

Principles of Unity

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence is comprised of people dealing with the concerns of battered women and their families. We represent both rural and urban areas. Our programs support and involve battered women of all racial, social, religious, and economic groups, ages and lifestyles. We oppose the use of violence as a means of control over others and support equality in relationships and the concept of helping women assume power over their own lives. We strive toward becoming independent, community based groups in which women make major policy and program decisions.



Vision Statement

The future is simple:

Every woman will be safe in her own home.

No woman will fear the one she loves.

Women and their children will be treated with dignity and respect

Communities will support healthy relationships and healthy sexuality.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1985.



Mission Statement

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.*

*It is the policy of the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide equal opportunity to all persons, to prohibit discrimination because of age, sexual orientation, color, disability, political affiliation, marital status, place of residence, race, national origin, religion, sex or status with policies, programs, practices, and operations. This policy shall apply to the use of all facilities and to participation in all Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence sponsored programs, services, and activities.

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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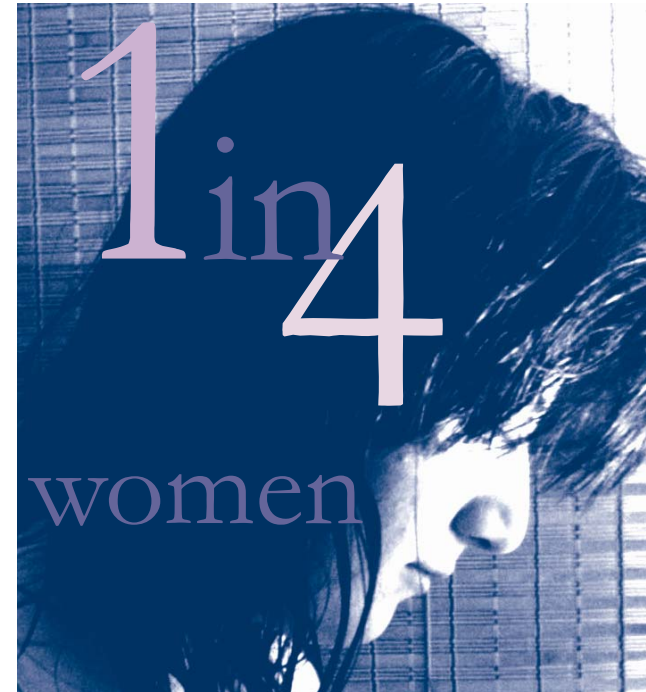
www.icadv.org

24-hour statewide hotline
1-800-942-0333

◇ Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000).



In the
United States,
at least



Will experience
domestic violence
in her lifetime. ◇

ICADV is working for the day when...


**One in Four
will be**

None in Four!

ICADV's Programs:

Public Policy ICADV works with the United States Congress and the Iowa legislature to craft public policy and create laws that will be beneficial to victims of domestic violence. By working with these bodies, we can affect change on a societal level, and improve life in our state for all victims, and for future generations.

M.U.N.A. Legal Clinic The MUNA Legal Clinic was created in 1997 to address the specific needs of immigrant victims of domestic violence. MUNA serves immigrant survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault by representing them, free of charge, in a variety of family law and immigration legal issues.

 ICADV manages an AmeriCorps program providing full-time volunteers to member agencies across the state. AmeriCorps members receive a small living allowance, healthcare, and an education award in exchange for their service. These energetic volunteers provide critical services to victims across the state.

H.E.A.T. Force ICADV's Housing and Economic Advocacy Taskforce (HEAT Force) focuses on economic justice for survivors of domestic abuse. Economic resources and opportunities are key components to building safety for individual survivors and an essential part in critical analysis of current social systems.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is domestic violence/domestic abuse?

Domestic violence is not an isolated, individual event, but rather a pattern of repeated behaviors. Unlike stranger-to-stranger violence, in domestic violence the perpetrator repeatedly assaults the same victim. The perpetrator can assault the victim verbally, emotionally, economically, physically or sexually. While physical assaults may occur infrequently, other parts of the pattern may occur daily. The different tactics interact with each other and have profound negative effects on the victims.

Prevention Most domestic violence work focuses on helping victims after they have been abused. That work is important, but ICADV also wants to stop domestic violence before it starts, and prevent lowans from becoming abusers and victims. To make that happen, we have to change the social codes and customs that allow violence to continue. That is the ultimate goal of the project.



The Skylark Project
"You can loosen the drum, unstring the lyre,
but who can stop the skylark from singing?"
-Khalil Gibran

The Skylark Project assists incarcerated survivors of domestic violence and seeks to educate the public regarding the often misunderstood motives and actions of domestic violence survivors who commit crimes. We offer direct services to incarcerated women including commutation assistance and classes that teach women to cope with trauma and abuse.

Training Opportunities

ICADV provides training and technical assistance to public and private agencies that impact battered women. Good training is often the most effective tool to create better system responses to survivors. ICADV trains advocates and other community professionals on various topics via workshops and webinars. Visit www.icadv.org to learn more.

Aren't victims of domestic violence poor, uneducated, or members of certain ethnic, religious, or personality groups?

Victims of domestic violence come from all walks of life. They are not any specific age, race, or personality type. Early studies on domestic violence focused on characteristics of the victim that would provide an explanation for the violence. No such explanation was found. Domestic violence is the result of the abuser's behaviors rather than personal characteristics of the victim.

Why don't victims of domestic violence just leave?

Many victims do leave, but that's not always an option. The primary reason given by victims for staying with their abusers is fear of violence and the lack of real options to be safe with their children. This fear of violence is realistic. Research shows that domestic violence tends to escalate when victims leave or attempt to leave their relationship. Most perpetrators do not let victims simply leave relationships.

Aren't batterers "out of control?"

Perpetrators follow their own internal rules and regulations about their abusive behaviors. For instance, some will strike the victim in public while others will hit only in private; some will break only the victim's possessions and not their own; and others will not engage in any property destruction. The patterns vary from abuser to abuser. Perpetrators are making choices about what they will or will not do to the victim, even when they are claiming that they "lost it" or were "out of control." Such decision-making indicates they are actually in control of their abusive behaviors.

Visit us on the web at:

www.icadv.org/faq.asp
for more information.