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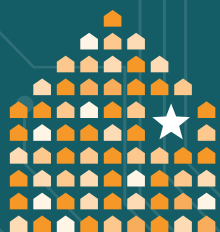
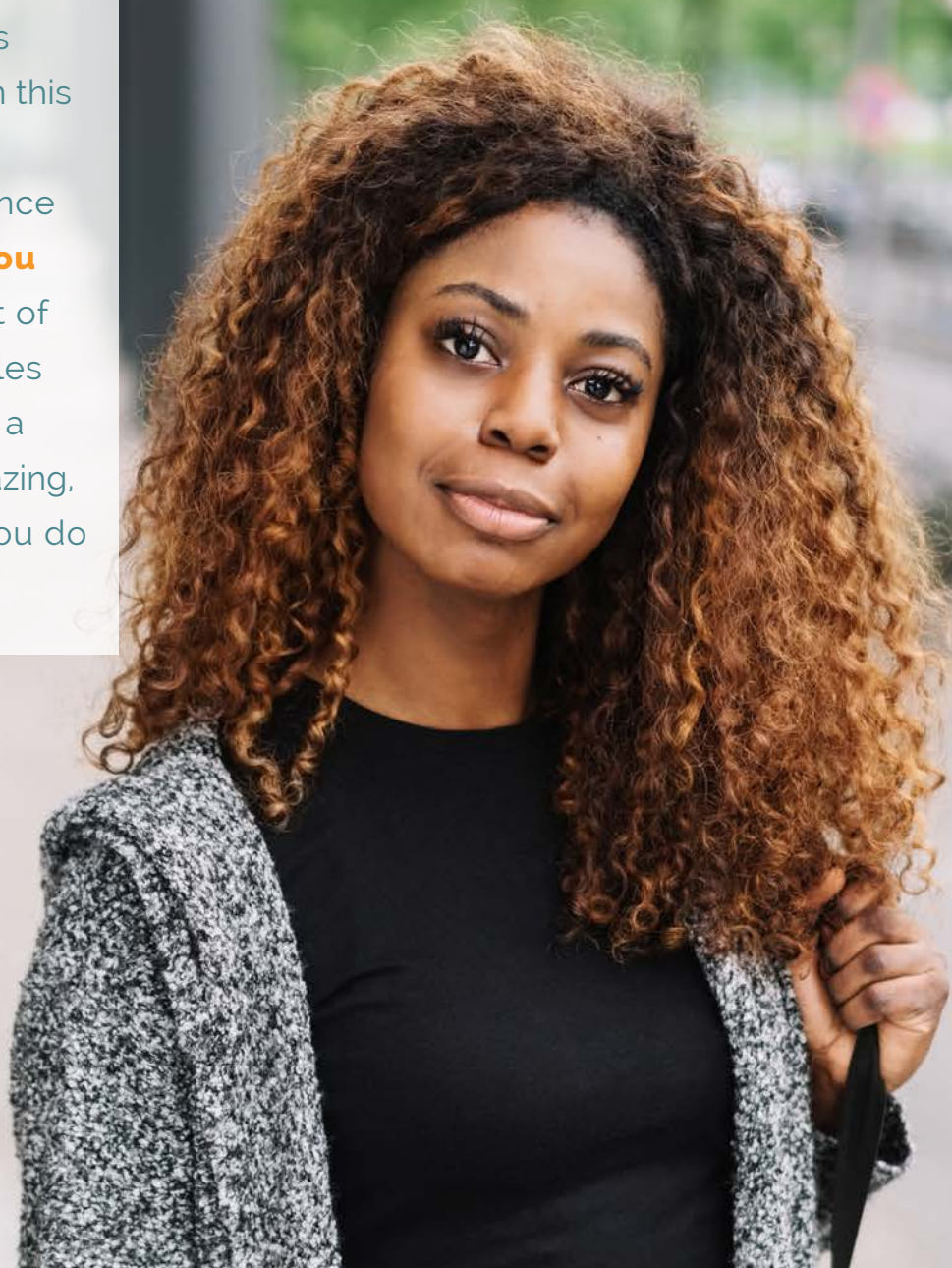
13th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report

NATIONAL NETWORK TO **END** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE




24-HOUR CENSUS
of Domestic Violence
Shelters and Services

To the staff at the 1,608 local domestic violence programs who participated in this National Census of Domestic Violence Services, **thank you** for taking time out of your busy schedules to provide us with a glimpse of the amazing, life-saving work you do every day.



NNEDV

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS National Summary

On September 13, 2018, 1,608 out of 1,870 **(86%)** identified domestic violence programs in the United States participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 1,608 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

74,823 Victims Served in One Day

42,494 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

32,329 adult and child victims received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, children's support groups, and more.

