

'12

Domestic Violence Counts District of Columbia Summary

On September 12, 2012, 12 out of 12, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in District of Columbia participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

447 Victims Served in One Day

310 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.

137 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. 12
Individual Support or Advocacy	83%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	50%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	42%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	42%
Bilingual Advocacy (by bilingual advocate)	33%
Job Training/Employment Assistant	33%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	33%
Advocacy Related to Health Care	25%

41 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

142 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 142 individuals in communities across District of Columbia attended 9 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

69 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 60 request 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.

88% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 61 requests unmet.

Of the unmet requests, the following services were the most requested:

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Transitional Housing
3. Attorney/Legal Representation

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 25% reported no beds available and no money for hotel stays.
- 25% reported not enough specialized services (e.g., drug and alcohol counselor).
- 17% reported not enough staff.
- 17% reported limited funding for needed programs and services.
- 8% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“Today, we were unable to provide mental health counseling to a resident in her native language because no translators were available to translate for the entire session. The mental health counselor and advocate were somewhat successful in facilitating the session, but it would have been helpful to have a counselor who speaks the survivor’s language.”

