

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Utah Summary

On September 17, 2008, 16 out of 16, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in Utah participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

759 Victims Served In One Day

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

236 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

100%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
44%	Transitional Housing
25%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
25%	Transportation
25%	Rural Outreach
19%	Advocacy Related to Mental Health
19%	Childcare/Daycare
6%	Financial Skills/Budgeting

193 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 8 hotline calls every hour.

151 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 151 individuals in communities across Utah attended 7 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

141 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, 119 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. 81% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 25% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$26,720.

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 27% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"A woman with three children called us today needing shelter, but we have no more beds and the closest shelter is 45 minutes away. She decided to stay with her abuser a little longer so she could take the kids to school and get to work. She can't afford the gas to drive that far twice a day."

"In one year, we've seen a 35 percent increase in the number of people we serve and a 17 percent increase in the days of stay. We are spending more on interpreters this year for new languages, including Burmese, Arabic, Swahli, French, and Japanese."