Percentage (%) of Programs Providing	On Census Day
Children's Support or Advocacy	77%
Emergency Shelter	71%
Transportation	56%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	54%
Transitional and Other Housing	33%
Prevention or Education Programs	32%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	31%

19,459 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. During the 24-hour survey period, local

and state hotline staff answered **18,473** calls and National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered **986** calls. This averages more than **13** calls every minute.

25,479 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On Census Day, local domestic violence programs educated **25,479** individuals in communities across the United States. Advocates provided **1,250** trainings that addressed domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and more.

9,183 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 6,972 (76%) were for Housing

Victims made **9,183** requests for services – including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more – that could not be provided because programs lacked the resources to meet victims' needs.

In the past year, **701** staff positions were laid off or went unfilled nationwide. Most of these positions **(78%)** were direct service providers, such as shelter staff or legal advocates. This means that there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help or provide needed services.

✂ From an advocate in Alaska: “A survivor was approved for housing after we referred her to a legal agency that helped her with legal matters. She told us, ‘I’ve lived on the street for the last few years with nothing. Now I can live in my first house ever with my son.’”



"A survivor had been staying in her car with her children. We were unable to find beds for them in shelter on Census Day. She asked, 'Why isn't there the kind of help that my children and I need?'" —**Illinois advocate**



Impossible Choices: Helping Survivors and Their Children Navigate Safety and Housing

Although safe housing can provide a pathway to freedom, there are many barriers that prevent survivors from obtaining or maintaining safe and affordable housing.

On Census Day, there were 6,972 unmet requests for housing or emergency shelter. Survivors and their children should not be forced to live on the streets or in substandard housing to avoid even greater danger at the hands of their abuser. Local programs must have access to adequate funds and resources to offer survivors safe housing options.

"A mom and her many children were trying to leave their abuser. We did not have an opening for her and her family. She didn't know where to turn for help and felt like

she was in a hopeless situation." –Arizona advocate

"An older survivor living with cancer had been residing in her car for two months. There were no rooms available to meet her needs." –California advocate

"A survivor and her teenage daughter came in seeking emergency shelter. We were unable to house them because our shelter was full." –Kansas advocate

"A pregnant survivor had escaped to an abandoned house but her abuser found her and assaulted her. Local hotels were at full capacity. Our other office in the next county was unable to help because all of those hotels were booked as well." –Missouri advocate

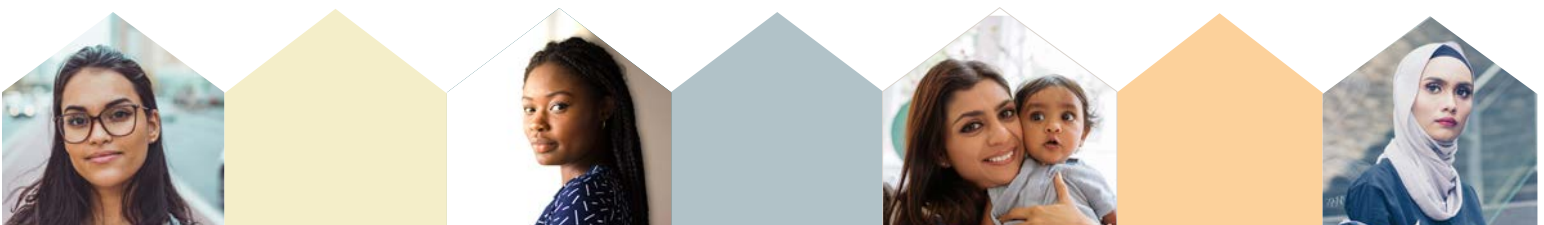
▶▶▶ In just one day...

On September 13, 2018, for the thirteenth consecutive year, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducted a one-day, unduplicated census of domestic violence services requested and received across the country. The data – including the number of individuals accessing services, the types of services they requested, and the number of unmet requests – appears in the context of the stories and experiences of survivors and advocates. Of the 1,870 domestic violence programs and shelters identified¹ nationwide, 1,608 programs² in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam participated on the Census Day.

In just one day, 74,823 adult and child victims received crucial, life-changing domestic violence services. Yet on the same day, 9,183 requests for services were unmet due to a lack of resources. In all, 42,494 adult and child victims were housed safely in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other housing, and 32,329 adult and child victims received support and advocacy through counseling, childcare, courtroom advocacy, and other services. In addition, local, state, and national domestic violence advocates answered 19,459 hotline calls³ and provided 1,250 trainings on domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and related topics to 25,479 people.

For a dozen years, NNEDV's National Census of Domestic Violence Services has highlighted the extraordinary and often life-saving services that domestic violence shelters and programs provide every day, while shedding light on the services that still cannot be provided due to a lack of resources.

Although the need for services remains steady, domestic violence programs are affected by fluctuations in funding at the federal, state, and local levels. While some allocations (including the Violence Against Women Act, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, and the Victims of Crime Act) have recently been increased or restored at the federal level, many programs' budgets remain delicately balanced, leaving them vulnerable to having to reduce services or close their doors without reliable funding streams.



