



14th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report

NATIONAL NETWORK TO **END** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE




24-HOUR CENSUS
of Domestic Violence
Shelters and Services

Acknowledgements

We offer our deep thanks and appreciation to the staff at the 1,669 local domestic violence programs who participated in this national census of local domestic violence services. By sharing information about your life-saving work, you are shining a light on the needs of survivors and their advocates everywhere.



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Suggested Citation: National Network to End Domestic Violence (2020). 14th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: [NNEDV.org/DVCounts](https://nnedv.org/DVCounts)



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS REPORT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 12, 2019, 1,669 out of 1,887 **(88%)** identified domestic violence programs in the United States participated in this national census of domestic violence services conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). The following figures represent the information shared by the participating programs regarding the services they provided during DV Counts Day, the 24-hour survey period.

77,226 Victims Served in One Day

42,964 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

34,262 adult and child victims received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, children's support groups, and more.

Type of Service Provided on DV Counts Day	% of Programs Providing Service
Emergency Shelter	70%
Children's Support or Advocacy	56%
Transportation	55%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	52%
Transitional and Other Housing	35%
Prevention or Educational Programs	30%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	26%

19,159 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 **18,497** calls, and National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered **662** calls. This averages more than **13** calls every minute.

23,278 Individuals Attended Prevention and Educational Trainings

Community education is essential to raising awareness about domestic violence and the resources that are available to victims, while promoting prevention strategies. On DV Counts Day, local domestic violence programs educated **23,278** individuals in communities across the United States. Advocates provided **1,259** trainings that addressed domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and more.

11,336 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 7,732 (68%) were for Housing and Emergency Shelter

Victims made **11,336** 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.

Increased funding will enable domestic violence programs to provide comprehensive services to all survivors seeking help and to prevent violence in their communities.

✦ **From an advocate in Illinois: "A survivor came to our emergency shelter with her children and not much else. She is now employed, has a vehicle, and is safely housed. She never misses a chance to tell our advocates: 'I don't know where I'd be without your help!'"**



"One survivor urgently needed an immigration attorney and safe shelter to escape death threats from her abusive partner. I could not find anything to offer her today, and she left feeling scared and hopeless for herself and her children."

– **Massachusetts advocate**



No Help to be Found: A Lack of Resources Diminishes Legal Options for Survivors

Many survivors seek legal remedies, such as protective orders, U visas, divorces, or criminal proceedings, to keep themselves safe and hold abusers accountable. However, the demand for legal assistance far outpaces the availability of such services. Often, survivors are forced to navigate complicated legal issues on their own.

On DV Counts Day, barely half of participating programs reported providing legal services. Throughout 2019, 20 programs reduced or eliminated their legal advocacy services and 89 reduced or eliminated their capacity to provide legal representation.

"Every day, we see clients who need more legal help than is available. Often, abusers can afford attorneys and filing fees, and they use the court system to continue the abuse."

– Washington advocate

"A survivor was terrified because an abuser had not let her see her son for months. She couldn't afford an attorney, and there were no pro bono services in her area."

– Washington, DC advocate

"Survivors often seek assistance with divorces, but we don't have the capacity to help. Many clients stay married to abusers because there is no other option."

– New York advocate

▶▶▶ In just one day...

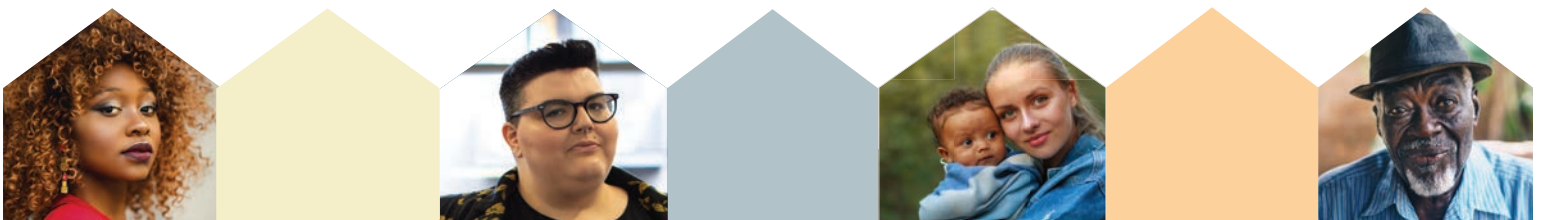
On September 12, 2019, for the fourteenth consecutive year, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducted a one-day, unduplicated census of domestic violence services requested and received across the country—this day is referred to in this report as DV Counts Day. This report includes data on the number of individuals accessing services, the types of services requested, and the number of unmet requests. It also reflects the experiences of advocates and their interactions with survivors throughout the day.¹ Of the 1,887 domestic violence programs and shelters identified² nationwide, 1,669 programs³ participated on DV Counts Day from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In just one day, 77,226 adults and children received essential, life-changing domestic violence services. Emergency shelters and housing programs provided refuge for 42,964 adult and child victims, and an additional 34,262 adults and children received support and advocacy through non-residential services, such as counseling, childcare, courtroom advocacy, and other services. Yet on the same day, 11,336 requests for services were unmet due to a lack of resources.

