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Domestic Violence Counts Illinois Summary

On September 16, 2015, 54 out of 54 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 54 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,216 Victims Served in One Day

1,000 domestic violence victims (542 children and 458 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,216 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
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	44%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	39%
Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	31%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	22%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	20%
Support/Advocacy Related to Technology Use (cyberstalking, etc.)	15%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	9%

724 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 30 hotline calls every hour.

912 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 912 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.

501 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 55% 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 Illinois, 89 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 44% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 24% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 19% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 15% of programs reported fewer individual donors.

Across Illinois, 62 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (85%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Each day we struggle with transportation and lack of housing for our clients. We, as advocates, can do our part to get the victim emotionally ready and motivated to find work and a new residence but we are failing in our lack of ways to get clients to interviews and many struggle to find housing in the time our emergency shelter provides.”

— Advocate

