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**NEW REPORT SHOWS LARGE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SERVICES IN NEVADA AND SHORT SUPPLY OF  
RESOURCES TO MEET VICTIMS' NEEDS**

**Reno, NV**—In a single day, Nevada's domestic violence programs served more than 291 victims. However, a significant number of requests—214—went unmet because domestic violence agencies lacked the funding and staff to meet the demand. This data comes from the release of the National Network to End Domestic Violence's *National Census of Domestic Violence Services* (NCDVS).

Nine out of the 15 domestic violence programs in Nevada participated in the census. During a 24-hour survey period (on September 25, 2007), 170 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local programs across Nevada. Of the 291 victims served, 121 received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups. Additionally, 152 calls were answered by local hotlines on September 25<sup>th</sup>—an average of 6 calls every hour. Nevada programs also invested a significant amount of time raising community awareness about domestic violence during the survey period, reaching 44 Nevadans through community education and trainings.

All of these life-saving services were provided despite the fact that nearly 80% of domestic violence programs operate with less than 20 paid staff members, and some are run entirely by volunteers.

“We face an overwhelming problem in our community around domestic violence,” stated a staff member from one of Nevada's participating programs. “Our shelters are overrun, our counselors have an eight-week waiting list, and we have no room or funds to hire more staff.”

Many programs in Nevada reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as housing, childcare, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation. With recent cuts to critical programs funded by the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and the shortfall in funding in the State's Domestic Violence Fund, (revenues from which come from a surcharge on every Marriage License sold in the State), domestic violence advocates worry about their ability to respond to requests for help.

“Domestic violence programs are already struggling to meet the huge demand for shelter and advocacy services,” said Sue Meuschke, Executive Director of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence. “Because of cuts in the 2008 federal budget with deeper cuts proposed for the 2009 budget, a shortfall in the state's domestic violence fund and overall reductions in

state spending, domestic violence programs will have even fewer resources to offer victims. When programs don't have adequate funding to operate, victims are left with no choice but to return to their abusers.”

**About the National Census of Domestic Violence (NCDVS):**

The NCDVS is the most recent data documenting the number of individuals served by domestic violence programs in the United States. More than 1,300 domestic violence programs from across the country participated in the census, giving advocates and researchers a glimpse into the number of individuals seeking services, the types of services requested, and the number of service requests that went unmet due to a lack of resources. Participating programs logged an unduplicated count of adults and children requesting and accessing their services between 8 a.m. EDT on September 25, 2007 and 7:59 a.m. EDT on September 26, 2007. In addition to providing a national snapshot, the NCDVS report also includes state-level data.

During the 24-hour survey period, 53,203 adults and children received domestic violence services nationwide, including:

- more than 16,000 individuals who sought refuge in emergency shelters;
- over 8,600 individuals who lived in transitional housing facilities; and
- nearly 28,000 individuals who received non-residential services such as counseling, legal advocacy and children's support groups.

The National Census of Domestic Violence Services is available online at <http://www.nnedv.org/census>.

**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. Affiliated agencies include, but are not limited to: Winnemucca Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc., Safe Nest/TADC of Las Vegas, ALIVE of Yerington, Advocates to End Domestic Violence of Hawthorne and Domestic Violence Intervention of Lovelock.