



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Puerto Rico Summary

On September 13, 2018, 9 out of 19 (**47%**) 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 9 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

305 Victims Served in One Day

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

123 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	67%
Transportation	67%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	56%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	22%
Court Accompaniment or Legal Advocacy	22%

22 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, hotline staff in Puerto Rico answered on average 1 hotline call per hour.

57 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 57 individuals in communities across Puerto Rico attended 4 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

36 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 58% (21) were for Housing

Victims made 36 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 Puerto Rico were forced to eliminate 13 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.

❖ An advocate in Puerto Rico said, “We assisted a survivor in applying for a VAWA self-petition. She recently received her work permit and said, ‘**I can’t believe that I’m now able find a job.**’”