Local, state, and national domestic violence advocates answered 19,159 hotline calls for victims in crisis⁴ and provided 1,259 trainings on domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and related topics to 23,278 people.

For fourteen years, NNEDV's national census of domestic violence services has been the trusted source of data on the extraordinary, and often life-saving, services domestic violence advocates provide every day, along with a sobering count of the services that cannot be provided due to a lack of resources.

Funding fluctuations at the federal, tribal, state/territory, and local levels directly impact the services provided by domestic violence programs. The Violence Against Women Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, and the Victims of Crime Act are all essential federal funding streams for victim services. The need for domestic violence services continues to be urgent, yet many programs are forced to reduce services or close their doors when faced with a gap or decrease in funding.



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 compassion, advocacy, and a safe place to go.

¹ Quotes have been edited for length and to protect victims' and survivors' anonymity.

² To qualify for participation for the Domestic Violence Counts survey day, a local program's primary purpose must be domestic violence services.

³ Approximately 88% of eligible programs participated on DV Counts Day.

⁴ State and local advocates responded to 18,497 hotline calls and National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered 662 calls, in addition to 475 chats and 28 texts, on DV Counts Day.

VICTIMS SERVED



REAL STORIES

"The benefits of counseling services cannot be overstated; one client told us, 'I never thought I would get over my PTSD. I never thought I'd be okay after everything he did to me. But now, I'm healed and I have hope.'"

– North Carolina advocate

"A survivor from the LGBTQ community was trying to escape her partner and encountered discrimination while attempting to access help. We contacted shelters and the police. At the end of the day, she obtained a protection order and she told us that she felt safe for the first time in 10 years."

– Ohio advocate

Domestic Violence Services are a Lifeline During Times of Crisis

Opening up to a complete stranger to ask for help takes courage. Victims and survivors often contact service providers after a particularly threatening incident or when they fear for their lives or the lives of their children. Once survivors make the difficult decision to reach out, it is crucial that programs are equipped to meet their needs and to help them begin rebuilding their lives.

Victims Served on DV Counts Day	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing or Other Housing	Non-Residential Services	Total
Adults	13,532	7,271	28,092	48,895
Children	12,377	9,784	6,170	28,331
Total	25,909	17,055	34,262	77,226

ANSWERING THE CALL

On September 12, 2019: Local, state, and national domestic violence hotlines answered 19,159 calls from victims of domestic violence in a single day (averaging 798 calls per hour or more than 13 calls per minute).⁵

Shelter and Housing Services Provide Safety and Refuge

Survivors seeking long-term safety may need food, transportation, childcare, legal assistance, or financial help, but one of the most immediate needs is a safe place to stay. Survivors should not face an impossible choice between violence and homelessness. Housing and shelter services provide victims with support and a community. Access to safe housing allows victims to take the first steps towards rebuilding their lives.

Creating Pathways from Shelter to Permanent Safe Housing

Emergency shelter is often the first step for a victim who has left an abusive partner. But the path to long-term housing can be made harder by the effects of financial abuse, which occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases,⁶ and often result in an abuser ruining a victim's credit and their ability to obtain a lease or mortgage. Many domestic violence programs offer transitional housing (a temporary accommodation designed to be a stepping stone between crisis and long-term safety and stability), rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, or other options to help survivors obtain safe housing.

The typical length of stay in emergency shelter is 30 to 60 days. However, survivors frequently face housing waitlists or other significant barriers in their search for permanent housing due to a shortage of safe, affordable housing options in their region. An advocate in Oklahoma shared the dire consequences of consistently full shelters: "A survivor called our hotline, afraid that her abusive partner would kill her. We didn't have space in our

⁵ State and local advocates responded to 18,497 hotline calls and National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered 662 calls, in addition to 475 chats and 28 texts, on DV Counts Day.

⁶ Adams, Adrienne, "Measuring the Effects of Domestic Violence on Women's Financial Well-Being," University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Financial Security (2011).

shelter, and she didn't want to go to a shelter farther away and risk leaving her children."

