



A Needs Assessment on Nevada's Response to Domestic Violence

December 2025

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Contents

BACKGROUND 2

 PARTICIPANTS..... 2

 IDENTIFIED UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES 3

DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS 4

 DISCOVERIES: DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS..... 4

 Common Services Offered..... 4

 Top Needs Identified 5

 Unmet Services..... 5

VICTIM-SURVIVORS 5

 DISCOVERIES: VICTIM-SURVIVORS 5

 DISCOVERIES: LISTENING SESSION 5

COMMUNITY MEMBERS..... 6

 DISCOVERIES: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK 6

 Community Perceptions on Domestic Violence..... 7

 Discriminatory Attitudes, Policies, and Procedures..... 7

LAW ENFORCEMENT..... 8

 DISCOVERIES: LAW ENFORCEMENT..... 8

 Barriers of Service..... 9

 Needs of Victim-Survivors..... 9

 Crime Trends..... 9

ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES..... 10

GAPS IDENTIFIED 11

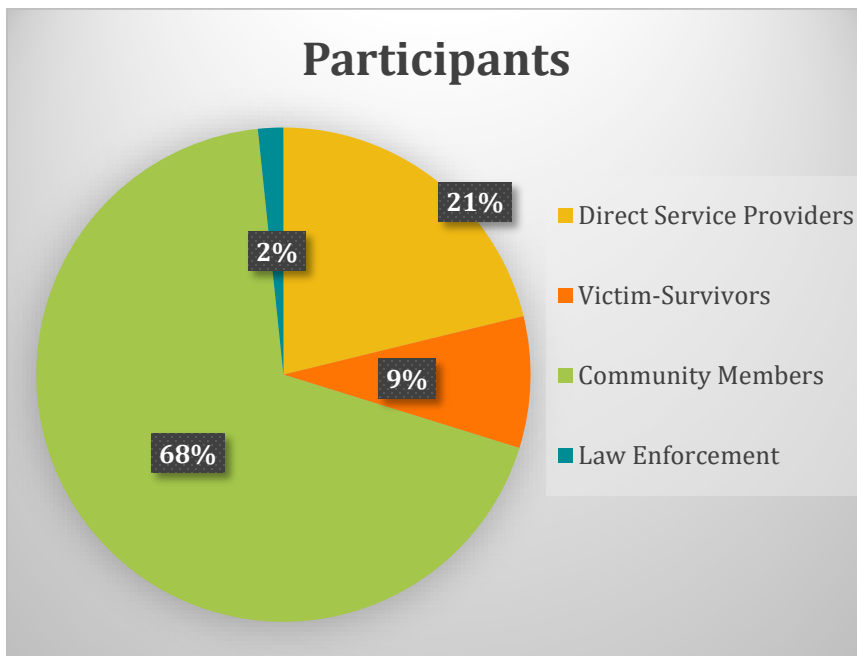
RECOMMENDATIONS..... 12

This publication was supported by the Administration for Children and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services, Grant No. 2501NVSDVC. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

