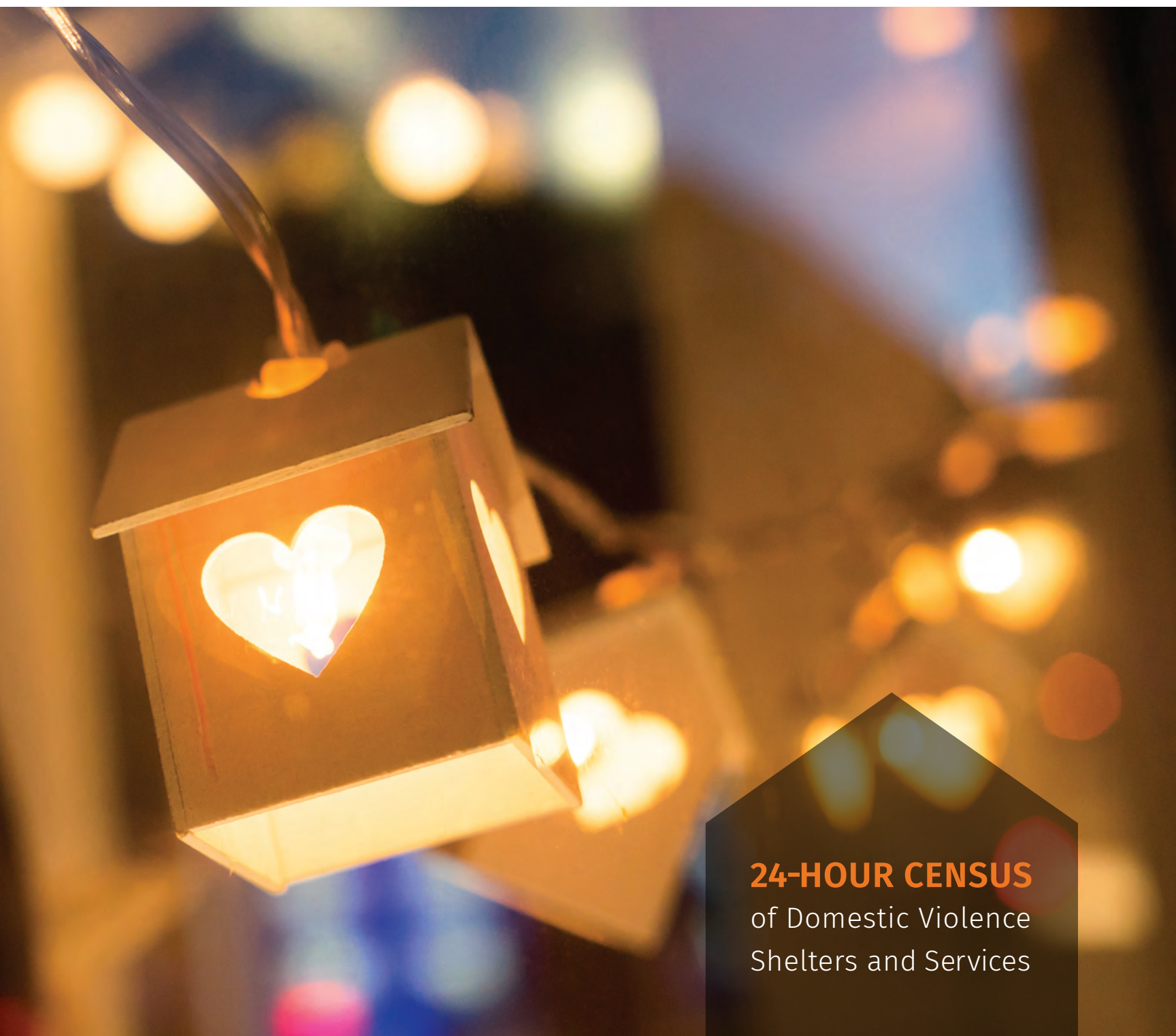


NNEDV

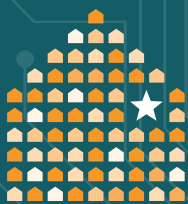
11th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report

NATIONAL NETWORK TO **END** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE




24-HOUR CENSUS
of Domestic Violence
Shelters and Services

To the staff at the 1,762 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 14, 2016, 1,762 out of 1,910 **(92%)** 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 1,762 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

72,959 Victims Served in One Day

41,195 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

31,764 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

Percentage (%) of Programs Providing	On Sept. 14th
Individual Support or Advocacy	95%
Children's Support or Advocacy	86%
Emergency Shelter	82%
Prevention or Education Programs	57%
Transportation	53%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	52%

20,239 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, local and state hotline staff answered **19,461** calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered **778** calls, averaging more than **14** hotline calls every minute.

