

# '15

## Domestic Violence Counts District of Columbia Summary

On September 16, 2015, 12 out of 12 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in the District of Columbia participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 12 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 511 Victims Served in One Day

302 domestic violence victims (181 children and 121 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

209 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	92%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing /Landlord	50%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	42%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	42%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	42%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	25%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	25%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	8%

### 121 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 5 hotline calls every hour.

### 83 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 83 individuals in communities across the District of Columbia attended 5 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 43 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 35% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Attorney/Legal Representation, Rental Assistance/Utilities, and Counseling/Substance Abuse/Mental Health services were most in demand.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across the District of Columbia, 5 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 25% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 8% of programs reported reductions in private funding.

Across the District of Columbia, 7 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and all of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"A woman who had a son with special needs who is also wheelchair bound was in need of transitional housing services as her stay at an emergency domestic violence shelter was coming to an end. Regrettably, our ADA units were all occupied and we could not assist her. There was nowhere else for her to go."

— Advocate