

Looking Closer: Community Awareness and Domestic Violence in the Lowcountry

Domestic violence community
awareness study

Fall 2025

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MY SISTER'S HOUSE

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Executive Summary

My Sister's House exists to break the cycle of domestic violence through trauma-informed and personalized care, advocacy, and education across the Tricounty region. As part of its ongoing commitment to understanding and responding to the evolving needs of the community, the organization conducted the 2025 Community Awareness Survey.

This year's survey was administered in partnership with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. A total of 561 individuals participated, representing a broad spectrum of ages, genders, races, ethnicities, educational backgrounds, and counties within the Tricounty area. All respondents were required to be at least 18 years old and reside in one of the region's three counties to participate in the survey.

The report presents extensive insights into community perceptions of domestic violence, including respondents' views on its prevalence, personal experiences with behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence, and opinions of the most valuable resources for supporting survivors and addressing domestic violence. While the sample's demographic profile did not perfectly mirror that of the general population, the differences were modest, suggesting that the findings offer a reasonably accurate reflection of broader community trends. Key takeaways from the report follow.

Key Takeaways

Prevalence

How we believe domestic violence impacts our community.

51% of respondents agreed that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in the Tricounty region. Younger and female respondents agreed at even higher rates.

20% of respondents reported that even the most severe examples of abusive behaviors, such as strangling, hitting, kicking, or physically harming an intimate partner, occurred sometimes or often in their community.

When shown a list of behaviors often associated with domestic violence, respondents reported that the following types occurred sometimes or often:*

21-35%

of respondents reported **physical or sexual behaviors** occurred sometimes or often

24-45%

of respondents reported **emotional behaviors** occurred sometimes or often

37-47%

of respondents reported **financial or technology behaviors** occurred sometimes or often

*

Understanding

What we understand about domestic violence in our community.

12% of respondents, or nearly 1 in 8, reported that none of the listed behaviors, including physically harming an intimate partner, qualified as domestic violence.

When shown a list of behaviors often associated with domestic violence:*

60-67%

of respondents identified listed physical or sexual behaviors as domestic violence

47-62%

of respondents identified listed emotional behaviors as domestic violence

29-46%

of respondents identified listed financial or technology behaviors as domestic violence

However, older, female, white, and more educated individuals were more likely to identify listed behaviors as domestic violence than their comparison groups, reflecting different cultural and societal forces shaping their perceptions.

* Ranges reflect all behaviors categorized under three core types—physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and financial or technology abuse.

Personal Experiences

Who experiences domestic violence in our community.

46%

of respondents experienced at least one of the listed abusive behaviors.

< 5%

of respondents reported that even the most severe examples of abusive behaviors, such as strangling, hitting, kicking, or physically harming an intimate partner, occurred sometimes or often in their community.

Resources

Where we go and who we trust in our community.

75%+

of respondents believe that local and state officials have a role to play in supporting awareness, education, and services related to domestic violence.

60%+

of individuals who reported personally experiencing domestic violence reported wanting additional aid than they received, most commonly related to counseling, housing, or financial assistance.



Introduction

My Sister's House exists to break the cycle of domestic violence through trauma-informed and personalized care, advocacy, and education across the Tricounty region. The 2025 Community Awareness Survey was part of the ongoing effort of My Sister's House to gather insights into community perceptions of domestic violence from residents of the Tricounty region. These insights are intended to help better understand the evolving needs of the community and how My Sister's House and its partners may be able to continue to grow to meet them.

My Sister's House partnered with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston (Riley Center) to administer this year's version of the survey. The survey builds on the first iteration of the study administered in 2023 to continue to construct a shared understanding of the community's awareness, prevalence, understanding, and perceptions of domestic violence in the region.

The report is organized into the following sections. First, the report provides an overview of the survey, including its administration and the sample of respondents. Overall, there were 561 responses. Participants resided in each of the three counties in the region and represented a diversity of age groups, genders, races, ethnicities, and educational attainment levels. While the demographic characteristics of the sample did not precisely match those of the general population in the region, the differences were relatively small, implying that the results of the survey are plausibly illustrative of broader trends in the community.

Next, the report shows the results of the survey organized into three general sections: (1) Awareness of Domestic Violence, (2) Personal Experiences and Perceptions of Survivors, and (3) Resources. The first section, which focuses on community awareness, shows respondents' perceptions of the prevalence of specific behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence, of whether such behaviors constitute domestic violence, and of the prevalence of domestic violence in participants' community and the region as a whole.

Awareness of Domestic Violence

Overall, respondents reported that specific behaviors often associated with

financial or technology abuse (e.g., an intimate partner controlling finances

without discussion with his/her partner, an intimate partner monitoring his/her partner through technology without their permission, etc.) were generally more common occurrences than those associated with emotional abuse (e.g., an intimate partner discouraging his/her partner from spending time with others, etc.). Respondents perceived that behaviors associated with physical or sexual abuse (e.g., an intimate partner hitting, slapping, or punching his/her partner, an intimate partner pressuring his/her partner to have sex that they were not comfortable with, etc.) were the least common. However, respondents were more likely to identify physical or sexual behaviors as domestic violence than emotional behaviors. While financial and technology behaviors are thought to be

more common occurrences, they were still classified as domestic violence at the lowest rates.

Further, there were large differences in the percentage of respondents who identified specific behaviors as domestic abuse, with older, female, white, and more educated individuals being more likely to identify specific behaviors as domestic violence than their comparison groups. [The magnitude of the differences suggests meaningful variation in the perceptions of what constitutes domestic violence across demographic groups, implying that variation in the cultural and societal influences experienced by different types of individuals may shape how they define and understand domestic violence.](#)

Personal Experiences and Perceptions of Survivors

In the next section, the report shares respondents' reports of personal experiences with the same specific behaviors discussed in the first section, as well as their perceptions of domestic violence survivors. Just under half of respondents reported personally experiencing at least one of the listed behaviors that are often associated with domestic violence. Among respondents who reported personal experience with at least one of these behaviors,

approximately 70% reported experiencing 1-4 of the behaviors; the remainder reported experiencing five or more of the listed behaviors. [There was little variation across demographic groups, except for by gender. This result is consistent with the perception of survey participants that rates of experience with domestic violence do not differ dramatically based on education, income, or race.](#)

Resources

The final section of the report shares information regarding perceptions of resources available in the community related to domestic violence. Respondents overwhelmingly agreed

with statements that state and local officials, respectively, should play a role in promoting awareness, education, and services related to domestic violence. [Further, most respondents](#)

reported that they had previously encountered information about domestic violence, with traditional news media and social media being the most commonly cited sources. These sources were similarly among the top places that individuals reported they would turn to seek out information on domestic violence, surpassed only by healthcare providers.

In addition, respondents were asked about the types of individuals or organizations and services they would turn to if they or someone they knew was experiencing domestic violence. Friends and family, domestic violence hotlines, and domestic violence shelters were the types of individuals or organizations that people were the most likely to report they would feel comfortable turning to for advice related to domestic violence, while safety (e.g., police or fire

department), counseling, and legal were the most frequently selected services.

Finally, respondents who reported personal experience with at least one of the listed behaviors associated with domestic abuse were asked about their experiences in accessing resources. The most commonly reported resources were friends and family, safety, and counseling, which is consistent with the individuals and organizations that participants expected they would turn to if they hypothetically experienced domestic abuse. However, a meaningful proportion of respondents reported that there were services, such as counseling, they wanted but did not access. Secrecy, lack of awareness, cost, and fear were among the most commonly cited barriers to receiving desired services that respondents reported.

While this survey yields multiple valuable insights, there are important constraints to consider when interpreting and applying the findings. While the sample of over 500 respondents is substantial, it is difficult to say it conclusively captures the perceptions of a region of nearly 850,000 residents. Further, respondents were allowed to skip any question they chose not to answer, other than those related to the inclusion criteria that respondents are at least 18 years of age and residents of the Tricounty region. Thus, the number of responses for certain questions can vary. Finally, all data presented are based on self-reports, which can be biased, for example, by respondents' memory of prior events. Therefore, while this report provides useful information for understanding community awareness and perceptions of domestic violence in the region, these limitations are important to keep in mind in contextualizing the results.

Survey Sample

The Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston (Riley Center) administered the Community Awareness Survey on behalf of My Sister's House from July 17 to August 18, 2025. The survey was distributed to participants through two primary channels. My Sister's House shared the survey with its network through partners and social media. In addition, the Riley Center obtained 525 responses through a survey vendor to ensure representation from participants of different genders and geographic residences.

To participate in the survey, respondents were required to be at least 18 years of age and a resident of one of the three counties in the region (i.e., Berkeley County, Charleston County, or Dorchester County). Further, to be included in the report, respondents had to answer at least one question outside of the demographic information. After applying these criteria, there were 561 responses to the survey that are included in this report. However, respondents could skip any questions they did not want to answer. Therefore, the number of responses to each question varies.

Demographics of Respondents

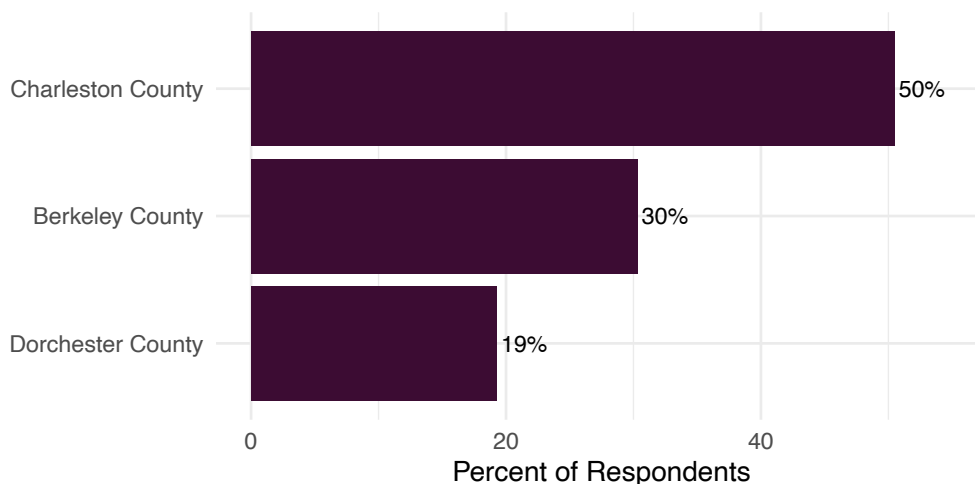
Survey respondents represented a diverse set of individuals across county of residence, age groups, gender, race, ethnicity, and education. Figure 1 shows the percentage of respondents who reside in each of the three counties in the region. Of respondents, approximately 50% reside in Charleston County, followed by 30% in Berkeley County, and 19% in Dorchester County. These percentages align with the relative population distribution across the three counties.¹

Respondents were asked various demographic questions to understand the extent to which the sample was reflective of the general population of the region. Overall, survey respondents were slightly more likely to identify as female and white than individuals in

¹ As of 2023, the U.S. Census calculates that approximately 50% of the population of the Tricounty region lives in Charleston County, 30% in Berkeley County, and 20% in Dorchester County. *Citation: Census Reporter. (n.d.). Charleston-North Charleston, SC Metro Area (Metro Area Profile). Census Reporter. <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/31000US16700-charleston-north-charleston-sc-metro-area/>*

the general population in the region. More specifically, 54% of respondents identified as female compared to 51% in the general population, and 69% identified as white compared to 63% in the general population.² Further, while the median income in the region is just over \$85,000, 52% of survey respondents reported annual household incomes below \$80,000. Respondents had slightly higher educational levels than the region overall, with a higher percentage of respondents holding a graduate or professional degree (20% vs. 16% in the general population) and a lower percentage having less than a high school degree (3% versus 7% in the general population). The median respondent to the survey was between 35 and 44 years, consistent with the median age of the population of approximately 39 years old. However, the survey had a higher proportion of respondents in the 35-44 age range (26%) than in the general population.

Figure 1.
Percentage
of
Respondents
by County



Overall, these differences between the demographic characteristics of respondents and those of the general population are relatively modest, and a wide range of demographic groups are represented in the sample. Therefore, while a sample of approximately 560 respondents cannot be considered a definitive representation of the perceptions of a region of nearly 850,000 residents, the results of this survey are plausibly illustrative of community trends in the area.

