



DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Colorado Works Division / Family Strengthening and Safety Section

2006 REPORT



The Domestic Abuse Assistance Program
1575 Sherman St. 3rd Floor
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-5488 www.domesticabusefund.org

OVERVIEW

In 1983, the Colorado General Assembly created the *DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DAAP)*, located in the Colorado Department of Human (Social) Services (CDHS). The legislation created a voluntary check-off on Colorado individual income tax forms (Domestic Abuse Fund) to “encourage the development and maintenance of domestic abuse programs by non-governmental agencies and units of local government.”

Currently, DAAP is the sole government entity in the State of Colorado dedicated entirely to funding and sustaining community-based domestic abuse programs across the state. DAAP ensures that services to victims of domestic abuse and their children are readily available and creates programmatic standards to ensure community accountability. Programs also provide direct services to victims in traditionally underserved areas and populations.

PURPOSE

DAAP develops required reports, analyzes data, and determines service provision changes based on input from local program data, the DAAP Advisory Committee, and other entities as appropriate. Staff conducts monitoring and compliance functions to ensure funding and program requirements are met and level of service provision is optimum. DAAP is solely responsible for the compilation and assessment of all domestic statistics for funded programs within Colorado.

DAAP staff serves as the state lead on domestic violence issues. As such, DAAP works collaboratively with other State and CDHS programs, counties, and other non-governmental agencies to develop state domestic violence policy, address legislative issues, and measure the effectiveness and quality of domestic violence programs.

DAAP has a strong collaborative relationship with the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence to develop, plan, and deliver training for local programs and other related projects.

FUNDS

DAAP is a compilation of three different funding sources that are pooled to distribute to domestic abuse programs across Colorado. Funding has remained nearly stable for the past three years, while at the same time, many programs face an increase in demand for their services.

Domestic Abuse Fund (www.domesticabusefund.org)

Colorado taxpayers elect to make donations through their state income tax return refunds to the Domestic Abuse Fund. The first tax return donations for DAAP were collected from the 1983 income tax year. Each year, DAAP distributes the funds to community-based domestic abuse programs. No other state funding is available for domestic abuse services.

FVPSA

In 1985, the Federal Congress approved the FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA), appropriating monies to each state. Colorado determined that the monies would be distributed by the DAAP. Colorado received its first allocation in 1986. All FVPSA funds go directly to community-based domestic violence programs and provide training and education for workers in domestic violence programs across Colorado. These funds are intended to provide shelter for victims and their children, as well as other services that enhance safety.



TANF

To meet the increased need for domestic abuse services in Colorado, additional funding for DAAP was secured in 2001 through TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) monies. In addition, in 2004, DAAP also relocated within CDHS to the Colorado Works program, having previously been located in Child Welfare Services.

Though not currently receiving state general fund dollars, DAAP received funding for two years, 2001 - 2003. This funding was eliminated because of the subsequent budget shortfall and has yet to be restored.

LOCAL PROGRAMS

In 2006, DAAP administered funds and provided oversight to 41 local domestic abuse programs. These programs are statewide and represent the majority of domestic violence programs in Colorado. These local programs provide crisis intervention, advocacy, prevention, and various support and skill building to assist victims in re-stabilizing their lives, as well as prevention through community education. Local programs funded by DAAP represent rural and urban, shelter and non-shelter, and general and specialized services. This report documents the services provided by these domestic abuse programs.

2006 DAAP FUNDED PROGRAMS & CRISIS NUMBERS

A Woman's Place - Greeley (970) 356-4226	Alternative Horizons Corporation - Durango (970) 247-9619
Abusive Men Exploring New Directions (AMEND) - Denver (303) 832-6363	Alternatives to Family Violence - Commerce City (303) 289-4441
Advocate Safe House Project - Glenwood Springs (970) 945-2632	Alternatives to Violence - Loveland (970) 669-5150
Advocates - Crisis Support Services - Craig (970) 824-2400	Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program - Pagosa Springs (970) 264-9075
Advocates - Victim Assistance Team - Hot Sulphur Springs (970) 725-3412	Arkansas Valley Resource Center - La Junta (719) 384-7764
Advocates Against Battering and Abuse - Steamboat Springs (970) 879-8888	Clear Creek County Advocates - Georgetown (303) 569-3126
Advocates Against Domestic Assault - Trinidad (719) 846-6665	Colorado Anti-Violence Program - Denver (303) 839-5204
Advocates for Victims of Assault - Frisco (970) 668-3906	Crossroads Safehouse - Ft. Collins 1 (888) 541-7233
Advocates of Lake County - Leadville (719) 486-3530	Denver Center for Crime Victims - Denver (303) 894-8000
Alliance Against Domestic Abuse - Salida 1 (888) 823-1162	Domestic Safety Resource Center - Lamar (719) 336-4357
	Estes Valley Victim Advocates - Estes Park (970) 586-4000



