

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 61 out of 68, or 90%, of identified domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 61 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,453 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 1,101 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 1,352 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- In just one day, 90% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 38% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

90% Individual Counseling or Advocacy

77% Children's Counseling/ Advocacy

69% Legal Accompaniment/ Services

61% Group Counseling or Advocacy

59% Emergency Shelter

49% Advocacy with Social Services

38% Childcare

38% Transitional Housing

607 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Illinois 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. 49% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 23% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

1,063 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Illinois answered more than 44 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

437 PEOPLE TRAINED

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

A woman receiving advocacy services told her counselor that she now realizes that "she is worthy of being happy" and is now advocating with the state attorney's office for the arrest of her abuser.

Affordable childcare, limited transitional housing, and lack of affordable permanent housing for low-income working women still continue to be the greatest unmet need. In addition, in the last two years, two programs that served women and children in our community have closed.