



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Executive Summary for

Vermont

"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

On November 2nd 2006, 100% of identified local domestic violence programs in Vermont 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.

VICTIMS SERVED

During the 24-hour survey period 104 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

306 adults and children were served in Vermont.

- **77** adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters or safe homes
- **27** adults and children were living in transitional housing programs, designed specifically for domestic violence survivors
- **202** 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.

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

- **7** unmet requests for emergency shelter
- **1** unmet request for transitional housing
- **3** unmet requests for non-residential services

HOTLINE CALLS

Hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. **206 hotline calls were answered, more than 9 hotline calls every hour.**

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

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

- **219 people** were educated during the survey day by local programs.

LIMITED STAFF

Most programs operate with relatively few staff.

- **73%** of participating local programs employ less than 10 staff
- **20%** employ 10-20 paid staff
- **7%** employ 21-40 paid staff

"We counted as served a woman we assisted who applied for a restraining order based on verbal abuse and violent behavior toward her - but no physical contact. She was denied the restraining order so was she truly served?"

- A rural Vermont program

COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

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

- **87%** of local programs are primarily rural
- **13%** of local programs are primarily suburban