



Through the Lens of Domestic Violence: A Look at Housing and Homelessness

Seattle Central Library
Sept 17, 2010



National and Local Landscape

National Data

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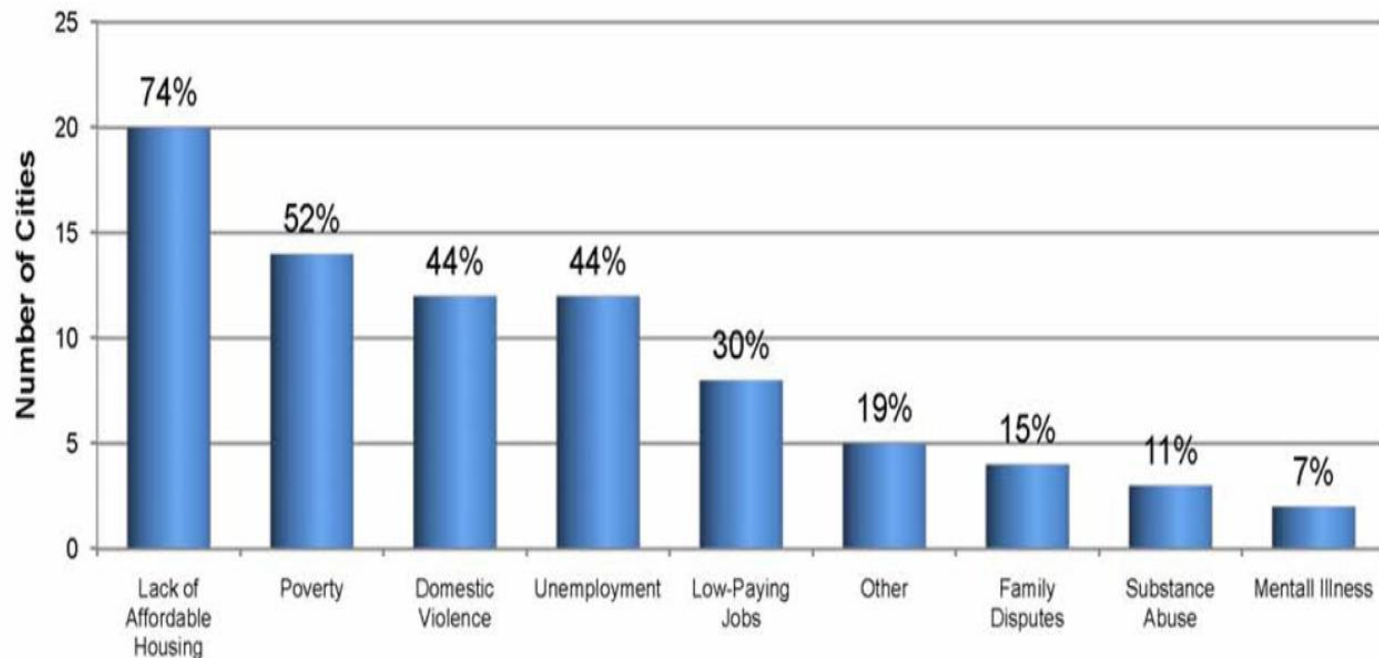
- Up to 100% of homeless women have experienced domestic or sexual violence at some point in their lives*
- DV: a leading cause of homelessness, especially for low income women:
 - ▣ between 22% - 57% of homeless women report that domestic or sexual violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness*
- Among mothers with children experiencing homelessness, more than 80% had previously experienced DV**

* *National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty website*

***Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness 2010*

National Data

2009: Causes of Family Homelessness



2009 US Conference Of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A survey of the 27 cities that comprise the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness.

National Data

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Limitations

- The Violence Against Women Act prohibits DV service providers from submitting personally identifying information to Homeless Management Information Systems

DV Undermines Financial Stability

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- Efforts to escape violence can have devastating economic impacts.
- While many survivors become homeless at the peak of DV crisis, many also face homelessness later due to financial reasons:
 - ▣ The upcoming Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence Fatality Review, which covers 10 years and 84 reviewed cases, reports that nearly all victims had unstable housing or were unable to find safe, affordable housing.

