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Domestic Violence Counts Wisconsin Summary

On September 16, 2015, 57 out of 72 (79%) identified domestic violence programs in Wisconsin participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 57 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,765 Victims Served in One Day

893 domestic violence victims (489 children and 404 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

872 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	93%
Children's Support or Advocacy	77%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	49%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	40%
Transportation	40%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	35%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	32%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	30%

615 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 25 hotline calls every hour.

793 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 793 individuals in communities across Wisconsin attended 31 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

176 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 74% 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, Attorney/Legal Representation and Rental Assistance/Utilities services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Wisconsin, 69 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 18% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 11% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 11% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 9% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Wisconsin, 31 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (66%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"A woman and her 3 children came into the agency. She had heard about our services from a friend. She was fleeing an abusive relationship. The abusive person was her husband and father of her 3 children. She did not have a safe place to stay and had decided the best way to keep her family safe was to file a TRO. The legal advocate was able to meet with her. They completed the TRO and filed it at the Justice Center. We were able to put her and her children in temporary safe housing. We were able to notify the school of the circumstances so that the mother had a sense of comfort sending her children to school."

— Advocate

