

'15

Domestic Violence Counts Louisiana Summary

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

714 Victims Served in One Day

449 domestic violence victims (269 children and 180 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

265 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
Emergency Shelter	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	100%
Rural Outreach	75%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	50%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	50%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	50%
Support/Advocacy to Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	31%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	19%

285 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 11 hotline calls every hour.

200 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 200 individuals in communities across Louisiana attended 13 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

126 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 48% 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 Louisiana, 16 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 25% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 19% of programs reported fewer individual donors.
- 6% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Louisiana, 13 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (67%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"A survivor with 7 children needed safe shelter and relocation assistance. She had planned to flee her abuser while he was away at work. The shelter was at capacity and the crisis line worker contacted every shelter in Louisiana but no one was able to accommodate. We were able to connect her to family in Texas and refer her to another agency to assist with relocation funds."

— Advocate