

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Alabama Summary

On September 17, 2008, 18 out of 18, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Alabama participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 649 Victims Served In One Day

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

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

### Percentage of Participating Programs Providing These Services On the Census Day

100%	Individual Support or Advocacy
100%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
67%	Children's Support or Advocacy
67%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
50%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
44%	Group Support or Advocacy
39%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
39%	Advocacy Related to School System

## 217 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 9 hotline calls every hour.

## 569 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 569 individuals in communities across Alabama attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 20 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, 18 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. 72% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 39% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,617.

## 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 24% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"Currently, we don't have any public housing or government-subsidized housing available. On the survey day, we couldn't provide permanent housing for three shelter clients, two transitional housing clients, and three outreach clients."*

*"Because of budget cuts, we've cut our food budget, we can't provide transportation for clients, nor can we help survivors who've made the incredibly difficult step of moving on with their lives."*