



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Iowa Summary

On September 13, 2017, 22 out of 22 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by these 22 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 906 Victims Served in One Day

491 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

415 adult and child victims received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.

Services Provided by Local Programs	On Census Day
Children's Support or Advocacy	82%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	77%
Transportation	73%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	73%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	64%

### 358 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. During the 24-hour survey period, local and state hotline staff in Iowa answered on average 15 hotline calls per hour.

### 260 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On Census Day, 260 individuals in communities across Iowa attended 15 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and more.

### 35 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 51% (18) were for Housing

Victims made nearly 40 requests for services—including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more—that could not be provided because programs lacked the resources to meet victims’ needs.

In the past year, eight local programs in Iowa laid off or did not fill 17 staff positions. Most of these positions (70%) were direct service providers, such as shelter staff or legal advocates. This means that there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help or provide needed services.

❖ “On Census Day, our program helped a victim gain access to birth control for the first time in her life. She doesn’t want more children, but her husband wants her to get pregnant again to maintain control and prevent her from working. Our advocate drove her to a clinic to get a birth control shot. The victim cried and said that this was the first step towards freedom.”

