

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Florida Summary

On September 17, 2008, 40 out of 42, or 95%, of identified domestic violence programs in Florida participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 40 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,942 Victims Served In One Day

1,859 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,083 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%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
98%	Individual Support or Advocacy
90%	Children's Support or Advocacy
70%	Group Support or Advocacy
63%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
53%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
48%	Transitional Housing
40%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS

814 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 34 hotline calls every hour.

1,239 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,239 individuals in communities across Florida attended 46 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

209 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, 40 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. 40% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 5% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$25,173.

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 13% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Funding cuts to our program have severely limited the services we can provide. We can't help with rent or utilities, and community resources are also tapped out. We couldn't help pay for prescription medication for one of our clients because it's too expensive."

"Because of long housing waiting lists, clients have to come up with their own temporary living arrangements, and sometimes they feel that their only choice is to go back to their abuser."