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Domestic Violence Counts Maryland Summary

On September 15, 2011, 23 out of 23, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Maryland participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

866 Victims Served in One Day

408 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.

458 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 (including hotels/safe houses) | 74% |
| Adult Therapy/Counseling (by licensed practitioner) | 65% |
| Court/Legal Accompaniment and/or Advocacy | 48% |
| Transitional Housing | 43% |
| Bilingual Advocacy (services by a bilingual advocate) | 39% |
| Children Therapy/Counseling (by licensed practitioner) | 39% |
| Legal Representation by an Attorney | 35% |

545 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, Maryland programs answered more than 22 hotline calls every hour.

183 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.

84% of Unmet Requests Were for Non-Residential Services

With 154 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:

- 🏠 39% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 35% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 22% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 4% reported not enough specialized services.

"A client's abuser denied her access to her children for months. When she was finally able to visit, she noticed bruises and burns on them. Before she left, her abuser assaulted her. She reported the incident and at an emergency custody hearing was held. We represented the victim and proposed that she enter shelter and receive counseling for herself and her children. We let her know we could help her apply for medical assistance, employment, and housing. The court accepted this plan and she was reunited with her children that night."

