

ACT 115 PRESENTATION

*Social
Service
Provider
Safety*

January 2025



When people don't have their basic needs met, shelter, nutritious food, physical and mental healthcare, they are at increased risk for a variety of individual and societal challenges.





9.7

Vermonters living
below the poverty
line

%



75,410

Vermonters
facing hunger
16,670 of them
are children



51

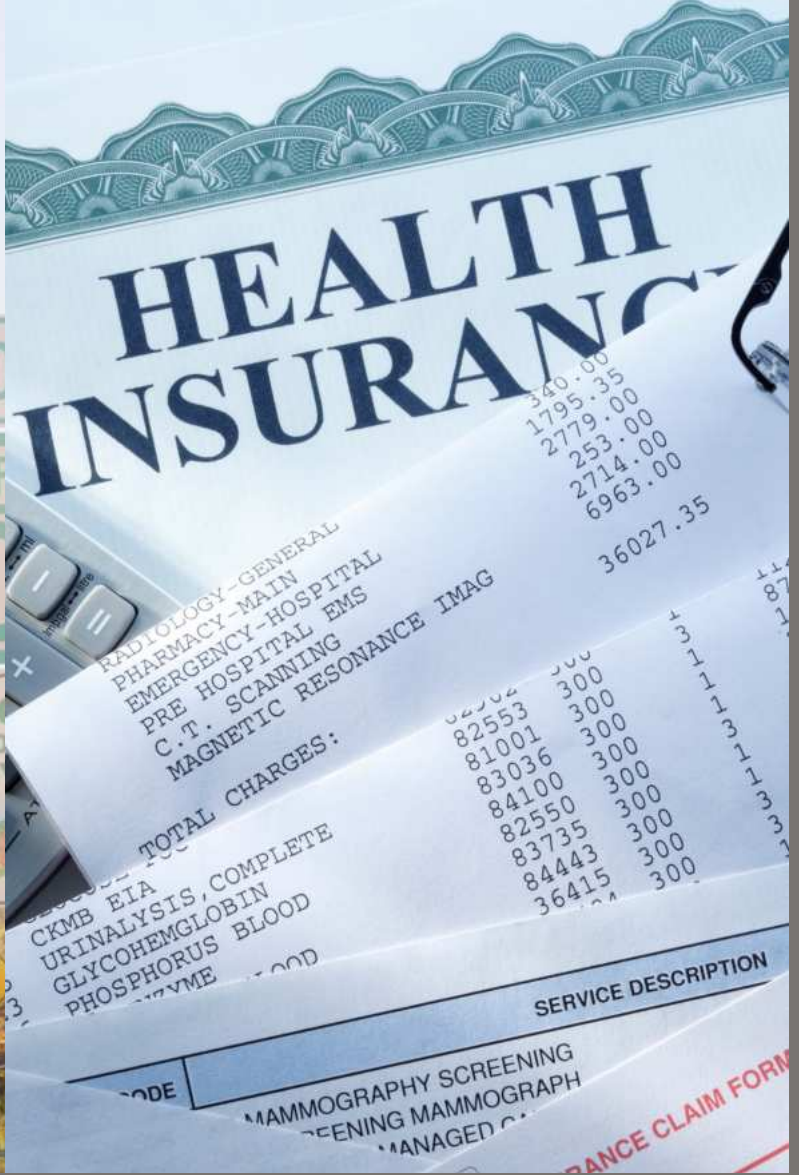
out of
10,000



Poverty can increase the likelihood of mental illness through disparities in perinatal risks, malnutrition, trauma, social marginalization, and violence

