

Examining Contextual Influences on the Service Needs of Homeless and Unstably Housed Domestic Violence Survivors

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STUDY AIMS

1 Examine whether unstably housed **DV survivors can be grouped** by housing and financial status, abuse experience, mental health and disability status, substance misuse, criminal history, and level of social support;

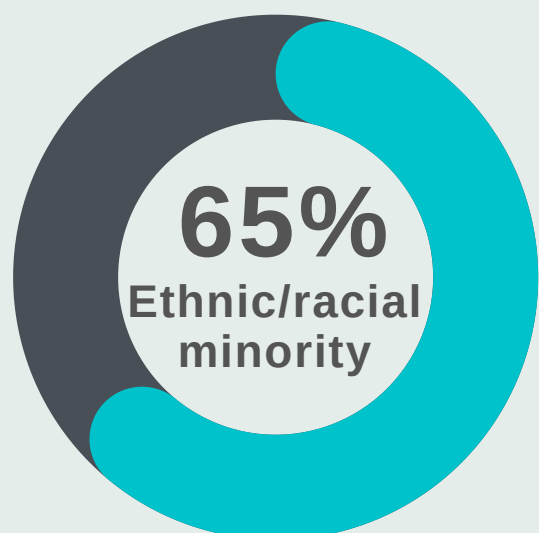
2 Examine how **group membership** was associated with demographic variables

3 Examine how subgroup differences impacted **survivor needs** from DV agencies

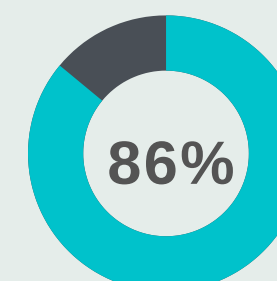
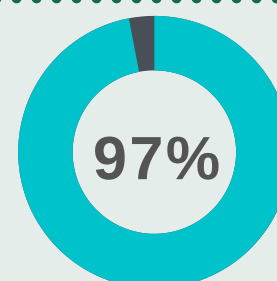
METHOD

In-person interviews in English or Spanish with **406 unstably housed DV survivors** who had recently sought services from one of five DV agencies in the Pacific Northwest.

PARTICIPANT SAMPLE



- 35% Latinx
- 19% Black
- 15% Multiethnic
- 12% Indigenous
- 4% Asian



Age range: 19 – 62
Average: 34.5 yrs old

KEY FINDINGS



Survivors could be grouped by number of difficulties and disadvantages they brought with them when seeking help.

- Highest Disadvantages Service Seeker**
- Moderate Disadvantages Service Seeker**
Criminal Legal System Needs
- Moderate Disadvantages Service Seeker**
- Lower Disadvantages Service Seeker**

- Groups did not differ by race, ethnicity, citizenship, education, or parental status.
- Differences in health, social support, DV victimization, financial and housing instability, and criminal history were in magnitude only.
- Some survivors require few resources and little time from staff to meet their needs. Others—especially those with a wider range of complex difficulties—require far more of an agency's resources.

PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS

- Considering survivors' current situations (housing and financial status), potential housing barriers (criminal history and substance misuse), and protective factors (social support), **provides a holistic understanding of survivors' service needs**, and supports providing individualized services.
- Diverse subgroups of survivors seeking services may want and need different **types** and **levels** of assistance.
- Providing **survivor-centered advocacy** is key to assisting survivors in obtaining safe and stable housing.

CONTACT US



More information about DVHF:
<https://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/>
[Click here](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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