

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

New Jersey Summary

On September 17, 2008, 21 out of 24, or 88%, of identified domestic violence programs in New Jersey participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 21 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1,112 Victims Served In One Day

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

667 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

100%	Individual Support or Advocacy
86%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
86%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
76%	Group Support or Advocacy
76%	Children's Support or Advocacy
62%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
52%	Transitional Housing
52%	Transportation

586 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 24 hotline calls every hour.

294 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 294 individuals in communities across New Jersey attended 16 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

247 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, 69 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. 43% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 10% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$28,094.

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.

"Demand for shelter is increasing, and most of the shelters in the state are filled to capacity. Affordable housing is a real issue in our county and supportive housing is so backlogged, they are extremely slow to respond. Employment is difficult to secure and food, gas, and housing costs are very high."

"During the survey day, our agency experienced a horrible tragedy and while all staff were extremely upset, we still met every victim's needs."