

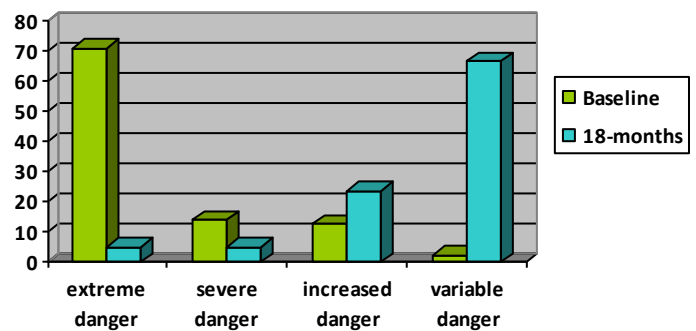
SHARE Study Outcomes: Domestic Violence Services Increase Safety, Improve the Lives of Women and Children, and Reduce Long-Term Costs

There were dramatic positive changes in the lives of the women and children in the study during the first 6-months of services, which persisted and/or improved over the full 18 months of the study.

Women and children were safer:

Prior to receiving services, 85% of women were in extreme or severe danger based on the Danger Assessment Scale. Following domestic violence services, only 9.6% of women reported extreme or severe danger. The mean baseline Danger Assessment score at the 18 month interview was 6.4, compared to 21.6 at the baseline interview.

Level of Danger	Baseline	18-months
Extreme Danger (18+)	71.2%	4.8%
Severe Danger (14-17)	14%	4.8%
Increased Danger (8-13)	12.6%	23.5%
Variable Danger (0-7)	2.2%	66.9%

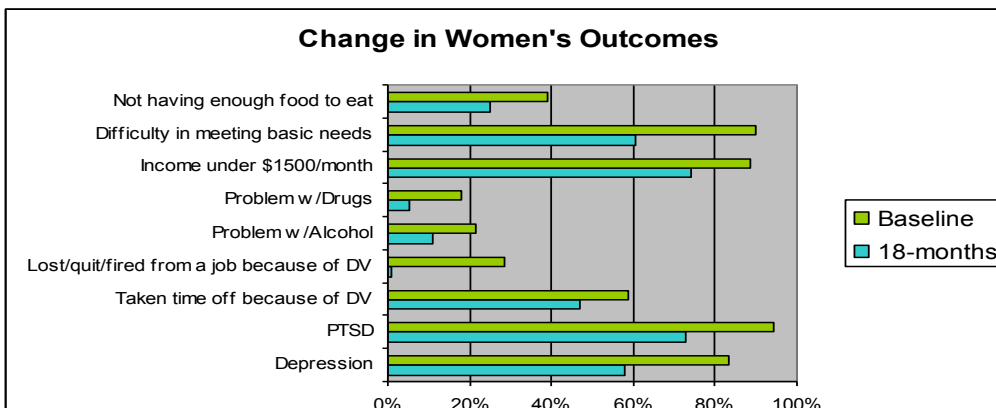


Their housing stability improved significantly:

Women and their children moved less frequently, stayed less often in emergency housing (motel vouchers, homeless or domestic violence shelters), and had greater housing stability, as measured by the SHARE Housing Instability Index. Housing instability scores dropped by 52%, the number of moves decreased by 80%, and the number of days in emergency housing decreased by 78%. At 18 months, 82% of participants were in safe stable housing.

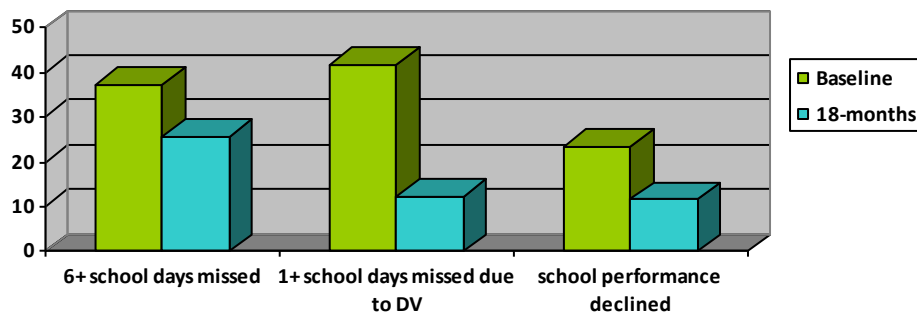
Housing Stability	SHARE Housing Instability Index	Mean Number of Moves	% who accessed emergency housing		
			Motel Voucher	Homeless shelter	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE shelter
Baseline	4.65	3.94	21.6%	2.9%	13.7%
18-month	2.41	0.81	1.9%	2.7%	3.5%

Women and children had better health and mental health, and were better able to succeed with day-to-day life:



Fewer women met the criteria for clinical depression or had symptoms related to Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) or problematic use of alcohol or drugs at the 18-month interview compared to the baseline interview. They missed fewer days of work, and had greater job stability and economic resources.

Their children missed fewer days of school and were more likely to be doing well or maintaining their school performance:



However, the study participants continued to face long-term health, mental health, and economic constraints:

Although the SHARE study found a reduction in negative outcomes for women and their children, and an increase in positive outcomes, in some cases the changes were small to moderate. This was particularly noticeable in indicators of health and mental health, and in areas which were highly impacted by inadequate resources.

At 18-months:

- 73% of women still experienced symptoms consistent with PTSD
- 58% of women still met the criteria for clinical depression
- 74% of women received less than \$1500 per month
- 60% had difficulty meeting basic needs
- 40% accessed food boxes.

“And I thought I would be closer to normal by now but I, I have flashbacks and when a door, somebody knocks at the door, I freak out and . . . this is part of the domestic violence”

The SHARE study findings point to important funding, policy, and programmatic improvements:

“It’s all financial, everything’s financial. If I had the money to do so, I would be gone.”

- Services need to flexibly address a wide range of needs of women and children
- Services need to change over time as safety and housing stability increases to address the longer-term health/mental health and economic concerns
- Agencies need to address housing and DV/safety concerns simultaneously
- Funding, policy and practice should embrace housing instability as a critical aspect of ending domestic violence.

Description of SHARE Study

The SHARE Study is a quasi-experimental, longitudinal, community-based participatory study designed to evaluate the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness, of an existing rapid re-housing program (Volunteers of America Home Free). The evaluation examines the role of housing stability in preventing revictimization and reducing negative health outcomes of domestic violence survivors and their children.

Participants of the SHARE Study were 278 English or Spanish speaking women in the Portland, Oregon area who had experienced physical or sexual violence or threats of violence by an intimate or ex intimate partner in the previous 6 months. Participants also had housing instability as a primary concern and had sought services from a domestic violence or housing assistance agency. Over half were women of color; about ½ had a GED, high school diploma or less education; the participants had high rates of unemployment and poverty; and most had young children. These survivors utilized a wide variety of resources to meet their and their children’s situation and individual needs. The most frequently used services were: domestic violence, housing, public assistance, health care, police and restraining orders. They also used these services: training and education, employment services, parenting classes, services for their children, child care, parenting classes, counseling and alcohol and drug treatment.

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