



Domestic Abuse Program Report

Federal Fiscal Year 2018

(October 1, 2017—September 30, 2018)

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) Domestic Abuse Program administers state and federal funding dedicated to providing emergency shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence and their families. The goals of the DCF Domestic Abuse Program are:

- Provide accessible, trauma-sensitive, culturally-responsive crisis, safety and support services for victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their children
- Educate the community about issues related to domestic abuse
- Promote a coordinated community response to domestic abuse
- Promote the social change necessary to end domestic abuse

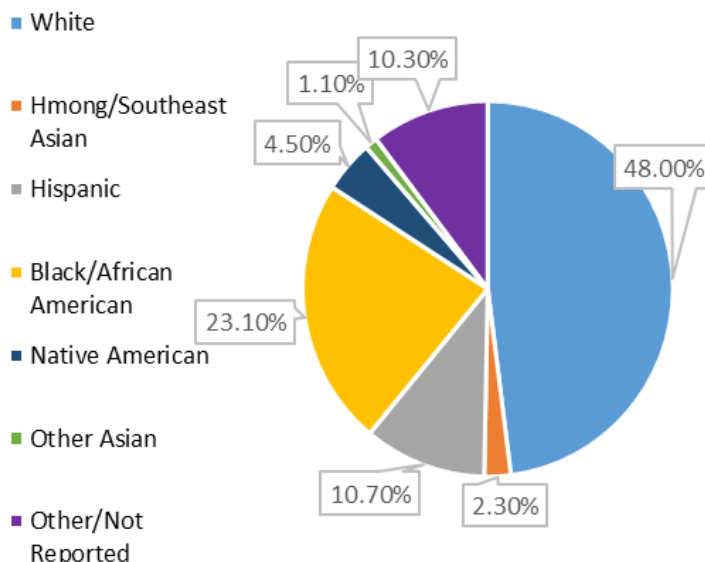
Domestic Abuse services are available in all 72 counties and 11 federally-recognized tribes in Wisconsin.



DCF contracts with 62 nonprofit agencies, 1 county agency, and 11 federally-recognized tribes to provide services.

Who receives domestic abuse services in Wisconsin?

Persons Served by Race/Ethnicity



Total Persons Served42,501

Persons Served through Community-based Services.....35,361

Persons Served through Shelter Services.....7,140

23% of clients served by Wisconsin Domestic Violence programs are under the age of 18.

Children's services are designed for children exposed to domestic violence and include individual and group-based education/counseling and shelter services. Support and advocacy services are also provided to victims/survivors of teen dating violence.



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Services of Domestic Abuse Programs

All domestic abuse programs that receive a Basic Services grant provide the below core services. All services are completely confidential, voluntary, and free of cost. **In FFY 2018, these community-based services reached 35,361 children and adults.**



1. 24-Hour Crisis Line: Programs provide or contract for immediate, live access to trained staff or volunteers on a crisis hotline so that victims have access to assistance any day, any time. In FFY 2018, Wisconsin domestic violence programs received 119,838 crisis line calls.



2. Information, Referral and Follow-up Services: Programs have linkages and provides information and referral to community resources for those services which are needed and requested by victims, but not provided directly by the program.



3. Advocacy and Counseling: Programs provide survivor-driven information, support, assistance, accompaniment, and intervention. These services may include individual support and safety planning, support groups, legal advocacy, and/or individual therapy.

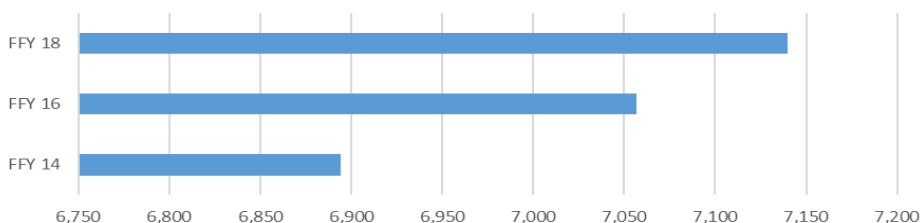


4. Community Education: Programs educate individuals and organizations about issues surrounding domestic abuse. Many programs provide education to youth of all ages through programming in schools. Community education may include information about available services, information about domestic abuse, prevention of domestic abuse, and the need for social change. In FFY 2018, Wisconsin domestic violence program provided 5,515 presentations for community education purposes. These presentations reached 69,768 adults and 93,683 youth.

Domestic Abuse Shelter Services

Many domestic abuse programs also provide residential or shelter services for victims of domestic abuse and their families. If residential services are being provided, the programs also provide emergency transportation to shelter and arrange for the education of school-aged children.

Number of Persons Sheltered
Biannual Federal Fiscal Year



In FFY 2018, 24,373 requests for shelter went unfulfilled because the shelter was full.

As safe, affordable housing becomes more difficult to obtain, shelter stays are becoming longer.

Average Length of Stay in Shelter Programs is 38.8 nights
Length of Stay ranges from 15.8 nights to 82.6 nights



With the length of stay increasing, there are less available beds for victims in crisis.



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Domestic Abuse Prevention

In addition to supporting direct services for victims and their families, DCF also supports primary prevention efforts. Primary prevention seeks to reduce the likelihood that anyone will become a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence by addressing factors that contribute to the use of domination and violence. Youth-based primary prevention programs address topics such as: root causes, needed culture shifts, healthy relationships, and leadership development in youth.

Beginning in 2017, DCF partnered with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin to support a Statewide media campaign called Dare2Know (D2K). This campaign is focused on reaching teens and promoting healthy relationships with a goal of ending teen dating violence in Wisconsin.



Evaluating Program Impact

Outcomes of services are measured through confidential feedback surveys completed by survivors. In response to two questions answered by 10,047 survivors in the reporting period:

- 9,470 (94.2%) responded that as a result of receiving services, they know more ways to plan for their safety.
- 9,395 (93.5%) responded that as a result of receiving services, they know more about community resources.

Research has demonstrated that increasing survivors' knowledge of safety planning and community resources leads to their increased safety and well-being over time.

"I would like to say that at the time of my escape plan you all made it possible for me. With so little hope about how I would make things happen, you all made it easier for me. With no chance of ever looking back, you all have made it better for me and my kids and I can't thank you enough. Someone going through domestic violence just needs someone who understand and won't judge. I found that in all of you. Again, thanks. We appreciate all you have done for us."

- Domestic Abuse Survivor

For more information, please go to:

- <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/>
- End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, or need it translated to another language, please contact (608) 266-3400 or the Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) -711. For civil rights questions, call (608) 422-6889.