

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.

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?

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.

We have seen an increase in requests for services during this time. We've expanded our services to meet this need by:

Survivor story or anecdote to illustrate your point:

Program Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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References and Citations

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Source: National Institute of Justice (NIJ). (2004, September). *When Violence Hits Home: How Economics and Neighborhood Play a Role*. Washington, DC. Available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/205004.pdf>.
- According to 56% of shelters, domestic violence is more violent now than before the economic downturn.
Source: Mary Kay, Inc. (2011, April). *"Mary Kay Truth About Abuse" Survey: National Findings from Third Survey of Domestic Violence Shelters in the United States*. Dallas, TX. Available at http://www.marykay.com/content/company/pr_pressreleases_2011survey.aspx.

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Source: Moe, A. M., & Bell, M. P. (2004). Abject economics: The effects of battering and violence on women's work and employability. *Violence Against Women*, 10(1), 29-55.
- 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.
Source: Lyon, E., Bradshaw, J., & Menard, A. (2011). *Meeting Survivors' Needs through Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services & Supports: Results of a Multi-State Study*. Harrisburg, PA: National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Available at http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/DVServicesStudy-FINALReport2011.pdf.
- More than 3/4 of shelters indicate their clients stayed longer in their relationships due to the state of the economy.
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- 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.
Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence. (2012). *Domestic Violence Counts 2011. A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services*. Washington, DC. Available at http://nnedv.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2011/DVCounts11_NatlReport_BW.pdf.