

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Alaska Summary

On September 17, 2008, 17 out of 17, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Alaska participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

550 Victims Served In One Day

269 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

281 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

47 Unmet Requests for Services In One Day

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 24 were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. 71% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 18% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$29,058.

Attorneys

Victims of domestic violence often need legal assistance with restraining orders and civil and family court matters. Of programs that participated in the Census, only 20% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

Percentage of Participating Programs Providing These Services On the Census Day

88%	Individual Support or Advocacy
88%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
76%	Children's Support or Advocacy
71%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
59%	Transportation
53%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
53%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
47%	Rural Outreach

73 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 3 hotline calls every hour.

215 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 215 individuals in communities across Alaska attended 14 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

"We are the only shelter in an area of over 89,000 miles. Clients arrive at our door in freezing temperatures because they have nowhere else to go. We are an essential part of this community."

"After providing emergency transportation to a woman and her son, she told us, 'Your help saved our lives. You have no idea what this means to us.'"