

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Tennessee Summary

On September 17, 2008, 42 out of 42, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Tennessee participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

## 1,047 Victims Served In One Day

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

610 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

81%	Individual Support or Advocacy
79%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
45%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
36%	Children's Support or Advocacy
33%	Rural Outreach
31%	Transitional Housing
29%	Group Support or Advocacy
19%	Advocacy Related to Immigration

## 467 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 19 hotline calls every hour.

## 819 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 819 individuals in communities across Tennessee attended 34 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

## 67 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, 45 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. 93% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 62% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$21,598.

## 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 8% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"Today was one of those rare days when everything seems to come together. Two of our clients got new jobs, one client was able to get a vehicle, and a large company gave us their leftover catered dinner to feed our shelter residents."*

*"I have been with the program for over 22 years, and we are struggling harder than ever for funds. I'm not sure how long we can hold out. We are running two shelter facilities with only one staff person per shelter and a very small handful of volunteers."*