

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Pennsylvania Summary

On September 17, 2008, 61 out of 61, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 2,476 Victims Served In One Day

1,132 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,344 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

90%	Individual Support or Advocacy
82%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
75%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
70%	Children's Support or Advocacy
59%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
52%	Transitional Housing
49%	Transportation
48%	Group Support or Advocacy

## 847 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 35 hotline calls every hour.

## 1,690 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,690 individuals in communities across Pennsylvania attended 82 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 242 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, 158 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 21% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$21,778.

## 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 22% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"We are operating on a shoe string budget. We pick up pens at trainings and meetings because we can't afford office supplies. Our donation wish lists used to be "extras" to make life more pleasant for the victims we serve, but now we're asking for paper towels, toilet paper, and copy paper. We can only offer bare bones services; childcare is limited so moms have difficulty looking for work or keeping appointments; we've had to limit bus tokens and the cost is going up again at the end of the month. We are doing our best to keep this boat afloat but it's like bailing water out with a teaspoon."*