Family Crisis Services - Canon City
(719) 275-2429

Family Tree/Women in Crisis - Wheatridge
(303) 420-6752

Gateway Battered Women's Services -
Aurora
(303) 343-1851

Help for Abused Partners - Sterling
(970) 522-2307

Latimer House - Grand Junction
(970) 241-6704

Renew - Cortez
(970) 565-2100

Resource Center of Eagle County - Avon
(970) 949-7086

Response: Help for Battered Women -
Aspen
(970) 925-7233

S.H.A.R.E. - Ft. Morgan
(970) 867-4444

Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley - Longmont
(303) 772-4422

Safehouse Denver - Denver
(303) 318-9989

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for
Nonviolence - Boulder
(303) 444-2424

San Miguel Resource Center - Telluride
(970) 728-5660

T.E.S.S.A. - Colorado Springs
(719) 633-3819

Tri-County Resource Center - Montrose
(970) 249-2486

Tu Casa - Alamosa
(719) 589-2465

Volunteers of America Brandon Center -
Denver
(303) 620-9190

Volunteers of America Southwest
Safehouse - Durango
(970) 259-5443

Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center -
Castle Rock
(303) 688-8484

Young Women's Christian Association
(YWCA) - Pueblo
(719) 545-8195

OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS IN COLORADO

Asian Pacific Development Center - Denver
(303) 393-0304

CHAI/Jewish Community Resource on
Domestic Abuse - Denver
(303) 825-4357

DOVE (Advocacy for Deaf Abused Women
& Children) - Denver
(303) 831-7874 (TTY)

DVI for Women with Disabilities - Denver
(303) 839-5510 (Voice & TDD)

Jubilee House - Gunnison
(970) 275-0445

Mountain Peace Shelter - Bailey
(303) 838-7176

Mountain Resource Center - Conifer
(303) 838-7552

Our Sister's Keeper Coalition - Durango
(970) 247-7888

Project Safeguard (Legal Advocacy) -
Denver
(303) 863-7233

Rural Communities Resource Center -
Yuma
(970) 848-5441

Servicios de la Raza - Denver
(303) 458-7088

Safehouse, Inc. - Meeker
(970) 725-3412 (contact Sheriff, ask for
advocate)

Southern Ute Victim Services - Ignacio
(970) 563-0245

Victim Services - Rangely
(970) 675-8468

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PROGRAM SERVICES

Domestic abuse programs in Colorado offer a wide range of services. All DAAP-funded programs provide confidential services via their crisis line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services vary among programs; call the numbers listed for detailed information.

General Services - Programs offer supportive 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 as described below.

Residential Services - Many programs have residential shelters where victims and their children can stay in a comfortable home while receiving supportive advocacy. Shelter stays are usually around 90 days. Some programs offer transitional housing where victims and their children can stay for up to 18 months. Programs without a shelter or transitional housing may be able to provide short-term safehousing in a motel.

Children - Residential shelters offer children's programming such as group support, safety planning, healthy communication, skill-building and recreation. Some programs also offer parenting skills classes. Childcare is usually available for victims who are attending domestic violence counseling or support groups.

Advocacy - Court-based advocacy such as accompaniment to hearings for civil orders of protection are widely available. Other legal services such as support with immigration issues, divorce or child custody may be directly available in some programs or by referral. General advocacy is available to help victims access resources such as victim compensation, affordable housing, food stamps, welfare, and other community supports.

ANONYMOUS SUCCESS STORY

"I moved to Colorado to flee a domestic violence situation that went on for 14 years. If the domestic abuse program in my community weren't here I just can't imagine what would have happened to my children and myself. The most remarkable change has been in the children. Where chaos and violence was an everyday way of life, they now have a stable place to call home. At last they have a chance for stopping the cycle of abuse for their generation in our family. I can honestly say I feel honored to have been a part of a program like this."

