

# 2023

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# Biennium REPORT

**PRESENTED BY**



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# INTRODUCTION

## **Our vision:**

We serve the people of Oregon to empower and support women through our special roles as policy advisors to Oregon state policy makers and leaders. The OCFW is a catalyst that empowers partnerships between state government and women in rural and urban areas to ensure success for all women by addressing issues at the policy level.

## **Our mission:**

Created under the administration of Governor Mark Hatfield, organized in its current role under Governor Victor Atiyeh, and serving 10 administrations, the OCFW's statutory mission is focused on establishing economic, social, legal and political equality for women through continuing assessment of the most pressing needs of women and girls statewide.

## **Our strategic focus:**

To accomplish its mission, the OCFW works both within its committee structure and as a committee of the whole, collaboratively with the Governor, state legislators, agency leadership, community partners, and the other Advocacy Commissions to study issues and promote policy that reduce barriers and increase access and success for women in six strategic focus areas.

- Education
- Jobs and the economy
- Healthcare
- Justice, safety and policing
- Housing and stable families
- Civic engagement
- Environmental equity/justice

## **Who we are:**

The OCFW is composed of nine distinguished community members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, along with two legislators, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House respectively.

### Structure of Commission

The Commission is comprised of eleven members, nine of whom are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate for three-year terms. The President of the Oregon Senate and the Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives each appoints one Legislative member for two-year terms. All Commission members abide by the Commission's by-laws and the Oregon Code of Ethics set forth in ORS 244.050.

The Commission's Standing Committees include an Education Committee, a Health Committee, and Social Justice Committee. Other committees are called by the Chair as needed.

# MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

## LEADERSHIP OF OCFW



Chair Natasha  
Haunsperger



Vice Chair Krista  
Parent



**Natasha Haunsperger, Portland, OR**

Natasha Haunsperger has been a Portland Police Officer for fourteen years and is currently assigned to the Office of Community Engagement, Chief's office. In her current position, Officer Haunsperger has been working on addressing complex criminal justice-related issues with immigrant and refugee communities in the Portland Metro area. Ms. Haunsperger created a unique police program that focuses on connecting police officers with newly arrived refugees and immigrants as a part of building trust, promoting cultural awareness, and welcoming and assisting new community members in their process of adaptation.

In her previous assignment at the Criminal Intelligence Unit, Ms. Haunsperger focused on both intelligence and criminal investigations involving foreign-born labor trafficking subjects in the state of Oregon. Officer Haunsperger also co-produced a documentary film on foreign-born labor trafficking, "Reclaiming Their Lives," and is actively working on raising public awareness about trafficking trends in the Pacific NW. Officer Haunsperger is committed to developing a training curriculum for first responders and community-based stakeholders, focusing on early detection and identification of possible labor trafficking activities and victims identification and rescue.

Ms. Haunsperger received her B.A. in Russian Language from Portland State University in 2004. In 2015, Ms. Haunsperger was a recipient of the Rotary International Peace Studies scholarship and completed a three-month course in "Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies" at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. In 2020, Ms. Haunsperger received a Master's Degree at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS).

As a former war refugee and an immigrant from Croatia, Ms. Haunsperger is very involved with the immigrant and refugee communities in Portland and committed to promoting social and community justice. Her interests entail gardening, baking, and exploring the PCNW. She resides in Portland.

**Krista Parent Cottage Grove, OR**

Dr. Krista Parent has been an educator in Oregon for the past 36 years. She began as a teacher, principal, curriculum director and assistant superintendent before becoming South Lane School District's superintendent in 2001 where she stayed for 18 years – all in the same district! Krista was named the National Superintendent of the Year in 2007 by AASA, and one of four distinguished National Superintendents in 2014 by NASS. Beginning in July 2018, Krista became the Director of Executive Leadership for the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA). Parent leads the development of COSA's new Executive Leaders for Oregon initiative. This executive leadership program was launched in the 2018-19 school year, and is designed to support the development of aspiring, early career, and veteran superintendents throughout the state of Oregon.

Krista earned three degrees, all from the University of Oregon, where she began her undergraduate program as an aspiring teacher while starting all four years on the Oregon Duck Softball team. Krista has been a keynote speaker and author on a variety of topics related to leadership. Krista is the mother of two young-adult children who are both products of Oregon public schools. In Krista's spare time she is an avid fitness buff and reads all things Educational Leadership, Equity and Anti-Racism, and advocates for girls and women in every setting possible.



# COMMISSIONERS

## WOMEN BEHIND THE WORD



Commissioner  
Camille Mercier



Commissioner  
Ugonna Enyinnaya



Commissioner  
May Saechao



Commissioner  
Angela Rico



Rev. Dr. Deborah L.  
Patterson



Senator Sheri  
Schouten

### **Commissioner Camille Mercier , Grand Ronde, OR**

Camille Mercier is currently the Human Resources Director for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde. She has over 25 years' experience in the Human Resources field working in Oregon, Iowa and Washington. Camille is passionate about finding opportunities to support women and minorities to become self-sufficient through job training, education and employment opportunities.

Camille is an enrolled tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and is proud of her culture and ancestry. Her grandmother Margaret Provost, along with two others, led efforts that eventually regained federal recognition to the Grand Ronde tribe.

Camille earned a MBA degree from Willamette University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Fox University. Her interests include art projects in a variety of mediums, traveling, spending time with her spouse and her adult son that was recently sworn in as a police officer.



## COMMISSIONERS

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### **Commissioner Ugonna Enyinnaya , Beaverton, OR**

Ugonna Enyinnaya is a lawyer by training and has worked in the legal field for seven years. She currently works for the Oregon Department of Justice in the Child Advocacy Section, supporting DOJ attorneys in providing advocacy for abused, neglected and abandoned children throughout Oregon.

Ugonna was born and raised in Nigeria. She obtained a Bachelor of law (LLb Hons) from Abia State University in Nigeria; a Barrister at Law Certificate from the Nigerian Law School; Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a focus on Public Management from Dowling College, New York and Master of Law in Employment Law (LLM) from Atlanta John Marshall Law School.

Ugonna runs a faith based nonprofit where she hosts conferences to empower and inspire women and youths in her community to pursue their dreams and live their authentic lives. She is also a small business owner.

### **Commissioner May Saechao, Portland, OR**

May Saechao is a life long native of the Pacific Northwest, oldest of seven siblings, and born and raised in Oregon from refugee parents. May's Iu Mien ethnic background originated from China. As a refugee of the Laotian Civil War, May's family was a part of the largest refugee resettlements in United States history. May's passion for advocacy stems from life experiences which helped shape her overall perspectives, compassion, and empathy for others. Her work is deeply rooted in the resiliency and perseverance of the Iu Mien people through its history of hardship and oppression.

May grew up in a working-class family whose parents experienced the many challenges that all working class families encounter. However, she realized that people that are disadvantaged had to work harder to access resources from our public and private institutions. The system barriers that families continue to experience motivates her work as an advocate for families who experience poverty and lack the necessary resources and tools to succeed.

Today, you can find May in spaces that allow her to simultaneously work on systems and institutional barriers while advocating for the underrepresented, and giving a voice to these communities. May continues to raise awareness and educate other communities about the rich culture of the Iu Mien, and speak for marginalized folks who continue to be left out of conversations. May believes in the value of relationships and building but earning the trust of the people, which is where you will see May devoting much of her time in community events interacting with constituents.

May earned her Bachelor's of Science in Criminology with a minor in Psychology at Portland State University. She has extensive experience working as a public servant for the State of Oregon, where she currently works as an Advocate for Department of Justice – Civil Rights Unit, helping those needing assistance surrounding hate crimes, bias incidents, or victims of sanctuary promise violations. May

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## COMMISSIONERS

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has spent the last 15+ yrs working in public safety in a variety of roles. Much of her decision to enter this field had much to do with her experience as a woman and challenging herself to go outside of the norm, breaking the cultural expectations in her family and community.

Outside of community advocacy and her professional life, Ms. Saechao's leisure time includes spending it with her husband, children, dog, close friends, and extended family. As oldest of seven siblings, May feels blessed to have a large family and even larger extended family and very much enjoys family gatherings. Her hobbies include culinary everything (cooking and eating), traveling, indulging in documentaries, Chinese historical series, and true crime shows.

### **Commissioner Angela Rico, Portland, OR**

Angela Rico is currently assigned as the Violence Against Women Act Deputy District Attorney in the Office of the Multnomah County District Attorney. In her current role, Angela works towards helping survivors from the most underrepresented backgrounds navigate the criminal justice system, and helps connect them with support and resources to end the cycle of domestic violence. Angela has been able to work towards increasing visibility of the diverse population in Multnomah County within the office, and highlight the unique issues that affect specific populations. Her approach towards her work has always been community based with an eye towards collaborative and holistic prosecution. Angela brings to her work her unique background as an immigrant from Colombia, a queer identifying Latina, and someone who cares deeply about bringing cultural awareness into every part of the work she does. As someone who is both bicultural and bilingual, she tries to aid other prosecutors in her office to understand the background of the people we work with.

Angela is a proud graduate from Portland State University having received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a minor in Criminal Justice. Angela is also a proud duck, having graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law. As a child, Angela grew up in Beaverton, Oregon. She went to Conestoga Middle School and Southridge Highschool. Prior to working at the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Angela worked with Governor John. A. Kitzhaber on education policy, and for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission supporting the commissioners and the executive director in reshaping the higher education landscape in Oregon. During law school Angela had the opportunity to work directly with Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and the Honorable Erious Johnson on civil rights litigation. Angela also had the distinct honor of working with the Honorable John V. Acosta in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon as a judicial extern.

Angela enjoys hiking, the unique gastronomy of Oregon, and being the proud mama of her yorkie, Gizmo.



### **Representative Dr. Patterson Salem, OR**

Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Patterson is an ordained clergywoman in the United Church of Christ, currently serving a 130-year old rural Congregational church in the Mid-Willamette Valley. She represents District 10, which includes South and West Salem, Monmouth, Independence, Turner and Aumsville, and parts of Four Corners and unincorporated East Salem.

Prior to her return to active ministry, she was Executive Director of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, which equipped RNs to provide health care advocacy and education around the world. Deb also has served as the Executive Director of Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries, based in Portland, and was vice president of a children's health philanthropy. She has also served on the senior management team of a multi-hospital health system in the Midwest. Deb has served on a wide variety of governing boards for health and human service organizations, including hospitals, transitional housing, residential care, and community-based services. She is currently Chair of the Marion Council Health Advisory Board and was recently appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the Oregon Disabilities Commission.

Deb holds Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music, a Master of Health Administration from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and master's and doctorate degrees from Eden Theological Seminary. She is a strong advocate for healthcare for all, for access to quality education for all ages, and for social justice, including climate justice. During her first term in office, she will be working to make healthcare, housing, and childcare more affordable, and will work to expand employment options, from expanding apprenticeship opportunities, to helping small businesses recover from the pandemic's challenges, to growing clean energy jobs that pay living wages.

Deb is the Mom of two young adults, one of whom has special needs, and is married to Dr. Stephen Patterson, who holds the George H. Atkinson Chair of Religious and Ethical Studies at Willamette University.

### **Senator Sheri Schouten , Beaverton, District 27**

Sheri Schouten has more than 30 years of experience as a public health nurse. She has spent a lifetime helping families in Oregon raise healthy children. Her expertise led her to be appointed by the Governor to the Oregon Commission on Women, where she can help shape family-friendly policies. She is a proud lifetime resident of Washington County, having settled in Beaverton to raise her three sons, all proud college graduates.

