



**2020 National Week of Health Empowerment,
Non-Violence and Opportunities Survey©**

“What Do You Know About Violence?”

***Summary Report prepared by Black Women for Positive
Change and the Positive Change Foundation***

Summary of Demographics of Survey Respondents

Black Women for Positive Change conducted a survey of 100 individuals who participated in the 2020 Ninth Annual Week of Non-Violence nationwide, October 2020. This report shows the results of that survey. The goal was to measure responses of 100 individuals regarding their perspectives about violence, victims of violence and causes of violence.

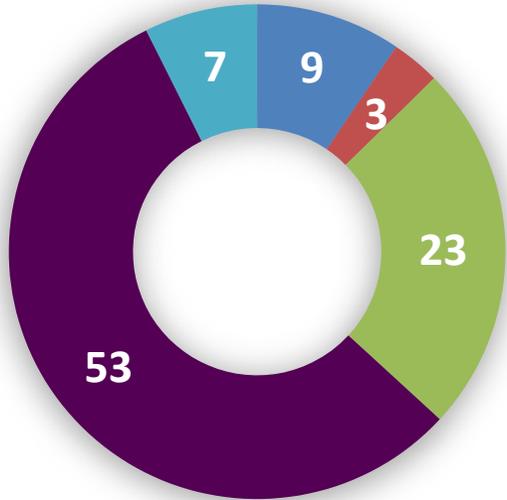
The demographic information is from 95 of the 100 people who took the survey. Five of the participants declined to provide demographic information:

- Respondents were from 16 states in the United States of America
- 74% of survey takers were women, and 21% were men
- The majority were baby boomers who took the survey ages 56-74 years, with Generation X, as the second category at ages 38-55
- 87% of survey takers were Black, 7% white and 4% mixed race.

Chart #1: Demographics: Who Took the Survey?

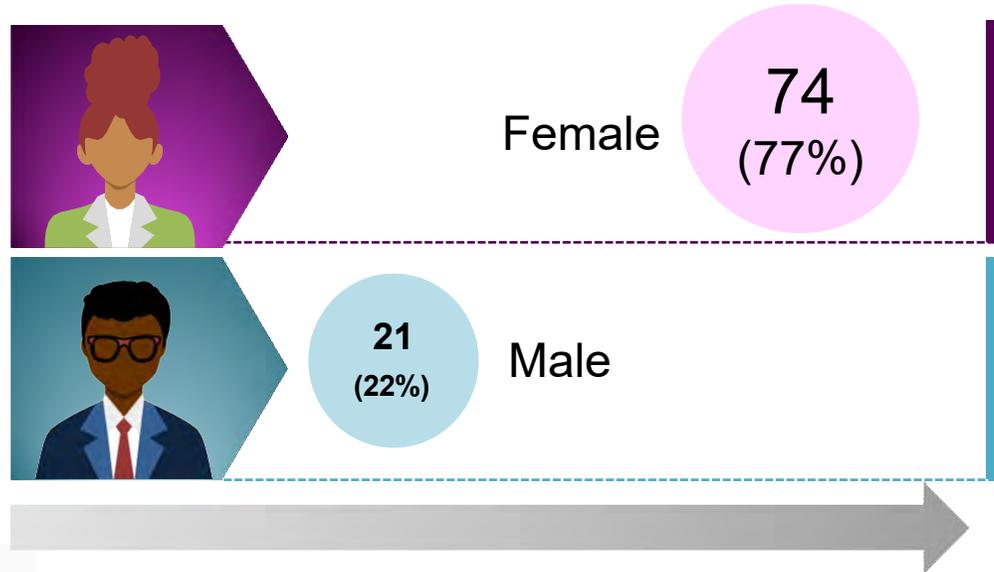
Out of 100 respondents, 95 people provided demographic information.

