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Domestic Violence Counts Delaware Summary

On September 12, 2012, 7 out of 7, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Delaware participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

131 Victims Served in One Day

68 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.

63 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	86%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	43%
Bilingual Advocacy (by bilingual advocate)	29%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	43%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	0%
Therapy/Counseling for Children	43%
Job Training/Employment Assistant	29%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	43%

16 Hotline Calls Answered

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

9 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 9 individuals in communities across Delaware attended 3 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

9 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made 9 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.

44% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 4 requests unmet.

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

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Transitional Housing

For many survivors, the ability to hire an attorney to help with legal matters is critical. Unfortunately, lack of funds, few pro bono attorneys, and programs without legal attorneys on staff means that many victims face their abusers in court alone.

Below are the top 5 legal requests from survivors.

Protection Orders	86%
Child Custody	86%
Child Protection Issues	71%
Child Support	57%
Divorce	57%

“Without legal representation, survivors struggle to establish independent, safe homes for themselves and their children. They often lose custody of their children or have visitation and custody arrangements that are unsafe for them and their children.”

