What is the impact of economic abuse?

Economic abuse impacts all levels including individual, family, and community. When the abuser has control over finances, he traps her in the relationship, making it more difficult for her to leave.

**Individual Impact**

Economic abuse decreases the psychological well-being of the victim.

Mothers who experience economic abuse are 1.9 times more likely to experience depression than those who have not. Economic abuse is more predictive of depression over time than physical and psychological abuse. Having a partner control access to money or preventing independence through work or school may leave a lasting impact on women’s mental health, especially when experienced over time.

**Family Impact**

Within the family, economic abuse permeates each relationship.

According to the spill-over hypothesis, hostility and conflict in one family system (i.e. the parental unit) negatively influences other family systems (i.e. the parent-child unit). Mothers who experience economic abuse are less likely to engage in parent-child activities and they are 1.5 times more likely to use spanking than mothers who did not experience such abuse.

**Community and Societal Impact**

Economic abuse impacts women’s and society's economic well-being.

The costs of IPV against women in 1995 exceeded $5.8 billion and included nearly $4.1 billion in the costs of medical and mental health care and nearly $1.8 billion in the costs of lost productivity. Survivors lose nearly 8 million days of paid work—the equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs—and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity each year. IPV is a primary cause of homelessness among women, which is a major barrier to their workforce participation.

References