



Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

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A SNAPSHOT OF VIOLENCE IN NEVADA: HARD ECONOMIC TIMES MEAN GREATER DANGER

Reno, NV— Last year, nearly 36,000 Nevadans sought help from local domestic violence programs, occupying almost 60,000 bed-nights in their shelters.* Today Nevada's families are struggling with a declining economy, and victims are afraid to leave violent relationships out of fear and the uncertainty due to the hard economic times. In some cases those who left stayed longer, and suffered greater injuries because of that fear.

The National Census of Domestic Violence Services, released last week, is a 24-hour survey that was conducted by the National Network Against Domestic Violence on September 17, 2008.** The Census provides a snapshot of domestic violence and service providers in the United States. In Nevada, nine out of 15 domestic violence programs participated in the survey. According to the Census, **on a single day, 214 Nevadans sought help from local domestic violence programs, 156 Nevadans were provided a safe place to sleep in emergency shelters, and 126 hotline calls were answered by domestic violence advocates**—providing a lifeline of support, information, safety planning, and resources for victims in danger.

Yet, housing, food and safety are just the beginning for someone who must begin again. *“During a time of economic uncertainty, when there are not enough jobs and even less resources, domestic violence victims are directly affected,”* explains Sue Meuschke, Executive Director of Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence. *“Finding employment and safe housing have become increasingly difficult and without them women and children are left more vulnerable to violence.”*

One advocate offers her perspective, *“We serve a 45,000-square mile area, and because of the current economic situation and recent budget cuts, we haven't been able to provide the outreach services this area requires. In addition, the number of service requests from victims has actually increased.”*

As in years past, this year's census paints an appalling picture of the problem. But even more disturbing is another picture: the frightening reality of a bad economy that hits victims of domestic violence especially hard.

* Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Statewide Statistical Report.

** The entire *National Census of Domestic Violence Services* is available online at 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 domestic violence coalition, NNADV is an inclusive network that supports its 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: Advocates to End Domestic Violence of Hawthorne, ALIVE of Yerington, Committee Against Domestic Violence of Elko, Committee to Aid Abused Women of Reno, Domestic Violence Intervention of Fallon, Domestic Violence Intervention of Lovelock, Safe Embrace of Reno, S.A.F.E. House of Henderson, Safe Nest of Las Vegas, Tahoe Women's Services of Incline Village, and Winnemucca Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc. Provisional members include: Family Support Council of Minden, and NO TO ABUSE of Pahrump.