



PRESS RELEASE

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Nationwide Survey Reveals Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Domestic Violence Service Providers

Nationwide, more than 66,000 victims of domestic violence helped on a single day, but almost 10,000 requests for help go unanswered.

Reno NV... Today, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) released a new research report that found in just one 24-hour period (September 17, 2013), local domestic violence programs across the country provided services to 66,581 adults who were victims of domestic violence. Services included individual support or advocacy to adult survivors and their children, emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and transportation. On that same day, domestic violence crisis lines rang 20,267 times. Callers received help from advocates who are trained to provide emotional support, safety planning, and resources. In addition to these services, over 23,000 people were educated in prevention and education trainings during this same 24-hour period.

With this many people receiving services, how does this compare to last year's report? Nationwide, the number of adults receiving services increased by 2,257. With needs increasing, a harsh reality exists that due to reduced government funding, cuts in funding from private sources and reduced individual donations, domestic violence service organizations reported 1,696 staff positions were eliminated in the past year. Victims showed up at the door requesting a shelter bed, an attorney, counseling, or another critical service and the local program was forced to say "I am so terribly sorry that we don't have the resources or funds - can I work with you on a safety plan or try to find you some help in a neighboring town?" With resources not available what happens to victims and their children? Sixty percent of programs reported that victims returned to the abuser, 27 percent reported that victims became homeless, and 11 percent reported that victims end up living in their cars.

Snapshot of Nevada

On September 17, 2013, 169 domestic violence victims (101 children and 68 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs across Nevada. Domestic violence advocates here answered 86 crisis line calls – more than 4 calls every hour. At the same time, 20 requests for services went unmet, largely due to not enough staff and lack of funding. Across Nevada, 21 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates.

“Across Nevada, survivors of domestic violence are reaching out for help,” said Sue Meuschke, NNADV’s Executive Director. “We are encouraging everyone, including healthcare providers, to make more referrals to local domestic violence programs. Unfortunately there are less people in our programs to respond. Increased funding for services is a critical need.”

The full report is available online at www.nnedv.org/census. For state level statistics, select Nevada on the home page of this link.

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About NNEDV:

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), a 501(c)(3) social change organization, is dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment in which domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking no longer exist. As the leading voice for domestic violence victims and their allies, NNEDV members include all 56 of the state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, including over 2,000 local programs. NNEDV has been a premiere national organization advancing the movement against domestic violence for almost 25 years, having led efforts among domestic violence advocates and survivors in urging Congress to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994. To learn more about NNEDV, visit www.nnedv.org.

About NNADV:

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons. As Nevada’s statewide coalition, NNADV is an inclusive network which both supports our member programs, and educates the public at large. Our agency is based in Reno, but our member programs span the entire state.

Advocating change. Educating our community. Supporting services.