

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Ohio Summary

On September 17, 2008, 72 out of 72, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Ohio participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

2,160 Victims Served In One Day

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

1,311 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

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| 88% | Individual Support or Advocacy |
| 78% | Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses) |
| 58% | Legal Accompaniment/Services |
| 49% | Transportation |
| 44% | Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare |
| 43% | Children's Support or Advocacy |
| 40% | Group Support or Advocacy |
| 33% | Advocacy Related to Mental Health |

600 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 25 hotline calls every hour.

1,538 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,538 individuals in communities across Ohio attended 57 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

85 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, 58 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. 78% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 40% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,339.

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.

"For 2009, we lost over \$30,000 in funding, which means we'll lose an advocate who's been us for 15 years. This also means that victims will no longer have an advocate with them when they go to court."

"A victim that I helped said to me today, 'Your agency saved my life. Without your help and support he could have killed me.'"