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Domestic Violence Counts Montana Summary

On September 17, 2013, 17 out of 24 (71%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 17 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

283 Victims Served in One Day

141 domestic violence victims (70 children and 71 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

142 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	94%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	94%
Emergency Shelter	82%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	65%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	53%
Transportation	53%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	53%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	47%

144 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 6 hotline calls every hour.

99 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 99 individuals in communities across Montana attended 7 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

15 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 53% (8) Were for Housing

Victims made 15 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 legal representation, followed by housing, and financial assistance.

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 18% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser and 24% report that victims become homeless.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 18% reported reduced government funding.
- 6% reported not enough available staff.

Across Montana 11 (9%) 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.

Recently a woman and her 3 children were able to escape from her husband who threatened to kill all four of them and then himself. With the help of our partners, we were able to quickly raise the funds necessary to get this woman and her children transportation to a safe place outside the county. On the survey day, the woman’s mother called and tearfully asked us to thank everyone involved in ‘saving” her daughter and precious grandchildren’s very lives.

— Advocate

