

Anambra State



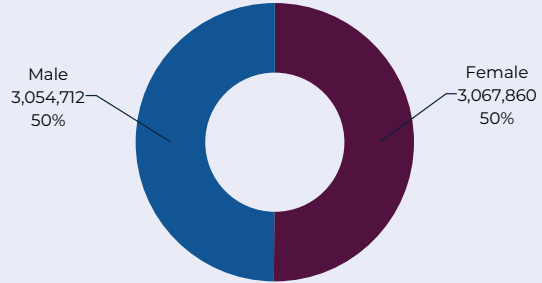
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2024 Edition

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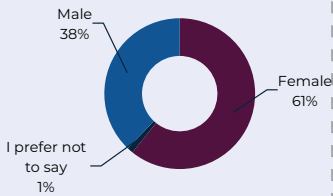




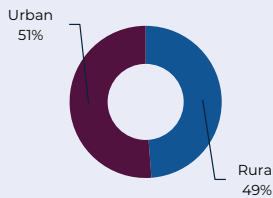
Total Population
6,122,572
6,122,572



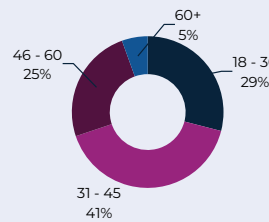
Respondents: 617



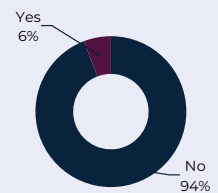
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1109**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **4**



No. of active shelters **5**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **12**

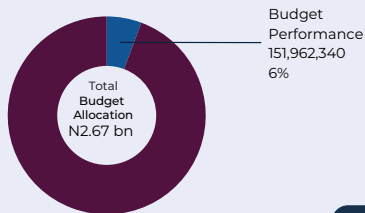


Index Grades

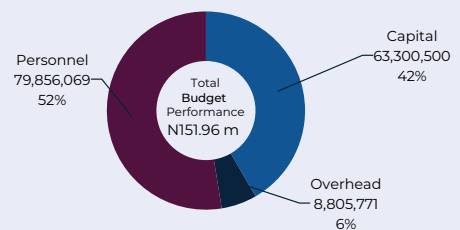
Laws and Policies	●
Access to Legal Justice	●
Support Services	●
Information and Awareness	●
Budget and Spending	●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

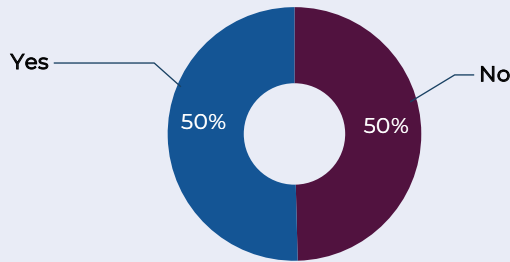


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N24.8**

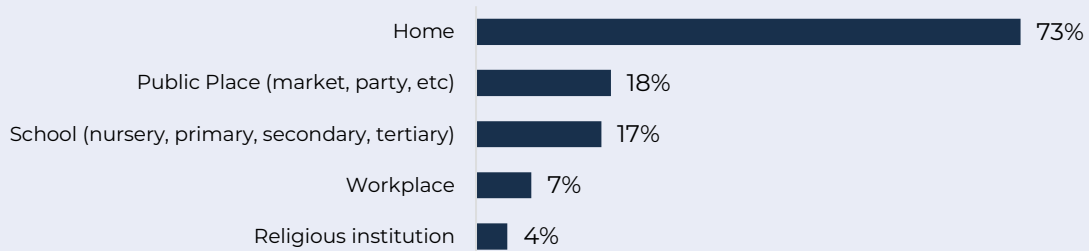
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



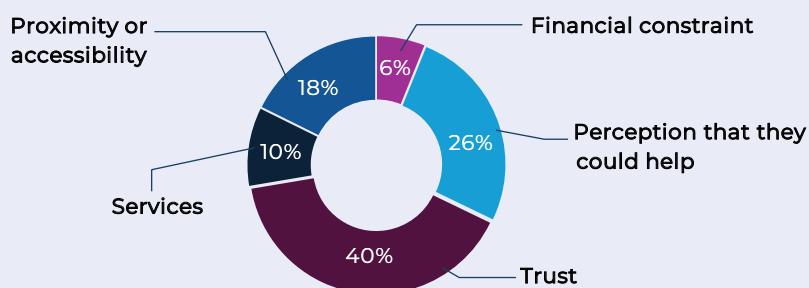
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

