



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Pennsylvania Summary

On September 13, 2018, 59 out of 59 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 59 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,387 Victims Served in One Day

1,341 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,046 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
Emergency Shelter	78%
Court Accompaniment or Legal Advocacy	75%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	69%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	47%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	15%

708 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 Pennsylvania answered on average 30 hotline calls per hour.

1,782 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,782 individuals in communities across Pennsylvania attended 63 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

416 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 56% (234) were for Housing

Victims made 416 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania said, “One survivor had difficulty finding transportation to court in order to file a temporary protection order. We were unable to help her because we only provide bus tickets or gas cards but the survivor didn’t have access to a vehicle and didn’t live on a bus line.”

