

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 29 out of 42, or 69%, of identified domestic violence programs in Florida participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 29 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,437 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 1,398 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 1,039 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- In just one day, 93% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 52% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

93%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
90%	Emergency Shelter
83%	Advocacy with Social Services
83%	Children's Counseling/ Advocacy
83%	Group Counseling or Advocacy
76%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
52%	Childcare
52%	Transitional Housing

75 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Florida reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as housing, childcare, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet victims' requests for services. 34% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 3% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

888 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Florida answered more than 37 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

769 PEOPLE TRAINED

Individuals across Florida attended community education and trainings, gaining much needed information on prevention and early intervention.

I met with a client at the sheriff's office who had been badly beaten. It was not safe for her to come to our office, so I met her there for crisis counseling, needs assessment, and assistance filing for relocation benefits.

Whether we're working with a large family or a single woman, it's hard to find transitional housing and transportation. The lack of onsite childcare as well as a long waiting list in the community for childcare is another factor that makes it difficult for women to move on.