SANDRA'S SUCCESS STORY

"Sandra called the hotline after years of physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse. The violence was escalating, not getting better, and Sandra realized that her children were getting old enough to know something was terribly wrong in their home. After one horrific incident, she decided it was time to end the nightmare. Through therapy, advocacy and support, Sandra was able to move forward with her life, get her own home, and become self-sufficient. She now volunteers for a domestic violence program and lives a safe, violence-free life."

Teens - Teen dating violence education services are available in many programs that collaborate with local schools to promote healthy relationships and recognize the signs of an abusive relationship.

Community Education - Programs have staff who are available to speak to community groups about domestic violence. Presentations have been made to schools, churches, hospitals, social services, businesses, law enforcement, civic groups

and others interested in learning more about the dynamics and prevention of domestic violence.

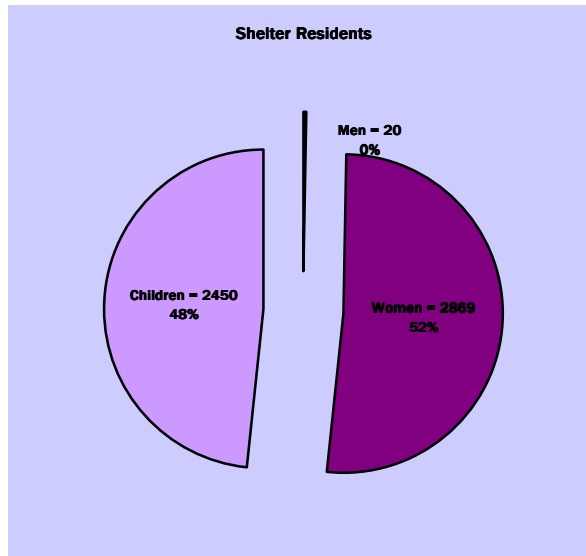
Spanish - Most programs provide services in Spanish using qualified bi-lingual advocates. Other programs have Spanish translators available, as well as translators for other languages.



SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Victims of domestic abuse and their children need safe housing to rebuild their lives in the wake of abuse. Shelters provide a temporary respite and opportunity for families to heal. In 2006 DAAP-funded programs provided 87,722 nights of shelter to 5,601 individuals. In 2005, DAAP-funded programs provided 111,791 nights of shelter to 6,559 individuals. Programs report that the number of individuals requesting shelter has decreased, but that more individuals request shelter for longer periods of time due to the lack of available of affordable housing in many communities.

Twenty four DAAP-funded programs in Colorado have residential shelter and the remainder of programs provide limited shelter through referrals, access to safehomes and motels. On average, a family spends 42 nights in shelter. During this time they must secure all the economic resources necessary to live independently. In 2006, 5,886 individuals were turned away from shelters in Colorado due to a lack of capacity, a 6% increase compared to 2005 and a 22% increase compared to 2004. Victims of abuse often report that they return to an abusive situation because they cannot find affordable long-term housing:



Nearly half the residents in shelters are children (age 18 and under). Advocates for children provide counseling (individual and group), opportunities for child-centered play and respite care for mothers in counseling. Children who are exposed to domestic abuse feel safe at shelter and learn healthy ways to communicate about the abuse.

In 2006, DAAP-funded programs provided Transitional Housing to 232 women. Transitional housing programs provide housing for about 18 months, allowing families an extended period of time to receive supportive services to heal from abuse and secure the economic resources necessary to live independently.

OTHER SERVICES

In 2006, DAAP-funded programs answered 43,863 emergency crisis intervention phone calls. This represents an increase of over 30% compared to the 33,428 calls answered in 2005. For many victims, a crisis line is their first link to resources to assist in attaining safety. All crisis lines in Colorado are answered 24-hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Crisis line workers engage victims in safety planning and provide appropriate referrals to community resources. All domestic abuse services are confidential and free of charge.

KELLY'S SUCCESS STORY

"After time at the safe house, as a resident and returning as a non-resident, Kelly is moving forward and life with her abuser is a memory that is beginning to fade. He is not a part of her new life. He can no longer isolate or terrorize his family. The healing has begun. She has moved herself and her children into low-income housing. The children know their mother will keep them safe."

