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Domestic Violence Counts Montana Summary

On September 15, 2011, 19 out of 21, or 90%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 19 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

279 Victims Served in One Day

185 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.

94 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	95%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	84%
Children's Support or Advocacy	74%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	37%
Transitional Housing	32%
Transportation	32%
Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	16%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	11%

107 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, Montana programs answered more than 4 hotline calls every hour.

26 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.

88% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 23 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:

- 42% reported not enough specialized services.
- 26% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 16% reported not enough staff.
- 11% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"A young, pregnant mother and her child came into our shelter to escape abuse. The abuser tried to gain custody of the child. We spent the day in court supporting her, and fortunately the judge agreed with the victim. While she's living with us, our volunteer advocates will help her build a support system, nurture her, and empower her to think and act for herself."

