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Domestic Violence Counts Iowa Summary

On September 15, 2011, 28 out of 28, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

824 Victims Served in One Day

477 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.

347 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	96%
Children's Support or Advocacy	86%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	68%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	50%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	32%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	29%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	25%

414 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, Iowa programs answered more than 17 hotline calls every hour.

117 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 102 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:

- 46% reported not enough staff.
- 43% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 36% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 21% reported not enough specialized services.
- 14% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A victim was in a relationship with her partner for 2 years and throughout that time her partner had been physically abusive. After 2 years of abuse the victim defended herself during the most recent assault and this incident left the victim homeless and living in shelter. We were able to find her an apartment and assisted with the application fee payment. She is now in the process of transitioning into her first apartment."

