

Policy Briefing

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Only 2 of 18 domestic violence programs in CT have 24 hour on site staff
- 57% of the total family violence victimizations in 2006 occurred between 6:00pm and 6:00am (CT DPS)
- Connecticut is 1 of only 5 states that do not have 24 hour staff at their domestic violence shelters
- Last year, CCADV's 18 domestic violence shelter programs provided services to 53,006 victims of domestic violence
- At least a third of all American children have witnessed violence between their parents

Increase Access to Domestic Violence Emergency Shelters

When you have to flee your home to be safe where will you go? Connecticut's emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence are the resource of last resort. Without adequate on-site staffing at emergency shelters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, women and children who are admitted into shelter after-hours are finding that many of their questions go unanswered and their needs go unmet until morning. When they come to shelter, women and children have just survived a traumatic event. They are uprooted from their homes, families, support networks and routines and anxious about making new connections to schools, medical and legal professionals, community resources and sources of support. They find themselves in a new and daunting place where they do not know anyone. These families are in dire need of the time, information and support only an on-site staff member can provide. Programs that operate without 24-7 on-site staff are less able to meet the complex and co-occurring mental health, substance abuse, and safety needs of women seeking services after hours. **We must preserve the network of domestic violence shelters in Connecticut.**

The yearly net minimum social benefit of one domestic violence shelter is \$3,494,934

Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

Children and adolescents who witnessed and were victims of violence were more likely to become perpetrators of violence than those who were not exposed. Children who witnessed domestic violence during the last year had poorer verbal abilities than non-witnesses. Children exposed to (not necessarily involved in) violence are more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviors, be less socially competent, and experience depression, fears, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and learning problems.

Funding Costs

Type of Program	Cost (Per Program)	Programs in CT	Total Additional Cost
Host Home	\$60,000	2	\$120,000
11-14 Bed Shelter	\$170,000	5	\$850,000
15-20 Bed Shelter	\$180,000	11	\$1,980,000
<i>Total</i>	---	<i>18</i>	\$2,950,000

CCA DV

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 90 Pitkin Street East Hartford, CT 06108
 860 282-7899
www.ctcadv.org