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Domestic Violence Counts West Virginia Summary

On September 12, 2012, 14 out of 14, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in West Virginia participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

324 Victims Served in One Day

143 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.

181 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	93%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	93%
Children's Support or Advocacy	86%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	71%
Rural Outreach	57%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	21%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	43%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	43%

179 Hotline Calls Answered

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

317 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 317 individuals in communities across West Virginia attended 17 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

12 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made 12 requests 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.

75% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 9 requests unmet.

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

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

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 29% reported not enough staff.
- 29% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 14% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 7% limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"We took in a woman who had been beaten so badly that her face was unrecognizable. The abuser had cut off her hair with a knife, burned her face and body with cigarettes, and sexually assaulted her for months before she could escape."