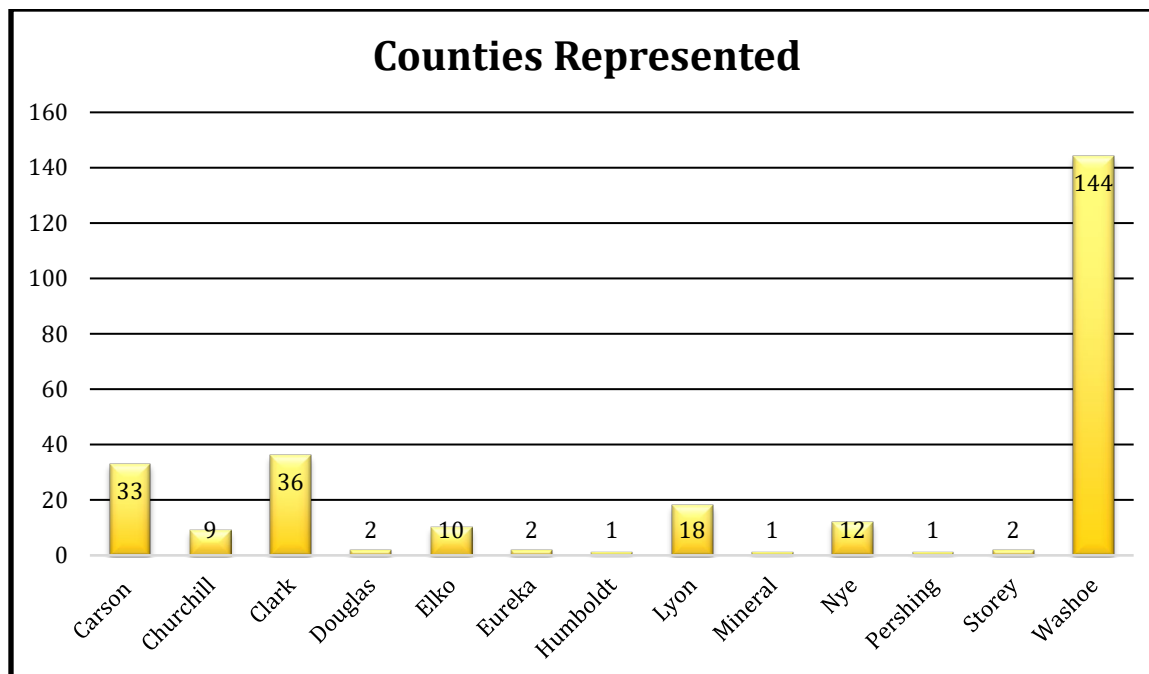
BACKGROUND

From September 2024 to October 2025, the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) conducted a needs assessment on Nevada’s response to domestic violence. Under the guidance of the Grants Management Department at DCFS and the planning committee, NCEDSV interviewed survivors, and surveys were completed by direct service providers, community members, and law enforcement.

