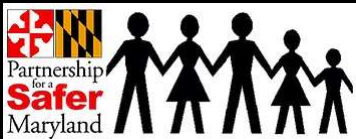


# Domestic Violence and COVID-19: National and Local Considerations During the Public Health Crisis

June 26, 2020



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## Today's Speakers:



**Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
Johns Hopkins University  
School of Nursing



**Janice Miller, MSW, LCSW-C**  
Director of Programs and Clinical Services  
House of Ruth Maryland

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### A few important reminders before we begin...

- Today's webinar is being recorded and will be uploaded to the Partnership for a Safer Maryland website [www.safermaryland.org](http://www.safermaryland.org)
- All attendees are muted by default.
- There will be a Q&A period at the end of the session. Please use the Chat feature to ask any questions you have throughout the presentation.
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- Step away if you need to!

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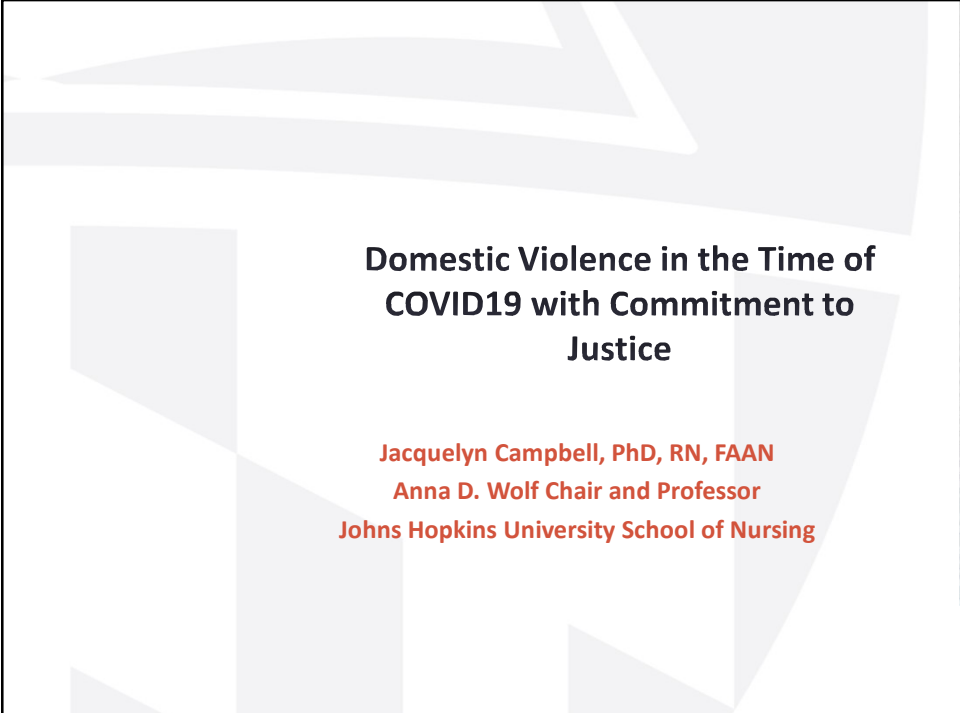
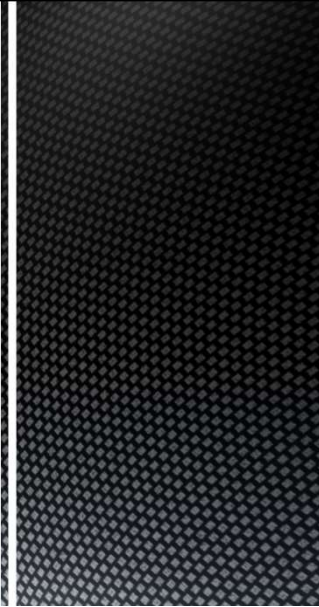


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**Domestic Violence in the Time of  
COVID19 with Commitment to  
Justice**

**Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
**Anna D. Wolf Chair and Professor**  
**Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing**



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### Trauma Trails in our Communities – including historical and structural racism – and now COVID19 -

