

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

National Summary

On September 17, 2008, 78% of identified domestic violence programs in the United States and Territories, or 1,553 out of 2,000 programs, participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by these 1,553 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour Census survey period.

60,799 Victims Served In One Day

30,433 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

30,366 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

Percentage of Participating Programs Providing These Services On the Census Day

87%	Individual Support or Advocacy
58%	Children's Support or Advocacy
58%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
51%	Transportation
46%	Group Support or Advocacy
33%	Transitional Housing
24%	Childcare/Daycare

21,683 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 14 hotline calls every minute.

30,210 People Trained

On the survey day, individuals in communities across the United States attended 1,455 trainings sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

8,927 Unmet Requests for Services In One Day

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to fully assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation. Over 50% of these unmet requests for services were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Most programs operate shelters, hotlines, and outreach services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In many areas, domestic violence programs provide a wide variety of services to large geographic areas. Lack of staffing was a key reason many programs could not meet domestic violence victims' requests for services. 70% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 38% with less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$24,765.

"We are the only shelter in an area of over 89,000 miles. Clients arrive at our door in freezing temperatures because they have nowhere else to go. We are an essential part of this community."

— Alaska DV Program

"When asked what he liked best about staying in the shelter, a 10-year-old boy answered, 'I can sleep at night.'"

— Maryland DV Program

