



SPECIAL REPORT

Estimated National Expenditures For Domestic Violence Programs

COALITION TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is an important problem in our society and a concerted national effort is essential to curb the problem. Fundamental to this endeavor is an identification of the current financial resources being devoted to this concern. This delineation is part of the process of assessing the overall cost-effectiveness of domestic violence programs.

Funding to support abuse-reduction efforts comes from a variety of sources: federal, state, and local government, charitable organizations, and private contributions. The purpose of this Special Report is to identify existing domestic violence programs and services, and quantify the funding streams that are available to support them.

Federal Expenditures

There are four federal laws or programs for which the domestic violence expenditures are known, or can be reasonably estimated:

- Victims of Crime Act
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- Violence Against Women Act
- Legal Services Corporation

Victims of Crime Act

Enacted in 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) represented a federal initiative to assist victims of criminal actions. VOCA established the Crime Victim's Fund (CVF), which is administered by the Department of Justice and supported by fines that are collected from persons convicted of offenses. Because the amount of the fines varies from year to year, Congress establishes an annual obligation cap on VOCA expenditures. In FY2020 the cap on VOCA monies was set at \$2.6 billion.¹

Each year, victims of domestic violence received approximately half of all the CVF funds from the Victim Assistance Grant Program, which totaled \$2,253 million in FY 2019. Of these funds, half of all victims served by the victim assistance grants were victims of domestic or family violence.²

Therefore, it is estimated that VOCA provides \$1,126 million each year for domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) was first passed in 1984 to provide funding to abuse shelters, state domestic violence coalitions, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The Act authorizes grants to states and Indian tribes for the provision of shelter to victims of family violence and their dependents.

FVPSA funds are administered by the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).³ In FY2019 the program was appropriated \$180 million.⁴

Violence Against Women Act

Enacted in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is administered primarily by the Department of Justice. The law aims to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence. VAWA promotes arrest and enforces restraining orders; promotes collaboration among law enforcement, judicial personnel, and service providers; funds training of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel; increases public awareness of domestic violence; addresses the special needs of the elderly, disabled, children, and youth; and addresses the unique circumstances of immigrants.

VAWA was reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013. In FY2019 the Violence Against Women Act was appropriated \$558.9 million.⁵ A detailed funding analysis of the law is available from the Congressional Research Service.⁶

In 2015 Congress began to authorize the transfer of funds from the Crime Victim's Fund to the Office of Violence Against Women, which totaled \$435 million in FY2020.

Legal Services Corporation

Created in 1974, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is a private organization established by the Congress to promote equal access to justice by providing civil legal assistance to persons who otherwise would be unable to afford it.

In FY2020 the LSC was funded \$402.7 million.⁷ Thirty-eight percent of the LSC caseload involves family matters, specifically domestic violence and child custody issues.⁸ Making the assumption that half of the family caseload pertains to domestic violence, it is estimated that the LSC devotes \$76 million for domestic violence services.*

Other Federal Programs

Several other federal programs award grants or otherwise address domestic violence issues, but their domestic violence-specific expenditures are unknown at the present time:

- Agency for International Development -- Women in Development program⁹
- Citizenship and Immigration Service^{10,11}
- Department of Defense Community and Family Policy Program¹²

* \$402.7 million x 19% = \$76.5 million

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- Department of Health and Human Services welfare programs:¹³
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (Title IV-A)
 - Child Welfare Services Programs (Title IV-B)
 - Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Programs (Title IV-E)
 - Social Services Block Grant (Title XX)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)¹⁴
- Housing and Urban Development:
 - Emergency Shelter Grants Program¹⁵
 - Community Development Block Grants¹⁶
- State Department Office of Global Women's Issues¹⁷

Total Federal Expenditures

The domestic violence-related expenditures of the Violence of Crime Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Legal Services Corporation are estimated at \$1,869 million annually.[†]

These numbers do not take into account the public benefit and welfare services received by foreign nationals as a result of the immigration provisions (Title VIII) of the Violence Against Women Act – such public benefit and welfare services are believed to be considerable.¹⁸

The expenditures for the other federal domestic violence programs and services are unknown at the present time, but are believed to exceed \$100 million annually, possibly by a considerable amount. In summary, the annual federal outlay for domestic violence programs, services, and other initiatives is conservatively estimated at \$2 billion dollars a year.

Non-Federal Expenditures

Domestic violence programs receive considerable financial support from state and local governments, as well as from charitable organizations and individual donors. At present, there is no single data source that reports these amounts.

Therefore, this Special Report examines the domestic violence-related expenditures in West Virginia, the one state in which extensive financial analyses have been conducted.

Projected Expenditures

[†] VOCA: \$1,126 million. FVPSA: \$180 million. VAWA: \$559 million. LSC: \$76 million.

