



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Virginia Summary

On September 13, 2018, 49 out of 53 (92%) identified domestic violence programs in Virginia participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 49 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 1,687 Victims Served in One Day

1,187 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

500 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 <sup>th</sup>
Emergency Shelter	78%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	35%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	29%
Support/Advocacy Related to Health Care or Health Care Systems	20%

### 433 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 Virginia answered on average 18 hotline calls per hour.

### 183 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 183 individuals in communities across Virginia attended 32 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 64 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 73% (47) were for Housing

Victims made 64 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 Virginia were forced to eliminate 10 staff positions. Most of these positions (71%) 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 Virginia said, “Our shelter was preparing for Hurricane Florence on Census Day. We were able to assist those who wanted to leave with bus passes, and those who chose to stay had plenty of food, water, and hygiene items as well as a safety plan and point of contact from the shelter in case of an emergency.”

