

# '10

## Domestic Violence Counts Montana Summary

On September 15, 2010, 18 out of 22, or 82%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 18 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 344 Victims Served in One Day

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

160 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	89%
Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)	79%
Transportation	67%
Children's Support or Advocacy	50%
Transitional Housing	44%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	44%
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	22%
Job Training/Employment Assistance	22%

### 150 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 6 hotline calls every hour.

### 37 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, 23 (62%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- 39% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 22% reported not enough specialized services.
- 17% reported not enough staff.
- 11% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.

### 72% of Programs Reported Higher Demand for Services

As communities continue to experience job loss and decreased community resources, 72% of programs reported a rise in demand for services, while at the same time 56% of programs reported a decrease in funding.

"After coming to shelter, a survivor who had been previously medicated realized that she didn't need the medicine after all. It was her abuser who told physicians that she had symptoms she did not have in order to keep her heavily medicated. At the end of her month-long stay at the shelter, she is free of medication, stable, and very happy."

