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Domestic Violence Counts National Summary

On September 16, 2015, 1,752 out of 1,894 (93%) identified domestic violence programs in the United States participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 1,752 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

71,828 Victims Served in One Day

40,302 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

31,526 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	97%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	84%
Emergency Shelter	77%
Transportation	52%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	51%
Group Support or Advocacy	49%

21,332 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 hotline staff answered 20,379 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline staff answered 953 calls, averaging more than 14 hotline calls every minute.

27,708 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 27,708 individuals in communities across the United States and Territories attended 1,398 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

12,197 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 63% (7,728) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 12,000 requests for services—including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more—that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that the service requests they could not meet were housing advocacy, legal representation, and financial assistance.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 24% reported reduced government funding.
- 14% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 12% reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across the United States, 1,235 staff positions were eliminated in the past year. Most of these positions (79%) were direct service providers, such as shelter staff or legal advocates. This means that there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help or provide needed services.

“A woman called requesting emergency shelter for herself and her newborn baby. Her husband had been severely abusive since she gave birth. We helped her flee when he was not home, and provided her with formula, diapers, and baby clothes, all of which she had left behind. She said she felt safe and like she had her independence back.”

—Arizona Advocate

