

'15

Domestic Violence Counts Iowa Summary

On September 16, 2015, 23 out of 23 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 23 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,274 Victims Served in One Day

888 domestic violence victims (421 children and 467 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

386 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	87%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing /Landlord	70%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	61%
Emergency Shelter	43%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	43%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	35%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	13%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	4%

336 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 14 hotline calls every hour.

289 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 289 individuals in communities across Iowa attended 49 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

105 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 78% 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, Rental Assistance/Utilities and Attorney/Legal Representation services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Iowa, 31 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 17% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 9% of programs reported fewer individual donors.
- 9% of programs reported reductions in private funding.

Across Iowa, 21 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and all of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"We had a mother and child contact us and reported that they needed a place to stay. She had gotten into another argument with her boyfriend, and he threatened to slam her head into the wall. She wanted to leave, but was from a southern county - a very rural area, and had no access to transportation to be able to leave. After figuring out some logistics, we arranged for her to go to her local grocery store that was just down the street while her abuser was at work that afternoon. We were then able to meet her in her community, and pick her and her son up to bring them to shelter."

— Advocate

