On September 9, 2021, 1,536 out of 1,914 (80%) identified domestic violence programs in the United States participated in a national count of domestic violence services conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). The survey also includes data from the National Domestic Violence Hotline and NNEDV’s WomensLaw Email Hotline. In 2021, frontline advocates continued to navigate 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.

70,032 Victims Served in One Day
38,608 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels, motels, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

31,424 non-residential adult and child victims received supportive services including counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, and transportation.

20,701 Hotline Calls Received
Domestic violence hotlines are lifelines for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources via phone, chat, text, and email. Local, state, and territorial hotline staff received 18,970 contacts; NNEDV’s WomensLaw legal Email Hotline received 33 emails; and the National Domestic Violence Hotline received 1,698 contacts. Altogether, all local, state, territorial, and national hotline staff received an average of more than 14 contacts every minute of the survey day.

16,240 People Engaged in Trainings
On the survey day, local domestic violence programs provided trainings or public education sessions to 16,240 people in communities across the United States. Advocates provided 796 trainings addressing topics like domestic violence prevention and early intervention. Community education is essential to raising awareness about domestic violence and promoting the resources available to victims.

9,444 Unmet Requests for Services
Victims made 9,444 requests for services—including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and other support needs—that programs could not provide because they lacked the resources. Approximately 64% of these unmet requests were for housing and emergency shelter.

Housing has only grown as a need for victims, made worse by the economic and eviction crises brought on by the pandemic. Overall, there is a tremendous need for increased funding to ensure programs can provide comprehensive services to all survivors seeking help while working toward preventing violence in their communities.

From a Massachusetts advocate: “When survivors are finally able to connect with someone who is kind, believes them, and helps them, it can make all the difference. But there is much more demand than there are programs, even in our highly resourced state.”