

Preventing **Sexual Violence** Against Women and Girls*: **What's Economics Got to Do with It?**

Economic Insecurity

can increase the likelihood of violence

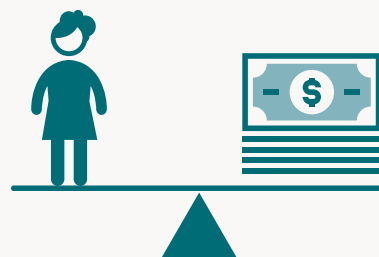
Economic Security

can prevent violence at all levels of society

Higher unemployment rates are associated with **higher rates** of sexual violence.



Society



Societies where women have **higher occupational and educational statuses** have **lower rates** of sexual violence.

Living in a high poverty neighborhood **increases** the risk of being a victim of sexual violence.



Community



Policies that **reduce economic inequality**, such as paid family leave and subsidized preschool, may indirectly **decrease** sexual violence.

Women experiencing housing insecurity may be **two to four times more** likely to experience sexual violence.



Individual



Emerging research finds that **income building programs** may reduce sexual violence prevalence in **half**.

*The term "girls and women" may include, but is not limited to, the following: trans girls and women; nonbinary, gender non-conforming, and gender queer youth and adults; girl-identified youth, and; cis-gender girls and women.

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What can be done to strengthen economic security and prevent sexual violence?

Strengthening investments in the following areas may help prevent sexual violence at all levels of society:

Income Building Programs

such as microfinance loans (e.g., Kiva) and other entrepreneurship programs.



Living Wage Policies that help ensure that a full-time worker can afford basic necessities (e.g., housing, childcare) for themselves and their family.



Credit and Debt Management Programs to address long-term barriers related to credit and debt issues.

Housing Security,

including rental assistance, shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.



Paid Family Leave,

which may help reduce the gender pay gap in the long-run.



Cash Assistance

for vulnerable populations, such as low-income pregnant parents.



***Sexual Violence (SV)** is defined as sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given. Most information presented in this fact sheet pertain to non-IPV (intimate partner violence) sexual violence, though some source combine IPV and SV. See references for further information.

References

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