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Domestic Violence Counts California Summary

On September 16, 2015, 116 out of 118 (98%) of identified local domestic violence programs in California participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 116 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

5,177 Victims Served in One Day

2,927 domestic violence victims (1,715 children and 1,212 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

2,250 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
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	49%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	44%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing /Landlord	34%
Support/Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	34%
Support/Advocacy Related to Immigration	28%
Support/Advocacy to Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	26%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	17%

1,471 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 61 hotline calls every hour.

1,009 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,009 individuals in communities across California attended 82 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

1,091 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 Attorney/Legal Representation services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across California, 142 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 34% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 23% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 16% of programs reported fewer individual donations.
- 14% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across California, 104 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (84%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“A survivor contacted our office looking for transitional housing, without which she was going to be homeless. We already had 4 families on the waiting list and a space for her and her family wouldn’t be available for 18-36 months. We referred her to other agencies, but she had already contacted them and no one had any room for her.”

— Advocate

