task Force commissioned this Survey of Domestic Violence Victims from July 7, 2002 to August 31, 2002. The surveys were administered at the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, the Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, the Ohio State University (OSU) OB/GYN Perinatal Clinic, and CHOICES<sup>1</sup>. Each client presenting at these sites was asked to complete the survey questionnaire. Responses to the survey were voluntary and respondents were ensured that their individual responses would remain confidential. Individuals receiving services at more than one site were instructed not to complete the survey a second time to avoid duplication. The overall response rate for the Survey of Domestic Violence Victims was 66 percent.

There were three primary objectives of this survey:

- 1) To assess areas in which the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence and its task forces could assist the community in gaining a better understanding of this population<sup>2</sup> of domestic violence victims;
- 2) To gain an understanding of this population's perceptions of domestic violence; and
- 3) To determine the needs of and services sought by this population of domestic violence victims.

### **Overview of the Survey Instrument**

The survey instrument was comprised of 68 questions that were divided into eight separate categories including Demographics, Background Information, Employment/Finances, Clergy, Friends/Relatives/Neighbors, Medical, Legal, and Community Needs and Services. There were also questions on the survey instrument regarding whether children were living in the home at the time the

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<sup>1</sup> CHOICES is a comprehensive domestic violence direct service program serving Franklin County.

<sup>2</sup> Victims who present at the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, the Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, The Ohio State University (OSU) OB/GYN Perinatal Clinic, and CHOICES.



abuse occurred. Respondents were also asked whether the child heard, witnessed, or was a victim of the abuse in the home.

## Overview of the Findings

While the response rate and the responses for this survey were quite good, **the reader still needs to be cautious** in using this data to generalize to the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County. The population of victims who would not typically present at one of the organizations that administered this survey was not included in the survey population. Also, it is important to remember that the survey only addresses those domestic violence victims who have sought services from the criminal justice, social service, or medical community. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that these results are typical of the entire population of Franklin County domestic violence victims.

### **WHAT VICTIMS CONSIDER TO BE ABUSE**

- Eighty-nine percent of the respondents indicated that hitting is a form of abuse, 83 percent indicated that pushing is a form of abuse, and 81 percent each indicated that shoving and humiliating and putting me down are forms of abuse.
- At the other end of the continuum, only 55 percent of the respondents felt that the abuser making them ask for money was a form of abuse, 60 percent indicated that the abuser not taking their concerns seriously was a form of abuse, and 62 percent thought that the abuser keeping all the money was a form of abuse.

***Survey respondents do not fully understand the characteristics of abuse. Further education is required to help this community understand domestic violence goes beyond the physical aspects of abuse.***

### **LIVING SITUATION**

- Seventy-two percent of the respondents indicated they were living with their abuser at the time of the abuse. However, only 20 percent reported living with the abuser at the time the survey was completed.
- Ninety percent of the survey respondents indicated that they have left their abuser and returned at least one time. Of those individuals who did leave and

return, 90 percent indicated that they returned because they thought their abuser would change. Also, 70 percent of the respondents indicated they returned because they love the abuser.

***Victims continue to believe that their abuser will change if they return. Victims also continue to return because they love their abuser. Service providers need to continue to educate victims regarding how difficult it is for an abuser to change and to stop his/her abusive behavior.***

## **CHILDREN**

- Seventy percent of survey respondents reported that they had children under the age of 18.
- Of those individuals with children under 18, 81 percent reported that the children were living with them at the time of the abuse; 70 percent of the respondents with children indicated that the children were in the home when the abuse occurred; 36 percent of the respondents indicated that the abuser shouted at, name called, and threatened the children; 64 percent of the respondents with children indicated that the children saw or heard the abuse; and 19 percent of the respondents indicated that the abuser had physically harmed the children.

***It is now a crime in the State of Ohio to commit an act of violence in the vicinity of a child. Public education is required to help the general public and victims understand that these actions are criminal and should not be tolerated. Otherwise, the cycle of violence between generations will continue.***

## **VICTIM AND PERPETRATOR CHARACTERISTICS**

- Forty-two percent of survey respondents indicated that their abuser has a drug problem and 40 percent of respondents indicated their abuser has an alcohol problem<sup>3</sup>.
- Thirty percent of respondents indicated that their abuser was abused as a child.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> It is likely that these figures overlap. Respondents were asked to check both categories if they applied to their abuser.

- Four percent of the respondents were between the ages of 15 to 19, 38 percent between the ages of 20 to 29, 25 percent of respondents were between the ages of 30 to 39, 17 percent of respondents were
- between the ages of 40 to 49, 3 percent of respondents were between the ages of 50 to 59, and 1 percent of respondents were 60 and above.

***It is imperative that education initiatives continue to reach younger age groups to ensure that they understand the characteristics of abuse; that they should not be ashamed if they are being abused; and, that there are community services available to help those who are confronted with abuse.***

### **EMPLOYMENT and FINANCES**

- Forty-five percent of the survey respondents who were employed at the time the abuse occurred indicated that they told a supervisor, employee assistance program or human resources representative about the abuse.
- Of those individuals who told a supervisor or other organizational representative, 50 percent indicated that the employer was very supportive, 28 percent indicated the employer was supportive, 17 percent indicated the employer was neutral, and 4 percent indicated that the employer was unsupportive.
- Thirty-nine percent of respondents indicated that the employer helped them with a safety plan.
- Twenty-two percent of the respondents indicated that their annual household income is less than \$10,000. However, victims do come from a wide range of income levels.

***OSHA requires that employers provide a safe working environment. Because domestic violence can impact employee safety, employers need to encourage staff to feel comfortable discussing issues of safety and family violence.***

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<sup>4</sup> It is important to note that this particular figure could be higher. Of those responding to the question, 25 percent of the respondents indicated that they do not know if their abuser was abused and 16 percent of the respondents did not answer this question.

## CLERGY

- Thirteen percent of survey respondents indicated that they talked with clergy about the abuse<sup>5</sup>.
- Sixty-three percent of these individuals indicated that the clergy advised them to leave their abuser, 63 percent indicated that clergy advised them to go to individual counseling with another 34 percent indicating that clergy advised them to counsel with a clergy member<sup>6</sup>, and 42 percent of the respondents indicated they were advised to go to couples counseling.
- Eighteen percent of the respondents indicated that clergy advised them to stay with their abuser and 29 percent of the respondents indicated that clergy referred them to a domestic violence program.

***Clergy need continued education. Forty-two percent of respondents who talked to clergy indicated that they were advised to go to couples counseling. According to domestic violence experts, couples counseling is not an effective form of intervention.***

## MEDICAL

- Forty-nine percent of respondents indicated there were injuries the last time they were abused. Of those respondents, 13 percent indicated that paramedics were called and 76 percent of these individuals indicated that paramedics asked them if the injuries were caused by abuse.
- Nineteen percent of the respondents indicated that they went to the emergency room regarding the abuse. Of these individuals, 77 percent indicated that the emergency room staff inquired about the abuse, 80 percent indicated that staff were supportive, 82 percent indicated that staff were sensitive to their situation, and 79 percent of respondents indicated that they were treated with respect.

<sup>5</sup> An additional 21 percent of respondents did not answer this question.

<sup>6</sup> There may be some overlap in the individuals who were advised to go to individual counseling and the individuals who were advised to counsel with a clergy member.

- Fifteen percent of the respondents indicated they saw a doctor regarding the abuse. Of the respondents who saw a doctor, 72 percent indicated that the doctor asked if the injuries were caused by abuse.

***A significant proportion of victims surveyed sustained injuries that were serious enough to require medical attention. With appropriate screening, medical providers can help battered women regain control of their life. Previous studies have shown that women are willing to discuss abuse with medical providers if they are asked (Titus, June 1996).***

## **LEGAL**

- Thirteen percent of respondents indicated that they have an attorney representing them in a divorce, separation, custody, or child support case. Of those, 28 percent indicated that the attorney provided a safety plan, 28 percent indicated the attorney referred them to a community domestic violence program, and 56 percent indicated the attorney suggested a protection order.
- Forty percent of respondents reported that their abuser has been previously arrested for domestic violence.

***Education is required to help victims understand that individuals who abuse will continue to do so with the same or a new partner.***

## **VICTIM SERVICES**

- Law enforcement, CHOICES, and the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office were the three agencies that victims reported having the most recent contact with. In fact, less than 10 percent of victims reported recent contact with other agencies.
- Respondents identified fear of retaliation from the abuser (37 percent), embarrassment (36 percent), not wanting others to know about the abuse (29 percent), and not knowing their rights<sup>7</sup> (28 percent) as the four primary obstacles to getting help.

<sup>7</sup> It is important to note that respondents did not specify exactly what type of rights they did not know. It is not clear whether each respondent interpreted this category as referring to medical, legal, or other forms of rights.

- Respondents identified domestic violence counseling for the victim (29 percent), individual counseling (28 percent), support groups (25 percent), and a toll-free 24-hour help line (23 percent) as the top four services that would help the victim. All are available in Central Ohio.

***There is still a high level of fear of retaliation from the abuser and shame or embarrassment among domestic violence victims. Also, respondents indicated that they do not fully understand their options as a victim. At a minimum, it is important to continue efforts to help victims understand that the abuse is not their fault, that they need help, and that there are alternatives to staying in an abusive situation.***

***Victims may not be fully aware of or are choosing not to access services that are available to them. It is important that the community encourage victims to continue to seek the services necessary to help them break the cycle of violence.***

## SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence Victim Services Task Force commissioned this Survey of Domestic Violence Victims from July 7, 2002 to August 31, 2002. The surveys were administered at the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, the Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, the Ohio State University (OSU) OB/GYN Perinatal Clinic, and CHOICES<sup>8</sup>. Each client presenting at these sites was asked to complete the survey questionnaire. Responses to the survey were voluntary and respondents were ensured that their individual responses would remain confidential. Individuals receiving services at more than one site were instructed not to complete the survey a second time to avoid duplication. The overall response rate for the Survey of Domestic Violence Victims was 66 percent.

There were three primary objectives of this survey:

- 4) To assess areas in which the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence and its task forces could assist the community in gaining a better understanding of this population<sup>9</sup> of domestic violence victims;
- 5) To gain an understanding of this population's perceptions of domestic violence; and
- 6) To determine the needs of and services sought by this population of domestic violence victims.

Victims of Domestic Violence were given the opportunity to complete the survey during their contact with CHOICES, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, the OSU OB/GYN Perinatal Clinic (Project Safe), Columbus City Prosecutor's Office and Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic. The survey was administered from July 7, 2002<sup>10</sup> through August 31, 2002. During this time period, there were 195 individuals presenting to CHOICES for services, 36 presenting to Columbus Legal Aid Society for services, 5 presenting to the OSU OB/GYN Perinatal Clinic, 163 presenting to the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, and 58 presenting to the Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic. It is important to note that while the survey population is quite broad, it does not include all possible victims of domestic violence. For example, those

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<sup>8</sup> CHOICES is a comprehensive domestic violence direct service program serving Franklin County.

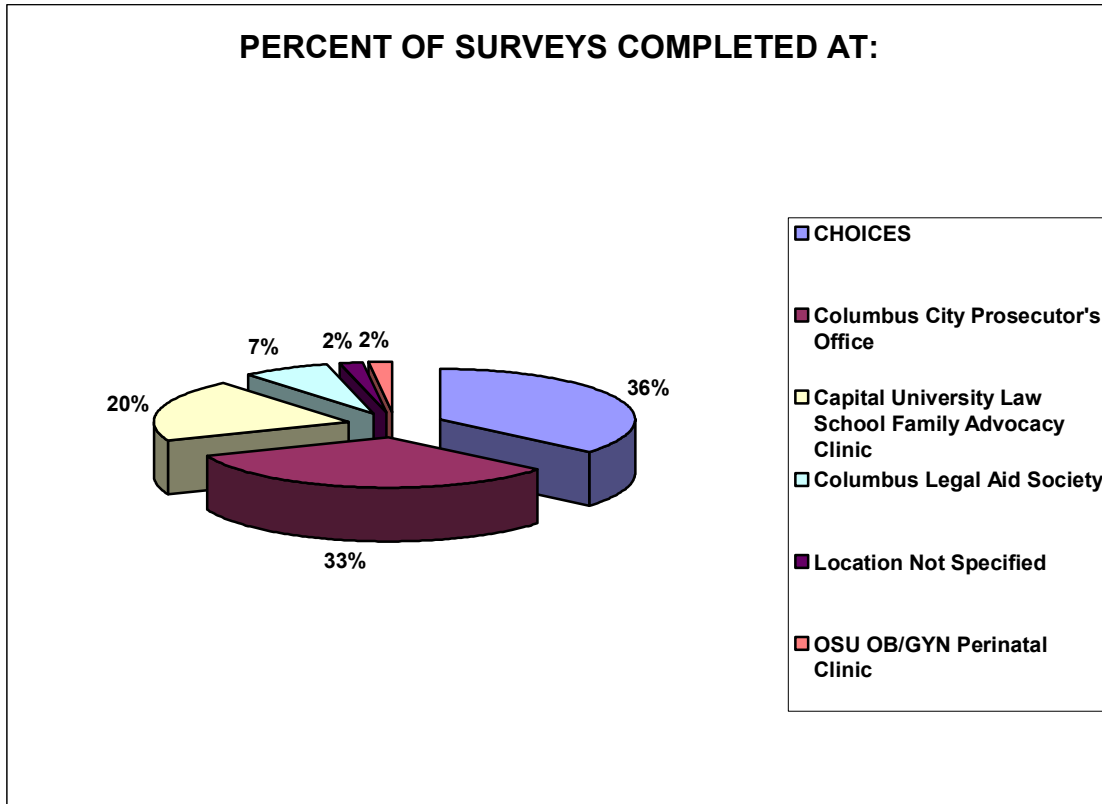
<sup>9</sup> Victims who present at the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, the Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, The Ohio State University (OSU) OB/GYN Perinatal Clinic, and CHOICES.

<sup>10</sup> Survey sites did not begin to administer the survey on July 1, 2002 because of the Fourth of July Holiday and a weekend just after that holiday.

individuals who seek resolution through a private attorney or some means other than those sites where the survey was administered are not included in the population of survey respondents.

The total number of surveys completed at all sites was 300. During the survey administration period, there were a total of 457 new clients presenting to the five sites where the survey was administered. This provides a total response rate of 66 percent. Chart One below provides a graphic overview of the percentage of total responses received from each site where the survey was administered. It is important to note that seven survey respondents (2 percent) did not include information regarding the site at which the survey was completed. Survey respondents accessing services at multiple sites were asked to complete the survey only one time.

**Chart One. Survey Response Locations**



The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Respondents were not selected randomly for this survey. The survey sites were instructed to ask every client presenting at their agency to complete the survey for the two-month timeframe. Sites were asked to instruct the respondents to complete the entire survey. Eighty-five percent of the surveys that were received had complete data for the survey. There was a substantial improvement in data quality between Phase I and Phase II of the Domestic Violence Needs Assessment.



The Phase II Domestic Violence Needs Assessment consisted of 64 questions. The survey respondents were asked questions that focus on eight separate categories of information to discern the needs of domestic violence victims in Franklin County, including: 1) Demographics; 2) Background Information; 3) Employment/Finances; 4) Clergy; 5) Friends/Relatives/Neighbors; 6) Medical; 7) Legal; and 8) Community Needs and Services. The analysis provided in this report is primarily descriptive in nature. It provides the reviewer with an overview of the data that are available from this survey. The results of this descriptive analysis should be used within the context that the data were gathered.

## SECTION II. ANALYSIS OF DATA

### DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic information was collected from each respondent including zip code where the respondent resides, victim and abuser's age, victim and abuser's cultural background, and the victim's gender. Respondents resided in 53 separate zip code areas. The 10 most frequent zip codes the respondents resided in at the time of completing the survey are included in Table One. As noted in the table, the largest percentage of respondents resided in the 43223 and the 43040 zip code areas at the time the surveys were completed. Finally, 16 percent of survey respondents did not provide zip code information. It is important to remember that this table reflects the zip code where the individual resided at the time he or she completed the survey - it does not reflect the zip code where the abuse occurred. Respondents reported zip codes that were outside of Franklin County. There are two reasons for this - first, some of the agencies participating in the survey provide services outside of Franklin County. Second, respondents were asked to provide the zip code where they were residing at the time of completing the survey. It is quite possible that respondents were abused in Franklin County, but residing in another county at the time of completing the survey.

**Table One.**  
**Zip Code of Respondent**

ZIP CODE	PERCENT
43223	9%
43040 <sup>11</sup>	9%
43207	6%
43206 <sup>12</sup>	5%
43224	5%
43228	5%
43204	4%
43229	4%
43201	3%

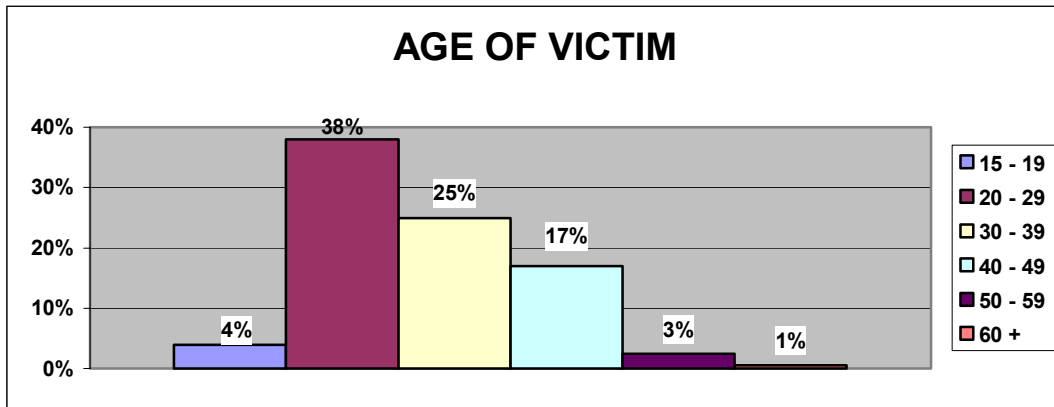
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

<sup>11</sup> The 43040 zip code includes individuals from the Ohio Reformatory for Women who are currently receiving services through CHOICES. All surveys that were administered to individuals who reported residing in this zip code were administered by CHOICES.