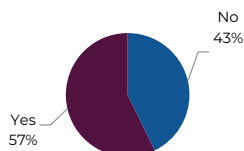


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

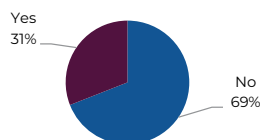


Laws and Policies

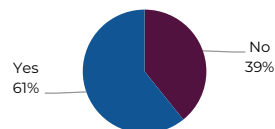
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

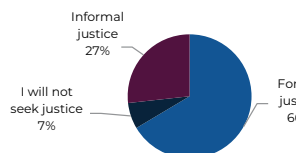


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

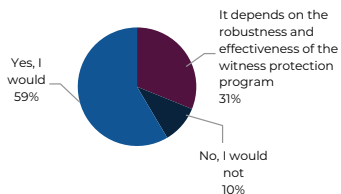


Access to Legal Justice

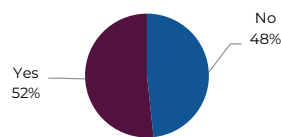
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

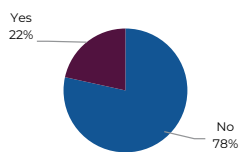


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

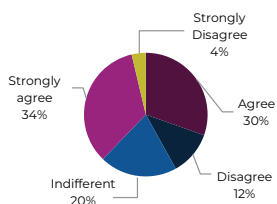


Support Services

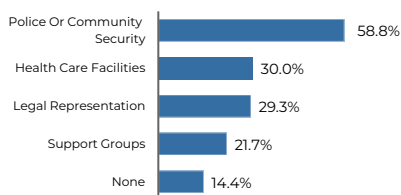
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



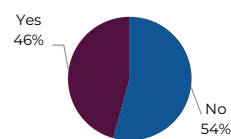
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



Which of these processes and procedures for reporting GBV-related incidents are you aware of? (Referral Pathways)

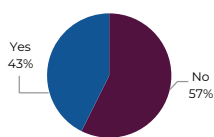


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

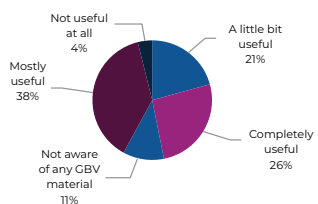


Information and Awareness

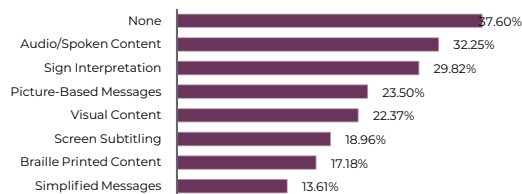
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?



Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?



Key Insights

Laws and Policies

Anambra State has made significant strides in addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through comprehensive legal frameworks. The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (2017) is the primary legislation tackling various forms of GBV, including sexual violence, harassment, harmful traditional practices, and emotional abuse. It provides for victim protection, accountability for perpetrators, and access to justice. Additionally, the Child Rights Law (2004) criminalizes child abuse, with stringent penalties for offenders, and the Disability Rights Law (2018) prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities (PWDs), offering protection and sanctions for violators.

Gaps in the VAPP law, such as the definition of abandonment that includes all persons to avoid unintended discrimination, the provision for submission of an Annual Report, and the provision for establishing a Sex Offenders Register, still exist, and a review is necessary. However, despite the existence of these laws, implementation remains a challenge. Awareness of the laws among citizens (57%), especially at the grassroots level, is low. Cultural norms, such as the deep-rooted patriarchy, child marriages, and the treatment of widows, have been highlighted as practices that perpetuate GBV in the state, which hinders the effective enforcement of these laws. Furthermore, the Disability Rights Law has seen limited application, as no offender has been prosecuted. The 2023 budget of Anambra State committed N3 million to implement the CEDAW convention; however, the disbursement and implementation have not been reflected in the state.

Access to Legal Justice

In Anambra State, the government and NGOs play critical roles in addressing GBV through legal and support systems. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women Affairs are central to handling GBV cases. At the same time, various NGOs, such as Legal Aid, FIDA, and the National Human Rights Commission, provide pro-bono legal assistance. The state has established two specialized courts—Magistrate and High Court—with dedicated judges to fast-track GBV cases. However, there is a pressing need for additional courts due to the increasing number of reported cases. Specialized Family Support Units (FSUs) in police stations have not been fully utilized, with most cases still handled by general investigative units.

