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Domestic Violence Counts Maryland Summary

On September 16, 2015, 22 out of 22 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Maryland participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 22 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,095 Victims Served in One Day

407 domestic violence victims (208 children and 199 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

688 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. 16
Emergency Shelter	73%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	55%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	55%
Homicide Reduction Initiative/Lethality Assessment	45%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	41%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	36%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	23%

531 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, domestic violence programs answered more than 22 hotline calls every hour.

51 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 51 individuals in communities across Maryland attended 8 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

76 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 45% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Attorney/Legal Representation and Counseling/Substance Abuse/Mental Health services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Maryland, 17 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 27% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 27% of programs reported fewer individual donors.
- 18% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 18% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.

Across Maryland, 16 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (77%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"In our emergency shelter we provided support to a family as they transitioned into a long-term supportive housing program that focuses on educational goals. This family successfully completed a 45-day stay in our shelter as well as an extension while awaiting placement in this new program. The mom of twins is very excited to go back to school and is grateful that our program was able to provide an extended stay."

— Advocate