

# '12

## Domestic Violence Counts Massachusetts Summary

On September 12, 2012, 54 out of 54, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Massachusetts participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

### 1,752 Victims Served in One Day

817 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.

935 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including 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. 12
Individual Support or Advocacy	96%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	63%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	57%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	50%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	46%
Group Support or Advocacy	48%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	35%
Transitional Housing	31%

### 549 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

### 1,020 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,020 individuals in communities across Massachusetts attended 28 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 443 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 400 request for services, including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to offer these services.

### 86% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 382 requests unmet.

Of the unmet requests, the following services were the most requested:

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Transitional Housing
3. Counseling
4. Attorney/Legal Representation

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 57% reported no beds and no money for hotel stays.
- 48% reported not enough staff.
- 26% reported not enough specialized services (e.g., drug and alcohol counselor).
- 26% reported imited funding for needed programs and services.
- 11% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“The perception of survivors in the court system is problematic since many don’t understand the dynamics of domestic violence. Victims are often blamed for the violence and abusers are often not held accountable for their actions.”

