

Domestic Violence Program 2009 Annual Report



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Foreword

The Domestic Violence Program (DVP) of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health and Housing, is pleased to present the *Domestic Violence Program 2009 Annual Report*.

The mission of the DVP is to serve as the state governmental authority on domestic violence issues by providing leadership, guidance, and awareness within government agencies as well as ensuring grant funded programs deliver optimal services to victims, ultimately promoting a Colorado free of domestic violence.

Ensuring domestic violence issues are at the forefront of human service delivery was a priority for both the Department and the DVP in 2009. This was accomplished by various activities, such as providing resources and funding to local domestic violence crisis centers, and working collaboratively with many county, non-profit, and other entities throughout the state. The recent reassignment of the program to the Department's Office of Behavioral Health and Housing has also served to elevate awareness and expand coordination and collaborative opportunities and to promote the inclusion of domestic violence issues in both new and existing projects and initiatives. As a result, domestic violence issues were included in statewide projects and activities such as the Statewide Strategic Use Fund, DV/TANF Co-Location project, the Co-Occurring Issues Sub-Committee of the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee, and the Governor's Executive Order on Workplace Violence through the Domestic Violence Affecting the Workplace Workgroup.

Throughout this report, you will find stories from both survivors and DVP - funded crisis centers that demonstrate how crisis centers, the DVP, and our partners are generating positive outcomes for families dealing with the many consequences of domestic violence.

We hope that this information, along with the statistics that we have supplied, will prove not only useful, but will provide further evidence and inspiration that we are moving toward a Colorado in which families and children are free from domestic violence.

Handwritten signature of Karen L. Beye in blue ink.

Karen L. Beye
Executive Director, CDHS

Handwritten signature of Joscelyn L. Gay in blue ink.

Joscelyn L. Gay
Deputy Executive Director, OBHH

Handwritten signature of Ruth M. Glenn in blue ink.

Ruth M. Glenn
Director, DV Program

**Colorado Department of Human Services
Domestic Violence Program
2009 Annual Report**

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

IDENTIFYING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence continues to be a pervasive problem in Colorado and throughout the United States. Domestic violence is the desire of one person to gain and maintain power and control over another. Domestic violence may be physical, emotional, financial, sexual, and or threats or acts of harm toward another person. Victims of domestic violence often feel isolated and completely overwhelmed by their current circumstances; the thought of getting help seems impossible, which compounds the difficulty to separate from their abusers. It is important to recognize that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution to the problem.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief (2003) indicates that everyday in the U.S., more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends. Domestic violence affects everyone regardless of income level, race, ethnicity, community, or gender. Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey (2000) found that each year women experience 4.8 million domestic violence related physical assaults and rapes while men are the victims of about 2.9 million domestic violence assaults.

EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

CHILDREN

Studies suggest that 3-10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually. Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems including depression, anxiety, and violence toward peers. They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes. The U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country. In a national survey of more than 6,000 American families, 50 percent of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. Source: Family Violence Prevention Fund (www.fvpf.org)

“We received a call from a woman who was referred by the District Attorney’s office. The woman met with our adult advocate for crisis intervention, safety planning, and support. The adult advocate went to all of the offender’s court hearings on the victim’s behalf to inform her of the status of the case. The victim’s children began attending our weekly children’s support group to speak with other kids who have lived in violent homes. They continued with group for several weeks, and also saw the child advocate on an individual basis for several months. The husband/father was found guilty and sentenced to treatment and probation. Our adult advocate provided victim advocacy throughout treatment letting her know how he was progressing and if there were any safety concerns.”

HEALTH

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted a study in 2003 investigating the costs of domestic violence. This study found that the costs of intimate partner

violence in the U.S. alone exceeded \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion were for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also found that women who have experienced domestic violence are more likely to be susceptible to health risks than women who have not experienced domestic violence. The study found that domestic violence victims were: 80% more likely to have a stroke, 70% more likely to have heart disease, 60% more likely to have asthma, and 70% more likely to drink heavily.

“Our program staff collaborate with Kaiser Permanente, private providers, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Exempla, Seedworks, and Colorado Health Foundation to provide health care to victims within the safe walls of the shelter at our clinic. Women also are assisted in finding affordable healthcare options in the community once they leave the shelter. A bilingual/bicultural advocate is the staff liaison for our health care services. Our staff coordinate services with many victim services agencies to ensure comprehensive care to victims.”

CRIME

According to the Colorado State Court Administrator’s Office Annual Statistical Report (2007), of the 74,094 criminal cases filed in Colorado County Courts in 2007, 17,216 were classified as domestic violence cases.

The Project Safeguard, “2007 Fatality Review Program Report”, found that 49 people died because of domestic violence in Colorado throughout 2007, including nine incidents of murder/suicide that resulted in 18 deaths.

“We assisted a client and her daughter in getting a restraining order and pressing domestic violence charges on her husband. We then attended several court cases regarding the perpetrator violating the restraining order and violating his parole. The victim watched the perpetrator lie over the video from jail and decided she didn't want to go back to the abusive relationship. The victim and her daughter completed counseling through our program. The victim is self-employed and had already established a home for her and her daughter. She continues to keep in contact with us and is successfully living on her own with an active restraining order.”

WORKPLACE

According to the American Institute on Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence in the Workplace Statistics (2001), domestic violence victims lose nearly 8 million days of paid work per year in the U.S. alone – the equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs.