Helping families like hers not just get by but get ahead is the reason Sheri chose to serve as State Representative for her community. Her legislative priorities focus on community health, and human services.



# GUEST SPEAKERS

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**Amanda Swanson**, Oregon Department of Justice

**Ashley Cadotte**, Assistant U.S. Attorney

**Bri Condon**, Bradley Angle House

**Cedar Wilkie Gillette**, DOJ Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Persons Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office  
District of Oregon

**Denise Harvey**, Tribal Council Woman for Confederated  
Tribe of Grand Ronde  
**Cheryl Myers**, Deputy Secretary of  
State

**Erin Greenawald**, Assistant U.S. Attorney

**Kelly Jenkins Pultz**, U.S. Department of Labor

**Laura John**, City of Portland Tribal Liaison

**Megan Wai**, Senator Deb Patterson Chief of Staff

**Paula Whitefoot**, Indigenous Elder, Member of the  
National Advisory Council on Indian Education

**Representative Maxine Dexter**

**Representative Tawna Sanchez**

**Representative Lisa Reynolds**

**Rose Ngo**, Bradley Angle House

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Graphic By: Canva



# WORLD OREGON EXCHANGE EVENT

On August 12, 2022, the OCFW participated in the WorldOregon Exchange Event. The OCFW had the pleasure of coordinating with women in government from Japan to share strategies, communicate cross-cultural challenges and learn from others' experiences. Cultural gifts were also exchanged between both parties to symbolize the partnership between the groups.





# EVENTS HOSTED



Photo Provided By - [vta.org](http://vta.org)

## Human Trafficking Luncheon

In August 2022, Natasha Haunsperger hosted a Labor trafficking Task Force meeting for the Portland Police Bureau and OCFW. Commissioner Haunsperger highlighted that homeless runaway youths are most susceptible to labor and sexual trafficking, especially in Oregon. The driving factors for human trafficking include economic reasons, armed conflicts, failed states, labor motivated migration, climate/ refugee migration, and trans global mobility access<sup>[1]</sup>. Trafficking is a high profit crime that is also low risk: There is a \$150billion profit for human trafficking and \$9.5 billion profit for labor trafficking<sup>[1]</sup>.

The current reporting system for trafficking puts an enormous amount of pressure on the victim, making it difficult to address the problem and perpetrators. Victims of trafficking have been referred to as having “velvet shackles” since the victims are largely dependent upon the resources provided by the perpetrator in order to survive<sup>[1]</sup>. Four other states in the country have tried to address a Trauma Informed Response to this issue in order for victims to feel incentive to seek help<sup>[1]</sup>. The Victim Response Subcommittee has been created in order to help find a solution to this nationwide problem.

# Ending Violence against Indigenous and Native Women and Girls

Raising Awareness on Murdered and Missing Indigenous People in Oregon

Tue, May 24th  
12:00 p.m.

Webinar Registration: [tinyurl.com/ocfwMMIP](https://tinyurl.com/ocfwMMIP)

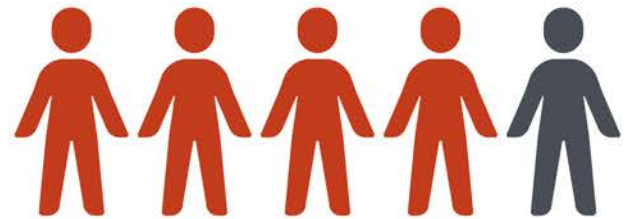


Image By: OCFW

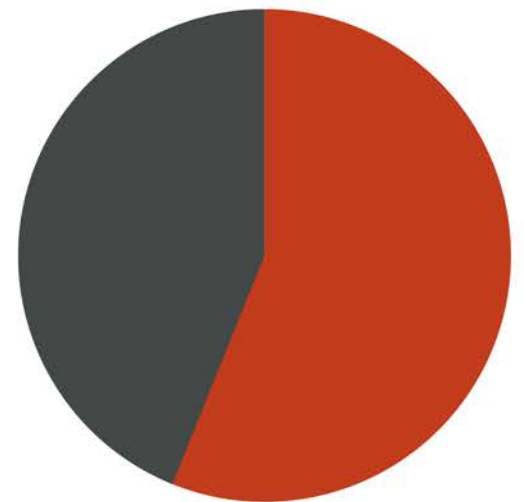
## Raising Awareness of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Persons Webinar

Every year, Native American and Alaska Americans experiences murder, rape, abductions, and violent crimes at higher rates than the national average. In the National Institute of Justice's "Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Crisis" study, it was found that more than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women(84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetimes<sup>[2]</sup>. This includes 56.1 percent who have experienced sexual violence<sup>[2]</sup>. This is not a new issue in the US. However, it has been overlooked time and time again and it needs to stop. On May 24th, 2022, the OCFW held an informative webinar to bring awareness to this devastating reality for the majority of Native and Alaska American women.

During the 2019 Oregon Legislative session, Representative Tawna Sanchez introduced HB 2625, which directs Department of State Police to study how to increase and improve criminal justice resources relating to missing and murdered Native American women in

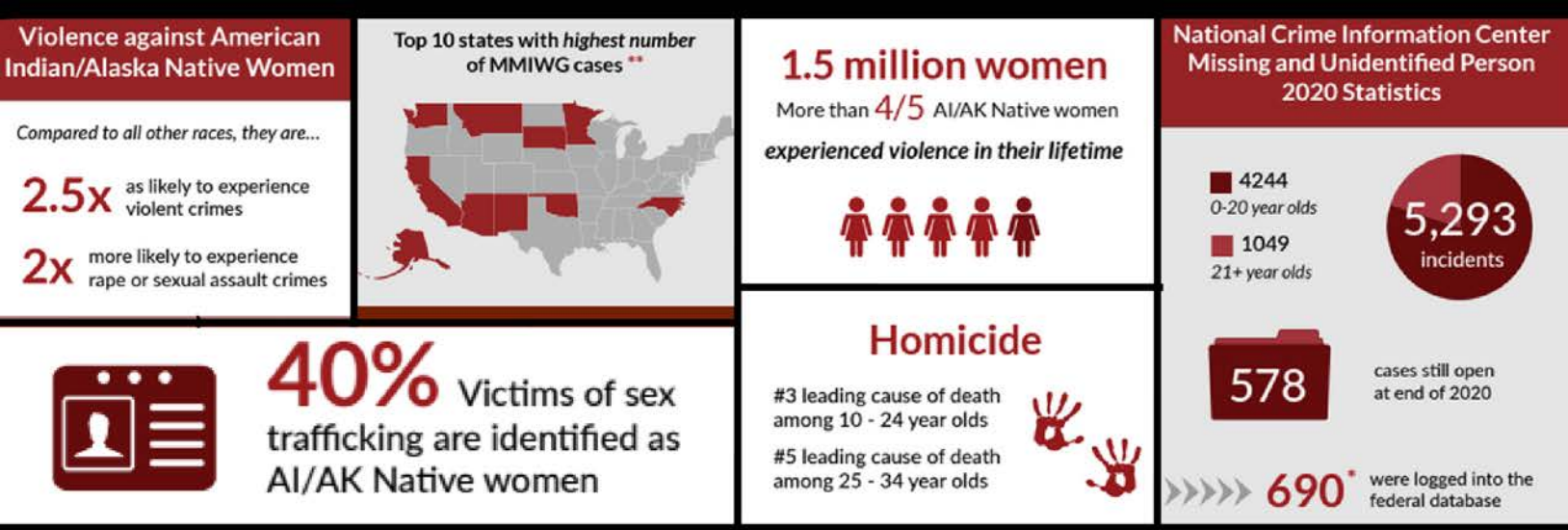


Percentage of Indigenous Women who have experienced violence in their lifetime



Percentage of Indigenous Women who have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime





(National Criminal Justice Training Center)

Oregon and report to appropriate committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020<sup>[3]</sup>. HB 2625 was passed and went into effect in July of 2019, starting the Missing and Murdered Native American Women Work Group<sup>[3]</sup>. The Work Group traveled across Oregon, interacting with various tribal partners and community groups in order to better understand this issue and establish more strategic ways to report and investigate these cases<sup>[3]</sup>.

As of January 23, 2020...

- There was 13 missing Native women in Oregon<sup>[3]</sup>.
- 69% of the reported missing Native American women were under 18, and the overall average age on the date of the data snapshot was 20.8 years old<sup>[3]</sup>.
- 53% had been missing for three month or less, and 84% had been missing less than 12 months.

The goal of the panel is to bring awareness to the complex issue of racial, socio-economic, public health, and justice inequities, disparities, and structural challenges to detecting, documenting, reporting, and investigating the incidents of missing and murdered Native American and Indigenous persons.

We aim to start a series of conversations on the existing statewide efforts to combat violence against Native American and Indigenous people and identify the gaps and opportunities to improve our state's response and prevention strategies and programs.

**Event Guest Panelist:**

Denise Harvey  
 Representative Tawna Sanchez  
 Cedar Wilkie Gillet  
 Laura John  
 Patricia Whitefoot



# Response to Russian Invasion of Ukraine





We, members of The Oregon Commission for Women, come together to condemn war and violence, and to stand in solidarity and offer our support to our community members who have been affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Our advocacy, empathy, and compassion are not bound by borders or country of origin. Oregon is home to approximately 150,000 immigrants and refugees from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including families from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, and others. We extend our love to the Oregonians who have family, friends, and connections in these regions and have been impacted by this conflict.

In these difficult times, it is critical to support one another, and recognize our shared humanity and right to safety, security, and freedom from violence. We see and support the anti-war Slavic/Eastern European community in Oregon and across the globe. And we acknowledge the diverse Oregonians who have been impacted by conflict in their homelands.

The Oregon Commission for Women is committed to improving the lives of women and girls in this state and beyond. Our thoughts are with all women standing strong in conflict today. We are here to support the Oregonian women and girls with ties to Eastern Europe and to mitigate the impact this war has on them today and in the future.

**Oregon Commission for Women**

**Chair:**

Natasha Haunsperger

**Vice-Chair:**

Dr. Krista Parent

**Commissioners:**

Ugonna Enyinnaya

Camille Mercier

Angela Rico Cornwell, Esq.

Helen Richardson

May Saechao

**Legislative Members:**

Senator Deb Patterson

Representative Sheri Schouten

**Oregon Advocacy Commissions**

**Office Staff**

Albert Lee, Executive Director

Nancy Kramer, Policy & Research

Dr. Kyl Myers, Public Affairs

Ava Stevens, Executive Support



Language and Culture-Specific Resources for Slavic/Eastern European individuals and families in the Portland Metro area:

**Lutheran Community Services NW**

<https://lcsnw.org/office/portland/>

503.231.7480

Programs Offered: Citizenship Program; Crime Victim Service Center; Immigration Counselling and Advocacy Program; Multicultural Counseling Services; Refugee Resettlement Program

**IRCO Slavic and Eastern European Center (SEEC)**

<https://irco.org/who-we-are/slavic-and-eastern-european-center.html>

971.386.3990

Programs Offered: Early Childhood Services; Youth Advocacy; Employment Programs; Health Education for Seniors

**Slavic Oregon Social Services**

<https://emoregon.org/ross/>

503.777.3437

**24/7 Crisis Line** 503.381.7757

Programs Offered: Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services





# WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENTS AWARDS 2022

Since 1985, the OCFW has presented the Women of Achievement Awards to women who are exemplary role models and actively promote the status of women across the state. This year's awardees continue this tradition with their demonstrated commitment to excellence in serving diverse and historically marginalized Oregon women.

