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Domestic Violence Counts North Carolina Summary

On September 17, 2013, 51 out of 88 (58%), of identified local domestic violence programs in North Carolina participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 51 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,146 Victims Served in One Day

595 domestic violence victims (291 children and 304 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

551 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 | 96% |
| Emergency Shelter | 90% |
| Children's Support or Advocacy | 84% |
| Legal Representation by an Attorney | 22% |
| Transitional Housing | 16% |

592 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, domestic violence programs answered more than 25 hotline calls every hour.

757 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 757 individuals in communities across North Carolina attended 49 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

101 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 69% (70) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 100 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 service that couldn't be provided were financial assistance and housing advocacy, followed by 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 47% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 12% report that victims become homeless, and 6% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 35% reported reduced government funding.
- 14% reported not enough available staff.
- 10% reported private funding cuts.
- 8% reported reduced individual donations.

Across North Carolina 44 (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.

We had a client who had a protection order court date approaching. She stated that the defendant has hired a lawyer. She wanted to see if we could provide her with an attorney. Unfortunately, we had to decline her request as we no longer have funding for attorney's fees (due to budget cuts, we lost our legal grant in July 2013 causing us to also lose our court advocate position. Therefore, our clients have no in court advocacy or funding for attorneys whatsoever).

— Advocate

