

'11

Domestic Violence Counts

Arkansas Summary

On September 15, 2011, 33 out of 36, or 92%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Arkansas participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 33 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

528 Victims Served in One Day

308 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.

220 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 |
|--|----------|
| Transportation | 42% |
| Advocacy Related to Mental Health | 36% |
| Transitional Housing | 18% |
| Bilingual Advocacy | 18% |
| Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner) | 15% |
| Legal Representation by an Attorney | 9% |
| Therapy/Counseling for Children (by a licensed practitioner) | 6% |

240 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, Arkansas programs answered 10 hotline calls every hour.

26 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.

81% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 21 unmet requests, emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs. Other frequently requested unmet needs include legal representation, counseling, and legal advocacy.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 30% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 21% reported not enough staff.
- 21% reported not enough specialized services.
- 15% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 3% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A shelter resident came to us after her abuser tried to kill her by hitting her in the head with a concrete block. During her stay in shelter, she told us that it had been a very long time since she had felt safe."

