

# '11

# Domestic Violence Counts Mississippi Summary

On September 15, 2011, 10 out of 13, or 77%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Mississippi participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 10 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 281 Victims Served in One Day

212 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.

69 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) | 90%      |
| Children's Support or Advocacy                      | 80%      |
| Childcare/Daycare                                   | 70%      |
| Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy                  | 50%      |
| Transitional Housing                                | 30%      |
| Job Training/Employment Assistance                  | 30%      |
| Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord         | 20%      |

### 92 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, Mississippi programs answered more than 3 hotline calls every hour.

### 20 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.

### 90% of Unmet Requests Were for Housing

With 18 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:

- 🏠 30% reported not enough staff.
- 🏠 20% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 🏠 10% reported not enough specialized services.
- 🏠 10% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 🏠 10% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"We're working with a victim who has obvious signs of early dementia or onset of brain damage, possibly from the abuse. She has no income, no medical assistance, no family assistance, and has been denied SSI-Medicaid three times. Our resource base has been exhausted in our attempts to locate services and housing for her, but we will continue to keep her safe while we keep looking."

