

# '13

## Domestic Violence Counts Rhode Island Summary

On September 17, 2013, 6 out of 6 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Rhode Island participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 6 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 284 Victims Served in One Day

117 domestic violence victims (63 children and 54 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

167 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	100%
Transitional Housing	100%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	100%
Group Support or Advocacy	67%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	67%
Transportation	33%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	17%

### 108 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 5 hotline calls every hour.

### 40 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 40 individuals in communities across Rhode Island attended 2 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 223 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 96% (215) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 200 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 50% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser and 50% report that victims become homeless.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 50% reported reduced government funding.
- 17% reported not enough available staff.
- 17% reported private funding cuts.

Across Rhode Island 15 (13%) 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 survivor was unable to obtain shelter due to the shelter being full, the caller was being discharged from the Emergency Room due to her injuries from the abuser and, sadly, we could not accommodate her.

— Advocate

