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Domestic Violence Counts Vermont Summary

On September 17, 2013, 12 out of 12 (100%), local domestic violence programs in Vermont participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 12 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

183 Victims Served in One Day

87 domestic violence victims (43 children and 44 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

96 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	83%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	58%
Transportation	42%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	42%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	33%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	33%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	25%
Medical Services/Accompaniment	25%

89 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 4 hotline calls every hour.

47 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 47 individuals in communities across Vermont attended 6 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

21 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 62% (13) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 20 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 legal representation, 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 75% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 58% report that victims become homeless, and 8% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 42% reported reduced government funding.
- 33% reported not enough available staff.
- 17% reported private funding cuts.
- 17% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Vermont 8 (8%) 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 survivor who fled from another state told us that now that she is staying in our shelter, she feels safe enough to do things she had not even thought of doing with her life. She has enrolled in school and is thoroughly enjoying and doing very well in her classes. She has expressed that she has a new lease on life and that her confidence has increased exponentially.

— Advocate

