

# '15

## Domestic Violence Counts Arkansas Summary

On September 16, 2015, 22 out of 34 (65%) identified domestic violence programs in Arkansas participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 22 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 358 Victims Served in One Day

242 domestic violence victims (113 children and 129 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

116 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	95%
Emergency Shelter	91%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	41%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	23%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	18%
Support/Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	18%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	9%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	9%

### 112 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 5 hotline calls every hour.

### 329 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 329 individuals in communities across Arkansas attended 11 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 62 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 68% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Counseling/Substance Abuse/Mental Health and Childcare or Children's Services were most in demand.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Arkansas, 14 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 32% of programs reported fewer individual donations.
- 18% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 9% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 9% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Arkansas, 7 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (100%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer

"All of these requests are due to lack of funding. We have several of our clients who are needing housing but either because they have not found a job or have no income, there is little resources for them beyond our emergency shelter. We also have a huge waiting list for state assistance for childcare. We provide immediate childcare but not long term care. This is another unmet need that most all our clients with children need."

— Advocate