² Census Reporter. (n.d.). Charleston-North Charleston, SC Metro Area (Metro Area Profile). Census Reporter. <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/31000US16700-charleston-north-charleston-sc-metro-area/>

Awareness of Domestic Violence

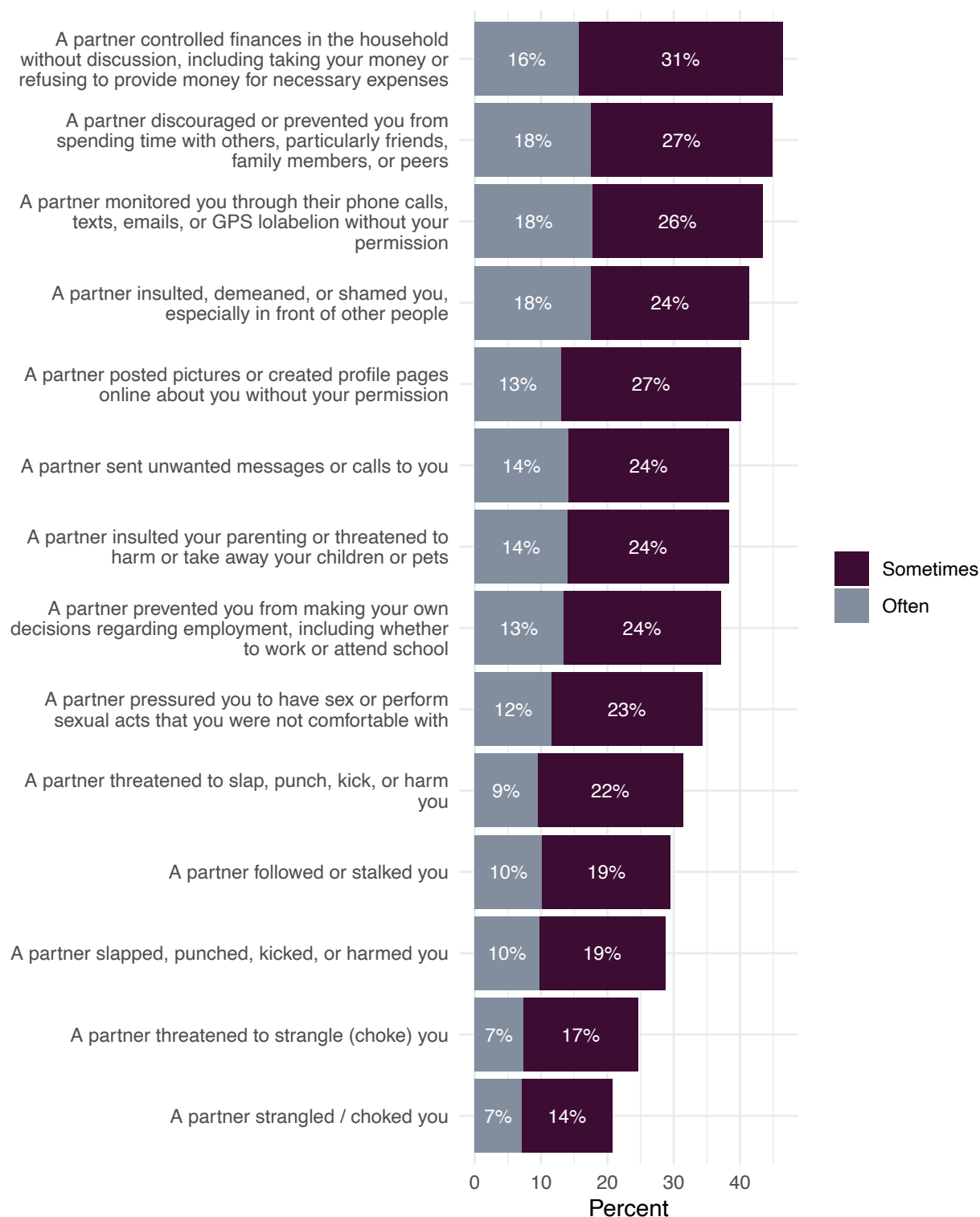
In the Community Awareness survey, participants were asked about their awareness of domestic violence in three complementary ways. First, participants were shown a list of behaviors associated with domestic violence and asked the extent to which each is seen in their community. Next, participants were shown the same list of behaviors and asked which behaviors they would classify as domestic violence. Finally, participants were asked the extent to which they agree with the statements regarding the prevalence of domestic violence in their local community and the Tricounty region, respectively. The following sections show the results of each of these questions.

Perceptions of the Prevalence of Specific Behaviors Associated with Domestic Violence

Survey respondents were asked about how prevalent they believe a set of behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence occurred between intimate partners in their community. The behaviors included examples of physical and sexual abuse (e.g., hitting, slapping, strangulation, etc.), emotional abuse (e.g., name-calling, isolation, humiliation), and financial and technology abuse (e.g., use of technology to monitor movement, constraining a partner's ability to access assets).

Figure 2 shows the percentage of respondents who reported that the specific behavior occurred sometimes (grey) or often (purple) in their community. Respondents were more likely to report that emotional behaviors and financial and technology behaviors occurred more often in their communities than physical and sexual behaviors. However, more than 20% of respondents reported that each type occurred at least sometimes in their community.

Figure 2. Perceptions of Prevalence of Specific Behaviors in Respondents' Communities

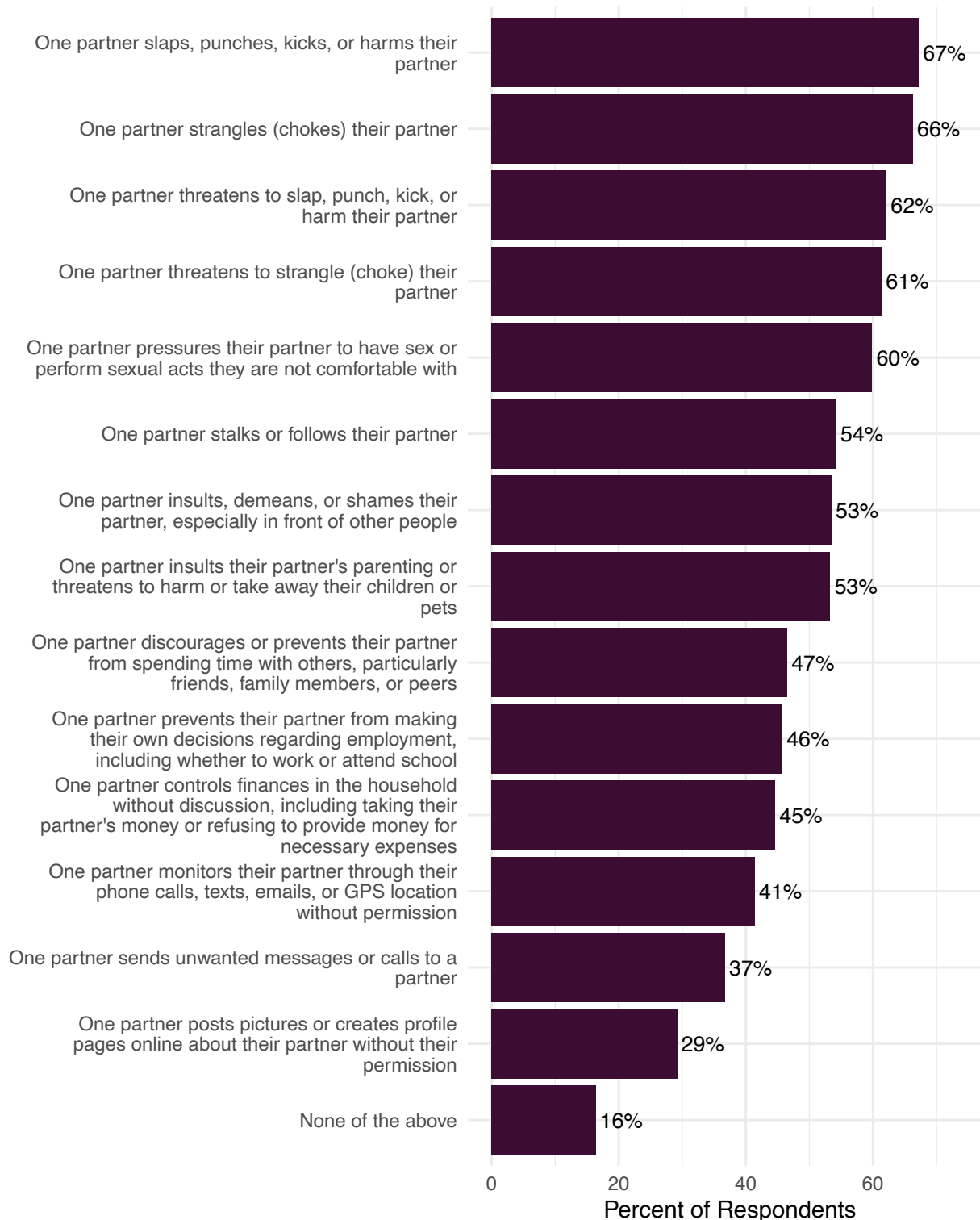


Perceptions of Domestic Violence Behaviors

After sharing their perceptions of the prevalence of various behaviors in their community, survey respondents were shown the same list and asked which behaviors they classified as domestic violence. As shown in Figure 3, respondents were more likely to identify physical and sexual behaviors, such as slapping, hitting, choking, or forcing their partner to have sex, as domestic violence than emotional behaviors, such as insulting, demeaning, or threatening their partner. Financial and technology behaviors, such as sending unwanted messages or posting pictures online without permission were classified as domestic violence at the lowest rates. Notably, 16% of respondents (87 individuals) did not classify any of the listed behaviors as domestic violence.

Figure 3 →

Figure 3. Percentage of Respondents who Classified the Behavior as Domestic Violence



There were meaningful differences in the likelihood that listed behaviors were classified as domestic violence across demographic groups, including age, gender, educational attainment, income, race, and county of residence. For ease of display, the listed behaviors that respondents were asked to classify are grouped into physical or sexual behaviors, emotional behaviors, and financial and technology behaviors.³ The figures that follow show the average likelihood that individuals in each demographic group classified the listed behaviors as domestic violence. Across all demographic groups, physical and sexual behaviors were identified as domestic violence at higher rates than emotional behaviors. Financial and technology behaviors were consistently the least likely to be identified as domestic violence.

Overall, respondents that were older, female, identified as white, had higher educational attainment, and higher incomes were more likely to identify specific behaviors as domestic violence than their peers. Figure 4a shows the average likelihood that respondents were to identify physical and sexual, emotional, and financial and technology behaviors as domestic violence across age groups. On average, older respondents (ages 55+) were 14-24% more likely to identify physical and sexual behaviors as domestic violence than younger participants. Older respondents were similarly 10-20% more likely to identify emotional behaviors as domestic violence than younger participants. Notably, there were smaller differences across age groups in the rates at which respondents classified financial and technology behaviors as domestic violence. However, the youngest cohort (ages 18-34) continued to be meaningfully less likely to identify associated behaviors as domestic violence compared to respondents over 35.

Figure 4a →

³ *Behaviors associated with physical or sexual abuse include:* One partner pressures their partner to have sex or perform sexual acts they are not comfortable with; One partner slaps, punches, kicks, or harms their partner; One partner stalks or follows their partner; One partner strangles (chokes) their partner.

Behaviors associated with emotional abuse include: One partner threatens to slap, punch, kick, or harm their partner; One partner threatens to strangle (choke) their partner; One partner discourages or prevents their partner from spending time with others, particularly friends, family members, or peers; One partner insults their partner's parenting or threatens to harm or take away their children or pets; One partner insults, demeans, or shames their partner, especially in front of other people.

Behaviors associated with financial or technology abuse include: One partner controls finances in the household without discussion, including taking their partner's money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses; One partner monitors their partner through their phone calls, texts, emails, or GPS location without permission; One partner posts pictures or creates profile pages online about their partner without their permission; One partner prevents their partner from making their own decisions regarding employment, including whether to work or attend school; One partner sends unwanted messages or calls to a partner.

Figure 4a.
Average
Percentage of
Behaviors
Classified as
Domestic
Violence by Age

Note: There are 133 responses from respondents aged 18-34, 227 from respondents aged 35-54, and 171 from respondents aged 55+.

