

2012 Annual Report



Domestic Violence Program



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people



The Domestic Violence Program Office of Children, Youth and Families



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
Julie Krow, MA, LPC, Director

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM
1575 Sherman Street, 3rd Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone 303-866-3150
TDD 303-866-7547
FAX 303-866-5488
www.cdhs.state.co.us

Ruth M. Glenn, MPA
Director



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Reggie Bicha
Executive Director

Foreword

Dear CDHS Stakeholders:

The Domestic Violence Program (DVP) of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families is pleased to present the ***Domestic Violence Program 2012 Annual Report***.

The Department ensures that domestic violence issues are at the forefront of human service delivery. The DVP accomplishes this strategy through various activities including:

- providing resources and funding to local domestic violence crisis centers;
- collaborating with other Divisions within CDHS to ensure the Department's services are responsive to the needs of families with domestic violence issues; and
- working collaboratively with county, non-profit, and other entities throughout the state.

In 2012, the DVP administered funds to **44** domestic violence crisis centers (centers) throughout the state of Colorado in both urban and rural regions. These centers represent residential and non-residential programs that offer both general and specialized services. Centers provide crisis intervention, advocacy, and other supportive services for victims while also promoting prevention efforts and education in their communities.

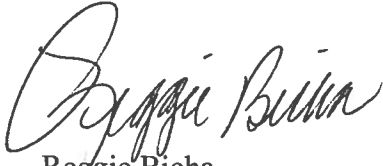
Centers responded to **63,807** crisis calls. They served a total of **26,619** residential and non-residential victims of domestic violence and their dependents. Recognizing that pets are often a central part of a family unit, centers also sheltered **76** pets in 2012.

In addition to their work with victims and the community, these centers utilize program surveys to report on specific outcomes that measure the quality and efficacy of services for victims. Of those victims who received services and provided input to the centers:

- 88.66% of victims reported they had increased their strategies for enhancing their safety; and
- 88.28% of victims reported they had increased their knowledge of available community resources.

In this report, you will find stories from victims and centers that demonstrate how they, DVP, and our collaborative partners are generating positive outcomes for families overcoming the consequences of domestic violence.

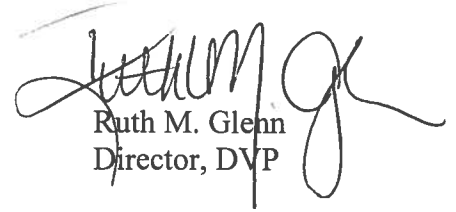
We hope that this information, along with the data provided, will prove not only useful, but offer further evidence and inspiration that we are moving toward a Colorado in which families and children are free from domestic violence.



Reggie Bicha
Executive Director, CDHS



Julie Krow
Executive Director, OCYF



Ruth M. Glenn
Director, DVP

2012 DVP Annual Report

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Domestic Violence Program (DVP), would like to thank all domestic violence crisis center staff throughout the state of Colorado for their tireless efforts to assist victims and their families and their work to end domestic violence. Quotations provided in this report are verbatim responses from these crisis centers and their clients.

DVP also acknowledges the wonderful community members and crisis center staff who volunteer their time to participate on the various DVP-committees to ensure transparency, equity, and accountability.

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INTRODUCTION

The Domestic Violence Program (DVP) of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) presents the 2012 DVP Annual Report. This report provides comprehensive information on the efforts to respond to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. Additionally, this report includes the type of services victims received, how many clients received services, and the funding that is provided to ensure this service delivery.

DVP provides funding for domestic violence crisis centers throughout the state of Colorado. These programs save lives by providing 24-hour crisis lines, safe shelter, empowerment-based advocacy, information and referrals to community resources, and most importantly a deep knowledge of the impact that domestic violence has on the lives of victims and their families.

DVP-Funded Programs Speak Out About Their Need for DVP Funding

Advocates of Lake County	Clear Creek County Advocates	Safe Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence
"Without DVP funding we would not be able to assist victims of domestic violence with shelter, transportation and other needs...we would have to cut staff, thus decreasing the amount of victims and services that are offered...we could not afford to offer community awareness presentations to the public and other agencies...we would not be opening a shelter in our area, [which] will house victims of domestic violence."	"DVP allows us quite a bit in the way of assisting our clients that we would not be able to do otherwise. We are able to offer short-term safe housing for our clients, emergency food and personal items, immediate/on-scene safety planning, crisis intervention, etc. We are also able to present to local agencies on our services and network so that we can help people that would not know of our services. Without funding, CCCA would not be able to assist our victims in the much needed way we can, especially being in a very rural area with not many services available or easy to get to."	"At a time when the organization is facing reduced funding from government and non-government sources, these dollars [from DVP] represent essential operating capital that allow SPAN to continue providing the basic and critically needed services of safe, confidential shelter, counseling and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and their children. SPAN is already turning away hundreds of adults and children seeking emergency shelter due to a lack of space and there is frequently a waiting list for both adult and children's counseling services. Any reduction in funding would result in additional limits on the organization's ability to meet the community's need for services."

Beyond funding domestic violence crisis centers, DVP strives to collaborate within governmental agencies and the community to provide expertise in domestic violence and make available the best possible interventions for victims across all systems and communities. Continuing to assess how to end domestic violence and develop plans for this effort is critical to providing the most effective services and best outcomes for Colorado citizens, now and in the future.



We are fortunate in Colorado to have communities that recognize the importance of this issue, a State government that values safe families and communities, and impassioned and creative people leading the charge to create a Colorado free of domestic violence. This report will highlight the work of domestic violence crisis centers funded by DVP as well as the work done by DVP in the past year.

Domestic Violence Program Staff



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

In Her Own Words

“To the world looking in I was an average woman: three kids and a husband and a normal life. Most that knew me thought my life was good, I was active with my kids and their events, my ex husband and I attended social functions together. I myself had no idea that my life was far from normal. I had been married for 14 years, although we had separated numerous times. We had been a part for about seven months and the divorce final when the evening of May 18th changed my life forever. After years of mental and physical abuse it all came to a head. My ex had spent hours that night taunting my children and I by threatening to kill me as well as my parents. I made a call I never thought I would: I called the police to have them ask him to stop calling. That night they came and looked at the text messages, soon he was arrested.

“While the police were there, they gave me the number to the Alliance Against Domestic Abuse. At first I didn’t think I needed it, as I held my three children, crying, their words told a different story. They all made a desperate plea to “not let him hurt me anymore and make him quit drinking and just leave us all alone.” At that moment I picked up the phone. The Adult Advocate from AADA answered, she was the angel on the other end I needed more than I ever imagined. I began to explain what happened and at that moment all the years that had been bottled up spilled out. She listened with such compassion; she spoke in words so encouraging, so soft and yet with such strength and intensity. That was the beginning of a woman learning how to live again or maybe for the first time.

“I called all the time as the chain of events seemed relentless and I soon learned I was far worse than I thought. She then set up a time for my three very hurt, scared, and lost children to meet with the Youth Advocate. She reached out to my kids with such love and began helping them release their fear and find their strength, showing them they were good kids who did not deserve the hand they were dealt. My kids began a journey of healing from living a life of alcohol and violence to understanding how to handle and express themselves. They began to learn how beautiful, amazing, and strong they were.

