



Cost of Domestic Violence In *Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin*

Victim Service Agencies Are Providing Quality Care.

In 2006 and 2007 the Office of Justice Programs, in partnership with Wilder Research conducted a survey of crime victims who worked with victim service advocates.

- 97% of victims agreed or strongly agreed the services received were helpful.
- 92% of victims agreed or strongly agreed that they learned something new to keep themselves or their families safe in the future.
- 95% of victims surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that they received the services that they needed and wanted as a result of their victimization.

Someplace Safe is a non-profit organization providing services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in West Central Minnesota. Since opening a regional shelter in 1979, Someplace Safe has expanded its programming to include ten outreach offices, each providing advocacy services. General Crime advocacy is provided in Otter Tail and Douglas Counties. Someplace Safe also provides parent-child exchange and visitation centers in five locations.

Estimated Annual Cost of Domestic Violence In Our Service Area:

\$18,197,689.00

“I can’t thank you enough for all of your help. I sincerely believe that you are my guardian angel. Thank God there are people like you for all of us women who need to go to “Someplace Safe.”...Debbie

PROGRAM NARRATIVE:

In 2008, Someplace Safe provided direct advocacy services to nearly 3,000 victims in our eight county areas, and answered approximately 4,000 crisis calls.

111 children and 119 families were served by Parenting Time Centers. 61 women and 47 children utilized shelter services and another 47 families were provided safety through our hotel/motel network.

In addition to serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, general crime victim services in the following areas were also provided: 66 burglaries, 400 theft/larceny, 560 other assaults, 349 threats/ harassment, 132 fraud, 212 vandalism, and crimes involving aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft, stalking, and forgery.

*“Someplace Safe provides an invaluable service to Grant County Sheriff’s Department.”
Dwight Walvatne,
Grant County Sheriff*

To create a safer world for everyone, we work to eliminate violence and oppression through advocacy, education, and services.

Someplace Safe

Cost of Domestic Violence Breakdown

TOTAL COST TO VICTIM **\$17,255,001.00***

Law Enforcement Costs:

LE Call Response \$50,160.00
LE Calls with Arrests \$230,500.00

Total Law Enforcement* **\$280,660.00**

Total Probation* **\$135,028.00**

Total Court Costs*: **\$527,000.00**

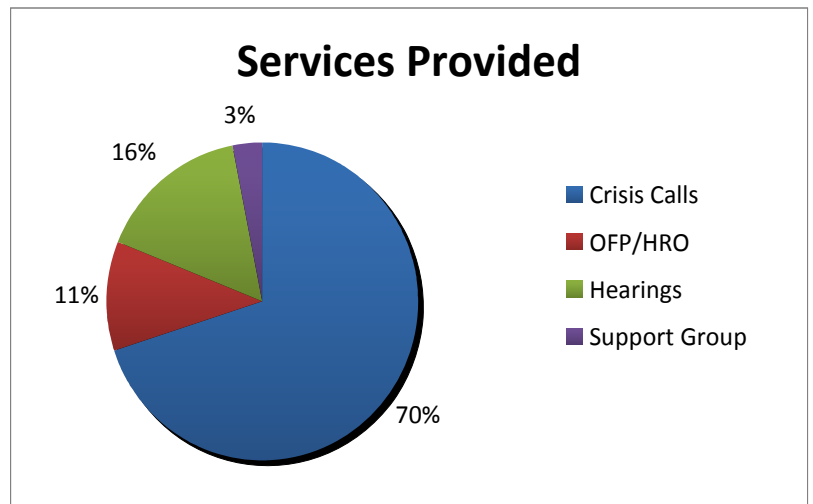
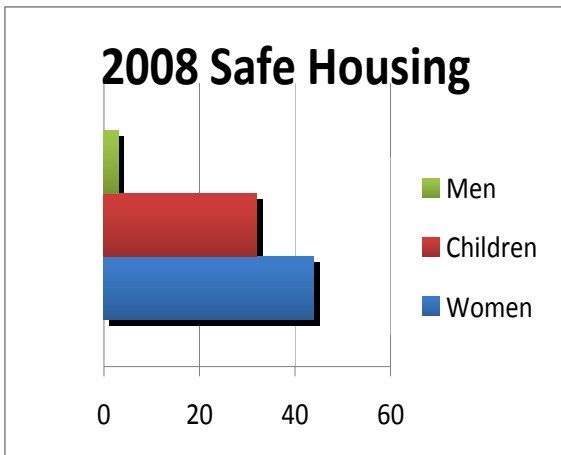
TOTAL SYSTEM COST: **\$942,688.00**

