

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVEY

May 2005

Conducted for

Morrison Institute For Public Policy
Maricopa Association of Governments

Prepared by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS	2
AWARENESS OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	2
PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	5
PERCEIVED LEVEL OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROBLEM	6
ATTITUDES ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	8
EFFECTIVENESS OF SELECTED METHODS OF REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	10
REACTIONS TO SELECTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCENARIOS	12
APPENDIX	16
SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE	16
DETAILED TABLES	17

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
TABLE 1: AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	3
TABLE 2: SOURCES OF ISSUE AWARENESS	4
TABLE 3: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	5
TABLE 4: PERCEIVED LEVEL OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROBLEM	7
TABLE 5: ATTITUDES ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	9
TABLE 6: EFFECTIVENESS OF METHODS OF REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	11
TABLE 7: REACTIONS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCENARIOS	13
TABLE 8: REACTION TO SELECTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCENARIOS – DETAIL, SCENARIO 1	14
TABLE 9: REACTION TO SELECTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCENARIOS – DETAIL, SCENARIO 2	15

INTRODUCTION

This study was jointly commissioned by the Morrison Institute For Public Policy and the Maricopa Association Of Governments. The primary purpose of this effort was to determine residents' attitudes about domestic violence in Arizona. More specifically, this study focused on the following key areas:

- Awareness of domestic violence
- Personal experience with domestic violence
- Perceived level of domestic violence problem
- Selected attitudes about the domestic violence issue
- Effectiveness of select methods of reducing domestic violence
- Steps residents would take if confronted with domestic violence situations

The information contained in this summary report was collected as part of Behavior Research Center's quarterly **MetroTRACK™** survey and is based on 600 telephone interviews conducted with heads of household in Maricopa County. All of the interviewing on this study was conducted by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center during May 2005. The margin of error for this survey is approximately +/-4.1 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

The Behavior Research Center has presented all of the data germane to the basic research objectives of this project. However, if Morrison Institute or MAG management requires additional data retrieval or interpretation, we stand ready to provide such input.

BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CENTER

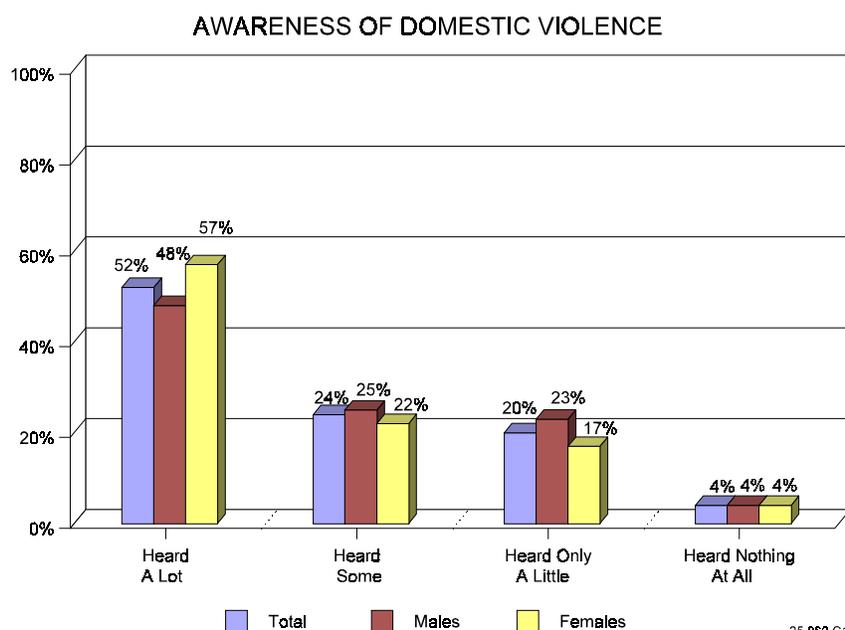
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

AWARENESS OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

When Valley residents are asked how much they have heard about the domestic violence in Arizona, we find that a majority indicate they have heard “a lot” (52%), while 24 percent indicate they have heard “some” and 20 percent “only a little.” Only four percent of Valley residents indicate they have heard “nothing at all” about the issue.