“My kids and I attended the women’s and children’s support groups as well as individual counseling sessions and from these amazing women things began to change. My newfound strength began to grow; I was a woman with no job, no self worth, no hope and no mindset of a better future. I now have a full time job, a house, a car and a life so fulfilling. My kids have learned how to face fear, stand up for themselves without violence, and to smile through pain by believing in themselves. The gift we received from AADA is far better than cars, jobs, or a house, that most will never see, they gave hope, value, and strength; they gave us a future. Without the staff of AADA I would still be another statistic, an abused woman too scared to speak and too afraid to walk away.”

– ***Client from Alliance Against Domestic Abuse, Chaffee County***

To understand the scope of the need for services and the critical supports that domestic violence crisis centers provide, on September 12, 2012, the National Network to End Domestic



Violence conducted a National Census (point in time survey) of domestic violence services. Nationally, the 1,646 domestic violence crisis centers that participated in the census assisted 64,323 victims and their children in one day. In Colorado, 37 domestic violence crisis centers participated and served 1,055 victims and their children in that one day.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES IN COLORADO

All DVP-funded crisis centers provide confidential services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via crisis lines (or Memorandum of Understandings to coordinate services with other entities). The services listed below are representative of the wide array of services provided by domestic violence crisis centers funded by DVP.

General Services

DVP-funded crisis centers offer 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 described below.

“Laurie came to stay at the Safehouse with her young son, Ben. Laurie was fleeing an abusive relationship from her husband, Dave, who is a law enforcement officer. Most of the abuse in the relationship was verbal and controlling behavior and she was adamant about not reporting any of it to the authorities because Dave could lose his job. She was very scared that her husband would find her with his contacts in the law enforcement field... While at the Safehouse, Laurie worked very closely with her Client Advocate to determine her level of safety at all times during her stay. Additionally, the Client Advocate provided Laurie with case management to help determine what services and/or resources Laurie and Ben needed to eventually become self-sufficient...ASP was able to provide Laurie and Ben with food and other needed items while they stayed at the Safehouse. Additionally, Laurie began to work closely with Colorado Legal Services to help her initiate a legal separation... Laurie received weekly therapy from a local therapist who assisted Laurie in grieving the end of her relationship with Dave and helping her to realize what was next for Laurie in her future.”

– *Advocate Safehouse Project, Garfield County*

Residential Services

Many crisis centers have residential shelters where victims and their children can stay 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 dependents can stay for up to two years. Many domestic violence crisis centers without a shelter or transitional housing are able to provide alternative short-term safe housing options, such as motel vouchers, in many instances.



"[The victim] had been in a 20-year relationship and was so eroded by the emotional abuse that she didn't even know she was being abused. It was her mother that called police after he locked her out of her house on a freezing night and said things like "If you mess with me, everyone will know my name." She and her daughter started on their journey at Sprout House with little more than the clothes they were able to grab during a civil standby... We were able to assist her in finding an attorney who worked for her Pro Bono. [AVAT] were able to provide her and her daughter weekly therapy from which we began to see remarkable changes. She gained confidence and began to realize what had happened to her wasn't her fault and it wasn't ok! She participated in support group and made lasting friendships there. She was able to find an apartment, a job, and moved there with her daughter after 120 days in Sprout House. She continues to have to fight battles from time to time as he pushes the envelope on the restraining order, but she feels empowered and has told us over and over she couldn't have done it without our help. She continues to be a part of the support group and encourages others with her story."

– Advocates Victim Assistance Team, Grand County

Children's Programs

Domestic violence crisis centers offer a variety of children's programming such as group support, safety planning, healthy communication, skill building, and recreational activities. Some programs also offer parenting skills classes. Childcare is usually available for victims who are attending domestic violence support groups.

"Tanya and her beautiful daughter, Leah, age 4, came to our shelter for safety. Leah's father had been very abusive to her mother and her. For the first several days, Leah would not speak to anyone and only whispered in her mothers' ear. The advocates began helping mom with a safety and life plan; mom became very involved in counseling and outside classes offered by our local family center. She enrolled Leah in the services of the child advocacy center and soon we began to see a happy girl. We started a sticker reward chart for her with rewards available every week. She never missed her rewards. Mom learned how to relax and breath, finally sleeping through the night. They stayed with us for several weeks while mom hunted for housing, enrolled in the local adult education program for college classes and filed for TANF, food assistance and Medicaid. Leah and her mom now have a small apartment of their own, Leah is once again excelling in her school and mom continues to use the counseling every week. Mom actually felt strong enough to finally get a permanent protection order that keeps the perpetrator physically away from them for five years. Tanya tells everyone that she and her daughter would have died had it not been for the services of the safehouse."

– Renew, Inc., Montezuma County

Advocacy

Court-based advocacy, such as accompaniment to hearings for civil orders of protection, are widely available at crisis centers across Colorado. 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 victims access resources and services such as victim compensation, affordable housing, food assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and other community supports.



"A Hard-of-Hearing male victim of domestic violence reached out to Dove after being encouraged by several agencies. After the initial meeting with the Dove advocate, he was able to identify all the warning signs and establish a safety plan. [For] his safety, he decided to pursue a Protection Order. After discussing all the options of all the auxiliary services that he could benefit from, he has just realized that he has the right as a hard of hearing person to request auxiliary services! Ever since that, he is now requesting CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) services. Because of this, he is now able to benefit from full communication with the existing system (i.e. court system). I would imagine if he obtained assistance from a non-deaf agency, he would probably continue not knowing his rights with auxiliary services."

– Dove Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Women and Children, Denver

Teen Services

Teen dating violence education services are available in many crisis centers. These programs collaborate with local schools to promote healthy relationships and education for teens to recognize the signs of abusive relationships, safety planning, and accessing resources.

"The student Violence Prevention Education team developed a Healthy Relationships workshop during the 2011-2012 year to supplement the curricula the PCA already offers. The goal of the workshop is to provide education on relationships in a more positive way (versus only focusing on what is bad in relationships). During these presentations, the violence prevention educators facilitate a discussion with the group about elements of a healthy relationship as well as dialogue about some behaviors that may not be so healthy that the group may bring up. At the conclusion, themes are identified so the group can see what the core elements of a healthy relationship are. It also includes an opportunity for students to voice a time when they felt valued, appreciated, supported etc., to help them identify how good that feels and that those experiences are important to have in a relationship."

– Center on Domestic Violence, University of Colorado Denver

Community Education

Domestic violence crisis center staff frequently address community groups about domestic violence. Audiences include churches, health care systems, social services, businesses, law enforcement, judicial system, civic groups, fatherhood programs, and others interested in learning more about the dynamics and prevention of domestic violence.

"[DVP funding] has afforded us the ability to have prevention outreach in the schools throughout the County and provide printed material to students to help them understand the warning signs of potentially abusive relationships.

We have had students approach us to say that our message has been life-changing for them. We also present prevention information to employers in the community – from which we have received numerous phone calls for additional information and referrals from supervisors for employees in controlling or abusive relationships. We print a quarterly newsletter that includes educational components as well as information on our Facebook and website."