26,076 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings


On the survey day, **26,076** individuals in communities across the United States and territories attended **1,313** training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

11,991 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 66% (7,914) were for Housing

Victims made **nearly 12,000** requests for services – including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more – that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide them. The most frequently requested non-residential services that could not be provided were housing advocacy, legal representation, and financial assistance.

Across the United States, **1,200** staff positions were eliminated in the past year. Most of these positions **(61%)** 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.

✦ An advocate in Indiana said, “The survivor sent a thank you card that stated it is the first time she and her family felt safe. She drew birds flying out of a birdcage and the words above it were: ‘**Free at last.**’”



Rhode Island:
a survivor slept
in her car with
her child after
her abuser
threatened to kill
her with his gun.



On September 14, 2016:

- **IDAHO:** a woman was evicted after her abuser broke her apartment door for the second time.
- **MINNESOTA:** a woman faced homelessness after her abuser stole her rent money and emptied her bank account.
- **WASHINGTON:** a woman went to the ER with a concussion, black eye, bleeding lip, and a broken shoulder after her abuser violently beat her.
- **CALIFORNIA:** a survivor was pushed out of a moving car into oncoming traffic by the abuser.
- **WISCONSIN:** a woman's boyfriend poured a pan full of boiling water on her, dragged her from the bathroom, and beat her.
- **SOUTH CAROLINA:** a woman moved for the 5th time after her abuser continued to stalk her and found her again.

▶▶▶ In just one day...

On September 14, 2016, for the eleventh consecutive year, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducted a one-day, unduplicated census of the domestic violence services requested across the country, including the number of individuals accessing services, the types of services they requested, the number of requests unmet, and the stories and experiences of survivors and advocates. Of the 1,910 domestic violence programs and shelters identified¹ nationwide, 1,762 programs² in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories participated in the 2016 census.

In just one day, nearly 73,000 adults and children³ received vital, life-changing domestic violence services. Yet on the same day, almost 12,000 requests for services were unmet due to a lack of resources. More than 41,000 adults and children⁴ found safety in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or another form of housing. Additionally, nearly 32,000 adults and children⁵ received support and advocacy through non-residential services, which ranged from counseling, to childcare, to courtroom advocacy, and more. In addition to providing face-to-face services to victims and their children, state and local domestic violence advocates answered nearly 20,000⁶ hotline calls on Census Day,⁷ and provided 1,313 trainings on domestic violence to more than 26,000 people.

For over a decade, NNEDV's Domestic Violence Counts Census Report has documented the incredible, life-saving work of domestic violence shelters and the stubbornly high number of unmet requests for services. In that time, the country has experienced significant economic tumult. As a result, domestic violence programs faced reduced and unsteady funding at the federal, state, and local levels, which forced many programs to reduce services and caused some to permanently close their doors. While some funding streams have been increased or restored recently at the federal level, many programs are only beginning to rebuild after losses.



Domestic violence programs are a beacon of light, providing refuge and support to victims who are afraid, unsure, and in need. Advocates and programs must have greater resources and support so that they can continue to ensure 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 92% of eligible programs participated in the 2016 census. ³ 72,959 adults and children accessed domestic violence services on Census Day. ⁴ 21,673 children and 19,522 adults accessed emergency shelter or housing services on Census Day. ⁵ 25,876 adults and 5,888 children accessed non-residential services on Census Day. ⁶ State and local advocates responded to 19,461 hotline calls on Census Day. ⁷ The National Domestic Violence Hotline answered an additional 778 crisis calls/chats/texts on Census Day.

VICTIMS SERVED



REAL STORIES

"A severely abused survivor sought our services, and we have been able to offer her a number of services to keep her safe and help her regain strength, trust, and to remain positive."

—Puerto Rico advocate

"Today, our shelter took in a young victim and her children after her husband threatened to kill her in front of her children.

We've helped her safety plan, and get emergency resources to support her family."

—Alabama advocate

Domestic Violence Services Provide a Much-Needed Lifeline

Victims often reach out for assistance after a particularly violent or threatening act of abuse or when the violence has escalated to a point at which they fear for their lives or their children's lives. When victims seek help, it is vitally important that domestic violence organizations are there to provide help and safety.