“Melissa” called the Safehouse after four years of escalating emotional and physical abuse by her husband. She was seeing the effects on her two very young children: the constant crying of her older child and the seemingly unresponsiveness of her younger one. The first day Melissa entered the Safehouse she was overwhelmed by the responsibilities of being a young mother who had been constantly told by her abuser that she was not doing a good job as a parent. Through working with an advocate Melissa was able to address the years of abuse in her marriage as well as her feelings of being inadequate as a mother. She was granted a promotion at work, one of the benefits of being on time and at work regularly now that she did not have to stay home or be late to work because her husband had hidden the car keys from her.”

APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM

COMMUNITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTERS

In 2009, the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) administered funds to 47 domestic violence crisis centers. These crisis centers are located throughout the state and represent the majority of crisis centers in Colorado. Crisis centers provide crisis intervention, advocacy, prevention, various support and skill building to assist victims in re-stabilizing their lives, as well as community education. Crisis centers funded by DVP represent rural and urban programs, shelter and non-shelter programs, and general and specialized services. Crisis centers also provide direct services to victims from underserved populations as well as traditionally underserved areas.

To understand the scope of the need of services and the critical supports that domestic violence crisis centers provide, on September 17, 2008, the National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted a National Census of Domestic Violence Services. Nationally, the 1,558 domestic violence crisis centers that participated in the census assisted 60,799 victims and their children in one day. In Colorado, 41 domestic violence crisis centers participated and served 1,028 victims and their children in that one day.

SERVICES OVERVIEW

All DVP-funded crisis centers provide confidential services via 24 hours a day, 7 days a week crisis line. The services listed below are representative of the wide array of services provided by crisis centers funded by DVP. Most crisis centers have bilingual staff or translators available.

General Services - Crisis centers offer supportive advocacy to victims in crisis as well as those in need of long-term support. These services include safety planning, support groups, counseling, case management, transportation, information and referrals, and other programming as described below.

Residential Services - Many crisis centers have residential shelters where victims and their children can stay in a comfortable home while receiving supportive advocacy. Shelter stays are usually around 45 days, but can be as long as 90 days, depending on need and availability. Several crisis centers offer transitional housing where victims and their dependants can stay for up to two years. Crisis centers without a shelter or transitional housing may be able to provide alternative short-term safe housing.

Children - Residential shelters offer children's programming such as group support, safety planning, healthy communication, skill building, and recreation for children living in the shelter. Some crisis centers also offer parenting skills classes. Childcare is usually available for victims who are attending domestic violence counseling or support groups.

Advocacy - Court-based advocacy such as accompaniment to hearings for civil orders of protection are widely available. Other legal services such as support with immigration

issues, divorce, or child custody may be a direct service or provided by referral. General advocacy is available to help victim's access resources such as victim compensation, affordable housing, food stamps, welfare, and other community supports.

Teens - Teen dating violence education services are available in many crisis centers. Collaboration occurs with local schools to promote healthy relationships and recognize the signs of an abusive relationship.

Community Education - Crisis centers have staff that is available to speak to community groups about domestic violence. Presentations have been made to schools, churches, hospitals, social services, businesses, law enforcement, civic groups, and others interested in learning more about the dynamics and prevention of domestic violence.

2009 DVP FUNDED CRISIS CENTERS

Crisis centers listed below received DVP funding to provide domestic violence services to victims and their children. Awards ranged from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$140,000.

Program Name	Location (city)
A Woman's Place, Inc.	Greeley
Advocate Safehouse Project	Glenwood Springs
Advocates Against Battering and Abuse	Steamboat Springs
Advocates Against Domestic Assault	Trinidad
Advocates Crisis Support Services	Craig
Advocates for Victims of Assault	Frisco
Advocates of Lake County	Leadville
Advocates Victim Assistance Team of Grand County	Hot Sulphur Springs
Alliance Against Domestic Abuse	Salida
Alternative Horizons Corporation	Durango
Alternatives to Family Violence, Inc.	Commerce City
Alternatives to Violence	Loveland
AMEND	Denver
Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program	Pagosa Springs
Arkansas Valley Resource Center	La Junta
Asian Pacific Development Center	Aurora
Bright Future Foundation	Avon
* Catholic Charities – Father Ed Judy House	Denver
Clear Creek County Advocates	Georgetown
Colorado Anti-Violence Program	Denver
Crossroads Safehouse	Fort Collins
Denver Center for Crime Victims	Denver
DOVE Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Women	Denver
Estes Valley Victim Advocates	Estes Park
Family Crisis Services	Canon City
Family Tree – Domestic Violence Services	Wheat Ridge
Gateway Battered Women's Services	Aurora
Help for Abused Partners	Sterling
Jubilee House	Gunnison
Latimer House Counseling & Advocacy Center	Grand Junction
Mountain Peace Shelter	Bailey
* Project PAVE	Denver
Renew, Inc.	Cortez
RESPONSE: Help for Battered Women	Aspen
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley	Longmont
Safehouse Denver	Denver
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence	Boulder
San Miguel Resource Center	Telluride
* Servicios de la Raza	Denver
SHARE, Inc.	Fort Morgan
TESSA	Colorado Springs
Tri-County Resource Center	Montrose
Tu Casa, Inc.	Alamosa
** Volunteers of America Brandon Center	Denver
Volunteers of America Southwest Safehouse	Durango
Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center	Castle Rock
YWCA Family Crisis Shelter	Pueblo

For the most up to date information on the DVP, its programs, funding, and projects, please visit <http://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/dvp>.

