

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

New York Summary

On September 17, 2008, 75 out of 129, or 58%, of identified domestic violence programs in New York participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 75 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

5,349 Victims Served In One Day

2,328 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

3,021 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

89%	Individual Support or Advocacy
60%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
60%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
55%	Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/CPS
53%	Children's Support or Advocacy
29%	Advocacy Related to School System
28%	Transitional Housing
28%	Translation/Interpretation Services

1,689 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 70 hotline calls every hour.

986 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 986 individuals in communities across New York attended 60 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

934 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, 402 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. 61% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 37% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$27,129.

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 13% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"We spoke with a woman in her 80s who, for the first time, disclosed the abuse her husband had been subjecting her to, including threats on her life and threats to burn down the house. We arranged for a home visit two days later."

"We currently have a waiting list of 36 women and 41 children in our counseling program, but we don't have the funding to hire more counselors or to provide financial assistance to victims for uniforms, clothings, or documentation fees."