Generation



- GenZ: 14-23
- Generation X: 38-55
- Greatest Generation: 74+
- Millennials: 23-38
- Baby Boomers: 56-74

Gender



Participants by Region

Alabama	Massachusetts
Arizona	Nebraska
District of Columbia	New York
California	Ohio
Colorado	Pennsylvania
Florida	South Carolina
Illinois	Texas
Maryland	Virginia

Race/Citizenship Status

Black	White	Mixed	Immigrant Citizen
83	7	4	1
87%	7%	4%	1/10%

Gen Z 14-23	Millennials 23-38	Gen X 38-55	Baby Boomers 56-74	Greatest Generation 74+	Total
9	3	23	53	7	95
9%	3%	27%	56%	7%	100%

Chart 2: Survey Question

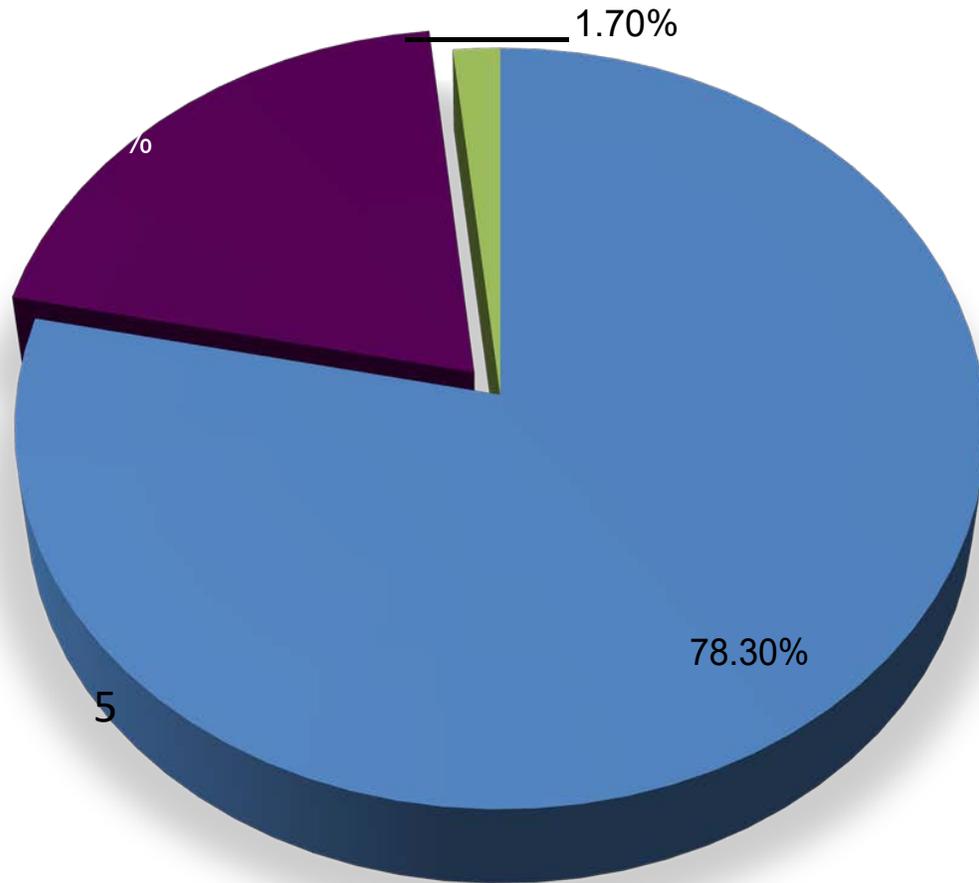
Do You Know Anyone Who Has Been the Victim of Violence?

Seventy-eight percent (78.3%) said they knew someone who has been a victim of violence and just over twenty percent (20%) indicated they did not know a victim of violence. The majority of survey takers were African American women between the ages of 38-74 years, from sixteen U.S. States and were employed, in school, or retired.

For 80% of survey takers to have personal knowledge of violence may indicate they experienced personal trauma, as a result of the experience. It is also possible that their children and family members may be aware of the violence or been present when it occurred. For many people, witnessing violence or knowing victims of violence is traumatic and stressful, and can contribute to more violence.

Chart #2: Violence Victims

Question: Do you know anyone who has been the victim of violence?



- Know Victims
- Don't Know
- Victims

Out of 100 respondents...

