

DVHTAC Special Topic Series

Understanding the Cycle of Housing Insecurity

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Presenters

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Evelyn Hill, [Changed Choices](#)

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Moderator

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Domestic Violence & Housing Technical Assistance Consortium (DVHTAC)

FEDERAL PARTNERS

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

FRAMING TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Domestic and Sexual Violence
- COVID-19
- Housing Insecurity

Domestic & Sexual Violence: Lifetime Prevalence



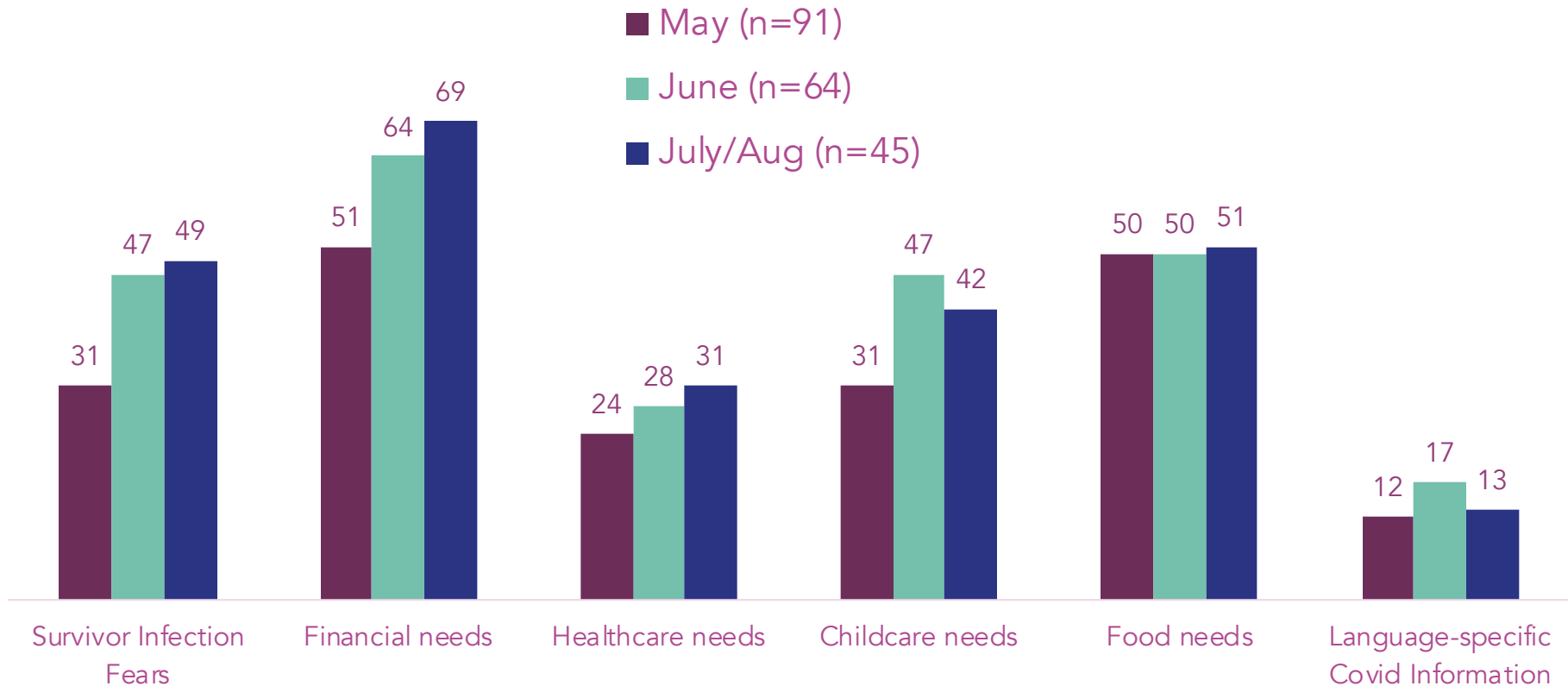
Physical Violence by Intimate Partner	Women	Men
Multi-racial	51%	39%
American Indian & Alaska Native	52%	43%
Black	41%	36%
White	31%	27%
Hispanic	30%	27%
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	15%	12%

Sexual Violence (other than rape)	Women	Men
Multi-racial	64%	40%
American Indian & Alaska Native	55%	25%
Black	38%	24%
White	47%	22%
Hispanic	36%	27%
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	32%	16%

** over-representing total population rates*

How COVID-19 is Affecting Survivors

(% Respondents Reporting)



