

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Iowa Summary

On September 17, 2008, 27 out of 27, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Iowa participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 916 Victims Served In One Day

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

485 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

96%	Individual Support or Advocacy
85%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
81%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
70%	Children's Support or Advocacy
67%	Transportation
44%	Rural Outreach
41%	Group Support or Advocacy
22%	Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse

## 407 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 17 hotline calls every hour.

## 532 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 532 individuals in communities across Iowa attended 26 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 122 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, 104 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. 85% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 30% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$25,114.

## 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 12% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"Our shelter is full so we had to refer a young woman with three children under six years old to another shelter. Today, a woman called to see if she could come into shelter because her husband pulled a knife on her."*

*"We're seeing an increase in demand for services but a dramatic decrease in local donations. Our local donations decreased by \$65,000 in the past year. Travel is now limited to only client-related travel so providing quality, comprehensive services to a rural, eight-county area is a constant struggle for our staff and volunteers."*