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Domestic Violence Counts Michigan Summary

On September 15, 2011, 49 out of 56, or 88%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Michigan participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 49 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,550 Victims Served in One Day

1,694 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.

856 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	98%
Children's Support or Advocacy	94%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	90%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	57%
Group Support or Advocacy	55%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	53%
Transitional Housing	37%

562 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, Michigan programs answered more than 23 hotline calls every hour.

271 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.

62% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 169 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:

- 35% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 33% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 20% reported not enough staff.
- 8% reported not enough specialized services.
- 4% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"We recently had a domestic homicide in our community, in which an abuser took the lives of seven people, as well as his own. Since that time, our requests for services have skyrocketed, with many victims telling us that their abusers reference this case, using it as another control tactic to make them afraid."

