



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Illinois Summary

On September 13, 2017, 57 out of 57 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by these 57 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,742 Victims Served in One Day

1,366 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,376 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
Support/Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	19%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	16%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	16%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	7%

752 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 Illinois answered on average 31 hotline calls per hour.

1,447 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On Census Day, 1,447 individuals in communities across Illinois attended 63 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and more.

346 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 60% (208) were for Housing

Victims made nearly 350 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, 27 local programs in Illinois laid off or did not fill 90 staff positions. Most of these positions (56%) 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.

❖ “A hotline caller described being slapped and made to feel like a child. She spoke of feeling helpless and weak. The counselor talked with her about the courage required to take a step like calling the hotline. The counselor suggested this was brave and it demonstrated that the caller was not weak. The caller said ‘I will forever be grateful for your support and help.’”

