

MONTANA

STOP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2021-2022 Update



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Introduction

The STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Plan was prepared by the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC), the State Administering Agency for OVW and OVC formula block grants and discretionary grants.

The Montana Board of Crime Control is governed by a board of eighteen (18) members appointed by the Governor of Montana. Board members are appointed to four-year terms and come from a variety of backgrounds, including the Attorney General, the Chief Public Defender, a county commissioner, attorneys, child abuse and victim service program directors, law enforcement, tribal members and citizens. The mission of the Board of Crime Control is to proactively contribute to public safety, crime prevention and victim assistance through planning, policy development and coordination of the justice system in partnership with citizens, government and communities.

The Board's work is supported by 18 staff members who ensure that the agency provides the "Building Blocks for Safer Communities." MBCC's 2017-2019 Strategic Goals (in process of being updated in 2020):

- 1. Criminal justice and behavioral health information sharing is seamless across the entire justice continuum.*
- 2. Evidence-based crime prevention initiatives are launched throughout the state to reduce crimes against persons, property and society.*
- 3. Services for victims of crime are accessible and are delivered through trauma-informed programs and services to help victims heal and reduce future victimization.*

4. *Early intervention, jail diversion and restorative justice initiatives are launched in communities across Montana to reduce incarceration rates and provide opportunities for justice reinvestment.*

MBCC provides STOP funding to programs that encourage the development and strengthening of law enforcement, prosecution, and judicial programs to combat violent crimes against women as well as developing and strengthening of victim service programs in responding to those crimes while coordinating with public and nonprofit agencies. MBCC strives to support innovative projects across the state to reduce violence against women, provide services for victims of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and promote the overall enhancement of the criminal justice system in Montana.

The victim program staff at MBCC considers the entire continuum of services to victims of crime in Montana and with the help of the Victims Committee has identified the following goals for an overall Victim Services Strategic Plan:

1. Consider all funding sources and leverage state and federal funds (VAWA, SASP, VOCA, FVPSA, RPE, Coalitions) to impact system change;
2. Promote innovation to support community coordinated response in areas such as multi-disciplinary teams, high-risk teams, and the development of family justice centers; implement best practices in use of lethality assessments and strategies to recognize strangulation.
3. Support implementation of enhanced victims' rights resulting from the 2016 State of Montana Constitutional Initiative and the 2017 Legislative Session by increasing the number of victim assistance programs;
4. Develop and maintain meaningful partnerships with Tribal governments to create, expand, and enhance services to victims;

5. Recommend standards of practice for each category of service provider (law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocates/assistants, courts, etc.) to establish a baseline of program development, training, and services in responding to child and adult sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, abuse of adults in later life, and stalking;

6. Support restorative justice and youth diversion programs through Title II programs;
and

7. Support increased transitional housing and civil legal services throughout the state by researching and if possible, offering funding opportunities.

This Four-Year Implementation Plan will act as the planning document for future STOP funding in Montana with awards beginning in the fall of 2017 through 2020 with an update for 2020-2021. This document will guide decisions made by the board and will be periodically reviewed by the Victims Committee to ensure that the state is meeting the goals and objectives set forth by OVW and the MBCC Strategic Plan.

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

1. The date on which the plan was approved by the state.

This plan was approved on April 1, 2020.

2. The time period covered by the plan.

The original plan was effective from October 1, 2017 until September 30, 2020. The plan was updated, and changes will be submitted with the annual VAWA Formula Grant application.

3. A brief description of the planning process.

The Montana Board of Crime Control administers most federal funding for victim service providers in the state. Staff is guided by the Board of Directors and the Victims Committee. The Board and staff work annually on the agency's Strategic Plan, either to fully develop a new strategy or to update and continue the work of the multi-year plan. The transparency of the strategic planning helps staff understand the Board's priorities and gives Board members an opportunity to hear about identified gaps and barriers to services as well as best practices that lead to victim program success.

The Victims Committee meets on an annual basis and quarterly as needed and is made up of systems' policy makers from Montana's Dept. of Justice, Dept. of Corrections, Courts, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and Victim Services. These members review the annual update to the VAWA Implementation Plan and consider how the plan corresponds to another federal victim funding provided through MBCC. Recommendations by staff go to the Victims Committee for approval or discussion if the plan doesn't align with the agency's overall goals.

MBCC holds an important role in collaborating with many non-profits, state agencies, local governments, and partners who represent criminal justice and victim service agencies. This allows for participation in system-wide projects like linking systems of care for youth,

establishing comprehensive information sharing systems that connect law enforcement and criminal justice information to the courts systems, and assisting with task forces and working groups to develop legislation that will improve victim safety and response. This unique position allows staff to gain a high-level view of a variety of projects and legislation that may impact the work that MBCC does.

Planning also involves communicating with victim service providers at the community and local government level, often at training workshops and the annual Crime Prevention Conference. These trainings provide networking and outreach opportunities for programs and give them the time to visit with MBCC staff about concerns, trends, funding, and other factors that make programs successful. This plays a large part in our annual event planning.

Finally, the Victim Stakeholders Group is a large group of subject matter experts involved in all aspects of criminal/civil justice and victim services. Surveys were sent out to programs soliciting information about services and needs to improve victim services. That information was gathered and provided in synopsis to the Stakeholder's Group as a starting point for developing an overall Victim Services Strategic Plan. This group represents the perspective of a larger statewide system responding to victims and their offenders. The benefit of expanding this group of partners is staff's ability to hear new perspectives from those who historically haven't been invited to participate at this level. Invitations were sent out to different stakeholders representing every state and federal tribe, government agencies, local agencies, sexual assault services, victim advocates, victim witness assistants, law enforcement, courts, probation and parole, and underserved populations (as a requirement of the planning process), many of whom are funded by MBCC through federal block grants. Quarterly meetings were held to update a larger Victim Services Strategic Plan. Routinely, about half of those invited

participated. Each participant was asked if they would like to remain on the contact list and whether they would like the opportunity to review this plan and provide feedback. A list of invitees, participants, surveys, and agendas are provided in the Appendices.

4. A concise description of current goals and objectives.

1. *Leverage state and federal funds (VAWA, SASP, VOCA, FVPSA, RPE, Coalitions) to impact system change.* (OVW Priority Area 9 - Support and retain core services for victims of sexual and domestic violence, particularly support for rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters.)

- Objectives:
 - Conduct outreach to existing programs and potential applicants to identify needs for the next funding cycle;
 - Identify all funding available to MBCC from OVC and OVW, as well as any available state funding, including all formula and discretionary opportunities;
 - Meet with state agencies and member organizations representing statewide interest in victims' programs (i.e. Children's Alliance of Montana, Court Appointed Special Advocate statewide organization, Aging Services, Rape Prevention Education Program, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services, Dept. of Justice, Dept. of Corrections) to maintain collaborative efforts;
 - Create requests for proposals for available funding;
 - Implement special initiatives for underserved populations or in response to new legislative requirements resulting in additional funding opportunities;

- Release funding solicitations at the same time to ensure funding is leveraged to increase the breadth and scope of projects;

2. *Promote innovation to support community coordinated response in areas such as multi-disciplinary teams, high-risk teams, and the development of family justice centers; implement best practices in use of lethality assessments and strategies to recognize strangulation. (OVW Priority Area 8 - Implement evidence-based risk/danger assessments to identify and prioritize victims who are considered to be in relationships with a high risk of lethality.)*

- Objectives:
 - Prioritize high-risk teams and use of lethality assessments in funding strategies.
 - Encourage subgrantees to attend in-state and out-of-state trainings about practices that improve community coordinated response and high-risk teams (ex. Attended training at the Emerge Domestic Violence Assessment and Risk Management Conference typically held in May; utilizing tools recommended by the National Training and Technical Assistance Project);
 - Utilize technical assistance and resources available from OVW and OVC; and
 - Support trainings for subgrantees through subgrant awards, webinars, and facilitation of technical assistance events for subgrantees.

3. *Support implementation of enhanced victims' rights resulting from the 2016 Constitutional Initiative CI-116 (Marsy's Law) and 2017 Legislative Session.*

- Not applicable

4. *Develop and maintain meaningful partnerships with Tribal governments to create, expand, and enhance services to victims. (OVW Priority Area 3- Meaningfully increase access to OVW programming for specific underserved populations.)*

- Objectives:
 - MBCC Tribal Liaison will conduct outreach to Tribal Councils, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders, Montana Native Women’s Coalition, Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs, Legislative Tribal Caucus, etc. to provide information about state and federal funding opportunities that will support victims of crime, reduce domestic and sexual violence, and strengthen collaborative efforts;
 - Develop and release targeted Requests for Proposal(s) for tribal governments to apply directly to MBCC for funding of personnel and training opportunities; and
 - Provide technical assistance for grant writing, RFP application, and grant management.

5. Recommend standards of practice for each category of service provider (law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocates/assistants, courts, etc.) to establish a baseline of program development, training, and services in responding to child and adult sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, abuse of adults in later life, and stalking;

- Objectives:
 - Engage Stakeholders Group to identify baseline standards for provision of direct services to victims. Establish working groups designed to address special categories utilizing the expertise of members within their fields.
 - Develop Implementation Plan(s) for standards within special categories.
 - Incorporate standards of practice within the request for proposals. In 2017, MBCC released the SASP RFP including a recommendation that programs adopt the 10 Components of High-Quality Sexual Assault Services in Dual/Multi-Service Advocacy Agencies: 1. Strong dual/multi-service agencies have a

mission, strategic plan, and specific goals established for their sexual violence programs; 2. Strong dual/multi-service agencies have strong leadership that is committed to addressing sexual violence; 3. Strong dual/multi-service agencies understand the connection between sexual violence and oppression and work to end both; 4. Strong dual/multi-service agencies provide services to the full continuum of sexual violence survivors, including adult, youth, and child survivors; 5. Strong dual/multi-service agencies provide comprehensive sexual assault services that meet long-term and short-term needs of sexual violence survivors; 6. Strong dual/multi-service agencies provide specific advocacy training on sexual violence and core service provision; 7. Strong dual/multi-service agencies have a plan that is both proactive and responsive to vicarious trauma experienced by staff and volunteers; 8. Strong dual/multi-service agencies work with systems; 9. Strong dual/multi-service agencies listen to the community; and 10. Strong dual/multi-service agencies speak to the community about sexual violence. These components are found in the Resource Sharing Project's guiding document Opening our Doors.

