



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

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Executive Summary 2015 Report to the Legislative Assembly Pursuant to ORS 411.154

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History

In 1997, the Oregon State Legislature passed HB 3112, now ORS 411.117, as Oregon's response to the Wellstone/Murray Family Violence Amendment of the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act. The amendment to the federal legislation, known as the "Family Violence Option," was added to recognize that certain changes in the welfare reform law may negatively affect victims of domestic violence.

The Family Violence Option allows states to certify standards and procedures to screen for, identify and serve individuals impacted by domestic violence. It also allows states to waive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program requirements, such as work participation, child support cooperation, and time limits, when appropriate.

ORS 411.154 requires the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) to report to the Legislative Assembly every other year on the processes DHS uses to screen for domestic violence, domestic violence emergency assistance expenditures, and the number of DHS staff members who have received training on domestic violence.

The full report is available online at:

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/domestic/pages/dvdata_pub.aspx

Highlights from the 2013-2015 biennium

- In the 2013-15 biennium, a total of \$8,248,256 was spent on emergency assistance for victims of domestic violence through the Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors Program (TA-DVS). An average of 447 families escaping domestic violence received emergency payments from TA-DVS each month. This number represents an average of 56 fewer families compared to the

2013 report.

- Many local trainings and collaborative efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of the issues surrounding domestic violence were carried out statewide. Additionally, DHS provided formal training. In State Fiscal Year 2014, there were 2,532 staff members who attended domestic violence training as required by the Governor's Executive Order 07-17. This included 256 supervisors and managers who had policy and awareness domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in the workplace policy and awareness training.
- DHS continues collaborating with local victim's service programs in policy and service planning for domestic violence victims.
- The DHS Domestic Violence Council reviews policy, practices and training requirements, and makes recommendations as necessary to the DHS Director.
- DHS contracts with local domestic violence service providers to house advocates for customers in DHS Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency program offices.
- DHS and OHA continue collaborating with the Oregon Department of Justice on a grant to serve pregnant and parenting teens, and women who have been victims of domestic violence during pregnancy or within 12 months of becoming pregnant.
- Domestic violence victim identification processes are in place within all DHS Self-Sufficiency programs.
- Child Welfare practices are in place to guide staff in working with clients affected by domestic violence.
- A domestic violence information phone line exists in Multnomah County to connect customers, the community, and DHS staff with information and resources.
- A DHS Self-Sufficiency staff member is out-stationed in *A Safe Place*, the Clackamas County domestic violence one-stop, to provide direct services to victims.

Summary:

The key to identifying domestic violence is to have educated staff readily available to screen and immediately provide support and resources. DHS remains committed to identifying and assisting domestic violence survivors and their children to address safety concerns and stabilize their living situations.

For more information, please contact Dr. Reginald C. Richardson, Director of the DHS Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs, at Reginald.Richardson@state.or.us or (503) 945-5890, or Xochitl Esparza, TANF Program Manager, at Xochitl.Esparza@state.or.us or (503) 945-6122.