Those population subgroups which indicate they have heard the most (a lot) about domestic violence are:

- Low income residents (73%)
- Residents who have domestic violence experience (65%)
- Non-white and non-Hispanic residents (63%)
- Less educated residents (62%)
- Phoenix residents (60%)
- Females (57%)
- Older residents (56%)



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25.060\RPT Domestic Violence

TABLE 1: AWARENESS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

“Now I’d like to talk to you about domestic violence for a moment. First, would you say you have heard a lot, some, only a little or nothing at all about domestic violence in Arizona?”

	A Lot	Some	Only a Little	Nothing at All
<u>TOTAL</u>	52%	24%	20%	4%
<u>GENDER</u>				
Male	48	25	23	4
Female	57	22	17	4
<u>AGE</u>				
Under 35	52	24	21	3
35 to 54	50	25	21	4
55 or over	56	21	19	4
<u>INCOME</u>				
Under \$25,000	73	12	13	2
\$25,000 to \$44,999	48	26	20	6
\$45,000 to \$64,999	44	18	34	4
\$65,000 or over	52	27	18	3
<u>ETHNICITY</u>				
White	52	23	21	4
Hispanic	44	35	14	7
Other	63	18	17	2
<u>EDUCATION</u>				
High school or less	62	13	19	6
Some college	49	28	22	1
College graduate	48	28	20	4
<u>AREA</u>				
Phoenix	60	20	18	2
East Valley	49	26	21	4
West Valley	49	25	21	5
<u>EXPERIENCE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE¹</u>				
Yes	65	20	14	1
No	45	26	24	5

¹Has personally been, or knows someone close who has been, a victim of domestic violence

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Television news programs (69%) are most frequently mentioned as the source of domestic violence information, followed by newspaper articles (32%), word-of-mouth (21%) and radio talk shows (11%).

TABLE 2: SOURCES OF ISSUE AWARENESS (AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD ABOUT ISSUE)

“Where have you seen or heard about the issue of domestic violence in the last six months?”

|                       | <u>GENDER</u> |             |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
|                       | <u>TOTAL</u>  | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
| TV news               | 69%           | 73%         | 65%           |
| Newspaper article     | 32            | 30          | 35            |
| Word-of-mouth         | 21            | 16          | 26            |
| Radio talk show       | 11            | 13          | 9             |
| Personal experience   | 4             | 2           | 7             |
| Billboard/sign/flier  | 1             | *           | 1             |
| Internet              | 1             | 2           | 1             |
| None in past 6 months | 2             | *           | 3             |
| Don't recall          | 4             | 5           | 3             |

\* Indicates % less than .5

Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

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PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Four out of ten (40%) Valley residents reveal that either they, or someone close to them, has been a victim of domestic violence. The highest levels of domestic violence experience are recorded among low income residents, non-white residents, females, Phoenix residents and residents under 55 years old.

TABLE 3: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

“Have you or has anyone close to you ever been a victim of domestic violence?”