Domestic violence programs are a safe harbor, providing refuge and support to victims in need of understanding and safety. Advocates and programs must have greater resources so that when victims reach out for help, they are met with compassionate advocacy and a safe place to go.

¹ To qualify for participation in the Domestic Violence Counts Census, a program's primary purpose must be domestic violence services. ² Approximately 86% of eligible programs participated on Census Day. ³ State and local advocates responded to 18,473 hotline calls and National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered 986 calls on Census Day.

VICTIMS SERVED



Domestic Violence Services are a Lifeline During Times of Crisis

Reaching out to a complete stranger to ask for help is incredibly daunting. Victims often reach out after a particularly threatening incident or when survivors fear for their lives or the lives of their children. Still, it can be difficult to begin rebuilding one's life after experiencing abuse and violence. It is vitally important that programs are equipped to provide services when a victim is able to seek help.

VICTIMS SERVED ON CENSUS DAY	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing or Other Housing	Non-Residential Services	Total
Adults	13,448	6,913	26,833	47,194
Children	12,805	9,328	5,496	27,629
Total	26,253	16,241	32,329	74,823



REAL STORIES

"We helped a survivor who was eight months pregnant get to the hospital after being assaulted. She had nothing for the expected baby, but we threw a baby shower for her and found a safe place for her and her healthy newborn."

—Alabama advocate

"We received a hotline call from a survivor fearful she would not be admitted to shelter because she had been using drugs. We offered her a safe place to detox. She was able to sleep for the first time in six days, knowing she was in a safe place and encouraged to pursue a new beginning."

—West Virginia advocate

ANSWERING THE CALL

On September 13, 2018: Local, state, and national domestic violence hotlines answered 19,459 calls from victims of domestic violence in a single day (averaging 811 calls per hour or more than 13 calls per minute).⁴

Shelter and Housing Services Provide Safety and Refuge

Survivors escaping abuse may need food, transportation, childcare, legal assistance, or financial help, but one of the most immediate needs is a safe place to stay. When victims and their children make the difficult decision to leave, their escape from an abuser should not leave them without a roof over their heads. Housing and shelter services provide victims with support and a community. Access to safe housing allow victims to take the first steps towards long-term safety and security.

Creating Pathways from Shelter to Permanent Safe Housing

Emergency shelter provides a safe place to stay immediately after a victim leaves an abusive partner. Because financial abuse is so common—in 99% of domestic violence cases, the abuser threatens the victim's self-sufficiency and financial autonomy—many survivors have little money and damaged or nonexistent credit. Transitional housing is offered by some programs as a temporary accommodation designed to be a stepping stone between crisis and long-term safety and economic stability. Rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, or other housing options are also offered by some programs.

When a survivor is able to get into an emergency shelter, the common length of stay is 30 to 60 days. However, survivors are frequently waitlisted or face significant delays caused by a shortage of safe, affordable housing options in their region. A Missouri advocate

⁴ State and local advocates responded to 18,473 hotline calls and National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered 986 calls on Census Day.

shared the dire consequences of overflowing shelters: “A woman called us after her boyfriend assaulted her and threatened her with a gun, but we had no space for her and her children. We don’t know if she was able to get out that day.”

OPENING THE DOOR

On September 13, 2018: A total of 26,253 adult and child victims found refuge in emergency shelter, while local programs safely housed 16,241 adults and children in transitional housing or other housing services. Seventy-one percent of reporting programs provided emergency shelter and 33 percent provided transitional or other housing services.

A Massachusetts advocate shared, “A survivor who had substance abuse issues was accepted into our transitional housing program. She now has 24 months of sobriety and has regained custody of her children. She said, ‘If it wasn’t for this program, I would not be living the life I now have.’”

Comprehensive and Compassionate Advocacy and Support

Many victims of domestic violence have survived repeated traumas, which may take a psychological or physical toll over time. The path to healing and rebuilding their lives can seem overwhelming when faced alone, but it is made easier with the help of well-trained advocates at domestic violence programs. Services are tailored to address the survivor as a whole person, not simply the abuse they have experienced. This framework allows survivors to develop individualized safety plans and connect with other resources and services in the community. An advocate in Puerto Rico shared, “We assisted a survivor applying for a VAWA self-petition. She recently received her work permit and said, ‘I can’t believe that I’m now able to find a job.’”

Local programs provide vital support and services, including legal advocacy, counseling, employment and job readiness services, help in overcoming financial abuse, safety planning, transportation, and childcare. By offering a range of services, including options tailored for diverse

cultural backgrounds, advocates provide the tools for survivors to take charge of their own healing process and address their complex needs.

From an advocate in Delaware: “A survivor in shelter had been working with an advocate to update her resume and obtain employment. She was hired for a job she really wanted and was very excited to start on her journey to security and stability.”

