

# '12

## Domestic Violence Counts Michigan Summary

On September 12, 2012, 43 out of 59, or 73%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Michigan participated in the 2012 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 43 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 2,441 Victims Served in One Day

1,677 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.

764 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	100%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	53%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	95%
Children's Support or Advocacy	95%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	56%
Advocacy Related to Health Care	37%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	21%
Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	16%

### 479 Hotline Calls Answered

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

### 256 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 256 individuals in communities across Michigan attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 252 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day

Victims made more than 250 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.

### 79% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

Emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs with 200 requests unmet. Other frequently requested unmet needs include legal representation, counseling, and legal advocacy.

For many survivors, the ability to hire an attorney to help with legal matters is critical. Unfortunately, lack of funds, few pro bono attorneys, and programs without legal attorneys on staff means that many victims face their abusers in court alone.

Below are the top 8 legal requests from survivors.

Protection Orders	84%
Child Custody	81%
Divorce	81%
Child Protection Issues	67%
Criminal Justice System Advocacy	65%
Benefits (social security, TANF, etc.)	65%
Housing	60%
Child Support	58%

"We were giving out school supplies and noticed that the children from one family had no shoes. We gave the mother some of the donated gift cards to buy some shoes for her children. The youngest child, who was going into 2nd grade, quietly thanked us, saying, 'Thank you for the shoes. I was going to have to wear Mom's sandals to school and then she would have to be without shoes all day.'"

