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Domestic Violence Counts South Carolina Summary

On September 16, 2015, 12 out of 13 (92%) identified domestic violence programs in South Carolina 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.

437 Victims Served in One Day

252 domestic violence victims (124 children and 128 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

185 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	100%
Emergency Shelter	100%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	92%
Transportation	75%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	58%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	33%
Rural Outreach	25%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	17%

115 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.

447 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 447 individuals in communities across South Carolina attended 10 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

40 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 83% 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 South Carolina, 23 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 17% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 8% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across South Carolina, 9 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and half (50%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“We had a client who needed legal representation for a family court matter for her to obtain visitation for her children who is in the custody of her abuser. Due to our agency not having staff that provides legal representation to our DV victims, she was referred to the local Legal Services office, which has a long waiting list and she may or may not qualify for their services so that she would be able to get the legal representation that’s needed.”

— Advocate

