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Domestic Violence Counts Michigan Summary

On September 16, 2015, 53 out of 60 (88%) identified domestic violence programs in Michigan participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 53 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,607 Victims Served in One Day

1,762 domestic violence victims (1,060 children and 702 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

845 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
Individual Support or Advocacy	98%
Emergency Shelter	91%
Children's Support or Advocacy	89%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	60%
Group Support or Advocacy	53%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	47%
Support/Advocacy Related to Technology Use (cyberstalking, etc.)	13%
Support/Advocacy Related to Disability Issues	6%

593 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 24 hotline calls every hour.

515 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 515 individuals in communities across Michigan attended 28 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

318 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 51% 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, Rental Assistance/Utilities and Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Michigan, 47 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 19% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 15% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 13% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 11% of programs reported fewer individual donors.

Across Michigan, 36 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (75%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"Our shelter has been at complete capacity since April of 2015. Like many other days, we had several women requesting immediate shelter. When assessed, two of these women scored incredibly high on our lethality assessment tool. Unfortunately, many of the surrounding shelters in other counties were also at capacity."

— Advocate