- Monitor programs to ensure program success with identified standards.

6. *Support restorative justice and youth diversion programs.* (OVW Priority Area 4 - Increase the use of promising or evidence-building practices, where available.)

- Objectives:
 - Facilitate replication of model programs who implement best practices in restorative justice programs, youth detention centers, and justice court, and pre-trial.

- Conduct outreach to solicit programs for funding of restorative justice and youth diversion projects.

7. *Support increased transitional housing and civil legal services throughout the state.*

- Objectives:
 - Fund victim service programs who offer transitional housing in addition to emergency shelter;
 - Increase funding of civil legal services provided by victim service programs (ex. on-staff attorneys and legal assistance providers located with a community domestic violence/shelter program). MBCC funds four community-based victim service programs who retain attorneys on staff for representation of victims in civil legal matters; and
 - Partner with Montana Legal Services (provider of low-cost, pro-bono civil legal services for victims of crime) to increase number of attorneys and intake specialists. **(Achieved)**

5. Narrative about the priorities or goals the state has set regarding how STOP funds will be used (if the state plans to address the “Crystal Judson” purpose area, include narrative on providing the required training).

The state will not be addressing the “Crystal Judson” purpose area.

6. A general description of the types of programs and projects that will be supported with STOP dollars.

Montana’s STOP funded programs are split into five different allocation categories as required by VAWA: law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, discretionary, and courts.

92The subgrantees remain relatively unchanged in these categories as Montana has historically

funded the same programs to maintain and enhance core services. New applicants have been funded in years of static or increased federal funding.

Law Enforcement: In this allocation category, applicants are police departments and sheriffs' offices. The police departments and sheriffs' offices utilize VAWA funding to fund personnel who work exclusively on domestic violence, sexual assault and related cases. In some cases, the VAWA officer is a designated Domestic Violence Police Officer responsible for investigating violence against women crimes, sexual assaults, stalking incidents, and teen dating violence including rape. At times, the officer is also in charge of the sexual offender registrations, and tracking and verifying locations and revocation of status, if necessary. Generally, the investigator serves as a liaison between law enforcement, service organizations and the victim. These positions help facilitate cooperative efforts among all agencies involved in the complaint and investigation of crimes against women.

Prosecution: In this allocation category, applicants are Victim/Witness Assistants in County Attorneys' Offices and the state's Legal Services Association. VAWA funding supports the personnel costs of a full time Domestic Violence Prosecutor in Billings, one of only two in the state. This prosecutor only handles cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and is responsible for all stages of prosecution of these cases to ensure victims are helped, receive justice, and offenders comply with conditions of release. The Victim Witness assistants in our county attorneys' offices work closely with victims of domestic violence, sexual assaults, stalking, and violations of protection and no contact orders. The role of a victim assistant is to provide civil legal advocacy and court accompaniment. Currently, three such programs are funded in Montana for this purpose.

Additionally, the Montana Legal Services Association receives VAWA funding for personnel costs for attorneys who provide free civil legal services to victims throughout the state. These domestic violence specialists provide legal advice and counsel, help with document preparation, provide full representation in court, and represent victims in administrative and alternative dispute resolution proceedings. These attorneys also provide services directly to the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations.

Victim Services: In this allocation category, STOP funds support anywhere between ten to fifteen direct service programs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Many of these programs run shelters in addition to providing hotline services, crisis intervention, material and financial assistance, personal advocacy, medical accompaniment, court accompaniment, counseling services, and transportation. As discussed previously, in many cases, these programs serve up to seven counties in their areas. These programs also provide education and outreach to professionals, students, volunteers, and others in their communities.

STOP funds also support a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program in Missoula, which is one of our larger cities. This program works with victims of sexual assault. The project provides for forensic medical exams and forensic interviewing, advanced SANE training to other medical providers in the state and expands community outreach and education to many counties across the state and reservations.

7. A description of how the funds will be distributed across the law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, and discretionary allocation categories.

Funding provided by the STOP grant is allocated in accordance with the STOP VAWA regulations. There are five allocation categories with specified minimum percentages of the total amount allocated to the state. The law enforcement category receives a minimum of 25%, the

prosecution category receives a minimum of 25%, the victim services category receives a minimum of 30%, the courts category receives a minimum of 5%, and the remaining allocation amount is in the discretionary category. In Montana, funding has for the past several years consistently followed these allocations with one exception. The discretionary category has largely been used to increase funding for victim services. In 2015-2016, the Domestic Fatality Review Commission used only about 1-3% of funding in this category which allowed an additional 12% of funds to boost the victim services category to approximately 42%. STOP VAWA funds were not used between 2017-2019, however the need to continue funding and broaden funding sources for this project is growing. The intrinsic need for small, rural programs to simply keep their doors open is met through this discretionary funding.

8. A timeline for the STOP grant cycle.

MBCC subawards STOP funds annually to grantees. The timeline for such awards follows:

- December – Release of victim program Request for Proposals (RFPs); all existing programs as well as those who have been denied, and others who have expressed interest, are sent notice of application one month prior to release. Reminders are sent out two weeks prior and then one week prior to the release. Programs are given a six-week timeframe to submit applications.
- January – Victim program RFPs close; grant applications are due to the Montana Board of Crime Control.
- February to April – MBCC victim program staff review applications; staff funding recommendations are given to the Application Review Committee in April.

- June – Crime Control Board hears recommendations from the Application Review Committee for funding. The Board approves all funding for victim programs. Decisions are final. Notice of award letters are sent out to programs. Funding for programs is on a reimbursement basis and does not begin until the award from OVW is received in September.
- October – Subgrantee Workshop Training is provided to programs by MBCC staff; topics may include improving grant writing skills, managing a budget, general grant management, completing quarterly fiscal and narrative and annual federal reports, data management, and other topics as requested.
- September through October – MBCC victim program staff conduct on-site monitoring visits; desk audits are conducted throughout the year as needed, and full audits may occur at any time throughout the year; award packets are sent out to programs; grant funding is provided on a quarterly reimbursement basis to programs.
- October through December – MBCC staff complete annual progress and closeout reports.

9. Whether STOP subgrant projects will be funded on a multiple or single-year basis.

MBCC VAWA grants are awarded annually. STOP subgrants will continue to be funded on a single-year basis until state funding is available to cover the gap in funding.

10. A description of methods to be used for solicitation/review of proposals and selection of subgrant projects and for which sectors these methods apply, including whether the process will be competitive and whether the state plans to use pass-through administration for any or all categories of subgrants.

Award Process

All subgranting of STOP VAWA, SASP, and VOCA funds at MBCC occur during the same time-period. There is no requirement for states to submit an annual VOCA plan, but awards are made with the determination that VOCA funds will support OVW funding.

MBCC victim program staff release RFPs on an annual basis. Applications must be submitted on time and with all required documents. MBCC utilizes limited-RFPs and special initiatives to ensure program needs are met and barriers to services are reduced.

The following items are requested:

- ✓ Signature page with original signatures
- ✓ Verification for System of Award Management Registration
- ✓ Position descriptions
- ✓ Proof of non-profit status (if applicable)
- ✓ Budget and Budget Narrative
- ✓ Project Narrative including Executive Summary, Needs Statement, Goals, Objectives, Implementation Plan, Evaluation Plan, Sustainability Plan, and Collaboration
- ✓ Consultation with Victim Service Providers (if applicable)

MBCC utilizes a scoring rubric to ensure staff objectivity in reviewing applications and recommending funding. The rubric and accompanying score sheet can be found in Appendix E. Rubric scoring is used as a tool to further assist the Application Review Committee and the Board in their funding deliberations process. However, the Board reserves the right to award funds to programs they believe are the best use of STOP VAWA funds, regardless of the applicant's rubric scores. An example of the rubric is included in the RFP for transparency purposes. Program and fiscal staff ensure that the applicant is eligible to apply, addresses at least

one federal purpose area, targets services to women, ensures that all costs and services are allowable, provides services at no cost to the victim, addresses a priority purpose area as determined by the VAWA Committee, and includes match (if required).

The process for awarding victim funds in Montana begins with the annual RFP release in December. RFPs for STOP VAWA, SASP, VOCA and a state-funded Misdemeanor Probation program are released and open for six weeks; competitive applications are due to MBCC in mid-January. Applications are considered competitive and are scored using specific scoring criteria and a scoring rubric for nine required sections. The RFP language contains the following guidance for applicants:

Initial Screening

An initial screening of applications received by the due date will be completed to check the application for completeness. If any required documents are not submitted, the application will be deemed incomplete and disqualified from consideration. Disqualified applicants will receive a letter indicating disqualification.

Application Review

Successfully screened applications will be scored for responsiveness to the program scope and the requirements of this RFP. Based on the assessment of each applicant regarding current or previous funding, unresolved audit issues, delinquent programmatic and fiscal reporting, and prior performance, an applicant may be designated “high risk.” Fiscal and Program Staff will review applications and funding recommendations will be referred to the MBCC Victim Application Review Committee (ARC) for their review. The ARC will provide recommendations to the MBCC Board of Directors for final funding decisions/awards. Funding will be recommended based on availability of funding, board priorities and funding criteria, and not solely on basis of highest application score. Applicants will receive written notice of the ARC recommendation.

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate each application, with a different weight given to each based on the percentage value listed after each individual criterion. Scoring criteria are used as a tool to assist the accounting and program staff in evaluating the overall application. Any proposal that fails to achieve 60% of the total available points will be eliminated from further consideration.

