

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 19 out of 42, or 45%, of identified domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 19 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

249 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 113 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 136 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- In just one day, 74% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 37% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

79%	Emergency Shelter
74%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
74%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
58%	Advocacy with Social Services
53%	Group Counseling or Advocacy
37%	Transitional Housing
32%	Children's Counseling/ Advocacy
16%	Childcare

66 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in South Dakota 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.

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet victims' requests for services. 89% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 63% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

147 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in South Dakota answered more than 6 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

231 PEOPLE TRAINED

Individuals across South Dakota attended community education and trainings, gaining much needed information on prevention and early intervention.

We were able to help an abused/assaulted woman and her daughter and granddaughter to safety in the shelter. We also helped individuals with gas vouchers, deposits, transportation, and referrals to other agencies.

By the end of August 2007, we had surpassed last year's total numbers of individuals served, total shelter nights, and number of individuals assisted with protection orders. We only have 2 full-time staff and one part-time advocate. Funding is of the utmost importance—we need funding to answer the crisis calls that come into our office.