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Domestic Violence Counts Ohio Summary

On September 17, 2013, 70 out of 70 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Ohio participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 70 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,017 Victims Served in One Day

1,040 domestic violence victims (577 children and 463 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

977 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	97%
Emergency Shelter	80%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	80%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	66%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	37%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	29%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	23%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	17%

786 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 33 hotline calls every hour.

876 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 876 individuals in communities across Ohio attended 40 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

180 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 68% (123) 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 housing advocacy and financial assistance, followed by legal representation 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 54% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 20% report that victims become homeless, and 6% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 26% reported reduced government funding.
- 20% reported not enough available staff.
- 9% reported private funding cuts.
- 7% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Ohio 62 (7%) 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 know from speaking to survivors how important safe and appropriate housing options are, but there are too few options and too many barriers to access.

— Advocate