DV Undermines Financial Stability

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Trapped Between Violence and Homelessness

Inadequate housing and shelter options, evictions, discrimination, and poverty force many women to remain in or return to an abusive relationship*.

**National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty website*

Washington State Data

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Washington Families Fund (2004 -2009)

- In the Moderate-Needs Family Profile for families served, 66% had experienced DV.
- In the High-Needs Family Profile for families served, 93% had experienced physical or sexual violence.

Local Data

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- 2010 King County One Night Count
 - 8,937 individuals identified as homeless (sheltered and unsheltered)
 - 14% or 1,321 individuals (734 households) identified as having experienced DV*

**King County Washington 2010 One Night Count Survey Data: The survey asked if people had experienced domestic violence. It does not necessarily indicate that domestic violence is the cause of their homelessness.*

Local Data

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- 2008: Calls to the 3 main DV crisis lines in King County = 28,444*
- 2009: DV calls transferred from the Crisis Clinic to the 3 main DV crisis lines in King County = 3,702 (50% increase over 2007)**
- Local DV shelter turn-away rate: 1:20***

**Toward Safety and Justice: Domestic Violence in Seattle 2nd Biennial Report (2008): Two of the three crisis lines are located outside of Seattle but all three serve Seattle residents.*

*** Communication from Kathleen Southwick, E.D. of Crisis Clinic*

**** Salvation Army, New Beginnings, Eastside Domestic Violence Program, DAWN*

Local Data

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2009: in King County, with a population of 1.7M, there were:

- ▣ 71 confidential emergency DV shelter beds/units
(4% of all County-wide shelter beds/units)

- ▣ 144 DV-specific transitional housing units
(7% of all County-wide transitional housing units)

Source: 2009 King County Committee to End Homelessness Inventory of Homeless Units and Beds, and 2008 Towards Safety and Justice: Domestic Violence in Seattle 2nd Biennial Report

Local Data

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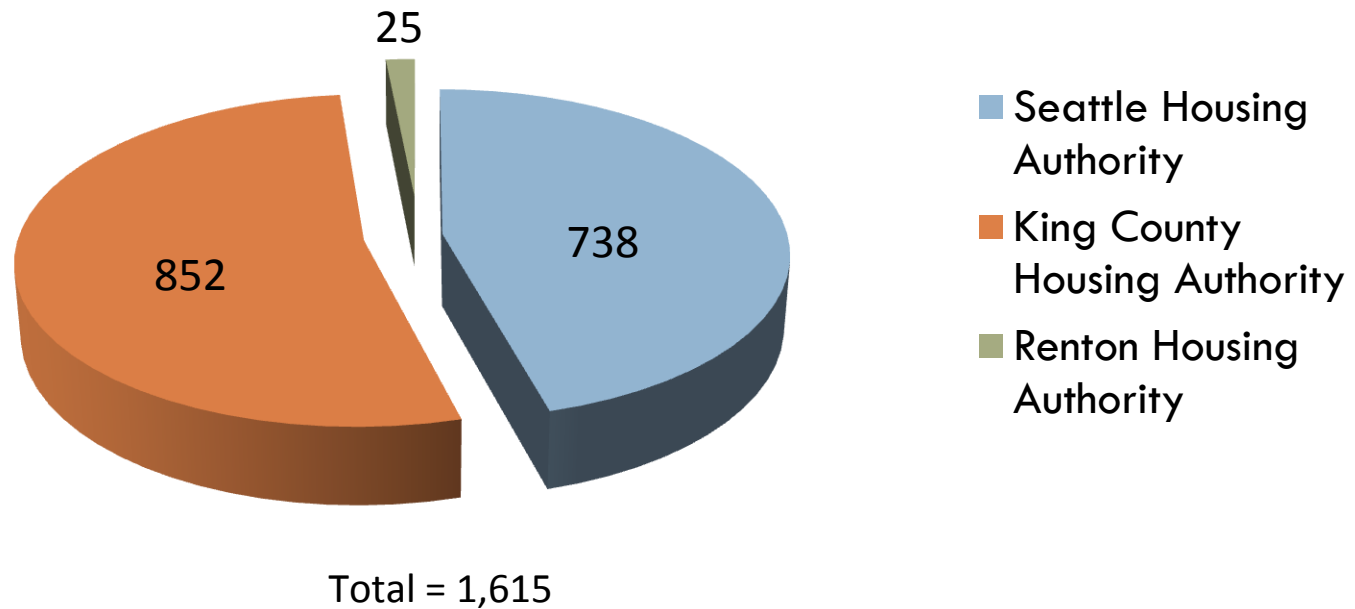
- Section 8 vouchers are an important source of permanent housing for DV survivors
- 2008: King County, Seattle and Renton Housing Authorities received over 23,000 Section 8 program applications*

