

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Michigan Summary

On September 17, 2008, 58 out of 62, or 94%, of identified domestic violence programs in Michigan participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 58 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,539 Victims Served In One Day

1,638 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

901 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

93%	Individual Support or Advocacy
81%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
60%	Children's Support or Advocacy
60%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
50%	Group Support or Advocacy
40%	Transitional Housing
21%	Job Training/Employment Assistance
19%	Childcare/Daycare

648 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 27 hotline calls every hour.

1,250 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,250 individuals in communities across Michigan attended 38 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

389 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, 265 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. 64% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 28% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$27,170.

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 4% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Today, we worked with a client whose husband is in jail for assaulting her. Their utility bill is several months past due, but she doesn't have the money to pay it. She fears CPS will take her children if her utilities are turned off. I advocated with the utility companies to postpone shutting off her services."

"A shelter resident is working two full-time jobs and raising her four children at the same time. She found out today that she'll be able to move into her apartment!"