

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 26 out of 26, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 26 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

813 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 433 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 380 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- In just one day, 92% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 31% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

92% Individual Counseling or Advocacy

73% Legal Accompaniment/ Services

65% Emergency Shelter

54% Advocacy with Social Services

54% Children's Counseling/ Advocacy

42% Group Counseling or Advocacy

38% Childcare

31% Transitional Housing

114 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Iowa 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. 81% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 27% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

460 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Iowa answered more than 19 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

1,036 PEOPLE TRAINED

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

A victim needed financial help because her abuser had taken everything. She didn't have money to buy food, pay rent, or hire a divorce lawyer. Our program was able to help her feed herself and her four children. She lives in a remote rural area, which has no food pantry or community assistance.

The average stay in our shelter 5 years ago was 2 1/2 weeks – today the average stay is 2 months. There are very few resources available. Funding limits our ability to provide hotel stays, and other shelters are also full. Legal help is a constant challenge. Our clients do not have the funds to hire an attorney, and legal aid is swamped.