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Domestic Violence Counts Missouri Summary

On September 15, 2011, 60 out of 69, or 87%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Missouri participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 60 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,012 Victims Served in One Day

1,334 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. In addition to a safe place to lay their heads at night, shelter residents were provided with a variety of comprehensive services, some of which are listed in the chart below.

678 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual 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. 15
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)	80%
Children's Support or Advocacy	73%
Transportation	70%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	48%
Group Support or Advocacy	47%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	42%

537 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, domestic violence programs answered more than 22 hotline calls every hour.

378 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

75% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 284 unmet requests, emergency shelter and transitional housing continue to be the most urgent unmet needs. Other frequently requested unmet needs include legal representation, counseling, and legal advocacy.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 50% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 38% reported not enough staff.
- 25% reported not enough specialized services.
- 25% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 13% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"Every number has a face and their own story. A 12 year old boy was leaving the shelter with his mother and he turned around and looked at me and said, "Hey lady, thanks for keeping me safe last night," and out the door he went."