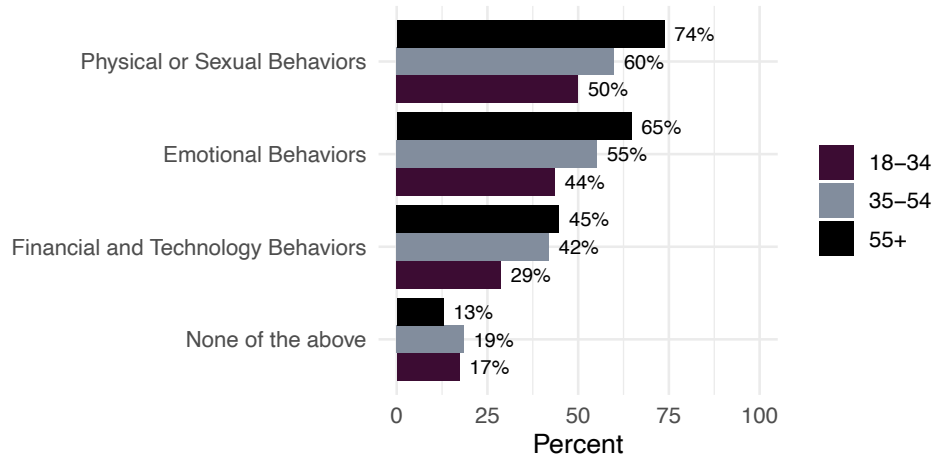
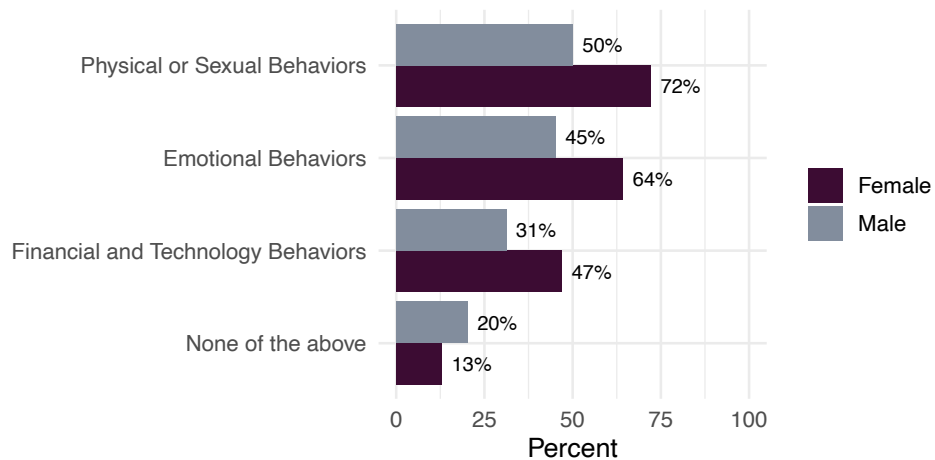


Figure 4b shows a similar comparison between respondents who identified as female versus male. Across all categories, female respondents were more than 15% more likely to associate listed behaviors with domestic violence than their male counterparts. On average, female respondents were more than 20% more likely to identify physical and sexual behaviors as domestic violence compared to male respondents, and 19% more likely to classify emotional behaviors as such. Finally, female respondents were 16% more likely to identify financial and technology behaviors as domestic violence compared to male respondents.

Figure 4b.
Average
Percentage of
Behaviors
Classified as
Domestic
Violence by
Gender

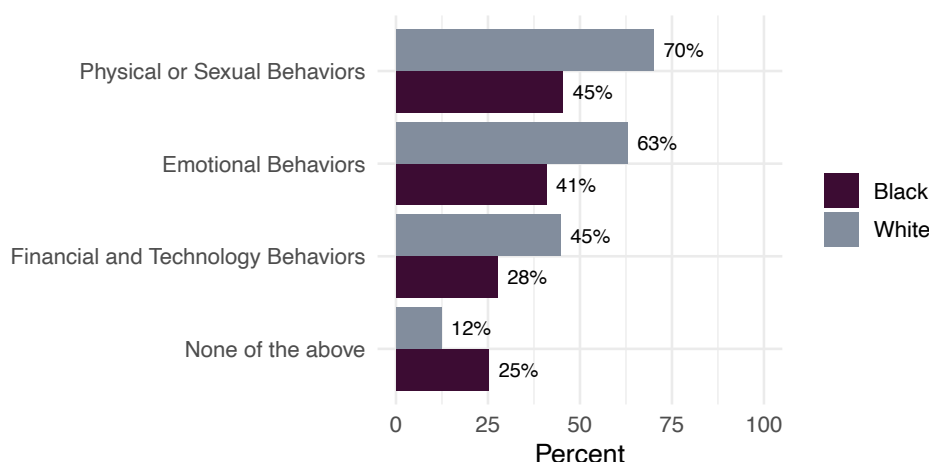
Note: There are 286 responses from female respondents and 243 responses from male respondents.



The differences in the rate of classification of specific behaviors as domestic violence were also large between individuals who identified as Black versus white (see Figure 4c). On average, among individuals who identified as white, 70% classified listed physical and sexual behaviors as domestic violence compared to 45% of respondents who identified as Black. In the context of emotional behaviors, on average, 63% of white respondents classified such behaviors as domestic violence compared to 41% of Black respondents. Further, on average, 45% of white respondents associated listed financial and technology behaviors as domestic violence compared to only 28% of Black respondents. Notably, 25% of Black respondents reported that none of the shown behaviors classify as domestic violence versus only 12% of white respondents.

Figure 4c.
Average
Percentage of
Behaviors
Classified as
Domestic
Violence by
Race

Note: There are 341 responses from individuals who identify as white and 119 from individuals who identify as Black.



Finally, Figure 4d shows the extent to which individuals with different levels of educational attainment held differing views on the behaviors that constitute domestic violence. On average, respondents with at least an Associate's degree were more than 15% more likely to classify listed physical and sexual, emotional, and financial and technology behaviors, respectively, as domestic violence than those with lower educational attainment. Given the correlation between educational attainment and income, it is unsurprising that respondents with higher income were similarly more likely to classify listed behaviors as domestic violence across physical and sexual, emotional, and financial and technology behaviors, as shown in Figure 4e. However, it is noteworthy that the differences between respondents with incomes above and below the area median of approximately \$80,000 were relatively modest compared to the variation seen by many of the other demographic characteristics.

Figure 4d, 4e →

Figure 4d.
Average
Percentage of
Behaviors
Classified as
Domestic
Violence by
Educational
Attainment

Note: There are 300 responses from individuals with an Associate's Degree or higher and 223 from those less than an Associate's Degree.

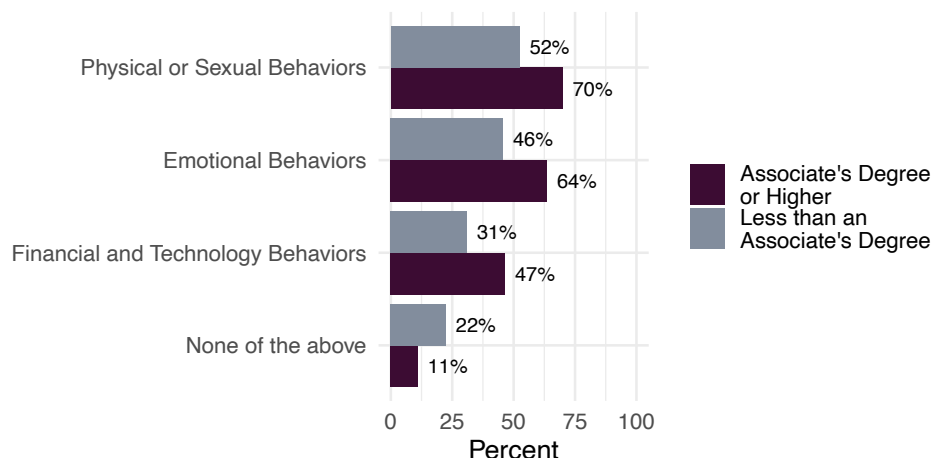
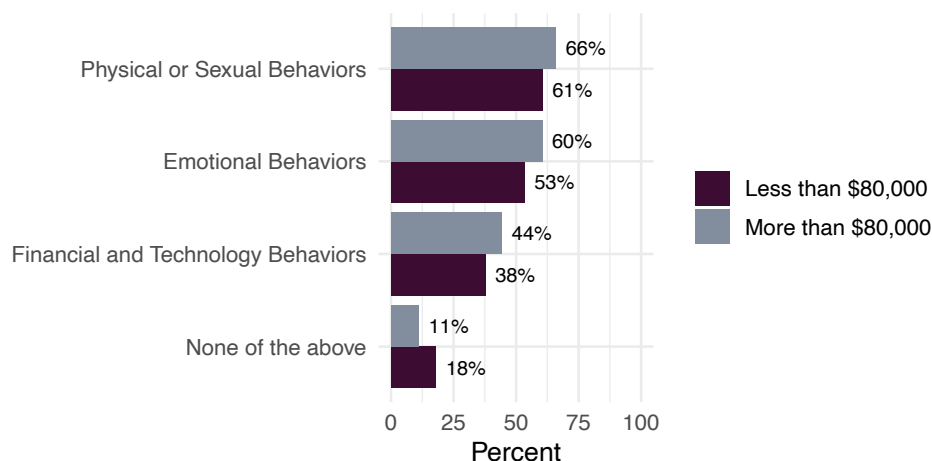


Figure 4e.
Average
Percentage of
Behaviors
Classified as
Domestic
Violence by
Income

Note: There are 289 responses from individuals with incomes less than \$80,000 and 198 responses from individuals earning more than \$80,000.

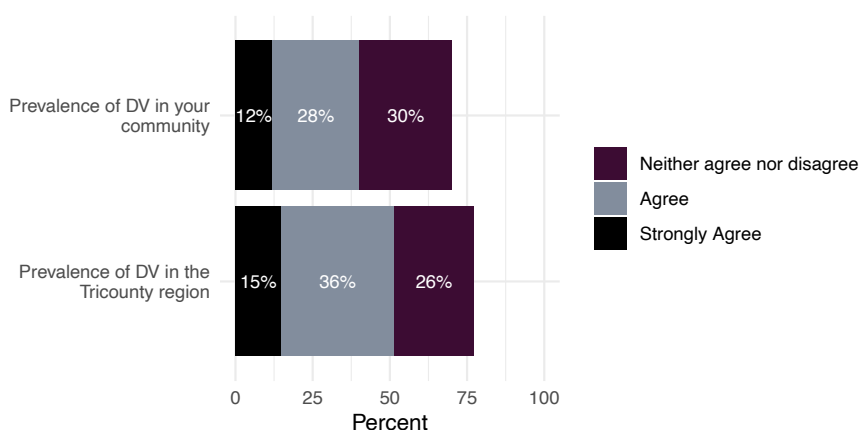


In summary, there were large differences in the percentages of respondents who identified specific behaviors as domestic violence. Overall, across all demographic groups, respondents were more likely to identify physical or sexual behaviors as domestic violence than emotional behaviors. Financial and technology behaviors were consistently classified as domestic violence at the lowest rates. However, there were large and significant differences in the likelihood that varying groups of respondents were to identify behaviors across demographics, implying divergent cultural and societal factors affect how domestic violence is defined and understood.

Domestic Violence in their Community

After being asked about the prevalence of various behaviors often associated with domestic violence and their views as to which of the behaviors they understand as such, survey respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in their community and the region, respectively. Overall, 40% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in their community (see Figure 5). A higher proportion, just over 50%, agreed that it was a prevalent issue in the region. Fewer than 15% disagreed with either statement.

Figure 5. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence



There was minimal variation (<5%) in the views of the prevalence of domestic violence in the community between respondents of different educational attainment levels, income, or race. However, there were large differences by age, gender, and county of residence (see Figures 6a, 6b, and 6c). Within the age brackets 18-34 and 35-54, approximately 45% of respondents agreed that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in their community, while the 55+ age bracket only saw about 25% of respondents agreeing (Figure 6a). Gender differences were also evident, with 44% of respondents who identify as women agreeing or strongly agreeing that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in their community, but only 36% of respondents who identify as male doing similarly (Figure 6b). Finally, in viewing the results by county, respondents from Charleston County were the most likely to agree, with 45% of respondents reporting that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in their community, followed by Berkeley County with 37% and lastly Dorchester County sitting at 33% (Figure 6c).

Figure 6a, 6b, 6c →

Figure 6a. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by Age

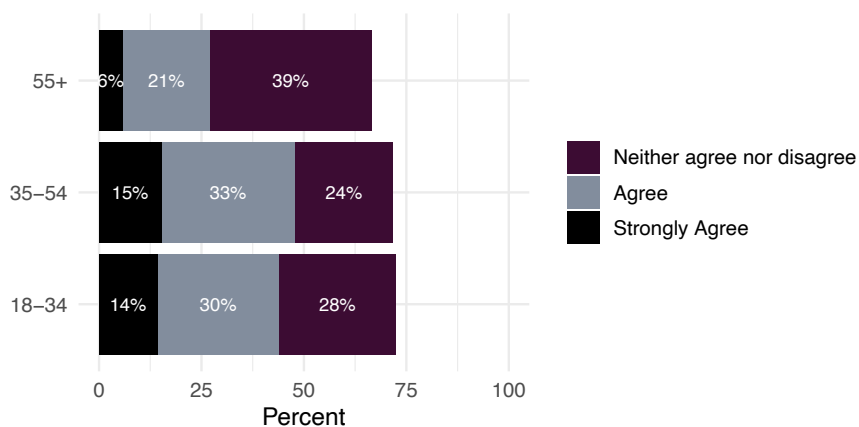


Figure 6b. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by Gender

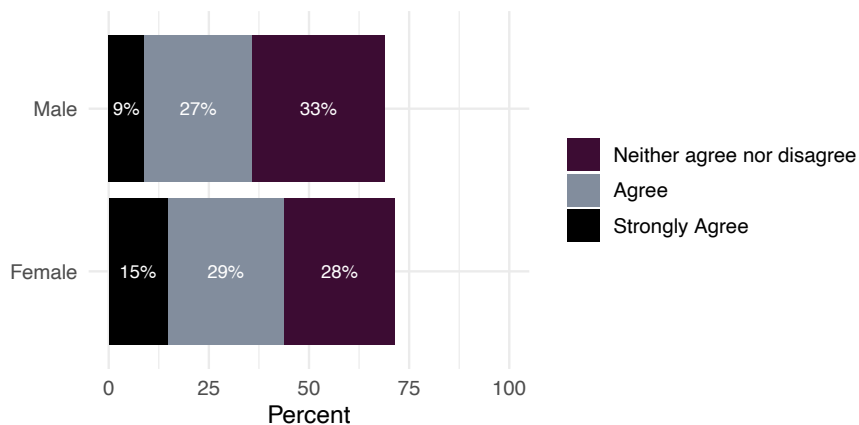
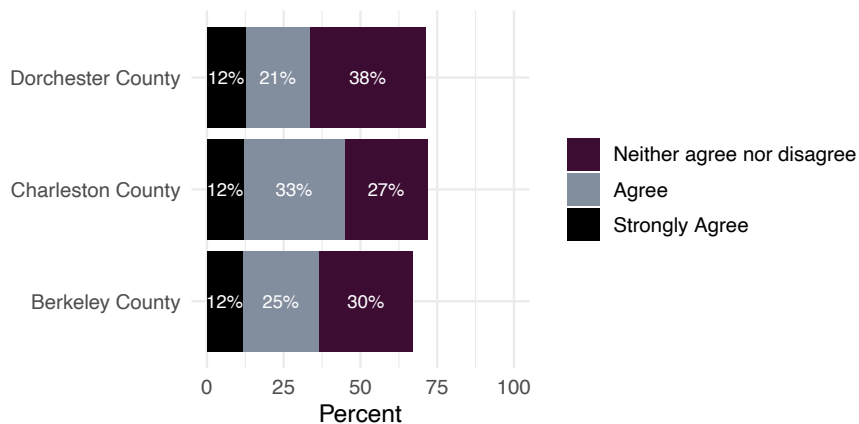


