

'13

Domestic Violence Counts New Jersey Summary

On September 17, 2013, 27 out of 27 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in New Jersey participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 27 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,331 Victims Served in One Day

472 domestic violence victims (267 children and 205 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

859 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%
Children's Support or Advocacy	96%
Emergency Shelter	81%
Group Support or Advocacy	78%
Bilingual Advocacy	74%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	63%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	59%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	37%

545 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 23 hotline calls every hour.

603 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 603 individuals in communities across New Jersey attended 25 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

112 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 52% (58) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 100 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 were 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 44% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser and 19% report that victims become homeless.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 41% reported reduced government funding.
- 33% reported not enough available staff.
- 30% reported private funding cuts.
- 19% reported reduced individual donations.

Across New Jersey 34 (5%) 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.

On the Census Day, one of our residents left the program. She entered the program with a great deal of anxiety and self-doubt after leaving her abusive husband of 30 years. While she was moving her belongings out of the shelter, she was hopeful for her future. She said, 'I came here with nothing and you gave me everything.'

— Advocate

