



Housing Priority

Domestic Violence is a leading cause of housing instability & homelessness

April 2021

Lack of affordable housing can dramatically reduce options for survivors of abuse, trapping them in unsafe relationships or causing homelessness.

In Delaware needs assessments & community surveys, HOUSING is consistently reported as the #1 PRIORITY NEED for survivors.

Disproportionate impact: In DE, families with children where the head of household is Black are 8x more likely to experience homelessness than families with a White head of household.

(HAD Racial Disparities & Equity Report)

Workers need to make \$21.96/hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware. There are only 28 affordable units available for every 100 low-income households seeking housing.

(Out of Reach & Gap Report - NLIHC)

A staggering 92% of homeless women report having experienced severe physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives, and upwards of 50% of all homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness.

National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2019) 2019 Advocates' Guide: A Primer on Federal Affordable Housing & Community Development Programs. Washington, DC.

How abuse impacts housing

Financial abuse occurs in 99% of abusive relationships, often disrupting housing & employment

<https://nnedv.org/content/about-financial-abuse/>

Survivors often have employment disruptions from abuse at home and harassment at work

Evictions from abuser's behavior

Damaged credit or poor rental history, often related to abuse

Limited financial resources available

Financial strain when multiple families live together

Landlords unwilling to rent to survivors because of worry about domestic violence or use of government programs to pay rent

KEY POLICY SOLUTION SB 90

Eliminates discrimination based on source of income, helping to assure that survivors using a variety of government programs have access to the full rental market.