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Domestic Violence Counts Maine Summary

On September 17, 2013, 10 out of 10 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Maine participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

499 Victims Served in One Day

226 domestic violence victims (130 children and 96 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

273 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 or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	80%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	100%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	90%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	50%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	60%
Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	40%
Rural Outreach	50%

122 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 122 calls, averaging more than 5 hotline calls every hour.

393 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 393 individuals in communities across Maine attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

23 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 48% (11) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 20 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 for legal representation, followed by housing, and transportation.

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 40% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 30% report that victims become homeless, and 20% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 30% reported reduced government funding.
- 20% reported not enough staff.
- 10% reported cuts from private funding sources.

Across Maine 14 (8%) 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.

“A woman failed to show up for her final protection order hearing because her husband contacted her (violating the temporary order) and threatened to harm her. On the survey day, she called us and we were able to assist her in obtaining a new temporary order, including the violation and threats.”

— Advocate

