



NNEDV

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Explaining the Census: What the Numbers Do and Don't Mean

The following talking points have been crafted to help you answer any Census questions you may receive. If you have any questions regarding the Census or the information provided below, please contact census@nnedv.org.

What is DV Counts: the National Census on Domestic Violence Services?

- A "Snapshot Survey" conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence in partnership with Harvard University researchers, to count the total number of people served and total number of services provided in local domestic violence programs around the country.

What was the purpose of the Census?

- To obtain an unduplicated count of individuals served by local domestic violence (DV) programs during a single 24-hour period.
- To provide information regarding the distribution of services during this time period.
- To provide an initial estimate of unmet demand due to resource constraints.

Who participated in this Census?

- Organizations whose primary purpose is to provide services to individuals affected by domestic violence were invited to participate.
- The Census does not include data from community legal services programs, batterer intervention programs or other organizations whose primary purpose is not to provide services for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

How was the Census conducted?

- The count began at 8am Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Thursday, November 2 and ended at 7:59am EST on Friday, November 3, 2006.
- Starting times for participating programs were adjusted by time zone so that programs throughout the country were taking counts during the same 24-hour period.

How many local DV programs participated?

- 1,243 out of 2,016 identified local domestic violence programs (62%) participated.

Can I multiply the Census Day totals by 365?

- NO. Since these numbers capture a snapshot of one 24-hour period, it would not be accurate to multiply the 1-day totals by 365 days in a year. Some victims might only use services once in a year period, while others might access support many times.

Given the 62% response rate, can I project what the numbers would be if 100% of local programs participated?

- NO. Since many of the local programs who did not participate were in very small rural communities, it would not be accurate to project a total based on the totals provided by 62% of local programs.
- It is accurate to say that the numbers provided by the 62% of programs provide a powerful glimpse but remain an undercount of the actual number of victims who sought and received services.

What can't the Census tell us?

- The Census did not measure any of the socioeconomic or demographic characteristics of individuals using the services of local programs. This is to ensure the privacy and safety of all victims served in programs.
- The Census provides an unduplicated count of individuals who received services during survey period. However, due to the nature of hotline services, it is not possible to capture an unduplicated count of individuals placing hotline calls.
- It is also not possible to capture the unduplicated number of individuals who were unable to receive services due to the lack of available resources. For example: an individual may have called more than one local program in search of available services.
- The Census did not measure other reasons individuals were unable to receive services. For example: an individual may have requested services not provided by the agency or requested services unrelated to domestic violence.