



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters
and services across the United States.



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SUMMARY

In November 2006, 1,243 out of 2,016 local domestic violence programs across the United States 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.

During the survey period, **47,864 adults and children requested and received services** from the 1,243 local domestic violence programs that were able to participate in the Census. Since this is 62% of local domestic violence programs in the U.S., it does not represent the total number of victims seeking services nationwide. Participating programs reported that **5,157 requests for services from adults and children went unmet** due to a lack of sufficient resources. Also, during the survey period participating programs answered 16,644 hotline calls from victims and their loved ones, and provided prevention and education sessions to 40,215 members of the community.

“We had two advocates and a community educator travel over 120 miles today to provide services in an outreach office on Tribal lands, two advocates working with five women and their children, and a shelter advocate working with one woman and her child.”

- A rural program in the Northwest

HISTORY

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) administered the National Census of Domestic Violence Services (NCDVS) in November 2006. The survey period began on November 2, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time and ended on November 3, 2006 at 7:59 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The survey instrument was designed to collect information about the number of victims being served and the

types of services being provided, without collecting information that could identify any specific victim seeking services at a participating domestic violence program.

Working in collaboration with seven state domestic violence coalitions (nonprofit organizations that coordinate training and support to local domestic violence programs), an initial pilot test of the NCDVS was conducted in seven states in May 2006. Several revisions were made to the NCDVS based on feedback from the pilot. The survey instrument was then distributed to local domestic violence advocacy programs in September 2006. NNEDV provided ongoing assistance to both state domestic violence coalitions and local domestic violence programs to ensure consistent and efficient administration of the NCDVS. After the November 2006 national 24-hour survey period ended, programs submitted their results through an online web form or via fax.

“Today I helped a woman and her son who lost all of their personal items after the abuser threw out their belongings. The smile on the little boy’s face when I gave him his own toothbrush and toothpaste made me feel good the rest of the day.”

- A rural program in the North Central Region

In total, 1,243 out of 2,016 identified primary purpose local domestic violence programs participated in the survey, representing an impressive return rate of 62%. Since some local programs did not participate in the 2006 survey, this Census provides a powerful glimpse but remains an undercount of the actual number of victims who sought and received services from local domestic violence programs nationwide.

VICTIMS SERVED

On the survey day in November 2006, **47,864 adults and children were served** by 1,243 local domestic violence programs across the United States. During the 24-hour survey period more than 22,277 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelters or



transitional housing. An additional 25,587 victims received non-residential services such as support groups, children's counseling, and legal advocacy.

- 14,344 adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters.
- 7,933 adults and children were living in transitional housing programs, designed specifically for domestic violence survivors.
- 25,587 adults and children sought non-residential advocacy and services such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

“This was a relatively normal day ... nothing out of the ordinary, just the amazing strength demonstrated by battered women seeking to regain their lives, and the dedication of our advocates to empower victims to do just that.”

- An urban program in the Mid-Atlantic Region

On average, each program participating in the count served 39 individuals during the one day survey period, with about 10% of the participating programs serving more than 70 people. While some local programs served many more, on average, each participating local program also answered 12 hotline calls and trained 32 members of the community.

LIMITED RESOURCES

Programs reported a considerable unmet demand for services due to a lack of resources, including limited staffing and overflowing shelters. During the 24-hour period, 5,157 requests for services were tragically unmet due to a lack of resources. Approximately 60% of these requests were for residential services – either emergency shelter or transitional housing – and 40% were for non-residential services. It is important to note that a disproportionate number of unmet requests for service were for transitional housing. Faced with insufficient resources, local programs can sometimes successfully refer domestic violence victims to other agencies. However, too often, victims seeking

help are left with no viable alternatives to remaining with an abuser.

During the 24-hour survey period:

- 1,740 requests for emergency shelter went unmet,
- 1,422 requests for transitional housing went unmet, and
- 1,995 requests for non-residential services went unmet.

