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Domestic Violence Counts Illinois Summary

On September 17, 2013, 55 out of 55 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Illinois participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,374 Victims Served in One Day

2,374 domestic violence victims (507 children and 493 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,374 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. 17
Transportation	44%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	44%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	33%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	29%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	38%
Bilingual Advocacy	44%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	24%
Rural Outreach	35%

828 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, local and state hotlines answered 828 calls, averaging more than 35 hotline calls every minute.

1,134 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,134 individuals in communities across Illinois attended 71 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

408 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 39% (160) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 400 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential service that couldn't be provided was housing advocacy, followed by financial assistance, and legal representation.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available; however 47% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 16% report that victims become homeless, and 11% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 24% reported reduced government funding.
- 20% reported not enough staff.
- 15% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 11% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Illinois 40 (3%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"We cut our walk-in counseling support staff several years ago because of funding cuts, and we have never been able to rebound from this. We aren't able to meet the increasing demand for help."

— Advocate

