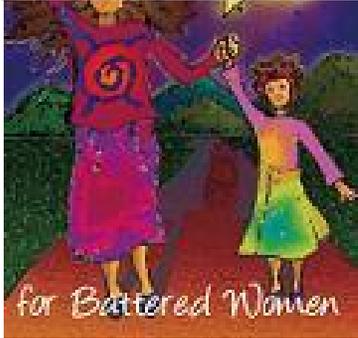


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○ SAFTY ○ JUSTICE ○ PREVENTION

Calculating the Cost of Domestic Violence Toolkit

FOR MCBW MEMBER PROGRAMS

This toolkit contains all of the information you will need to complete a program specific %Cost of Domestic Violence+ fact sheet.



FOR BATTERED WOMEN

MINNESOTA COALITION

THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Introduction

Calculating the cost of violent crime has become an important tool to help guide public policy decisions. Accurate estimates of the cost of crime can influence public policy priorities and where to place limited government and private resources. Therefore, it has become increasingly important for domestic abuse advocates to be able to articulate the impact of domestic violence in their communities on a personal and economic level. However, obtaining an accurate estimate of the cost of domestic violence can be difficult. This is further exacerbated by the fact that violent crime definitions and the surveys used to measure the prevalence of domestic violence vary significantly and therefore we are often comparing apples to oranges.

The anti-domestic abuse movement has made great strides in raising awareness about the issue of domestic violence, yet we still face resistance when describing the magnitude of the problem and the cost of domestic violence to our state. The recent economic downturn has made this disconnect more pronounced as policy makers struggle in a debate over which safety and social services are essential.

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women has begun a process to help articulate to policy makers the dramatic economic impact of domestic violence combined with the traumatic emotional impact on victims. The Calculating the Cost of Domestic Violence Toolkit is the first step in MCBW's efforts to help quantify the state and local costs of domestic violence. While this toolkit represents the beginning of a longer process to develop a social return on investment (SROI) of domestic abuse services in Minnesota, it is a comprehensive estimate of the minimum cost of this type of victimization in our community.

Calculating the Costs

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This toolkit contains all of the information you will need to complete a program specific “Cost of Domestic Violence” fact sheet. Each sheet will be tailored to your specific service area and MCBW staff and policy interns will be here to help you. This tool kit will provide you with an explanation of the data used to develop the cost estimates, the formulas/equations/process used to achieve a given sum, and a checklist to ensure that you have completed your program specific sheet completely. Battered women’s shelters, safe home, and motel/hotel programs will have an adapted version which includes additional information on bed days.

Please Note:

This toolkit will not help programs develop a cost benefit analysis or a social return on investment analysis of their services. What it will do is utilize the best local and national data available to help you quantify an approximate cost of domestic violence in your service area. It is important to remember that the number you will come up with for the cost is an underestimation of the actual costs to your community. There are some costs that are not included in this process. Such as: the costs of housing domestic abusers in Minnesota’s correctional facilities; the cost of domestic violence on children; or the cost of batterer intervention programs just to name a few.

In recent months, MCBW has been talking about this process as a “cost benefit analysis” or “return on investment”. We are not doing a cost benefit analysis; this would require more time and work. A cost benefit analysis would mean programs can definitively say and prove that the cost of their intervention equaled a certain amount of savings. Programs should not use “cost benefit” language to describe process.

Calculating the Costs

Each program or shelter sheet will undergo a similar process and each program sheet will have the same structure. This toolkit, along with the webinars, will help programs understand the process of developing their sheet, where they will need to add program specific information, and where it is important for all programs to maintain the same information.

What do the numbers mean?

The economic costs of domestic violence are divided into two areas, (1) direct/tangible and (2) indirect/intangible costs.

- (1) Direct Costs/Tangible Costs are the actual dollar expenditures related to domestic violence. They include, but are not limited to, the cost for medical care, mental health, property damage, lost or reduced productivity at work, home and school, costs to law enforcement, probation/parole and the courts.
- (2) Indirect Costs/Intangible Costs include the cost of secondary victimization on family members and the community, and non-monetary losses - such as fear, pain, suffering and lost quality of life.

The final product will represent the total dollar amount of the cost of domestic violence in your service area, along with specific outcome measures of your services. The total will represent the cost of adult victimization, cost of law enforcement and probation personnel time, and average court costs. Although every program will be using the same process and data, some programs may not be able to obtain all of the information from their system providers. As you begin to collect your program specific information, it will be important for all programs to keep track of when and where they are using different information and why. This variation among programs is okay as long as programs clearly disclose what the numbers represent in their methodology and reference sheets.

THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

COST OF VICTIMIZATION

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))

Methods Used for Obtaining Cost of Victimization:

Programs should use their adult service numbers from the 2008 state fiscal year (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008). The victims served may or may not have reported their abuse to law enforcement and may, or may not, be injured. Shelter programs will also use their community program service numbers, plus the additional information on bed stays to help articulate the increased length of stay many shelters are seeing.

Methods Used to Obtain Tangible and Intangible Costs:

MCBW used the most recent comprehensive analysis of the cost of crime per criminal incident. These numbers are an underestimation of the costs of domestic violence, but provide us with a starting point to understand the devastating economic impact of domestic violence. These costs are based on a detailed estimate of victimization cost on a per crime basis. These costs are averages and reflect crimes that had minimal injuries and complex crimes with severe injuries. (Pgs 9-10, Miller, T.R., Cohen, M.A., & Wiersma, B. 1996)

THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

COST OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTION

Programs should call law enforcement agencies in their service area to obtain the total number of domestic violence calls and the total number of domestic violence calls with arrests for their last calendar year.

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 salary of \$60.00 per hour. (Please note: law enforcement costs only include salaries and fringe benefits and do not include all possible police costs.) E.g. 50 calls without arrest x 1 hour x \$60 per hour = \$3,000
- Domestic violence arrests were calculated by taking the number of domestic violence arrests times the average cost of processing or investigating an assault \$500.00. Understanding and Preventing Violence: Consequences and Control, Vol. 4. E.g. 20 calls with arrests x \$500 = \$10,000

PROBATION COSTS

Probation costs were calculated by multiplying the number of domestic violence offenders on probation times 365 days. The American Probation and Parole Association estimate the cost of probation/parole as \$3.49 per offender, adjusted for inflation (based on the consumer price index). (2004) Programs will be using the 2007 Probation Survey report to determine the number of people on probation for a domestic violence offense in the counties that they serve. The 2007 report is the most recent report available at this time. The report is included with the Appendix materials.

THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

COURT COSTS

Court administrative costs were calculated by utilizing a 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) per case. Understanding and Preventing Violence: Consequences and Control, Vol. 4.

COST FOR SERVICE AREA

Programs may decide to create a sheet for each county they serve or to create a composite sheet for their entire service area. This is completely up to the program, whatever you decide it will be important to articulate clearly what you have, or have not, included. Each program will have to modify the methodology document to include any changes or modifications they have made to the data collection process.



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THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Outcomes

With grant reporting, programs are accustomed to reporting on the outcomes of their work. Many programs have conducted their own victim experience surveys or utilized survivor and system professional testimonials to help articulate the importance and value of the services provided in your community. For this process, MCBW has provided programs with some basic, universal outcome measures that can be used. If possible, programs should use at least one personalized outcome measure in addition to those on the sheet provided by MCBW.

QUALITY SERVICES:

Methods for Measuring Quality Services:

Victim Experience Feedback Survey:

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 and asked them some basic questions about the services they received. 2895 surveys were completed in 2006 and 2646 surveys were completed in 2007. These outcomes should be used to articulate the value of the services you provide to victims of domestic violence and the protective skills victims used to prevent future victimization. Here are some examples:

- 97% of victims agreed or strongly agreed that the services received here helpful.
- 92% of victims agreed or strongly agreed that they learned something new to keep themselves or their families safe in the future.



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THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- 95% of victims surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that they received the services that they needed and wanted as a result of their victimization.

Services Provided:

Each program should use the graphs and embedded spreadsheets to show 1) the number of victims they served and 2) the approximate type of services provided. The programs services listed (e.g. crisis intervention, housing etc.) on the sample program sheet are from the Office of Justice Programs domestic abuse program standards. This can be updated or amended by each program depending on the services they provide. Many programs will be able to pull these together rather quickly from reports to funders, however, it is okay to approximate or estimate the percentages; they should total 100%.

Testimonials:

Programs should secure a quote from at least one system professional and one survivor that used your services. This will help to personalize the impact of your program and help to bolster the need to maintain strong domestic violence services in your community. If programs have a challenge getting a systems professional to submit a quote they should utilize two quotes from a survivor, or a quote from a board member or other local stakeholder.

Cost Effectiveness and Efficiency:

Each sheet contains an area where programs should briefly articulate how you have been creative, effective and efficient in providing services to your community. MCBW has developed some sample outcomes that can be altered, or you can create some of

THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

your own. It is important to remain brief, have them be quantifiable, and demonstrate your community collaborations.

Other Considerations

Computer System Capabilities

The Cost of Domestic Violence templates have been formatted for Microsoft Word 2007. If you do not have this version of Microsoft Word, you can download a free service pack at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=941B3470-3AE9-4AEE-8F43-C6BB74CD1466&displaylang=en> .

