

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Montana Summary

On September 15, 2009, 18 out of 21, or 86%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 18 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

340 Victims Served in One Day

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

151 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	100%
Emergency Shelter	78%
Children's Support or Advocacy	72%
Group Support or Advocacy	50%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	39%
Court Accompaniment/Advocacy	33%
Rural Outreach	22%
Advocacy/Support for Teen Victims of Dating Violence	11%

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 approximately 6 hotline calls every hour.

77 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 77 individuals in communities across Montana attended 7 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

34 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, all 34 (100%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. All (100%) of Montana's program have less than 20 paid staff, and 78% of those programs have less than 10 paid staff. In 2009, programs reported letting go of or not replacing 22 positions because of a lack of funding.

Lack of funding for needed programs and services is another reason programs were unable to meet requests for services. Sixty-two percent of programs have an annual budget of \$300,000 or less, and 23% of those programs have an annual budget of less than \$150,000.

"A teenage survivor came to our shelter for assistance. Her abuser forced her to work and took all her money. He beat her recently because she failed to wash his pants correctly."

"A woman may have to get her toe amputated because she didn't have transportation to get to a doctor in time after an injury. Her abuser had burned her truck to the ground."