

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 40 out of 48, or 83%, of identified domestic violence programs in Tennessee participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 40 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,325 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 516 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 809 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.
- In just one day, 88% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 18% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

88%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
70%	Emergency Shelter
63%	Children’s Counseling/ Advocacy
58%	Advocacy with Social Services
58%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
43%	Group Counseling or Advocacy
23%	Childcare
18%	Transitional Housing

53 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in Tennessee 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. 88% of programs have fewer than 20 paid staff, and 53% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

343 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in Tennessee answered more than 14 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

762 PEOPLE TRAINED

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

Typically, we spend about 50 minutes to an hour assisting each outreach client. The client we were helping today was unable to read or write. Her sister was struggling to help her and her two children. Although it took about 4 hours, we were able to assist the victim, her two children, and her sister with access to housing and other services.

Our program took four families into shelter during the 24-hour period and turned away six more due to lack of space. There is an urgent need for transitional housing in our community, and we are in the process of beginning a transitional housing program.