VICTIMS SERVED	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Non-Residential Services	Total
Children	12,854	8,819	5,888	27,561
Adults	13,058	6,464	25,876	45,398
Total	25,912	15,283	31,764	72,959

ANSWERING THE CALL

September 14, 2016: Local, state, and national domestic violence hotlines answered more than 20,000 calls - for an average of 843 calls per hour or 14 calls per minute.

Shelter and Housing Services Provide Safety and Refuge

Survivors escaping abuse and beginning new lives have many basic needs, including food, transportation, childcare, legal assistance, and financial assistance. However, one of the most immediate needs is a safe place to stay. When victims make the difficult decision to leave, they should not have to worry about where they and their children will sleep at night.

OPENING THE DOOR

September 14, 2016: On this day, nearly 26,000 adults and children⁸ took refuge in an emergency shelter. More than 80% of programs provided emergency shelter and 54% provided transitional or other housing services for survivors and their children. Local programs provide safety and community in a time of fear and uncertainty.

Creating Pathways from Shelter to Permanent Safe Housing

Emergency shelter is meant to give survivors a safe and secure place to stay immediately after they flee an abusive partner. Following emergency shelter, many survivors have little money and no credit, and need help transitioning to permanent housing. Some domestic violence programs provide transitional housing, a temporary accommodation designed as a stepping stone between crisis and long-term safety and economic stability. Other programs provide short-term rental assistance, permanent supportive housing, or other housing options. On Census Day, more than 15,000 victims and their children⁹ were safely housed by local programs.

The common length of stay in an emergency shelter is 30 to 60 days; however, it can take 6 to 10 months or more for a family to secure stable, permanent, and safe housing due to the shortage of affordable housing options. An Illinois advocate shared, "On Census Day,

⁸ 25,912 adults and children accessed emergency shelter on Census Day, or 35.5% of the total number of victims served. ⁹ 15,283 adults and children accessed transitional or other housing services on Census Day.

one family left the shelter and their beds were filled within the hour. After that, our shelter was full again and we had to turn away five other families seeking safety.”

Transitional housing and other housing services provide an opportunity for survivors to secure longer-term housing, as well as additional services as they work to rebuild their lives. Without supportive housing, many victims face the untenable choice between homelessness and returning to further violence.

Critical Law Enforcement Partnerships

Law enforcement officers are often the first to respond to domestic violence, and their response is a critical component of ensuring the safety and security of survivors. Advocates around the country work closely with local law enforcement to ensure effective collaboration to meet the needs of victims.

In Kansas, an advocate shared, “A survivor left her abuser after a violent night and fled to the police department. They connected her with an advocate immediately who helped her safety-plan and coordinate with the police department to obtain a protective order. Our advocates meet regularly with the police department and provide information and services. It helps them have the resources they need to help victims. It’s a critical partnership.”

Comprehensive and Compassionate Advocacy and Support

In the aftermath of abuse, survivors benefit from compassion and support as they begin to heal and rebuild their lives. Advocates strive to empower survivors by discussing safety planning strategies, connecting them with resources and other services, and advocating on their behalf. Across the country, advocates go above and beyond to help survivors feel supported and connected. An advocate in Pennsylvania shared, “On Census Day, we helped a survivor who escaped abuse in the middle of the night with her two children. When she arrived, she was very upset, saying things like, ‘I am so

afraid he will end up killing me, the kids, or himself. I have to protect them.’ An advocate was able to get a room set up for the children and continue safety planning with the mother. They developed a plan that would help her feel safe while out in the community.”

Advocates provide vital support and services, including legal advocacy and representation, counseling, employment and job readiness services, transportation, and childcare. An advocate in Texas shared the ways their program had helped a survivor rebuild her life:

“A survivor who stayed in shelter accessed many of our services, including help obtaining a protective order, counseling, and using the Allstate Savings Match Program. She has been working for over a month at a new job. She told me, ‘That picture I showed you when I came in (of my injuries) was how I spent my birthday in 2012. He tried to kill me in 2013. And in 2016, you rescued me and gave me a chance. Your love, belief in me, and faith in my abilities helped me believe in people again. I love you all and hope in some small way you won’t forget me. I will never forget you.’ She is set to move out of the shelter and into her own apartment over the weekend.”

On Census Day, nearly 32,000 individuals received similar essential supportive services.

Percentage (%) of Programs Providing	On Sept. 14th
Individual Support or Advocacy	95%
Children's Support or Advocacy	86%
Transportation	53%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	52%
Group Support/Advocacy	46%
Housing Advocacy	43%
Support/Advocacy to Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	19%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	17%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/ Lethality Assessment	15%

VICTIMS SERVED



REAL STORIES

"On Census Day, we helped a survivor and her two young children move into their own apartment. She told us that with our advocacy and counseling, she feels confident and safe that she can provide a life for her family."

