DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services
Executive Summary for
Georgia

> The complexity of the issues is very diverse -- the lives we touch on a daily basis. How does one capture the joy of a woman finding a job? How does one capture in one day the numerous systems we interact with, to advocate, to seek change? And how we do that today is different than how it will look tomorrow." -An urban program

On November 2nd 2006, 27 out of 48 identified local domestic violence programs (56%) in Georgia participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services (NCDVS). Designed to address the safety and confidentiality needs of victims, the Census collected an unduplicated, non-invasive count of adults and children who received critical services from local domestic violence programs during the 24-hour survey period. Since some local programs did not participate, this Census provides a powerful glimpse but remains an undercount of the actual number of victims who sought and received services.

VICTIMS SERVED

During the 24-hour survey period 581 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

1,085 adults and children were served in Georgia.

- **448** adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters
- **133** adults and children were living in transitional housing programs, designed specifically for domestic violence survivors
- **504** adults and children sought non-residential advocacy and services such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups

> "We are really struggling with capacity issues right now. We've had two months of turning people away more often than not." -A suburban program

LIMITED RESOURCES

Programs reported a considerable unmet demand for services due to a lack of resources, including limited staffing and overflowing shelters.

240 requests for services were tragically unmet due to a lack of resources.

- **69** unmet requests for emergency shelter
- **149** unmet requests for transitional housing
- **22** unmet requests for non-residential services

HOTLINE CALLS

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. **474 hotline calls were answered, more than *20 hotline calls every hour*.**

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Local domestic violence programs implement prevention and early intervention curricula at schools, and provide trainings in the workplace and to the broader community.

- **323 people** were trained during the survey day by local domestic violence programs.

LIMITED STAFF

Most programs operate with relatively few staff.

- **13%** of participating local programs employ less than 10 staff
- **23%** employ 10-20 paid staff
- **13%** employ 21-40 paid staff
- **2%** employ over 40 paid staff
- **50%** staff numbers not provided

> "We have NO paid staff. We function with all volunteers and they are getting tired." -A suburban program

COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

Across Georgia, local programs provide support to victims in a variety of communities.

- **31%** of local programs are primarily rural
- **6%** of local programs are primarily suburban
- **13%** of local programs are primarily urban
- **50%** community type not provided