



NNEDV

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

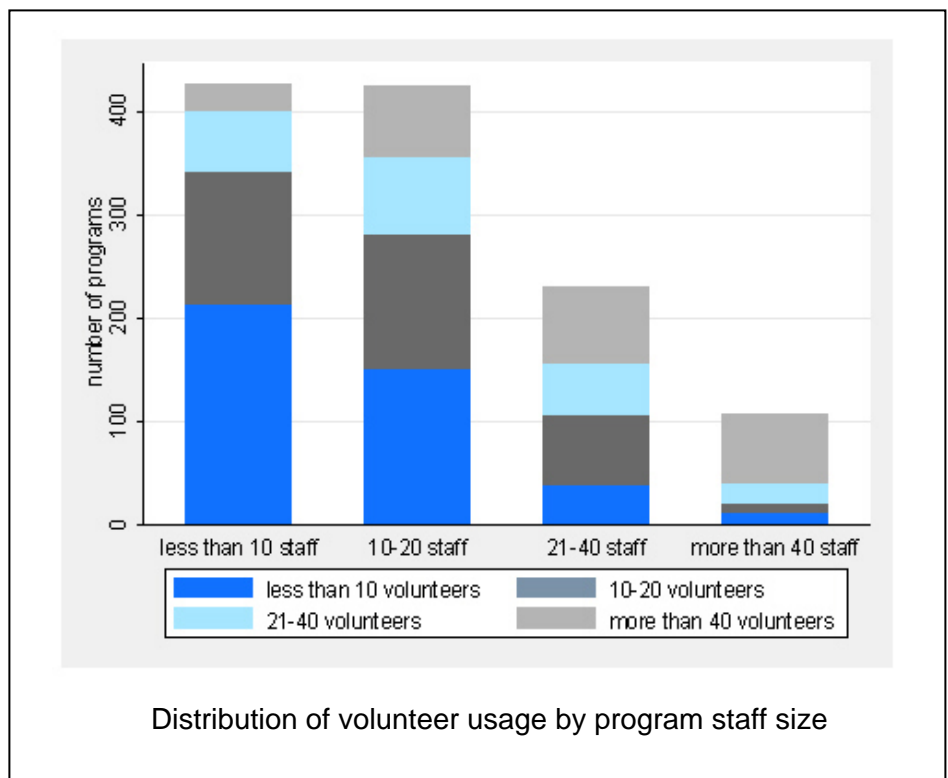
Staff and Volunteer Counts

"We are really struggling with capacity issues right now. After having had a few years of lower utilization of the shelter due to more services being available in Court, we've had two months of turning people away more often than not. The Court docket is up from a high of 40-45 on a day in civil court to a high of 60 cases. We have one full-time Crisis Counselor to respond to referrals from 90+ Dept of Social Service Workers, who are our biggest referral source, but certainly not our only one. I don't know how much more staff can take on."

- A suburban Program in the South

In order to meet the demands for service, local programs use both paid staff and trained volunteers. Despite the difficulty of the job and the typically low salaries, these staffers provide life-saving support and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Volunteers also play a critical role in creating the capacity for programs to respond to victims in crisis.

- Most programs have small staffs with more than one third employing less than 10 people, and over 70 percent employing fewer than 20 people.



- More than half of domestic violence programs use fewer than 20 paid staff and volunteers and nearly 20 percent have fewer than 10 paid staff members and volunteers.
- Programs rely on a large number of volunteers, with 20 percent of programs relying on over 40 volunteers. Nearly half of all programs have more than 20 volunteers. As illustrated above, regardless of staff size, volunteers are critical to allowing local programs to provide services to victims.
- Many programs struggle with meeting the needs of survivors because of the high demand for services and relatively low number of paid staff.

"We have NO paid staff. We are a small shelter in an area with a large need. We function with all volunteers and they are getting tired. We need much financial assistance so that we can hire a couple of paid staff people."

-A suburban program in the Midwest