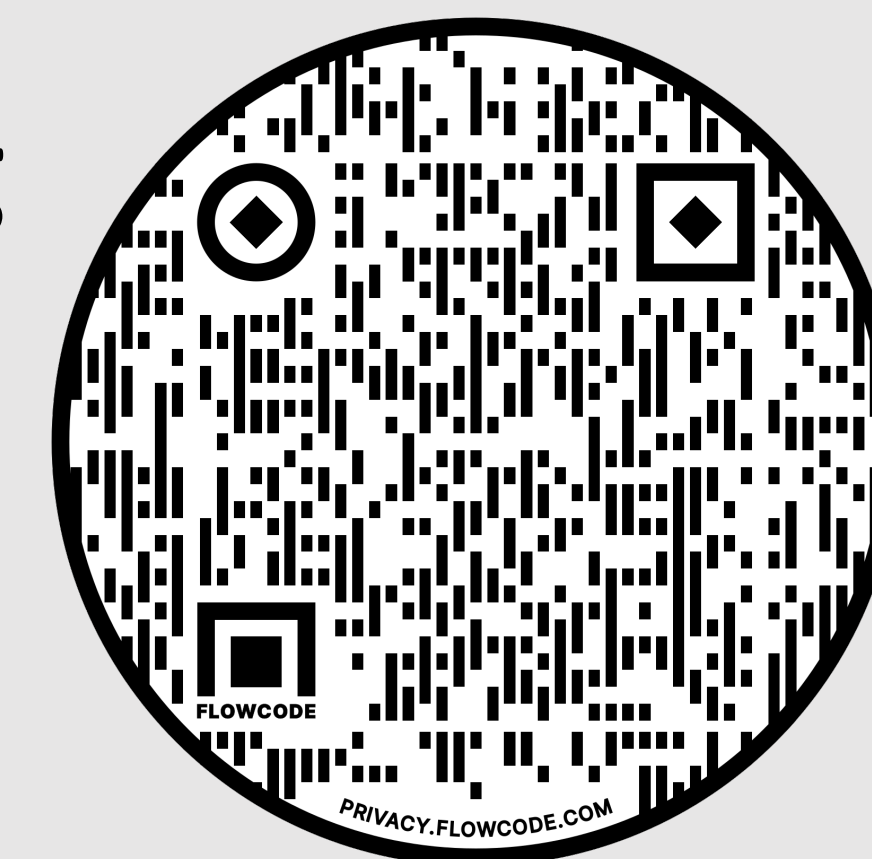


Battered Women: Factors Contributing to the Returning to the Relationship and Leaving for the Final Time

Lizzie Chordas

Advisor: Gary Dick, Ph.D.

School of Social Work, College of Allied Health Sciences



Background

- Leaving an abusive relationship is complex and multifaceted
- Nearly 1.5 million women are assaulted by intimate partners in the US annually. (Moe, P.244)
- Resources for survivors would be enhanced by a better understanding of the process by which battered women come to leave or return to an abusive relationship

Purpose

- The purpose of this study was to examine the factors of survivors leaving and returning to abusive relationships

Participants

- Participants=4
- All female
- Race: 3 Caucasian, 1 African American
- Criteria: Advocate at Women Helping Women, significant experience with survivors

