

# '15

## Domestic Violence Counts Indiana Summary

On September 16, 2015, 45 out of 45 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Indiana participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 45 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 1,863 Victims Served in One Day

1,231 domestic violence victims (619 children and 612 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

632 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                                | 100%     |
| Children's Support or Advocacy                                | 89%      |
| Group Support or Advocacy                                     | 62%      |
| Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs               | 58%      |
| Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy                         | 51%      |
| Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services | 51%      |
| Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health                     | 42%      |
| Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)     | 33%      |

### 522 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 21 hotline calls every hour.

### 1,069 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,069 individuals in communities across Indiana attended 64 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 255 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 72% 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 Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Indiana, 59 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 24% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 18% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 13% of programs reported fewer individual donors.
- 4% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Indiana, 37 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (89%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"Since early Spring of this year, our program has had to refer victims to other programs for emergency shelter. We have had every bed and every cot in use. Our CEO of 23 years told us, 'This is the first time in my 23 years leading the agency we have had to turn away so many victims.' I worry every night, concerned about the safety of the victims we could not shelter."

— Advocate