- Isolation from extended family friends
- Death of loved ones or those we know
- Uncertainty of employment/income
- Stress of being in a small place with multiple people day after day
- If children, home schooling, dealing with their anxieties – their trauma response if witnessed IPV & if saw or heard about the police killings & aftermath – digital divides more stark and contributes to inequities
- Partner – cumulative trauma? Remember from brain science when “triggered” the response of someone traumatized is often anger and frontal cortex not engaged – can result in violent behavior
- Plus perception and probable reality for many that over-policing and unequal justice is true in relationship to DV also. Contributes even more to women of color being afraid to call the police – all of us trying to process images of violence and news coverage – remember immigrant community
- Reports but only a little real data that abusive Black men are “held accountable” more punitively than white men – everything from bail to violation of PO’s, incarceration

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## Theoretically

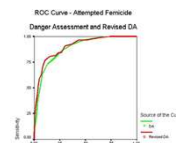
- What we know about IPV in the time of the Pandemic
  - Anecdotal evidence of horrific IPV
  - Uneven evidence of increase calls to DV hotlines & DV calls to police – locally specific
- Many couples reporting fighting verbally and saying nasty things to each other
- A person
  - If NOT highly traumatized
  - And if NOT having been abusive to a partner before
- Is unlikely to become violent for the first time
- BUT existing IPV may well happen more and worse – some evidence of increased Intimate Partner Homicide-Suicide through newspaper reports 3 & 4/2019 compared to 3 & 4/2020

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## DANGER ASSESSMENT (Campbell '86, '02, '09)

[www.dangerassessment.org](http://www.dangerassessment.org)

- Developed in 1985 to increase abused women's ability to take care of themselves (Self Care Agency; Orem '81, '92) – original DA used w/10 samples of 2251 abused women to establish preliminary psychometrics
- Interactive, uses calendar - aids recall plus women come to own conclusions - more persuasive & in adult learner/ strong woman/ survivor model
- “You actually see your own roller coaster ride; it was on the calendar.” (Woman in shelter in Alberta, CA)
- DA-5 - health care system, DA- I immigrant women, DA-R - LBGQT



**DANGER ASSESSMENT**

Instructions: Read each statement carefully. If you agree with the statement, write "yes" in the "yes" column. If you disagree, write "no" in the "no" column. If you are unsure, write "maybe" in the "maybe" column.

Statement	yes	no	maybe
1. I am afraid of my partner.			
2. I am afraid of my partner's anger.			
3. I am afraid of my partner's violence.			
4. I am afraid of my partner's threats.			
5. I am afraid of my partner's jealousy.			
6. I am afraid of my partner's possessiveness.			
7. I am afraid of my partner's isolation.			
8. I am afraid of my partner's manipulation.			
9. I am afraid of my partner's lies.			
10. I am afraid of my partner's promises.			
11. I am afraid of my partner's threats of suicide.			
12. I am afraid of my partner's threats of self-harm.			
13. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to others.			
14. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to my children.			
15. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to my pets.			
16. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to my property.			
17. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to my reputation.			
18. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to my career.			
19. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to my family.			
20. I am afraid of my partner's threats of harm to my community.			

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpretation: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Danger Assessment

[www.dangerassessment.org](http://www.dangerassessment.org) (Campbell et al 2009)

### Items related to COVID19

1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?

#### 4. Is he unemployed?

12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?

13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance: does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car?

16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?

17. Does he threaten to harm your children?

19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?

**DANGER ASSESSMENT**  
Copyright © Campbell et al, 2009. Updated 2019. [www.dangerassessment.org](http://www.dangerassessment.org)

Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicide (murder) of women and men in violent relationships. The current product what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation. Using the calendar, please mark the appropriate dates during the past year when you were abused by your partner or ex-partner. Write on that date how bad the incident was according to the following scale:

1. Clapping, pushing, no injuries, no other lasting pain
2. Punching, kicking, twisting, cuts, and/or bruising pain
3. "Beating up" severe contusions, burns, broken bones
4. Threat to use weapon, head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage or choking (use a 0 in the date to indicate choking/strangulation/cut off your breathing - example 4/0)
5. Use of weapon, wounds from weapon (if any of the descriptions, use the highest number apply, use the highest number)

Mark Yes or No for each of the following. "Yes" refers to your husband, partner, ex-husband, ex-partner, or someone currently physically hurting you.

