

House Appropriations Committee Human Resources Division

January 27, 2025

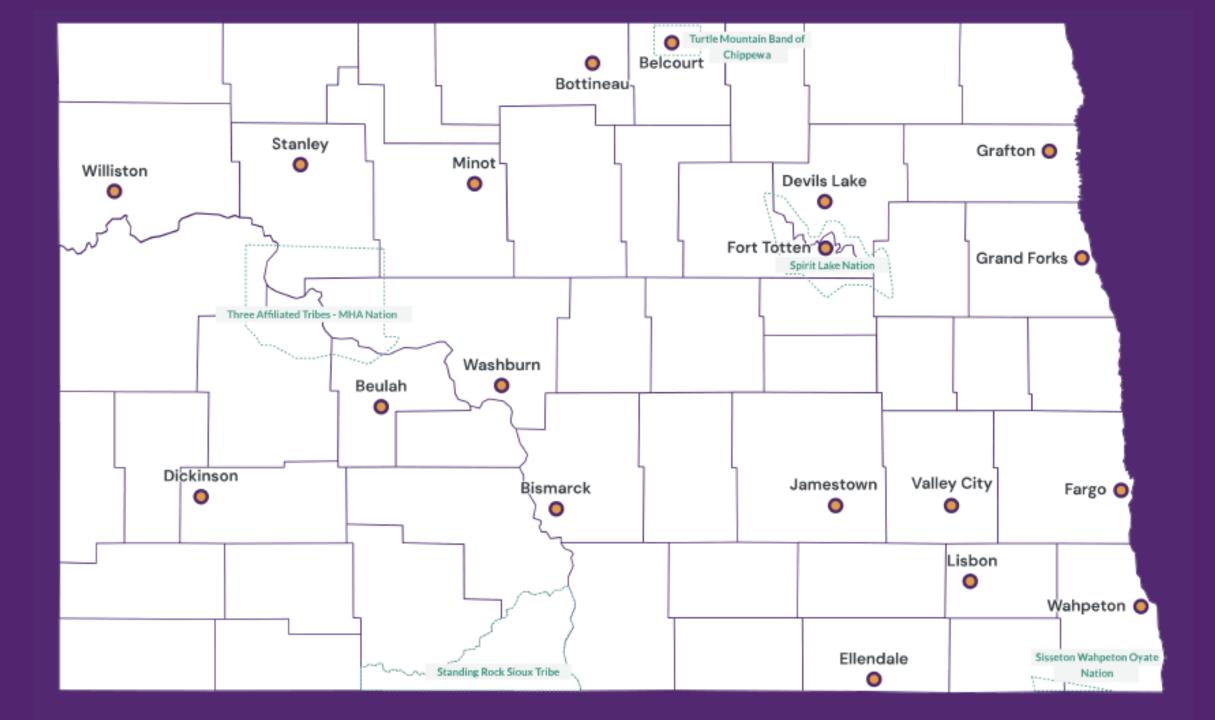
Presented by: Seth O'Neill, JD, MSW,

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Member Program Overview

Serve	 More than 7,400 survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault
Educate	 More than 49,000 community members and professionals annually
Employ	• More than 330 employees
Provide	 Safety, healing, and education to all 53 counties and 3 tribal nations.
Represent	 More than 700 years of service (urban and rural communities)



Domestic Violence Statistics (2023)

6,131 new victims

6,131 new victims^{*} of domestic violence were served by 19 domestic violence advocacy centers across North Dakota.

*new = unduplicated for calendar year



105

105 women were pregnant at the time they were assaulted.



4,205

At least 4,205 children were directly impacted by these incidents.



Sexual Assault Statistics (2023)

1,288 primary victims

1,288 primary victims^{*} and 221 secondary victims were served by 19 sexual assault advocacy centers across North Dakota.



242

At least 242 of primary victims were under the age of 18 years old at the time of the assault(s).



20,274

At least 20,274 services were provided to primary victims by advocacy center advocates from January to December 2023.

Statistics represent new victims served in 2023. New = unduplicated for calendar year. Primary victims refers to the victim/survivor whom the sexual assault and/or child sexual abuse was directed at. Secondary victims refers to those who are indirectly affected by the sexual assault—i.e., children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, grandparents, other affected relatives, friends, neighbors, etc.



Domestic & Sexual Violence-Related Deaths & Lethality Risks

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Murder suspect called police, admitted to killing girlfriend in Fargo apartment, court docs say

A review of previous incidents involving the suspect, Randall Duffy, and the victim, Jody Campbell, shows the two had a long history of domestic disputes, dating back to 2018.