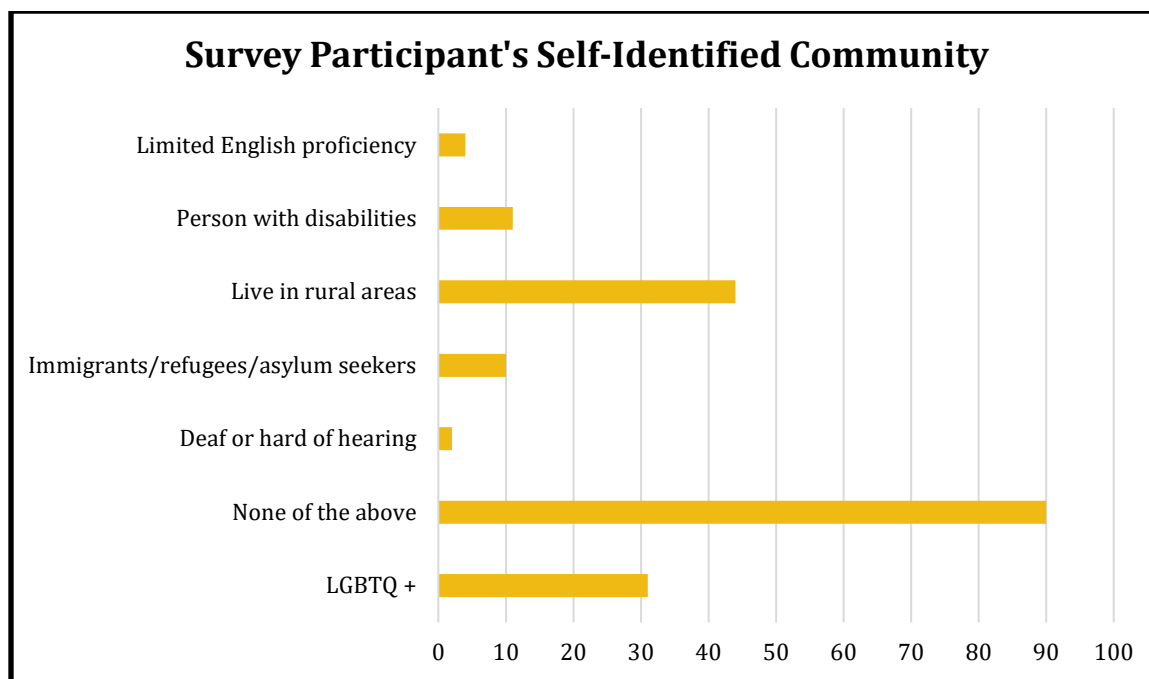
PARTICIPANTS



| Group Representation | Responses |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Direct Service Providers | 64 |
| Victim-Survivors | 26 |
| Community Members | 207 |
| Law Enforcement | 5 |



*Note: Victim-survivors are not identified by county.



IDENTIFIED UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Participants from the law enforcement and direct service provider surveys identified the following as underserved populations.

| Underserved Community | # of Responses |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Unhoused | 14 |
| LGBTQIA+ | 10 |
| Individuals with Mental Health Conditions | 8 |
| Older Adults | 8 |
| Immigrants | 5 |
| Children | 4 |
| Teens / Youth | 4 |
| Black / African American | 3 |
| Men | 3 |
| Hispanic | 2 |

DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS

The direct service provider feedback highlights critical gaps in housing, legal aid, and mental health services, compounded by funding and staffing shortages. Agencies are eager for training and collaboration to better serve diverse and underserved populations.

DISCOVERIES: DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS

- 64 Responses, representing 11 counties
- Roles: 61.9% provide direct victim services; 38.1% are in leadership/administration.
- Client Volume: Most agencies serve 11–50 clients per month; 27% serve 26–50 clients.

COMMON SERVICES OFFERED

- 24-hour crisis helpline
- Shelter
- Legal advocacy
- Court accompaniment

TOP NEEDS IDENTIFIED

- Community Services: Long-term housing, shelter, rental assistance, mental health care.
- Emergency Assistance: Cash aid ranked highest (68%).
- Legal Services: Custody and divorce support are critical.
- Training Needs: Criminal justice personnel and healthcare professionals need domestic violence specific training.

UNMET SERVICES

- Long-term housing and emergency shelter
- Childcare
- Legal representation
- Transportation assistance



VICTIM-SURVIVORS

Victim-survivors report significant gaps in housing affordability and security, mixed confidence in law enforcement and court systems, and unmet needs for mental health and financial support. There is strong interest in restorative justice approaches, and a clear call for better resource navigation and holistic support services.

DISCOVERIES: VICTIM-SURVIVORS

- 26 responses from survey
- Common Barriers
 - Lack of affordable housing and childcare
 - Limited access to financial assistance and transportation
 - Difficulty navigating legal systems and obtaining protection

DISCOVERIES: LISTENING SESSION

The listening sessions aimed to capture the lived experiences of victim-survivors navigating safety, legal systems, housing, and support services. The insights highlight systemic gaps and opportunities for improvement in advocacy, law enforcement, and resource coordination.

1. Legal Barriers and Lack of Access

VICTIM-SURVIVOR SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

- ACCESS TO IMMEDIATE HELP**
81% confident in accessing medical care; 62% in law enforcement response.
- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
54% report that mental health services meet their needs.
- HOUSING STABILITY**
Significant concerns about affordability and security; 54% worry about homelessness.
- LEGAL SYSTEM & ADVOCACY**
48% say court experience met their needs; 32% lack access to legal advocacy.
- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**
64% believe a restorative justice approach would have been helpful.