A Georgia advocate shared, “A survivor met with our legal advocate because her ex-husband had been stalking her and sharing private photos of her online without her consent. She was able to obtain legal representation for her temporary protective order case. With the support of one of our legal advocates, she met with the police department to press criminal charges against her ex-husband and have the photos removed.”

HELPING SURVIVORS HEAL

On September 13, 2018: Overall, 32,329 individuals received essential supportive services.

Percentage (%)of Programs Reporting	On Census Day
Children’s Support or Advocacy	77%
Emergency Shelter	71%
Transportation	56%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	54%
Transitional and Other Housing	33%
Prevention or Education Programs	32%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	31%
Support/Advocacy for Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	24%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	20%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	18%

VICTIMS SERVED



REAL STORIES

"We received a call about a survivor whose abuser had left her stranded in an unfamiliar area. We purchased a bus ticket for her to move to a safe location in a neighboring state."

—Arkansas advocate

"A survivor came to our office with multiple injuries after fleeing her husband the night before with her children. We advocated for the judge to hear her request for an emergency protection order and for the sheriff to serve the order immediately. The survivor shared that she felt supported, safer, and relieved."

—Colorado advocate

Prevention Through Education: Ending Domestic Violence Starts with Outreach at the Community Level

Local programs engage in essential outreach to educate their communities about domestic violence, raise awareness about available services, and promote prevention strategies. Domestic violence programs share their expertise about the many forms of domestic violence (including financial, physical, emotional, sexual, and technology-facilitated abuse) with students, educators, and parents. When children and young adults learn the signs of dangerous and controlling behavior, it becomes clear that mutual respect is essential for healthy relationships. Programs also offer specialized trainings for professionals, such as law enforcement officers, attorneys, and child protective services employees, to achieve better outcomes for survivors and greater accountability for perpetrators.

A Connecticut advocate said, "On Census Day, our community educator talked with third graders about healthy boundaries, personal space, and who to ask for help. This workshop was the result of two years of relationship-building in the community."

During trainings, sometimes participants will reveal that they are being victimized and ask for help. These encounters reveal the prevalence of domestic violence as well as the diversity of survivors' experiences.


FORGING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

On September 13, 2018: Advocates provided 1,250 trainings to 25,479 students, parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, attorneys, child protective services employees, and other professionals.

PARTNERING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Strong relationships and cross-training with law enforcement can be an essential tool for reaching victims in crisis. A Wyoming advocate shared this story: "On Census Day, a male survivor was referred to our program. It seemed to help that the referral came from a male police officer. After getting information and education, he successfully filed his stalking order and left saying he felt validated. It was such a simple example of how law enforcement can be pivotal in getting survivors through the door and helping programs reach more male victims."

An advocate in North Carolina shared, "Our prevention educator taught our local crisis/hostage negotiations team the specific skills needed to respond to a domestic violence incident hostage or barricade case."



"A mother residing in our shelter was worried about her daughter's upcoming birthday. She said, 'I am trying to save up enough money to get her a birthday present, but I don't know if I can.' A volunteer provided cake, ice cream, and presents. The mother was so relieved she cried: **'Thank you so much. You don't know what this means to me.'**"

—IOWA ADVOCATE

DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS



REAL STORIES

"A survivor with two children called stating that she had just left her abuser and needed a place to stay, but our shelter had no beds available. She said, 'I will sleep in my car before I keep my kids in that unsafe situation.'"

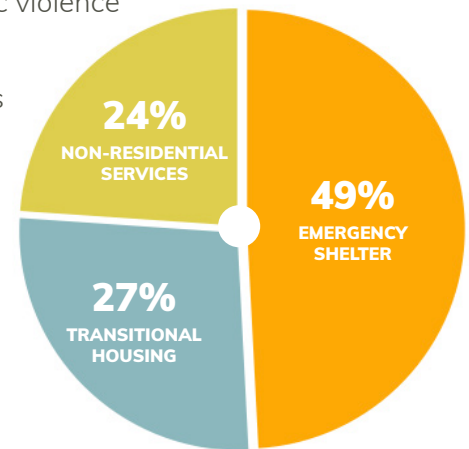
—Oklahoma advocate

"Every day, we have survivors call us who are desperate for a safe place to go and we are unable to help. Survivors consistently convey to us that they are scared and forced to stay in a highly dangerous living situation due to the lack of safe, affordable housing."

—Washington advocate

A Lack of Resources Leads to Devastating Unmet Needs

Until we end domestic violence, the doors of domestic violence programs must stay open to welcome survivors. But without adequate and sustainable funding, programs and shelters cannot address the unique needs of each person who requests help. Sadly, community donations and private and government funds aren't consistent and reliable. While resources for crime victims' services have been increased through several federal funding streams, there have been challenges in allocating and distributing the funds, and local programs often require assistance in navigating the requirements. Funding is also scarce for other critical services, such as low-income housing and affordable mental health services, that adult and child victims often need.



