



Know Your Numbers

Sexual Violence (SV)

- **57%** of Maryland women have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023-2024).¹
 - » Maryland has the 3rd highest lifetime prevalence rate in the country.
- In 2025 in Baltimore City, there were:²
 - » **236** sexual offenses, a **2%** increase from 2024 reports
 - » **86%** of victims were female
 - » **277** rapes, a **25%** decrease from 2024 reports
 - » **92%** of victims were female
 - » Black women were affected at a disproportionate rate, making up **67%** of sexual offense victims and **66%** of rape victims,² despite making up only **61%** of Baltimore City women (2025).³
- **11%** of female and **11%** of male Baltimore City high school students experienced sexual violence in the past year (YRBS, 2017).⁴

Sexual Violence (SV) Trends

National data and ongoing research consistently document **higher rates of sexual assault** among **Black and Native American women** relative to white women,⁵ and **among LGBTQ+ populations** relative to cisgender and heterosexual populations.⁶

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- **43%** of Maryland women have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).⁷
- Between January 2025 and January 2026, Baltimore City Police responded to **3822** offenses* perpetrated by a current/former intimate partner (FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2026).⁸
- **17%** of Baltimore City high school students experienced physical dating violence in the past year. Results are not available by gender (YRBS/YTS, 2024-2025).⁹

*IPV Offenses included aggravated assault, simple assault, rape, criminal sexual contact, homicide, murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, and statutory rape.



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Spotlight on Intimate Partner Homicide

Between 2019 and 2023, of the **120 Maryland women killed by their intimate partners**, the rate of intimate partner homicide was more than **2.5 times higher for Black women** (1.65 per 100,000 women) than white women (0.57 per 100,000 women) (Maryland Violent Death Reporting System, 2019-2023).¹⁰

25 of these 120 women lived in Baltimore City.¹¹ Among these 25 women:

- 21 (**84%**) were Black or African American
- 18 (**72%**) were killed by a firearm

Stalking

- Nearly **1 in 3** Maryland women have experienced stalking in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).¹²
- In Baltimore City, approximately **10%** of domestic violence protective orders with a reported ground were issued on the ground of stalking (2025).¹³



Human Trafficking

- While there were only **11** human trafficking cases reported to the Baltimore City Police Department in 2025, more than **1,611** survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation were served by agencies in the Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative (see details in Priority Area 2 below).^{2,14}

Know Your Numbers: Strengths and Limitations

Some of the data in this Brief come from the FBI's ongoing **UCR/NIBRS system**,⁸ one of a few sources that has made crime data available at the city level over many years, allowing for monitoring of trends over time. However, the UCR/NIBRS has many limitations, including:

- variability in completeness of data across reporting agencies and localities;
- victim/offender relationship is missing in a large proportion of cases;
- there is known underreporting of crimes involving gender-based violence (GBV) and/or where the offender is a family member or partner; and
- there is known underreporting among those that have experienced harm from involvement with the justice system.

Baltimore City maintains a **Public Safety Accountability Dashboard** of city-wide crimes. While it is possible to isolate sexual violence and human trafficking crimes for trend analyses, it is not yet possible to isolate intimate partner violence or stalking crimes.

The data in this brief thus represent only a fraction of the lived experiences of women and men in Baltimore City.

Today's Key Priorities in GBV Prevention and Response

The first **US National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence** was released in 2023, informed by a comprehensive, national process that engaged survivors, advocates, and other stakeholders.¹⁵ The remainder of this Baltimore City GBV Brief is organized around selected National Plan priority areas, describing programming or policies responsive to GBV prevention or survivor support.

Prevention Training and Victim Services and Response Agencies Serving Baltimore City*