OPENING THE DOOR

On September 12, 2019: A total of 25,909 adult and child victims found refuge in emergency shelter, while transitional housing or other housing programs safely housed 17,055 adults and children. Seventy percent of reporting programs provided emergency shelter and 35 percent provided transitional or other housing services.

A Colorado advocate shared, "Housing and legal programs are vital, and they help survivors achieve the safest, most secure outcomes when they are leaving an abusive partner. Providing this kind of support helps someone feel that they can make it on their own."

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 is made easier with the help of trained, compassionate advocates who let victims know they are not alone. Domestic violence services emphasize victims' strengths beyond the traumas they have experienced. Advocates follow survivors' leads in developing individualized safety plans and connecting with other community resources and services.

An advocate in Iowa shared, "One survivor had been married to an abuser for a long time, and her divorce was finalized on DV Counts Day. Her advocate supported her for a year, helping her become self-sufficient and safe."

Local programs provide vital support and services, including legal advocacy, counseling, employment and job readiness services, and help with safety planning, transportation, childcare, and overcoming financial abuse. This range of services often includes programs tailored to the needs of diverse communities, such as the Deaf/hard of hearing community, LGBTQ community, individuals

living with disabilities, culturally-specific groups, and immigrants. Just as there is no singular experience of domestic violence, a "one size fits all" approach to service provision cannot address the needs of all survivors. To fully serve all survivors, communities need increased resources for specialized outreach and programming.

A New Jersey advocate shared, "Survivors in our area are staying with abusers because shelters are not equipped to sensitively accommodate their culture or religion. Having a culturally-specific shelter would help such survivors escape abuse."

HELPING SURVIVORS HEAL

On September 12, 2019: Overall, 34,262 individuals received essential supportive services in non-residential programs.

Type of Service Provided on DV Counts Day	% of Programs Providing Service
Emergency Shelter	70%
Children's Support or Advocacy	56%
Transportation	55%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	52%
Transitional or Other Housing	35%
Prevention or Educational Programs	30%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	26%
Support/Advocacy for Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	20%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	19%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	17%

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

Community education and outreach by trained professionals is critical to raising awareness about domestic violence, available resources, and prevention strategies. Domestic violence advocates provide

VICTIMS SERVED



specialized trainings to professionals about working sensitively with survivors trying to leave an abuser or who are living with trauma. When social service employees, judges, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and medical professionals understand the nature of domestic violence, they are better equipped to protect and support survivors.

Education is a powerful prevention tool. Through early education, young people are able to identify relationship “red flags” and seek help before abuse escalates, in addition to understanding the importance of healthy relationships. Educating parents and teachers increases the likelihood of teens and young adults finding help when they are facing abuse.

A Minnesota advocate said, “We provide educational presentations and interactive learning sessions in classrooms at local schools to promote healthy relationships and raise awareness about dating and family violence.”

FORGING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

On September 12, 2019: Advocates provided 1,259 trainings to 23,278 students, parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, attorneys, child protective services employees, and other professionals.



REAL STORIES

“A survivor called our hotline four times last month looking for shelter for herself and her children. They are still living with an abuser, waiting for the moment they can find a safe place and leave.”

– Utah advocate

“When a survivor first came to our shelter, she felt scared and confused. She accessed our services, which include housing, health services, and psychological support. After planning with her case manager, she felt better.”

– Puerto Rico advocate

LANGUAGE ACCESS IMPROVES SUPPORT SERVICES


In a single metropolitan area, as many as 200 languages may be spoken.⁷ The millions of individuals across the United States who do not use English as their primary language or who have limited English proficiency⁸ face additional barriers to seeking safety. Domestic violence programs need substantial resources to provide fully-accessible services with language access.

An Indiana advocate shared this story: “We assisted a pregnant survivor whose abusive partner was using her immigration status to isolate her. We obtained counsel from an immigration attorney and interpreted to the police so she could make a report. Because of the language barrier, she was afraid she wouldn’t be believed or understood, but we were able to put her fears to rest. She thanked us for the support, time, and compassion we showed her and her unborn child.”

A Missouri advocate underscored the need for language access to create welcoming services: “A Deaf survivor contacted our program to report being assaulted by an abuser. She was so appreciative she could talk to someone fluent in American Sign Language.”

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, “2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates,” American FactFinder.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, “Census Bureau Reports at Least 350 Languages Spoken in U.S. Homes,” Newsroom (2015).

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, smiling warmly. She is holding two young children. On the left is a toddler with curly hair, also smiling, wearing a white polo shirt with a small blue bird logo. On the right is a young boy with short dark hair, smiling, wearing a white polo shirt with a striped collar. The woman is wearing a light green lace top and a necklace with white and brown beads. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees. A dark, semi-transparent text box is in the top right corner.

