

Oregon has a serious problem.

During support group we were talking about safety strategies and who is a safe person. One 4 year old said, "When Dad kills Mom I will live with my Grandma." My first thought was to reassure the child and say, "Your Mom will be okay!" But then I realized I cannot guarantee that.
Volunteer, Saving Grace, Bend, Oregon

Prevalence is Great:

- Each year, between 18 and 27 Oregonians are killed as a result of domestic violence;
- 1 in 6 Oregon women is the victim of forcible rape;
- At least 1 in 10 Oregon women ages 20-55 has been physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner in the last 5 years;
- Children witness 33 % of domestic violence assaults.

Costs are Enormous:

- \$35 million a year in health care response;
- \$15 million a year in lost productivity and lost earnings for business – includes \$10M lost lifetime earnings due to homicide;
- Domestic violence/sexual assault represent 1/3 or more of all violent crime statewide.

The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) provides **core public safety services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in every county in Oregon. It is the only source of general fund money to support these crucial services:**

- Emergency shelter and assistance;
- Counseling, support, and information referral;
- Individualized safety planning;
- Outreach to underserved victims;
- Comprehensive advocacy for long term safety.

ODSVS dollars can:

- Reduce homeless for women and children;
- Help keep victims in jobs and self-supporting;
- Increase the effectiveness of substance abuse money;
- Save millions in medical and mental health costs;
- Increase child success in school.



ODSVS dollars are **safety** and **prevention** dollars:

- Access to shelter and safety planning is a critical, life-saving factor for victims and children;
- Studies show that access to services leads to 60-70% reduction in incidence/severity of re-assault;
- Services for victims are as important as other public safety services – fire, 911, ambulance.

ODSVS funding levels are already inadequate:

- In 2007, there were 17,236 victim requests for emergency shelter that could not be met due to lack of resources;
- 48% of victims seeking shelter have at least one child with them at the time.

Prevent Cuts to the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund in the Department of Justice Budget.

Save Lives. Save ODSVS.