



# Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Nevada

Cameron Ballantyne  
Executive Director  
[cameronb@ncedsv.org](mailto:cameronb@ncedsv.org)

Sarah Slavenas  
Communications and Policy  
Director  
[commdirector@ncedsv.org](mailto:commdirector@ncedsv.org)

Serena Evans  
Policy Coordinator  
[publicpolicy@ncedsv.org](mailto:publicpolicy@ncedsv.org)

# Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Who we are:	What we do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A statewide coalition made up of direct service providers, collaborators, victim-survivors and individuals.</li><li>• An organization that advocates for the prevention and elimination of domestic and sexual violence by partnering with communities.</li><li>• An organization that brings together cross-sector, cross-organizational partnerships to benefit outcomes, pathways, and interventions for victim-survivors.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offer a unified voice for service providers and victim-survivors throughout the state.</li><li>• Compile and inform programs of arising and changing policies that affect their services and clientele.</li><li>• Advocate at the local, state and federal level for trauma-informed, survivor centered policies.</li><li>• Assist with connecting programs to financial opportunities.</li><li>• Offer technical assistance, advice, and resources on best practices.</li><li>• Provide training and education to service providers and community members.</li></ul>

# NCEDSV Membership




- NCEDSV membership is made up of direct service programs, collaborators, and individuals.
  - Program membership: agencies, programs, or non-profits that provide domestic and sexual violence prevention, education, and advocacy.
  - Allied membership: organizational programs or agencies that support the NCEDSV mission, goals, and philosophy or work with victim-survivors in capacities other than direct community-based advocacy.
  - Individual/friend membership: any and all individuals that wish to join the movement and support NCEDSV.

The work that we do is guided by the needs and demands of direct services providers and victim-survivors in Nevada.

# DV and SA Direct Service Providers in Nevada



## Map Key

-  Indicates domestic violence programs
-  Indicates sexual violence programs
-  Indicates dual domestic and sexual violence programs

# Trigger Warning

- This presentation will cover sensitive topics and may go in-depth discussing victim-survivor experiences. Some of the materials, stories, and anecdotes shared may be emotionally difficult or uncomfortable to hear.
- Please feel free to look down, look away, or excuse yourself as necessary.

# What is Domestic Violence?

- Domestic violence is a systematic pattern of power and control.
  - While outside factors can contribute to domestic violence, it is not caused by anger, mental problems, drugs, or alcohol.
- Domestic violence is NOT just physical abuse.
- Domestic violence IS:
  - Emotional abuse/gaslighting
  - Financial/economic abuse
  - Coercion and threats
  - Isolation
  - Inflicting fear
  - Psychological violence
  - And physical violence and abuse

# National Statistics

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. This includes a range of behaviors (e.g. slapping, shoving, pushing) and in some cases might not be considered “domestic violence.” <sup>1</sup>
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence (e.g. beating, burning, strangling) by an intimate partner in their lifetime. <sup>2</sup>
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%. <sup>3</sup>
- More than 1 in 5 violent crimes is domestic violence. <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. National Statistics. <https://ncadv.org/STATISTICS>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Jennifer Truman, Ph.D and Rachel Morgan Ph.D. U.S. Department of Justice. April 2014. Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003-2012. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>

# DV Advocacy Services Provided in NV 2018-2021

- These numbers were submitted to NCEDSV through our domestic violence program members and reflect how many services our programs provided directly to victim-survivors.
  - These numbers predominately reflect services throughout Northern Nevada and our rural communities.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Shelter bed nights provided	11,206	47,396	47,205	46,513
Emergency motel bed nights provided	176	869	853	504
Transitional housing bed nights provided	8,108	39,129	46,758	32,322
Supportive services provided	15,439	18,578	19,398	24,672
On-going services/repeat contacts	2,327	7,151	11,989	7,402
Face-to-face crisis intervention services	6,250	9,042	9,026	19,526
Case management services	11,173	11,217	13,278	14,506
Hotline/Crisis Intervention Calls	10,867	18,362	24,365	23,040
Support groups offered	731	1,366	621	535
Participants at support groups	1,949	2,222	2,461	6,109
Individuals attending Professional therapy sessions	1,092	687	2,390	1,177
Life skills/parenting/other groups offered	188	645	255	183
Unmet housing requests	456	908	602	147*
Unmet supportive service requests	37	30	64	294



