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Domestic Violence Counts Pennsylvania Summary

On September 15, 2011, 60 out of 60, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,333 Victims Served in One Day

1,213 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.

1,120 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	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	85%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	78%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	65%
Transitional Housing	55%
Transportation	38%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	28%
Medical Services/Accompaniment	17%

807 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, Pennsylvania programs answered more than 33 hotline calls every hour.

712 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.

85% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 608 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:

- 🏠 53% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 42% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 37% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 33% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 13% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A client shared, 'It is so nice to wake up in a place where you do not have to be sworn at or hit. It really means a lot to have a safe place for me and my children.'"