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description	Scoring
Executive Summary	Provides a clear, concise summary of proposal (i.e. describes/justifies services); states problems or needs; identifies objectives and outcomes to be gained.	5% out of 100
Budget Detail/ Budget Narrative	Is complete, allowable and cost-effective in relation to the proposed activities; Budget Narrative clearly explains and justifies budget items and how the applicant arrived at and calculated the budget amounts; includes justification of cash or in-kind matches and that the value of in-kind matches is reasonable. Budget Detail must be explained and correlate to the categories in the Budget Narrative.	20% out of 100
Needs Statement	Clearly identifies the problem(s) to be addressed; validates the need for the program and services; provides current data less than five years old that clearly establishes need.	25% out of 100
Goals	Clearly defined, dynamic, achievable, realistic, and tangible; addresses the long-range effect of the project and its intent to change, reduce or eliminate the problem described.	10% out of 100
Objectives	Are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound; identifies specific milestones aimed at achieving the stated goal(s) and when milestones will be achieved. Minimum of three and maximum of five objectives are required.	10% out of 100
Implementation Plan	Is realistic; describes specific steps to be taken to accomplish each objective; includes responsible party(ies), timeline, and resources needed.	15% out of 100
Evaluation Plan	Describes how project success will be measured relative to the goals and objectives; describes community-level baseline data, capacity to support the program and assurance of agency's commitment to provide data; includes what data will be collected, how, by whom and when.	5% out of 100

Sustainability Plan	Outlines how the project intends to be funded in the future, outside of federal funding sources; applying for additional grants is not considered an adequate sustainability plan.	5% out of 100
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Awards and contracts are distributed in late September. Upon receipt of the formula grant monies, MBCC reimburses programs beginning in October. Compliance checks through quarterly narrative and fiscal reports are conducted as well as annual monitoring visits. Annual progress and closeout reports are submitted as required.

MBCC does not pass-through funds to Coalitions or other agencies. Administrative funds are used to support MBCC personnel, travel for training and compliance monitoring, and operating expenses.

11. Information about how the state plans to meet the sexual assault set-aside, including how it will ensure the funds are allocated for programs or projects in 2 or more allocations (law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and courts).

Most victim service providers in Montana are dual program providers, meaning they serve victims of both sexual assault and domestic violence. Each applicant for STOP funding must complete the following form and submit it with their application. The information provided helps us identify those programs with the greatest sexual assault response as well as what services are provided in responding. Using each program's response, MBCC can identify those programs who can cover the 20% sexual assault set-aside. (See the Response form on next page.)

STOP VAWA Sexual Assault Program Response

Agency Name:

Project Director:

Sexual Assault Set-Aside

The Reauthorization of VAWA 2013 requires “not less than 20 percent of the total amount granted to a state under this subchapter shall be allocated to programs or projects in 2 or more allocations [victim services, courts, law enforcement, or prosecution] that meaningfully address sexual assault, including stranger rape, acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitated rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship.” The 20 percent is counted on the total amount granted to the state but is not a separate allocation. Examples of programs are sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs), sexual assault response teams (SARTs), or trainings.

In order to meet the OVW provision, information formerly contained in the STOP VAWA addendum is now required as a separate document. Complete the boxes below and upload as part of the Required Documents.

What percentage of your STOP Program was directed to each of the following areas? Report the area[s] addressed by your STOP Program during the current reporting period and estimate both the approximate percentage of funds [or resources] and the dollar amount used to address each area [consider training, victim services, etc.]. You may choose how to make this determination.

	Percentage of funds used	Dollar amount of fund used
Sexual Assault		
Domestic violence/dating violence		
Stalking		
TOTAL: <i>(must equal 100%)</i>		

Describe how your STOP program meaningfully addresses sexual assault, including stranger rape, acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitated rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship.

12. Documentation from each member of the planning committee as to their participation in the planning process. The committee must include at a minimum:

- a. The state sexual assault and domestic violence coalitions;
- b. Law enforcement entities within the state or a state law enforcement organization;

- c. Prosecution offices or a state prosecution organization;
- d. A court or the state Administrative Office of the Courts;
- e. Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions; and
- f. Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved and culturally specific populations in the state other than tribes including:
 - 1. Disabilities – Vocational Rehab
 - 2. Veterans
 - 3. Homeless
 - 4. Elders
 - 5. LGBTQIA+

13. A summary of major concerns that were raised during the planning process and how they were addressed or why they were not addressed.

The draft version of the plan has been distributed to the Victims’ Committee and Stakeholder’s Group for review as of application submission. Concerns will be added in the final version. MBCC Program Specialists would like to implement a practice of standards that programs should meet to provide services. While there is no certification, however online trainings are available, to provide domestic violence or sexual assault services, best practice would indicate a base level of expertise is ideal for victims. There is a concern that programs shouldn’t have to meet a requirement like this, advocates would need time and money to attend training, and there’s no agency responsible for monitoring standards. This is a work-in-progress idea. MBCC will look at having a technical assistance visit with national experts to determine the best fit for Montana.

14. A description of consultation with other collaboration partners not on the planning committee: a. Domestic violence and sexual assault victim service providers:

Surveys were sent out to service providers requesting feedback on victims' needs and the challenges and barriers experienced by programs. Providers that were not on the Stakeholder's Group are represented by the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. MBCC will have working groups representing the VAWA allocation categories in the future to engage more providers and others. Additional needs assessments and surveys have been completed through various partner providers and state agencies for further collaboration and review.

b. All state and federally recognized tribes (documentation must include a description of efforts to reach tribes and how tribes were meaningfully consulted):

A tribal visit to four of 7 Tribal Reservations was conducted in the fall of 2016 to meet Tribal Council members and local victim service programs. Each visit allowed an opportunity to inform councils and programs about MBCC and funding opportunities for victim services. When RFPs were released in December 2016 an email announcement was sent to each tribal victim service program. Follow-up phone calls were also made. The result of these outreach efforts was that 4 of 7 tribes applied for funding as compared to only tribe who applied the previous year. Personal visits to the remaining three Tribal Reservations will occur in Fall 2017. MBCC has created a Tribal Committee and continue to meet with tribal representatives and subgrantees.

c. Population specific organizations, representatives from underserved populations, and culturally specific organizations (the plan must include information about how the state selected and meaningfully consulted with the included organizations, including how the state considered both demographics and barriers/historical lack of access to services for each population) and

d. Information about any other entities that were consulted but not part of the planning committee:

The initial Stakeholder's Group was composed of 55 people selected for their role and expertise in their fields and was narrowed down to 40 members. This group included representatives from the following underserved populations: LGBTQ, Tribal, aging adults, youth, Corrections/Probation and Parole, Courts, CASAs, etc. Any others that were not included as part of the consultation and planning were due in large part to the sheer number of possible participants. Future planning and consultation may take the form of town halls and forums, engaging a wider audience. Staff workload and capacity on multiple federal grants limits the amount of time available to engage others more fully in the process.

The initial IP Stakeholder meeting was held in December and additional all Victims Stakeholders meetings will continue on the larger scale starting in March 2020 with bi-yearly meetings planned.

15. Documentation (this can be in the form of a letter) from the prosecution, law enforcement, court, and victim services programs to be assisted, describing:

- a. The need for grant funds;
- b. The intended use of the grant funds;
- c. The expected result of the grant funds; and
- d. The demographic characteristic of the population to be served, including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.

Letters from VAWA programs to be funded in 2017 containing a description of need, use, expected results, and demographics can be found in the Attachments.

16. A description of how the state will ensure that subgrantees will consult with victim services providers while developing their grant applications to ensure that the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims.

Prosecution, Law Enforcement and Court based applicants are required to consult with state or local victim service programs in developing their grant applications to ensure that the proposed services, activities and equipment acquisitions are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality and economic independence of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Subgrantees work on multidisciplinary teams to provide effective coordinated community response to victims; these MDTs include victim service providers in their communities. These applicants must submit certification that they have coordinated with victim programs and that certification is maintained in MBCC grant files.

17. Demographic information regarding the population of the state derived from the most recent available United States Census Bureau data including population data on race, ethnicity, age, disability, and limited English proficiency.

Demographics and Geographical Information

The state of Montana encompasses 145,545 square miles of rural and incorporated counties with a large portion of those in rural counties made up of an average population of 6.8 persons per acre compared to the national average of 87.4 persons per acre.¹ Only three cities in Montana have more than 50,000 residents; the largest city in Montana is Billings with 107,000 residents followed by Missoula with 67,000 and Great Falls with 59,000. The remaining population is spread among the state's 56 counties. The state ranks fourth in size but 44th in population and is therefore the third lowest population density in the United States.² The fastest

¹ http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_POP060210.htm

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montana>

growing counties in Montana are Gallatin, Broadwater, and Flathead. The most populous county is Yellowstone followed by Missoula, Flathead, Gallatin and Cascade. Montana has the 5th largest population of people 60 years and older. By 2020, 34 of 56 counties will have an aging population with more than 30% of the population over the age of 60.³ Montana has an aging population with the largest group in the 45-64 years and over range.⁴

When considering services available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, the sheer size of our sparsely-populated state presents challenges. Rural victims are our largest underserved population followed by Native American victims. The size of the state directly impacts the services available to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Many victim service programs are required to serve multiple large counties. To accommodate those areas that have no victim services at all, several programs serve up to seven counties. Consequently, MBCC considers geography and location when awarding STOP funds but this dispersal of funds is limited by capacity within smaller, rural communities. The poverty rate in Montana has remained higher than the U.S average since 1995 and higher than its surrounding states since 2000.⁵ Accompanying the high rate of poverty is the high rate of unemployment among the poor. Montana remains a largely agricultural state, with few manufacturing industries.

The state's 2019 census estimates that there are currently 1,068,778 Montana residents. The state demographics show that 89% of the population consists of white non-Hispanic

³ *An Assessment of the Legal Needs of Elders in Montana and the Capacity of Montana's Resources to Meet Those Needs*, August 2014 Report for Montana AAA Legal Services, Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems Phase 1 grant.

