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Domestic Violence Counts Vermont Summary

On September 15, 2011, 13 out of 13, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Vermont participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

535 Victims Served in One Day

220 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.

315 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	92%
Children's Support or Advocacy	69%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	69%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	62%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	62%
Transitional Housing	54%
Transportation	46%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF	46%

147 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, Vermont programs answered more than 6 hotline calls every hour.

65 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.

63% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 41 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:

- 46% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 31% reported not enough staff.
- 23% reported not enough specialized services.
- 23% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 15% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A woman and her children came into our shelter after utilizing our hotline services for several months. She was having an extremely difficult time finding housing. She had to leave her home and live in a shelter with her children while her husband stayed in the home and didn't pay any bills, and as a result their home was in foreclosure. We offered her and her children shelter, childcare, and emotional and financial support."

