

# '13

## Domestic Violence Counts Massachusetts Summary

On September 17, 2013, 50 out of 51 (98%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Massachusetts participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 50 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 2,234 Victims Served in One Day

902 domestic violence victims (463 children and 439 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,332 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. 17
Individual Support/Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	56%
Group Support/Advocacy	50%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	58%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	34%
Transitional Housing	36%
Children's Support/Advocacy	62%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	38%

### 560 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, local and state hotlines answered 560 calls, averaging more than 23 hotline calls every hour.

### 527 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 527 individuals in communities across Massachusetts attended 22 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 343 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 65% (223) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 300 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that couldn't be provided were housing advocacy and legal representation, followed by financial assistance.

### Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available; however 58% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 44% report that victims become homeless, and 14% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 16% reported not enough staff.
- 14% reported reduced government funding.
- 12% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 4% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Massachusetts 37 (4%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"There are not enough safe, affordable long-term housing options for survivors. Emergency domestic violence shelters cannot transition survivors out of shelter as housing options are so limited. Our shelters are finding that when they can't find housing, survivors more frequently are returning to abusers."

— Advocate

