



Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response: **What Has Changed?**



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Ekiti State

Fountain of Knowledge

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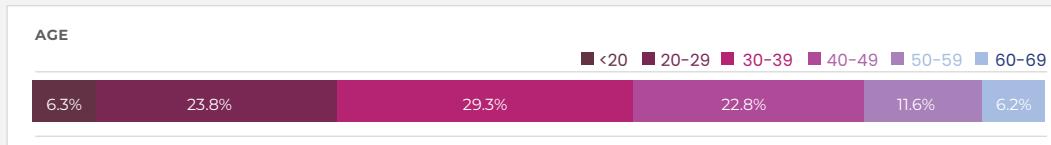
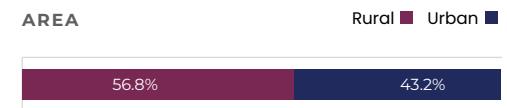
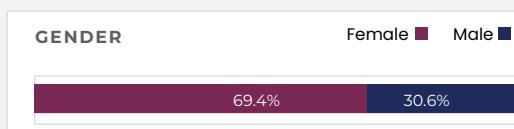
Ekiti State

Population: 4,191,397

50.1% Female 49.9% Male

Overall Grade 72.1%

Respondents Demography (n = 1,059)



Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

BUDGET ALLOCATION

₦1.19bn

(This accounts for 0.3% of the total state budget)

BUDGET PERFORMANCE

₦452.98m

(This accounts for 38.0% of total allocation to the ministry)

38.0% Capital | Personnel | Overhead

28.7% Capital | 26.9% Personnel | 44.4% Overhead



Per Capita Spending

₦215.74

Total Grades
83.3%
81.3%
62.5%
75.0%
58.3%

Indexes

Laws and Policies	LP ₁	LP ₂	LP ₃	—
Access to Legal Justice	ALJ ₁	ALJ ₂	ALJ ₃	ALJ ₄
Support Services	SS ₁	SS ₂	SS ₃	SS ₄
Information and Awareness	IA ₁	IA ₂	IA ₃	IA ₄
Budget and Spending	BS ₁	BS ₂	BS ₃	—

Indicators

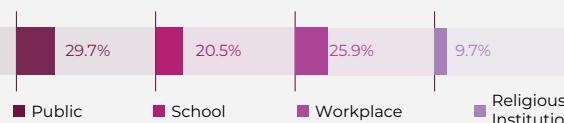
LP ₁	LP ₂	LP ₃	—
ALJ ₁	ALJ ₂	ALJ ₃	ALJ ₄
SS ₁	SS ₂	SS ₃	SS ₄
IA ₁	IA ₂	IA ₃	IA ₄
BS ₁	BS ₂	BS ₃	—

GBV Context 2025

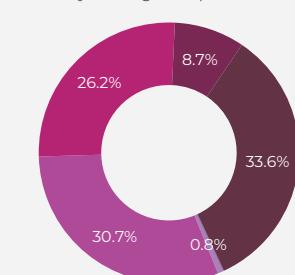
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence in the last five years?



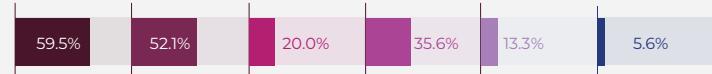
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Why did you or the person choose where you sought help?



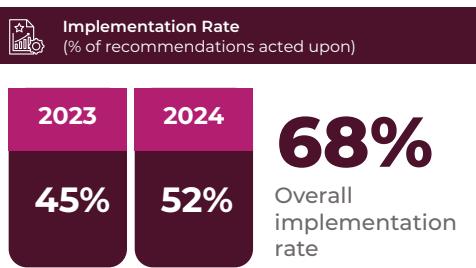
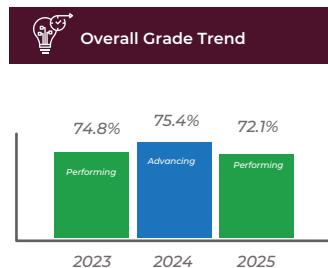
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