**Landscape Assessment Family Homelessness in King County 2009*

Local Data

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2008: New Section 8 vouchers issued in King County



Source: Conversations with housing authority representatives

Local Data

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- Only 8% of all market rate rental units in King County are affordable to families earning less than 40% of the area's median income (affordable rents are approx. \$600 - \$800/month)
- The median rent for a King County 2-bedroom apartment is \$940

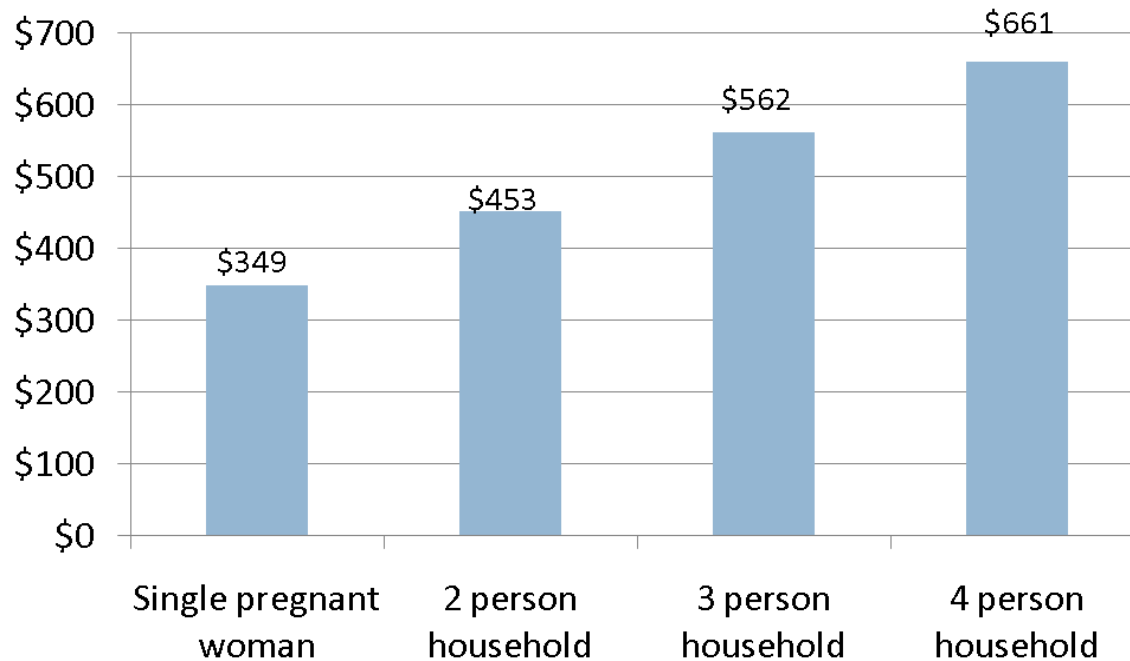
Source: Landscape Assessment Family Homelessness in King County 2009

Local Data

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Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)

