Domestic Violence, COVID, and Race

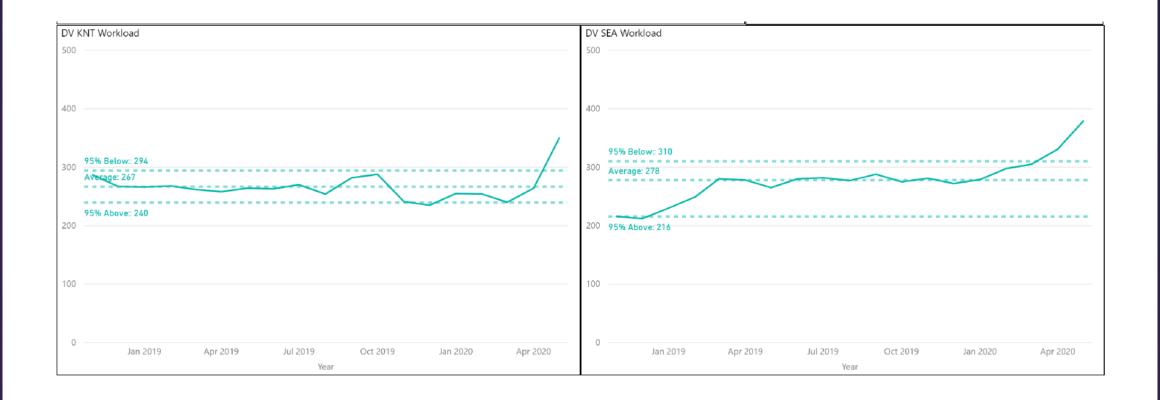
MERRIL COUSIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COALITION ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
DORIS O'NEAL, YWCA DIRECTOR, GBV SPECIALIZES SERVICES
DAVID MARTIN, KCPAO DV UNIT