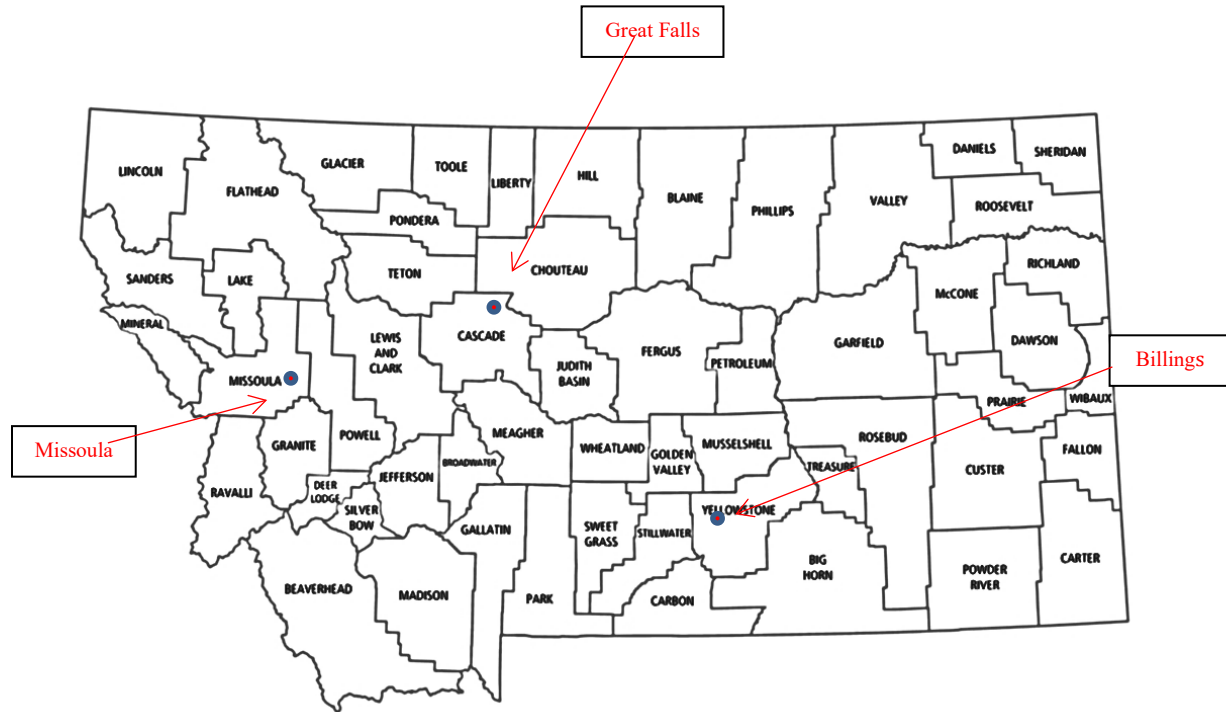
⁴ <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/asrh/2011/SC-EST2011-02.htm>

⁵ <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/countydata/statewidereportdec2011.pdf>

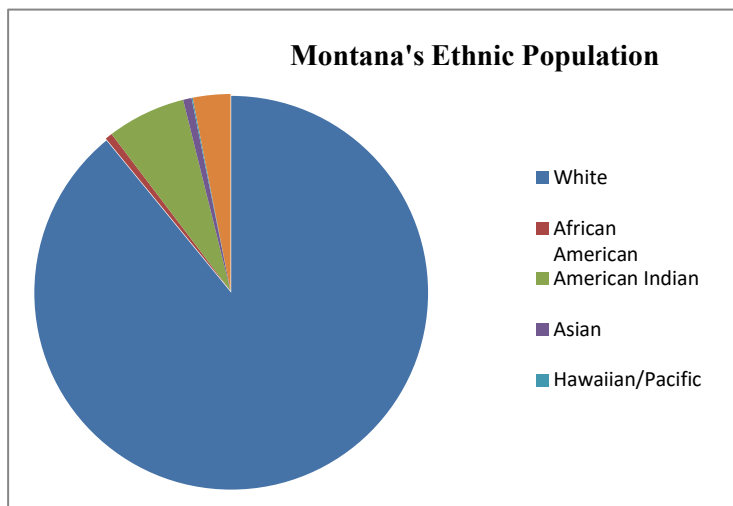
residents, followed by 6.6% American Indian, 4.0% Hispanic or Latino, 2.8% of two or more races, 0.9% Asian and 0.6% black or African American.⁶

Montana is a large state facing many barriers to offering services: low population, inclement weather and road conditions, restricted access to communication and transportation services, and limited financial resources.

⁶ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MT>



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Because of the lack of population and industry, the economies of communities are often unable to provide many with health care, law enforcement, and social services that are desperately needed. Law enforcement officers in many rural areas are limited to two

officers on duty and because of the vast landmass, response time can be hours. Small departments with few law enforcement officers struggle to specialize or become experts in any one area because officers are required to handle all types of cases/incidents. The geography and economic conditions in many areas can be an obstacle to public education and outreach,

providing and coordinating training, and maintaining an effective and accessible network of victim services.

18. A description of the methods used to identify underserved populations within the state and the results of those methods, including demographic data on the distribution of underserved populations within the state.

With the 2013 Reauthorization of VAWA, the definition of “underserved populations” now includes those who are underserved because of sexual orientation, gender identity and religion. Using the established and expanded definitions, Montana’s Native Americans are identified as “culturally specific” populations and as “underserved” because they face barriers to services including limited programs, funding, and infrastructure in rural, isolated areas such as reservations. As noted in Section III, Native Americans are the largest racial group in Montana following white, non-Hispanics at 6.5% of the population. With the new definitions, Montana’s elderly, rural, and disabled can be considered “population specific” and those residents who are LGBTQ, and those who are deaf, among many other groups, are now considered “underserved populations”; this is defined as “populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate.”⁷ Montana’s victim service programs strive to provide services to every person seeking help regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability or other minority group.

⁷ http://also-chicago.org/sites/default/files/2014_STOP_IP_TOOL_2_26_2014_FINAL.pdf

Underserved Populations

1. Native American Women

There are eight (Little Shell Tribe added in December 2019) federally recognized Indian Tribes and Indian Reservations comprise over 8,000,000 acres, in the state of Montana; each is a sovereign nation with a distinct government and legal system. A 2010 census showed that the Native American population is growing in four of Montana's seven reservations with the largest increase of 24 percent being recorded on the state's smallest reservation.⁸

The reservations are home to eleven Montana Indian tribes in total. Only one tribe, the Little Shell Chippewa, does not have its own reservation. The Crow Reservation is home to the Crow tribe, with nearly 10,000 members, located in south-central Montana and bordered by Wyoming. This is the state's largest reservation comprising 2.2 million acres. The Northern Cheyenne Reservation lies east of the Crow Reservation in southern Montana. It spans 444,000 acres and consists of 4,500 tribal members. The Fort Peck Reservation in northeastern Montana is home to 6,800 Assiniboiné and Sioux people. The Fort Belknap Reservation is home to two tribes, the Gros Ventre and the Assiniboiné, and consists of over 675,000 acres. The Rocky Boy Reservation is the smallest reservation in the state consisting of approximately 3,000 Chippewa Cree tribe members on its 130,000 acres. The Blackfeet Reservation, located in northwest Montana, encompasses 1.5 million acres near Glacier National Park. The population consists of over 10,000 American Indians, including over 8,500 enrolled Blackfeet. The Flathead Reservation, located in northwestern Montana, comprises 1.3 million acres that are home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, a group of more than 5,000 that comprises members of

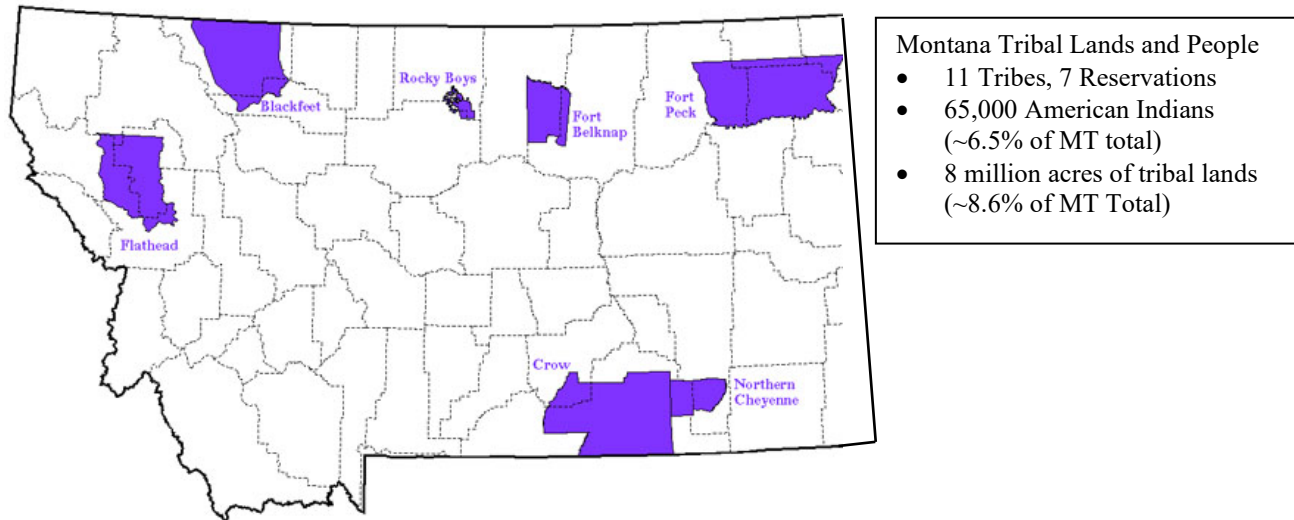
⁸ http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/census-shows-growth-at-montana-indian-reservations/article_3a0abd26-593d-11e0-9460-001cc4c002e0.html

the Bitterroot Salish, the Pend d'Oreille and the Kootenai tribes.⁹ See map below for geographic location of American Indian Tribes in Montana. There is one state recognized tribe, the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, which is without a reservation or land base. Members live in various parts of Montana with population concentrations in Great Falls, Havre, Lewistown, Helena, Butte, Billings, and other communities in the state. Federal recognition of the tribe is expected within the next few years.

Native American women living in these areas are often physically isolated and reluctant to report abuse, a problem compounded by the unfortunate reality that it can take hours for often understaffed law enforcement agencies required to serve large geographic areas to respond. In rural and frontier areas, there may be little hope of confidentiality or accountability. These factors dramatically reduce the chance that a Native American woman will report her victimization. Studies show that Native American women endure much higher levels of sexual and domestic violence than their non-Indian peers. A U.S. Department of Justice study on violence against women concluded that more than one in three American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped, as compared to fewer than one in five of their non-Indian peers. Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than American women in general.¹⁰

⁹ http://www.ehow.com/list_7619609_indian-reservations-montana.html#ixzz2v23jidiP

¹⁰ <http://tribalnations.mt.gov/docs/HonoringNativeWomenReport.pdf>



2. The Elderly

Montana is experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of adults who will be 50 and older within the next 10 years, culminating in nearly a third of the overall state population by 2025. Currently, the senior population accounts for 15.7 percent of the total state population compared to 13.7 percent nationally. Some rural communities in Montana are estimated to have as much as 70% of their population over 65 within the next 10 years. By 2025, Montana is projected to rank no less than 5th and could be as high as 3rd in the nation in the percentage of per capita residents over the age of 65.¹¹ As our state population ages, our residents become vulnerable to many forms of abuse including domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Native Americans represent the culturally specific population for Montana, while our aging Montanans are our primary population-specific group.

