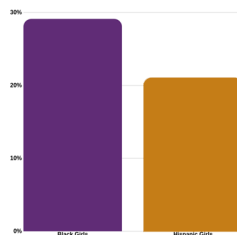


YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR AND EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

Structural barriers are **systemic challenges** embedded in our culture, economy, and institutions that **cause inequality**. Produced by systems of power, they require **large-scale investment** and **policy solutions** to achieve meaningful change. In 2017, CLASP conducted focus groups* with young women of color to learn what structural barriers they encounter in daily life. This fact sheet includes insights from **African-American, Gender Nonconforming, Latina** and **Native** young women about experiences with violence. Uprooting exposure to violence and other structural barriers demands **turning over the ground** to reveal these root causes, **partnering with young women of color** to identify solutions, and **seeding change** in equitable ground.

PEER VIOLENCE

Peer violence occurs when young people find themselves in environments that are physically, socially, or emotionally unsafe. Overcrowding, lack of resources, discrimination, and exclusion from decision-making processes all contribute to unsafe environments.¹



29.1% of Black girls, and **21%** of Hispanic girls report being in a physical fight during the past 12 months.²

"I was a fighter, too. I used to spend a lot, because I was just angry, and I just didn't like anybody."

- Denver

IDENTITY-BASED VIOLENCE



More than 1 in 4 trans people have faced a bias-driven assault. Rates are higher for trans women and trans people of color.³

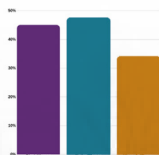
29

In 2017, advocates tracked at least 29 deaths of transgender people in the United States due to fatal violence, the most ever recorded.⁴

"He come over... lifted up my shirt and ripped my shirt and I had to fight.."

- Washington, D.C.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Nearly 1 in 2 Black women (**45%**) and Native women (**47.5%**), and more than 1 in 3 Hispanic women (**34%**), report experiencing contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.⁵

Among female victims who experience intimate partner violence, **73.4%** reported an impact, such as PTSD symptoms, feeling fearful, being concerned for her safety, or missing days of school or work.⁶

"Well, as a woman growing up here... I mean, we struggle with domestic violence or watching your mom struggle with domestic violence or sex trafficking or just things like that. And those start off with the guy, like if you're with a certain guy and he's known here and like he hangs out with some people, not only he's at risk, but you're at risk and your child."

- Washington, D.C.

RE-ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Community violence happens when complex environmental factors like poverty, structural racism, and easy access to alcohol, drugs and weapons coincide.⁷

Children and adolescents exposed to violence are at risk for poor long-term behavioral and mental health outcomes regardless of whether they are victims, direct witnesses, or hear about the crime.⁸

1,912

Black young people ages 18-24 are injured by violence at a rate of 1,912/100,000, increasing the likelihood that those around them will be exposed to violence.⁹

“My cousin recently went to his friend’s birthday party. When I say, he never even in gang banged – no none of that, and my cousin is paralyzed for the rest of his life just to go celebrate his friend’s birthday because they mistakenly shot him because they thought he was somebody else. Now, that right there broke my heart because it’s like this boy can’t ever get up and walk again, he can never have kids, none of that just besides sit there and look. Of course, he can move around, but that’s not him.”

- Birmingham

FATAL GUN VIOLENCE



In the United States, gun violence is a major public health problem and a leading cause of premature death.¹⁰



Black young men ages 18-24 die by gun violence at the astronomically high rate of 103.24/100,000.¹¹



Black young women ages 18-24 are more than 2.5 times as likely to die by gun violence as white young women, at a rate of 8.74/100,000.¹²

“What I think, like is a negative, a lot of black women here is are really raising their kids by their selves, and not because fathers are leaving, a lot of fathers getting killed out here, and that’s hard.”

- Birmingham

“It got to the point where now I’m not even surprised that when I found out someone that I knew or known has gotten killed. It’s like oh my God. It’s just because it’s like you know it’s going to happen, you just never know when it’s going to happen, you know?”

- Birmingham

*CLASP conducted five focus groups with African-American, Hmong American, Native, and Latina girls and young women as well as gender non-conforming youth as part of a research project with Frontline Solutions focused on structural barriers and identity. Different groups of young women highlighted different structural barriers and each group that we spoke to is not represented on every fact sheet.

¹ Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2017 Standard Questionnaire Item Rationale, https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/2017_standard_YRBS_item_rationale.pdf

² CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

³ National Campaign for Transgender Equity

⁴ Human Rights Campaign

⁵ Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Berkeley Media Studies Group, Preventable or Inevitable: How do Community Violence and Community Safety appear in California News, 2015.

<http://www.phi.org/resources/?resource=bmsg-ca-media-violence-research>

⁸ Healthy People 2020, <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/crime-and-violence>

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2016. www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars

¹⁰ American Public Health Association, Preventing Gun Violence,

https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/factsheets/160317_gunviolencefs.ashx?la=en&hash=AB71DE1BEDEBB2A797F8EC378E672791904FCF87

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2016. www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars

¹² Ibid.