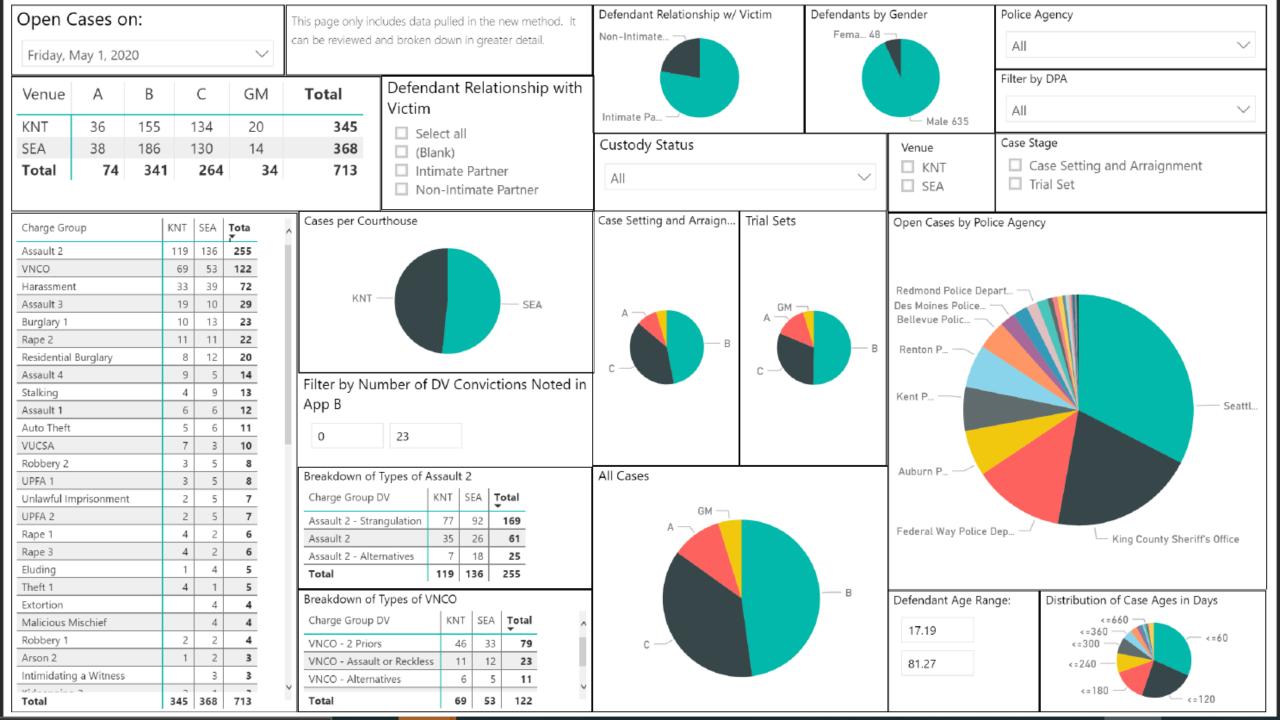
Rise in DV

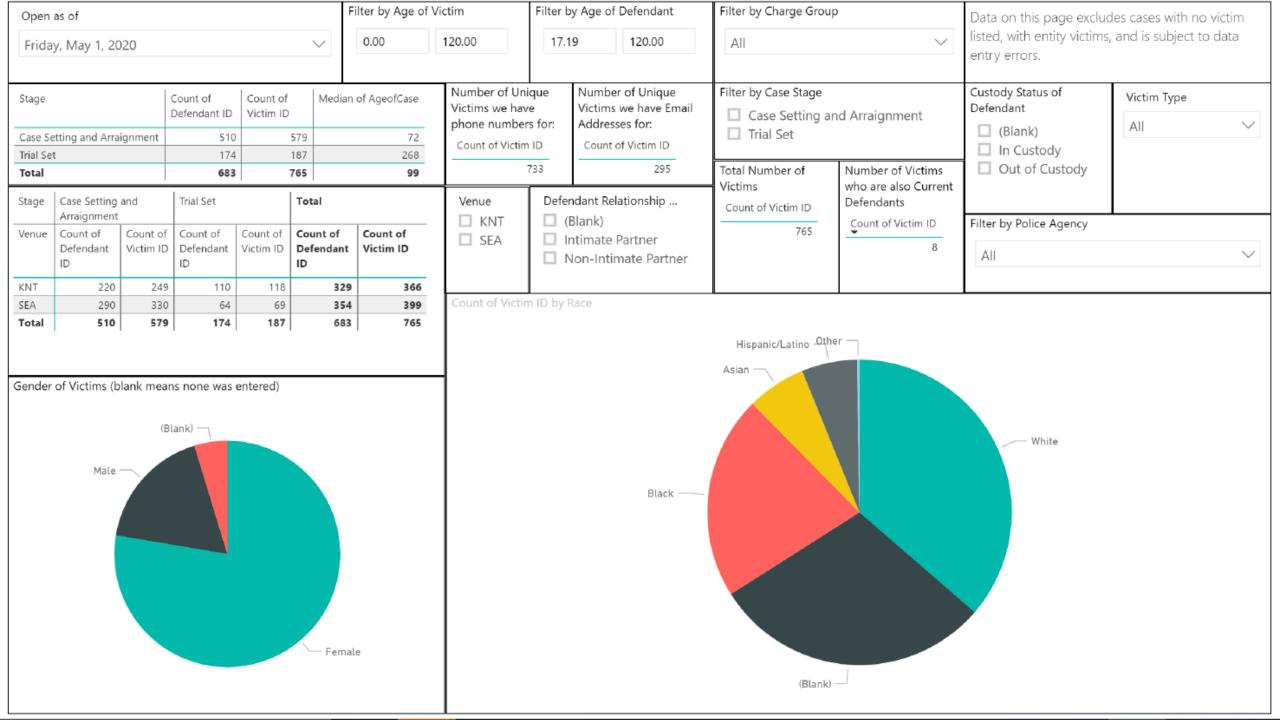
- Consensus about rise in DV due to COVID nationally and internationally.
- ▶ DV calls for service spiked from March until May (locally varied). Led to United Nations call for advocacy to address DV.
- ▶ SPD reports increase DV calls but not arrests (20%).
- ► King County DV Felonies filings and referrals at multiyear high (20% above average)

