

2022 YWCA USA Program Inventory and Impact Summary Impact Area - Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking (DVSAT)

About

YWCA USA is a strong network nationwide of 196 local associations. Local associations are asked yearly to provide program-level data for collective impact evaluations. In 2022, 135 (68.9%) local associations reported on their programs and impact. Impact data provided throughout recognizes those who submitted and is not the collective 196.

Summary

Domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSAT) and human trafficking incidents are rising, requiring everyone to pay attention. In 2022, the United States experienced more than ¹twelve million adult instances of DVSA, with one out of every three sufferers being women. ²Nearly 50% of the attacked knew who raped or assaulted them. ³According to the Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT) annual report published in January 2022, investigations increased from 947 in FY 2020 to 1,111 in FY 2021, and arrests increased from 1,746 in FY 2020 to 2,360 in FY 2021 – an increase of 17.3% and 35.2% respectively. With 155 programs, Local Associations are poised to help all violence survivors, whether it is intimate partner violence (i.e., domestic violence), sexual assault, or human trafficking. This DVSAT Impact Area Summary sheds light on local associations' DVSAT services and highlights trends that can enrich DVSAT programming.

73 Local
Association(s)

155 Program(s)

256,744 total
people served.

35.93% of
people served
are People of
Color.

60.93% of
people served
are Women and
Girls.

¹ "Domestic Violence Statistics." The Hotline, July 4, 2023. <http://tiny.cc/vfl9vz>.

² "NCADV: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence." The Nation's Leading Grassroots Voice on Domestic Violence. Accessed July 31, 2023. <http://tiny.cc/wfl9vz>.

³ "Countering Human Trafficking Year in Review." Countering Human Trafficking Year in Review | Homeland Security. Accessed August 7, 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/296zbs8d>.

The public is aware of DVSA's existence but may be limited in understanding or accepting the diverse types of DVSA instances that occur. ⁴The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) defines domestic violence as "willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, economic, and emotional/psychological abuse." A narrow perception can lead to decreased access to services and re-traumatization, which is defined as reliving the stress experienced because of a traumatic event when faced with a new, similar incident.

Associations reported receiving over \$114M in funding to support their domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking initiatives. Of that, 37% came from Federal support, 36% from corporate gifts, and 6% from the State. According to ⁵NCADV, the economic toll exacted by DVSA on our social service systems, workplaces, and law enforcement is in the billions, ⁶with the federal government spending an estimated \$55 billion alone. YWCA is grateful to donors who prioritize their philanthropy by supporting DVSA and Trafficking prevention and protection, and with the rise of incidents, hope supporters are open to increasing their aid.

Threats to Operations: Fifty-nine (80.1%) of the 73 local associations identified threats to their operations - the top three being:

- **Funding:** Fifty-six (76.7%) named funding as a source of frustration. Associations are bracing themselves for reduced VOCA funding by 20-50%, scheduled for 2025. Already reduced funding limits the amount of staff training associations offers and prevents outstanding programs from scaling for greater impact.
- **Staffing:** Twenty-three associations (31.5%) complain of staffing shortages due to the inability to maintain quality workers caused by 'the great resignation,' burnout, or not paying a livable wage due to funding shortfalls.
- **Emergency Housing:** Fourteen (19.2%) associations find affordable housing challenging, requiring clients to extend their stay at shelters that stretch already compressed resources.

⁴ "NCADV: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence." The Nation's Leading Grassroots Voice on Domestic Violence. Accessed July 31, 2023. <http://tiny.cc/wfl9vz>.

⁵ "NCADV: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence." The Nation's Leading Grassroots Voice on Domestic Violence. Accessed July 31, 2023. <http://tiny.cc/wfl9vz>.

⁶ "Exposure to Domestic Violence Costs US Government \$55 Billion Each Year." ScienceDaily, April 25, 2018. <http://tiny.cc/yfl9vz>

It is important to acknowledge that meeting the needs of DV/SAT survivors takes a great deal of sensitivity to avoid re-traumatization. Four local associations (5.5%) identified legislation as potentially re-traumatizing.⁷ For example, New York City's bail reform led to 22% of DV offenders being released, ignoring the danger offenders' release presents to sufferers. Additionally, individuals seeking services through some of our associations are no longer required to apply for public assistance to support their stay at YWCA facilities. These forces impacted local associations to make tough decisions when accepting new clients.

Opportunities Identified: Forty-eight (65.7%) associations identified ways to improve their services - the top two being:

- **Partnerships:** Eighteen (24.7%) believe forming relevant partnerships will help them expand affordable housing, add new programs and events, and enhance current programming.
- **Expanded Reach:** Fifteen (20.5%) associations have expanded their reach by offering services to new communities, increasing space to add capacity, revamping the program to service more clients, and updating their technology.

In 2022 the YWCA network served 62.6% more clients than in 2021 (160,624). There was also a shift in demographics. In 2021, 79.9% of clients were people of color, and 70.8% were women and girls, compared to 35.9% and 60.9%, respectively, in 2022. Further analysis reveals increased services provided to people 17 years old or younger (24.7%/2021 and 47.2%/2022).⁸ Nationally, 1 in 10 high school students experienced physical violence by a partner in the past year. 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men who experienced rape, physical violence, and stalking by an intimate partner first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age. YWCA operates eight prevention programs (listed below) to address teen issues specifically related to DV/SAT.

- Resolve Family Abuse
- Sexual Assault Services
- Violence Training and Prevention
- Youth Services
- Community Education
- Community Base DV & Rape Crisis Education, Outreach, and Prevention
- Insights Community Education and Prevention
- Nurse Examiner Program

⁷ Bail Reform and domestic violence - innovatingjustice.org. Accessed August 3, 2023. Bail Reform and Domestic Violence.

⁸ "Domestic Violence Statistics." The Hotline, July 4, 2023. <http://tiny.cc/vfl9vz>.

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**eliminating racism
empowering women**
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The services administered by the YWCA network are crucial to addressing challenges, maximizing opportunities, and revealing trends related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and trafficking. Reducing funding, quality staffing, and emergency housing threaten these provisions. While some local associations were able to find opportunities by forming partnerships and expanding services, if one sister association is suffering, all associations suffer. A successful resolution will be realized by working together, and our ability to push federal and state legislation for more funding and legislation that prevents DVSA and offers survivors effective corrective aid will be strengthened.