

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Indiana Summary

On September 17, 2008, 26 out of 53, or 49%, of identified domestic violence programs in Indiana 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.

1,054 Victims Served In One Day

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

361 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
73%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
62%	Children's Support or Advocacy
58%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
50%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
46%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS

363 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 15 hotline calls every hour.

707 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 707 individuals in communities across Indiana attended 23 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

67 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, 50 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. 54% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 27% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,958.

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 13% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Public transportation to our shelter generally requires a minimum of four tickets for a roundtrip. We only receive 200 tickets a month from the City, and we don't have money to purchase tickets so we generally can only fund 50 trips a year."

"Despite increased demand for our services, our state/federal funding have decreased at least 20 percent. We have the highest demand for services in our history but fewer resources to support clients. Transportation services are reduced and clients are receiving less financial assistance."