Monthly Allotment

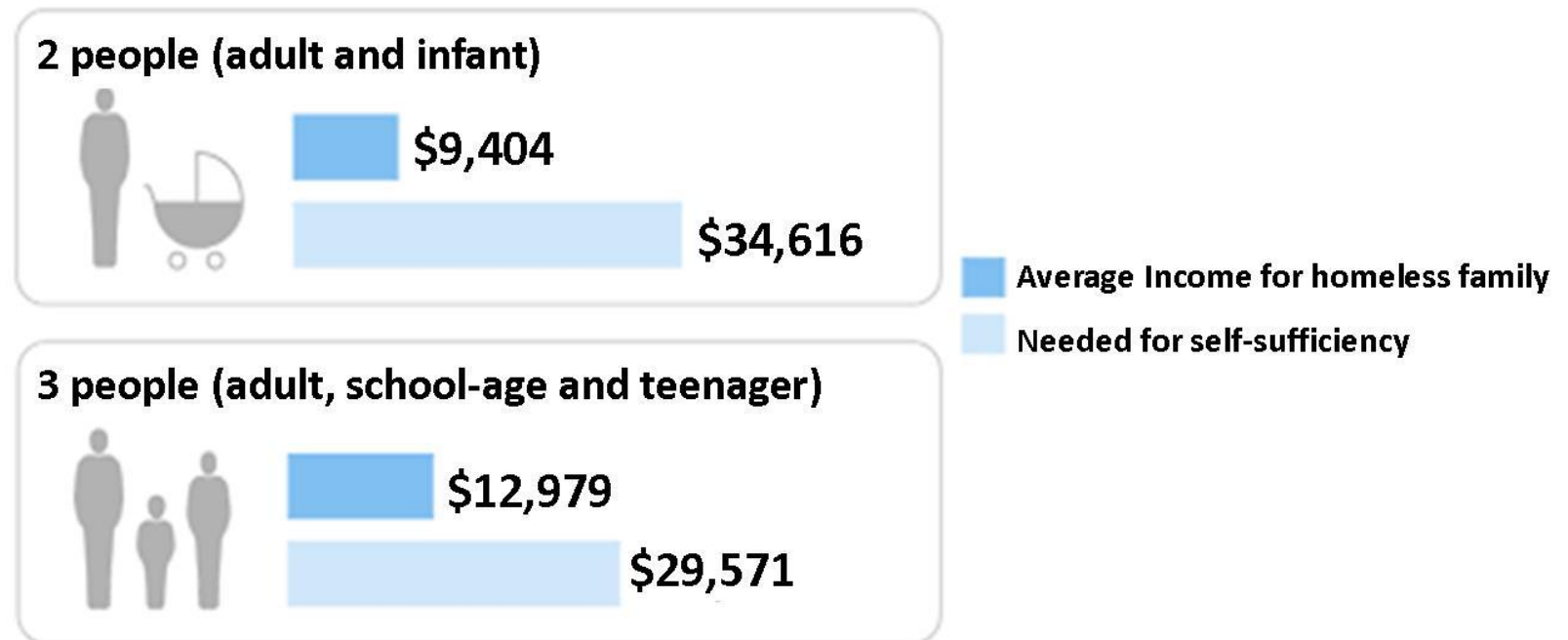


Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Local Data

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2009 King County average annual homeless family income vs. the income needed to be self sufficient



Source: Landscape Assessment Family Homelessness in King County 2009

Local Funding Data

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2009 Seattle and King County Government Homeless Housing Revenue:

- **\$85.5M** for housing, services, emergency shelter, emergency prevention and infrastructure related to homelessness:
 - **\$41.2M is Seattle** revenue (excludes Seattle Housing Authority)
 - \$44M is King County Government revenue (excludes King County Housing Authority)

- Of this, **\$1.8M (2%)** is dedicated to domestic violence homeless housing and related services

