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Domestic Violence Counts Mississippi Summary

On September 16, 2015, 13 out of 13 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Mississippi participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 13 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

338 Victims Served in One Day

259 domestic violence victims (141 children and 118 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

79 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	100%
Transportation	69%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	69%
Childcare/Daycare	54%
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	31%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	15%
Rural Outreach	15%
Support/Advocacy to Teen/Young Adult Victims of Dating Abuse	15%

176 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 7 hotline calls every hour.

226 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 226 individuals in communities across Mississippi attended 15 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

30 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 97% 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, Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment and Counseling/Substance Abuse/Mental Health services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Mississippi, 18 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 23% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 23% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 15% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 15% of programs reported fewer individual donations.

Across Mississippi, 5 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.

"A frightened pregnant mother of two, who endured abuse for an extended period of time and often contemplated leaving, successfully left her abuser. In an effort to keep him from tracking her location through her cell phone, she threw it out the window as she was driving. She was later notified that the phone had been located and returned to the abuser. Upon safe arrival at our location, she was flooded with emotion and relief."

— Advocate