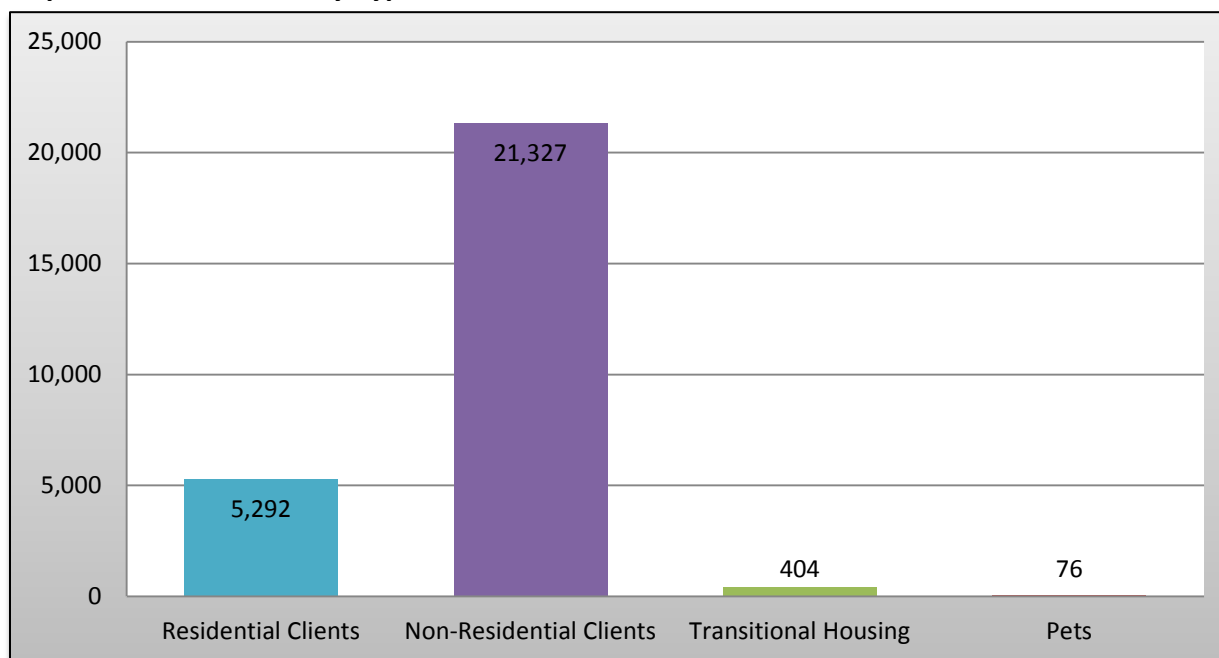
– Advocates Victim Assistance Team, Grand County



DVP-FUNDED PROGRAMS

In 2012, DVP administered funds to **44** domestic violence crisis centers throughout the state of Colorado. Those 44 crisis centers responded to **63,807** crisis phone calls and served a total of **26,619** residential and non-residential victims of domestic violence and their dependents as well as housing **76** pets (Graph 1). Additionally, crisis centers provided a total of **119,017** nights of shelter in residential facilities.

Graph 1: Clients Served by Type of Service



Crisis Intervention Phone Calls

"We have a client who contacted CCCA through the hotline, wondering about her husband who had threatened and then attempted suicide the night before calling. She had told him she wanted a divorce and didn't want him at the house. The following day he was released from the hospital and had been contacting [her] via phone and text over 30 times in a very short time. She was told via the hotline to contact law enforcement regarding the contact. Also, during the hotline call safety planning was discussed so that if he found a ride back up the mountain and returned to the home, she would know what she could do to keep her and her child safe. He did find a ride back and did return to the home. He came in the house and was belligerent, threatening suicide again and began to escalate. Based on the safety planning done during the hotline call, the client contacted 911. During the call, the husband came at her physically. She ran out of the house and was able to keep herself safe until law enforcement arrived."

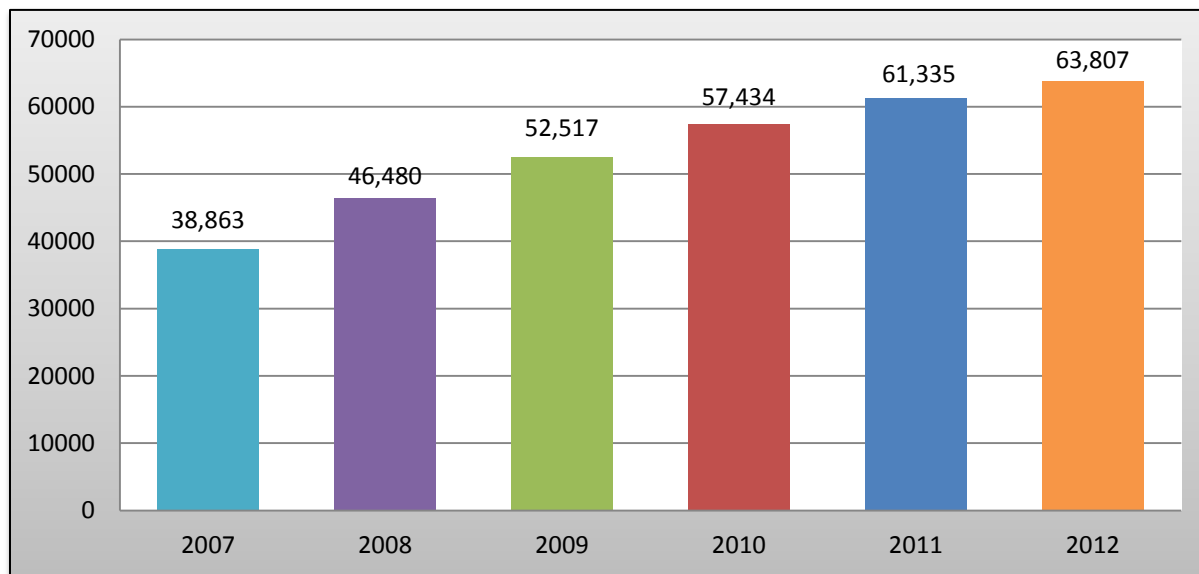
– **Clear Creek County Advocates**

Crisis lines serve as a first point (and often the only point) of contact for many victims. This free and confidential emergency service is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year by domestic violence advocacy programs. Staff and volunteers in the programs are able to provide advocacy, information, referrals, and support to victims of domestic violence



and their families. In 2012, DVP-funded programs answered **63,807** emergency crisis intervention phone calls, an increase of four percent over the previous year. Graph 2 illustrates the continuing trend of victims' increasing reliance of this critical service over the years.

Graph 2: Crisis Intervention Phone Calls



DVP funds support domestic violence crisis centers throughout the state of Colorado. The services provided by these centers are vital to the health of communities they serve. Table 1 includes a profile of the funded crisis centers. The number of crisis intervention phone calls and victims served in the programs demonstrates the necessity of these programs listed below in Table 2.

