

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# New Mexico Summary

On September 17, 2008, 18 out of 32, or 56%, of identified domestic violence programs in New Mexico participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 18 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 693 Victims Served In One Day

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

295 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

83%	Individual Support or Advocacy
78%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
61%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
39%	Children's Support or Advocacy
39%	Transitional Housing
39%	Transportation

### 103 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

### 139 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 139 individuals in communities across New Mexico attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 91 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, 52 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. 67% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 33% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$20,446.

### 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 6% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"Not having local transportation makes it difficult for shelter residents to get to and from work. Our shelter isn't fully staffed so we can't provide transportation for the residents."*

*"We are a small shelter and our beds have been continuously full for the past two years. The closest shelters are 50 to 190 miles away."*