

NNEDV

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Executive Summary

On November 2nd 2006, 1,243 out of 2,016 identified local domestic violence programs (62%) 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.

"This was a relatively normal day. Group and individual counseling, children's groups and activities, safety planning, goal planning, shelter intakes, helpline calls and court advocacy all took place. There was nothing out of the ordinary, just the amazing strength demonstrated by battered women seeking to regain their lives and the dedication of our advocates to empowering victims to do just that."
-An urban program in the Mid-Atlantic

VICTIMS SERVED

During the 24-hour survey period more than 22,000 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelters or transitional housing.

47,864 adults and children were served.

- **14,344** adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters
- **7,933** adults and children were living in transitional housing programs, designed specifically for domestic violence survivors
- **25,587** adults and children received non-residential services such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups

LIMITED RESOURCES

Programs reported a considerable unmet demand for services due to a lack of resources, including limited staffing and overflowing shelters. **5,157 requests for services** were tragically unmet due to a lack of resources.

- **1,740** unmet requests for emergency shelter
- **1,422** unmet requests for transitional housing
- **1,955** unmet requests for non-residential services

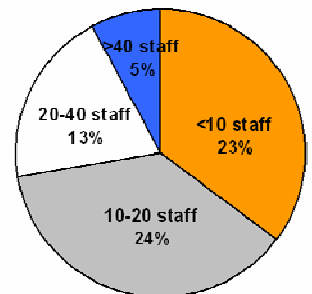
"Today a victim was shot after leaving the shelter to move into her home. A mother with six children called the hotline requesting services. Our central heating unit broke in the shelter and we needed to move families to a warm location. Three families needed transportation to scheduled appointments and an urgent crisis call is on the hotline. We have limited staff coverage and resources to assist with these daily crises."
-An urban program in the South

HOTLINE CALLS

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. During the 24-hour survey period, local and state hotline advocates answered 15,431 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered 1,213 calls. In total, advocates responded to almost 17,000 hotline calls in the survey period, which equals *more than 11 hotline calls every minute.*

LIMITED STAFF

Most programs operate with relatively few staff: 47% of the participating local programs employ less than 20 paid staff positions. The chart reflects the information provided by 65% of participating local programs.



PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Local domestic violence programs provide school prevention and early intervention sessions, and awareness trainings in the workplace and broader community.

40,120 people were trained during the survey day by local domestic violence programs.

COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

Across the US, local programs provide support to victims of domestic violence in a variety of communities. Participating programs that shared this information report:

- **39%** of local programs are primarily rural
- **17%** of local programs are primarily suburban
- **8%** of local programs are primarily urban
- **35%** of local programs – information not provided