Table 1: Profile of DVP-Funded Programs

Service Region Type		
Urban	12	27%
Suburban	6	14%
Rural	20	45%
Remote Rural	6	14%
Number of Staff		
2-5	17	39%
6-10	11	25%
11-20	8	18%
21-50	8	18%
Budget Size		
Less than \$100,000	4	10%
\$100,001 - \$199,999	9	20%
\$200,000 - \$499,999	17	39%
\$500,000 - \$999,999	9	20%
\$1,000,000 or more	5	11%



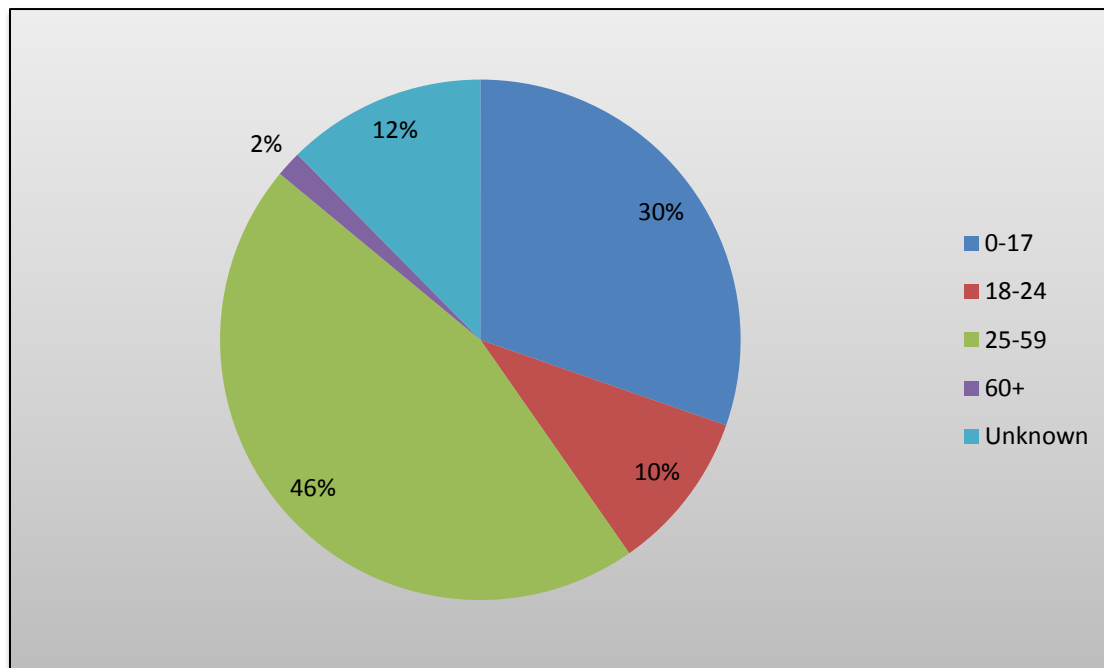
Table 2: DVP-Funded Programs

Program Name	County	Crisis Intervention Calls	Victims Served
A Woman's Place, Inc.	Weld	4,531	476
Advocate Safehouse Project	Garfield	250	352
Advocates - Crisis Support Services	Moffat	446	495
Advocates Against Battering & Abuse	Routt	276	118
Advocates Against Domestic Assault	Las Animas	429	405
Advocates for Victims of Assault, Inc	Summit	371	264
Advocates of Lake County	Lake	44	325
Advocates Victim Assistance Team	Grand	108	211
Alliance Against Domestic Abuse	Chaffee	207	219
Alternative Horizons	La Plata	503	844
Alternatives to Family Violence	Adams	5,543	1,972
Alternatives to Violence, Inc.	Larimer	370	431
Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program	Archuleta	77	317
Arkansas Valley Resource Center, Inc	Otero	861	349
Asian Pacific Development Center	Denver	43	247
Bright Future Foundation	Eagle	216	534
Center on Domestic Violence/University of Colorado Denver	Denver	69	40
Clear Creek County Advocates	Clear Creek	312	181
Colorado Anti-Violence Program	Denver	101	100
Crossroads	Larimer	1,292	1,580
Denver Center for Crime Victims	Denver	727	263
Domestic Violence Initiatives for Women with Disabilities	Denver	2,209	464
Dove Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Women & Children	Denver	322	164
Estes Valley Victim Advocates	Larimer	49	117
Family Tree, Inc.	Jefferson	6,514	1,395
Gateway Battered Women's Services	Arapahoe	5,749	2,537
Help for Abused Partners	Logan	164	556
Latimer House Counseling & Advocacy Center	Mesa	1,095	624
Park County Crisis Center dba Mountain Peace Shelter	Jefferson	213	102
Project PAVE	Denver	26	258
Renew, Inc.	Montezuma	555	531
RESPONSE	Pitkin	221	260
S.H.A.R.E., Inc	Morgan	159	369
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley	Boulder	1,105	579
Safehouse Denver	Denver	8,844	1,066
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence	Boulder	7,084	2,285
San Miguel Resource Center	San Miguel	112	140
Servicios de la Raza	Denver	197	207
TESSA	El Paso	2,030	2,285
Tri-County Resources	Montrose	560	188
Tu Casa, Inc.	Alamosa	44	390
Volunteers of America, Southwest Safehouse	La Plata	374	241
Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center	Douglas	8,354	1,538
YWCA of Pueblo	Pueblo	1,068	675

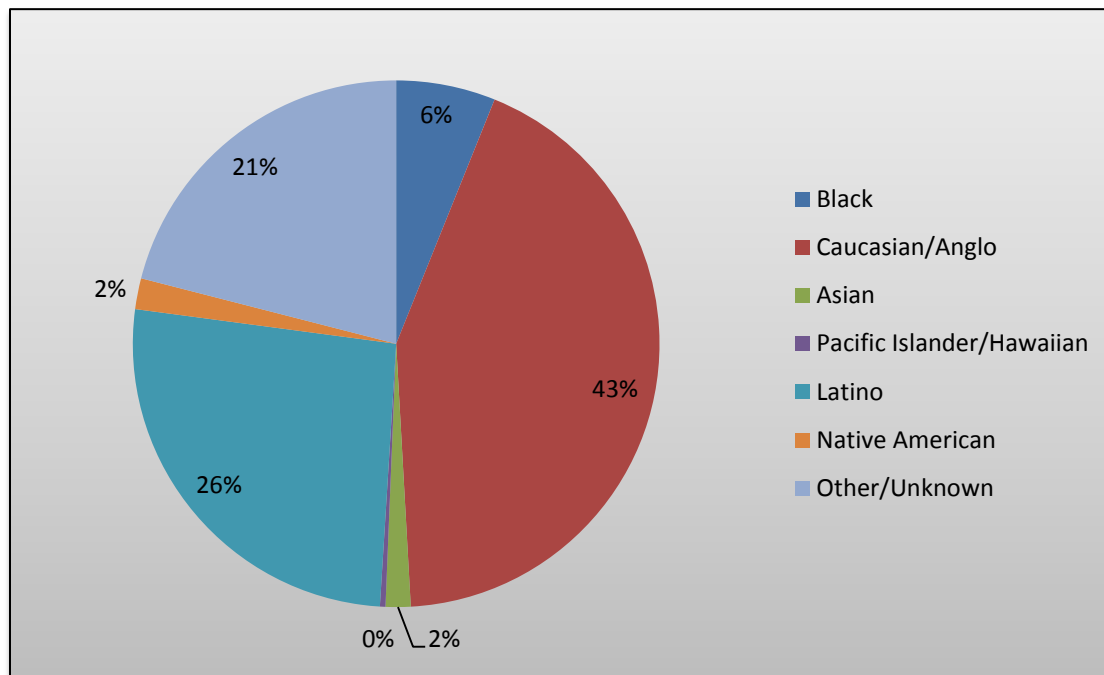


Domestic violence impacts all communities in varying ways. The far-reaching hand of abuse discriminates against no one. Graph 3 illustrates the wide variety of ages of people that received services from DVP funded programs in the last year. Graph 4 represents the multitude of races and ethnicities touched by domestic violence that sought and received services.

