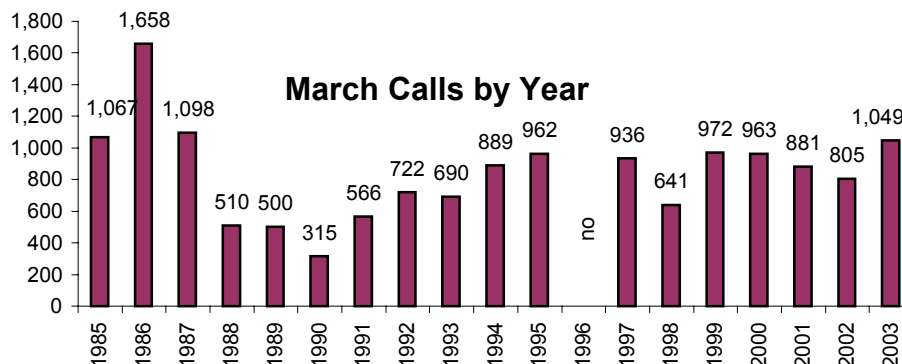


March 2003 Monthly Report

Total calls:	1049	Average calls/day:	34
Last month:	1004	Average length of call:	7
Year-to-date:	3254	Male:	42%
1985-to-date:	157,676	Female:	58%

Nature of Calls

	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Abuse	8	1%
Agricultural	198	19%
Basic needs	53	5%
Educational need	9	1%
Emotional stress	257	24%
<i>Moderate</i>	228	89%
<i>Severe</i>	27	11%
<i>Suicidal</i>	6	2%
Employment	37	4%
Family	151	14%
Farm On	33	3%
Financial	106	10%
<i>Bankruptcy/forecl. - ag</i>	5	5%
<i>Bankruptcy/forecl. - non-ag</i>	9	8%
<i>Consumer debt</i>	28	26%
<i>Farm operation</i>	7	7%
<i>Lender disagreement</i>	1	1%
<i>Other</i>	64	60%
Info. on hotline	20	2%
Legal	568	54%
Medical	39	4%
Relationships	36	3%



March 2003 Monthly Report Narrative

CALLS AND CONCERNS

The Iowa Concern Hotline received over 1,049 calls for the month of March, 2003. Please see the chart for calls from other years.

Approximately 54% of the calls this month had some type of legal concern. Those concerns included questions on child custody, bankruptcy/foreclosure, divorce, farm bill, issues with the law, and contracts.

Nineteen percent of the callers were from farm families. Some were dealing with last minute issues of the farm bill, others were concerned about insurance and health care issues. We did have several that had lost jobs off the farm and were worried about finding replacement employment. We were able to refer several farm families who needed mental health help through the Sowing the Seeds of Hope Program and the Rural Mental Health Initiative for free counseling.

Stress was a factor with at least 24% of the callers this month. Stress played a part in these families lives because of financial concerns, conflict with a spouse or other family members, divorce, caring for elderly parents and also caring for teens. We continue to hear from those who have consumer credit card debt and are stressed because they are trying to figure out how to repay their debts. Many have credit card debt, a car payment which is worth more than the car they own, and some have mortgage debt that is in excess of their home value. We have not gotten a large amount of calls, but a few have been concerned and stressed about the war. Some have had friends or relatives who have been involved in the war. We have had a few parents who have been concerned about their children and how much they should be talking to them about this situation. (We have referred several to the ISU families web site where there are some articles on this topic.)

The Iowa Concern Hotline is available 24 hours each day. You can also access the web page which features FAQ's and Live Person @ <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern>.