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Domestic Violence Counts Massachusetts Summary

On September 10, 2014, 51 out of 51 (100%) identified local domestic violence programs in Massachusetts participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 51 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,795 Victims Served in One Day

855 domestic violence victims (427 children and 428 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

940 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. 10
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	69%
Emergency Shelter	51%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	43%
Transportation	39%
Group Support or Advocacy	39%
Transitional Housing	37%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	37%

610 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 610 calls, averaging more than 25 hotline calls every hour.

341 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 341 individuals in communities across Massachusetts attended 24 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

398 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 68% (271) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 390 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and non-residential services, which could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently-needed service that couldn’t be provided was housing, followed by financial assistance and legal representation.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 27% reported reduced government funding.
- 24% reported not enough staff. reported
- 20% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 14% reduced individual donations.

Across Massachusetts, 34 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (74%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Fifty-five individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“Due to our strong working relationships and knowledge of the court-based advocate, we were able to help her coordinate with all parties and provide strength-based emotional support, so that the victim left the court feeling confident and assured in her capacity to bring positive, safe change to her situation.”

— Advocate

