

Household out-of-pocket direct costs

The mapping of help-seeking behaviour by women who experience domestic violence is necessary to calculate out-of-pocket costs households incur due to domestic violence. The mapping exercise enables a country to take advantage of the findings from existing studies on the types of services women access and refine them to reflect the local context. With this information, the study can now be informed about the type of services the household may use and can focus on estimating these costs. Based on the main services and cost items identified in existing studies, the following are the types of costs that are frequently incurred by households:

Type of costs incurred by households

Health-care costs	Criminal justice	Housing and refuge
Emergency room care	Incarceration	Shelters for survivors
Hospitalization	Prosecutors	Rented accommodation (hotels etc.)
Outpatient visits	Emergency protection order	Residing with family/friends
Nursing home care	Temporary restraining order	
Dental care		
Mental health care		
Medication		
Ambulatory services		
Surgery		
Legal services	Social services	
Mediation	Counselling	
Divorce	Rehabilitation	
Legal counsel	Probation	
Emergency protection order		
Temporary restraining order		

The questionnaire for those seeking assistance is the main tool for obtaining information regarding these costs. This questionnaire can include a section that explores women's experiences of violence by family members to establish prevalence and incidence of domestic violence in the form of economic, psychological, physical and sexual violence within the household. It can contain follow-up questions regarding the injuries sustained and services sought after each incident reported in the last 12 months. The essential out-of-pocket costs for accessing services are classified as service fees (such as doctor's fees, filing fees at the police station), medicines, transportation costs, communication costs and food expenses. In addition to these expenses, survivors and households also incur costs for replacing property (dishes, household appliances, furniture, mobiles, vehicles, etc.).