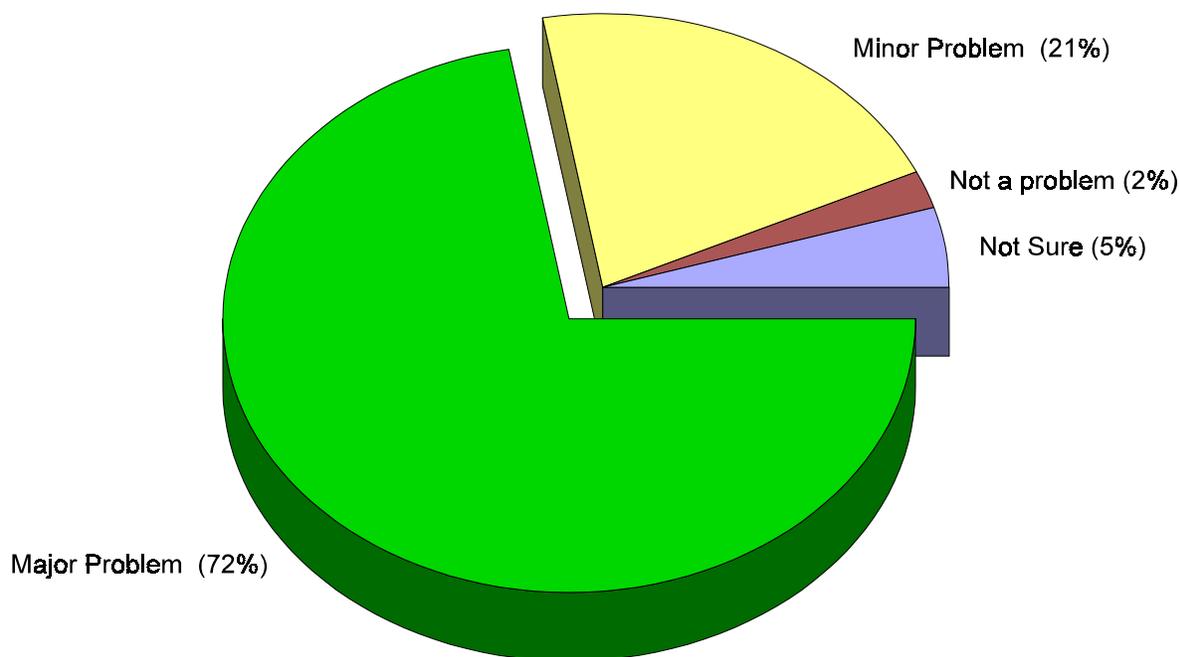
	<u>% YES</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	40%
<u>GENDER</u>	
Male	31
Female	49
<u>AGE</u>	
Under 35	47
35 to 54	45
55 or over	26
<u>INCOME</u>	
Under \$25,000	55
\$25,000 to \$44,999	38
\$45,000 to \$64,999	49
\$65,000 or over	33
<u>ETHNICITY</u>	
White	36
Hispanic	53
Other	53
<u>EDUCATION</u>	
High school or less	45
Some college	44
College graduate	35
<u>AREA</u>	
Phoenix	50
East Valley	34
West Valley	36

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## PERCEIVED LEVEL OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROBLEM

The vast majority of Valley residents (72%) believe that domestic violence is a “major” problem in Arizona, while 21 percent believe it is a “minor” problem. Only two percent believe it is “not” a problem. The belief that domestic violence is a “major” problem is universal across all population subgroups.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROBLEM



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**TABLE 4: PERCEIVED LEVEL OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE PROBLEM**

“As far as you are concerned, is domestic violence a major problem,  
a minor problem or not a problem in Arizona?”

|                                                          | Major<br>Problem | Minor<br>Problem | Not a<br>Problem | Not<br>Sure |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <u>TOTAL</u>                                             | 72%              | 21%              | 2%               | 5%          |
| <u>GENDER</u>                                            |                  |                  |                  |             |
| Male                                                     | 62               | 28               | 4                | 6           |
| Female                                                   | 83               | 13               | 0                | 4           |
| <u>AGE</u>                                               |                  |                  |                  |             |
| Under 35                                                 | 62               | 32               | 3                | 3           |
| 35 to 54                                                 | 75               | 16               | 2                | 7           |
| 55 or over                                               | 78               | 16               | 1                | 5           |
| <u>INCOME</u>                                            |                  |                  |                  |             |
| Under \$25,000                                           | 67               | 27               | 0                | 6           |
| \$25,000 to \$44,999                                     | 72               | 19               | 5                | 4           |
| \$45,000 to \$64,999                                     | 78               | 15               | 2                | 5           |
| \$65,000 or over                                         | 72               | 23               | 1                | 4           |
| <u>ETHNICITY</u>                                         |                  |                  |                  |             |
| White                                                    | 73               | 19               | 2                | 6           |
| Hispanic                                                 | 72               | 22               | 4                | 2           |
| Other                                                    | 66               | 29               | 2                | 3           |
| <u>EDUCATION</u>                                         |                  |                  |                  |             |
| High school or less                                      | 75               | 19               | 2                | 4           |
| Some college                                             | 69               | 23               | 0                | 8           |
| College graduate                                         | 72               | 20               | 3                | 5           |
| <u>AREA</u>                                              |                  |                  |                  |             |
| Phoenix                                                  | 78               | 15               | 0                | 7           |
| East Valley                                              | 71               | 23               | 3                | 3           |
| West Valley                                              | 66               | 25               | 3                | 6           |
| <u>EXPERIENCE WITH<br/>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup></u> |                  |                  |                  |             |
| Yes                                                      | 84               | 13               | 0                | 3           |
| No                                                       | 64               | 26               | 3                | 7           |

