

The State of Economic Access as Violence Prevention in Nevada



ECONOMIC
ACCESS IN
NEVADA.

Why Economic Access is Essential for Victim-Survivors

Research and the lived experience of victim-survivors consistently shows economic security and violence prevention are deeply interconnected: financial abuse is a common tactic used by people who cause harm, and economic instability is a known risk factor for both experiencing violence and perpetration.¹

Economic instability is one of the leading reasons victim-survivors stay in, or return to, dangerous situations. It is estimated that every victim-survivor loses an average of \$53,000 in wages over their lifetime as a result of abuse-related work disruptions, contributing to \$1.3 trillion in estimated national workplace productivity costs.²

When people have access to stable and accessible housing, healthcare, reproductive access, workers rights, and community resources supported through revenue, they have the autonomy and tools necessary to live healthy and safe lives with decreased risks for violence.

¹Santaularia, N. J., Ramirez, M. R., Osypuk, T. L., & Mason, S. M. (2023). Economic Hardship and Violence: A Comparison of County-Level Economic Measures in the Prediction of Violence-Related Injury. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 38(5-6), 4616-4639. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605221118966>

²Peterson C, Kearns MC, McIntosh WL, Estefan LF, Nicolaidis C, McCollister KE, Gordon A, Florence C. 2018 Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults. *Am J Prev Med*. Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30166082/>



Current NV Economic Access Landscape

Nevada has made meaningful progress over the years to protect victim-survivors, but there is still work to do in implementing true violence prevention policies. Across NCEDSV's statewide Economic Workgroup, comprised of nontraditional violence prevention partners, several violence prevention gaps have been identified:



Housing

- **Half** of Nevada renters are considered cost burdened, meaning at least 35% of their monthly income is spent on housing costs.³
- Direct service providers across Nevada continue to see that legal protections for victim-survivors unfortunately often fail to translate into housing security, as material and psychological housing instability continues to persist and is one of the leading indicators for violence.



Worker's Rights

- Employers are required to provide up to 160 hours of leave for victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence, however, the leave is not paid nor is it all encompassing.⁴ Unpaid leave means victim-survivors are too often forced to choose between healing and receiving a paycheck.
- Nevada's unemployment rate has ranked significantly higher than the national average since 2020 – relying on insecure and unpredictable sectors such as hospitality and tourism.⁵



Healthcare

- **65%** of Nevadans live in a primary healthcare desert
- **91%** of Nevadans live in a mental healthcare desert⁶
- Access to adequate healthcare – including mental healthcare – helps to reduce violence by addressing root causes and intervene when violence is occurring.⁷



Reproductive Access

- Almost half of Nevada's counties are considered maternity care deserts, meaning anything from prenatal care to family planning services to birthing hospitals is extremely limited to Nevadans.⁸



Revenue

- Nevada ranks fifth in the nation for most regressive tax structures, and its general fund budget is extremely limited.⁹ While the bulk of the state's funding goes towards education and healthcare, because the state doesn't have the necessary resources, such programs too often go underfunded and under-resourced.

Model Policies from Other States



Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have mandatory paid family leave, and nine states have voluntary systems that provide paid family leave.¹⁰ Paid family medical leave ensures that Nevadan's are able to take time off to provide care for themselves and their families, creating a more resilient economy, healthier families, and greater equality.¹¹



New Jersey has municipalities with rent control ordinances that cap annual rent increases, which helps to create stability for families and communities by keeping people in their homes.¹²



Alaska ranks #1 in the nation for public health funding in terms of dollars per person spent, which enables the state to work towards actually addressing the most pressing problems facing Alaskans.¹³

Looking Ahead

While Nevada has demonstrated a strong foundation to support victim-survivors through reactive responses, gaps still remain in prioritizing prevention efforts through upstream prevention programs and efforts. In order to be better equipped to prevent violence within Nevada communities, advocates, elected officials, and systems should partner to respond to economic access for all Nevadans.

³ National Low Income Housing Coalition. Nevada. Retrieved from: <https://nlihc.org/oor/state/nv>

⁴ Nevada Revised Statute 608.0198 retrieved from <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-608.html#NRS608Sec0198>

⁵ Chari, Maya 2025 Dozens of Questions: Why is the unemployment rate in Nevada so high? Retrieved from <https://www.apmrsearchlab.org/10x/nevada-unemployment>

⁶ Packham, John et al. 2025 Health Workforce in Nevada retrieved from https://www.nvpcra.org/files/ugd/5067d7_827dc42e07944ed682568932610e6527.pdf?index=true

⁷ Arientyl, Vanessa et al. 2025 Access to Care: The Role of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031348251329464>

⁸ March of Dimes Where You Live Matters: Maternity Care Access in Nevada retrieved from <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/nevada/maternal-care-deserts>

⁹ ITEP 2024 Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States retrieved from <https://itep.org/whopays/nevada-who-pays-7th-edition/>

¹⁰ Wielk, Emily 2026 State Paid Family Leave Laws Across the U.S. retrieved from <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/explainer/state-paid-family-leave-laws-across-the-u-s/>

¹¹ The National Partnership for Women and Families. 2024. Paid Leave Means a Stronger Nevada. Retrieved from: <https://nationalpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/paid-leave-means-a-stronger-nevada.pdf>

¹² Legal Services of New Jersey 2024 Tenants' Rights in New Jersey retrieved from <https://proxy.lsnj.org/rcenter/GetPublicDocument/Sites/LAW/Documents/Publications/Manuals/TenantsRights.pdf>

¹³ United Health Foundation 2024 America's Health Rankings retrieved from <https://assets.america'shealthrankings.org/app/uploads/allstatesummaries-ahr24.pdf>

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