Jun 10 · By Tasha Carvell

North Dakota Attorney General Drew Wrigley says crime is steadily increasing in the state

Wrigley cited a lack of respect for law enforcement as a factor in the reported crime hike

6d ago · By Michael McGurran

Man accused of shooting at Grand Forks SWAT team tells judge: 'I respect law enforcement'

Police say 30-year-old Jeffrey Simpson got into a 15-second gunfight on Friday, March 22, as they tried to arrest him on domestic assault charges.

Mar 25 · By Matt Henson

Bismarck man sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to assaulting woman

BRAD NYGAARD | Jun 25, 2024

Grand Forks man requests change of venue in criminal case alleging he abused wife

Court documents filed by the defense argue that media attention, particularly following the alleged victim's death, has created an unjust environment for Joshua Temple to face prosecution in.

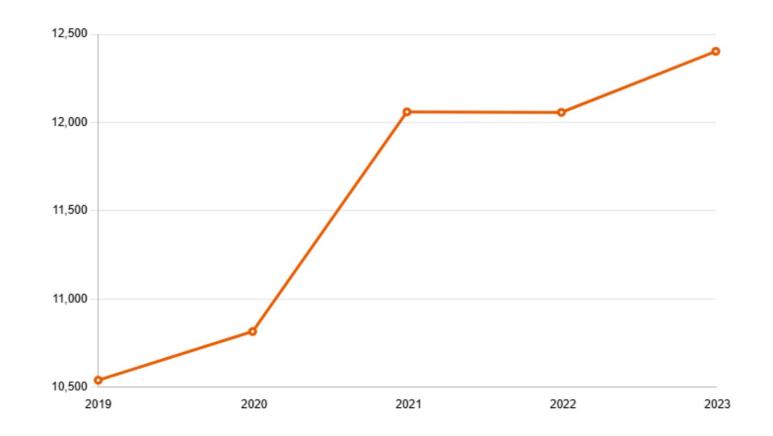
Jun 17 · By Sav Kelly

Standoff in Wahpeton leads to arrest following alleged domestic assault

Officers responded when Nathan Vancleave Deemer III, 20, allegedly assaulted his 14-year-old sister and then pointed a gun at her.

May 31 · By Forum staff

Crimes Against Persons Total Offenses (2019-2023)



Data retrieved from Crime in North Dakota, 2023 report from the Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Criminal Investigation

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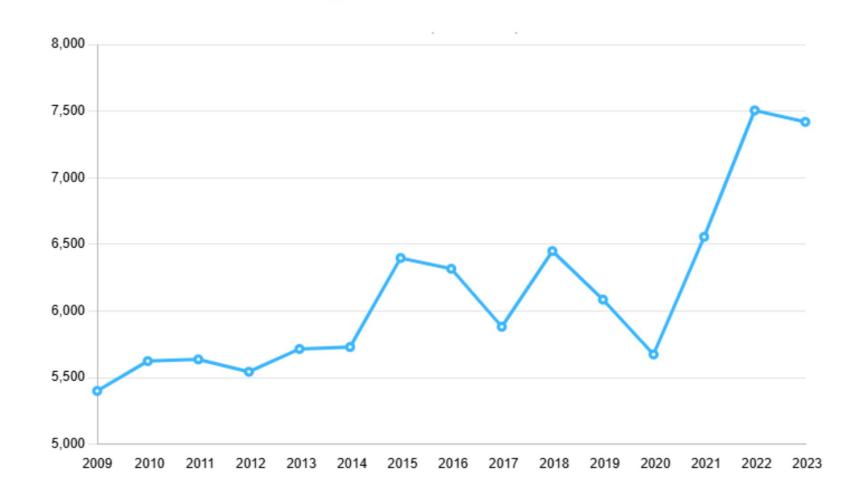
Domestic Violence Homicides, 2004-2023

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
2004	6	4		10
2005	6	7	1	14
2006	4	4	1	9
2007	7	10		17
2008		4		4
2009	12	3		15
2010	6	6		12
2011	7	7	1	15
2012	6	13		19
2013	7	7		14
2014	6	12	1	19
2015	9	11	2	22
2016	2	14		16
2017	4	9		13
2018	12	5		17
2019	10	16		26
2020	15	14	3	32
2021	3	13	1	17
2022	11	17	3	31
2023	5	19		24
Total 2004-2023	138	195	13	346



Victims Served (2009-2023)

Total New Victims (DV & SA)





Interpersonal Violence in North Dakota

41% of women



26% of men

Impacted by domestic or sexual violence in their lifetime

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2024.