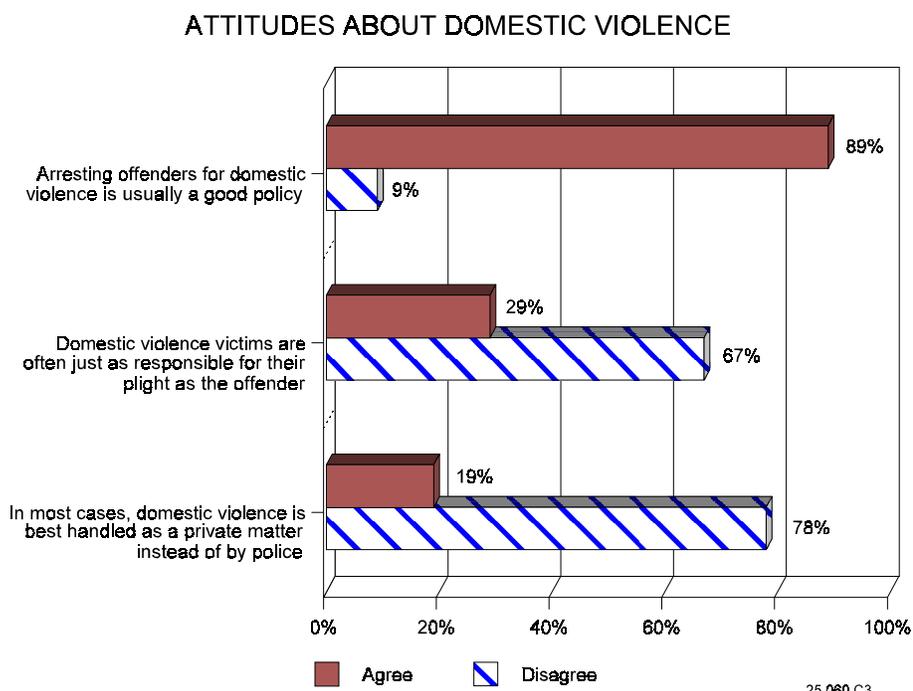
<sup>1</sup>Has personally been, or knows someone close who has been, a victim of domestic violence

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ATTITUDES ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By an overwhelming majority, Valley residents believe that domestic violence is best handled by police and not as a private matter. Thus we find that 89 percent agree with the statement, “arresting offenders for domestic violence is usually a good policy,” while only nine percent disagree, and that only 19 percent of residents agree with the statement, “in most cases, domestic violence is best handled as a private matter,” while 78 percent disagree. The data also reveals that by better than a two-to-one ratio residents are not inclined to place responsibility for domestic violence on the victim of the violence, with only 29 percent agreeing with the statement, “domestic violence victims are often just as responsible for their plight as the offender,” while 67 percent disagree.

Each of the above attitudes are consistent across population subgroups.



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TABLE 5: ATTITUDES ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

“Next, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements about domestic violence?”