<sup>12</sup> The 43206 zip code is also the zip code address of the CHOICES domestic violence shelter. While this may not be the permanent address for all individuals responding at the time of the survey, it does reflect the zip code where those individuals resided at the time the survey was completed. However, this zip code was reported by respondents from all sites administering the survey.

Chart Two provides the results of victim age. Four percent of the respondents were age 15 to 19, 38 percent of the respondents ranged from age 20 to 29, 25 percent of the respondents were age 30 to 39, 17 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 40 to 49, 3 percent were between the ages of 50 to 59, and 1 percent of the respondents reported an age of 60 or greater.

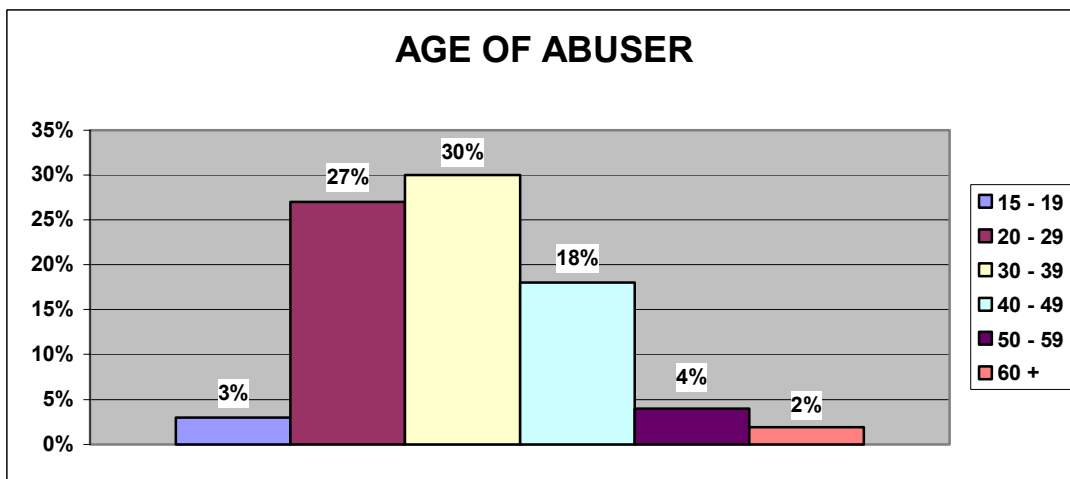
**Chart Two. Age of Victim**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (13 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

As illustrated in Chart Three, the age range of the abuser was somewhat different than the age range of the victim that was reported in Chart Two. Three percent of the abusers were age 15 to 19, 27 percent of the abusers were between the ages of 20 to 29, 30 percent of the abusers ranged in age from 30 to 39, 18 percent ranged in age from 40 to 49, 4 percent of the abusers were age 50 to 59 years old, and 2 percent of the abusers were over 60 years of age.

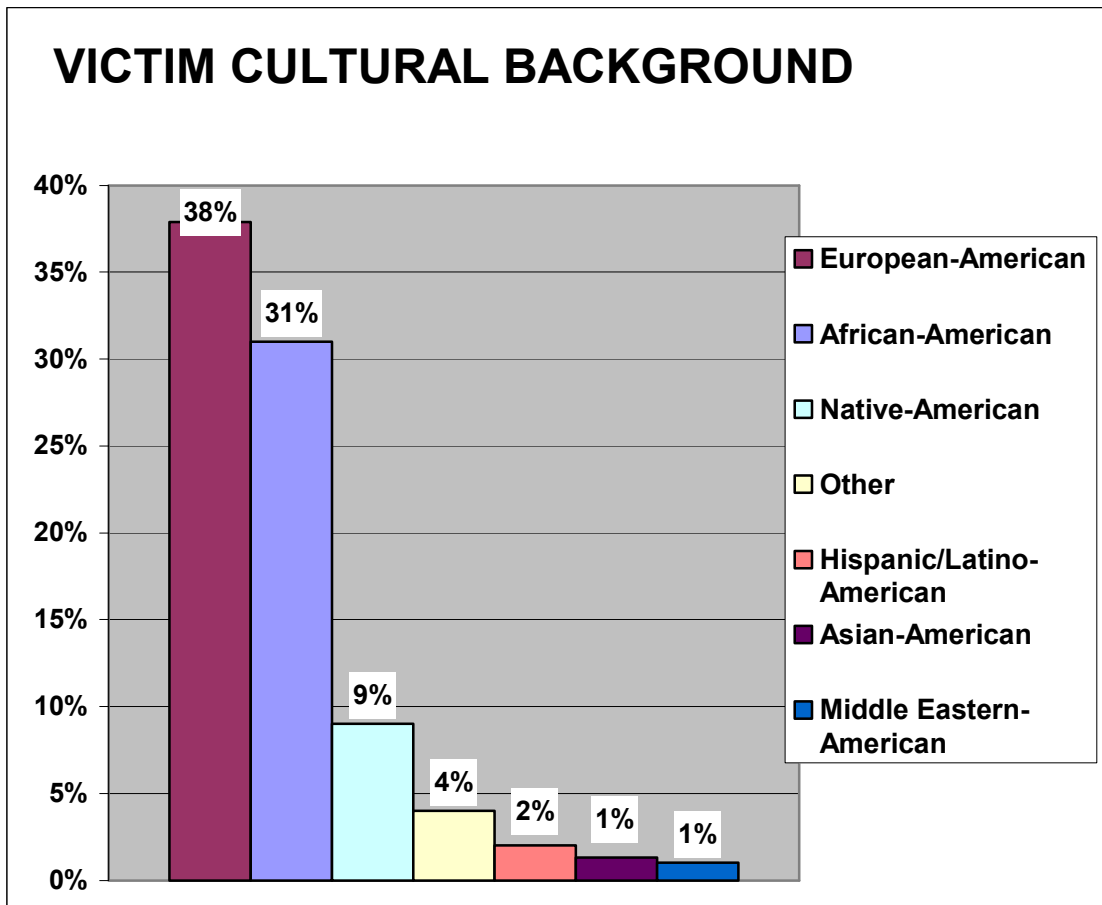
**Chart Three. Age of Abuser**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (16 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Each respondent was asked to provide information regarding his or her cultural background. The results of this question are provided in Chart Four. Thirty-eight percent of the respondents were European-American. Additionally, 31 percent of the respondents were African-American, 9 percent of the respondents were Native-American<sup>13</sup>, 4 percent of respondents indicated that their cultural background is something other than the categories listed, 2 percent of the respondents were Hispanic/Latino-American, 1 percent of the respondents were Asian-American, and 1 percent of the respondents were Middle Eastern-American.

**Chart Four. Cultural Background of the Victim**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (14 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

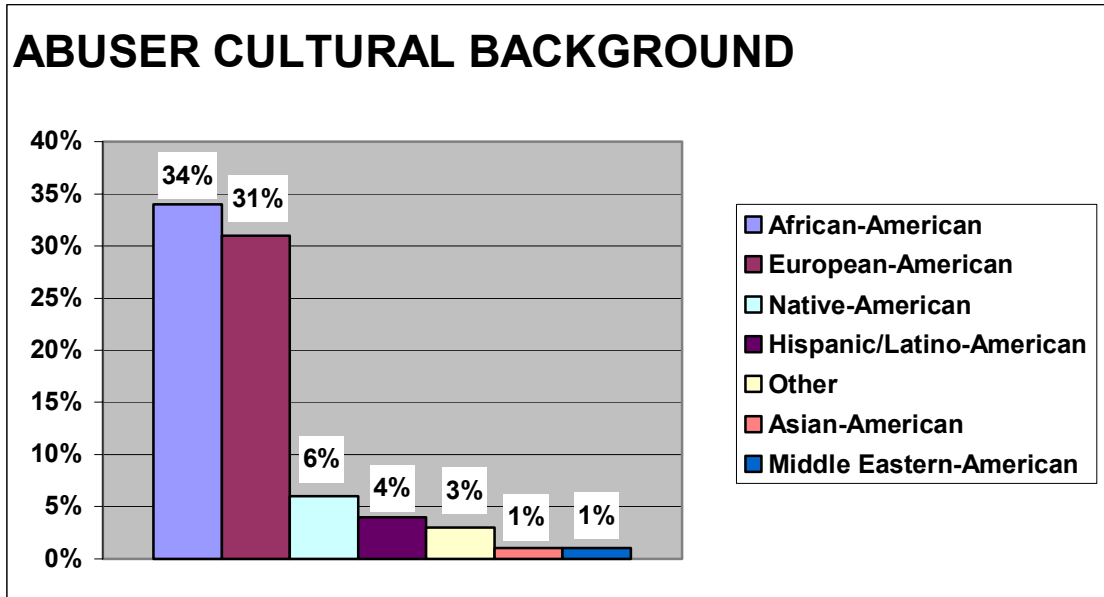
The cultural background reported for the abuser was somewhat different than the victim’s cultural background. Chart Five displays the responses to this question. Thirty-four percent of the abusers were African-American, 31 percent were European-American, 6 percent of the abusers were Native-American<sup>14</sup>, 4

<sup>13</sup> Some respondents may have chosen this category because they are American born individuals.

<sup>14</sup> Some respondents may have chosen this category because their abusers are American born individuals.

percent of the abusers were Hispanic/Latino-American, 3 percent of the victims indicated that their abuser was a cultural background other than the categories provided, 1 percent of the abusers were Asian-American and 1 percent of the abusers were Middle Eastern-American.

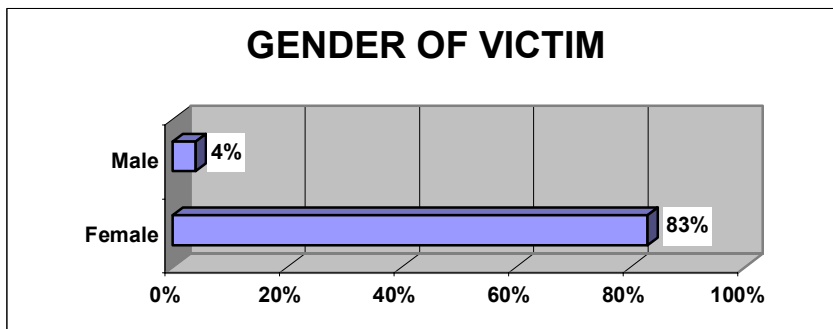
**Chart Five. Cultural Background of the Abuser**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (20 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their gender as illustrated in Chart Six. Eighty-seven percent of the individuals responding to the survey completed this question. Of those individuals who responded to the question, 83 percent were female and 4 percent were male<sup>15</sup>.

**Chart Six. Gender of Victim**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (13 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

<sup>15</sup> The low percentage of male respondents to the survey may also be reflective of the locations where the survey was administered. With the exception of the Columbus City Prosecutor’s Office, the clientele of the other agencies where the survey was administered are most likely to be female. To provide some comparison for the reader, approximately 20 percent of the individuals presenting at the Columbus City Prosecutor’s Office during the timeframe the survey was administered were male.

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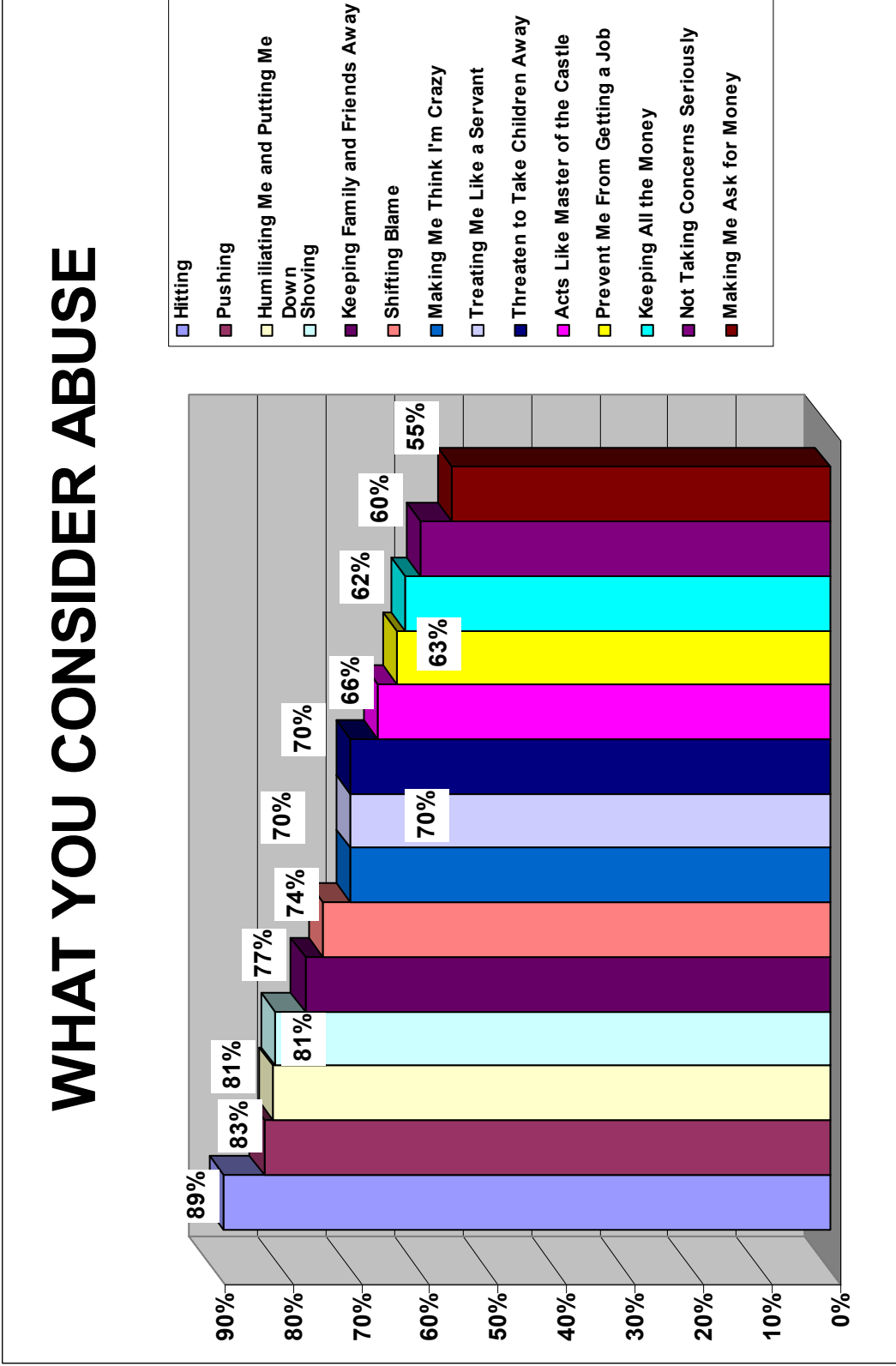
## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions to determine their perceptions of domestic violence and to determine characteristics regarding their abusive situation. This section includes information on the respondent's relationship to the abuser, living situation at the time of the abuse, the respondent's children, and other characteristics regarding the abusive situation and the abuser.

Each of the respondents was asked to indicate whether they consider a series of actions by their abuser to be abuse. Chart Six provides the results of this question. Each respondent was asked: "Overall, not including your present situation, which of the following do you consider abuse?" The response categories utilized for this question were derived from the Power and Control Wheel (Pence, 1987). Response categories include pushing, hitting, shoving, threatening to take my children away, making me think I am crazy, keeping me away from family and friends, shifting blame, keeping all the money including the victim's paycheck, preventing the victim from getting a job, making me ask for money, not taking my concerns seriously, humiliating and putting me down, treating me like a servant, and acting like master of the castle.

Chart Seven provides an overview of these responses. Eighty-nine percent of the respondents indicated that hitting is a form of abuse. This is followed by 83 percent of the respondents indicated that pushing is a form of abuse, 81 percent of the respondents indicated that humiliating me and putting me down is a form of abuse, and 81 percent of respondents indicated that shoving is a form of abuse. Interestingly, only 55 percent of the respondents considered the abuser making them ask for money as a form of abuse. As well, only 70 percent of the respondents considered the abuser threatening to take their children away as a form of abuse. Thus, the responses appear to demonstrate that victims of domestic violence consider physical contact and forms of humiliation as abuse while other less physical cues of an abusive relationship are not as likely to be considered as a form of abuse by the domestic violence victim. This is important to note because actions that are indicative of emotional abuse and attempts to isolate and control can progress to more serious levels including physical abuse.

