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Domestic Violence Counts New Hampshire Summary

On September 17, 2013, 13 out of 13 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in New Hampshire participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 13 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

299 Victims Served in One Day

130 domestic violence victims (62 children and 68 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

169 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
Children's Support or Advocacy	85%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	77%
Transportation	54%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	46%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	46%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	23%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	23%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	23%

189 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 more than 8 hotline calls every hour.

68 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 68 individuals in communities across New Hampshire attended 8 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

52 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 85% (44) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 50 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 service that couldn't be provided was housing advocacy, followed by legal representation, financial assistance, and transportation.

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 31% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 31% report that victims become homeless, and 23% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 31% reported not enough available staff.
- 23% reported reduced government funding.
- 23% reported private funding cuts.
- 8% reported reduced individual donations.

Across New Hampshire 14 (9%) 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.

A caller was wanting to leave her abuser and was seeking emergency confidential shelter for survivors of domestic violence. Our shelter was full as were our sister shelters in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. We were going to search for openings in Vermont when she decided to remain in the house and if the danger escalated she would drive to the emergency room of the local hospital and call an advocate.

— Advocate

