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Domestic Violence Counts, Iowa Participates in National Census of Domestic Violence Services: Data Shows Lack of Funding Impacts Victims

Des Moines – March 24, 2011 – The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is releasing its statewide census data collected as part of a nationwide census conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. On September 15, 2010, 100% of Iowa’s domestic violence programs participated in the 2010 national Census of Domestic Violence Services. The census is a one-day, unduplicated count of adults and children seeking domestic violence services, the types of services requested, the number of service requests that went unmet due to lack of resources, and the issues and barriers faced by domestic violence programs as they try to serve their clients. In one day, **1002 victims of domestic violence** and their children were served across the state. Domestic Violence service providers **answered 382 emergency hotline calls**, that’s 16 hotline calls every hour.

“Victims of domestic violence and their children often bear the brunt of the economic downturn, and we’re seeing this in the increase in the number of

requests for services; and more significantly, we are seeing this in the number of *unmet* requests for services due to decreases in financial resources to meet the needs of victims,” Laurie Schipper, ICADV’s Executive Director. On the day the census data was collected there were **120 unmet requests for services**, nearly **70% of those requests were for emergency shelter**. As communities continue to experience job loss and decreased community resources, Iowa’s domestic violence programs are reporting a rise in demand for services – **96% of programs reported an increase in demand for services from victims**, while **85% of programs reported a decrease in funding**. "At a time when demand for services has increased, domestic violence programs are struggling to keep their doors open. If lawmakers choose to further cut funding this session, programs will no longer be able to provide the life saving services desperately needed by victims and their children,” Amber Markham, ICADV’s Director of Public Policy.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to engage all people in a movement to change the social and political systems that perpetuate violence against women. We do this through education, advocacy, and quality victim services. Please contact ICADV at 515.244.8028.

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