



2021 – 2022
Biennial Report

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Message from the Board Chairman

On behalf of the Montana Board of Crime Control, I am pleased to present the 2021-2022 Biennial Report. This report is a snapshot of the hard work the staff of the board and their Director, Natalia Bowser, have done over the last biennium.

As the statewide criminal justice planning agency, the Montana Board of Crime Control leads and fosters collaboration with Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments to contribute to public safety, crime prevention, and victim assistance. MBCC and our partners provide funding, data, training, technical assistance, and support in developing and administering effective programs throughout the state.

MBCC is guided by the following Four Strategic Goals:

1. Support efforts to improve Criminal Justice Data collection and sharing across the state (2021- 2023).
2. Enhance crime prevention and reduction activities to reduce crimes against persons, property, and society.
3. Provide opportunities and resources to strengthen and sustain victim services at the program and community level.
4. To increase the capacity of jail alternatives by more than 15% through early intervention, pretrial services, jail diversion programs, and Restorative Justice interventions by 2026.

These goals are a road map to helping you—our customers, partners, and stakeholders—enhance crime prevention and crime control throughout our communities. In Montana, you are either related to someone in this great state, or you know someone the other person knows. Montana is one big small town, and we hold our partnerships, collaboration, and community dear. On behalf of Governor Gianforte, thank you for your trust and partnership.

I hope this report helps you better understand the role the Montana Board of Crime Control's has in contributing public safety and preventing crime, the importance of collaboration, and the impact MBCC has had on the criminal justice system.



Leo C. Dutton

Chairman, Montana Board of Crime Control

Message from the Director

The Montana Board of Crime Control provides financial resources, data to drive decision making, and collaborative partnerships.

This report is structured around our four agency goals, which you can find summarized on page 36 of this report and detailed on the MBCC website: <https://mbcc.mt.gov/About/>. As you read through this report, you will learn about some of the key programs we administer and the collaborative efforts we participate in to achieve these goals, as well as the impact MBCC's work has had and will continue to have on the criminal justice system.

In the last biennium, the Board took a much more specific approach to strategic planning. During the Strategic Planning Retreat in September 2021, board members and staff collaborated to revise the four agency goals to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound (SMART). Objectives were put in place with focused timelines and that named responsible staff members, board members, and public safety partners with which MBCC would partner with to achieve each goal.

I am immensely proud of and thankful for the highly adaptive and capable staff of the board who have weathered many significant transitions over the last four years. The shift to being administratively attached to the Department of Corrections, the COVID-19 pandemic, the shift to the new grant management system, AmpliFund, and MBCC's transition back to being administratively attached to the Department of Justice have all had a heavy impact on staff. Though internally turbulent, each transition appeared seamless on the outside thanks to their diligence and flexibility. Staff worked tirelessly to achieve all the things highlighted in this biennial report without interruption to our funding distribution schedules, support to our subgrantees, and training and technical assistance opportunities for our public safety partners and stakeholders,

MBCC has worked hard over the past two years to build strong relationships with other public safety and criminal justice agencies, our subgrantees and stakeholders, and the public. I am grateful for the open communication we have developed with our public safety partners. Collaboration is natural and efficient, and MBCC is trusted for their expertise and ability to deliver quality work on an efficient timeline.

As we look ahead to the 2023-2024 biennium, MBCC has a clearly defined mission and goals, strong leadership and engagement from board members, and passionate and versatile staff. For more than 50 years, the Board of Crime Control has served Montana as the State Administering Agency (SAA) and designated criminal justice planning agency. I hope that you will take the time to learn about the programs we administer, what services MBCC and our partners provide to communities throughout Montana, and the impact our collaborative efforts have had on the criminal justice system.



Natalia Bowser
Director, Montana Board of Crime Control

About the Board of Crime Control

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) was established in response to the Federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. Recognizing the value and importance of crime prevention and community-based law enforcement solutions, Montana lawmakers promptly established the MBCC through passage of MCA 2-15-2006.

