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Domestic Violence Counts National Summary

On September 15, 2011, 1,726 out of 1,944, or 89%, of identified local domestic violence programs in the United States and territories participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 1,726 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

67,399 Victims Served in One Day

36,332 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. In addition to a safe place to lay their heads at night, shelter residents were provided with a variety of comprehensive services, some of which are listed in the chart below.

31,007 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. 15
Children's Support or Advocacy	79%
Emergency Shelter	74%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	53%
Transitional Housing	35%
Bilingual Advocacy (by a bilingual advocate)	33%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	22%

22,508 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, local and state hotlines answered 21,748 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered 760 calls, averaging more than 16 hotline calls every minute.

26,339 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 26,339 individuals in communities across the United States and territories attended 1,396 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

10,581 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 10,000 requests for services, including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to offer these services.

64% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 6,714 requests unmet. Other frequently requested unmet needs include legal representation, counseling, and legal advocacy.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 43% reported not enough staff.
- 19% reported not enough specialized services.
- 18% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 14% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"As the downturn of the economy continues, the need for our services has greatly increased, and the needs of our clients have escalated. It is not uncommon for us to work with women living in tents in the woods or in campers without heat and running water. They need safety not only from their abusers but also from living on the streets."

—Washington Advocate