* Indicates crisis centers that were funded effective July 1, 2009

** Indicates crisis center that was funded through June 30, 2009

Crisis centers vary considerably in terms of size and type of regions served. The majority of DVP-funded crisis centers are in rural communities (Table 1) and have ten or fewer staff members (Table 2). Crisis centers are able to maximize their funding and offer a wide range of services with small budgets. The majority of DVP-funded crisis centers have a budget of less than \$500,000 (Table 3). In 2008, nine DVP-funded crisis centers had budgets of more than \$1,000,000, in comparison to only six in 2009. In 2008, just one DVP-funded crisis center had a budget of less than \$100,000, and in 2009, this number has risen to five. This budget decrease is an indication of how services for domestic violence victims and their children have been negatively impacted by the economy.

Profile of DVP Funded Agencies:

Table 1: Service Region Type		
Urban	14	29%
Suburban	6	13%
Rural	21	45%
Remote Rural	6	13%

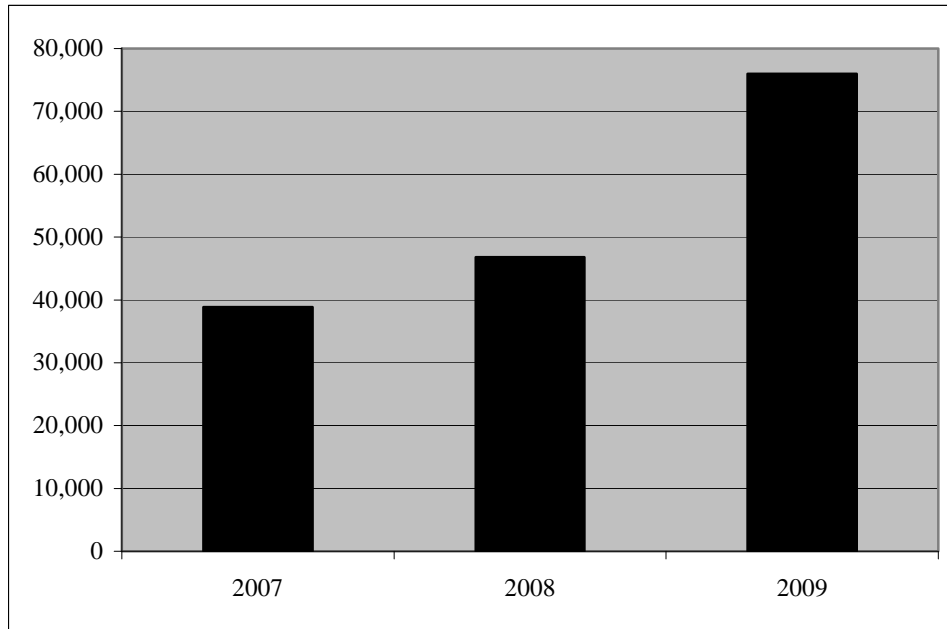
Table 2: Number of Staff		
2 – 5	18	38%
6 – 10	12	26%
11 – 20	8	17%
21 – 50	9	19%

Table 3: Budget Size		
Less than \$100,000	5	11%
\$100,000 - \$199,999	9	19%
\$200,000 - \$499,999	18	38%
\$500,000 - \$999,999	9	19%
\$1,000,000 or more	6	13%

SERVICES BY NUMBERS

Although funding for domestic violence victims and their children has decreased, demand has increased dramatically. In 2009, DVP-funded crisis centers answered 75,962 emergency crisis intervention phone calls, an increase of 62% over 2008, when crisis centers responded to 46,780 calls (Graph 1). Anecdotal reports from crisis centers indicate that the increase in hotline calls is a reflection of the increase in incidence of domestic violence, which has been exacerbated by the declining economy. Additionally there are fewer resources available due to the economy, which has increased the number of basic needs calls. For many victims, a crisis line is their first link to resources to assist them in attaining safety. All DVP-funded crisis lines in Colorado are answered 24-hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Crisis line workers engage victims in safety planning and provide appropriate referrals to community resources. All domestic violence services are confidential and free of charge.

Graph 1: Hotline Calls



Victims of domestic violence received a wide range of supportive services, including individual and group counseling and general advocacy from DVP-funded crisis centers in 2009. In addition to the 5,087 victims who received services in a domestic violence shelter and the 343 victims who resided in transitional housing crisis centers, DVP-funded crisis centers provided services to 19,380 additional victims in non-residential crisis centers. In total, DVP-funded crisis centers provided 85,614 individual counseling sessions, 52,192 individuals received group counseling sessions, and 104,941 advocacy sessions to support victims in their efforts to heal from the emotional trauma of domestic violence, navigate the criminal justice system, and secure economic resources to build self-sufficiency.

SHELTER SERVICES

Victims of domestic violence and their children need safe housing to rebuild their lives in the wake of abuse. Twenty-nine DVP-funded shelters in Colorado provide a temporary respite and opportunity for families to heal. In 2009, DVP-funded crisis centers provided 97,616 nights of shelter to 4,611 individuals. This data is part of a growing trend over the past several years, which shows the number of nights spent in shelters increasing and the number of individuals served annually in shelters decreasing slightly. Anecdotal reports indicate that the increasing lack of affordable housing equates to clients staying in shelters for longer periods. Due to clients and their children staying longer, shelters are able to serve fewer people. In addition to providing shelter in residential facilities, DVP-funded crisis centers also provided 1,525 nights of emergency safe housing in hotels. Many domestic violence crisis centers that lack residential shelter facilities use hotels and alternatives to shelter to provide safety for victims until permanent arrangements can be arranged. Due to economic stressors, alternatives to shelters have become more costly, which means crisis centers are able to help less people.