1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
2. Does he ever yell?
3. Have you felt him after being together during the past year?
4. If he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?
5. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon? (If yes, was the weapon a gun?)
6. Does he threaten to kill you?
7. Has he ever been arrested for domestic violence?
8. Do you have a child that is not his?
9. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
10. Does he ever try to choke/strangle you or cut off your breathing? (If yes, has he done it more than once, or did it make you pass out or black out or make you dizzy?)
11. Does he ever threaten you with a weapon, such as a knife, gun, hammer, wrench, screwdriver, or other sharp object, or a gun?
12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance: does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here.)
14. Is he violent and consistently violent? (If violence, does he use "I can't leave you, no one can.")
15. Have you ever been sexually abused by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant to him, check here.)
16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
18. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?

Take "Yes" Answer

Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means to your situation.

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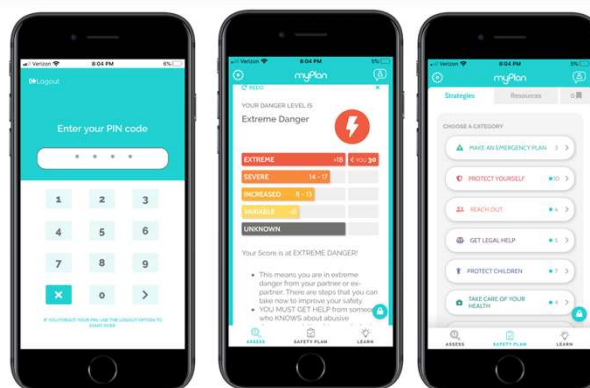


Leveraging Technology to Empower Safety Decisions for IPV Survivors and Concerned Friends and Family

Developed by Dr. Nancy Glass at JHSON, **myPlan** assists users to:

- assess the health & safety of a relationship
- make decisions about safety and well-being
- connect to resources

Backed by research, private, and free via web, iOS, or Android  
[myPlanApp.org](http://myPlanApp.org)

