

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Washington Summary

On September 17, 2008, 44 out of 64, or 69%, of identified domestic violence programs in Washington participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 44 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,493 Victims Served In One Day

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

624 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

89%	Individual Support or Advocacy
80%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
61%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
50%	Children's Support or Advocacy
50%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
45%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
30%	Transitional Housing
25%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS

570 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 24 hotline calls every hour.

357 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 357 individuals in communities across Washington attended 16 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

267 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, 237 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. 70% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 43% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$24,803.

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 8% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Today, we helped a victim with a protection order. She had been held by her abuser against her will in her apartment for hours and her abuser had tried to strangle her. She was afraid and didn't want to call the police but we were able to help her."

"Rising fuel costs is a huge barrier for women, especially when they have to drive two-and-a-half hours for a protection order hearing. For women who are financially isolated, this makes it almost impossible for them to go to court for hearings."