“We are an agency covering 5 counties, all are very rural. We have many obstacles including affordable housing, transportation, day care, and adequate employment resources. Many women are forced to go back to the abusive relationship because of limited choices.”

- A rural program in the Midwest

Results from the NCDVS show that most programs operate with relatively few staff. More than 70% of participating local domestic violence programs operate with 20 or fewer staff members, and 36% operate with fewer than 10 paid staff members.

HOTLINE CALLS

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. When victims of domestic violence and their family members call 24-hour emergency hotlines, it is often their first time seeking help and receiving crucial support from a local domestic violence program. During the survey period, participating programs reported that local and state hotline advocates answered 15,431 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered 1,213 calls. In total, advocates responded to almost 17,000 hotline calls in the 24-hour survey period, which equals **more than 11 hotline calls every minute.**

“Today I had a client that had a weapon pulled on her when I was talking to her on the phone so she had to hang up. When I called back, all phones had been disconnected.”

- A rural program in the Southeast

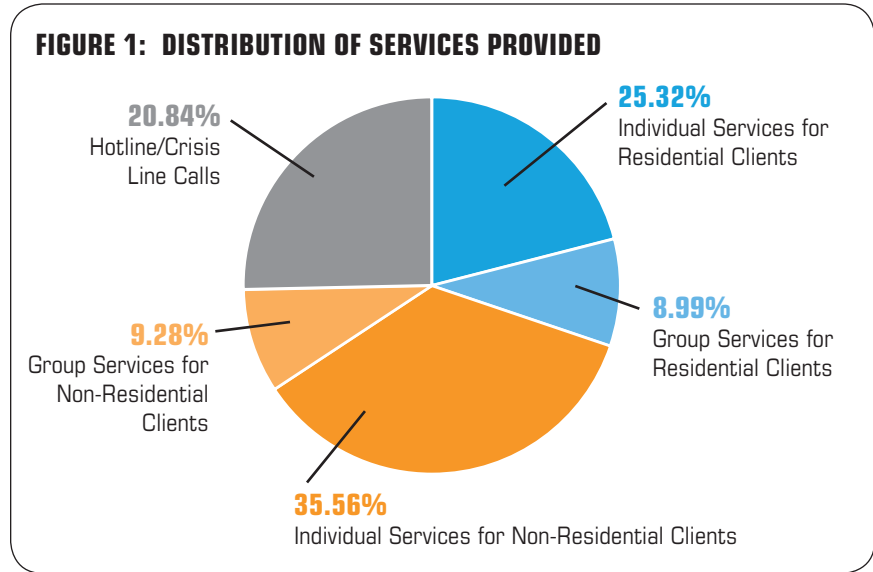
WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES

Local domestic violence programs provide a wide range of services for victims seeking support and advocacy, including, but well beyond emergency shelter. While the NCDVS was not able to fully capture the wide range of emergency and support services provided to victims, the services that were captured were categorized as group or individual (one-on-one) advocacy provided to residential victims (e.g. shelter and transitional housing) or nonresidential victims living in the community (e.g. children’s support groups, counseling, legal advocacy). The distribution of these services is shown in **FIGURE 1**.

- Individual services such as counseling, accompaniment to police or medical appointments, and safety planning are an important

“Our organization recently partnered with a major university to provide dating violence education to college students, which is very exciting!”

- A suburban program in the Pacific Region



part of the support that local domestic violence programs provide. Individual services accounted for 60% of all services provided to victims accessing shelter, transitional housing, and non-residential advocacy services.

- Group services such as support groups for children and adults and job-training sessions accounted for 19% of all direct services provided by programs to both residential and non-residential clients.
- Hotline calls accounted for the remaining 21% of services provided. These 24-hour crisis support lines offer important and often life-saving information to callers and allow victims of domestic violence to access services around the clock.

PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In addition to providing direct services to victims, local domestic violence programs also implement prevention and early intervention curricula at schools, and awareness trainings in the workplace and broader community. Local programs provide trainings on domestic violence issues to professionals such as law enforcement and health care providers. Through these sessions, local programs aim to increase knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence, inform law enforcement and other professionals about best practices for working with victims, and provide information to concerned family and friends. These services play an important role in preventing domestic violence, improving the system’s response to the violence, and helping stop violence before it starts. During the survey period, a total of **40,120 individuals participated in prevention and education sessions** provided by these 1,243 local domestic violence programs.

“We work exclusively with youth around the issues of domestic and dating violence. We offer young people, ages 12 to 24, preventive education, legal information, counsel and advocacy, and peer leadership opportunities.”

- An urban program in the Pacific Region

CONCLUSION

The National Census of Domestic Violence Services (NCDVS) revealed that approximately 50,000 adults and children in the United States received services and support from 1,243 local domestic violence programs during a 24-hour period in November 2006.

“We opened a short-term transitional housing program a few months ago to provide a longer housing program for women searching for safe, permanent housing. On the survey day, our first resident, who had only been there for 6 months, moved out to her new home. She is representative of the women we serve -- she works two jobs to support herself and her daughter. Upon her exit from the program, she asked if there was anything she could do for us to help other women like her, or to help the local program who had provided her with such support.”

**- An urban program
in New England**

While a great number of domestic violence victims access and receive services, a substantial unmet demand for services remains. In one 24-hour period, a total of 5,157 requests by victims for services went unmet due to inadequate funding and resources for local domestic violence programs. This unmet demand highlights the need for additional funding and support. Given the dangerous and potentially lethal nature of many domestic violence victims' circumstances, insufficient funding of domestic violence programs and services should be acknowledged as a serious problem and barrier to those seeking help and safety.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) hopes to be able to administer the NCDVS

annually. Ongoing research will provide year-to-year comparisons of the number of adults and children seeking and receiving services, changes in service provision, and changes in the resources and funding available for local domestic violence programs.

APPENDIX

National Summary Data



NATIONAL SUMMARY DATA *

State	Total Adults Served	Total Children Served	Total People Served	Unmet Requests for Service	Hotline Calls Answered	Community Members Trained
Total*	29,825	18,039	47,864	5,157	15,431	40,120
AK	232	173	405	22	109	61
AL	402	275	677	4	139	789
AR	180	147	327	64	100	65
AZ	571	551	1,122	186	347	900
CA	1,533	1,011	2,544	321	710	997
CO	388	279	667	66	322	245
CT	416	106	522	29	156	782
DC	84	1	85	0	0	4
DE	93	52	145	4	13	0
FL	1,629	1,084	2,713	148	671	965
GA	558	527	1,085	240	474	323
HI	117	65	182	2	102	10
IA	470	194	664	40	272	1,898
ID	117	70	187	17	66	138
IL	1,615	772	2,387	240	961	1,437
IN	530	439	969	88	332	864
KS	371	193	564	80	248	203
KY	770	253	1,023	81	323	386
LA	190	162	352	3	91	417
MA	507	510	1,017	111	272	79
MD	703	231	934	116	276	136
ME	327	194	521	32	146	255
MI	962	705	1,667	227	378	1,031
MN	619	353	972	76	314	278
MO	1,095	897	1,992	204	350	413
MS	133	125	258	25	135	389
MT	173	99	272	6	83	542
NC	1,091	548	1,639	312	566	605
ND	138	88	226	13	67	86
NE	351	249	600	150	322	165
NH	132	34	166	22	75	500

* This data table represents 62% of local domestic violence programs in the U.S.

