

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

South Dakota Summary

On September 17, 2008, 13 out of 42, or 31%, of identified domestic violence programs in South Dakota participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 13 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

338 Victims Served In One Day

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

151 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

85%	Individual Support or Advocacy
77%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
62%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
54%	Advocacy Related to School System
54%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS
54%	Advocacy Related to Mental Health
46%	Transitional Housing
46%	Children's Support or Advocacy

298 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 12 hotline calls every hour.

35 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 35 individuals in communities across South Dakota attended 3 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

44 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, 17 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. 85% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 62% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,893.

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 15% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Today, we secured rent and deposit for a woman with four children who has been working very hard at becoming independent. She is now in a safe place with her children."

"One of our residents had to walk to work today because we can't provide any transportation. She was very nervous she would be confronted by her abuser or his family while walking but was more nervous about losing her job if she didn't show up. There is no public transportation in our town."