

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Gender-based violence is a main driver of women's homelessness, and a common experience for the majority of unhoused women in Los Angeles

- ▶ **The persistently high rate of violence is one of the biggest differences between men's and women's experiences of homelessness.** A majority (60.2%) of women surveyed had experienced some form of violence within the last year.
- ▶ **More than one-quarter (25.7%) of women surveyed had experienced frequent violence within the last year,** while more than half (53.2%) had experienced domestic or interpersonal violence in their lifetime.
- ▶ **LGBTQIA+ women are more likely than average to experience sexual assault or sexual violence.** More than one-third (35.7%) of LGBTQ+ women surveyed had experienced sexual assault in the last year.

**Homelessness is not inevitable.**

**It is a societal problem that bears especially hard on women. We need committed community members like you to help us develop policies that will transform systems and change lives.**



*From the Downtown Women's Center 2019 Los Angeles City Women's Needs Assessment*

# ADVOCACY ACTIONS

Visit the  
**Downtown  
Women's Center**  
online to read  
the full report.

- 01 EXPAND** funding to implement the Domestic Violence Housing First Model, which provides flexible funding and mobile services to prevent and end homelessness for survivors.
- 02 ELIMINATE** “failure to protect” policies and legislation that criminalize survivors with children.
- 03 FUND** local violence-prevention resources, services, and education on building healthy relationships and identifying signs of abuse. Increase understanding of financial abuse in particular and provide resources for women leaving those situations (e.g., credit repair).
- 04 INCREASE** public awareness on the impact of trauma and local resources, in order to decrease isolation and stigma.
- 05 INCREASE** trauma-informed care trainings for first responders and all homeless service providers, with a lens on recognizing the signs of abuse, understanding the long-term impacts of intimate partner violence, and acknowledging LGBTQIA+ experiences.

**The Downtown Women's Center is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women.**

We envision a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Our mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy.

[www.DowntownWomensCenter.org](http://www.DowntownWomensCenter.org)  
**#EveryWomanHoused**