Advocates Report

Survivors are more isolated, stressed, in need of critical services than ever before, but resources are scarce. Jobs are being lost, health, child care, housing, and finances are increasingly enormous concerns. Decreased ability for survivors to leave, increased opportunities for abusers' surveillance and control, increased post separation violence. Abusers using COVID threat and consequences as a weapon in various ways. Disproportionate impact on BIPOC, immigrant survivors.







Survivors FIRST

(Facilitating Interventions and Resources for Survivors of Trauma)

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE YWCA AND KCPAO



Survivor/Defendant

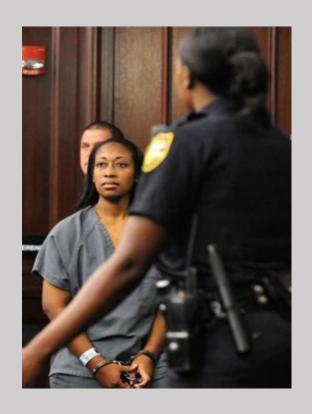
 Legally-recognized as survivor of domestic, sexual, or gender-based violence

► Has been arrested and now facing criminal charges as a result of victimization

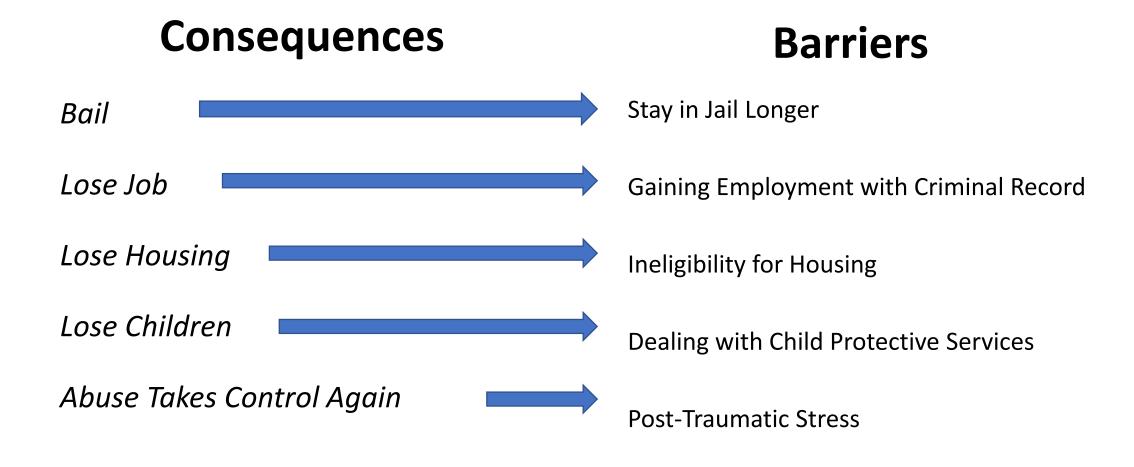
Rates are significantly higher among Women of Color

African American Survivors Face Many Barriers to Finding Safety, Justice, and Accessing Supportive DV Services