"A survivor had been staying in our emergency shelter with her young children for several months and was feeling very frustrated and defeated. We made contact with another local agency that has a rapid rehousing program, and they agreed to help her and her children. She became emotional, and told us, **'I feel hopeful for the first time since leaving my husband.'**"

- TENNESSEE ADVOCATE

DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS



REAL STORIES

"Our housing program is at capacity, and the housing authority's waitlist is more than 1,000 people long. Survivors are choosing between having a place to stay and putting food on the table. There simply aren't enough resources for those in need."

– North Dakota advocate

"The extreme housing crisis in our area has deeply impacted the survivors we work with.

There is absolutely no affordable housing here, and survivors are being pushed farther and farther away from their support systems, just to find something livable for themselves and their families."

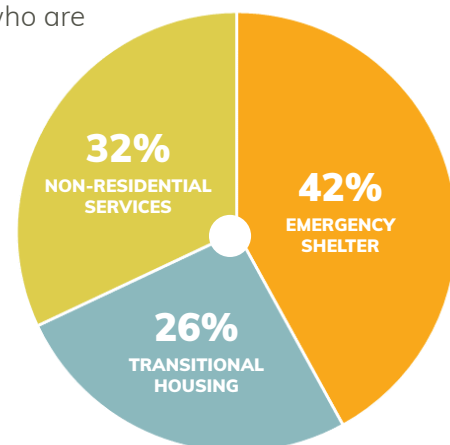
– California advocate

A Lack of Resources Leads to Devastating Unmet Needs

Domestic violence programs are a lifeline for survivors who are often facing imminent danger when attempting to leave abusive partners. To ensure that these programs are equipped to serve the needs of every survivor who walks through their doors, reliable funding is essential. Unfortunately, many programs struggle to maintain stable annual funding from private and public sources.

Funding shortfalls impact programs' ability to consistently provide comprehensive services, particularly for high-demand needs like housing, legal representation, transportation, and mental health services.

A Georgia advocate shared: "If federal funding is cut, many shelters in rural areas may have to shut down and services would become even harder for victims to access if they have to look elsewhere."



BREAKDOWN OF UNMET REQUESTS ON 9/12/19

Unmet Requests for Domestic Violence Services

Unmet Requests	Emergency Shelter (42%)	Transitional or Other Housing (26%)	Non-Residential Services (32%)	Total
Children	1,843	1,256	622	3,721
Adults	2,978	1,655	2,982	7,615
Total	4,821	2,911	3,604	11,336

UNANSWERED CALLS FOR HELP

On September 12, 2019: There were 11,336 requests for services that participating programs were unable to provide due to a lack of resources.

Safe Housing is Often Out of Reach for Survivors in Need

Securing safe housing is critical to ensuring a survivor can safely leave an abusive partner, but it is often difficult to obtain. Without secure housing available, victims are faced with the choice of staying with abusers or risking homelessness.

In Florida, an advocate shared, "On DV Counts Day, a survivor called seeking emergency shelter. We did not have room, so she was unable to escape from her abusive partner that day. She was scared and confused, asking how there could not be space for her when she was in such a dangerous situation."

Survivors often struggle to find affordable housing in urban areas, while rural areas have fewer shelters and limited transportation options for survivors seeking help. An advocate in Minnesota shared: "We are a rural program, and safe transportation can be an obstacle

to getting services, as well as finding affordable and safe housing. There is no shelter for victims in our county.”

The difficulty of securing housing often forces survivors to remain in shelter for long periods of time. Advocates often scramble to find alternate options when shelters are at capacity. Transitional housing is an effective next step after leaving emergency shelter, but it is not available in every community. Domestic violence programs sometimes offer other housing options, including short-term rental assistance paired with services, to meet survivors’ diverse housing needs. However, many victims leave shelter without a stable place to live.

In Oregon, an advocate reported: “One survivor managed to leave her abusive partner, and she asked for our help finding transitional housing since storage costs for her belongings and legal costs have used nearly all of her available funds. She is now on a waitlist for a local housing program, but because resources are so sparse, she will have to wait many months, if not years.”

Survivors often need comprehensive services beyond housing. An advocate in Massachusetts shared, “Many of the survivors we work with have complex medical histories, physical limitations, and/or undocumented statuses, all of which keep them from leaving an abusive partner. They have nowhere to go that is accessible, or they fear deportation if they seek assistance.”