On February 25th, 2022, OCFW announced the recipients of the 2022 Women of Achievement Awards, Karol Collymore and Ginny Burdick. The two honorees are recognized for their dedication to improving the lives of women and girls in Oregon.

These recipients demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting equity and diversity opportunities for women. Awardees were honored in a virtual ceremony on Friday, March 18, 2022. The awardees joined an impressive list of 105 past awardees, all of whom epitomize the Oregon State motto – “She Flies With Her Own Wings.”

## Celebrating the Great Work of Oregon's Women



Photo from Youtube Recording



# OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES

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## Karol Collymore

Karol Collymore is the Inclusive Community Senior Director for Social & Community Impact at NIKE, Inc. In that work, she gets to lead a portfolio focused on philanthropy through the lens of race, gender, sexual orientation, and the intersections therein. Before Nike, she was the Public Affairs Director for the Early Learning Division at the State of Oregon. She also served as the Executive Director of the Equity Foundation. Karol has worked with diverse organizations such as the American Heart Association, Pro-Choice Oregon, and Metro Regional Government. Karol loves to volunteer and is currently president of the Cascade



AIDS Project board, where she helped lead a merger between CAP and Our House of Portland. She is a member of the Portland Trail Blazers Foundation board (Go Blazers), and she serves on the Hood to Coast Inclusion committee.

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## Ginny Burdick

Ginny Burdick served in the Oregon Senate for 25 years before her appointment by Governor Kate Brown to the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council last year. In the Senate, Burdick was best known for her leadership on gun safety legislation. Laws passed during her tenure include universal background checks for gun purchases; removal of guns from domestic violence abusers and people at risk to themselves or others; and requirements that guns be stored safely. Burdick led the Senate Democratic caucus for five years as Majority Leader and for five years before that she served as President pro tempore of the Senate. She chaired or co-chaired several committees, including Judiciary, Rules, Finance and Revenue and Marijuana Legalization. She is most proud of her work on gun safety, tax policy and civil rights. She is looking forward to her new challenge on the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council.





# 2022 SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

\*SB 1556

Requires Department of Human Services to establish certification process for direct care providers of home or community-based services and implement online registry of direct care providers of home or community-based services.

SB 1547

Requires operators, employees and certain volunteers of preschool recorded programs and school-age recorded programs to be enrolled in Central Background Registry.

SB 1572

Extends definition of "education employer" for purposes of statutory public service loan forgiveness program responsibilities to include community colleges and public universities

SB 1533

Makes public education providers and federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon eligible for certain grants related to cleaner air spaces and smoke filtration systems.

\*HB 4074

Requires employee or worker of marijuana licensee to report human trafficking on licensed premises to Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

HB 4113

Adds to cancers covered by rebuttable presumption of occupational disease for eligible nonvolunteer firefighters.

\* SB 1560

Updates statutory references to individual who is not citizen or national of United States to replace "alien" with "noncitizen." Directs state agencies to use "noncitizen" in rules and regulations to reference individual who is not citizen or national of United States and to update rules and regulations that use "alien" to use "noncitizen." Authorizes agencies to amend rule without prior notice or hearing for purpose of changing term or phrase in order to conform with change made by law.

**\*Bills Passed**



# 2022 SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

*SB 1554	Directs Oregon Health Authority to study public health system response to COVID-19 pandemic.
SB 1572	Extends definition of "education employer" for purposes of statutory public service loan forgiveness program responsibilities to include community colleges and public universities.
HB 4031	Establishes state goal that percentage of diverse employees employed by Department of Education reflects percentage of diverse students in public schools.
*HB 4045	Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to distribute moneys to nonprofit organization to provide grants to organizations for community violence prevention and intervention measures.
HB 4033	Modifies membership of tribal advisory committee that advises Early Learning Council regarding delivery of early care and education services to tribal communities
HB 4150	Requires Health Information Technology Oversight Council to convene one or more groups of stakeholders and experts to explore options to accelerate, support and improve secure, statewide community information exchanges.
SB 1513	Prohibits employer from taking adverse employment action against employee employed in certain manufacturing establishments who refuses to work mandatory overtime shift unless employer has provided employee with at least five days' advance notice of overtime shift, including date and time of overtime shift.

**\*Bills Passed**



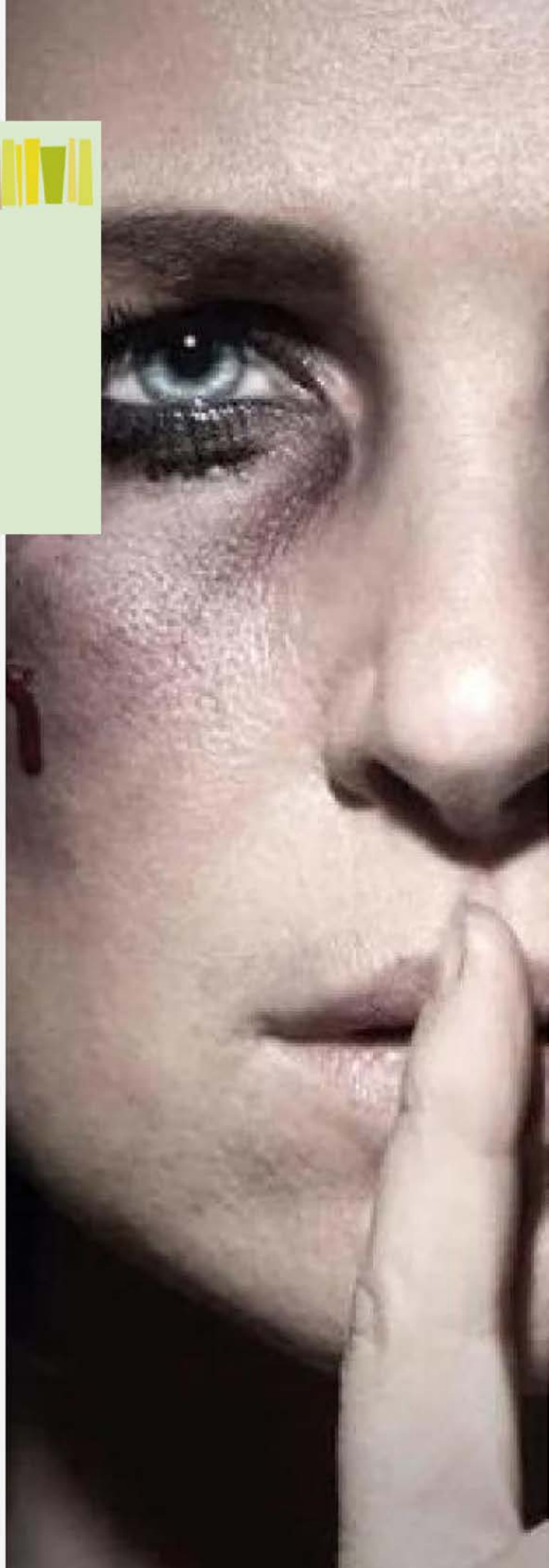
# Research Studies and Reports

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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For the past two years Commissioner Angela Rico has been leading OCFW's efforts in the fight for DV (Domestic Violence). As the most recent Deputy District Attorney of the Multnomah County Office, Commission Rico has met with various state and community organizations including Oregon Health Authority, Tides of Change, etc. to bring awareness to DV in Oregon. She led a DV study across 15 counties in Oregon including rural and urban areas. This study seeks to collect all DV-related police recordings. DV has always been looked at as a criminal justice issue so retrieving information on these reports is vital to making a change.

The findings of this report highlighted just how insufficient and unorganized Oregon record keeping/tracking of DV truly is. During the time of this report 2021-2022, there stands numerous police(sheriff) offices that lack the specified training or understanding of how to properly handle DV-related issues. This looks like inconclusive data, non-reporting, failed follow-up, etc. There is a significant difference between police(sheriff's offices) properly tracking DV versus counties that do not. For more information, please review report below.





**OCFW**

**Oregon Commission For Women**



# **Preliminary Domestic Violence Legislative Concept Report**

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# Executive Summary

In Oregon, we are experiencing a public health crisis of domestic and sexual violence. Certain populations in Oregon experience even higher rates of sexual violence due to systemic oppression and inequity. Populations who are perceived as vulnerable, accessible, and lacking in credibility within legal and social systems often experience higher rates of sexual and other forms of violence.

The intention of this report is to show the growth of demand for domestic and sexual violence survivor services in Oregon throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the dire importance of the local, county, and culturally specific organizations that provide these services.

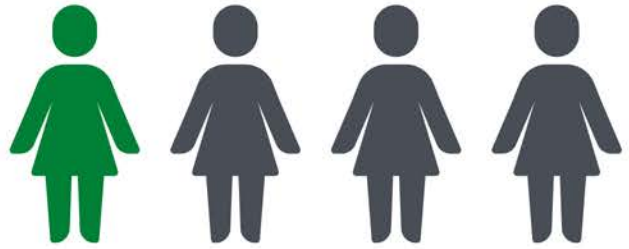
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault survivors need the appropriate resources to help them, their families, and members of their household with several needs such as housing, temporary shelter, food security, clothing, therapy, emotional support, peer support, and other assistance.

The current structure of services relies on community based organization advocates to help with these needs, as well as the survivor advocates within system based organizations.

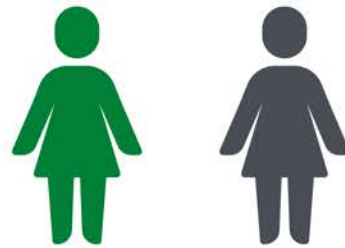


# At a Glance...

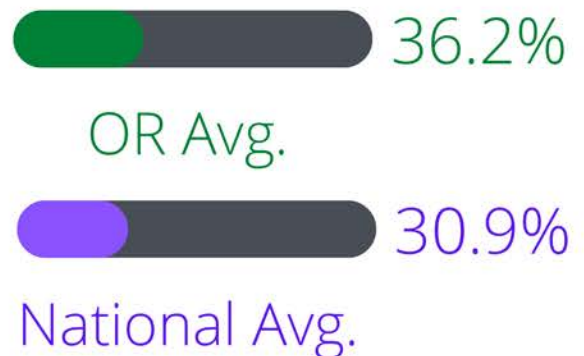
1 in 4 Women in Oregon will experience rape in their lifetime.



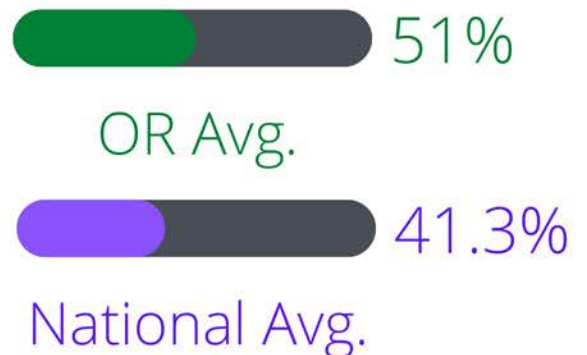
1 in 2 Trans Women of color experience the highest rates of sexual violence.



Men in Oregon experience intimate partner violence (IPV) at higher rates than the national average.



People under 18 in Oregon experience rape at higher rates than the national average as well.



