

**MidPenn Legal Services
Berks County Office Fact Sheet**

Mission: We provide critical help for those with critical needs. We are the legal safety net for low-income persons and for domestic violence survivors in Berks County. We aim to provide the best service available to the greatest number of clients. We advise and represent on civil issues: domestic violence, custody, housing, health care, consumer, elder law and public benefits. The largest part of our caseload is family law cases. We do not handle criminal cases.

Funding: Government funding is our primary source of funding. The Pennsylvania Legal Assistance Network (PLAN) provides 46% of our funds. PLAN distributes IOLTA and Title XX monies. The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) provides 31% of our funds. Additional monies are obtained from local groups, private foundations, and individuals. We receive funding through the PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development, Berks County Bar Association and AIDSNet (the regional Ryan White Act Funding Coalition).

Berks County Statistics:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2008</u>
County residents living at poverty level	4.7%	12.0%
Food Stamp recipients	5.2%	11.7%
Eligible for Medical Assistance	8.9%	16.7%
Poverty Population	34,201	48,431

Berks - FY0809 Cases Handled	MidPenn	Pro Bono	Total	%
Consumer	153	36	189	8.4%
Employment	57	3	60	2.7%
Family	831	81	912	40.7%
Juvenile	1	0	1	0.0%
Health	57	0	57	2.5%
Housing	463	34	497	22.2%
Income Maintenance	491	14	505	22.6%
Other/Multiple Topics	17	1	18	0.8%
TOTAL	2070	169	2239	100.0%

MidPenn advocates spent 10,069.70 hours on cases in Berks County in fiscal year 2008-2009.

Staff in MidPenn Reading Office:

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