

'15

Domestic Violence Counts Pennsylvania Summary

On September 16, 2015, 60 out of 60 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 60 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,600 Victims Served in One Day

1,332 domestic violence victims (697 children and 635 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,268 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	98%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	82%
Emergency Shelter	80%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	72%
Transportation	40%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	28%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	25%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	22%

748 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.

2,475 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 2,475 individuals in communities across Pennsylvania attended 74 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

444 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 84% 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 Attorney/Legal Representation services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Pennsylvania, 23 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 15% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 15% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 5% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 3% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Pennsylvania, 35 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (77%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“For some time we had been providing safety planning, legal coordination and support for a woman and her four children who have been in an abusive relationship for almost 10 years. Advocates were able to provide her with assistance locating adequate permanent housing, financial assistance to cover the necessary security deposit, furniture and household items. They were also able to obtain on-going counseling services for her and her children. As it happened, she came to our facility on Census Day to pick up her rental assistance check for her security deposit on her ‘safe haven,’ as she called it. As she walked around to all the staff that assisted her to make this life-changing event, she cried and said ‘Thank you for saving our lives.’”

— Advocate

