

Family Violence Program

Service Description

Through the Family Violence program (Section 51, Human Resources Code), DHS provides financial assistance to local, non-profit shelter centers to offer immediate protection and aid to adult victims of family violence, their children, and other household members. Violent family members may receive crisis telephone counseling, information and referral services, and other assistance as available.

Shelter centers contracting with the department must provide the following services:

- 24-hour shelter;
- 24-hour hotline;
- emergency medical care and transportation;
- counseling;
- children's services;
- information and referral services;
- legal assistance;
- employment services; and
- services to violent family members, and non-residents or former residents.

The pie charts on page 27 depict the percentage of these services used by shelter residents and non-resident clients.

Shelter centers must also provide community education, solicit volunteers, and work with law enforcement and criminal justice officials.

Note: A table containing specific data for individual shelter centers is on Page 31.

Program Objectives

The Family Violence program helps reduce or prevent domestic violence by providing services to battered women and their families with an emphasis on the safety of the victim.

Although most family violence victims served by shelter centers are battered women and their children, the program acknowledges that all family violence victims have a right to services as they are available.

The program:

- helps families create and maintain violence-free lives;
- provides temporary shelter and support services to victims of family violence; and
- increases understanding of the dynamics of family violence.

Program Resources

DHS contracted with 46 centers in fiscal year 1986. Although legislation allows up to 75 percent financial participation, DHS funds accounted for only 28 percent of the operating costs of the average shelter center. Shelter centers

raised the remainder of their budgets from local sources such as United Way, city and county governments, private foundations, and fund-raising activities.

As reflected in the table below, DHS spent \$2.5 million on the Family Violence program in fiscal year 1986. Approximately 92 percent of the money was spent for direct service contracts. State law sets a limit of 6 percent of the program budget for training and research and another 6 percent for administration. DHS has bettered that standard the last two years, allowing the program a high return in client services with minimum spending for other necessary functions.

To spread financial resources as far as possible, shelter centers rely heavily on volunteers. In 1986, volunteers worked 325,296 hours in family violence shelter centers. This is equal to an additional 156 full-time staff. At

Family Violence Program Expenditures FY 1985 and 1986

Category	FY 1985*		FY 1986**	
	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Service Contracts	\$2,060,333	90.3%	\$2,290,212	91.7%
Administration	\$ 128,972	5.7%	\$ 80,984	3.2%
Research and Training	\$ 91,672	4.0%	\$ 127,534	5.1%
Total	\$2,280,977	100.0%	\$2,498,730	100.0%

*For contracts with 42 centers.

**For contracts with 46 centers.

\$3.35 an hour, these volunteers contributed more than \$1 million in time and service to family violence shelter centers. Shelter centers also welcome and use a wide variety of in-kind contributions.

Client Characteristics

Of the women who resided in a family violence shelter in 1986:

- 42 percent had been battered for one to five years;
- 24 percent had been battered for more than five years;
- 87 percent had children (an average of two); and
- 27 percent said at least one of her children had also been abused.

Alcohol and drug abuse appears to be linked to the incidence of spouse abuse. Sixty-eight percent of batterers abused alcohol or drugs.

Current Performance

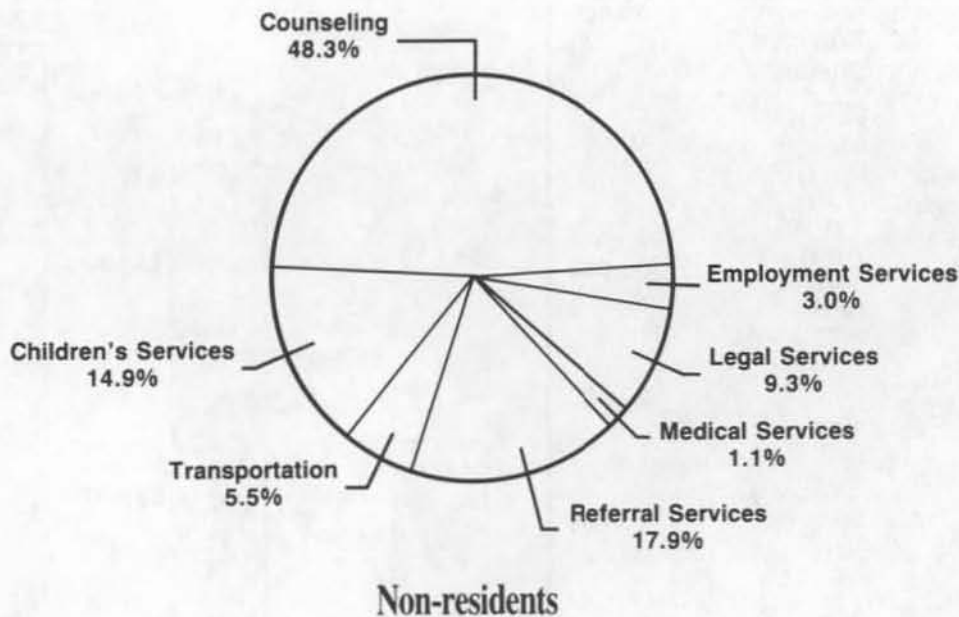
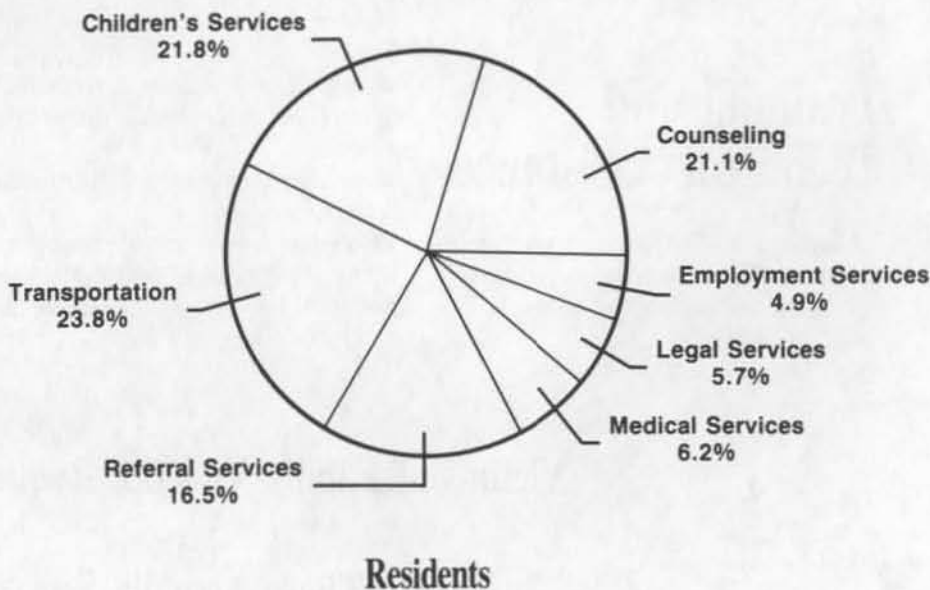
Family Violence shelter centers offer crisis intervention services that allow the victim client to leave a dangerous situation and help families prevent further violence.

