

Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

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Agenda

- IPV & DC SAFE
- Rubinger Project Background
- Project Overview
- Methodology
- Findings
- Challenges & Reflections
- Conclusion
- Impact



Intimate Partner Violence

What is intimate partner violence?

A pattern of abusive or coercive behaviors for the purpose of control or to exert power over another individual in the context of an intimate relationship.

My Work at DC SAFE



- Incorporated in 2006
- 24/7 Crisis Intervention
- Lethality Assessment Program
- Coordinated community response, court-based advocacy, & crisis housing

Our mission is to ensure the safety and self-determination of domestic violence survivors through emergency services, court advocacy, and system reform.

Rubinger Project Background

Key observation: Can you assess financial capacity and fiscal needs? What would it take to build adequate support for survivors.



**How do survivors
view their fiscal
health?**

Project Overview

Priority Population : 250 domestic violence survivors from under-resourced communities

Survivors' financial resources

Barriers to traditional lending/aid



Formal and informal channels

Perceptions of fiscal health

Methodology

Assessment Tool Creation : An initial survey and a more in-depth follow-up survey to assess survivors' fiscal capacity, tested items through soft launch and made adjustments

Short Survey: Administered to clients seeking court-based services, no provider relationship. \$20 for participation. → **247 respondents**

Long Survey: Follow-up survey administered by shelter director with established trust and provider relationship. \$40 for participation. → **59 respondents**

Key Findings: Distinct Groups

Life -Driven Group

- Already housing insecure/ homeless and underemployed
- Abuse further complicated existing challenges like mental health, substance abuse, intergenerational poverty and history of trauma
- Holistic services focused on basic needs and financial capacity building are needed

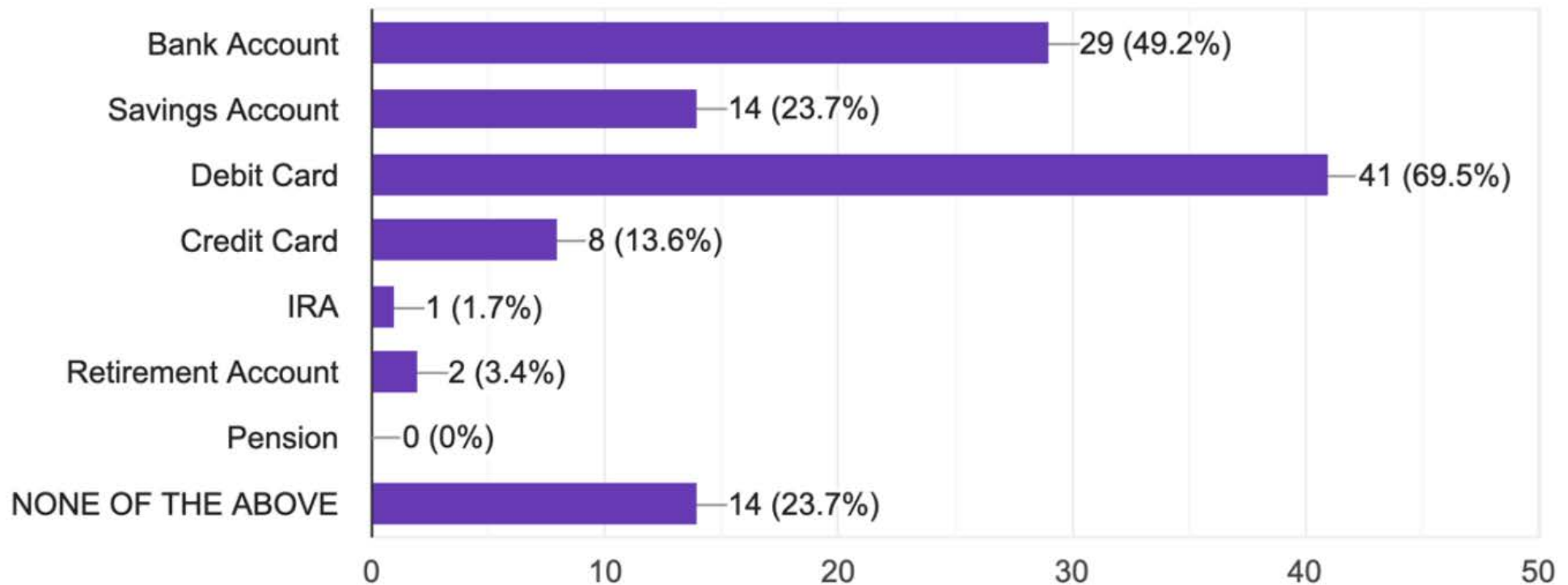
Abuser -Driven Group

- Abuse reduced financial capacity
- Specific barriers and gaps created by abuser, such as childcare, transportation, housing, and credit
- Additional skills and financial products needed to help them reach the next stage of financial wellness

