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Domestic Violence Counts National Summary

On September 15, 2010, 1,746 out of 1,920, or 91%, of identified local domestic violence programs in the United States and territories participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 1,746 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

70,648 Victims Served in One Day

37,519 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

33,129 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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. 15
Emergency Shelter	75%
Children's Support or Advocacy	56%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	54%
Transitional Housing	35%
Bilingual Advocacy (by a bilingual advocate)	33%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	20%

23,522 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 domestic violence programs answered 22,292 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered 1,230 calls, resulting in more than 16 hotline calls every minute.

30,134 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 30,134 individuals in communities across the United States and territories attended 1,240 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

9,541 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 5,686 (60%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 38% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 29% reported not enough staff.
- 24% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 21% reported not enough specialized services.
- 10% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

2,007 Jobs Lost

Without adequate staffing, programs struggle to provide help and advocacy to survivors. In 2010, programs reported letting go or not replacing staff in 2,007 positions because of a lack of funding. Fortunately, for 854 local programs, stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act enabled them to keep or create 1,384 victim advocacy jobs.

82% of Programs Reported Higher Demand for Services

As communities continue to experience job loss and decreased community resources, 1,441 (82%) programs reported a rise in demand for services, while at the same time, 1,351 (77%) of programs reported a decrease in funding.

"We provided legal advocacy and emergency shelter to a victim who had attempted to commit suicide because she believed that suicide was the only way she could end the abuse."

—Arkansas Advocate

