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Domestic Violence Counts Michigan Summary

On September 17, 2013, 43 out of 66 (65%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Michigan participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 43 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,293 Victims Served in One Day

1,514 domestic violence victims (919 children and 595 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

779 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
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	93%
Transitional Housing	42%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	80%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	28%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	16%
Support/Advocacy to Elder Victims of Abuse	16%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	12%

409 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 409 calls, averaging more than 17 hotline calls every hour.

773 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 773 individuals in communities across Michigan attended 22 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

200 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 87% (173) Were for Housing

Victims made 200 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 housing advocacy and financial assistance, followed by legal representation.

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 44% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 14% report that victims become homeless, and 2% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 40% reported reduced government funding.
- 28% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 23% reported not enough staff.
- 16% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Michigan 54 (7%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“On the survey day, a survivor contacted us. She was extremely upset because her abuser filed for custody. A hearing was scheduled for the end of the week but she didn’t have a attorney. She was terrified. Her abuser continually called her to tell her that he was going to win custody because he had an attorney, and that she should consider coming back home so she wouldn’t lose her children.”

— Advocate

