

Summary of 2012 Pilot Survey of Responses of Catholic Charities- USA Affiliates Regarding Domestic Violence Programs

Compiled by Dr. Christopher Yueng
for the Archdiocese of Baltimore Family Peace Initiative for Domestic Violence Awareness, 2015

Executive Summary

During the summer of 2012, an on-line pilot survey about domestic violence services was sent to all Catholic Charities organizations in the US and its territories affiliated with Catholic Charities – USA. This was a cooperative effort with the lay ministry, Catholics for Family Peace. This summary is based on 35 responses received by the report deadline.

Approximately two-thirds of respondents:

- Provide or refer to psychological counseling for adults (male and female)
- Provide educational programs to the community

Approximately half of respondents:

- Provide financial assistance
- Provide or refer to legal counseling for adults
- Provide or refer to psychological counseling for child witness survivors

Approximately a third of respondents:

- Provide shelters for victims
- Provide or refer to counseling for perpetrators
- Provide or refer to spiritual counseling for adults

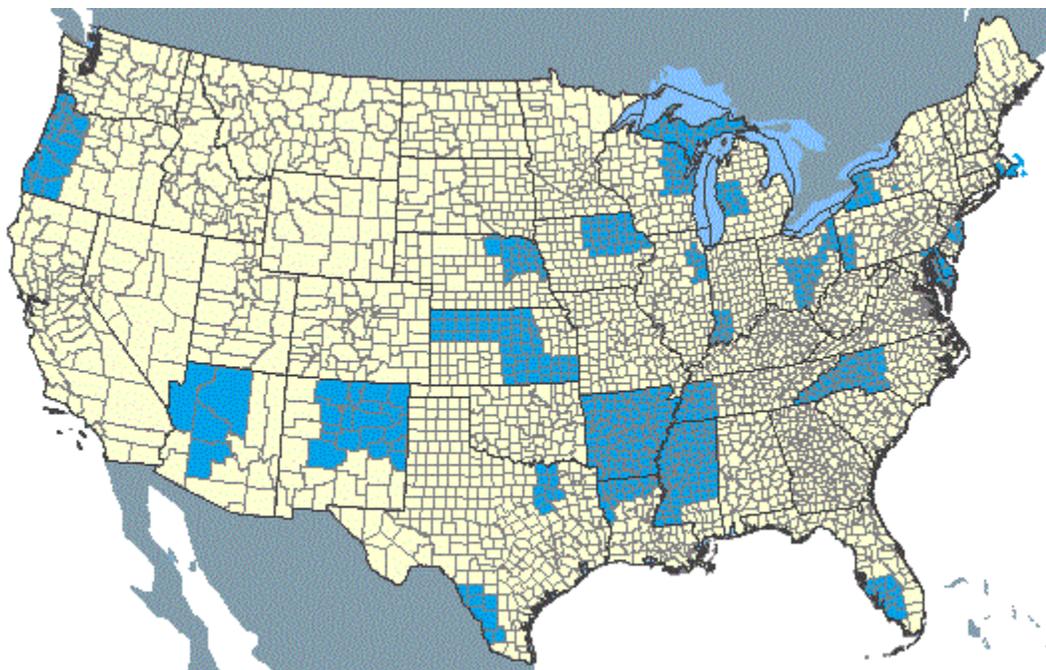
Catholic Charities – USA organizations provide an array of services to address domestic violence. In aggregate, they provide the following services:

- Legal Counseling for survivors (including court protection orders, child custody, and VAWA immigration petitions)
- Mental Health Counseling for survivors (including support groups)
- Victim Survivor Advocacy (including step-by-step guidance in hospitals or police stations, accompanying victims to court hearings, and case management)
- Counseling for child witnesses
- Economic Self-Sufficiency (including housing – transitional, permanent, rental assistance, Employment, Childcare, Life skills education)
- Counseling for abusers (including court-approved anger management classes, counseling for substance abuse and mental health)
- Community Education (in schools, churches, including teen dating violence)
- Response-Team Education (training people to accompany victims at hospital or police station)
- Culturally targeted programs (Hispanic, Immigrant, and African-American populations)

In terms of the number of people who received services, legal counseling for adults was the most prevalent, followed by financial assistance, mental health counseling, educational programs, and shelter services. See Chart for Question 4 for full details. The list of respondents that provided contact information can be found at the end of the full report.