# 2018, 2019, and 2020 Nevada DV Service Census

- Every year, our national partner, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducts a nationwide census of adults and children seeking domestic violence services in the United States during a 24-hour period.

## Nevada Specific DV Census Numbers

	2018 <sup>1</sup>	2019 <sup>2</sup>	2020 <sup>3</sup>
# of victim-survivors served	406	646	501
# of participating DV programs in NV	15 out of 15	14 out of 15	14 out of 17
# of hotline calls answered	166	92	177
# of individuals attending prevention and education trainings	248	22	37
# of unmet requests for services	65 – 94% were for housing assistance	24 – 71% were for housing assistance	32

\*2021 data is not yet available

<sup>1</sup> NNEDV 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Counts – Nevada Summary. [https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Library\\_Census\\_2018\\_Nevada.pdf](https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Library_Census_2018_Nevada.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> NNEDV 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Counts – Nevada Summary. [https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Library\\_Census\\_2019\\_NV.pdf](https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Library_Census_2019_NV.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> NNEDV 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Counts – Nevada Summary. <https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/15th-Annual-DV-Counts-Report-Nevada-Summary.pdf>

# Women Murdered by Intimate Partners in Nevada

- The Violence Policy Center (VPC) produces an annual study of *When Men Murder Women* as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM).
- The most recent data, 2019, ranks Nevada 3<sup>rd</sup> for women murdered by men.<sup>1</sup>
  - 35 females were murdered by men.
  - Of these females:
    - 78% were killed by guns.
    - 94% were murdered by someone they knew, and of that percentage, 55% were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders.
- In the past 11 years, Nevada has been in the top 10 states for women murdered by men.
- Murders of indigenous women are not counted in this study.

<sup>1</sup>Violence Policy Center. September 2021. When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2019 Homicide Data. <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2021.pdf>

# Domestic Violence Prevention

- Economic Justice
  - Access to healthcare
  - Access to education
  - Access to public benefits and social supports
  - Equitable pay and workplace protections and supports
- Anti-oppression
- Access to safe and affordable housing
- Teach safe and healthy relationship skills
- Stronger firearm provisions

# What is Sexual Violence?

- Sexual violence is forced or manipulated unwanted sexual activity.
- Lack of dissent does not constitute freely given consent!
- Although Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) only defines sexual as rape/penetration it encompasses acts that have yet to be defined by law.
- Sexual violence IS:
  - Unwanted touching and/or contact
  - Unwanted fondling and/or groping
  - Sexual harassment
  - Forced masturbation
  - Forced touching of another
  - Exposing one's genitals or naked body to another without consent
  - Forcing another to watch pornography or sexual acts without their consent
  - Watching someone in a private act without their knowledge or permission
  - Unwanted removal of clothing
  - Dissemination of one's private photos or videos
  - Rape/penetration

# National Statistics

- The Department of Justice states that only 1/3 of sexual assaults are ever reported to law enforcement. <sup>1</sup>
- Out of every 1,000 sexual assaults reported to law enforcement, 975 perpetrators will walk free. <sup>2</sup>
- Nationwide, 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetimes. <sup>3</sup>
- Victims usually knew their assaulter. Of adult victim-survivors, 73% knew the attacker, 38% were friends of the attacker, 28% were an intimate partner of the attacker, and 7% were a relative of the attacker. <sup>4</sup>
- Females ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely, and females ages 18-34 are 3 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault. <sup>5</sup>
- Nearly 1 in 5 women (18.3%) and 1 in 71 men (1.4%) in the United States have been raped at some time in their lives. <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010-2014 (2015)

