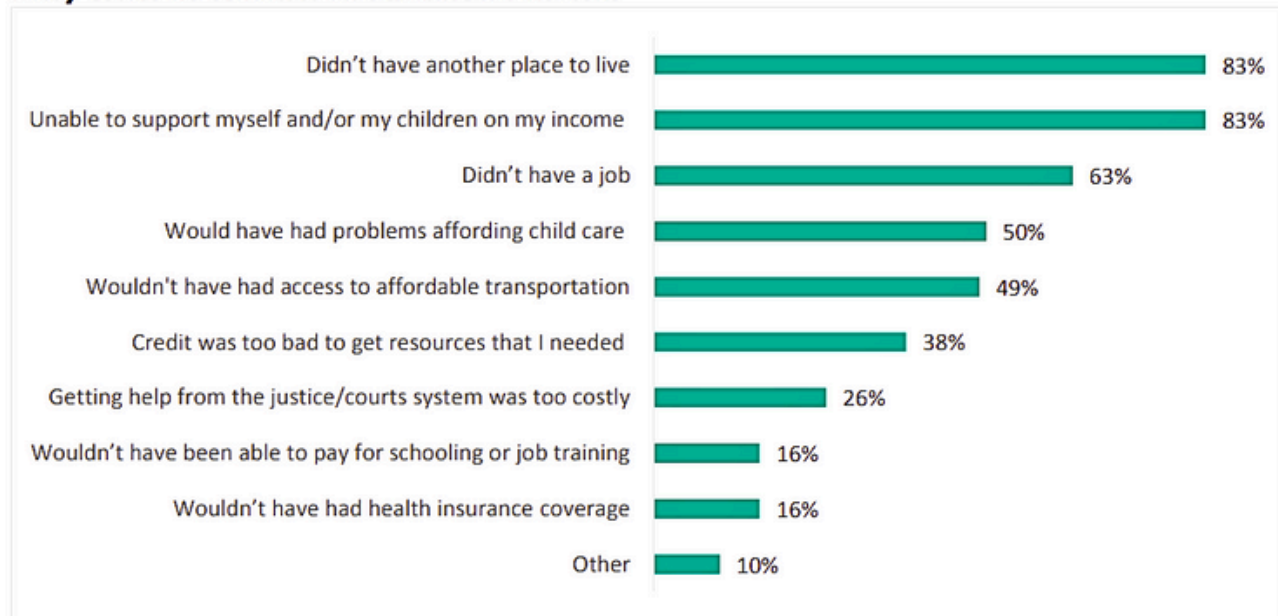


A PROJECT OF MOTHER'S OUTREACH NETWORK

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [roughly 1 in 3 women](#) will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. Studies show that, in addition to physical and psychological abuse, [between 94% and 99%](#) of domestic violence survivors have experienced economic abuse, i.e. their abuser has controlled their ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources. Additional research suggests that between [two-thirds](#) and [three-quarters](#) of women in abusive relationships stayed with or returned to their partner because of financial concerns.

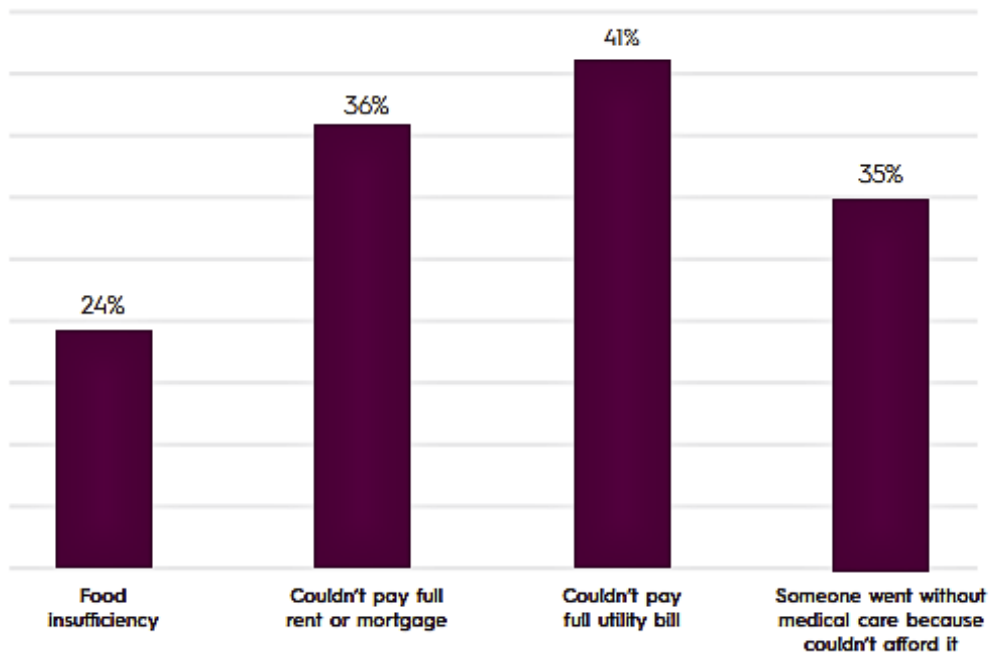
Figure 8. Most Common Financial Factors Affecting Respondents' Decisions to Stay with or Return to Abusive Partner



Notes: N=112. Respondents could select more than one answer. Responses show the most common answers chosen by those who said financial problems have ever caused them to stay with or return to an abusive partner. Source: IWPR Survey on the Economic Effects of IPV

Intimate partner violence can impact survivors' ability to secure or maintain employment, their access to assets, and accumulating debt. This can cause significant material hardship.

