



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

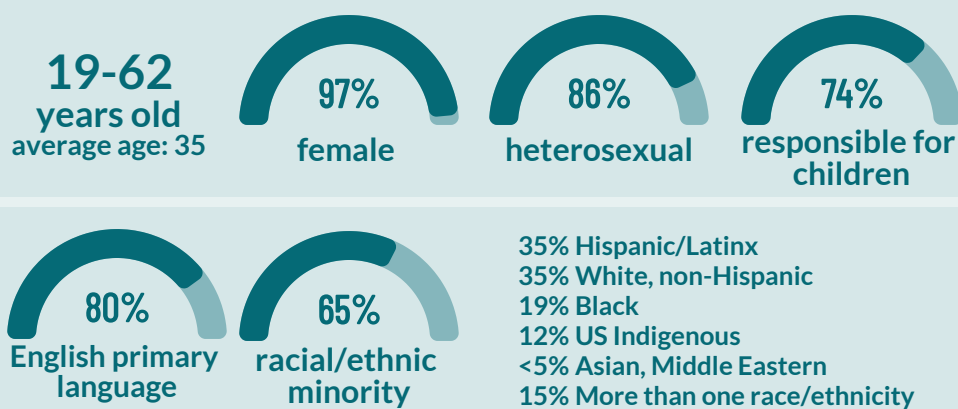
In-person interviews in English or Spanish with 406 unstably housed DV survivors who had recently sought services from one of five DV agencies in the Pacific Northwest.

What is Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF)?

DVHF involves using mobile advocacy and/or flexible funding to help survivors of domestic violence obtain safe and stable housing.



Participant Sample



housing status at program entry:

- 42% homeless or living in a shelter
- 22% with family/friends without paying rent
- 3% transitional housing or treatment program
- 9% with family/friends and paying rent
- 24% in homes they owned or were renting

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 w/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/>

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