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Domestic Violence Counts Alabama Summary

On September 16, 2015, 17 out of 17 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Alabama participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 17 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

620 Victims Served in One Day

336 domestic violence victims (149 children and 187 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

284 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	94%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	12%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	12%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	12%
3rd Party Translation/Interpretation Services	0%

137 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 4 hotline calls every hour.

1,303 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,303 individuals in communities across Alabama attended 38 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

50 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 74% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Attorney/Legal Representation and Translation/Interpretation services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Alabama, 18 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 24% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 18% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 6% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Alabama, 9 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and all of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Crisis caller’s husband was a police officer and had told her for years that she would never be able to get away from him. With the help of her attorney, she contacted our crisis hotline. Caller spoke no English, but our bilingual advocate was available to translate. Caller said she felt like giving up because she had nowhere to go and no transportation. Bilingual advocate offered shelter options, safety planning services, and other local resources. Client felt relieved once she was connected with services to assist with addressing her concerns. After over two years, an attorney in our office was able to try a divorce case for a victim.”

— Advocate

