



Impact of COVID-19 on the safety, housing stability, and mental health of unstably housed domestic violence survivors

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Overview

We examined the **impact of the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders** on a racially diverse population of **unstably housed domestic violence (DV) survivors** over two years.

Specifically, we examined survivors' **safety, housing stability, and mental health** before, during, and after the onset of COVID-19, and how different factors (like social support and DV services) impacted the effect of the stay-at-home orders.

Method

COVID-19 stay-at-home orders occurred midway through the completion of this multi-year study and data collection for the final 24-month interview was still ongoing at the time of this analysis.

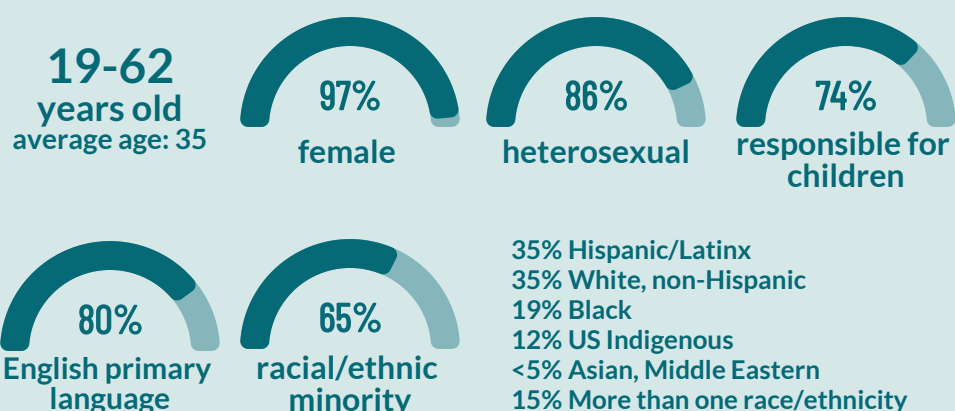
Sample sizes at each interview timepoint were:



Baseline	406
6-month follow-up	375
12-month follow-up	369
18-month follow-up	359
24-month follow-up	306

Longitudinal mixed-effect models examined the impact of COVID-19 on DV survivors' safety, housing stability and well-being.

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

Results

Safety, housing stability, mental health were improving for study participants prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic **but plateaued after the stay-at-home orders were issued.**

Experiences of **abuse, housing instability, and mental health symptomatology did not worsen** as a result of the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.

Participants who **received housing-related services and greater social support reported less abuse, less housing instability and lower mental health distress.**

Conclusions

- COVID-19 negatively impacted the positive trajectory DV survivors were experiencing over time in the areas of safety, housing stability and mental health.
- Additional resources and support may be helpful in assisting survivors to return to their pre-pandemic recovery and growth trajectories.

Contact Us

More information about DVHF:
<https://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/>

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