



COLORADO
Office of Children,
Youth & Families
Domestic Violence Program

Annual Report

Acknowledgements

The Domestic Violence Program (DVP) located in the Colorado Department of Human Services, would like to thank all staff working in community-based domestic violence programs throughout the state of Colorado for their tireless efforts to assist survivors and their families. Quotations provided in this report are verbatim responses from these programs and the survivors who received support.

DVP also acknowledges the wonderful community members and program staff who volunteer their time to participate on the DVP Advisory and Funding Recommendation Committees to ensure transparency, equity and accountability.

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Introduction

The Domestic Violence Program (DVP) provides funding for community-based domestic violence programs 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 community education on the impact that domestic violence has on the lives of survivors and their families.

The Domestic Violence Program 2015 Annual Report includes data collected from community-based programs that received funding from DVP during the period October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015. DVP collects and reports data such as the type of services survivors received, how many survivors received services, and the outcomes related to these services.

Beyond funding domestic violence programs, DVP strives to collaborate with allied professionals to make available the best possible interventions for survivors 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 foster a Colorado free of domestic violence. This report highlights the work of domestic violence programs funded by DVP as well as the work done by DVP in the past year.

Colorado Department of Human Services Domestic Violence Program

In 1983, the Colorado General Assembly created the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) (formerly the Domestic Abuse Assistance Program). 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.

Funding Sources

DVP funding is a compilation of five diverse sources which is pooled and distributed through a grant application process to Colorado's domestic violence programs. These sources include:

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 survivors of family violence and their dependents.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Starting in 2004, the Colorado Legislature allocated additional funding for domestic violence services through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund

Colorado taxpayers elect to make donations through their state income tax refunds to the Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund beginning in 1983. Each year, DVP distributes these funds to support domestic violence programs.

Marriage and Civil Union Licenses and Divorce Filing Fees

Beginning in 2009, \$20 of the fees collected from marriage licenses and \$5 from each divorce filing are directed to DVP for distribution to domestic violence programs.

Heirloom Marriage Certificates

In 2008, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) began issuing heirloom marriage certificates. \$10 of the \$50 fee for each heirloom certificate issued is collected by DVP.

Governance of DVP

DVP is governed by two separate committees; the Advisory Committee and the Funding Recommendation Committee.

2015 Advisory Committee

The DVP Advisory Committee provides an interdisciplinary approach to guide policy, planning, and resource development, as directed by DVP Rule. Membership in 2015 is listed in the table below.

Member Name	Affiliation
Mary Clair	Colorado Department of Human Services, Child Support Services
Randi Bretz	Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Performance and Strategic Outcomes
Kenya Lyons	Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice
Debbie Kasyon	Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice
Cheryl Davis	Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice
Amy Miller	Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Linda Loflin Pettit	Denver City Attorney's Office
Deb Bittner	Family Tree, Inc.
Adam Evans	Project PAVE, Inc.
Natalie Hicks	Safehouse Denver, Inc.

2015 Funding Recommendation Committee

The Funding Recommendation Committee is responsible for establishing an equitable process to award funding and making recommendations to CDHS for distribution of funds. Membership for 2015 is listed in the table below.

Member Name	Affiliation
Debbie Kasyon	Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice
Amy Miller	Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Ruth Ann Russell	Consultant
John Cogley	Offender Treatment Provider
Brie Atkins	Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Tomei Kuehl	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Sexual Violence Prevention Unit
Tina Hageman	University of Denver

DVP Activities

Launch of the Client Assessment, File & Event (CAFE) Management System

With input from funded programs across the state, DVP worked with Vertiba, a database developer, to create a system with two purposes: 1) to provide DVP with a contract management system to track all funded program activities such as contracts awarded, monthly and quarterly data, expense reimbursement, and compliance; and 2) to provide a client relationship management system for funded programs to track information such as clients served, assessments completed, contacts with clients, community presentations, and volunteer activities. DVP launched the CAFE with funded programs in 2015.

Site Visits

DVP conducted six site visits of the 46 funded programs (shown below). These site visits 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.

“The Site Visit really helped [us] to be sure our organization was on track with everything which is very important! [It] feels good that our organization is up to date with policies/practices [and we] also have a better tracking system with victims/services and funding.”
 - DVP Funded Program

Site Visits Conducted in 2015

Program Name	Counties Served
Arkansas Valley Resource Center	Otero, Bent, and Crowley
Asian Pacific Development Center	Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, and Jefferson
Deaf Overcoming Violence Through Empowerment (DOVE)	Statewide
Project PAVE	Denver
Servicios De La Raza	Denver
Survivors Organizing for Liberation (formerly the Colorado Anti-Violence Program)	Statewide

DVP and Our State Level Collaborations

State Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

The State Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is a statewide initiative with a goal of working collaboratively within state government agencies to coordinate existing state domestic violence-related policies and initiatives such as offender and survivor issues, identification of gaps, shared ideas, and improved communication between departments. In 2015, the DVCC disseminated an updated Domestic Violence Tool-Kit for State employees that identified resources for supervisors, co-workers and others to support survivors of domestic violence.