78.3% know a person who has been a victim of violence

20% do not know anyone who is a victim of violence

1.7% are unsure or do not wish to answer

Chart 3: Survey Question

Who or What Was Responsible for Violence Against the People You Know?

Fifty-three percent (53%) cited domestic violence as the reason for violence against the people they knew, 26% cited law enforcement as the reason and 26% cited community violence, which would include random violence or gangs. At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic is creating spikes in domestic violence, 53% is a troubling statistic since it indicates more violence could be occurring within households, and could result in increased numbers of youth and children witnessing household violence.

White Supremacy was cited by 14% of survey takers, as being responsible for violence against people they knew.

Chart #3: Sources of Violence

Question: Who or what is responsible for the violence against the people you know?

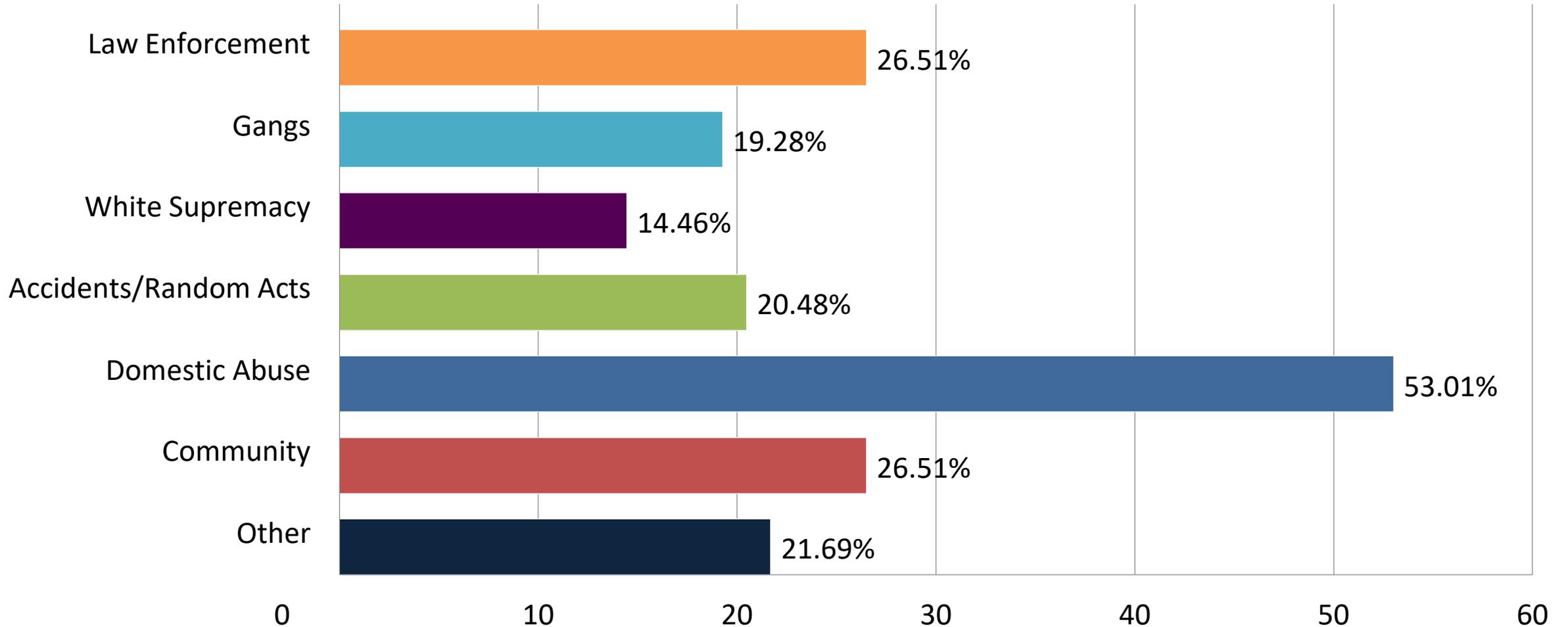


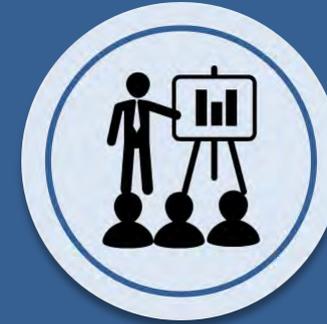
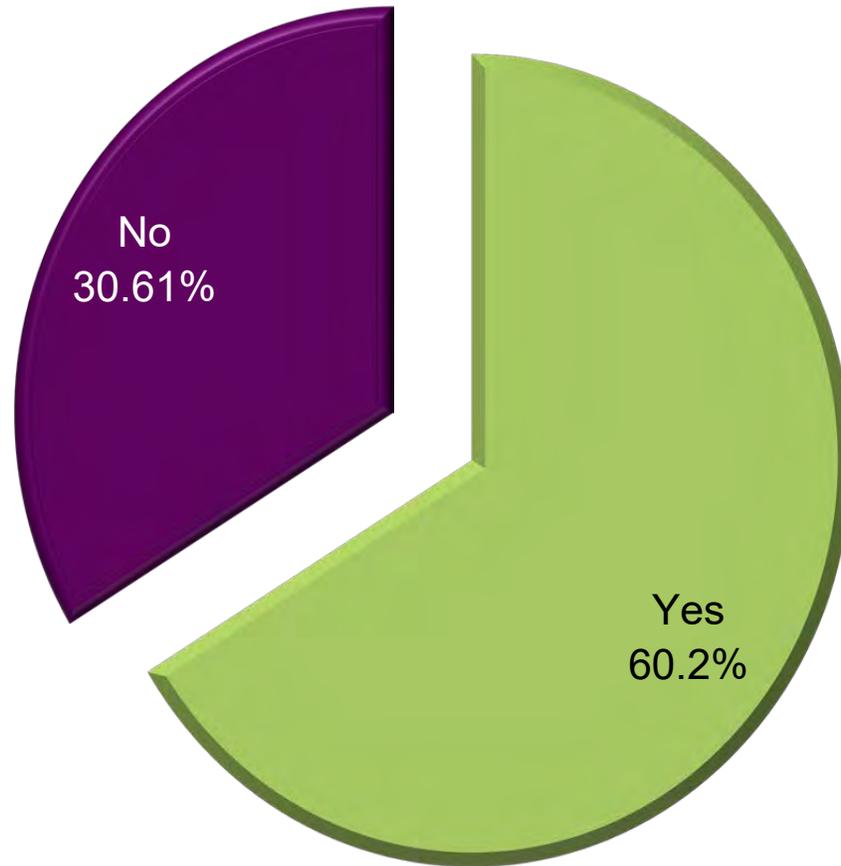
Chart # 4: Survey Question

Do You Know People Who Have Committed Violence Against Others?

Sixty percent (60%) of survey responders said they know people who have committed violence against others. These individuals were among the almost 80% who said they knew victims of violence. Can it be that the people who know the people who commit violence against the people they know, are also aware of the domestic violence cases cited as the majority of cases? If yes, what can individuals do who know people who commit violence against others? Do they inform law enforcement? Can they arrange interventions? Do churches play an active role? How can perpetrators learn to stop committing domestic violence?

Chart #4: Violence Against Others

Question: Do you know people who have committed violence against others?



60% of respondents know someone who has committed violence.

Chart #5: Survey Question

Describe the People You Know Who Committed Violence?

When asked to describe the people they know who committed violence, survey takers reported 20% as relatives; 19% police; 16% gang members, 6% co-workers and 26.9% other.

Examples of People Who Commit Violence

- Youth violence on the way home from school.
- Spouses
- Work-related; workforce violence (nurses assaulted by patients at work)
- Lateral violence in the professional workforce
- People who had violence committed against them by a family member.
- All of the above
- Family on Family.
- Referees and sports games
- Gun Violence against teenagers

Chart #5: Relationship to Violence

Question: Describe the People You Know Who committed violence?