 House of Ruth Maryland	House of Ruth Maryland provides community education, training, consultation and technical assistance on intimate partner violence, including the dynamics of IPV, IPV and technology, teen dating violence, bystander intervention, IPV in LGBTQ+ and Latine communities, and recognizing/responding to IPV in health care settings. House of Ruth is also a service agency, primarily serving IPV survivors, providing a hotline, housing and emergency shelter, and legal support. They also provide services to people who have caused harm or are at risk of causing harm to their intimate partners, including Abuse Intervention Programming and a hotline for people at risk of causing harm.¹⁶
 TURN AROUND the first place to turn	TurnAround, Inc.'s Community Engagement and Training team offers year-round free prevention educational services throughout Maryland on a variety of GBV issues, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking for general audiences; body safety and autonomy for elementary school students; teen dating violence for middle school students; and healthy relationships, social media, and human trafficking for high school students. TurnAround, Inc also provides free wraparound services for survivors of human trafficking, sexual abuse and intimate partner violence and houses a 24/7 Crisis Hotline.¹⁷
 CHANA An agency of The Associated	CHANA provides consultation and education focused on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse and trauma-informed community response, with a culturally specific lens for Jewish survivors and communities. Prevention education is offered across the lifespan and serves elementary, middle, high school, and college students, as well as community groups, neighborhood associations, senior centers, and allied professionals.¹⁸
 BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) supports trauma-informed training and technical assistance through its Office of Youth and Trauma Services (OYTS). OYTS offers Teen Dating Violence awareness and prevention trainings as well as youth activities to support the development and maintenance of healthy relationships, including developmentally-appropriate conversations with youth about sex and sexuality, boundaries and forming goals in their relationships.¹⁹
 Mercy BALTIMORE, MD	Mercy Medical Center is a designated treatment center for sexual assault and domestic violence in Baltimore City, with 30 specially trained Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNEs) available 24/7 to care for victims of sexual assault (aged 13 and older), domestic violence, and elder/institutional and vulnerable populations abuse, neglect, and maltreatment. The Forensic Nurse Examiner and Family Violence Response programs work collaboratively with criminal justice agencies and other Baltimore City agencies addressing the needs of victims of violence. Mercy also houses the Blue Dot Program, a human trafficking identification and emergency-response initiative. Centered in Mercy's Forensic Nursing Program, it offers 24/7 support for suspected human trafficking and sex workers in Baltimore City and surrounding jurisdictions to access services and investigative resources.²¹

*The list of agencies presented in this brief is not exhaustive. Many additional community and hospital-based programs make important contributions to GBV prevention and response in Baltimore City.

 Maryland Healthcare Coalition Against Domestic Violence	The Maryland Healthcare Coalition Against Domestic Violence, located in Baltimore City, provides resources for survivors, including virtual support groups, tools for health and healing from abuse, and a wellness E-newsletter, in addition to free trainings for allied professionals.²³
 HUMAN TRAFFICKING COLLABORATIVE	The Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative (BCHTC) is a diverse group of stakeholders working together to combat both sex and labor trafficking in Baltimore City by providing trainings, interfacing with state and federal investigations, and supporting survivors.²²
	Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement (MONSE) supports community-based and allied professional training and awareness for the identification and prevention of intimate partner violence and human trafficking. Expanded offerings include domestic violence awareness training for barbers and beauty professionals and a new on-demand domestic violence awareness course available to Baltimore City employees to supplement the City's workplace violence awareness curriculum. As part of their efforts to address GBV in the city, MONSE coordinates with the following bodies: • Domestic Violence High-Risk Team (DVHRT) • Criminal Justice Coordinating Council / Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) • Criminal Justice Coordinating Council / Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee (DVCC) • Intimate Partner Violence Coordinating Council (IPVCC)²⁰ MONSE also serves as a co-chair to the Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative.



Priority Area 1: Prevention

Training and Education

Baltimore City continues to strengthen its GBV prevention infrastructure through community education, workforce training, and targeted awareness efforts that help residents, providers, and frontline professionals recognize abuse, respond safely and connect survivors to support.

	# Trainings or Events	# Individuals Reached ²⁴
House of Ruth Maryland	107	3,097
TurnAround, Inc	125	2,293
CHANA	142	6500+

	# Trainings or Events	# Individuals Reached ²⁴
MONSE	43	1,116
BCHD	3	145

Source: MONSE, 2026

Laws and Regulations Supporting State-Wide Prevention Activities

[Maryland HB 1547: Domestic Violence Awareness Training for Barbers and Beauty Professionals](#). Maryland now requires applicants and renewing licensees under the State Board of Barbers and State Board of Cosmetologists to complete a one-hour domestic violence awareness training through a Department-approved provider. The Maryland Board lists approved providers, including House of Ruth Maryland, MONSE, and the University of Maryland School of Social Work.²⁵

[Section 15-210 of the Business Regulation Article](#) requires innkeepers to provide training and guidance to its employees in order to accurately and promptly identify and report suspected human trafficking.²⁶



