



# What's money got to do with it?

## Money and Domestic Violence

Women living in poverty or with very low incomes are at a greater risk of intimate violence, and of more severe, long-lasting violence.<sup>1</sup>

An abuser may cut off access to resources and plunge a woman into poverty (or deeper into poverty). Then the abuser is able to gain much more control and the survivor has fewer options.<sup>2</sup>

Women who want to leave often find that they do not have the financial resources to live independently of the abuser. This is one of the most common reasons that battered women stay with or return to an abusive partner.<sup>3</sup>

### INES

Leaving (or attempting to leave) the relationship can be a particularly dangerous time. About 75% of domestic violence assaults reported to the police occur after separation.<sup>4</sup>

### LINH

Inadequate interpretation undermines a victim's ability to get help from law enforcement, courts, and social services.<sup>7</sup>

### SARAH

Victims and survivors of domestic violence have trouble finding apartments because they may have poor credit, rental, and employment histories as a result of their abuse.<sup>9</sup>

### JANET

Domestic violence victims who have jobs are still vulnerable to economic instability.<sup>5</sup>

### J'MAI

Women in the military are particularly vulnerable to abuse due to geographical isolation and the potential for social isolation within the military culture.<sup>6</sup>

### RAYNA

Studies have found that over half of the women receiving public assistance ("welfare") have reported being battered.<sup>8</sup>

### TIFFANY

A state's efforts to collect child support can push abusers to re-contact victims or escalate their abuse.<sup>10</sup>

1 *When Violence Hits Home: How Economics and Neighborhood Play a Role*, by Michael L. Benson and Greer Litton Fox, National Institute of Justice - Research in Brief, U.S. Department of Justice, 2004, p. 1-3 and 6.

2 Eleanor Lyon, *Welfare and Domestic Violence Against Women: Lessons from Research*, VAWnet, 2002, [http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR\\_Welfare2.pdf](http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_Welfare2.pdf).

3 Nisha Patel and Vicki Turetsky, *Safety in the Safety Net: TANF Reauthorization Provisions Relevant to Domestic Violence*, Center for Law and Social Policy, 2004. See also Martha Davis, "The Economics of Abuse: How Violence Perpetuates Women's Poverty," in Ruth Brandwein, ed., *Battered Women, Children, and Welfare Reform: The Ties that Bind*, Sage Publications, 1999; and Eleanor Lyon, *Poverty, Welfare and Battered Women: What Does the Research Tell Us?*, Welfare and Domestic Violence Technical Assistance Initiative, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, 1997.

4 U.S. Department of Justice, 1995

5 *If I had one more day... Findings and Recommendations from the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review*, Kelly Starr and Jake Fawcett for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2006

6 The Facts on the Military and Violence Against Women, Family Violence Prevention Fund [http://endabuse.org/userfiles/file/Children\\_and\\_Families/Military.pdf](http://endabuse.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/Military.pdf)

7 *Up to Us: Lessons learned and goals for change after thirteen years of the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review* Jake Fawcett for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2010

8 See Taryn Lindhorst, Marcia Meyers, and Erin Casey, *Screening for Domestic Violence in Public Welfare Offices*, 14 *Violence Against Women* 5-28 (2008); Stephanie Riger, Susan L. Staggs, and Paul Schewe, *Intimate Partner Violence as an Obstacle to Employment Among Mothers Affected by Welfare Reform*, 60 *Journal of Social Issues* 801-818 (2004); Lyon, *supra* note 1.

9 Susan A. Reif and Lisa J. Krisher. 2000. "Subsidized Housing and the Unique Needs of Domestic Violence Victim." *Clearinghouse Review*. National Center on Poverty Law. Chicago, IL

10 *Now That We Know: Findings and Recommendations from the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review* Jake Fawcett, Kelly Starr, and Ankita Patel for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2008