

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Alaska Summary

On September 15, 2009, 17 out of 17, or 100%, of identified programs that serve victims of domestic violence in Alaska participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

515 Victims Served in One Day

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

234 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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 15
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	53%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	53%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	35%
Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	41%
Rural Outreach	18%
Children's Support or Advocacy	65%
Individual Support or Advocacy	88%

76 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 approximately 3 hotline calls every hour.

125 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 125 individuals in communities across Alaska attended training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

19 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 13 (68%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. Fifty-nine percent of programs have less than 20 paid staff, and 24% of those programs have less than 10 paid staff. In 2009, programs reported a decrease of 9 positions due to lack of funding.

"Our shelter has been at or over capacity for almost a year now, and the number of requests for shelter just continues to rise."

"A sex offender tried to contact a victim at our program and at other agencies in town. We were able to keep the victim safe and maintain confidentiality."