



# Domestic Abuse Program Report

## Federal Fiscal Year 2022

(October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022)

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 survivors 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

DCF administers nearly \$13 million annually to local programs to provide core support services (described on page 2) 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:

- 63 nonprofit agencies
- 11 federally-recognized tribes

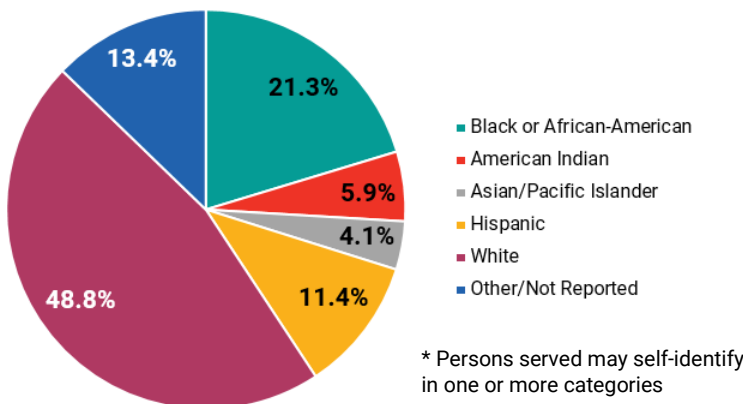
Domestic abuse services are available in all 72 counties and 11 federally-recognized tribes in Wisconsin.

## Domestic Violence Impacts All of Wisconsin

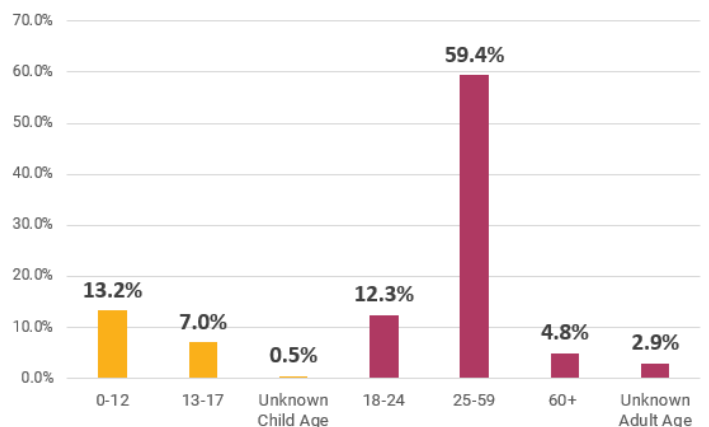
Local domestic violence programs provide lifesaving services to survivors and their children. The majority of individuals and families served receive community-based services such as advocacy, counseling, and legal support.

**People of all ages are impacted by domestic violence. In fact, almost 1 in 4 of clients served by Wisconsin’s Domestic Violence Programs are under the age of 18.**

Persons Served by Race/Ethnicity 2022



Persons Served by Age 2022



**20.7% of persons** served by domestic abuse programs are under the age of 18.

# Services of Domestic Abuse Programs

All domestic abuse programs that receive a Basic Services grant 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 survivors 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 survivors, 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.



**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 abuse, prevention of domestic abuse, and the need for social change.

## People Served in FFY 2022

People Served.....	38,221
Crisis Line Calls.....	100,923
Shelter Services.....	5,568
Counseling/Advocacy.....	40,493
Legal Advocacy.....	13,792
Community Education.....	4,589
<b>Presentations reached</b>	
.....	53,196 Youth
.....	54,809 Adults

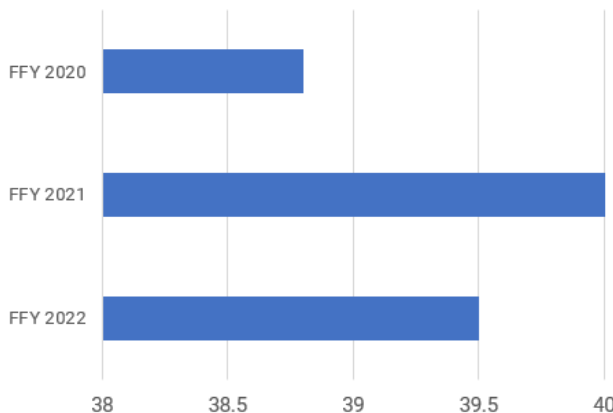
# Domestic Abuse Shelter Services

Wisconsin's 44 domestic abuse shelters are located throughout the state and provide residential and support services for survivors and their children fleeing violent homes. Shelter programs also provide emergency transportation to shelter and arrange for the education of school-aged children.