Figure 6c. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by County



When respondents were asked about the prevalence of domestic violence in the region (compared to in their community), there were larger differences in responses across demographic groups. Responses varied little (<5%) by income. However, larger differences were apparent across race, gender, education level, county, and age. Figure 7a shows that 54% of white respondents versus 46% of Black respondents agreed that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in the region (Figure 7a). Women were similarly 8% more likely to agree with that statement than men (Figure 7b) and individuals with an associate's degree or higher were 10% more likely to agree than those without (Figure 7c). Further, the responses by age suggest that the age group 35-54 are most likely to view domestic violence as a prevalent issue in the region, with older and younger respondents relatively less likely to agree (Figure 7d). Finally, while 55% of Charleston County residents viewed domestic violence as a prevalent issue in the county, only 48% in Dorchester County and 49% in Berkeley County agreed (Figure 7e).

Figure 7a. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by Race

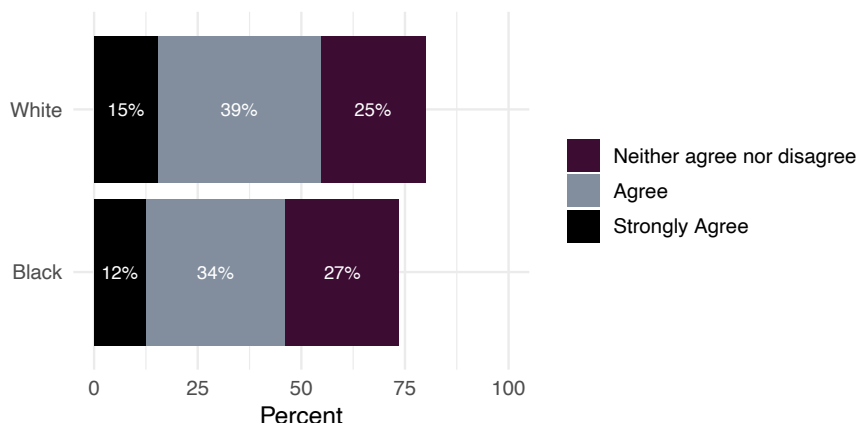


Figure 7b. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by Gender

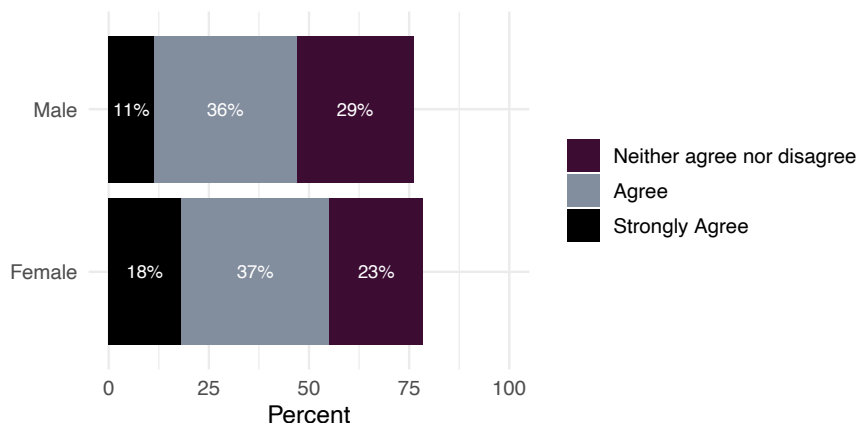


Figure 7c, 7d, 7e→

Figure 7c. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by Educational Attainment

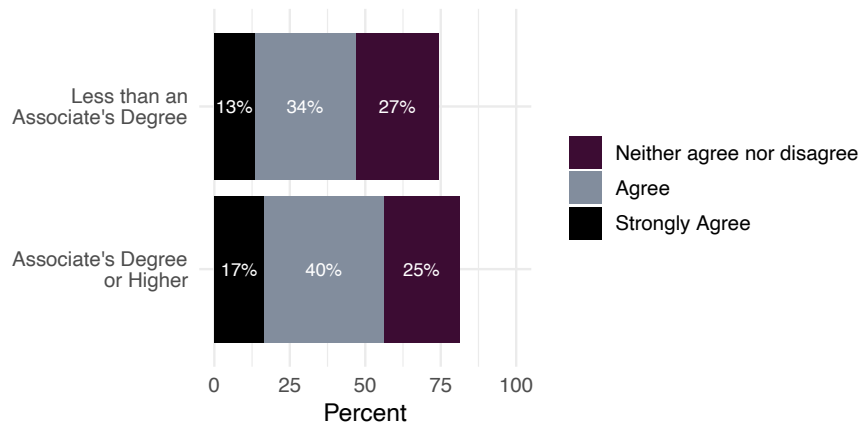


Figure 7d. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by Age

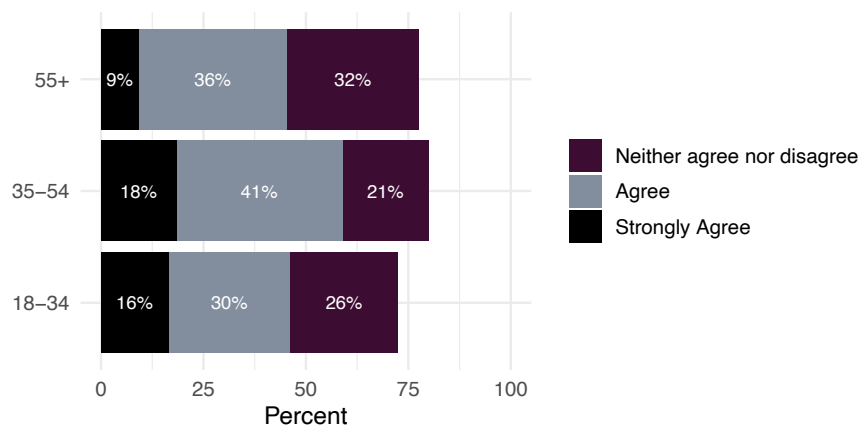
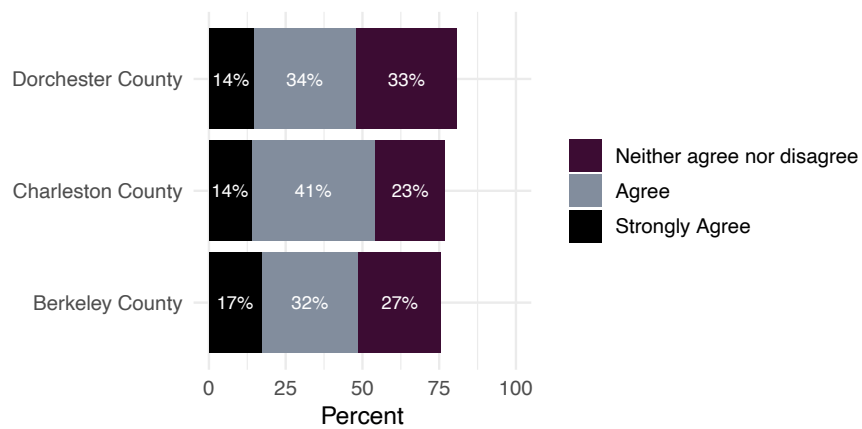


Figure 7e. Views of Prevalence of Domestic Violence in the Community by County



Personal Experiences and Perceptions of Survivors

In the survey, participants were asked not only about their awareness of domestic violence, but also about their personal experiences with behaviors commonly associated with such abuse and their perceptions of domestic violence survivors.⁴

Personal Experiences with Behaviors Commonly Associated with Domestic Violence

Figure 8 shows the percentage of respondents who reported experiencing each of the listed behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence. Nearly 50% of respondents reported that they had experienced at least one of these behaviors. On average, respondents were more likely to report personally experiencing financial and technology behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence than emotional behaviors. Respondents were the least likely to report personal experience with physical or sexual behaviors associated with domestic violence.

Personal Experiences +
Perceptions

Figure 8 →

⁴ Respondents were asked about their experience with the following behaviors prior to the questions regarding whether they perceived each as domestic violence to reduce the likelihood that negative stigmas associated with such label would bias their responses.

Figure 8. Personal Experience with Specific Behaviors

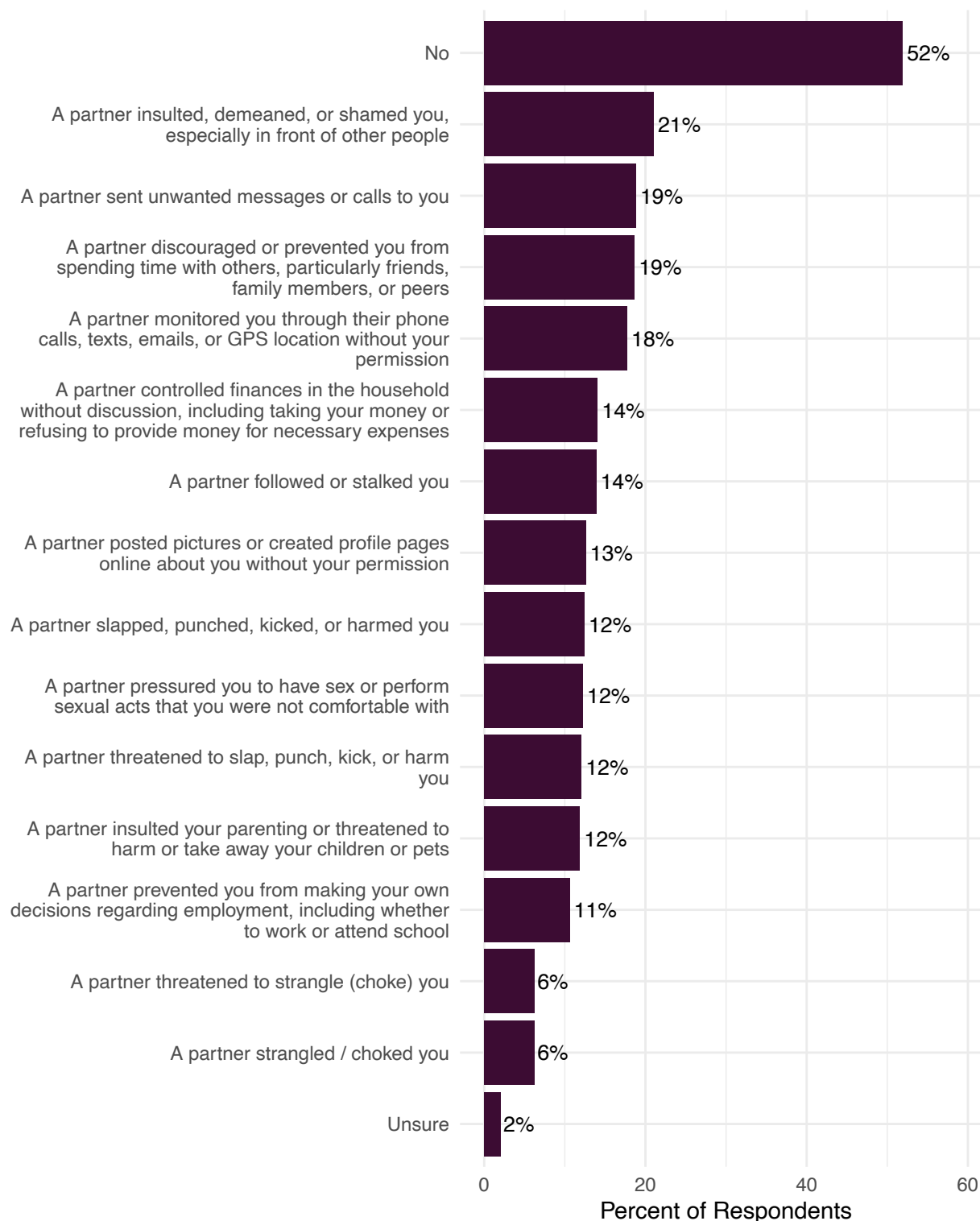
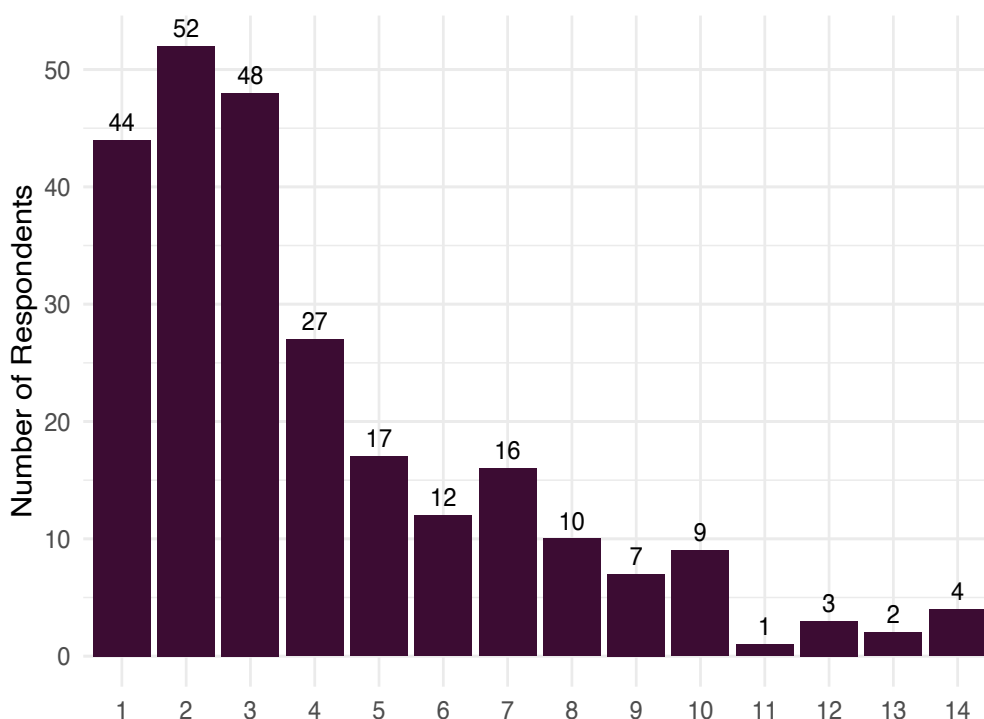


