

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Iowa Summary

On September 15, 2009, 26 out of 27, or 96%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 26 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

924 Victims Served in One Day

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

468 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
Individual Support or Advocacy	85%
Children's Support or Advocacy	65%
Emergency Shelter	62%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	54%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	54%
Rural Outreach	42%
Group Support or Advocacy	35%
Transportation	35%

389 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 16 hotline calls every hour.

1,084 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,084 individuals in communities across Iowa attended 36 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

102 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, 76 (75%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 🏠 54% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 38% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 35% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 23% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 12% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"Today, we helped a young woman who had been strangled by her husband. She came to our shelter, and we went with her to the police. Without us, she would have been alone."

"We serve a large rural area. Today, we travelled over 40 miles to help a victim of domestic violence file for a protection order so she could be safe from her abuser."