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Domestic Violence Counts New York Summary

On September 17, 2013, 74 out of 92 (80%), of identified local domestic violence programs in New York participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 74 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

4,589 Victims Served in One Day

2,487 domestic violence victims (1,424 children and 1,063 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

2,102 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	82%
Emergency Shelter	76%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	70%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	68%
Transportation	64%
Group Support or Advocacy	50%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	47%

1,158 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 48 hotline calls every hour.

918 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 918 individuals in communities across New York attended 54 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

572 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 33% (186) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 150 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 were counseling, housing, legal representation, and financial assistance.

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 61% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 30% report that victims become homeless, and 7% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 23% reported not enough available staff.
- 22% reported reduced government funding.
- 12% reported private funding cuts.
- 8% reported reduced individual donations.

Across New York 119 (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.

We were able to help out a client who was looking for support in her own language and whose English was very limited. This woman was so afraid of her husband and for her children that she was hysterically crying and felt helpless. When an advocate spoke to her in her own language and told her about the available services and did the safety planning with her, she was ready to call the local shelter and get the much needed help.

— Advocate