Source: Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

# Sample Counties: Summary

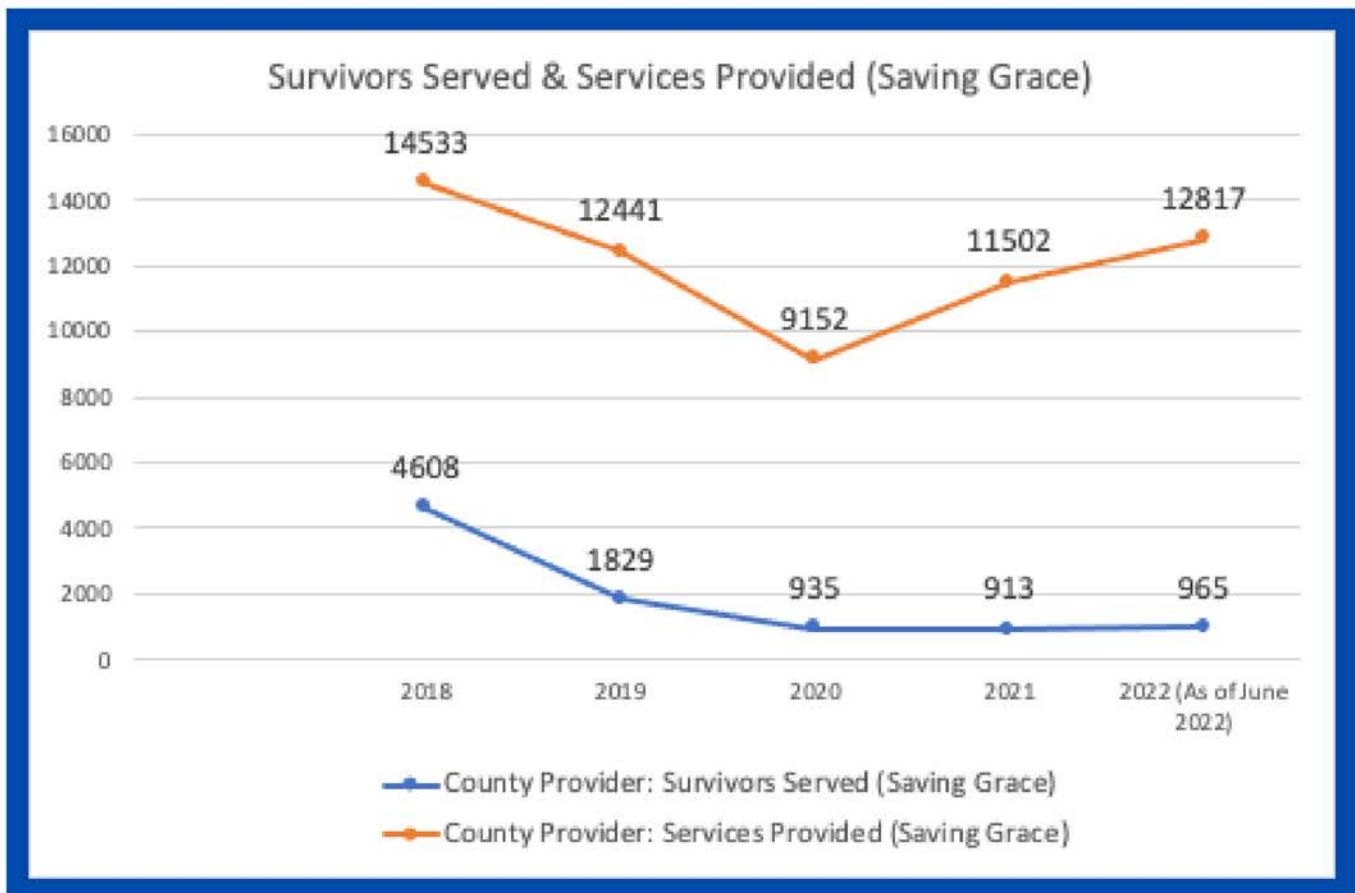
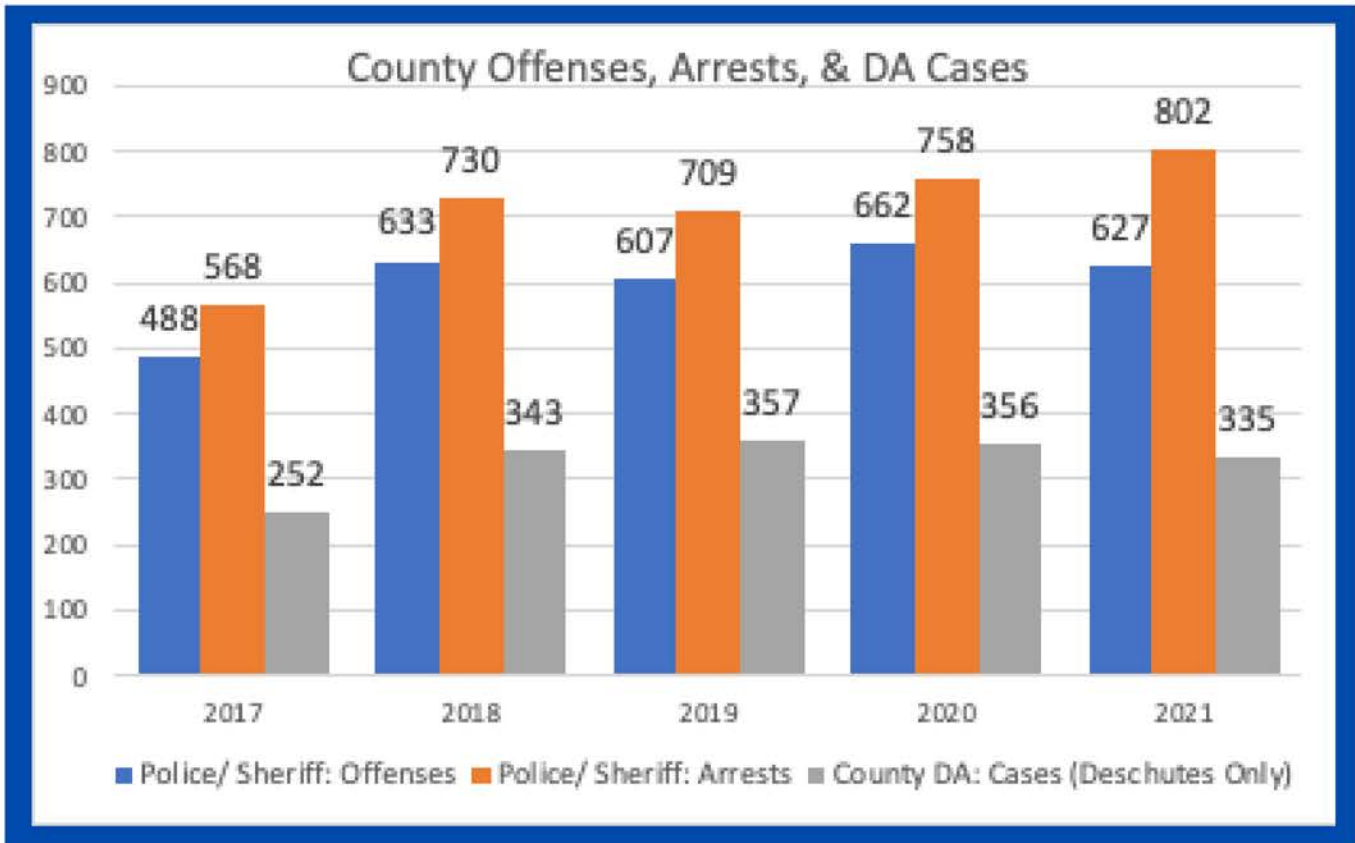
- This preliminary report combines qualitative and quantitative data provided by county governments, state agencies, and community organizations that offer survivor services. This report seeks to provide a fuller picture of the scale of DV in Oregon, as well as demonstrate the growth of demand for survivor services during COVID-19.
- During each year in each sample county, the number of survivors served by community providers was higher than the number of arrests related to DV&SV in that county. (This is also true for offenses, omitting Josephine County in 2021). This can suggest that survivors are prioritizing support systems outside of the criminal justice system.
- The number of survivor services provided increased for each sample county from 2020 to 2021. In Jefferson and Josephine County, services provided each year increased from 2019 to 2021.
- Based on the sample counties, the increase/decrease of survivors served during the COVID-19 time window are not uniform.
- The general increase in survivor services, but not the number of survivors served, can suggest that even if the number of survivors serviced is lower, there is a greater need among the survivors being served following COVID-19.