Q1. Participating Dioceses and Archdioceses

A survey was sent to all Catholic Charities organizations in the US and its territories affiliated with Catholic Charities – USA. Thirty five responses were received by the report deadline. They included 30 dioceses and 5 archdioceses (Santa Fe, Portland in Oregon, Dubuque, Agaña (Guam), and Anchorage) that provided contact information, with one diocese furnishing two responses from different organizations. Geographically, responding dioceses were located in the midwest (11), south (9), northeast (5), west (3), Alaska (1), and Guam (1).



Q2. Services Currently Provided

Respondents were asked to check off which services they currently provide to those involved with domestic violence. As seen in the following chart, about two-thirds of respondents provide or refer to psychological counseling services for adults (male and female) as well as educational programs to the community; half of respondents provide financial assistance, provide or refer to legal counseling for adults, provide or refer to psychological counseling for child witness survivors; and about a third of responders provide shelters for victims, provide or refer to counseling for perpetrators, and provide or refer to spiritual counseling for adults.

Respondents were also asked to add any other services not listed by the survey. Responses, in order of frequency, included VAWA petitions (for undocumented immigrant survivors), transitional housing, case management, permanent housing, child care, transportation, accompanying victims to court, anger

management classes, employment assistance, support groups, personal advocacy and system navigation.

Service Currently Provided	In-House %	Outside Referral %
Psychological / Behavioral Counseling		
Male victims	46%	66%
Female victims	63%	
Educational Programs	66%	n/a
Counseling for Child Witness Survivors	51%	49%
Financial Assistance	51%	n/a
Shelters for Victims	37%	n/a
Counseling for Abusers	34%	29%
Legal Counseling for Adults	26%	54%
Spiritual Advice for Adults	20%	31%
Other		
VAWA Petitions	14%	
Transitional housing after leaving shelter	11%	
Case Management after exiting shelter	6%	
Permanent Housing	6%	
Child care	3%	
Transportation	3%	
Accompany victims to Court	3%	
Anger Management	3%	
Employment Assistance	3%	
Personal Advocacy and System Navigation	3%	
Support Groups	3%	

Q3. Qualitative Description of Services (aggregate)

Respondents were also asked to further describe their particular services. Aggregating these answers together, Catholic Charities organizations nationally provide all of the following services to those involved in domestic violence:

- Legal Counseling for survivors
 - Court Protection
 - Privacy / separation from abuser
 - Child custody
 - Immigration (VAWA)
- Mental Health Counseling for survivors
 - Social Isolation
 - Low self-esteem
 - E.g. SEPIA Breakthrough group guide
- Personal Advocacy (Victim Survivor Advocacy)

- Step-by-step guidance in hospital setting
- Accompanying to court hearings
- Case management
- Counseling for child witnesses
 - E.g. therapeutic creative arts program
- Economic Self-Sufficiency
 - Housing (transitional, permanent, rental assistance)
 - Employment
 - Childcare
 - Life skills education
- Counseling for perpetrators
 - Court-approved anger management classes
 - E.g. Duluth Model for offenders group
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health
- Community Education
 - Schools
 - Churches
- Response-Team Education
 - Training people to accompany victims at hospital or police station
- Culturally based programs
 - Hispanic
 - Immigrant
 - African-American

Q4. Number of People Served within the past year (aggregate of all responses)

	In-House	Outside Referral	
Legal Counseling (adult survivor)	9,591	1,940	
Financial Assistance	7,736	n/a	
Mental Counseling (adults)	3,070	1,753	} 7,399
Counseling (child witnesses)	1,234	414	
Counseling (abuser)	808	120	

Q5. With which Catholic organizations do you collaborate?

