

# '15

## Domestic Violence Counts Delaware Summary

On September 16, 2015, 7 out of 7 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Delaware participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 7 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period

### 203 Victims Served in One Day

129 domestic violence victims (76 children and 53 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

74 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	100%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	71%
Emergency Shelter or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	57%
Transportation	43%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	43%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	43%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	29%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	14%

### 9 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 9 calls for help and support.

### 43 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 43 individuals in communities across Delaware attended 3 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 17 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 88% 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, Rental Assistance/Utilities and Attorney/Legal Representation services were most in demand.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Delaware, 7 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 43% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 14% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 14% of programs reported fewer individual donors.

Across Delaware, 2 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; both of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“The Census Day was a particularly frustrating day for shelter providers. Both of our shelters were full, as is often the case, requiring emergency hotel funds to be used for four families. While these families are placed in safe accommodations, it is difficult to provide the additional supports needed (such as adequate food, laundry, childcare, domestic violence education, support and a sense of community). Until there is access to affordable housing, lengthy shelter stays will continue to be a major obstacle for survivors of domestic violence.”

— Advocate

