

# '14

## Domestic Violence Counts Montana Summary

On September 10, 2014, 19 out of 21 (90%) identified local domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2014 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 19 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 401 Victims Served in One Day

238 domestic violence victims (122 children and 116 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

163 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	100%
Emergency Shelter	89%
Transportation	63%
Rural Outreach	47%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	42%
Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord	32%
Support/Advocacy to Teen Victims of Dating Violence	5%

### 116 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 116 calls, averaging more than 4 hotline calls every hour.

### 210 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 210 individuals in communities across Montana attended 8 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much-needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 126 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 69% (87) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 120 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 legal representation.

### Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 16% reported not enough staff.
- 11% reported reduced government funding.
- 5% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 5% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Montana, 11 staff positions were eliminated in the past year; 36% of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help. Sixteen individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

“We were able to bring a young mother with 2 children into the shelter on the Census Day. The family had lived in constant fear of the abusive partner who often became physically violent and was also emotionally abusive. With the help of our advocates, the family came into safe shelter, received support services and safety planning.”

— Advocate

