

The Path to Economic Independence among Intimate Partner Violence Survivors: Theoretical Background, Barriers and Courses of Action

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Public policy encourages female recipients of welfare, including survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV), to develop economic independence. However, IPV victims face unique barriers to doing so. A critical overview of the literature in this field reveals three main obstacles: Active and violent intervention by the perpetrator; damage to health caused by extended exposure to violence; institutional, organisational, and social barriers. Furthermore, a background of gender violence, low socio-economic status, and belonging to a marginalised ethnic-racial group may intersect with both the direct and indirect effect of the violence, thus augmenting barriers to developing economic independence. The article concludes with a discussion of ongoing intervention programs for developing IPV survivors' economic independence against the background of these barriers, and proposes courses of action.

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