

Economic Security for Survivors Project

Reducing Barriers to Safety and Recovery by Promoting Survivor Economic Security

September 3, 2015



Wider Opportunities for Women

Mission is to build pathways to economic independence and equality of opportunity for America's families, women and girls.



Economic Security for Survivors (ESS) Project

The ESS Project provides justice system and community professionals with strategies, tools and training to improve how programs, policies and communities respond to the economic consequences of abuse and support the economic security of survivors.

<http://www.wowonline.org/economic-security-for-survivors/>



Making the Connection

SEXUAL ASSAULT, ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SAFETY

Economic Impacts of Violence



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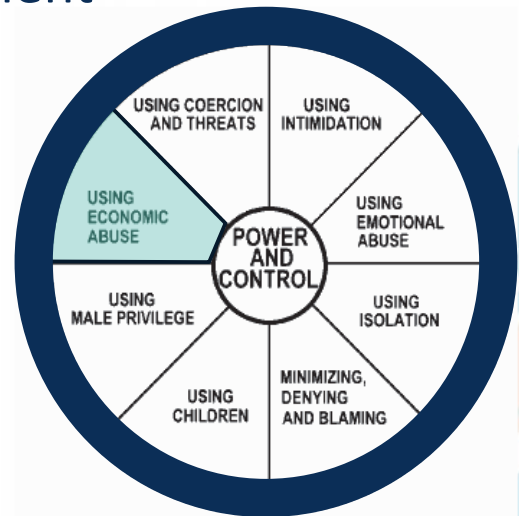
Costs of Sexual Violence

- Lifetime cost of rape to victims: over \$140,000 in health care, lost wages and justice system costs (DeLisi, 2010)
- Cost to the justice system (police protection, legal and adjudication, and corrections): \$26,479/rape (McCollister, 2010)
- Victims of rape lose on average 8.1 days of paid work a year (CDC, 2003)

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Economic Abuse as Control

- Interference with employment
- Destruction of property
- Compromised credit
- Sexual exploitation
- Identity theft
- Coercion into crime
- Misrepresentation



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Economic Insecurity



- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Transportation
- Childcare

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Individuals Already Face High Costs of Living

Basic Economic Security Tables, 2013

(Workers with Employment-based Benefits)

