

Maximum Shelter Capacity for DV Victims in Maryland

There are not enough shelter beds in Maryland. While the total maximum emergency shelter capacity for the state is 443-485, we need a *minimum* of 543 shelter beds to serve Maryland residents (over 5.6 million people).* The greatest areas of need are Baltimore, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties.

COUNTY/MAX. SHELTER CAPACITY**

Allegany County	20-22
Anne Arundel County	15-21
Baltimore City***	63
Baltimore County***	35-42
Calvert County	23
Caroline/Kent/Dorchester/Queen Anne's/Talbot counties	11-15
Carroll County	8-10
Cecil County	22-26
Charles County†	0
Frederick County	29
Garrett County	15-18
Harford County	28-31
Howard County	9
Montgomery County	54
Prince George's County	52-60
St. Mary's County†	0
Washington County	40
<u>Wicomico/Somerset/Worcester counties</u>	<u>19-22</u>
TOTAL in MD	443-485



COUNTY/ TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CAPACITY
Allegany County†† 0
Baltimore City 21
Baltimore County 4-10
Calvert County 7-10
Cecil County 10-20
Frederick County 37
Howard County 16
<u>Washington County 19</u>
TOTAL IN MD 114-136

*Based on equation of 9.2 beds + 0.82 beds for every 10,000 people. (Source: Coleman, S. 2001. An evaluation of Minnesota's shelter program for battered women: A report to the Minnesota legislature. Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse.)

**Estimates based on available space for adults *and* children (including cribs), not necessarily # of beds, from Maryland's 20 comprehensive domestic violence programs.

***One program serving Baltimore City and County and another in Baltimore County provide shelter through hotel/motels and do not have their own shelters. Hotel/motels are not reflected in the numbers. Only shelter capacity is reflected.

† In Charles and St. Mary's counties, shelter is provided in partnership with other agencies. The programs do not have their own shelters.

†† In Allegany County, the program does not provide transitional housing. Instead, they provide rent to 2-3 families (on average) for a limited amount of time.

DID YOU KNOW...?

There are Not Enough Shelter Beds for Domestic Violence Victims

Four of the 20 domestic violence programs do not even have their own emergency shelter facility. Only 40% of the comprehensive domestic violence programs in Maryland provide transitional housing.

Domestic Violence Shelters Provide Needed Safety

Leaving an abuser is a very dangerous time for victims, a decision that could lead to increased violence, threats, stalking, harassment, and murder. A confidential, safe, secure location is imperative to the safety of victims and their children.

Shelter Directors Identified the Following Needs...

- Increased shelter beds
- Renovations (additional space, more bathrooms)
- New shelter/transitional housing
- Help with utilities
- Transportation
- Child care services
- Increase shelter staff (ex: on-site therapist)
- Help sheltering male victims
- Increased security/surveillance
- Funds for hotel/motel stays

Lack of Available Shelter Related to Homelessness

When victims leave, they may have no place to go. In fact, numerous studies have shown that 25-50% of homeless mothers were victims of domestic violence.

Animal Shelters Outnumber Domestic Violence Shelters

In Maryland, there are 6 times as many animal shelters as there are domestic violence shelters (16 vs. 102).

Child Care Services are Nonexistent or Inadequate

Only 45% of the comprehensive domestic violence programs have any child care for shelter residents, even for job-searching or interviewing, going to a counseling appointment, or going to court.