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Domestic Violence Counts District of Columbia Summary

On September 15, 2011, 12 out of 12, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in District of Columbia participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

614 Victims Served in One Day

383 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.

231 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
Bilingual Advocacy	58%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	42%
Emergency Shelter	25%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	25%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	25%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	25%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	17%

71 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, District of Columbia programs answered nearly 3 hotline calls every hour.

94 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

74% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 70 unmet requests, emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs. Other frequently requested unmet needs include legal representation, counseling, and legal advocacy.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 58% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 50% reported not enough staff.
- 42% reported not enough specialized services.
- 33% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 17% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A woman called the crisis line stating that her boyfriend poured gasoline on her and threatened to burn her and the house down last night. We discussed safety plans and provided her with information and resources to aid her in making informed decisions which could save her life."