—Georgia advocate

"A survivor visited us to tell us that after years of our counseling services, she felt safe and supported for the first time in 20 years. She told us she felt accomplished."

—Oklahoma advocate

Prevention Through Education: Ending Domestic Violence at the Community Level

Community-wide education and prevention initiatives are crucial to creating a world free from domestic violence. Providing training and education to children and young adults about building healthy relationships and recognizing the signs of dangerous and controlling behavior is a vital step towards preventing abuse. On Census Day, local programs provided education on the tactics of domestic violence, including financial, emotional, and technology abuse to students, educators, and parents.

Training community members and other professionals on the nuances of domestic violence is a critical component in improving system-wide responses to domestic violence. On Census Day, many domestic violence programs offered trainings specifically designed for law enforcement officers, attorneys, child protective services employees, and other professionals. These trainings have an impact on the way domestic violence victims are treated and how perpetrators are held accountable. During these trainings, community members and students will sometimes reveal that they are being victimized and ask for help, which increases the demand for domestic violence services.

An advocate in Illinois shared, "After a recent presentation at a rural school, a teen boy approached the agency's staff member to disclose that he had grown up with abuse as a young child and now lived with a grandparent. He talked about receiving support and counseling from the agency when he was little and stated that it helped him heal from the abuse."

FORGING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE


September 14, 2016: Advocates provided 1,313 trainings to more than 26,000¹⁰ students, parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, attorneys, child protective services employees, and other professionals.

"A woman with three children needed safe housing and relocation due to violence. We coordinated services with a shelter to assist with safe housing after her relocation. We also assisted with an order of protection, HUD housing, transportation assistance, personal care items, and collaborated with other local resources to secure a full deposit for their new home. We also assisted with financial support, energy assistance for winter needs, children's and safe schooling programs, and mental health wellness services for the family."

— MINNESOTA ADVOCATE



¹⁰ 26,076 individuals across the country received training on Census Day.

A man and a young girl are sitting on a wooden bench, viewed from behind. The girl, on the left, has voluminous curly hair and is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt with white polka dots. The man, on the right, is bald and wearing a purple and white checkered shirt. They are both looking out over a body of water towards a city skyline with several tall buildings. A chain-link fence runs horizontally between them and the water. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. A grey semi-transparent box with a pointed bottom right corner is in the upper right, containing text. A yellow arrow points right from the left edge of the image.

"We housed a father with his young daughter in a hotel after fleeing an abusive situation. **He thanked us for providing him dignity in his transition.** He'd been ashamed to seek services and he told us we empowered him to seek safety for himself and his daughter."

— NEW YORK ADVOCATE

DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS



REAL STORIES

"A client needed assistance with gas money to make it to an appointment in a different town. We did not have the resources available, so she had to reschedule and take a 3-hour bus ride."

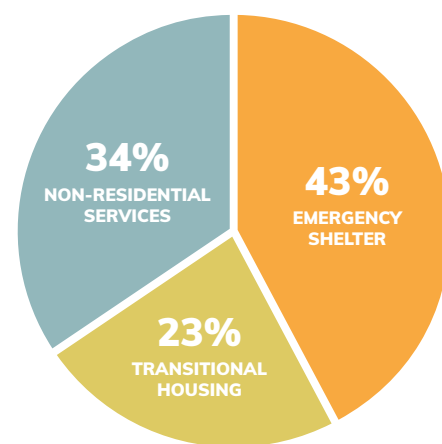
—California advocate

"We received a few calls from victims who needed help with protective orders. All of our advocates were busy, and no one else provides this service in our area. Now these victims have to face their abusers in court alone."

—Illinois advocate

A Lack of Resources Leads to Devastating Unmet Needs

In addition to reporting the number of survivors served in one day, responding programs report on the number of requests they received that they could not meet. Nearly 12,000¹¹ requests for services were unmet due to a lack of program resources. Domestic violence programs and shelters across the country are operating with less funding, fewer resources, and even fewer staff. The economic environment of the last decade has resulted in a combination of fewer private funds, fewer community donations, and reduced state and local funding. While some funding streams have been increased at the federal level, the distribution of those funds had not yet reached most programs by September 14, 2016. This long-term shortage of resources has been compounded by a reduction in funding for other social services upon which victims often rely, such as low-income housing, mental health services, and more.



