

# '11

# Domestic Violence Counts Delaware Summary

On September 15, 2011, 6 out of 7, or 86%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Delaware participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 6 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 114 Victims Served in One Day

68 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.

46 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	83%
Children's Support or Advocacy	67%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	50%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	50%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	33%
Bilingual Advocacy (services by someone who is bilingual)	33%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	17%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	17%

### 20 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

### 3 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. 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:

- 🏠 17% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 17% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 17% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"While providing interpretation and accompanying a client to her hearing at the courthouse today, the victim shared that she had been in an abusive relationship for over 20 years, and had never spoken to anybody about the abuse prior to today. Her abuser had isolated her from her friends and family and cultural and linguistic barriers had isolated her from the mainstream society. We discussed possible negative outcomes of the court hearing and she responded by saying, "That's okay. I've made a decision. I can already feel that something has changed."