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 share information and collaborate to ensure that domestic violence programs are efficiently and effectively provided with essential, current and timely information.

Colorado Parent Employment Project

The national Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) has provided funding to child support agencies in eight states to link noncustodial parents struggling with paying child support with employment and case management services. As part of this demonstration project, the Colorado Department of Human Services Child Support Services Division (CSS) developed the Colorado Parent Employment Project (CO-PEP) in 2013. In 2015, DVP has continued to collaborate with CSS and provided CO-PEP managers and caseworkers with knowledge and tools regarding how to recognize and intervene in cases or issues of domestic violence.

Training and Technical Assistance

DVP-funded programs have access to various training and technical assistance resources to support their efforts to empower survivors of domestic violence and raise awareness of domestic violence in Colorado. In 2015 DVP funded two training and technical assistance projects:

Vital Project

Two programs came together to form the Vital Project - Mission Spark, LLC and the Center on Domestic Violence at the University of Colorado, Denver. The purpose of the Vital Project was to build domestic violence program management and operational capacity through technical assistance and professional development opportunities designed to meet the current and emerging needs of local programs. An array of delivery methods were offered including online toolkits, in-person specialized technical assistance, and webinars.

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The mission of CCADV is to inspire Colorado to end domestic violence. CCADV provides training and technical assistance to their member domestic violence programs across the state, creates change at the state and local level through our collective voice, and engages all Coloradans in the work to end violence. Two CCADV projects that were supported included the New Executive Directors Orientation and Trauma-Informed Care Learning Circle.

The New Executive Directors Orientation was developed to help new Executive Directors in domestic violence community-based organizations to connect with the work, the coalition, and



peers. Topics for this training included board development, fiscal responsibility, and building collaborations.

In order to promote trauma-informed care (TIC) practices throughout the state, as TIC has been identified as a best practice

2015 Training and Technical Assistance Highlights

36 individual programs accessed free technical assistance and training by Vital Project and CCADV.

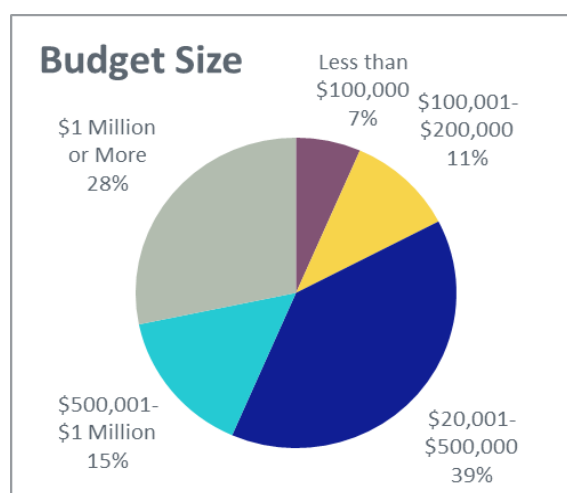
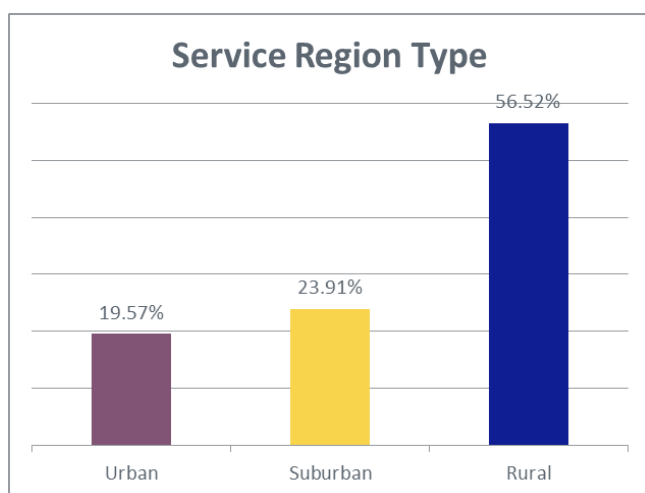
“One program has undergone major shifts in board make up and resolving conflict, and this has helped free up the organization to grow, develop strategic direction and maintain their executive director. **The work has had very significant impact on their outcomes for the year, the stability of the organization and the scope of their work.**”

for effective work with survivors of domestic violence and their children, CCADV developed a Learning Circle to implement the Seeking Safety curriculum (a TIC model). This allowed for program access to the curriculum and in-person training with opportunities to dialogue with other participating programs during implementation.

