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Domestic Violence Counts National Summary

On September 12, 2012, 1,646 out of 1,924, or 86%, of identified local domestic violence programs in the United States and territories participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 1,646 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

64,324 Victims Served in One Day

35,323 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.

29,001 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. 12
Children’s Support or Advocacy	80%
Emergency Shelter	75%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	53%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	44%
Transitional Housing	34%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	20%

20,821 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, local and state hotlines answered 20,119 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered 702 calls, averaging more than 14 hotline calls every minute.

25,182 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 25,182 individuals in communities across the United States attended 1,162 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

10,471 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 10,471 request for services, including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services.

65% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 6,818 requests unmet.

Of the unmet requests, the following services were reported as the most requested (from most to least requested):

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Counseling
3. Attorney/Legal Representation
4. Transitional Housing

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 42% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 30% reported not enough staff.
- 26% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 23% reported not enough specialized services.
- 10% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“We have a huge challenge in that many people don’t understand the dynamics of domestic violence. We need more education for our community partners—including law enforcement, medical providers and the courts. We also need more economic opportunities and safe, sustainable and supportive housing options for survivors.”

— Advocate

