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Domestic Violence Counts Pennsylvania Summary

On September 12, 2012, 60 out of 60, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,308 Victims Served in One Day

1,157 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.

1,151 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
Individual Support or Advocacy	95%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	73%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	85%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	28%
Transitional Housing	47%
Support/Advocacy to Elder Victims of Abuse	20%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	28%
Advocacy Related to Health Care	20%

915 Hotline Calls Answered

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

1,078 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,078 individuals in communities across the Pennsylvania attended 67 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

933 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 900 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.

90% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 839 requests unmet.

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

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

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 🏠 37% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 32% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 25% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 13% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 10% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“A woman walked 15 miles at 4:30 a.m. to our shelter because that was the only way she could escape. After a while, she asked for her protection order to be dropped and said that the abuse was her fault because she provoked him. She broke down and admitted that he made threats on her life if she didn’t rescind the order.”

