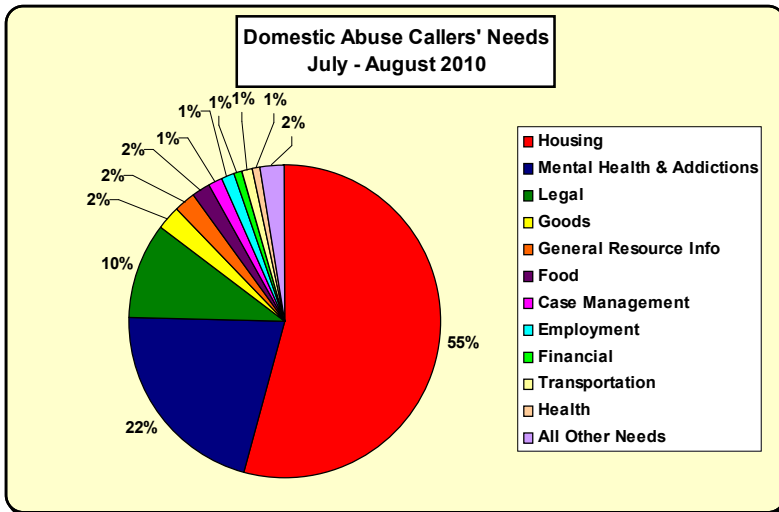


The Call to "Shatter the Silence" on Domestic Abuse Increases Requests for Help

WTHR Channel 13 once again raised awareness about domestic abuse through its annual "Shattering the Silence" campaign during July and August 2010. During just these 2 months, 760 people called for help regarding a domestic abuse situation. This is a **23% increase** compared to July and August 2009.



- More than half of all callers' needs (55%) were related to housing; within this category, **emergency shelter** was the number one need. This is a trend that has continued for the last 10 years.
- Calls concerning **mental health** needs such as support groups and counseling ranked second among callers' requests.
- **Legal issues** rounded out the top 3 need categories. One out of every 10 needs reported concerned legal matters, including issues such as obtaining a protective order and custody issues.

- The majority of callers (**79%**) lived in **Marion County**; 7% lived in the seven counties surrounding Marion; and 14% lived outside of central Indiana.
- Most of those calling (**85%**) were **victims of abuse** (94% were female and 6% were male); 10% were friends or family members of the victim; 3% were professionals; and 2% were abusers calling for resources.
- In addition to those calling for assistance, there were at least **800 children** living in these homes filled with family violence.

For 24/7 assistance or more information about domestic abuse in Central Indiana, dial 2-1-1 or (317) 926-4357.

