A relationship with an abusive partner often devastates victims’ finances. Unfortunately, leaving such a relationship often requires money to build a new life.

If you’re concerned about the way someone controls your money and resources, or those of someone you know, it’s important to learn the terms that define this common form of intimate partner abuse.

Financial Abuse and Economic Abuse mean the same thing. They refer to deliberately limiting a partner’s ability to acquire or use economic resources, or threatening the partner’s economic security and autonomy. They are comprised of several elements:

Financial Control is when an abuser controls day-to-day household finances and denies access to money, bank accounts, bills and other important financial information. An abuser often monitors spending or provides an insufficient “allowance,” and makes it so the survivor must account for every penny spent. Abusers assert financial control in subtle and not-so-subtle ways.

Sam pressed Susan to marry him shortly after they met, and said they should direct deposit their money into a joint account. Almost immediately, he changed the password, saying he thought their account had been hacked. He refused to give her the new password, saying her carelessness had probably caused them to be hacked in the first place. Without Susan knowing, he took out major credit cards and store credit cards in her name, and ran up large bills. Ruining a woman’s credit in this way is a common tactic of abusers, designed to hinder their partners’ autonomy and force them back into the relationship.

Financial Exploitation refers to taking advantage of the survivor’s resources. Some examples are outright stealing, forcing the abused person to give money, and spending money that was intended for rent or other important bills on personal items. Abusers also disadvantage their victims by manipulating credit and debt. Sometimes abusers refuse to work or contribute to household expenses and then demand the home if the couple is divorcing. In fits of anger, abusers may damage expensive items, keeping the victim financially unstable.

Jamie and John both worked long hours at their jobs. They were saving to buy a small home. Every few months John would come home drunk and throw or smash things. He threw the vacuum cleaner through their apartment window. He smashed their TV. He put his fist through a wall. He broke every single plate in their home. Jamie despaired that they would ever be able to improve their financial situation because of the cost of these violent rampages.

Financial Sabotage consists of acts that interfere with the victim-survivor’s wealth or ability to build wealth. This can include blocking a victim from working or pursuing her education, or denying her access to transportation or in some other way interfering with her work, so she loses her job.

Olivia had begun buying designer clothes off the shelves at the end of the season, and sold them for a profit online. She was excited about the success of her small business and pleased with her
TAKE ACTION!
We are looking for YOU! That’s right...YOU!! Look at the ways you could make a difference in your community:

- **24-Hour Crisis Line**: Listen, Help, Refer
- **Clerical Duties**: Answer Phones, Make Copies, Filing
- **Educations**: Community Health Fairs
- **Emergency Shelter**: Groups, Babysitting
- **Legal Advocacy**: Assist, File, Organize
- **Special Projects**: Silent Witness Vigil, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Folding & Labeling Newsletters
- **Thrift Store**: Sorting, Organizing, Pickups

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lindsey Smith at 864.583.9803 or lindsey.smith@shrcc.org

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH!

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition, Seventh Circuit Solicitor’s Office, Spartanburg County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Spartanburg County Department of Social Services, Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office, and Spartanburg Police Department invite you to attend.

**The 22nd Annual Silent Witness Vigil**
Thursday, October 3, 2019
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Daniel Morgan Square (Main Street)

Please join us as we gather together to honor past and present domestic violence victims and survivors.

We need to remember their stories.
We need to remember their names.

**SHRCC 2018 STATISTICS**
Assisted 3,867 adults and 1,959 children traumatized by domestic violence and sheltered 379 adults and children

- Assisted 435 victims of sexual assault
- Provided 3,863 individual and 1,353 family therapy sessions for 620 people
- Provided 277 therapy/support groups which were attended by 277 individuals
- Accompanied 92 victims of sexual assault to the hospital
- Assisted 388 victims with filing order of protection petitions and attended 1,762 hearings with domestic violence and sexual assault victims
- We provided 481 education/prevention programs reaching 113,140 individuals
- We provided 2,933 volunteers contributed 20,351.75 hours this year

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Candace Catheart
Burt Green
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Jennifer Vasquez
Danielle Burton
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Pam Manning
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**Thrift Store Manager**
Jozlyn Phillips
Rachel White (PT)

**Donation Coordinators**
Westley Armstrong (PT)
Bobby Culbreth (PT)
ability to add to their family income. One day when she got home from the post office, all the boxes and clothing were gone. Her husband said he could not stand to have their home “looking like a warehouse,” and had thrown them all away. She wept bitterly; unsure how she would repay the money she had borrowed to purchase the clothes, and despairing about her future.

