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Domestic Violence Counts National Summary

On September 17, 2013, 1,649 out of 1,905 (87%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the United States and territories participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by these 1,649 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

66,581 Victims Served in One Day

36,348 domestic violence victims (19,431 children and 16,917 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

30,233 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

This chart shows the percentage of programs that provided the following services on the Census Day.

Services Provided by Local Programs:	Sept. 17
Individual Support or Advocacy	98%
Children's Support or Advocacy	84%
Emergency Shelter	77%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	58%
Transportation	58%
Group Support or Advocacy	53%

20,267 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 hotlines answered 20,267 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered 550 calls, averaging more than 14 hotline calls every minute.

23,389 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 23,389 individuals in communities across the United States attended 1,413 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

9,641 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 60% (5,778) were for Housing

Victims made more than 9,000 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and non-residential services, 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.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available; however, 60% of programs report that victims return to the abuser, 27% report that victims become homeless, and 11% report that victims end up living in their cars.

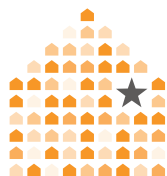
Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 27% reported reduced government funding.
- 20% reported not enough staff.
- 12% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 10% reported reduced individual donations.

Across the United States 1,696 staff positions were eliminated in the past year. Most of these positions 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.

"On the Census Day, one of our residents left the program. She entered the program with a great deal of anxiety and self-doubt after leaving her abusive husband of 30 years. While she was moving her belongings out of the shelter, she was hopeful for her future. She said, 'I came here with nothing and you gave me everything.'"

—New Jersey Advocate



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VIOLENCE