

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 36 out of 46, or 78%, of identified domestic violence programs in Massachusetts participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 36 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,316 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 487 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 829 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.
- In just one day, 97% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 25% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

97%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
78%	Advocacy with Social Services
78%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
75%	Group Counseling or Advocacy
69%	Emergency Shelter
58%	Childcare
56%	Children’s Counseling/ Advocacy
25%	Transitional Housing

309 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Massachusetts reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as housing, childcare, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet victims’ requests for services. 67% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 31% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

675 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Massachusetts answered more than 28 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

341 PEOPLE TRAINED

Individuals across Massachusetts attended community education and trainings, gaining much needed information on prevention and early intervention.

There were only 5 emergency beds available in the state today, and we received 115 requests for emergency shelter. But we were able to find shelter for a transgender woman.

Four women called us in search of shelter space. Unfortunately, we were full and all of the other shelters in the state were also full. As a result, our staff feels completely helpless and frustrated. It is always hard to not be able to say “Yes!” when someone says “I need you.”