



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Executive Summary for

Delaware

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, 4 out of 6 identified local domestic violence programs (67%) in Delaware 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 49 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

145 adults and children were served in Delaware.

- **49** adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters
- **96** adults and children sought non-residential advocacy and services such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups

“Very quiet day because our judges were all at a meeting and nothing was scheduled for our court. Our day is usually busier.”
-A rural Delaware program

LIMITED RESOURCES

While local programs in Delaware reported that they are unable to meet over 30 requests for services on a usual day, on the survey day local programs were unable to meet 4 requests for services and advocacy.

HOTLINE CALLS

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. **13 hotline calls were answered.**

LIMITED RESOURCES

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

- **11%** have an annual budget of \$50,000-\$90,000
- **11%** have an annual budget of \$100,000-\$400,000
- **11%** have a budget over \$500,000
- **67%** budget unknown

LIMITED STAFF

Most programs operate with relatively few staff.

- **22%** of participating local programs employ less than 10 staff
- **11%** employ 10-20 paid staff
- **11%** employ over 40 paid staff
- **56%** staff numbers not provided

“We have NO paid staff. We function with all volunteers and they are getting tired.”
-A suburban program

COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

Across Delaware, local programs provide support to victims in a variety of communities.

- **33%** of local programs are primarily rural
- **11%** of local programs are primarily suburban
- **56%** community type not provided