

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 14 out of 28, or 50%, of identified domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 14 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

230 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 99 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 131 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- In just one day, 93% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 7% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

93%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
64%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
57%	Children's Counseling/ Advocacy
50%	Advocacy with Social Services
43%	Emergency Shelter
36%	Childcare
36%	Group Counseling or Advocacy
7%	Transitional Housing

129 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Montana 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. 93% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 71% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

88 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Montana answered more than 4 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

41 PEOPLE TRAINED

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

We collaborated with three other agencies/programs to provide services to a victim that arrived by train without food or shelter. We also helped a client whose husband took their two children (including a nursing infant) over 200 miles away with no intention of returning them. Finally, one of our shelter residents found housing—and she can keep her pets!

The frustration of never having the resources we need is immense. Our service area includes seven rural counties and covers more than 17,000 square miles. Our advocates are on call 24/7 and respond even if they are on shift for 24 hours straight. We are stretched very thin, and employees tend to burn out quickly.