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Domestic Violence Counts Washington Summary

On September 16, 2015, 59 out of 67 (88%) identified domestic violence programs in Washington participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 59 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,375 Victims Served in One Day

1,391 domestic violence victims (793 children and 598 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

984 adults and children received advocacy and services other than shelter, including help finding or retaining permanent housing, individual support and 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	95%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	75%
Emergency Shelter	68%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	44%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	42%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	39%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	31%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	17%

660 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 27 hotline calls every hour.

323 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 323 individuals in communities across Washington attended 21 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

814 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 86% 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, Attorney/Legal Representation and Rental Assistance/Utilities services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Washington, 54 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 🏠 22% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 🏠 14% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 🏠 10% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 🏠 5% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Washington, 33 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (82%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“A woman with a 2-month old baby called looking for shelter. She had fled her abuser with nothing but her purse and her baby and had nowhere to go. She was new to the area and her cell phone was about to die. We did not have emergency shelter space for her and she didn’t have a way to make a bunch of phone calls to find a place. This kind of request happens often and we do our best to come up with money for a hotel night, but we don’t have a budget for this. We often have to point people to a general homeless shelter where they can only stay from one night to the next. It’s heartbreaking.”

— Advocate

