

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Vermont Summary

On September 17, 2008, 13 out of 13, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Vermont participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 172 Victims Served In One Day

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

112 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

92%	Individual Support or Advocacy
77%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
54%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
46%	Children's Support or Advocacy
46%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
38%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
31%	Transitional Housing
23%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS

## 149 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 6 hotline calls every hour.

## 52 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 52 individuals in communities across Vermont attended 8 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 20 Unmet Requests for Services In One Day

Many programs reported a critical shortage of staff, funding, and specialized resources 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, 6 were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was one reason that they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. 85% of programs have less than 10 paid staff.

## 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 17% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"We are working with a woman whose abuser is in a position of power in the community. Charges were never brought against him, and he repeatedly uses the court system to harrass her. She desperately needs legal representation but our organization doesn't have the funds to cover this expense."*

*"The women and children we work with are struggling to survive. Women often call us in desperate need of financial help, and we just don't have the resources to help them."*