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Domestic Violence Counts Delaware Summary

On September 17, 2013, 7 out of 7 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Delaware participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

214 Victims Served in One Day

106 domestic violence victims (65 children and 41 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

108 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 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Individual Support or Advocacy | 100% |
| Children’s Support or Advocacy | 71% |
| Group Support or Advocacy | 57% |
| Emergency Shelter | 57% |
| Bilingual Advocacy | 57% |
| Transportation | 43% |
| Advocacy Related to Mental Health | 43% |
| Transitional Housing | 29% |

19 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 19 calls.

4 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 4 individuals in Delaware attended a training session provided by a local domestic violence program, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

10 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made 10 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, legal representation, and transportation.

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 71% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 29% report that victims become homeless, and 14% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 29% reported not enough staff.
- 14% reported reduced government funding.
- 14% reported reduced individual donations.
- 14% reported cuts from private funding sources.

Across Delaware 4 (4%) 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.

“A woman came to our shelter after fleeing her abusive husband. She lived in her car for a week before entering our program. Since in shelter, she has been able to increase her safety, continue to care for her teenage children, obtain a job, and is now planning to move into her own safe residence.”

— Advocate