A. According to an analysis by Dr. Benjamin Foster, state and local governments in West Virginia financially support the following domestic violence-related programs:¹⁹

- Law enforcement: \$11.0 million
- Family and magistrate courts: \$4.4 million
- Public defender: \$0.5 million
- West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which supports local abuse shelters: \$6.9 million

These four cost categories total \$22.7 million annually.[‡]

B. Other domestic violence-related expenses include the following:

- Hiring of 10 family court judges to handle the additional DV-related caseload: \$2.7 million²⁰
- Incarceration of DV offenders in state prisons: \$4.8 million. (see Appendix, Calculation #1)
- Supervision of parolees and probationers: \$1.8 million. (see Appendix, Calculation #2)

These three categories total \$9.3 million annually.

C. Additional expenditures associated with domestic violence programs, based on conservative estimates:

- Buildings, vehicles, and other capital expenses for criminal and civil justice courts and law enforcement departments:[§] Estimated expense: \$1 million
- Costs for incarceration in local jails: Estimated expense: \$4 million^{**}
- Personnel involved in prosecuting criminal DV cases, including prosecutors, judges, bailiffs, and their assistants: Estimated expense: \$3 million
- Circuit Court and higher courts involved in processing domestic violence cases: Estimated expense: \$1 million
- Non-personnel operations for family and magistrates courts: Estimated expense: \$0.5 million
- Other expenses associated with criminal DV cases such as building maintenance: Estimated expense: \$0.5 million
- Offender treatment programs: Estimated expense: \$0.5 million

These seven cost categories total \$10.5 million annually.

[‡] Figures do not add to \$22.7 million due to rounding error.

[§] For example, Cook County, Illinois renovated its Domestic Violence Courthouse at a cost of \$51 million. Cook County Information Center. Press Release, 2005. <http://www.friendsofdowntown.org/events.html>

^{**} The Administrative Office of the United States Courts estimates that in FY2004, the following annual imprisonment costs per inmate: \$23,206. <http://www.uscourts.gov/ttb/may05ttb/incarceration-costs/index.html>

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Adding the amounts from A, B, and C, the total annual expenditures for domestic violence programs and services in West Virginia is estimated at \$42.5 million.

Projected Income

The \$42.5 million for domestic violence programs and services is financed from a variety of federal and non-federal sources. The federal government awards these amounts to support domestic violence programs in West Virginia:

- Victims of Crime Act: \$1.8 million (see Appendix, Calculation #3)
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act: \$0.2 million²¹
- Violence Against Women Act: \$8.9 million²²

These federal funds total \$10.9 million annually.

To calculate the non-federal revenue sources, we make the assumption that the West Virginia domestic violence programs operate on a break-even basis, i.e., that expenditures equal revenues. Knowing the total annual public expenditures are \$42.5 million and the annual federal funds awarded to West Virginia are \$10.9 million, we can subtract these amounts to calculate the amount that comes from state and local governments and from charitable and private contributions: \$31.6 million.

Thus in West Virginia, non-federal sources represent about three-quarters of the total costs for domestic violence programs in West Virginia (see Appendix, Calculation #4).

These numbers are summarized below (amounts are in millions of dollars):

<i>Projected Expenses</i>		<i>Projected Income</i>	
Foster analysis:	\$22.7	VAWA:	\$ 8.9
Other expenses:	9.3	VOCA:	1.8
Estimated costs:	10.5	FVPSA:	0.2
		<u>Non-federal:</u>	<u>31.6</u>
Totals	\$42.5		\$42.5

A \$4 Billion National Investment to Curb Domestic Violence

The first part of this Special Report makes a conservative estimate that the federal government expends \$2 billion a year for domestic violence programs and services. In order to calculate non-federal domestic violence-related expenditures, we examined financial estimates from West Virginia.

In that state, about \$42.5 million are expended on domestic violence programs and services annually. Federal funds cover approximately one-quarter of the costs, and non-federal sources provide for the remaining three-quarters of costs.

ESTIMATED NATIONAL EXPENDITURES

Nationwide, the federal government allocates about \$2 billion for domestic violence programs and services. Extrapolating from the West Virginia data, revenues from state and local governments and from charitable and private sources amount to an additional \$3 billion annually.²³

Hence we conclude that in the United States, approximately \$5 billion is expended for domestic violence programs and services each year.

Calculations

Calculation #1:

1. In 2005, the West Virginia correctional population was 5,312, of whom 56% (2,975 inmates) were incarcerated for a violent crime.²⁴
2. Of these 2,975 inmates, an estimated 7% (208 persons) were imprisoned for a crime against an intimate partner.²⁵
3. The annual imprisonment costs are \$23,206 per inmate.²⁶
4. Calculation: 208 inmates x \$23,206 = \$4,826,848

Calculation #2:

1. In 2003, there were 6,430 probationers and 999 parolees in West Virginia, of whom an estimated 7% (520 persons) had been imprisoned for domestic violence.²⁷
2. The annual costs for supervision by probation officers are \$3,453 per person.²⁸
3. Calculation: 520 persons x \$3,453 = \$1,795,560

Calculation #3:

1. Number of DV victims served in 2002: 16,293
2. Number of victims of adult sexual assault (SA) served: 1,406
3. Total victims served: 33,899
4. Percentage DV and SA: $(16,293 + 1,406) \div 33,899 = 52.2\%$ ²⁹
5. Total VOCA expenditures for domestic violence and sexual assault: \$1.8 million³⁰