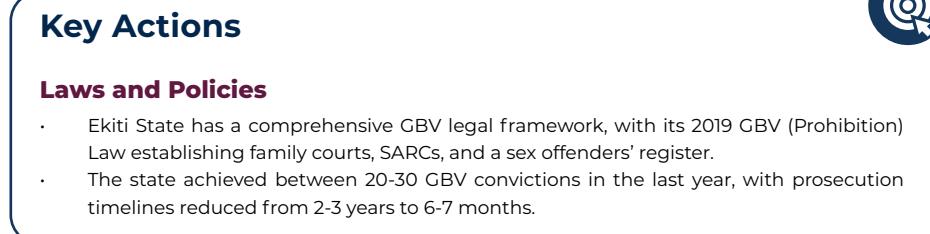
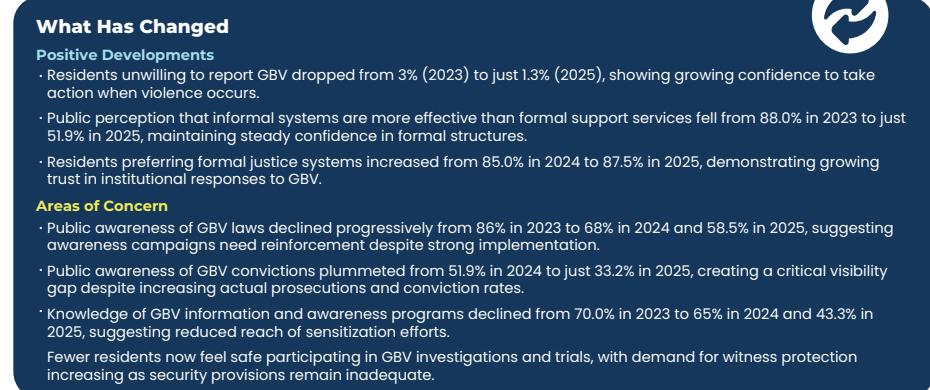
Family/relatives
Police/law enforcement authority
Friends/neighbors
Traditional/community leader or group

Religious leader (Pastor, Ulama, Imam, Deity)
I did not seek help
Employer/Work colleague/Labour group
Lawyer

Proximity or accessibility
Services
Trust



Index	2023	2024	2025
Laws and Policies	LP 90.0%	LP 95.7%	-1 ▼ LP 83.3%
Access to Legal Justice	ALJ 86.3%	ALJ 62.5%	ALJ 81.3%
Support Services	SS 86.3%	SS 81.3%	-1 ▼ SS 62.5%
Information and Awareness	IA 86.3%	IA 75.0%	IA 75.0%
Budget and Spending	BS 25.0%	+2▲ BS 66.7%	-1 ▼ BS 58.3%



Access to Legal Justice

- Ekiti established comprehensive legal aid coverage across all 16 LGAs, and trained paralegals in each senatorial district, ensuring access even in remote areas through technology and mobile services.
- The GBV Management Committee (GBVMC), chaired by the Wife of the Governor, was operationalized with diverse membership, meeting quarterly to oversee GBV interventions.

Support Services

- Three functional SARCs across Ekiti's senatorial districts, backed by a centralized shelter (Transit Home) providing accommodation, food, and education sponsorship.
- In 2024, Ekiti State supported 27 survivors' educational reintegration (23 secondary, four primary), graduated six with full sponsorship, and saw five become prefects, showcasing recovery and empowerment.