Domestic Violence Services in Colorado

Profile of Funded Programs

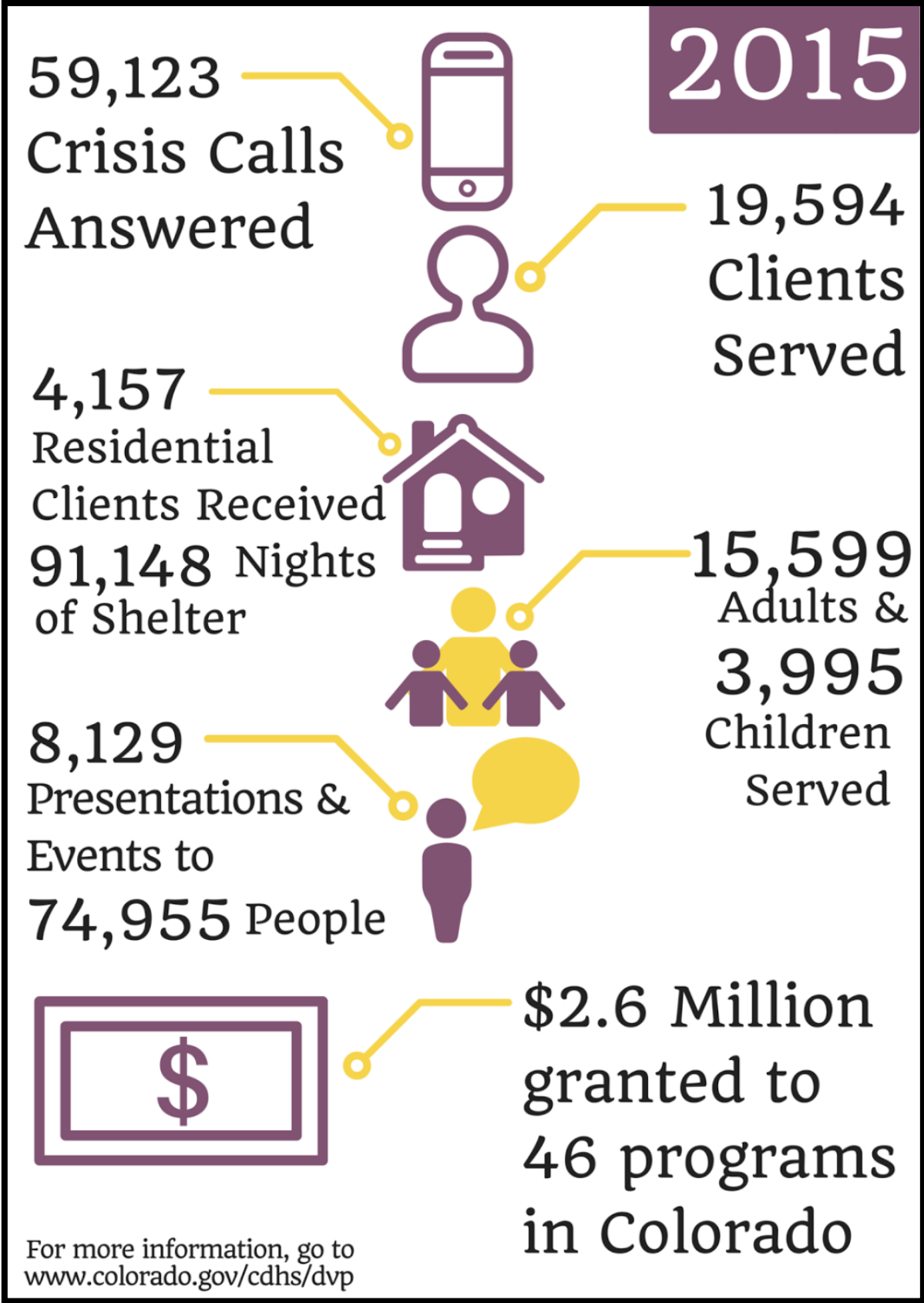
DVP funded 46 community-based programs in 2015 throughout Colorado. The Service Region Type graph shows the breakdown by program location. The Budget Size graph depicts the size of the total budget of the organization (not the amount of DVP funding for the organization).