Figure 9 shows the number of different types of listed behaviors each respondent reported personally experiencing. Among respondents who reported experience with

at least one of the listed behaviors, approximately 70% reported experiencing 1-4 of the listed behaviors, with the most common number of behaviors reported being two. This proportion represents approximately 32% of all survey respondents. However, this figure implies that nearly 15% of survey respondents, or approximately 80 respondents, reported personal experience with more than five of the listed behaviors.

Figure 9.
Number of
Personal
Experiences
with Specific
Behaviors



When the results were disaggregated, there were few meaningful differences in the rates of personal experiences with the listed behaviors across respondents with different demographic characteristics except for gender and age. Individuals of different races, income levels, and educational attainment levels did not report experience with specific behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence at different rates. These results can be seen in Figures 10a, 10b, and 10c. The notable exception is that respondents who identified as white were significantly more likely to report experience with abusive emotional behaviors than those who identified as Black.

However, there were notable differences among individuals with different genders and ages. On average, 8% more female versus male respondents experienced at least one emotional behavior commonly associated with domestic violence and 12% more likely to report experiencing similarly associated physical or sexual behaviors (Figure 10d).

Figure 10a, 10b →

Female respondents were only 2% more likely to report experience with financial or technology behaviors associated with domestic violence than their male counterparts.

Large differences among age groups were also observed. Compared to respondents younger than 55, older respondents were less likely to report experience with listed physical and sexual, emotional, and financial and technology behaviors (Figure 10e). The differences in experiences among those ages 18-34 and 35-54 were relatively small, with the notable exception being that those 35-54 were more likely to report experience with listed emotional behaviors.

Figure 10a.
Personal
Experience with
Specific
Behaviors by
Race

Note: There are 119 responses from individuals who identify as Black and 340 from those who identify as white.

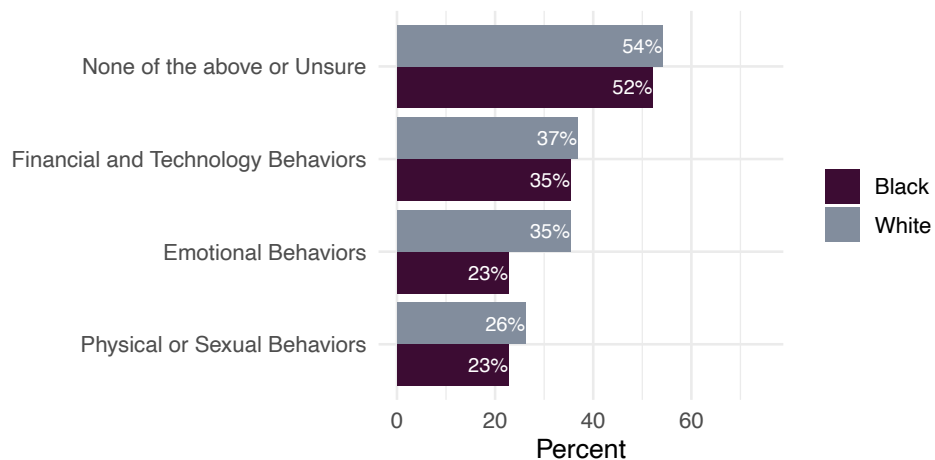


Figure 10b.
Personal
Experience with
Specific
Behaviors by
Income

Note: There are 289 responses from individuals earning less than \$80,000 and 197 from those earning more than \$80,000.

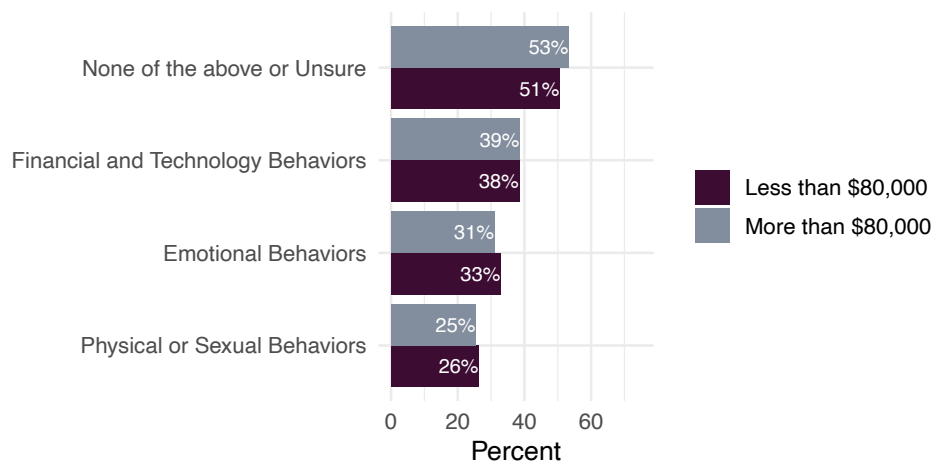


Figure 10c, 10d, 10e →

Figure 10c.
Personal Experience
with Specific
Behaviors by
Educational
Attainment

Note: There are 300 responses from individuals with an Associate's Degree or higher and 222 from those with less than an Associate's Degree.

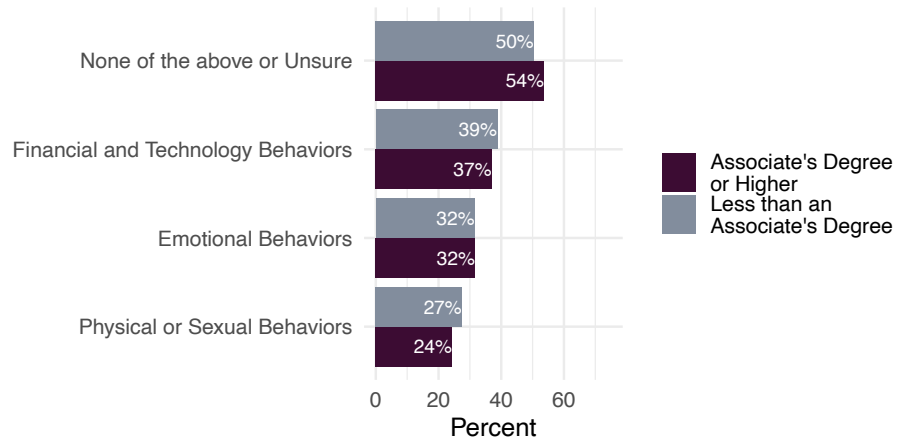


Figure 10d.
Personal Experience
with Specific
Behaviors by
Gender

Note: There are 294 responses from female individuals and 250 from male individuals.

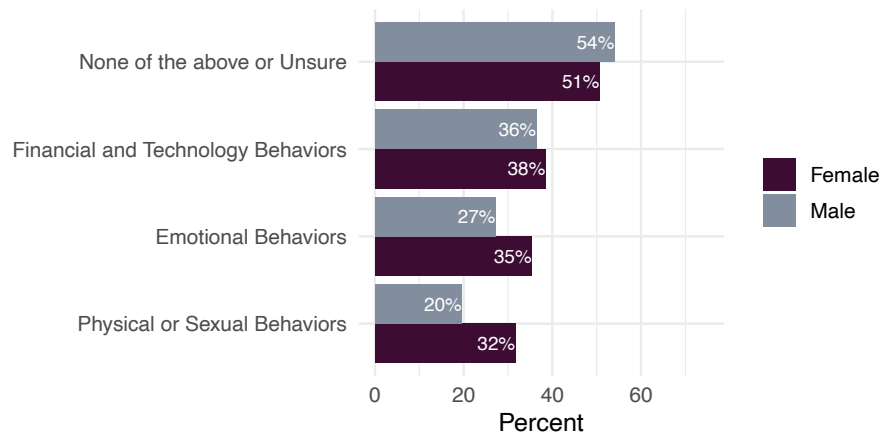
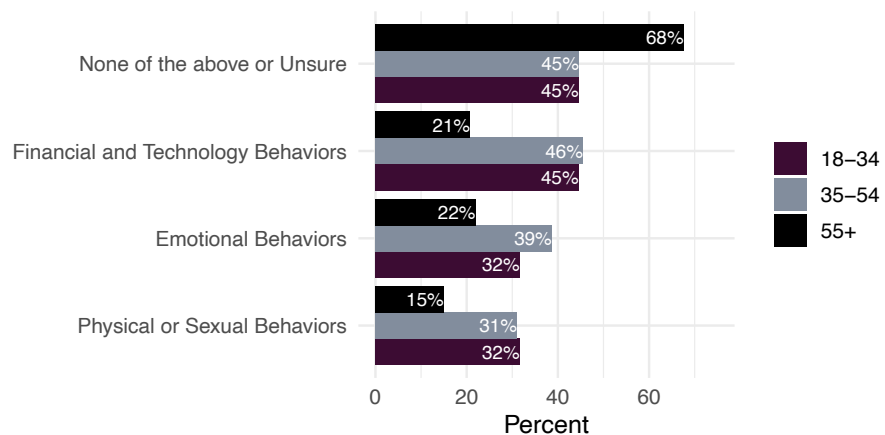


Figure 10e.
Personal Experience
with Specific
Behaviors by Age

Note: There are 139 responses from respondents aged 18-34, 235 from respondents aged 35-54, and 173 from respondents aged 55+.

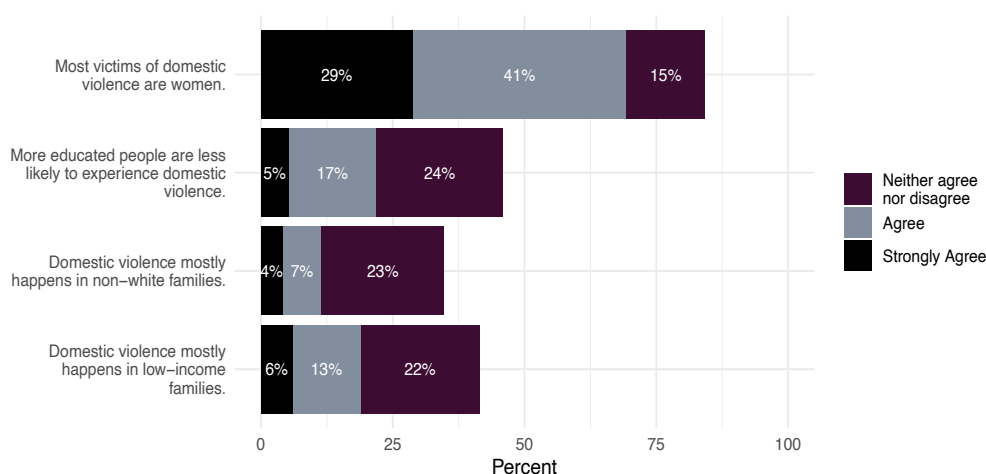


Perceptions of Domestic Violence Survivors

All respondents were asked about their perceptions of the types of individuals who are more likely to experience domestic violence, the support survivors of different demographic groups need, and the extent to which domestic violence is perceptible to those outside of the relationship. Survey participants were asked the extent to which they agreed with the statements that individuals who were more educated, had lower incomes, identified as women, and identified as persons of color, respectively, were more likely to experience domestic violence than their peers.