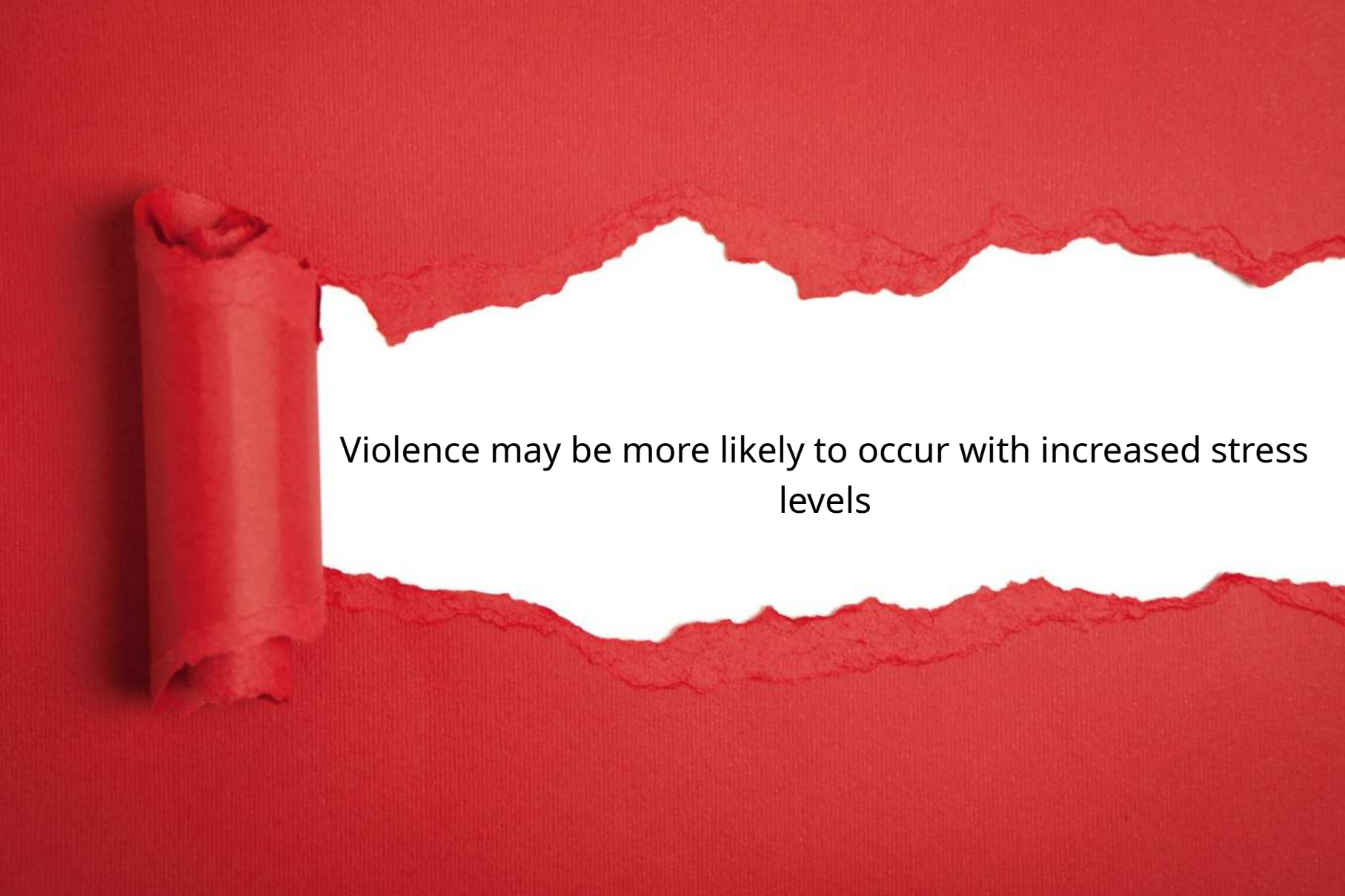


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Provider workforce shortages, transportation, and inadequate insurance coverage are all barriers to people accessing needed mental healthcare.

A photograph of a form with fields for 'DESCRIBE', 'CITY', 'ZIP CODE', and 'PATIENT'S NAME'.



Violence may be more likely to occur with increased stress levels



Social service providers can find themselves in unsafe situations.

25 %
assaulte
d

50%
witness
d

75%
fearfu
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Occupational Safety and Health Administration



Attention to safety in the workplace can reduce the level of burnout and help with staff retention

Transition

S



The Vermont Department for Children and Families found that over half of violent incidences occur within the first week after child removal in the time between the child being removed from the home and the first visit with the parent or caregiver.

Safety net during times of transition:
increased communication between service providers
and more detailed planning.



**Lack of services
and resources**

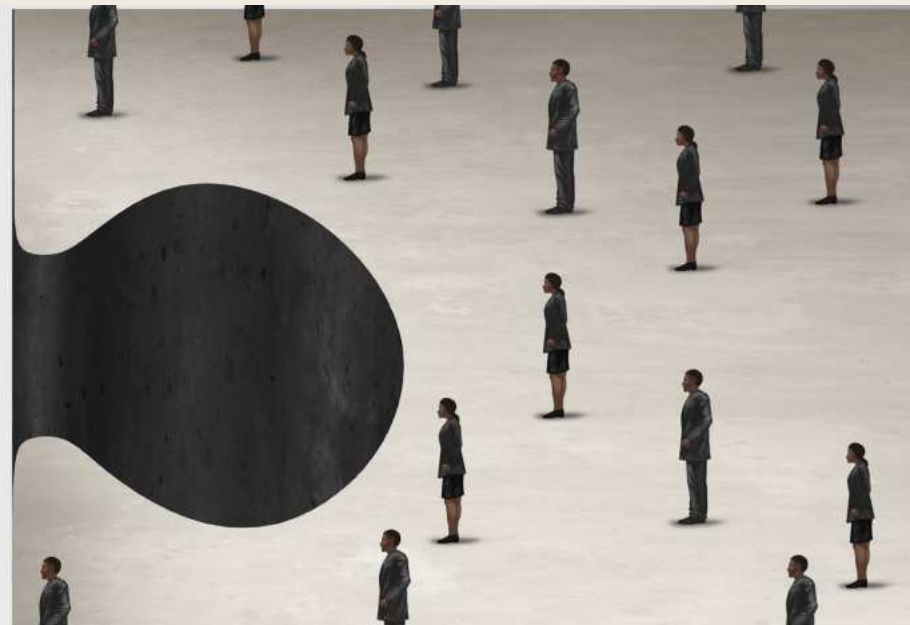


**Increased Risk of
Violence**





Training and systemic supports are key to keeping workers safe.



Training

- client population
- agency policies and procedures
- safety protocols & workplace violence prevention
- de-escalation
- changes in the environment
- supervision & support





Inpatient, in office, in the home of clients, or within the community.

Safety protocols will and should look different.

Systemic Supports

- scheduled check-ins
- recognition and support during client transition times
- infrastructure



Cost as a Barrier

- safety training
- bolstering infrastructure
- quality supervision and oversight





Partnerships

- Hospitals
- DCF

- Smaller agencies



Grants



- conduct needs assessments
- provide training
- improve infrastructure



Vermonters deserve to have their basic needs met
Social service providers deserve to be safe



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