

# MCEDV.

Maine Coalition to  
End Domestic Violence

**Our Mission:** To create and encourage a social, political, and economic environment in which domestic violence no longer exists, to ensure that all people affected by domestic abuse and violence are supported and that batterers are held accountable.

**Our network of member domestic violence resource centers** provides services for adults, children, schools, businesses and communities affected by domestic violence, dating violence and stalking for all 16 counties in Maine. They also provide prevention education, training and technical assistance in their local communities.

**Our Coalition office** in Augusta creates public awareness and builds capacity for the statewide response to domestic violence. We provide prevention and education to end domestic violence in the next generation, bringing the voices of victims, providers, and community members to the public policy discussions on violence and abuse.

## Coalition Highlights

**Training and Education:** MCEDV's Coalition office provided training for **2819** individuals through **81** presentations and events, building community capacity to respond to domestic violence.

**Homicide and Serious Assault Reduction Initiative:** MCEDV led the effort to prepare Maine's criminal justice system for the statewide implementation of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment tool, partnering with the Violence Intervention Partnership and the Maine Chiefs of Police to train officers throughout the state, and to develop an online training module. MCEDV supported the development of regional High Risk Response Teams.

**Electronic Monitoring Initiative:** MCEDV collaborated with the Board of Corrections to initiate three electronic monitoring pilot projects—located in Somerset, Kennebec, and Sagadahoc counties—to provide additional safety for victims while higher risk offenders are awaiting trial.

**Children Exposed to Domestic Violence:** MCEDV hosted a conference with Dr. Sandra Graham-Bermann, an expert on strategies for fostering resiliency among children exposed to violence.

**Batterer's Intervention Programs:** MCEDV helped expand services for men and women who use violence within relationships, fostering accountability and skill building for people who chose to change.

**Human Trafficking:** MCEDV's Trafficking Services Team worked to expand needed services for victims, strengthening Maine's safety net for these vulnerable young women and men.

## National Recognition for MCEDV

- MCEDV's work to implement ODARA in Maine was recognized as a "Promising Practice" by the Battered Women's Justice Project.
- MCEDV provided consultation on the federal government's Domestic Violence in the Workplace initiative.
- MCEDV's study on the impact of strangulation on victims was featured by the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention and the *Domestic Violence Report*.
- Domesticshelters.org rated Maine in the top five states in the nation for comprehensiveness of legal and financial services for victims.

## Domestic Violence in Maine: Criminal Statistics\*

**Domestic violence assaults** represented **47.0%** of all assaults reported to law enforcement in 2013. Many other assaults were not reported to law enforcement.

There were **21** homicides in Maine in 2014. Of the total, **14** were the result of domestic violence; **6** of the **14** were children.

\*All information the most recent available from the Maine Department of Public Safety

# The MCEDV Resource Center Network

## Helping Where It's Most Needed

Maine's domestic violence resource centers provide a comprehensive range of services for people affected by domestic abuse, including safety planning, emergency shelter, support groups, transitional housing, legal advocacy, economic empowerment, child-centered programs and batterer's intervention.

**In 2014, our resource centers were asked to do more, with less.**

Centers experienced an increase in demand for their services, and were challenged to meet the need. In just one example, **901** requests for shelter were unmet due to service limitations. It is clear that moving forward, more resources will be necessary to fully address the needs of survivors working to establish safe, sustainable lives.

They are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, via their 24-hour helplines.

## What did it look like in 2014?

- **12,399** people (**11,916** adults, **483** children) were helped.
- **40,022** helpline calls were answered.
- **49,768** victims met face-to-face with advocates.
- **727** people, 417 adults and 310 children, were sheltered, for a total of **29,814** bed-nights.
- **429** survivors involved with Child Protective Services received assistance from specialized domestic violence advocates placed in CPS offices *during the first 6 months of 2014*.

## Preventing Future Violence

MCEDV resource centers provided prevention and education services for schools, employers, health systems, faith communities and others throughout Maine.

- **44,237** youth participated in **2,678** education presentations.
- **22,023** adults participated in **1,939** training/education events.
- **857** local public awareness events were held.

## Community-Driven by Mainers, for Mainers

The resource centers are community-based and community-governed. The work would be impossible without the help of volunteers.

**481** trained advocacy volunteers donated **29,471** hours of service. Many others volunteered time not linked to advocacy service delivery. Community Boards provided governance for the resource centers.

## In Just One Day in Maine...\*

- **499** people affected by abuse were served by Maine's domestic violence resource centers.
- **226** domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence resource centers.
- **273** adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

*\*From the National Network for End Domestic Violence 2013 Census*