

'14

Domestic Violence Counts New Jersey Summary

On September 10, 2014, 21 out of 28 (75%) identified local domestic violence programs in New Jersey participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 21 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,109 Victims Served in One Day

495 domestic violence victims (273 children and 222 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

614 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%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	95%
Emergency Shelter	95%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	76%
Transitional Housing	67%
Transportation	67%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	62%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	57%

404 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 404 calls, averaging more than 16 hotline calls every hour.

469 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 469 individuals in communities across New Jersey attended 16 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

65 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 42% (27) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 60 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

- 24% reported reduced government funding.
- 19% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 14% reported not enough staff.
- 10% reported reduced individual donations.

Across New Jersey, 26 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (79%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Nine individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“A female victim had a scheduled appointment with one of our legal advocates to discuss options available to her about her final restraining order (FRO) against her ex-husband. She reported that her ex-husband was bringing her back to court to file a motion to dismiss the FRO. The client was receptive to exploring her options. She stated that our program “saved her life.” She built a strong support system and feels empowered. This client sees our agency as a strong and encouraging resource as her battle continues.

— Advocate

