

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Delaware Summary

On September 17, 2008, 7 out of 7, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Delaware participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

171 Victims Served In One Day

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

108 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

71%	Individual Support or Advocacy
71%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS
57%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
57%	Children’s Support or Advocacy
57%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
57%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
43%	Transportation
43%	Financial Skills/Budgeting

21 Hotline Calls Answered

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

36 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 36 individuals in communities across Delaware attended 3 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

53 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, 32 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. 43% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$31,024.

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.

“A client who was held hostage and tied up daily for weeks by her abuser registered for college today.”

“Funding for services to victims who need assistance with child protective services and for court-based advocacy was cut, so we’re unable to provide these services to our clients.”