



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Illinois Summary

On September 13, 2018, 53 out of 55 (96%) identified domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 53 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,679 Victims Served in One Day

1,245 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,434 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.

Services Provided by Local Programs	Sept. 13 th
Court Accompaniment or Legal Advocacy	79%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	77%
Emergency Shelter	55%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	49%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	43%

922 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, local and state hotline staff in Illinois answered on average 38 hotline calls per hour.

1,175 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,175 individuals in communities across Illinois attended 52 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

165 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 59% (97) were for Housing

Victims made 165 requests for services — including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more — that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that could not be provided were housing advocacy, legal representation, and financial assistance.

In the past year, local programs in Illinois were forced to eliminate 19 staff positions. Most of these positions (75%) 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.

❖ An advocate in Illinois said, “A survivor had been staying in her car with her two children. We were unable to find three beds for her in shelter on Census Day. She asked, ‘Why isn’t there the kind of help that my children and I need?’”

