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Domestic Violence Counts New Jersey Summary

On September 15, 2011, 25 out of 25, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in New Jersey participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

1,292 Victims Served in One Day

537 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.

755 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
Children's Support or Advocacy	92%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	84%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	84%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by someone who is bilingual)	80%
Transitional Housing	56%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	48%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	36%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	24%

444 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, domestic violence programs answered more than 18 hotline calls every hour.

82 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.

55% of Unmet Requests Were for Non-Residential Services

With 45 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:

- 36% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 24% reported not enough staff.
- 24% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 16% reported not enough specialized services.
- 8% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A client shared with her advocate, 'When I arrived at this program, I was emotionally broken, traumatized by the abuse, unsure if I was going to make it. Then I went back to my abuser thinking he had changed. I remembered what you told me about the dynamics of violence and shortly after my return he started with the name calling and threats. I am so happy I called you back, and that I was able to return to the shelter. The shelter was like a rebirth for me and my baby.'"