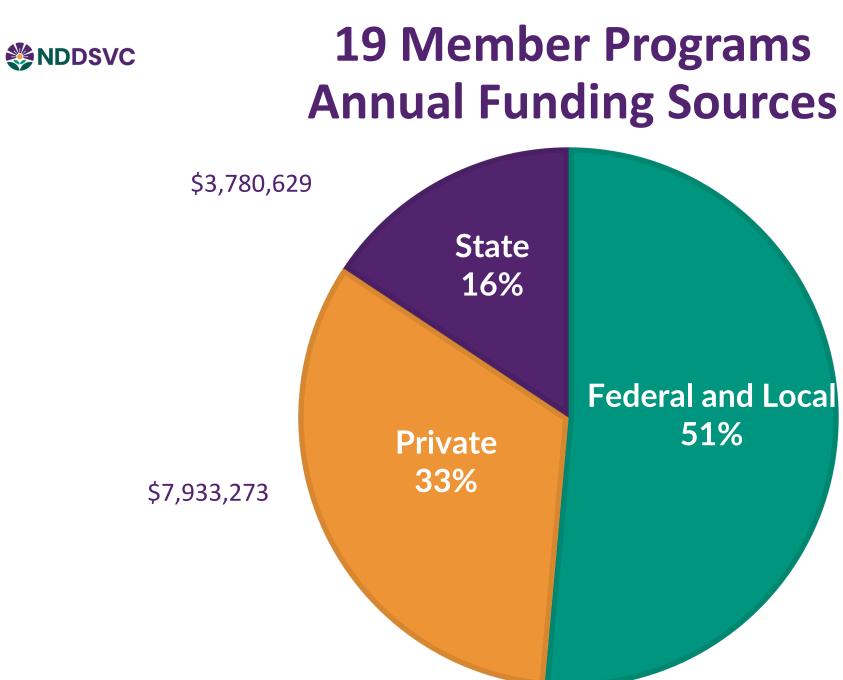
Population of North Dakota:

779,261

North Dakotans Impacted by domestic or sexual violence in their lifetime:

259,558

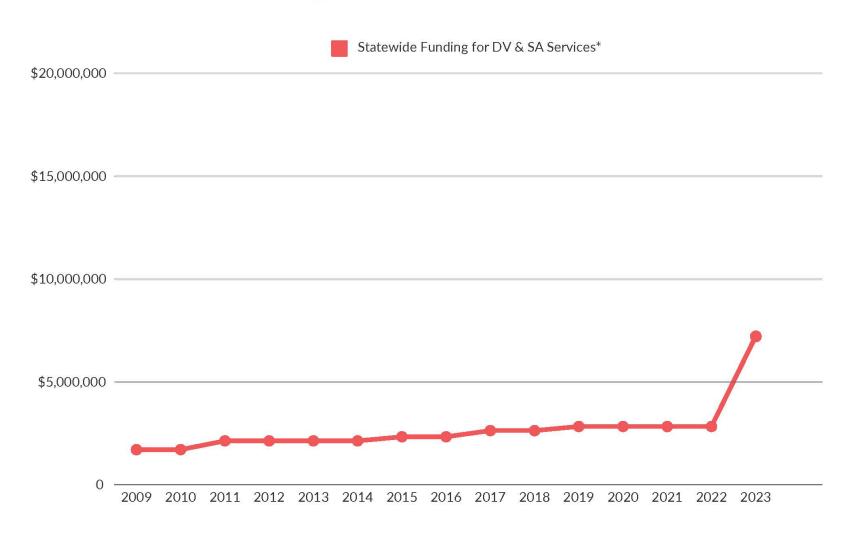
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022.



\$12,400,172



Statewide Funding for DV & SA Services (2009-2023)



*There is also an estimated additional \$340,000 distributed from the marriage license fees. This amount changes based on what is collected.

2023 Funding Increase Impacts:

competitive wages, health insurance, additional staff to serve

"We were understaffed by 5 advocates at one point last spring and we weren't receiving ANY applications much less qualified applicants. Once we increased the wages, it was easier to hire and we have been fully staffed since then. It definitely helped retain the advocates we had as well."

– AARC, Bismarck

"The increase in funding allowed us to hire a prevention specialist that is based in a school and they have a class called

'Empower Hour.' This is a class that focuses on healthy behaviors and helps social emotional learning using evidenced based curriculum...The class has been so well received and our staff member was even chosen 'teacher of the month' voted on by students." – ARN, Lisbon "We were able to fill positions, after being understaffed by 25% for a year by making salaries more competitive. We were able to enhance our benefits package to include short term disability as well as retain our RST programming for our direct services team to address issues of vicarious trauma. This truly prevented potential closure of programming for victims due to lack of staffing and funding." – DVCC, Minot



Average Starting Salary for DV/SA Advocate



Based on a survey of 14 member programs, January 2025.