- Survivors reported significant challenges accessing legal information and representation.
 - Court restrictions, such as relocation limitations, exacerbate emotional and financial strain.
2. **Impact on Mental Health and Stability**
 - Anxiety, PTSD, and ongoing fear were common. Survivors expressed constant vigilance and difficulty trusting systems.
 - Counseling and mental health support were identified as critical needs, with some survivors pursuing virtual options.
 3. **Housing Insecurity**
 - Multiple survivors face risk of homelessness due to evictions, short-term leases, and poor credit histories.
 - Shelter staff and advocates are assisting with credit repair, but long-term housing stability remains uncertain.
 4. **Law Enforcement and Systemic Failures**
 - Survivors described inadequate law enforcement responses, lack of trauma-informed practices, and missed warning signs.
 - Violations of protection orders often go unaddressed; one case involved five violations without prosecution.
 - Child welfare decisions were perceived as harmful, returning children to unsafe environments.
 5. **Role of Advocacy**
 - Advocates were repeatedly cited as lifelines—providing truth, emotional support, and practical guidance.
 - Survivors emphasized the need for better inter-agency communication to avoid gaps in resource awareness.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- 207 responses representing 10 Counties

DISCOVERIES: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

While some acknowledge existing programs, the dominant narrative is that services are insufficient, inaccessible, and lack cultural competence, particularly in rural areas and for marginalized communities. There is a strong call for expanded resources, better outreach, and systemic reforms to ensure survivors receive timely and relevant support.

“Survivors are not served with relevant programming, as when I was a victim of domestic violence, I had no clear path on steps to take to get help.”

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This section summarizes community perceptions regarding domestic violence (DV) and related issues based on survey responses. The findings highlight strong consensus on the seriousness of emotional and financial abuse, recognition of male victims, and gaps in program understanding and resource accessibility.

| Question | Insight |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Domestic violence is a problem in my community | 75.6% (155 respondents) agree or strongly agree DV is a problem. Only 4.9% disagree. |
| Emotional abuse is just as serious as physical abuse | 92% (189 respondents) agree or strongly agree. Minimal disagreement (2.8%). |
| Financial abuse is considered domestic violence | 89% (183 respondents) agree or strongly agree. |
| Men are victims of domestic violence | 94% agree or strongly agree; near-universal recognition. |
| Programs understand needs of male survivors | 55% believe programs do not understand male survivors' needs. |
| Intersection between DV, mental health, and substance misuse | 84% agree or strongly agree; strong consensus on intersectionality. |
| Community access to mental health/substance misuse programs | 84% report access exists; 16% say no access. |
| Know where to find DV resources | Only 67% know where to find resources; 18% disagree or strongly disagree. |
| Know how to take concrete steps | 58% know steps; 18% disagree; 24% neutral, indicating a gap in actionable knowledge. |
| Waiting list for services | 69% report waiting lists exist; significant capacity issue. |

DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

Respondents identified stigma, lack of inclusive services, minimal resources, and inadequate training as major issues. Solutions suggested including education and awareness, mandatory trauma-informed training, equal services for male victims, policy overhauls, and better law enforcement protocols. There is a strong call for more housing, support programs, and culturally appropriate approaches to ensure victim-survivors receive compassionate and comprehensive help.

1. Stigma and Victim-Blaming

- Multiple responses highlight stigma against victims, including attitudes that blame victims for abuse.
- Cultural practices and unconscious bias are not adequately considered.

Discriminatory Attitudes, Policies, and Procedures

- Stigma and victim-blaming
- Lack of services for men
- Training and education
- Resource gaps

2. Lack of Inclusive Services

- Several comments emphasize the need for equal treatment of male victims.
- Lack of shelter options and resources for men in abusive relationships.
- Training needed to accept men as victims and provide non-gender-specific responses.
- Overhaul of policies and procedures to ensure inclusivity.
- Strengthening organizational accountability
- Incorporating cultural representation and honoring diverse practices
- Creating safe spaces for all genders and allowing pets/children in shelters.

