

# 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, and to ensure that all people affected by domestic abuse and violence are supported and that batterers are held accountable.

**Our member Domestic Violence Resource Centers** provide 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 staff** creates public awareness, fosters collaboration at the statewide level, and builds capacity for the statewide response to domestic violence. We provide training and education programming, and bring the voices of survivors, providers, and community members to the public policy discussions on violence and abuse.

## Together, our agenda is social change.

We work collaboratively to shift the conditions that support, condone and allow interpersonal violence to occur.

## Coalition Highlights

**Leadership Transition:** 2015 brought changes for our Coalition, with Executive Director Julia Colpitts leaving MCEDV for a post with the National Network to End Domestic Violence. We are pleased to welcome Francine Garland Stark as the new head of the Coalition. Francine has over 30 years experience working to end domestic violence in Maine, and brings the perspective of Maine's rural counties to the statewide work to end abuse.

**Training and Education:** MCEDV's Coalition staff provided training for **2235** individuals through **51** presentations and events, building Maine's capacity to respond to domestic violence.

**Trafficking Response:** MCEDV served on the Attorney General's Task Force on Human Trafficking and as a partner in the Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network, to address the growing issue of trafficking in our state.

**DV-CPS Program:** Domestic violence resource center advocates expanded their decades-long collaboration with Child Protective Services by forming multi-abuse trauma response teams with mental health and substance abuse professionals. MCEDV hosted three days of training for the teams, providing a pathway toward addressing the increasingly complex needs of survivors involved with CPS.

**Addressing Strangulation:** As part of the Coalition's ongoing efforts to reduce Maine's rate of domestic violence homicide, MCEDV hosted a statewide conference featuring Gael Strack and Dr. Ralph Riviello of the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. Strack and Riviello are the leading experts on the topic of domestic violence strangulation, and trained nearly 100 law enforcement officers, advocates and health care professionals.

## Domestic Violence in Maine: Criminal Statistics\*

**Domestic violence assaults** represented **46.3%** of all assaults reported to law enforcement in 2014. Many other assaults were not reported to law enforcement.

There were **24** homicides in Maine in 2015. Of the total, **9** were the result of domestic violence.

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

# The MCEDV Resource Center Network

## Helping Where It's Needed Most

Maine's domestic violence resource centers provide a comprehensive range of services for people affected by domestic abuse and violence, including safety planning, shelter services, support groups, transitional housing, legal advocacy, economic empowerment, child-centered programs and batterer's intervention. They are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, via their 24-hour helplines.

### What did it look like in 2015?

- **13,280** people (**12,781** adults and **499** children) used our services.
- There were **35,999** calls made to DVRC helplines.
- **673** people were sheltered, for a total of **29,728** bed-nights. Of those sheltered, **410** were adults and **263** were children.
- **2317** survivors involved with Child Protective Services received assistance from specialized domestic violence advocates placed in CPS offices.
- MCEDV legal advocates and attorneys provided more than **17,170** hours of legal advocacy, working with **3,900** people statewide.
- **95** victims of commercial sex trafficking accessed help—including shelter, legal advocacy and case management—through the DVRC network.

## Preventing Future Violence

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

- **40,174** youth participated in **2,297** education presentations.
- **15,949** adults participated in **1,202** training/education events.
- **1142** 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. Last year, 468 volunteers provided 34,505 hours of service throughout the network—representing a monetary value of over \$517,575.

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

...**416** people affected by abuse were served by Maine's domestic violence resource centers.

...**245** domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence resource centers.

...**171** adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

...**DVRC advocates responded to 87** hotline calls.

\*From the National Network for End Domestic Violence 2015 Census