

# '09 Domestic Violence Counts Alabama Summary

On September 15, 2009, 18 out of 18, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Alabama participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 834 Victims Served in One Day

346 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

488 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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 15
Emergency Shelter	89%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	78%
Individual Support or Advocacy	72%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	67%
Childcare/Daycare	28%

## 187 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 approximately 8 hotline calls every hour.

## 787 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 787 individuals in communities across Alabama attended 34 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 76 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 51 (67%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 33% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 33% reported not enough specialized services.
- 22% reported not enough staff.
- 17% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 11% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A woman came to our shelter today. She was very happy to be here. She had been sleeping in her car after she left an abusive relationship because she didn't know about our agency."

"A 60-year-old woman came to our shelter today, leaving her abusive husband. With our help, she filled out a petition for a Protection from Abuse Order."