Graph 3: Age of Victims in DVP-Funded Programs



Graph 4: Race and Ethnicity of Victims in DVP-Funded Programs



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Domestic violence continues to be an epidemic in our communities. Domestic violence crisis centers provide a key role in educating and engaging their local communities to better understand domestic violence. This is crucial in helping communities understand the prevalence and far reaching impact of domestic violence.

Community Education

Domestic violence crisis centers provide educational presentations and awareness activities to a broad range of churches, civic groups, governmental agencies, businesses, and schools on domestic violence related topics. In 2012, DVP-funded programs provided **2,705** community presentations to **68,264** individuals. Additionally, programs provided **2,211** youth-targeted presentations to **36,573** individuals. Finally, DVP-funded programs held **920** community awareness activities throughout the state of Colorado.

Volunteers

The dedication of community members' commitment to ending domestic violence in their communities can be found in the devoted volunteers. Last year, **3,910** volunteers spent **307,110** hours providing services to victims and their families. Volunteer activities range from contributions as board members, crisis line workers, childcare, facilities management, and a myriad of other positions.

INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO HELP VICTIMS

Domestic violence crisis centers throughout the state are dedicated to providing relevant and often times innovative strategies to meet the growing and changing needs of victims in their community. These strategies include providing onsite medical clinics in shelters, groundbreaking community education programs, and even new community collaborations to provide wrap-around services to victims. Programs provide some insight into their strategies below.

Medical Services

"In February 2012, Crossroads opened an on-site medical unit for domestic violence victims residing in the shelter as a result of collaboration with local physicians in the community. The purpose of the unit is to improve the immediate and long-term health of residential clients at Crossroads Safehouse. Domestic violence victims often avoid mainstream medical care and their children lack regular checkups. Through the Medical Unit, clients receive free well checks, acute care, cervical cancer screenings (a member of the Board of Directors, a pathologist, processes the lab work at no charge), and health education administered by qualified volunteer medical professionals from the community."

– *Crossroads Safehouse, Larimer County*

"For more than two years, the WCFOC has partnered with Rocky Vista University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RVU). Through this collaboration, our Shelter Director and other



advocates provide education to first and second-year medical students – giving those students and faculty excellent information about domestic violence, including how to identify, best practices in terms of intervention, and guidance in dealing with victims. RVU believes this outreach/education is vital to a well-rounded curriculum and preparation for students as they become doctors... In turn, RVU students provide free healthcare screenings at our emergency shelter on a monthly basis. Under faculty supervision, they also provide referrals to RVU's clinic if shelter residents' medical conditions warrant that intervention. RVU faculty has also created a website whereby shelter residents and shelter staff can research acute and chronic conditions, preventative care, and other medical information through reliable and respected sites. This partnership is innovative and successful for both the WCFOC and RVU."

– ***Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center, Douglas County***

"Women In Crisis has continued to collaborate with Kaiser Permanente and Exempla Medical Center to provide an in-shelter health care clinic called Safe Clinic for victims and their children staying in shelter. Kaiser pays for the time of a staff nurse to coordinate the schedule for the doctors and nurses that volunteer in Safe Clinic. The laboratory at Exempla Lutheran Medical Center provides pro bono lab work for the Safe Clinic and the X-ray department also provides free services to clients at WIC to help with diagnostics."

– ***Family Tree Women In Crisis, Jefferson County***

Community Education

"The SAFE (Stopping Abuse For Ever) program is run by the Youth Services Coordinator. This teen driven program (for teens by teens) is designed to promote education about the "Silent Epidemic" (teen dating violence) to which 1.5 million teens throughout our nation fall victim every year. The teens and the coordinator volunteer weekly for 1-2 hour meetings. During the meetings we learn about and discuss teen dating violence awareness and prevention. As a result of these meetings, we are better prepared for our presentations to local youth service organizations, as well as to the middle school, high school, and college students."

– ***Advocates – Crisis Support Services, Moffat County***

"The Teen Dating Violence Institute (TDVI) program reaches high school and middle school students in Fort Collins, Wellington, and Loveland. At the high school level, a peer education model is used to train volunteer students as peer counselors to facilitate presentations in 10th - 12th grade health classes. Crossroads youth advocates facilitate the presentations for middle schools and other youth-serving agencies such as Mountain Crest Behavioral Health and Boys & Girls Club. The curriculum, an awareness and prevention based model is re-evaluated and updated each year and is specifically written for the length of the class period as well as the age of the students. From January through September 2012, 64 trainings by peer educators were presented to 1,380 students."

– ***Crossroads Safehouse, Larimer County***

"Latimer House, in collaboration with the Mesa County Domestic Violence Task Force put on the Mesa County Domestic Violence Academy. The Academy is designed for professionals working with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence to enhance education, skills, and understanding. The academy featured a variety of topics including basic information about



domestic violence, lethality assessment, intimate partner rape, effects of domestic violence on children, gay and lesbian issues, case study of how the legal system works when a family impacted by domestic violence enters the system, issues that arise in mediation and family courts, recognizes symptoms and signs of drugs in the families, understanding criminal and civil protection orders, Christianity and domestic violence, technology and stalking. The 4th Annual DV Academy was held April 23-24 with over 80 individuals in attendance.”

– ***Latimer House, Mesa County***

“Community education programs are intended to inform the public about the dynamics of domestic violence and the toll it exacts on families and society. The Safehouse continues active collaborative efforts among local, state, and federal agencies, social agencies, and community mobilization efforts to end domestic violence. Tours of the VOA Durango Community Shelter are used as an outreach/education tool for both the shelter and the Safehouse. A quarterly newsletter to over 5,000 homes and businesses also serves as an outreach tool.”

– ***VOA Southwest Safehouse, La Plata County***

Community Collaborations

“The most recent and successful development for our agency has been being chosen to pilot the Maryland Lethality Assessment Project. In March of 2012, AADA sponsored a meeting with law enforcement in three counties to determine if there would be an interest in collaborating in the development of a lethality assessment project. The response was very positive as each law enforcement agency in each of the three counties agreed to pilot the project. In May of 2012, AADA submitted an application to be considered one of 30 agencies to be selected across the country. In July, AADA was notified that we indeed were chosen, and the steps to implement are now being finalized.”

– ***Advocates Against Domestic Assault, Las Animas County***

“DVP funds a considerable portion of the salary of the Victim Services Coordinator. Part of her job is to work with the MTT – a group made up of Probation, Offender Treatment and an Advocate... The advantage is that we typically have an established relationship with the victim as we are involved from the beginning. Other MTT’s have reported that they get little victim input because by the time the perpetrator is in the treatment phase, victims are ready to move on and don’t want to have to talk to “one more person” about their story. We have realized that this collaboration with Probation and Offender Treatment is key to keeping victims safe and offenders accountable. Our input to this group has made a significant difference in keeping the victim’s perspective part of the active offender treatment.”

