

# '12

## Domestic Violence Counts South Dakota Summary

On September 12, 2012, 15 out of 40, or 38%, of identified local domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 15 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 409 Victims Served in One Day

195 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.

214 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	100%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	80%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	73%
Transportation	60%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	40%
Rural Outreach	33%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	27%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	27%

### 83 Hotline Calls Answered

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

### 212 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 212 individuals in communities across the South Dakota attended 6 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 15 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made 15 requests 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 13 requests unmet.

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

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

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 20% reported not enough staff.
- 20% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 7% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 7% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“The legal system can be intimidating and confusing for victims. In addition to not having enough attorneys to represent survivors, judges often don’t understand the dynamics of domestic violence. Many victims end up not following through with charges.”