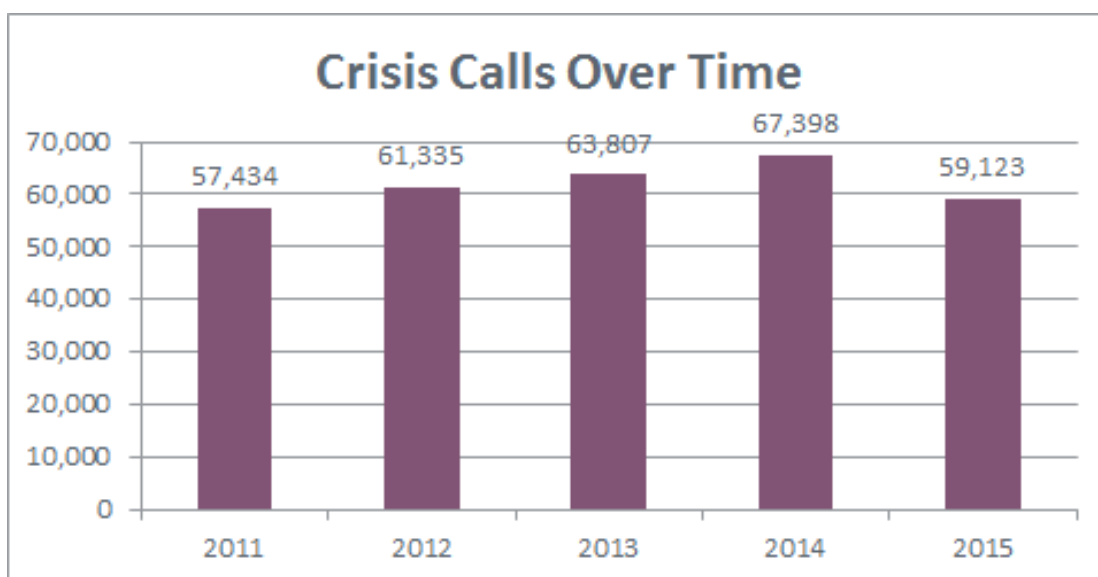
General Services

All DVP-funded programs provide confidential services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via crisis lines or maintain a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate services with other DVP-funded programs to do so. DVP-funded programs also offer supportive services to survivors in crisis as well as those in need of long-term support. These services include safety planning, support groups, counseling, case management, transportation, and information and referrals.



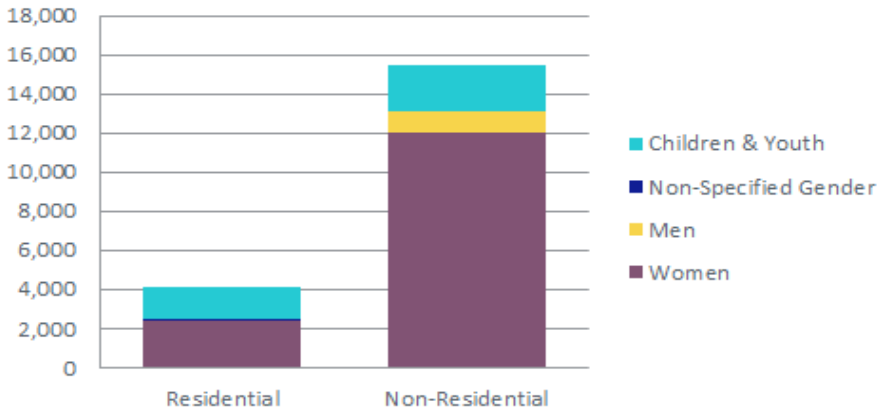


- Crisis Intervention Hotlines answered **59,123** crisis calls;
- Residential Services provided **91,148** nights of shelter to **2,473** adults and **1,684** children;
- **115,329** Advocacy & Supportive Services & Individual Counseling contacts and **23,755** Group Counseling contacts for **19,594** adults and children;
- Children Programs provided residential and non-residential services to **3,995** children;
- Youth Services provided direct teen dating violence advocacy services to **200** youth;
- **1,516** presentations to **28,240** youth in schools and other settings;
- **1,596** Community Education Presentations for **46,715** attendees;
- **5,017** Domestic Violence Awareness Events throughout the state; and,
- Volunteer Programs with **1,986** volunteers providing **232,876** volunteer hours.



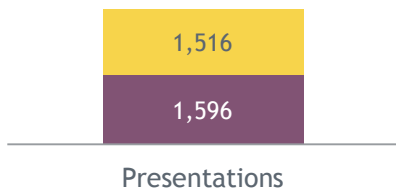
“To blossom has been the greatest accomplishment of my life so far...I was a victim of domestic violence. My children were victims of the abuse and addiction that was the foundation of our home... I had the courage to leave. Every week Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) provided counselors for my children and me to process with, to grow new ways of looking at life, and healthy coping skills... To be honest, I still have more blossoming to do. And I can’t wait.” - Client at Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence, Boulder County

Clients by Residential Type in 2015



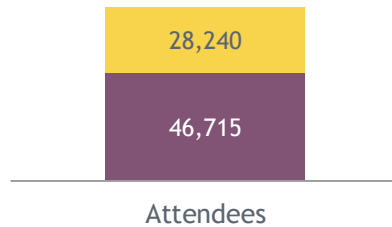
Type of Presentations

- Youth-Targeted
- General Community Education



Attendees by Type of Presentation

- Youth-Targeted
- General Community Education



DVP-Funded Program Numbers Served

Below is a list of programs that were funded in 2015. The numbers shown are what was reported to DVP via quarterly reports. It is important to note that not all clients come into services via the crisis line and not all clients that call the crisis lines in order to come into the program in person. The information below is a very brief snapshot of the work being done by each program.