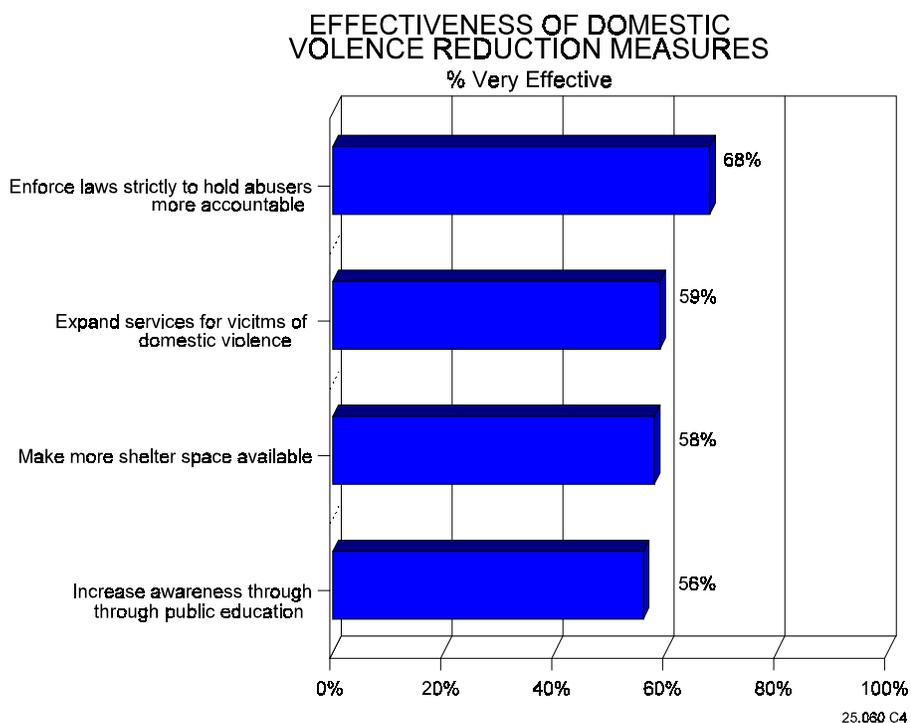
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Dis- agree	Strongly Dis- agree	Not Sure
Arresting offenders for domestic violence is usually a good policy	38%	51%	8%	1%	2%
Domestic violence victims are often just as responsible for their plight as the offender	5	24	46	21	4
In most cases, domestic violence is best handled as a private matter instead of by police	4	15	50	28	3
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## EFFECTIVENESS OF SELECTED METHODS OF REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Valley residents were asked to indicate how effective they felt each of four options would be in reducing domestic violence in Arizona. Here we find that each of the options tested is deemed as “very effective” by a majority of residents, with “enforcing laws strictly to hold abusers more accountable” receiving the highest “very effective” reading of 68 percent (only four percent believed this option would “not” be effective). Each of the other three options receive “very effective” readings from just under six out of ten residents.

- Expanding services for victims of domestic violence (59%)
- Make more shelter space available (58%)
- Increase awareness through public education (56%)

The readings on effectiveness are consistent across population subgroups.



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**TABLE 6: EFFECTIVENESS OF METHODS OF  
REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

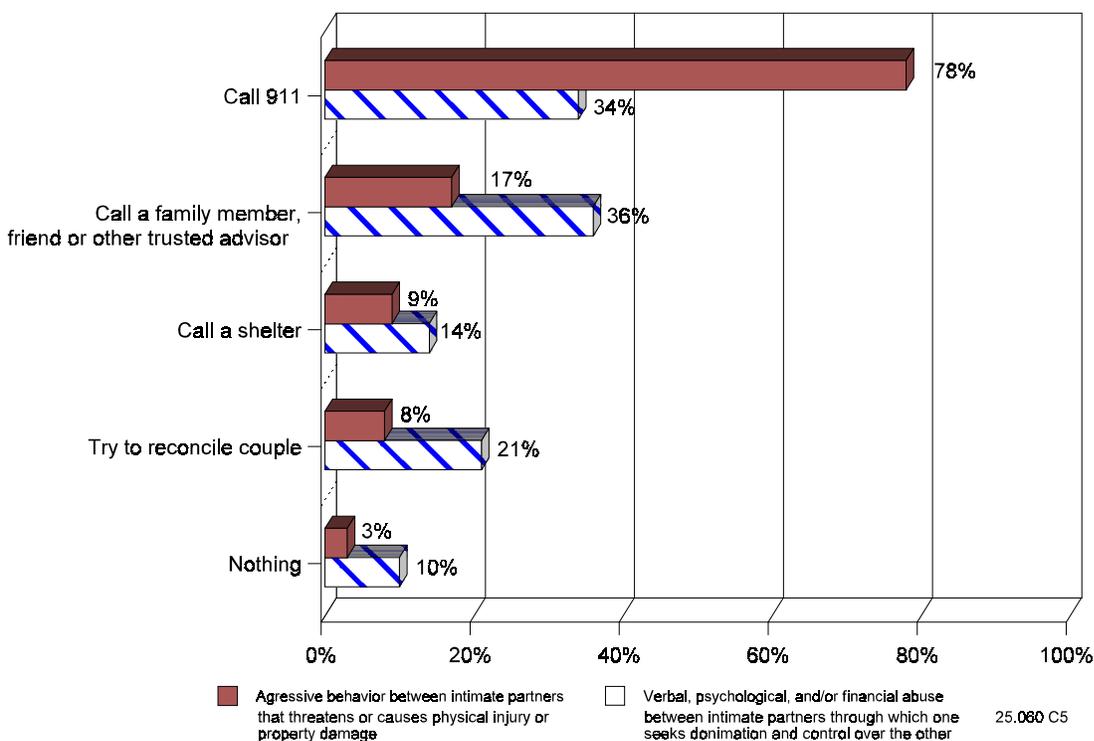
“Do you feel each of the following options would be very effective, somewhat effective or not effective in reducing domestic violence in Arizona?”

