

WHAT ARE THE LINKS between SEXUAL VIOLENCE & HOUSING?

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.

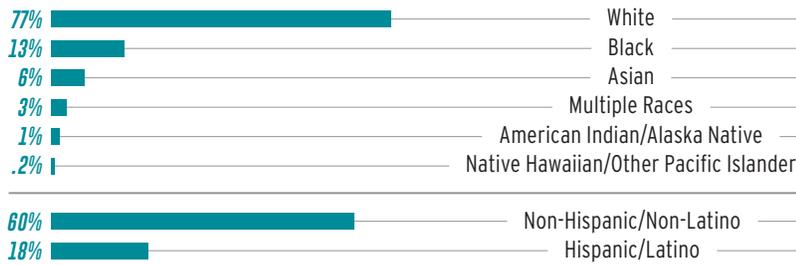


In a study of 100 low-income women living in public housing or participating in the Section 8 voucher program, **16% had experienced sexual harassment or other problematic sexual behavior** from a landlord.⁵

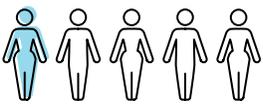
Homelessness

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



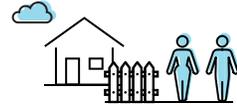
Homeless⁷



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.



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



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



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

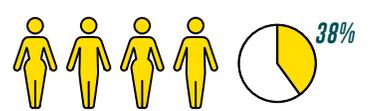
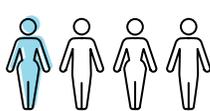
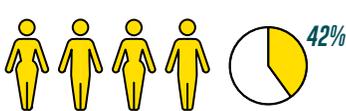
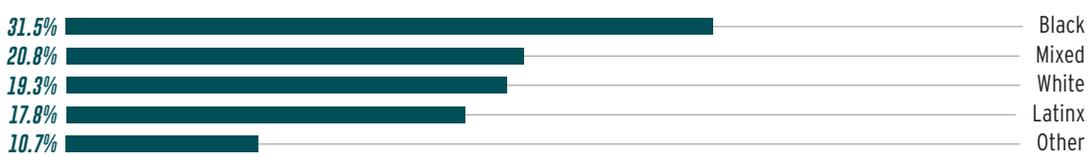


People providing services related to homelessness rarely ask about experiences of sexual assault or rape. In one study, **over 70% of homeless women were not asked by homeless shelter staff if they ever experienced violent victimization.**¹³

Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

Young adults experiencing homelessness typically have a history of being raped or sexually assaulted prior to leaving home and being victimized when on the street.

Homeless young adults (ages 18-26) who experienced forced sex while homeless¹⁴



Over 33% of homeless or precariously housed youth (ages 13-25) reported experiencing child sexual abuse prior to being homeless, and **13% reported experiencing sexual assault since becoming homeless.**¹⁷

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