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Domestic Violence Counts West Virginia Summary

On September 15, 2011, 14 out of 14, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in West Virginia participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

486 Victims Served in One Day

152 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.

334 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)	93%
Children's Support or Advocacy	86%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	79%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	36%
Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	29%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	21%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	21%

160 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, West Virginia programs answered more than 7 hotline calls every hour.

16 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.

81% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 13 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:

- 29% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 29% reported not enough specialized services.
- 21% reported not enough staff.
- 7% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 7% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"Today we helped a 19 year-old domestic violence victim attend her first prenatal appointment. We were able to provide her with information and resources which changed her outlook. She is realizing that she that can live free from abuse."

