

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS: STATISTICS

Research indicates that domestic violence is frequently an immediate cause or precursor to homelessness and housing instability.

- The need for safe housing and the economic resources to maintain safe housing are **two of the most pressing concerns** among abused women who are planning to or have recently left abusers.

Source: Clough, A., Draughon, J. E., Njie-Carr, V., Rollins, C., & Glass, N. (2014). "Having housing made everything else possible": Affordable, safe and stable housing for women survivors of violence. *Qualitative Social Work*, 13(5), 671-688.

Research has found that **more than a third** of DV survivors report becoming homeless immediately after separating from their partners.

- This study examined housing problems and homelessness after separation in a sample of 110 women who had experienced domestic violence.
- Of the sample, **38%** reported homelessness. Similar percentages reported housing problems (e.g., late paying rent, skipping meals, threatened with eviction).
- Predictors of more housing problems included experiencing a greater severity of violence, contacting fewer formal systems, having less informational support, and receiving a negative response from welfare.

Source: Baker, C.K., Cook, S.L., & Norris, F.H. (2003). *Domestic violence and housing problems: A contextual analysis of women's help-seeking, received informal support, and formal system response*. *Violence Against Women*, 9, 754-783.

In just one day in 2014, **over 31,000** adults and children found refuge in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

- That same day, domestic violence programs were unable to meet **over 10,870** requests for services because of a lack of funding, staffing, or other resources.
- **Fifty-six percent** (6,126) of unmet requests were for housing. Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs for domestic violence survivors.

Survivors have reported that if a domestic violence shelter did not exist, the consequences for them would be dire: homelessness, serious losses including loss of their children, actions taken in desperation, or continued abuse or death.

Source: Lyon, E., Lane, S., & Menard, A. (2008). *Meeting survivors' needs: A multi-state study of domestic violence shelter experiences*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence. (2015). *Domestic Violence Counts 2014. A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services*. Washington, DC.

Women and men who experienced **food and housing insecurity** in the past 12 months reported a **significantly higher 12-month prevalence** of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner compared to women and men who did not experience food and housing insecurity.

Source: Breiding, M. J., Chen, J., & Black, M. C. (2014). *Intimate partner violence in the United States - 2010*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A study of 3,400 shelter residents in domestic violence programs across eight states found that housing is **one of the main needs** identified by survivors at the time of shelter entry; **84%** participants reported that they needed help with finding affordable housing.

Source: Lyon, E., Lane, S., & Menard, A. (2008). *Meeting Survivors' needs: A multi-state study of domestic violence shelter experiences*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

A Florida study examining the experience of violence among 800 homeless women found that a significant number of women were victimized in their lifetime, and **almost one-quarter of the women indicated that violence was one, if not the main reason they were homeless.**

- Approximately **one homeless woman in four** is homeless mainly because of her experiences with violence.
- Homeless women are far more likely to experience violence of all sorts than American women in general, by differentials ranging from two to four depending on the specific type of violence in question.

Source: Jasinski, J. L., Wesely, J. K., Mustaine, E., & Wright, J. D. (2005, November). *The Experience of Violence in the Lives of Homeless Women: A Research Report*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

A survey of 180 homeless male and female youth in Columbus, Ohio found that **35.4%** of youth were put down, called names repeatedly, or were controlled by their intimate partners in their lifetime, whereas **30.0%** of youth were physically harmed.

Source: Slesnick, N., Erdem, G., Collins, J., Patton, R., & Buettner, C. (2010). Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Reported by Homeless Youth in Columbus, Ohio. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 25(9), 1579-1593.