## Limitations:

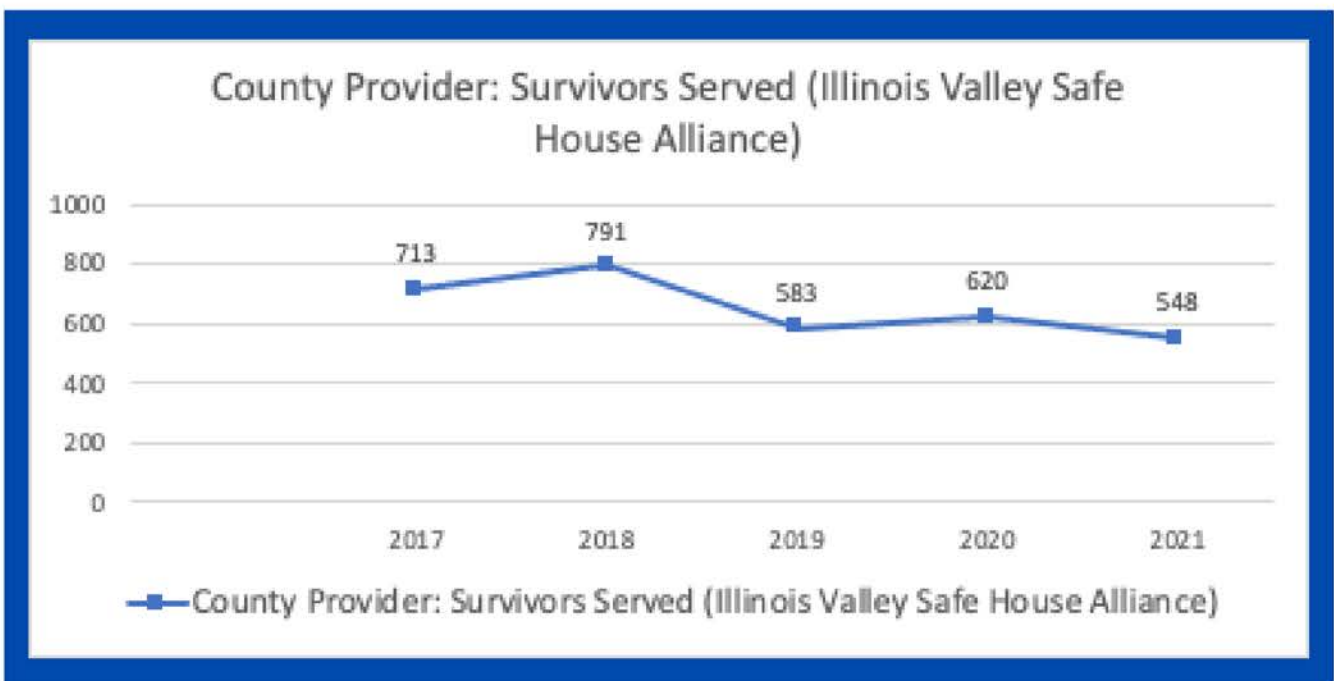
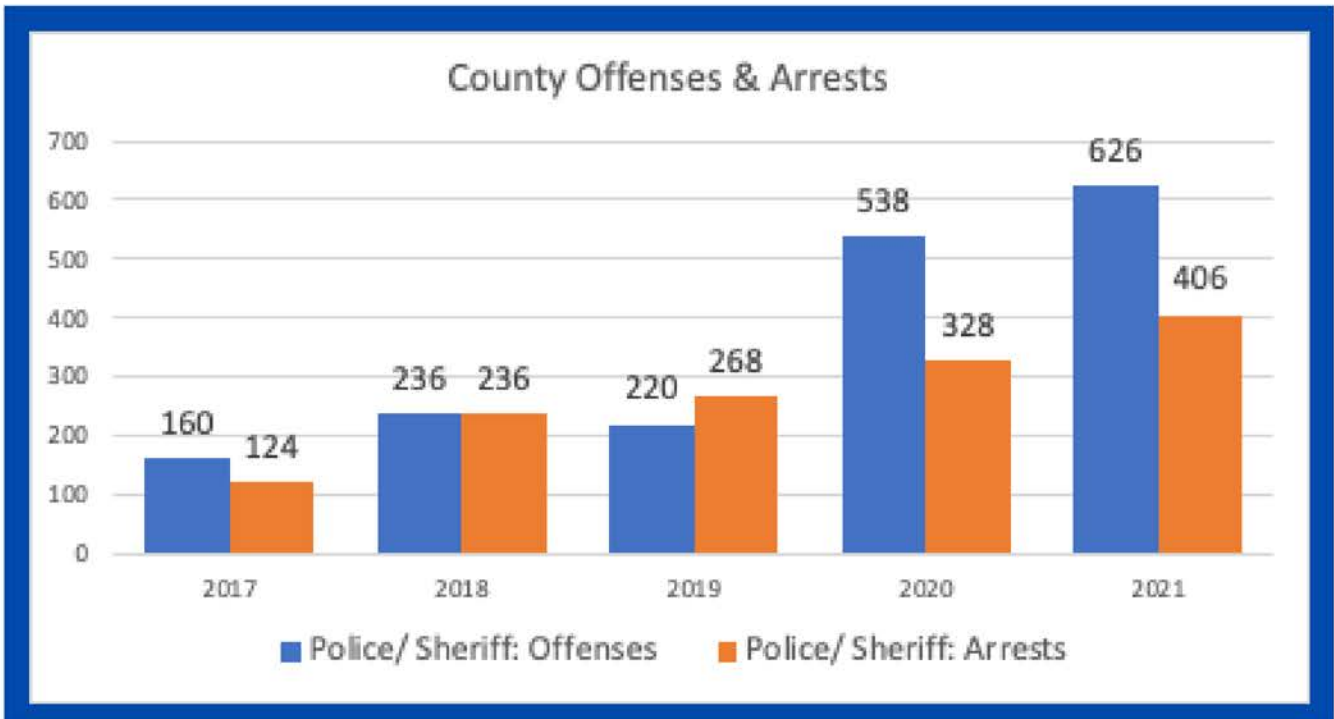
- A greater county pool sample will be required to statistically demonstrate the relationship between COVID-19 and DV in Oregon.
- Much of the data provided is incomplete or partially complete; years for services are noted on the x-axis for all charts and graphs. If there is a limited time range within a calendar year, such as only having data for March through January of that year, it is noted.
- Before Osnum's rollout in 2019 and 2020, survivor service providers didn't have statewide uniform record keeping. Many providers destroy their records after a specified time frame, making it difficult to show comprehensive data for the 2018-2021 window.
- Provider service records are also available through the Department of Human Service (DHS) "Striving to Meet the Need" reports and Department of Justice public records respectively, but are difficult to gain access to.
- This methodology of comparing survivors served and services provided to offenses and arrests does not effectively convey the intersectional needs of survivors and the disproportionate violence against marginalized peoples in Oregon. With demographic information this could be more effectively shown.

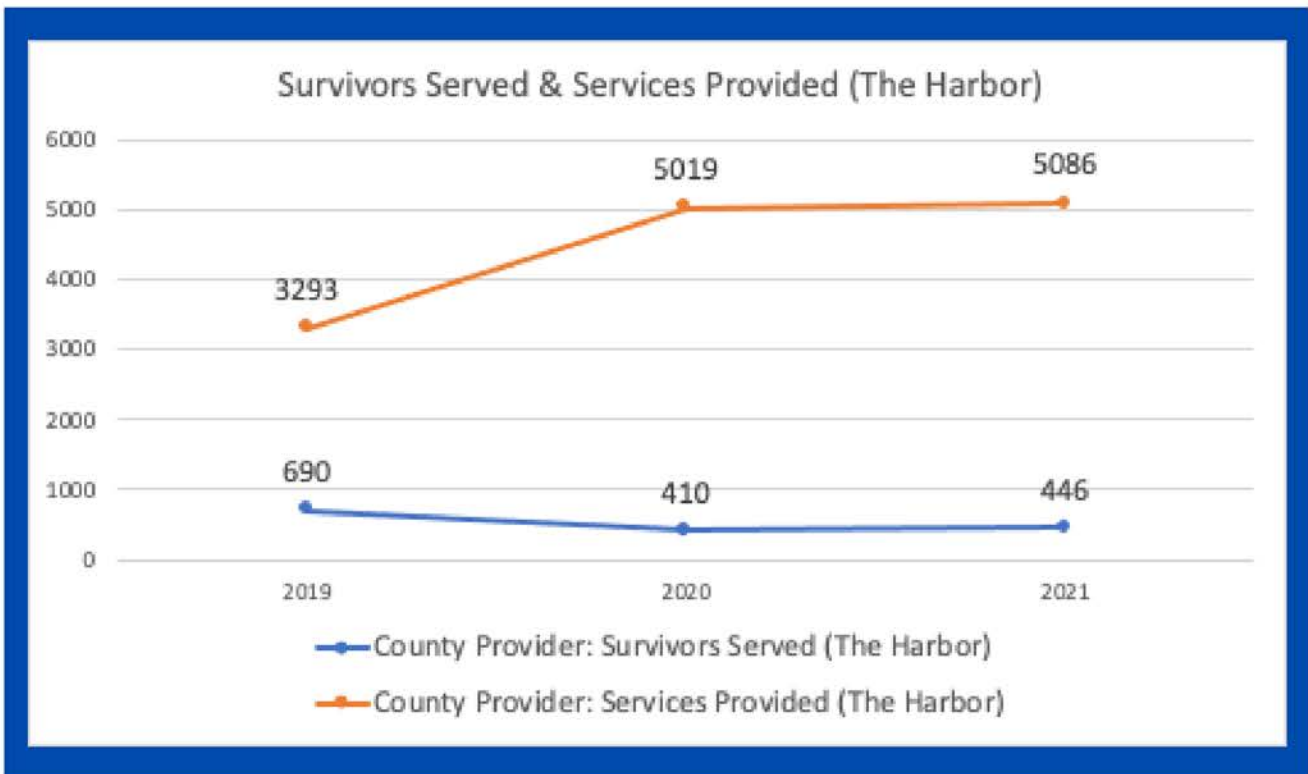
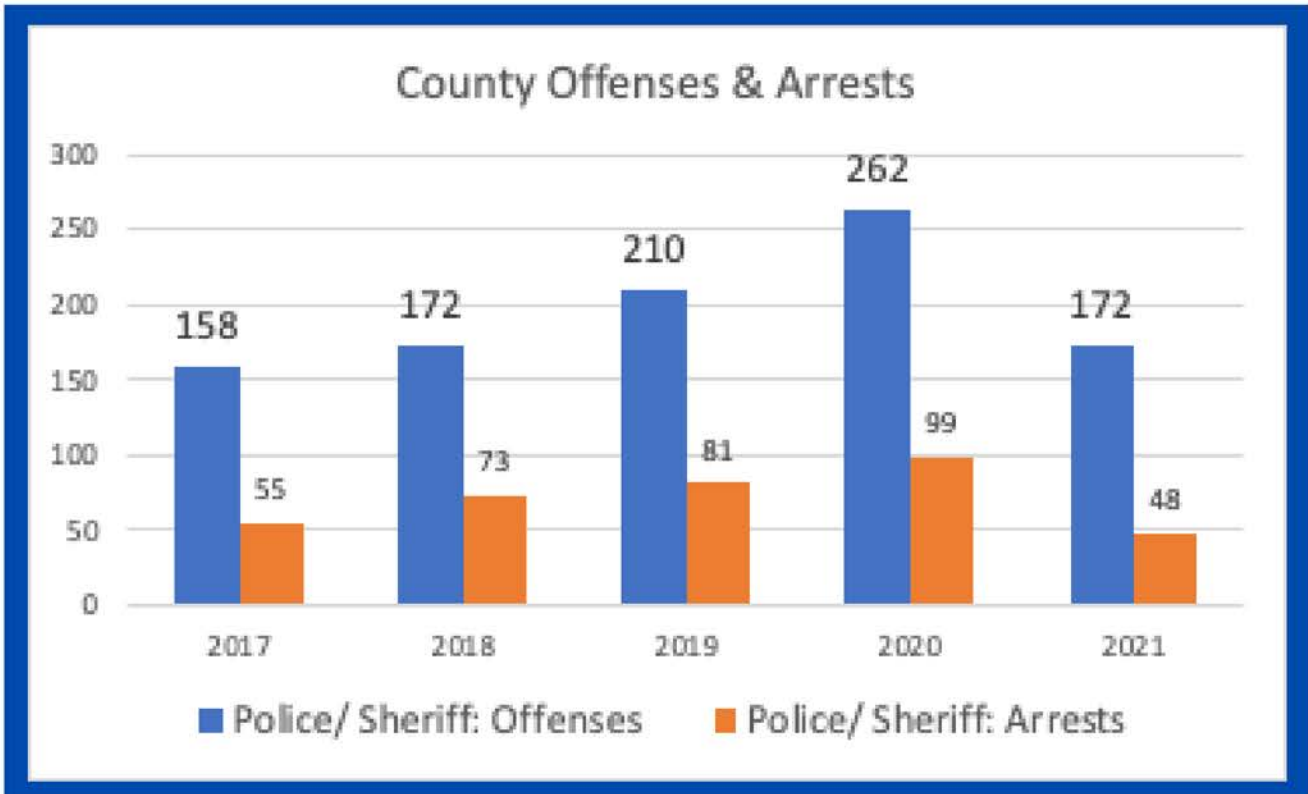
# Deschutes, Crook, & Jefferson



