

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Rhode Island Summary

On September 17, 2008, 6 out of 6, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Rhode Island participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

129 Victims Served In One Day

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

72 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

67%	Individual Support or Advocacy
67%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
50%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
50%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS
33%	Children's Support or Advocacy
33%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
33%	Transportation
33%	Advocacy Related to Immigration

52 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

170 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 170 individuals in communities across Rhode Island attended 5 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

12 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, all 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. 67% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 17% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$27,333.

"We created an "Ask A Lawyer" program, in which lawyers volunteer their time to come in once a month and offer free 20-minute consultations to survivors. Although victims don't receive legal representation, at least they know their rights and understand the legal process."

"Because of budget cuts, we are operating with bare minimum staffing. Our shelter is consistently full, and clients have to wait a while before they can meet with advocates because our staff is often working with other victims."