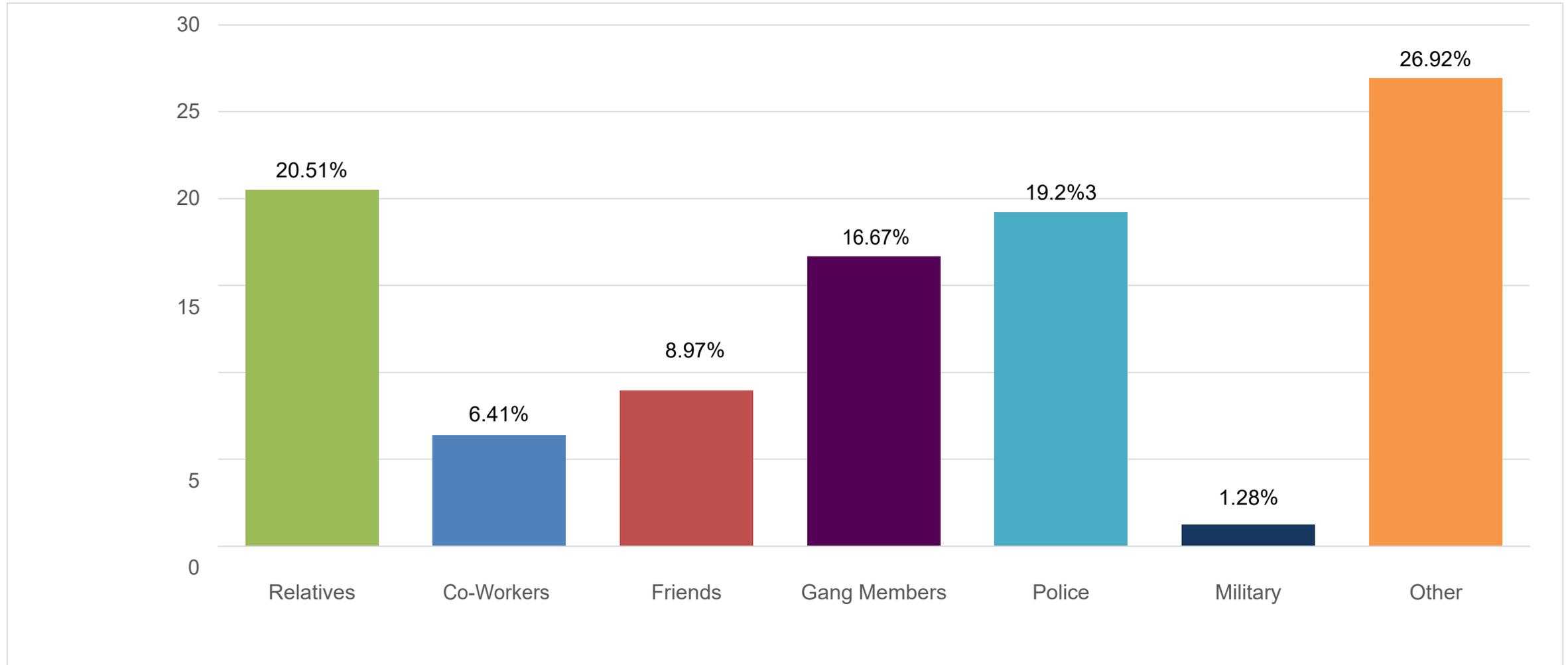


Chart # 6: Survey Question

What Do You Think Are the Primary Causes of Violence?

Anger was the top choice as one of the primary causes of violence selected by 19% of survey responders; Fear followed at 14%, Dysfunctional family was cited at 9 %, Racism at 8%, Abuse at 6% and poverty and hunger at 6 %. Additional research is needed to examine the types of anger that prompt people to display violence in domestic violence situations. However, some research indicates that one of the primary causes of domestic violence is when one of the family members tries to leave the household.

Chart #6: Perceived Causes of Violence

Question: What do you think are the primary causes of violence?

