

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Missouri Summary

On September 17, 2008, 65 out of 65, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Missouri participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,052 Victims Served In One Day

1,257 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

795 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

80%	Individual Support or Advocacy
77%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
57%	Transportation
55%	Children's Support or Advocacy
49%	Group Support or Advocacy
43%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
43%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
40%	Legal Accompaniment/Services

505 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 21 hotline calls every hour.

673 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 673 individuals in communities across Missouri attended 98 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

415 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, 189 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. 82% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 46% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,597.

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 2% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Our shelter has been full for months. During the survey day, one family departed shelter and literally within an hour another woman was on her way into our only empty bedroom. She was coming directly from the hospital after being treated because her abuser pulled out her stitches from a recent surgery. Thankfully, we had a safe place for her and her kids."

"Today, a woman who had been abused for years said to me, 'I lived in fear and anger for years. I got lost in all this mess, but I want me back. I'm ready to reconnect with me.'"