

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Washington Summary

On September 15, 2009, 46 out of 56, or 82%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Washington participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 46 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,591 Victims Served in One Day

912 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

679 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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 15
Individual Support or Advocacy	91%
Emergency Shelter	76%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	57%
Children's Support or Advocacy	39%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	41%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	24%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	50%
Transitional Housing	37%

563 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 approximately 23 hotline calls every hour.

141 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 141 individuals in communities across Washington attended 24 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

304 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 200 (66%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 33% reported not enough staff.
- 30% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 30% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 24% reported not enough specialized services.
- 15% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"It's important to support culturally specific domestic violence services. We often have immigrant survivors whose abusers use their immigrant status as a tool of coercion and intimidation."

"Although we increased our shelter capacity this year, we still have to turn survivors away because we simply have no space. Instead, we overspend our hotel funds, so victims will have a safe place to stay."