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Domestic Violence Counts Puerto Rico Summary

On September 16, 2015, 12 out of 14 (86%) identified domestic violence programs in Puerto Rico participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 12 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

513 Victims Served in One Day

342 domestic violence victims (188 children and 154 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

171 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	83%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	67%
Emergency Shelter	58%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	42%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	42%
Transportation	33%
Group Support or Advocacy	17%

129 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 5 hotline calls every hour.

333 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 333 individuals in communities across Puerto Rico attended 41 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

20 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 100% 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, Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance and Attorney/Legal Representation services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Puerto Rico, 3 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 33% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 25% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 8% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 8% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Puerto Rico, 12 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (71%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Although this program does not routinely provide medical services, they expressed they were unable to appropriately address two needs: an immigrant woman without legal status who needed medical attention and could not access services; and a second woman who needed food. They were able to provide groceries for the second woman a couple of days later. They are still struggling with the first victim.”

— Advocate