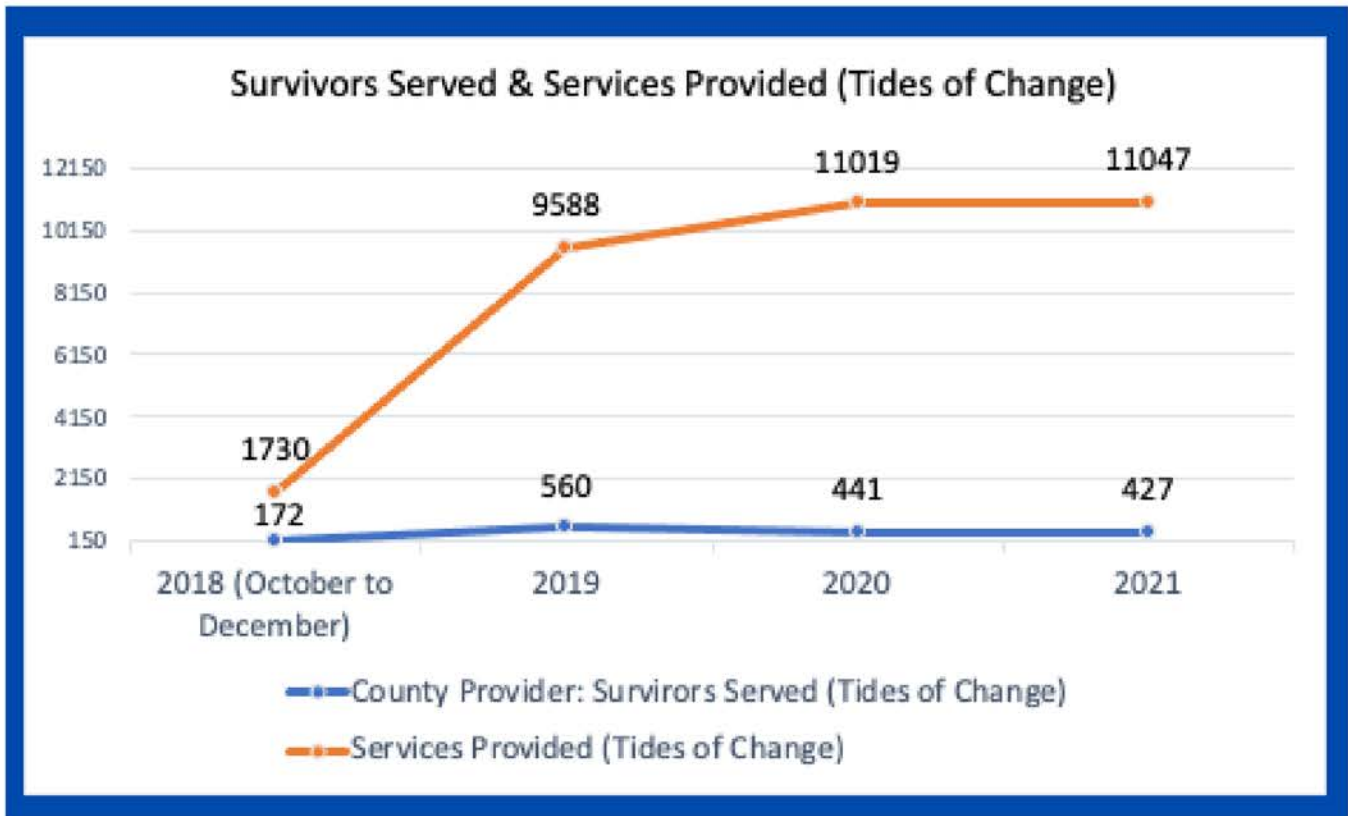
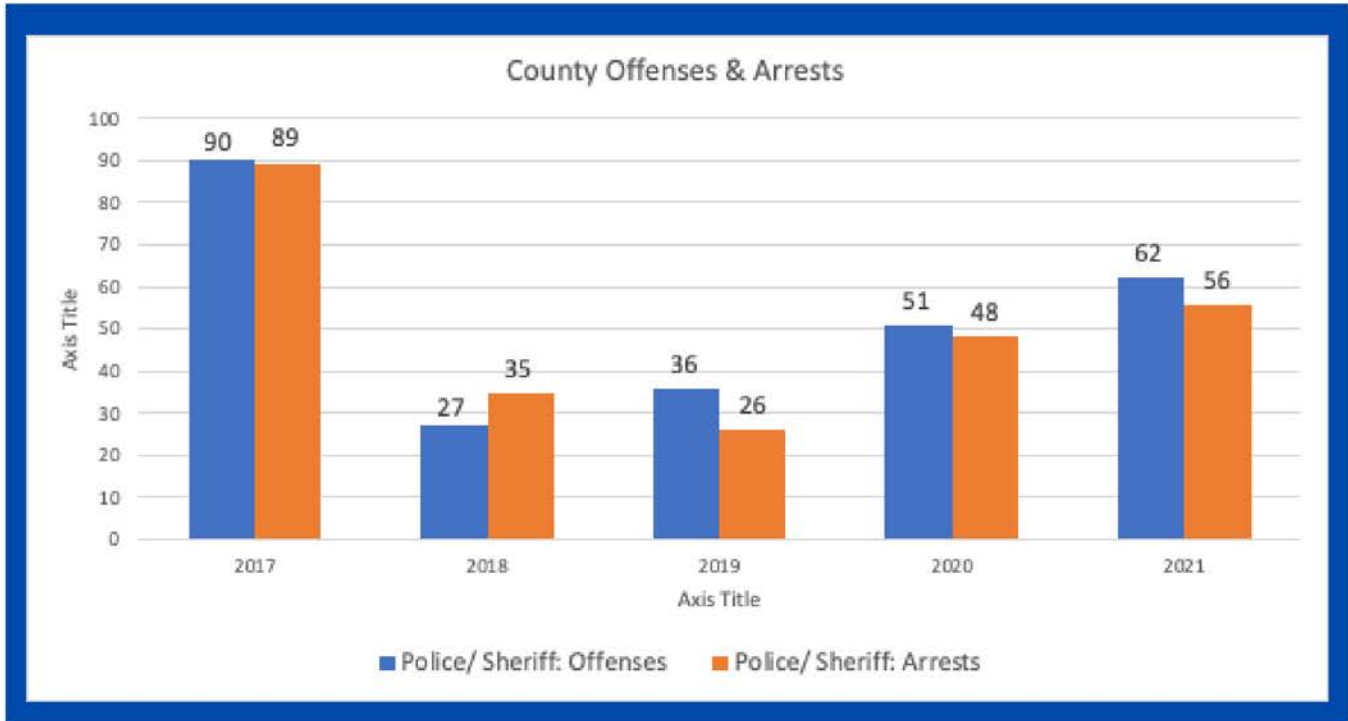


# Josephine









# Provider Testimony

## The Harbor - Rural, coastal, Clatsop County

- Referrals from law enforcement increased by 20%, and the total number of Harbor clients experiencing domestic violence increased by approximately 8% during COVID-19 lockdowns.
- Survivors were effectively isolated by their abusive partners as they were required to spend time at home.
- Clients reported increased levels of power and control, higher lethality factors, and needed more support and resources than we have seen previously.
- The number of services provided to each survivor increased by approximately 25%, while staffing levels remained the same.
- The average length of stay in our shelter nearly doubled from 30 days to 58. Lack of housing resources meant that clients were staying longer in shelter, and advocates were spending more time providing emotional support as well as searching for resources.

## Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance: Rural, valley, Josephine County

- [In 2018-19] 85% came in for domestic violence 10% sexual assault and 10% stalking.
- [2020-21] doubled or tripled elder abuse. Common for [elder] couples to have someone move on their property and abuse them. Then have trouble getting [the tenant] to leave them be.
- In the first 4 months [of 2021] average age of their survivors was 61 and over.
- 11% of population they work with are people of color. Even though the population is 2%. There are higher rates of violence against POC.
- Work with people with disabilities and homeless as well. Many are homeless because of domestic violence.



# Survivor Testimony

I wished I'd left earlier that day when he'd said, "I don't even want her here. I don't even like her." That day he had a look of hate in his eyes. Later, as his wife, I repeatedly recognized those eyes of hate... Once the drips begin, they go on until we stop them. When living with an abuser, the drips continue one on top of another until they become the constant in our life. The chemo that goes into my body is engineered to destroy malignant cells drip by drip. The drips of domestic violence destroy healthy cells. They come into our mind, body, and soul, and destroy us mentally, physically, and spiritually, one drip at a time.

-Jennifer

My revelations about how bad it had been didn't come to light until I started pursuing counseling. I had been divorced for two years and had primary custody of our young daughter. I just turned 40 and couldn't keep a job. Considering I had been working since I was 12 years old, not being able to concentrate or fulfill my middle management supervisory duties, along with having panic attacks after interactions with confrontational coworkers, were clear signs I had to figure out what was wrong. My priority was to provide for my daughter and me. Seeking help was the beginning of the healing process for me. Recognizing that I needed help to equip myself with healthier coping mechanisms and learning to care about myself enough not to accept mistreatment from anyone (family, so-called friends, or even strangers) has been life-changing. Seeking camaraderie with fellow survivors keeps me comforted in my journey of healing by knowing I am not alone.

As an Army Veteran and a survivor of Military Sexual Trauma (my dual-military spouse being the offender), I have greatly benefited from counseling, therapy, and holistic healing resources available to me through the Returning Veterans Project (RVP), the Portland VA, and my local Vet Center.

-Tammy



The empathy, compassion and understanding between victims and survivors can have a positive impact on the healing process. Well-meaning people can tell you that the abuse was not your fault but for me, it took the courage, support, and acknowledgment from other survivors to truly begin to believe I was not responsible for the abuse. I have felt defeated when having a conversation with someone who has not had similar experiences, the sympathetic looks, the sudden lack of eye contact, the stigmas that come with being a survivor of DV made me feel empty. Since COVID 19 and the complete transformation of life as we know it, this new world may be able to bring about a clearer understanding of what victims and survivors have lived through. The first parallel between surviving abuse and living through the pandemic is being in a constant state of confusion, stress, and fear. While I was living in a toxic environment with my abusive husband, I was always on high alert. It was a means of survival for me to try to navigate and anticipate his moods and actions. I know the past year has been scary for everyone. The Corona Virus was an unknown force that was creating havoc and destruction. I had not felt so powerless and uncertain since living with my abuser until the Pandemic began...

...The second parallel is loss of control of almost every aspect of your daily life. A common form of abuse my husband used was monitoring and restricting my location and who I could talk to. This is much like the reality of our world for this past year. Many people have said they felt an onset of depressive symptoms from being 'stuck' inside for months on end. I felt the same way while under the same roof as my abuser. I felt disconnected from the outside world. Isolation can be lonely and feel endless. I also had a very difficult time 'reentering' society after I left my abuser. It has taken six years of deep reflection, working with other survivors, practicing yoga, leaning on my family and friends, and learning to understand the life I had with my abuser to help me heal and feel like a new normal.

-Nina



# Appendix

- "Offenses" vs. "Arrests" are described in the State of Oregon Uniform Crime Report and Oregon Domestic Violence Annual reports. Offenses are defined as "known criminal acts occurring within the reporting agency's jurisdiction". Arrests are defined as "1. The physical arrest of a person... 2. issuance of a citation for a criminal offense... 3. issuance of traffic citation... 4. persons... summoned or notified to appear in a court of law to answer criminal charges. 5. Juveniles processed by police for criminal offenses and then released to parents, relatives, or guardians with no further action planned".
- **Survivors Served** are the number of annual users of survivor services recorded by a county, community, or culturally-specific service provider.
- **Services Provided** is annual total of survivor services provided by county, community, or culturally-specific service providers. Services provided can range from: temporary shelter, safety plans, counseling sessions, peer-support sessions, food support, clothing, etc.
- **Provider Testimony** were statements from providers supplementing the statistics that were relevant but not explicitly represented by the data.
- **Survivor Testimonies** were provided by Survivor Collective Alliance Reaching Society (SCARS) survivor blog and are available online.

# “JUST NOT READY FOR A FEMALE”

## WOMEN’S SUPERINTENDENT STUDY

An Examination of the Inequities in Oregon’s Superintendency

OCFW led with ODE (Oregon Department of Education) and COSA (Coalition of Oregon School Administrators) an analysis into Oregon’s women superintendents. Outreach played a big part in this study. This study identified barriers for women to become superintendents. Currently, there are 47 women superintendents nationwide. Meanwhile, they still experience high levels of micro and macro aggressions daily. This report highlights some of the various challenges faced and gives recommendations. The governor met with women superintendents regarding this issue and was debriefed. There are only three women superintendents in Oregon. OCFW, ODE, and COSA are looking at ways to use the data and recommendations from this report. They believe that forming legislation will be an effective avenue to promote impactful change for all women in this field.

