

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

California Summary

On September 17, 2008, 70 out of 113, or 62%, of identified domestic violence programs in California participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 70 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

3,872 Victims Served In One Day

2,012 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,860 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

94%	Individual Support or Advocacy
81%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
43%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
39%	Advocacy Related to Mental Health
37%	Advocacy Related to Immigration
27%	Job Training/Employment Assistance
13%	Rural Outreach
11%	Advocacy Related to Technology Use

1,081 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 45 hotline calls every hour.

1,875 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,875 individuals in communities across California attended 92 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

686 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, 310 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. 49% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 16% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$27,793.

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 15% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Today our staff attended the funeral of a woman who had been killed by her husband."

"A domestic violence and sexual assault victim was in the hospital for a sexual assault exam. She had no where to go despite having called every shelter in the county and finally had to travel 45 minutes to get to a hotel."