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Domestic Violence Counts Iowa Summary

On September 17, 2013, 23 out of 25 (92%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 23 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

694 Victims Served in One Day

471 domestic violence victims (229 children and 242 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

223 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	96%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	74%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	61%
Emergency Shelter	57%
Transportation	57%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	57%
Rural Outreach	57%
Transitional Housing	52%

228 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 228 calls, averaging more than 10 hotline calls every hour.

150 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 150 individuals in communities across Iowa attended 22 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

87 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 86% (75) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 80 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 transportation, and financial assistance

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 43% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 26% report that victims become homeless, and 13% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 17% reported reduced government funding.
- 13% reported not enough staff.
- 4% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 4% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Iowa, 56 (14%) 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.

“We provided a survivor with legal advocacy and support when she had to face her abuser in court. She identified that this was a big step for her, and her confidence and ability to take this important step was due to the support of the advocates.”

— Advocate

