

"Mary Kay Truth About Abuse Survey"
2012 Regional Findings

Polled 733 domestic violence shelters in the United States:

- 23 percent were from the Northeast
- 26 percent from the Midwest
- 28 percent from the South
- 24 percent from the West

The survey focused on domestic violence and the economy since September 2008, a major turning point in the U.S. economy.

The survey was designed to understand how the economy has impacted shelters during the time period of September 2008 until now. All questions were written with this time frame in mind.

The was conducted online between Feb. 7-17, 2012.

Which ethnicity describes the majority of your shelter's clients? (Select one answer.)					
	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
White / Caucasian	411 56.10%	93 56.40%	125 66.10%	108 52.70%	85 48.90%
Hispanic	71 9.70%	9 5.50%	7 3.70%	13 6.30%	42 24.10%
African American	73 10.00%	24 14.50%	24 12.70%	23 11.20%	2 1.10%
Asian / Pacific Islander	8 1.10%	1 0.60%	1 0.50%	1 0.50%	5 2.90%
Native American	12 1.60%	0 0.00%	6 3.20%	2 1.00%	4 2.30%
Other	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%
None -- our shelter has a mix of ethnicities, with not one ethnicity as the majority	158 21.60%	38 23.00%	26 13.80%	58 28.30%	36 20.70%

Has there been an increase in women seeking assistance from your shelter as a result of domestic violence? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Yes – increase	573 78.20%	117 70.90%	149 78.80%	168 82.00%	139 79.90%
No – decrease	33 4.50%	8 4.80%	9 4.80%	11 5.40%	5 2.90%
No change	123 16.80%	39 23.60%	29 15.30%	26 12.70%	29 16.70%
Don't know	4 0.50%	1 0.60%	2 1.10%	0 0.00%	1 0.60%

Has there been an increase in women with children seeking assistance from your shelter as a result of domestic violence? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Yes – increase	538 73.40%	108 65.50%	141 74.60%	164 80.00%	125 71.80%
No – decrease	45 6.10%	13 7.90%	14 7.40%	7 3.40%	11 6.30%
No change	140 19.10%	42 25.50%	30 15.90%	33 16.10%	35 20.10%
Don't know	10 1.40%	2 1.20%	4 2.10%	1 0.50%	3 1.70%

Of the women who have sought assistance as a result of domestic violence, was the abuse primarily attributed to any of the following situations? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Financial issues	511 69.70%	110 66.70%	137 72.50%	147 71.70%	117 67.20%
Job loss	333 45.40%	65 39.40%	98 51.90%	95 46.30%	75 43.10%
Loss of home or vehicle	264 36.00%	58 35.20%	76 40.20%	72 35.10%	58 33.30%
Stress	430 58.70%	94 57.00%	119 63.00%	117 57.10%	100 57.50%
Substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, other)	545 74.40%	123 74.50%	148 78.30%	147 71.70%	127 73.00%
Relationship challenges	466 63.60%	108 65.50%	127 67.20%	125 61.00%	106 60.90%
Other	214 29.20%	61 37.00%	50 26.50%	52 25.40%	51 29.30%

Thinking about the women who have sought assistance as a result of domestic violence, which of the following best describes their behavior given the impact of the economy? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
They stayed longer in the relationship because of the economy	546 74.50%	116 70.30%	139 73.50%	159 77.60%	132 75.90%
They stayed the same length of time in the relationship because of the economy	47 6.40%	12 7.30%	17 9.00%	8 3.90%	10 5.70%
They stayed a shorter time in the relationship because of the economy	15 2.00%	5 3.00%	3 1.60%	6 2.90%	1 0.60%
Don't know	125 17.10%	32 19.40%	30 15.90%	32 15.60%	31 17.80%

Of the women who have sought assistance as a result of domestic violence, how would you characterize the severity of abuse? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Abuse is more violent now than before Sept. 2008	427 58.30%	83 50.30%	109 57.70%	133 64.90%	102 58.60%
Abuse is the same now as before Sept. 2008	249 34.00%	67 40.60%	62 32.80%	64 31.20%	56 32.20%
Abuse is less violent now than before Sept. 2008	3 0.40%	2 1.20%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	1 0.60%
Don't know	54 7.40%	13 7.90%	18 9.50%	8 3.90%	15 8.60%