\* <https://www.cosa.k12.or.us/sites/default/files/images/justnotreadyforafemale.pdf>



“When 72% of teachers nationwide are women but less than 25% are superintendents – and even fewer are superintendents of color – there is a problem. The findings in this study suggest strategies for helping eliminate some of these challenges.”

-Robinson





# Oregon Women Demographic by Race

Photography by Nicolle Clemetson

## *Women = Power*

“According to 2017 demographics estimates population of Oregon by race are, 84.89% are White Americans, 12.6% are Hispanic/Latino, 4.1% are Asians and 1.8% are Black/African Americans, 1.1% AIAN, 0.4% NHPI<sup>[4]</sup>.”

*“Tremendous amounts of talent are being lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt.” – Shirley Chisholm*

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*“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” – Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

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*“Social change is brought about by those who dare and act, who can think unconventionally and who can court unpopularity.” – Indira Gandhi*

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*“A strong woman stands up for herself. A stronger woman stands up for everybody else.” – Unknown*

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*“Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold.” – Helen Keller*





Photo by Womensmarchwin.com

### White Population

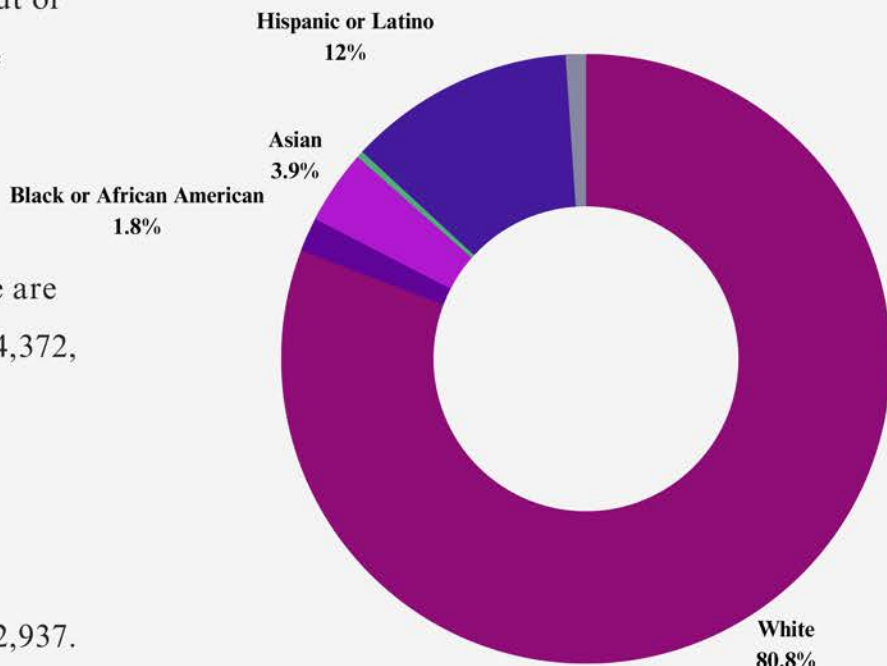
White population in Oregon are 3,416,776, percentage wise 84.89 percent are whites. Whites, also called White Americans or European American, having origins in the original peoples of Europe (numbers include hispanic whites).

### Asian Population

Asian population in Oregon are 166,351, percentage wise 4.13 percent are asians, out of these 22,870 are Asian Indians, 38,852 are Chinese, 18,488 are Filipinos, 13,604 are Japanese, 15,203 are Korean, 29,413 are Vietnamese and 27,921 are other Asian nationals. Bangladeshi are 658, Bhutanese are 437, Burmese are 1,568, Cambodians are 4,372, Hmong are 2,919, Indonesians are 1,042, Laotians are 4,817, Malaysians are 109, Mongolians are 149, Nepalese are 994, Pakistanis are 912, Sri Lankans are 309, Taiwanese are 2,937 and Thai people are 2,937.

### Black Population

Black population in Oregon are 76,347, percentage wise 1.90 percent are blacks. African American refers to black population in Oregon, They are Black racial groups of Africa, includes Sub-Saharan African people, Kenyan, Nigerian, Caribbean such as Haitian and Jamaican.





## Hispanic Population

Hispanic population in Oregon are 509,507. Percentage wise 12.66 percent are hispanics, out of these 425,950 are Mexican people, 13,143 are Puerto Ricans, 5,930 are Cubans, and 64,484 are other Hispanic or Latinos. Hispanics may be of any race, included in applicable race categories.

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander are 15,157, out of these Native Hawaiian are 3,783, Guamanian or Chamorro are 1,518, Samoan are 1,679, Other Pacific Islanders are 8,177. American Indian and Alaska Natives are 45,332, Chippewa tribals are 1,545, Navajo tribals are 648, Sioux tribals are 1,334 and Cherokee tribal group people are 3,620<sup>[4]</sup>.

## WAGE

In 2021, Oregon's women's population of 4,266,620 increased by 22,769<sup>[5]</sup>. Migration is one of the leading causes for this increase<sup>[4]</sup>. Both rural and metropolitan counties continue to see noticeable increase in their women population. Bend-Redmond with a growth rate of 28.9% and Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro growth rate at 14.1% hold the fastest growing women populations in the state<sup>[5]</sup>.

Nationwide the women to men wage gap has persisted without halt. Women who work in the same industries, positions and hold the same exact title pay remains lower than their male counterparts. There has been little to no progress in closing the gender wage gap<sup>[6]</sup>.

“In fact, a recent analysis by Gould found that progress has plateaued for over two decades: In 2021, women made about 80 cents for every dollar of male wages, little changed from about 77 cents in 1994, after controlling for differences in education, age, geography, race and ethnicity<sup>[7]</sup>.”



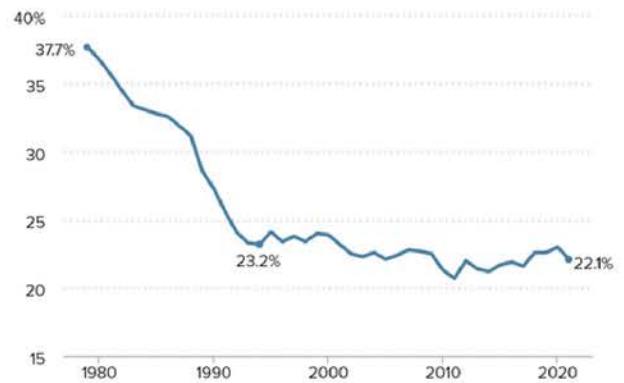
Graphic By CNBC.com

*“Equal pay for equal work. It’s common sense. It’s also overdue. Let’s close the gap and let’s do it now.” - Vice President*

*Joe Biden*

**Little to no progress in closing the gender wage gap in three decades**

Regression-adjusted gender wage gap, 1979–2021

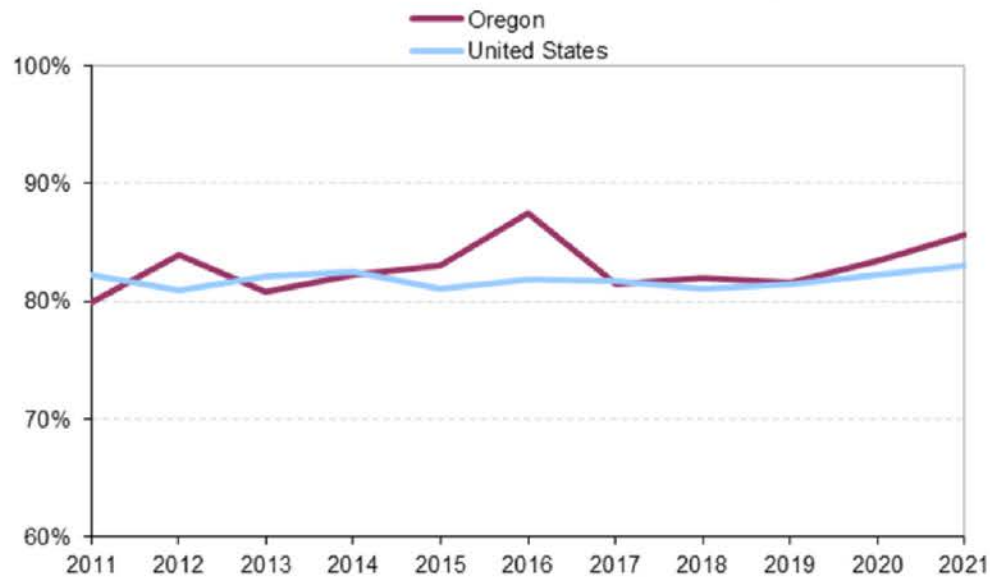


**Notes:** Wages are adjusted into 2021 dollars by the CPI-U-RS. The regression-based gap is based on average wages and controls for gender, race and ethnicity, education, age, and geographic division. The log of the hourly wage is the dependent variable.

**Source:** Author’s analysis of Current Population Survey, Outgoing Rotation Group (CPS-ORG), 1979–2021, and Economic Policy Institute, Current Population Survey Extracts, Version 1.0.26 (2022), <https://microdata.epi.org/>, 1979–2022.

Economic Policy Institute

**Chart 1. Women’s earnings as a percentage of men’s, full-time wage and salary workers, the United States and Oregon, 2011–21 annual averages**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This issue is alive and well. OCFW stands with the women of Oregon, combatting wage gaps need to be a top priority for all. Working men of the US continue to bring home more wages than women. Regardless of family size, two parent households or single parent. Over 18.5 million of children live in a single parent household [7]. At 23%, the US holds the highest percentage of children living in a single parent household. Women age ranging 34-39 have the highest risk for being a single parent.



## A few facts about the women of the US who are single parents<sup>[7]</sup>:

- There were 6.6 million white, non-Hispanic families with a single mother in the US. (Statista, 2019)
- There are 3.29 million Hispanic families with single mothers in the US. (US Census Bureau, 2019).
- There are 4.14 million African American families with a single mother in the US. (US Census Bureau, 2019)
- There are 543,000 Asian families with a single mother in the US. (US Census Bureau, 2019)
- There are 3.3 million white, non-Hispanic families with single fathers in the US. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019)
- There are 1.5 million Hispanic families with a single father in the US. (US Census Bureau, 2019)
- There are 1.05 million African American families with a single father in the US. (US Census Bureau, 2019)
- There are 375,000 Asian families with a single father in the US. (US Census Bureau, 2019)
- The share of white unpartnered mothers working in the US fell from 78.8% in September 2019 to 73% in September 2020. On the other hand, the share of African American unpartnered mothers at work dropped from 72.5% to 62% while the share of Hispanic unpartnered mothers at work fell from 76.5% to 65.8%. (Pew Research, 2020)
- 64% of children in single parent households are Black or African-American. On the other hand, 52% are American Indian and 42% are Hispanic or Latino. (The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019)

As you can see wage differences between women and men have lasting effects on the children of today. If we as a nation do not stand up and demand an immediate change in these unfair wage gaps our children's children will be fighting this fight. Employers are not just affecting the livelihoods of women; they are affecting the livelihood of a family. Women need to be properly compensated for the work to provide for their families just as men. It is time that we all come together to guarantee women and men reap fair wages across the board.