BREAKDOWN OF UNMET REQUESTS ON 9/14/16

Unmet Requests for Domestic Violence Services

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Non-Residential Services	Total
Children	2,234	1,317	1,038	4,589
Adults	2,912	1,451	3,039	7,402
Total	5,146	2,768	4,077	11,991

Shelter and Transitional Housing are the Most Needed and Most Often Unavailable Services

The most significant unmet need is for shelter and housing. Emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term housing are critical in helping survivors permanently escape violence and access safety. However, in most communities, the demand for shelter and housing surpasses availability.

Leaving is a dangerous time for survivors;¹² abusers often stalk victims and pose a deadly threat. Safe shelter is crucial for survivors who are facing life-threatening violence. In California, an advocate shared, "A woman with two small children called our program for emergency shelter. Unfortunately, our shelter was full – we were also the fourth shelter she had called that was unable to help her. The abuser was away on a work trip, and she was afraid that if she could not find space in a shelter, her family would have to stay with the abusive partner until another opportunity came for them to escape."

¹¹ 11,991 requests for domestic violence services were denied on Census Day. ¹² 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.

When shelters are at capacity, many programs look to alternative safe locations to house survivors, such as hotels or motels in the community. However, in the past year, due to funding cuts, 73 programs reported that they had to reduce or eliminate these services. Programs often rely on individual donations to pay for hotel/motel stays, which can be expensive. When these services are not available, victims and their children may be forced to choose between homelessness and returning to a violent abuser.

Transitional housing is critical for victims' safety and economic stability after they leave emergency shelter. Domestic violence programs often provide other housing options to support survivors' safety and economic stability after they leave, including transitional housing, short-term rental assistance paired with services, or permanent supportive housing. Where they exist, these additional housing resources allow programs to meet survivors' diverse housing needs. Currently, 60% of domestic violence programs provide transitional housing as part of their services throughout the year, but because of funding cuts, 67 programs had to reduce or eliminate transitional housing services in the past year. Despite the demonstrated success of transitional housing, the shortage of these services means that far too many victims leave shelter without a stable place to live. In New Mexico, an advocate shared, "We are working with a survivor who is frustrated by the lack of affordable housing options. Though she has been able to save money, her credit has been ruined due to the financial abuse she experienced. She now faces many roadblocks as she seeks housing."

A Minnesota advocate shared, "We are desperate for affordable housing. We do not have an emergency shelter in our area and the nearest Section 8 housing office is an hour and a half drive away. A family needed housing to escape from an abuser but they don't have a car and there isn't any bus service to help them get to the housing office."

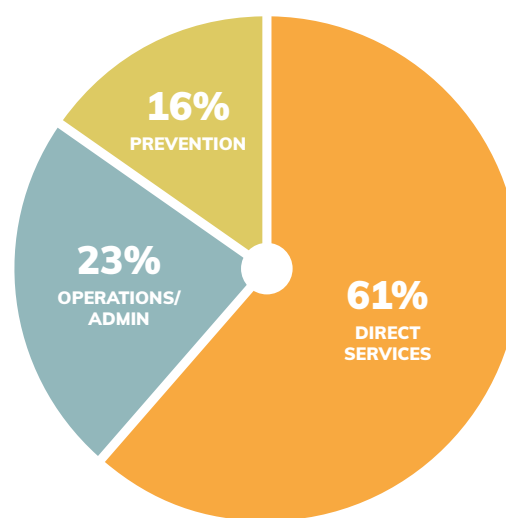
Staffing Cuts Lead to Unmet Requests and a Reduction in Services

Despite an increase in the demand for services, most programs operate with small staffs, and layoffs mean that fewer people are available to provide the critical services that victims need. In Indiana, an advocate shared, "Our program often sees more people than we can help on any given day. On Census Day, our Protective Order Advocate was working with four survivors on protective orders. A fifth survivor came in for help filing a protection order, but did not have time to wait and left before we could serve her."

Despite recent economic recovery, this past year, 585 local programs (33%) laid off or could not fill 1,200 staff positions, or an average of 2 people per program.

Of the positions that were laid off in 2016, 61% were direct service providers, such as case managers, advocates, shelter staff, and child advocates. This type of staffing reduction has a significant impact on what programs can do to help survivors.

Due to fewer staff, programs were forced to cut or reduce services such as transportation, legal representation, bilingual advocacy, and therapy or counseling for both adults and children in the past year.



