



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Executive Summary for

the District of Columbia

The complexity of the issues is very diverse -- the lives we touch on a daily basis. How does one capture the joy of a woman finding a job? How does one capture in one day the numerous systems we interact with, to advocate, to seek change? And how we do that today is different than how it will look tomorrow."
-An urban program

On November 2nd 2006, 6 out of 9 identified local domestic violence programs (67%) in The District of Columbia participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services (NCDVS). Designed to address the safety and confidentiality needs of victims, the Census collected an unduplicated, non-invasive count of adults and children who received critical services from local domestic violence programs during the 24-hour survey period. Since some local programs did not participate, this Census provides a powerful glimpse but remains an undercount of the actual number of victims who sought and received services.

VICTIMS SERVED

During the 24-hour survey period 27 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

85 adults and children were served in the District of Columbia.

- 16 adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters
- 11 adults and children were living in transitional housing programs, designed specifically for domestic violence survivors
- 58 adults and children sought non-residential advocacy and services such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups

"This day was unusually slow for us. Typically, we assist 40 to 50 victims of domestic violence during our busiest days."
- A local program in Washington, DC.

LIMITED RESOURCES

Programs reported a difficulty meeting the demand for services due to a lack of resources, including limited staffing and overflowing shelters.

- 22% have an annual budget of \$100,000-\$400,000
- 11% have a budget over \$500,000
- 44% budget unknown

LIMITED STAFF

Most programs operate with relatively few staff.

- 44% of participating local programs employ less than 10 staff
- 11% employ 10-20 paid staff
- 11% employ 21-40 paid staff
- 33% staff numbers not provided