

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Mississippi Summary

On September 17, 2008, 12 out of 15, or 80%, of identified domestic violence programs in Mississippi participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 12 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

295 Victims Served In One Day

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

58 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

67%	Individual Support or Advocacy
67%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
42%	Children's Support or Advocacy
42%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
33%	Transitional Housing
25%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS
8%	Advocacy Related to Immigration

149 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.

704 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 704 individuals in communities across Mississippi attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

45 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, 39 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. 58% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 8% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$27,450.

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 22% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"Since April, our number of outreach and shelter clients have tripled, and most of the domestic violence issues we are dealing with are directly related to the declining economy."

"In the past six months, our shelter has been incredibly busy but because of reduced donations and funds, we've been unable to serve all victims that request shelter services."