"I want to thank you all for really saving my life with this safe place to stay and your support and guidance from a situation in my life which could have ended very differently. You are all so wonderful and hardworking and I am blessed that I got the support to find you and this house and recover and renew in a good way. Thank you all!!!"
 - Client at Latimer House, Mesa County

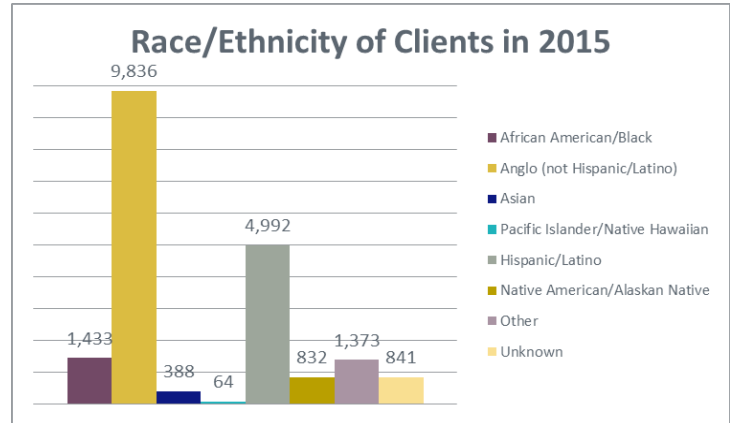
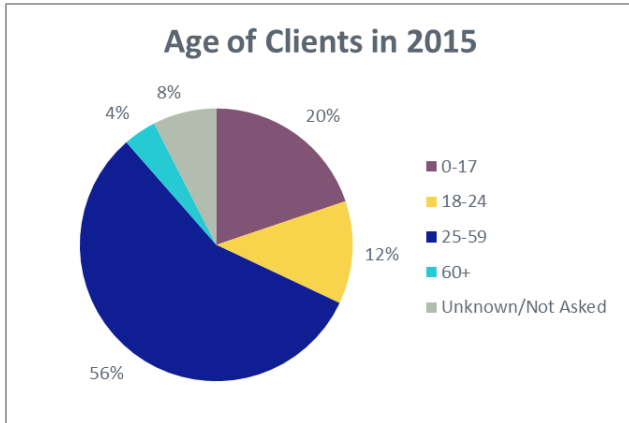
"What the SMRC gave me no one can destroy or take away. Thank you for helping me build my confidence and strength. I was a scared little chicken when I walked thru your doors and now I am out conquering my dreams and making a world for myself full of peace and happiness."
 - Client at San Miguel Resource Center, San Miguel County

