AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK* WOMEN AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

GCADV

*African American/Black is used to be inclusive of the collective experiences of the communities involved in GCADV's Community Conversations and the larger community this document refers to. Other terms are used to remain consistent with reported statistics.

29.1% Women of color are disproportionately impacted by violence. An estimated 29.1% of African American females are victimized by intimate partner violence (rape, physical assault, or stalking) in their lifetime.

2.5X According to a study completed by the Department of Justice in 2001, African American females experience intimate partner violence at a rate 35% higher than that of white females, and about 2.5 times the rate of women of other races (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2001).

The Violence Policy Center (VPC) 2019 report "When Men Murder Women", states that single female victim/single male offender homicide **rates were highest among Black women** compared to women from all other racial groups. Georgia ranks tenth on the national list of states where females are murdered by males in single victim/single offender homicides (VPC, 2017 Homicide Data). In 2017, 52 out of the 96 females murdered by males in Georgia were African American/Black.

Myths that African American/Black women are "domineering figures that require control" or that African American/Black women are "exceptionally strong under stress and are resilient" **increase their vulnerability** and discourage some from speaking out about abuse.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline documented 3,362 contacts from Georgia from January - June 2019. Of those calls 47.8% were from African American/Black women. Georgia ranks seventh in terms of contact volume to the hotline.

African American/Black survivors in Georgia shared specific help-seeking barriers during GCADV Community Conversations.

Below are some of the responses:

- We as a community don't say it's ok to talk about things outside of the family.

- The extension of family looks different in African-American communities, programs do not allow extended family.

- Organizations/advocates and solutions not being culturally relatable.

- Distrust of law enforcement, criminal justice system, and social services.

- Lack of trust based on history of racism and classism in the United States.

- Advocates make assumptions about survivors based on ethnicity.