

'13

Domestic Violence Counts Alaska Summary

On September 17, 2013, 18 out of 19 (95%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Alaska participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 18 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

618 Victims Served in One Day

336 domestic violence victims (156 children and 180 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

282 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including 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. 17
Individual Support or Advocacy	94%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	89%
Emergency Shelter	67%
Transportation	56%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	44%
Transitional Housing	39%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	22%
Childcare/Daycare	28%

97 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 hotlines answered 97 calls, averaging more than 4 hotline calls every hour.

221 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 221 individuals in communities across Alaska attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

51 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 39% (20) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 50 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that couldn’t be provided were housing advocacy, followed by counseling, and legal representation.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren’t available; however 67% of programs believe that victims often return to their abuser and 44% believes that victims become homeless.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 33% reported not enough staff.
- 6% reported reduced government funding.
- 6% reported cuts from private funding sources.

Across Alaska 14 (4%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“On the Survey Day, a family needed to relocate out of Alaska for their safety. However, because of limited government assistance, we couldn’t help with the costs of the tickets; instead we provided some safety strategies for the survivor and her children.”

— Advocate

