Although domestic violence is not caused by poverty, unemployment, and economic recession, these factors may increase the risk of domestic violence.

- Women living in disadvantaged neighborhoods are more than twice as likely to be the victims of intimate violence compared with women in more advantaged neighborhoods.

- According to 56% of shelters, domestic violence is more violent now than before the economic downturn.

Since the economic downturn, survivors have shared with us how it has impacted their lives. Some things survivors experience include:

- Domestic violence may cause financial problems for survivors and entrap them in poverty and an abusive relationship.

  - Women in abusive relationships report instances in which battering obstructed their ability to find work, maintain employment, and use their wages to establish greater economic independence and safety.

  - About 45% of participants in a survey of 1,500 domestic violence survivors reported experiencing financial difficulties, including many not being able to pay their bills.

  - More than 3/4 of shelters indicate their clients stayed longer in their relationships due to the state of the economy.

- Economic stress and hardship may increase the demand for services, just as emergency domestic violence service providers are struggling with fewer resources.

  - Eighty percent of domestic violence shelters nationwide report an increase in women seeking assistance from abuse, with 73% of shelters attributing this rise in abuse to financial issues.

  - 65 percent of women in shelters can’t find employment due to economy.

  - In one day alone, domestic violence programs were unable to meet 10,581 requests for services because of a lack of funding, staffing, or other resources.

- It can be difficult for survivors to re-establish themselves financially after an abusive relationship. A few of the supports we offer to help survivors recover:

  - ...
How does the economy affect the domestic violence incidents and reporting by victims?

References and Citations

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