

# '09 Domestic Violence Counts Rhode Island Summary

On September 15, 2009, 6 out of 6, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Rhode Island participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 321 Victims Served in One Day

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

238 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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 15
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	67%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	83%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	67%
Group Support or Advocacy	33%
Advocacy/Support for Teen Victims of Dating Violence	33%
Emergency Shelter	83%
Transitional Housing	67%

## 104 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, domestic violence programs answered approximately 4 hotline calls every hour.

## 113 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 113 individuals in communities across Rhode Island attended 12 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 26 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. All of Rhode Island's programs have less than 20 paid staff. In 2009, programs reported letting go of or not replacing 13 positions because of a lack of funding.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 🏠 33% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 33% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 17% reported not enough specialized services.

"Survivors of domestic violence have to overcome challenges and barriers daily. Many people don't understand the dynamics of domestic violence, and survivors feel stigmatized and undervalued. We need more domestic violence awareness, understanding, and prevention. We also need to look at how domestic violence affects children, elders, and the disabled."

"Due to statewide cuts, many of our clients don't have healthcare, and as a result don't receive adequate medical care or medication."