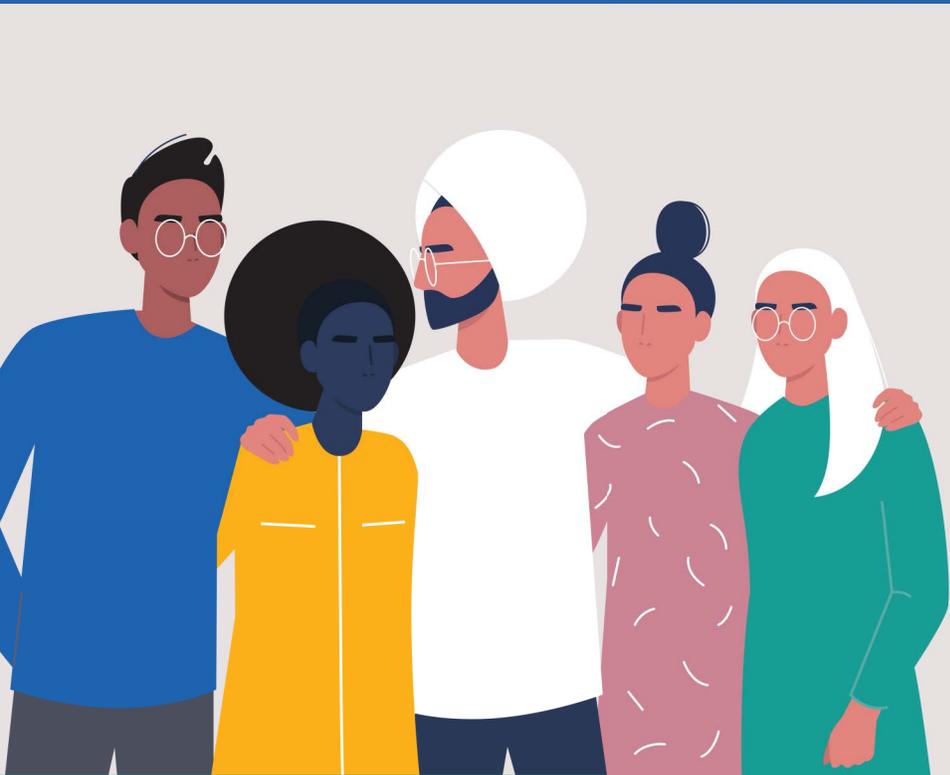


# Domestic Violence Grant Program Annual Report

*October 1, 2019 -  
September 30, 2020*



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families



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**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, and 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

DCF administers nearly \$13 million annually to local programs to provide core support services (described on page 6-7) as well as services to children and underrepresented groups including immigrants and refugees. Nearly \$1.9 million is also administered for prevention, training, and technical assistance.

DCF contracts with 62 non-profit agencies and 11 federally recognized tribes to ensure that domestic abuse services are available in all 72 counties and federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin.



## Shelter Services:

Wisconsin’s 42 domestic abuse shelters are located throughout the state and provide residential and support services for survivors and their children fleeing violence. Shelter programs also provide emergency transportation to the shelter and arrange for the education of school-aged children.

## Total People Sheltered 5,722



■ Women (3,128)    
 ■ Children (2,451)    
 ■ Men (103)    
 ■ Trans/Gender non-confirming (30)    
 ■ Unknown (10)

## Average Number of Nights Sheltered

This is the average stay for all persons receiving residential services. This is a slight increase from the previous reporting period.



# 39

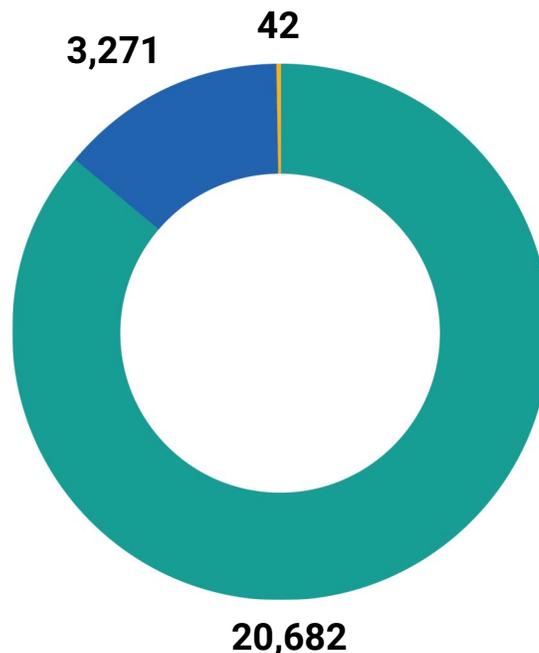
## Capacity Challenges

The demand for domestic abuse shelter services continues to outpace the availability of services throughout the state.

