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Domestic Violence Counts Virgin Islands Summary

On September 17, 2013, 2 out of 2 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Virgin Islands participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

69 Victims Served in One Day

36 domestic violence victims (23 children and 13 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

33 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%
Emergency Shelter	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	100%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	100%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	100%
Bilingual Advocacy	100%
Translation/Interpretation Services	100%
Transitional Housing	50%

20 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 1 hotline call every hour.

22 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 22 individuals in communities across the Virgin Islands attended 1 training session provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

7 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 86% (6) 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 housing advocacy and 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 50% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 50% reported reduced government funding.
- 50% reported not enough available staff.
- 50% reported reduced individual donations.

Across the Virgin Islands 5 (12%) 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.

One survivor would have been a perfect candidate transitional housing. However, our agency does not have such a facility. Based on funds recently received we will be purchasing some property. It will take additional funds and time to rehabilitate the dilapidated property to a transitional home to serve St. Thomas and St. John.

— Advocate

