

DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE FUNDING

Policy Brief on SB177 Nevada



Nevada State Investment in Saving Lives and Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence

SB177

- SB177 increases Marriage License Funding from \$25 to \$50 per license, growing the fund from approximately 2.5 to **5 million dollars annually**.
- Creates funding for sexual violence in counties with less than 700K residents. (Currently, only Clark County receives sexual violence funding.)
- Caps the number of agencies to be funded depending on county size.
- Allows for dual domestic/sexual violence service providers to receive funding.

SafeNest & Marriage License Funding

As the largest domestic violence service provider in the state, SafeNest still experiences gaps in service that increased Marriage License Funding can help fill.

Prevention: Increase programming to more schools and within juvenile detention and alternative schools. Currently, SafeNest is working in only five schools.

Protection: Ensure all victims have access to support and resources needed to escape abuse. SafeNest referred over 500 clients and their children to other services in 2019 because our shelter was at capacity.

Empowerment: Expand transitional and supportive services so all survivors have an opportunity to thrive. SafeNest has over 190 victims currently waiting for counseling services.

Background

Domestic Violence in Nevada

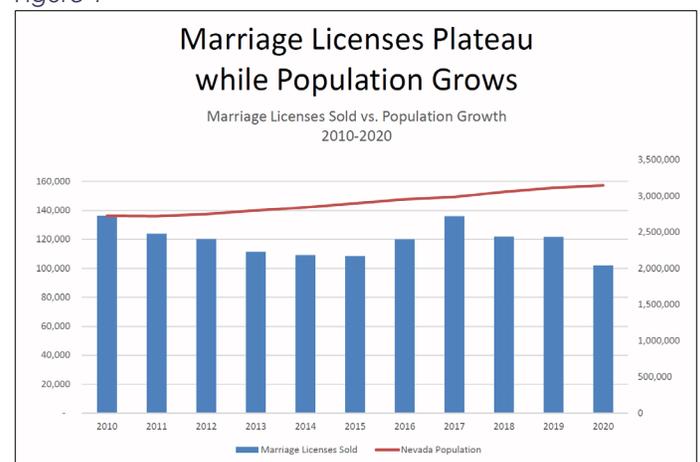
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in Nevada experience physical violence by an intimate partner.¹
- There were more than 30,000 incidents of domestic violence and 2,116 rapes and attempted rapes committed in Nevada in 2019.²
- For the past decade, Nevada has ranked in the top 10 of the most lethal states for domestic violence victims.³

Marriage License Funding

Established in 1981, the Marriage License Fund became the **only state funding**

for domestic and sexual violence. The last increase to Marriage License Funding was in 2010. Figure 1 shows the state's population growth vs. marriages.

Figure 1



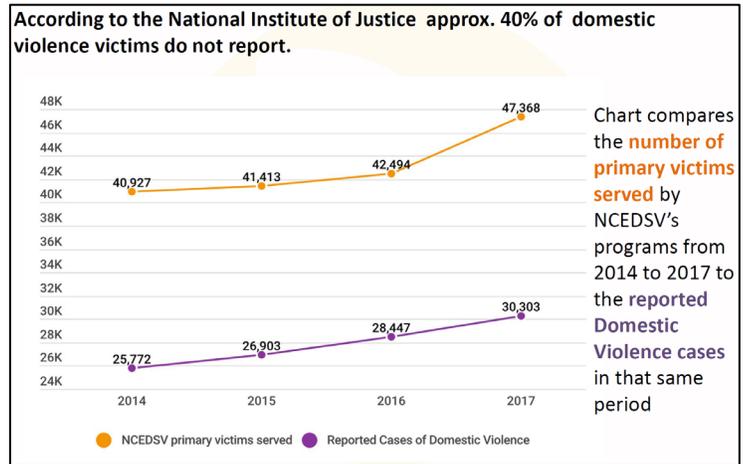
Recommendations

SB177 increases critical funding for domestic and sexual violence services, supporting non-profit agencies throughout Nevada that are focused on ending this epidemic. Research shows that only 40% of victims report the violence they experience to the police – meaning agencies like SafeNest are the first line of defense and the only support for many survivors in our state. (See Figure 2 for more details.)

Ways to support:

1. Call State Representatives and voice your support for the passage of SB177.
2. Write a letter of support and send it to Nevada legislators.
3. Testify in support of the bill at the next committee hearing.

Figure 2



Opposition

The wedding chapel industry and the Clark County Clerk (Lynn Goya) are in opposition to the marriage license fee increase. While they see the need for additional funding, they feel it should come from another source. However, Nevada has failed to identify any additional state funding sources for domestic and sexual violence since the inception of the Marriage License Fund in 1981.

SB177 Next Steps

(Current step highlighted in yellow)



1 National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2020), "Domestic Violence in Nevada."
 2 State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety (2019), "Uniform Crime Reporting, Annual Report."
 3 Violence Policy Center (2010-2020), "When Men Murder Women."