In addition to crisis line calls and shelter-based services, DAAP-funded programs provided individual and group counseling and advocacy/supportive services to 20,534 individuals not residing in shelter programs.

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MISSY'S SUCCESS STORY

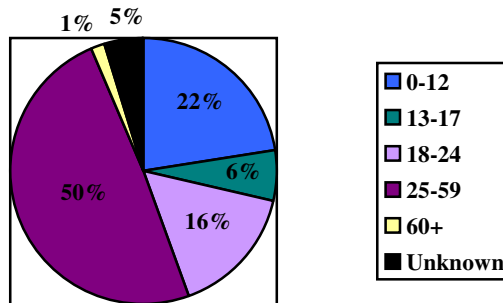
"Missy, a nineteen year-old pregnant woman left her abusive boyfriend who was heavily into drugs. This was not her first experience with abuse - Missy grew up witnessing abuse at the hands of her mother's boyfriends. Wanting a different life for her child, she sought assistance from a domestic violence program and lived in the transitional housing facility after her baby was born. Missy receives group support, individual counseling, parenting and life skills classes, and childcare. She developed a strong bond with her child and is working part-time with plans to start classes at a local college. Missy is free from her abusive boyfriend and continues to live with hope for her future."

Victims and their children often need long-term supportive services beyond what is provided during a short-term shelter stay. These services can be the key to attaining safety. Many programs provide teen dating violence education, parenting education, court-based advocacy, and other necessary programming. Most programs have bilingual and bicultural staff and all programs have access to interpreters. One Front Range domestic violence program has started a support group specifically for friends and family of victims of abuse. Another has a legal services program to assist immigrant victims in obtaining visas.

VICTIM AGE

Victims of abuse can be of any age. Children who are exposed to domestic abuse often become targets and are significantly impacted. Teenage victims need safety planning and supportive services to help develop new and healthy dating relationships. Victims of abuse in later life are often subject to financial exploitation or neglect from those who are caring for them.

Victim's Age



RURAL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Colorado is world renown for its impressive mountains and natural beauty. Colorado's geographic diversity is an asset to many, but becomes a barrier to safety for many victims who must travel a great distance to reach the safety of a shelter or the supportive services of an advocate. Poor weather and adverse road conditions restrict victims' access to help. In 2006, DAAP-funded programs provided services to 9,312 victims residing in rural communities.

GLBT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

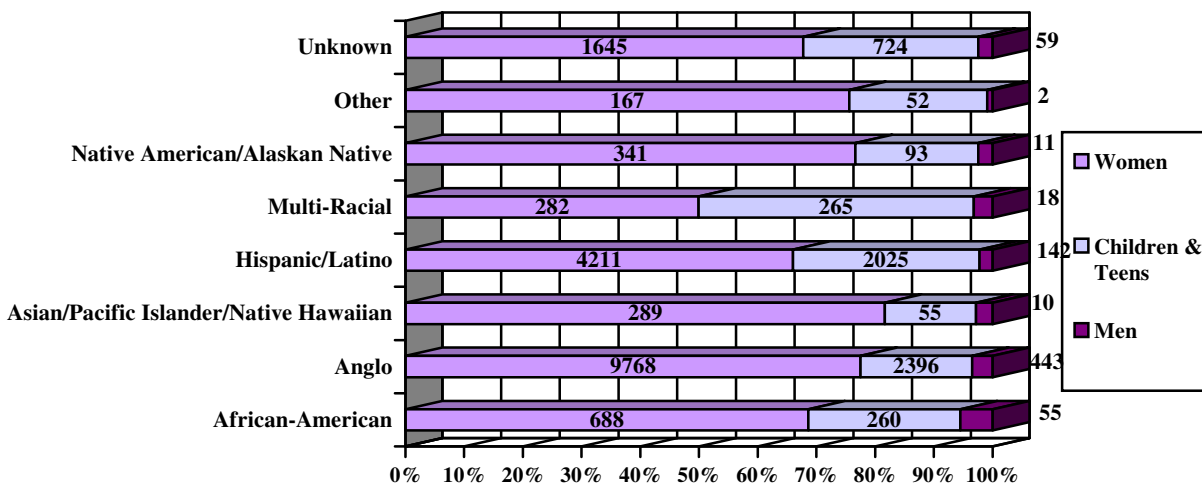
In 2006, DAAP-funded programs provided services to 86 individuals who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (GLBT). GLBT couples experience domestic violence at the same rate as straight couples. However, GLBT victims faced additional barriers in coming forward to report the abuse.

