

# CENTER for VICTIM RESEARCH

*Building an evidence base for victim services*

## **African American Experience of Sexual Assault in Maryland: Focus Group Protocol**

### **Author(s) of Instrument:**

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### **Key References:** Publications related to this instrument

Weist, M. D., Kinney, L., Taylor, L. K., Pollitt-Hill, J., Bryant, Y., Anthony, L., & Wilkerson, J. (2014). African American and White women's experience of sexual assault and services for sexual assault. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma*, 23(9), 901-916.

Weist, M. D., Pollitt-Hill, J., Kinney, L., Bryant, Y., Anthony, L., & Wilkerson, J. (2007). *Sexual assault in Maryland: The African American experience*. NCJ 217617, Washington, DC: United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. Retrieved May 17, 2019 from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/217617.pdf>

### **Primary Use/Purpose:** This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.

The purpose of this study was to look at the service needs of African American women who were victims of sexual assault in Maryland. Focus groups were conducted with those providing survivors in Maryland on the needs of their clients and available services. Data was also obtained from victim interviews. See African American Experience of Sexual Assault in Maryland Interview Protocol.

**Background and Development:** How and why this instrument was developed.

21 focus groups were conducted with service providers working at rape crisis centers, detention centers, community center, or historically Black colleges between 2003 and 2006.

**Psychometrics (if applicable):** Any testing of this instrument.

N/A.

**Link to Instrument:** Link to the instrument if available.

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/25201/summary> or see attached.

**Submitted by:** Mark Weist certified permission to publicly share this instrument.

## Focus Group Questions

1. What do you view as the needs of African American women who have been sexually assaulted? Are these different than women of other racial/ethnic backgrounds? Why?
2. What issues have you seen/experienced in how African American victims of sexual assault are treated by the criminal justice system (law enforcement/ prosecutor's office/ court system)? Do you perceive unique barriers to reporting sexual assault to police for African American women?
3. Are there unique issues to the use of available resource by African American women, such as post-rape medical care and counseling services? Do you perceive unique barriers to the use of these services by African American women?
4. What issues have you seen/experienced in outreach to African American victims by your agency?
5. What are your key recommendations for the state of Maryland to improve services for African American women who are victims of sexual assault?