## Results of single Mothers parent households<sup>[7]</sup>:

- Over 3.3 million single mothers in the US living below the federal poverty level have never married. On the other hand, 1.09 million single mothers are divorced; 853,000 are separated; 333,000 have absent spouses, and 137,000 are widowed. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019)
- Income inequality is seen to be a huge factor in raising kids. In fact, there are 78,000 Asian families with a single mothers in the US who live below the poverty level. (US Census Bureau, 2019)
- The poverty rate for families of unmarried mothers who are of color is highest among Native Americans at 43%. This is followed by unmarried mothers who are African American (35%), Latino (34%), non-Hispanic White (26%), and Asian (22%). (National Women's Law Center, 2020)
- On average, single parent households spend 34% of their household income on child care. On the other hand, families usually spend over 10% of their household income on child-care costs for a single child. (CNBC, 2020)
- In the US, families spend an average of \$9,200 to \$9,600 per child. Childcare is most expensive in the Northeast (\$26,155), followed by the West (\$21,483). Meanwhile, families spend the least on childcare in the South (\$19,069) followed by the Midwest (\$19,306). (CNBC, 2020)



# Short-term Future Focus 2023

HB 2485	Requires Portland State University, subject to sufficient moneys being appropriated, to enhance state's capacity to educate public mental health and addiction treatment providers by July 1, 2028, by materially increasing number of graduates from relevant degree programs.
HB 2535	Requires Department of Corrections to establish doula program for pregnant and postpartum adults in custody at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.
HB 2395-2	Allows specified persons to distribute and administer short-acting opioid antagonist and distribute kits.
SB 1052	Modifies crimes related to involuntary servitude and human trafficking.
HB 2281	Requires school districts and public charter schools to designate civil rights coordinator.
SB 597	Directs certifying agencies to report annually to Oregon Criminal Justice Commission on victim helpfulness certification requests.
SB 745	Directs county juvenile department to ensure that specified youth or adjudicated youth receives sex trafficking screening.
HB 2280	Modifies requirements of consent for purposes of school district sexual harassment policies.
HB 2005	Defines "undetectable firearm." Punishes manufacturing, importing, offering for sale or transferring undetectable firearm by maximum of 10 years' imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, or both.



HB 2950	Bars creditors' claims against decedents' estates if no petition for appointment of personal representative or small estate affidavit is filed within 18 months following decedent's date of death.
HB 3018	Authorizes Department of Justice to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with housing needs.
HB 2933	Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Justice for deposit into Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund.
HB 3313	Authorizes Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Commission on Black Affairs, Commission for Women and Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs to employ paid interns and staff necessary to supervise interns.
HB 2006	Prohibits person under 21 years of age from possessing firearms with specified exceptions
SB 704	Establishes Universal Health Plan Governance Board and directs board to create comprehensive plan for implementing Universal Health Plan.
SB 295	Creates crime of patronizing a trafficked child.
HB 2007	Authorizes governing bodies of certain public entities that own or control public building to adopt policy, ordinance or regulation or precluding affirmative defense for possession of firearms in public building and adjacent grounds by concealed handgun licensees.
HB 5001	Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office for biennial expenses.

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT

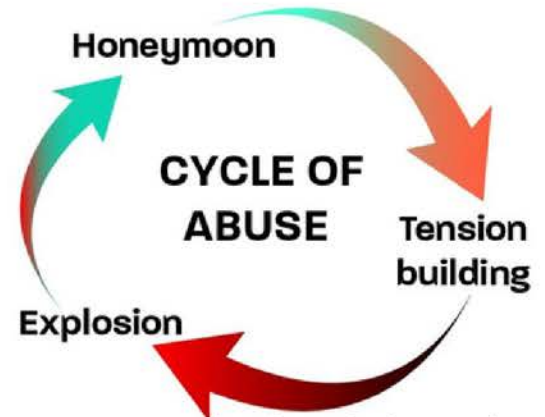


Photo by: [revelstokemountaineer.com](http://revelstokemountaineer.com)

The (OACO) Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office provides administrative support to four Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OACs): Commission on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs, Commission on Black Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and the Commission for Women. The mission of these four commissions are expanded in ORS.185. The OACs are four independent commissions that advocate, conduct public policy research, collaborate on leadership development, and engage with external partners to advance the economic, social, legal, and political equity for their constituents. They often collaborate amongst themselves in areas of shared concern. Domestic Violence is one such area. DV impacts the communities of each commission. OCHA intends to continue collaboration with initiatives as led by the Oregon Commission for Women.



Photo By [Ocadsv.org](http://Ocadsv.org)

If you need help call 1(800) 799- SAFE(7233) or text "Start" to 88788.



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT

Domestic Violence (DV) is a universal issue. Some would even call it a “taboo topic” [8]. Domestic Violence is not bound by age, race, gender, sexuality, or economic status. DV can harm anyone. Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence define DV as, "a pattern of coercive and/or violent tactics perpetrated by one person against a family member or intimate partner, with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control over that person"[9].

The US Department of Justice [10] identifies the different types of Domestic Violence:

**Physical Abuse:** Hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair pulling, etc. are types of physical abuse. This type of abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use upon him or her.

**Sexual Abuse:** Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual abuse includes, but is certainly not limited to, marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred, or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner.

**Emotional Abuse:** Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem is abusive. This may include, but is not limited to constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with his or her children.

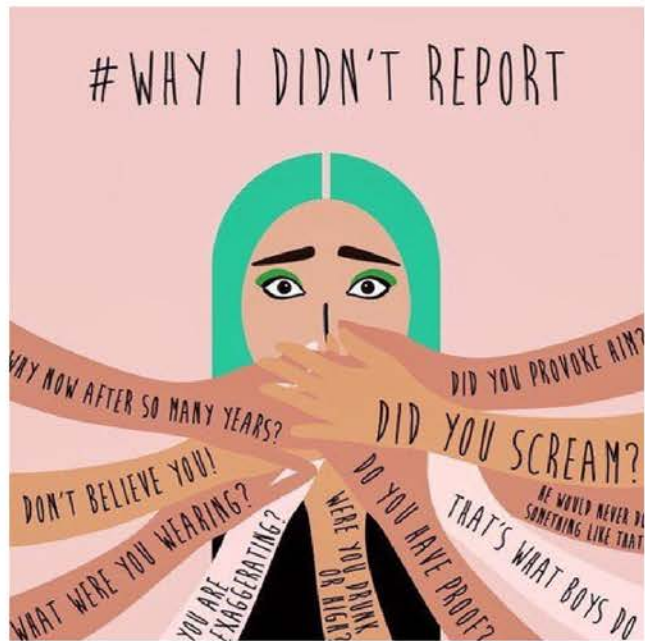


Image By: medium.com



Images By: Canva



**Psychological Abuse:** Elements of psychological abuse include - but are not limited to - causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.

**Technological Abuse:** An act or pattern of behavior that is intended to harm, threaten, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor another person that occurs using any form of technology, including but not limited to: internet enabled devices, online spaces and platforms, computers, mobile devices, cameras and imaging programs, apps, location tracking devices, or communication technologies, or any other emerging technologies.



Photo by Change.com

**Economic Abuse:** Controlling or restraining a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources. This includes:

- using coercion, fraud, or manipulation to restrict access to finances or financial information;
- using economic resources without consent or exerting undue influence over financial decisions,
- exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship against interest.

**Psychological Abuse:** Elements of psychological abuse include - but are not limited to - causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.

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If you need help call 1(800) 799- SAFE(7233) or text "Start" to 88788.





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As the President of the “Women of the World” festival stated, “It is characterized by silence – silence from those that suffer – silence from those around them, and silence from those who perpetrate abuse. This silence is corrosive; it leaves women, children and men carrying the burden of shame. It prevents them from speaking out about the abuse and it prevents them from getting help. And at its worst it can be fatal.”<sup>[8]</sup>

DV is a dreadful reality for countless Oregonians. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence states, “39.8% of Oregon women and 36.2% of Oregon men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes”<sup>[11]</sup>. OCHA has been partnering with the Oregon Commission for Women in a joint mission to combat DV. There are many misconceptions about DV, but its severity and the tragic aftermath can be understood in every culture. DV is not a partisan issue; it is a human issue. DV remains a forbidden or taboo topic in many cultures. This plays a part in perpetuating the silencing of survivors.

Without significant changes and a concerted effort from the state, DV will remain a significant social ill. While DV impacts all survivors and witnesses, the impact on children is life shattering with a cascade of negative externalities. OCHA will continue to press on this issue until it is a major priority for all Oregonians. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is available for use 24 hours a day. Here you are able to speak to a live advocate to help DV survivors navigate their options. Contact information: Call 1(800) 799- SAFE(7233) or text “Start” to 88788.

DV is a silent epidemic. In 2018, 128,786 calls for help were received by community based organizations and 8,414 requests for shelter could not be met by Oregon DV service (NCADV). The current structure of services relies on CBOs to advocate and help with these needs. Survivors are prioritizing support systems outside of the criminal justice system, making this issue one not as widely recognized in the public. However, during the pandemic, the reports of DV fell drastically. The general consensus counter this claim. The drop in reporting was due to cohabitation with abusers and the inability to report. OCFW is currently working on a report to show the increase in DV during the pandemic and how these incidents were handled by CBOs rather than by legal services. OCHA intends to continue to partner with OCFW.

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**If you need help call 1(800) 799- SAFE(7233) or text “Start” to 88788.**









Graphic By: <https://www.peoplemattersglobal.com/>

## Letter From The Chair

One of the most memorable moments in my professional career was the day of my Senate Confirmation hearing in June 2020. While the year 2020 brought many a lot of hardship, grief, loss, health and economic challenges, and justice struggles, for me, it was also a year full of hope, opportunities for growth, change, and a year of beliefs. OCFW showed me the path to legislative advocacy and activism.

I have been an activist my whole life, although I never labeled myself as such. Growing up in the former Yugoslavia in the 1980s, I served my immediate community, elderly and vulnerable, with the passion, duty, and empathy that, many decades later, I identified to be embedded in the core values of our Commission. OCFW gently reminded me of my early life motto of “putting others before self” and gave me a sturdy platform to achieve my long-life dream of public law advocacy and direct engagement with legislators.

OCFW influence and placement in the state government gave me immediate access to many innovative, courageous, and social justice-focus legislators working on critical issues advancing our current state laws to improve the lives of many Oregon women and girls. Since its establishment in 1964, the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) has proven to be a direct connector and a bridge between state legislators and Oregon women and girls. OCFW has proven to be an ardent advocate for advancing and elevating voices, perspectives, needs, and vision of Oregon women and girls and all those aligned with cemented determination for gender, health, economic, and justice equity and equality.

The power, strength, and uniqueness of our Commission are that we encompass a very powerful demographic and entity that ranges across race, ethnicity, religion, language, and socio-economic stratus – OCFW is a unifying platform that brings together women leaders, activists, elders, and champions to serve as a megaphone for the most vulnerable, marginalized, invisible women and emerging leaders in our state.

The power and strength of our Commission are that we are women commissioners who come from different walks of life, experiences, scars, and an undepleted amount of determination, focus, and drive. OCFW commissioners are women of color, war refugees, foreign-born immigrants, domestic violence survivors, leaders, emerging small business owners, mothers, and daughters who are adding another bricklayer to the OCFW institution laid by our predecessors. I will eternally be grateful to many Oregon legislators for entrusting me and the Commission with their work and duty to equity, equality, and justice for Oregon women and girls.

Chair Haunsperger,





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**Thank You !**







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