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Domestic Violence Counts Mississippi Summary

On September 15, 2010, 11 out of 14, or 79%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Mississippi participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 11 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

254 Victims Served in One Day

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

94 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
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	100%
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Children's Support or Advocacy	73%
Transportation	64%
Group Support or Advocacy	55%
Rural Outreach	45%
Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	45%
Transitional Housing	36%

80 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 3 hotline calls every hour.

84 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, 50 (60%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 27% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 18% reported not enough staff.
- 18% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 9% reported not enough specialized services.

91% of Programs Reported Higher Demand for Services

As communities continue to experience job loss and decreased community resources, 91% of programs reported a rise in demand for services, while at the same time 100% of programs reported a decrease in funding.

"A woman came to shelter with her two children after escaping her abuser whom she'd been married to for 18 years. Having been abused her entire life, beginning with her parents, this is the first time she's sought help and is working diligently to break the cycle of violence in her life."

