

'11

Domestic Violence Counts Virginia Summary

On September 15, 2011, 49 out of 49, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Virginia participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

1,304 Victims Served in One Day

796 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.

508 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
Children's Support or Advocacy	82%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	61%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	31%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	29%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	18%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	16%
Advocacy with the Military	16%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	4%

439 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, Virginia programs answered more than 18 hotline calls every hour.

225 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.

73% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 165 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:

- 33% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 31% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 20% reported not enough specialized services.
- 16% reported not enough staff.
- 8% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A client shared with us, 'If the shelter had not been here, I would be dead! This is the first time I've told anyone of the abuse I have endured. Now that I've told one person, I want to shout it from the rooftops so that people understand that this isn't something that victims should suffer in silence. I want everyone to know that they can escape, and the support I received from the shelter helped me to realize this.'"