Source: Shanti Kulkarni, PhD, Professor of Social Work, UNC-Charlotte, 2020

COVID-19 : Exacerbating Survivors' Housing Insecurity

- 1 in 4 people (26%) reported housing insecurity

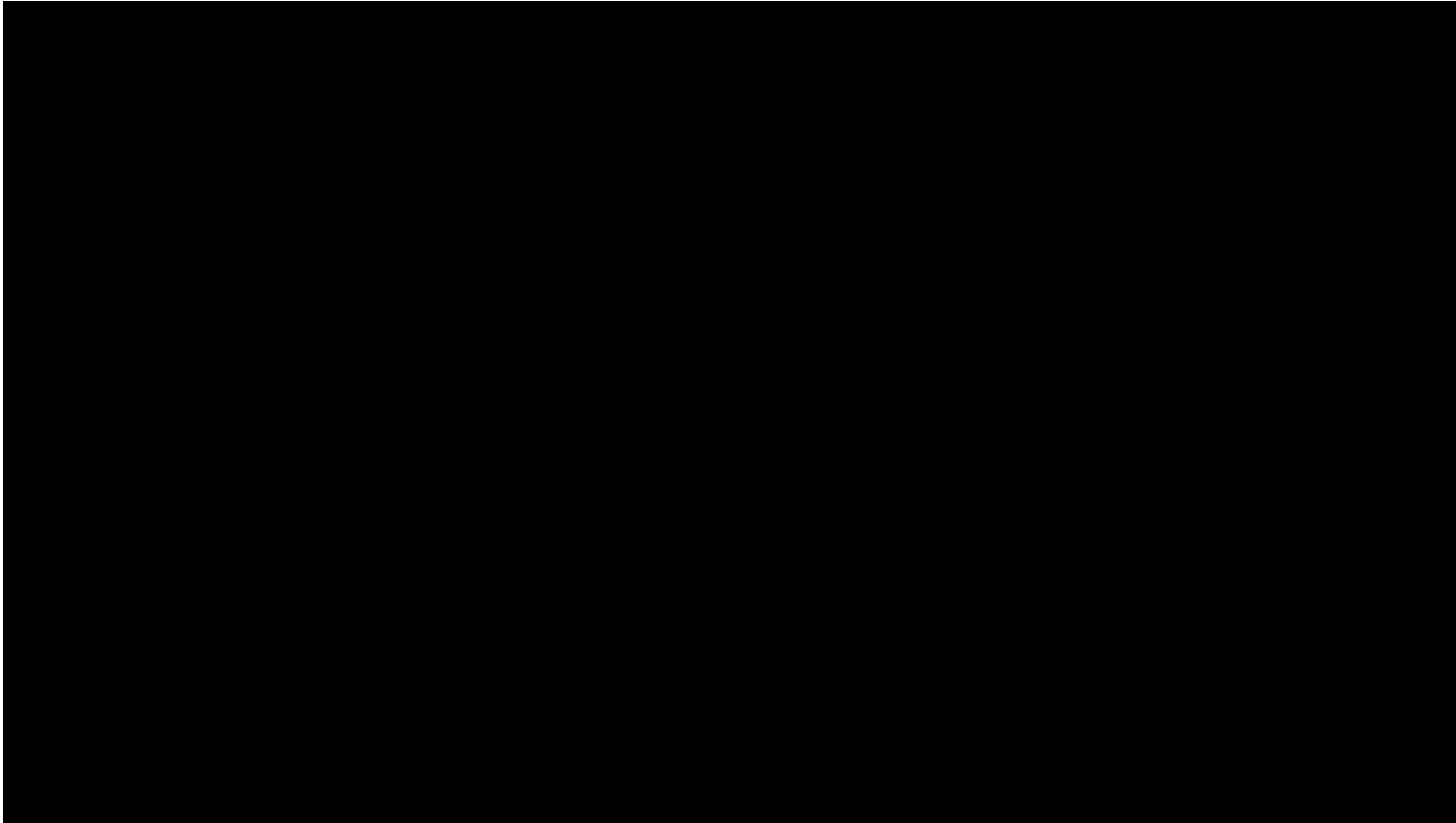
- *Didn't pay last month's rent/mortgage on time*
~ and/or ~
- *Slight/no confidence being able to pay next month on time*



- Black women (40%) and Latinas (44%)
 - 2 ½ times more likely than White men
- Rates even higher for Black women and Latinas with children (45% & 48% respectively)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Household Pulse Survey

The Intersections Between Domestic and Sexual Violence, Race and Housing Insecurity