Methods

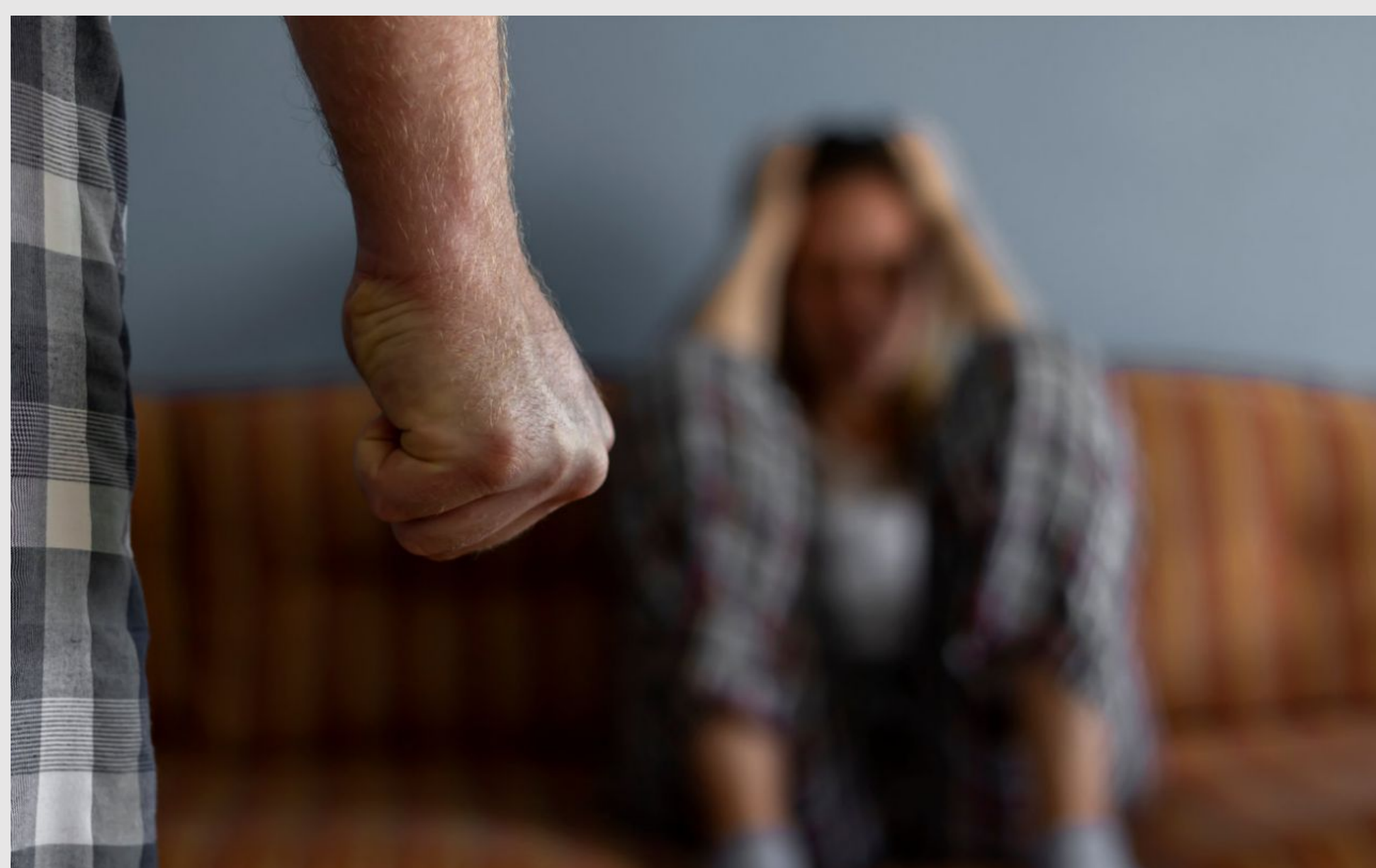
- Set up zoom meetings to speak with advocates
- Interviewed advocates with cameras on through zoom meeting
- Recorded their responses in a document and transferred the results to the research paper

Questions Asked

1. What factors contribute to women staying in their abusive relationships?
2. What factors contribute to women leaving their abusive relationship for the final time and ending the relationship?
3. What factors have you seen cause survivors to return to their abusive partners?
4. What kinds of diversity issues are related to whether survivors are staying or leaving? Age, race, gender, etc.?

Limitations

- Unable to interview survivors, strictly interviewed advocates
- Small scope of area discussed, only the Cincinnati area is served by Women Helping Women