*Miller, T.R., Cohen, M.A., & Wiersma, B. (1996), *Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look* (NIJ Research Report NCJ 155282 & U.S. GPO: 1996 -495-037/20041), Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. Amounts are rounded and based on adult victimization and are in 2008 dollars based on the Consumer Price Index: (www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)

*Law enforcement calculations were determined by local and national data sources. See methodology document.

*Probation costs were determined by local and national data sources. See methodology document.

*Court costs were determined by local and national data sources. See methodology document.



Someplace Safe is Cost Effective and Efficient:

Someplace Safe uses community volunteers, collaboration, private donations, fundraisers and creative community partnerships to keep expenses down and service quality high.

In 2008:

- Community volunteers contributed over 3,013 hours totaling \$58,632.98
- Someplace Safe staff presented 315 times to community groups, schools and professionals with 16,315 people attending the presentations.

METHODOLOGY

COSTS OF VICTIMIZATION

Service Numbers:

The number of people who were victims of domestic violence was taken from the Someplace Safe State fiscal Year 2008 service numbers. The victims served may or may not have reported their abuse to law enforcement.

Methods used for estimating costs of domestic violence in Minnesota

- When possible, cost estimates were collected from state agencies. When Minnesota data was not readily available, national studies were used and adjusted for inflation. Most costs not directly available from Minnesota Sources came from a national study of domestic violence costs (CDC, 2003) or from *Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look* (Miller, Cohen, and Weirsma, 1996))

Intangible and Intangible Costs:

MCBW used the most recent comprehensive analysis of the cost of crime per criminal victimization incident. These numbers are an underestimation of costs, but do provide us with a starting point to understand the devastating economic impact of domestic violence. Tangible costs include medical care, property damage or loss, reduced productivity at work, home, and school. Intangible costs include non monetary losses such as fear, pain, suffering and lost quality of life. The costs are based on a detailed estimate of victimization cost per crime incident. These costs are averages and include crimes that have minimal impact on victims as well as extremely violent crimes that result in long hospital stays and devastate victims' quality of life for years to come. (Pgs 9-10, Miller, T.R., Cohen, M.A., & Wiersma, B. (1996)

SYSTEM COSTS

Law Enforcement

Police salaries include fringe benefits. The cost of injury incurred by police officers during investigation of incidents of violent behavior is not reflected here.

Methods used for estimating law enforcement costs:

- Law enforcement responses to domestic violence calls with no arrest were multiplied by the average response time of 1 hour times the average law enforcement salary of \$60.00.
- Domestic violence arrests were calculated by taking the number of domestic violence arrests times the average cost of processing an assault which is \$500.00. (or the average time spent on investigation of DV calls with arrest) from *Understanding and preventing Violence: Consequences and Control, Vol. 4.*

Court Administrative Costs:

Court administrative costs were calculated by utilizing national estimated cost for state court time, about \$4 per minute in 1982 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1988d:123) adjusted for inflation (based on the consumer price index) which is \$8.50 per minute. \$8.50 per minute was multiplied by the average minimum time spent of 3.7 hours (250 minutes) from *Understanding and Preventing Violence: Consequences and Control, Vol. 4.*

Probation

Probation costs were calculated by multiplying the number of offenders on probation with a domestic violence offense in the given service area times the cost per day for probation times 365 days. The American Probation and Parole Association estimates the cost of probation/parole as \$3.10 per offender per day.

REFERENCES

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