

'09

Domestic Violence Counts

National Summary

On September 15, 2009, 1,648 out of 1,980, or 83%, of identified local domestic violence programs in the United States and territories participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 1,648 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

65,321 Victims Served in One Day

32,524 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

32,797 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.

This chart shows the percentage of programs that provided the following services on the Census Day.

Services Provided by Local Programs:	Sept. 15
Individual Support or Advocacy	90%
Emergency Shelter	74%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	57%
Transportation	52%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	21%
Medical Services/Accompaniment	18%
Advocacy/Support for Teen Victims of Dating Violence	16%

23,045 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered approximately 960 hotline calls every hour.

30,735 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 30,735 individuals in communities across the United States and territories attended 1,468 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

9,280 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 5,537 (60%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Insufficient staffing, 30% of programs reported, was one reason they could not meet domestic violence victims’ request for services. Seventy-two percent of programs have less than 20 paid staff, and 38% of those programs have less than 10 paid staff. In 2009, programs reported letting go or not replacing 1,989 positions because of lack of funding.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 40% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 24% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 23% reported not enough specialized services.
- 11% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“The victims who come to us aren’t asking for much. They need safety. They need support. They need to know they can keep their children safe from violence in their homes.”

—California Advocate

