

# '12

## Domestic Violence Counts Iowa Summary

On September 12, 2012, 28 out of 28, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

### 737 Victims Served in One Day

447 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. In addition to a safe place to lay their heads at night, shelter residents were provided with a variety of comprehensive services, some of which are listed in the chart below.

290 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including 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. 12
Individual Support or Advocacy	93%
Children's Support or Advocacy	79%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	71%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	54%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	43%
Bilingual Advocacy (by bilingual advocate)	43%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	18%
Job Training/Employment Assistant	14%

### 460 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

### 378 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 378 individuals in communities across Iowa attended 20 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 175 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 150 request for services, including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to offer these services.

### 87% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 152 requests unmet.

Of the unmet requests, the following services were the most requested:

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Transitional Housing
3. Attorney/Legal Representation
4. Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 39% reported not enough staff.
- 39% reported no beds and no money for hotel stays.
- 25% reported limited funding for needed programs and services.
- 21% reported not enough specialized services (e.g., drug and alcohol counselor).

"We helped a woman file for her divorce pro se by helping her organize and label her evidence and documentation. She felt so empowered when the court clerk told her she had never seen anyone so well-prepared. This was especially wonderful because she didn't think she could make it on her own without her abuser."

