

# '13

## Domestic Violence Counts Wisconsin Summary

On September 17, 2013, 71 out of 73 (97%), local domestic violence programs in Wisconsin participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 71 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 2,072 Victims Served in One Day

924 domestic violence victims (489 children and 435 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,148 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	70%
Emergency Shelter	61%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	59%
Transportation	51%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	42%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	31%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	24%

### 858 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 more than 36 hotline calls every hour.

### 763 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 763 individuals in communities across Wisconsin attended 47 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 247 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 76% (188) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 200 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 service 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 46% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 24% report that victims become homeless, and 15% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 25% reported reduced government funding.
- 18% reported not enough available staff.
- 8% reported private funding cuts.
- 6% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Wisconsin 42 (5%) 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 our waiting list is a mother with two small children. She was physically, emotionally, and sexually abused by her ex, who is now stalking and threatening her. Currently, she is living with a friend, but it's not a permanent solution because her friend might lose the apartment if the landlord finds that there are too many people living there. The individuals and families that seek shelter are often fleeing from severe violence and threats, and need immediate emergency shelter and other services.

— Advocate