¹¹ <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/services/aging/StatePlanAging/StatePlanFinal2011.pdf>

19. A description of how the state will ensure that eligible entities are aware of funding opportunities, including projects serving underserved populations.

Our partnership with the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence enhances notification of funding opportunities through their outreach. MBCC has added many new stakeholders through this planning process and will contact the umbrella organizations of marginalized communities and underserved populations who can then inform their member agencies of the RFPs. Additionally, tribal programs will be personally contacted to ensure they are aware of funding availability.

20. Information about projects that the state plans to fund, if known.

Subgrant listing with contact information, brief descriptions of each project, the funding allocation category under which the award was made, the type of entity to which the award was made, and the statutory purpose area(s) addressed by the funded work.

Law Enforcement Allocation

Billings Police Department – VAWA Detective
Neil Lawrence PO Box 1554 Billings, MT 59103
406-657-8375 lawrenceN@ci.billings.mt.us

Gallatin Co. Sheriff's Office – VAWA Deputy
Brian Gootkin 615 S 16th Ave Bozeman, MT 59715
406-582-2128 brian.gootkin@gallatin.mt.gov

Lewis & Clark Co. Sheriff's Office – VAWA Deputy
Leo Dutton 221 Breckenridge Helena, MT 59601
406-447-8235 ldutton@co.lewis-clark.mt.us

Helena Police Department – VAWA Officer
Steve Hagen 406 Fuller Ave, MT 59601
406-447-8476 shagen@helenamt.gov

Prosecution Allocation

Billings City Attorney – DV Prosecutor
Benjamin Halverson PO BOX 1178 Billings, MT 59103
406-237-6150 halversonB@ci.billings.mt.us

Park Co. Attorney – Victim Witness Assistant
Kendra Lassiter 414 E. Callender St. Livingston, MT 59047,
406-222-4150 countyattorney@parkcounty.org

Victim Services Allocation

Missoula County – Lethality Assessment
Jenny Daniel 200 W. Broadway Missoula, MT 59802
406-258-3831 jdaniel@co.missoula.mt.us

Planned Parenthood – SANE Training
Jill Baker 211 9th Street S. Great Falls, MT 59405
406-770-3263 Jill.Baker@ppmontana.org

Dawson County Domestic Violence Program – Dual Service Program
April Spencer PO Box 505 Glendive, MT 59330
406-914-2219 aprils@midrivers.com

Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse – Dual Service Program
Beth McCoy 2000 Clark St Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-0542 cnada2000@yahoo.com

YWCA Billings – Legal Assistance and Dual Program
Erin Lambert 909 Wyoming Ave Billings, MT 59101
406-252-6303 erin@ywcabillings.org

SAFE Harbor – Dual Service Program and Tribal
DeeAnn Richardson PO Box 497 Ronan, MT 59864
406-676-9242 deeann@safeharbormt.org

ASPEN – Dual Service Program
Heidi Barrett PO Box 653 Livingston, MT 59047
406-823-9503 heidi@aspenmt.org

Safe Space – DV and SAP
Cathrine Beaunae PO Box 594 Butte, MT 59703
406-782-9807 cathrine@safespaceonline.org

Courts

Yellowstone County Justice Court
David Carter 217 N 27th St, Billings MT 59101
1-406-256-2891 dacarter@co.yellowstone.mt.gov

Discretionary

Missoula County – Ensure a Complete & Effective Response JRP
Jenny Daniel 200 W. Broadway Missoula, MT 59802
406-258-3831 jdaniel@co.missoula.mt.us

21. A description of how the state plans to meet the set aside for culturally specific community-based organizations, including a description of how the state will reach out to community-based organizations that provide linguistically and culturally specific services.

The set aside of 10% from the Victim Services allocation category is met by awarding funds to programs that assist Native Americans in counties near or on reservations. These programs are generally the only shelter and 24-hour crisis response for sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking victims in these isolated areas. These programs promote collaboration and partnership with local agencies, particularly those who work with Native American victims. MBCC ensures that one of the priority areas for the VAWA Committee - that of developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women - is addressed in the program's application. Meeting the set aside for culturally specific community-based organizations has not been a problem. The Tribal Liaison will travel to each reservation and follow-up with personal phone calls when funding opportunities are available.

22. A list of which subgrantees meet the required 10% set aside for culturally-specific organizations within the victim services allocation (if known).

Safe Harbor, Inc. is a nonprofit agency that provides emergency shelter and crisis intervention services to victims on the Flathead Reservation, and in Lake, Sanders, Mineral and Missoula counties. Safe Harbor has received OVW STOP funding for many years and is consistently one of MBCC's top subgrantees in completing quarterly fiscal and narrative reports, annual federal reports, and submission of grant applications. Safe Harbor is located on the Flathead Reservation and many of their clients are Native Americans. Safe Harbor is actively involved in ensuring their clients receive services that are culturally appropriate and has a

Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribe to provide shelter to Native American victims. Members on staff and of Safe Harbor's Board are Native Americans as well.

23. A description of how the state will:

a. Address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims, and stalking victims, as well as how the state will hold offenders who commit each of these crimes accountable:

The state will conduct a needs assessment of victim service programs in 2018 to identify the number of programs tracking offenders, how they are charged, and disposition of the cases. By analyzing this information, we can then determine if offenders are being held accountable for their crimes. The needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims, and stalking victims will require additional assessments to be conducted in late 2018. This plan will be revised to include new goals and objectives if the needs assessments indicate gaps and barriers in serving victims.

b. Give priority to areas of varying geographic size with the greatest showing of need based on the availability of existing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking programs in the population and geographic area to be served in relation to the availability of such programs in other such population and geographic areas:

Montana has numerous barriers to providing adequate services to victims; these barriers are largely low population, inclement weather and road conditions, restricted access to communication and transportation services, and limited financial resources. MBCC has funded programs with the intent to cover as many areas of the state as possible. The significant lack of

programs in some counties means that neighboring counties' programs are providing services outside of their immediate jurisdiction. Of the 56 counties in Montana, STOP provides funding for services in twelve (12) of these counties. While that number is only one-fifth of the state's counties, funding from the SASP grant goes to an additional three counties and funding from the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) VOCA grant covers more than 40 of the 56 counties statewide. This strategic funding through MBCC allows grant money to flow to some remote areas of the state that need services the most. However, building capacity in other remote areas is difficult without additional victim funds. There is a clear need for the state to provide general funds to support and strengthen victim programs, particularly in extremely rural areas and on tribal reservations. Lack of sufficient funding to programs is a problem. Many programs do not receive their requested amount from STOP and struggle to provide even basic services to victims.

c. Determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area to be served:

In many cases, the state is limited by program availability, capacity and applications. Montana has great challenges which make equitable distribution of funds based on population and geography difficult. There are many areas where victim service programs simply don't exist. The funding that would be required to start up new shelters and victim outreach offices is significant. One program runs satellite offices in other towns and counties. These satellite offices generally have shorter office hours and limited staff to respond to victims. There is no quick and easy solution to provide services in all areas of the state.

d. Equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including nonurban and rural areas of various geographic sizes:

Montana has few urban areas, as compared to most other states, which means that our funding is stretched over large rural areas. As mentioned previously, the state is so large that providing funding for every county or available program is not achievable. The program staff and Victim's Committee will leverage other federal grants to ensure that money is distributed throughout the state, particularly in responding to needs. The cost per victim to provide services in a rural, isolated location is higher than it is in urban areas due to the costs incurred in transporting victims over long distances for shelter, court accompaniment, or other services.

e. Recognize and meaningfully respond to the needs of underserved populations and ensure that monies set aside to fund culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably among those populations:

MBCC staff and the VAWA Committee recognize the need to quantify “culturally specific” and “underserved” populations to equitably distribute funds for victim services. Conducting a comprehensive needs assessment in collaboration with FVPSA, RPE, and the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will help identify who these populations are, where they are located, what services are available, and any gaps in service. Once the needs assessment is conducted and the results are analyzed, the Victims Committee will reexamine priority areas to determine the best use of STOP funds across the state. This Implementation Plan serves as a planning tool and as such, it is understood that this is a fluid document which will be updated annually as changes occur. Potential changes to the plan include addressing populations who are not currently identified as underserved. **(The necessity for conducting the needs assessment still is applicable as it has not yet been completed.)**

24. Goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides within the state, including available statistics on the rates of domestic violence homicide within the state and challenges specific to the state and how the plan can overcome them

Reduce domestic violence-related homicides within the state. (OVW Priority Area 6 - Provide comprehensive training to victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, and court personnel on sexual assault, to support increased reporting, arrest and successful prosecution of perpetrators.)

- Objectives:
 - Continue support of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission (DVFRC), authorized by state statute in 2003, which seeks to reduce homicides caused by family violence;
 - Participate as a guest in fatality reviews to provide perspective of state funding strategies, barriers and challenges to victims and victim service providers, and best practices in provision of services to victims of intimate partner abuse;
 - Facilitate domestic violence related trainings through funding or technical assistance to prosecutors and judges; and

25. A description of how the state coordinated this plan with the state plan for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) and the programs under the Victims of Crime Act and section 393A of the Public Health Service Act Rape Prevention Education (RPE), including the impact of that coordination on the contents of the plan.

The VAWA Implementation Plan requires coordination with the state FVPSA and RPE program plans. FVPSA funds in Montana, administered by the Dept. of Public Health and Human Services, support 21 local public agencies and non-profit private organizations to prevent incidents of family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance to victims of

family violence and their dependents to prevent future violent incidents. Nineteen of the 21 programs are also funded by STOP VAWA. Rape Prevention Education funds in Montana contribute to reducing the statewide incidence of sexual violence through primary prevention efforts focused on influencing knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of those most at risk to perpetrate. Efforts include community education and policy creation focused on gender equity. The RPE program includes education on several levels and awareness activities that support healthy relationships and respect. RPE has developed their own specific strategic plan; however, aspects of the RPE program must fit within the overall strategies for the *State Health Improvement Plan*, focused on injury prevention, evidence-based interventions, and overall evidence-based program prevention. The FVPSA program bases their funding on the priorities of the federal solicitation. Both programs have participated as stakeholders in developing the Victim Services Strategic Plan. The FVPSA and RPE managers as well as the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will collaborate with MBCC on establishing a statewide needs assessment to be conducted in 2020/early 2021 that will help direct future funding and strategic planning. Outcomes from the need's assessment will drive statewide strategic planning and could change the goals and objectives of this plan in years three and four.

