

# Statistics on financial and economic abuse

## Economic abuse limits women's choices and ability to access safety

**Financial abuse:** refers to control, exploitation or sabotage of money and finances

**Economic abuse:** refers to control, exploitation or sabotage of money, finances and economic resources (such as food, transportation, accommodation) more broadly.

Economic abuse occurs alongside other forms of abuse and is commonly part of a pattern of behaviour through which abusers seek to control their victims.

### National prevalence

**One in six women in the UK has experienced financial abuse in a current or former relationship<sup>1</sup>**



Since the age of 16, **one in six women** have experienced non-physical (emotional, financial) domestic abuse from a partner<sup>2</sup>

Women are more likely to report experiencing financial abuse than men: **one in five women experience financial abuse compared to one in seven men<sup>2</sup>**

Women who can't find £100 at short notice are **3.5x more likely to experience domestic abuse<sup>3</sup>**

### Of those who experience domestic abuse

**95% of women who experience domestic abuse report experiencing economic abuse<sup>4</sup>**



**Six in ten** successful prosecutions of the offence of coercive or controlling behaviour involve at least one form of economic abuse<sup>5</sup>

**Six in ten** victim-survivors of coercive control have been coerced into taking out debt which can take many years to pay back and negatively impacts credit ratings<sup>6</sup>

Economic abuse is linked to physical safety. Women who experience economic abuse are **five times more likely to experience physical abuse<sup>7</sup>**

Women who report experiencing financial abuse are more likely to **also report experiencing physical, sexual and psychological abuse<sup>8</sup>**

Women experiencing coercive control who also experience economic **abuse** are at **increased risk of being killed<sup>9</sup>**

## Of those who experience domestic abuse

**More than half of women experiencing domestic abuse said they had no money so could not leave<sup>10</sup>**



Abusers continue to control victim-survivors' ability to acquire, use and maintain economic resources post-separation. **One in four women reports experiencing economic abuse** after leaving the abuser<sup>8</sup>

**Eight in ten women** said their mental health has been affected by financial abuse<sup>10</sup>

**Just under half** of survivors of abuse who have children said they did not have enough money to pay for essentials for the children<sup>11</sup>

**Four in ten survivors** of abuse felt their long-term employment prospects/earnings were worse because of the abuse they had experienced<sup>11</sup>

**One in three survivors** of abuse said they had to give up their home because of the abuse they had experienced<sup>11</sup>

**Eight in ten women** said this form of abuse spanned more than five years (compared to two in ten men)<sup>8</sup>

## Help-seeking

**A third of victim-survivors do not tell anyone about financial abuse: those that do are most likely to tell a friend or family member<sup>8</sup>**



Only **two in five** of those who experience financial abuse recognise this from the outset of the relationship<sup>8</sup>