



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

## the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

### Executive Summary for

# West Virginia

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006, 14 out of 14 identified local domestic violence programs (100%) in West Virginia 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 242 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

**539 adults and children were served in West Virginia.**

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

“Our days can be drastically different from day to day. Our numbers are low today. In the years that I have worked here, we have been at maximum capacity on numerous occasions.”  
– A West Virginia program

### LIMITED RESOURCES

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

On the survey day, **7 requests for services** were unmet due to a lack of resources.

### HOTLINE CALLS

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. **172 hotline calls were answered, more than 7 hotline calls every hour.**

“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.

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

### LIMITED STAFF

Most programs operate with relatively few staff.

- **14%** of participating local programs employ less than 10 staff
- **57%** employ 10-20 paid staff
- **29%** employ 21-40 paid staff

### COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

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

- **86%** of local programs are primarily rural
- **14%** of local programs are primarily urban