Number of requests for shelter that went unfilled due to shelter being full (no beds available)

Total adults sheltered

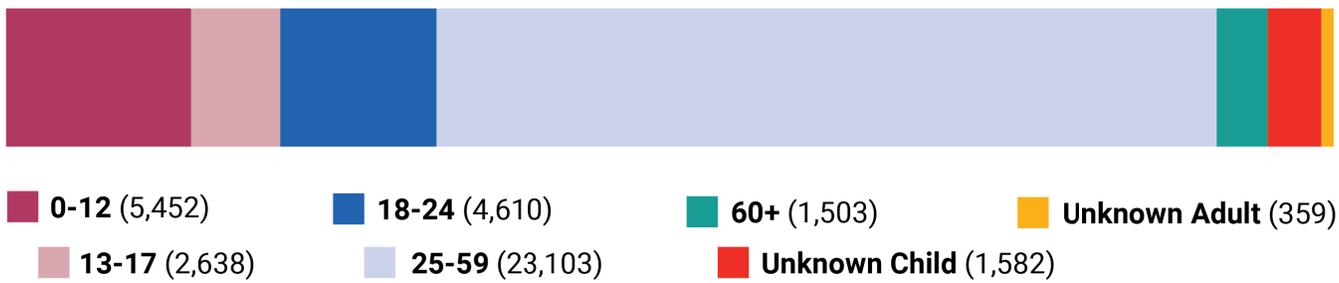
Number of programs that had to turn people away because shelter was full





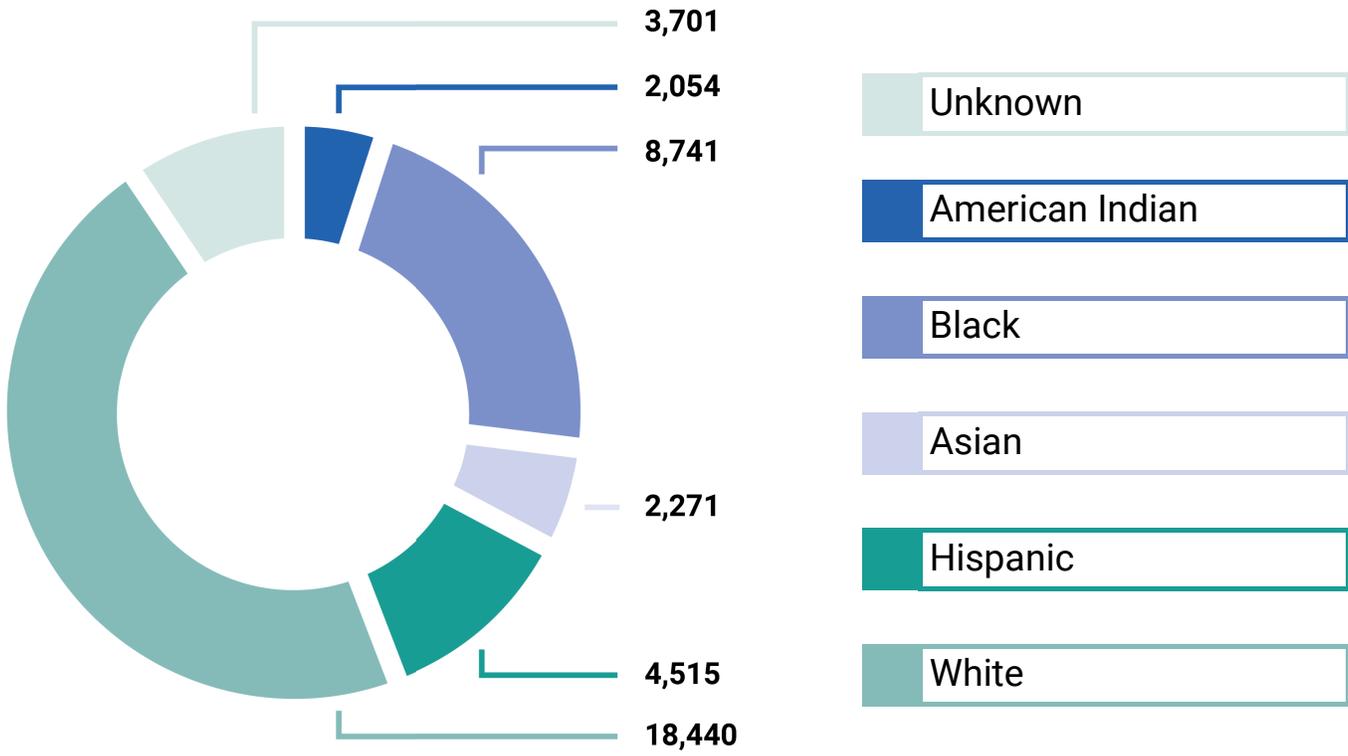
Individuals of all ages, races, and genders can be victims of domestic violence.

### Age Breakdown of All People Served (Residential and Community-Based)



Almost 22% of all people served by Wisconsin Domestic Violence Programs are under the age of 18. This number includes services for children exposed to domestic violence and services for survivors of teen dating violence.

### Racial/Ethnicity Breakdown of All Adults Served (Residential and Community-Based)





# Service Data

All domestic abuse programs that receive a basic services grant must provide the below core services. Services are completely confidential, voluntary, and free of cost.