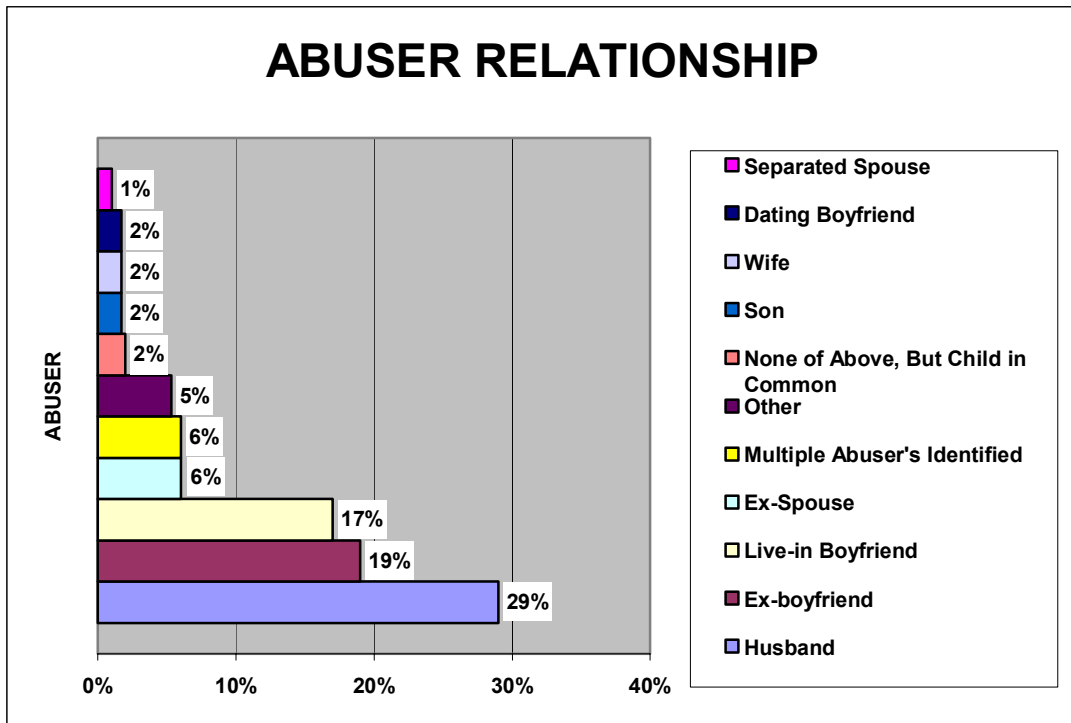
Chart Seven. What is Considered Abuse



The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their abuser’s relationship to them. If more than one individual was abusing the respondent, they were asked to indicate the relationship of the abuser about whom they were most concerned. Chart Eight illustrates the abuser’s relationship to the respondent. The chart only includes the categories that were selected by respondents on the survey<sup>16</sup>. Eighty-one percent of the respondents provided information regarding their abuser’s relationship to them. Of those responding to this question, 29 percent indicated that the abuser was their husband, 19 percent indicated that their abuser was their ex-boyfriend, 17 percent indicated that their abuser was a live-in boyfriend, 6 percent indicated that the abuser was an ex-spouse, 6 percent provided multiple responses to the question, 5 percent indicated that the abuser’s relationship to the respondent was something other than the categories listed, and 2 percent indicated that the respondent and the abuser had a child in common. Other responses included wife (2 percent), dating boyfriend (2 percent), son (2 percent), separated-spouse (1 percent), and live-in parent (.3 percent)<sup>17</sup>. Nine percent of respondents did not provide information regarding the relationship of the abuser to the victim.

**Chart Eight. Relationship of Abuser to Victim**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (9 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

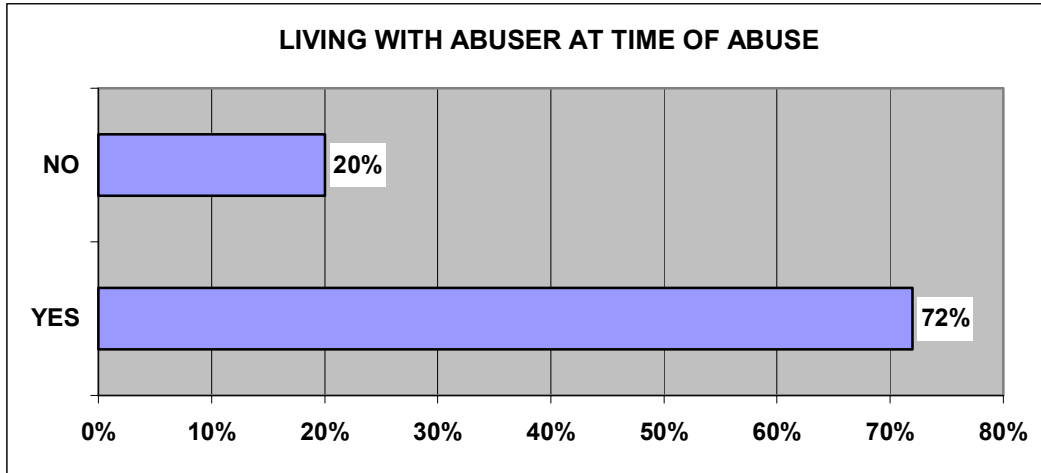
<sup>16</sup> While the following categories were included on the survey question, respondents did not indicate any of the following as the relationship of the abuser: same sex partner, separated spouse, live-in girlfriend, live-in parent, dating girlfriend, and ex-girlfriend.

<sup>17</sup> While .3 percent each of respondents indicated live-in parent, the response category is not displayed in Chart Eight due to rounding.



Each respondent was asked to indicate whether they were living with the abuser at the time of the abuse. The results of this question are presented in Chart Nine. Ninety-two percent of the respondents answered this question. Of those who responded, 72 percent indicated that they were living with the abuser at the time of the abuse.

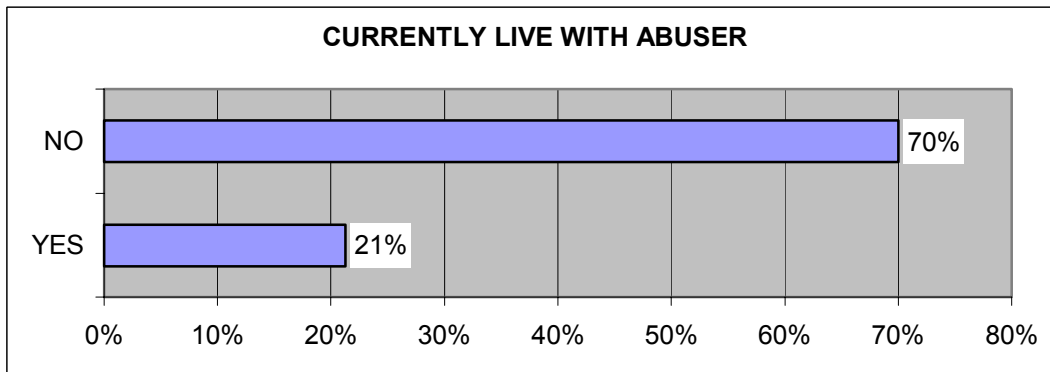
**Chart Nine.**  
**Victim Living With Abuser at Time of Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (8 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Respondents were also asked if they are currently living with the abuser. The results of this question are presented in Chart Ten. Interestingly, the results of this question are almost the exact opposite of the previous question that asked the respondent to indicate whether they lived with the abuser at the time of the abuse. Of those responding to the survey, 91 percent responded to this question with 70 percent indicating that he or she are not currently living with the abuser and 21 percent indicating that they are currently living with the abuser.

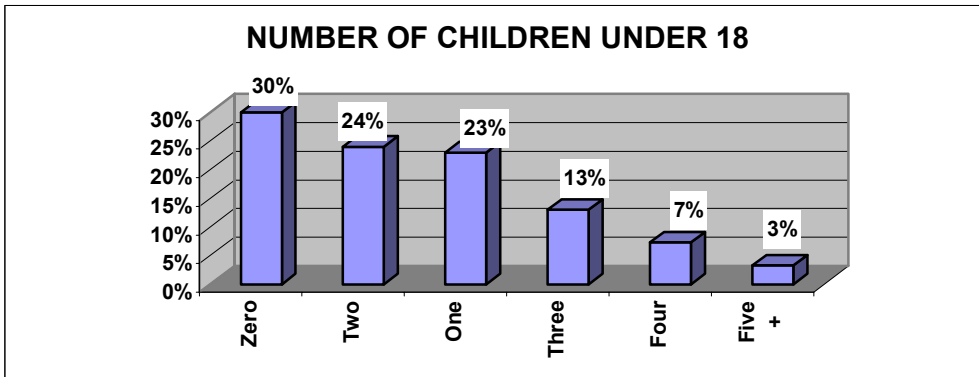
**Chart Ten.**  
**Victim Currently Living With Abuser**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (9 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

As illustrated in Chart Eleven, respondents were also asked how many children they have under the age of 18. Eighty-five percent of the respondents provided a response to this question. Of those responding to this question, 30 percent indicated that they do not have any children under the age of 18, 24 percent indicated that they have two children under the age of 18, 23 percent indicated that they have one child under eighteen years of age, 13 percent indicated they have 3 children under the age of 18, 7 percent indicated that they have 4 children under the age of 18, and 3 percent indicated they have five or more children under the age of 18.

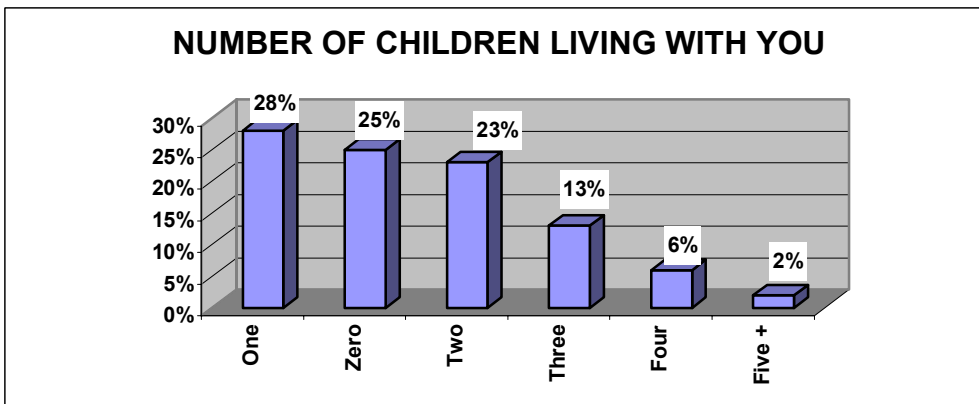
**Chart Eleven.**  
**Number of Children Under 18**



The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County

Chart Twelve illustrates the number of children currently living with the respondent. Twenty-eight percent of the respondents indicated that one child resides with them, 25 percent indicated that zero children live with them, 23 percent indicated that two children live with them, 13 percent indicated that three children live with them, 6 percent indicated that four children live with them, and 2 percent indicated that five or more children live with them.

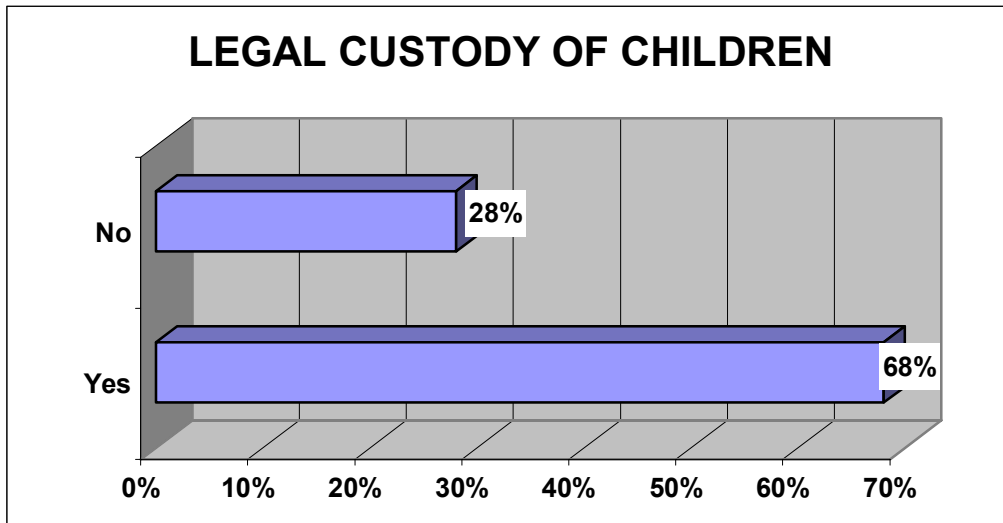
**Chart Twelve.**  
**Number of Children Living With You Today**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (3 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Respondents were asked if they have legal custody of their children. As shown in Chart Thirteen, 96 percent of the survey respondents completed this question. Of those respondents completing the question, 68 percent indicated that they have legal custody of their children and 28 percent indicated that they do not have legal custody.

**Chart Thirteen. Legal Custody of Children**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (4 percent).

The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Respondents were asked questions to determine their child's experiences with the abusive situation. Table Two provides the results for those individuals who indicated that they have children under the age of 18. Respondents were asked if the children were living with them at the time of the abuse. Eighty-one percent of the survey respondents indicated that the child was living with them at the time of the abuse. As well, 70 percent of the respondents indicated that the child was in the home/location where the abuse occurred with 64 percent indicating that the child saw or heard the abuse. Additionally, 19 percent of the respondents indicated that the abuser had physically harmed the children and 36 percent indicated that the abuser shouted at, name called, or threatened the children. Finally, 16 percent of the respondents reported that the abuser has threatened to harm their pets.

**Table Two. Child/Pet Experiences With Abuse**

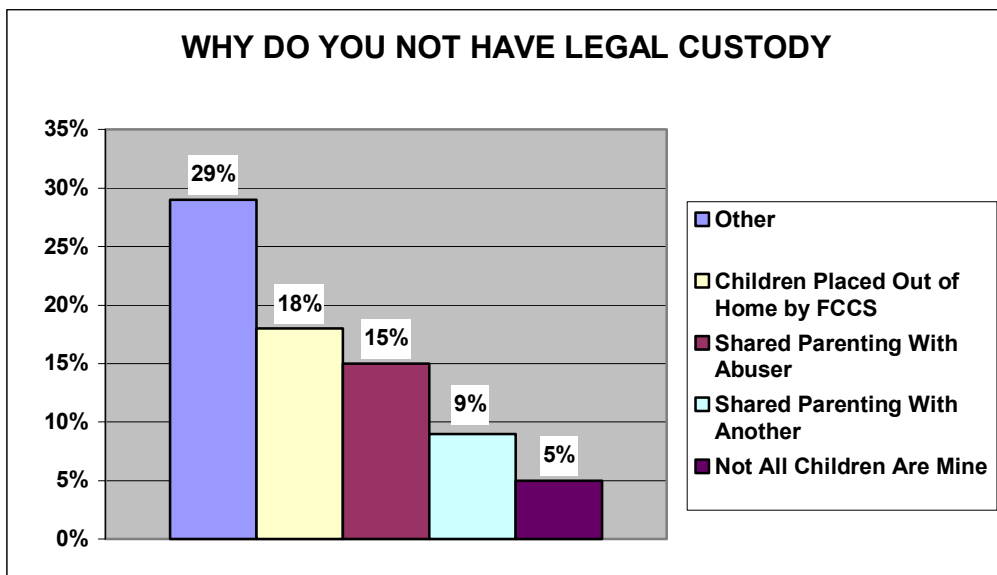
<b>Child Experience with Abusive Situation</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Were Your Children Living With You At The Time Of The Abuse?	81%	14%
Were Your Children In The Home Where You Were Abused?	70%	25%
Did Your Children See or Hear The Abuse?	64%	30%
Has The Abuser Ever Physically Harmed Your Children?	19%	76%
Does The Abuser Shout At, Name Call, or Threaten Your Children?	36%	60%
Has Your Abuser Ever Harmed/Threatened to Harm Your Pets?	16%	70%

Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (5 percent, 5 percent, 6 percent, 5 percent, 4 percent, and 14 percent respectively).

The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

If the respondent did not have legal custody of his or her children, he/she was asked to describe his/her current custody situation. Response categories included not all children are mine, shared parenting with another, shared parenting with abuser, children placed out of home by Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) and other. Chart Fourteen illustrates these results. Interestingly, 29 percent of the respondents indicated a reason other than the response categories provided. Eighteen percent indicated the child(ren) were placed out of the home by FCCS, 15 percent of the respondents have shared parenting with the abuser, and 9 percent indicate shared parenting with another. As well, 5 percent of the respondents reported the category not all of the children are mine.

**Chart Fourteen. Description of Custody Situation**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (24 percent).

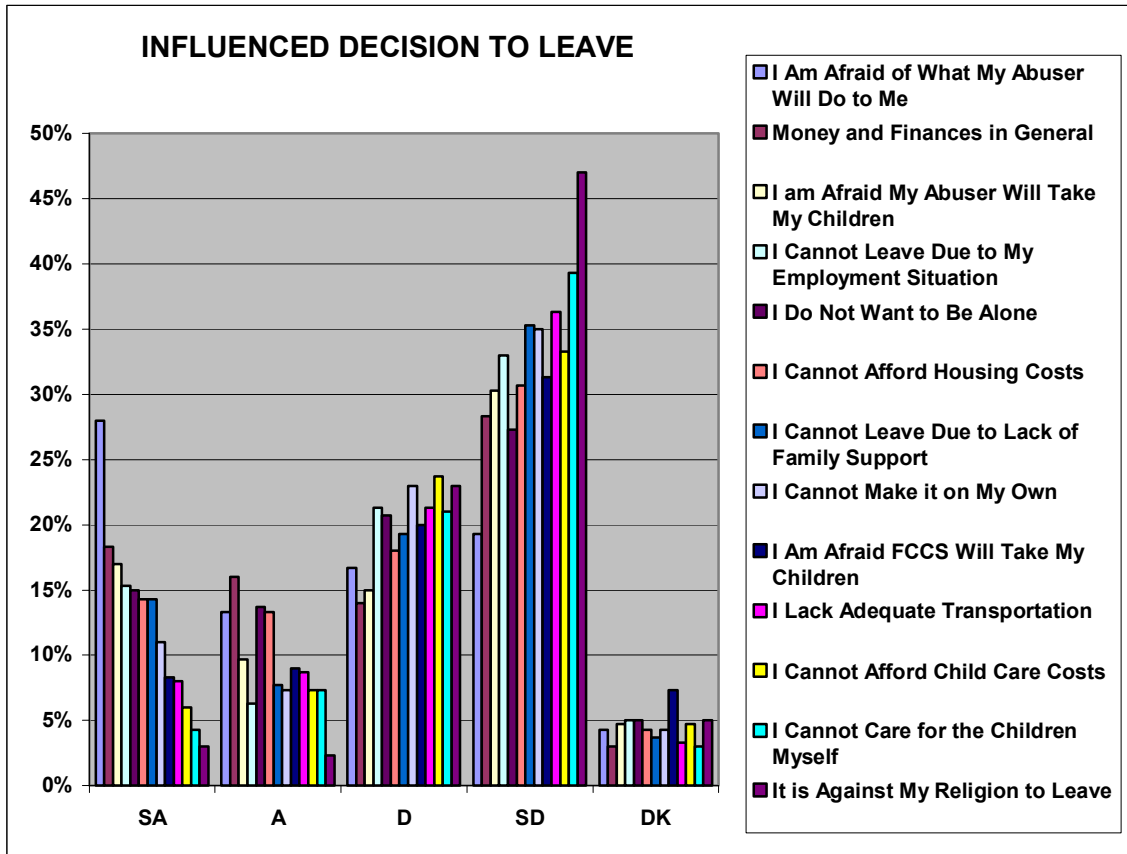
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

A series of questions were asked to determine what influenced or will influence the respondent's decision to leave his/her abuser. The respondents were asked to respond to each of the following using a scale of strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, and don't know. The categories were as follows:

- I cannot leave due to my employment situation
- I was (am) afraid my abuser will take my children
- I was (am) afraid that FCCS will take my children
- I was (am) concerned that I cannot care for my children myself
- I lack adequate transportation to care for my family and me
- I cannot leave because I cannot afford housing
- Money and finances make it difficult for me to leave
- Lack of support from my family make it difficult for me to leave
- If I leave, I am afraid of what my abuser will do to me
- I do not want to be alone
- I do not think I can make it on my own
- It is against my religion

Chart Fifteen illustrates the results of these questions. The most prevalent response for each of these was strongly disagree, however, there were some areas in which the respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the reason influencing their decision to leave. Respondents (27 percent) indicated that they were afraid of what their abuser will do to them if they leave. Eighteen percent of the respondents strongly agreed that money and finances in general were a concern, and 15 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that the abuser would take their children if they left. Fifteen percent of the respondents strongly agreed that their employment situation influenced their decision to leave. As well, 15 percent strongly agreed and 13 percent agreed that not wanting to be alone influenced the respondent's decision to leave.

