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Domestic Violence Counts Louisiana Summary

On September 17, 2013, 17 out of 17 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Louisiana participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

721 Victims Served in One Day

721 domestic violence victims (240 children and 185 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

296 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 | 100% |
| Emergency Shelter | 100% |
| Children's Support or Advocacy | 100% |
| Group Support or Advocacy | 76% |
| Transportation | 71% |
| Rural Outreach | 53% |
| Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment | 41% |
| Financial Skills/Budgeting | 41% |

334 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 334 calls, averaging more than 14 hotline calls every hour.

149 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 149 individuals in communities across Louisiana attended 14 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

167 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 34% (56) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 167 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 for housing advocacy and financial assistance, followed by 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 53% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 35% report that victims become homeless, and 6% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 35% reported reduced government funding.
- 24% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 12% reported reduced individual donations.
- 12% reported not enough staff.

Across Louisiana 28 (10%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"During a domestic violence incident, a victim's neighbor called the police. The abuser fled the scene, and the distraught survivor was arrested and taken to jail. The day before her court date, she called our program and entered shelter. The next day she was expected to appear in court for the misdemeanor charges against her for 'disturbing the peace.'"

— Advocate