BREAKDOWN OF UNMET REQUESTS ON 9/13/18

Unmet Requests for Domestic Violence Services

Unmet Requests	Emergency Shelter (49%)	Transitional or Other Housing (27%)	Non-Residential Services (24%)	Total
Children	2,651	1,213	1,595	5,459
Adults	1,881	1,227	616	3,724
Total	4,532	2,440	2,211	9,183

UNANSWERED CALLS FOR HELP

On September 13, 2018: There were 9,183 requests for services that participating programs were unable to provide due to a lack of resources.

Safe Housing is the Most Needed and Most Often Unavailable Service

Shelter is crucial for victims facing life-threatening violence, particularly because leaving is one of the most dangerous times for survivors.⁵ Abusers often try to prevent victims from leaving by escalating the violence.

When shelters are at capacity, many programs look to alternative safe locations to house survivors, such as hotels or motels, which can be expensive. Without this option, victims and their children may be forced to choose between homelessness and returning to an abuser. In Oregon, an advocate shared, "A survivor asked for funds to temporarily stay in a motel, but there were no motel vouchers available. We assisted with safety planning, but her safest options were limited due to systemic funding issues."

Additionally, space may be limited due to natural disasters, as a North Carolina advocate related: "A survivor and her young child were escaping from her abuser. We had no bed

⁵ Campbell, J.C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., et al., "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from A Multisite Case Control Study," *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003; 93(7):1089-1097.

space and all of the local hotels were full with residents evacuating for Hurricane Florence.”

Transitional housing is a proven method of helping victims regain personal and economic stability after they leave emergency shelter. Domestic violence programs sometimes offer other housing options, including short-term rental assistance paired with services or permanent supportive housing, to meet survivors’ diverse housing needs. However, many victims leave shelter without a stable place to live.

In Michigan, an advocate reported: “A survivor was nearing the end of her stay in emergency shelter with her children, but all our transitional housing units were full. She was scared because her abuser had already contacted child welfare saying she had no permanent housing. She stated, ‘Having my children taken away from me would be worse than returning to my husband. I will take the abuse as long as I don’t lose my kids.’”

Additional barriers and a lack of options severely impact some survivors. An advocate in Colorado shared, “A survivor with a disability left our shelter into homelessness. She was unable to find a mental health facility, and we could not provide long-term housing or a longer stay in our shelter.”

LOSS OF HOUSING SERVICES

In 2018: Due to funding cuts, 72 programs reported that they had to reduce or eliminate alternative housing services, such as hotel or motel stays. Currently, 39 percent of domestic violence programs provide transitional housing as part of their services throughout the year, but because of funding cuts, 57 programs had to reduce or eliminate transitional housing services.

Staffing Cuts Lead to Unmet Needs and a Reduction in Services

Most programs operate with a small staff and budgets that cannot be sustained without steady funding on the local, state, and federal level. Funding cuts lead to layoffs and fewer resources to provide critical services for victims in need.

A Mississippi advocate reported, “Due to a delay in federal reimbursements, we had to let staff go. We are now trying to hire and train new staff with limited funding.”

An advocate in Minnesota said, “Our shelter is run by a fantastic team of advocates and support staff. However, with space for up to 17 survivors in our shelter and only two advocates, we are very understaffed. More funding is needed to alleviate our advocates’ caseloads and provide our residents with more individualized care.”

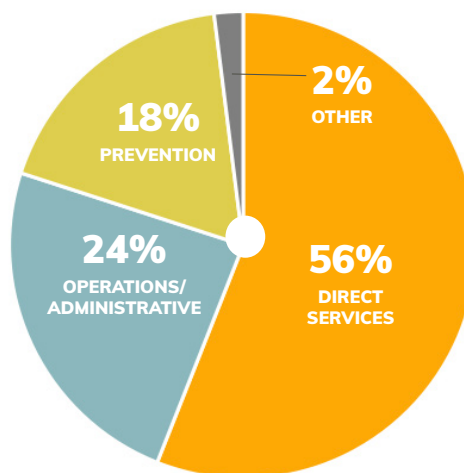
LOSS OF STAFFING

In 2018: 355 of the local programs surveyed (22%) laid off or left unfilled 701 staff positions. Of these positions, 78 percent were direct service providers, such as case managers, advocates, shelter staff, and child advocates.

An advocate in Idaho shared, “Our agency is operating three waitlists for services: shelter, counseling, and case management, because we do not have the staff and resources to meet the demand.”

Lack of Legal Services May Lead to Further Victimization

Survivors must often face their abuser in court to obtain a protection order, gain child support, or testify in criminal proceedings. Survivors are frequently further victimized and endangered by the financial and emotional drain of legal processes and outcomes. Some abusers manipulate the legal system to intimidate and discredit survivors or drain their financial resources with repeated court appearances. Access to services such as a lawyer or legal



TYPES OF POSITIONS LAID OFF OR UNFILLED IN 2018

DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS

Services Reduced or Eliminated in 2018	Number of Programs Making this Reduction or Elimination
Hotel/Motel Vouchers	95
Transportation	65
Transitional Housing	58
Childcare	31
Bilingual Advocacy Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	27
Emergency Shelter	27
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	27
Legal Representation by an Attorney	25
Therapy/Counseling for Children (by a licensed practitioner)	24

advocate can significantly improve safety and long-term stability.