LOSS OF HOUSING SERVICES

Currently, 46 percent of domestic violence programs provide transitional housing as part of their services throughout the year. Due to funding cuts in 2019, 102 programs reported that they had to reduce or eliminate transitional housing services.

Staffing Cuts Lead to Unmet Needs and a Reduction in Services

Most programs operate on limited budgets, with a large portion of services dependent on local, state, and federal government grants. Funding cuts leave programs

vulnerable, leading to layoffs and a reduction in critical services for victims in need.

An advocate in Texas reported, “At this time, we’re unsure whether our Transitional Housing grant is being renewed. We’ve been unable to accept new survivors into that program due to potentially losing it at the end of the month. Both staff from the program left to pursue other employment because they were not sure if their jobs would exist at the end of the month.”

An advocate in Washington, DC, said, “Funding concerns make program planning unstable, and this is felt by survivors. Our Lethality Assessment Project has proven highly successful and is even impacting the homicide rate for domestic violence, but it’s at risk if funding cannot be maintained year-to-year.”

LOSS OF STAFFING

An advocate in Illinois shared, “It’s difficult to find educated, experienced staff who will work for the pay we can offer. We have gone months with job vacancies, burdening existing staff and impacting the quality of services we provide.”

Lack of Legal Services May Lead to Further Victimization

The legal system can be a source of further victimization for survivors who seek protection orders, divorces, or child support. It can be manipulated by abusers who use repeated court appearances to financially drain and intimidate survivors. Facing abusers in court also forces survivors to relive the trauma of abuse and the power wielded by an abuser. A Hawaii advocate stated, “A survivor was seeking legal representation for her paternity case. Because of our staffing shortage, the waitlist is closed and there is a 4- to 5-month wait. She is worried about the disadvantage posed by not having counsel when the opposing party does.”

Legal advocates and attorneys at local programs can help ensure that survivors do not face the legal system alone.

"A pregnant woman and her children arrived at our program with literally nothing. She found a good job and a new home. She said, '**Words cannot express the depth of my gratitude for all you have done for us.**'"

– KANSAS ADVOCATE



DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS

Services Reduced or Eliminated in 2019	Number of Programs Making this Reduction or Elimination
Hotel/Motel Vouchers	147
Transitional Housing	102
Legal Representation by an Attorney	89
Childcare	79
Transportation	70
Safe Exchange/Visitation	68
Onsite Medical Services	68
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	68
Therapy/Counseling for Children (by a licensed practitioner)	63

REPRESENTING SURVIVORS

On September 12, 2019: 52 percent of programs were able to have advocates accompany victims to court, but only 5 percent of programs were able to assist victims with legal representation.

In 2019: 20 programs reduced or eliminated their legal advocacy services, and 89 reduced or eliminated their capacity to provide legal representation.

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

For a survivor planning to leave an abusive partner, transportation costs can be huge barriers. Survivors in rural areas often have difficulties seeking help due to limited shelter options and a lack of public transportation. The cost for bus or train fare, taxis, or plane tickets can be too expensive for a survivor with limited resources. Survivors should not have to be further isolated or endangered because of a lack of transportation options.

Unreliable transportation is also a major barrier to finding or maintaining employment. If survivors are unable to get to work regularly, it is impossible to keep a job and obtain housing, legal services, childcare, and other necessary resources. An advocate in New Jersey shared, "One of our clients would really like to work, but our shelter is in a rural

area and public transportation is limited. She is frustrated. How can she secure housing to move away from an abuser if she can't work to make the money she needs to pay for an apartment?"

When domestic violence programs have adequate funding, advocates are able to provide transportation assistance to survivors via bus vouchers, gas cards, and other transportation-related resources. Providing this simple service can be life-changing for a survivor. A Georgia advocate shared, "A survivor called our hotline after an abuser shot the tires on her car. We didn't have shelter space, but we were able to help with vehicle repairs and a gas voucher so she could safely get away."