Given the economy, have your clients expressed the need to stay longer at your shelter than allowed? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Yes -- clients have said they need to stay longer in our shelter than allowed	695 94.80%	156 94.50%	179 94.70%	195 95.10%	165 94.80%
No -- clients have said they don't need to stay longer in our shelter than allowed	38 5.20%	9 5.50%	10 5.30%	10 4.90%	9 5.20%

Of the children receiving assistance from your shelter as a result of domestic violence, how have the children been affected? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Emotional effects (such as stress, fear or anger)	703 95.90%	156 94.50%	181 95.80%	199 97.10%	167 96.00%
Behavioral effects (such as acting out or being aggressive)	700 95.50%	154 93.30%	183 96.80%	197 96.10%	166 95.40%
Social effects (such as withdrawal or bullying)	632 86.20%	136 82.40%	165 87.30%	175 85.40%	156 89.70%
Physical effects (such as on sleeping or eating)	571 77.90%	125 75.80%	152 80.40%	153 74.60%	141 81.00%
Don't know	16 2.20%	5 3.00%	6 3.20%	1 0.50%	4 2.30%

How has your shelter's services been affected by the economy? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Decreased services	312 42.60%	59 35.80%	72 38.10%	100 48.80%	81 46.60%
Offered same services	300 40.90%	80 48.50%	85 45.00%	75 36.60%	60 34.50%
Increased services	121 16.50%	26 15.80%	32 16.90%	30 14.60%	33 19.00%

If your shelter has decreased services because of the economy as noted in question 11: Which of your clients' needs have not been fully met? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
		360	71	82	119
Emergency shelter	61 16.90%	9 12.70%	15 18.30%	20 16.80%	17 19.30%
Transitional housing	145 40.30%	26 36.60%	28 34.10%	47 39.50%	44 50.00%
Individual support or advocacy with organizations (such as the police, hospitals, courts or schools)	121 33.60%	25 35.20%	26 31.70%	34 28.60%	36 40.90%
Child care	170 47.20%	33 46.50%	36 43.90%	51 42.90%	50 56.80%
Legal representation	122 33.90%	21 29.60%	29 35.40%	40 33.60%	32 36.40%
Transportation	188 52.20%	43 60.60%	44 53.70%	57 47.90%	44 50.00%
Therapy / counseling	113 31.40%	18 25.40%	27 32.90%	40 33.60%	28 31.80%
Translation services	55 15.30%	11 15.50%	15 18.30%	17 14.30%	12 13.60%
Job training / employment assistance	125 34.70%	28 39.40%	29 35.40%	36 30.30%	32 36.40%

How has this decrease in shelter services affected shelter programs? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
		372	76	82	121
Assisted less women	89 23.90%	19 25.00%	17 20.70%	26 21.50%	27 29.00%
Helped fewer children	90 24.20%	24 31.60%	17 20.70%	27 22.30%	22 23.70%
Canceled programs / services	88 23.70%	15 19.70%	16 19.50%	25 20.70%	32 34.40%
Scaled back programs / services	252 67.70%	48 63.20%	61 74.40%	69 57.00%	74 79.60%

Lessened "the basics" provided to recipients (such as amount of food given)	63 16.90%	13 17.10%	15 18.30%	15 12.40%	20 21.50%
Cut pay or work hours for some staff	178 47.80%	34 44.70%	48 58.50%	55 45.50%	41 44.10%
Eliminated staff positions	235 63.20%	43 56.60%	55 67.10%	73 60.30%	64 68.80%
Reduced hours of operation	26 7.00%	3 3.90%	5 6.10%	6 5.00%	12 12.90%

How do you think this decrease in shelter services has affected your adult clients? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	394	78	89	127	100
They may need to look for an extra job	116 29.40%	24 30.80%	32 36.00%	38 29.90%	22 22.00%
They may become homeless	220 55.80%	41 52.60%	57 64.00%	62 48.80%	60 60.00%
They may need to move in with family	243 61.70%	44 56.40%	58 65.20%	74 58.30%	67 67.00%
They may go back to their abuser	294 74.60%	58 74.40%	66 74.20%	91 71.70%	79 79.00%
Don't know	63 16.00%	13 16.70%	14 15.70%	21 16.50%	15 15.00%