While awareness of legal assistance is relatively average at 52%, funding remains a significant challenge, as officers often request mobilization fees from complainants. The state also lacks a clear witness protection program, undermining the prosecution process's confidence. Informal justice systems, such as traditional rulers and community leaders, remain influential, although they sometimes fail to provide justice due to cultural pressures. The growing demand for legal services, coupled with the challenges of limited resources, highlights the urgent need for expanded infrastructure and funding to ensure timely and effective justice for GBV survivors.

Support Services

In Anambra State, there is a critical gap in support services for victims of GBV. Awareness about available services, such as medical, legal, psycho-social, and economic support, remains low, with 55.14% of respondents unaware of these services. The state has only one SARC, located in Enugwu-Ukwu, which is inadequately equipped and reliant on external support from the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) program. While a temporary shelter exists within the Community Children's Home in Awka, there are no government-owned, permanent shelters for GBV survivors. Plans to establish a permanent shelter have been delayed, and the current temporary shelter is insufficient for the growing needs of survivors.

Additionally, there is a lack of adequate medical and forensic facilities, which hampers the effectiveness of GBV interventions. Formal support systems, including the SARC and the Ministry of Women Affairs, collaborate with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health to provide legal and medical services. However, informal support systems, such as families and religious institutions, are often seen as more responsive, though they are less formal and resource dependent. Efforts by the state to address support services in the states include N35 million for the Anti-Child Abuse & Neglect Program, N3 million Naira for

providing shelter for children in conflict with the law, and another. The state also committed N7 million towards the reintegration and care of trafficked children and women and N3 million for establishing a temporary shelter for women and young girls. Although these allocations look promising, disbursement and utilization of funds for proper implementation is a major challenge.

Information and Awareness

Awareness about the campaign against GBV is still relatively low, as 57% of the respondents do not know about the State's information and awareness programs or materials. This underscores the need to intensify awareness creation efforts around GBV. Although various IEC materials on GBV are being used for sensitization and awareness creation purposes in public places like marketplaces, schools, and churches, utilizing various media like fliers, sound systems, TV and radio, posters, and social media by MDAs and NGOs such as FIDA, NHRC, NOA, FIDA, CPN, among others, it has not penetrated all the nooks and crannies of the state because of concerns around frequency and effectiveness.

The state-owned Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS) plays a key role in disseminating GBV messages, though the lack of consistent funding hinders the frequency and effectiveness. Additionally, there is a gap in reaching Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), with limited IEC materials available in accessible formats like braille, sign language, or easy-to-read content. To improve, there is a pressing need for increased funding for IEC campaigns, prioritizing inclusivity for PWDs, and ensuring consistent, widespread GBV awareness efforts throughout the state.

Budget and Spending





In Anambra State, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Children & Women Affairs had a final budget allocation of N2.67 billion for 2023. However, actual performance significantly lagged, with only N151.96 million expended, marking a budget performance rate of approximately 6%. A closer breakdown of the expenditure shows that N79.85 million was spent on personnel, while N8.80 million went toward overhead costs. Capital expenditure amounted to N63.3 million. Key GBV-related projects in the 2023 budget include anti-child abuse programs, shelters for women and children, and trafficking reintegration, all amounting to N24.8 per capita. Despite the large allocation, the state faced challenges in effectively utilizing its budget, there is a need for improved budgeting processes and stronger efforts to ensure funds are fully disbursed and utilized to address the growing needs of GBV victims and survivors in the state.

Human angle Story



Chidimma, a young and timid housemaid from Igbakwu in Ayamelum LGA, had endured the unthinkable for months as her boss repeatedly harassed her sexually. She felt vulnerable and trapped but eventually anticipated help from her madam. She summoned courage and confided in her. But, rather than respite, her madam unleashed a vicious attack on her. This left her with excruciating physical pains and emotional trauma. "I felt like I'd been punched in the gut," Chidimma recalled. "The person I trusted most turned against me. I was already broken, and she shattered me further." Ejected, Chidinma returned to Igbakwu, where her widowed mother lives. Despite the cruelty she faced, she found the strength to speak out, hoping her voice would echo through the darkness, inspiring others to stand with her against the shadows that haunt us all.

