

# '09 Domestic Violence Counts Georgia Summary

On September 15, 2009, 34 out of 51, or 67%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Georgia participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 34 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

## 1,512 Victims Served in One Day

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

655 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
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	65%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	62%
Transitional Housing	29%
Children's Support or Advocacy	91%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	47%
Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	35%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	56%
Group Support or Advocacy	62%

## 537 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 22 hotline calls every hour.

## 333 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 333 individuals in communities across Georgia attended 20 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 176 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, 114 (65%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason they could not meet domestic violence victims' requests for services. Ninety-four percent of programs have less than 20 paid staff, and 29% of those programs have less than 10 paid staff. In 2009, programs reported letting go or not replacing 60 positions because of lack of funding.

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

- 50% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 32% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 29% reported not enough specialized services.
- 29% reported not enough staff.
- 18% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"Although a poor economy does not cause domestic violence, economic hardships exacerbate already violent relationships. In the past year, we've had an increase in the number of calls to our crisis line, and our shelters are consistently full. When our shelters are full, we try to find other shelters, but we'll always provide advocacy and support."