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Domestic Violence Counts Alaska Summary

On September 15, 2011, 19 out of 19, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Alaska participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

565 Victims Served in One Day

363 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. In addition to a safe place to lay their heads at night, shelter residents were provided with a variety of comprehensive services, some of which are listed in the chart below.

202 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	95%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	89%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	79%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	63%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	58%
Group Support or Advocacy	53%
Childcare/Daycare	53%
Transportation	47%

92 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, Alaska programs answered more than 3 hotline calls every hour.

39 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

87% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 34 unmet requests, emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs. Other frequently requested unmet needs include legal representation, counseling, and legal advocacy.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 21% reported not enough specialized services.
- 16% reported not enough staff.
- 11% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 11% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 5% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“Two memorable things happened today. A client that had faced several barriers successfully transitioned to safe housing that offers support and case management for two years. Another client who is attending college classes was able to afford her tuition, books and a laptop, with the program’s assistance. Today she started working on her business plan to achieve her long-term goal to open a restaurant.”

