

The housing response to violence against women

What do we know and where do we go from here?

Results from linked systematic reviews on the outcomes and experiences of housing interventions for women-identified survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV)



- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is the leading cause of homelessness among women
- However, **what works best** to address women's experiences of both IPV and homelessness, **how**, and **for whom** remains unclear

We need a full continuum of housing solutions for IPV survivors, from emergency shelters to longer-term housing, like permanent supportive housing and stay-at-home models



Yet the majority of available evidence has focused on evaluating short-term shelters

INTERVENTION OUTCOMES

34

quantitative evaluations

Strongest evidence of benefits for:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | Mental health outcomes | | Perceived safety |
| | Intent to leave partner | | Housing and partner-related stress |

No cumulative evidence of disadvantages following interventions across all studies; however, risk of bias was high

INTERVENTION EXPERIENCES

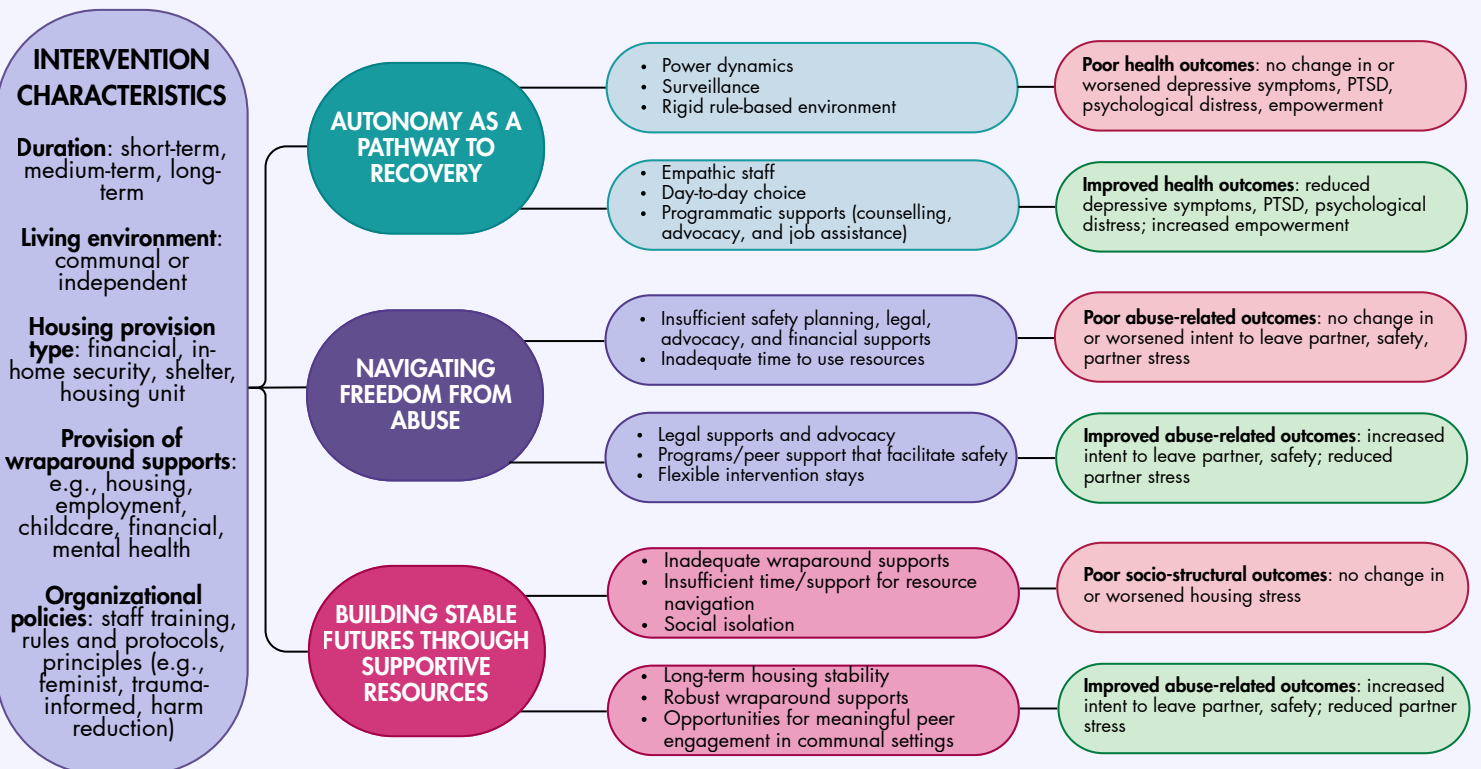
81

qualitative studies

3 key themes:

- Autonomy as a pathway to recovery**
- Navigating freedom from abuse**
- Building stable futures through intervention supports and resources**

INTEGRATED MODEL OF INTERVENTION MECHANISMS



Context: e.g., race, ethnicity, culture, sexual or gender identity, age, socioeconomic status of participants

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Invest in and innovate across the full IPV-housing continuum**, including emergency shelters, transitional housing or second-stage shelters, permanent supportive housing, stay-at-home models, housing benefits, rental subsidies, and flexible funding, **with robust wraparound supports**
- Trauma-informed policies** in communal living settings that maximize survivor autonomy while balancing safety needs, as well as **investment to address lack of choice, neighbourhood safety, discrimination, and poor housing quality** in longer-term housing interventions
- Rigorous and dynamic monitoring and evaluation and higher quality research**, including validated measures of short- to long-term outcomes, like freedom from violence, physical and mental health, and economic and housing security, and mixed-methods evaluations of intervention mechanisms
- Engage and partner with survivors in decision-making processes**, in both practice and research, to better reflect their needs and experiences and **consider what might work best for women across different social circumstances** (such as sexual, gender, ethnic, and racial identities)

LEARN MORE

Yakubovich, A. R., Bari, A., Doria, N., Khan, A., Metheny, N., O'Campo, P., & Gesink, D. (2026). Experiences of housing interventions among survivors of intimate partner violence: a qualitative systematic review and meta-synthesis. *Social Science & Medicine*, 400, 119242.



Yakubovich, A. R., Bartsch, A., Metheny, N., Gesink, D., & O'Campo, P. (2022). Housing interventions for women experiencing intimate partner violence: a systematic review. *The Lancet Public Health*, 7(1), e23-e35.

