

# Impact of the Domestic Violence Housing First Model on Survivors' Safety and Housing Stability: Six Month Findings

This article is Open Access: Sullivan, C. M., López-Zerón, G., Farero, A., Ayeni, O., Simmons, C., Chiaramonte, D., Guerrero, M., Hamdan, N., & Sprecher, M. (2022). Impact of the Domestic Violence Housing First model on survivors' housing stability, safety and wellbeing: Six month findings. Journal of Family Violence. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-022-00381-x

## **Study Aim**



Examine whether the **DVHF model is effective in increasing housing stability and reducing abuse** over six months.

## 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.



### **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.

#### At six months:

- Retention rate of 92% (375 participants)
- 30 participants had received no services and were excluded from analyses

## Analysis compared two groups:

Receiving SAU (Services As Usual)



Receiving DVHF Services

## Participant Sample

19-62 years old average age: 35





74% responsible for children





35% Hispanic/Latinx

35% White, non-Hispanic

19% Black

12% US Indigenous

<5% Asian, Middle Eastern

15% More than one race/ethnicity



#### 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



Compared to survivors who received SAU, survivors who received the DVHF model reported:





Overall, both groups noted a significant and steep decline in violence between baseline and 6 months. Group differences were only found for economic abuse.

#### **Contact Us**

More information about DVHF: https://wscadv.org/projects/ domestic-violence-housingfirst/

## Acknowledgements

This research was supported by a subcontract from the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who received funding through a contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in partnership with the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime [contract #HHSP233201600070C], and by a grant from the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who received funding from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation [#OPP117416]. Danielle Chiaramonte's contribution to this project was partially supported by the National Institute of Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health [T32DA019426]. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funders.