

# '15

## Domestic Violence Counts Kansas Summary

On September 16, 2015, 26 out of 26 (100%) identified local domestic violence programs in Kansas participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 26 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 673 Victims Served in One Day

373 domestic violence victims (188 children and 185 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

300 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	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	88%
Emergency Shelter	88%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	62%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	62%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	46%
Rural Outreach	46%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	42%

### 264 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 11 calls every hour.

### 701 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 701 individuals in communities across Kansas attended 39 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 101 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 60% 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, Rental Assistance/Utilities and Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Kansas, 33 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 23% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 19% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 15% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 8% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Kansas, 20 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (74%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"A client escaped from her horribly abusive boyfriend and worked closely with advocate staff to ensure her safety. On the day of the Census, her advocate attended trial with her where she built up enough courage to testify against her abuser! After she finished testifying, in tears, she looked at her advocate and said, 'I couldn't have ever done any of this without you! You saved my life and gave me courage to move forward!'"

— Advocate