<sup>2</sup> Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network. The Criminal Justice System: Statistics. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>

<sup>3</sup> National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Statistics. <https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

<sup>4</sup> National Sexual Violence Resource Center. What is Sexual Violence? [https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications\\_NSVRC\\_Factsheet\\_What-is-sexual-violence\\_1.pdf](https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Factsheet_What-is-sexual-violence_1.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network. Victims of Sexual Violence: Statistics. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

# SA Advocacy Services Provided in NV 2018-2021

- These numbers were submitted to NCEDSV through our sexual violence program members and reflect how many services our programs provided directly to victim-survivors.
  - 2018 was the first year that NCEDSV collected SA data so the numbers are not fully reflective of services provided that year.
  - These numbers predominately reflect services throughout Northern Nevada and our rural communities.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Residential services: Emergency motel stays or transitional housing	0	119	247	434
Non-residential supportive service provided	106	506	535	210
On-going services/repeat contacts	-	263	341	1,350
Face-to-face crisis intervention services	66	475	447	972
Case management service	-	454	711	2,164
Forensic exam accompaniments	53	210	105	140
Hotline/Crisis Intervention Calls	40	441	456	2,898
Support groups offered	1	41	53	101
Participants at support groups	18	19	88	86
Individuals attending professional therapy sessions	18	13	2	29

# SANE Exams in Nevada

- There are currently only six locations in Nevada to receive a SANE forensic medical exam.
- Depending on their location and availability of SANE nurses, victim-survivors are sometimes forced to travel upwards of 4+ hours to receive a SANE exam following a sexual assault.



# Sexual Assault Prevention

- Should require comprehensive sex-education and healthy relationships education.
- Increasing economic opportunities.
- Creating supportive environments within K-12 schools and higher education campuses.





# COVID-19 and Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Our programs have worked tirelessly through the pandemic, never once stopping their services to victim-survivors.
- Increased isolation heightened unsafe environments for domestic and sexual violence to happen.
- With isolation, certain victim-survivors had limited information and awareness of available services or a safe opportunity to reach out for services.
- “While 1 in 3 White women report having experienced domestic violence [during the pandemic], the rates of abuse increased dramatically to about 50% and higher for those marginalized by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship status, and cognitive or physical ability.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Erika Sussman and Sara Wee. Center for Survivor Agency & Justice. Accounting for Survivors’ Economic Security: An Atlas for Direct Service Providers. [https://csaj.org/document-library/CSAJ\\_Atlas\\_Mapbook\\_1\\_FINAL\\_TO\\_POST.pdf](https://csaj.org/document-library/CSAJ_Atlas_Mapbook_1_FINAL_TO_POST.pdf)

# The Intersectionality of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Young victims are often lured into marriages or romantic relationships only to be exploited by their partners through forced prostitution.<sup>1</sup>
- Trafficking occurs alongside domestic violence, when family members direct the sexual exploitation.<sup>2</sup>
- Traffickers prey upon undocumented migrants, displaced peoples, populations experiencing poverty, individuals who have previously experienced a victimization, LGBTQ youth, and sex workers.<sup>3</sup>
- Traffickers often use sexual assault as a tool to assert power and control over their victims.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Human Trafficking Legal Center. Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Fact Sheet. [2017-HTLC-Human-Trafficking-and-Domestic-Violence-Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://www.htlcl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/HTLC-Human-Trafficking-and-Domestic-Violence-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault – Fact Sheet. <https://www.ccsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/HUMAN-TRAFFICKING.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Freedom Network USA. April 2015. Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault. <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/app/uploads/2018/10/FNUSA-Human-Trafficking-and-Sexual-Assault-2015.pdf>

# Questions?



[www.ncedsv.org](http://www.ncedsv.org)