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Domestic Violence Counts Illinois Summary

On September 15, 2011, 62 out of 62, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,658 Victims Served in One Day

1,100 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.

1,588 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 | 52% |
| Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF | 45% |
| Financial Skills/Budgeting | 44% |
| Advocacy Related to Mental Health | 35% |
| Advocacy Related to Immigration | 29% |
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| Medical Services/Accompaniment | 23% |
| Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence | 21% |

1,118 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, Illinois programs answered more than 46 hotline calls every hour.

904 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.

61% of Unmet Requests Were for Non-Residential Services

With 555 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:

- 50% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 40% reported not enough staff.
- 26% reported not enough specialized services.
- 19% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 15% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"On the survey day, a survivor shared with her advocate, 'Everyone here has been so wonderful that I've begun to think of every one of you as a friend. Everyone made time to listen to me when I was unable to think straight. There was such a sense of peace within these walls, there really isn't words to explain. Everyone here has made it possible for me to succeed. If I needed information, I had it in minutes. If I needed a listening ear, you were there within seconds. I haven't laughed so much or so hard in years. Thank you.'"

