

# '11

# Domestic Violence Counts North Dakota Summary

On September 15, 2011, 21 out of 21, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in North Dakota participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

### 229 Victims Served in One Day

89 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.

140 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	90%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	48%
Transitional Housing	10%
Children's Support or Advocacy	43%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	5%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	5%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	29%

### 75 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, domestic violence programs answered more than 3 hotline calls every hour.

### 38 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.

### 100% of Unmet Requests Were for Non-Residential Services

With 38 unmet requests, counseling and legal advocacy were among the most requested services.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 38% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 19% reported not enough staff.
- 24% reported not enough specialized services.
- 14% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.

"A client shared with her advocate, 'I felt like I had lost everything until I came to the center for help. When no one else took my situation seriously, you did. For women in my situation, we are taught that we never speak about the abuse we endure in our homes. Calling the hotline for help is a last resort, and if we don't get a good response from you, then we are never going to call again. The staff here has been amazing to me and my children. I would be in a very bad place or possibly dead if the center wasn't here to help us.'"

