

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Nebraska Summary

On September 17, 2008, 19 out of 23, or 83%, of identified domestic violence programs in Nebraska participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 19 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

729 Victims Served In One Day

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

385 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

95%	Individual Support or Advocacy
74%	Children's Support or Advocacy
68%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
68%	Transportation
58%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
47%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS
32%	Medical Services/Accompaniment
26%	Translation/Interpretation Services

252 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 11 hotline calls every hour.

354 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 354 individuals in communities across Nebraska attended 28 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

144 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, 91 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. 95% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 58% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$20,886.

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 10% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"During the survey day, we assisted a victim with a protection order and placed her and her four children in shelter. Another woman, who had been physically and emotionally abused by her abuser, was also able to go into our shelter."

"It's a struggle to reach all the victims in our five county area. It's difficult to provide even basic essentials, such as food and medicine, in our emergency shelter because of reduced funds."