3. Training and Education

- Calls for mandatory training for law enforcement, advocates, and administration.
- Education for community members to reduce stigma and unconscious bias.
- Trauma-informed training and cultural sensitivity emphasized.
- More empathy, awareness campaigns, and language-appropriate education.
- Addressing barriers for survivors with criminal histories.

4. Resource Gaps

- Lack of housing, support groups, therapy, and financial assistance.
- No resources for perpetrators beyond basic anger management.
- Need for programs teaching life skills and providing holistic support.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement agencies report domestic violence and stalking as the most prevalent crimes, with significant gaps in shelter, housing, and financial assistance. Underserved populations include Hispanic and undocumented individuals, rural communities, and agencies face staffing shortages and funding constraints. There is strong interest in improving inter-agency coordination and training, and emerging awareness of restorative justice practices.

DISCOVERIES: LAW ENFORCEMENT

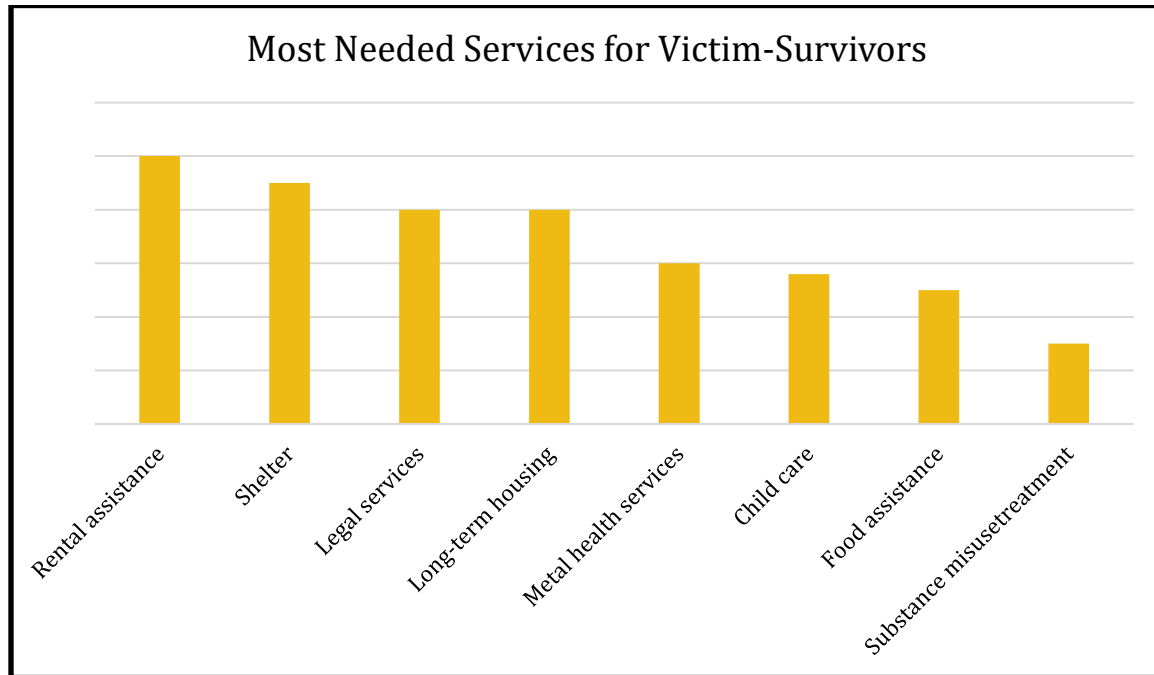
- Total Responses: 5 law enforcement agencies
- Counties Represented: Clark (40%), Elko (20%), Washoe (40%)
- Roles: Leadership/Administration (40%), Deputy/Sheriff/Tribal/State Law Enforcement (20%), Systems Advocate (40%)
- Staffing: 80% report being inadequately staffed; most agencies have 21+ employees (60%).