	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Effective	Not Sure
Enforce laws strictly to hold abusers more accountable	68%	25%	4%	3%
Expand services for victims of domestic violence	59	34	4	3
Make more shelter space available	58	31	7	4
Increase awareness through public education	56	36	6	2
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REACTIONS TO SELECTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCENARIOS

The final question on domestic violence asked residents to indicate what action, if any, they would take if faced with two possible domestic violence scenarios. This line of questioning reveals that, as might be expected, residents are far more likely to contact an external resource if the scenario included the threat of physical violence than they are if it did not. Thus we find that nearly nine out of ten residents (87%) would call an external resource (78% 911, 9% shelter) under the scenario “aggressive behavior between intimate partners that threatens or causes physical injury or property damage.” In comparison, only 48 percent of residents would call an external resource (34% 911, 14% shelter) under the non-violent scenario, “verbal, psychological, and/or financial abuse between intimate partners through which one seeks domination and control over the other.” Under this scenario, residents are more likely to try and remedy the problem without the help of authorities by either calling a family member, friend or other trusted advisor (36%) or trying to reconcile the couple (21%).

REACTIONS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCENARIOS



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TABLE 7: REACTIONS TO DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE SCENARIOS

“Now I’d like to read you a definition of domestic violence. If someone close to you were in this type of situation, which of the following things, if any, would you do?”

SCENARIO 1

“Aggressive behavior between intimate partners that threatens or causes physical injury or property damage.”

Call 911	78%
Call a family member, friend or other trusted advisor	17
Call a shelter	9
Try to reconcile the couple	8
Nothing	3
 <u>SUMMARY</u> ¹	
Internal	28%
External	87

SCENARIO 2

“Verbal, psychological, and/or financial abuse between intimate partners through which one seeks domination and control over the other.”

Call a family member, friend or other trusted advisor	36%
Call 911	34
Try to reconcile the couple	21
Call a shelter	14
Nothing	10
 <u>SUMMARY</u> ¹	
Internal	67%
External	48

¹Internal: call family member, try to reconcile, nothing

External: call 911, call shelter

Note: totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses

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When response to the two scenarios as analyzed by population subgroups, the following patterns are revealed:

SCENARIO 1: Response is generally consistent across subgroups

SCENARIO 2: Males, Hispanics and non-Phoenix residents are more likely than females, non-Hispanics and Phoenix residents to respond to this scenario internally. In addition, residents with domestic violence experience or more likely than those without experience to seek an external resource.

**TABLE 8: REACTION TO SELECTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCENARIOS – DETAIL, SCENARIO 1**

“Aggressive behavior between intimate partners that threatens or causes physical injury or property damage.”