Anambra State

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Laws and Policies 	Despite the existence of comprehensive laws like the VAPP Law, Child Rights Law, and Disability Rights Law, their implementation is hindered by low public awareness and deep-rooted cultural norms that perpetuate GBV.	Awareness creation should be intensified across the state using multi-media channels, including radio, television, print, online, and social media.
	Little to no implementation of the Disability Rights Law	Campaigns on gender equity and equality must be intentionally heightened with traditional and religious leaders as targeted.
Access to Legal Justice 	Despite the establishment of dedicated courts, there is a significant gap in the effective enforcement of laws, with slow prosecution processes and low conviction rates.	Improving state funding for GBV-related issues is essential. The state needs more specialized courts and judges to handle the increasing number of GBV cases and scale up pro bono services.
	Lack of a robust witness protection program in the states.	There is a need for the state to finetune and strengthen its victim/witness protection program.
	The prosecution of GBV cases is often slow, and there is a general lack of trust in the legal system due to the prolonged timeframes for case resolution.	Anambra State should strengthen its legal system to expedite the prosecution of GBV cases by fully implementing the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (2022), which was enacted to address delays in criminal proceedings.
Support Services 	Insufficient number of SARCs and shelters to cater to the rising cases of GBV in the state	More SARCs are needed in the state as the cases surge. The state government should look into establishing at least three functional shelters and SARCs for GBV victims/survivors in each of the three senatorial districts of the state with adequate equipment and well-trained staff to render quality services.
	Heavy dependence on RoLAC funding, without a clear sustainability plan for the SARCs without the donor funds.	The state government needs to domestically fund the operations of the SARC, which currently depends on the donor, RoLAC.
Information and Awareness 	The general population lacks widespread awareness and knowledge of GBV-related laws and policies, especially at the grassroots level.	Information and awareness creation efforts must be intensified to reach more people with GBV messages.
	Inadequate reporting systems for GBV cases, as the state lacks a clear and unified GBV database.	IEC materials must be distributed more frequently and produced in the local language to aid understanding of the issue.
	Inadequate funding for awareness and sensitization in the state with heavy dependence on NGO funding	There is also a need for better data and record-keeping coordination between relevant MDAs handling GBV cases in the state. The state needs to create a sex offenders register and a centralized GBV database to harmonize reported cases and track progress.
		Anambra needs domestic funding for sensitization programs and greater collaboration between government and NGOs.

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Key Findings

Recommendations




Budget and Spending



There is insufficient budget allocation for implementing GBV laws and policies, leading to inadequate resources for enforcement, victim support, and awareness campaigns.

Increased government investment in GBV programs, including allocating specific budget codes for GBV-related activities. Collaboration with international partners, NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations can also channel resources into critical areas of intervention, such as legal aid, victim support services, and public education campaigns.

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2023 Recommendations
Anambra State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	 Develop comprehensive awareness campaigns that educate the public on the existing laws and policies related to GBV.	Partially Implemented	The Ministry of Women and Social Welfare of the State is working so hard to develop IEC materials for the awareness creation, and they are also using their social media handle too.
2		Not Implemented	We are still advocating for budget code GBV activities in the state.
3		Not Implemented	Regularly evaluate the impact of the existing laws and make necessary amendments to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.
Access to Legal Justice			
4	 Increase funding for the reporting and prosecution of GBV cases, including support for legal aid services.	Not Implemented	There is a challenge of funding which often leads to officers in charge asking complainants for mobilization either in cash or in kind.
5		Partially Implemented	This is still work in progress .
6		Not Implemented	Create well-tailored awareness campaigns to inform the public about the legal structures available for.
Support Services			
7	 Collaborate with non-governmental organizations to create permanent Shelters for GBV survivors, ensuring their safety and well-being.	Partially Implemented	There is a working relationship and collaboration between state and non state on this.
8		Not Implemented	Anambra State needs to increase the funding for medical and forensic facilities and services in existing structures, making them more accessible and comprehensive for survivors.
9		Not Implemented	Increase investments in training programs for law enforcement personnel, social workers, medical professionals, and staff at SARCs specifically on handling GBV cases.
Information and Awareness			
10	Increased funding for IEC materials and campaigns to raise awareness about GBV and available support services.	Partially Implemented	The effectiveness of GBV awareness occur at irregular intervals when donor funds are available.

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2023 Recommendations
Anambra State

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Ensure that IEC materials are prioritized and accessible to PwDs by providing them in formats like braille, sign language, and easy-to-read formats.

Partially Implemented

This was budgeted for, from the PWD Commission of the State. Also, only IEC materials in sign language is available. There are no IEC materials to reach persons with disabilities especially those with visual and hearing impairment.

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Increased advocacy for the inclusion of comprehensive sex education in the curriculum of secondary and tertiary institutions, teaching healthy relationships and consent.

Not Implemented

The discussion is ongoing.



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