

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Minnesota Summary

On September 17, 2008, 31 out of 73, or 42%, of identified domestic violence programs in Minnesota participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 31 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,256 Victims Served In One Day

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

758 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

77%	Individual Support or Advocacy
52%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
48%	Children's Support or Advocacy
45%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
29%	Group Support or Advocacy
23%	Transitional Housing
23%	Translation/Interpretation Services
19%	Childcare/Daycare

486 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 20 hotline calls every hour.

849 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 849 individuals in communities across Minnesota attended 40 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

202 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, 152 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. 65% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 58% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$24,313.

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 7% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Four residents successfully got permanent housing today—one of whom have been living in emergency shelter for five months."

"We're working with a woman whose abuser is very verbally and emotionally abusive. Although she shares joint custody of their son, he refuses to let her see her son unless she goes to his house. Legal Aid services can't help her, and we don't have any pro bono attorneys. We're trying to obtain transitional housing for her and a lawyer to help enforce the custody order."