Formatting:

The formatting for the Cost of Domestic Violence template is rather tight. It will be difficult to add additional information from what is already presented. If programs would like to share additional information with their policy makers you may want to give that information to them separately, as an addition to the Cost of Domestic Violence sheet.

Community based programs will be able to have a two sided one page document. Shelters, hotel/motel and safe home programs will have a three page document. Each program will have a methodology and reference sheet to refer to. This packet also contains copies of the Office of Justice Programs victim experience survey, sample program and shelter sheets, documentation on the hourly rate of volunteers.

The Process

Step One - Participate in an Overview Webinar:

Two webinars have been scheduled to help programs walk through the process of creating their own Cost of Domestic Violence sheet. Sign up for a webinar on either Friday January 23rd at 1:00 p.m. or Friday January 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Step Two - Fill in the Worksheet Blanks

Programs should start with a Cost of Domestic Violence Worksheet.

List the counties in your service area.

Fill in the number of battered women you served in 2008. (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

Programs should obtain the number of law enforcement domestic violence calls and domestic violence arrests for your counties or service area. Ask for 2008 numbers, if available. If they are not available, ask them for their 2007 totals. Be sure you know what time period is being reported.

Programs should call their court administrator to obtain the total number of criminal court filings for domestic violence related assaults for 2008. If 2008 numbers are not available, ask for 2007 totals.

Find information on your service areas probation numbers from the appendix materials.

Step Three - Fill in the Cost of Domestic Violence Template

Take the information from the worksheet and fill in the Cost of Domestic Violence Template.

Fill in the program overview, program narrative, list counties served.

Gather quotes from a system provider and survivor and add to the template.



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THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Add the information about the number of women served.

Edit the service provided sections of the worksheet and the service number graph.

Using the formulas on the Worksheet, calculate the cost numbers and add them to the template.

Step Four – Finalize Cost of Violence Template

Once you have filled in all of the information that has been gathered into the Cost of Violence Template, the worksheet and template should be e-mailed to MCBW. E-mail the two documents to lrichards@mcbw.org. MCBW staff and interns will work with programs to finalize your sheets.

Again, some programs may not be able to obtain all of the information requested for the worksheet which is okay.

Step Five – Register for Action Day to End Violence Against Women and Share the Cost of Domestic Violence!

Please, come to Action Day on Wednesday February 11th. Bring as many staff, volunteers, and survivors as you can. MCBW will have copies of each program's Cost of Domestic Violence sheets available to use when talking with legislators.

Register for Action Day. Registration materials are available on MCBW's website www.mcbw.org. We encourage you to call and make appointments with your legislators.

Questions – Assistance

Contact Liz Richards at lrichards@mcbw.org or 651-646-6177 ext. 25.

THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Worksheet

- Identify your service area. (E.g. list the counties that you serve.)

- Determine the number of battered women served during 2008 (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008). (This may be the Office of Justice Programs Service Numbers that you reported.)

- Multiply the number of battered women served by \$16,449.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \$16,449 = \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

This is the total cost to victims. Enter this number into the [Cost of Domestic Violence Template](#).

- FOR SHELTER PROVIDERS:

Determine the number of shelter intakes for women and children in FY 2008.

 2008 intakes.

Determine the number of bed days provided for women and children from FY 2005 - 2008.

 2005 bed days

 2006 bed days

 2007 bed days

 2008 bed days

- Call your local law enforcement agencies and ask for the number of domestic violence calls and the number of domestic violence arrests for 2008. (If 2008 is unavailable, ask for 2007).

IE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Multiply the number of dv calls with no arrest by the average response time of 1 hour times the average salary of \$60.00.

_____ x 1 hour x \$60 per hour = \$ _____

- Multiply the number of dv calls with arrest by the average cost of processing an assault \$500.00.

_____ x \$500 per arrest case = \$ _____

- Find the number of probation cases for your service area by consulting the Minnesota Department of Corrections 2007 Probation Survey and the American Probation and Parole Association. Located in appendix materials.

- Multiply the number of probation cases by the cost of providing probation services for a year.

_____ x \$3.49 per day x 365 days a year = \$ _____

- Call the court administrators in each judicial district covered by your program to obtain the domestic violence criminal cases for 2008. If the 2008 numbers are not available, ask for 2007 numbers.

- Multiply the number of domestic violence cases by the cost of court services.

_____ x \$8.50 per minute x 250 min. (average minimum time) = \$ _____

- Add together the law enforcement cost numbers, probation cost number and court cost number. This is the total system cost. Enter this number on the Cost of Domestic Violence template.

\$ _____ (le calls) + \$ _____ (le arrests) + \$ _____ (probation) +

\$ _____ (courts) = \$ _____

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