

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 9 out of 9, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Maine participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 9 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

471 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 228 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 243 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.
- In just one day, 100% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 89% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

100%	Emergency Shelter
100%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
89%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
89%	Transitional Housing
67%	Group Counseling or Advocacy
56%	Advocacy with Social Services
56%	Childcare
33%	Children’s Counseling/ Advocacy

34 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Maine reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as housing, childcare, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet victims’ requests for services. 56% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 11% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

128 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Maine answered more than 5 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

220 PEOPLE TRAINED

Individuals across Maine attended community education and trainings, gaining much needed information on prevention and early intervention.

Today our program assisted several women with legal issues. We also met with one shelter resident to help her develop a safety plan for herself and her child.

We have had numerous occasions where women and children returned to their batterers because of lack of housing or room in a shelter. They often can’t qualify for an empty unit in our transitional housing or other housing available in the community because of limited Section 8 vouchers.