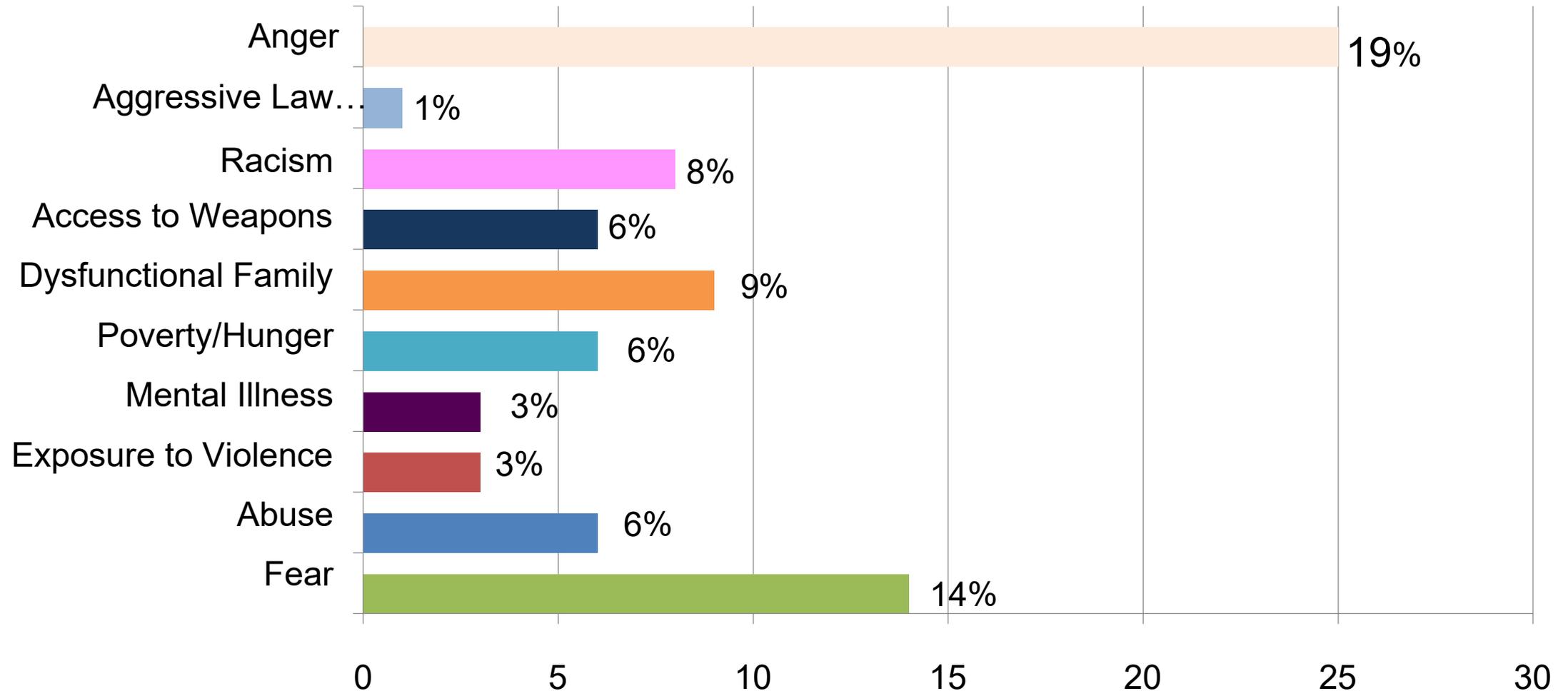


Chart #7: Survey Question

Question: Do You Believe Systemic Racism Leads to Violence Against Black People?

