

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Virginia Summary

On September 15, 2009, 46 out of 47, or 98%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Virginia participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 46 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,274 Victims Served in One Day

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

589 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	98%
Transitional Housing	22%
Emergency Shelter	83%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	52%
Transportation	65%
Advocacy/Support for Teen Victims of Dating Violence	20%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	54%
Rural Outreach	26%

773 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 32 hotline calls every hour.

1,239 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,239 individuals in communities across Virginia attended 56 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

224 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. Of these unmet requests, 205 (92%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason they could not meet domestic violence victims' requests for services. Eighty percent of programs have less than 20 paid staff, and 41% of those programs have less than 10 paid staff. In 2009, programs reported letting go or not replacing 38 positions because of lack of funding.

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

- 30% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 30% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 26% reported not enough specialized services.
- 20% reported not enough staff.
- 2% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"We've been working with a victim who's suffered from serious physical abuse. She's been afraid to call the police because she's worried her husband (the abuser) will lose his job and they would become homeless. After serious violence, she contacted the police and is now living in our shelter."