

MAINE COALITION TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2016 REPORT

Our Mission: The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) mobilizes collaborative community action with and on behalf of a statewide network of Domestic Violence Resource Centers to ensure that all people affected by domestic abuse and violence in Maine are restored to safety and that perpetrators are held accountable. MCEDV builds partnerships that promote public policy, education, and systems advocacy to create and encourage a social, political, and economic environment that fosters communities where the diversity, dignity, and contributions of all are respected and celebrated, and domestic abuse and violence no longer exist.

Our member Domestic Violence Resource Centers provide services for adults, children, schools, businesses and communities affected by domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking 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 state-level policy discussions on violence and abuse.

STATEWIDE OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

Affirming our Mission: MCEDV's Board of Directors met over the summer for a 2-day strategic planning session. The mission you see above is one of the results.

Training and Education: MCEDV's Coalition staff provided training for a range of statewide audiences, including the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Family Planning's Comprehensive Sexuality Education Conference, and the State's Office of Child and Family Services.

BIP Report: MCEDV's Executive Director, along with partners from the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, led the effort to develop the Commission's report to the legislature, titled "Pretrial and Post-Conviction Use of Batterer Intervention Programs." The report provided a comprehensive overview of the research surrounding the effectiveness of these programs, and made recommendations for policy changes that will positively impact Maine's ability to hold batterers accountable for their behavior.

Advocacy Days: In 2016 MCEDV hosted three 2-day training events for member advocates, as well as our partners from the Wabanaki Women's Coalition and the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine. The series of unique learning opportunities featured outside speakers and information-sharing between participants, and gave advocates a chance to connect with national and state-level best practices and experts.

Advocacy Learning Center: A team of MCEDV staff has completed Praxis International's 18-month Advocacy Learning Center. The A.L.C. is designed to strengthen the core activities, skills, principles, and knowledge used by advocates working in all areas of violence against women, and included local domestic and sexual violence programs and coalitions from all around the country.

MCEDV RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK

Maine's domestic violence resource centers (DVRCs) provide a comprehensive range of services for people affected by 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 2016?

- **12,946** people (**12,201** adults and **745** children) used our services.
- There were **40,926** calls made to DVRC helplines.
- **742** people were sheltered, for a total of **30,661** bed-nights. Of those sheltered, **428** were adults and **314** were children.
- **2,135** 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 **17,465** hours of legal advocacy, working with **3,625** people statewide.
- **127** 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.

- **39,821** youth participated in **2,316** educational programs.
- **20,397** adults participated in **1,279** training/education events.
- **1,209** 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, **684** volunteers provided **44,091** hours of service—a value of at least **\$661,365**.

IN JUST ONE DAY IN MAINE...*

- **416** people affected by abuse were served by Maine's DVRCs.
- **245** domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local DVRCs.
- **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.

DV IN MAINE: CRIMINAL STATISTICS**

- Domestic violence assaults represented 46.0% of all assaults reported to law enforcement in 2015. Many other assaults were not reported to law enforcement.
- As of 10/28/16, there were 13 homicides in Maine in 2016. Of the total, 4 were the result of domestic violence.

*Most recent available from the National Network for End Domestic Violence Census (2015)

**Most recent available from the Maine Dept. of Public Safety