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Domestic Violence Counts South Dakota Summary

On September 16, 2015, 13 out of 30 (43%) identified domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 13 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

281 Victims Served in One Day

156 domestic violence victims (94 children and 62 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

125 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	77%
Emergency Shelter	77%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	54%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	46%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	46%
Rural Outreach	31%
Support/Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	31%

122 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.

35 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 35 individuals in communities across South Dakota attended 7 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

16 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

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 and Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across South Dakota, 12 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 38% of programs reported fewer individual donations.
- 31% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 23% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 8% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

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

“One of our case managers worked with a survivor in shelter to apply for a job, housing, and completed a Dress for Success referral. She had been with her partner for years and for the first time said she felt ‘free’ because she was able to make choices about where she lived and worked. Her first job interview is tomorrow!”

— Advocate

