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Domestic Violence Counts South Dakota Summary

On September 15, 2011, 15 out of 36, or 42%, of identified local domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 15 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

215 Victims Served in One Day

115 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.

100 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	80%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	73%
Transportation	53%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	27%
Group Support or Advocacy	27%

108 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, South Dakota programs answered more than 4 hotline calls every hour.

21 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.

71% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 15 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:

- 60% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 33% reported not enough specialized services.
- 27% reported not enough staff.
- 7% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 7% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A woman requested to be transported to her relative's home in a nearby state. The advocates arranged to take the woman and her children to a community near her destination and her relative arranged for the transit bus to take her and the children to her home. The woman was so very happy and relieved to be leaving the area where her abuser lives."