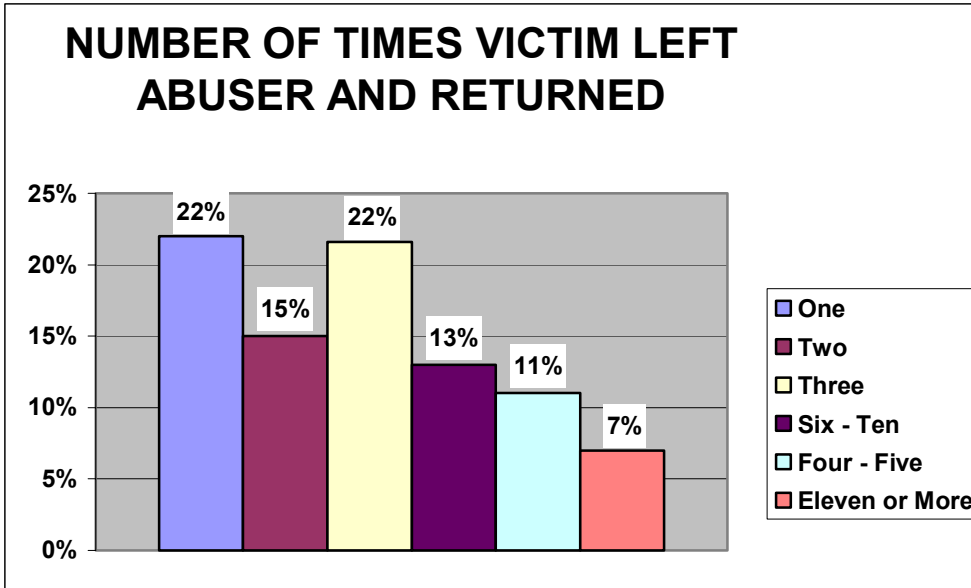
**Chart Fifteen. Factors Influencing Decisions to Leave**



Not all percentages total 100 due to missing data (19 percent, 23 percent, 24 percent, 25 percent, 23 percent, 20 percent, 25 percent, 21 percent, 20 percent, 19 percent, 19 percent, 19 percent, and 20 percent, respectively). The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Overall, 58 percent of the respondents reported that they have left their abuser. As illustrated in Chart Sixteen, of those who left and returned to their abuser, 22 percent reported leaving one and three times respectively, 15 percent of the respondents reported leaving two times, 13 percent of the respondents reported leaving 6 to 10 times, 11 percent of the respondents reported leaving four to five times, and 7 percent of the respondents reported leaving 11 or more times.

**Chart Sixteen.**  
**Number of Times Victim Left Abuser and Returned**



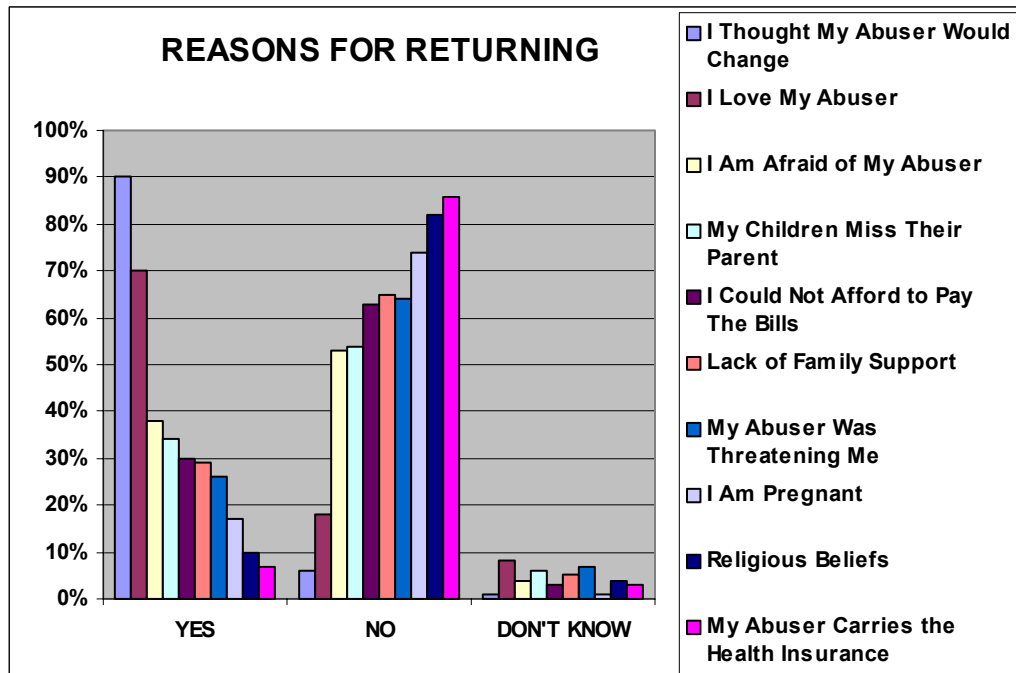
Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (10 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Those respondents who indicated that they have left and returned to their abuser were asked a series of questions to determine why they returned to their abuser including:

- I returned because my abuser was threatening me
- I returned because I thought my abuser would change
- I returned because of lack of support from my family
- I returned because I am afraid of my abuser
- I returned because I love my abuser
- I returned because of my religious beliefs
- I returned because my abuser carries the health care benefits
- I returned because my children miss their parent
- I returned because I could not afford to pay the bills

As shown in Chart Seventeen, 90 percent of those responding to this question indicated that they returned because they thought their abuser would change. Additionally, 70 percent of the respondents returned because they love their abuser, 37 percent of the respondents returned because they were afraid of their abuser, and 34 percent of the respondents returned because the children missed their parent. Also, 30 percent of the respondents returned because they could not afford to pay bills, 29 percent of the respondents cited lack of family support as a reason for returning, 26 percent of the respondents indicated they returned because their abuser was threatening them, and 17 percent of the respondents who left their abuser and returned indicated that they did so because they were pregnant. Finally, religious beliefs (10 percent) and health care benefits (7 percent) were the least likely to influence the respondent's decision to return.

**Chart Seventeen. Reasons for Returning to Abuser**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (1 percent, 3 percent, 5 percent, 6 percent, 3 percent, 4 percent, 3 percent, 8 percent, 3 percent, and 3 percent, respectively).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Chart Eighteen provides a description of characteristics of the abuser. Over 70 percent of the respondents described their abuser as jealous or possessive and 69 percent describe their abuser as insecure. Also, 66 percent of the respondents reported that the abuser wants to know where they are all the time. Additionally, 42 percent of the respondents indicated that their abuser has a drug problem followed by 40 percent of the respondents reporting that the abuser has an alcohol problem. It is important to note that the percent of individuals having a drug and alcohol problem are not distinct. Further analysis revealed that 71 percent of the respondents who indicated that the abuser had a

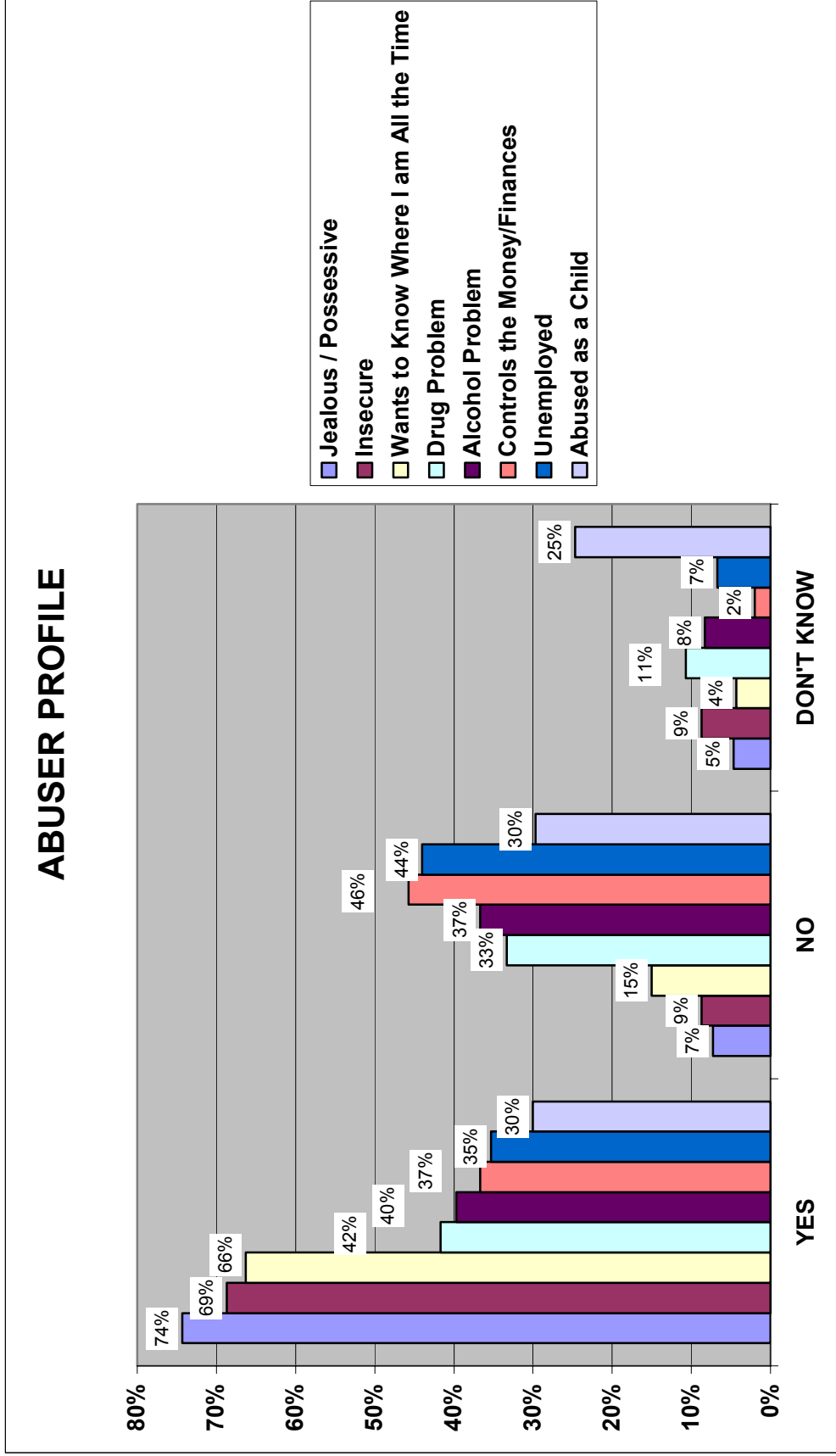


drug problem also reported that their abuser had an alcohol problem. Likewise, 75 percent of the respondents who indicated that their abuser had an alcohol problem also reported that the abuser had a drug problem<sup>18</sup>. Thirty-seven percent of the respondents indicated that the abuser controls the money and finances and 35 percent reported that the abuser is unemployed. Also, 30 percent of the respondents reported that the abuser was abused as a child.

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<sup>18</sup> Chi Square analysis revealed that there is a significant relationship between the two categories.

Chart Eighteen: Characteristics of the Abuser

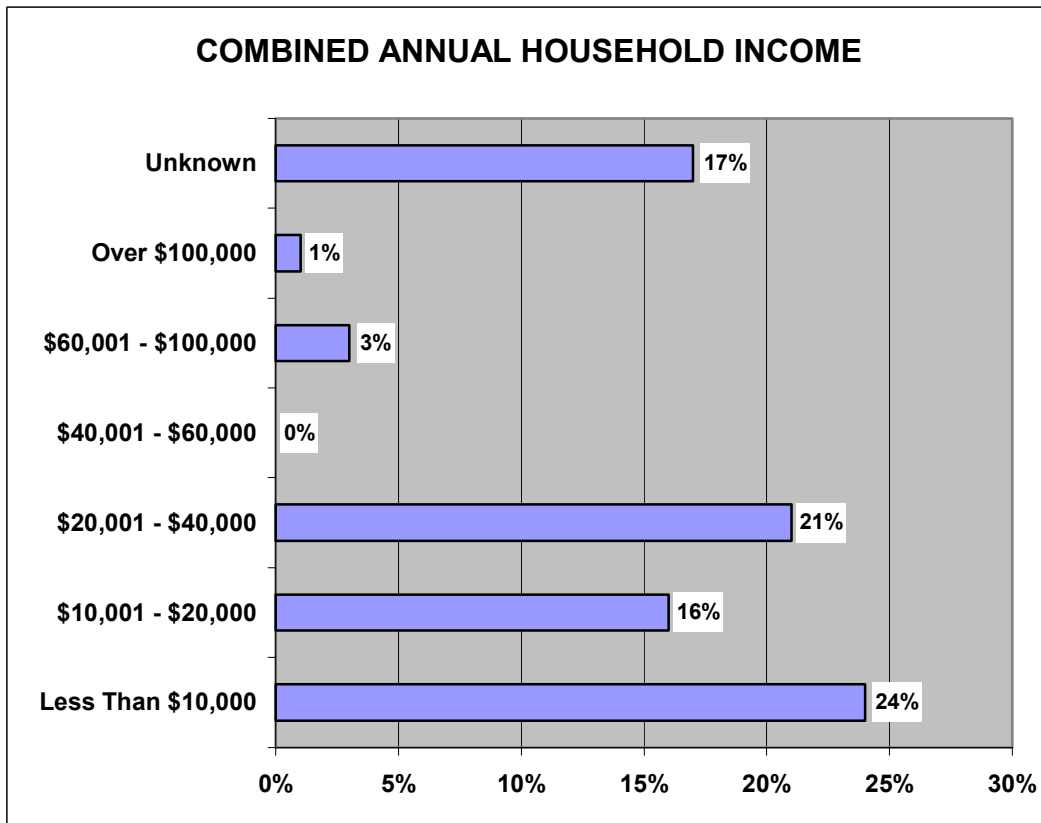


Percentages may not total 100 due to missing data (14 percent, 14 percent, 14 percent, 14 percent, 15 percent, 16 percent, 14 percent, and 16 percent, respectively). The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

## **EMPLOYMENT/FINANCES**

Chart Nineteen provides information regarding the combined annual household income of all individuals residing in the victim’s home at the time the abuse was reported. Of those individuals responding to the question, 24 percent reported a combined annual household income of less than \$10,000, 16 percent reported that the annual household income for everyone currently residing in the home was \$10,001 to \$20,000. Twenty-One percent of the respondents reported an annual household income of \$20,001 to \$40,000, 3 percent reported a combined annual household income of \$60,001 - \$100,000, and 1 percent reported a combined annual household income over \$100,000. Interestingly, 17 percent reported that they do not know the annual household income for everyone residing in the home. This percent does not include the percent of individuals who did not respond to this question on the survey. Finally, none of the respondents reported an income between \$40,001 to \$60,000.

**Chart Nineteen. Combined Annual Household Income<sup>19</sup>**

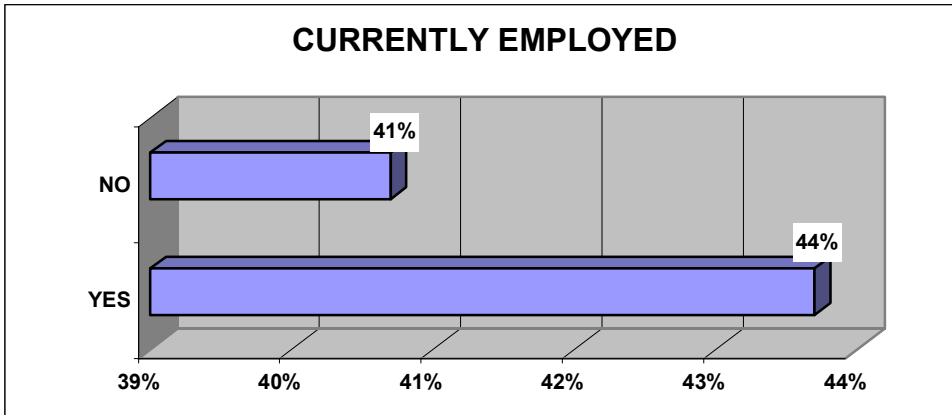


Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (18 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

<sup>19</sup> When excluding those individuals who were residing in the Ohio Reformatory for Women at the time the survey was completed, the following percentage changes occur: the number of individuals who report that they did not know their combined annual household income is 16 percent, \$10,000 to \$20,001 is 17 percent, \$20,001 to \$40,000 is 23 percent. All other categories remained the same.

Eighty-five percent of the respondents reported information about their current employment situation (Chart Twenty) with 44 percent reporting that they were employed and 41 percent of the respondents indicating that they were not employed at the time the survey was completed.

