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Domestic Violence Counts Washington Summary

On September 17, 2013, 54 out of 68 (79%), local domestic violence programs in Washington participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 54 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,082 Victims Served in One Day

1,051 domestic violence victims (575 children and 476 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,031 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	96%
Children's Support or Advocacy	74%
Emergency Shelter	67%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	59%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	54%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	50%
Bilingual Advocacy	46%
Transportation	43%

837 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 35 hotline calls every hour.

391 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 391 individuals in communities across Washington attended 39 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

382 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 70% (266) 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 61% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 35% report that victims become homeless, and 22% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 33% reported not enough available staff.
- 31% reported reduced government funding.
- 9% reported reduced individual donations.
- 7% reported private funding cuts.

Across Washington 41 (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.

Due to the lack of space in our shelter, one survivor made the decision to stay with her abuser while she waits on the longer permanent housing list.

— Advocate

