

'11

Domestic Violence Counts Florida Summary

On September 15, 2011, 42 out of 42, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Florida participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

3,166 Victims Served in One Day

1,926 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.

1,240 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 (including hotels/safe houses)	100%
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	93%
Transportation	74%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	55%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	45%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by someone who is bilingual)	45%

687 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, Florida programs answered nearly 29 hotline calls every hour.

119 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.

68% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 81 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.
- 🏠 31% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 31% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 29% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 12% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A survivor currently residing in shelter is undergoing breast cancer therapy. Her abusive partner had convinced her she would be less of a woman with one breast, with scars, and no hair, so she originally refused to have treatment. Prior to coming into shelter she had decided to just die. Today, she has completed most of her chemotherapy and is re-learning to live. She will remain in shelter and we will nurture and support her through the rest of her treatment."

