

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Massachusetts Summary

On September 15, 2009, 49 out of 56, or 88%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Massachusetts participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 49 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,018 Victims Served in One Day

683 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,335 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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 15
Individual Support or Advocacy	88%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	49%
Children's Support or Advocacy	51%
Group Support or Advocacy	49%
Emergency Shelter	53%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	45%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	45%
Transitional Housing	20%

763 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 approximately 32 hotline calls every hour.

555 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 555 individuals in communities across Massachusetts attended 31 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

301 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 162 (54%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 🏠 47% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 43% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 41% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 20% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 20% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A woman sought help today after her abuser tied her up and beat her while his family watched. The abuser poured gasoline over her feet and threatened to set her on fire. Finally, a family member couldn't stand it anymore and, when the abuser left, untied her and slipped her a cell phone. She called 911 and is now in a safe place. She is incredibly courageous, but she's still extremely afraid."

"Today, we were able to reunite a mother with her two children and provide transportation for another client to an appointment while offering childcare for her child."

