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Domestic Violence Counts Wyoming Summary

On September 17, 2013, 23 out of 24 (96%), local domestic violence programs in Wyoming participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 23 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

264 Victims Served in One Day

125 domestic violence victims (62 children and 63 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

139 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 | 96% |
| Children's Support or Advocacy | 57% |
| Emergency Shelter | 52% |
| Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy | 52% |
| Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord | 35% |
| Rural Outreach | 35% |
| Transportation | 30% |
| Advocacy Related to Mental Health | 26% |

95 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.

50 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 50 individuals in communities across Wyoming attended 8 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

11 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 73% (8) 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 housing advocacy, followed by 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 65% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 13% report that victims become homeless, and 13% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 4% reported private funding cuts.
- 4% reported not enough available staff.

Across Wyoming 10 (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.

Funding for emergency shelter is a huge issue. Our community does not have a local shelter so we utilize motels and hotels. This can grow to be quite expensive especially when trying to transition a survivor into permanent housing. It is not uncommon for a survivor to have to relocate to another area and this generally requires taking a bus 100 (+) miles. We are rural...really rural.

— Advocate

