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Domestic Violence Counts Montana Summary

On September 16, 2015, 17 out of 21 (81%) identified domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 17 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

364 Victims Served in One Day

199 domestic violence victims (95 children and 104 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

165 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	71%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	65%
Transportation	59%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	47%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	41%
Rural Outreach	41%

143 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 5 hotline calls every hour.

150 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 150 individuals in communities across Montana attended 10 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

92 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 86% 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 Rental Assistance/Utilities services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Montana, 28 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 29% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 18% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 18% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 12% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Montana, 14 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (85%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"A woman came to us today after being in an abusive relationship for 6 years. She had been wanting to leave the relationship for a long time, but she had a service animal that she could not bear to part with. After learning that we accept service animals, she came into our shelter. She said she it was such a relief to be here because she knew in her heart because the abuse had escalated so much, that if she stayed with him any longer, she was going to end up dead."

— Advocate