

## Why Women Stay in Abusive Relationships

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### BACKGROUND

- According to the CDC in the United States 1 out of 3 women (43.6 million) have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- Leaving an abusive situation is the most dangerous time for a survivor.
- In Hamilton County between 1997- 2007, there were 48 intimate homicides.
- 83% of the domestic homicide victims were killed in the process of leaving the abusive relationship.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to learn what factors keep women in abusive relationships. Instead of victim blaming, we can gain a deeper understanding into the thought processes of these women. We can learn ways to help and advocate for these women and make sure their needs are met. We can also learn when a woman is leaving a domestic violence situation when is she most at risk, while also learning what affects this has on the community on a macro level.

### SETTING

Women Helping Women is a nonprofit with a mission to prevent gender-based violence and to empower all survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.



### REFERENCES

<https://www.odvn.org/training/>

National coalition Against Domestic violence Network. (n.d.). *Learn More: Statistics*. Retrieved from National coalition Against Domestic violence Network: <https://ncadv.org/learn-more>

### RESEARCH QUESTION

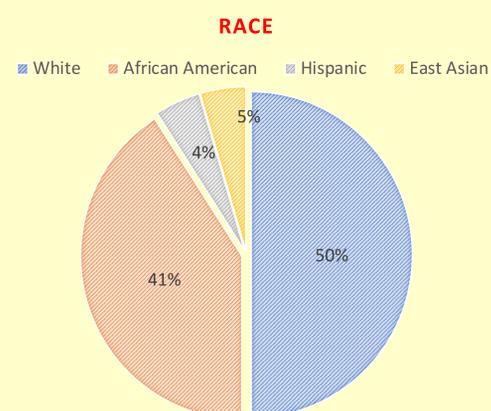
What are the reasons women stay in abusive relationships?

### METHODS

- The sampling method: convenience, purposeful sampling method.
- While being a court advocate at Women Helping Women, I collected data from women who reached out for domestic violence services.
- As I handled the hot line calls, or assisted as a court advocate, I documented the reasons they mentioned they stayed with their abuser.

### PARTICIPANTS

- N = 22 Women
- Age Range = 18-60
- 11 White
- 9 African American
- 1 Hispanic
- 1 East Asian



### LIMITATIONS

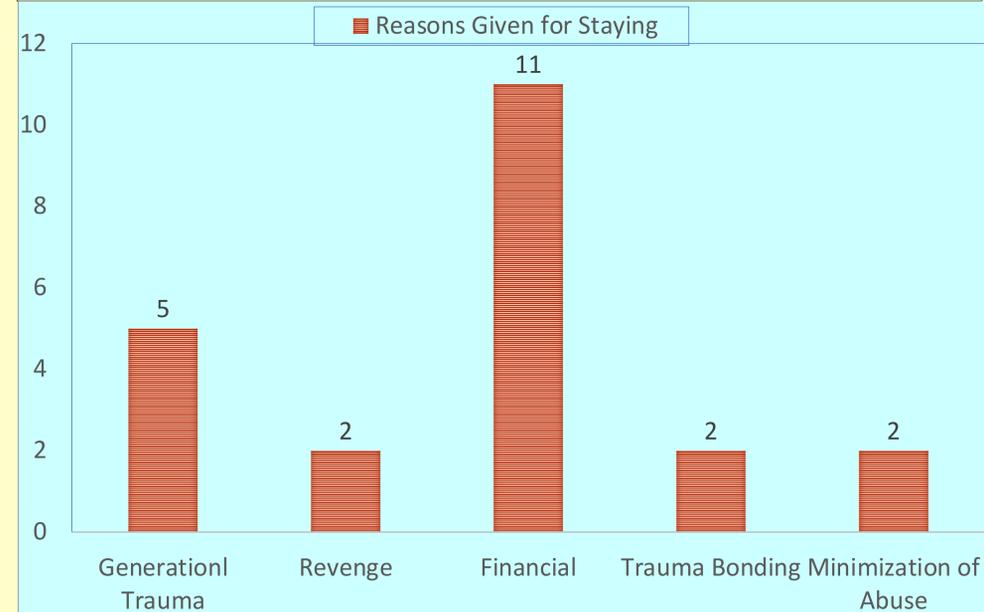
- This was limited to women who have reached out for help. Many women do not reach out for help.
- For ethical concerns I was not allowed to directly ask the women why they stayed.

*"I stayed because I thought he would change."*

*"I stayed because the children had disabilities, & medical needs."*

*"I wanted to get him well."*

### RESULTS



### CONCLUSIONS

The data shows that financial reasons (50%) are the major reason that women stay in abusive relationships.

22.7% had experienced generational trauma

9% of the women minimized the violence

Some of the women were traumatically bonded to their abusers

A lot of these women had no jobs, multiple kids, and the increase in rent in Cincinnati has caused a major issue.

