

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Pennsylvania Summary

On September 15, 2009, 61 out of 61, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,597 Victims Served in One Day

1,190 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,407 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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 15
Individual Support or Advocacy	95%
Emergency Shelter	77%
Children's Support or Advocacy	56%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	67%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	28%
Advocacy/Support for Teen Victims of Dating Violence	18%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	34%
Medical Services/Accompaniment	23%

950 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 approximately 40 hotline calls every hour.

1,473 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,473 individuals in communities across Pennsylvania attended 75 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

365 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 247 (68%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 49% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 38% reported not enough staff.
- 31% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 25% reported not enough specialized services.
- 16% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A mother and her children finally moved to a new, safe apartment today. They had been waiting 9 months, moving from shelter to shelter before she could attain the finances to move to a place of her own."

"Our shelters are filled and we have no more space. Lack of affordable housing is also making it difficult for our residents to move on. In the previous month, we've had to turn down more women and children for shelter services than in the previous six months."