



Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas

DVACK Newsletter July 2015

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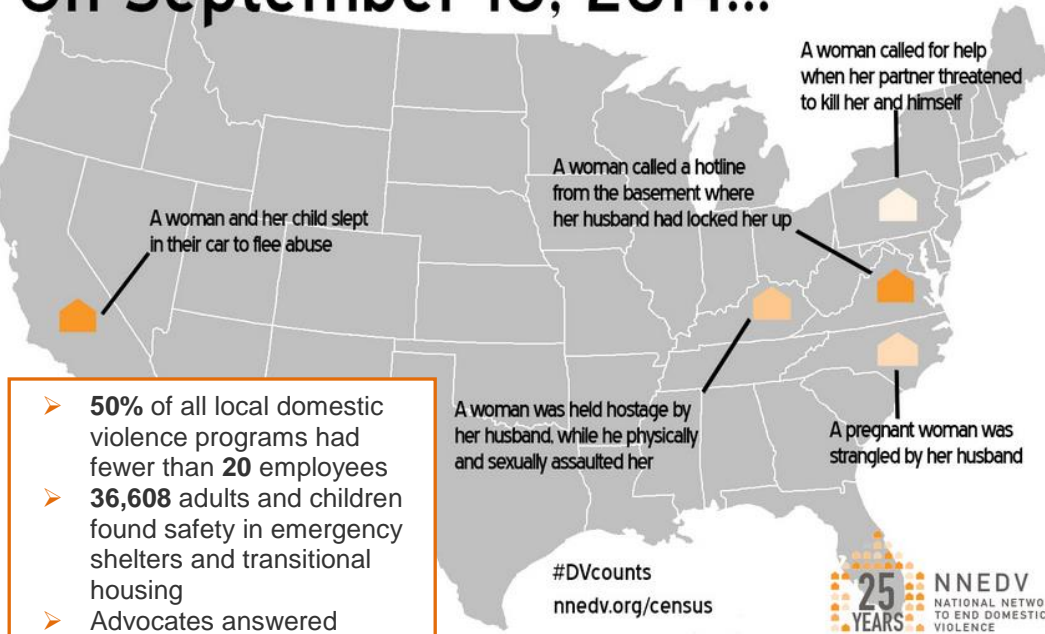
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Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services

In a one-day, 24-hour census, the National Network to End Domestic Violence surveyed almost 90% of all U.S. domestic violence agencies, including DVACK, to capture a snapshot of the domestic violence services accessed nationwide in a single day. On September 10, 2014, local domestic violence programs provided safety and help to 67,646 adult and child victims of domestic violence. Victims received individual or group support and advocacy, hotline counseling, emergency shelter, transportation, job training, court advocacy, childcare, and financial literacy, in addition to countless other resources and tools to escape abuse. This same day, however, lack-of-funding forced local programs to compromise victims' safety and

On September 10, 2014...



- 50% of all local domestic violence programs had fewer than 20 employees
- 36,608 adults and children found safety in emergency shelters and transitional housing
- Advocates answered 20,845 hotline calls—922 calls per hour or 15 calls per minute
- Advocates provided 1,157 trainings on domestic violence to 23,506 people
- 10,871 requests for services went unmet

fail the needs of 10,871 requests for services. Underfunded and understaffed, programs eliminated an average of 2.2 positions per program last year. Seventy-six percent of these cuts were to direct service positions—i.e. shelter staff, advocates, child advocates—significantly reducing programs' abilities to assist victims. Programs also had to reduce or eliminate vital services, such as support groups, emergency hotel/motel stays, transportation, legal representation, emergency financial assistance, and child counseling. The largest (56%) unmet need on the census day was for shelter and housing, a basic need critical for escaping violence. During the 24-hour period, 19,307 adults and 17,301 children found refuge in

programs' emergency shelters and transitional housing, while 6,126 requests for shelter were denied due to lack-of-capacity. While the tireless work of programs and their advocates provide life-saving services for survivors and their families, more funding and social support is needed to ensure every victim of domestic violence is heard, validated, and supported. To read the full 2014 census report, which encompasses survivors' stories and met/unmet needs, visit <http://nnedv.org/census>.

Source: NNEDV.org



Believing every person, no matter their relationship, deserves dignity, respect and love, DVACK advocates and a volunteer held an informational booth at the 3rd annual Gay Pride Salina Festival. Members of Equality Kansas (pictured left) and participants in the festival's drag show (right) pose with the elephant in the room, demanding it is time to talk about domestic and sexual violence.





Bargain Basket's Thrift Store July Sales!

50% OFF

CLOTHING, SHOES, PURSES, TOYS & GAMES!

*Green price tags and display merchandise will sell as marked

Bargain Basket
201 South Santa Fe
Salina, Kansas

Monday–Wednesday 9am-5pm
Thursday 9am-6pm
Friday 10am-3:30pm



The Bargain Basket is located adjacent to the DVACK business office and was established in 2003 offering clothing and basic necessities to survivors' of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Bargain Basket sells new and gently used clothing for the whole family from newborn to adult, including a wide range of men's clothing, accessories, books, home décor, seasonal items and more.

All merchandise is donated from the community.
Cash donations are also periodically given through the Bargain Basket.

All proceeds benefit survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

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Domestic Violence Counts Kansas Summary

On September 10, 2014, 26 out of 26 (100%) identified local domestic violence programs in Kansas participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 26 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

951 Victims Served in One Day

430 domestic violence victims (230 children and 200 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

521 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

This chart shows the percentage of programs that provided the following services on the Census Day.

Services Provided by Local Programs:	Sept. 10
Individual Support or Advocacy	96%
Children's Support or Advocacy	92%
Emergency Shelter	85%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	69%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	58%
Bilingual Advocacy	38%
Rural Outreach	31%

334 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, local and state hotlines answered 334 calls, averaging more than 13 hotline calls every hour.

408 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 408 individuals in communities across Kansas attended 22 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

284 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 46% (131) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 280 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and non-residential services, which could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently-needed services that couldn't be provided was housing, followed by legal representation and financial assistance.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 35% reported reduced government funding.
- 27% reported reduced individual donations.
- 23% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 15% reported not enough staff.

Across Kansas, 24 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (83%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Thirty-two individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

"One of our advocates had been working with a survivor of domestic violence who had come into the shelter with her children after fleeing from abuse. While she was in the shelter, she continued working and our advocate was able to connect her with community resources for additional support. On the day of the DV Census, this client was approved to move into an apartment!"

— Advocate

