

Domestic Violence Counts:07

On September 25, 2007, 7 out of 9, or 78%, of identified domestic violence programs in District of Columbia participated in the 2007 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent information from the 7 participating programs about services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

167 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY

- 24 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 143 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.
- In just one day, 86% of local programs provided individual counseling or advocacy but only 29% were able to provide transitional housing. Other services provided by programs include:

86%	Individual Counseling or Advocacy
86%	Legal Accompaniment/ Services
57%	Advocacy with Social Services
43%	Emergency Shelter
29%	Transitional Housing
14%	Childcare
14%	Children’s Counseling/ Advocacy

10 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Due to a lack of resources, many programs in District of Columbia reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as housing, childcare, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet victims’ requests for services. 86% of those programs have fewer than 10 paid staff.

18 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger. Domestic violence program staff in District of Columbia answered more than 1 hotline calls every hour, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources.

35 PEOPLE TRAINED

Individuals across District of Columbia attended community education and trainings, gaining much needed information on prevention and early intervention.

A client, whom we had helped obtain an emergency temporary protection order from our on-call after-hours program, come in today to get a longer-term civil protection order.

Due to lack of staffing, our counselor had phone calls and appointments back-to-back all day. This work always takes an emotional toll, but when our staff are overloaded with no relief in sight, it’s even harder.