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Domestic Violence Counts Maine Summary

On September 15, 2011, 11 out of 11, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Maine participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

406 Victims Served in One Day

221 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. In addition to a safe place to lay their heads at night, shelter residents were provided with a variety of comprehensive services, some of which are listed in the chart below.

185 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%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	91%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	73%
Transitional Housing	73%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	73%
Transportation	55%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	55%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	36%

115 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, Maine programs answered more than 4 hotline calls every hour.

22 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

73% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 16 unmet requests, emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs. Other frequently requested unmet needs include legal representation, counseling, and legal advocacy.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 45% reported not enough staff.
- 45% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 36% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 9% reported not enough specialized services.

“I feel safe here. Thank God you are here - I never knew there was a place to help me get away.”

