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Domestic Violence Counts Wisconsin Summary

On September 15, 2011, 63 out of 72, or 88%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Wisconsin participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 63 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,620 Victims Served in One Day

913 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.

707 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	68%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	62%
Transportation	46%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	37%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	33%
Transitional Housing	30%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	24%

616 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, Wisconsin programs answered more than 26 hotline calls every hour.

270 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.

83% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 225 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:

- 33% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 27% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 21% reported not enough specialized services.
- 21% reported not enough staff.
- 17% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A victim stated to an advocate, 'He made me feel trapped to the point that it reduced my life to nothing. However, after working with you I now know that I can survive without my husband and it's all because of you.'"