Closing – Crime Data

The Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), housed within the Montana Board of Crime Control, compiles crime statistics from incidents reported to law enforcement agencies participating in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The goal of the UCR program is to capture standardized crime statistics for use by policy makers at all levels of government. The State of Montana was an early adopter of the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which collects fifty-two data points

on each crime reported to a participating law enforcement agency, capturing details on the offenses, victims, offenders, and property involved in a reported crime. NIBRS provides a deeper understanding of crime over its predecessor, the Summary Reporting System (SRS).

The SAC was tasked with providing data on reported crimes typically perpetrated against women for this report. The table below, utilizing NIBRS data, summarizes the number of domestic and family violence (referred to as partner / family member assaults or PFMA in Montana), sex, stalking, and protection order related offenses in Montana for the past five years.

Crime Statistics

REPORTED OFFENSES, STATE OF MONTANA						
Index Category	Offense Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
Partner / Family Violence	Intimidation	410	509	601	660	637
	Simple Assault	3476	3494	3480	3224	3098
	Aggravated Assault	305	286	318	473	586
Subtotal		4191	4289	4399	4357	4321
Sex Crimes	Sex Offenses - Forcible	1260	1336	1354	1335	1269
	Sex Offenses - Nonforcible	100	114	97	114	92
Subtotal		1360	1450	1451	1449	1361
Stalking & Protection Order Violations	Stalking	199	201	234	222	203
	Violation of Protection Order	410	408	445	428	436
	Violation of No Contact Order	156	204	230	241	246
Subtotal		765	813	909	891	885
Totals		6,316	6,552	6,759	6,697	6,567

* Preliminary data

The absolute number of PFMA, sex crime, stalking, and protection order related offenses reported in Montana increased about 3% from 2015 to 2019. The increase in those reported crimes were commensurate with a rise in population, however, and were not indicative of an increase in frequency of these crime. In fact, the rate of these offenses per 1,000 in population remained relatively unchanged from 2015 to 2019 as is illustrated in the tables below.

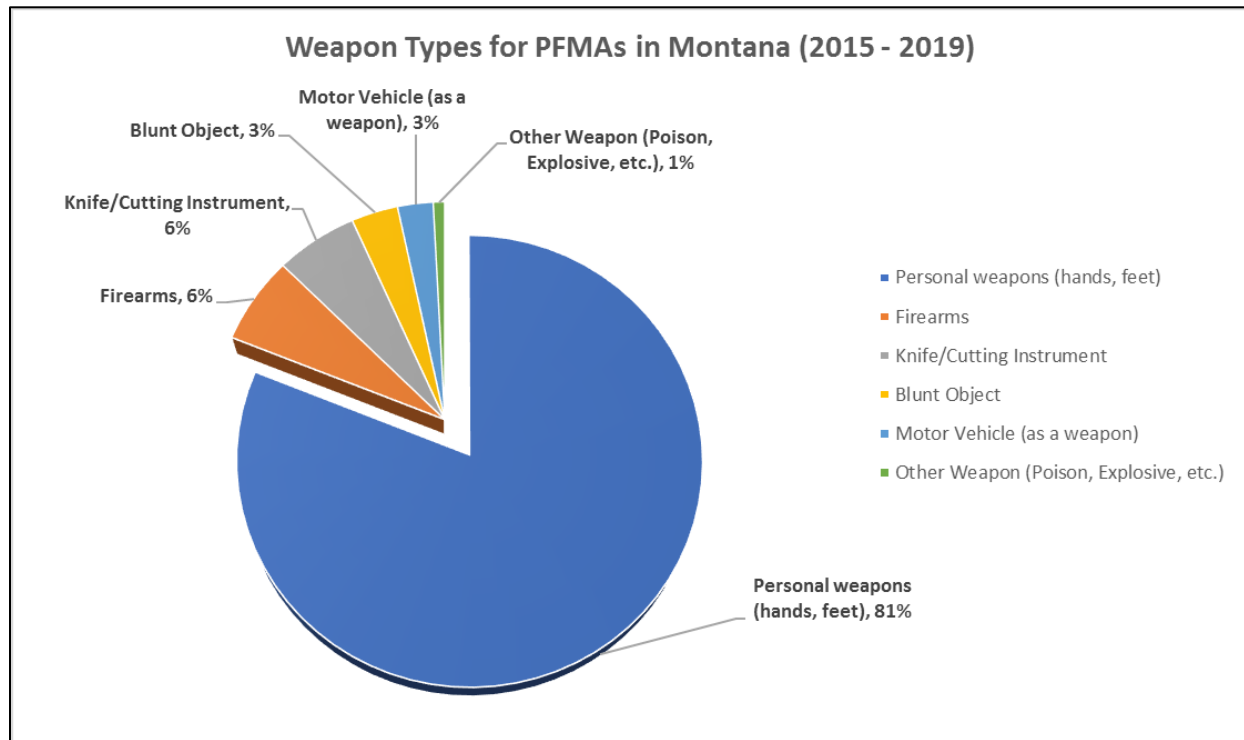
Offense rates per 1000 population					
Index Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Partner / Family Violence	4.07	4.12	4.18	4.10	4.04
Sex Crimes	1.32	1.39	1.38	1.36	1.27
Stalking & Protection Order Violations	0.74	0.78	0.86	0.84	0.83

State of Montana	
Year	Population
2015	1,030,503
2016	1,040,863
2017	1,053,090
2018	1,062,305
2019	1,068,778

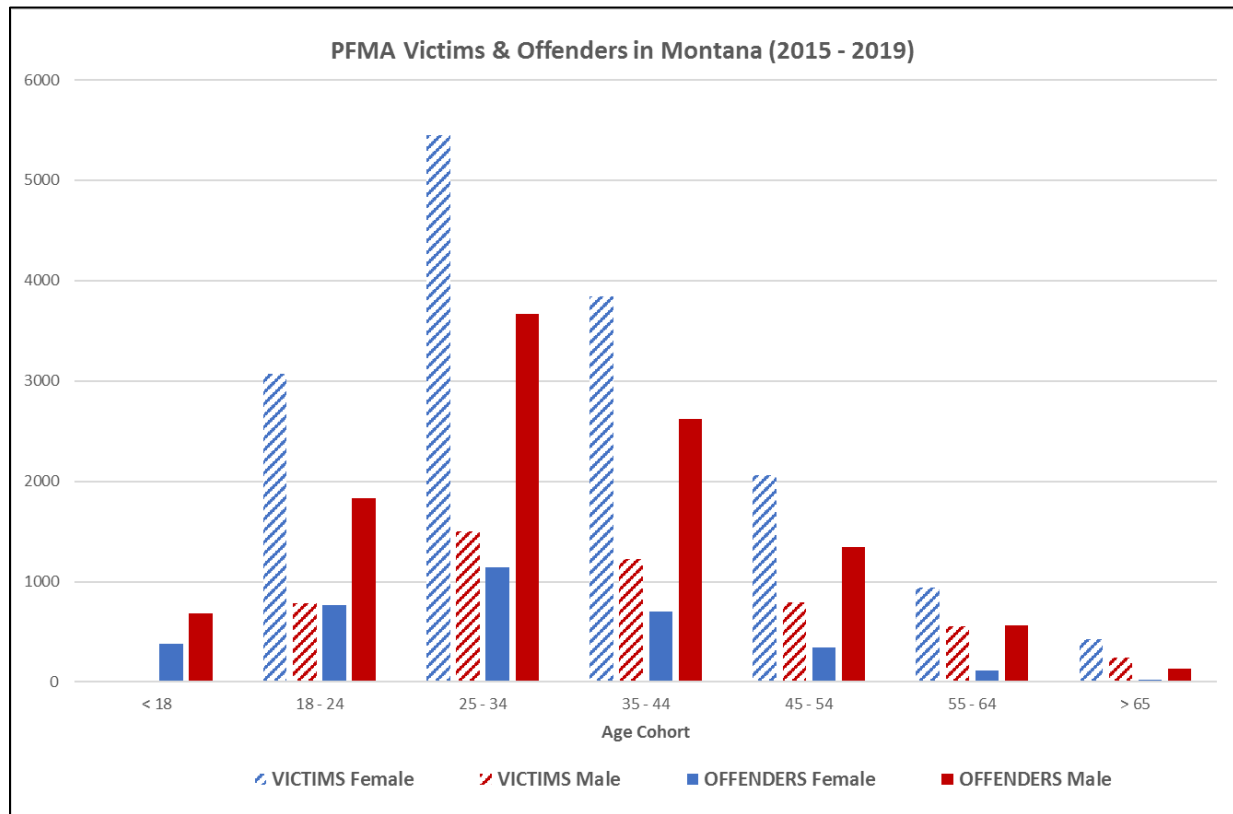
Partner / Family Member Assaults (PFMAs)

The total number of partner or family member assaults reported annually in Montana remained steady the last two years, 2018 and 2019. A notable trend in reported PFMAs is the number of assaults that are classified as aggravated verse simple. In 2017 a change to Montana criminal statutes modified the penalties and reporting of PFMAs if strangulation of the victim occurred. This change increased the number of PFMAs classified as aggravated assaults and a decrease in PFMAs categorized as simple assaults. The total number of PFMA offenses reported, however, stayed consistent between 2016 and 2019.

Weapon Usage of PFMA



Most partner family member assaults are committed with “personal weapons” (hands, feet, or other body parts). Firearms or cutting instruments are used in one of eight (12%) of reported PFMA collectively; other weapons types are rarely if ever reported (all remaining weapon categories account for less than 7% of all PFMA offenses).

PFMA Victims & Offenders

Victims of partner / family member assault are generally female (75% of all victims between 2015 and 2019). Female victims tend to be slightly younger (35 years of age) than male victims (38 years of age). Offenders are typically male (75% of all reported offenders). As with victims, female offenders tend to be younger (31) than males (34).