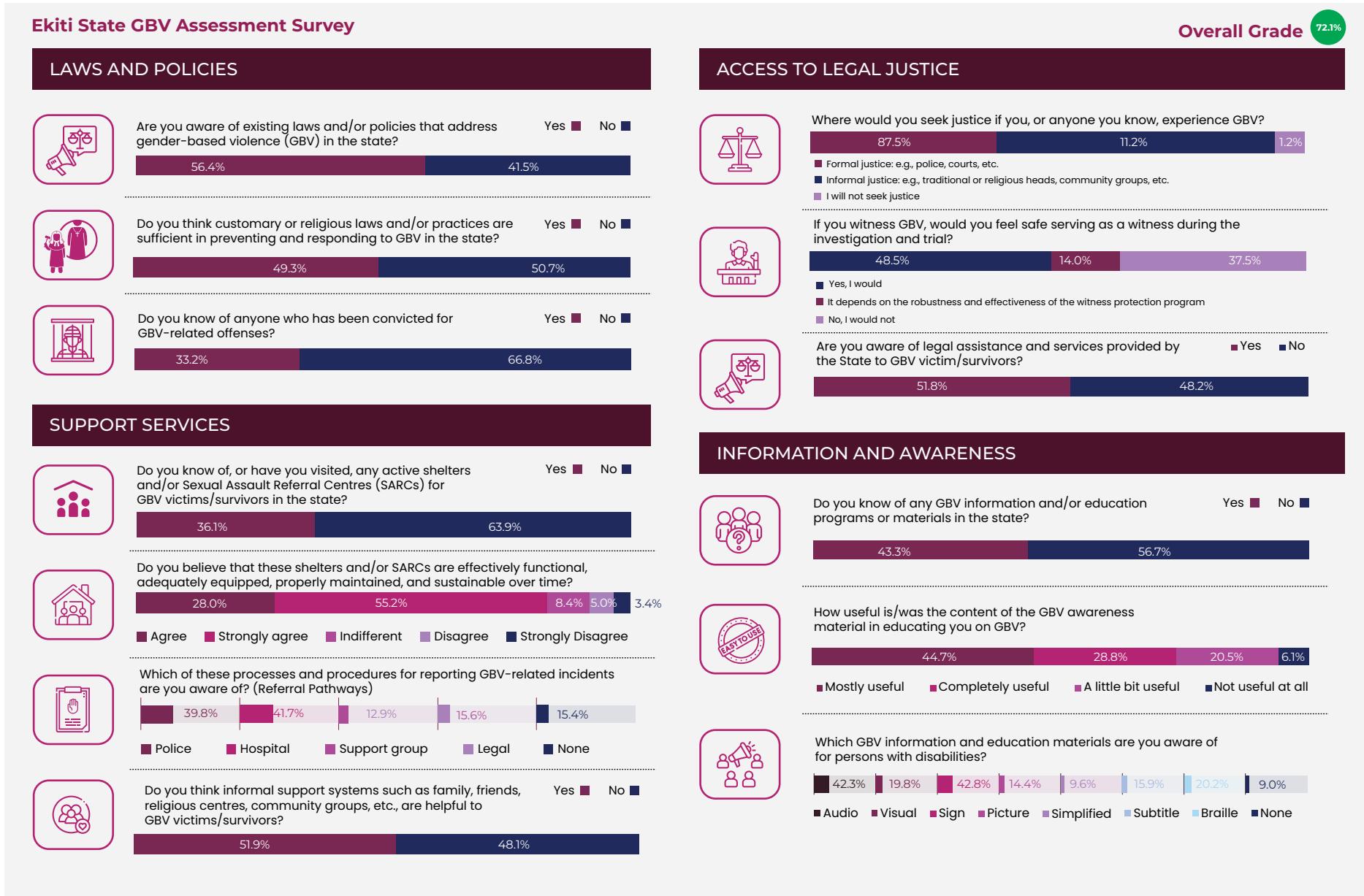
Information and Awareness

- The Ministry of Education implemented the AGILE programme nationwide, establishing anti-GBV clubs and integrating sexuality education and child abuse prevention into school curricula.
- Ekiti advanced disability-inclusive GBV programming by involving PWDs, providing sign language interpreters, and equipping special schools with assistive technologies through AGILE investments.

Change Spotlight

Ekiti state achieved remarkable reach through the AGILE programme, which systematically embedded GBV prevention into educational infrastructure. By 2025, weekly anti-GBV club meetings occurred across virtually all secondary schools statewide, with trained counsellors delivering curriculum-based sessions every Thursday. Primary schools implemented age-appropriate modules including the "Don't Touch My Bombomb" programme, converting complex safeguarding concepts into accessible songs and activities.





Ekiti State GBV Context Trend (2024-2025)

Overall Grade 72.1%

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



36.8%

of Ekiti State population have either experienced GBV or knows someone who have experienced GBV

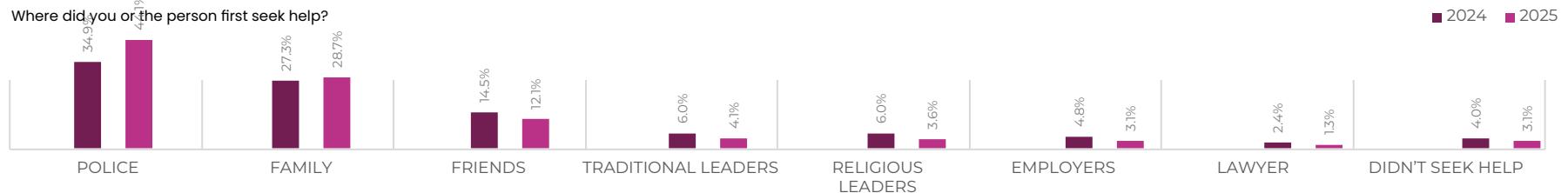
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