UNDERSTANDING THE CYCLE OF HOUSING INSECURITY

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Research Team Members

- North Carolina
 - Evelyn Hill, Katrina Ikard, & Danielle Archie
- D.C. Metro
 - Dilcia Molina, Maria Amelia Viteri, Leslie Moncada, Juan M. Rodriguez-Lopez, & Manuel Diaz-Ramirez
- With gratitude for the participation and inspiration of survivors and committed advocates

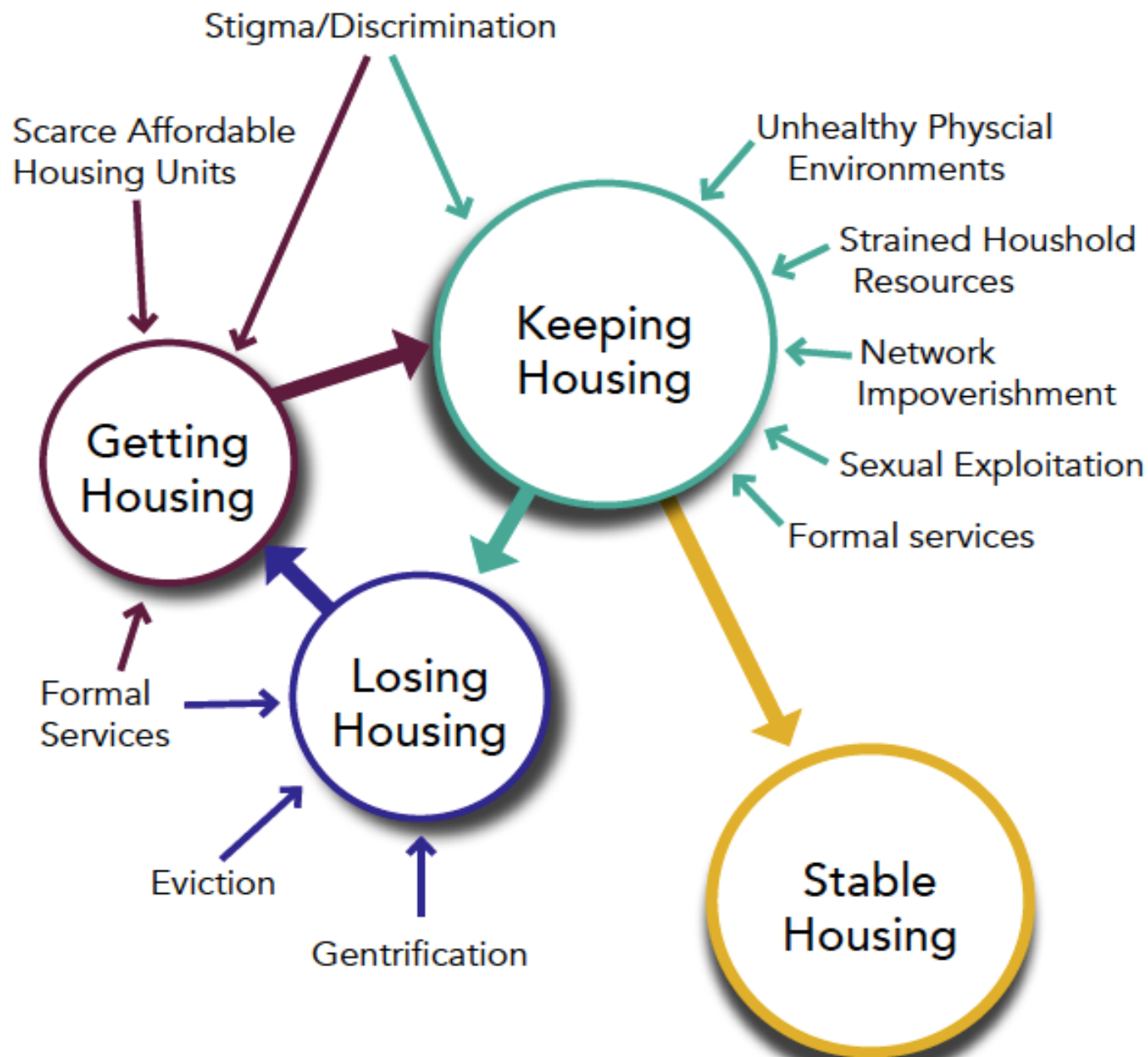
Study Overview

- Between July 2019 and July 2020, our research teams held 14 (6 primary/8 validation) listening sessions with black and Latinx survivors who had intersectional identities related to their life experiences, including having a history of incarceration, having a mental health diagnosis, being a new immigrant, living in poverty, and/or being part of the LGBTI community.
- Community-based Participatory Team: 1 doctoral trained researcher and co-researchers with lived experience and trusted service providers

