



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS Montana Summary

On September 13, 2018, 20 out of 20 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 20 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 391 Victims Served in One Day

234 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

157 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.

Services Provided by Local Programs	Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>
Support/Advocacy Related to Mental Health	50%
Transitional or Other Housing Program (run by DV program)	30%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	25%
Legal Representation by an Attorney	20%
Support/Advocacy for LGBTQ Victims of Abuse	5%

### 171 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 hotline staff in Montana answered on average 7 hotline calls per hour.

❖ An advocate in Montana said, “A woman and her two small children literally walked to safety from near the Canadian border in the middle of the night. When her abuser began hitting the children, she made her plan to take all the paperwork she would need and walk to town with the children. They are in shelter tonight and the woman said it is the first time she has seen the children laughing and playing in so long.”

### 80 Attended Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 80 individuals in communities across Montana attended 5 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 41 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of which 85% (35) were for Housing

Victims made 41 requests for services — including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal representation, and more — that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that could not be provided were housing advocacy, legal representation, and financial assistance.

In the past year, local programs in Montana were forced to eliminate 12 staff positions. Most of these positions (75%) were direct service providers, such as shelter staff or legal advocates. This means that there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help or provide needed services.