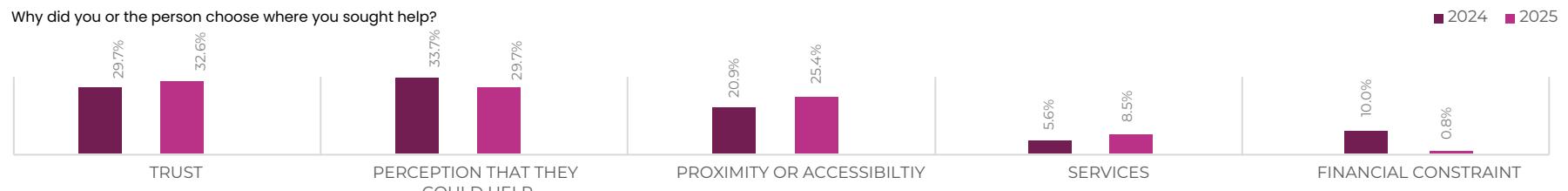
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?



Why did you or the person choose where you sought help?



State Data Trend (2023-2025)

Overall Grade 72.1%





KEY INSIGHTS

Laws and Policies

Current State in 2025

Ekiti State's GBV (Prohibition) Law, 2019 represents a significant advancement beyond the federal VAPP Act of 2015, incorporating critical institutional mechanisms that strengthen both prevention and response. The law mandates establishment of SARCs with multi-disciplinary teams, creates specialized family courts at magistrate, customary, and high court levels, institutes a public sex offender registry, establishes the GBV Management Committee with statutory membership, and provides for compulsory treatment and care for child sexual violence survivors.

Public awareness of GBV laws stands at 58.5%, reflecting modest reach despite intensive government and civil society sensitization efforts. However, 50.7% of respondents believe formal laws and policies are effective and sufficient, indicating strong public confidence in the legal framework. The challenge lies not in the quality of legislation but in translating legal provisions into consistent enforcement and widespread public knowledge.

The conviction landscape reveals both progress and gaps. While exact numbers vary by source, evidence suggests 20-30 convictions in the past year, with cases now concluded in 3-6 months compared to 2-3 years previously. The Ministry of Justice has begun publicly releasing profiles of convicted sex offenders through social media, enhancing transparency and deterrence. However, public awareness of convictions declined sharply from 51.9% in 2024 to 33.2%, suggesting that judicial achievements are not effectively communicated to communities where deterrence is most needed.

Customary and religious dynamics present a mixed picture. While 51.2% of respondents are aware of customary and religious laws addressing GBV, only 49.3% believe these mechanisms help prevent or respond to GBV. Multiple stakeholders confirmed that traditional rulers and mainstream religious leaders now actively support formal prosecution, with the Owa Ajero of Ijero publicly declaring that his palace would not settle rape cases but refer them immediately to police. However, isolated harmful practices persist, particularly FGM in Ekiti Southwest LGA and religious justifications for domestic violence in some communities. The NAPTIP State Coordinator documented a case where a pastor regularly assaulted his wife over church attendance, illustrating that religious authority can still enable abuse.

Changes Over Time (2023-2025)

The quantitative trend data reveals concerning regression in public legal awareness. Awareness of GBV laws decreased from 86% (2023) to 68% (2024) to 58.5% (2025), representing a 27.5 percentage point decline over two years. This downward trajectory suggests either erosion of earlier sensitization gains or inadequate sustained communication efforts to reach new community members and maintain awareness among existing populations.

Public perception of customary and religious mechanisms fluctuated significantly, rising from 50% (2023) to 63.3% (2024) before declining to 49.3% (2025). This volatility may reflect community-level variations in how traditional and religious leaders handle GBV cases, with inconsistent messaging creating uncertainty about whether these informal systems support or undermine formal justice. The most drastic shift occurred in awareness of GBV convictions, which plummeted from 51.9% (2024) to 33.2% (2025).

Access to Legal Justice

Current State in 2025

Ekiti State has developed robust institutional infrastructure for GBV justice delivery, though geographic and awareness barriers limit equitable access. The state demonstrates strong preference for formal justice mechanisms, with 87.5% of respondents indicating they would seek justice through police or courts, compared to just 11.2% preferring informal systems and 1.2% stating they would not seek justice at all. This overwhelming trust in formal institutions reflects both effective sensitization and tangible service delivery that has built community confidence.

