

# '09 Domestic Violence Counts West Virginia Summary

On September 15, 2009, 14 out of 14, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in West Virginia participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 527 Victims Served in One Day

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

348 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	79%
Group Support or Advocacy	21%
Children's Support or Advocacy	57%
Legal Accompaniment/Services	43%
Rural Outreach	50%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	21%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	21%
Transitional Housing	21%

## 176 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.

## 132 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 132 individuals in communities across West Virginia attended 12 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 10 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, 6 (60%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

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

- 🏠 36% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 21% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 21% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 14% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"Victims are losing custody of their children because they don't have the funds for an attorney, and legal aid attorneys are overloaded."

"We held a vigil in memory of a victim who died when her abuser set her on fire after she filed for a protection order. It was her birthday."