Financial Capability is created by a person’s knowledge and skills to handle finances, along with the opportunities that person can access. Fortunately, people can build their financial capability. Financial education programs can help them access financial supports that they may have not known were available to them.

You can find free a list of online financial workshops in our piece, “Finding Financial Independence After Abuse.” The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence also provides a series of free online seminars to help survivors build their financial capability. Videos on a variety of topics related to building financial capability after domestic violence are available on their website, including topics related to housing, saving, the holidays, and planning for retirement.

Financial Recovery refers to returning to a state of minimal financial well-being after a time of financial stress, for instance, after domestic violence. Much of the time, victim-survivors cannot recover the money that has been taken from them or the income they were blocked from earning during the period of abuse. However, they can try to gain or regain financial well-being.

Regina was worn out from living with an abusive husband. Working with a domestic violence advocate, she developed a plan. She applied to an online degree program so she could improve her financial prospects once she got back into the work force. She applied for subsidies at a local childcare center. Once she was granted admissions into the degree program and her children received the subsidies, she moved in with her parents and got a part-time job. She kept chipping away at her degree, taking a couple of classes at a time. She began to gain a sense of being able to manage herself and her children financially. A year later, the courts required that her husband pay some child support, which made it easier for her and the children to rent a place of their own.

Structural Abuse refers to the ways in which actions by the government, courts, banks, police or other institutions impede the financial well-being of a survivor. For example, if certain financial documents require an abuser’s signature, even after a legal separation, this imperils a survivor’s safety and financial well-being.

In the UK, Nicola Sharp-Jeffs, Ph.D. founded an organization called Surviving Economic Abuse in 2017 to address the economic challenges facing abuser survivors. They work with umbrella trade organizations in industries such as real estate, insurance, and banking, to help them develop policies that support survivors and their children during that difficult post-separation period and beyond. They also help connect people who are being economically bullied by their current and former partners with other survivors, both virtually and in person, so they can provide each other with advice and moral support. Their website provides resources on economic abuse that victim/survivors may be able to use in court.

For more information on Economic Abuse, check out the Financial section of domesticshelters.org or SurvivingEconomicAbuse.org.

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How Many Homeless People are Fleeing Domestic Violence?

Domestic shelters.org ~ Dec 26, 2018 ~ By Amanda Kippert

In a one-night annual count this past January, organized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), homeless men and women were asked by volunteers if they were fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking. The question deviates from the previous less specific, “Have you experienced domestic violence?” The hope is that more accurate numbers will reflect how many individuals are on the streets as a direct result of intimate partner violence.

Of the 554,000 homeless people counted nationally in 2017, about 87,000 said they had been a victim of domestic violence at some point in their lives. However, it doesn’t say if the abuse is the reason they’re on the streets, a fact that would help better target services amongst the homeless.

“We feel strongly that we would like to have better data regarding victims of domestic violence,” says William Snow, senior SNAP (Special Needs Assistance Programs) specialist with HUD.

The only caveat is that the newly revised question isn’t required for the 400 continuums of care (CoCs) around the U.S. who take part in the Point-in-Time Count. CoCs are the nonprofit organizations that shelter and help the homeless.

“Collecting data on survivors of domestic violence is optional,” explains Snow. “Not because it’s not important, but because asking these types of sensitive questions can be inappropriate.”