Awareness of legal assistance and services stands at 51.8%, with radio (64.8%) and social media (39.7%) as primary information sources. Legal aid services are comprehensive and widely available through multiple providers: the Ministry of Justice's gender officers/advisers, Office of Public Defender (OPD), Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON), FIDA (International Federation of Women Lawyers), GRIP (Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion), NBA Human Rights Committee, and specialized NGOs. The Ministry of Women Affairs Director explained: "Legal aid and support cut across the CSOs, NGOs and government institutions. There are gender officers located in the different 16 LGAs and 22 LCDAs to ensure legal services get to all citizens."

The state has established comprehensive specialized GBV infrastructure including Family Support Units at the State CID and four Area Commands, Juvenile Welfare Centre offices in each division

staffed by female officers, specialized family courts at magistrate, customary and high court levels with designated judges, gender desks in Police, NSCDC, and even Amotekun (state security network), and technical working groups at state and LGA levels. The GBVMC provides oversight and coordination across these entities, meeting quarterly to review progress and address systemic challenges.

Witness protection remains a critical vulnerability. While 48.5% of respondents felt safe serving as witnesses, 37.5% explicitly stated they would not, and 14% said their willingness depends on witness protection effectiveness. The state covers transportation allowances for witnesses and keeps some survivors in the Transit Home to limit perpetrator contact but lacks formalized witness protection protocols. Multiple stakeholders described cases where survivors withdrew cooperation due to threats, family pressure, or fear of community stigma.

Despite these challenges, prosecution has improved. Cases that previously took 2-3 years now conclude in 3-6 months, with some completed in as little as three months. The Police work directly with SARC to ensure medical evidence is properly documented and admissible. Magistrates have been mandated to handle GBV cases, and four high courts are specifically designated for serious sexual offenses, creating judicial specialization that enhances case quality.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Quantitative data reveals mixed progress in justice access indicators. Preference for formal justice systems increased from 85.1% (2023) to 87.5% (2025), though it temporarily dipped to 76% in 2024. Conversely, preference for informal justice fluctuated from 11.6% (2023) to 18.4% (2024) before returning to 11.2% (2025). The 2024 spike may reflect temporary disillusionment with formal system delays or effectiveness, subsequently corrected as prosecution speeds improved.

Willingness to serve as witnesses showed complex trends. In 2023, 65.3% were willing, 9.1% unwilling, and 16.5% said it depended on witness protection effectiveness. By 2024, willingness dropped to 55%, unwillingness rose to 19%, and those citing witness protection rose to 26%. The 2025 data shows willingness at 48.5%, unwillingness at 37.5%, and 14% depending on protection. This progressive erosion of witness confidence may reflect increased perpetrator retaliation as conviction rates rise or growing awareness of witness risks as more cases proceed to trial.

Support Services

Current State in 2025

Ekiti State operates a three-tiered support infrastructure centered on SARCs, a Transit Home shelter, and community-based gender officers. The flagship SARC at EKSUTH in Ado-Ekiti provides comprehensive one-stop services including medical examination and treatment, forensic evidence collection, HIV and pregnancy prevention, psychosocial counseling, legal consultation, and referral coordination. Two additional SARCs operate in Oye-Ekiti and Ikere-Ekiti, covering the northern and southern senatorial districts respectively. All services are provided free of charge, with no card fees or consultation charges. This indicates a critical equity feature for economically vulnerable survivors.

However, public awareness of these facilities is alarmingly low at just 36.1%, representing a sharp

decline from 45% (2024) and 31% (2023). This means nearly two-thirds of Ekiti residents are unaware of the state's primary GBV response infrastructure. Among the minority who are aware, 83.2% (combining 55.2% who strongly agree and 28% who agree) believe these facilities are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable. This shows a remarkably high satisfaction rating that underscores the quality gap between service delivery and public knowledge.

The referral pathway operates through multiple entry points, though without formal documentation or standardized procedures. Survivors may report to Police, SARC, NGOs, Ministry of Women Affairs, Office of the Wife of Governor, NSCDC, or traditional leaders, with each entity expected to facilitate appropriate referrals. However, awareness of different pathways is highly skewed: 39.8% know about police pathways, 41.7% about healthcare pathways, but only 15.6% about legal representation and 12.8% about support groups. This imbalance indicates that while medical and legal responses are relatively well-known, psychosocial and peer support mechanisms remain largely invisible.

