The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness

The two most pressing concerns for survivors of abuse are the need for safe housing and the need for economic resources to maintain safety.[1]

80% Experienced DV

A study of homeless women with children found that 80% had previously experienced domestic violence.[2]

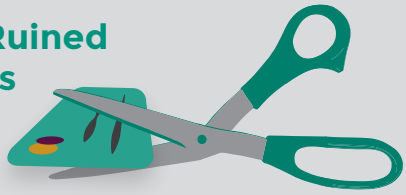
57% Homelessness was caused by DV

Studies show that as many as 57% of all homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness.[3]

Barriers to Safety: Understanding the Intersection

As a direct result of the power and control dynamics related to their abuse, survivors often face unique barriers to accessing shelter and affordable housing.

Poor Credit & Ruined Rental Histories



Often caused by abusers running up credit card bills or lying about paying rent, utilities, childcare and other bills. This affects a survivors' ability to pass a landlord background check.

Lack of Steady Employment

Caused when victims are forced to miss work as a result of violence, or are fired as a result of stalking and harassment that occurs at the workplace.

Housing Discrimination

The most common cases of this occur when landlords evict victims from housing due to repeated calls to the police or property damage caused by the abuser.

Loss of Subsidized or Other Affordable Housing

Caused by lease or voucher policy violations committed by the abuser.

This is particularly true for survivors most marginalized in our society and with the least access to resources, including many survivors of color, Native Americans, immigrants, those living in poverty and who are geographically isolated, those with disabilities, and others.

In just **1 Day** In 2016[4]

OVER **41,000**

adults and children fled domestic violence and found refuge in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

7,914

domestic violence survivors' requests for housing were unmet due to a lack of funding, staffing, or other resources. Emergency shelter and transitional housing were the most urgent unmet need for survivors.

For more information, visit www.safehousingpartnerships.org

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2. Aratani, Y. (2009). Homeless Children and Youth, Causes and Consequences. New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty.
3. Women and Children in Chicago Shelters, 3; Nat'l Center for Homelessness & Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network (2003). Social Supports for Homeless Mothers, 14, 26; Inst. for Children & Poverty (2004). The Hidden Migration: Why New York City Shelters are Overflowing with Families; Homes for the Homeless and Inst. for Children & Poverty (1998). Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America, 3.
4. National Network to End Domestic Violence (2017). 11th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report: 24-Hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services. Washington, DC.