

SEXUAL VIOLENCE Relocation & HOMELESSNESS

Many survivors of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment have complex housing needs. Experiencing violence can jeopardize a person's housing, and experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity can increase the risk someone will experience violence.

Relocation

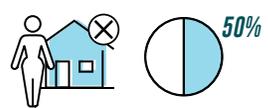
Someone sexually harassed or assaulted at home by a landlord, intimate partner, family member, or neighbor may need to move for their safety or to heal from the trauma they experienced. Survivors who experience sexual harassment or assault outside of their home may also need to relocate if the person who sexually harassed or assaulted them knows where they live.



Of women who experienced sexual assault, **11% reported** it happened at their home.¹



Almost eight percent of women who experienced intimate partner violence² and over seven percent of women who experienced rape needed housing services.³



Over 50% of women who needed housing services did not receive them.⁴

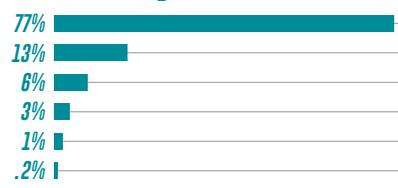


In a study of 100 low-income women living in public housing or participating in the Section 8 voucher program, **16% had experienced sexual harassment or other problematic sexual behavior** from a landlord.⁵

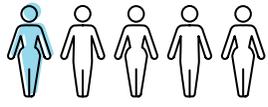
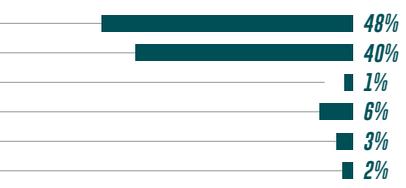
Homelessness

Sexual assault, abuse, and harassment can be risk factors for homelessness, and homelessness is a risk factor for experiencing rape or sexual assault. Homelessness is the result of historical and structural oppression, with Black individuals, other people of color, and Indigenous individuals overrepresented in the homeless population.⁶ However little research has looked at the connections between sexual violence, housing, and race.

General Population⁸



Homeless⁷



One in five adults (19%) who are homeless reported being physically or sexually assaulted while homeless.⁹



Almost 40% of homeless female and 3.3% of homeless male veterans experienced military sexual trauma.¹⁰



Twenty-five percent of adults who are homeless experienced child sexual abuse (36% for women vs. 14% for men).⁹

Experiences in Shelters

Homeless shelters may not recognize the need to address trauma related to sexual assault.



17% OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Seventeen percent of people who identify as transgender were sexually assaulted while staying in a homeless shelter.¹¹



BLACK 33% MULTIRACIAL 25% WHITE 10%

Black and multiracial transgender people reported higher rates of sexual assault at shelters than white transgender people.¹²



WOMEN 26% MEN 15%

Transgender women were more likely (26%) than transgender men (15%) to report sexual assault at shelters.¹²



People providing services related to homelessness rarely ask about experiences of sexual assault or rape. In one study, **over 70% of homeless women were not asked by homeless shelter staff if they ever experienced violent victimization.**¹³

For more information on the connections between sexual violence and housing, visit safehousingpartnerships.org. To view the other infographics in this series, visit nsvrc.org/SexualViolenceandHousingInfographics.



About the Consortium

The Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium is funded by a partnership between the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Consortium supports a technical assistance team of five national organizations: Collaborative Solutions, Inc., National Alliance for Safe Housing, National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The Consortium provides training, technical assistance, and resource development at the critical intersection of homelessness and domestic violence and sexual assault.



Resources

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- ³Basile, K. C., Smith, S. G., Chen, J., & Zwald, M. (2020). Chronic diseases, health conditions, and other impacts associated with rape victimization of U.S. women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519900335>
- ⁴Breiding, M. J., Chen J., & Black, M. C. (2014). *Intimate partner violence in the United States - 2010*. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cdc_nisvs_ipv_report_2013_v17_single_a.pdf
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- ⁶Olivet, J., Dones, M., Richard, M., Wilkey, C., Yampolskaya, S., Beit-Arie, M., & Joseph, L. (2018). *Phase one study findings*. Center for Social Innovation. <http://center4si.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SPARC-Phase-1-Findings-March-2018.pdf>
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- ⁹Wilder Research. (2016). *Homelessness in Minnesota: Findings from the 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study*. Wilder Research. <http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/reports-and-fact-sheets/2015/2015-homelessness-in-minnesota-11-16.pdf>
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