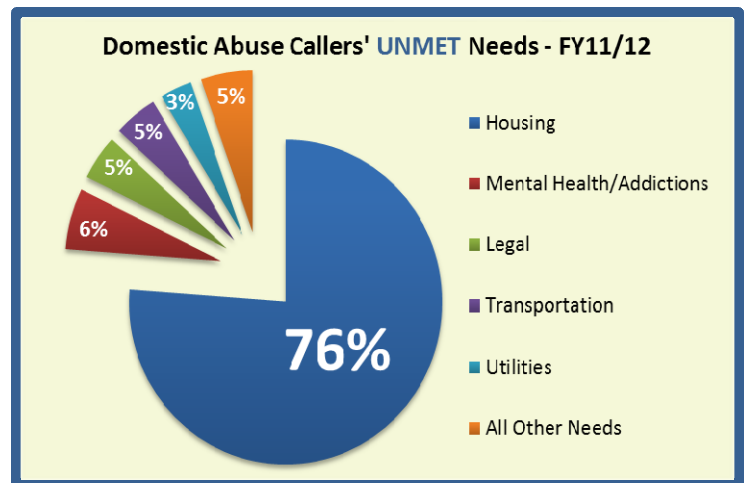
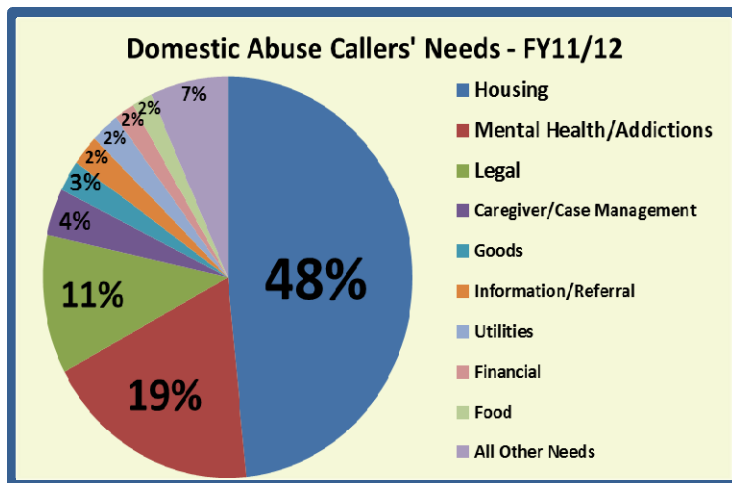
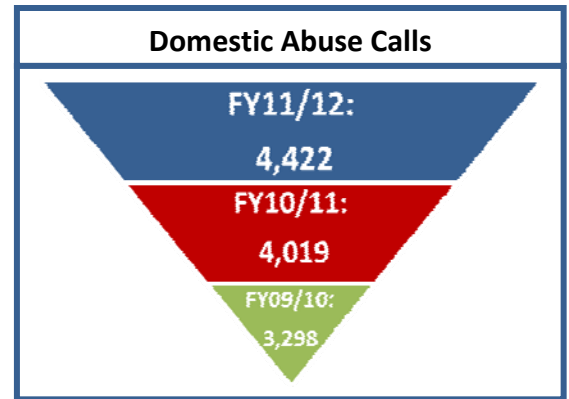


As Domestic Abuse Calls Rise, More Are Left Without Help

- Each year, thousands of women (and girls) and hundreds of men (and boys) in our community are emotionally, physically or sexually abused by someone who “loves” them. The physical, psychological and economic effects are **immediate** for the victims, and **radiate in waves** to the households and the larger community, taking such forms as hospital visits, traumatized children and lost productivity in the workplace.
- During fiscal year 2011/2012, Connect2Help responded to more than **4,400 calls for help from people in domestic abuse situations**. This is a **10% increase** compared to the previous year, and a **34% increase** compared to 2 years ago. Of those calling, **83% were victims of abuse**, 12% were family or friends of an abused victim, 3% were professionals and 1% was abusers. While **96% of the victims were women**, there were still more than 100 men who reported being abused.



- Callers reported almost 7,500 needs. Three needs emerged as the most pressing: housing, mental health/addictions and legal. By far, **housing was the most urgent**, accounting for nearly half (48%) of all needs. Unfortunately, it also represented more than **3/4 of all unmet needs**. (Ten percent of ALL domestic abuse callers' needs were unmet).
- Within the housing category, there were more than 2,500 calls for shelter needs. There simply is not enough shelter in our community for those trying to leave a domestic violence situation. According to Connect2Help data, **1 out of 4 people in a domestic abuse situation seeking shelter was not able to find space**. This translates into almost 600 adults with more than 1,100 children. Connect2Help tracks additional data on those “actively fleeing” domestic abuse and needing shelter. Of these callers needing “emergency bed space,” **49% were not able to be placed in shelter**, primarily due to lack of space.
- Connect2Help is working with **Domestic Violence Network** and the **shelters in our community** to address this critical situation.

1 of 4 shelter needs for domestic abuse victims was unmet.