Survivors' Financial Capacity

- 43.1% receive financial resources from the abuser
- 21.3% receive resources from abuser's family
- 69.5% have a debit card
- 67.8% receive public benefits of some kind
- 23.7% have a savings account
- Average amount needed to be financially stable in the District: **\$2,200-\$3,000**
- **Transportation** was the most consistent request

Survivors' Financial Capacity

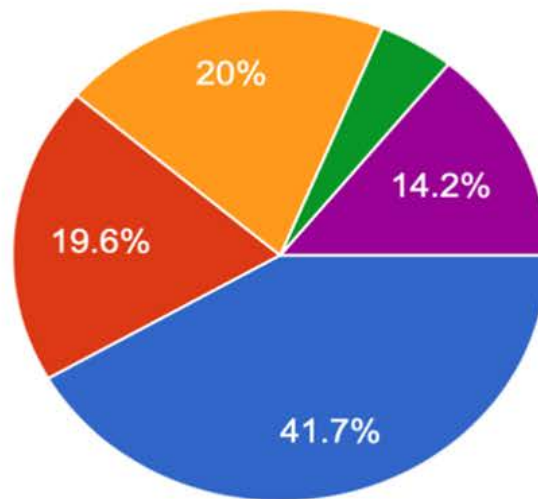


Follow-Up Survey Respondents

Perceptions of Fiscal Health

On a scale of 1 to 5, do you feel like the resources you have are enough to meet your needs?

240 responses

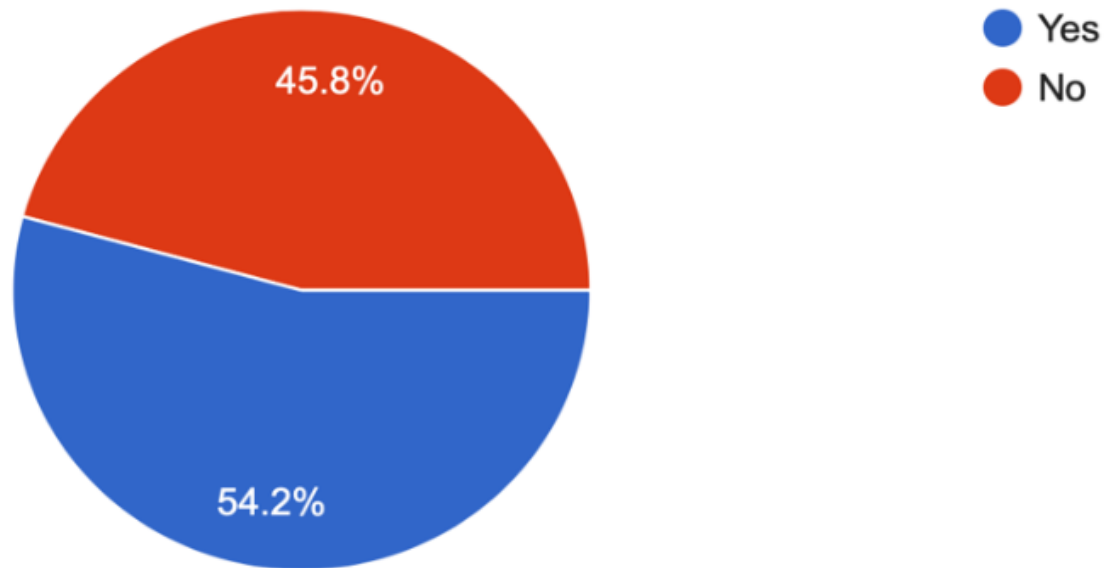


- 1. I am unsure how I will pay for daily needs like food, medicine and trans...
- 2. I can pay for daily needs but I may not be able to pay for rent next month.
- 3. I can pay for daily needs, rent on my own next month and incidental e...
- 4. I can pay for daily needs, rent or mortgage on my own, incidental ex...
- 5. I know that I can afford all living expenses for the next six months if...