State	Shelter			Transitional Housing			Non-Residential		
	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total
Total*	7,103	7,241	14,344	3,081	4,852	7,933	19,641	5,946	25,587
AK	99	92	191	23	13	36	110	68	178
AL	66	78	144	50	77	127	286	120	406
AR	60	51	111	20	33	53	100	63	163
AZ	328	311	639	94	166	260	149	74	223
CA	311	412	723	215	349	564	1,007	250	1,257
CO	112	84	196	51	88	139	225	107	332
CT	53	59	112	11	10	21	352	37	389
DC	16	0	16	11	0	11	57	1	58
DE	21	28	49	0	0	0	72	24	96
FL	365	408	773	145	301	446	1,119	375	1,494
GA	226	222	448	51	82	133	281	223	504
HI	53	43	96	7	14	21	57	8	65
IA	138	119	257	42	26	68	290	49	339
ID	27	33	60	17	12	29	73	25	98
IL	247	285	532	120	179	299	1,248	308	1,556
IN	232	213	445	135	167	302	163	59	222
KS	96	94	190	7	10	17	268	89	357
KY	203	172	375	52	36	88	515	45	560
LA	52	47	99	53	54	107	85	61	146
MA	93	90	183	66	361	427	348	59	407
MD	71	78	149	34	46	80	598	107	705
ME	31	39	70	65	78	143	231	77	308
MI	230	267	497	180	329	509	552	109	661
MN	145	163	308	40	90	130	434	100	534
MO	369	352	721	80	95	175	646	450	1,096
MS	37	33	70	23	26	49	73	66	139
MT	23	28	51	24	25	49	126	46	172
NC	305	277	582	46	65	111	740	206	946
ND	24	34	58	13	15	28	101	39	140
NE	72	78	150	15	36	51	264	135	399
NH	23	26	49	18	0	18	91	8	99

NATIONAL SUMMARY DATA (cont.) *

State	Total Adults Served	Total Children Served	Total People Served	Unmet Requests for Service	Hotline Calls Answered	Community Members Trained
NJ	859	338	1,197	83	476	895
NM	246	197	443	5	40	10
NV	248	111	359	21	113	73
NY	1,431	524	1,955	400	587	1,417
OH	1,109	564	1,673	98	496	2,349
OK	414	202	616	24	314	72
OR	484	296	780	122	189	147
PA	1,736	741	2,477	109	802	3,450
PR	33	16	49	22	0	84
RI	97	74	171	12	101	71
SC	285	203	488	35	154	10,407
SD	234	114	348	37	135	20
TN	295	126	421	42	176	530
TX	2,271	2,212	4,483	652	1,266	2,922
UT	293	278	571	59	183	847
VA	744	418	1,162	86	553	603
VI	41	19	60	5	4	4
VT	217	89	306	11	206	219
WA	893	508	1,401	300	488	284
WI	892	447	1,339	98	469	469
WV	409	130	539	7	172	147
WY	97	45	142	0	87	137
Total*	29,825	18,039	47,864	5,157	15,431	40,120

* This data table represents 62% of local domestic violence programs in the U.S.

State	Shelter			Transitional Housing			Non-Residential		
	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total
NJ	233	164	397	70	92	162	556	82	638
NM	67	83	150	52	79	131	127	35	162
NV	76	86	162	3	1	4	169	24	193
NY	168	165	333	153	209	362	1,110	150	1,260
OH	253	218	471	88	113	201	768	233	1,001
OK	123	115	238	25	29	54	266	58	324
OR	48	65	113	75	125	200	361	106	467
PA	328	289	617	176	214	390	1,232	238	1,470
PR	12	15	27	1	1	2	20	0	20
RI	34	45	79	9	20	29	54	9	63
SC	114	101	215	27	52	79	144	50	194
SD	42	52	94	2	0	2	190	62	252
TN	74	62	136	7	8	15	214	56	270
TX	646	792	1,438	286	479	765	1,339	941	2,280
UT	91	89	180	69	150	219	133	39	172
VA	223	215	438	50	95	145	471	108	579
VI	4	5	9	0	0	0	37	14	51
VT	43	34	77	13	14	27	161	41	202
WA	130	180	310	111	190	301	652	138	790
WI	171	191	362	84	135	219	637	121	758
WV	77	45	122	64	56	120	268	29	297
WY	18	14	32	8	7	15	71	24	95
Total*	7,103	7,241	14,344	3,081	4,852	7,933	19,641	5,946	25,587