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Domestic Violence Counts Illinois Summary

On September 12, 2012, 57 out of 61, or 93%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 57 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,424 Victims Served in One Day

1,111 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.

1,313 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including 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. 12
Transportation	47%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	32%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	25%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	19%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	18%
Bilingual Advocacy (by bilingual advocate)	32%
Medical Services/Accompaniment	11%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	16%

899 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

755 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 755 individuals in communities across Illinois attended 53 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

780 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 750 request for services, including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to offer these services.

41% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 322 requests unmet.

Of the unmet requests, the following services were the most requested:

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment
3. Attorney/Legal Representation
4. Counseling
5. Transitional Housing

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 44% reported not enough staff.
- 23% reported limited funding for needed programs and services.
- 19% reported no beds and no money for hotel stays.
- 14% reported imited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.
- 14% reported not enough specialized services (e.g., drug and alcohol counselor).

"To the hundreds of survivors and their children we help each year, our services are critical, and in some cases, life saving. We provide critically needed resources for those who otherwise would have nowhere to go. Although we've worked hard at keeping our doors open and counselors available, the anemic economy and our state's continuing financial crisis remain a challenge."

