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Domestic Violence Counts Missouri Summary

On September 10, 2014, 68 out of 68 (100%) identified local domestic violence programs in Missouri participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 68 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,878 Victims Served in One Day

1,318 domestic violence victims (633 children and 685 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

560 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	97%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	81%
Emergency Shelter	76%
Transportation	65%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	46%
Group Support or Advocacy	44%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	43%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	41%

451 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 451 calls, averaging more than 18 hotline calls every hour.

420 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 420 individuals in communities across Missouri attended 25 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

432 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 47% (203) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 425 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, transportation, and legal representation.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 22% reported reduced government funding.
- 13% reported not enough staff.
- 13% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 12% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Missouri, 51 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; most of these positions were direct services (77%), such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Seventy-one individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“On the Census Day, we were contacted by an emergency room nurse. The nurse was calling on behalf of a victim who had arrived at the hospital early in the evening. The shelter was at capacity so we were unable to provide shelter for this woman. The nurse called three more times desperate to see if the status had changed. She delayed the victim’s hospital release as she hoped we would be able to serve her. Unfortunately, a bed did not become available before the victim left the hospital.”

— Advocate