LACK OF TRANSPORTATION

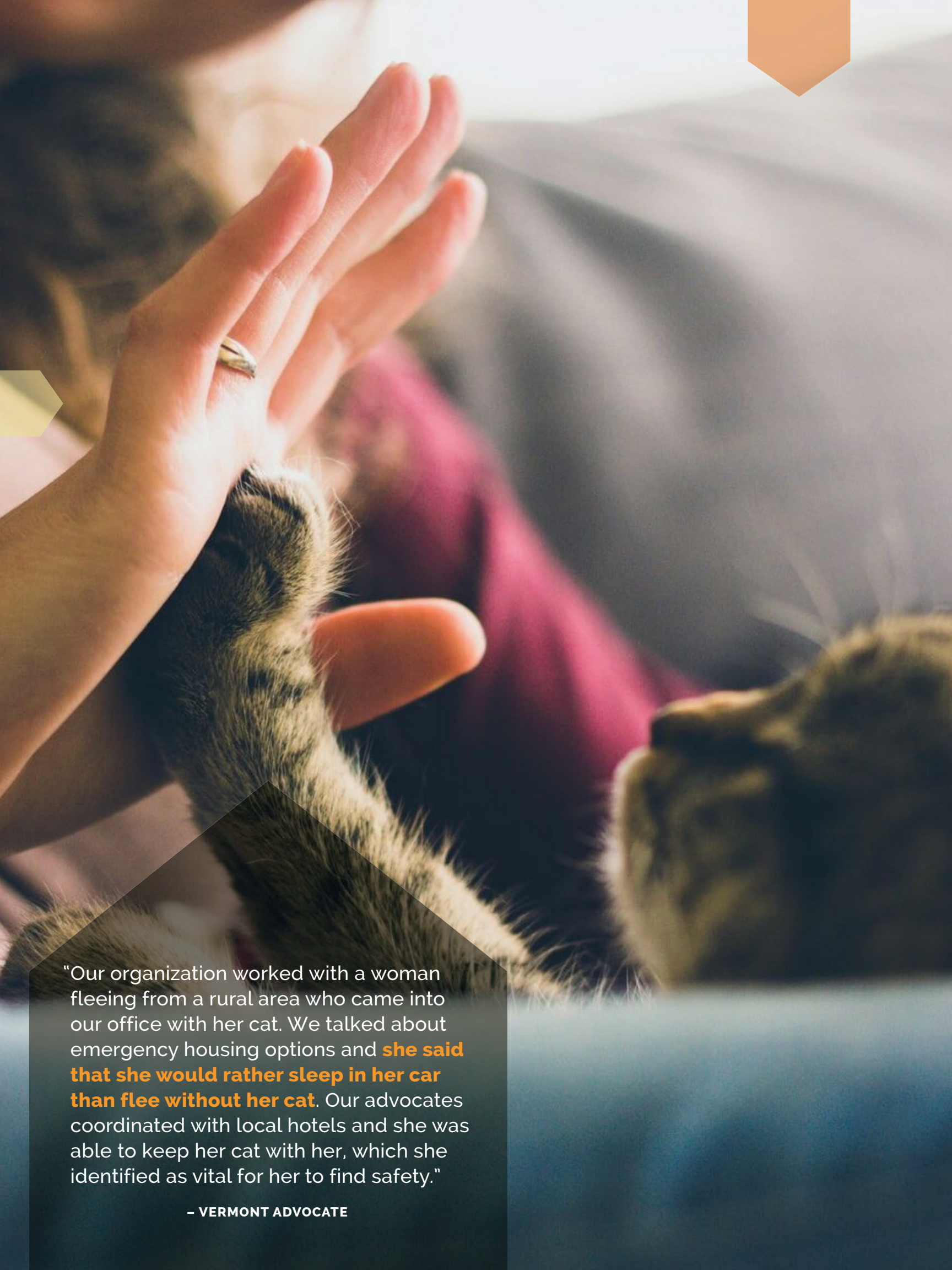
In 2019: 70 programs reduced or eliminated transportation-related services due to budget cuts.

Limited Resources and Services Further Marginalize Underserved Victims

Victims of domestic violence come from all walks of life. Immigrant survivors, LGBTQ survivors, elderly survivors, and survivors living with disabilities often face unique barriers and discrimination, making access to domestic violence services difficult.

For immigrant survivors facing abuse, the difficult decision between enduring the abuse or risking deportation is often wrenching. Abusers can manipulate victims into staying in relationships by withholding immigration documents or trying to gain sole custody of survivors' children. Many immigrant survivors do not know which services are available to them and are uncomfortable reaching out for help out of fear of deportation. Language barriers and cultural differences can also make it difficult for programs to offer help and provide needed services.

An advocate from Washington shared, "We have noticed a definite chilling effect in immigrant survivors' willingness to report, take legal action, and obtain life-saving resources for their families. There is a lot of fear."



"Our organization worked with a woman fleeing from a rural area who came into our office with her cat. We talked about emergency housing options and **she said that she would rather sleep in her car than flee without her cat.** Our advocates coordinated with local hotels and she was able to keep her cat with her, which she identified as vital for her to find safety."

