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Domestic Violence Counts California Summary

On September 17, 2013, 99 out of 99 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the California participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

5,263 Victims Served in One Day

3,145 domestic violence victims (1,734 children and 1,411 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

2,118 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
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	59%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	23%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	52%
Bilingual Advocacy	70%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	96%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	32%

1,703 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 1,703 calls, averaging more than 71 hotline calls every hour.

1,232 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,232 individuals in communities across California attended 110 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

872 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 80% (697) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 850 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 legal representation, followed closely by housing advocacy 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 49% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 37% report that victims become homeless, and 16% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 28% reported not enough staff.
- 27% reported reduced government funding.
- 16% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 11% reported reduced individual donations.

Across California, 123 (6%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“We worked with a woman who was stabbed by her husband when she was four months pregnant and while her other child watched. She told me that she was always afraid of going to the police to report the violence because she came to the country without documentation when she was just 10 years old. We addressed her legal status and helped her obtain her documentation to stay in the country. Her husband was sentenced to prison for attempted murder and felony domestic violence and now she and her children are safe.”

— Advocate