69th Legislative Assembly 2025 HHS Funding Request

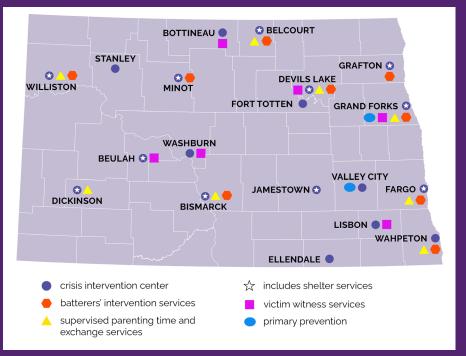
Program Category	Description of Service	Source of Funds	2023-2025 Biennium Request	2023 – 2025 Biennium Appropriation	2025-2027 Biennium Request
Domestic	Crisis response,	State General	\$10,000,000	\$4,596,285	\$10,820,160
Violence &	advocacy	Fund			
Sexual Assault		Community		1,000,000	
		Health Trust Fund			
		Domestic		340,000	
		Violence			
		Prevention Fund			
Safe Haven	Supervised	State General	2,200,000	425,000	2,380,435
	visitation and	Fund			
	exchange				
Sexual Violence	Bystander	State General	4,000,000	200,000	4,328,064
Prevention	intervention	Fund			
	program				
Domestic	Intervention for	Community	1,425,000	1,000,000	1,568,923
Violence	domestic violence	Health Trust Fund			
Intervention	offenders				
Programming					
		Total	\$17,625,000.00	\$7,561,285.00	\$19,097,582.00



Domestic Violence General Funds

Provides essential services including:

- 24-hour crisis intervention,
- counseling,
- accountability and education for offenders,
- sexual assault response & advocacy,
- prevention & outreach, and
- shelter and transitional housing.

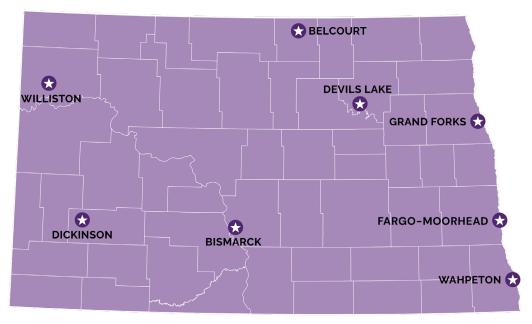


Department of Health and Human Services Current Appropriation: \$5,936,285 Request: \$10,820,160

Safe Haven Funds Supervised Parenting Time & Exchanges

The Safe Havens funds provide supervised parenting time and exchanges for families. These programs provide a safe place for children and families to maintain a relationship while addressing underlying concerns.

The appropriation amount has not increased since at least the 2013-2015 biennium. In communities without this service, a child may be left unsupervised with a violent parent or a domestic violence victim may have to contact their abuser for child exchanges exposing them to violence and increased lethality risk.



Department of Health and Human Services **Current Appropriation: \$425,000 Request: \$2,380,435 Century code: 14-09-29.** Parental rights and responsibilities - Best interests

Parental rights and responsibilities - Best interests and welfare of child.

Safe Haven Funds Supervised Parenting Time & Exchanges

	Williston	Dickinson	Bismarck	Grand Forks	Wahpeton	Fargo	Devils Lake	Turtle Mtn	Total
Hours of services	1,500.25	930.5	1,405.25	2,174.50	611	1,928.75	68.25	496	9,114.50
Families Served	53	67	56	85	28	136	6		431
Children Served	98	67	82	165	45	221	11		689
DV Cases	30	40	42	74	19	53	2		255
FT Staff	2	2	1	2	1	2	0		10
PT Staff	3	0	4	6	4	9	2		28



Sexual Violence Prevention Funds

Sexual violence prevention is severely underfunded at the state level.

Increasing the funding for sexual violence prevention would improve the health and safety of North Dakota.

Help us transition from serving nearly 7,400 primary victims to creating a ND with thriving, healthy relationships.

Department of Health and Human Services **Current Appropriation: \$200,000 Request: \$4,328,064**

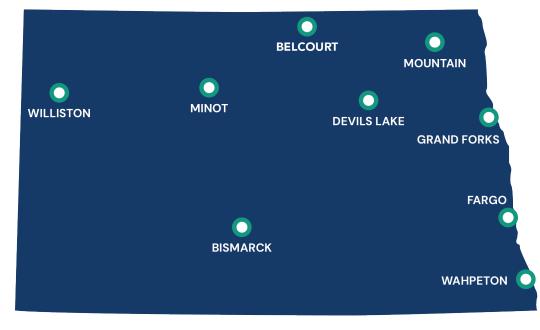


Domestic Violence Intervention Funds

Domestic violence intervention programs received an increase during the current biennium.

703 participants (35% increase) were served by ten programs during the first half of the biennium.

Increased funds made it possible to start a tribal program in Belcourt.



• In Compliance with ND Battering Intervention Standards

Department of Health and Human Services **Current Appropriation: \$1,000,000 Request: \$1,568,923 Century Code: 12.1-17-13.** Mandated intervention program for domestic violence offenders.

Thank You!



Please reach out if you're looking for more information.

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