Perceptions of Fiscal Health

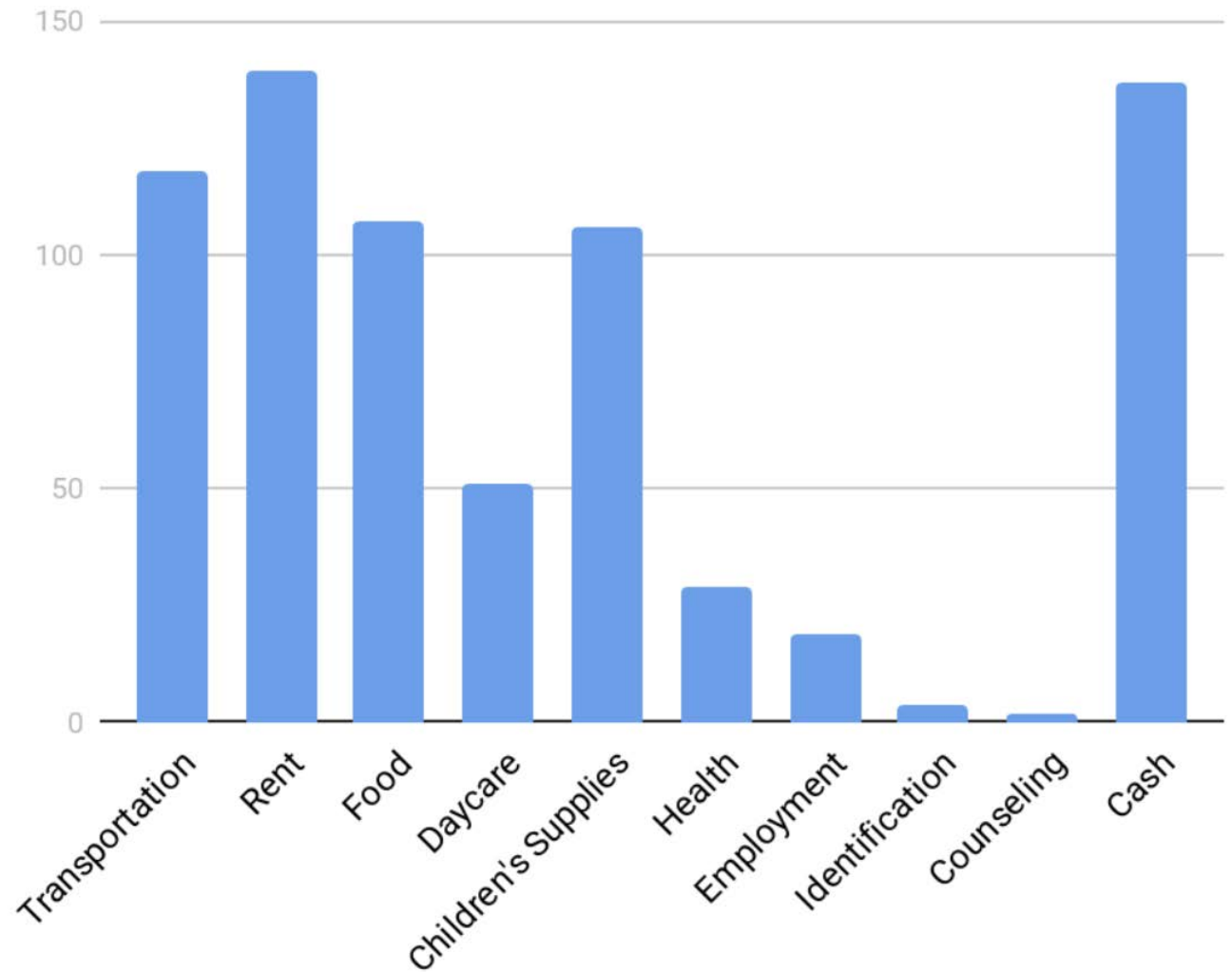
Do you have people in your life who can help you in a financial crisis?

59 responses



Fiscal Health Needs

What resources are missing that would allow you to feel stable living on your own, independent from the abuser?



Challenges

- Survey development
- Community forums with other programs
- Local scope vs. national scope
- 1 year time frame
- Survivor toolkit not appropriate as deliverable
- Added a case reviews: We got 8 releases!
- Immigrant population

Case Study: Khadija's Story



- Lives in an apartment through housing choice voucher
- Works as home health aide and part-time hairdresser
- Has checking and savings account, one credit card and receives SNAP

Would Khadija's case be considered in the "life -driven" or "abuser -driven" group?

Conclusion

- Abuser driven financial deficiencies need unique programing.
- An assessment tool identifying needs can be created.
- More studies on outcomes are needed.
- Trauma informed care in fiscal programing is crucial.
- There is more non-profit DV providers and Financial Capacity Programs can do for survivors.
- Outcomes are measurable and tangible.
- It may be possible to create holistic programming to prevent economic instability and potentially homelessness.

Impact: Fiscal Health at DC SAFE

**Grow the
Emergency
Financial
Assistance Fund**

**Systems
Advocacy
Platform**



**Consider for
SAFE Space co-
located
partners**

**Develop tool,
Pilot Project,
Assess
Outcomes**

Thank You!

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