Snow explains that many of the individuals conducting the survey of homeless on the streets are community volunteers and have no formal training in domestic violence or trauma counseling. Asking for someone to disclose abuse “should be asked in a way that’s protective,” says Snow.

The domestic violence question is the only grouping of survey questions that’s optional for the CoCs, who must take part in the annual survey in order to receive federal funding. This year, Congress earmarked $50 million for HUD to “specifically address projects around rapid rehousing and coordinated entry—creating a centralized way to get homeless access to services,” says Snow.

In 2016, the latest year the compiled data has been released, the assessment handed over to Congress didn’t reflect any numbers on domestic violence-related homelessness, an oversight that advocates say will only slow down progress on ending the epidemic of intimate partner violence.

Ana Rausch, senior research project manager for the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County in Texas says she believes asking if homeless are fleeing domestic violence will make an impact on what services are deemed a priority for those on the streets.

“If someone is actively fleeing domestic violence then their safety is most important and should be the first thing we address.”

However, she says she hasn’t seen a significant number of domestic violence-related homeless individuals

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in Houston, at least not through their census reporting. But she acknowledges that domestic violence can be a trigger for homelessness regardless of what the numbers show.

“Homeless response systems should work to build strong partnerships with domestic violence systems to ensure those experiencing or fleeing violence have safe and secure housing options,” she says.

**Half of Homeless Women Say Abuse is the Cause**

Despite what the report isn’t showing advocates by and large agree that many are on the streets because of violence at home. A 2013 report showed that 50 percent of homeless women say domestic violence is the immediate cause of their homelessness. Another report showed 80 percent of homeless women reported experiencing domestic violence in the past.

Assessing who is homeless because they’re fleeing abuse can help determine whether or not there are enough domestic violence shelters in a certain area, which can provide services unique to survivors that ordinary homeless shelters cannot.

“A homeless person who may suffer from a severe mental illness requires different care from one who is a victim of domestic violence,” Carol Corden, a New York domestic violence advocate, told the Pew Charitable Trusts in an article from January.

But Snow says this is a work in progress and raising awareness about the tie between homelessness and domestic violence is most important.

“Most [homeless] women have experienced some form of trauma, mostly related to domestic violence. We actually think more communities are implementing more ways to do the count, and are getting more confident to collect this data.”

The Point-in-Time Count has been ongoing since 2005 and covers 99.8 percent of the U.S. CoCs are required to count homeless in their community during odd years—even years are optional. CoCs then propose projects to address homelessness based on what their numbers show, essentially competing for federal money allotted to alleviate the issue.

“We ask, what are you doing to elevate the issue and uniquely address it? We want efficient projects as well,” says Snow.

Since 2010, Snow says the number of total homeless across the country has fallen. Though, within the population, there has been a slight uptick in chronic homelessness largely tied to a lack of affordable housing.

Did you know family crisis, including domestic violence, is the number one reason homeless youth listed for being on the streets? Read more about it in “Runaway Youth.”
United We Stand...
Putting the Pieces Together
15th Annual Interpersonal Violence Conference

Friday, October 11, 2019
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Program: 8:45 a.m.
The Rock ~ First Baptist North Spartanburg
8740 Asheville Highway, Spartanburg 29316

Featured Speaker: Tanya Street, BS
Consultant, Lived Experience Expert
Office for Victims of Crime Training & Technical Assistance

Registration Fee is $100.00;
$50.00 for Undergraduate, Full-time students
Deadline for registration is October 4, 2019
$25.00 Additional fee after this date
No refunds, but substitutions are accepted
On-line Registration closes on October 11, 2019
www.spartanburgregional.com/CEEvents

Fee includes on-line conference materials, refreshments, lunch, and certificate of attendance

Rape Abuse Incest National Network (RAINN) Urges Congress to Renew the Debbie Smith Act at Press Conference
RAINN.org ~ Public Policy ~ September 6, 2019

Washington, D.C. - Today Debbie Smith, a survivor and advocate, alongside RAINN, the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization, held a press conference announcing delivery of over 32,000 signatures from citizens across the nation urging Congress to pass the Debbie Smith Act when it returns next week.