**PERCENTAGE OF SURVIVORS WHO EXPERIENCED
THE FOLLOWING FORM OF MATERIAL HARDSHIP IN 2017**



Source: "We Would Have Had to Stay: Survivors' Economic Security and Access to Public Benefits Program (2018)
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

[45% of homeless families and 35% of homeless youth](#) in Washington, D.C. report a history of experiencing domestic violence. Research has found that women who experienced physical abuse [are 25% more likely to have difficulty paying for basic needs like food or medical care](#). Women who experience any form of abuse are **10% more likely to experience material hardship**. [One survey](#) found that, over the course of a year, **24% of survivors experienced food insecurity and 35% went without medical care**.

- The cost of domestic violence for survivors is high. **Over the course of her lifetime, the average cost of IPV for a woman is [\\$103,7670](#).**
- Survivors of intimate partner violence **lose an average of [10.1 days](#) of paid work** per year.
- **Between [21% and 60%](#) of survivors lose their jobs** for reasons related to the abuse they experience.
- On average, **each domestic violence incident [costs a survivor \\$4,911](#) in medical costs and **\$1,874 in mental health costs**.**
- In one study, **[66% of survivors](#) reported that the abuse they experienced had disrupted their education**, harming their earning potential. 18% of respondents said that abuse had delayed their graduation from high school or college.
- In another study, survivors reported that **their abuser incurred [an average of \\$15,936](#) in coerced or fraudulent debt** in survivors' names each year.

The District of Columbia should act immediately to expand guaranteed income programs in order to support survivors of interpersonal violence. Guaranteed Income is an effective way to give women the financial tools they need to leave an abusive relationship.

- [Research suggests](#) that domestic violence survivors need relatively small amounts of assistance in the immediate aftermath of trauma to maintain financial security and avoid homelessness.
- In a survey, [64% of survivors](#) reported that their top need was unrestricted cash. They further estimated that, on average, \$730 would be enough to keep them safe in the short term.
- There is [substantial evidence](#) from studies in low- and middle-income countries that direct cash transfers, particularly those targeting women, decrease the amount of interpersonal violence women experience.

- CDC, About Intimate Partner Violence, (Feb. 8, 2024), https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html
- NCADV, Quick Guide: Economic and Financial Abuse, (Apr. 12, 2017), <https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/quick-guide-economic-and-financial-abuse>
- NRCDV, “We Would Have Had to Stay” A joint report of Survivors’ Economic Security and Access to Public Benefits Programs, (Nov. 2018), https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/2018-11/NRCDV_PublicBenefits-WeWouldHaveHadToStay-Nov2018.pdf
- Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Dreams Deferred: A Survey on the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Survivors’ Education, Careers, and Economic Security, (2018), <https://iwpr.org/dreams-deferred-a-survey-on-the-impact-of-intimate-partner-violence-on-survivors-education-careers-and-economic-security/>
- NRCDV, “We Would Have Had to Stay”, https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/2018-11/NRCDV_PublicBenefits-WeWouldHaveHadToStay-Nov2018.pdf
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The True Cost of Survivor Safety, <https://dccadv.org/truecost/>
- Id., <https://dccadv.org/truecost/>
- NCADV, Quick Guide: Economic and Financial Abuse, https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/domestic_violence_and_economic_abuse_ncadv.pdf
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The True Cost of Survivor Safety, <https://dccadv.org/truecost/>
- Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Dreams Deferred, https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/C475_IWPR-Report-Dreams-Deferred.pdf
- FreeFrom, Survivors Know Best: How to Disrupt Intimate Partner Violence During COVID-19 and Beyond, (Aug. 13, 2020), <https://www.freefrom.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Survivors-Know-Best.pdf>
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, TANF and Domestic Violence: Cash Assistance Matters to Survivors, (Oct. 26, 2021), <https://www.cbpp.org/research/income-security/tanf-and-domestic-violence-cash-assistance-matters-to-survivors>
- FreeFrom, Survivors Know Best, <https://www.freefrom.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Survivors-Know-Best.pdf>
- Buller et al., A Mixed-Method Review of Cash Transfers and Intimate Partner Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, (Aug. 2018), <https://academic.oup.com/wbro/article/33/2/218/5091868>