



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Executive Summary for

New Mexico

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, 10 out of 32 identified local domestic violence programs (**31%**) in New Mexico 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 281 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

443 adults and children were served in New Mexico.

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

“We are an agency covering 5 counties, all are very rural. We have many obstacles including affordable housing, transportation, day care, and adequate employment resources. Many women are forced to go back to the abusive relationship because of limited choices.”
A rural program

LIMITED RESOURCES

While the 10 participating local programs in New Mexico reported that they are unable to meet over 20 requests for services on a usual day, on the survey day, these 10 local programs were unable to meet 5 requests.

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

- **3** unmet requests for emergency shelter
- **2** unmet requests for transitional housing

HOTLINE CALLS

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. **40 hotline calls were answered.**

“Today I had a client that had a weapon pulled on her when I was talking to her on the phone so she had to hang up. When I called back, all phones had been disconnected.”
- A rural program

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.

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

LIMITED STAFF

Most local programs operate with relatively few staff.

- **6%** of participating local programs employ less than 10 staff
- **9%** employ 10-20 paid staff
- **9%** employ 21-40 paid staff
- **3%** employ over 40 paid staff
- **72%** not provided/did not participate in the census

COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

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

- **22%** of local programs are primarily rural
- **3%** of local programs are primarily urban
- **75%** not provided/did not participate in the census