

'11

Domestic Violence Counts Louisiana Summary

On September 15, 2011, 20 out of 20, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Louisiana participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

948 Victims Served in One Day

541 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.

407 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	95%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	90%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	65%
Transportation	65%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	60%
Transitional Housing	45%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	40%

314 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, Louisiana programs answered more than 13 hotline calls every hour.

51 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.

75% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 38 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:

- 60% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 25% reported not enough staff.
- 25% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 20% reported not enough specialized services.

“We are working with a survivor who was abused as a child and teenager, before marrying a man who physically, verbally, emotionally and sexually abused her. When she left the relationship and came to shelter, the staff supported, guided, and counseled her when she needed it the most. She started singing again and is enjoying life free from violence. She has a glow around her now.”

