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Domestic Violence Counts Alabama Summary

On September 15, 2011, 18 out of 18, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Alabama participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

860 Victims Served in One Day

334 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. In addition to a safe place to lay their heads at night, shelter residents were provided with a variety of comprehensive services, some of which are listed in the chart below.

526 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
Individual Support or Advocacy	94%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	89%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	89%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	78%
Transportation	78%
Transitional Housing	56%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	50%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	28%

134 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, Alabama programs answered more than 5 hotline calls every hour.

97 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

67% of Unmet Requests Were for Non-Residential Services

With 65 unmet requests, counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support service were among the most requested services.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 61% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 39% reported not enough staff.
- 33% reported not enough specialized services.

“Today, we assisted a mother who was living in our shelter. She was scheduled to appear in court out of state but did not have any money to travel. Our agency wrote a letter to the court, and by working with several agencies in that state, we were able to get the ticket, fees and any court costs dismissed. Due to our intervention and support, this client now has one less issue to resolve.”

