



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

Puerto Rico

Summary

On September 14, 2016, 14 out of 19 (**74%**) identified domestic violence programs in Puerto Rico participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 14 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

425 Victims Served in One Day

364 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

61 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

Services Provided by Local Programs	Sept. 14th
Children's Support or Advocacy	79%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	79%
Individual Support or Advocacy	71%
Emergency Shelter	57%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	29%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing	14%
Childcare/Daycare	14%

88 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, local and state hotline staff answered **88** calls, averaging **4** hotline calls every hour.

392 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, **392** individuals in communities across Puerto Rico attended **9** training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

2 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 50% (1) were for Housing

When there are not enough resources, survivors' requests for a safe place to live, legal representation, counseling, and other supportive services go tragically unmet—countless times in a single day.

Victims made **2** requests for services—including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal advocacy, and more—that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services.

Across Puerto Rico, **21.5** staff positions were eliminated in the past year. Most (**70%**) of these positions were for direct services, such as shelter staff or legal advocates. This means there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help or provide needed services.

❖ An advocate said, “Our agency received a phone call from a survivor that left her home. She was very scared and confused. The participant said that she has been experiencing abuse since they began dating over 22 years ago. She decided to leave the home because she could not take the abuse any longer. Our project coordinated a meeting with a lawyer who was able to advise her and she was able to stay with her sister.”