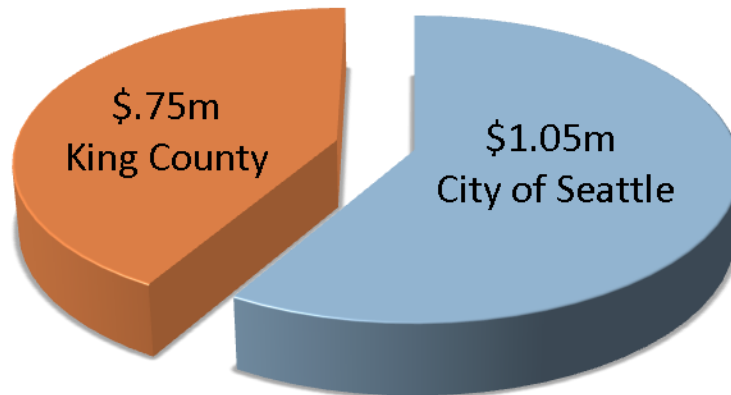
Source: Landscape Assessment: Family Homelessness in King County 2009

Local Funding Data

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2009 City of Seattle and King County Government Expenditures for DV Homeless Housing and Related Services

Expenditures (in millions)



Source: King County Department of Community and Human Services and City of Seattle Human Services Department: funding for DV emergency shelter services and transitional housing programs

Local Funding Data

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2010 City of Seattle DV Homeless Housing Contracts

DV Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs	Funding
Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services	\$20,000
International District Housing Alliance*	\$120,438
New Beginnings**	\$621,701
The Salvation Army*	\$228,997
Hotel-Motel Voucher Program***	\$78,000
TOTAL	\$1,051,549

Source: 2010 City of Seattle DV Housing Contracts

**Includes Office on Violence Against Women funds*

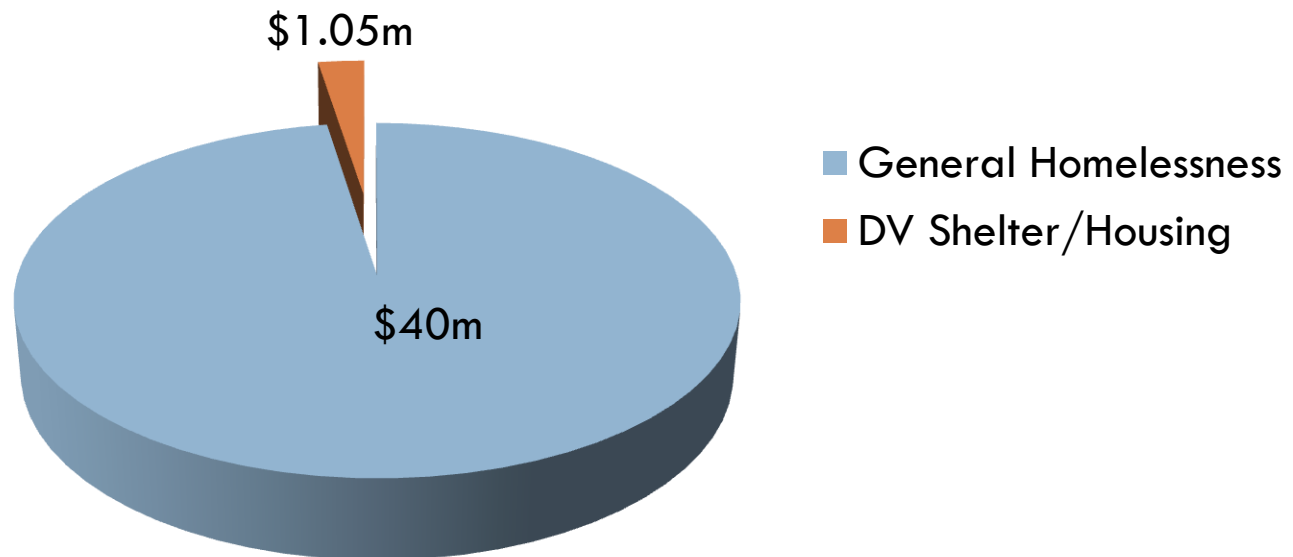
*** Includes McKinney and Office on Violence Against Women funds*

