

# '15

## Domestic Violence Counts Alaska Summary

On September 16, 2015, 17 out of 18 (94%) identified domestic violence programs in Alaska participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 17 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 537 Victims Served in One Day

335 domestic violence victims (136 children and 199 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

202 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	94%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	82%
Emergency Shelter	76%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	47%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	47%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	41%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	35%
Support/Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	35%

### 76 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 more than 3 hotline calls every hour.

### 66 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 66 individuals in communities across Alaska attended 7 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 13 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 46% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Attorney/Legal Representation and Counseling/Substance Abuse/Mental Health services were most in demand.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Alaska, 20 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 35% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 6% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Alaska, 14 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (64%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Since the beginning, you were there for me and my son. I won’t ever forget your support, your understanding, your validation and your friendship. I wish there were more women like you all in the world. I don’t know if I could have kept my sanity, were it not for you all on my ‘team.’ And it was you all that went out of your way to make sure I had legal representation. Without it, I don’t know if I’d be doing okay at all. I just wanted to thank all of you for helping and supporting me and my girls in our fresh start at a new life. We appreciate what you do more than we can put into words. You women do life-altering work and affect our lives so positively that we are immensely grateful to you! Thank you so much for being there for us!”

— Survivor

