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Domestic Violence Counts Minnesota Summary

On September 15, 2011, 44 out of 75, or 59%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Minnesota 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.

1,405 Victims Served in One Day

735 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.

670 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	95%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	57%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	43%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	41%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	36%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by someone who is bilingual)	20%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	18%

807 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, Minnesota programs answered more than 33 hotline calls every hour.

315 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.

83% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 261 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:

- 41% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 30% reported not enough staff.
- 23% reported not enough specialized services.
- 34% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 5% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A woman who had been in an abusive relationship for 8 years came to our program for services. She told us that she had been working up the courage to get help for more than a year and was finally helped by a police officer and advocate. When the woman left our program four hours later, her demeanor was different. She was smiling and standing up tall. "I have hope," she said. "I have hope that I'm going to live now."