– ***Advocate Victim Assistance Team, Grand County***

“ACVAP believes that if domestic violence offenders are more knowledgeable about what the criminal court process steps are and provided more in-depth information about the parameters of mandatory protection orders, ultimately their victims are safer. Under that premise, ACVAP coordinated with the Fatherhood Initiative Program. First providing Fatherhood staff specialized training on domestic violence, then formulating a domestic violence screening tool for all Fatherhood participants, and finally, developing a ‘What to Expect’ court guide for father’s arrested for domestic violence. The Fatherhood advocate reviews this guide with



fathers in jail prior to their release, ensuring they have a plan for meeting the protection order restrictions.”

– Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program

“A new service trend for Jefferson County is a partnership with Human Services Division of Children, Youth, and Families. This partnership allows a Family Tree Outreach Advocate to be located in their offices to provide consultation services to the Division 25-hours per week. The advocate consults on cases with domestic violence, provides training to the staff, and meets with clients as needed to provide safety strategies and community resources.”

– Family Tree Women In Crisis, Jefferson County

“In 2012, [Project PAVE] continued a strategic partnership with DPS, the City of Denver, and Civic Canopy called the Community Partner System, the only collaboration of its kind in the United States. The CPS is an information-sharing system developed to allow agencies assisting students in DPS to have access to crucial information related to their well-being (attendance, behavior, grades, progress) and for agencies to show their effectiveness to the district. The end-result of this system will be increasing the information flow and collaboration between agencies that serve kids and DPS. This opening of the door of information will allow for more effective awareness of child needs, tracking of individual goals, and identification of problems before they become out of control. PAVE’s School-Based Counselors will be able to utilize this information in treatment planning, safety planning, and client advocacy, giving them one additional tool to assist victims.”

– Project PAVE, Denver

“During this year we have developed a renewed partnership with Colorado Women’s Employment and Education Program, providing domestic abuse awareness / education training for staff and for all new program participants. In addition we have an advocate available on site at CWEE one day a week to provide DV counseling/advocacy for participants requesting the opportunity to receive support. We are working closely with the staff to provide the DV support needed by participants to increase their ability to become economically self-sufficient. We have also renewed our partnership with The Work Options for Women Program through outreach with staff and participants offering individual counseling and advocacy.”

– Safehouse Denver

IDENTIFYING NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

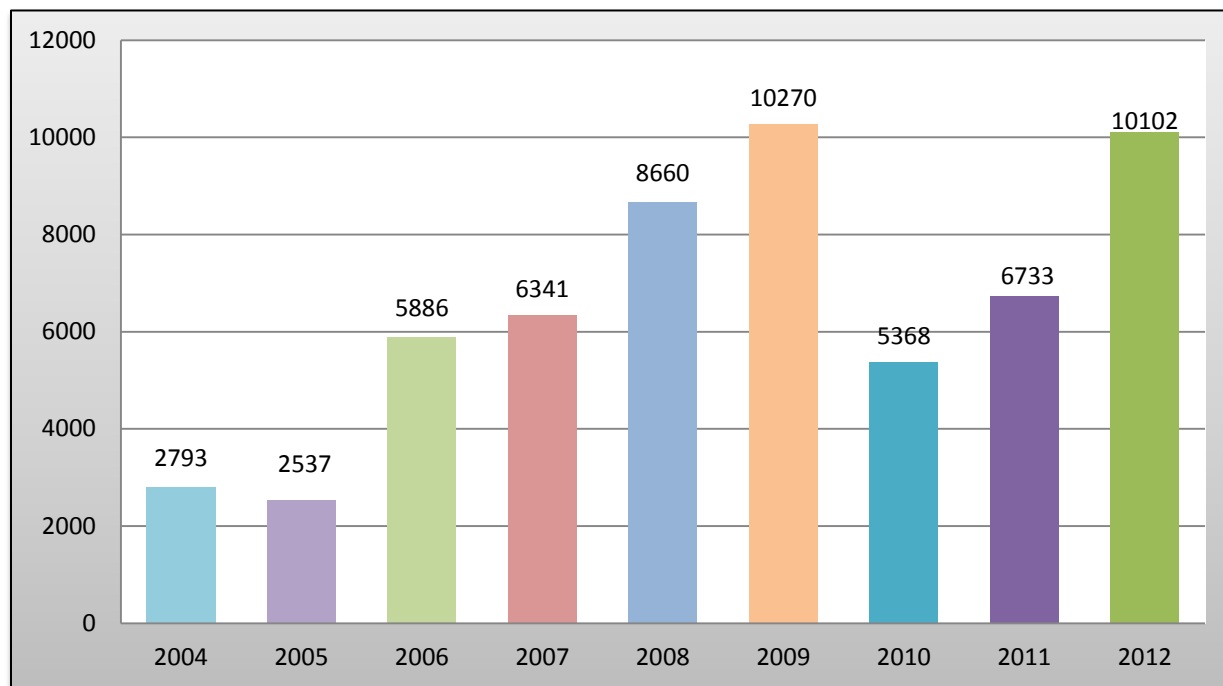
Each year, crisis centers respond to a series of narrative questions put forth by DVP. The information provided gives insight into trends, needs, and issues facing crisis centers across the State. This year, the most identified needs recognized by DVP-funded programs include unmet shelter requests, lack of safe, affordable housing, and the need for knowledgeable legal services for victims.



Unmet Shelter Requests

Domestic violence crisis centers track unmet needs for shelter. Graph 5 identifies **10,102** individuals (6,421 adults and 3,681 children) who were turned away from shelter in 2012. This was a 50 percent increase over last year.

Graph 5: Unmet Shelter Requests



Lack of Safe, Affordable Housing

“The current economic downturn and the lack of affordable housing has and will continue to impact victims in Garfield County. Leaving an unsafe housing environment is not necessarily an option if one wants to remain in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys. Because of this, many survivors of domestic violence are in a predicament. Realistically, if they choose to remain in these Valleys, they may be deciding which is the “lesser of the two evils”: violence or homelessness.”

– **Advocate Safehouse Project, Garfield County**

“The need for Transitional Housing for victims is huge. 75% of victims are in the process of starting their lives again without the presence of the batterer, who, in most cases, was the primary wage earner. Women and child victims have very limited means or no income. This lack is underscored by the lack of credit or poor credit scores, which hamper victims’ ability to obtain living quarters through regular means. The availability of Transitional Housing would ease the burden on victims tremendously.”

– **Alternatives to Family Violence, Adams County**



“Difficulty in obtaining employment coupled with locating affordable housing is a serious problem for women who will not be returning home and are working towards independent living.”

– ***Gateway Battered Women’s Services, Arapahoe County***

“Having affordable/transitional housing available for families to transition out of the shelter in a way where they can be self-sufficient has been and is still an issue. Families are staying at the shelter longer because they cannot find affordable housing options.”

