

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# North Dakota Summary

On September 17, 2008, 19 out of 19, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in North Dakota participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 286 Victims Served In One Day

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

182 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

53%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
53%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
47%	Children's Support or Advocacy
42%	Transportation
42%	Rural Outreach
26%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
21%	Transitional Housing
5%	Financial Skills/Budgeting

## 79 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 3 hotline calls every hour.

## 157 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 157 individuals in communities across North Dakota attended 8 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 15 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, 10 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. 89% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 79% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$21,806.

*"One of our advocates ran into an attorney representing a batterer at the grocery store, and the attorney tried to bully her into convincing the victim to drop the protection order. Attorneys representing batterers often try tactics like this—bullying our advocates and the victims themselves. Our clients rarely have legal representation because they can't afford it, and our legal service program is severely underfunded and overworked."*

*"During the survey day, a woman needed shelter, but our shelter was full. The nearest shelter is over two hours away and because the program doesn't have transportation funds, she can't get to work every day."*