

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

West Virginia Summary

On September 17, 2008, 14 out of 14, or 100%, of identified domestic violence programs in West Virginia participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

644 Victims Served In One Day

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

462 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

79%	Individual Support or Advocacy
79%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
64%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
64%	Rural Outreach
57%	Children's Support or Advocacy
50%	Group Support or Advocacy
43%	Transportation
43%	Advocacy Related to Mental Health

196 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.

275 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 275 individuals in communities across West Virginia attended 6 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

21 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, 9 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. 79% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 14% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$17,337.

"On this particular day, we had a client who wanted to enter our transitional housing program but could not because of a shortage of beds."

"Because of funding cuts, we don't have an advocate present in one of our counties. Also, we can no longer afford a counselor for clients; we refer them elsewhere and hope that they have medical insurance to cover the cost."