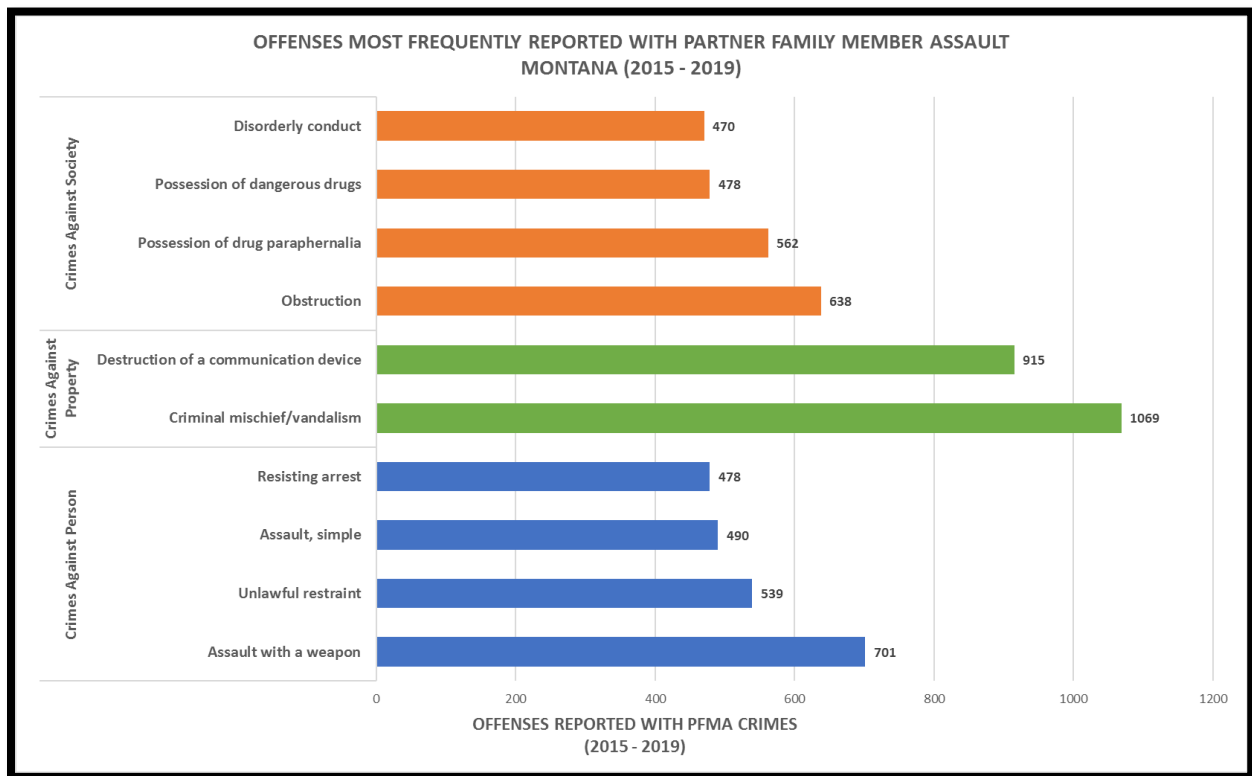
Geography of PFMAs

The table below shows ten counties with the highest rate of reported PFMA per 1,000 population in Montana. Interestingly, the five counties with the highest rates of PFMA per capita are sparsely populated, accounting for just 7% of the population but 14% of all PFMA reported over the last five years. Rural communities often have fewer resources to help victims of crime than larger metropolitan areas even though rural communities experience more assaults per capita.

RATE OF PFMA per 1000 population by Montana County (2019)					
Rank of PFMA per 1000 Pop	Rank for Population	County	PFMA Offenses Reported	Population Estimate	PFMA Per 1000 Population
1	18	Roosevelt	150	11,107	13.5
2	19	Richland	76	11,040	6.9
3	12	Hill	107	16,323	6.6
4	9	Lake	193	30,347	6.4
5	24	Deer Lodge	54	9,085	5.9
6	32	Broadwater	35	6,127	5.7
7	1	Yellowstone	899	161,189	5.6
8	35	Toole	26	4,781	5.4
9	8	Silver Bow	186	34,985	5.3
10	28	Valley	38	7,423	5.1

Crimes Associated with PFMA

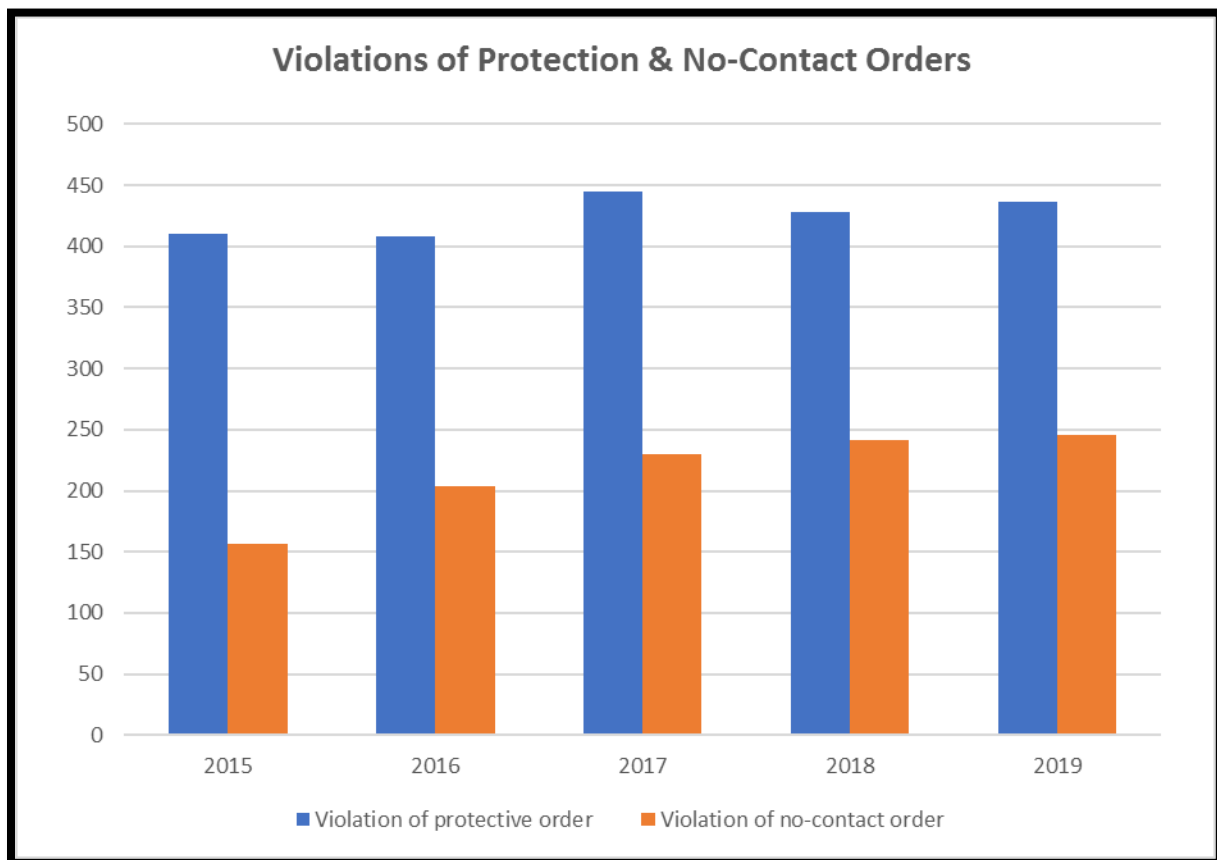
One of the benefits of collecting NIBRS data is that it captures up to ten separate offenses per incident. Offenses reported frequently with PFMA are property crimes such as criminal mischief or destruction of a communication device. Additional assaults are also frequently reported, which may or may not be committed against the same victim as the partner or family member assault. Resisting arrest and possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia are also common with a partner or family member assault.



Violation of Protection Orders

Annual totals of protection order violations increased approximately 6% from 2015 to 2019, roughly commensurate with the increase in population. Reported violations of no-contact orders, however, increased by 58% (90 reports) during that time period. Moreover, violations of no-contact orders increased every year between 2015 and 2019. While the two violations are

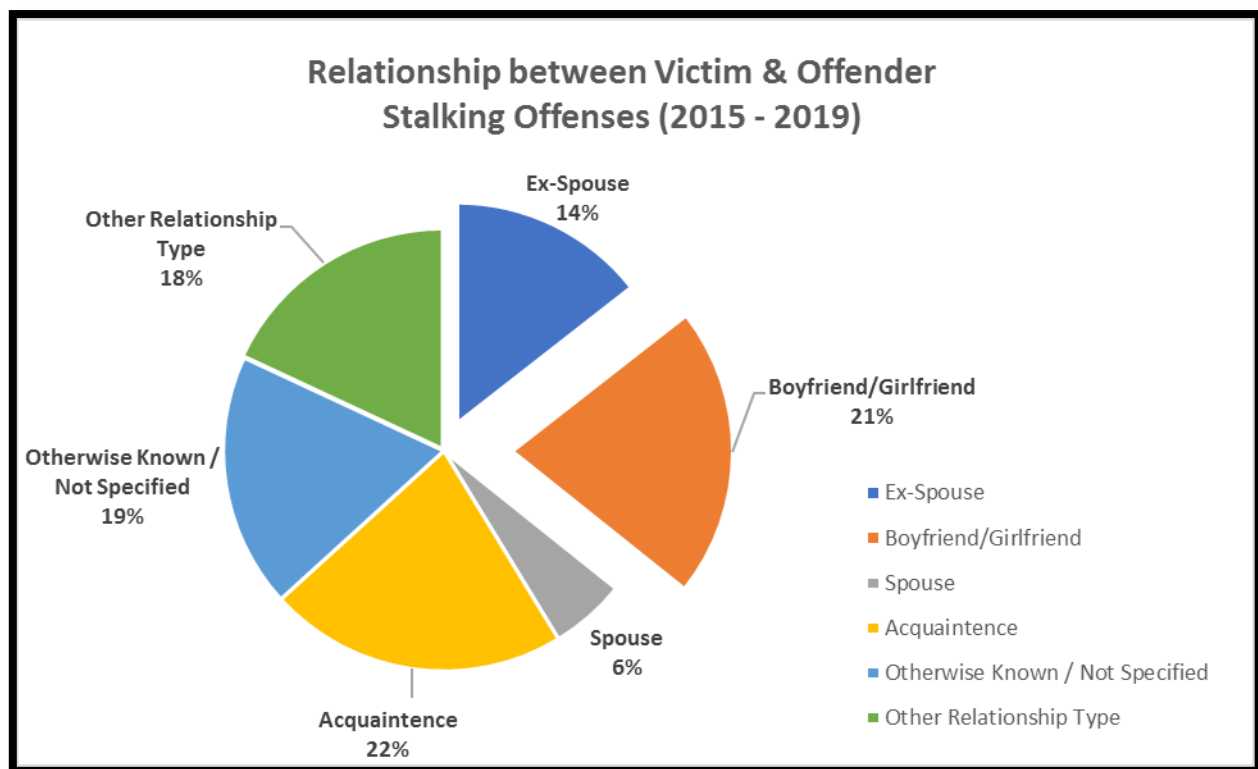
similar, no-contact orders are specifically related to PFMA's by Montana Code Annotated (MCA) statutes for Partner or Family Member Assault (45-5-209). No-Contact orders are issued by peace officers at the time of arrest for PFMA. No-Contact orders last 72 hours from the time of issue (which may be extended by the court) and restrict defendants from contacting the victim by person, third-party, by telephone or other electronic communication, or in writing. The factors driving the increase in these violations are not currently known.



