

'15

Domestic Violence Counts Massachusetts Summary

On September 16, 2015, 52 out of 52 (100%) identified domestic violence programs in Massachusetts participated in the 2015 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 52 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,970 Victims Served in One Day

742 domestic violence victims (372 children and 370 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,228 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. 16
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Children’s Support or Advocacy	74%
Emergency Shelter	54%
Bilingual Advocacy (services provided by someone who is bilingual)	52%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	46%
Court or Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	40%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	38%
Prevention Services and/or Educational Programs	38%

474 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 19 hotline calls every hour.

509 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 509 individuals in communities across Massachusetts attended 25 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

322 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 63% Were for Housing

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Attorney/Legal Representation and Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

Across Massachusetts, 30 individual services at local programs were reduced or eliminated in the past year.

- 23% of programs reported government funding cuts.
- 21% of programs reported reductions in private funding.
- 10% of programs reported staffing cuts or reductions.
- 8% of programs reported fewer individual donors.

Across Massachusetts, 32 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most (73%) of these positions were direct services such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“Affordable housing is our clients’ biggest need. Without housing, they have fewer options to leave an unsafe relationship, fewer options when trying to start their life over after leaving, and survivors stay longer in our shelter because they have nowhere else to go.”

— Advocate