– ***Mountain Peace Shelter, Park County***

“Our largest unmet need continues to be affordable housing. In our small resort mountain community, housing is an issue for many. We are only able to offer three nights of safehousing and do not foresee getting a shelter. This has been an obstacle for many of our clients when they are considering leaving an abusive partner.”

– ***San Miguel Resource Center, San Miguel County***

“Survivors must now have a living wage of at least \$1,200 per month to safely transition to safe, stable affordable housing upon departure from the Safehouse. This need for a greater income is also causing the Safehouse to see longer stays in the house due to the survivors needing additional time to not only address the trauma and crisis situation of their DV situation but also to secure a job, save money and move out on their own. As a program we are figuring out how to balance the immediate safety needs of new victims needing safe housing with the ongoing safety needs of survivors who could potentially be re-victimized if they leave the Safehouse for an unstable or unsafe housing option due to limited funds and resources.”

– ***TESSA, El Paso County***

“Funding to assist victims with housing needs, currently at this time there is a 2 year waiting list to get victims into Section 8 housing. When a victim wants to find safe housing on their own there is limited funds that will help us get them into housing.”

– ***Advocates of Lake County***

Need for Knowledgeable Legal Services

“The need for funding for civil legal services for victim/survivors of domestic violence who live in rural areas cannot be overstated. In order for victim/survivors of domestic violence to truly establish safety and stability for themselves and their children, they need the assistance of an attorney to pursue civil proceedings of divorce, child custody, child support, and other civil matters that arise because of domestic violence victimization. Most victim/survivors do not have the financial resources to hire a private attorney to pursue these matters and thus are either trapped in an abusive marriage or relationship or continue powerless through the civil legal process if their abuser hires an attorney. No-cost civil legal resources that are available to victim/survivors of DV in rural communities are very limited and it is very difficult to find private attorneys who will provide the service pro bono.”

– ***Alternative Horizons, La Plata County***



“The biggest unmet need that we are seeing in our community in relation to domestic violence is legal representation in protection order cases and custody cases involving domestic violence. [We need more] money to be able to pay for attorneys or more attorneys taking cases with legal aid.”

– Advocates for Victims of Assault, Summit County

“Victims still need a voice when it comes to civil court, whether in divorce, child custody, or parenting plan hearings. Advocates consistently see batterers further abuse their victims in the confines of civil court orders and proceedings, with judges, GALs, custody evaluators, and attorneys not educated on the complex nature of domestic violence. Advocates attempt to prepare and aid survivors throughout these processes, but are very limited in our capacity to serve in this manner, as well as remain within the confines of not giving legal advice. Additionally, there are not enough protections in place to allow advocates to speak on our clients behalf for fear of client records being subpoenaed or having a cross-examination place an advocate in the position of causing further harm to the victim with confidential information.”

– Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program

“Families are often given mixed messages from the civil system such as Family Court and the criminal justice system in regard to addressing domestic violence in the home. An example is the Family Court could be promoting co-parenting when at the same time a restraining order has been issued.”

– Gateway Battered Women’s Services, Arapahoe County

“Legal assistance continues to be the number one expressed un-met need of victims served by PAVE. Custody battles are the leading legal issue encountered by victims, while advocacy during criminal proceedings is also a common need of clients. Many clients lack any legal representation and given the lack of free or reduced-cost services available, may not qualify for assistance. As a result, victims face incredibly difficult choices in keeping their families safe while navigating a confusing legal system.”

– Project PAVE, Denver

“While the Safe Shelter Expanded Legal Services Program (ELSP) has been a programmatic success, demand for the program far exceeds available resources. The ELSP provides increased access to comprehensive, holistic services at no cost to an increased number of clients who would otherwise be unable to access legal representation, because they do not meet the criteria for legal aid with traditional legal services.”

– Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley, Boulder County



OUTCOMES

DVP-funded crisis centers tracked two specific outcome measures to evaluate the impact their services had on the lives of victims (Table 2) in 2012. These outcome measurements are driven by requirements from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). Domestic violence programs randomly sample victims and ask them to evaluate their experiences with shelter, advocacy and supportive services, individual counseling, group counseling, and transitional housing. Victims are asked to identify if the service they received “increased their strategies for enhancing their safety” and if they “increased their knowledge of community resources.” According to “FVPSA Outcomes Evaluation: A Practical Guide,” these two short-term outcomes have been demonstrated to contribute to improvements in longer-term safety and well being of victims. A minimum target of 65 percent positive response was established by FVPSA as a realistic goal. DVP-funded crisis centers have consistently exceeded the FVPSA goal.

Table 2: Outcome Measurements

Outcome Measurement	Shelter N=1,934	Advocacy/ Supportive Services N=3,697	Individual Counseling N=967	Group Counseling N=2,186	Transitional Housing N=93
Victims Increased their <u>Strategies for Enhancing their Safety</u>	72.91%	95.13%	96.28%	87.83%	98.92%
Victims Increased their <u>Knowledge of Available Community Resources</u>	72.96%	94.83%	96.28%	86.87%	96.77%



In Her Own Words

"I have so much enjoyed the past year or so of my life with my children and with myself. I feel moments of true happiness again after going through a long spell of feeling little or nothing. Gateway has had a large hand in reviving my soul.

"I have two children, a son age 20 and a daughter age 11. My children were the ones that opened my eyes to myself, my life, and to seeing how abuse pervades lives and generations. Four years ago at this time my daughter and I were actually living in the Gateway Shelter. We stayed there for 27 days and during that time the shelter was our home. To this day, if we pass by the shelter my daughter may call out, "There's our house". Ultimately, my son and daughter became my motivation for seeing a life of peace-that they might enjoy the same. I'm determined to keep learning and growing. My memories of my shelter days are fading, but I still remember things like the food stored in the kitchen and the housekeeping chores being divided among the residents. It was weird; in the middle of this chaos doing house chores seemed like the only familiar, normal act. I remember sitting around the dining table hearing the other women's stories and feeling an incredible emptiness but not of being alone. I felt safe.

"Although I'm divorced from my abuser, I am required to co-parent our daughter with him. I still have a restraining order in place. My abuser knows little about my present life, but he still takes any opportunity to make judgments on my life, my decisions, what I spend my money on, and my care of my daughter. He still pushes his weight around emotionally, as he had done during our marriage.

"I have a lot to be thankful for and I'm determined to lead a peaceful life. Holidays are still hard without family near, but I've found a shared tenderness and compassion among the women and counselors. I thank my Gateway sisters for all the sharing we do in group. I'm thankful for my counselors, and the caring souls who held my hand and heart in the shelter in the early days. I'm determined to live a peaceful life."

– A Client at Gateway Battered Women's Services, Arapahoe County



STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

In 1983, the Colorado General Assembly created the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) (formerly the Domestic Abuse Assistance Program). Located in the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), Office of Children, Youth and Families (formerly located in the Office of Behavioral Health), DVP is the sole government entity dedicated entirely to funding and sustaining community-based domestic violence programs across the state. DVP oversees approximately \$3 million annually in revenue from several sources listed below. 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. 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, DVP is responsible for working collaboratively and developing partnerships with state entities, counties, and community stakeholders to address domestic violence policy and legislative initiatives. DVP staff provides technical assistance, training, and consultation to state programs, counties, and others. DVP strives to ensure that services to victims of domestic violence and their children are readily available throughout Colorado's diverse communities and is continually seeking ways to improve services and educate the general populace about domestic violence.

