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Domestic Violence Counts Minnesota Summary

On September 17, 2013, 31 out of 52 (60%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Minnesota participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 31 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,296 Victims Served in One Day

617 domestic violence victims (331 children and 286 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

679 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
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	45%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	52%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	23%
Advocacy Related to Technology Use (Cyberstalking)	39%
Translation/Interpretation Services	16%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	16%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	19%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	45%

372 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 372 calls, averaging more than 16 hotline calls every hour.

398 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 398 individuals in communities across Minnesota attended 13 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

276 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 70% (193) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 250 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 and legal representation, followed closely by financial assistance.

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 58% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 16% report that victims become homeless, and 6% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 35% reported reduced government funding.
- 32% reported not enough staff.
- 16% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 16% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Minnesota 48 (7%) 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.

“On the Survey Day, we accepted a family into shelter in the morning and were full the rest of the day. Most shelters in our area are usually full. This year we have turned away 60% of the people who seek shelter because we have no room.”

— Advocate

