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Domestic Violence Counts Massachusetts Summary

On September 15, 2010, 55 out of 55, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Massachusetts participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

1,798 Victims Served in One Day

750 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,048 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	95%
Children's Support or Advocacy	56%
Group Support or Advocacy	53%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	51%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	49%
Advocacy Related to Immigration	40%
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	38%
Transitional Housing	27%

717 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 30 hotline calls every hour.

766 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 619 (81%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 47% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 45% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 36% reported not enough staff.
- 18% reported not enough specialized services.
- 13% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

534 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 534 individuals in communities across Massachusetts attended 28 trainings sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

"We need more funding so we can provide comprehensive services. In the week before the survey day, we had a domestic violence murder-suicide and another death related to domestic violence that is under investigation. Because we are a small rural community, we face greater poverty, isolation, and the lack of public transportation is a barrier for victims to access the services they need."

