

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Georgia Summary

On September 17, 2008, 32 out of 48, or 67%, of identified domestic violence programs in Georgia participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 32 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,549 Victims Served In One Day

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

635 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

97%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
88%	Individual Support or Advocacy
78%	Children's Support or Advocacy
78%	Transportation
75%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
72%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
59%	Group Support or Advocacy
22%	Transitional Housing

425 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 18 hotline calls every hour.

379 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 379 individuals in communities across Georgia attended 21 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

174 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, 100 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. 81% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 25% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,251.

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 21% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"We cover nine counties in rural Georgia. With budget cuts and rising fuel costs for us and for clients, it's hard to ensure that services are being provided to those who need it."

"I had a emotional call with a woman today who is in a very abusive relationship today. We talked about her options and whether coming to shelter was an option. Unfortunately, our shelter is full, and the nearest shelter with beds available is more than 50 miles away, which is too far for her to drive to and from work."