**Chart Twenty. Victim’s Employment Status<sup>20</sup>**

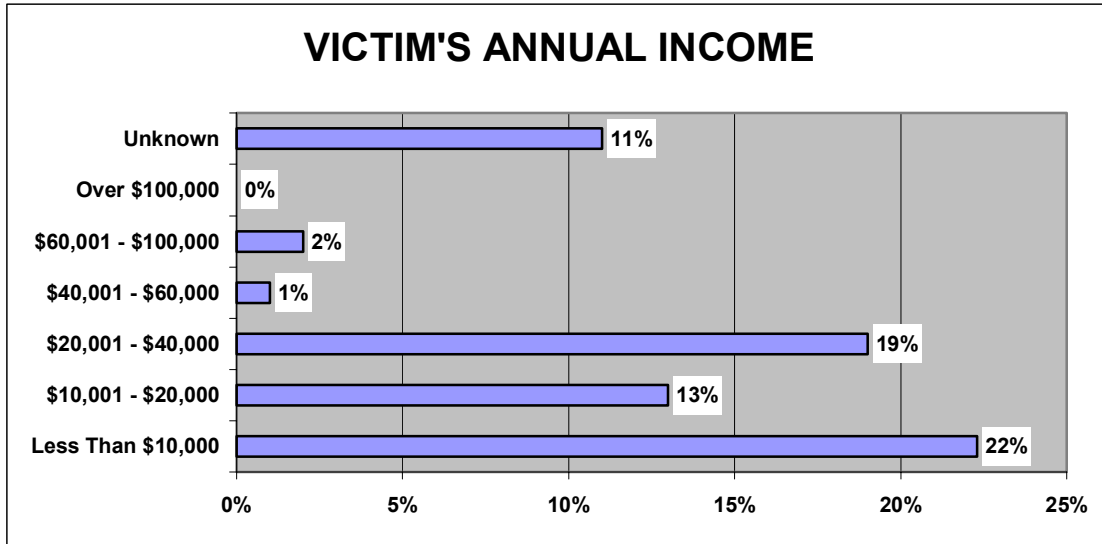


Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (15 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Chart Twenty-One displays the victim’s annual household income. It is fairly consistent with the figures reported for the annual household income of everyone residing in the home (Chart Nineteen). Twenty-two percent of the respondents reported an annual income of less than \$10,000. Thirteen percent of respondents reported an annual income of \$10,001 to \$20,000 and 19 percent reported an annual income of \$20,001 to \$40,000. Another 11 percent reported that they do not know their annual income. Finally, 2 percent of the respondents reported an annual income of \$60,001 to \$100,000 and 1 percent reported an annual income of \$40,001 to \$60,000. There were no respondents who reported an annual income over \$100,000.

<sup>20</sup> When excluding those individuals who were residing in the Ohio Reformatory for Women at the time the survey was completed, the following percentage changes occur: percent of individuals not employed reduces to 39. However, the number of individuals who reported that they were employed remained the same.

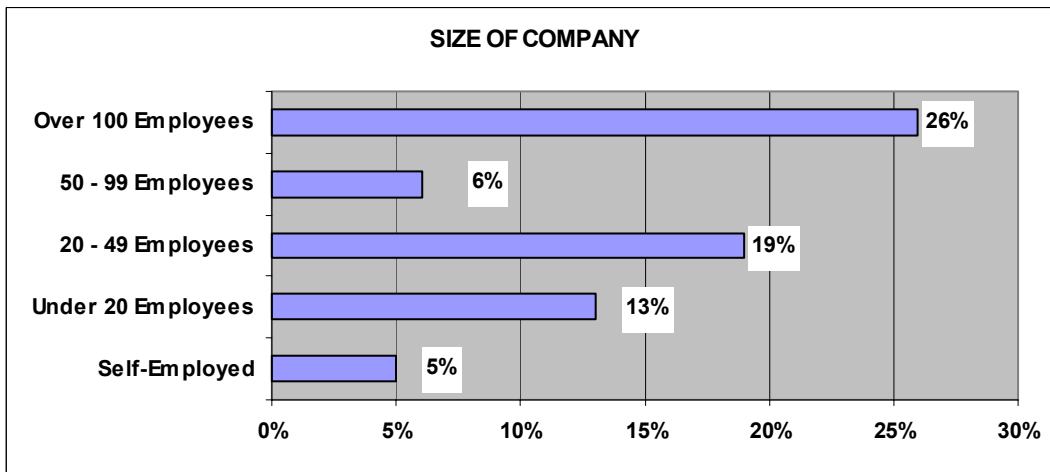
**Chart Twenty-One. Victim's Annual Household Income<sup>21</sup>**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (32 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Those respondents who indicated they were currently employed (44 percent) were asked to provide information regarding the size of the company for which they work. As illustrated in Chart Twenty-Two, 26 percent of the respondents reported working for a company with more than 100 employees while others reported working for companies with 50 to 99 employees (6 percent), 20 to 49 employees (19 percent), less than 20 employees (13 percent), and self-employed (5 percent).

**Chart Twenty-Two. Size of Company where Victim Works<sup>22</sup>**



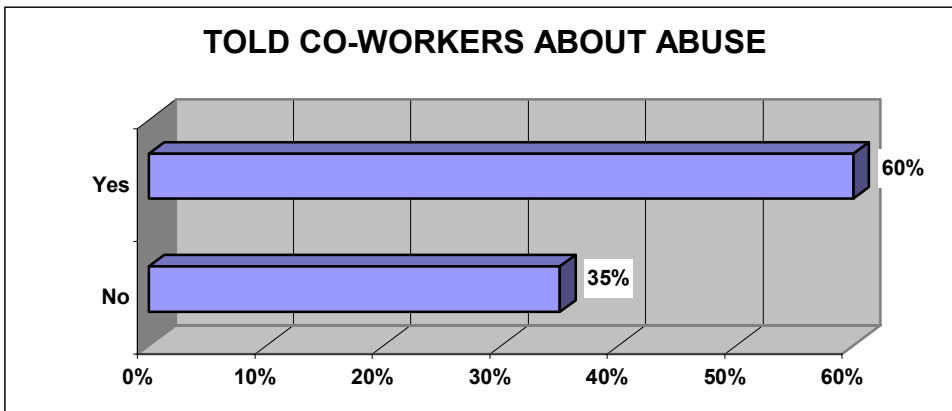
Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (31 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

<sup>21</sup> When excluding those survey respondents who were residing in the Ohio Reformatory for Women at the time the survey was completed, the following percentage changes occur: unknown 10 percent, \$10,001 - \$20,000 15 percent, and less than \$10,000 21 percent. All other categories remained the same.

<sup>22</sup> When excluding those survey respondents who were residing in the Ohio Reformatory for Women at the time the survey was completed, the percentages in this chart did not change.

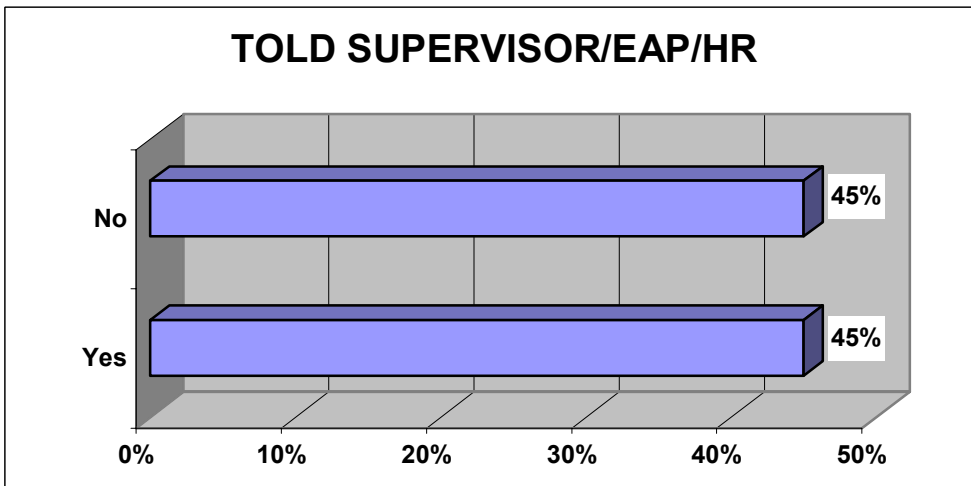
In two separate questions, respondents who indicated that they were employed (44 percent) were asked if they told co-workers or their human resources officer about the abuse. The results of these questions are displayed in Charts Twenty-Three and Twenty-Four. Respondents were more likely to tell co-workers (60 percent) about the abuse than their human resources or employee assistance program representatives (45 percent).

**Chart Twenty-Three.  
Victim Told Co-Workers About Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (5 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

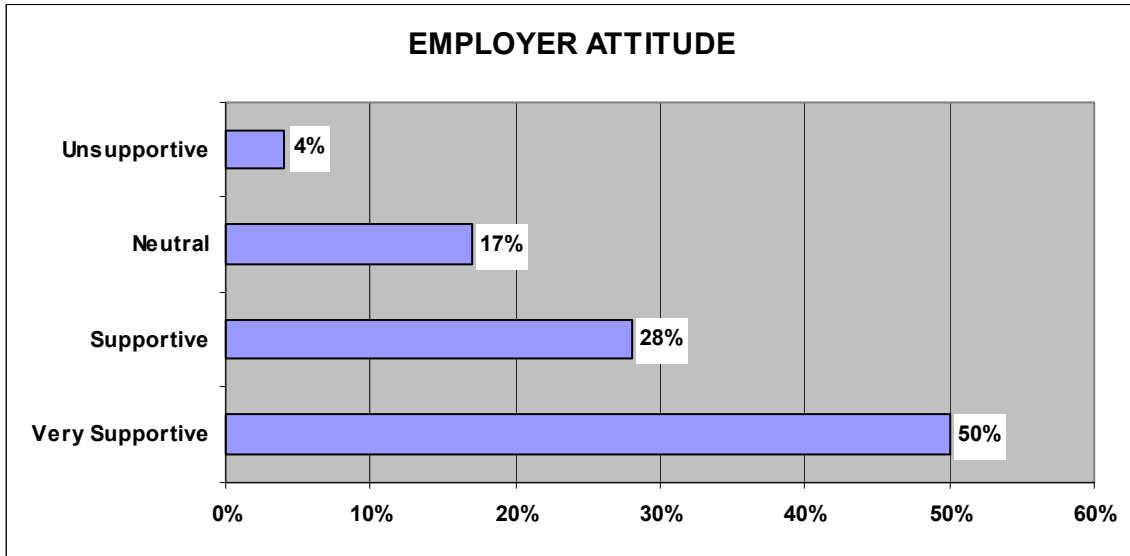
**Chart Twenty-Four.  
Victim Told Human Resource Officer About Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (10 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Chart Twenty-Five describes the attitude of the employer regarding the employee’s abusive situation. Of those respondents who told their employer about the abuse, 50 percent described their employer as very supportive, 28 percent described their employer as supportive, 17 percent described their employer as neutral, and 4 percent described their employer as unsupportive.

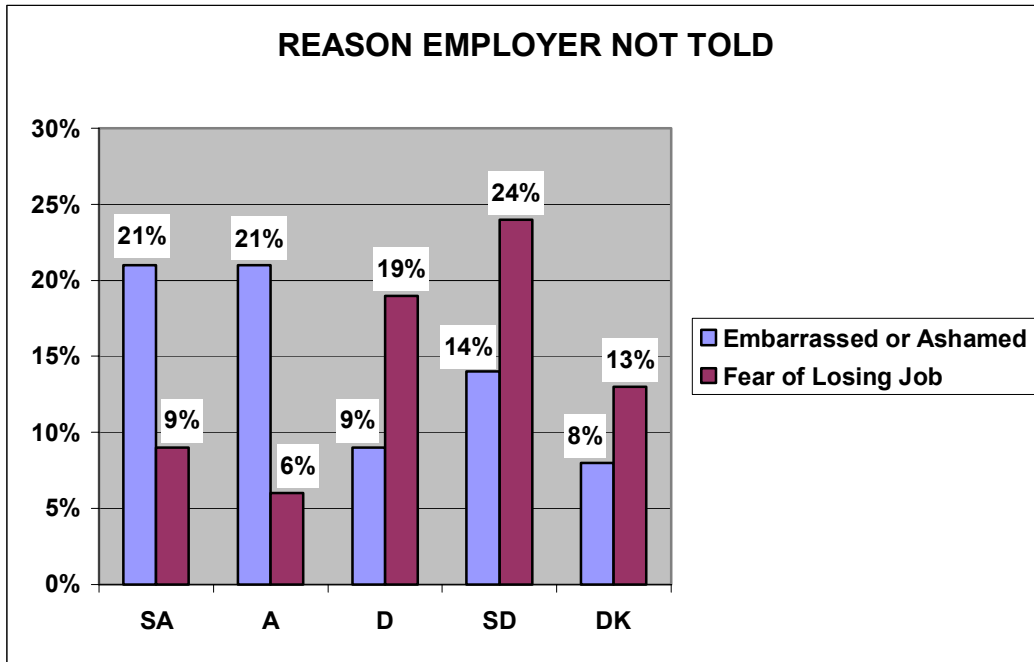
**Chart Twenty-Five. Employer Attitude Regarding Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (1 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

As shown in Chart Twenty-Six, respondents were asked to explain why they did not tell their employer about the abuse. Of those responding to the question, 21 percent strongly agreed and 21 percent agreed that they did not tell their employer because they were embarrassed or ashamed. As well, 9 percent strongly agreed and 6 percent agreed that they did not tell because they feared losing their job.

**Chart Twenty-Six. Reasons for Not Telling Employer About Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (27 percent and 29 percent respectively). The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Respondents were asked a series of questions that focused on the assistance that they received from their employer after telling about their abusive situation. The results of these questions are displayed in Table Three. First, of those individuals who responded to the question, 39 percent indicated that the employer helped with a safety plan and 56 percent of respondents reported that the employer did not help with a safety plan. Additionally, 38 percent indicated that the employer offered referral information and 56 percent of respondents indicated that the employer did not offer referral information. These questions are important as one considers that 37 percent of those responding to the question indicated that they have missed work due to their abuser and 43 percent suggested their work suffered as a result of the abuse. Thirty-three percent of the respondents reported that that their abuser bothered them at work.



**Table Three. Employment Concerns Regarding Abuser**

<b>EMPLOYMENT ISSUES</b>	<b>YES<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>NO</b>
Employer helped me with a safety plan	39.0%	56.0%
Employer ignored me	7.0%	88.0%
Employer offered referral information	38.0%	56.0%
Abuser bothered me at work	33.0%	34.0%
Missed work due to abuser	37.0%	31.0%
Work suffered due to abuser	43.0%	22.0%

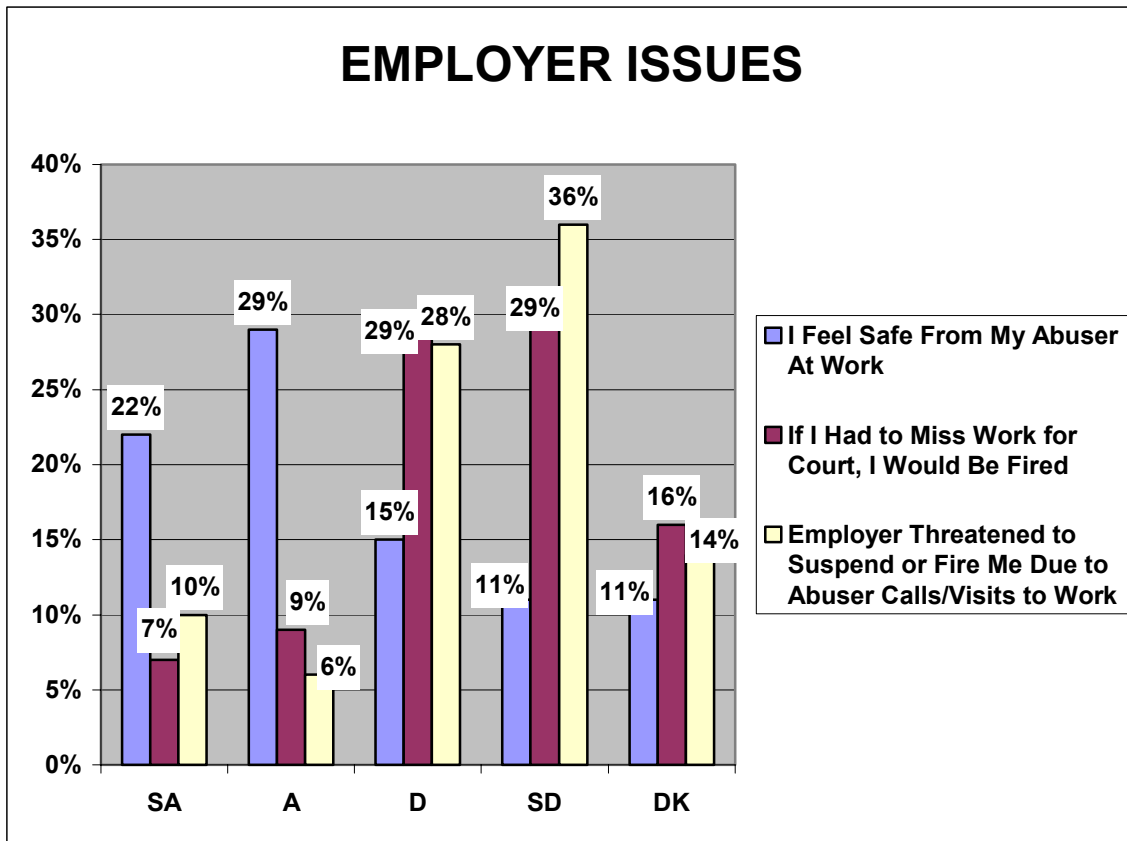
Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (5 percent, 5 percent, 6 percent, 33 percent, 32 percent, and 35 percent, respectively).

The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

<sup>23</sup> All categories in this table were rounded to the nearest whole number.

