

# 2008

Domestic Violence Counts  
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

# Wisconsin Summary

On September 17, 2008, 48 out of 67, or 72%, of identified domestic violence programs in Wisconsin participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 48 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period

### 1,526 Victims Served In One Day

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

785 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

92%	Individual Support or Advocacy
73%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
65%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
63%	Children's Support or Advocacy
50%	Group Support or Advocacy
38%	Transitional Housing
25%	Financial Skills/Budgeting
23%	Job Training/Employment Assistance

### 668 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 28 hotline calls every hour.

### 1,371 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 1,371 individuals in communities across Wisconsin attended 42 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

### 346 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, 285 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. 71% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 23% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$24,979.

### 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.

*"One of our residents, a 70-year-old domestic violence survivor, was approved for low-income HUD housing."*

*"This year, our program lost seven percent in United Way funding, and next year we're expecting a 20 percent decrease. We've had to compensate by letting go of staff and we're struggling to provide basic supplies, such as toilet paper, dish and laundry soap, and more."*