Group	% of responding agencies
Local Catholic Churches	54%
Diocesan Programs	40%
Catholic Hospitals	20%
Local Catholic Schools	17%

Q6. What services would you like to offer, if you could?

Service Wish List	Number of responding agencies
Transitional Housing	6
Educational Programs	4
Counseling	2
Permanent Housing	2
Financial Assistance	1
Employment Assistance	1
Services for Men (abusers or victims)	1
Teen Dating Violence education	1
Independent Transportation	1

Q7. Can you provide contact information on other Catholics who work in this area?

This information is included in the list of contact information found at the end of the report.

Q8. Do you address teen dating violence awareness, prevention?

Fifteen (15) out of 25 (60%) respondents indicated they have a program (in-house or collaborative) directed towards education about teen dating violence. Some examples of programs include Teen Maze program, Start Strong offered at or through schools, Rape Crisis Centers, Covenant House, and foster care programs.

Example of a Catholic Response to Domestic Abuse: Providence House, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, NJ (<http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/cc3/index.php?page=providence-house>)

Providence House Domestic Violence Services (PHDVS) was established in Burlington County, New Jersey in 1978 and in Ocean County in 1986. Providence House Domestic Violence Services seeks to remove the barriers that prevent a survivor of domestic violence from living an abuse free life. These barriers are often created by the lack of knowledge about domestic violence, unstable financial and housing resources, fear for one's safety, social isolation, and or low self-esteem. Through our services, PHDVS empowers victims to break down the barriers and to make life-altering changes. Separation from abusive individuals, a change in living arrangements, filing of restraining orders, drawing boundaries, or becoming aware of the options are all ways in which Providence House assists victims on a daily basis. These services are free of charge and are invaluable to victims and their children who are struggling to break free from the abuse in their homes. We offer a comprehensive array of services to survivors and their children as well as to the community.

Our free and confidential services include:

- Safe House – emergency residential services are offered in two NJ counties sheltering up to 27 women and children in each homelike facility. These safe houses are the only domestic abuse emergency shelters (confidentially located) in Burlington and Ocean counties.
- Children's Counseling Program – a program for child witnesses of domestic violence offered to children in our Safe Houses.
- Peace: A Learned Solution (PALS) – a six-month therapeutic creative arts program for child witnesses of domestic abuse and their non-offending parent
- Project Self-Sufficiency – a case management program for homeless victims of domestic abuse offering life skills education including budgeting and housing referral assistance to residents of the Safe Houses.
- Project Outreach – an innovative program of Providence House Domestic Violence Services in Burlington County that reaches out to African American and Black victims of domestic abuse with a comprehensive array of services tailored to the specific needs of the African American and Black communities.
- Project Reach – an innovative program of Providence House Domestic Violence Services in Ocean County that recognizes the unique obstacles faced by victims abused later in life such as long-time spouse abuse or abuse by grown children
- Legal Advocacy Program – a program that provides court accompaniment, legal information and referral to victims seeking restraining orders
- Counseling Program – counseling, case management, and educational services for adult victims of domestic abuse
- 24-hour toll-free domestic abuse hotline - available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for victims in need of crisis counseling and/or a safe haven from abuse (one in each county)
- Domestic Violence Response Team – a program that provides training, supervision, and guidance to teams of community volunteers who speak to victims immediately following a domestic violence incident at the local police station or hospital
- Domestic Violence Liaison Program (DVL) – a program that strengthens and enhances the service coordination between New Jersey's child protection and domestic violence systems to bring about improved safety and well-being outcomes for individuals and their children when child abuse and domestic violence co-occur.
- Silent Witness Program – this ceremony commemorates those killed by domestic violence.