

2008

Domestic Violence Counts
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services

Connecticut Summary

On September 17, 2008, 16 out of 18, or 89%, of identified domestic violence programs in Connecticut participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by 16 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

602 Victims Served In One Day

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

441 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

75%	Individual Support or Advocacy
69%	Emergency Shelter (including hotels or safe houses)
63%	Children's Support or Advocacy
50%	Advocacy Related to Housing Office/Landlord
38%	Legal Accompaniment/Services
31%	Translation/Interpretation Services
19%	Job Training/Employment Assistance
19%	Advocacy Related to Immigration

128 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 5 hotline calls every hour.

385 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 385 individuals in communities across Connecticut attended 24 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

75 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, 38 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. 44% of programs have less than 20 paid staff, including 25% of programs that have less than 10 paid staff. The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate is \$29,125.

Attorneys

Victims of domestic violence often need legal assistance with restraining orders and civil and family court matters. Of programs that participated in the Census, only 15% of programs reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney.

"As the economy worsens, domestic violence has become a deeper, more concentrated epidemic. More financial constraints are being placed on victims making it more difficult for them to survive."

"A nonshelter client who has been in counseling for over a year had been treated for high blood pressure because of the stress at home. She is raising her two grandsons and is trying to remain in the home until the boys graduate from high school. But the abuse is escalating and she may need to leave."