An advocate in Florida shared, “A survivor was frustrated with the lack of a free attorney. Her abuser had the means to hire a lawyer, but she did not.”

Without legal representation or advocacy, survivors and their families struggle to stay out of an abuser’s reach. An Ohio advocate stated, “A survivor was looking for someone to accompany her to court. When no one was available, she became frantic, recounting the stalking she experienced. She said: ‘I’m not even safe at work. I just want someone that is an expert there with me to help me so they all understand.’ In the last year, our staffing for legal advocacy has been cut by more than half due to funding limitations.”

REPRESENTING SURVIVORS

On September 13, 2018: 54 percent of programs were able to have advocates accompany victims to court, but only 15 percent of programs were able to assist victims with legal representation.

In 2018: 24 programs reduced or eliminated their legal advocacy services and 25 reduced or eliminated their capability to provide legal representation.

Lack of Transportation is a Significant Barrier that Impacts Survivors’ Safety

Many victims who want to leave their abuser do not have the transportation needed to get to shelter and are left stranded and in danger. This is especially true for survivors living in rural, isolated, or geographically-scattered communities. Physical distance, coupled with a lack of public transportation, can make it difficult to reach a crisis center that could be more than 100 miles away. Even in urban areas, the lack of transportation can make it difficult for victims to leave a violent partner or get to counseling, court dates, job interviews, or work.

Some programs offer bus vouchers, gas cards, or transportation in an agency vehicle, although the need often far exceeds available resources. Not all victims can get to shelters, access care in the community, or find employment that would help them work towards economic independence.

An advocate in Pennsylvania shared, “One survivor had difficulty finding transportation to court in order to file a temporary protection order. She needed transportation assistance in order to be present for further court appearances, but we were unable to help her because we can only provide bus tickets or gas cards. This survivor didn’t have access to a vehicle and didn’t live on a bus line.”

An Arizona advocate shared, “We responded to a crisis call from a woman in an isolated tribal area. On Census Day, she and her son told us how grateful they were that someone cared enough to bring them somewhere where they could sleep more peacefully at night.”

LACK OF TRANSPORTATION

In 2018: 65 programs reduced or eliminated transportation-related services due to budget cuts.

Limited Resources and Services Further Marginalize Underserved Victims

Victims from marginalized communities may face

❖ “Due to shelter capacity, we had to turn away a victim from a neighboring state. She cried and begged for a corner of a room for her and her child to sleep in.”

—New Hampshire advocate

additional systemic barriers and discrimination, causing them to doubt whether they will be welcomed by local domestic violence programs. Some survivors also experience language barriers that may prevent them from reaching out for help.

Abusers often control immigrant victims by deliberately misrepresenting the law, confiscating immigration documents, threatening to get the victim deported, or threatening to have their children taken away if they report the violence. When immigrant victims are able to escape abuse, additional barriers could keep them from accessing safety because underfunded programs may lack bilingual advocates or culturally specific services.

An advocate from Washington, DC, shared, “Immigrant survivors already wait longer than other populations to reach out for help, until the violence is far more high-risk. Their increasing fear of Immigration and Customs

Enforcement and deportation, and the prospect of losing their children, is noticeably prolonging the abuse and impacting their decisions about moving forward with safety plans.”

Survivors who are elderly, live with a disability, or have children who have a disability, may have a harder time accessing safety. They may rely upon an abuser for care or financial support, or it may be challenging to find programs offering fully-accessible services and housing.

Victims who identify as members of the LGBTQ community also face unique barriers. Too often, the justice system and victim advocates struggle to understand the dynamics of domestic violence in the LGBTQ community and to provide help in a culturally-competent manner. Despite laws that prohibit discrimination, LGBTQ survivors sometimes fear that a local domestic violence program will not be welcoming or fully understand their issues.

❖ REAL STORIES ❖

“A transgender woman called our agency to learn about our support program for LGBTQ people. It was hard for her to navigate support and resources that are culturally competent and friendly towards her. She did not feel safe at a homeless shelter and the only LGBTQ shelter had a two-to-three-month waitlist.”

—California advocate

“A survivor with four children called seeking shelter. Her abuser continuously torments her with emotional abuse, telling her she is no good and it would be better if she would just kill herself. She was staying with a friend, but the abuser found her. We didn’t have shelter space, but were able to refer her to other shelters in the area that might be able to help her.”


—Nevada advocate

“A survivor was being unfairly evicted due to domestic violence. She was looking for assistance with rent and a deposit. Our program’s funds are incredibly limited. The survivor stated ‘This was the first time I reached out for help, but no help was there.’”

