

# '13

## Domestic Violence Counts Indiana Summary

On September 17, 2013, 47 out of 47 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Indiana participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

### 1,708 Victims Served in One Day

1,107 domestic violence victims (559 children and 548 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

601 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	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	85%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	49%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	47%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	40%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	23%
Support/Advocacy to Elder Victims of Abuse	21%
Bilingual Advocacy	21%

### 581 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 581 calls, averaging more than 24 hotline calls every hour.

### 1,817 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,817 individuals in communities across Indiana attended 86 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 128 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 80% (102) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 100 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, legal representation, 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 38% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 15% report that victims become homeless, and 6% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 34% reported reduced government funding.
- 17% reported not enough staff.
- 17% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 11% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Indiana 84 (10%) 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.

"A survivor expressed gratitude to the advocates who supported him in getting a protection order against his ex-partner, saying, 'Thank you for believing in me and being willing to go the extra mile for the people you help. This is the worst thing I've ever had to deal with. Your help and time means the world.'"

— Advocate