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their perception of safety at work and their perception regarding how their employer might react to circumstances surrounding the abuse. Chart Twenty-Seven displays their responses. Most of the individuals responding to the question strongly agreed (22 percent) or agreed (29 percent) that they feel safe from their abuser at work. Also, most individuals responding were not concerned that their employer would fire them as a result of the abuse. Twenty-Nine percent of the respondents disagreed and 29 percent strongly disagreed that they would be fired if they had to miss work for court. As well, 28 percent disagreed and 36 percent strongly disagreed that their employer has ever threatened to fire them due to calls or visits from the abuser at their place of employment.

**Chart Twenty-Seven.  
Employee Perspectives Regarding Employer and Workplace Safety**

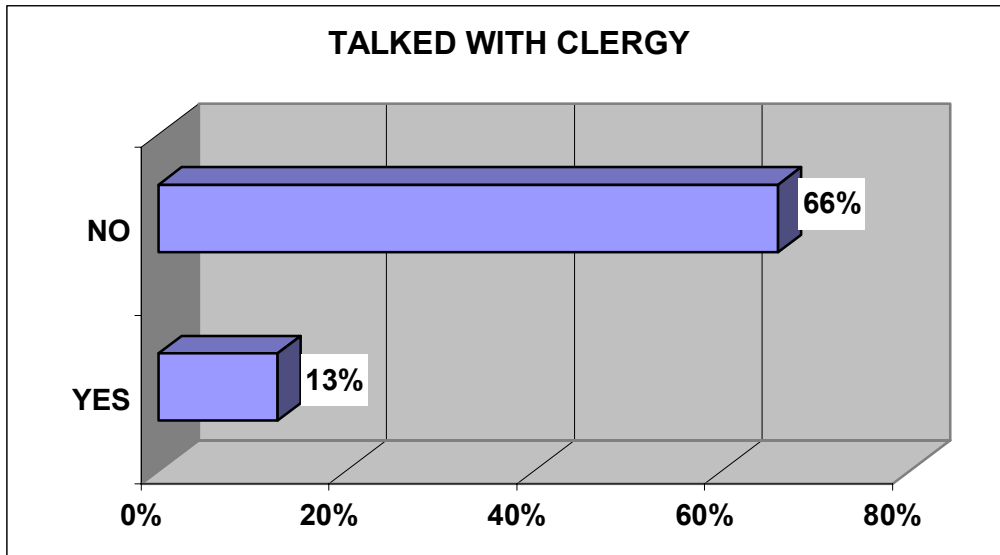


Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (12 percent, 11 percent, and 7 percent, respectively). The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

## CLERGY

Seventy-nine percent of the total survey respondents provided information about discussions with clergy regarding their abuse. Of those responding, 66 percent indicated that they have not talked with clergy regarding the abuse. However, 13 percent of the respondents did talk to clergy about the abuse.

**Chart Twenty-Eight. Discussed Abuse with Clergy**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (21 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Table Four displays the results for the respondents that sought advice (13 percent) from clergy about the abuse. The most notable of these categories is that 63 percent of the respondents indicated that clergy advised them to leave, 29 percent of the respondents reported that clergy referred them to a domestic violence program, and 42 percent of respondents indicated that they were advised to go to couples counseling.

**Table Four. Clergy Advice Regarding Abuse**

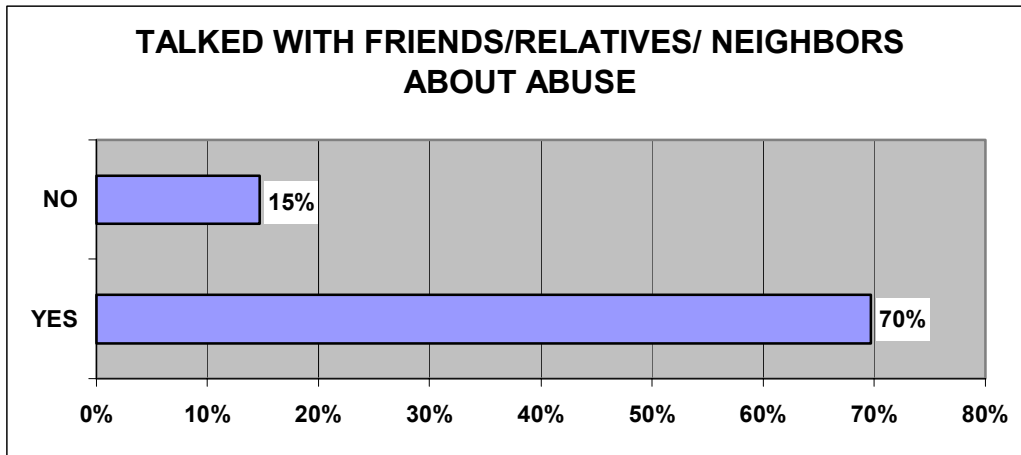
CLERGY ADVICE	YES <sup>24</sup>	NO
Advised me to leave	63.0%	29.0%
Advised me to stay	18.0%	71.0%
Advised me to pray	79.0%	13.0%
Advised me to go to individual counseling	63.0%	32.0%
Advised me to counsel with clergy member	34.0%	55.0%
Advised me to go to couples counseling	42.0%	47.0%
Referred me to domestic violence program	29.0%	61.0%

<sup>24</sup> All responses in Table Four were rounded to the nearest whole number.

## **FRIENDS/RELATIVES/NEIGHBORS**

Respondents were asked if they discussed the abuse with relatives, friends, or neighbors. The results are shown in Chart Twenty-Nine. Seventy percent of the survey respondents indicated that they have talked with relatives, friends, or neighbors about the abuse. An additional 15 percent of the respondents indicated they did not tell family, friends, or relatives about the abuse.

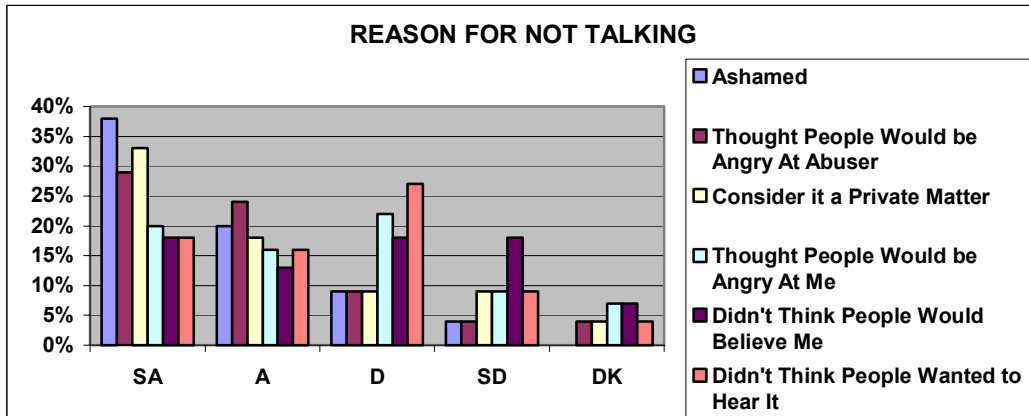
**Chart Twenty-Nine.**  
**Talk with Friends/Relatives/Neighbors About Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (15 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Respondents who indicated that they did not discuss the abuse with others were asked to answer a series of questions that help to identify why he or she chose not to talk with others. The results are displayed in Chart Thirty. Being ashamed, thinking people would be angry at the abuser and considering the matter private are the three primary reasons provided for not talking to friends, relatives, and neighbors about the abuse.

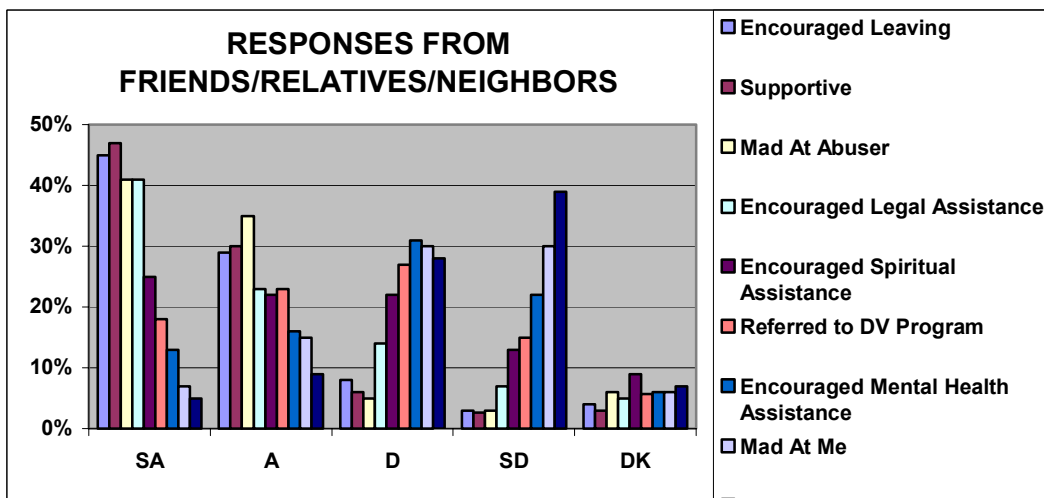
**Chart Thirty. Not Talking to Friends/Relatives/Neighbors**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (29 percent, 29 percent, 27 percent, 27 percent, and 27 percent, respectively).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Those individuals who chose to tell friends, relatives, or neighbors were asked to respond to a series of statements that describe the type of response they received from those individuals. As illustrated in Chart Thirty-One, approximately 45 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 29 percent agreed that friends, relatives, or neighbors encouraged them to leave the abuser. Additionally, 47 percent reported that they strongly agreed and 30 percent reported that they agreed that friends, relatives, or neighbors were supportive. Finally, approximately 18 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 23 percent agreed that friends, neighbors, and relatives referred them to a domestic violence program.

**Chart Thirty-One. Responses From Friends/Relatives/Neighbors About the Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (12 percent, 11 percent, 10 percent, 10 percent, 11 percent, 11 percent, 11 percent, and 13 percent, respectively).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

## **MEDICAL**

As shown in Table Five, 49 percent of the respondents indicated that there were injuries the last time they were abused. Only 13 percent of the respondents indicated that the paramedics were called. Of those respondents who indicated that the paramedics were called, 76 percent reported that the paramedics asked them if their injuries were caused by abuse. Finally, 19 percent reported that they went to the emergency department regarding the abuse.

**Table Five. Medical Response to Abuse**

MEDICAL	YES <sup>25</sup>	NO
Were there injuries the last time you were abused?	49.0%	38.0%
Were the paramedics called?	13.0%	70.0%
Did the paramedics ask you if your injuries were caused by abuse?	76.0%	16.0%
Did you go to the emergency department regarding your abuse?	19.0%	61.0%

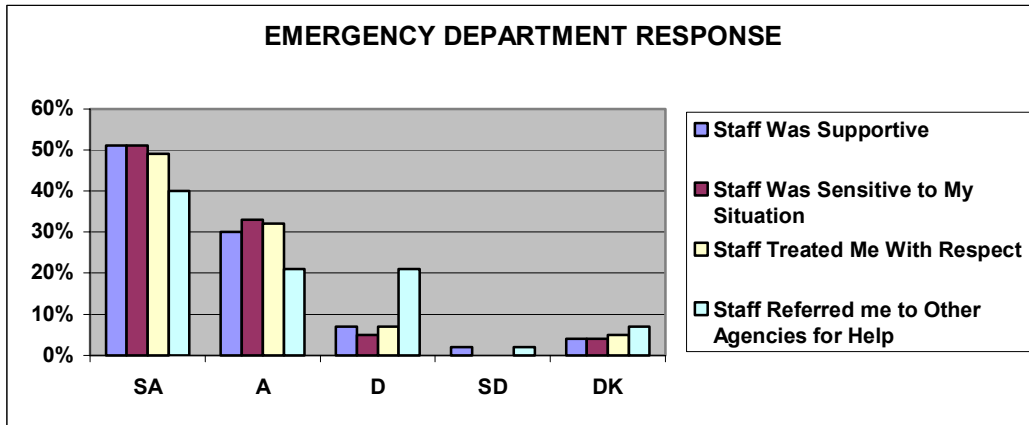
Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (13 percent, 17 percent, 8 percent, and 20 percent, respectively).

The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

As illustrated in Chart Thirty-Two, respondents were asked questions to indicate how the emergency department staff reacted to them. Fifty-one percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 30 percent agreed that staff was supportive, 51 percent strongly agreed and 32 percent agreed that the emergency department staff was sensitive to their situation, and 48 percent strongly agreed and 31 percent agreed that emergency department staff treated them with respect. Also, 40 percent of respondents strongly agreed and 21 percent of respondents agreed that emergency department staff referred them to another agency for services.

<sup>25</sup> All percentages in Table Five were rounded to the nearest whole number.

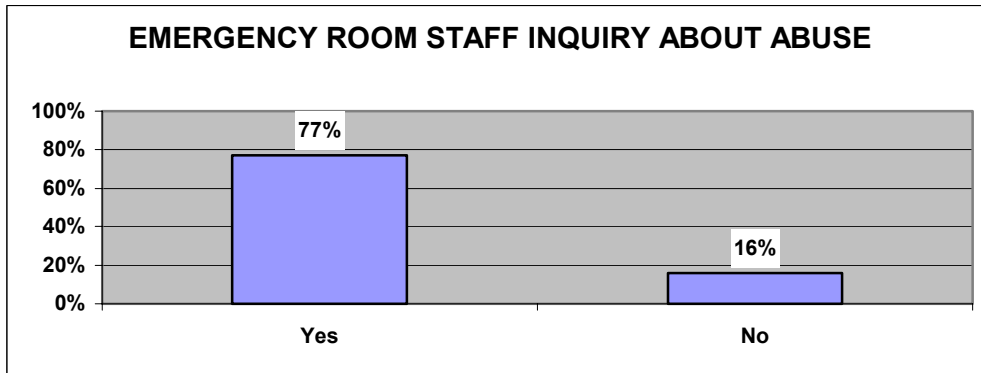
**Chart Thirty-Two. Emergency Department Response**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (7 percent, 7 percent, 7 percent, and 9 percent, respectively). The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

As indicated in Chart Thirty-Three, of those respondents reporting to the emergency department, 77 percent indicated that the emergency room staff asked them if their injuries were caused by abuse and 16 percent indicated that the staff did not ask them if their injuries were the result of abuse.

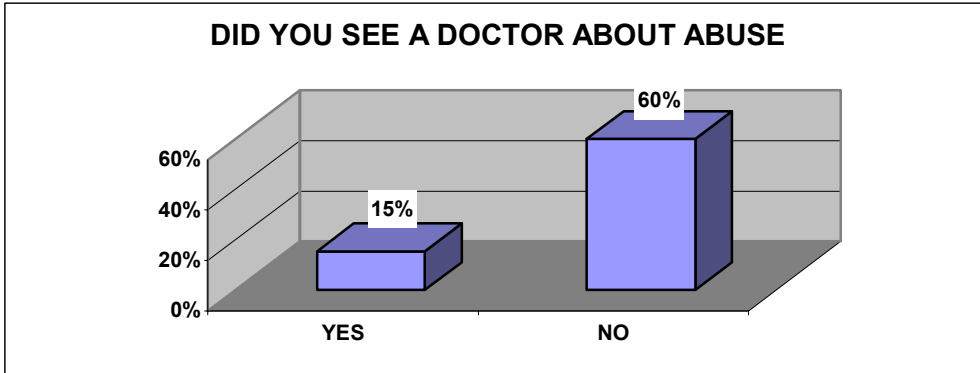
**Chart Thirty-Three. Emergency Department Inquiry About Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (7 percent). The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

As illustrated in Chart Thirty-Four, 15 percent of the respondents indicated that they saw a doctor and 60 percent reported that they did not see a doctor regarding the abuse.

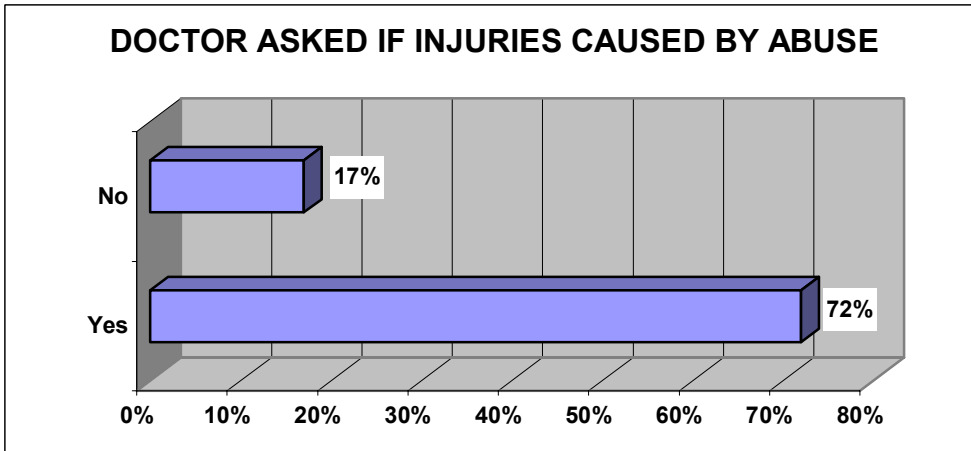
**Chart Thirty-Four.  
Did Victim See Doctor About Abuse**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (25 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Of those individuals who saw a doctor, 72 percent reported that the doctor asked if injuries were caused by the abuse while 17 percent indicated that they were not asked if the injuries were caused by abuse. These results are displayed in Chart Thirty-Five.