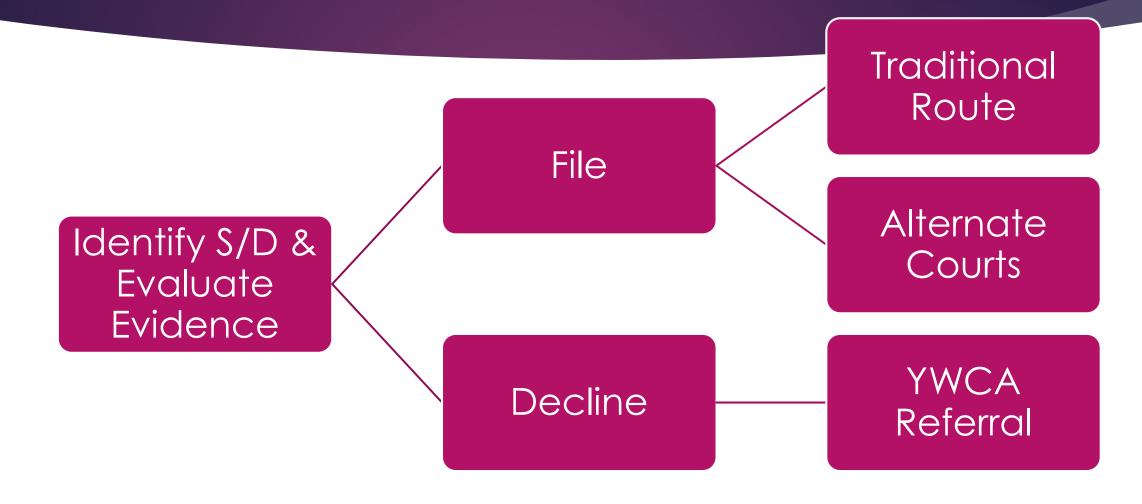
- IP Violence 35% higher than White Women
- IP Violence Leading Cause of Death Ages
 15-45
- Police Response After Calling 911
- Stereotype of the "Angry Black Woman"
- Not Appearing To Be A "Victim"
- More Likely To Be Arrested/Charged When Seeking Safety



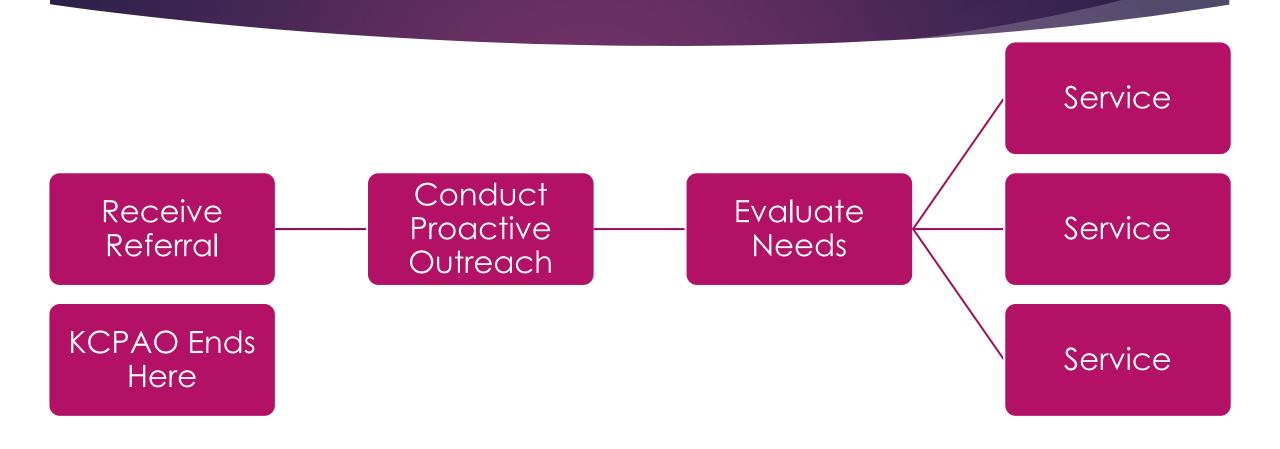
When Survivors are Charged/Convicted



How it Works - KCPAO



How it Works - YWCA



Referrals to date

- ▶ 91 cases from Superior and District Court including DV, VUCSA, and non-violent mainstream felonies.
- ▶ 95% of referrals involve women of color who are legally identified former victims of gender violence.
- ► Success Story