

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 6 out of 7, or 86%, of identified domestic violence programs in Delaware participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 6 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

145 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 59 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 86 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.
- In just one day, 67% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 17% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

67%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
50%	Advocacy with Social Services
50%	Childcare
33%	Children’s Counseling/ Advocacy
33%	Emergency Shelter
33%	Group Counseling or Advocacy
33%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
17%	Transitional Housing

6 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Delaware reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as housing, childcare, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

BUDGET

Programs reported that limited financial resources impacted their ability to meet victims’ request for services. In Delaware, 51% of programs have an annual budget below \$499,000

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet victims’ requests for services. 50% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 50% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

26 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Delaware answered more than 1 hotline call every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

Our advocate was able to assist a Spanish speaking victim in preparing the application for a protection order. Unfortunately, due to court delays, she wasn’t able to actually file her protection order at family court that same day and had to take another day off of work to take her petition to the court.

We were short staffed again. Salaries are so low that we have trouble finding good staff who will accept the low pay.