



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

South Dakota

Summary

On September 14, 2016, 20 out of 33 (**61%**) identified domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 20 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

380 Victims Served in One Day

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

118 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	95%
Emergency Shelter	90%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	85%
Rural Outreach	30%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing	25%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	15%
Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	10%

88 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 **88** calls, averaging **4** hotline calls every hour.

79 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, **79** individuals in communities across South Dakota attended **8** training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

34 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 65% (22) 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 **34** requests for services—including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal advocacy, and more—that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services.

Across South Dakota, **10** staff positions were eliminated in the past year. All (**100%**) 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, “A survivor came to shelter with the support of law enforcement. Her abuser physically assaulted her, took her children, and would not let her see them. With help from an advocate, she filed for a protection order and was granted an emergency hearing. The abuser was found guilty and the survivor was given custody of her children. They were able to relocate to be near family and friends.”