****Managed by the YWCA but used by a number of DV providers*

Local Funding Data: City of Seattle

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2009 Homeless Housing Revenue, excluding SHA (in millions)

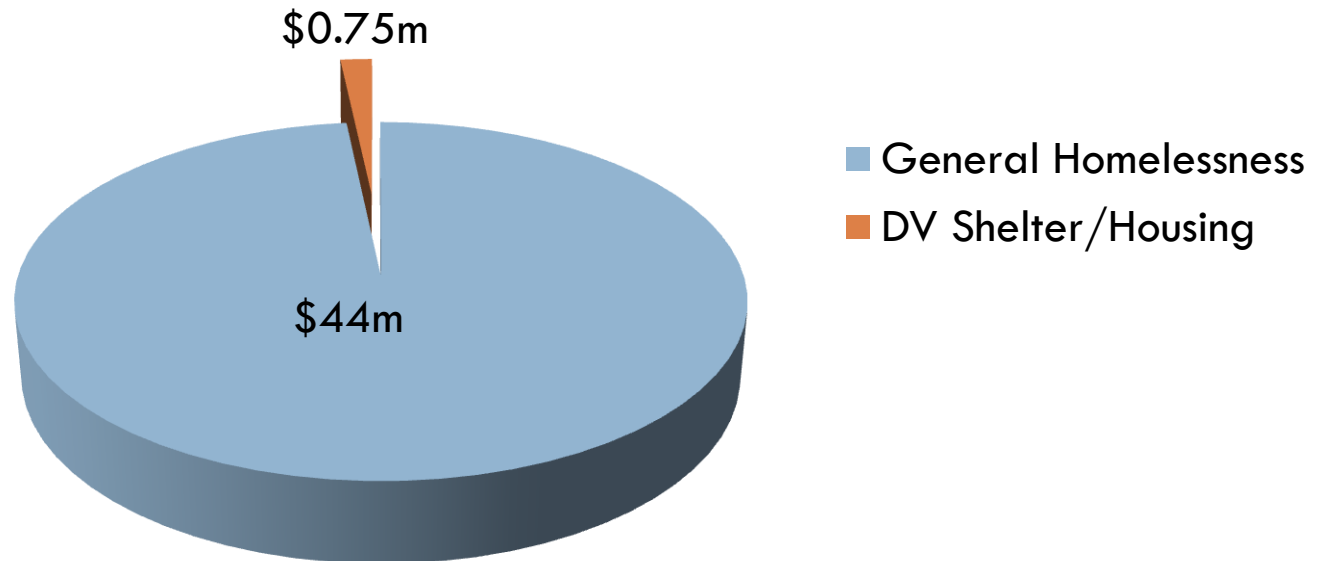


Source: Landscape Assessment: Family Homelessness in King County 2009

Local Funding Data: King County Government

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2009 Homeless Housing Revenue, excluding KCHA (in millions)