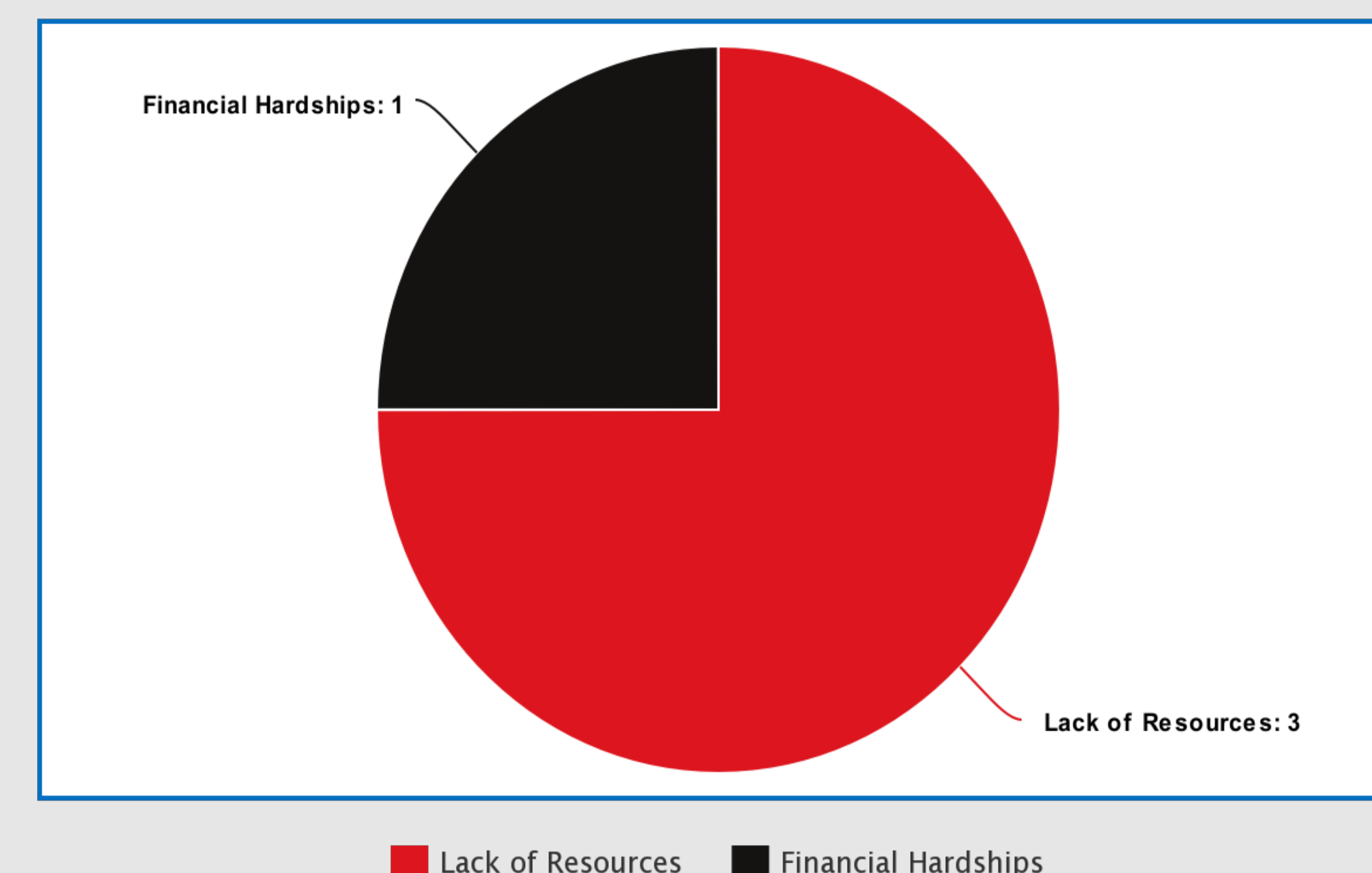
References

- Moe AM. Battered Women, Children, and the End of Abusive Relationships. *Affilia*. 2009;24(3):244-256. doi:[10.1177/0886109909337374](https://doi.org/10.1177/0886109909337374)
- Bermea AM, Khaw L, Hardesty JL, Rosenbloom L, Salerno C. Mental and Active Preparation: Examining Variations in Women's Processes of Preparing to Leave Abusive Relationships. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 2020;35(3-4):988-1011. doi:[10.1177/0886260517692332](https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517692332)

Results of Interviews

- Survivors stay in abusive relationships because they do not have anywhere else to go, and no resources to help them
- The number one thing that allows survivors to finally leave is access to resources, and access to relocation
- Majority of the clients are black women. Within the black community, many people have the idea of wanting to keep a family together no matter what

Why Survivors Stay/Return to Abusive Relationships



■ Lack of Resources ■ Financial Hardships

meta-chart.com

Conclusions

- The more resources that are available for survivors, the easier it will be for them to leave and stay out of these relationships
- If there are children in common, survivors are more likely to return to an abusive relationship because of that factor.