

'09 Domestic Violence Counts New Jersey Summary

On September 15, 2009, 23 out of 25, or 92%, of identified local domestic violence programs in New Jersey participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 23 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,220 Victims Served in One Day

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

685 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
Individual Support or Advocacy	91%
Emergency Shelter	91%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	78%
Group Support or Advocacy	74%
Children's Support or Advocacy	70%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	65%
Transitional Housing	57%
Transportation	57%

634 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 26 hotline calls every hour.

600 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 600 individuals in communities across New Jersey attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

299 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, 96 (32%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

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

- 61% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 39% reported not enough staff.
- 39% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 26% reported not enough specialized services.
- 9% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"We added a new bedroom to our safe house the morning of the survey count. By evening, the room was filled by a new resident."

"We helped a woman who had been raped and physically assaulted by her partner. The victim didn't know what to do, so we explained to her her rights under the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, and went with her to court because she was afraid of seeing him again. The court granted her a restraining order."