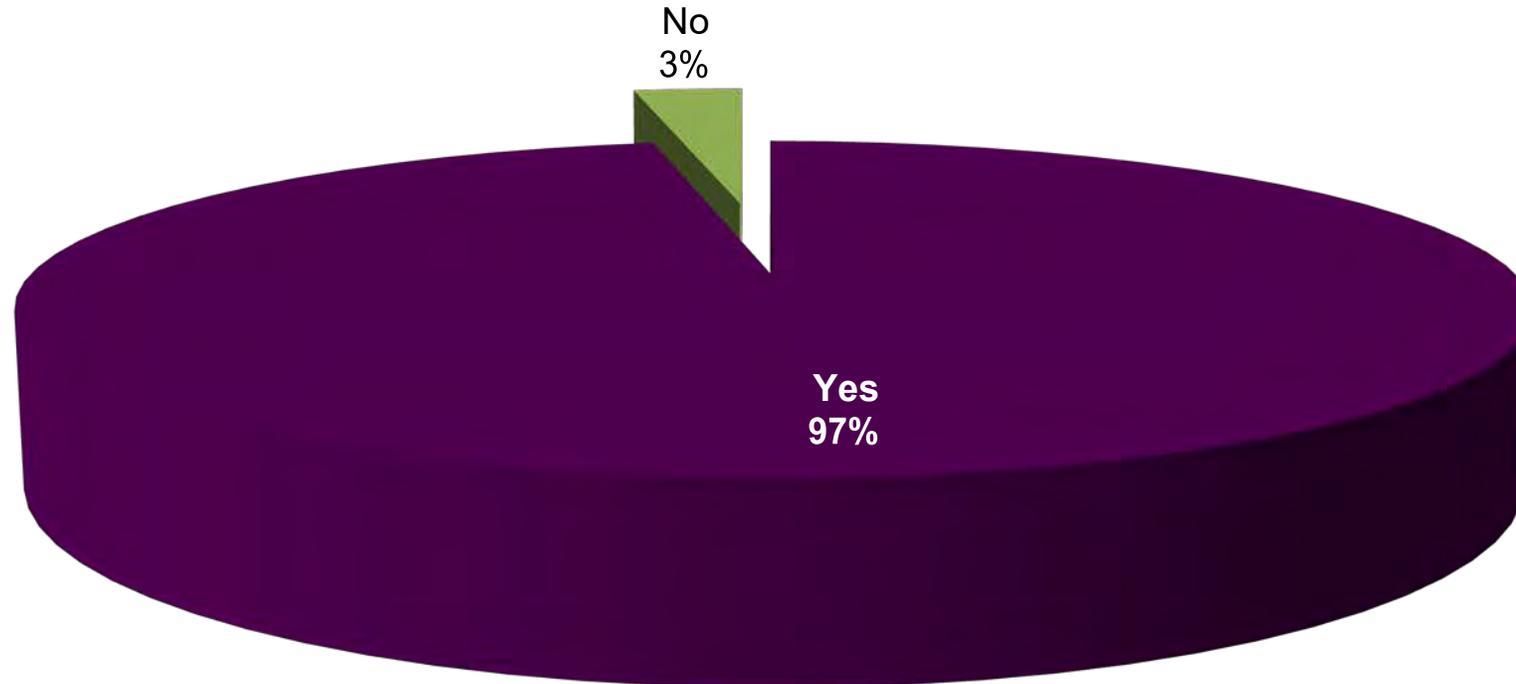
Almost all of the survey takers or 97% indicated that they believe systemic racism leads to violence against Black people. This can be interpreted to mean that respondents believe violence results from the systemic oppression of Black people in all aspects of their lives including families, jobs, education, employment, wealth, recreation, religion, housing, etc.

According to Webster Dictionary: Systemic Racism is the systemic oppression of a racial group to the social, economic, and political advantage of another. (Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/racism>)

Chart # 7

Violence and Racism

Question: Do you believe systemic racism leads to violence against Black people?



Out of 100 people, 97% respondents said, YES, they believe systemic racism leads to violence.

Conclusion

This report indicates that among the sample of 100 individuals, from 16 States, a significant majority of almost 80% personally know someone who is a victim of violence. The vast majority or 97% of respondents indicated they believe systemic racism contributes to violence. A majority also identified anger and fear as major components of violence in domestic violence situations, and violent situations that involve law enforcement. Most of the respondents indicated violence is committed by relatives of victims in domestic situations. Based on responses from the survey sample, the majority of respondents believe systemic racism reaches into domestic situations and creates conditions that result in fear, anger and violence.

Recently, President Joe Biden has publicly said he plans to address systemic racism and based on the results of this survey sample, the reduction of systemic racism should result in a lessening of violence in domestic situations, and in the community-at-large.

Survey Team

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Lisa Hughes, 2021 Nat. Coordinator, Week of Non-Violence

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Our Missions: (1) To preserve and expand the American Middle Working Class, with focus on the Black Community (2) To Change the Culture of Violence in America, and the World
(3) To Create Opportunities As Alternatives to Violence

www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org