**5,568 people** received safe shelter in FFY 2022. **Over 42%** of those people were children and youth, most of which are under the age of 12.

Average Length of Stay (Nights)



**A total of 220,015 nights** of shelter were provided (17,021 more than the 2020-2021 reporting period).

**In FFY 2022, 16,744 requests for shelter went unfulfilled because the shelter was full.** This number reflects *adults only*.

Thirty-five shelter programs had to turn people away because shelter was full.

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

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

## Domestic Abuse Prevention



The Domestic Abuse Program advances primary prevention 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.

“I love love love that there were affinity spaces and such much centering of young BIPOC. This was honestly the most inclusive conference I have ever attended, in terms of attendees, speakers, and values. It was fantastic.”

-Teen Summit Participant

- Youth-based primary prevention programs are offered by local domestic violence programs and address topics such as: root causes, culture shifts, healthy relationships, and leadership.
- **Teen Ambassador Program (TAP):** TAP builds a strong community of teens that support one another in the movement to end teen dating violence. Representatives from the D2K Teen Ambassador Program Leadership Fellowship presented at the October Governor’s Council Award Ceremony for Outstanding Service in Domestic Abuse Issues.
- **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.
- **Statewide Teen Summit:** The Summit is the largest and most diverse event of Wisconsin’s domestic abuse movement, bringing youth, parents, educators, activists, and mentors from all over Wisconsin to learn about healthy relationships, teen dating violence, and sexual assault within a larger anti-oppression framework. The Teen Summit includes educational and enthusiastic plenary speakers, as well as topic-related workshops and performances and plenty of opportunities for teens to network with peers from around the state on a deeper level.

## Evaluating Program Impact

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

In response to two questions answered by 9,123 survivors in the reporting period:

- 8,673 (94.7%) survivors responded that as a result of receiving services, they know more ways to plan for their safety.
- 8,105 (88.8%) 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.

## Pilot Participants

In 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) received funding in Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to continue efforts to “prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19”. DCF reviewed stakeholder feedback, along with national research, and decided to utilize this funding to support a pilot Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) project.

In December 2021, DCF issued awards to nine domestic abuse agencies: Embrace (Ladysmith), Cia Siab (LaCrosse), The Family Center (Wisconsin Rapids), Safe Harbor (Sheboygan), Harbor House (Appleton), Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (Madison), The Women’s Community (Wausau), Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (Bayfield), Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth (Milwaukee).

Each pilot program was provided up to \$200,000 annually to provide services.

Additionally, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin was awarded the Training and Technical Assistance contract and the University of Wisconsin—Madison was named the evaluation team for the Pilot Project.

## Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) Program Model

DVHF is an evidence-based and trauma-informed practice that moves domestic violence survivors into safe, stable permanent housing as quickly as possible. Once housed, survivors have access to supportive, holistic advocacy resources to rebuild their lives. There are four key components of the DVHF model:

- Survivor-driven approach
- Trauma-informed and mobile services
- Flexible financial assistance
- Multifaceted community engagement

## Evaluation Team Report

The evaluation team spent Spring 2022 designing an evaluation, which included obtaining IRB approval and a National Institutes of Health Certificate of Confidentiality to protect participant data from subpoena. The evaluation team met individually with each of the nine sites to understand their unique clientele and operations based on their geographic location and connections to landlords and housing organizations within their community. During this meeting, sites were asked to review the client survey and provide feedback on whether there were additional constructs they would like to see assessed. Some highlights from the surveys include the following DV survivor quotes about the Housing First program:

*“I think a lot of women would leave their abuser if they knew there was help like I have received. it's been amazing what they have done for me and my family. Thank God for the casda...”*

*“Saved my life literally and helped me reunite with my kids.”*

*“They help me purchase safety bars for the windows.”*

*“I just want to thank you for giving me a home!”*

*“It was an unexpected blessing”*

For more information on the DCF Domestic Abuse Program, please go to:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/>

Find a listing of local programs at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin at:

<https://www.endabusewi.org>

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