

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Arkansas Summary

On September 17, 2008, 26 out of 36, or 72%, of identified domestic violence programs in Arkansas participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 26 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

379 Victims Served In One Day

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

172 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%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
81%	Individual Support or Advocacy
38%	Children's Support or Advocacy
27%	Transitional Housing
27%	Advocacy Related to Mental Health
23%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
23%	Rural Outreach
12%	Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse

133 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.

2,370 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 2,370 individuals in communities across Arkansas attended 17 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

43 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.

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services. 96% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 85% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$18,737.

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.

"A woman whose abuser threatened to shoot her in the head and attach the protection order to the hole in her head is currently staying in our emergency shelter. She'll be safe until she can be reunited with her family."

"A 71-year-old woman who had been physically assaulted and is being threatened by her former boyfriend had her Order of Protection dismissed on the survey day. Legal Aid was not available to represent her."