### 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.

### Information, Referral and Follow-up Services:

Programs have linkages and provide information and referral to community resources for those services which are needed and requested by victims, but not provided directly by the program.

### 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.

*"I could not begin to put into words how much you have helped me over the years. I am so grateful for the very specific work you do."*  
*-Program Participant*

Number of Hotline Calls



**122,141**

Number of Survivors Receiving Crisis Intervention Services



**16,149**

2,622 children, 13,527 adults

Number of Survivors Receiving Victim Advocacy Services



**22,599**

3,327 children, 19,272 adults

Actions designed to help survivors obtain needed resources or services.

Number of Survivors Receiving Individual or Group Counseling



**18,042**

5,439 children, 12,603 adults

Individual or group counseling or support group provided by agency volunteer or staff.

Number of Survivors Receiving Legal Advocacy Services



**16,409**

Assisting victims with civil legal issues (applying for restraining orders, supporting victims during the hearing process) and all other aspects within the civil and criminal justice system.



### Community Education:

Programs educate individuals and organizations about issues surrounding domestic abuse. Community education may include information about available services, information about abuse, prevention of domestic abuse, and the need for social change. Many programs also provide education to youth of all ages through programming in schools.

### Presentations

**1,778** presentations reaching **39,887** adults

**2,456** presentations reaching **63,345** youth

### Evaluating Program Impact

Domestic abuse programs measure outcomes of services through confidential feedback surveys completed by survivors.

In response to two questions answered by **9,741** survivors in the reporting period:

**91.9%** survivors responded that as a result of receiving services, they know more ways to plan for their safety.

**95.1%** survivors 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.

Programs may also evaluate effectiveness by collecting information from survivors on achieving personal goals, having a better understanding of their rights and options, satisfaction with services, and feeling more hopeful about the future. Focus groups, advisory councils, and structured interviews are other ways programs connect directly with survivors to get feedback.

*"They cared for my son and me so much. I've never felt that before. They changed my life forever."*

*-Program Participant*



The Domestic Abuse Program supports statewide and local primary prevention activities to promote healthy, respectful, nonviolent relationships and reduce the likelihood that anyone will become a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence. In partnership with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, DCF supports prevention strategies including local youth programming, a Teen Ambassador Program, and a statewide media campaign.



- Youth-based primary prevention programs are offered by eight local domestic violence programs and youth-serving organizations throughout Wisconsin. These programs address topics relating to increasing knowledge of gender-based violence and healthy relationships, enhancing youth leadership skills, and increasing knowledge of bystander intervention and nonviolent conflict resolution.
- Teen Ambassador Program (TAP): TAP builds a strong community of teens that support one another in the movement to end teen dating violence. There are currently 128 participating youth from across the state.
- Dare 2 Know: A statewide media/social-marketing campaign that incorporates robust messages about the prevention of domestic and dating violence and the promotion of healthy, non-violent relationships. News and information can be found on the D2K website at [dare2knowwi.org](http://dare2knowwi.org).



To end the cycle of violence, domestic violence programs, along with the communities they serve, identify and implement innovative and promising practices. During the COVID-19 pandemic, everyday practices had to shift in order to promote survivor safety.

### **Virtual Services:**

Programs had to quickly adjust to new models of providing services – including options to work remotely and provide services via technology. In some circumstances, technology has eliminated some barriers to access that previously existed (transportation, busy schedules, needing child care, etc.). With technology, support groups, individual counseling, and legal assistance can more easily be provided to survivors who live anywhere in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, for some survivors, there are barriers to obtaining internet or capable technology that prevent them from being able to benefit from virtual services. In these situations, programs and advocates continue to meet needs while maintaining other safety precautions (wearing masks, maintaining social distance, etc.).

### **Communal Living:**

The risk of coronavirus in communal living environments remains significant, and yet, shelter is still being provided because without it many survivors and their families' lives would be at greater risk. Shelter programs have developed COVID-19 protocols including increased hygiene practices, maintaining social distance, and utilizing masks continues to help manage the risk of coronavirus.



### Education:

When schools have been closed due to COVID-19, domestic abuse programs have supported families to make sure educational needs are being met. Some shelter programs, increased staff to assist with virtual learning or have provided additional devices for children in shelter. Families were provided with funding to purchase any needed tools to make virtual learning a possibility.

### Basic Needs:

The strain brought on by COVID-19 and the aligned economic challenge only increases the risks and severity of abuse many survivors are experiencing. Survivors safety depends on basic needs being met, such as housing, food. Domestic abuse programs respond to requests for rental assistance, energy assistance, and food.

### Outreach:

Not everyone is safer at home. Programs had to work harder than ever to make sure survivors knew they were open and available to assist. Communicating confidentially with survivors when they were home with their abusers added complications to making sure that safety plans could be made and followed.

### CARES Act Supplemental Funding:

Through the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic security Act (CARES Act), Wisconsin received an additional \$610,664 in funds for domestic violence programs to be used to provide temporary housing, assistance, and supportive services to victims of domestic violence. All domestic violence agencies funded through DCF were awarded a portion of these funds.



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families

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