Domestic Violence Program Annual Report **2015**

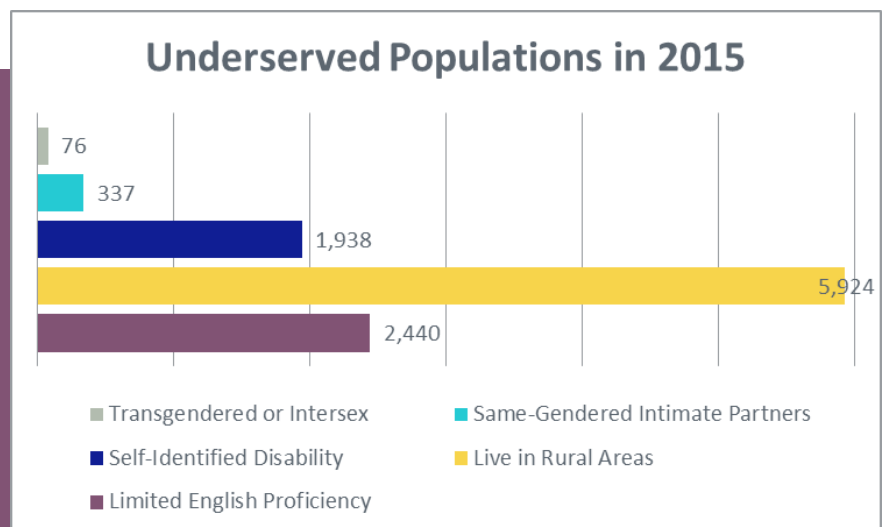
Program Name	County	Crisis Calls	Total Clients Served
A Woman's Place, Inc.	Weld	684	512
Advocate Safehouse Project	Garfield	260	391
Advocates Against Domestic Assault	Las Animas	340	238
Advocates Building Peaceful Communities	Routt	253	214
Advocates Crisis Support Services	Moffat	204	125
Advocates for Victims of Assault, Inc	Summit	352	264
Advocates of Lake County	Lake	202	203
Advocates Victim Assistance Team	Grand	62	137
Alliance Against Domestic Abuse	Chaffee	172	166
Alternative Horizons	La Plata	327	511
Alternatives to Violence	Larimer	264	459
Archuleta County Victims Assistance	Archuleta	97	213
Arkansas Valley Resource Center	Otero	564	232
Asian Pacific Development Center	Denver	3	155
Bright Future Foundation	Eagle	217	308
Center on Domestic Violence, Phoenix Center at Auraria	Denver	78	72
Clear Creek County Advocates	Clear Creek	124	257
Colorado Anti-Violence Program	Denver	93	60
Crisis Center	Douglas	3,555	883
Crossroads Safehouse, Inc	Larimer	1,072	1,511
Deaf Overcoming Violence through Empowerment	Denver	107	133
Denver Center for Crime Victims	Denver	326	363
Domestic Violence Initiative	Denver	2,901	308
Estes Valley Victim Advocates	Larimer	125	398
Family Crisis Services, Inc.	Fremont	583	330
Family Tree, Inc.	Jefferson	4,979	1,043
Gateway Battered Women's Services	Arapahoe	5,656	2,096
Help For Abused Partners	Logan	118	315
Latimer House, Hilltop Health Services	Mesa	3,690	580
PeaceWorks, Inc.	Park	311	147
Project Hope of Gunnison Valley	Gunnison	144	118
Project PAVE	Denver	13	184
Project Safeguard	Denver	2,965	1,984
Renew, Inc.	Montezuma	390	529
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley	Boulder	1,469	508
SafeHouse Denver, Inc.	Denver	16,674	756
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence	Boulder	9,316	1,939
San Miguel Resource Center	San Miguel	207	178
Servicios de La Raza	Denver	50	406
S.H.A.R.E., Inc.	Morgan	176	368
TESSA	El Paso	2,308	1,945
Tri-County Resources, Hilltop Health Services	Montrose	2,227	299
Tu Casa, Inc.	Alamosa	230	357
Volunteers of America, Southwest Safehouse	La Plata	1,687	219
Wellness Foundation	Lincoln	230	54
YWCA Domestic Violence Services	Pueblo	1,289	458
	TOTALS	59,123	19,594

Demographics of Survivors in DVP-Funded Programs

Domestic violence impacts all communities in a variety of ways. Domestic violence does not discriminate - people from any geographic location, ethnicity, race, age group, socioeconomic status, education level, country of origin, sexual orientation, or gender can experience abuse. Graph 3 and 4 illustrate the diversity of survivors touched by domestic violence that sought and received services by DVP-funded programs.



DVP-funded programs provide services for a variety of underserved populations. Some struggle with the English language, live in a rural area, or identify as living with a disability. Survivors may also identify as gay, lesbian, transgendered, or intersex. Graph 5 indicates the number of survivors who received services who identify as one (or more) of these underserved populations.



Strong Collaborations, Unique Initiatives

Domestic Violence programs throughout the state are dedicated to providing relevant and innovative strategies to meet the growing and changing needs of survivors in their communities. This includes strong collaborations and unique initiatives by programs and the communities that help strengthen services for survivors.

Strong Community Collaborations

Collaborative Research Program

“Project Hope and Western State Colorado University are initiating discussions on how to create a research collaborative program that will allow students of the university to perform research that is requested by local service organizations. This program is called Community Advocates & Schools Promoting Education & Research (C.A.S.P.E.R.). The research performed by students in this program will allow us and other service organizations in the valley to have access to local data, which will be beneficial for awareness presentations, grant support, and identifying gaps in services.”

- *Project Hope of Gunnison Valley, Gunnison County*

Housing Initiative

“The Crisis Center is involved with Douglas County Cares, a community partnership aimed at assisting individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless. The partners in this collaboration include Crisis Center, Catholic Charities, Douglas County Youth Initiative, Douglas County Housing Partnership and Douglas County Community Development. As a result of this collaboration, several clients from the Crisis Center have benefited from this program by receiving housing assistance (rental/mortgage assistance), transportation assistance, and/or education or trade certifications, as well as on-going case management services.”

- *Crisis Center, Douglas County*

Unique Initiatives

Youth Prevention

“Advocate Safehouse Project is continuing to focus on introducing “Coaching Boys Into Men” (CBIM) to the Garfield County athletic community. CBIM is an evidence-based program facilitated by coaches to players in a high school setting. It involves a 15-minute conversation once a week with the players. This program has been proven to increase bystander intervention with strong support to increase respect and equality in teen dating relationships. Because there was limited success with the CBIM in the Glenwood Springs High School, ASP is now reaching out to other schools and groups in Garfield County.”

