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Domestic Violence Counts Minnesota Summary

On September 16, 2015, 52 out of 61 (85%) identified domestic violence programs in Minnesota participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 52 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,369 Victims Served in One Day

960 domestic violence victims (554 children and 406 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,409 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	96%
Emergency Shelter	58%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	50%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	46%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	44%
Transportation	44%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	38%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	37%

745 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 31 hotline calls every hour.

674 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 674 individuals in communities across Minnesota attended 34 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

810 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 47% 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 Minnesota, 89 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 25% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 21% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 13% of programs reported fewer individual donors.
- 12% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Minnesota, 41 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (79%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“A client called for housing and was unable to come to our shelter because we were full. Another client called for shelter and chose not to come because of lack of transportation. We receive many crisis calls each day. Most of these calls are from women in our state who are in need of safe housing/shelter. Because of the demand and high occupancy rates of shelter programs, we are forced to turn these women away and point them in the direction of other resources because we cannot meet their needs at the time. On the Census Day, we received 5 calls for shelter, a need we could not meet because we didn’t have any bed space available.”

— Advocate

