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Domestic Violence Counts Missouri Summary

On September 16, 2015, 67 out of 69 (97%) identified domestic violence programs in Missouri participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 67 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,145 Victims Served in One Day

1,366 domestic violence victims (696 children and 670 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	99%
Children's Support or Advocacy	82%
Emergency Shelter	78%
Transportation	63%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	55%
Group Support or Advocacy	54%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	51%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	45%

613 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 25 hotline calls every hour.

1,046 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,046 individuals in communities across Missouri attended 37 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

413 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 64% 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, Rental Assistance/Utilities, Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance, Transportation/Gas, and Counseling/Substance Abuse/Mental Health services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Missouri, 53 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 21% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 16% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 15% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 10% of programs reported fewer individual donors.

Across Missouri, 37 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (76%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Additional VOCA funds will be awarded to programs in spring 2016 to help address unmet requests for help.

"Housing is a request that we get on a daily basis. In our area we have a shortage of affordable housing. Even after shelter, clients have nowhere to go on a long-term basis."

— Advocate