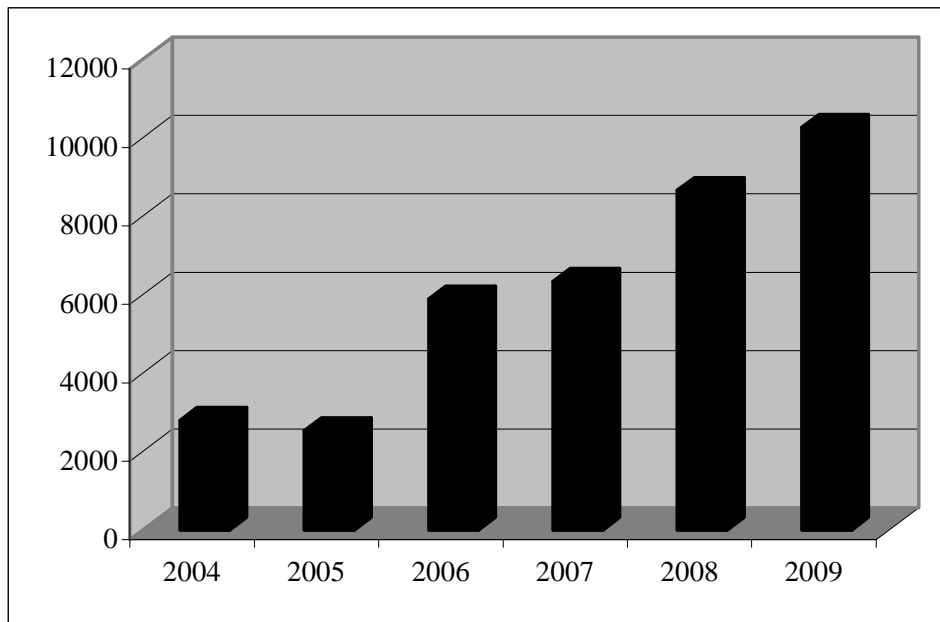
Individuals residing in temporary shelters use the shelter as a bridge to permanent housing and in spite of shrinking budgets at most domestic violence crisis centers, the level of services provided has only decreased by a slight margin. Most shelters in Colorado limit stays to 30 – 59 days (Table 4). During this time, victims must secure all the economic resources necessary to live independently.

14 days or less	2	7%
30 – 59 days	18	62%
60 – 90 days	6	21%
120 days or more	3	10%

**One shelter does not have a maximum stay*

In 2009, 10,270 individuals were turned away from shelters in Colorado due to capacity levels being reached at shelters, a 16% increase from 2008, when 8,660 individuals were turned away. Crisis centers are attributing this increase to an overall increase in domestic violence because of the economy combined with a lack of funds. Graph 2 represents the growing trend, which has seen the number of individuals turned away from shelters steadily increase over the past several years.

Graph 2: Individuals Turned Away from Shelter



Across the state, DVP-funded shelters vary in size (Table 5). Shelters often coordinate services with each other and accommodate victims’ transportation needs to access available shelter elsewhere.

10 or Less	10	34%
11 – 20	7	24%
21 – 30	10	34%
31 or more	2	7%

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

In 2009, 16 DVP-funded crisis centers provided transitional housing to 139 women, 2 men, and 202 children and youth. In total, DVP-funded crisis centers provided 61,300 nights of transitional housing. Transitional housing crisis centers bridge the gap between emergency shelter and permanent housing, permitting families to stay for about 18 months (Table 6). This gives families an extended period to receive supportive services to heal from abuse and secure the economic resources necessary to live independently. Transitional housing is offered through units owned by DVP-funded crisis centers or through a tenant-based rental assistance program, where victims can find housing in the private market and the DVP-funded crisis centers contribute to their rent and other housing costs. Despite the availability of transitional housing in many communities, DVP-funded crisis centers are operating at full capacity and were unable to meet 2,000 requests for transitional housing.

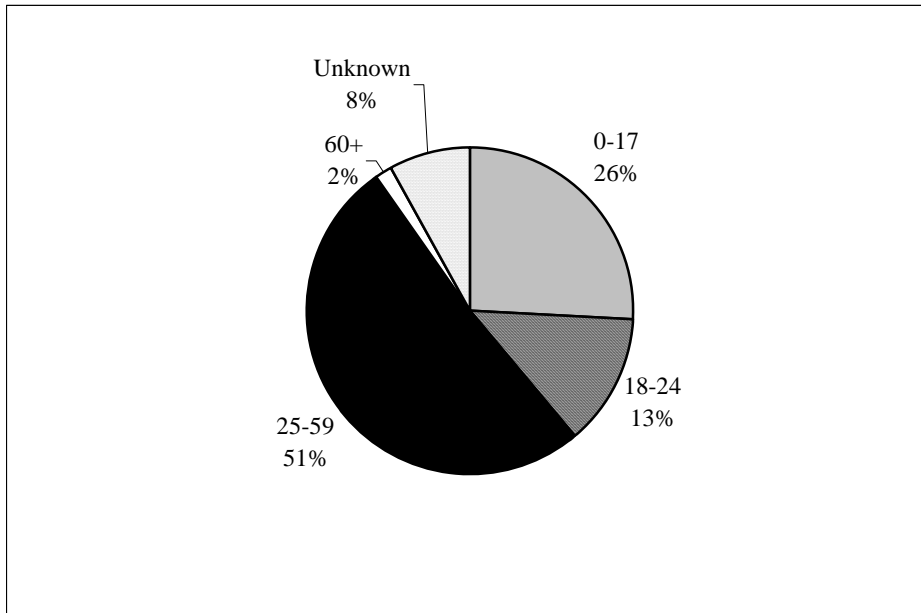
1 – 12 months	5	31%
13 – 24 months	10	63%
25 or more months	1	6%