– VERMONT ADVOCATE

❖ **"The local ER had a survivor whose only form of communication was American Sign Language. The police department called our hotline and one of our ASL-certified advocates rushed to the ER and spoke with the survivor, who was relieved to have someone she could communicate with."**
– Texas advocate

Survivors in the LGBTQ community may hesitate to reach out to domestic violence programs for help, concerned about unwelcoming staff or limited sensitivity to the barriers they face. Many victim services organizations, law enforcement, and the legal system do not fully understand the dynamics of domestic violence within the LGBTQ community, which often leads to further victimization.

Survivors who have a disability or have children with a disability, as well as survivors who are older, may face difficulties finding programs that offer accessible housing and services. A survivor with disabilities or an older survivor may also rely on an abuser for care or financial support, making it harder to leave and establish stability.

Lack of Affordable Childcare is a Barrier to Safety

For survivors with children, access to safe and affordable childcare is vital to secure and keep employment, obtain education, and meet with service providers. Unfortunately, without stable funding, many programs do not always have the resources to assist survivors in need of childcare.

An advocate in Nevada shared, "On DV Counts Day, our parenting coordinator obtained childcare for a child with special needs in our shelter. This made it possible for his mom to start looking for work and attending her counseling appointments. She told us, 'I thought this day would never come!' She was so happy that we were able to get her son the assistance he needed."

LOSS OF CHILDCARE SERVICES

In 2019: 79 participating programs reduced or eliminated childcare services.

Service Provision to Underserved Victims

Services Provided by Local Programs	% of Programs Providing Service on DV Counts Day	% of Programs Providing Service Throughout The Year
Bilingual Advocacy	32%	64%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	22%	78%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	17%	87%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	16%	72%

❖ REAL STORIES ❖

"A survivor had been in and out of our shelter for about nine months. He was ineligible for affordable housing because he owed child support. He was able to secure employment, but after paying the child support, he did not have enough money left for rent. This situation left him very defeated and feeling that his only option was to end up back on the streets." – **Iowa advocate**

"On DV Counts Day, a trans survivor opted to seek counseling services through our program since we are able to work with local therapists who have trauma-specific training. Unfortunately, we had already run out of funding for these counselors, and the survivor was unable to receive the help they needed." – **Idaho advocate**

"On DV Counts Day, we received a call from a survivor at the courthouse, requesting our help with a protective order. Her abusive partner had threatened her and their children with a gun, and she was in tears. We had a gap in grant funding for our attorney, and we couldn't help her." – **Missouri advocate**

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

No Victim Should Be Left Behind: Ending Abuse Requires Federal Investments

In just one day, advocates helped transform survivors' lives, kept our communities safer, and invested in a violence-free future. Domestic violence programs undertake this, and other life-saving work, every day of the year. But each year, advocates also report a shocking number of unmet requests from survivors who desperately needed help, as well as a multitude of barriers facing them as they try to rebuild their lives.

Laws and policies that protect all survivors—no matter who they are or where they come from—are crucial to keep them safe. Federal policy solutions that will help include:

- Strengthening the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to include economic justice provisions, homicide prevention programs, and resources for survivors facing complex challenges;
- Reauthorizing the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) to bolster existing programs, reach underserved communities, and expand statewide prevention efforts;
- Increasing appropriations for federal programs like VAWA, FVPSA, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
- Stabilizing the Crime Victims Fund and raising the cap to distribute more funds to the field; and
- Enacting policies to help rebuild survivors' lives, including access to housing, childcare, transportation, legal assistance, and comprehensive services that are tailored to survivors' needs and local concerns.

As an individual, you can call your members of Congress and urge them to reauthorize VAWA and FVPSA. Visit NNEDV.org/TakeAction to learn more.

If a friend or family member tells you about abuse they have experienced, listen without judging. Tell them you are there for them, no matter what. Encourage them to seek services if it is safe for them to do so. You can find a list of resources at NNEDV.org/Get-Help.



SERVICES PROVIDED

Services	Provided on September 12, 2019	Offered Throughout the Year
Emergency Shelter	70%	81%
Children's Support or Advocacy	56%	81%
Transportation	55%	88%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	52%	90%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	43%	87%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	41%	83%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	39%	86%
Transitional or Other Housing	35%	46%
Bilingual Advocacy	32%	64%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	30%	86%
Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	29%	82%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	26%	53%
Rural Outreach	24%	65%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	22%	78%
Support/Advocacy Related to Health Care or Health Care Systems	20%	73%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	20%	73%
Childcare/Daycare	20%	46%
Support/Advocacy for Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	20%	83%
Support/Advocacy Related to Elder Victims of Abuse	19%	83%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	19%	45%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	17%	57%
Support/Advocacy Related to Technology Use (cyberstalking, etc.)	16%	77%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	16%	72%
Support/Advocacy Related to Victims of Trafficking	15%	80%
Therapy/Counseling for Children (by a licensed practitioner)	14%	43%
Hotel/Motel Stay	12%	63%
Third-Party Translation/Interpretation Services	9%	62%
Safe Exchange/Visitation	6%	27%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	5%	56%
Support/Advocacy Related to Veteran Victims in U.S. Armed Forces	4%	65%
HIV/AIDS Information and/or Support	3%	43%
Matched Savings Programs and/or Microloans	3%	16%
Support/Advocacy Related to Active Duty Victims in U.S. Armed Forces	2%	56%
Onsite Medical Services	2%	10%

