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Domestic Violence Counts Virginia Summary

On September 16, 2015, 51 out of 51 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Virginia participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 51 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,613 Victims Served in One Day

793 domestic violence victims (397 children and 396 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

820 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	98%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	88%
Emergency Shelter	84%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	49%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	33%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	27%
Support/Advocacy to Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	22%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	8%

565 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 23 hotline calls every hour.

326 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 326 individuals in communities across Virginia attended 28 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

156 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 70% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Rental Assistance/Utilities and Counseling/Substance Abuse/Mental Health services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Virginia, 31 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 18% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 18% of programs reported fewer individual donations.
- 12% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 8% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Virginia, 42 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (83%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“After spending two months in shelter, a young woman and her two children moved into their new home today. It was a very happy, exciting day. They received help from a rental assistance program in the community and furniture was provided by a faith-based organization. [We] provided her with household items and two tricycles for the children. She is able to afford rent and bills through wages from her full-time job.”

— Advocate

