



## Client Demographics – 2024 Sexual Assault Support Centers and Children’s Advocacy Centers

Sexual assault support centers and Children’s Advocacy Centers support Mainers who have been impacted by sexual violence. While anyone can experience sexual violence, discrimination and a lack of societal protection means that some populations experience it at disproportionate rates. As a result, MECASA’s member programs regularly analyze data about who is being served and who is *not* being served to ensure people who experience sexual violence are receiving the services they need. While much of this data compares service statistics with population-level data, this only shows one piece of the picture. The disproportionate impact of sexual violence on certain groups means that there are more survivors of sexual violence holding some identities than others. Therefore, we should expect to see *higher* percentage of those populations served than make up the proportionate percentage of the Maine population.

For example, MECASA used the rate of incidence of sexual violence (how many people report experiencing it in the last year) and the prevalence of sexual violence (how many people report experiencing it in their lifetime) to further refine predicted impacted populations in Maine. Yet for many populations that are, in the chart below, marked as “served proportionately or higher” based on the state population may still be served disproportionately *low* based on the percentage of survivors who hold that identity in the state.

This table provides an overview of demographic identities served by MECASA member programs and how they compare to population-level data in our state.

POPULATIONS SERVED PROPORTIONATELY OR HIGHER	POPULATIONS SERVED DISPROPORTIONATELY LESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ People Living With Cognitive Disabilities</li> <li>✓ Currently Or Previously Incarcerated Mainers</li> <li>✓ BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, And People Of Color) Mainers</li> <li>✓ Black Mainers</li> <li>✓ Multigenerational Black Mainers<sup>1</sup></li> <li>✓ American Indians/Alaskan Natives</li> <li>✓ Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> People living with physical disabilities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> People who are D/deaf/Hard of Hearing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+ Mainers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> College Students</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Veterans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Asian Mainers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic Or Latino Mainers</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> In 2022 1% of Mainers were identified as “Multigeneration Black Mainers” a term that describes all Black Mainers who are neither born overseas nor the minor children of immigrant parents.  
<https://www.mecepc.org/blog/how-public-policy-has-and-hasnt-increased-equity-for-black-mainers/>

**Disproportionately Impacted Demographics Served in 2024**

The following table takes a more detailed look at the (non-racial) demographics of those served in 2024 compared to the Maine population.

<b>Who We Served in 2024</b>	<b>% of Clients Served</b>	<b>% of Population in Maine</b>
People living with physical disabilities	1%	12% <sup>2</sup>
People living with cognitive disabilities	3%	1.58% <sup>3</sup>
People who are D/deaf/hard of hearing	>1%	7% <sup>4</sup>
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers <i>(does not include IRCM service number)</i>	1%	3.9% <sup>5</sup>
LGBTQ+ individuals	2%	4.9% <sup>6</sup>
College Students	1%	3+% <sup>7</sup>
Veterans	>1%	7% <sup>8</sup>
Previously or currently incarcerated people	6%	1+% <sup>9</sup>

**Racial Representation of Clients Served in 2024**

The table below shows the race of clients served in 2024 and how they compare to Maine’s population.

<b>Primary Race<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>% of Clients 2024</b>	<b>% of Clients 2024 (adjusted to remove “unknown”)</b>	<b>% of Population in Maine</b>
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.86%	1.39%	0.70%
Asian	0.46%	0.75%	1.40%

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/dhds/impacts/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://maineddc.org/index.php/about-mddc/defining-dd#:~:text=The%20overall%20prevalence%20of%20disability,Mainers%20report%20having%20a%20disability.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/dhds/impacts/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ME/HCN010222>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality\\_maps/profile\\_state/ME](https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality_maps/profile_state/ME)

<sup>7</sup> Representation here is low since over 30% of students enrolled in college in Maine are not residents and therefore not calculated here <https://educationdata.org/college-enrollment-statistics#maine>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ME/HCN010222>

<sup>9</sup> No data available that shows previous incarceration rates, 1.2% is for within 1 year

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/ME.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ME/HCN010222>

Black	2.74%	4.45%	2.10%
Hispanic or Latino	0.70%	1.14%	2.30%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.12%	0.19%	0.00%
White	55.08%	89.46%	93.70%
Multi-racial	1.46%	2.36%	2%
Other	0.15%	0.25%	N/A
Unknown <sup>11</sup>	38.43%	N/A	N/A

The following chart provides a detailed breakdown of specific race categories. It includes a combined analysis of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) by uniquely tallying responses to various race and ethnicity questions. Additionally, it highlights the number of Black Mainers served who do not fall into the immigrant, refugee, or asylum seeker categories.

Who We Served in 2024	% of Clients Served (with IRCM)	% of Clients Served (without IRCM)	% of Population in Maine
BIPOC Mainers	7%	6%	4%
Black Mainers	5%	4%	2%
Black Mainers who are <i>not</i> immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	3%	4%	1% <sup>12</sup>

**Service Characteristics for Black and BIPOC Mainers:**

- 100% of BIPOC clients surveyed in 2024 agreed that “advocates respected their background and identity” and 91% of respondents rated their services 5 stars (out of 5).<sup>13</sup>
- Black Mainers received 30% more unique services per person than the overall clients served (4.1 services per Black client compared to an average of 3.14).
- Black Mainers received 34% more hours of service than the overall clients served (3.7 hours of service per Black client compared to an average of 2.75 hours).

<sup>11</sup> Many clients only ever receive services on the phone (30% in 2024) and are not asked demographic questions as a prerequisite to receiving services. As a result, a large percentage of client race is unknown (nearly 40% in 2024).

<sup>12</sup> In 2022 1% of Mainers were identified as “Multigeneration Black Mainers” a term that describes all Black Mainers who are neither born overseas nor the minor children of immigrant parents.

<https://www.mecep.org/blog/how-public-policy-has-and-hasnt-increased-equity-for-black-mainers/>

<sup>13</sup> BIPOC clients have completed the “Survivor Voice: Experience Survey” over twice as often as overall clients (6% and 2.5% respectively)