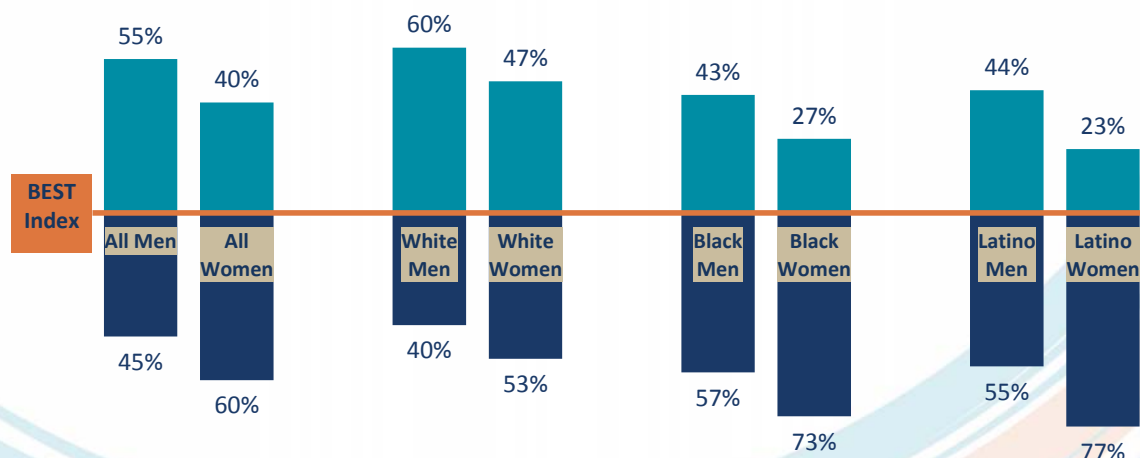
US, Selected Family Types

Monthly Expenses	1 Worker, 1 Preschooler, 1 Schoolchild			2 Workers, 1 Preschooler, 1 Schoolchild	
	1 Worker	1 Worker, 1 Infant	1 Schoolchild	2 Workers	1 Schoolchild
Housing	\$642	\$803	\$803	\$642	\$803
Utilities	\$115	\$144	\$144	\$115	\$144
Food	\$264	\$379	\$572	\$484	\$765
Transportation	\$516	\$566	\$566	\$1,017	\$1,068
Child Care	\$0	\$621	\$1,112	\$0	\$1,112
Personal & Household	\$259	\$337	\$386	\$315	\$435
Health Care	\$161	\$329	\$480	\$374	\$540
Emergency Savings	\$76	\$122	\$154	\$112	\$183
Retirement Savings	\$87	\$87	\$87	\$102	\$102
Taxes	\$374	\$714	\$953	\$501	\$1,087
Tax Credits	\$0	-\$139	-\$267	\$0	-\$267
Monthly Total (per Worker)	\$2,494	\$3,963	\$4,990	\$1,831	\$2,986
Annual Total	\$29,928	\$47,556	\$59,880	\$43,944	\$71,664
Hourly Wage (per Worker)	\$14.17	\$22.52	\$28.35	\$10.40	\$16.97



Women and Minorities Face Greater Insecurity

Figure 1: Economic Security and Insecurity Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, 2011



Source: Author's calculations; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 PUMS.
 Note: "Single adults" are individuals ages 18-64 living in 1-adult households, with and without children.



Impact on Safety and Recovery

- Reporting
- Accessing services
- Participating in the criminal justice system
- Resulting financial insecurity and the ability to relocate, purchase safety equipment, secure safe housing and transportation, etc.
- Unique needs of underserved communities

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Applying an Economic Lens

**A SYSTEMS-WIDE RESPONSE TO
SUPPORT SURVIVOR SECURITY**

Case Study: Jenna

In small groups, discuss:

- What costs did Jenna incur?
- What economic barriers is she facing?
- What crimes were committed?
- How would you respond?



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The Role of Victim Advocates

- Address impacts on education and employment
 - Victim rights
 - Housing, transportation and childcare needs
 - Barriers from physical or mental health needs and gaps in work or education history
- Inform and prepare victims for the justice system
- Incorporate economic security-related questions in protocol and refer to community resources

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The Role of the Justice System: Law Enforcement

- Evidence collection
- Report writing
- Enforcement of court orders
- Collaboration with advocates and universities



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The Role of the Justice System: Prosecutors

- Economic crimes
- Witness intimidation
- Economic relief
 - Restitution
 - Protection orders
- Collaborate with advocates and keep victims able to participate



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The Role of the Justice System: Judges



- Economic relief
 - Restitution
 - Protection orders
- Trial accommodations
- Enforcement

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The Role of Communities

- Schools
 - Training
 - Protocols to respond
 - Coordination
- Health Care
 - Participate in SARTs
 - Testify in court on costs
 - Cross-screen for assault
- Employers
 - Accommodations
 - Leave policies
 - Discipline for offenders
- Housing
 - Eviction policies
 - Release from leases
 - Partner with LE, SARTs

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Policies and Best Practices

- Workplace antidiscrimination and leave policies
- Housing protections
- Unemployment insurance
- Access to consumer and civil financial remedies



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Wrap Up

**MAKING ECONOMIC SECURITY A
PRIORITY AND A REALITY**

Case Study Conclusion

- What were the most impactful things the different sectors did to protect Jenna?
- What economic components had you thought of? What was new or surprising?
- Is there anything preventing you from similar actions or coordination?
- How realistic are these versions of a well-coordinated response?

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Next Steps

- What aspects of addressing economic security would you like to make a priority in your response to sexual assault?
- How can you overcome barriers or limitations to your capacity?
- What resources or support do you need to enact these changes?

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Resources

- In Focus: Sexual Assault & Economic Security Policy Brief
- STOP Guide and Justice System Sector Guides
- Adolescent Survivors & Economic Security Policy Brief
- Economic Security Database

<http://www.wowonline.org/resources/economic-security-for-survivors-project-ess/>



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Thank you for participating!

For additional information, please contact:

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