Data Collection & Analysis

- Semi-structured interview guide (6 groups)
 - Topics: Housing Challenges; Difficult choices, Service recommendations; etc.
- Cycle of Housing Insecurity Model Developed Validation sessions (8 groups)
 - Cycle of housing insecurity presented for feedback
 - Model revised and refined
- All sessions digitally recorded and transcribed
 - Spanish translation

Field experts and service providers also consulted for recommendation development



SAFE HOUSING
PARTNERSHIPS

Getting Housing

Finding and securing appropriate housing is difficult

- Housing Scarcity
 - Lack of affordable housing options; competition for affordable housing units
- Stigma/Discrimination
 - Domestic violence, criminal background, race, immigration status, language
 - Experienced from service providers, landlords, and general public
- Formal Services
 - Can facilitate housing access by providing information and advocacy
 - Services are 'siloed' and survivors may not receive housing services or linkages

Keeping Housing

Housing situations can be unstable for multiple reasons

- Unsustainable Environments
 - Stalking by Partner
 - Neighborhoods (e.g. drugs, violence, food deserts, no public transport)
 - Housing conditions (e.g. mold, vermin, substandard, overcrowded)
- Strained Household Resources
 - Low-wage work, health problems, childcare, transportation, trauma symptoms
- Network Impoverishment
 - Family and friends also struggling; relationships damaged by DV
- Sexual Exploitation (e.g. rent, repairs)
- Formal Services
 - Many 'hoops' to jump through; confusing array of services

Losing Housing

Loss of housing was common due to eviction, gentrification, and financial or other housing crisis

- Eviction
 - Can happen quickly
- Rent Increase
 - Annual increases
- Voluntary Move

Disrupting the Cycle of Housing Insecurity: Key Recommendations

1. Healing and empowerment are possible, but survivors need comprehensive survivor-centered trauma-informed services.

Nobody ever asks us what we need and what we want. I think that needs to start being incorporated to not just push the agenda of your organization.

Disrupting the Cycle of Housing Insecurity: Key Recommendations

2. Formal services can improve survivor access to housing resources through cross-sector collaborations.

My case worker said she didn't know what to tell me (about housing) because that's not her job.

Disrupting the Cycle of Housing Insecurity: Key Recommendations

3. Survivors want to challenge negative stereotypes about domestic violence, incarceration, immigration, and race with their stories.

Prison is something that happened, it's not who I am. Domestic violence is something that happened, it is not who I am. And you're not going to define me by what you think I should be. Nobody can put me in another box.

I can work two, three jobs, and still people don't want to take that chance or even allow me the opportunity to live in a place that's conducive to being a productive member of society.

Disrupting the Cycle of Housing Insecurity: Key Recommendations

4. Survivors want protections from housing discrimination and tenant exploitation.

To be able to stay there, we stopped complaining because you know you need a place and since you're paying what you are paying and you don't want them to throw you out, you ignore your needs.

Disrupting the Cycle of Housing Insecurity: Key Recommendations

5. Communities need affordable housing resources and equitable access.

I mean, it's like everybody is trying for that one house and these people know that, these landlords know that, so they'll jack the prices up because they have all these different people trying to get this one house.

Disrupting the Cycle of Housing Insecurity: Key Recommendations

6. Comprehensive community investments should target the underlying causes of housing insecurity.

The neighborhoods are filled with abandoned houses or houses that aren't kept up. You have certain landlords that will rent to us, but what they want to put you in you wouldn't want to live in. Because it's not made for a family, it's not made for the kids to feel safe. I feel like it's throwing a Band-Aid on something and just say, "Here, we giving it to you, be quiet. Go away. Go sit in a corner."

Discussion / Questions



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Mapping DV/SV Housing Practices



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GN65ZFK>

- Identify housing-related practices:
 - Alternate assessment tools
 - Co-located advocates
 - DV bonus funds
 - DV Housing First
 - Point-in-Time participation
 - Flexible funding
 - Joint component programs
 - Parallel Coordinated Entry systems
 - Rapid re-housing

Consortium COVID-19 Resources

- **Safe Housing Partnerships:**

<https://safehousingpartnerships.org/news/>

- **NASH:** [DV and Housing-Related Coronavirus Resources](#)

- **NNEDV:** [COVID-19: Coalition Guidance for Programs by the National Network to End Domestic Violence](#)

- **NRCDV:** [Preventing & Managing the Spread of COVID-19 Within Domestic Violence Programs](#)

- **NSVRC:** [Resources for COVID-19 Response](#)

- **CSI:** [HUD and DV Resources - COVID-19](#)

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