**Chart Thirty-Five. Injuries Caused by Abuse**

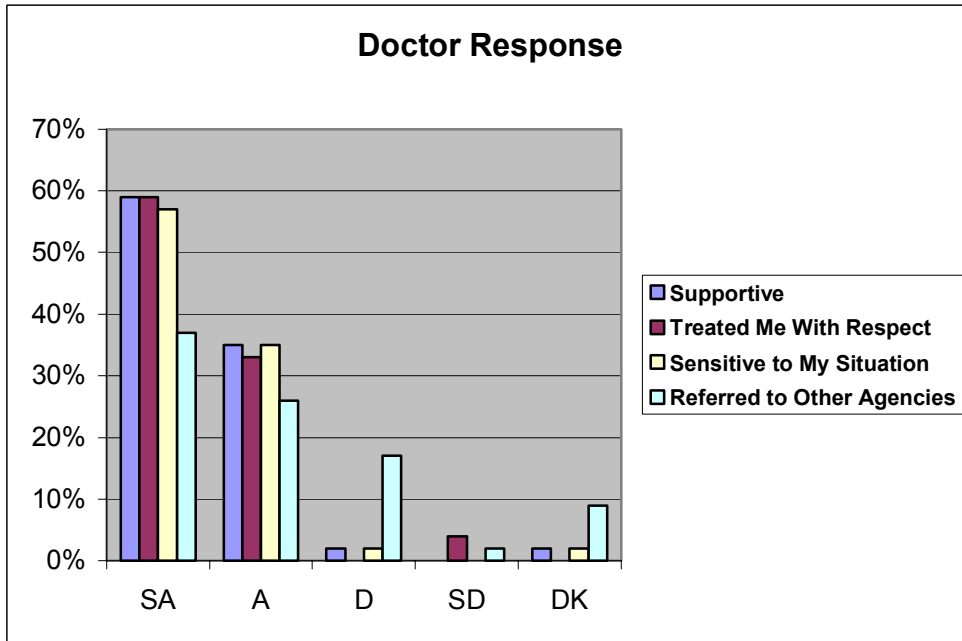


Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (11 percent).  
The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.



Chart Thirty-Six provides information regarding the doctor’s response to the abuse. Of those responding to this question, 59 percent indicated that the doctor was very supportive, 59 percent indicated that the doctor treated them with respect, 57 percent reported the doctor was sensitive to their situation, and 37 percent indicated that the doctor referred them to other agencies.

**Chart Thirty-Six. Doctor’s Response to the Abuse**

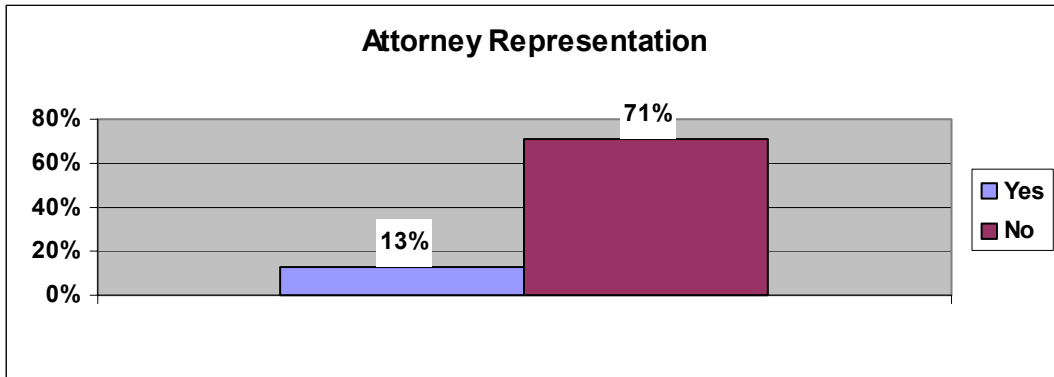


Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (2 percent, 4 percent, 4 percent, and 9 percent, respectively). The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

## **LEGAL**

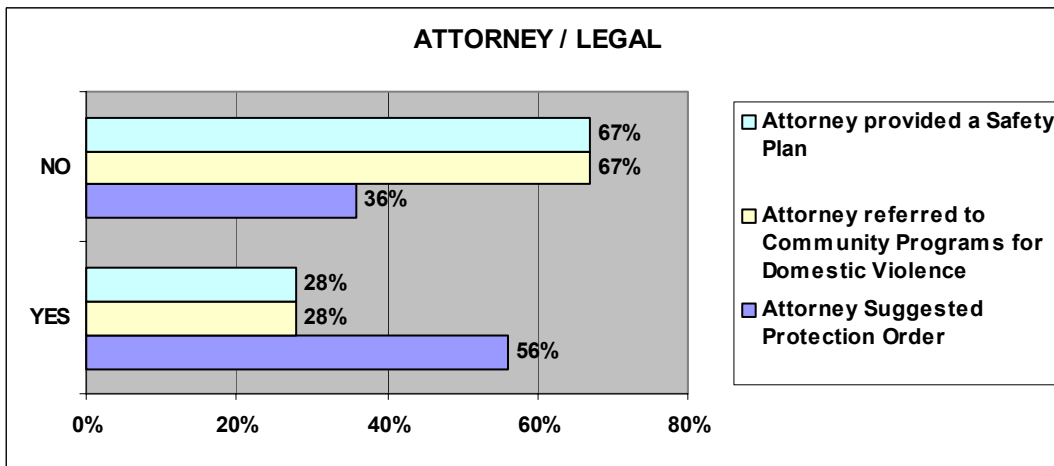
Thirteen percent of respondents indicated that they had an attorney representing them in a divorce, separation, custody, or child support case at the time the survey was completed as displayed in Chart Thirty-Seven. The low percentage of individuals represented by an attorney is expected considering that the individuals may have responded to the survey when they were seeking legal assistance for the first time. Chart Thirty-Eight provides the attorney response to the survey respondent’s domestic violence situation. Twenty-Eight percent of the respondents indicated that their attorney provided them with a safety plan. Also, 28 percent of the respondents indicated that their attorney referred them to a community program for domestic violence. Finally, 56 percent of the respondents indicated that their attorney suggested a protection order.

**Chart Thirty-Seven. Attorney Representation**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (16 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

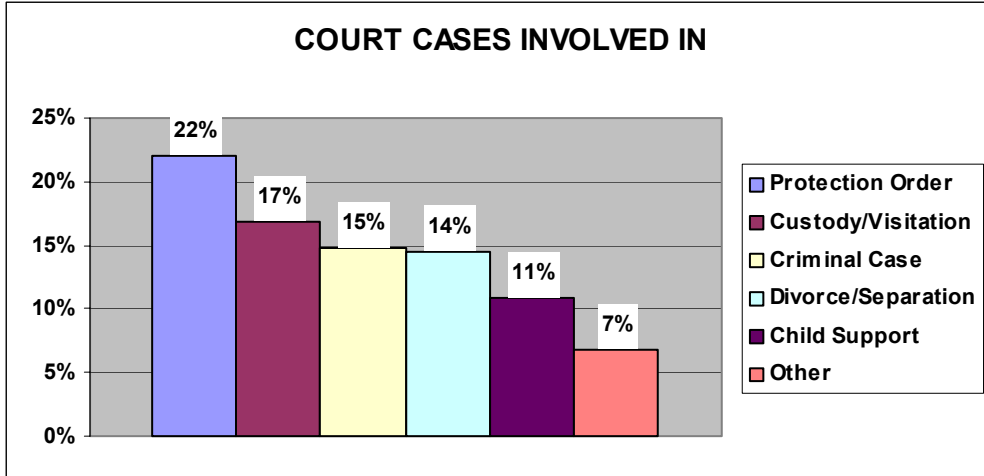
**Chart Thirty-Eight. Legal Involvement and Response**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (5 percent, 5 percent, and 5 percent, respectively).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Respondents were asked what type of court cases they are involved in. Chart Thirty-Nine displays these results. Twenty-two percent of the survey respondents reported involvement in a protection order case, 17 percent were involved in custody/visitation cases, 15 percent a criminal case, 14 percent a divorce/separation case, 11 percent a child support case, and 7 percent some other type of case.

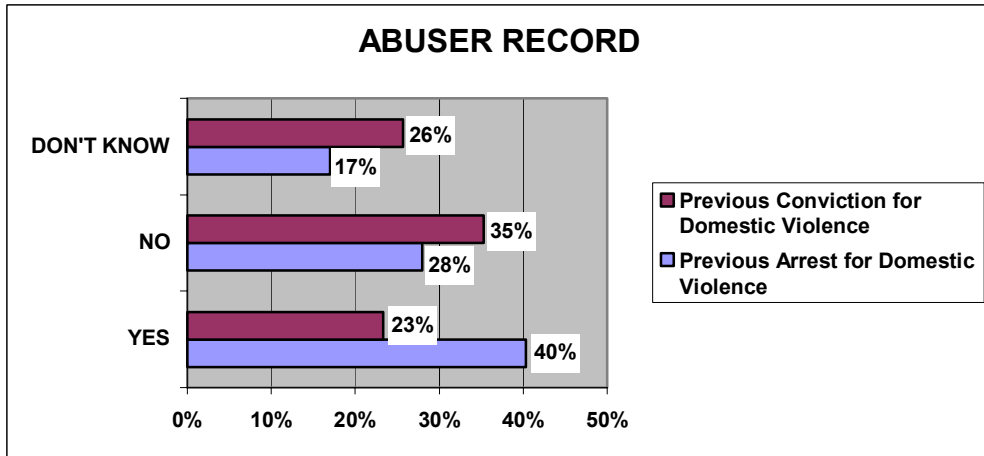
**Chart Thirty-Nine. Court Involvement**



Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (58 percent).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

Of those responding, 40 percent of survey respondents indicated that their abuser has been arrested for domestic violence in the past and 17 percent indicated they did not know if their abuser had been arrested for domestic violence in the past. Also, 23 percent of respondents indicated that their abuser has been previously convicted of domestic violence.

**Chart Forty. Abuser’s Prior Record**



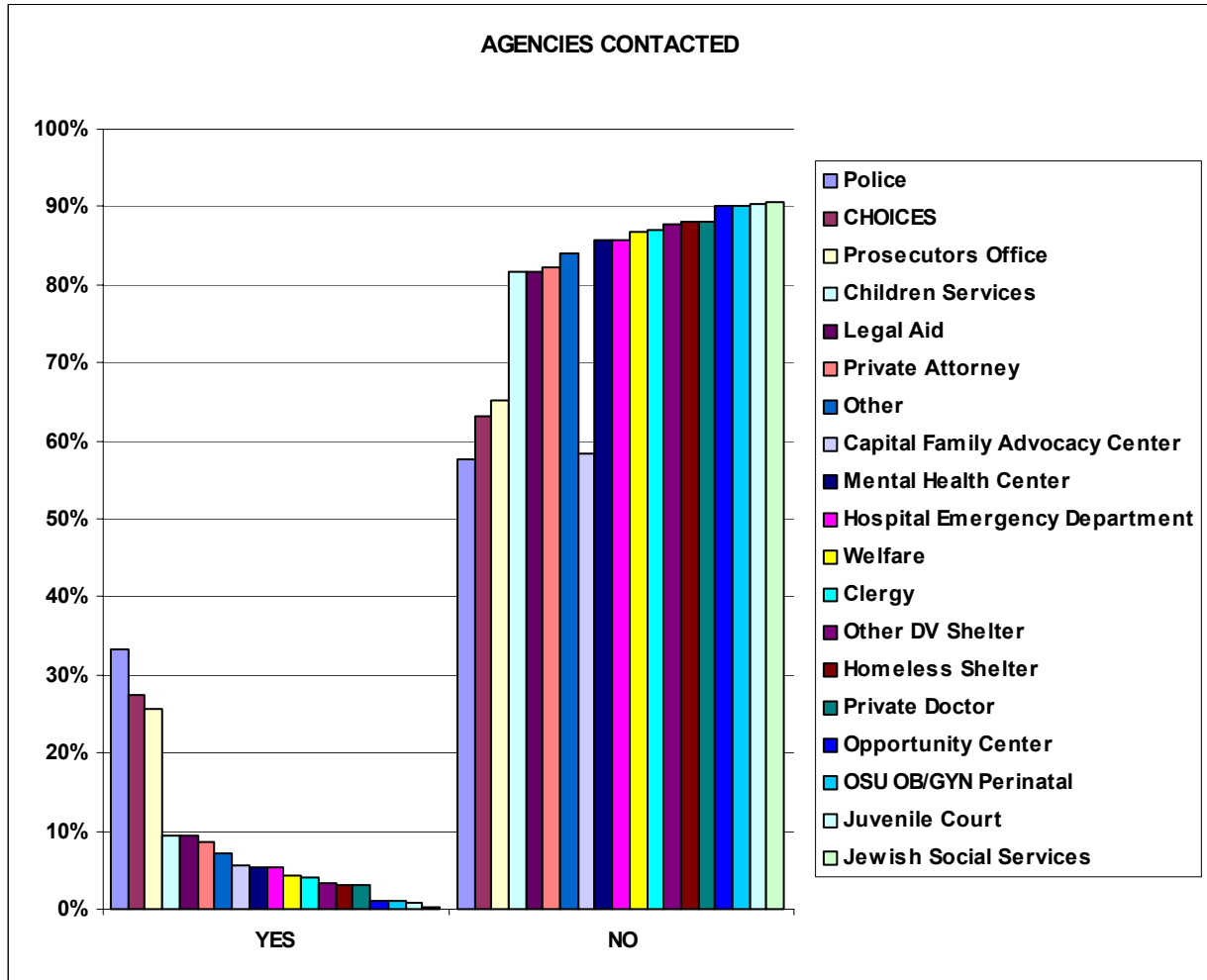
Percentages do not total 100 due to missing data (16 percent and 15 percent, respectively).  
 The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

## Community Needs and Services

This section provided respondents with an opportunity to identify community needs and services that are or could be helpful to them. The section begins with a question asking the respondent to identify the community agencies that they have contacted recently to help them with their domestic violence issue.

The results of this are displayed in Chart Forty-One. As indicated in the chart below, the police, CHOICES, and the Columbus City Prosecutor’s Office were the three primary agencies listed as an agency that the respondent has recently contacted regarding domestic violence.

**Chart Forty-One. Agencies Recently Contacted Regarding Domestic Violence**



The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

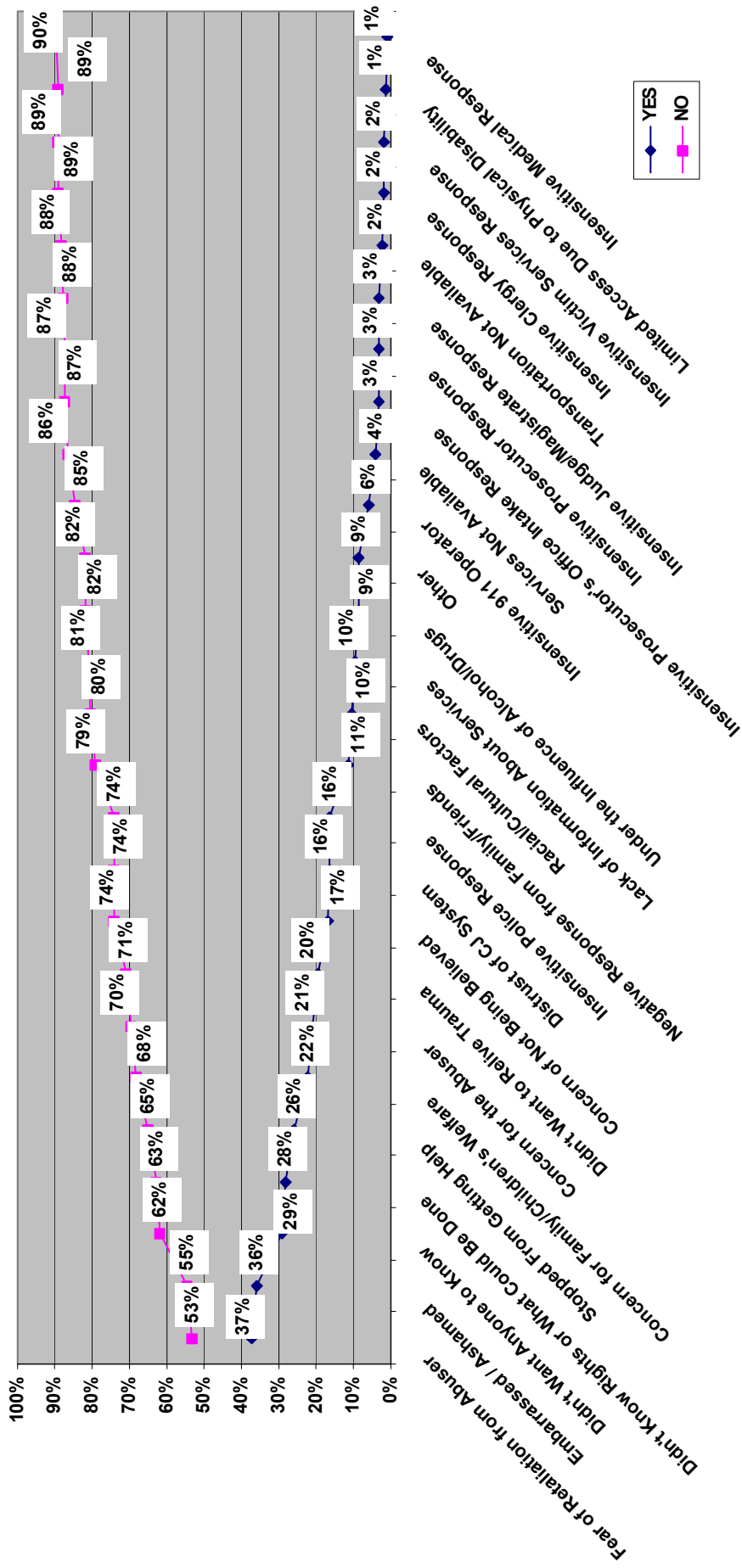
Chart Forty-Two provides a list of community related needs and issues that stopped the respondent from getting help with the domestic violence situation. Thirty-seven percent of respondents indicated they did not seek help because they feared retaliation from the abuser, 36 percent of the respondents did not seek help because they were embarrassed or ashamed, and 29 percent did not seek help because they did not want anyone to know about the domestic violence. Also, 28 percent suggested that they did not know what their rights were, 26 percent indicated they were stopped from getting help, 22 percent indicated they did not seek help due to concern for their family/children’s welfare,

21 percent of the respondents indicated they were concerned for the abuser, and 20 percent reported they did not want to relive the trauma. Finally, it is important to note that on the other end of the continuum respondents did not report that insensitive responses from professionals who assisted them with domestic violence stopped them from getting help.

