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Domestic Violence Counts Florida Summary

On September 17, 2013, 42 out of 42 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Florida participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

3,271 Victims Served in One Day

2,023 domestic violence victims (997 children and 1,026 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,248 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	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	100%
Support/Advocacy to Elder Victims of Abuse	45%
Advocacy Related to Technology Use (Cyberstalking)	24%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	36%
Rural Outreach	45%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	64%

739 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 739 calls, averaging more than 31 hotline calls every hour.

615 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 615 individuals in communities across Florida attended 31 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

154 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 71% (109) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 150 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 housing advocacy, transportation, financial assistance, and legal representation.

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 52% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 21% report that victims become homeless, and 7% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 19% reported reduced individual donations.
- 10% reported reduced government funding.
- 17% reported not enough staff.
- 10% reported cuts from private funding sources.

"Through working with an advocate from a certified domestic violence center, a survivor was able to build her resume and learn interview techniques for an upcoming job interview. With the advocate's assistance the survivor was able to choose professional attire. The survivor was offered the position and shared that because of the resources she received from the center she felt supported so that she could secure the job."

— Advocate

