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Domestic Violence Counts West Virginia Summary

On September 17, 2013, 14 out of 14 (100%), local domestic violence programs in West Virginia participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 14 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

431 Victims Served in One Day

155 domestic violence victims (65 children and 90 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

276 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	93%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	86%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	50%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	43%
Group Support or Advocacy	36%
Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	36%

160 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 7 hotline calls every hour.

10 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 40% (4) Were for Housing

Victims made 10 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 housing advocacy, 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 57% 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

- 21% reported reduced government funding.
- 21% reported private funding cuts.
- 14% reported not enough available staff.
- 14% reported reduced individual donations.

Across West Virginia 14 (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.

On the survey day, we were able to assist a survivor in obtaining a protection order. She and her son were referred to our therapist for trauma therapy. We connected her with our tutor so her son could receive some support and educational enrichment, and also with our Visitation Center to set up supervised exchanges. Our legal advocates will assist her with filing divorce papers and obtaining an attorney.

— Advocate

