

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

District of Columbia Summary

On September 17, 2008, 5 out of 10, or 50%, of identified domestic violence programs in District of Columbia participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 5 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

180 Victims Served In One Day

30 domestic violence victims were currently living in emergency shelters (including hotels or safe houses) and 104 victims were living in transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

46 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

60%	Individual Support or Advocacy
60%	Transitional Housing
40%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
40%	Financial Skills/Budgeting
20%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
20%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
20%	Translation/Interpretation Services
20%	Adult Therapy/Counseling (by a licensed practitioner)

9 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

14 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 14 individuals in communities across District of Columbia attended 1 training session provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

2 Unmet Requests for Services In One Day

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. 60% of programs have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$35,600.

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 40% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Due to the lack of affordable safe housing, it is difficult for our advocates to find housing resources for women with large families or survivors with disabilities. It might take us several months to find a safe housing placement."