

Official Statement

Date: June 21, 2024



NCDVTMH Official Statement on Recent Texas Shelter Incident

Supporting Survivors, Challenging Harmful Narratives

The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health (NCDVTMH) is deeply saddened to learn of the recent tragic act of violence that occurred at a domestic violence shelter in Galveston, Texas. Our hearts go out to those who were directly impacted, as well as to the entire shelter community, as they cope with this traumatic event.

We commend the shelter and its staff for their swift response to this crisis, a testament to their training, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to survivor safety. Domestic violence programs and advocates work tirelessly every day to protect and support survivors, often while facing significant risks themselves.

While details of this event are still emerging, NCDVTMH firmly rejects generalizations that associate mental health and/or substance use conditions with violent behavior. Research clearly shows that people who experience mental health or substance use conditions are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators. Jumping to conclusions or reinforcing negative stereotypes about these conditions only compounds the stigma and barriers to support that many survivors already face.

What we do know is that domestic violence occurs in every community and can impact anyone, regardless of mental health or substance use status. In times of tragedy, it's critical that we come together to support one another with compassion, not engage in harmful speculation. NCDVTMH remains committed to our mission of attaining social justice for all survivors and providing research, training, and assistance to help domestic violence programs better serve those impacted by trauma and mental health/substance use.

Our deepest condolences are with the Texas shelter community today. We stand with you in mourning, healing, and continued advocacy for all survivors.