- *Advocate Safehouse Project, Garfield County*

Transgender
Inclusive
Shelter
Collaboration

“In 2014/15 SPAN launched the Boulder County Transgender Inclusive Shelter Collaboration Project, working in partnership with Colorado Anti Violence Project. With funding from The Open Door Fund, SPAN organized two full-day Trans*Inclusive Trainings and a half-day “train the trainer” workshop for program staff... Members of the collaboration continue to meet quarterly to share progress on implementing transgender inclusive policies and practices in their shelter programs and services.”

- *Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence, Boulder County*

Yoga Therapy

“In 2015, A Woman’s Place began a yoga therapy program at the shelter. Studies continue to show that the ongoing effects of trauma on the brain in the central nervous system are much more intensive than many realize... Emerging science has begun to explore the positive effects of yoga or other physical activities that can reduce the ongoing unhealthy endorphin release in the central nervous system. After reaching out to the community, AWP received an overwhelming donation of yoga mats and materials. An instructor volunteers her time once a week at the shelter to teach domestic violence victims and their children beginning yoga techniques. This class has been very popular. We encourage residents to continue this stress reducing technique and gladly give them mats to keep when they leave shelter.”

- *A Woman’s Place, Weld County*

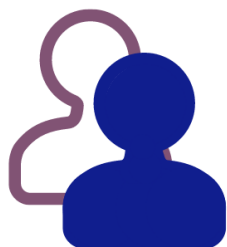
Increasing Needs, Limited Resources

Each year, programs respond to a series of narrative questions put forth by DVP. The information provided gives insight into trends, needs and issues facing programs across the state. This year, the most identified needs recognized by DVP-funded programs included the need for safe, supportive and affordable housing; lack of services for survivors with mental health issues; and transportation. Additionally, DVP collects information regarding unmet requests for shelter to better understand the reasons why a person may be seeking services and what other services may be needed in the community.



Lack of Safe, Supportive and Affordable Housing

Of the 46 funded programs, 61 percent indicated that their community has a pressing need for safe, supportive and affordable housing for survivors and their children. This includes the need for transitional housing, Section 8 housing, and other long-term housing options.



Lack of Affordable Mental Health Services

Often, survivors have challenges with a variety of pre-existing or developing mental health issues. Approximately 30 percent of programs identified the need for affordable mental health services in their community. DVP continues to seek ways to best support these services and work with community partners to fill gaps in services for survivors and their families.

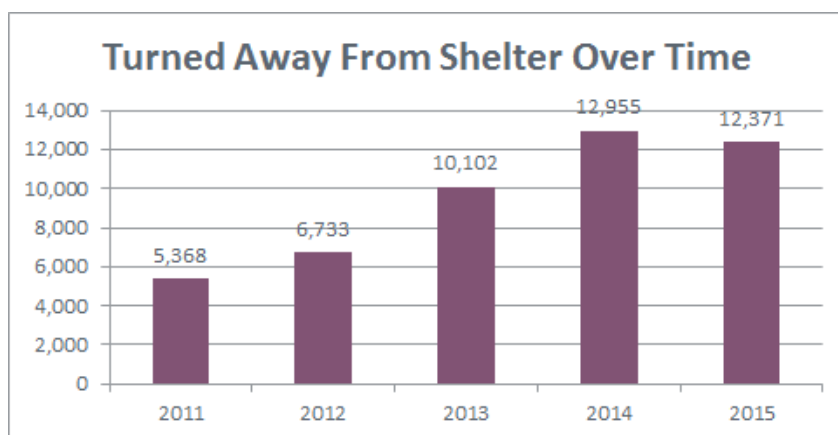


Transportation

Access to transportation is a necessity for a survivor to access community resources and plan for safety. More than 24 percent of programs indicated that there is a significant lack of transportation in their community. Transportation can help a survivor look for employment, take children to child care facilities, attend health appointments, and create a sense of independence and self-sufficiency.

Unmet Requests for Shelter

There were **12,371** individuals who were turned away from shelters in 2015 due to lack of capacity. This was a 4.5% percent decrease from the previous year. All residential programs refer individuals and families to other services if they are unable to accommodate in the shelter including providing motel vouchers and referring to other domestic violence programs.



