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Domestic Violence Counts West Virginia Summary

On September 16, 2015, 14 out of 14 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in West Virginia participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 14 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

350 Victims Served in One Day

162 domestic violence victims (81 children and 81 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

188 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	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	93%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	93%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	50%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	50%
Rural Outreach	50%
Transportation	29%

102 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 4 hotline calls every hour.

30 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 30 individuals in communities across West Virginia attended 2 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

16 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 56% 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, Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance and Rental Assistance/Utilities services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across West Virginia, 20 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 21% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 21% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 14% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 7% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across West Virginia, 9 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 victim sat in the courtroom to request protection from her abusive partner and repeatedly said, 'I don't know if I can do this. I don't know if I can face him.' The domestic violence advocate sat with her through the proceedings and the victim was granted a protection order. After the hearing she hugged the advocate and said, 'I can't thank you enough, I could have never gone in there alone. You helped me so much.'"

— Advocate

