

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Illinois Summary

On September 17, 2008, 65 out of 68, or 96%, of identified domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 65 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,826 Victims Served In One Day

1,104 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,722 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

54%	Transportation
38%	Transitional Housing
25%	Advocacy Related to Mental Health
25%	Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse
25%	Childcare/Daycare
22%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS
22%	Advocacy Related to Immigration
15%	Translation/Interpretation Services

1,217 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 51 hotline calls every hour.

1,114 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,114 individuals in communities across Illinois attended 111 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

909 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, 330 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. 52% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 28% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$25,484.

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.

"One of our clients miscarried last week after being beaten by her abuser. We have absolutely no room for her in our shelter and the nearest shelter is too far for her to travel to. Needless to say, staff morale is very low right now."

"We are unable to provide transportation funds, appropriate size clothing, and certain toiletries because we don't have the funding or the donations. We also have to turn away individuals who are seeking help with substance abuse issues because our state cut the funding for these programs."