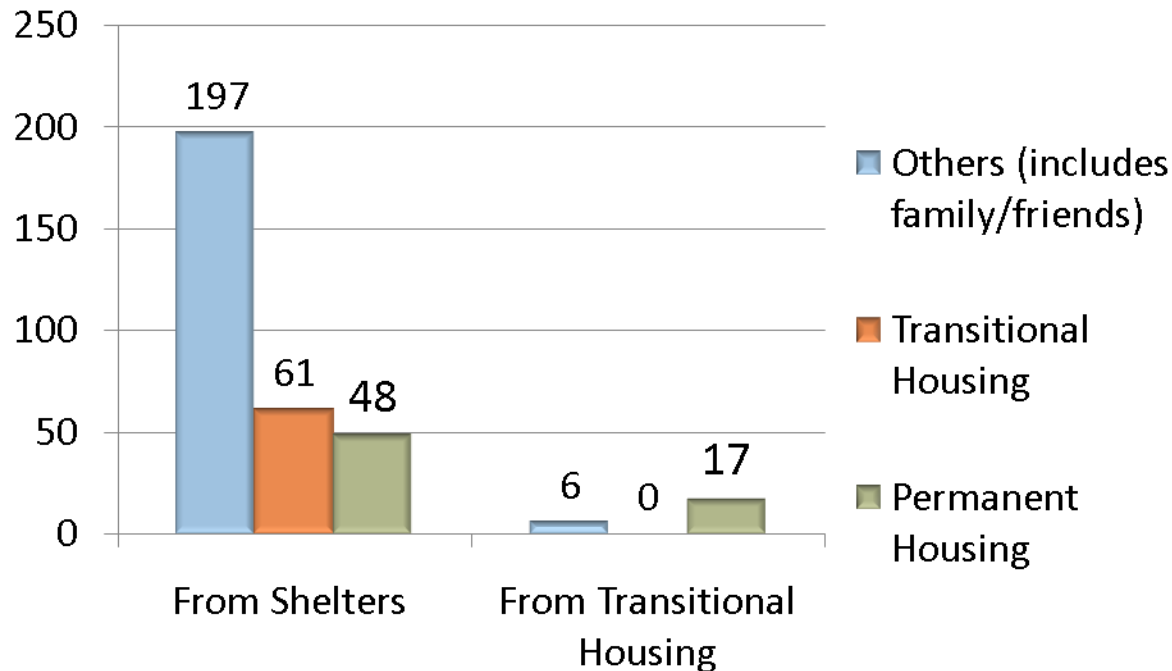


Source: Landscape Assessment: Family Homelessness in King County 2009

Local Data

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2009: DV clients moving from shelter or transitional housing into other housing



Source: 2009 City of Seattle DV Housing Contracts

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Strategies for a Community Response

DV Survivors vs General Homeless Clients

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What is Unique About DV Survivors?

- Safety concerns - separation danger
- The existence of an abuser who is sabotaging a victim's life goals.*
- WSCADV Fatality Review summary: abusers used a number of strategies to sabotage victims' employment and threaten economic independence.

**Anne Menard, Director, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence*

DV Survivors

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Options When Facing Homelessness

- Prior to 1976, women fled to the safety and confidentiality of each other's homes.
- Shelter homes evolved; helped survivors build community and break out of an isolated existence.

DV Survivors

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Where Did Survivors Go After Shelter?

- Back Home

- Friends/Family

- Limited housing options:
 - Some had income to sustain their own home
 - Some moved into public housing or received housing vouchers

The DV Movement

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Response to Limited Housing Options

- Advocates joined housing/homeless providers in pursuit of federal transitional housing funds

- A community based study on non-residential services shows:
 - ▣ *Women who worked with advocates after shelter exit reported higher quality of life and social support over time, and decreased difficulty obtaining community resources. They also experienced less violence over time**

**Cris Sullivan: The Community Advocacy Project: A Model for Effectively Advocating for Women with Abusive Partners (2000)*

Housing First Model

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Accessing Permanent Housing

- Housing First/Rapid Re-Housing started in 1988 by Beyond Shelter, a nonprofit in L.A.*
- The concept: quickly place families into permanent housing, then provide intensive support services that help sustain their housing

**National Alliance to End Homelessness*

Housing First Model

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Would This Work for DV Survivors?

