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Domestic Violence Counts Maine Summary

On September 16, 2015, 8 out of 8 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Maine participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 8 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

416 Victims Served in One Day

245 domestic violence victims (132 children and 113 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

171 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	88%
Emergency Shelter	88%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	75%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	75%
Rural Outreach	63%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	38%
Support/Advocacy to Victims of Trafficking	13%

87 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, domestic violence programs answered more than 3 hotline calls every hour.

485 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 485 individuals in communities across Maine attended 13 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

36 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 53% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Attorney/Legal Representation and Transportation/Gas services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Maine, 10 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 38% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 25% of programs reported fewer individual donors.
- 25% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 25% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Maine, 8 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (83%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"Of the unmet needs on Census Day, our most in demand was legal representation. We worked with a few women who wanted representation for their family matter cases against their abusive partners. All of the women we worked with that day were threatened by their abusers, and told that they would win custody of their children."

— Advocate