TYPES OF POSITIONS LAID OFF OR UNFILLED IN THE PAST YEAR

DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS

Services Reduced or Eliminated in 2016	Number of Programs Making this Reduction or Elimination
Hotel/Motel Stays or Safe Houses	73
Transitional Housing	67
Group Support or Advocacy	59
Transportation	48
Childcare	36
Legal Representation by an Attorney	34
Therapy/Counseling for Adult (by a licensed practitioner)	30
Emergency Shelter	28
Therapy/Counseling for Children (by a licensed practitioner)	25

Lack of Legal Services May Lead to Further Victimization

Legal cases involving domestic violence are often difficult and complex, and survivors without proper legal representation are frequently further victimized and endangered by the legal process and outcomes. Often, survivors must face their abusers in court to obtain a protection order, gain child support, or testify in criminal proceedings. Facing an abuser in court can be financially and emotionally difficult for many survivors, and it can be helpful to have a supportive and knowledgeable advocate accompany and guide them through the court system. An advocate in Alabama shared, “A survivor requested court accompaniment but since she had fled domestic violence from another area, her hearing was outside of our service area. The shelter in the service area was contacted, but they no longer have a court advocate.”

Access to legal services, such as a legal advocate or lawyer, can significantly increase a survivor’s safety and long-term stability. On Census Day, 52% of programs were able to have an advocate accompany a victim to court, but only 12% of programs were able to assist victims with legal representation. Funding cuts have forced some programs to cut these important services and, in the past year, 29 programs reduced or eliminated their legal advocacy programs and 34 reduced or

eliminated their legal representation services.

On Census Day, legal representation through an attorney was the second most sought-after service request that could not be met, after housing/shelter. Without proper legal representation or advocacy, survivors and their families continue to struggle with safety issues. In Oregon, an advocate recounted: “One client does not qualify for Legal Aid, and also cannot afford an attorney even at a modest price. She will likely have to represent herself against her abuser.”

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

The provision of transportation for survivors can have a meaningful impact on their safety. Unfortunately, many victims who want to leave their abusers do not have the transportation needed to get to shelter and are left stranded in an unsafe place. 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 for survivors in urban areas, the lack of transportation can make it difficult for them to leave a violent partner or get to counseling, court dates, job interviews, or work.

An advocate in Georgia explained, “One of the biggest needs in our area is transportation. We are in a rural area and public transportation is not available, so we have to rely on a taxi service.” While some domestic violence programs are able to offer transportation services to survivors – such as bus vouchers, money for gas, or transportation in an agency vehicle – many are not. In this past year, 48 programs reduced or eliminated transportation-related services due to budget cuts, leaving many victims without the means to access safety and stability.

Limited Resources and Services Further Marginalize Underserved Victims

With resources and services already strained, victims from isolated or marginalized communities may have an even harder time accessing safety. Immigrant survivors

❖ An advocate in Minnesota said, “We had a woman call from a few counties away looking for shelter because her abuser is stalking her. We were full and we have no way of helping her with transportation.”

often face isolation, fear, restrictive immigration laws or policies, and language barriers, any of which may prevent them from reaching out for help.

Abusers often control immigrant victims by deliberately misrepresenting the law, confiscating immigration documents, and threatening to get them deported or to take away their children if they report the violence. When immigrant victims are able to escape abuse, additional barriers may keep them from accessing safety.

Survivors who are elderly, dependent upon someone else because of a disability, or have children with a disability, may face additional barriers. An advocate in Ohio shared, “An immigrant survivor we serve has a son with a severe disability requiring 24-hour care. She used to have to beg her abuser for food and diapers for their child. She lost her job as a result of the abuse and is unable to work to care for the extensive needs of her child. They’re facing homelessness and are in need of transitional housing.

She questioned whether it was better to beg for food and be abused, or to be homeless.”

Victims who identify as members of the LGBTQ community also face unique barriers in accessing safety and justice. Criminal justice and law enforcement systems and personnel often 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 have a difficult time accessing help and protection.

Rural areas also present advocates and survivors with complicated challenges. An advocate in Missouri stated, “We’re in a rural area and we have one car to help transport survivors in our program. On Census Day, it was in the shop, which means survivors struggle to get to work, pick up their children from school or day care, or attend appointments. It’s impossible to thrive when you are even more isolated and dependent.”

❖ REAL STORIES ❖

“We received requests from several parents for trauma-informed child counseling due to exposure to domestic violence. Unfortunately, counselors do not always have room in their schedules so we have to put children on the waitlist, delaying their access to important services and healing.”

—Colorado advocate

“A survivor who accesses our non-residential services called because the abuser had begun to escalate the violence. She was afraid because the abuser has firearms and other weapons and requested emergency shelter. Unfortunately, we could not provide shelter because we are at capacity.”


