



RESEARCH ON THE COST OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW

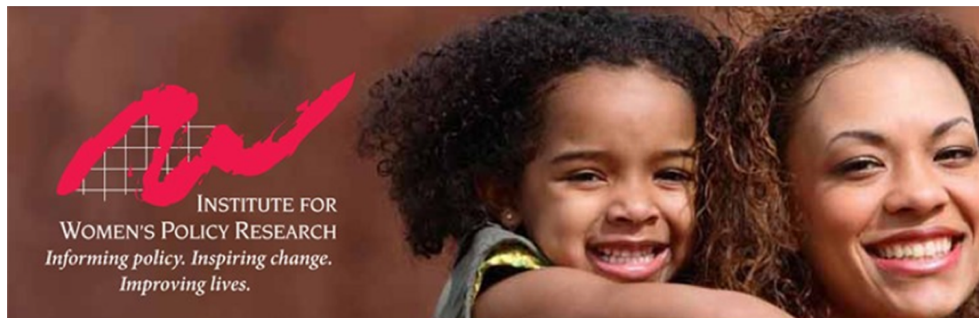
INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR SURVIVORS PROJECT

www.iwpr.org | <https://iwpr.org/issue/special-websites/economic-security-survivors/> | @IWPRresearch



ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH



The Institute for Women's Policy Research conducts and communicates research to inspire public dialogue, shape policy, and improve the lives and opportunities of women of diverse backgrounds, circumstances, and experiences.

The Economic Security for Survivors project (ESS project)

The ESS project seeks to build, protect, and restore the economic security of survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence, and stalking through applied research and technical assistance.

<https://iwpr.org/issue/special-websites/economic-security-survivors/>





Income Loss
Job Loss
Medical Expenses
Debt
Unemployment
Mental Health Costs
Diminished Educational Attainment
Poor Credit

EXISTING DATA ON VICTIM COSTS

TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE COSTS



DATA LIMITATIONS

- Few comprehensive studies
 - focus on lost productivity and medical costs
 - costs often based on last incidence
 - little estimation of future costs
- Societal versus individual costs
- Based on general population
- Data sources are out of date

MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH COSTS

IPV assault, rape, and psychological abuse increase health care utilization, resulting in high out-of-pocket costs and medical debt.

Analysis of National Crime Victimization Survey (Miller 1996)

- medical/mental health care cost IPV victims \$391 per incident

Analysis of National Violence Against Women Survey (Max 2004)

- cost of medical treatment for IPV assault was \$2,665 per incident; mental health services cost \$1,017 per incident
- cost of medical treatment for IPV rape was \$2,084

MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH COSTS (CONTINUED)

Analysis of regional insurance data (Jones 2006)

- average annual healthcare costs were \$5,648 for women experiencing physical and emotional abuse (versus \$2,101 for non-abused women)

Analysis of regional insurance data (Bonomi 2009)

- health care costs were 42 percent higher for DV victims
- higher costs continue after violence and abuse had ended

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Physical and psychological trauma and partner interference impede educational attainment.

Analysis of Women's Employment Study (Adams 2013)

- women who experienced IPV during adolescence obtained, on average, 0.5 fewer years of education

Analysis of welfare recipients experiencing violence in PA (Brush 2010)

- experiencing IPV increased the likelihood of dropping out of job training

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Physical, psychological, and economic abuse often lead to job instability.

Survey of workers in Maine (Ridley et al 2005)

- 60 percent of victims reported having either quit their job or being terminated as a result of the abuse

Analysis of National Violence Against Women Survey (CDC 2003)

- IPV victims who were stalked lost an average of 10.1 days of paid work per year, those who raped lost an average of 8.1 days per year, and those who experienced physical violence lost 7.2 days per year

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS (CONTINUED)

Analysis of Pennsylvania's Work First Program (Brush 2003)

- women who experienced economic abuse faced an 88 cent per hour “wage penalty”

Analysis of 2000 National Youth Survey (Macmillan 2000)

- expected lifetime income losses for teen victims of sexual violence was \$36,000 (\$52,242 in 2017 dollars)

ASSETS AND OPPORTUNITY

Debt and poor credit due to financial control and exploitation restricts access to safe housing and can lead to homelessness.

NISVS, Supplemental Victimization Survey (Baum 2009)

- 12.9 percent of victims incurred out-of-pocket costs exceeding \$1,000

New York State DV Program Survey (Manhattan Borough President's Domestic Violence Task Force 2012)

- half of the providers reported that approximately one in four clients were saddled with debt created by their abusive partner

COST OF IPV TO VICTIMS AND SOCIETY

Analysis of the 1996 NVAWS estimates **IPV cost to the U.S.**, including health costs and productivity losses, **\$5.8 billion** (\$9.3 billion in 2017 dollars) (Miller 1996)

COST OF RAPE TO VICTIMS AND SOCIETY

Separate analyses of 2006 NCVS estimate the average **cost to society per rape was \$87,000 to \$240,776** (Miller 1996; McCollister 2010)

Analyses calculate the average lifetime cost of rape is \$5,556 per victim (McCollister 2010).

UNKNOWN COSTS/IMPACTS

- Reproductive coercion/forced pregnancy
- Cost of experiencing abuse while a student
- Impact on career trajectory
- Cost of criminal justice involvement
- Cost of financial abuse (income/asset theft, unauthorized debt, damaged credit)
- Property damage
- Cost of seeking safety (attorney's fees, shelter, services, moving costs, etc...)
- Cost of rebuilding (long-term health costs, financial services, security, etc...)

IWPR'S RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the direct monetary and indirect opportunity costs survivors face as a result of abuse? What are the dollar values of these losses?
2. What role do economic factors play in survivors' decisions about whether to stay with or return to abusive partners? Which economic factors pose the greatest obstacles to leaving an abusive relationship?
3. What economic resources do survivors feel have best helped them address the economic effects of abuse and rebuild their lives? Which resources do they wish they had received, or received more of? What do they think it would take for them to fully recover from the economic harm they have faced?

STUDY METHODOLOGY

- Analyze available survey data to estimate the costs of abuse to survivors; and,
- Conduct an online survey of survivors in residential and non-residential programs to collect additional data to supplement available literature.

COST QUESTION TOPICS

1. Health and mental health utilization
2. Forced pregnancy
3. Diminished educational attainment
4. Employment sabotage and earnings loss
5. Financial abuse
6. Coerced criminal activity
7. Costs incurred while seeking safety and recovering from abuse
8. Expected future costs

DATA RESOURCES

Economic Cost of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

Institute for Women's Policy Research

IWPR Factsheet #B367

Gladys McLean; Sarah Gonzalez Bocinski, M.A.

iwpr.org/publications/economic-cost-intimate-partner-violence-sexual-assault-stalking/





Sarah Gonzalez Bocinski
Director, ESS Project
202-540-9578
gonzalez@iwpr.org



Alona Del Rosario
Associate, ESS Project
202-684-7534
delrosario@iwpr.org

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

www.iwpr.org | <https://iwpr.org/issue/special-websites/economic-security-survivors/> | @IWPRresearch

