



Economic Challenges for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence During Covid-19

A closer look at...

Communities of Color

In a national survey on the economic challenges facing survivors due to Covid-19, communities of color were among some of the hardest hit during the onset and shut-down period (March-May 2020). The survey was completed by 608 domestic and sexual violence service providers and advocates, 101 of whom work in organizations that specifically serve communities of color. **Here are the challenges these respondents said survivors of color faced:**



Child-Related Challenges

84% said survivors had trouble with having the knowledge, time and/or skills to **assist kids with schoolwork**

83% said survivors had challenges **finding childcare** so that they can go to work, remotely or outside the home

81% said survivors had challenges **sharing custody/visitation exchanges** with an abusive partner



Health and Safety

82% said survivors were **risking their safety** by sheltering in place with an abusive partner, household member, or caregiver

81% said survivors were **risking their health** due to employment that could not be done remotely

78% said survivors had limited ability to **practice social distancing** (staying 6 feet from others)



Top Challenge: Money and Resources*

“ Usually when a client doesn't have access to a computer or WiFi and needs assistance, they come to my office in person and get assistance and guidance from me. With COVID-19 it's not safe for the client or myself to be close to each other; and even if I assisted them, some of the cases are not a priority at the moment. Clients are just as afraid and at risk as us at the agency. We all are at risk, no one is exempt! Nowadays everyone could benefit from getting financial help, people that normally wouldn't need financial assistance now need it. ”

* Data on opposite page.



Legal and Systems

83% said survivors had **difficulty finding an attorney**

81% said survivors had **trouble accessing court for financial relief**, such as spousal support, asset and debt distribution, economic relief in protection orders, and debt/credit relief

81% said survivors were being **threatened with deportation** or immigration enforcement



Financial Relief

84% said survivors were concerned about **getting a stimulus check** or the correct amount of money

79% said survivors had difficulty applying for or **getting unemployment benefits**

67% said survivors had **landlords or creditors** who didn't allow missed, late, or reduced payments

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A closer look at... Who Took the Survey

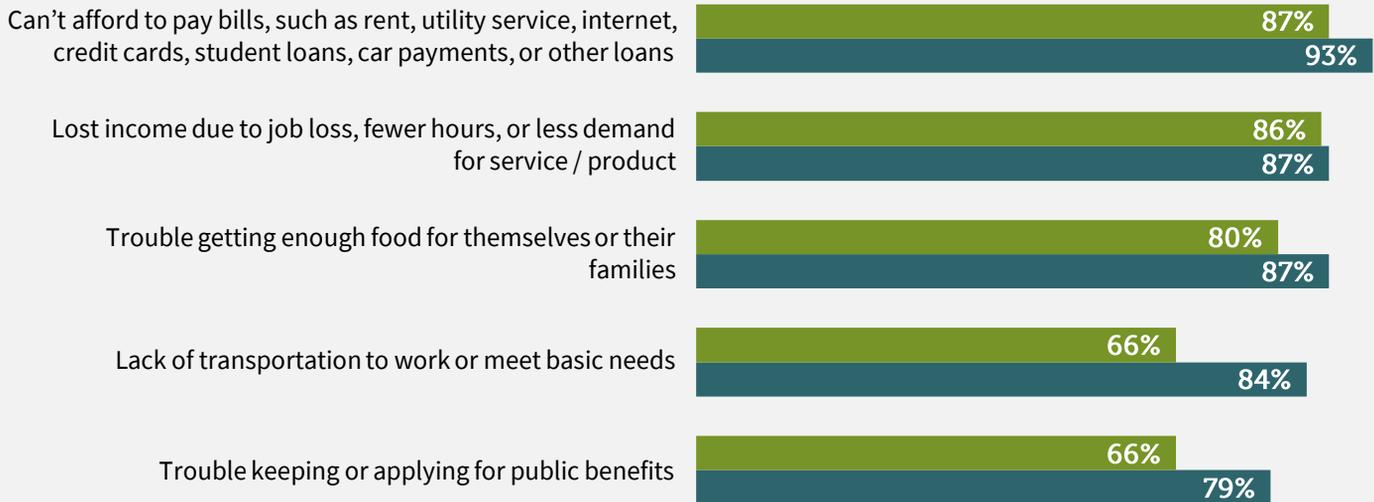
Respondents working with culturally specific organizations serving communities of color came from **14 states and the Virgin Islands**. Most identified as advocates, program managers / directors, or counselors. They mentioned working with survivors from **18 different racial and/or ethnic groups**, including: Latinx, Hispanic / Spanish Speaking, Asian, Pacific Islander, Asian American, South Asian, Chinese, African American, and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC).

The **101 respondents** from culturally-specific organizations that serve communities of color reported that **survivors had more Money & Resource – related challenges** than other types of challenges (such as, Health & Safety, Legal, or Child-Related challenges).

Money & Resource Challenges Survivors Face by Community Served (% respondents who reported the following challenges)

Respondents working at organizations who say they serve:

- General Population
- Communities of Color



What providers are saying...



“ Although our agency is dedicated to providing prevention education, engaging students, the local government agencies, and faith-based communities, survivors in [our area] are dealing with a host of issues that create economic challenges by constricting their access. ”