In fiscal year 1986, shelter centers in Texas provided shelter to 708 women and 1,053 children each month. However, they denied shelter to approximately 51 percent of the victims requesting services, primarily because of a lack of space.

The need for additional family violence services is documented in a 1983 survey that revealed in Texas:

- 8.5 percent of women over 18 have

Family Violence Support Services Used FY 1986



been physically abused within the last 12 months by men with whom they live; and

■ more than 19 percent of abused women are victimized at least once a week.

Training and Technical Assistance

Chapter 51.003 of the Human Resources Code directs the department to contract for training and technical

assistance to family violence shelter centers. The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) was the successful bidder for the contract to help providers:

- maintain a clearinghouse on family violence;
- respond to telephone requests for information and immediate technical assistance;
- conduct consultation visits to shelter centers;
- conduct workshops on criminal justice, fund raising, shelter administration, board development, and working

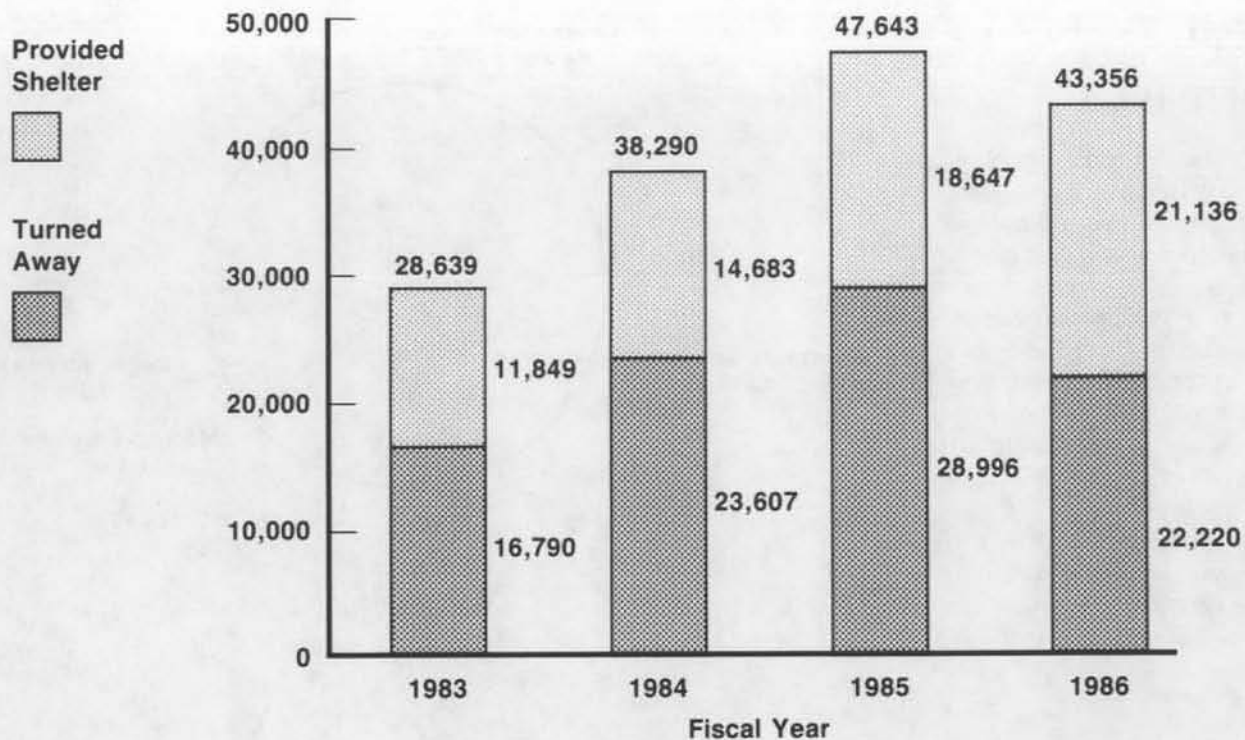
with volunteers;

- produce a quarterly directory of family violence service programs to enhance networking between shelter centers and other social service agencies; and
- produce a bimonthly newsletter.

Biennial Report

The Family Violence program publishes a separate report each biennium listing more detailed information on its services.

Victims of Family Violence Requesting Shelter versus Those Actually Served



Figures for FY 1985 and 1986 include data received after publication of the LAR for FY 1988-1989.