



New Report Highlights Lack of Housing Options for Domestic Violence Survivors

Produced by New Destiny Housing, the report demonstrates the long-term impact of domestic violence on survivors and the unique barriers that prevent them from finding safe homes and rebuild their lives

NEW YORK – Today, [New Destiny Housing](#), a New York City nonprofit solely dedicated to creating safe and affordable homes for domestic violence survivors, released a new report titled “[A Crisis Compounded: The Dual Crises of Domestic Violence and Homelessness](#),” which documents the struggles and barriers that domestic violence survivors face when trying to secure affordable housing after escaping from abusive relationships and the long-term impact domestic violence has on survivors and their families. It also highlights the steps New York City and State can take to increase access to housing resources and help move survivors quickly from shelters to permanent homes. The report was announced at a press conference attended by elected officials, community advocates, and domestic violence survivors.

Drawing from a wide range of city and state data, the report emphasizes the sheer number of survivors who are forced into homelessness when escaping abusive situations, showing that domestic violence is one of the leading causes for families entering the shelter system, outpacing even evictions as a driver of homelessness. Women of color are disproportionately impacted, with 97% of adults with children in the shelter system identifying as women, over 90% of whom are Black or Hispanic.

With so little affordable housing available in New York City, these survivors are often forced to bounce from Human Resources Administration (HRA) domestic violence shelters to the larger Department of Human Services (DHS) shelter system after reaching the 180-day limit for HRA shelters – only 9% of families exiting HRA emergency shelters leave for a permanent home. From 2018 to 2023, the number of survivors leaving HRA shelters for permanent housing has dropped by 18%, further highlighting how New York City’s lack of affordable housing has forced survivors to stay in shelters.

The report also underscores that the impact of domestic violence goes far beyond just experiencing homelessness. Data shows that survivors are 31% more likely to develop cardiovascular disease and 51% are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than people who have not experienced abuse. More than half of survivors deal with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, and nearly 75% experience some form of brain injury – the CDC recognizes intimate partner violence as one of the country’s leading causes of traumatic brain injury. Additionally, the vast majority of survivors experience some form of financial abuse, with long-term negative consequences.

The report also features qualitative feedback from a panel of 24 domestic violence service providers across New York City, 82% of whom said that their clients routinely struggle to find affordable housing after escaping from abuse. The panelists also highlighted that the length of time it takes to complete paperwork and inspections when renting with a subsidy presents a major barrier to accessing permanent housing quickly. These experts shared that shelter-based housing navigators, who guide survivors through the apartment hunt process, and Emergency Housing Vouchers are the most effective resources for helping their clients access affordable housing.

In addition to demonstrating the extreme need for additional housing support for domestic violence survivors, the report also outlines a series of recommendations for city and state officials that could significantly ease the housing burden survivors face. These recommendations include expanding access to housing resources by including survivors as an eligible population for the New York City 15/15 supportive housing program and re-opening the door to HPD set-aside apartments, improving the CityFHEPS voucher program to include survivors fleeing abuse, regardless of immigration status or shelter history, establishing a new statewide Section 8-like voucher program, and pairing these vouchers with housing navigators and supportive services. The report also calls for supportive housing options to be adequately funded by increasing funding for the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) and the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative, New York State's largest supportive housing programs.

A link to the report and its findings can be found [here](#).

"Every day, we work with survivors of domestic violence who have escaped abusive situations but have nowhere safe to call home. This report shines a light on both the lack of housing resources available to domestic violence survivors and the long-term effect abuse is having on survivors and their children.," **said Nicole Branca, executive director of New Destiny Housing.** "By adequately funding New York's supportive housing programs, providing equal access to homeless housing resources, and expanding successful programs, we can effectively end homelessness for the largest segment of homeless families in the City."

"Housing is key to safety and stability, especially for survivors of domestic violence," **said Speaker Adrienne Adams.** "New Destiny's report on the intersecting crises of domestic violence and homelessness makes clear the need to further invest in and expand housing opportunities, including supportive housing and resources like CityFHEPS for New Yorkers. By centering survivors in their recovery and investing in trauma-informed services as the Council continues to do, we can help survivors achieve safety and become self-sufficient. I thank New Destiny for this important report and look forward to our continued work together alongside stakeholders across our city and state government to secure safety for survivors and break the cycles of violence."

"This new report from Destiny Housing is a stark reminder that solving the housing crisis requires us to end the scourge of domestic violence that plagues our city. As the Chair of the General Welfare Committee, I look forward to using this report as a call to action to pull the levers of government to provide increased assistance, housing, and mental health resources for victims of domestic violence," **said Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala.**

"With over 20% of families in DHS shelters due to domestic abuse, New Destiny's report highlights the urgent need to address the dual crises of domestic violence and homelessness," **said Comptroller Brad Lander.** "Survivors deserve safe, permanent homes to rebuild their lives and these findings only further emphasize the need for expanded affordable housing and support services. Unified action from all stakeholders—city agencies, housing authorities, and domestic violence service providers—can break the cycle of violence and homelessness."

"This forthcoming report from New Destiny underscores the urgent need to address systemic barriers that prevent survivors of domestic violence from accessing safe, permanent housing in New York City. The report highlights alarming and disturbing statistics showing New York as ranking first in demand for domestic violence services in the country, and how we need to immediately take action to address the

rising trends of domestic violence homicides and homelessness being pervasive among domestic violence survivors with children," **said Council Member Farah Louis, Chair of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.** "The detailed findings and actionable insights in this report are crucial for policy makers and advocates alike, and it is imperative that we respond to rectify the systemic failures that jeopardize those in need for themselves and their families. I thank New Destiny Housing for their unwavering dedication to bringing this pressing issue to the forefront and for their continued efforts in advocating for the most vulnerable members of our community."

"Domestic violence and homelessness are pressing crises that demand our attention," **said Bea de la Torre, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Trinity Church Wall Street.** "We at Trinity are grateful to New Destiny Housing for highlighting how these problems are connected, and for centering the voices of survivors along the way. Our local leaders should take note of New Destiny's recommendations as we build a city where all of our neighbors are safe and stably housed."

About New Destiny Housing

Founded in 1994, New Destiny's mission is to end the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness for low-income families and individuals by developing and connecting them to safe, permanent, affordable housing and services. To achieve its mission, New Destiny builds and manages supportive housing with on-site services for survivors; offers innovative programs that empower victims of abuse to find and retain affordable housing; and expands access to permanent housing resources for survivors and low-income families. For additional information, visit our website at www.newdestinyhousing.org, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), and [Instagram](#).

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