—Georgia advocate

“We’ve had to deny all requests for legal representation due to lack of funding. There are no other alternatives for this type of free civil legal representation and survivors are left feeling overwhelmed and panicked with fear of losing their children or compromising their safety with no legal help.”

—Pennsylvania advocate

“A survivor called, terrified to leave her abuser because of her children. He threatened to take them from her if she left. We do not have access to free or low-cost assistance with custody cases. We receive several calls per week from victims in the same situation as she is in.”

—North Carolina advocate



"We are the only program in our county and always have a waiting list. **Currently, we have a pregnant client who is on the waiting list with her two children.** Her husband is an abusive drug user. We helped her with a safety plan and with transportation, but we couldn't provide her shelter at this time."

— IDAHO ADVOCATE

DEVASTATING UNMET NEEDS

Lack of Affordable Childcare is a Barrier to Safety

Most survivors with children often face a significant hurdle when it comes to finding affordable childcare for their children. As they rebuild their lives after the abuse, survivors often need childcare while meeting with lawyers, looking for jobs, going to work, and connecting with community resources.

An advocate in Arkansas shared, “A client was excited because she just accepted a full-time job offer, but has no one to watch her child while she is at work. This is a constant problem for families in our shelter. Available and affordable childcare is nowhere to be found.” In 2016, 36 programs reduced or eliminated childcare services.

No Victim Should be Left Behind: Facing Unacceptable Consequences Due to Reductions in Staffing and a Shrinking Pool of Resources

Abusers exert multi-faceted tactics to gain power and control over victims, which can include physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse. Despite victims’ efforts to leave or stop the abuse, the barriers they face often seem insurmountable. When victims make the difficult decision to reach out for help, they must be able to find safety and support. Yet the continued lack of adequate funding and resources directly translates to fewer survivors being served. Domestic violence programs then face the impossible reality of being unable to help everyone who comes to their doors. Ultimately, the victims who are turned away face devastating consequences.

Given the dangerous and potentially lethal nature of domestic violence, our communities and our country cannot afford to ignore victims’ needs. The long-standing status quo of unmet needs and “turn-aways” must be disrupted by an increased investment in domestic violence programs. Addressing domestic violence requires everyone – funders, policymakers, victim advocates, social service providers, law enforcement, judges, and local community members – to work together to respond to and prevent further violence.



Service Provision to Underserved Victims

Services Provided by Local Programs	% of Programs Providing this on Census Day	% of Programs Providing this throughout 2016
Bilingual Advocacy	34%	67%
Rural Outreach	23%	61%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	19%	75%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	17%	72%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	13%	85%

❖ An advocate in Alaska said, “On Census Day our shelter numbers were well over capacity, and we had to deny many of the people who needed shelter that day. For all the callers, staff members have to make referrals for other safe resources, and offer non-residential services at our agency.”



Abusers Threaten to Kill or Harm Pets

"A woman called our hotline in desperate need of help. She had been married for over 10 years to a very abusive man. She was hospitalized dozens of times due to her husband's beatings, and most recently he broke her arm. **She refused to leave without her dog** but we had no space for her or her pet. We called dozens of other shelters, but no one could take her."

— TEXAS ADVOCATE


SERVICES PROVIDED

Percentage (%) of Programs Providing	On Census Day	Throughout the Year
Individual Support or Advocacy	95%	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	86%	95%
Emergency Shelter	82%	96%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	57%	92%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	54%	60%
Transportation	53%	87%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	52%	90%
Group Support or Advocacy	46%	89%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	45%	87%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	43%	87%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	38%	84%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	34%	67%
Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	29%	83%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	26%	49%
Support/Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	25%	77%
Rural Outreach	23%	61%
Support/Advocacy Related to Health Care or Health Care Systems	22%	73%
Childcare/Daycare	21%	46%
Support/Advocacy to Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	19%	83%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	19%	75%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	19%	72%
Support/Advocacy to Elder Victims of Abuse	19%	81%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	17%	72%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	17%	59%
Therapy/Counseling for Children or Youth (by a licensed practitioner)	17%	41%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	15%	39%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	13%	85%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	12%	28%
Support/Advocacy Related to Technology Use (cyberstalking, etc.)	12%	74%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	11%	72%
3rd Party Translation/Interpretation Services	10%	62%
Hotel/Motel Stay	9%	57%
Onsite Medical Services or Accompaniment for Medical Services	8%	48%
Safe Exchange/Visitation	6%	24%
Support/Advocacy Related to Victims Affiliated with the Military	6%	60%
HIV/AIDS Information and/or Support	3%	40%
Matched Savings Programs and/or Microloans	1%	9%

