

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Louisiana Summary

On September 17, 2008, 8 out of 20, or 40%, of identified domestic violence programs in Louisiana participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 8 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 360 Victims Served In One Day

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

183 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%	Individual Support or Advocacy
100%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
88%	Children's Support or Advocacy
88%	Group Support or Advocacy
88%	Transportation
63%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
50%	Rural Outreach
13%	Translation/Interpretation Services

### 102 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 4 hotline calls every hour.

### 156 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 156 individuals in communities across Louisiana attended 9 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 58 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, 49 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. 25% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 13% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$24,543.

### 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 14% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"Victims often call asking for funds to help pay bills so they can stay in a safe place away from their abusers. We have no funds through our program so we refer them to other agencies. We hope they have the resources to help."*

*"We are still in semi-evacuation mode from Hurricane Ike. Several residents and their children have not returned to our shelter."*