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Intimate Partner Violence & Houselessness: A Bidirectional Relationship

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PROGRESSION TOWARD GOALS

We've met our goals by investigating the relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) and houselessness. We have also worked to identify barriers people with a history of IPV face in maintaining housing and employment. We will share our findings with an audience of nursing students, health care workers, and community stakeholders. Our qualitative research process for this project is completed and our presentation is near completion.

EFFECTING & SUSTAINING POSITIVE CHANGE

With this project, we aim to highlight the bidirectional relationship between intimate partner violence and houselessness for an audience of health care students and employees. Our findings are shown in a web of causation to illustrate the interconnected forms of adversity that our population of focus experiences. By promoting awareness, we invite nursing students and other health care workers to appraise interconnected social factors in the framework of their practice.

This work can be continued by increasing the number of safe women's shelters, training local law enforcement agencies in trauma informed care, and increasing key stakeholders' knowledge of resources for IPV.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

Based on our search of the literature, the relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) and houselessness deserves further study.

Possible future investigations:

- A quantitative study to examine the prevalence of IPV among people who are houseless.
- The relationship between intimate partner violence, houselessness, and sex work.
- Long-term health effects of intimate partner violence and houselessness.
- Intimate partner violence prevention and treatment.

CALLS TO ACTION

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a federal act that was implemented in 1994 and lapsed on December 21, 2018. The act offered provisions to protect the rights of all people experiencing IPV. The Senate chose not to renew the act earlier this year, rejecting new provisions that restricted gun ownership for convicted perpetrators of abuse and extended services to transgender communities (Gathright, 2018). While funding remains in place, an expired VAWA lacks the teeth to enforce necessary legal protections for people experiencing IPV. We request that the Oregon Senate advocate for the reinstatement of VAWA with added language to protect all gender identities. Additionally, we urge local law enforcement agencies and healthcare providers to engage in trauma-informed care training and practice.