SAM'S SUCCESS STORY

"Sam, a gay male victim of domestic abuse contacted the domestic violence program after being severely assaulted by his partner of 10 years. Having been turned away by family and with limited emergency shelter services available to him as a male victim, this made leaving the relationship a particular hardship. Domestic violence programs worked with him to access victim compensation to cover his medical bills and financial assistance to find permanent housing. A victim advocate supported him in his cooperation in the criminal prosecution of his partner. Sam is now employed, living independently of his ex-partner, and has taken over making his monthly rent payments."



Victim Race/Ethnicity



VICTIM RACE/ETHNICITY

Victims of domestic abuse cross all racial and ethnic lines. DAAP-funded programs are equipped to address abuse in a diverse setting. Programs diversify staff to reflect the make-up of their communities and provide services in culturally and linguistically appropriate settings. See the chart above for the detailed breakdown of the racial and ethnic diversity of victims of abuse in Colorado.

VICTIMS WITH DISABILITIES

In 2006, DAAP-funded programs provided services to 1,451 victims with a known disability. Disabled victims face additional barriers to safety as they are often physically unable to leave an abusive partner and are reliant on their partner for care. Most shelters in Colorado are fully accessible to disabled victims and advocates are trained to provide a full-range of services to disabled victims.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DAAP-funded programs are reliant on the support of community volunteers who answer crisis line calls, provide advocacy to victims, and offer a wide range of supportive services to program staff. In 2006, 2,855 volunteers provided 295,463 hours of community service to programs. Their support is crucial to victims' ongoing efforts to reach safety.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Many domestic abuse programs focus their prevention efforts on community education. Their work includes outreach to the general public to change societal perceptions regarding the acceptance of violence. DAAP-funded programs target a wide range of audiences such as students, businesses and civic organizations. In 2006, they provided 2,335 presentations to 80,191 individuals.

MARIEL'S SUCCESS STORY

"Mariel arrived at the shelter with a boot print on her forehead after her husband kicked her. With no job and no family in town, she needed a safe refuge for herself and her four children. After Mariel's husband attacked her 10 year-old son, she had the courage to call the police—despite fears about her immigration status and whether her children could be taken away from her. Mariel and her children spent more than 30 days in the shelter where they received individual counseling and participated in support groups. Staff worked with the children to advocate for their needs and overcoming the violence they witnessed. A no-contact order issued by the court finally allowed Mariel and her children to return home. Even after leaving the shelter, Mariel continued to participate in the bilingual support group. She has learned new coping and parenting skills. She can now advocate for herself and her children and she believes in her own value and strength."



In addition, DAAP-funded programs provided 1,047 training and technical assistance presentations to 12,486 individuals. These presentations target law enforcement, clergy, medical professionals and others who encounter victims in their professions.

BATTERER INTERVENTION SERVICES

DAAP funds two programs, that provides services to abusive men. DAAP funds the portion of the programs that offers victim advocacy to the partners of men who attend the batterer intervention counseling. The confidential victim advocacy provided allows victims access to information about their partners' or ex-partners' progress in treatment.

JESSICA & CHUCK'S SUCCESS STORY

"Jessica and Chuck received AMEND's services after Chuck was ordered into domestic violence classes. Chuck accessed both individual and group counseling, and made notable progress. He stopped drinking, attended classes regularly, and took full responsibility for his abusive behavior. Both Jessica and Chuck chose to stay in the relationship. Jessica was able to give input during Chuck's counseling as well as ask questions about Chuck's progress. Today, this family is still together and are operating a small business together. Their son is doing well in school, and Jessica reports that the tension and violence in the home has stopped."

DAAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2006)

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Kenya Lyons

CO Dept. of Criminal Justice

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Latina Safehouse Initiative

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OTHER RESOURCES

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(303) 831-9632
1 (888) 778-7091
www.ccadv.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Provides crisis hotline assistance for domestic violence victims across the country.
1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233) or 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

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

Family Violence Prevention Fund

www.endabuse.org

