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Domestic Violence Counts Tennessee Summary

On September 15, 2011, 32 out of 32, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Tennessee participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

1,126 Victims Served in One Day

441 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.

685 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%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	88%
Children's Support or Advocacy	88%
Transportation	59%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	50%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF	44%
Group Support or Advocacy	38%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	22%

250 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, Tennessee programs answered more than 10 hotline calls every hour.

92 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.

84% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 77 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.
- 31% reported not enough specialized services.
- 22% reported not enough staff.
- 16% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 6% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A client applied for an Order of Protection because her son's father was constantly emailing her and repeatedly threatened to kill her. He recently came into her home and beat her, while their 3 year-old son was present in the room. She was killed by her abuser shortly following her court date."

