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Domestic Violence Counts South Carolina Summary

On September 17, 2013, 11 out of 12 (92%), of identified local domestic violence programs in South Carolina participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 11 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

475 Victims Served in One Day

295 domestic violence victims (170 children and 125 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

180 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	91%
Children’s Advocacy or Support	91%
Transportation	82%
Group Support or Advocacy	73%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	55%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	55%
Bilingual Advocacy	45%

135 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 6 hotline calls every hour.

131 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 131 individuals in communities across South Carolina attended 12 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

16 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 44% (7) Were for Housing

Victims made 16 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.

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 45% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 18% report that victims become homeless, and 9% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 45% reported reduced government funding.
- 36% reported not enough available staff.
- 9% reported reduced individual donations.

Across South Carolina 13 (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.

We have been working with an immigrant victim of domestic violence who was shot multiple times by her spouse. She had been separated from him for five years at the time. She was hospitalized and her abuser fled the country. We have been providing individual therapy and helping her to deal with severe trauma from this abuse. Recently we were able to successfully advocate for her with our Solicitor, and he has agreed to sign her U Visa Application.

— Advocate

