

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Maryland Summary

On September 17, 2008, 23 out of 23, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Maryland participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

1,233 Victims Served In One Day

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

866 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

78%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
70%	Adult Therapy/Counseling (by a licensed practitioner)
52%	Child Therapy/Counseling (by a licensed practitioner)
43%	Transitional Housing
17%	Translation/Interpretation Services

450 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 19 hotline calls every hour.

227 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 227 individuals in communities across Maryland attended 23 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

154 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, 41 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 26% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$28,650.

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 18% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"During the survey day, an abuser tracked down one of our clients through her child's doctor. Advocates went to the doctor's office to take her and the child back to safety."

"Because of the economic uncertainty, we have found that women are afraid to leave their abusers because they don't think they can make it on their own financially. Housing is not affordable, jobs are scarce, and service programs that could have helped have been cut."