



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Florida Summary

On September 13, 2018, 43 out of 43 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Florida participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 43 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

3,049 Victims Served in One Day

2,115 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

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

Services Provided by Local Programs	Sept. 13 th
Emergency Shelter	95%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	63%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	56%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	51%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	47%

634 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 in Florida answered on average 26 hotline calls per hour.

865 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 865 individuals in communities across Florida attended 48 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

132 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 92% (121) were for Housing

Victims made 132 requests for services — including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more — that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that could not be provided were housing advocacy, legal representation, and financial assistance.

In the past year, local programs in Florida were forced to eliminate 15 staff positions. Most of these positions (89%) 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.

❖ An advocate in Florida said, “A survivor was frustrated with the lack of a free attorney. Her abuser had the means to hire a lawyer, but she did not.”