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Domestic Violence Counts Illinois Summary

On September 10, 2014, 56 out of 56 (100%) identified local domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 56 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,628 Victims Served in One Day

1,227 domestic violence victims (626 children and 601 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,401 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including 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. 10
Transportation	59%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	45%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	41%
Bilingual Advocacy	36%
Advocacy Related to Health Care or Healthcare Systems	30%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	23%
Rural Outreach	18%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	14%

1,003 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, local and state hotlines answered 1,003 calls, averaging more than 41 hotline calls every hour.

858 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 858 individuals in communities across Illinois attended 55 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

506 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 54% (273) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 500 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and non-residential services, which could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently-needed service that couldn’t be provided was housing, followed by legal representation and counseling.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 30% reported reduced government funding.
- 16% reported not enough staff.
- 14% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 14% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Illinois, 37 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (79%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Forty-eight individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“A woman obtained an emergency order of protection (EOP), was provided transportation to assist her in gathering food for her and her children, and was given a donated cell phone to use for 911 purposes. She said that obtaining the EOP saved her and her children’s lives because she would not have been able to keep the abuser away if she did not have the legal means to remove him from the home.”

— Advocate

