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Domestic Violence Counts Georgia Summary

On September 16, 2015, 47 out of 52 (90%) identified domestic violence programs in Georgia participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 47 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,027 Victims Served in One Day

1,306 domestic violence victims (735 children and 571 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

721 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
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	49%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing /Landlord	47%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	43%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	40%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	32%
Support/Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	26%
Hotel/Motel Stay	21%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	17%

370 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 15 hotline calls every hour.

210 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 210 individuals in communities across Georgia attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

531 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 79% 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, Rental Assistance/Utilities and Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Georgia, 37 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 32% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 15% of programs reported fewer individual donors.
- 13% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 13% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Georgia, 37 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (82%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"During this 24-hour period, we were unable to provide shelter to a family of 5 due to our shelter being at capacity. Families of this size often have no choice but to relocate to shelters in rural areas with limited resources. They may return to abusive relationships due to the difficulties of providing for a large family on a single income in an area with limited resources."

— Advocate