

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Virginia Summary

On September 17, 2008, 41 out of 47, or 87%, of identified domestic violence programs in Virginia participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 41 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 1,371 Victims Served In One Day

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

735 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

95%	Individual Support or Advocacy
83%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
76%	Children's Support or Advocacy
61%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
46%	Advocacy Related to Mental Health
24%	Transitional Housing
22%	Advocacy Related to Immigration
20%	Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse

### 610 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.

### 341 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 341 individuals in communities across Virginia attended 31 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 170 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, 132 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. 73% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 39% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$25,361.

### 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 15% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

*"The biggest challenge for victims is affordable housing—there is almost nothing in our area so victims return to the abuser."*

*"One of our shelter clients began a new job today. What made it great, however, is that for the first time in many years, she's working at a place of HER choice, not a place her abuser chooses."*