

Domestic Violence: A Different Kind of Homelessness Results from The SHARE Study

The SHARE Study

The SHARE Study is a quasi experimental, longitudinal, community based participatory study designed to evaluate the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness, of an existing rapid re-housing program (Volunteers of America Home Free). The evaluation examines the role of housing stability in preventing revictimization and reducing negative health outcomes of domestic violence survivors and their children.

Demographics of the SHARE Study Participants

Participants of the SHARE Study were 278 English or Spanish speaking women in the Portland, Oregon area who had experienced physical or sexual violence or threats of violence by an intimate or ex intimate partner in the previous 6 months.

Participants also had housing instability as a primary concern and had sought services from a domestic violence or housing assistance agency.

Race and Ethnicity: Despite the demographics of Portland, over ½ the sample were women of color

- 26.6% African American
- 24.5% Hispanic
- 7.6% Native American

Education: About ½ had a GED, high school degree or less.

- 25.9% no high school degree
- 23.0% only had a high school degree or GED

Employment: The participants had high rates of unemployment and poverty

- 29.1% employed outside the home
- 90.0% of the sample had less than \$1500 per month to live on.
- 89.9% report difficulty in meeting basic needs and 39.2% report often to sometimes not having enough food to eat

Children: most participants had children

- 83% had children
- Most had young children, mean child age = 7.93

The Impact of Housing Instability and Domestic Violence

Health



Participants had high rates of depression, PTSD, and health concerns

83.4% met the criteria for clinical depression

94.2% experienced symptoms consistent with PTSD, with the average PTSD score equal or higher than that of returning veterans of combat

53.8% had accessed hospital/emergency medical services in previous 6 months

Severity of Violence



Participants were living with extremely high levels of danger

Scores from a the Danger Assessment, measuring risk factors associated with intimate partner homicide

- 2.2% Variable Danger (0-7)
- 12.6% Increased Danger (8-13)
- 14.0% Severe Danger (14-17)
- 71.2% Extreme Danger (18+)

Mean (SD)	Range
21.57 (7.27)	1-37

Influence of DV on Work



Participants' ability to work is highly impacted by DV

58.7% Have taken time off in the last six months because of DV

28.4% Lost/quit/fired from a job in the last six months because of DV

Service Utilization



Participants had high rates of public service utilization

TANF	56.8%
WIC	25.4%
TADVS	65.1%
Police came to assist	61.2%
Applied for restraining order	46.0%
Hospital or emergency or urgent care	53.8%

Housing Instability



Participants had low levels of homelessness, but high housing instability largely due to domestic violence in the prior 6 months

Housing Instability Index (HII) Risk Factors	%	% Due to DV
Lived somewhere she did not want to live	79.9	73.4
Difficulty paying (or unable to pay) for housing	78.8	67.6
Trouble getting housing in last 6 months	64.7	50.7
Do not expect to stay in current housing	54.3	45.0
Borrowed money to pay for housing	50.7	44.2
Had 3 or more moves in last 6 mo	42.1	**
Trouble with landlord	36.6	26.6
Landlord threatened to evict	27.7	22.3
Served eviction notice	18.0	13.7
Unlikely to be able to pay for housing this month	12.2	**

Mean # of HII Risk Factors	Range
4.83	0-10

Mean # of Moves	Range
3.94	0-116

- 42.1% had 3 or more moves

Only 26.6% reported one or more of the following types of homelessness in the 6 months prior to the survey:

- 16.55% had lived in a motel/hotel they paid for themselves
- 2.88% had stayed at a homeless shelter
- 13.67% had lived on the street, in their car, or camped out

The more unstable the housing, the greater the risk of:

- Higher Danger Assessment score
- Higher PTSD
- Higher depression
- Poorer quality of life
- Greater likelihood of hospital/emergency/urgent care use
- Greater likelihood of days off work/school

Children



Housing Instability and domestic violence can have negative impacts on children

- 45.3% of children in the study were outside the normal range of functioning on a behavioral assessment
- 31.7% of children screened for impairment in cognitive, emotional, or behavioral functioning
- 37.3% Missed 6 or more days of school in the last six months
- 31.4% Missed 1 or more days of school due to DV in the last six months
- 23.2% School performance declined in the last six months

Assessment	Mean (SD)	Range	Scale Interpretation
Child Strength & Difficulties Scale	12.66 (8.03)	0-32	Normal 0-13 Borderline 14-16 Abnormal 17-40
Pediatric Symptoms Checklist	22.14 (13.83)	0-60	>28 psychological impairment

More pediatric symptoms (worse psychological functioning) were associated with

- More risk factors for housing instability
- Higher scores on the danger assessment

Chiquita Rollins, PhD	Multnomah County Domestic Violence Coordinator	503-988-4112	chiquita.m.rollins@co.multnomah.or.us
Kris Billhardt, M.Ed,Ed.S	Director, Volunteers of America Home Free	503-802-0492	kbillhardt@voaor.org
Amber Clough, MSW	Research and Evaluation Analyst Multnomah County	503-988-4995	amber.clough@co.multnomah.or.us

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