

'09 Domestic Violence Counts South Dakota Summary

On September 15, 2009, 20 out of 43, or 47%, of identified local domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 20 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

361 Victims Served in One Day

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

142 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	90%
Emergency Shelter	75%
Children's Support or Advocacy	65%
Transportation	60%
Rural Outreach	40%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefit/TANF/Welfare	45%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	45%
Transitional Housing	35%

162 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 7 hotline calls every hour.

575 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 575 individuals in communities across South Dakota attended 14 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

90 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, 50 (56%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

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

- 60% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 45% reported not enough staff.
- 35% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 35% reported not enough specialized services.
- 10% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"The services we provide are so critical, and we continue to provide them even with reduced funding. It weighs heavily on us each time we have to tell a victim that there is no help available."

"We used to be able to provide transportation, food, and rental and utility assistance to the victims we served. Because of funding cuts, our staff and volunteers provide transportation to residents at their own personal cost, and we're unable to assist survivors with items such as food, gas, diapers, or personal care items."