BARRIERS OF SERVICE

- Too many victim-survivors for the resources available
- Distance from a main city with more resources
- Availability of Funding

“The primary domestic violence shelters have been full for ten years. Finding shelter, rental assistance and childcare has been an unmet need for too long. Survivors need to be able to find support for them to leave a violent situation.”

NEEDS OF VICTIM-SURVIVORS

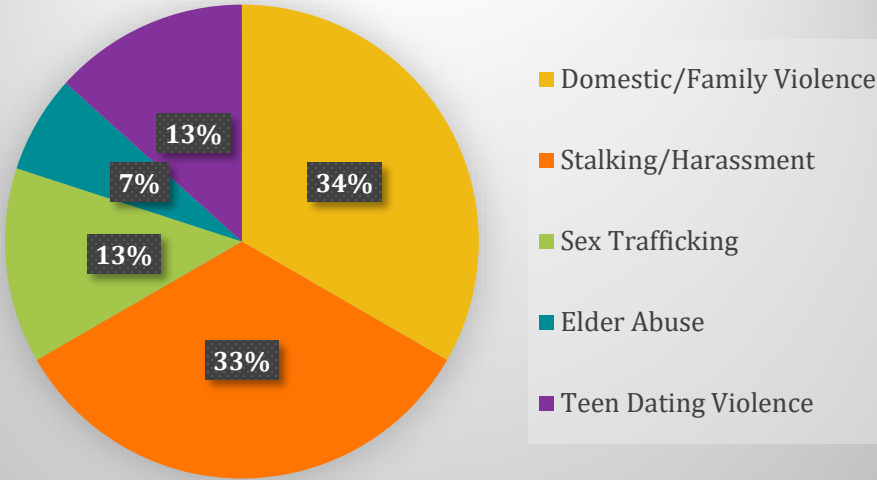


“They need immediate financial support for rent, electricity, phones, food, transportation and childcare.”

CRIME TRENDS

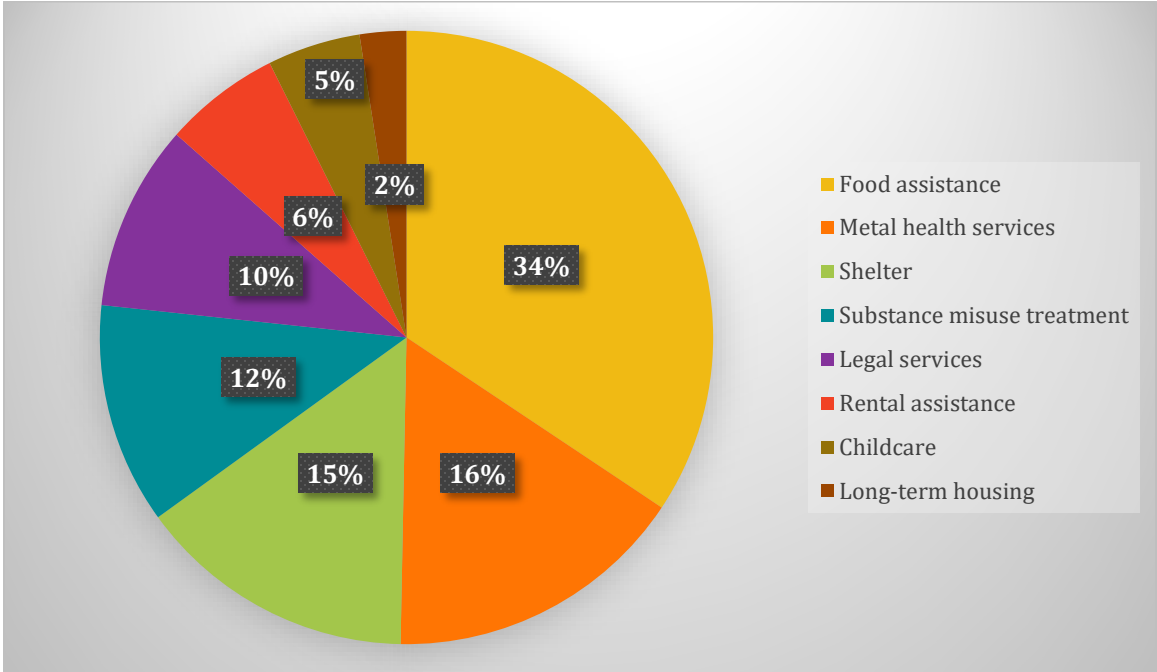
Crimes reported to law enforcement by frequency.

