

The Daily Union

Saturday, October 7, 2019

Title: October – National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The 13th Annual Domestic Violence Counts National Census reported that while nearly 75,000 victims of domestic violence received services in a 24-hour reporting period, more than 9,000 requests were not met because programs lacked the resources needed to help.

More specific findings include:

- 74,823 adult and child victims of domestic violence were served in one day, including:
- 42,494 victims found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 32,329 victims received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, children's support groups, and more.

What did the 24-hour census taken on September 13, 2018 reveal in Kansas?

- 22 out of 22 (100%) identified domestic programs in Kansas participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services
- 702 victims were served in the 24 hour period on September 13, 2018
- 338 of those victims sought refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by domestic violence programs
- 364 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups
- 148 hotline calls were answered – local and state hotline staff in Kansas answered on average 6 hotline call per hour
- 268 attended prevention and education training provided by local domestic violence programs
- 93 request for services were unmet in that single day, of which 51% (47) were for housing – the most frequently requested non-residential service was for housing advocacy, legal representation, and financial assistance.

Source: https://nnedv.org/latest_update/13th-annual-domestic-violence-counts-report-shows-clear-need-consistent-funding/

Very few people reading this news article have escaped the ripple effects of domestic violence. Domestic violence comes in many forms: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and financial abuse.

Physical Abuse: This type of abuse is centered on the abusive person's desire or need demonstrate control over their partner. Although this type of abuse is the most commonly known, it may or may not be a part of an abuse relationship. If physical abuse shows up early in a relationship, it commonly get worse over time.

Sexual Abuse: It is not uncommon for sexual abuse to occur in abusive relationships. However, it is often the least discussed. Either subtle or overt, sexual abuse often leaves the victim with feelings of shame or humiliation.

Emotional Abuse: In one form or another, emotional abuse occurs in all abusive relationships. It is a tactic used by abusive partners to maintain control and power over their victim. Abusive partners often isolate their victim from friends and family, show excessive jealousy, and monitor the victim's activities and conversations closely.

Financial Abuse: Although this type of domestic violence is the least commonly known, it is one of the most powerful tactics used on victims in the relationship. Examples include: victims are put on an allowance, not allowed to have their own money, have their family assets hidden from them, are drawn into deep levels of debt, or ruin the victims credit.

What can we do to help? Increasing awareness of domestic violence is everyone's responsibility. Simply talking about your knowledge and/or experiences with victims of domestic violence helps to personalize it for people who may not realize this reality.

Another way to help is through making donations to local or national agencies that provide support to these victims. Almost every request that was unmet in the September 13, 2018 survey was the result of lack of financial resources from one source or another. You will find some of the local crisis agencies listed at the end of this article.

If you have an old cell phone that you are no longer using, consider donating it to be refurbished or recycled. Proceeds from the sales of these phones are used to provide domestic violence victims with a lifeline (a cellphone) and free airtime. Delete your personal data and remove the memory card before dropping it off at a Verizon retail store who sponsors the mobile phone program. It doesn't matter what cell phone provider the phone was purchase through, Verizon will use the recycled phone to generate funds for cash grants to domestic violence organization across the United States. Search HopeLine at Verizon.com.

We can all help to lower the number of unmet needs the stem from requests of victims of domestic violence. Contact your local center to volunteer or donate. Until next time, keep living resourcefully.

Open Door Shelter
136 W. 3rd St.
Junction City, KS 66441
(785) 238-3599

Crisis Center Inc.
<http://www.thecrisiscenterinc.org/>
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 539-2785
In Junction City call:
(785) 762-8835
Or 1-800-727-2785

Topeka Rescue Mission
600 N. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, KS 66608
(785) 354-1744

Salina Rescue Mission
1716 Summers Rd
PO Box 1667
Salina, KS 67402
(785) 823-2610