

2-1-1 Connects Domestic Abuse Victims to Help



Shelly* called 2-1-1 from a gas station telephone booth. She had just been beaten by her boyfriend, and fled their apartment with only a trash bag of belongings. The first emergency shelter that 2-1-1 called was full, so 2-1-1 called another. Despite being at capacity, the shelter offered to let Shelly sleep on an air mattress in the family room of the shelter until a regular bed became available.

**not her real name*

The program coordinator from Kaplan College called 2-1-1 because she had a student (Susan*) in her office who was trying to flee an abusive situation. Susan needed to leave tonight. Her boyfriend was working 3rd shift and she could go home and pack up her belongings before he returned. Susan's 4 year old son was at her mother's house, but Susan couldn't stay there because her boyfriend knew where her mother lived. 2-1-1 contacted all of the local domestic abuse shelters, but none had space. An out-of-town shelter agreed to take Susan and her son in until space became available locally.

**not her real name*

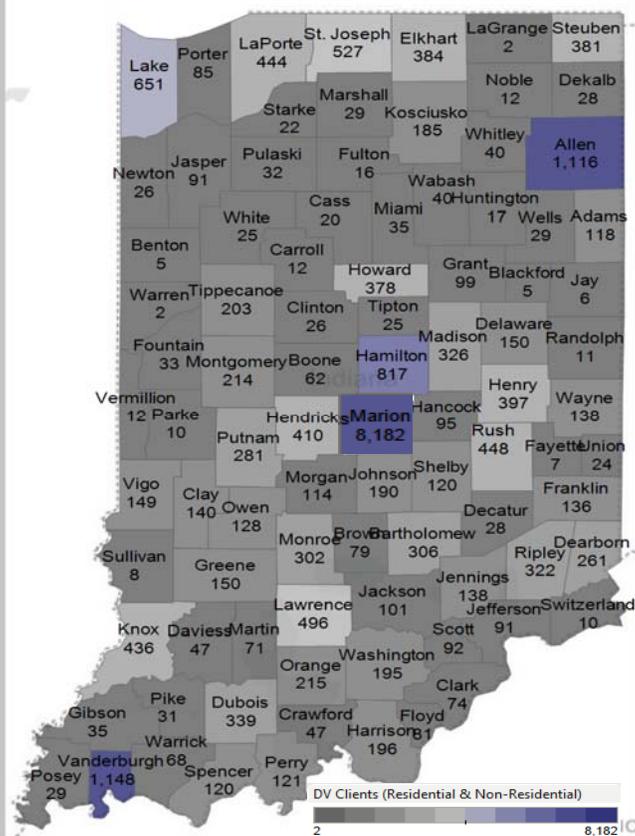


These are just 2 of more than **4,900 domestic abuse calls to 2-1-1** in 2014. Calls are **up 14%** compared to 2013.

In addition to these callers, another **4,800 children** who lived in these households were witnesses to the violence.

"Children from violent homes have higher risks of alcohol/drug abuse, post traumatic stress disorder, and juvenile delinquency. Witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality. It is also the number one reason children run away." (Domestic Violence Roundtable—www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org)

DV Clients (Residential & Non-Residential) - FY13/14

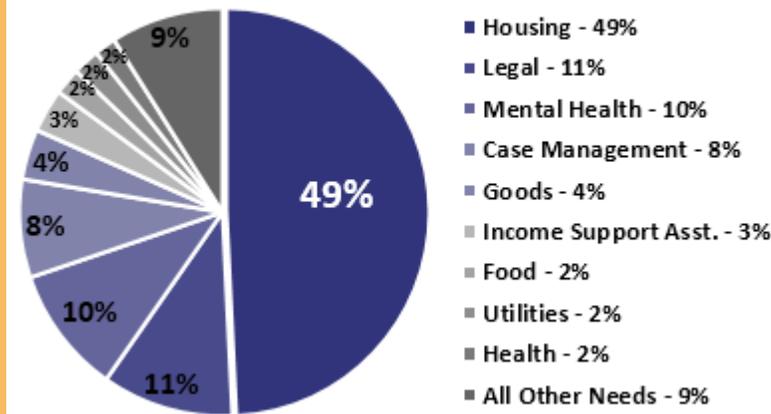


FY13/14 data from the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence reveal that abuse does not discriminate by geographic location—

Hoosiers from every one of the 92 counties were victims of abuse.

2-1-1 domestic abuse callers reported nearly **8,700 needs** and received more than **12,500 referrals** to community resources.

2014 Domestic Abuse Callers' Needs



Nearly half (**49%**) of all domestic abuse callers' needs were related to **housing**. Within the housing category, emergency shelter was the most pressing need. Unfortunately, it also was one of the hardest resources to find —

1 out of every 3 shelter requests were "unmet," primarily because of capacity issues.

Domestic abuse is complex, and no 2 calls are the same. In addition to housing, domestic abuse victims need to be connected to a **vast array of non-residential services**, such as legal assistance, mental health resources, and case management.

2-1-1 is the most comprehensive information and referral system in the state, making it the most efficient way to find help 24/7/365.

On a single phone call to 2-1-1, domestic violence victims can be connected to any of the thousands of human services available to Hoosiers.

This is critical, especially when a victim only has time to make one phone call for help.

2-1-1 is available to Hoosiers primarily through philanthropic support.

However, demand for the service far exceeds the budget, resulting in wait times that may literally mean the difference between life and death for a domestic abuse victim.

Please support HB1010 to provide government funding for this vital service.