

# '11

## Domestic Violence Counts Georgia Summary

On September 15, 2011, 44 out of 55, or 80%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Georgia participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 44 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 1,995 Victims Served in One Day

1,145 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.

850 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	98%
Children's Support or Advocacy	91%
Transportation	68%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by someone who is bilingual)	45%
Childcare/Daycare	41%
Transitional Housing	36%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	27%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	7%

### 507 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, Georgia programs answered more than 21 hotline calls every hour.

### 243 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.

### 67% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 164 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:

- 34% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 30% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 25% reported not enough staff.
- 14% reported not enough specialized services.
- 2% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"Today we served a 55 year-old woman who had been married for almost 40 years and reached out to us for the first time. After many years of controlling behavior, her spouse had recently become physically abusive. Last night, he threatened her, smashing everything around her. This morning, she connected with our shelter and we worked together to safely get her here. It was a case of sneaking her out the back door to get her to safety."