|                                                      | Call 911 | Call Family Member/Friend or Advisor | Call Shelter | Try to Reconcile Couple | Nothing | SUMMARY <sup>2</sup> |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------|----------------------|------------|
|                                                      |          |                                      |              |                         |         | Internally           | Externally |
| <u>TOTAL</u>                                         | 78%      | 17%                                  | 9%           | 8%                      | 3%      | 28%                  | 87%        |
| <u>GENDER</u>                                        |          |                                      |              |                         |         |                      |            |
| Male                                                 | 72       | 18                                   | 7            | 13                      | 3       | 34                   | 79         |
| Female                                               | 84       | 17                                   | 11           | 4                       | 3       | 24                   | 95         |
| <u>AGE</u>                                           |          |                                      |              |                         |         |                      |            |
| Under 35                                             | 79       | 20                                   | 7            | 5                       | 2       | 27                   | 86         |
| 35 to 54                                             | 78       | 18                                   | 10           | 10                      | 2       | 30                   | 88         |
| 55 or over                                           | 76       | 13                                   | 9            | 10                      | 5       | 28                   | 85         |
| <u>INCOME</u>                                        |          |                                      |              |                         |         |                      |            |
| Under \$25,000                                       | 80       | 27                                   | 6            | 5                       | 3       | 35                   | 86         |
| \$25,000 to \$44,999                                 | 85       | 16                                   | 7            | 6                       | 1       | 23                   | 92         |
| \$45,000 to \$64,999                                 | 85       | 13                                   | 12           | 12                      | 3       | 28                   | 97         |
| \$65,000 or over                                     | 75       | 15                                   | 8            | 11                      | 3       | 29                   | 83         |
| <u>ETHNICITY</u>                                     |          |                                      |              |                         |         |                      |            |
| White                                                | 80       | 14                                   | 9            | 9                       | 3       | 26                   | 89         |
| Hispanic                                             | 74       | 26                                   | 5            | 1                       | 6       | 33                   | 79         |
| Other                                                | 69       | 28                                   | 8            | 11                      | 1       | 40                   | 77         |
| <u>EDUCATION</u>                                     |          |                                      |              |                         |         |                      |            |
| High school or less                                  | 78       | 17                                   | 6            | 7                       | 1       | 25                   | 84         |
| Some college                                         | 82       | 16                                   | 9            | 5                       | 5       | 26                   | 91         |
| College graduate                                     | 76       | 18                                   | 10           | 10                      | 3       | 31                   | 86         |
| <u>AREA</u>                                          |          |                                      |              |                         |         |                      |            |
| Phoenix                                              | 83       | 14                                   | 5            | 5                       | 3       | 22                   | 88         |
| East Valley                                          | 73       | 18                                   | 11           | 10                      | 3       | 31                   | 84         |
| West Valley                                          | 78       | 21                                   | 10           | 10                      | 3       | 34                   | 88         |
| <u>EXPERIENCE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup></u> |          |                                      |              |                         |         |                      |            |
| Yes                                                  | 79       | 19                                   | 10           | 8                       | 3       | 30                   | 89         |
| No                                                   | 77       | 16                                   | 7            | 8                       | 3       | 27                   | 84         |

<sup>1</sup>Has personally been, or knows someone close who has been, a victim of domestic violence

<sup>2</sup>Internal: call family member, try to reconcile, nothing

External: call 911, call shelter

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**TABLE 9: REACTION TO SELECTED DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE SCENARIOS – DETAIL, SCENARIO 2**

“Verbal, psychological, and/or financial abuse between intimate partners through which one seeks domination and control over the other.”

	Call Family Member/Friend or Advisor	Call 911	Try to Reconcile Couple	Call Shelter	No- thing	SUMMARY	
						Intern- ally	Extern- ally
TOTAL	36%	34%	21%	14%	10%	67%	48%
GENDER							
Male	31	26	29	11	12	72	37
Female	42	41	12	18	8	62	59
AGE							
Under 35	41	31	22	12	6	69	43
35 to 54	38	33	23	19	9	70	52
55 or over	28	36	16	11	14	58	47
INCOME							
Under \$25,000	29	39	27	9	5	61	48
\$25,000 to \$44,999	33	38	20	13	9	62	51
\$45,000 to \$64,999	42	34	22	22	12	76	56
\$65,000 or over	38	30	21	12	9	68	42
ETHNICITY							
White	38	32	19	15	11	68	47
Hispanic	35	31	30	6	8	73	37
Other	27	47	24	15	5	56	62
EDUCATION							
High school or less	28	38	26	8	9	63	46
Some college	37	32	21	15	9	67	47
College graduate	40	31	18	18	11	69	49
AREA							
Phoenix	34	45	17	16	6	57	61
East Valley	37	25	23	16	12	72	41
West Valley	37	32	22	10	12	71	42
EXPERIENCE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE¹							
Yes	37	39	19	21	8	64	60
No	36	30	22	10	11	69	40

¹Has personally been, or knows someone close who has been, a victim of domestic violence

²Internal: call family member, try to reconcile, nothing

External: call 911, call shelter

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