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE OF VICTIMS

Victims of abuse can be of any age. In 2009, 51% of victims were between the ages of 25-29, and 26% were between the ages of 0-17 (Graph 3). Children exposed to domestic violence often become targets and are significantly impacted. Teenage victims need safety planning and supportive services to help develop new and healthy dating relationships. In 2009, DVP-funded crisis centers provided 3,731 individual activities as well as 4,773 group activities for children and youth.

Graph 3: Victim Age



“We have developed and implemented a program for our local school district called the Peace Maker Campaign. The Peace Maker Campaign has been a successful supplement to the work that our school district is already doing to develop the emotional intelligence of our elementary school students. Our staff develops and executes lesson plans in the schools to help students identify and appropriately express emotion and handle conflict.”

RURAL VICTIMS

Victims of domestic violence who live in rural areas are at a greater disadvantage because services are often many miles away from where they live and public transportation is virtually non-existent. Crisis centers that serve rural areas are confronted with the constant challenge of trying to spread the word about their services, which can span upwards of 50 miles. While a lack of funding is a constant issue for crisis centers, rural crisis centers have the added challenge of finding resources in towns where there are few businesses and therefore few resources to ask for essential items. In spite of these challenges, DVP-funded crisis centers provided services to 10,330 victims residing in rural communities in 2009.

“All of our efforts serve the underserved population of domestic violence victims dealing with geographic isolation. Park County is 2200 square miles with four distinct mountain ranges within it. Getting the word out to the most isolated areas about our shelter and service is something we constantly work towards. Along with geographic isolation come transportation issues. Victims are often trapped in places many miles from main roads and services. Sometimes we are able to work with the Park County Sheriff’s Office to help pick up victims and get them to our shelter.”

GLBT VICTIMS

There is a low level of society's understanding about same-sex relationships, which is a barrier for gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT) victims of abuse. DVP-funded programs strive to provide outreach and education to the community in order to end violence targeted at and within the GLBT community. DVP funds provided one program with the ability to expand their trainings, which have seen a 40% increase in demand from 2007 to 2008. These trainings have provided knowledge to service providers as well as law enforcement on specific issues of domestic violence in the GLBT community. In 2009, DVP-funded crisis centers provided services to 338 individuals who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT). DVP-funded crisis centers strive to eliminate some of the barriers GLBT victims face in coming forward to report abuse.

“In an effort to better serve GLBTQ clients, we have been teaming with members of the Lambda Center to provide information to staff and advocates about battering in GLBTQ relationships. We also complete an annual audit of printed materials for heterosexism and other language that may be offensive to GLBTQ clients. Each employee and volunteer has a Guide Book that lists all of the available resources in our community and several volunteers make themselves available to work specifically with GLBTQ clients should a request be made. With these changes we hope to see the percentage of clients who feel comfortable disclosing increase.”

