



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Puerto Rico Summary

On September 13, 2017, four out of 18 (22%) identified domestic violence programs in Puerto Rico participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by these four participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

313 Victims Served in One Day

231 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

82 adult and child victims received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.

Services Provided by Local Programs	On Census Day
Children’s Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	75%
Transportation	50%
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	50%

14 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. During the 24-hour survey period, local and state hotline staff in Puerto Rico answered on average one hotline call every other hour.

Three Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On Census Day, three individuals in communities across Puerto Rico attended one training session provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and more.

Zero Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made zero requests for services that could not be provided because programs lacked the resources to meet victims’ needs.

In the past year, two local programs in Puerto Rico laid off or did not fill two staff positions. All of these positions (100%) were direct service providers, such as shelter staff or legal advocates. This means that there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help or provide needed services.

❖ “In our shelter, while the children were doing their homework, I noticed one boy crying. When asked why he was crying, he said, ‘Nothing’s wrong. I’m just happy to be here and I love all of you.’ He told me that no one had ever cared for him and his mom so much, and asked if they could keep staying. I told him that we had an apartment for them and they would never have to go back.”