Has your shelter closed or considered closing? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Our shelter closed, but reopened	11 1.50%	2 1.20%	3 1.60%	4 2.00%	2 1.10%
Our shelter will be closing	1 0.10%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	1 0.60%
Our shelter is currently considering closing	6 0.80%	1 0.60%	1 0.50%	4 2.00%	0 0.00%

Our shelter explored the option of closing in the past, but didn't after all	57 7.80%	10 6.10%	17 9.00%	14 6.80%	16 9.20%
No - our shelter has not closed or considered closing	659 89.90%	152 92.10%	168 88.90%	184 89.80%	155 89.10%

Which sources of funding have decreased at your shelter? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Governmental organizations	582 79.40%	125 75.80%	154 81.50%	159 77.60%	144 82.80%
Foundations	416 56.80%	86 52.10%	108 57.10%	113 55.10%	109 62.60%
Companies	361 49.20%	78 47.30%	88 46.60%	108 52.70%	87 50.00%
Individual donors	469 64.00%	105 63.60%	106 56.10%	142 69.30%	116 66.70%
Other	82 11.20%	20 12.10%	19 10.10%	31 15.10%	12 6.90%
None	25 3.40%	9 5.50%	7 3.70%	5 2.40%	4 2.30%

How has your shelter's domestic violence prevention and education efforts in the community been affected by the economy? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
We had to cancel all prevention and education efforts in the community to focus on our clients' needs	21 2.90%	3 1.80%	6 3.20%	7 3.40%	5 2.90%
We needed to cancel some prevention and education efforts in the community to help our clients	289 39.40%	68 41.20%	72 38.10%	65 31.70%	84 48.30%
Our shelter's prevention and education efforts have not been affected	282 38.50%	63 38.20%	74 39.20%	93 45.40%	52 29.90%
We have been able to increase some of our prevention and education efforts in the community	116 15.80%	24 14.50%	33 17.50%	32 15.60%	27 15.50%

We have been able to increase a lot of our prevention and education efforts in the community	25 3.40%	7 4.20%	4 2.10%	8 3.90%	6 3.40%
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Looking ahead to the next 12 months and in light of the current economy, do you expect your shelter's overall situation will be: (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Better than now	93 12.70%	8 4.80%	29 15.30%	35 17.10%	21 12.10%
Same as now	383 52.30%	89 53.90%	104 55.00%	98 47.80%	92 52.90%
Worse than now	257 35.10%	68 41.20%	56 29.60%	72 35.10%	61 35.10%

Looking ahead to the next 12 months and in light of the current economy, what do you think your adult clients will do after they leave your shelter? (Choose all answers that apply.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Look for a new job	437 59.60%	94 57.00%	129 68.30%	109 53.20%	105 60.30%
Seek governmental / financial assistance	588 80.20%	130 78.80%	163 86.20%	150 73.20%	145 83.30%
Get an education	260 35.50%	57 34.50%	74 39.20%	59 28.80%	70 40.20%
Stay home full-time with their children	127 17.30%	37 22.40%	35 18.50%	23 11.20%	32 18.40%
Continue therapy to recover from their domestic violence experiences	366 49.90%	85 51.50%	92 48.70%	93 45.40%	96 55.20%
Return to their abuser	458 62.50%	96 58.20%	135 71.40%	117 57.10%	110 63.20%
Don't know	111 15.10%	24 14.50%	27 14.30%	41 20.00%	19 10.90%

Has there been an increase in teens and young adult women (age 12-24) who are in violent dating relationships seeking access to your shelter or other services within the last year? (Select one answer.)

	Total*	What region is your shelter located in? (Select one answer.)			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	733	165	189	205	174
Yes -- increase	454 61.90%	104 63.00%	113 59.80%	131 63.90%	106 60.90%
No -- decrease	15 2.00%	2 1.20%	5 2.60%	4 2.00%	4 2.30%
No change	206 28.10%	47 28.50%	56 29.60%	55 26.80%	48 27.60%
Don't know	58 7.90%	12 7.30%	15 7.90%	15 7.30%	16 9.20%

* Total = The number of respondents for the entire survey who answered the Row question and, if a filter is applied, meet the filter criteria.