The Transit Home (shelter) accommodates survivors who need separation from abusive environments, providing accommodation, feeding, clothing, and integration support. As of the assessment, the facility housed survivors while 23 others were integrated into boarding schools across the state, with four additional children in nursery and primary schools.

Support services encompass medical, legal, psychosocial, and economic dimensions, though economic empowerment remains the weakest component. Medical services through SARC include HIV post-exposure prophylaxis, emergency contraception, treatment of injuries, forensic examination, and ongoing healthcare as needed. Legal services include case documentation, evidence preservation, prosecution support, and court accompaniment. Psychosocial services include trauma counselling, family therapy where appropriate, and long-term mental health support. Economic empowerment occurs through the Office of the Wife of Governor and Ministry of Women Affairs.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

The most striking change is the rise and sudden collapse in SARC/shelter awareness from 31% (2023) to 45% (2024) to 36.1% (2025). Awareness of referral pathways showed divergent trends across sectors. Police/security pathway awareness declined from 76% (2023) to 56.8% (2024) before partially recovering to 39.8% (2025), though remaining well below 2023 levels. Healthcare pathway awareness fluctuated from 22.3% (2023) to 22% (2024) to 41.7% (2025), showing eventual improvement. Legal pathway awareness collapsed from 57.9% (2023) to 23.5% (2024) to 15.6% (2025), a 42.3 percentage point drop. Support group pathway awareness increased from 8.3% (2023) to 12.7% (2024) to 12.8% (2025), showing modest growth from a very low base. These divergent trends reveal shifting communication priorities and effectiveness. The improvement in healthcare pathway awareness likely reflects enhanced visibility of SARC through NGO advocacy and survivor testimonials, while the collapse in legal pathway awareness suggests reduced emphasis on prosecution messaging or diminished legal aid outreach.

Information and Awareness

Current State in 2025

Ekiti State conducts GBV awareness programming through multiple channels and produces materials in local languages including Fulani and Hausa to reach diverse populations. A toll-free hotline operates for reporting. Despite this multi-channel approach, only 43.3% of respondents are aware of GBV information or awareness programs – a dramatic decline from 65% (2024) and 70.2% (2023). This 26.9 percentage point erosion over two years indicates either insufficient reach, inadequate message frequency, or poor targeting of communication efforts. However, among those exposed to GBV materials, 73.5% found them useful (28.8% completely useful, 44.7% mostly useful), demonstrating that when information reaches people, it is clear, relevant, and impactful.

Source diversification reveals heavy reliance on specific channels. Among those aware of GBV information, 63.6% learned through radio, 40.1% through social media, 28.1% through television, 25.9% through NGOs/CSOs, and only 19.8% through newspapers. Traditional information channels like friends/family (13.5%), schools (9.6%), healthcare facilities (6.5%), workplaces (7.6%), religious centres (2.2%), and traditional leaders (1.7%) contribute minimally, representing significant untapped communication and sensitization opportunities.

The school-based GBV prevention program through AGILE represents one of Ekiti's strongest awareness interventions. The program operates across all secondary schools in the 16 LGAs, with weekly Thursday sessions where trained counsellors use a developed curriculum to teach students about sexual violence recognition, rights, reporting mechanisms, and safety strategies. However, transfers of teachers from one school to another impact the school GBV programmes negatively. Additionally, the program operates as extracurricular content rather than formal curriculum integration, making it vulnerable to scheduling pressures and exam preparation priorities.

Information accessibility for persons with disabilities remains severely inadequate despite recent improvements. Only 42.3% of respondents are aware of audio/spoken GBV content for persons with disabilities, 42.8% of sign interpretation, 20.2% of braille materials, 19.8% of visual content, 15.9% of screen subtitling, 14.4% of picture-based messages, and just 9.6% of simplified messages. While the three specialized schools (Blind in Ikere, Deaf in Ikoro, physically challenged in Ido) receive adapted materials through AGILE, persons with disabilities living in mainstream communities have minimal access to disability-inclusive GBV information.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Awareness of GBV information programs declined precipitously from 70.2% (2023) to 65% (2024) to 43.3% (2025). This erosion occurred despite qualitative evidence of continued IEC production and distribution, suggesting the issue is not material availability but rather dissemination strategy, media placement, or message saturation fatigue.

