



Transitional Housing Fact Sheet

“We must continue to unite in sisterhood to turn our tears into triumph. There is no time to rest until our world achieves wholeness and balance, where all men and women are considered equal and free.”

– Leymah Gbowee

Homelessness and Domestic Violence Statistics

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness,
“Domestic violence is the immediate cause of homelessness for many women.”

- Approximately 50% of all women who are experiencing homelessness report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness (domesticshelters.org).
- 1/3 of women experiencing homelessness report severe physical violence by their current or most recent intimate partner in the form of physical rape or stalking (domesticshelters.org).
- 63% of women experiencing homelessness had been victims of violence by an intimate partner (endhomelessness.org).
- 32% of the women experiencing homelessness had been assaulted by their current or most recent partner (endhomelessness.org).
- 38% of all victims of domestic violence become homeless at some point in their lives and will often leave an abuser multiple times before finally escaping the violence, and therefore experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness (nnev.org).
- Among mothers with children experiencing homelessness, more than 80% had previously experienced domestic violence (domesticshelters.org).
- By age 12, 83% of children experiencing homelessness have been exposed to at least one serious violent event and nearly 25% have witnessed acts of violence within their families (domesticshelters.org).

Homelessness, Domestic Violence and Native Communities

- More than 1 in 2 American Indian and Alaska Native women (55.5%) have experienced physical violence by intimate partners in their lifetime (National Institute of Justice Research Report, Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men).
- 40.5% of women had to miss days of work or school because of what their perpetrators did (National Institute of Justice Research Report, Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men), therefore impacting their source of income.
- Native children are exposed to violence at higher rates than any other race (Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence: Ending Violence so Children Can Thrive, 2014)
- American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian people are at a high risk of domestic and other violence that can lead to or sustain homelessness (Expert Panel on Homelessness among American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, 2012).

Domestic Violence and Transitional Housing from Creating Sister Space

- Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence often are seeking their very basic needs.
- A person experiencing violence should always have the ability to make their own decisions about what they want to have happen. Each victim will need to have information that fully informs them of their options within the criminal justice system combined with realistic information about what is known about the legal response to inform her of her options and the possible consequences that may accompany those decisions.
- Transitional housing is intended to provide longer-term support to assisting the victim after the immediate incident.
- Programs should be guided by values and beliefs central to their tribal cultural ways.
- Consider policies to be our guide in everything we do.
- Transitional housing programs will want to develop close working relationships that help ensure the survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking are able to receive the resources they need and that it is done in a way that can still account for their safety needs.
- Confidentiality and privilege is the cornerstone of keeping women safe and is central to shelter and transitional housing programs.
- Safety planning should be ongoing and done in a way that develops the survivor's skills to continue doing their own safety planning.

Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence: Ending Violence so Children Can Thrive, 2014 (2014, November). In *The United States Department of Justice*. Retrieved July 28, 2016, from

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