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Domestic Violence Counts District of Columbia Summary

On September 17, 2013, 12 out of 12 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the District of Columbia participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

553 Victims Served in One Day

318 domestic violence victims (187 children and 131 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

235 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. 17
Transitional Housing	33%
Bilingual Advocacy	42%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	42%
Emergency Shelter	17%
Individual Support or Advocacy	83%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	42%
Legal Representation	42%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	58%

48 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 48 calls, averaging more than 2 hotline calls every hour.

142 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 142 individuals in communities across the District of Columbia attended 3 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

52 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 77% (40) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 50 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that couldn't be provided were housing advocacy, followed by counseling, legal representation, and financial assistance

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available; however 33% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 33% report that victims become homeless, and 17% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 33% reported reduced funding.
- 25% reported not enough staff.

Across the District of Columbia, 5 (3%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"Survivors' lives are put at risk every day due to the lack of funding and access to safe, affordable housing."

— Advocate

