DVHTAC COVID-19 Special Topic Series

Racial Equity in Safe Housing (Part 2)

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Presenters
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Evelyn Hill, Changed Choices

Moderators
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DV & Housing TA Consortium (DVHTAC)

Federal Partners
- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD
- 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)

Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium
www.safehousingpartnerships.org
The Intersections Between Domestic & Sexual Violence, Racism and Homelessness
COVID-19, Housing, and Racial Equity

- Black people are dying at a rate more than 1.5 times higher than their population share

- Many states are effectively erasing Native Americans from data sets by classifying them as “other” – where tracked, states have found severely disparate rates of infection or death

- Research suggests racial residential segregation is a fundamental cause of health disparities
COVID-19, Housing, and Racial Equity (continued)

• Communities of color disproportionately live in neighborhoods further from grocery stores & medical facilities due to historical racial discrimination & red-lining in housing policies

• Many people of color live in federally assisted housing, including public housing & Section 8 programs, that are often in segregated neighborhoods with less investments

• Challenges are exacerbated for people of color living in rural communities, being counties away from facilities & service agencies
LaToya Young

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Khadijah,
Group Partner / Member
The Methods

• Two focus groups with 12 Black women who had survived IPV
• Currently living in Washington, DC
• 2 trained co-facilitators (Nkiru, researcher; LaToya, practitioner)
• 1 Note-taker
• Compensated $50, food, transportation support and childcare services
Creating the Culture

**Survivors Lead**

- Decisions
- Member Created Guidelines
- Trust, autonomy, commitment
- “Ummhmm” - verbal affirmation
- Healing
Guiding research questions

• What survivor centered, culturally-specific strategies promote wellness [and resist housing instability]?

• What do we want systems to know?
The Challenges

“Sometimes your need of housing starts with domestic violence… when I went to get help, they acted like it was a normal thing as a Black woman… to this day I don’t talk to my family… I had to get surgery on my leg… everyone acts like it’s the norm for Black women to be victims of DV.”

“As a Black woman they expect you to be single- head of household in order for you to get services.”

“In the Black community we need to get more classes on how the system should go… we need to know our rights… we need to hold people accountable… other people from other cultures know they can go to the city council or somewhere else to make a difference.”
Our Strategies

“I wouldn't necessarily say, that they kind of force you to lie, but instead of lying, omitting information. Because if you know your chance of [not being able to] get this, and you really need whatever this is, and you give up this information, you won't get that. So, you just don't tell them [information]. So that's a strategy that kind of depends on the need.”

“We as people of color – our rock bottom comes easier than most others. We already have our hard times early on. If I have to find a way, I will make a way.”

“I have a system with my best friend to help each other out. We get paid at different times, so when I don’t have it she helps me out and vice versa. You have to have trusted friends who will share resources with no judgment.”
Shifting the Power Creates Equity

• Services that reflect what survivors need and ask for
• Pathways to building and sustaining familial and communal support
• Housing options that respond to immediate housing crisis and provide a pathway to housing stability
• Invited to “the table”
• Relatable connections
• Deep investments
Trapped in a Cycle

Intersections of Domestic Violence, Housing, and Marginalization
Study Overview

• Community-Based Participatory Research Method
  • 2 Teams
• Listening Sessions (9)
  • Semi-structured interview guide
    • Topics: Housing Challenges; Difficult choices, Service recommendations; etc.
• Digitally recorded and transcribed
  • Spanish translation
• Preliminary Analysis by the Research Team
• Validation Groups with Key Stakeholders
# Listening Sessions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
<th>Population Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Researcher and 3 co-researchers with lived experiences</td>
<td>Black DV survivors, many with criminal justice involvement (Rural/Urban)</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Trusted service provider co-researchers</td>
<td>Latinx immigrant survivors and LGBTQ</td>
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**Changed Choices (3)**

**La Clínica del Pueblo (3)**
The Cycle of Housing Insecurity

Getting Housing

Losing Housing

Keeping Housing

Stable Housing

Housing Scarcity

Unsustainable Environments

Strained Household Resources

Network Impoverishment

Sexual Exploitation

Stigma/Discrimination

Formal Services

Eviction

Rent Increase

Voluntary Move
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
How does DV affect survivors’ experiences within this cycle...

- Abuser interference
- New experiences of trauma, violence, or abuse
- Need time to heal
  - Trauma symptoms
  - Triggers in the environment
- Social networks are strained
  - Damaged relationships with family & friends
  - Isolation/Shame
  - Difficulty trusting others
Preliminary Recommendations

1. Increasing support for healing and empowerment
2. Challenging public attitudes about domestic violence, incarceration, immigration, and race
3. Protecting tenants' rights and educating landlords
4. Expanding resources and access

What do you think of these recommendations? Is anything missing? What are your priorities?
Consortium COVID-19 Resources

• Safe Housing Partnerships: [https://safehousingpartnerships.org/news/](https://safehousingpartnerships.org/news/)

• NASH: [DV and Housing-Related Coronavirus Resources](https://www.dvandhousing.org/coronavirus)

• NNEDV: [COVID-19: Coalition Guidance for Programs by the National Network to End Domestic Violence](https://www.nnedv.org/coronavirus)

• NRCDV: [Preventing & Managing the Spread of COVID-19 Within Domestic Violence Programs](https://www.nrcdv.org/coronavirus)

• NSVRC: [Resources for COVID-19 Response](https://www.nsvrc.org/coronavirus)

• CSI: [HUD and DV Resources - COVID-19](https://www.hud.gov)
Presenters’ Contact Information

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Take a Short Survey: What survivor and/or staff needs are you seeing during COVID?

The Domestic Violence and Housing Assistance Technical Consortium (DVHTAC) is asking all of our Special Topic Series participants to complete a short survey about survivor and staff needs during the COVID crisis. The survey will take about 5-7 minutes to complete. We will be using this information to better advocate for what programs need right now.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PP5SHXB
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