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Domestic Violence Counts Iowa Summary

On September 15, 2010, 27 out of 27, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

1,002 Victims Served in One Day

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

478 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	89%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	78%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	67%
Transportation	63%
Rural Outreach	59%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by a bilingual advocate)	48%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	37%
Translation/Interpretation Services (3rd party translator)	37%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	33%

382 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 15 hotline calls every hour.

119 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, 81 (68%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 37% reported not enough staff.
- 33% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 19% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 7% reported not enough specialized services.
- 7% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

96% of Programs Reported Higher Demand for Services

As communities continue to experience job loss and decreased community resources, 96% of programs reported a rise in demand for services, while at the same time 85% of programs reported a decrease in funding.

"A survivor and her son were homeless because of domestic violence. After repeated failed attempts to obtain housing, we were able to connect them with housing assistance and now they have a home. They were so excited to have move-in expenses paid ahead of time and to have newly donated household items to take to their new home."