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.

Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund

Colorado taxpayers elected to make donations through their state income tax return refunds to the Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund in 1983. Amounts collected annually range from \$150,000 to \$400,000. Each year, DVP distributes these funds to support domestic violence crisis centers.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

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

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Starting 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. DVP distributes approximately \$630,000 annually in TANF funds to domestic violence crisis centers.

Heirloom Marriage Certificates

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 DVP. DVP collected approximately \$200 annually from heirloom certificate fees for distribution to domestic violence crisis centers.

Marriage License and Divorce Filing Fees

Beginning in 2009, a portion of the fees collected from marriage licenses and divorce filings were directed to DVP for the distribution to domestic violence crisis centers. The funding available from this fund is approximately \$850,000 annually.

Funding Source Amounts for 2012

Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund	\$142,942
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act	\$1,486,356
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	\$659,677
Heirloom Marriage Certificates	\$200
Marriage License and Divorce Filing Fees	\$929,201

2012 DVP Activities

Site Visits

DVP conducted **10** site visits of the 44 DVP-funded programs (listed below). These site visits provide an opportunity to assess needs, monitor for compliance, and provide relevant technical assistance. Site visits provide an opportunity for mutual learning, open discussion, identification of gaps and needs for a particular community, and to showcase successes and unique program components.

Program	County
DVI for Women with Disabilities	Denver
Center on Domestic Violence	Denver
Clear Creek County Advocates	Clear Creek
Latimer House Counseling & Advocacy Center	Mesa
Tri-County Resource Center	Montrose
Help for Abused Partners	Logan
Estes Valley Victim Advocates	Larimer
YWCA	Pueblo
RESPONSE	Pitkin
Advocate Safehouse Project	Garfield



Collaborations

State Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

The State Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is a joint initiative of the Department of Public Safety, Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) and the Department of Human Services, Domestic Violence Program (DVP) with a clear goal of working collaboratively to identify and coordinate existing state domestic violence-related programs and services. Critical components of the council include: offender and victim issues, identification of gaps, sharing ideas, and improvement of communication between departments. Most importantly, DVCC helps facilitate the integration of domestic violence issues, best practices, and education within State government. The additional benefit is to create a method of disseminating information across state agencies and departments that is consistent, current, and avoids duplication of services.

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

DVP works closely with the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), the statewide membership organization for domestic violence programs. DVP and CCADV information share and collaborate to ensure that domestic violence programs as efficiently and effectively provided with essential, current, and timely information. CCADV serves on the DVP Advisory Committee and the Funding Recommendation Committee. In 2012, DVP provided \$50,000 in funding for the CCADV annual conference and participated in the CCADV Legislative Committee.

The Domestic Violence and Child Protection Services Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council is a collaboration of stakeholders in the areas of domestic violence and child protection with the purpose of supporting agency coordination to enhance the safety and services to families where domestic violence and child maltreatment overlap. The Coordinating Council is comprised of state and county staff, system and non-governmental advocates, and other stakeholders. Staff from DVP and Child Protection Services co-chair the council and serve on several of its sub-committees. In 2012, the Coordinating Council developed a domestic violence handbook for child protection workers.

Projects and Initiatives

TANF/DV 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. In June 2009, SSUF awarded DVP funding to conduct the Enhanced Domestic Violence Advocacy and Prevention Project (EDVAPP). Through EDVAPP, DVP sub-contracted with domestic violence crisis centers to implement a Co-Location Project (CLP) initiating sustainable systemic change to enhance safety and services for survivors of domestic violence through collaborative partnerships between local domestic violence crisis centers and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)/Colorado Works programs in county departments of human/social services.

The first SSUF grant (2009-2010) enabled the DVP to sub-contract with six domestic violence crisis center for a 10½ month-long pilot project. Due to the success the six CLP sub-grantees



during the first year, SSUF awarded the DVP another grant to continue five local CLP pilot projects from June 2010- June 2011. In 2012 DVP worked with project partners to develop a best practices guidebook, and screening tools, as well as cross trained Colorado Works/TANF staff and domestic violence workers.

Family Violence Option Training

A key function of DVP is to provide training on domestic violence issues to state and county staff. For seven years DVP has been delivering the mandatory one-day Family Violence Option (FVO) training to Colorado Works staff throughout Colorado. This training presents practical ways county staff can help survivors and their families increase their safety and self-sufficiency. To increase collaboration and information sharing across disciplines, domestic violence program staff members are also invited to attend. During 2012, DVP provided six trainings to more than 132 county and community stakeholders.

Governance

DVP operates under the guidance of two committees: 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 DVP. Membership in 2012 included:

- Mary Clair, CDHS – Child Support Enforcement
- Adam Evans, Project PAVE
- Cassie Haberler, Safehouse Denver
- Elizabeth Kelly, CDHS – Aging and Adult Services
- Kenya Lyons, CDPS – Division of Criminal Justice
- Alisa Marlatt, CDHS – Division of Child Welfare
- Janet Mickish, CDHS – Colorado Works
- Lotte Muster, A Woman's Place
- Denise Washington, CCADV
- Betty Wytias, Colorado Attorney General's Office



The **DVP Funding Recommendation Committee** is responsible for reviewing all application for funding and making recommendations to CDHS for distribution of funds. Membership in 2012 included:

- Mary Patricia Bowen, Park County Sheriff's Office
- Shannon Breitzman, CDPHE – Injury, Suicide and Violence Prevention Unit
- Mary Clair, CDHS – Child Support Enforcement
- Rob Gallup, CDPS – Office for Victim Programs, Division of Criminal Justice
- Patricia A. Garcia, Denver Department of Human Services – GiVE Denver Center
- Denise Kay, Employment Practices Solutions, Inc. and Colorado Bar Association – Domestic Violence: Make it Your Business Program
- Alisa Marlatt, CDHS – Division of Child Welfare Services
- Jean McAllister, CDHS – Colorado Commission for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, Division of Boards and Commissions
- Nancy Olson, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Judy Page, Attorney General's Office
- Ruth Ann Russell, Former CEO, Family Tree, Inc.
- Lisa Teesch-Maguire, Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center
- Ronnie Weiss, The Conflict Center

DVP would like to thank members of the Advisory and Funding Recommendation Committees for their time and dedication to the issue of domestic violence. We are truly appreciative of the level of commitment that each member brings to the issue of domestic violence and for the wealth of knowledge represented within each of these groups. The numerous hours put in by each of these committees ensures that we are also doing our best for domestic violence programs across the state and, ultimately, for the citizens of Colorado.

For information or to obtain additional copies of this report, contact:

Chelsea Baldwin
Colorado Department of Human Services
Domestic Violence Program
1575 Sherman Street, 3rd Floor
Denver, CO 80203
303-866-3408
Chelsea.Baldwin@state.co.us



INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

CONTACT

Domestic Violence Program (DVP)

Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families

1575 Sherman Street, 3rd Floor

Denver, CO 80203

(303) 866-3150

DVP

www.colorado.gov/cdhs/dvp

Domestic Abuse Fund

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

