

'11

Domestic Violence Counts Colorado Summary

On September 15, 2011, 40 out of 45, or 89%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Colorado participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 40 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,317 Victims Served in One Day

622 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.

695 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	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	85%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	55%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	48%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by someone who is bilingual)	48%
Transportation	38%
Transitional Housing	38%

670 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, Colorado programs answered more than 27 hotline calls every hour.

235 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.

82% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 192 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:

- 45% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 40% reported not enough staff.
- 28% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 10% reported not enough specialized services.
- 5% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"Unexpectedly, a shelter resident's newborn baby girl had to be hospitalized. The shelter staff gathered clothing, snacks, games, a pre-paid phone card, cash, and took these items to the hospital. The shelter's Child Advocate played games with the older child at the hospital, providing respite for the mother and some undivided attention to the new big brother."

