



Domestic Abuse Intervention Services

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A Growing Need

The National Picture

- 1 in 4 women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime (National Institute of Justice, 2000).
- Only ¼ of all physical assaults perpetrated against females by an intimate partner are reported to law enforcement (National Institute of Justice, 2000).
- In some parts of the country, approximately 1/3 of all homeless women are homeless as a result of domestic violence (Wilder Research Center, 2004).
- Domestic violence victims are **six times** more likely to be killed when separating from their abusers than at any other time. (U.S. Department of Justice, 2000).

The Local Picture

- Each year, approximately 1/3 of all arrests in Dane County are domestic violence-related (Dane County District Attorney's Office).

What it Means for DAIS and the People we Serve

Our services are crucial to the health and safety of our entire community. At the end of the day, we think of our work as **homicide prevention**—vital for people who have nowhere else to turn.

In 2009, there has been a growing need for the services offered by DAIS:

- In the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2009, the number of crisis line callers requesting information about safe house services has risen **145%** compared with the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2008.
- So far in the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2009, DAIS has served **296** people in the safe house, compared with 250 in 2008.
- In quarters 1 and 2 of 2008, DAIS served 125 unduplicated crisis response clients. Already in the first two quarters of 2009, DAIS served **174** unduplicated crisis response clients – and increase of almost 40%!

The DAIS Safe House only has 25 beds—an insufficient number to best serve all the needs of domestic violence victims in Dane County.

Dane County has the smallest domestic violence safe house per capita in all of Wisconsin.

- Milwaukee County has almost double the population of Dane County and has a smaller safe house bed to person ratio—1 bed/15,889 people.
- In smaller counties, like Rock County, there 62 beds in domestic violence safe houses and ratio of 1 bed/2,584 people
- Dane County's ratio is **1 bed/19,308!**