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY VICTIMS

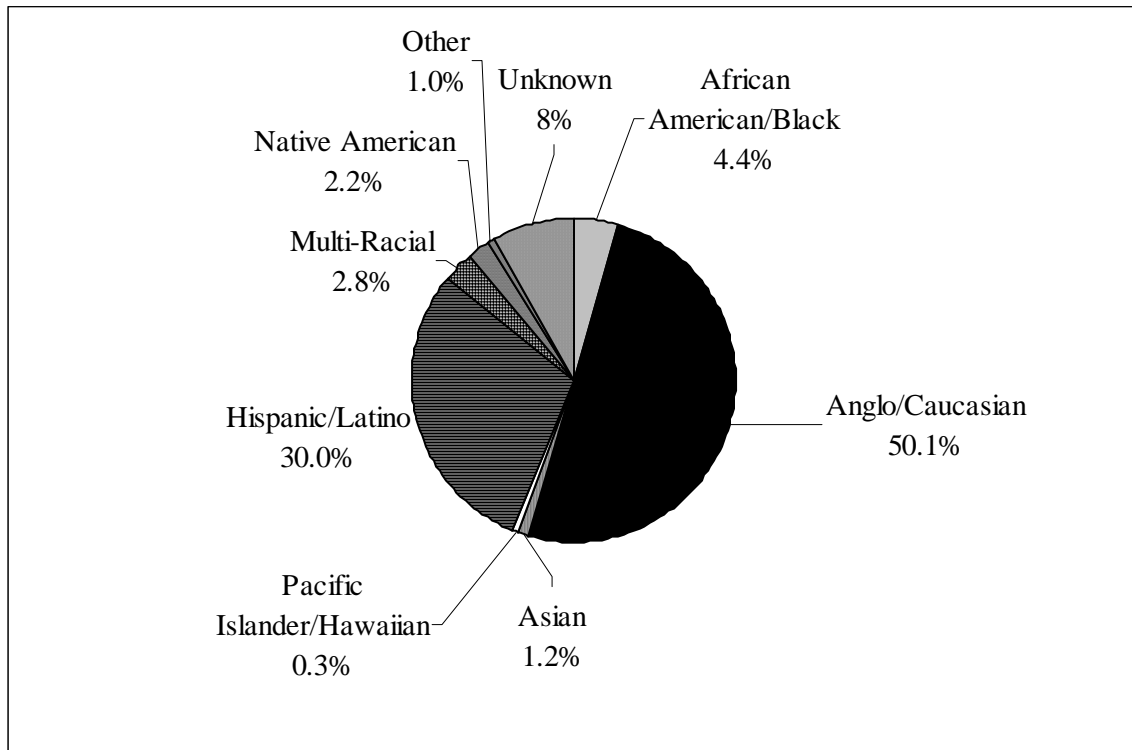
Many crisis centers have made momentous strides in serving monolingual, non-English speaking victims. In addition to assisting monolingual, Spanish-speaking victims, crisis centers also assisted victims whose primary languages were: Arabic, Japanese, Korean, German, and Russian. Although most crisis centers have bilingual staff, many communities lack bilingual attorneys, therapists, or law enforcement officers. DVP funds provided one program with the ability to provide services to victims seeking self-petitions and U-Visas under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and report a 95% success rate in obtaining legal permanent status for their clients. In 2009, DVP-funded crisis centers provided services to 2,381 victims with limited English proficiency.

“As we train, educate, and outreach to the various communities, we continue to distribute existing brochures in English and nine different Asian languages on domestic violence. The nine Asian languages are Cambodian/Khmer, Chinese, Filipino/Philipino, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Mongolian, and Vietnamese. We also have this domestic violence information on compact discs with other information on victim rights and sexual assault in seven different Asian languages (Chinese, Filipino/Philipino, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, and Vietnamese). We distribute these directly to the victims/witnesses as well as to system professionals.”

RACE/ETHNICITY VICTIMS

Victims of domestic violence cross all racial and ethnic lines. DVP-funded crisis centers are equipped to address abuse in diverse settings. Crisis centers diversify staff to reflect their communities and provide services in culturally and linguistically appropriate settings. In 2009, 30% of the victims receiving services in DVP-funded crisis centers were Latino, 4.4% were African American/Black, 2.8% were Multi-Racial, 2.2% were Native American, 1.2% were Asian, and less than 1% were Pacific Islander/Hawaiian. There were 8% of the victims who did not reveal their race or ethnicity to DVP-funded crisis centers, which is most likely to protect their anonymity (Graph 4).

Graph 4: Race and Ethnicity



“This year we held our first Women In Business class for Spanish speaking women. Twenty women enrolled in the class that provides the skills, resources, and support necessary to transition survivors of domestic violence towards economic self-sufficiency. Work opportunities for Spanish-speaking immigrant women continue to be limited. The class assists women in identifying a personal skill or talent that could develop into a small home based project to provide an income source for her family.”

DISABLED VICTIMS

In 2009, DVP-funded crisis centers provided services to 1,746 victims with a known disability. Disabled victims face additional barriers to safety, as they are often physically unable to leave an abusive partner and are reliant on their partner for care. DVP-funded

crisis center shelters in Colorado are fully accessible to disabled victims and advocates are trained to provide a full-range of services to disabled victims.

“We are now able to meet the needs of teens who are deaf or hard of hearing to start prevention and educational activities regarding Teen Dating Violence. With this grant, we have and will continue to be able to travel to deaf and hard of hearing educational programs around the state of Colorado and present in the teen’s primary mode of communication.”

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DVP-funded crisis centers are reliant on the support of community volunteers who answer crisis line calls, provide advocacy to victims, and offer a wide range of supportive services to program staff. In 2009, 3,452 volunteers provided 315,044 hours of community service to crisis centers. Their support is crucial in assisting victims with their courageous work towards reaching safety and self-sufficiency.

EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Many domestic violence crisis centers focus their prevention efforts on community education. Their work includes outreach to the public to change societal perceptions regarding the acceptance of violence. DVP-funded crisis centers target a wide range of audiences such as students, businesses, and civic organizations. Technical assistance presentations target law enforcement, clergy, medical professionals, and others who encounter victims in their professions. In 2009, 2,366 presentations were provided for 57,111 individuals. DVP-funded crisis centers facilitated 2,291 youth-targeted community education presentations addressing topics such as anti-bullying, non-violent conflict resolution, and teen dating violence. In addition, DVP-funded crisis centers engaged in 835 community awareness activities such as attending health fairs.

BATTERER INTERVENTION SERVICES

The DVP funds one program that provides treatment and services to batterers. The DVP funds the portion of the program that offers victim advocacy to the victims of batterers who attend the batterer intervention counseling.

