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Domestic Violence Counts Missouri Summary

On September 17, 2013, 65 out of 69 (94%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Missouri participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 65 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,163 Victims Served in One Day

1,392 domestic violence victims (679 children and 713 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

771 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	95%
Emergency Shelter	77%
Children's Support or Advocacy	77%
Transportation	69%
Group Support or Advocacy	52%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	48%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	45%
Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment	43%

385 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 385 calls, averaging more than 16 hotline calls every hour.

368 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 368 individuals in communities across Missouri attended 30 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

344 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 48% (164) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 300 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 financial assistance, followed by housing advocacy and transportation

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available. However, 46% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 23% report that victims become homeless, and 8% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 17% reported reduced government funding.
- 14% reported not enough staff.
- 9% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 6% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Missouri 57 (6%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or court advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

"We were able to provide shelter for a person who had been held in captivity by her partner for several months. The police responded and managed to get her out of the house safely. They called us and we responded and brought her to shelter."

— Advocate