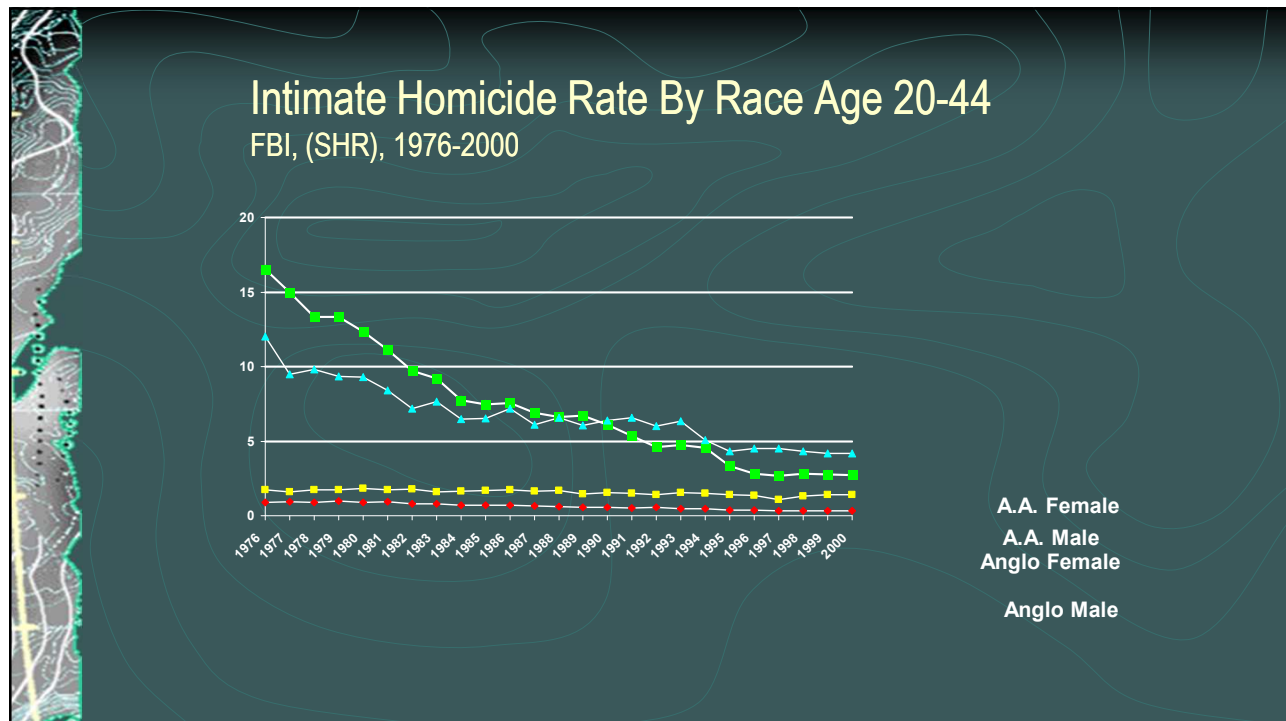


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## Ways Forward

- Remember people experiencing violence do not call the police unless things are really bad – never have – and whatever the field works toward needs to have some sort of armed response when an abused person and/or a child calls the police b/c the person using violence has a gun to their partner's head
- LAP evaluated in OK – when police called to a home for DV - abused women determined to be at “high risk” who actually talked with a DV Advocate at the scene – immediately – they had less and less severe follow-up violence
  - Important that woman was told “at high risk to be killed”
  - Lethality screen used was derived from the Danger Assessment in a long process with DV Advocates, Law Enforcement and researchers – developed protocol together
  - Lethality screen was made user friendly for police officers - deliberately calibrated so that overestimated risk – over 2/3 of women met in OK met threshold
  - Piloted with in depth interviews of police and of women –
  - MD data showed same - that engagement by voice at scene resulted in more follow-up engagement with DV Services when advocates reached out afterwards even more engagement
  - Very few women declined answering the questions

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## Ways Forward

- Working with Casey Gwinn, Beth Richie, Ron Adrine, Dorothy Lennig, Janice Miller and about 30 others across DV to try to arrange a convening in order to response across sectors
- Any police response needs to have officers screened for racism, trained with de-escalation, trained in DV by advocates – DV advocacy within PD's and/or Family Justice Center model –
- But equally important is a version of “offender intervention” non CJ linked – it's a myth that those who use violence won't go unless court mandated – re-visioning must be funded and supported
- For those who “use” violence (less perjorative/demonizing language) like in VA – assumes those who use violence are traumatized (“Strength at Home”) RCT tested and reduces both use of violence and PTSD – trauma focused (not just trauma informed) – HOR MD model
- Add parenting and getting jobs for both
- This is what abused women have always wanted and asked for
- Safety planning that's as much about staying and staying safe as it is that in order to leave - remember all communities of color – including immigrant communities

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## My personal 2020 resolve

- Examine and confront the structural racism in all of our systems – health care, university, research with deep cultural humility.....
- Including in DV systems – are those who use violence who are Black more likely to be “held accountable” – with jail, with convictions, with bail, with gun removals – because of “priors”? – the result of structural racism – over-incarceration – structural racism in CJ – Black abused women jailed because of “failure to protect” – far more than white women would have been – 60 minutes 6/14
- Does that mean Black people experiencing violence are even less likely to call police? How to reach out – especially in a Pandemic?
- Some evidence of more homicide-suicides in COVID19 – little other actual data – existing IPV may be exacerbated – by alcohol also
- If unemployment increases risk of IP homicide – then providing employment for an abuser would be one of the most important safety strategies to provide
- Become an agent of healing – from trauma and an agent of change

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“There is a feeling in black communities that the only time violence against black women is taken seriously is when it can be used to feed the arrest and detention of black men.” Beth Richie

“It’s never too late for justice” Bryan Stevenson

“The Fierce Urgency of Now” Martin Luther King

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## COVID 19 Impact: House of Ruth Maryland’s Experience

Janice Miller, MSW, LCSW-C

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## Our Mission

House of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end violence against women and their children by confronting the attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear.



