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Domestic Violence Counts Mississippi Summary

On September 17, 2013, 12 out of 12 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Mississippi participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

441 Victims Served in One Day

272 domestic violence victims (136 children and 136 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

169 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	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	100%
Childcare/Daycare	75%
Group Support or Advocacy	50%
Transitional Housing	50%
Financial Skills/Budgeting	50%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	33%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	33%

134 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 134 calls, averaging 6 hotline calls every hour.

384 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 384 individuals in communities across Mississippi attended 20 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

20 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 45% (9) Were for Housing

Victims made 20 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 service that couldn't be provided was financial assistance, counseling, and transportation.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available however 50% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser and 8% report that victims become homeless.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 42% reported reduced government funding.
- 42% reported private funding cuts
- 42% reported not enough available staff.
- 33% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Mississippi 9 (5%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

On the survey day, our program assisted a shelter resident beginning to file for Victim's Compensation funding. Within 3 weeks she was able to move into a new one bedroom apartment.

— Advocate

