



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

## District of Columbia

### Summary

On September 14, 2016, 11 out of 12 (**92%**) identified domestic violence programs in the District of Columbia participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 11 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

#### 728 Victims Served in One Day

**439** domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

**289** adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

Services Provided by Local Programs	Sept. 14th
Individual Support or Advocacy	<b>91%</b>
Emergency Shelter	<b>82%</b>
Children's Support or Advocacy	<b>55%</b>
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing	<b>36%</b>
Legal Representation by an Attorney	<b>36%</b>
Transportation	<b>27%</b>

#### 68 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, local and state hotline staff answered **68** calls, averaging **3** hotline calls every hour.

#### 47 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, **47** individuals in communities across the District of Columbia attended **3** training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

#### 73 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 32% (23) were for Housing

When there are not enough resources, survivors' requests for a safe place to live, legal representation, counseling, and other supportive services go tragically unmet—countless times in a single day.

Victims made **73** requests for services—including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more—that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services.

Across the District of Columbia, **16** staff positions were eliminated in the past year. Half (**50%**) of these positions were for direct services such as shelter staff or legal advocates. This means there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help or provide needed services.

❖ An advocate said, "We helped a survivor obtain a protection order and provided her with support when she testified against her abuser. We then met with her to provide her with legal advice for her child custody hearing, scheduled for the next day. She felt particularly good about her prospects, since her abuser's conviction triggered a presumption that joint custody is not in her child's best interest."