—Nebraska advocate

“A survivor and her children had been running from their abuser for two years. Somehow, he found them and slashed her tires, tried to burn down her home, and attempted to kidnap them. With the help of law enforcement, the family was safely transported to our program. We safety-planned with the survivor and connected her with services. We are working with a detective who specializes in domestic violence, but the abuser is still on the run.”

—Louisiana advocate

A pregnant woman is shown from the side, holding her belly. She is wearing a dress with a bold, abstract pattern in shades of pink, red, and white. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a path. A semi-transparent dark grey box contains text on the left side of the image. An orange arrow points downwards in the top right corner, and a yellow arrow points upwards in the bottom left corner.

"A pregnant survivor who had experienced abuse as both a child and an adult was worried about becoming a parent. She participated in parenting workshops, support groups, and counseling. **On Census Day, she moved into her own apartment through our transitional housing program.** She shared how grateful she is for our agency's support and how her confidence has grown."

—GEORGIA ADVOCATE

DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS

Lack of Affordable Childcare is a Barrier to Safety

Most survivors need to go to work or job interviews, attend school, and meet with lawyers or other service providers. For those with children, this can be impossible to accomplish without safe, affordable childcare.

An advocate in Indiana shared, “Our agency desperately needs funding to establish childcare services for victims of domestic violence. The waiting list for childcare vouchers in our rural area is 18 months to two years. The lack of affordable childcare services prohibits clients from becoming employed.”

LOSS OF CHILDCARE SERVICES

In 2018: 31 participating programs reduced or eliminated childcare services.

No Victim Should be Left Behind: The Human Cost of Precarious Funding and Reduced Staffing

Abusers gain power over victims through physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse, often leaving victims isolated and with self-doubt. Survivors need support when extricating themselves from this web of control. Yet the continued lack of adequate funding and resources means that not everyone who seeks help will find it. Victims can face devastating consequences from continued abuse, sometimes leading to chronic health issues, which may leave a legacy of injuries and trauma. To compound the situation, victims are often re-traumatized when they are turned away by programs with budgets that are stretched too thin to meet the immense need.

Domestic violence impacts people from all walks of life and has an effect not just on the victims themselves but on their communities. We cannot afford to ignore this human toll, nor the economic impact that abuse has on society as a whole through lost productivity and increased healthcare costs.⁷ There is hope for both prevention and healing, but these can only come to fruition through increased commitment to domestic violence programs. Funders, policymakers, social service providers, law enforcement, judges, and community members must join advocates in working towards a future without domestic violence.



Service Provision to Underserved Victims

Services Provided by Local Programs	Percentage (%) of Programs Providing This Service on Census Day	Percentage (%) of Programs Providing This Service Throughout the Year
Bilingual Advocacy	35%	67%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	22%	80%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	18%	74%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	17%	88%

⁷A 1995 study estimated the annual cost of domestic violence in the U.S. at \$5.8 billion, which would be \$9.7 billion if converted to 2019 dollars. Approximately \$6.3 billion of these costs were for direct medical and mental health services.

“The Economic Cost of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking,” Institute for Women’s Policy Research, (August 2017).



Abusers Threaten to Kill or Harm Pets

"A survivor called our hotline to ask whether we accept pets in our shelter. When he heard we do, he cried. His husband threatened him that if he ever left or went to the police, the abuser would kill his dog. **When he entered the shelter that night, he said he felt safe for the first time in years.**"

—CONNECTICUT ADVOCATE

SERVICES PROVIDED

Services	Provided on Sept. 13, 2018	Offered Throughout the Year
Children's Support or Advocacy	58%	83%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	54%	91%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	32%	87%
Transportation	56%	89%
Emergency Shelter	71%	83%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	17%	88%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	41%	86%
Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	29%	85%
Support/Advocacy to Elder Victims of Abuse	22%	84%
Support/Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	28%	80%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	22%	80%
Support/Advocacy Related to Technology (Cyberstalking, etc.)	14%	79%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	14%	77%
Support/Advocacy Related to Health Care/Health Care Systems	21%	76%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	18%	74%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	22%	73%
Third-Party Translation/Interpretation Services	10%	66%
Hotel/Motel Stay	11%	62%
Support/Advocacy for Veterans Who Served in Armed Forces	5%	63%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	18%	58%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	31%	54%
Support/Advocacy for Active Duty Victims in Armed Forces	2%	54%
Therapy/Counseling for Children or Youth (by a licensed practitioner)	17%	44%
Transitional or Other Housing (arranged/run by DV program)	33%	39%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	35%	67%
Childcare/Daycare	22%	45%
HIV/AIDS Information and/or Support	3%	44%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	20%	43%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	15%	34%
Safe Exchange/Visitation	7%	25%
Matched Savings Programs and/or Microloans	2%	12%
Onsite Medical Services	3%	10%
Support/Advocacy to Teen/Young Adult Victims of Trafficking	24%	86%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	43%	88%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	45%	90%
Rural Outreach	23%	62%

