

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Montana Summary

On September 17, 2008, 11 out of 23, or 48%, of identified domestic violence programs in Montana participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 11 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

198 Victims Served In One Day

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

155 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.

100%	Individual Support or Advocacy
64%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
45%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
45%	Children’s Support or Advocacy
27%	Transportation
18%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
18%	Group Support or Advocacy
9%	Transitional Housing

112 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 5 hotline calls every hour.

65 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 65 individuals in communities across Montana attended 7 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

15 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. 82% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$21,024.

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 9% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

“We have two full-time and two part-time staff running a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week shelter. The need for social service programs is rising while funding is being slashed every year. Something has got to change and change fast!”

“Too often women in our area will not leave an abusive situation because they can’t leave their animals behind on the ranch or farm. For areas such as ours, where large farm animals are either a woman’s livelihood or pet, we really need to establish a place where women can bring larger animals while they get help.”