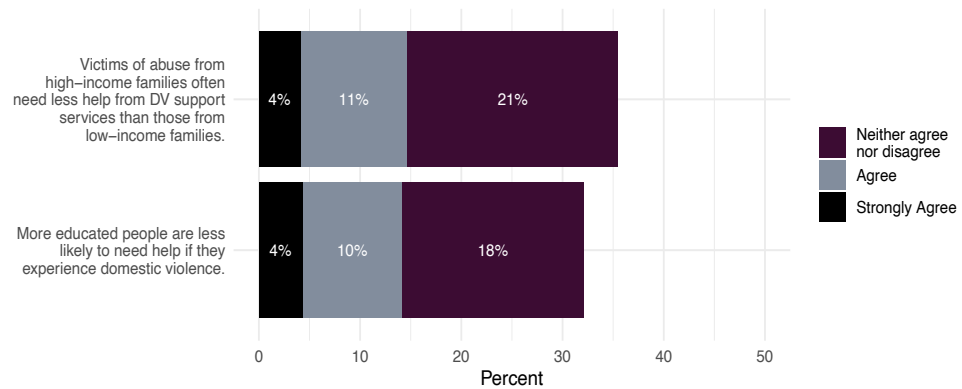
As seen in Figure 11, with respect to gender, 70% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that most victims of domestic violence are women, while 15% did not agree or disagree. In contrast, 51% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that more educated individuals are less likely to experience domestic violence; 24% did not agree or disagree. Similarly, 53% disagreed or strongly disagreed that domestic violence occurs primarily in low-income households; 22% did not agree or disagree. Finally, 61% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that domestic violence occurs mostly in non-white households; 23% did not agree or disagree. Thus, aside from gender, respondents, overall, expressed skepticism that rates of experience with domestic violence differed based on education, income, or race.

Figure 11.
Perceptions
of Prevalence
of Domestic
Violence
Across
Demographic
Groups



Further, respondents were asked whether individuals with different educational attainment or income were more likely to need help if they experienced domestic violence. Figure 11 shows the results. 64% and 59% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that victims of abuse with more educational attainment or higher household income, respectively, need less help when experiencing domestic violence than other groups of individuals. Further, fewer than 15% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with either prompt.

Figure 12.
Perceptions of
Domestic
Violence-
Related Support
Needed Across
Demographic
Groups

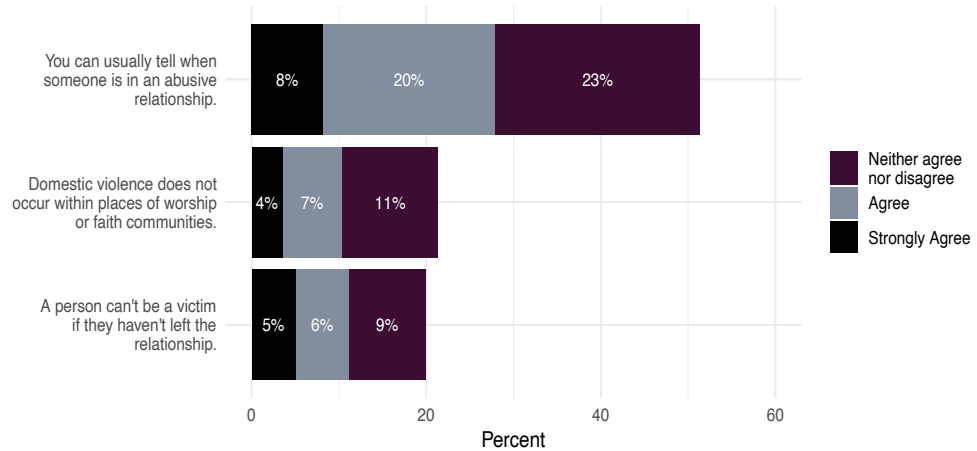


Finally, survey respondents were asked their perceptions of whether domestic violence was typically discernible, whether someone can be a victim if they haven't left the abusive relationship, and whether domestic violence can occur in religious spaces. While there was overwhelming consensus on the latter two questions, there was more disagreement on the first. When asked the extent to which they agreed with the statement that "You can usually tell when someone is in an abusive relationship", 45% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed, 27% neither agreed or disagreed or reported they did not know, and 26% agreed or strongly agreed.

In contrast, when asked the extent to which they agreed with the statement "A person can't be a victim if they haven't left the relationship", 76% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed; 12% reported they neither agreed nor disagreed or didn't know. Similarly, 75% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the prompt "Domestic violence does not occur within places of worship or faith communities"; 15% neither agreed nor disagreed or didn't know. Thus, while there was broader consensus that a person can be a victim regardless of whether they have left the abusive relationship and that domestic violence can occur in religious spaces, there was less consensus on whether domestic violence is visible to those outside of the relationship.

Figure 13 →

Figure 13.
Perceptions
of Prevalence
of
Experiences
of Domestic
Violence



Resources

Survey participants were asked a series of questions regarding their knowledge of and trust in available resources. First, the survey asked respondents their perceptions of the role of state and local officials in supporting the provision of resources related to domestic violence. Next, the survey asked about the sources that respondents relied on for information on domestic violence as well as the types of services they would recommend if they or someone they knew was experiencing domestic violence. Finally, the survey asked participants who reported personally experiencing behaviors associated with domestic violence about their access to and use of available resources.

The Role of State and Local Officials

Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that state and local officials should support services for survivors, legal protections for survivors and victims, and community education opportunities around domestic violence, as shown in Figures 14 and 15. More than 75% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that state and local officials, respectively, should support and fund services for survivors. Fewer than 6% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that state and local officials should contribute to these efforts.

Similarly, more than 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that state and local officials, respectively, should support legal protections for survivors and victims. Nearly the same percentages also agreed or strongly agreed that state and local officials should support and fund community education opportunities related to domestic violence. Collectively, these responses suggest that respondents view state and local officials as having a meaningful role to play in promoting awareness, education, and services related to domestic violence.

Figure 14,15 →

Figure 14.
Perceptions
of the Role
of State
Officials

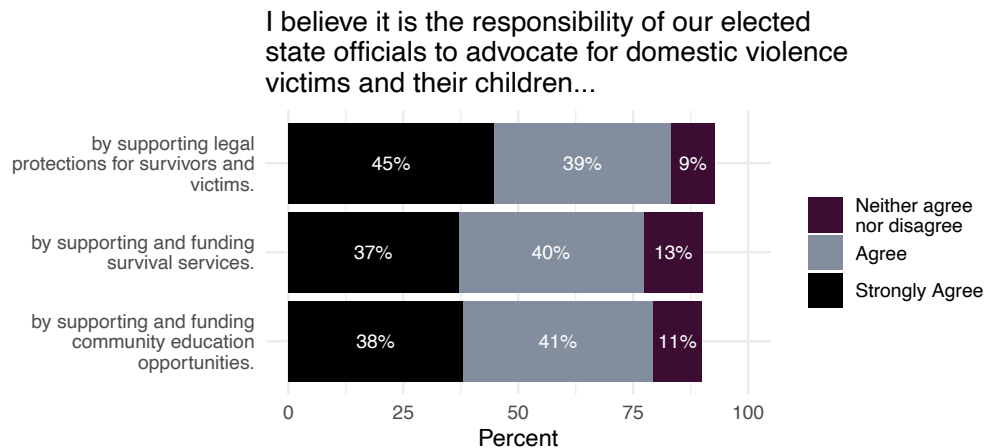
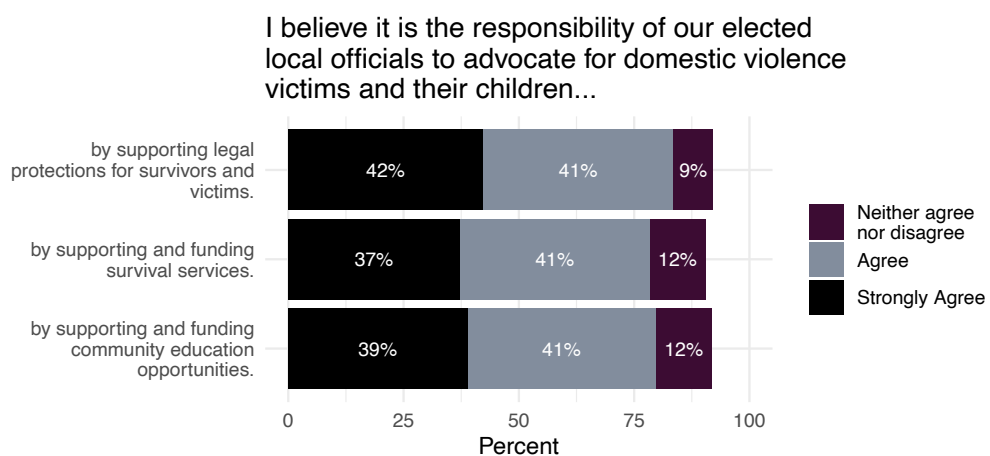


Figure 15.
Perceptions
of the Role
of Local
Officials

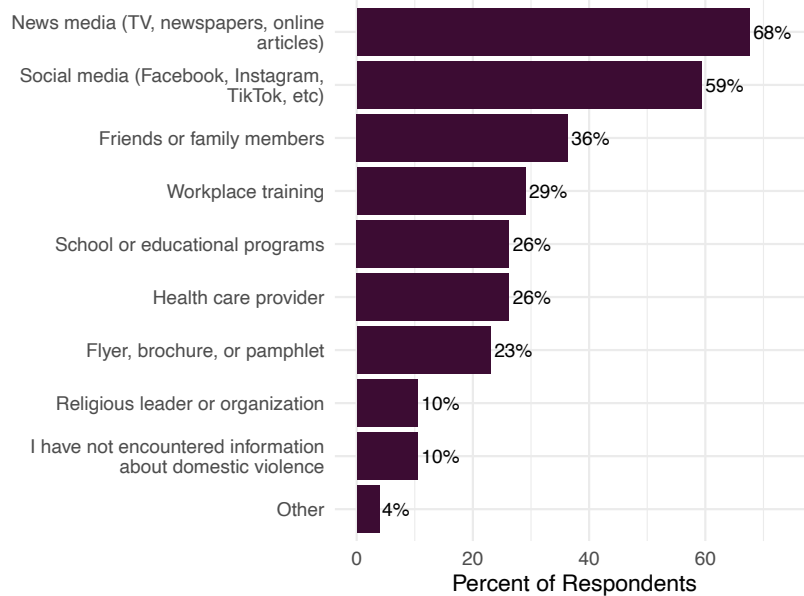


Trusted Sources of Information and Support

All respondents were asked about where they have encountered information on domestic violence, where they would seek it out, and where they would recommend turning for support if they or someone they knew was experiencing domestic violence. Respondents most frequently cited media sources as the places where individuals reported encountering information about domestic violence. These included traditional news outlets (TV, newspapers, online articles) and social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.), as seen in Figure 16. Only about 10% of respondents reported never encountering information about domestic violence.

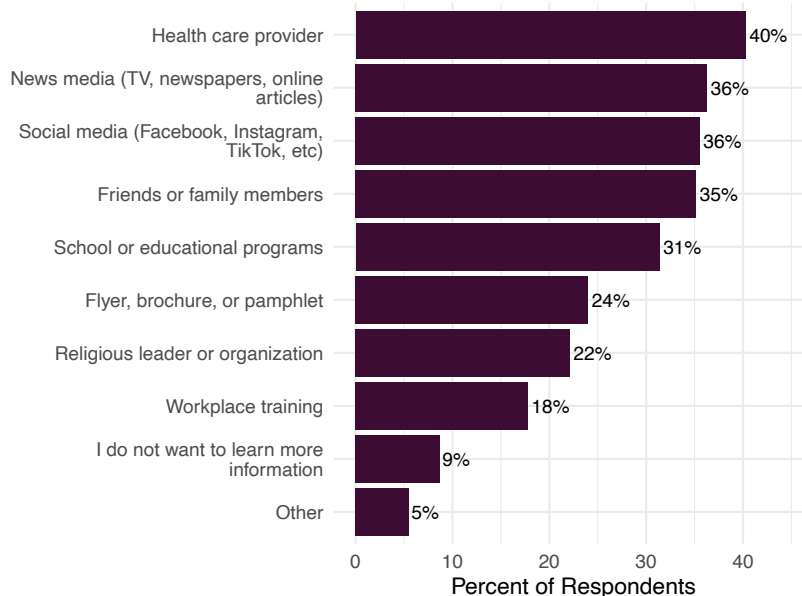
Figure 16 →

Figure 16.
Source of
Information
on
Domestic
Violence



As seen in Figure 17, traditional and social media were also among the most cited sources that respondents reported they would turn to for information on domestic violence. Healthcare providers were the most frequently selected source, followed closely by traditional and social media and friends and family.

