

2008

Domestic Violence Counts The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Texas Summary

On September 17, 2008, 79 out of 111, or 71%, of identified domestic violence programs in Texas participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 79 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

4,367 Victims Served In One Day

2,570 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,797 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%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
80%	Individual Support or Advocacy
63%	Children’s Support or Advocacy
57%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
56%	Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare
38%	Translation/Interpretation Services
37%	Adult Therapy/Counseling (by a licensed practitioner)
24%	Job Training/Employment Assistance

1,338 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 56 hotline calls every hour.

3,088 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 3,088 individuals in communities across Texas attended 127 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

664 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, 230 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. 62% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 27% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$23,666.

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 9% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

“The current economic situation is troubling for us. We will not be receiving \$40,000 in Victims of Crime Act funding, and private donors will probably give less because of the economic downturn. If we don’t get more funds in six months, we’ll have to cut hours and staff, which will prevent us from providing a full range of services to our rural county.”

“Our non-residential resource center was unable to accept everyone who called today. We made appointments for three weeks from today, because we don’t have enough staff.”