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Domestic Violence Counts Pennsylvania Summary

On September 17, 2013, 60 out of 60 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,424 Victims Served in One Day

1,168 domestic violence victims (618 children and 550 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,256 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	82%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	75%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	52%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	45%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	35%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	22%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	22%

787 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.

1,224 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,224 individuals in communities across Pennsylvania attended 89 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

364 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 60% (218) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 350 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, 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 60% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 32% report that victims become homeless, and 8% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 32% reported reduced government funding.
- 18% reported not enough available staff.
- 17% reported private funding cuts.
- 7% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Pennsylvania 75 (6%) 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.

Typically, as well as on the Census Day, the largest unmet need is for safe shelter. Shelter is under extremely high demand and we have a very small shelter to accommodate an entire county as well as callers from surrounding counties who are seeking safe housing.

— Advocate

