

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Colorado Summary

On September 17, 2008, 41 out of 44, or 93%, of identified domestic violence programs in Colorado participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 41 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,028 Victims Served In One Day

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

454 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

83%	Individual Support or Advocacy
54%	Children's Support or Advocacy
49%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
49%	Transitional Housing
46%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
22%	Rural Outreach
20%	Financial Skills/Budgeting
15%	Job Training/Employment Assistance

547 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 23 hotline calls every hour.

356 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 356 individuals in communities across Colorado attended 22 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

183 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, 131 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. 83% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 73% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$26,075.

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 8% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"A domestic violence victim came to the shelter after walking many miles to escape her abuser. Although she's found a safe place to stay, she'll have to wait six weeks before she can get an appointment with a doctor. This long wait is not uncommon in our rural area."

"Because of the current economy, we are definitely experiencing increased demand for services at a time when operating costs are increasing and contributions are shrinking. We are stretched to the max!"