



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS REPORT IOWA SUMMARY

On September 10, 2020, 19 out of 21 (90%) identified domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in a national count of domestic violence services conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). Services provided by domestic violence programs looked different in 2020, as frontline advocates navigated unforeseen challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises. The following figures represent the information shared by the participating programs about the services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

995 Victims Served in One Day

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

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

Table 1: Services Provided on 9/10/20	% of Programs Providing Services
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	52%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	48%
Support/Advocacy Related to Health Care or Health Care Systems	19%

392 Hotline Contacts Received

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources via phone, chat, text, and/or email. During the 24-hour survey period, hotline staff in Iowa received 392 contacts, averaging 16 contacts per hour.

❖ “COVID-19 has had a serious impact on immigrant survivors. The majority aren’t eligible for federal assistance, and many of them work high-risk jobs with reduced hours. It’s a challenge for staff to do more each day to meet this increased demand and keep everyone safe.”

104 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 the survey day, local domestic violence programs educated 104 individuals in communities across Iowa. Advocates provided 10 trainings that addressed domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and more.

158 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made 158 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. Approximately 14 percent of these unmet requests were for housing or emergency shelter.

Greatly increased funding would enable domestic violence programs to provide comprehensive services to all survivors seeking help and to prevent violence in their communities.