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Domestic Violence Counts Texas Summary

On September 16, 2015, 85 out of 85 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Texas participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 85 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

5,807 Victims Served in One Day

3,801 domestic violence victims (2,147 children and 1,654 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

2,006 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	86%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	56%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	34%
Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	32%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	19%

1,898 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 79 hotline calls every hour.

2,633 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 2,633 individuals in communities across Texas attended 83 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

1,539 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 Attorney/Legal Representation services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Texas, 59 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 13% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 9% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 8% of programs reported fewer individual donations.
- 5% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Texas, 46 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (80%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates available to assist clients seeking safety and self-sufficiency.

“A woman needed shelter because her spouse physically assaulted her, leaving her with numerous injuries. She fled the scene, but still felt unsafe. We provided her with transportation, immediate emergency shelter, and accompanied her to the local hospital, where she received treatment for her injuries. The woman stated that she now felt safe and was thankful for our assistance and support.”

— Advocate