

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

## Maine Summary

On September 17, 2008, 9 out of 9, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Maine participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

### 502 Victims Served In One Day

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

281 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

89%	Individual Support or Advocacy
89%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
89%	Transitional Housing
78%	Group Support or Advocacy
78%	Children's Support or Advocacy
67%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
56%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
44%	Rural Outreach

### 132 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 6 hotline calls every hour.

### 92 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 92 individuals in communities across Maine attended 15 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 41 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, 24 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. 56% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 11% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$26,661.

#### Percentage of Programs With Volunteers

23%	10-20 Volunteers
33%	21-40 Volunteers
44%	More than 40 Volunteers

*"Because of the current economic climate, we've received more requests for financial help than ever before, but we're less able to help now than we were even a year ago. We're hearing from families who are in need of shelter and other services because they have no where else to go, and we're fearful that this will get worse as the cold weather approaches."*

*"Increased rental costs and rising heating fuel costs are making it more difficult for the people we work with to afford housing."*