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## Some Demographics

- In FY 2019 HRM served 11,753 unique individuals including:
  - 7,862 adult victims.
  - 597 children who witnessed abuse.
  - 536 abuse intervention clients.
  - 1,907 friends, family and concerned others.
- 91% identified as female, 9% identified as male.
- 47.5% were age 30-44, though we served individuals birth to over 60 years of age.



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Source: White, J. HRM FY2019 Statistical Review Package.

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## IPV and African American Women

- Black female victims experience intimate partner violence at a rate of 35% higher than White women and about 2.5 times the rate of women of “other” races.
- Studies note that the enduring discrimination against black men places a responsibility and burden on African American women regarding their decision to involve police.
- African American women need to consider that their calls for help to the police may result in the incarceration of the abusive partner as well as further stigmatization of Black men as inherently violent.



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Source: Grossman, S. and Lundy, M. (2007) Domestic Violence Across Race and Ethnicity: Implications for Social Work Policy and Practice. Violence Against Women. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801207306018>

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## Across Maryland, in FY2019 HRM Served:

60.87% Black/ African American/ African  
(1.49%)

2% Asian/ Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander  
(0.11%)

2.32% Multiracial  
19.51% Identify as Hispanic

15.09% Caucasian/ White

0.17% Native American



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Source: White, J. House of Ruth Maryland FY2019 Statistical Review Package.

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# HRM Services

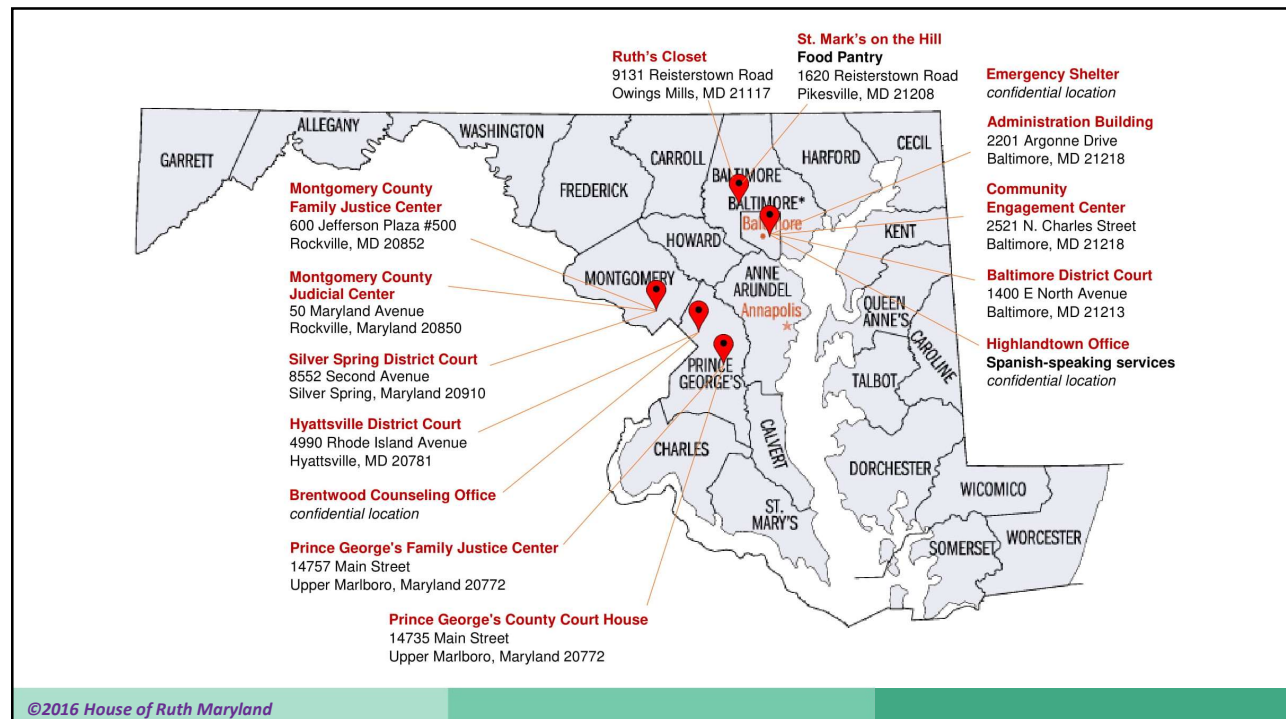
- 24 Hour Hotline
- Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing
- Service Coordination for Survivors
- Safe Homes Strong Communities: Rapid Re-Housing
- Evidence Based Trauma Counseling
- Legal Assistance
- Training Institute
- Abuse Intervention Programs
- HRM Highlandtown