SUMMARY DATA

State or Territory	Response Rate	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	74%	492	218	710	47	151	875	269	79	362
AL	100%	379	169	548	37	123	323	258	53	237
AR	100%	215	142	357	9	144	215	240	36	81
AZ	80%	1,183	824	2,007	211	363	226	808	326	873
CA	94%	3,219	2,349	5,568	1,083	1,283	1,613	1,518	1,416	2,634
CO	84%	607	312	919	253	338	220	328	148	443
CT	100%	775	317	1,092	94	282	299	253	125	714
DC	92%	458	270	728	73	68	47	85	354	289
DE	57%	136	52	188	17	15	12	72	16	100
FL	100%	1,996	1,320	3,316	256	600	1,094	1,891	445	980
GA	77%	920	798	1,718	287	505	293	668	411	639
GU	100%	22	22	44	0	13	15	25	12	7
HI	56%	193	254	447	43	59	110	78	10	359
IA	100%	652	321	973	30	400	445	243	310	420
ID	92%	378	181	559	296	148	190	149	72	338
IL	100%	1,514	847	2,361	299	800	927	666	500	1,195
IN	100%	1,089	680	1,769	142	512	1,462	819	378	572
KS	100%	598	268	866	421	231	267	294	123	449
KY	100%	820	286	1,106	47	232	77	492	246	368
LA	100%	308	240	548	144	154	555	199	141	208
MA	100%	1,280	554	1,834	389	604	293	409	356	1,069
MD	100%	687	269	956	156	515	128	259	148	549
ME	100%	342	137	479	55	132	183	91	156	232
MI	100%	1,598	1,163	2,761	304	479	306	1,000	773	988
MN	93%	1,462	938	2,400	475	848	781	728	348	1,324
MO	96%	1,333	804	2,137	364	475	684	1,012	392	733
MP	100%	16	51	67	0	9	0	32	34	1
MS	100%	187	297	484	32	78	535	139	86	259

State or Territory	Response Rate	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	81%	175	99	274	73	117	393	106	77	91
NC	78%	1,017	485	1,502	147	513	459	712	100	690
ND	95%	233	76	309	25	145	170	80	41	188
NE	100%	314	194	508	106	233	316	110	37	361
NH	100%	162	70	232	26	76	120	88	40	104
NJ	100%	684	360	1,044	96	504	174	217	262	565
NM	80%	514	503	1,017	219	157	148	323	440	254
NV	100%	211	276	487	50	163	19	171	71	245
NY	100%	4,310	2,558	6,868	1,390	1,460	1,375	2,549	1,558	2,761
OH	100%	1,338	677	2,015	151	635	1,051	825	309	881
OK	87%	638	266	904	166	161	242	422	74	408
OR	82%	918	522	1,440	192	490	205	291	408	741
PA	100%	1,762	745	2,507	492	765	1,301	797	404	1,306
PR	74%	208	217	425	2	88	392	138	226	61
RI	100%	352	102	454	202	120	95	65	100	289
SC	100%	357	181	538	44	177	566	257	60	221
SD	61%	204	176	380	34	88	79	219	43	118
TN	100%	746	348	1,094	698	314	396	416	313	365
TX	100%	3,724	2,903	6,627	999	1,489	4,067	2,323	1,731	2,573
UT	100%	442	386	828	95	153	475	397	206	225
VA	95%	1,046	529	1,575	163	398	760	573	259	743
VI	100%	24	17	41	0	19	0	16	10	15
VT	92%	262	84	346	28	108	31	109	94	143
WA	94%	1,425	880	2,305	732	803	345	698	715	892
WI	75%	1,049	667	1,716	243	486	517	754	174	788
WV	100%	277	75	352	32	115	132	134	27	191
WY	100%	147	82	229	22	123	73	97	10	122
TOTAL	92%	45,398	27,561	72,959	11,991	19,461	26,076	25,912	15,283	31,764



I noticed a little boy at the shelter wasn't acting himself. I asked him if everything was OK and he replied, "No." He told me he was scared that one day he would have to go back to the home his family had fled. I assured him that when it was time for his family to leave, we would make sure that his new home is safe. He looked at me and said, "Like this one?" with a huge smile on his face. I replied, "Yes, just like this one." He gave me a hug. The family's housing voucher was approved later that day.

ALABAMA ADVOCATE



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