Domestic Violence Counts Florida Summary

On September 16, 2015, 43 out of 43 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Florida participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 43 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

3,349 Victims Served in One Day

2,293 domestic violence victims (1,164 children and 1,129 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,056 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including 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. 16
Emergency Shelter	98%
Individual Support or Advocacy	98%
Children's Support or Advocacy	95%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	56%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	47%
Rural Outreach	37%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	26%
Support/Advocacy Related to Technology Use (cyberstalking, etc.)	26%

806 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 33 hotline calls every hour.

962 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 962 individuals in communities across Florida attended 42 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.



Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Rental Assistance/Utilities, Attorney/Legal Representation, and Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Florida, 21 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 16% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 9% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Thirty-two staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (78%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"A survivor and her two children were accepted into a transitional housing program after a fourmonth stay in our shelter. Prior to staying in shelter, the abuser harassed her at three different places of employment. While in shelter, she was able to stay safe and secure employment. After a referral from her advocate, she was approved for the transitional housing program. She shared that she was grateful for her stay in shelter."

Advocate