SUMMARY DATA

State or Territory	Response Rate ⁹	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%	417	185	602	38	113	104	307	98	197
AL	100%	786	507	1293	115	101	631	282	187	824
AR	94%	368	237	605	120	149	96	240	19	346
AZ	71%	938	601	1539	133	252	643	576	286	677
CA	81%	3438	2206	5644	1236	1079	1506	1379	1928	2337
CO	88%	844	377	1221	269	407	396	343	242	636
CT	100%	766	231	997	91	317	631	244	167	586
DC	100%	288	281	569	79	76	12	73	460	36
DE	75%	144	61	205	57	19	5	79	19	107
FL	100%	1848	1157	3005	172	615	510	1753	350	902
GA	88%	1232	1087	2319	383	714	933	776	755	788
GU	100%	7	20	27	0	8	0	27	0	0
HI	52%	354	224	578	58	83	16	111	135	332
IA	95%	855	382	1237	179	257	743	241	327	669
ID	100%	354	216	570	114	158	116	102	115	353
IL	100%	2239	761	3000	268	851	939	843	493	1664
IN	100%	1633	735	2368	135	480	1313	875	474	1019
KS	100%	555	336	891	51	187	300	288	125	478
KY	100%	1033	387	1420	128	208	202	599	289	532
LA	100%	359	303	662	72	184	121	190	160	312
MA	100%	1362	495	1857	441	442	870	376	312	1169
MD	81%	536	166	702	135	265	54	184	97	421
ME	100%	450	93	543	63	323	123	111	112	320
MI	98%	1889	1315	3204	376	494	313	1031	857	1316
MN	74%	1201	774	1975	352	527	552	665	264	1046
MO	95%	1483	866	2349	604	500	224	1251	201	897
MS	100%	179	175	354	57	113	384	158	109	87

⁹The 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 ⁹	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	70%	213	187	400	21	116	50	93	202	105
NC	72%	1162	542	1704	125	618	327	698	222	784
ND	90%	215	107	322	14	89	17	125	42	155
NE	100%	432	165	597	96	166	325	109	77	411
NH	100%	232	72	304	20	114	217	86	43	175
NJ	100%	862	368	1230	126	571	265	302	219	709
NM	61%	444	391	835	57	98	204	315	348	172
NV	93%	424	222	646	24	92	22	168	199	279
NY	94%	3754	2055	5809	791	1229	936	2131	1072	2606
OH	100%	1516	1124	2640	263	639	443	1062	437	1141
OK	100%	618	417	1035	199	163	211	520	99	416
OR	60%	649	383	1032	183	335	70	255	382	395
PA	93%	1825	805	2630	491	755	1360	863	510	1257
PR	61%	257	130	387	7	37	98	54	148	185
RI	100%	332	147	479	111	150	36	78	160	241
SC	100%	366	203	569	50	106	338	221	104	244
SD	46%	132	102	234	9	55	30	100	14	120
TN	100%	1057	382	1439	283	385	369	503	271	665
TX	100%	3649	2788	6437	1417	1724	3727	2438	1722	2277
UT	93%	544	569	1113	173	244	473	346	338	429
VA	93%	1140	611	1751	100	512	458	584	385	782
VI	100%	61	52	113	11	37	14	13	34	66
VT	85%	140	45	185	16	87	122	73	12	100
WA	84%	1565	1350	2915	485	490	798	636	1106	1173
WI	77%	1157	693	1850	405	573	462	726	222	902
WV	100%	400	151	551	120	102	105	214	74	263
WY	96%	191	92	283	13	88	64	92	32	159
TOTAL	90%	48895	28331	77226	11336	18497	23278	25909	17055	34262



A survivor wrote our staff a letter, saying, 'Any time I need something, I can count on your help and smiles. You have played a big part in my transformation, from being a woman running and hiding to an independent, hard-working woman. I owe you my life, and I will forever be thankful from the bottom of my heart.'

– OKLAHOMA ADVOCATE



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