Crimes



ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES

Easiest services to connect victims to for Direct Service Providers and Law Enforcement



| Service | Percentage of Responses |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Food assistance | 34% |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Mental health services | 16% |
| Shelter | 15% |
| Substance misuse treatment | 12% |
| Legal services | 10% |
| Rental assistance | 6% |
| Childcare | 5% |
| Long-term housing | 2% |

GAPS IDENTIFIED

Housing Stability and Long-Term Support

- Lack of long-term and transitional housing options
- Insufficient rental assistance
- Limited shelter availability beyond immediate crisis response

Access to Emergency and Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance is the most critical unmet need
- Gaps in timely emergency aid that allows survivors to leave unsafe situations
- Inadequate access to immediate mental health services

Legal Protection and Accountability

- Limited access to custody and divorce legal support
- Failure to enforce protection orders and hold offenders accountable
- Survivors denied protection orders or left unprotected despite repeated violations

Criminal Justice System Failures

- Lack of victim-centered responses within the criminal justice system
- Inconsistent or unwilling prosecution of protection order violations
- Systemic barriers that discourage survivors from seeking help

"My abuser violated his protection order 5 times and the DA refused to press charges."

Services for Undocumented Victim-Survivors

- Significant gaps in culturally responsive, immigration-safe services
- Fear of legal consequences limits access to support and protection

Coordination and Navigation of Services

- Poor coordination among service providers
- Survivors face complex, fragmented systems with little guidance or advocacy

"They make it extremely difficult to get any kind of help and when you do try to get help legally, they deny you protection orders"

Training and Capacity Gaps

- Insufficient domestic violence-specific training for criminal justice personnel
- Lack of trauma-informed training for healthcare professionals
- Frontline responders lack understanding of survivor-centered approaches

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen Training and Professional Competency

- Implement mandatory, ongoing domestic violence–specific and trauma-informed training for:
 - Law enforcement and judicial staff
 - Child welfare professionals
 - Healthcare and mental health providers
 - Domestic violence agency staff
- Enhance competency in recognizing all forms of abuse, including emotional, financial, and coercive control.

2. Improve Cross-System Coordination and Collaboration

- Establish formal coordination protocols between:
 - Law enforcement, courts, and DV service providers
 - Hospitals, mental health providers, and advocacy agencies
- Improve information sharing and case coordination to reduce fragmentation and survivor re-traumatization.
- Streamline referral pathways so that survivors can access services without repeated disclosures.

3. Expand Access to Legal Support and Protection

- Increase availability of legal counsel for survivors, particularly for:
 - Protection orders
 - Custody and divorce proceedings
- Provide clear, accessible guidance on legal rights and processes.
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms within the criminal justice system to ensure consistent enforcement.

4. Increase Access to Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services

- Address gaps in rural mental health care through:
 - Telehealth and virtual counseling options
 - Partnerships with regional providers
- Integrate mental health and substance misuse services within domestic violence programs.
- Expand counseling access for victim-survivors and their children.

5. Address Housing Stability and Long-Term Recovery

- Develop survivor-centered housing solutions that include:
 - Long-term and transitional housing options
 - Credit repair and eviction recovery support
- Align housing programs with legal and financial advocacy to support long-term stability.

6. Build Community Capacity and Inclusive Services

- Increase service capacity to reduce waitlists and delays.
- Enhance outreach and education on DV resources and how to access help.
- Develop targeted programs for underserved populations, including male survivors.
- Continue community education on the full spectrum of domestic violence.