OUTCOMES

In 2009, DVP-funded crisis centers began tracking specific outcome measurements to evaluate the impact their services have on the lives of victims (Table 7). Crisis centers randomly sample victims and ask them to evaluate their experiences with the shelter, advocacy, support groups, and/or counseling. Victims are asked to identify if the service they received increased their strategies for enhancing their safety and/or increased their knowledge of available community resources. The 2009 results are as follows:

Table 7: Outcome Measurements				
	Shelter N=1,131	Advocacy N=2,403	Support Groups N=1,519	Counseling N=1,507
Victims Increased their Strategies for Enhancing their Safety	87%	93%	91%	95%
Victims Increased their Knowledge of Available Community Resources	88%	92%	90%	92%

“In the last three months, we have followed-up with 18 clients who have exited our shelter; the schedule is designed for follow-ups at 2 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, and at 1 year. At this point, our tracking shows that: 100% of these 18 clients have had referrals and have benefitted from other community resources, 100% have kept their families together, at least 50% have improved their financial security, and at least 75% have jobs, and only 1 had to return to a shelter (this client came back to our shelter for 1 night before going to live with a friend). All are currently living violence-free and with increased self-sufficiency for themselves and their children from what had been their circumstances prior to their stay at our shelter.”

FUNDING SOURCES

DVP funding is a compilation of five diverse funding sources. The funding is pooled and distributed through a competitive grant application process to Colorado’s domestic violence crisis centers. Funding has remained nearly stable for the past seven years. Meanwhile crisis centers face an increase in demand for their services and new crisis centers request funding from DVP to provide services to victims and their families. Historically, DVP distributes approximately \$2.5 million to domestic violence crisis centers annually.

Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund

Beginning in 1983, Colorado taxpayers elected to make donations through their state income tax return refunds to the Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund. Amounts collected annually range from \$200,000 to \$400,000. Each year, DVP distributes these funds to support crisis centers.

Heirloom Marriage Certificates

Beginning in 2008, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) began issuing heirloom marriage certificates. A portion of the \$50 fee for each heirloom certificate issued is collected by the DVP. The DVP collects approximately \$200 annually from heirloom certificate fees for distribution to crisis centers.

Marriage License and Divorce Fees

Beginning in 2009, a portion of the fees collected from marriage licenses and divorce filings were directed to the DVP. It is estimated that the funding available from this fund will be approximately \$850,000 annually. The DVP will distribute this funding to crisis centers beginning October 1, 2010.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

Beginning in 1984, the Federal Congress approved the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). This created a grant for states to assist in establishing, maintaining, and expanding crisis centers and projects to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependants. These funds go directly to crisis centers and provide training and education for workers across Colorado. The DVP distributes approximately \$1.4 million annually to crisis centers.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Beginning in 2004, additional funding for crisis centers was secured through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, which was a result of the loss of State general fund dollars due to budget shortfalls. The DVP distributes \$650,000 annually in TANF funds to crisis centers.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

As the economy in the United States and the world started to recede in 2008, victims of domestic violence and the crisis centers that provide them with emergency services were hit extremely hard. While a dire economy does not cause domestic violence, it can certainly exacerbate the problem in a number of ways. Victims who need economic resources like stable, affordable housing or employment to leave an abusive relationship face limited choices in a sinking economy. Domestic violence crisis centers faced declining donations, cuts to their funding, and as a result have fewer resources to offer to victims and their children while more victims come forward to request assistance. Despite these setbacks, crisis centers worked tirelessly in 2009 to support victims.

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

The Domestic Violence Program (DVP), located within the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), is the sole government entity in the State of Colorado dedicated entirely to funding and sustaining domestic violence crisis centers. DVP strives to ensure that services to victims of domestic violence and their children are readily available throughout Colorado's diverse communities.

In addition to serving as a funding administration, the DVP is also responsible for:

- Taking the lead for CDHS and state government to address domestic violence policy and legislative initiatives.
- Working collaboratively to develop partnerships with state entities and community stakeholders.
- Ensuring that programmatic and administrative standards for crisis centers are met and the level of service provision is optimal.
- Conducting regular monitoring of crisis centers, through site visits and desk audits.
- Tracking statistical data related to crisis center service delivery.
- Analyzing data and developing relevant reports for program stakeholders.
- Delivering domestic violence-related training to CDHS and county human and social services personnel.

2009 ACTIVITIES

In 2009, DVP worked collaboratively with other State and CDHS programs, counties, and non-governmental agencies to develop state domestic violence policy, address legislative issues, and measure the effectiveness and quality of domestic violence crisis centers. To accomplish this, the DVP:

- Conducted site visits to crisis centers receiving DVP funds.
- Developed and delivered cross training for domestic violence advocates and child protection workers.
- Partnered with the Colorado State Employees Assistance Program and Colorado Bar Association to increase domestic violence in the workplace awareness.
- Provided Family Violence Option training sessions for county human services staff in Colorado Works (TANF) and Workforce Development Centers.
- Developed and delivered domestic violence training for community and faith-based responsible fatherhood programs.
- Offered technical assistance to crisis centers in completing the application for funding and orienting new crisis centers receiving DVP funds in the completion of required reports.
- Maintained two websites to increase visibility and communication to the public and stakeholders.

ADDITIONAL DVP ACTIVITIES

Co-Location Project

The Colorado General Assembly created funding through the Statewide Strategic Use Fund (SSUF) to support strategic initiatives addressing systemic issues that mitigate poverty and its impact on Colorado families and communities. The DVP received funding to implement the Enhanced Domestic Violence Advocacy and Prevention Project (EDVAPP). The program is implementing sustainable systemic change that will enhance safety and services for survivors of domestic violence through collaborative partnerships between local community-based domestic violence programs and TANF/Colorado Works programs in county departments of human/social services and increasing resources for domestic violence crisis centers to provide enhanced children's services.

