

NEWS RELEASE



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Report reveals gaps in domestic violence service provision, highlights successes

DES MOINES, Iowa – June 16, 2015 – For the ninth consecutive year, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducted its annual National Census of Domestic Violence Services on September 10, 2014 and have released their analysis of that data in the report: Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services.

“According to the CDC, 10,773 babies are born each day in America,” said Kim Gandy, NNEDV President and CEO. “Contrasting this heartwarming number is the devastating 10,871 unmet requests for help, shelter, counseling, and services from victims in just one day across the United States. We can and must fund these local shelters and hotlines so they are not turning even one survivor away.”

In just one 24-hour period, approximately 90% of local domestic violence programs across the country provided help and safety to 67,646 adults and children who were victims of domestic violence. Thanks to the tireless work of resourceful local programs, survivors were given a safe place to stay and resources and tools to escape violence and abuse.

Yet on the very same day, there were 10,871 requests for services that could not be met due to a lack of funding. The 2014 census report revealed that reduced funding for domestic violence services means that programs are unable to help survivors with shelter, attain legal help, or leave abusive partners.

The report also chronicles harrowing stories of resilience and recovery from individual survivors. An advocate in Michigan shared this survivor’s experience, “A woman with two children entered our shelter after severe abuse by her husband. At one point her abuser poured transmission fluid on her and her toddler and threatened to ignite them with a lighter. She found safety and security at our shelter and is applying to enter our transitional housing program.”

These stories also highlight the importance of the frontline support and help that advocates provide to survivors every day. An Idaho advocate shared this story, “A survivor we worked with told us how grateful she was for meeting people who were knowledgeable, loving, and caring. She said she felt truly safe for the first time in more than a decade.”

To view the full report, visit www.nnedv.org/census.

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About the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is a state level nonprofit organization responding to the needs of battered women, men and children in Iowa. ICADV staff provides training, counseling, community outreach, program management and technical support for domestic violence programs across the state who provide direct service to victims in need. To learn more, visit www.icadv.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IowaCADV.

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