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Domestic Violence Counts Utah Summary

On September 15, 2011, 16 out of 16, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs, plus 1 tribal program in Utah participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

831 Victims Served in One Day

570 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.

261 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	94%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	88%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	53%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by someone who is bilingual)	47%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	29%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	12%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	6%

277 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 11 hotline calls every hour.

63 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of housing. Programs also struggled to provide services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

95% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 60 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:

- 41% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 29% reported not enough specialized services.
- 18% reported not enough staff.
- 18% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 6% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“Today we had a victim enter the shelter who had been with her abuser for 20 years. Less than an hour after arriving at the shelter, her abuser came looking for her. The following day she met with a social worker who gave her the resources that she needed to get a bus ticket and flee to another shelter outside of the state. The social worker took her to the bus station and gave her food for her journey. The woman thanked us for being here.”

