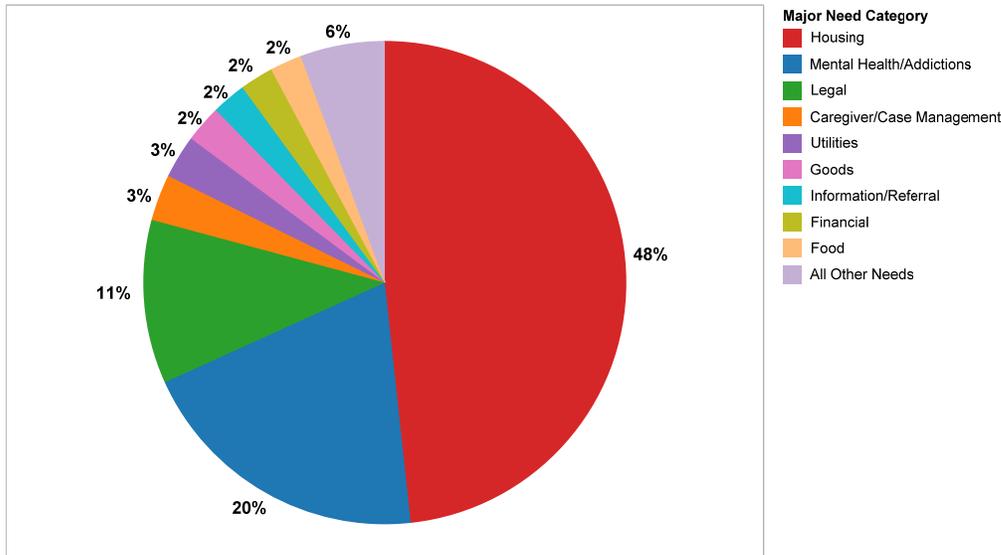


Finding a Safe Place is Number One Concern for Domestic Abuse Victims

Domestic Abuse Callers' Needs: January-September 2011



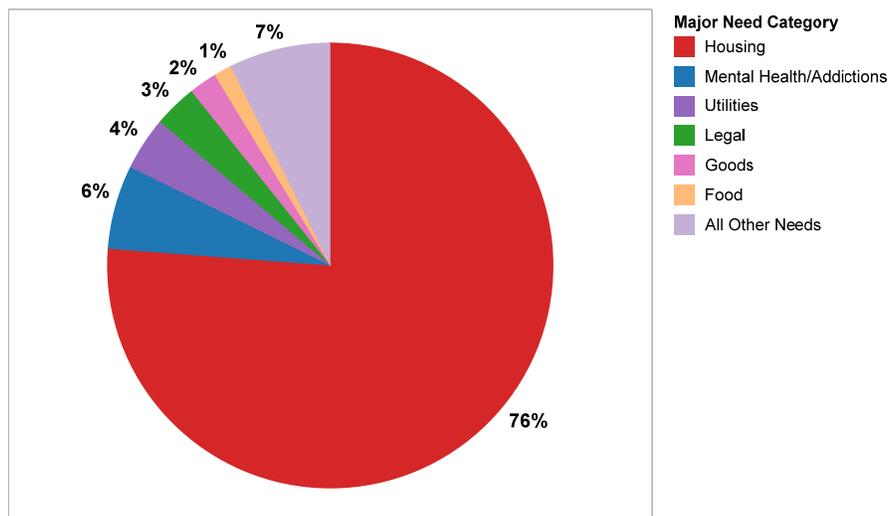
Under Domestic Violence Network's (DVN) watch, awareness campaigns such as **WTHR's *Shattering the Silence on Domestic Abuse*** and the **Nina Mason Pulliam-funded *bus placards*** have encouraged victims to call 2-1-1 for help.

During the first 9 months of 2011, nearly 3,200 people called the Domestic Violence Navigation Hub, operated by Connect2Help, for help. This is a **20% increase** compared to the same time period in 2010.

Domestic abuse affects not only the victim, but others living in the household, especially children. There was an **18% increase** in these "**secondary victims**" in 2011 compared to 2010.

Hub callers requested help with almost **5,200 needs** and received more than **7,200 referrals** to community resources. By far, the most urgent request presented by these callers was a safe place to live. Of the 2,500 housing calls, **88% were seeking shelter**.

Domestic Abuse Callers' Unmet Needs
January-September 2011



Ten percent (10%) of domestic abuse callers' needs were recorded as "unmet" by Hub staff.

The vast majority of unmet needs (**76%**) were related to housing. Of these unmet housing needs, **89% were for shelter**.

Reasons for unmet shelter included:

- No resource – 51%
- Call terminated/incomplete – 23%
- Caller not eligible – 14%
- Caller refused resource – 12%

In response to this shortage of shelter space for victims and their families, DVN solicited community support for the **Emergency Shelter Fund** and received funding from the United Way of Central Indiana, the Women's Fund of Central Indiana, The Indianapolis Foundation, the Morgan Family Charitable Fund and private donors in August 2011. The fund provides hotel and motel rooms for victims when no other shelter space is available.

DVN and Connect2Help Hub staff will continue to monitor and report on the community's progress towards ensuring that every domestic abuse victim has a safe place to go when s/he needs to leave a violent household.



For assistance or more information about domestic abuse in Central Indiana, dial 2-1-1 or (317) 926-4357.

