



Illinois' 2015 Summary Reveals Many Victims of Domestic Violence Were Served by Local Agencies, But Hundreds Were Not

Each year on one specific day in September, the National Network to End Domestic Violence asks domestic violence service agencies all over the country to participate in a national survey. The information provided tells about the services provided in a 24-hour period. On September 16, 2015, 1,752 out of 1,894 (93%) identified agencies took part. In Illinois, 54 out of 54 (100%) participated.

During that one 24-hour period: **2,216 victims were served**

- 1,000 victims (542 children and 458 adults) found refuge in emergency or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 1,216 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- 724 hotline calls were answered on 24-hour state and local hotlines. These are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning and resources. During this survey period, programs answered more than 30 hotline calls every hour.
- 912 individuals received prevention education trainings in 71 sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

Also during that one 24-hour period: **501 requests for services went unmet**

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. Requests for housing made up 55%. 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.

Across Illinois, 89 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the fiscal year 2015. Sixty-two staff positions were eliminated, 85% of which were direct services staff. Causes include:

- 44% of programs reported governing funding cuts.
- 24% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 19% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 15% of programs reported fewer individual donors.

This year's survey was conducted on September 16, 2016.