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Domestic Violence Counts Maryland Summary

On September 17, 2013, 20 out of 23 (87%), of identified local domestic violence programs in the Maryland participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information reported by the 20 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,063 Victims Served in One Day

376 domestic violence victims (179 children and 197 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

687 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including 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. 17 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Emergency Shelter | 80% |
| Transitional Housing | 30% |
| Legal Representation | 30% |
| Court Advocacy/Legal Accompaniment | 80% |
| Transportation | 45% |
| Bilingual Advocacy | 45% |
| Therapy/Counseling for Adults | 55% |
| Therapy/Counseling for Children | 45% |

392 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, local and state hotlines answered 392 calls, averaging more than 16 hotline calls every hour.

176 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 176 individuals in communities across Maryland attended 7 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

215 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 42% (91) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 200 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that couldn’t be provided were legal representation, followed by housing advocacy, counseling and financial assistance.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren’t available; however 60% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 25% report that victims become homeless, and 15% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 35% reported reduced government funding.
- 20% reported cuts from private funding sources.
- 15% reported not enough staff.
- 5% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Maryland 22 (5%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Survivors with limited work history, young children, and who can’t afford childcare are chronically homeless because they can’t afford housing. We shelter families for up to 60 days, but few resources are available once they leave shelter. Many get 30 more days of placement through Emergency Services until they are homeless again. This is a recurring cycle of homelessness and domestic violence.”

— Advocate

