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Domestic Violence Counts Virginia Summary

On September 17, 2013, 43 out of 49 (88%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Virginia participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 43 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,158 Victims Served in One Day

638 domestic violence victims (335 children and 303 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

520 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
Children’s Support or Advocacy	70%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	49%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	35%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	26%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	26%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	16%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	12%
Advocacy with the Military	12%

443 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 18 hotline calls every hour.

738 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 738 individuals in communities across Virginia attended 38 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

114 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 66% (75) 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 was housing advocacy, followed by 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 51% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 14% report that victims become homeless, and 7% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 26% reported reduced government funding.
- 14% reported not enough available staff.
- 7% reported reduced individual donations.
- 2% reported private funding cuts.

Across Virginia 21 (4%) 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 husband was stalking his wife, threatened to kill her, broke into her house and physically assaulted her. We were able to assist her with getting a temporary protective order and a pro bono attorney to represent her at the hearing.

— Advocate