SUMMARY DATA

State or Territory	Response Rate ⁸	Adults Served	Children Served	Total People Served	Unmet Requests for Services	Hotline Calls Answered	Total People Trained	Served in Shelter	Served in Transitional or Other Housing	Non-Residential Served
AK	92%	719	196	915	28	94	282	237	121	557
AL	100%	521	219	740	115	123	1,037	233	140	367
AR	70%	310	147	457	37	87	94	220	50	187
AZ	74%	1,264	582	1,846	310	334	486	684	325	837
CA	81%	4,258	2,645	6,903	688	1,256	1,747	1,626	1,725	3,552
CO	81%	741	338	1,079	217	387	512	396	263	420
CT	100%	674	213	887	49	316	424	236	150	501
DC	100%	334	255	589	49	129	20	81	323	185
DE	100%	212	167	379	36	16	1	96	38	245
FL	100%	1,845	1,204	3,049	132	634	865	1,790	325	934
GA	76%	978	845	1,823	296	358	625	649	586	588
GU	100%	14	20	34	4	28	20	25	0	9
HI	53%	308	142	450	19	94	29	140	94	216
IA	100%	765	570	1,335	19	442	273	394	341	600
ID	86%	340	221	561	166	122	677	136	112	313
IL	96%	1,898	781	2,679	165	922	1,175	678	567	1,434
IN	100%	1,298	773	2,071	230	614	2,695	952	402	717
KS	100%	471	231	702	93	148	268	240	98	364
KY	100%	856	332	1,188	74	208	207	574	244	370
LA	100%	355	331	686	95	308	219	228	117	341
MA	100%	1,221	564	1,785	299	468	127	517	238	1,030
MA	95%	457	192	649	163	275	13	251	74	324
ME	100%	370	145	515	17	86	117	120	144	251
MI	100%	1,445	1,204	2,649	425	543	319	998	797	854
MN	87%	1,349	658	2,007	308	680	1,071	707	182	1,118
MO	88%	1,379	795	2,174	631	498	321	1,179	237	758
MS	100%	197	153	350	42	123	64	129	91	130

⁸The response rate refers to the percentage of identified primary purpose local domestic violence services in the state or territory that participated in this year's Census.

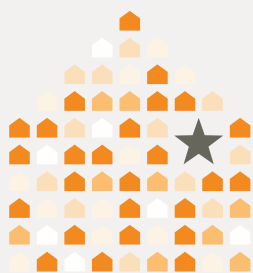
State or Territory	Response Rate ⁸	Adults Served	Children Served	Total People Served	Unmet Requests for Services	Hotline Calls Answered	Total People Trained	Served in Shelter	Served in Transitional or Other Housing	Non-Residential Served
MT	100%	238	153	391	41	171	80	125	109	157
NC	46%	542	357	899	65	329	243	412	143	344
ND	100%	173	118	291	8	60	121	130	50	111
NE	100%	474	151	625	78	193	227	138	49	438
NH	100%	209	98	307	29	114	319	79	86	142
NJ	96%	763	450	1,213	67	469	287	335	244	634
NM	55%	289	202	491	20	66	97	198	146	147
NV	100%	188	218	406	65	166	248	214	118	74
NY	98%	4,971	2,547	7,518	801	1,326	1,753	2,549	1,464	3,505
OH	100%	1,418	884	2,302	216	804	1,402	858	534	910
OK	100%	660	374	1,034	131	223	721	521	162	351
OR	68%	756	396	1,152	179	432	175	304	252	596
PA	100%	1,665	722	2,387	416	708	1,782	804	537	1,046
PR	47%	192	113	305	36	22	57	70	112	123
RI	100%	404	88	492	65	104	34	57	95	340
SC	69%	282	202	484	25	41	259	220	68	196
SD	31%	115	72	187	2	75	10	107	11	69
TN	100%	849	425	1,274	126	414	135	585	246	443
TX	100%	4,204	3,133	7,337	954	1,692	2,353	2,370	2,190	2,777
UT	100%	439	409	848	106	97	69	371	298	179
VA	92%	951	736	1,687	64	433	183	616	571	500
VI	50%	10	9	19	0	8	0	0	8	11
VT	100%	224	97	321	11	102	30	130	35	156
WA	59%	1,078	860	1,938	526	414	210	556	576	806
WI	70%	1,050	673	1,723	379	498	803	709	222	792
WV	100%	295	119	414	53	95	25	214	47	153
WY	100%	176	100	276	13	124	168	65	84	127
TOTAL	86%	47,194	27,629	74,823	9,183	18,473	25,479	26,253	16,241	32,329



A mother and her children were living in a tent on a campground. When it was time to get the keys to her new apartment, she couldn't believe it and started to cry. She was so excited and relieved to not have to live in a tent anymore. The kids gave hugs and couldn't stop jumping up and down.



—ARIZONA ADVOCATE



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