- Home Free, Volunteers of America, Portland

2007 Report:

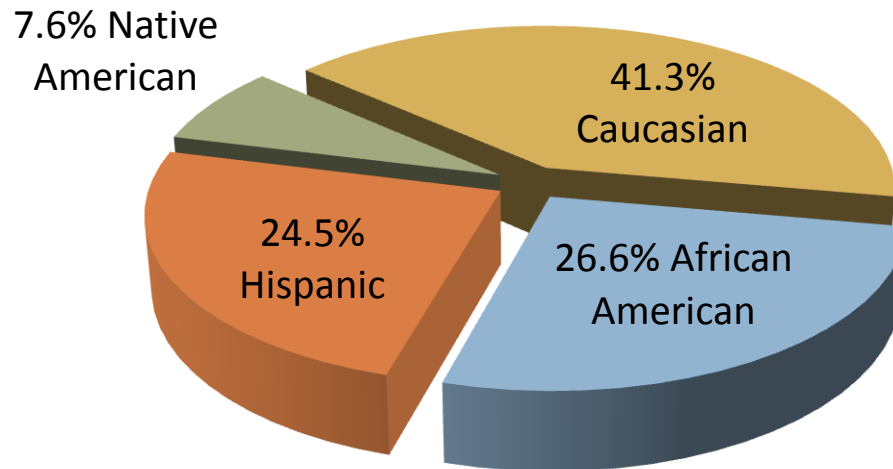
- ▣ 98% (60 of 61 households) obtained permanent housing
- ▣ 89% remained in housing at point of time check
- ▣ In 2005, Home Free was selected by the CDC for a 5-year research study (SHARE Study)

Housing First Model

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Home Free: CDC SHARE Study

Race and Ethnicity Breakdown



Source: Kris Billhardt, Chiquita Rollins, Amber Clough. "Domestic Violence: A Different Kind of Homelessness"

Housing First Model

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Home Free: CDC SHARE Study

- Danger assessment scores: 71.2% of participants were in extreme danger
- 90% of participants < \$1,500/month
- 94.2% of participants experienced PTSD symptoms
- Over 50% of participants had a criminal history

Housing First Model

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Other Rapid Rehousing Pilots

- District Alliance for Safe Housing's Empowerment Project in Washington DC

- Crescent House/New Orleans Family Justice Center

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Washington State:
 - ▣ Eastside Domestic Violence Program,
 - ▣ Womenscare (Bellingham),
 - ▣ Family Resource Center of Lincoln County,
 - ▣ YWCA of Kitsap County,
 - ▣ Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Housing First Model

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Gates Foundation DV Housing First Pilots

- Focus on access and sustaining permanent housing
- Flexible funding
- Voluntary, strengths-based services
- Housing not contingent on compliance with services

Other Considerations

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Each Community Has Different Needs

Permanent Housing Programs

- Partnership with public or private housing providers with varying levels of supportive services:
 - ▣ Pacific Pearl, Crisis Service Network, Pacific County, WA;
 - ▣ Starland Heights, Stop Abusive Family Environments, Inc., West Virginia

Other Considerations

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Each Community Has Different Resources

Assistance with Home Ownership:

- Stop Abusive Family Environments, West Virginia—work with local lending agencies
- Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, Kentucky, Assets for Independence for home ownership through a KDVA operated Individual Development Account program

Other Considerations

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What Works Best?

- No research comparing different models
- Different models work better for different communities and individual needs
- Survivor driven: empowerment model with voluntary services, advocate engagement with options better than mandating activities

WSCADV: Recommendations

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Funding

- Rapid Re-Housing models tailored for DV survivors, including immigrants/people of color.
- Safe, affordable, permanent housing
- Supportive services including domestic violence advocacy (WAC standards)
- Flexible assistance dollars
- Preserve emergency DV housing options and fund renovation for aging shelter housing stock

WSCADV: Recommendations

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Policies

- Increase attention to independence, safety, and privacy needs of DV survivors in housing policy and program development
- Decrease housing barriers faced by DV survivors
- Pass State Fair Tenant Screening Act

WSCADV: Recommendations

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Interagency Collaboration

- Cross training homeless/housing agency staff and DV advocates
- Homeless/housing agency policies and protocols to increase DV survivors' housing access
- MOUs between DV and homeless/housing agencies for resources and service provision (e.g., Landlord Liaison Project)

WSCADV: Recommendations

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Evaluation

- Evaluate outcomes:
 - ▣ survivor/children independence, safety, and dignity
 - ▣ access for immigrants and people of color
 - ▣ cost effectiveness
 - ▣ sustainability

Questions?

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