Figure 17.
Sources
Respondents
Would Seek
Out for
Information
on Domestic
Violence



Respondents were then asked two questions regarding the types of individuals or organizations and services they would turn to if they or someone they knew was experiencing domestic violence. Friends and family and domestic violence hotlines and shelters were the most selected types of individuals or organizations that respondents were the most likely to report they would feel comfortable turning to for advice related

to domestic violence. As seen in Figure 18, healthcare providers and religious leaders were similarly selected by large percentages of respondents, but less commonly than the former two types.

Figure 18.
Types of
Individuals or
Organizations
Respondents
Would
Recommend

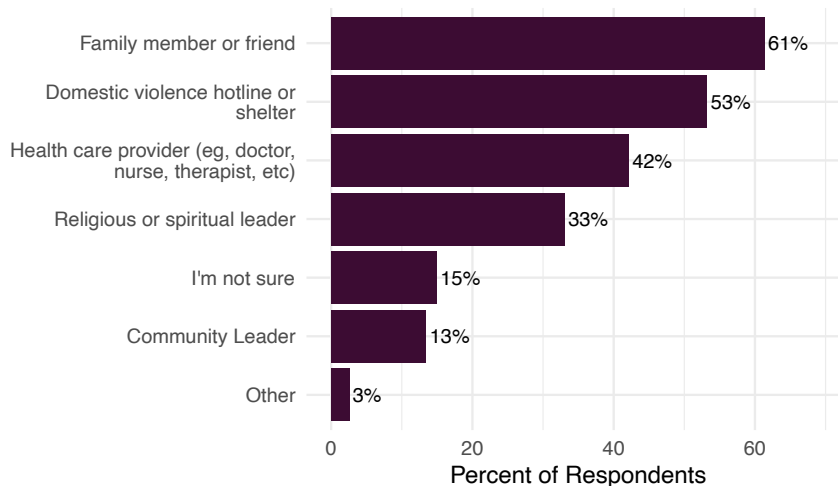
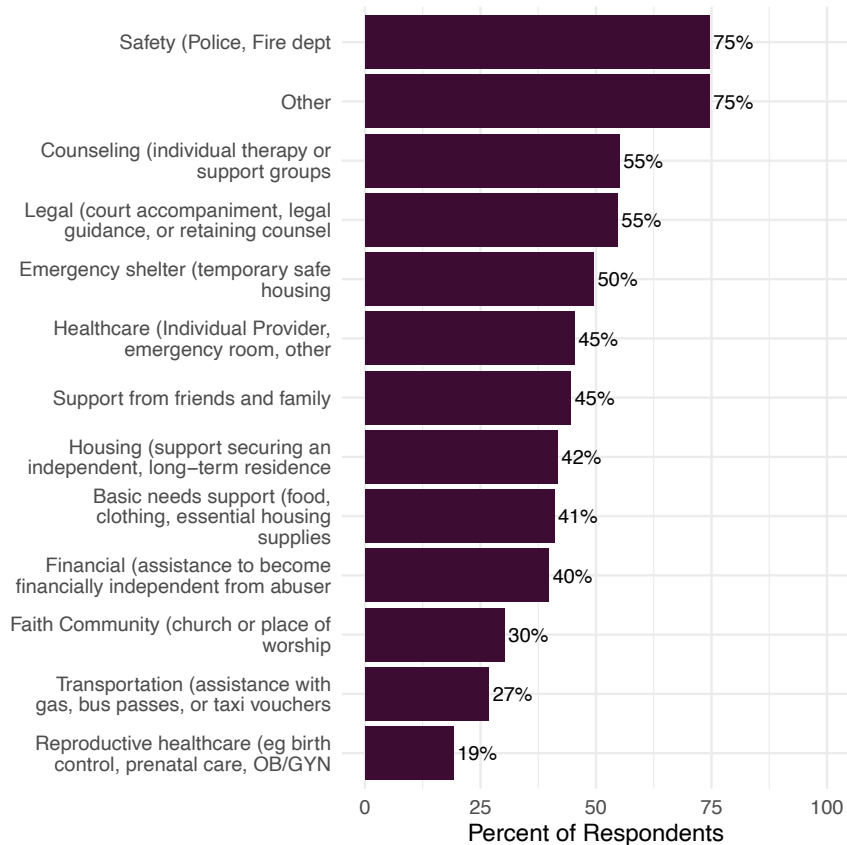


Figure 19 shows the most reported services that respondents cited that they would seek out or recommend if they or someone they knew was experiencing domestic violence. Nearly 75% of respondents reported safety organizations, such as the police or fire department, would be among their recommendations. The next most common responses were counseling and legal, with more than 50% of respondents identifying each respectively as services they would seek out or recommend.

Figure 19 →

Figure 19.
Types of
Services
Respondents
Would
Recommend

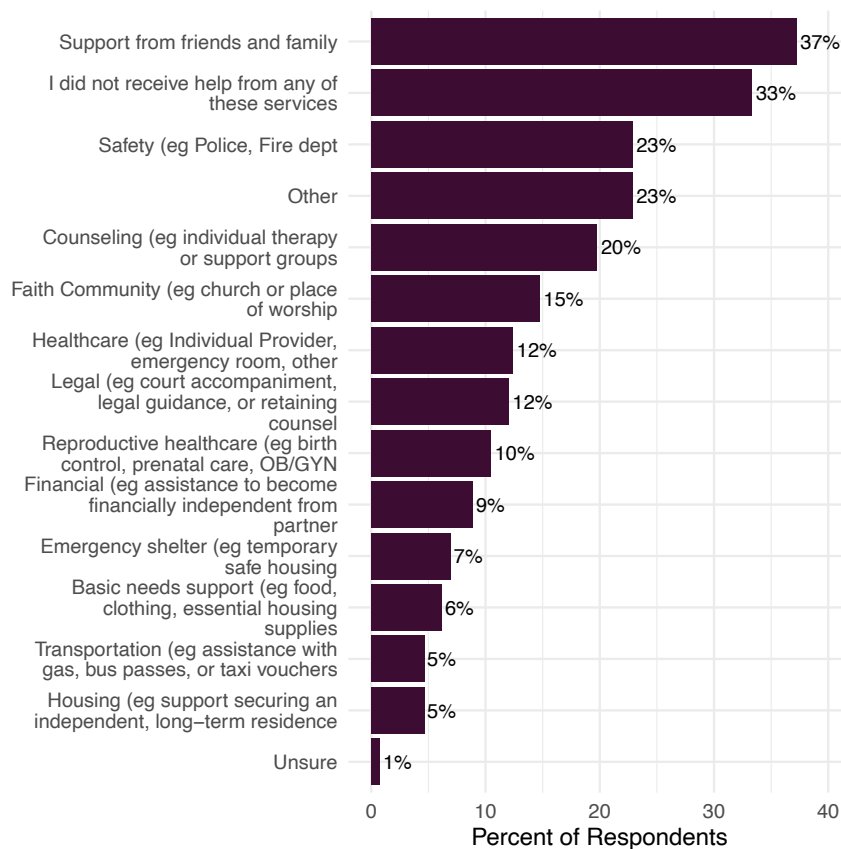


Personal Experiences with Available Resources

While all respondents were asked about what services and supports they would hypothetically turn to if they or someone they knew was experiencing domestic violence, respondents who reported experiencing behaviors associated with domestic abuse were asked about their experiences accessing help and the barriers that prevented them from doing so.

First, respondents were asked who provided them support when they experienced behaviors associated with domestic violence. As seen in Figure 20, while most respondents reported receiving at least one type of support listed, more than one-third of respondents did not. The most cited supports received were from friends and family, public safety organizations, and counseling services. The least commonly reported services received were support for basic needs, transportation, and housing.

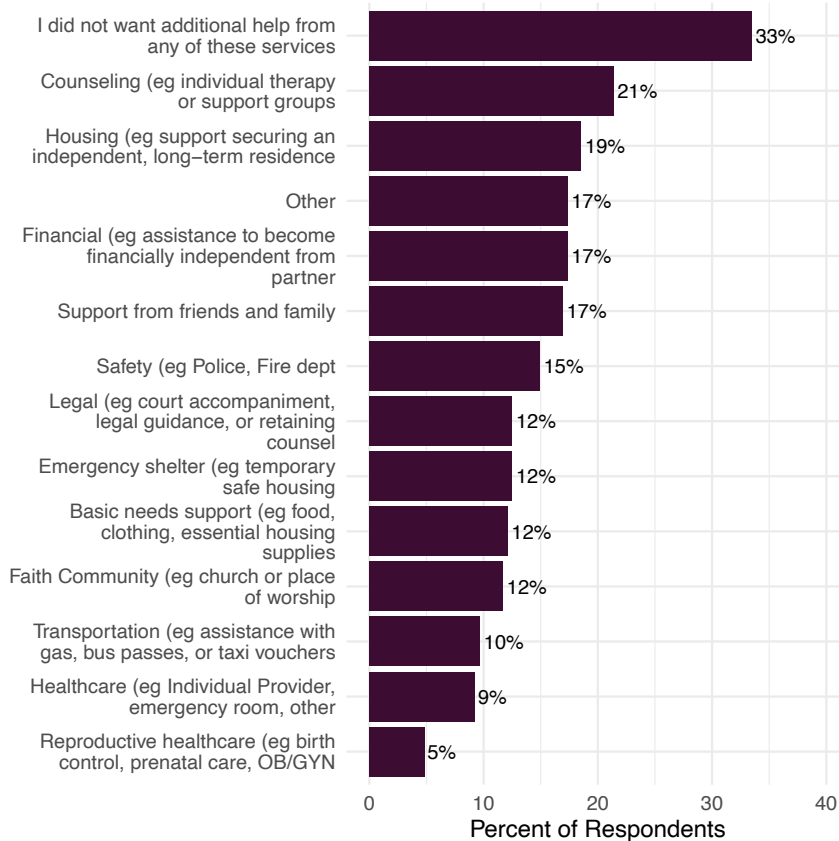
Figure 20.
Services that
Provided
Help to
Respondents
who
Experienced
Abusive
Behavior(s)



Respondents were then shown the same list of services and asked if there were any that they wanted but did not receive. As seen in Figure 21, one-third of respondents reported not wanting additional help from any of the listed services. Among those who had unmet needs, counseling and housing support were the most cited desired services that were not received.

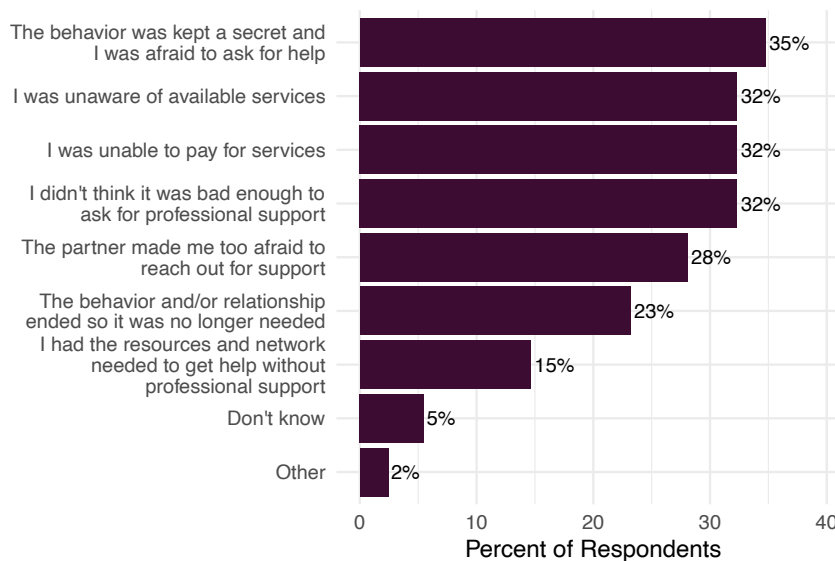
Figure 21 →

Figure 21.
Services
Desired but
Not
Received.



Finally, to better understand the barriers that prevented individuals from accessing services and supports they wanted, respondents with unmet needs were asked about the barriers that prevented them from receiving help. Figure 22 shows that the most commonly cited barriers included secrecy, lack of awareness, cost, and fear.

Figure 22.
Factors that
Prevented
Respondents
from
Receiving
Desired Help



Conclusion

The 2025 Community Awareness Survey from My Sister's House provides numerous insights into community perceptions of domestic violence in the Tricounty region. In reviewing the data, a several highlights emerge.

