

# '14

## Domestic Violence Counts Puerto Rico Summary

On September 10, 2014, 13 out of 16 (81%) identified local domestic violence programs in Puerto Rico participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 13 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 478 Victims Served in One Day

277 domestic violence victims (161 children and 116 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

201 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	92%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	69%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	62%
Transportation	54%
Emergency Shelter	38%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	38%
Childcare/Daycare	31%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	8%

### 93 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 93 calls, averaging more than 3 hotline calls every hour.

### 53 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 53 individuals in communities across Puerto Rico attended 6 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 12 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 58% (7) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 10 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 legal representation.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 54% reported reduced government funding.
- 31% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 23% reported not enough staff.
- 8% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Puerto Rico, 44 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (67%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Nineteen individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“Domestic violence service providers are confronted daily with families who have complex needs and must often operate in environments where resources are scarce. Programs are working across service systems to better address the needs of this vulnerable population, but there are still major gaps in services and many victims’ needs are not being met.”

— Advocate

