

# New Survey Presents Snapshot of Domestic Violence in the U.S.

## *Economic Downturn Exacerbating Domestic Abuse*

In one 24-hour period, 283 victims of domestic violence and their children across North Dakota received life-saving services from local domestic violence service providers. Domestic violence experts answered 97 emergency hotline calls. At the same time, 28 requests for services went unmet, largely due to lack of funding.

These are just a few of the numbers from the latest survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

Though the economy does not cause domestic violence, factors associated with a sour economy can increase the severity and frequency of abuse. At the same time, options for survivors to escape can be more limited.

“We feel the impacts of domestic violence everywhere – on families, in our communities and in social services throughout our state,” said Linda Isakson, Intervention and Policy Team Lead for ND Council on Abused Women’s Services. “While we have made progress in this area, there is still much to do.”

“The economy is exacerbating domestic violence,” said Sue Else, president of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. “I urge communities to come together to stop the violence once and for all. Domestic and sexual violence affect all of us and all of us must be part of the solution.”

Each year, NNEDV conducts a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the county. On September 15, 2009, despite the difficulty to raise funds for vital services, domestic violence programs nationwide provided services to more than 65,000 adults and children in one day alone. Other national data include:

- More than 23,000 crisis hotline calls were answered.
- More than 9,200 requests for services went unmet, mostly due to funding shortfalls.
- Nearly 31,000 individuals attended 1,468 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs to help prevent violence and intervene early in cases of abuse.

Across the nation on September 15, 2009, two women miscarried as a result of domestic violence. Four women were murdered by their intimate partners. Seven children were killed by their fathers in domestic violence homicides. Seven babies were born in domestic violence shelters.

“The 2009 numbers are shocking,” said Else. “We have come a long way, but these numbers remind us that we have a long way to go.”

In 2009, 1,648 local domestic violence programs, or 83 percent, submitted their 24-hour counts for September 15. The full National Domestic Violence Counts 2009 are available online at <http://www.nnedv.org/census>.

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### **ND Council on Abused Women’s Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault**

The ND Council on Abused Women’s Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a membership organization representing the 21 ND domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers. It is the mission of NDCAWS/CASAND to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. For more information, please visit [www.ndcaws.org](http://www.ndcaws.org)

*NNEDV, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a leading voice for domestic violence victims and their allies. Its members include the 56 state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. It works closely with them to understand the needs of domestic violence victims and advocacy programs. NNEDV has been a premiere national organization advancing the movement against domestic violence for the past 15 years, after leading 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, please visit [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org).*