Child Welfare Action Committee ~ Co-Occurring Issues Subcommittee

In April 2008, Governor Ritter created the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee. The Committee convened five subcommittees to address the scope of work outlined in the Executive Order. The Co-Occurring Issues Subcommittee worked to identify existing effective policy and practice as well as gaps necessary to meet the needs of children and families served by the public child welfare system who are also experiencing the co-occurring issues of domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health. The subcommittee made recommendations regarding enhancing existing policy and practice and the development of new and innovative policy or practice to ensure children and families receive the best possible interventions when they are also intersecting with the child welfare system.

Workplace Violence Executive Order

In recognition of the need for Colorado to provide stronger measures for state workers experiencing workplace violence, including domestic violence, the Governor signed an Executive Order directing the Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA) to convene a task group to develop a universal policy to provide guidance to state departments and employees. The DVP continues to work with the task group to develop and implement the Universal Policy.

COLLABORATIVE WORK

In Colorado, victims of domestic violence seek services from a variety of community-based programs, counties, and non-governmental agencies. DVP participates in a variety of collaborative initiatives to improve services for victims such as: statewide committees, groups, advisory councils, or task forces that enhance collaboration of funding distribution, system response to domestic violence, and training. This includes but is not limited to:

- Governor’s Crime Victim Services Board
- Colorado’s Victim’s Right Act Committee
- Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board
- State Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Colorado Fatherhood Council
- Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance Conference Planning Committee
- CDHS / HCPF Address Confidentiality Policy Development Committee
- Multi-Disciplinary Domestic Violence Child Protection Coordinating Council
- Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention

COLORADO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The DVP maintains a collaborative and cooperative relationship with the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), the statewide membership organization for community-based domestic violence crisis centers. The CCADV serves on the DVP Advisory Committee and Funding Recommendation Committees. The DVP provided funding and assisted in the planning of the CCADV Annual Conference. The conference offered three days of three tracks: Advanced Advocacy, the Executive Director Institute, and the New Worker Institute. One hundred and sixty two people attended the conference, representing many of the domestic violence crisis centers funded by DVP.

GOVERNANCE

The DVP operates under the guidance of two groups: *the Advisory Committee and the Funding Recommendation Committee*. All members of the committees are persons knowledgeable in the field of domestic violence and are approved by the CDHS Executive Director or designee.

The DVP Advisory Committee, which meets monthly, provides insight, direction, and monitoring to the DVP. Membership in 2009 included:

- June Angole, Safehouse Denver
- Mary Clair, CDHS Child Support Enforcement
- Roseann Kutzleb, Alternative Horizons
- Kenya Lyons, Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice
- Jacque Morse, SHARE, Inc.
- Lisa O’Dell Davis, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance
- Tyler Osterhaus, Weld County Department of Human Services
- Ruby Richards, CDHS Child Welfare
- Peggy Rogers, CDHS Aging and Adult Protective Services
- Ana Soler, Front Range Earth Force
- Carol Wahlgren, CDHS Child Welfare
- Denise Washington, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Betty Wytyias, Colorado Attorney General’s Office

The DVP Funding Recommendation Committee is responsible for reviewing all applications for funding and making recommendations to CDHS for distribution of funds. Membership in 2009 included:

- Margaret Abrams, Denver District Attorney's Office
- Art Atwell, Children & Family Training, Office of Children, Youth, and Families
- Kelli Bennett, CDHS Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Program
- Shannon Breitzman, Department Public Health and Environment, Injury, Suicide, and Violence Prevention Unit
- Mary Clair, CDHS Child Support Enforcement
- Cheryl Davis, Department of Public Safety, Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Board
- Nancy Feldman, Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Victim Programs
- Angela Gover, University of Colorado, Program on Domestic Violence
- Paula Hammond, Project Safeguard
- Lisa O'Dell, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance
- Levetta Love, El Paso County Department of Human Services
- Mary McGhee, CDHS Division of Boards and Commissions
- Nancy Olson, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Judy Page, Colorado's Attorney General's Office
- Ana Soler, Front Range Earth Force

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

CONTACT

Domestic Violence Program (DVP)

Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health and Housing
1575 Sherman Street, 3rd Flr Denver, CO 80203 (303) 866-3150

Internet

DVP

www.colorado.gov/cdhs/dvp

DV Assistance Search

www.colorado.gov/apps/cdhs/dva

Domestic Abuse Fund

<http://www.domesticabusefund.org/>

STATEWIDE RESOURCES:

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(303) 831-9632
1 (888) 778-7091
www.ccadv.org

Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance

(303) 861-1160
1 (800) 261-2682
www.coloradocrimevictims.org

Division of Criminal Justice

(303) 239-4442
1 (800) 201-1325
<http://dcj.state.co.us>

Domestic Violence Offender Management Board

303-239-4442
www.dcj.state.co.us/odvsom/Domestic_Violence/

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

303-861-7033
<http://ccasa.org/>

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1 (800) 799-7233 / 1 (800) 787-3224 (TTY)
www.ndvh.org

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline

1 (866) 331-9474 / 1 (866) 331-8453 TTY
www.loveisrespect.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund

www.endabuse.org

National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence

www.dvalianza.org

National Network to End Domestic Violence

www.nnedv.org

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.ncadv.org