House of Ruth Maryland provided the following services in 2025:^{16,27}

- Answered **7,319** hotline calls, a more than **70%** increase from 2024
- Served **3,188** survivors agency-wide, including **2,963** adults and **225** children
- Housed **442** individuals seeking emergency housing/shelter
- Offered legal support to **2,101** survivors through the form of protection orders or other legal advising
- Provided Abuse Intervention Programming to individuals who have caused harm to intimate partners
 - » In CY 2025, **132** people completed the program

TurnAround, Inc provided the following services in 2025:^{17,27}

- Answered **1,899** hotline calls from residents throughout Maryland. This is a **25%** increase from 2024.
 - » IPV survivors: **1,492**
 - » SA survivors: **251**
 - » HT survivors: **81**
 - » Multiple (SA/DV, DV/HT, etc.): **75**
- Overall, served **3,057** unique survivors via housing support, hotline support, and prevention education.*
 - » DV survivors: **1,762**
 - » SA survivors: **324**
 - » HT survivors: **132**
 - » Multiple: **540**
 - » Unknown: **383**

Mercy Medical Center provided the following services in 2025:^{21,27}

- Conducted **966** Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFE), including **75** exams with minors.
- Served **681** survivors through their Family Violence Program. Survivors served include:
 - » IPV survivors: **255**
 - » SA survivors: **372**
 - » HT survivors: **17**
 - » Other survivors: **37** (Vulnerable adults, Family violence)
- The Blue Dot program received **24** human-trafficking referrals from the Baltimore City Fire Department and provided emergency services to **38** suspected trafficking survivors.

CHANA provided the following services in 2025:²⁷

- Provided **3000+** crisis intervention and supportive counseling sessions.
- Served **687** victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and elder abuse with comprehensive services.

*Numbers do not total to 3,057 as unique survivors may be served in multiple capacities described.

The **Maryland Healthcare Coalition Against Domestic Violence** provided the following services from July 2025 to June 2026:^{23,27}

- Provided advocacy and support services to **77** survivors
- Held workshops built for survivors, attended by **60** survivors
- Sent survivor newsletter to **128** survivors

Additional Baltimore City Initiatives Providing Services to GBV Survivors

A **Domestic Violence High-Risk Team (DVHRT)** was formed in 2025. This multidisciplinary case review team focuses on providing coordinated systems and provider-based response to survivors at the highest risk of lethality. Participating agencies include domestic violence service providers, law enforcement, hospital-based DV programs, and other offender-focused public safety enforcement agencies.²⁴

» In 2025, **247** cases were reviewed.

The **Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative (BCHTC)** is a diverse group of stakeholders working together to combat both sex and labor trafficking in the City of Baltimore by teaching people about human trafficking through classes, training for police, and media, helping state and federal police investigate and catch traffickers, and supporting survivors by helping them get the care and services they need in a safe and respectful way. A sample of survivors served in Baltimore City by BCHTC member agencies in 2025 includes:^{22,24}

- » **Safe Exit Initiative (SEI)** served **1,611** survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation
- » **City of Refuge Baltimore** served **42** survivors of commercial sexual exploitation
- » **Asylee Women Enterprise (AWE)** served **34** survivors of labor and/or sex trafficking including **2** minors



Priority Area 3: Housing Stability and Economic Security

GBV Survivors Seeking Housing Services:²⁷

Serving Agency	Number Seeking Shelter	Number Placed	Number Not Placed ²	Increase in N not placed over 2024*
House of Ruth	1,941	442	1,499	+40%
TurnAround, Inc.	445	340	105	+28%
Mercy Medical Center	99	67	32	NA

Source: MONSE, 2026. *Among those not placed, some were not eligible for placement.

Additional Supports Addressing Housing Needs of GBV Survivors

The [Housing Authority of Baltimore City \(HABC\)](#) allows residents and participants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer or emergency move voucher from the resident or participant's current unit, to another unit under the covered program. Victims may need to provide proof of victimization, and in the case of residents, eligibility may depend on whether HABC has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the resident for temporary or more permanent occupancy.²⁸

The [Baltimore City Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#) is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) initiative. The CoC coordinates available resources to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in Baltimore City. [The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services \(MOHS\)](#), the designated lead agency for the CoC, has published an [interactive resource guide](#) for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.²⁹

Spotlight on Housing Insecurity

In a one-night review of unhoused persons in Baltimore City:

- **41** persons were unhoused due to IPV
 - » **32** in emergency shelter
 - » **3** in transitional housing
 - » **6** were unsheltered³⁰



Priority Area 4: Online Safety & Security

Technology facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is a recently recognized method of causing harm – one that reflects the rising role of technology in everyday life. Data on TFGBV remains limited at the state and local level in the United States, and further study is needed to understand victimization in Maryland and Baltimore City.