**Today, House of Ruth Maryland is recognized as one of the nation's most comprehensive IPV centers.**



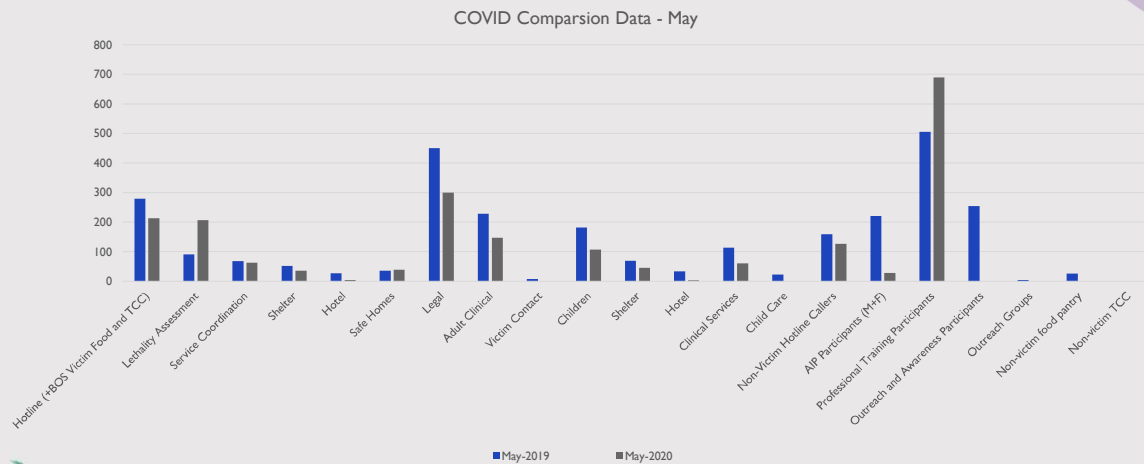
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## Overall comparison May 2019 to May 2020



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Source: McCarthy, D. and White, J. House of Ruth Maryland Client Database. Retrieved June 23, 2020

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## Very Real Hardships

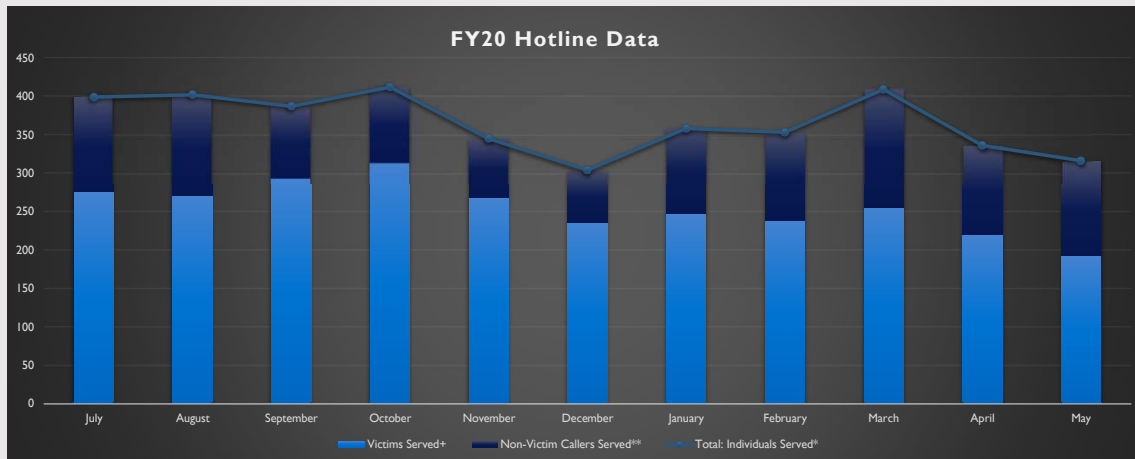
- Situations reported are much more dangerous, desperate.
- Lack of access – physical and remote.
- Ability to outfit and protect staff.
- Financial need of clients and staff.
- Safety and ethics of doing online groups.



