



HOUSING RIGHTS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS DURING COVID-19: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EVICTION PROTECTIONS

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Participants: Please Ask Questions Throughout
Today's Discussion!

How Survivors' Housing Security Has Been Impacted By the Pandemic



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How Survivors' Housing Security Has Been Impacted By the Pandemic

- Housing challenges and needs of survivors
- Housing barriers and needs of survivors of color
- Increased incidents of domestic violence during COVID-19
- Why it is important for survivors to stay housed during a pandemic; long-term impacts of eviction

Housing Insecurity Survivor Impacts

- "Pandemic within a Pandemic—Shadow Pandemic"
- Increases of domestic and sexual violence as a result of stay at home orders-recent review found an 8% increase from the Council on Criminal Justice
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/01/us/domestic-violence-pandemic-trnd/index.html>
- October 2020: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7539928/#bib2>
- April 2020: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7195322/> (this includes a breakdown of increased percentages of DV emergency calls/arrests in certain cities/metro areas in the U.S.)
- This New England Journal of Medicine article actually has a different perspective and talks about the drop in calls to DV services because of the inability of survivors to safely connect with services: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2024046>
- Overall, women (esp African American and Latina women) face higher rates of housing insecurity/evictions and poverty than men, they earn less due to the gender wage gap, and they experience higher rates of sexual violence harassment and domestic violence. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, those disparities have increased <https://www.aclu.org/news/racial-justice/clearing-the-record-how-eviction-sealing-laws-can-advance-housing-access-for-women-of-color/>

Impacts of Sexual Violence During Covid

- COVID19 and inability to pay rent can increase vulnerabilities as it relates to housing security and potentially putting people at risk of 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. <https://www.nsvrc.org/resource/2595/sexual-violence-housing-infographic>
- The Justice Department's [Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](https://www.justice.gov/crt/sexual-harassment-housing-initiative) is an effort to address sexual harassment in housing led by the Civil Rights Division. The goal of the Initiative is to address sexual harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, loan officers or other people who have control over housing. Many individuals do not know that being sexually harassed by a housing provider can violate federal law or that the Department of Justice may be able to help. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/sexual-harassment-housing-initiative>
- [National Alliance to End Sexual Violence](#), survey reported **40% of the rape crisis centers** have seen increased demand for services. While hospitals are performing fewer sexual assault forensic exams (i.e. rape kits) than prior years. Reasons are multi-faceted, but fear of going to the hospital is likely a large contributor. This decrease is not unique to COVID-19. According to the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#) (NSVRC), “the reporting of sexual violence in disasters is often considered a ‘luxury issue—something that is further down on the hierarchy of needs’ for disaster victims.” Upticks in sexual violence during emergencies is actually much larger than we think. <http://info.primarycare.hms.harvard.edu/blog/sexual-violence-and-covid>

Updates on the Current Status of COVID-19 Eviction Protections



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Updates on the Current Status of COVID-19 Eviction Protections

- Status of federal CDC eviction moratorium
- What DOJ has said about the status of the CDC moratorium:
 - <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/departments-justice-issues-statement-announcing-decision-appeal-terkel-v-cdc>
 - <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/departments-justice-issues-statement-regarding-decision-skyworks-v-cdc>

Updates on the Current Status of COVID-19 Eviction Protections (cont'd)

- If you are working with someone being evicted - refer to an attorney **as soon as possible**
- Locating legal aid offices
 - <https://www.lsc.gov/what-legal-aid/find-legal-aid>
 - <https://www.lawhelp.org/find-help>

Updates on the Current Status of COVID-19 Eviction Protections (cont'd)

- State eviction and utility shutoff moratoriums
 - <https://evictionlab.org/covid-eviction-policies/>
- Other eviction protections for survivors
 - VAWA housing protections
 - Fair Housing Act
 - State and local protections
 - For more information on existing survivor protections, visit: www.nhlp.org/ovwgrantees

Updates About Efforts to Distribute Rental/Financial Assistance to Tenants Who Have Experienced Difficulties in Paying Rent

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American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

- Emergency vouchers and homelessness assistance
 - Households that are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking.
- Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA) funds
- Emergency rental assistance
- Utility and homeowners' assistance
- National Low Income Housing Coalition fact sheet on American Rescue Plan
 - https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/COVID-Relief-Budget_Reconciliation.pdf
- NNEDV & NASH, “Resources to Address the Housing Needs of Survivors in the American Rescue Plan Act 2021”
 - https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DV.SA_ResourcesRescuePlan3.19.21.pdf

December Appropriations Bill (2020)

- Emergency rental assistance program

CARES Act (2020)

- Coronavirus Relief Fund

How Can Survivors Get Emergency Rental Assistance?