Baltimore City and Maryland-based organizations provide a developing network of digital-safety resources addressing cybersecurity, technology-facilitated intimate partner violence, online sexual exploitation, privacy and digital literacy.

- The **House of Ruth Maryland Training Institute** offers in-person, virtual, self-paced, and instructor-led training on Intimate Partner Violence & Technology among its available courses.¹⁶
- In 2025, **CHANA** partnered with Pro Bono Counseling on a virtual training titled Tech-Facilitated Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Best Practices for Therapists. The training covered assessment, technology-related safety planning, and safe remote service delivery.¹⁸
- The **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence** maintains a “Tips for Tech Safety” resource specifically for survivors experiencing technology-based stalking or harassment.³¹
- The **Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)** provides youth online-safety and cyber-safety resources.³²
- At the municipal level, **Baltimore City's Digital Inclusion Strategy** and cybersecurity resources promote residents' ability to use digital tools and online services safely, securely and confidently, which are essential for GBV survivors.³³

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Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice Systems

Protective Orders in Baltimore City, 2025

The **Baltimore City Sheriff's Office** serves temporary protective orders (TPO) and is often recognized for their consistency in proactively removing firearms at this stage of the process.

In 2025:¹³

- **2,761** applications for DV protective orders were filed
 - » **1,646** were dismissed
 - » **877** were dismissed due to failure of petitioner to appear
 - » **245** were dismissed due to failure to meet burden
 - » **1,115** resulted in a final order being issued (**40%**)
 - » Of the **1,115** DV orders issued, **529** had a reportable ground. In **50 (10%)** of these cases, the reportable ground was stalking.
 - » **96%** of granted orders had a firearm relinquishment clause
 - » More than **75** firearms were seized by the Sheriffs office in 2025

Laws: Gun Access and Protective Orders

- Maryland has an extreme risk/red flag gun policy allowing courts to temporarily limit an individuals' gun access (Md. Code Ann., Pub. Safety §§ 5-601—5-610) (2026).³⁴
- State and federal law prohibit gun purchasing or possessing among people convicted of IPV. In Maryland, this includes dating partners (i.e. it closes the legal “boyfriend loophole”) (Md. Family Law Code Ann. § 4-506, 4-501(m) (2026)).³⁵
- The Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act (FLEPA) (SB 20 / HB 83) was introduced in the 2026 General Assembly. This bill requires the surrender of all firearms when at the temporary protective order stage. The bill was not passed in the 2026 legislative session.³⁶
- As of 2026, new legislation has passed extending TPOs from 7 to 14 days, with a requirement that the final protective order hearing takes place within 14 days of TPO filing.³⁷

Firearms and IPV

The presence of a gun in the home during an IPV incident is associated with a **fivefold increase in risk of death**.³⁸

Extreme risk protective orders (ERPOs) offer another avenue of protection for survivors. In 2025, **37** ERPOs were filed in Baltimore City, for a rate of 7/100,000 residents. In contrast, **140** ERPOs were filed in Baltimore County, for a rate of 17/100,000 residents. The underutilization of ERPO filings relative to population size in Baltimore City represents an opportunity for GBV response systems strengthening.³⁹

GBV Connections: Baltimore City Data on Housing, Employment, Poverty

- **21%** of Baltimore City households face severe housing problems (2017-2021).⁴⁰
- **21%** of residents have a severe housing cost burden (i.e., spent more than **50%** of their income on housing) (2019-2023).⁴⁰
- **53%** of all renters are housing burdened.⁴¹
 - » Black or African American renters were most likely to be burdened (**57%**) at all income levels.⁴¹
- **6%** of high school Students experienced unstable housing in the past year (2026).⁹
- **26%** of children, and **18%** of all residents, live in poverty (2019-2023).⁴⁰
- **16%** of residents face food insecurity (2022).⁴⁰
- **20%** of high school students reported their family sometimes, most of the time, or always worried that their food would run out before they got money to buy more in the past year (2026).⁹
- **3%** of adults over age 16 are unemployed (2023).⁴²

Economic and housing insecurity are linked with GBV through mutually reinforcing pathways.

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