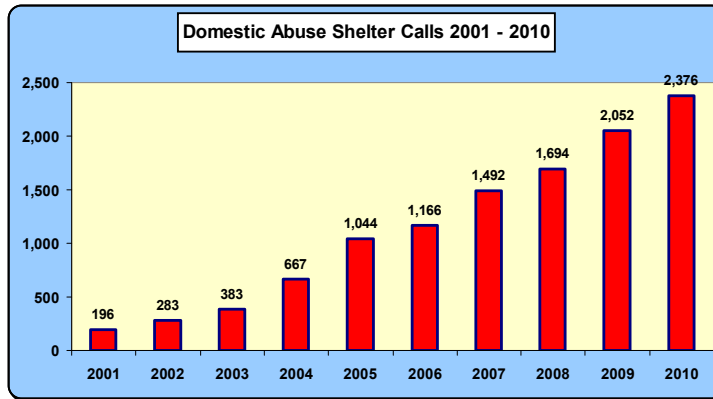


Searching for a Safe Haven from Abuse

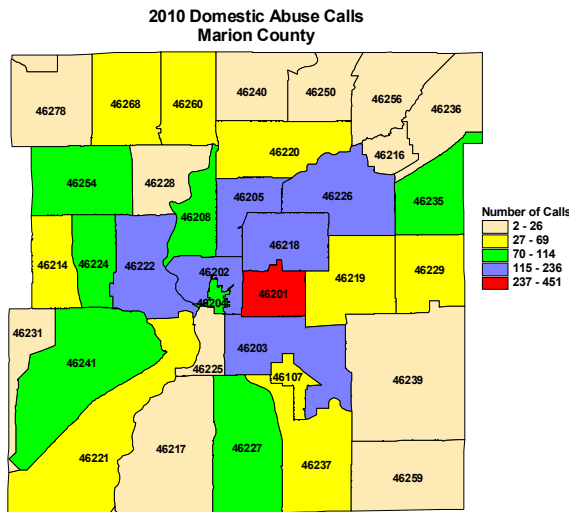
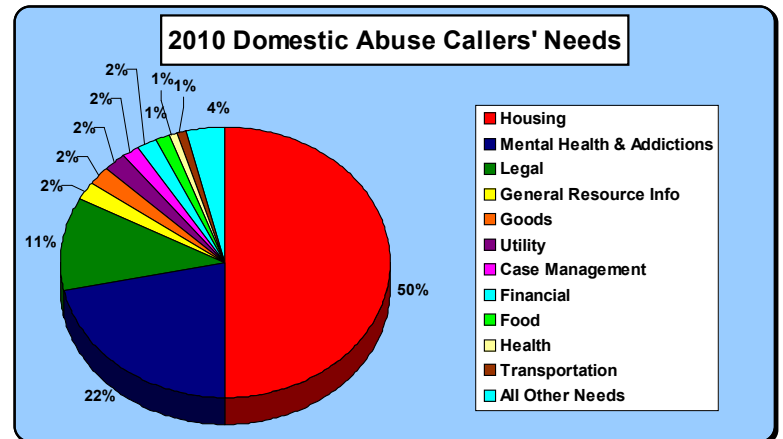
Kim, a pregnant mother, was terrified when she called 2-1-1 looking for shelter. Her husband had just beaten her, and he was still home as she was locked in her bedroom with her 2 children. The 2-1-1 Specialist called several shelters, finally finding one that had space for her family.



Brenda called 2-1-1 from a hotel. She had finally mustered the courage to leave her boyfriend after repeated assaults, many of them in front of her 2 children. He had followed her to the hotel, where he had beaten her again. She was desperate for a "safe, secret" location. The 2-1-1 Specialist was able to help her locate shelter outside of the city.

Domestic violence is a persistent community-wide issue. In the last 10 years, **more than 23,000 people involved in a domestic abuse situation have called 2-1-1 for help.** The number one need in each of those years was **emergency shelter**, and the requests keep increasing. In 2010, 2,376 people called for help finding a safe place to go to escape abuse, up 16% from 2009. As the graph below shows, **fully half of all needs** reported by domestic abuse caller were related to **housing**.

- **Mental health issues** ranked second among callers' needs. There was a **34% rise** in requests for help with mental health and addictions issues compared to 2009. The most frequent needs in this category included help finding **support groups and counseling**.
- **Legal needs** rounded out the top 3 need categories. These categories accounted for 83% of all needs expressed by domestic abuse callers.



- During 2010, 2-1-1 responded to more than 3,500 domestic abuse calls. Most callers (77%) lived in **Marion County**; another 7% lived in the seven counties surrounding Marion County; the remaining 16% lived outside the Central Indiana area.
- The **majority** of the people calling (85%) **were victims of abuse** (96% were female and 4% were male); 11% were friends or relatives of the victim; 2% were professionals calling on behalf of a client; and 2% were abusers calling for help. In addition to the callers, **4,000 children** in these homes were secondary victims of domestic abuse.
- 2-1-1 Specialists spent an average of 17 minutes with domestic abuse callers, compared to an average of 5 minutes with ALL 2-1-1 callers, further demonstrating the complexity of these situations.

For more information about domestic abuse issues in Central Indiana, visit www.dvnconnect.org or www.connect2help.org.