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Domestic Violence Counts South Dakota Summary

On September 17, 2013, 18 out of 40 (45%), of identified local domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 18 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

305 Victims Served in One Day

181 domestic violence victims (99 children and 82 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

124 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%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	72%
Transportation	50%
Rural Outreach	33%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	28%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	28%
Transitional Housing	11%

78 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 3 hotline calls every hour.

61 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 61 individuals in communities across South Dakota attended 3 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

14 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 50% (7) Were for Housing

Victims made 14 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 was legal representation, followed by transportation, and housing advocacy.

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 56% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 22% report that victims become homeless, and 6% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 33% reported reduced government funding.
- 17% reported not enough available staff.
- 17% reported reduced individual donations.
- 11% reported private funding cuts.

Across South Dakota 12 (6%) 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.

A woman was denied custody and her children were given to an incredibly violent ex-husband. She has a chronic illness and cannot work; but she must pay child support and is financially destitute. She is living with relatives and far from her children. I think of her and her vulnerable children every single minute of every day -- hoping she will be able to survive another day.

— Advocate

