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Domestic Violence Counts Tennessee Summary

On September 17, 2013, 32 out of 32 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Tennessee participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 32 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

836 Victims Served in One Day

405 domestic violence victims (180 children and 225 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

431 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. 17
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	91%
Children's Support or Advocacy	94%
Transportation	81%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	69%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	47%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	22%

313 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, domestic violence programs answered more than 13 hotline calls every hour.

350 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 350 individuals in communities across Tennessee attended 18 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

73 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 88% (64) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 70 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential service that couldn't be provided was housing advocacy, followed by financial assistance, and legal representation.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available however 63% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 31% report that victims become homeless, and 3% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 16% reported not enough available staff.
- 9% reported private funding cuts.
- 6% reported reduced individual donations.
- 6% reported reduced government funding.

Across Tennessee 15 (5%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

On the survey day we were unable to house a woman and her four children because our shelter was full. We had to go outside of our service area to a larger city to find a shelter that could take her.

— Advocate

