

# '14

## Domestic Violence Counts Florida Summary

On September 10, 2014, 42 out of 42 (100%) identified local domestic violence programs in Florida participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 42 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 3,550 Victims Served in One Day

2,026 domestic violence victims (1,046 children and 980 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,524 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. 10
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	100%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	100%
Transportation	81%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	69%
Transitional Housing	45%
Rural Outreach	33%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	26%

### 857 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, local and state hotlines answered 857 calls, averaging more than 35 hotline calls every hour.

### 468 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 468 individuals in communities across Florida attended 31 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 224 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 63% (141) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 220 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and non-residential services, which could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently-needed service that couldn’t be provided was housing, followed by financial assistance and legal representation.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 21% reported reduced government funding.
- 17% reported not enough staff.
- 14% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 10% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Florida, 26 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (76%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Thirty-eight individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“A family was recently housed in a hotel because the shelter was beyond capacity. Emergency shelter, safe and affordable housing and financial assistance are our most frequent unmet needs for both our residential and non-residential survivors and their families.”

— Advocate