The usefulness rating of GBV materials showed interesting fluctuation: 71.9% found materials useful in 2023, rising to 74% in 2024, then dropped to 73.5% in 2025 (combining completely and mostly useful categories). This improvement in perceived usefulness despite declining awareness may suggest that recent materials are better designed, more culturally relevant, or more action oriented.

Budget and Spending

Budget Analysis 2024

Ekiti State allocated ₦1.22 billion to GBV programs in 2024, representing 0.33% of its total state budget. Of the allocated amount, ₦458 million was actually spent, achieving a 38% implementation rate. This means approximately 62% of the budgeted resources remained unutilized by the end of the fiscal year. The actual GBV expenditure constituted 0.14% of the state's total spending, lower than the budget allocation share. On a per capita basis, Ekiti State spent approximately ₦218.11 per female resident on GBV-related programs.

Changes Over Time (2022–2024)

Across the three years under review, Ekiti State demonstrated clear fiscal intent by allocating substantial resources to gender-based violence (GBV) interventions. However, execution outcomes fell significantly short in 2024. Several key projects, including the "Design of the GBV Prohibition Law" (₦20 million) and the "Domestication of the National Gender and Development Policy" (₦5 million), were fully allocated but not implemented. The single notable exception was the "Renovation of the GBV Centre in Ado Ekiti," which received a ₦5 million allocation, with ₦4.98 million expended, representing the only tangible implementation within the broader GBV budget for that year.

The state recorded actual budget performance rates of 37.7% in 2022, 73.0% in 2023, and 56.0% in 2024. Per capita spending was ₦218.11 in 2024, ₦104.83 in 2023, and ₦102.06 in 2022. The upward movement across the three years reflects gradual improvement, although the increases remain modest and indicate slow expansion in investment toward GBV-related interventions.

Human Angle Stories

A 100-level university student and her friend were gang-raped at a party, and the ordeal was recorded. Before her violation, the survivor was aware that rape is a crime under the law. She also knew about the law in Ekiti that addresses rape, imposing life imprisonment as punishment for perpetrators. This knowledge emboldened her to seek help.

KEY GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Index	Key Gaps	Recommendations
Laws and Policies	58.5% of respondents are aware of GBV laws, reflecting a decline from previous years (68%) despite robust legal frameworks.	Intensify public awareness campaigns about GBV laws and convictions through sustained mass media presence (radio, TV, social media) with quarterly conviction updates to enhance deterrence. Publish and widely disseminate simplified citizen-friendly versions of GBV laws in English and local languages across all LGAs.
	Only 33.2% know of GBV convictions, down from 51.9% in 2024, despite 20-30 actual convictions in the past year with case resolution times reduced from 2-3 years to 3-6 months.	Intensify public awareness campaigns about GBV laws and convictions through sustained mass media presence (radio, TV, social media) with quarterly conviction updates to enhance deterrence. Establish a digital GBV case-tracking system showing real-time case status and timelines to increase awareness and ensure accountability.
Access to Legal Justice	Only 51.8% are aware of legal assistance services provided by the state, down from 73% in 2024.	Partner with civil society organizations, legal aid clinics, and local media to amplify messaging about available services, eligibility criteria, and access points. Establish visible signage and information desks at justice sector institutions with trained staff to guide citizens.
	Legal aid services are concentrated in Ado-Ekiti, with remote LGAs like Ilejemeje, Omuo, Efon, Moba, and Emure significantly underserved.	Scale legal aid coverage to all 16 LGAs conducting monthly circuits to underserved areas. Train and deploy 32 community paralegals (2 per LGA) to provide first-line legal information and facilitate referrals.
Support Services	Specialized infrastructure exists including family courts in three senatorial districts, gender desks in Police divisions, NSCDC, and Amotekun, but only 48.5% would feel safe serving as witnesses.	Develop and implement formal witness protection protocols including safe houses, identity protection, psychological support, and court accompaniment.
	Only 36.1% of respondents are aware of SARCs or shelters, representing a decline from 69.4% in 2023 and 45% in 2024.	Launch aggressive multi-channel SARC awareness campaign including billboards at LGA entrances, radio jingles, marketplace announcements, and distribution of fliers through churches, mosques, and schools.
Information and Awareness	Three SARCs (Ado-Ekiti, Oye-Ekiti, Ikere-Ekiti) serve 16 LGAs, creating geographic access barriers for remote communities.	Establish satellite SARC units or mobile clinics in underserved LGAs (Omuo in Ekiti East, Efon, Ilejemeje) to reduce travel distance and improve timely access to care.
	Awareness of referral pathways is skewed: 41.7% know healthcare pathways, 39.8% police pathways, but only 15.6% legal pathways and 12.8% support groups.	Document and disseminate standardized referral pathway protocols to all entry points with laminated contact directories and clear step-by-step procedures.
Budget and Spending	Only 43.3% of respondents are aware of GBV information and awareness programs, declining from 70.2% in 2023 and 65% in 2024.	Implement sustained GBV campaign with minimum weekly messaging across radio, television, social media, and print media for the next 24 months. Integrate GBV prevention into formal school curriculum (not extracurricular) at primary and secondary levels to ensure sustainability beyond donor-funded projects.
	Disability-inclusive information is critically inadequate: only 42.3% audio/spoken content, 20.2% braille, 19.8% visual content, 15.9% screen subtitling, 14.4% picture-based messages, and 9.6% simplified messages.	Produce comprehensive disability-inclusive IEC materials including braille pamphlets, audio messages, sign language videos, pictorial guides, and simplified texts distributed widely, especially through specialized schools, community centres, and grassroots communities.
Budget and Spending	Ekiti State has a severe budget execution problem, spending only 38% of allocated GBV funds in 2024. Critical projects like the GBV Prohibition Law design received full funding but had zero implementation, leaving 62% of resources unutilized due to weak procurement and project management capacity.	Establish a GBV Budget Implementation Monitoring Unit to track quarterly expenditure and resolve disbursement bottlenecks. Conduct capacity assessments of implementing agencies and link performance incentives to budget utilization rates to improve accountability and actual service delivery.

