The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) is the primary funder dedicated to providing immediate shelter and supportive services for victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence and their dependents. Of the $129,792,00 allocated to FVPSA in 2011, $116,812,800 in FVPSA formula grants were distributed based on population to every State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and about 200 Tribes. The FVPSA State and Tribal Grants funded more than 1,600 domestic violence shelters and 1,100 non-residential service sites. Each year local domestic violence programs, including tribal programs, serve over 1.3 million victims of domestic violence and their children. Ninety-three percent (93%) of the adults served were female and seven percent (7%) were male (Figure 1).

In 2011, local State and Tribal Grantees responded to 2.8 million crisis calls. These calls could include victims calling for crisis counseling, shelter services or other services. The number of crisis calls to local, non-tribal domestic violence programs remained level from 2009 to 2011 (Figure 2). The National Domestic Violence Hotline answers an additional 22,700 calls each year.
Local domestic violence programs provide immediate shelter to victims of domestic violence and their dependents. A program may operate its own shelter facility, use contracts with hotels or have access to volunteer safe homes to meet the needs of victims. However, the majority of clients served access supportive services only, such as advocacy and counseling (Figure 4). Clients that receive shelter services also access the non-shelter services, such as advocacy and counseling. In 2011, local domestic violence programs provided 8,572,342 shelter nights to victims and their families. This number is a count of the number of people who arrive at the shelter and are provided a bed multiplied by the number of nights. The average number of nights victims have stayed in shelter has increased from 27 nights to 31 nights since 2009. The number of unmet requests for shelter has seen a steady increase since 2007 (Figure 5). This number is a count of the number of unmet requests for shelter due to programs being at capacity.

Local domestic violence programs, including tribal programs, offer community education to the general public about domestic violence. This could be a workshop to community or tribal leaders or a training for health professionals. In 2011, over 186,000 presentations were conducted for 5 million people, of which about 2.3 million were youth.

For more information, please contact the Division of Family Violence Prevention and Services at 202-401-5319. Date updated: October 2012.