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Domestic Violence Counts Delaware Summary

On September 10, 2014, 7 out of 7 (100%) identified local domestic violence programs in Delaware participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 7 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

219 Victims Served in One Day

109 domestic violence victims (53 children and 56 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

110 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. 10
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	57%
Bilingual Advocacy	57%
Emergency Shelter	43%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	43%
Transitional Housing	29%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	29%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	14%

17 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 17 calls, averaging almost one hotline call every hour.

49 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 49 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.

14 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 71% (10) Were for Housing

Victims made 14 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and non-residential services, which could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently-needed service that couldn’t be provided was housing, followed by counseling, financial assistance, and legal representation.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 43% reported reduced government funding.
- 43% reported not enough staff.
- 29% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 14% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Delaware, 7 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (80%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Eleven individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“On the Census Day, we provided transportation, advocacy, and an interpreter for a victim whose attorney was no longer able to represent her. We tried to obtain another attorney to represent her, but could not locate one in the community able to take the case and did not have the resources to secure her an attorney.”

— Advocate