1. **Domestic violence is viewed as a prevalent issue in the Tricounty region.** Over 50% of respondents agreed that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in the region, and more than 40% also agreed that it is an issue in their community. Further, more than 20% of respondents reported that even the most severe examples of abuse, such as strangling, hitting, kicking, or physically harming an intimate partner, occurred sometimes or often in their community. However, male respondents were less likely to agree that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in the region than female respondents.
2. **Respondents reported that financial and technology-related abusive behaviors were the most prevalent, followed by emotional abuse, and then physical or sexual abuse. However, physical and sexual behaviors were most likely to be classified as domestic violence, while financial and technology-related behaviors were least likely to be recognized as such. Emotional behaviors fell in between.** Notably, there were meaningful differences across demographic groups in the rates at which specific behaviors were classified as domestic violence. Older, female, white, and more educated respondents were more likely to identify specific behaviors as domestic violence than their peers. **Approximately 12% of respondents, or nearly 1 in 8, did not classify any of the listed behaviors as domestic violence**, including options such as physically harming an intimate partner.
3. **Large proportions of residents of the Tricounty region experience behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence.** Nearly half of all respondents experienced at least one of the listed behaviors commonly associated with domestic violence. Aside from gender and age, there were few differences across demographic groups in the percentage of respondents who reported experiencing such behaviors.

4. **There is continued need for additional supports for those experiencing domestic violence, and community support for state and local officials to play a role in funding and supporting such efforts.** More than 60% of individuals who personally experienced domestic violence reported wanting access to additional services than they received, most commonly seeking counseling, housing, and financial assistance. Further, more than 75% of respondents believe that local and state officials should play a role in supporting awareness, education, and services related to domestic violence.

Appendix. Survey Questions

To begin this survey, please select your age range.

- 10-17 (1)
- 18-24 (2)
- 25-34 (3)
- 35-44 (4)
- 45-54 (5)
- 55-64 (6)
- 65+ (7)

Please select your current county of residence:

- Charleston County (1)
 - Berkeley County (2)
 - Dorchester County (3)
 - Other: (4)
-

What language do you primarily speak at home?

- English (1)
 - Spanish (2)
 - Other: (3)
-
-

To what extent do you think the following behaviors are seen between intimate partners in **your community**? *Partners include adults with a current or former intimate relationship in which they were, for example, dating, living together, engaged, married, divorced, or share a child.*

One partner posts pictures or creates profile pages online about the partner without their permission.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-



One partner controls finances in the household without discussion, including taking their partner's money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner prevents their partner from making their own decisions regarding employment, including whether to work or attend school.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner insults their partner's parenting or threatens to harm or take away their children or pets.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner insults, demeans, or shames their partner, especially in front of other people.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner discourages or prevents their partner from spending time with others, particularly friends, family members, or peers.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner monitors their partner through their phone calls, texts, emails, or GPS location without permission.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner sends unwanted messages or calls to a partner.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner follows or stalks their partner.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner pressures their partner to have sex or perform sexual acts they are not comfortable with.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner threatens to slap, punch, kick, or harm their partner.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner slaps, punches, kicks, or harms their partner.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner threatens to strangle / choke their partner.

- Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Often (4)
 - Don't Know (5)
-

One partner strangles / chokes their partner.

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Sometimes (3)
- Often (4)
- Don't Know (5)

Have **you** experienced any of the following? (Please select all that apply.) *Partners include adults with a current or former intimate relationship in which they were, for example, dating, living together, engaged, married, divorced, or share a child.*

- A partner posted pictures or created profile pages online about you without your permission. (23)
 - A partner monitored you through their phone calls, texts, emails, or GPS location without your permission. (24)
 - A partner controlled finances in the household without discussion, including taking your money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses. (25)
 - A partner prevented you from making your own decisions regarding employment, including whether to work or attend school. (26)
 - A partner sent unwanted messages or calls to you. (27)
 - A partner insulted your parenting or threatened to harm or take away your children or pets. (28)
 - A partner insulted, demeaned, or shamed you, especially in front of other people. (29)
 - A partner discouraged or prevented you from spending time with others, particularly friends, family members, or peers. (30)
 - A partner followed or stalked you. (12)
 - A partner pressured you to have sex or perform sexual acts that you were not comfortable with. (31)
 - A partner threatened to slap, punch, kick, or harm you. (34)
 - A partner slapped, punched, kicked, or harmed you. (32)
 - A partner threatened to strangle (choke) you. (35)
 - A partner strangled / choked you. (33)
 - ☒ No (36)
 - ☒ I don't know. (37)
-

When you experienced these behaviors, did you receive help or support through any of the following services? (Please select all that apply.)

- Safety (e.g., Police, Fire dept., other) (1)
 - Healthcare (e.g., Individual Provider, emergency room, other) (2)
 - Reproductive healthcare (e.g., birth control, prenatal care, OB/GYN) (3)
 - Faith Community (e.g., church or place of worship) (4)
 - Emergency shelter (e.g., temporary safe housing) (5)
 - Legal (e.g., court accompaniment, legal guidance, or retaining counsel) (6)
 - Financial (e.g., assistance to become financially independent from partner) (7)
 - Housing (e.g., support securing an independent, long-term residence) (8)
 - Transportation (e.g., assistance with gas, bus passes, or taxi vouchers) (9)
 - Counseling (e.g., individual therapy or support groups) (10)
 - Basic needs support (e.g., food, clothing, essential housing supplies) (11)
 - Support from friends and family (12)
 - I did not receive help from any of these services. (13)
 - Unsure (14)
-

Which of the following services did you want but not receive? (Please select all that apply.)

- Safety (e.g., Police, Fire dept., other) (1)
- Healthcare (e.g., Individual Provider, emergency room, other) (2)
- Reproductive healthcare (e.g., birth control, prenatal care, OB/GYN) (14)
- Faith Community (e.g., church or place of worship) (3)
- Emergency shelter (e.g., temporary safe housing) (4)
- Legal (e.g., court accompaniment, legal guidance, or retaining counsel) (5)
- Financial (e.g., assistance to become financially independent from partner) (6)
- Housing (e.g., support securing an independent, long-term residence) (7)
- Transportation (e.g., assistance with gas, bus passes, or taxi vouchers) (8)
- Counseling (e.g., individual therapy or support groups) (9)
- Basic needs support (e.g., food, clothing, essential housing supplies) (10)
- Support from friends and family (11)
- I did not want additional help from any of these services. (12)
- Other: (13) _____

What factors prevented you from receiving help? (Please select all that apply.)

- I was unaware of available services. (1)
- I was unable to pay for services. (2)
- The behavior was kept a secret and I was afraid to ask for help. (3)
- The partner made me too afraid to reach out for support. (4)
- I didn't think it was bad enough to ask for professional support. (5)
- I had the resources and network needed to get help without professional support. (6)
- The behavior and/or relationship ended so it was no longer needed. (7)
- Don't know (8)
- Other (9) _____

The following questions are meant to gain insight into awareness of Domestic Violence in the Tricounty area. Domestic Violence (DV), also known as Intimate Partner Violence, is defined as "physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (including coercive acts) by a current or former intimate partner."¹

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention



Which of the following behaviors would you classify as domestic violence? (Please select all that apply.)
Partners include adults with a current or former intimate relationship in which they were, for example, dating, living together, engaged, married, divorced, or share a child.

- One partner posts pictures or creates profile pages online about their partner without their permission. (1)
 - One partner monitors their partner through their phone calls, texts, emails, or GPS location without permission. (2)
 - One partner controls finances in the household without discussion, including taking their partner's money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses. (3)
 - One partner prevents their partner from making their own decisions regarding employment, including whether to work or attend school. (4)
 - One partner sends unwanted messages or calls to a partner. (5)
 - One partner insults their partner's parenting or threatens to harm or take away their children or pets. (6)
 - One partner insults, demeans, or shames their partner, especially in front of other people. (7)
 - One partner discourages or prevents their partner from spending time with others, particularly friends, family members, or peers. (8)
 - One partner stalks or follows their partner. (9)
 - One partner pressures their partner to have sex or perform sexual acts they are not comfortable with. (10)
 - One partner threatens to slap, punch, kick, or harm their partner. (11)
 - One partner slaps, punches, kicks, or harms their partner. (12)
 - One partner threatens to strangle (choke) their partner. (13)
 - One partner strangles (chokes) their partner. (14)
 - None of the above. (15)
-

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Most victims of domestic violence are women.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

More educated people are less likely to experience domestic violence.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly Agree (5)
- Don't Know (6)



More educated people are less likely to need help if they experience domestic violence.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

You can usually tell when someone is in an abusive relationship.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Domestic violence mostly happens in low-income families.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Domestic violence mostly happens in non-white families.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Victims of abuse from high-income families often need less help from DV support services than those from low-income families.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

A person can't be a victim if they haven't left the relationship.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Domestic violence does not occur within places of worship or faith communities.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Domestic Violence is a prevalent issue in my community.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Domestic violence is a prevalent issue in the tricounty region.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following based on the statement below: *I believe it is the responsibility of our elected **state officials** to advocate for domestic violence victims and their children:*

...by supporting and funding services for survivors.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

...by supporting legal protections for survivors and victims.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

...by supporting and funding community education opportunities.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following based on the statement below: *I believe it is the responsibility of our elected **local officials** to advocate for domestic violence victims and their children:*

...by supporting and funding survival services.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

...by supporting legal protections for survivors and victims.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - Agree (4)
 - Strongly Agree (5)
 - Don't Know (6)
-

...by supporting and funding community education opportunities.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly Agree (5)
- Don't Know (6)

Where have you encountered information about domestic violence? (Select all that apply.)

- News media (TV, newspapers, online articles) (1)
- Social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) (2)
- School or educational programs (3)
- Workplace training (4)
- Flyer, brochure, or pamphlet (5)
- Health care provider (6)
- Friends or family members (7)
- Religious leader or organization (8)
- Other (Please specify) (9)

-
- I have not encountered information about domestic violence. (10)
-

If you were seeking to learn more about domestic violence, what sources would you turn to? (Please select all that apply.)

- News media (TV, newspapers, online articles) (1)
- Social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) (2)
- School or educational programs (3)
- Workplace training (4)
- Flyer, brochure, or pamphlet (5)
- Health care provider (6)
- Friends or family members (7)
- Religious leader or organization (8)
- Other (Please specify) (9)

- -----
I do not want to learn more information. (10)
-



If you or someone close to you were experiencing domestic violence, who would you feel comfortable turning to for advice? (Please select all that apply.)

- Health care provider (e.g., doctor, nurse, therapist, etc.) (1)
 - Family member or friend (2)
 - Religious or spiritual leader (3)
 - Community Leader (4)
 - Domestic violence hotline or shelter (5)
 - I'm not sure (6)
 - Other (Please specify) (7)
-
-

If you or someone close to you were experiencing domestic violence, which of the following types of service(s) would you seek out or recommend? (Please select all that apply.)

- Safety (Police, Fire dept., other) (1)
- Healthcare (Individual Provider, emergency room, other) (2)
- Reproductive healthcare (e.g., birth control, prenatal care, OB/GYN) (3)
- Faith Community (church or place of worship) (4)
- Emergency shelter (temporary safe housing) (5)
- Legal (court accompaniment, legal guidance, or retaining counsel) (6)
- Financial (assistance to become financially independent from abuser) (7)
- Housing (support securing an independent, long-term residence) (8)
- Transportation (assistance with gas, bus passes, or taxi vouchers) (9)
- Counseling (individual therapy or support groups) (10)
- Basic needs support (food, clothing, essential housing supplies) (11)
- Support from friends and family (12)

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual or straight (1)
 - Gay (2)
 - Lesbian (3)
 - Asexual (4)
 - Bisexual (5)
 - Queer (6)
 - Prefer not to say (7)
 - Other: (8)
-
-

What is your total annual household income?

- Less than \$40,000 (1)
 - \$40,000–\$79,999 (2)
 - \$80,000–\$144,999 (3)
 - More than \$145,000 (4)
 - Prefer not to say (5)
-

What is your race or ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)

- White/Caucasian (1)
 - Black or African American (2)
 - Hispanic or Latino (3)
 - Asian (4)
 - Native American or Alaskan Native (5)
 - Middle Eastern or North African (6)
 - Prefer not to say (7)
 - Other: (8) _____
-

How would you describe your gender?

- Male (1)
 - Female (2)
 - Transgender (3)
 - Non-binary (4)
 - Prefer not to say (5)
 - Other: (6) _____
-

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than high school (1)
 - High School Diploma or GED (2)
 - Some College, no degree (3)
 - Associate's degree and/or technical or trade certificate (4)
 - Bachelor's degree (5)
 - Graduate or professional degree (6)
-

Which of the following best describes your religious beliefs or identity? (Please select all that apply.)

- Buddhist (1)
- Catholic (2)
- Hindu (3)
- Jewish (4)
- Muslim (5)
- Orthodox (Greek or Russian Orthodox) (6)
- Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Nondenominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.) (7)
- Spiritual, but not religious (8)
- Agnostic (not sure if there is a God) (9)
- Atheist (do not believe in God) (10)
- Nothing in particular (11)
- Prefer not to say (12)
- Other (13) _____