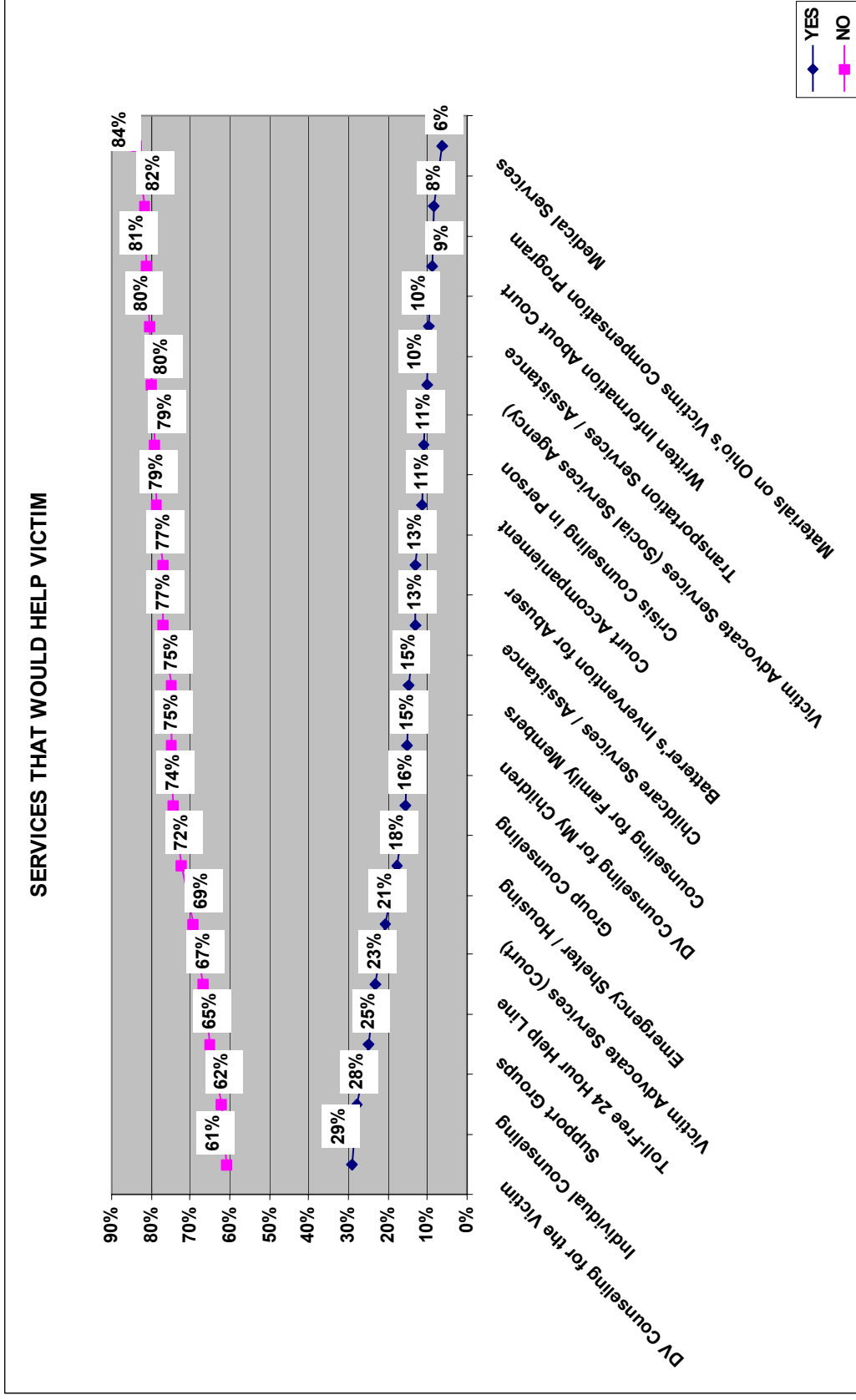
Chart Forty-Three provides an overview of services that respondents identified that would be helpful to them. It is important to note that a respondent's decision to indicate that a service would be helpful does not indicate that the service does not currently exist in Franklin County. Twenty-Nine percent indicated that domestic violence counseling would be helpful, 28 percent indicated that individual counseling would be helpful to them, 25 percent reported that support groups would be helpful to them, 23 percent indicated that a toll-free 24-hour help line would be helpful to them, and 21 percent indicated that Court Victim Advocate Services would be helpful. On the other end of the continuum, respondents did not feel that victim advocate services from a social service agency (10 percent), transportation services (10 percent), written information about court (9 percent), materials on Ohio's Victim Witness Compensation Program (8 percent), or medical services (6 percent) would be helpful to them.

Chart Forty-Two. Obstacles to Getting Help

OBSTACLES FOR GETTING HELP



**Chart Forty-Three. Services that Would Help Victims of Domestic Violence**



The data do not represent the entire population of domestic violence victims in Franklin County.

**APPENDIX A**  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SURVEY**



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SURVEY

The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence is asking your help in determining the needs for family violence victims in Franklin County. It is our sincere hope that the results of the survey will provide us with vital information allowing us to identify needs and enhance services within our community.

Although some of the questions may appear very personal, we are not asking for names or identifying information so your information will remain confidential. Please do your best to completely answer the questions so that we may use this information to help you and the Franklin County community.

Also, please feel free to write additional comments at the end of this survey.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED ONE OF THESE SURVEYS AT ANOTHER LOCATION, PLEASE INDICATE SO BELOW AND RETURN THE SURVEY TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO GAVE IT TO YOU TO COMPLETE.

I already completed this survey at:

---

Please check the box below to indicate the location where you are completing this survey:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHOICES                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Columbus City Prosecutor's Office    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbus Legal Aid Society<br>Advocacy Clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital University Law School Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OSU OB/GYN Perinatal Clinic                   |   |

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Overall, which of the following do you consider abuse? (Check all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pushing                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping all the money including my paycheck |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hitting                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Preventing me from getting a job            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoving                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Making me ask for money                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Threatening to take my children away | <input type="checkbox"/> Not taking my concerns seriously            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making me think I am crazy           | <input type="checkbox"/> Humiliating me and putting me down          |

- Keeping me away from family/friends
- Treating me like a servant
- Shifting blame/things are your fault
- Acting like master of the castle

2. Please indicate your abuser's relationship to you (if more than one person is abusing you, please indicate the relationship of the abuser about whom you are most concerned):

- Husband
- Wife
- Son
- Daughter
- Dating Boyfriend
- Dating Girlfriend
- Live-in Boyfriend
- Live-in Girl Friend
- Ex-Spouse
- Separated Spouse
- Ex-Boyfriend
- Ex-Girlfriend
- Same Sex Partner
- Live-in Parent
- None of the above, but child in common
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Were you living with the abuser at the time of the abuse?  Yes  No

4. Are you currently living with your abuser?  Yes  No

4a. If you are living with your abuser, is the housing/rental agreement in:

- Your Name
- Abuser's Name
- Joint
- Neither

5. How many children do you have under 18? \_\_\_\_\_  
**(IF ZERO, SKIP TO QUESTION 13)**

6. How many of your children are living with you today? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you have legal custody of these children?  Yes  No

7a. If you do not have legal custody of your children, which of the following best describes your situation:

- Not all children are mine
- Shared parenting with abuser
- Shared parenting with another
- Children placed out of home by FCCS
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. Were your children living with you at the time of the abuse?  Yes  No

9. Were your children in the home/location where you were abused?  Yes  No

10. Did your children see or hear the abuse occur?  Yes  No

11. Has the abuser ever physically harmed your children?  Yes  No

12. Does the abuser shout at, name call, or threaten your children?  Yes  No

13. Has your abuser harmed or threatened to harm your pets?  Yes  No

14. Using the scale below, please indicate which items influenced / will influence your decision to leave?

**Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A) Disagree (D) Strongly Disagree (SD) Don't Know (DK)**

	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>DK</b>
a. I cannot leave due to my employment situation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. I was (am) afraid my abuser will take my children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. I was (am) afraid that FCCS will take my children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I was (am) concerned that I cannot care for the children myself.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I lack adequate transportation to care for my family and me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I cannot leave because I cannot afford housing costs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I cannot leave because of child care costs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Money and finances make it difficult for me to leave.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Lack of support from my family will make it difficult to leave.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. If I leave, I am afraid of what my abuser will do to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. I do not want to be alone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. I do not think I can make it on my own.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. It is against my religion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Have you ever left your abuser and returned?  Yes  No

**(IF NO, GO TO QUESTION 18)**

16. How many times have you left and returned? \_\_\_\_\_

17. If you left and returned to your abuser, which of the following explains why you returned?

a. I returned because my abuser was threatening me.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
b. I returned because I thought my abuser would change.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
c. I returned because of lack of support from my family.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
d. I returned because I am afraid of my abuser.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
e. I returned because I love my abuser.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
f. I returned because of my religious beliefs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know

- g. I returned because my abuser carries the health care benefits.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- h. I returned because my children miss their parent.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- i. I returned because I could not afford to pay the bills  Yes  No  Don't Know
- j. I returned because I am pregnant  Yes  No  Don't Know
18. Which of the following applies to your abuser?
- a. My abuser has an alcohol problem.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- b. My abuser has a drug problem.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- c. My abuser was abused as a child.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- d. My abuser is unemployed.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- e. My abuser is insecure.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- f. My abuser is jealous/possessive.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- g. My abuser expects me to tell him/her where I am all the time.  Yes  No  Don't Know
- h. My abuser controls the finances/money.  Yes  No  Don't Know

## EMPLOYMENT / FINANCES

19. The combined household income for everyone currently residing in your home is:  
(Round to the nearest whole dollar amount.)
- Less than \$10,000       \$10,001 - \$20,000       \$20,001 - \$40,000
- \$40,001 - \$60,000       \$60,001 - 100,000       Over \$100,000
- Don't Know
20. Are you currently employed?  Yes  No  
**(IF NO SKIP TO QUESTION 38)**
21. What is **YOUR** annual income? (Round to the nearest whole dollar amount.)
- Less than \$10,000       \$10,001 - \$20,000       \$20,001 - \$40,000
- \$40,001 - \$60,000       \$60,001 - 100,000       Over \$100,000
- Unknown
22. What is the size of the company that you work for?

- Self-employed
- Under 20 employees
- 20 – 49 employees
- 50 – 99 employees
- 100 and over employees

23. Did you tell co-workers about the abuse?  Yes  No

24. Did you tell your supervisor/EAP/or HR Department?  Yes  No  
**(IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 32)**

25. My employer was:

- Very supportive
- Supportive
- Neutral
- Unsupportive
- Very Unsupportive

26. My employer helped me with a safety plan.  Yes  No

27. My employer ignored me.  Yes  No

28. My employer offered referral information.  Yes  No

29. Has your abuser bothered you at work?  Yes  No

30. Have you missed work because of the abuse?  Yes  No

31. Has your work suffered because of the abuse?  Yes  No  
**(IF YOU ANSWERED 25-31, SKIP TO QUESTION 37)**

32. I did not tell my employer for fear of losing my job.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

33. I did not tell my employer because I was embarrassed or ashamed.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

34. If I had to miss time from work to go to court, my employer would fire or punish me.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

35. I feel safe from my abuser while I am at work.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

36. My employer has threatened to suspend or fire me because of the abusers calls/visits to my place of employment.

- Strongly Agree     Agree     Disagree     Strongly Disagree     Don't Know

## CLERGY

37. I talked to a member of the clergy about the violence.     Yes     No  
**(IF NO, GO TO QUESTION 39)**

38. Please indicate which of the following actions the clergy advised you to do.

- a. The clergy advised me to leave.     Yes     No  
b. The clergy advised me to stay.     Yes     No  
c. The clergy advised me to pray.     Yes     No  
d. The clergy advised me to go to individual counseling  
(other than the clergy).     Yes     No  
e. The clergy advised me to go to individual counseling  
(with a member of the clergy)     Yes     No  
f. The clergy advised me to go to couple's counseling.     Yes     No  
g. The clergy referred me to a domestic violence program.     Yes     No

## FAMILY/FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS

39. I talked to friends/ relatives/neighbors about the violence.     Yes     No  
**(IF YES, SKIP TO QUESTION 41)**

39. Using the following scale, indicate which factors impacted or do impact you decision not to talk to friends, relatives, or neighbors.

**Strongly Agree (SA)    Agree (A)    Disagree (D)    Strongly Disagree (SD)  
Don't Know (DK)**

- |  | <b>SA</b>                | <b>A</b>                 | <b>D</b>                 | <b>SD</b>                | <b>DK</b>                |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. I didn't think anyone wanted to hear about it.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. I thought people would be angry with me.        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. I was ashamed.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. I consider this a private matter.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. I thought people would be angry with my abuser. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- f. I thought my abuser would find out.
- g. I didn't think they would believe me.

**(IF YOU ANSWERED THE ABOVE QUESTION, SKIP TO QUESTION 42)**

40. Using the following scale, indicate the responses you received from friends, relatives, or neighbors you told about the abuse.

**Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A) Disagree (D) Strongly Disagree (SD)  
Don't Know (DK)**

- |  | <b>SA</b>                | <b>A</b>                 | <b>D</b>                 | <b>SD</b>                | <b>DK</b>                |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Those that I told were supportive.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Those that I told were mad at me.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Those that I told were mad at my abuser.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Those that I told didn't believe me.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Those that I told encouraged me to leave.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Those that I told encouraged me to seek legal assistance.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Those that I told encouraged me to seek spiritual assistance.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Those that I told encouraged me to seek mental health assistance. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Those that I told referred me to a domestic violence program.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**MEDICAL**

42. The last time you were abused, were there any injuries?  Yes  No  
**(IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 43)**
43. Were the paramedics called to assist you?  Yes  No  
**(IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 45)**
44. Did the paramedics ask you if your injuries were caused by abuse?  Yes  No
45. Did you go to the emergency room regarding your abuse?  Yes  No  
**(IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 47)**

**Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A) Disagree (D) Strongly Disagree (SD)  
Don't Know (DK)**

- |   | <b>D</b>                 | <b>SD</b>                | <b>DK</b>                    | <b>SA</b>                   | <b>A</b>                 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The emergency room staff was supportive.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. The emergency room staff was sensitive to my situation.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. The emergency room staff referred me to other agencies that can help.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. The emergency room staff treated me with respect.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. The emergency room staff asked me if my injuries were caused by abuse.                       |                          |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |                          |
| 46. Did you see a doctor regarding your abuse situation?<br><b>(IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 44)</b> |                          |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |                          |

**Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A) Disagree (D) Strongly Disagree (SD)  
Don't Know (DK)**

- |   | <b>SA</b>                    | <b>A</b>                 | <b>D</b>                    | <b>SD</b>                | <b>DK</b>                |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The doctor was supportive.                               | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. The doctor was sensitive to my situation.                | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. The doctor referred me to other agencies that can help.  | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. The doctor treated me with respect.                      | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. The doctor asked me if my injuries were caused by abuse. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> No |                          |                          |

**LEGAL**

47. Do you currently have a lawyer representing you in a divorce, separation, custody, or child support case?  Yes  No
48. If so, were you given a safety plan by your attorney?  Yes  No
49. Did the lawyer suggest that you should get a Protection Order?  Yes  No
50. Did the lawyer recommend you to any programs that deal with domestic violence?  Yes  No



51. What type of case(s) are you involved in? (Check all that apply.)

- Divorce/Separation       Custody/Visitation       Child Support  
 Protection Order       Criminal Case       Other \_\_\_\_\_

52. Has the abuser ever been arrested for domestic violence in the past?    Yes     No     Don't Know

53. Has the abuser ever been convicted of domestic violence in the past?    Yes     No     Don't Know

54. Which agencies have you contacted recently to help you with this domestic violence issue or to help you in this situation? (Check all that apply.)

- CHOICES       Homeless Shelter       Legal Aid       Capital Family Advocacy  
 Prosecutor's Office       Police       Clergy       Other Domestic Violence Shelter  
 Children's Services       Welfare       Private Doctor       Jewish Social Services  
 Opportunity Center       Juvenile Court       OSU OB/GYN       Hospital Emergency Department  
Perinatal Clinic  
 Mental Health Center       Private Attorney       Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SERVICES**

54. Which of the following stopped you from getting help in your domestic violence situation?  
(Check all that apply.)

- Lack of information about which services were available       The services you needed were not available  
 Transportation was not available       There was limited access due to physical disabilities  
 Racial/cultural factors       Concerns for your family/children's welfare  
 Lack of child care/day care       Negative response from family/friends  
 Didn't want anyone to know       I felt embarrassed/ashamed

- Fear of retaliation from the offender
- Concerned about not being believed
- Distrust of criminal justice system
- Insensitive police response
- Insensitive 911 operator response
- Insensitive clergy response
- Insensitive victim services response
- I was under the influence of drugs/alcohol at the time
- I didn't want to re-live trauma
- Insensitive Prosecutor's Office Intake response
- Insensitive prosecutor response
- Insensitive judge/magistrate response
- Insensitive medical response
- Didn't know my rights/what I could do

56. Which of the following domestic violence services would help you? (Check all that apply.)

- Toll-free 24 hour help-line
- Victim advocate services (courtroom)
- Victim advocate services (social service agencies)
- Individual counseling
- Counseling for family members
- Childcare services/assistance
- Written information about court
- Support groups
- Domestic violence counseling for myself
- Crisis counseling in person
- Medical services
- Court accompaniment
- Group counseling
- Emergency shelter/housing
- Transportation services/assistance
- Materials on Ohio's victim compensation program
- Batterer's intervention for abuse
- Domestic violence counseling for my children

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

57. Your Zip Code 43\_\_\_\_\_

58. What is your cultural background?

- European-American
- African-American
- Hispanic-American
- Asian-American
- Middle Eastern-American
- Native-American

Other \_\_\_\_\_

59. What is your abuser's cultural background?

European-American

African-American

Hispanic-American

Asian-American

Middle Eastern-American

Native-American

Other \_\_\_\_\_

60. What is your current age? \_\_\_\_\_

61. What is your abuser's current age? \_\_\_\_\_

62. What is your gender? Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN COMPLETING THIS SURVEY**