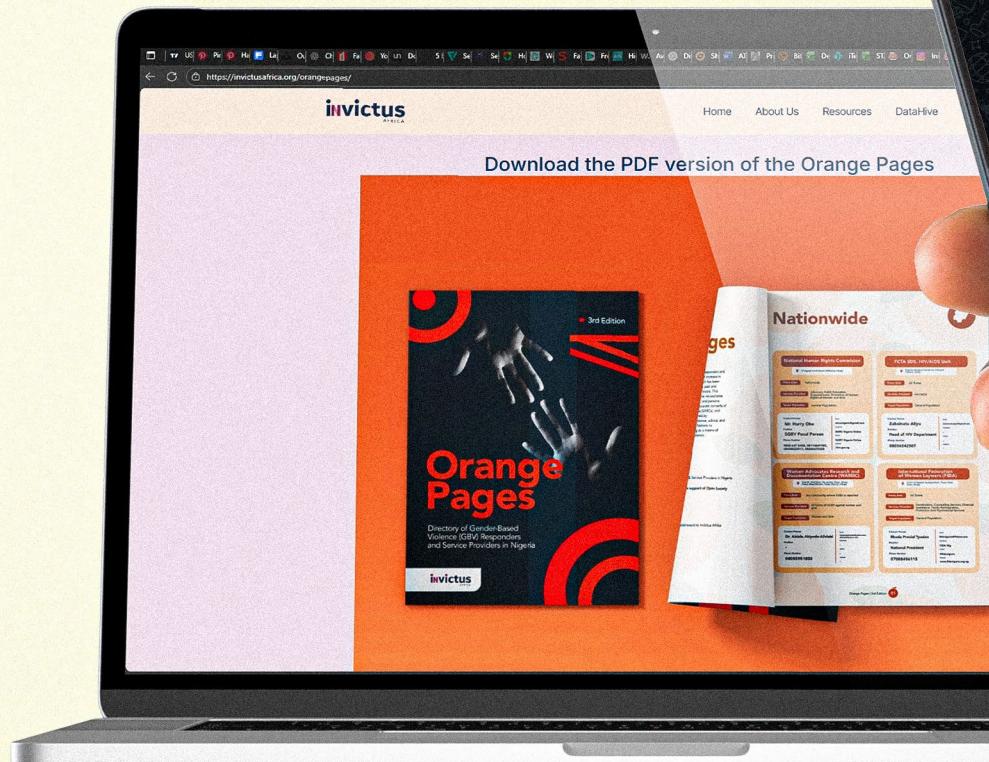


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