- National Low Income Housing Coalition tracker: <https://nlihc.org/rental-assistance>
- National Council of State Housing Agencies rental assistance chart: <https://www.ncsha.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-Updated-State-Level-ERA-Administrative-Entities.pdf>
- Call 211

Immigration Status & Eligibility for Rental Assistance

- NASH and National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, "What Shelter and Rental Housing Assistance Are Available To Immigrant Survivors During Covid-19?"
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WwyDIEU_vh6rRTXAudibDO1H-gfM3bQDBfx7Z0zO3Nc/edit
- NHLP Memo & Chart:
 - Memo re: immigration restrictions in specific housing assistance programs (Updated Jan. 2021)
 - https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigration-Restrictions_Other-Programs.pdf
 - Summary Chart: Immigration Restrictions in Rental Assistance Programs (Updated Jan. 2021):
 - <https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigration-Restrictions-Rental-Assistance.pdf>

Resources

DOJ statements re: status of CDC moratorium

- <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-issues-statement-announcing-decision-appeal-terkel-v-cdc>
- <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-issues-statement-regarding-decision-skyworks-v-cdc>

List of legal aid offices

- <https://www.lsc.gov/what-legal-aid/find-legal-aid>
- <https://www.lawhelp.org/find-help>

Listing of State Eviction & Utility Shutoff

Moratoriums: Princeton University, The Eviction Lab, “COVID-19 and Changing Eviction Policies Around the Nation”:

- <https://evictionlab.org/covid-eviction-policies/>

National Low Income Housing Coalition fact sheet on American Rescue Plan

- https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/COVID-Relief-Budget_Reconciliation.pdf

NNEDV & NASH: “Resources to Address the Housing Needs of Survivors in the American Rescue Plan Act 2021”

- https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DV.SA_ResourcesRescuePlan3.19.21.pdf

FAQs from the Treasury Department re: rental assistance

- https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/ERA-Frequently-Asked-Questions_Pub-3-16-21.pdf

Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

- National Low Income Housing Coalition tracker: <https://nlihc.org/rental-assistance>
- National Council of State Housing Agencies rental assistance chart: <https://www.ncsha.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-Updated-State-Level-ERA-Administrative-Entities.pdf>

Resources

National Alliance for Safe Housing & National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, "What Shelter and Rental Housing Assistance Are Available to Immigrant Survivors During Covid-19?" (Mar. 17, 2021)

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WwyDIEU_vh6rRTXA_udibDO1H-gfM3bQDBfx7Z0zO3Nc/edit

National Network to End Domestic Violence COVID-19 resources:

- https://nnedv.org/latest_update/resources-response-coronavirus-covid-19/

National Alliance for Safe Housing COVID-19 resources:

- <https://www.nationalallianceforsafehousing.org/covid-19-resources>

Background re: Domestic & Sexual Violence During COVID/Housing Insecurity

- See studies referenced on Slides 5 & 6

National Housing Law Project resources:

- Memo re: immigration restrictions in specific housing assistance programs (Updated Jan. 2021): https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigration-Restrictions_Other-Programs.pdf
- Summary Chart: Immigration Restrictions in Rental Assistance Programs (Updated Jan. 2021): <https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigration-Restrictions-Rental-Assistance.pdf>
- Find out additional info re: existing eviction protections for survivors of domestic & sexual violence: www.nhlp.org/ovwgrantees
- NHLP COVID-19 resources (general): www.nhlp.org/covid19

Safe Housing Partnerships

- safehousingpartnerships.org



Questions?

Thank you!