The Debbie Smith Act is the largest federal effort to eliminate the rape kit and DNA backlog. Since 2011 there has been an 85% increase in demand for testing. This increased demand places a heavy burden on state and local crime labs. The Debbie Smith Act authorizes Congress to allocate $151 million dollars annually to state and local labs for DNA and rape kit testing. The law will expire on September 30 unless the House of Representatives votes to reauthorize it.

According to the FBI, as of July 2019, CODIS (the FBI’s DNA database system) has produced over 475,803 hits, assisting in more than 465,270 investigations. According to the National Institute of Justice 42% of CODIS hits are the direct result of Debbie Smith Act funding.

“The years I spent waiting for justice can never be returned to me,” said Debbie Smith, the bill’s namesake. “I was always afraid and constantly looking over my shoulder. But other victims do not have to go through this. On behalf of the many rape victims who have reached out to me and for the thousands more awaiting justice, I thank our champions in the House and the Senate for prioritizing this important legislation.”

(Continued on page 7)
“One of the achievements I am most proud of in my career is my legislation that established the Debbie Smith grant program. It has been called the most important anti-rape legislation ever signed into law because the funding enables local law enforcement and forensic labs to process DNA evidence, including rape kits, in a timely manner. Continuing this program is essential to making sure that sexual assault victims do not have to wait for justice. We cannot allow its authorization to lapse, and I’m confident that the program will be reauthorized with bipartisan support. I want to thank Debbie Smith, RAINN, and all the advocates who have always championed this program.” - Rep. Carolyn Maloney.

“The rape kit backlog is an unconscionable problem throughout the country. Victims of sexual violence deserve to have the full support of law enforcement in their fight for justice and that support extends to the testing of all rape kits. The reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act is vital to capturing violent predators and ensuring they are held accountable for their crimes.” - Rep. Ann Wagner

“The Debbie Smith Act has helped bring justice to so many victims. It has also helped take thousands of serial rapists off the streets, which has prevented countless sexual assaults,” said Scott Berkowitz, president and founder of RAINN. “It’s imperative that when Congress comes back to work next week that it makes passage of this landmark legislation a priority.”

“DNA funding remains one of the most critical investments government can make for the members of our organization in order to prosecute sex offenders”, stated Nelson Bunn, Executive Director of the National District Attorney's Association. "DNA testing is the best tool we have to identify very serious offenders who remain at large, harming people in our communities, and the best weapon against wrongfully convicting an innocent person."

“It’s difficult for us mere mortals to fathom how much courage it has taken to do what Debbie has done and to truly understand the impact that her life-long advocacy for rape victims has had on this country,” said Kris Rose, director of strategic partnerships at Healing Justice. “Advocating for this bill, Debbie has had to tell her story countless times. Each time she does, she has to relive the trauma of that crime. She shouldn’t have to.”

Ilse Knecht, Director of Policy & Advocacy for the Joyful Heart Foundation said: "There is no question that the ability of law enforcement, crime labs, and prosecutors to implement change often depends, in part, on whether additional resources and funding are dedicated to clearing backlogs and pursuing investigative leads. The Debbie Smith Act has provided crucial funding for crime labs to enhance their capacity and upgrade technology to test sexual assault kits and other DNA evidence in a timely manner.”
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition (SHRCC) provides services to victims of domestic violence in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties and victims of sexual assault in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Mission

Our mission is to use our collective voice to address the impact of domestic and sexual violence by providing quality services to those affected and to create social change through education, training, and activism.

Vision:

We envision a community liberated from all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Frontlines archives can be viewed on our website @ www.shrcc.org under About Us Newsletter Archive

For more information or assistance, please call 864.583.9803 or 1.800.273.5066 shrcc@aol.com ~ www.shrcc.org Facebook: SHRCC Spartanburg Twitter: SHRCC Pinterest.com/shrcc ~ Instagram.com/shrcc