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## Trending down in the wake of COVID



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Source: McCarthy, D. and Miller, J. House of Ruth Maryland Client Database. Retrieved June 23, 2020.

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## Steps to reach survivors in need

- Information on how to access services on our website
- Radio and online interviews
- Created PSA to help survivors access court services
- Addition of a chatline for voiceless contact



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## SAMPLE PSA

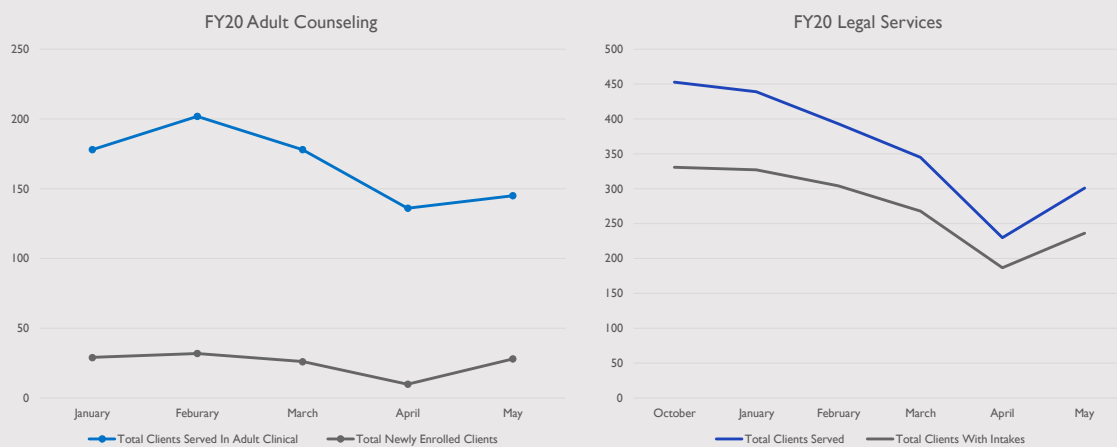
- [Courts are Open PSA](#)



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## Post pandemic limits: Steady but rising trends



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Source: McCarthy, D. and Miller, J. House of Ruth Maryland Client Database. Retrieved June 23, 2020.

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## Steps to Adapt to a Socially Distant World

### Telehealth

- Frees up geography
- Manages mask anxiety
- Doxy.me

### Staffing

- Staggered shifts
- Managing fatigue
- COVID cases

### Confidentiality

- Docusign
- Intersecting with public health while maintaining privacy

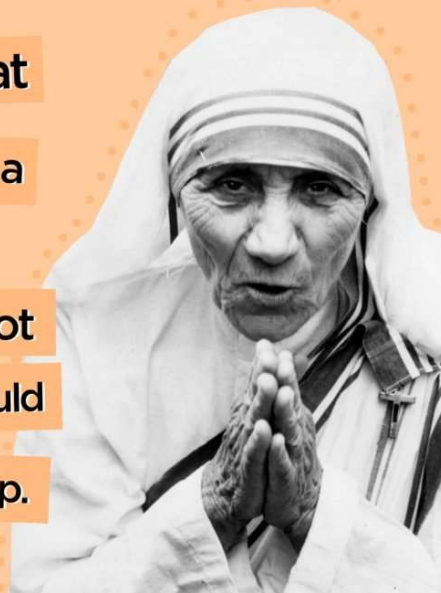


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**We ourselves feel that  
what we are doing is just a  
drop in the ocean.**

**But if that drop were not  
there, I think the ocean would  
be less by that missing drop.**



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Quote: Mother Teresa  
Photo credit: Tatiana Ayazo / Rd.com, shutterstock

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## Thank You!

To learn more about House of Ruth Maryland or to access chat service, visit our website at [www.hruth.org](http://www.hruth.org)

To access services call our 24 hour hotline at 410-889-7884.

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