Other Unmet Needs

While housing, mental health services, and transportation were the most commonly identified unmet needs; DVP-funded programs also identified the following as significant needs in their community:

- Access to Legal Services
- Employment
- Medical Services and Health Care
- Child Care
- Geographical Isolation
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Services for Immigrants and Refugees
- Language Services
- Services for Human Trafficking Survivors

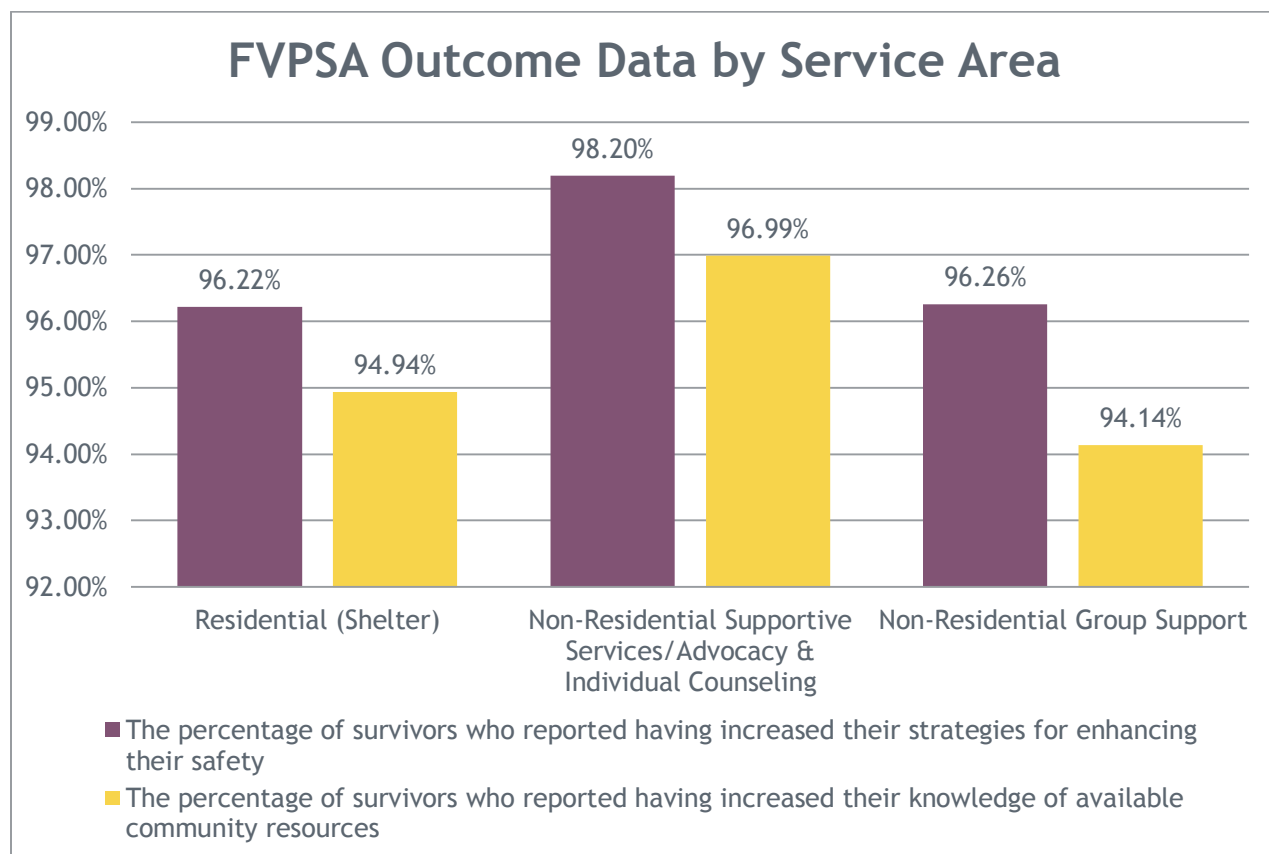
DVP continues to seek ways to best support programs and work with community partners to fill gaps in services for survivors and their families.

Impact of the Work: Outcome Measures

2015 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Outcomes

DVP-funded programs tracked two specific outcome measures to evaluate the impact their services had on the lives of survivors. These outcomes measurements are driven by requirements from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). Domestic violence programs randomly sample survivors and ask them to evaluate their experiences with shelter, advocacy and supportive services, individual counseling, and group counseling. Survivors 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 survivors. A minimum target of 65 percent positive response was established by FVPSA as a goal. Through its performance management strategy, C-Stat, CDHS set a goal of 90 percent for DVP-funded programs as programs have consistently exceeded the FVPSA goal over the years.



Other Outcomes

In addition to the two federally-required outcomes, funded programs were also required to identify clients' immediate needs and provide information. The graph below shows the work of funded programs on this new outcome measure of Timeliness of Assessment. Timeliness of Assessment is defined as the client receiving a risk and/or needs assessment within the first seven days of service. Overall in 2015, 74 percent of new clients were assessed for risks and/or needs within the first seven days of starting services with the program.