Calculation #4:

\$31.6 million ÷ \$42.5 million = 74.4%

- ¹ The Crime Victims Fund: Federal Support for Victims of Crime. Congressional Research Service. 2020. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R42672>
- ² U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, 2000 Victims of Crime Act Performance Report, State Assistance Program, http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/grants/vocanpr_va00.html
- ³ Family Violence Prevention and Services. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/programs/fv.htm>
- ⁴ Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA): Background and Funding. Congressional Research Service. April 4, 2019. Table I. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42838.pdf>
- ⁵ Congressional Research Service, *The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Historical Overview, Funding, and Reauthorization* (November 19, 2018 – April 23, 2019) https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R45410.html#_Toc6934670 , Table 1.
- ⁶ The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Historical Overview, Funding, and Reauthorization. Washington DC: Congressional Research Service. 2019. https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R45410.html#_Toc6934670
- ⁷ Legal Services Corporation. LSC Appropriations Acts with Committee Reports. <https://www.lsc.gov/about-lsc/laws-regulations-guidance/lsc-appropriations-acts-committee-reports>
- ⁸ Legal Services Corporation. Fact Sheet. No date. http://www.lsc.gov/about/factsheet_whatislsc.php
- ⁹ Gender-Based Violence. USAID Women in Development. http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/gbv/index.html . In 2005 it was the reported the Women in Development program had a budget of \$10 million: http://www.fpif.org/reports/women_development_aid
- ¹⁰ Coalition to End Domestic Violence. Domestic violence-related immigration fraud. 2021. www.endtodv.org/reports
- ¹¹ How Do I Apply for Immigration Benefits as a Battered Spouse or Child? <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=499a6c854523d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnnextchannel=828807b03d92b010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>
- ¹² The Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program – <http://www.defenselink.mil/fapmip/> – was funded \$22 million in 2003: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/2005/pg4b.html>
- ¹³ Trujillo OR and Test G. Funding the Work: Community Efforts to End Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. Washington DC. American Public Human Services Association, 2002. <http://www.thegreenbook.info/documents/fundingstreams.pdf>
- ¹⁴ WHIO TV. FEMA investigates SCLC. February 16, 2010. <http://www.whiotv.com/news/22582780/detail.html>
- ¹⁵ Housing and Urban Development. Emergency Shelter Grants Program. February 7, 2008. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/esg/>
- ¹⁶ Housing and Urban Development. Community Development Block Grants. September 21, 2009. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/>
- ¹⁷ Office of Global Women’s Issues. Accessed August 2, 2010. <http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/> . A search of the US State Department on the words “domestic violence” reveals 2,110 hits (search conducted July 15, 2010).
- ¹⁸ Coalition to End Domestic Violence. Domestic violence-related immigration fraud. 2021. www.endtodv.org/reports
- ¹⁹ Foster BP. Analyzing the cost and effectiveness of governmental policies. *Cost Management*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2008. Exhibit 1.
- ²⁰ Foster BP. Analyzing the cost and effectiveness of governmental policies. *Cost Management*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2008. Exhibit 2.

²¹ USAspending.gov FY 2007.

http://www.usaspending.gov/faads/faads.php?recipient_name=West+VA+Coalition&reptype=r&database=faads&fiscal_year=2007&detail=0&datatype=T&sortby=r&Submit.x=9&Submit.y=7

²² FY 2006 Office on Violence Against Women Grant Activity by State – West Virginia.

http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/grant_activities2006.htm#wv

²³ SAVE. False allegations of domestic violence cost taxpayers \$20 billion a year. Rockville, MD:

2010. <http://www.saveservices.org/downloads/False-DV-Allegations-Cost-20-Billion>

²⁴ Lester TK and Haas SM. *West Virginia Correctional Population Forecast: 2005–2015*.

Charleston, WV: Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center. 2006. Table 7.

²⁵ Greenfield LA et al. *Violence by Intimates*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

NCJ-167237. March 1998, p. vi.

²⁶ The Third Branch. FY2004 Costs of Incarceration and Supervision. Washington, DC:

Administrative Office of the United States Courts. Vol. 37, No. 5. 2005.

²⁷ Glaze LE and Palla S. *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2003*. Washington, DC:

U.S. Department of Justice. NCJ-205336. 2004. Tables 2, 4, and 5.

²⁸ The Third Branch. FY2004 Costs of Incarceration and Supervision. Washington, DC:

Administrative Office of the United States Courts. Vol. 37, No. 5. 2005.

²⁹ West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services: Victim Assistance Grant Program: 2002

West Virginia Grant Program. Accessed June 19, 2008.

<http://www.ovc.gov/fund/sbsmap/ovcpfwv1.htm>

³⁰ West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services: State Compensation Program: 2002 West

Virginia Statewide Compensation Program. Column c. Accessed June 19, 2008.

<http://www.ovc.gov/fund/sbsmap/ovccpww1.htm>