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Domestic Violence Counts Arkansas Summary

On September 17, 2013, 26 out of 33 (79%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Arkansas participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 26 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

514 Victims Served in One Day

333 domestic violence victims (169 children and 164 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

181 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
Safe Houses	27%
Transitional Housing	15%
Legal representation	8%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	38%
Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	38%
Childcare/Daycare	15%
Translation/Interpretation Services	8%
Transportation	54%

150 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 150 calls, averaging more than 6 hotline calls every hour.

318 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 318 individuals in communities across Arkansas attended 22 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

29 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 62% (18) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 25 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential 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 couldn’t be provided were housing advocacy, followed by financial assistance and legal representation.

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 58% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 15% report that victims become homeless, and 4% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 35% reported reduced government funding.
- 19% reported reduced individual donations.
- 15% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 12% reported not enough staff.

Across Arkansas, 17 (7%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Domestic violence service providers are confronted daily with families who have complex needs and must often operate in environments where resources are scarce. Programs are working across service systems to better address the needs of this vulnerable population, but there are still major gaps in services and many victims needs are not being met.”

— Advocate

