

# '13

## Domestic Violence Counts Oklahoma Summary

On September 17, 2013, 26 out of 34 (76%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Oklahoma participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 26 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 879 Victims Served in One Day

516 domestic violence victims (226 children and 290 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

363 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
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	96%
Children's Support or Advocacy	96%
Transportation	69%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	46%
Transitional Housing	31%
Bilingual Advocacy	23%
Media/Press Response or Outreach	8%

### 193 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 more than 8 hotline calls every hour.

### 137 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 137 individuals in communities across Oklahoma attended 30 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 45 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 62% (28) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 40 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 were housing advocacy and financial assistance, followed by legal representation and transportation.

### 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 69% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 12% report that victims become homeless, and 4% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 15% reported reduced government funding.
- 15% reported not enough available staff.
- 8% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Oklahoma 15 (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.

Lack of legal resources is one of the biggest hurdles survivors have in our communities. Not having representation often creates many more obstacles to safety and stability.

— Advocate