Stalking

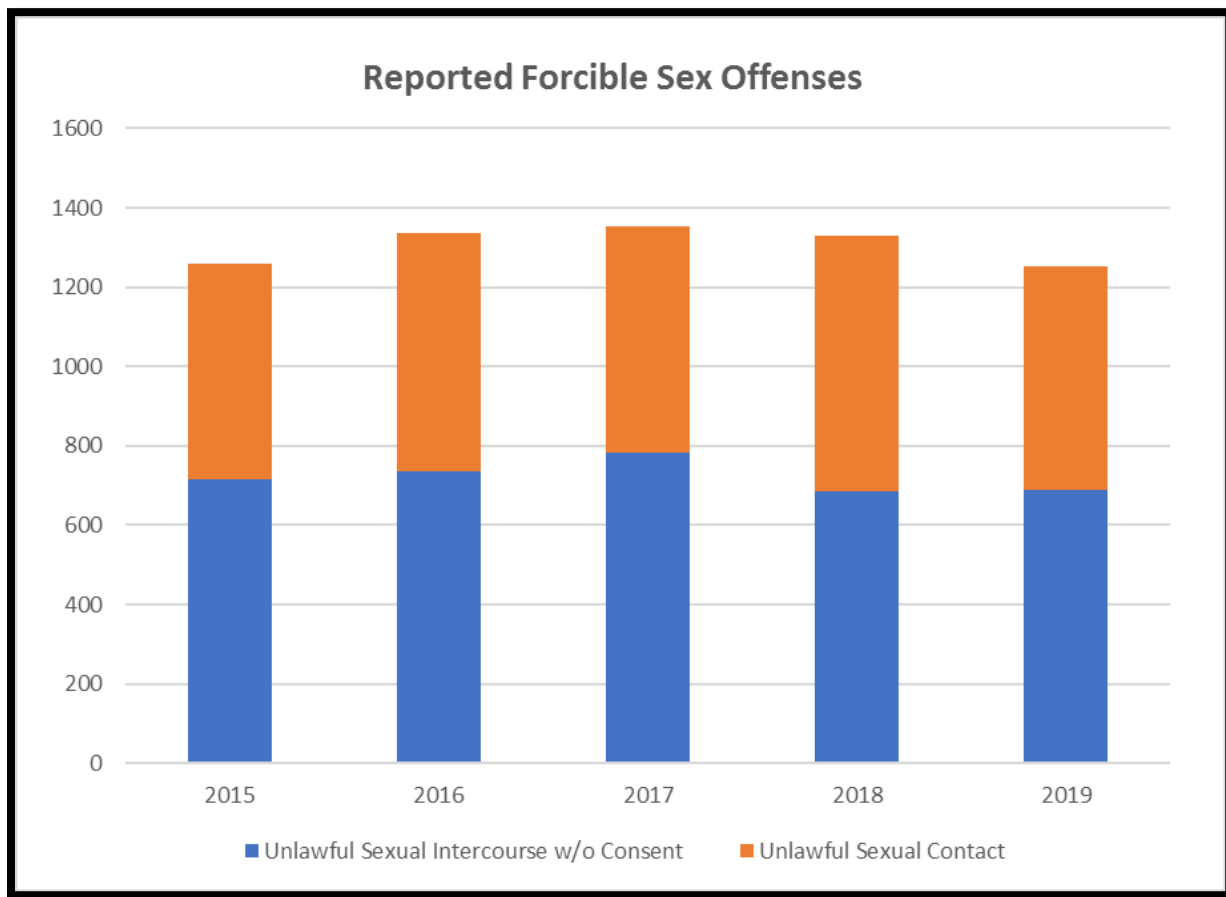
Annual totals of reported stalking offenses peaked in 2017 and then declined each of the last two years. Not surprisingly, victims of stalking offenses are overwhelming female (84%). Most stalking victims know the offender in some form or fashion, and about 40% had a spousal or intimate relationship with the offender.

Victims of Stalking Offenses (2015 - 2019)					
Age Cohort	Female	Male	Unknown	Grand Total	%
< 18	1	0	0	1	0%
18 - 24	166	14	1	181	18%
25 - 34	289	37	0	326	32%
35 - 44	233	54	1	288	28%
45 - 54	100	26	0	126	12%
55 - 64	66	17	1	84	8%
> 65	15	11	0	26	3%
Grand Total	870	159	3	1032	100%
%	84%	15%	0%	100%	



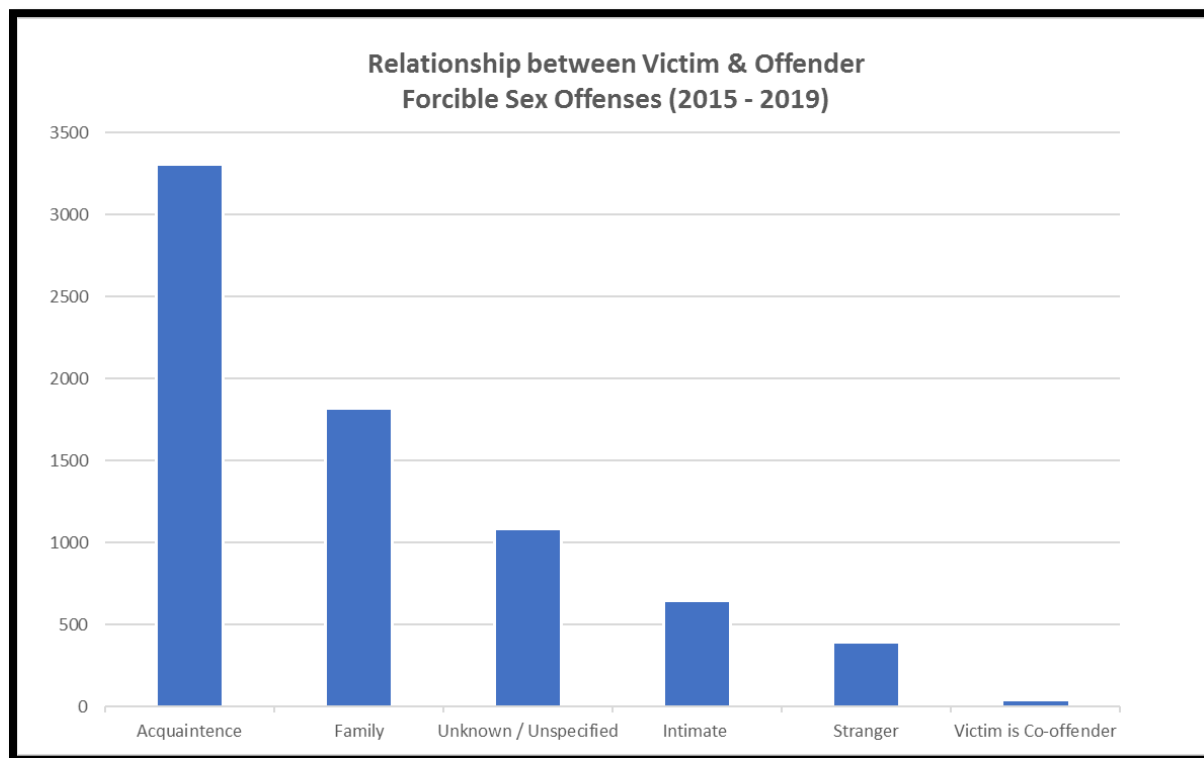
Sex Offenses

Sex offenses fall into two broad categories – those committed with and without force. Forcible sex offenses are prima facie without consent regardless and can be subdivided further, into assaults which involve only unlawful sexual contact (forcible fondling) versus sexual intercourse. Nonforcible sex offenses are those that were sexual relations are possibly consensual but still unlawful because of the victims age (statutory rape) or familial status (incest). In general, non-forcible offenses are less frequent than forcible sex offenses.



Annual totals of forcible sex offenses remain nearly unchanged from 2015 to 2019. As with other crimes examined in this report, forcible sex offenses are committed mostly against women and more than two-thirds of victims are between the ages of 18 and 34.

Victims of Forcible Sex Offenses (2015 - 2019)					
Age Cohort	Female	Male	Unknown	Grand Total	%
< 18	6	5	0	11	0%
18 - 24	769	63	1	833	36%
25 - 34	652	62	0	714	31%
35 - 44	355	35	2	392	17%
45 - 54	202	21	0	223	10%
55 - 64	87	11	1	99	4%
> 65	40	8	0	48	2%
Grand Total	2111	205	4	2320	100%
%	91%	9%	0%	100%	



Most sex offenses involve known offenders. For the five years examined in this report, nearly 80% the forcible sex offenses reported involved a known suspect, either an acquaintance, family member, or current or former intimate partner. In the remaining 20% of incidents, the relationship between victim and offender was either unknown or unspecified at the time of the report. In only 5% of the cases was the offender listed as being a stranger to the victim.