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Domestic Violence Counts Texas Summary

On September 17, 2013, 86 out of 98 (88%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Texas participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 86 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

5,923 Victims Served in One Day

3,827 domestic violence victims (2,153 children and 1,674 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

2,096 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
Emergency Shelter	79%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	44%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	36%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	29%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	20%
Advocacy Related to Health Care or Healthcare Systems	19%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	14%
Support/Advocacy to Elder Victims of Abuse	14%

1,907 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 79 hotline calls every hour.

2,285 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 2,285 individuals in communities across Texas attended 119 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

1,311 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 39% (506) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 1,300 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 financial assistance, followed by legal representation, 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, 24% report that victims become homeless, and 13% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 24% reported reduced government funding.
- 15% reported not enough available staff.
- 6% reported private funding cuts.
- 6% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Texas 69 (3%) 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.

Recently a victim came to shelter that had moved once for safety. Unfortunately her abuser was still able to find her and she walked through the night on a state highway to a church in our community. The pastor, knowing of our services, called us and we were able to pick up the client and bring her to our shelter. She remains in the shelter, receiving support services and advocacy while she is working on changing her identity.

— Advocate

