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Domestic Violence Counts Alabama Summary

On September 17, 2013, 15 out of 18 (83%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Alabama participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 15 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

565 Victims Served in One Day

354 domestic violence victims (184 children and 170 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

211 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. 17
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	93%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	87%
Transportation	73%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	60%
Transitional Housing	53%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	53%
Group Support or Advocacy	47%

155 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, local and state hotlines answered 155 calls, averaging more than 6 hotline calls every hour.

658 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 658 individuals in communities across Alabama attended 23 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

26 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 42% (11) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 20 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that couldn’t be provided were legal representation and transportation, followed by housing.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren’t available; however 60% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 13% report that victims become homeless, and 13% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 20% reported reduced government funding.
- 20% reported not enough staff.
- 20% reported reduced individual donations.
- 13% reported cuts from private funding sources.

Across Alabama 29 (8%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Despite extreme stalking and a high threat of danger, a survivor was denied community legal services because there was no physical abuse. The survivor makes minimum wage and can’t afford a attorney.”

— Advocate