The Act created state planning agencies by:

- encouraging states and units of local government to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans based upon their evaluation of state and local problems in law enforcement;
- authorizing grants to states and units of local government to improve and strengthen law enforcement; and
- encouraging research and development directed towards the improvements of law enforcement and the development of new methods for the prevention and reduction of crime and the detection and apprehension of criminals

For more than 50 years, the Montana Board of Crime Control has improved public safety through grant funding, data to drive decision making, and through collaborative partnerships. MBCC is led by an 18-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor and managed with a small professional staff. Our agency provides financial support, technical assistance, and supportive services to state and local criminal justice agencies and community organizations. The Board funds local, regional, and statewide projects with the central goal of making Montana a safer state. Without access to targeted grant dollars offered by MBCC, most of these important programs would be impossible to achieve with only state or local resources.

To achieve our vision for safer communities, MBCC has adopted four agency wide goals which provide the foundation for and direction to program development, resource allocation, and outcome measurement. The Montana Board of Crime Control seeks to achieve the following goals:

1. **Goal 1:** Support efforts to improve Criminal Justice Data collection and sharing across the state (2021-2023).
2. **Goal 2:** Enhance crime prevention and reduction activities to reduce crimes against persons, property and society
3. **Goal 3:** Provide opportunities and resources to strengthen and sustain victim services at the program and community level.
4. **Goal 4:** To increase the capacity of jail alternatives by more than 15% through early intervention, pretrial services, jail diversion programs, and Restorative Justice interventions by 2026.

Through integrated teams, MBCC develops, secures, and manages a number of federal crime prevention and intervention grants including:

- drug interdiction
- jail diversion and behavioral health strategies
- victim assistance
- State victim liaison project
- violence against women prevention initiatives
- justice system workforce development
- juvenile justice
- forensic analysis programs
- criminal justice data collection, analysis, and reporting
- abuse in later life prevention initiatives
- public defender and public prosecutor student loan repayment

A misdemeanor domestic violence intervention program is supported through a small allocation of state special revenue. Six awards totaling \$229,907 were granted through the Domestic Violence Intervention Program through the fiscal years 2021 and 2022, building safer communities across the state.

The Montana Board of Crime Control is designated to administer federal funds from the Title 41, Chapter 5 and the corresponding Youth Court Act, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Title 41, Chapter 5 and federally the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Reauthorization of 2018 (JJDP Act)

Juvenile Justice System stakeholders are appointed by the Governor to the [Youth Justice Council \(YJC\)](#), the MBCC's one advisory council. YJC members, working in conjunction with juvenile justice system partners and the MBCC Juvenile Justice Specialist, provide the leadership necessary to coordinate the JJDP Act and juvenile justice efforts.

MBCC administers contracts with regional juvenile detention centers that are supported, in part, by state general fund. Our comprehensive Juvenile Justice Program develops and implements the state's juvenile justice plan and recommends educational, research, prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation programs through targeted grant funding, technical and data analysis.

MBCC provides leadership, funding, and technical assistance to facilitate information exchanges across the justice continuum through technology enhancements and creating opportunities to improve collaboration and coordination. Recent initiatives include launching the State Victim Liaison Project to map and assess the gaps and needs in victim services; the Delinquency Prevention Program (DPP), which funds programs that prevent delinquency among at-risk and justice-involved youth; and preparing law enforcement and other first responders to appropriately assess and respond to individuals experiencing mental health crises through the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Grant.

Incident based crime data is collected from Montana's law enforcement agencies, analyzed in our Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), and submitted yearly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Montana's SAC was one of the first in the country to be determined 100% compliant with the National Incident Based Reporting System, which replaces the outdated Uniform Crime reporting (UCR) system. The Board of Crime Control's SAC has published the "Crime in Montana" report each year since 1972, providing detailed analysis of crime trends by offense type, location, offender demographics and more.

As Montana's designated criminal justice planning agency, the MBCC has provided comprehensive planning, collaborative partnerships, data to drive decision making, and targeted and accessible financial resources for more than 50 years. MBCC has fostered justice system improvements, enhanced public safety, continuously met the needs of crime victims, and created opportunities for diversion and alternatives to incarceration where possible.

Montana Board of Crime Control Timeline

1960s

- President Johnson's National Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice encouraged formation of State agencies for crime prevention.
- Congress created Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) and provided funding for crime control efforts. This led to the creation of the Montana Law enforcement Planning Committee

1970s

- LEPC renamed the Montana Board of Crime Control (1972)
- MONTCLIRK: A center for criminal justice legal research established at the University of Montana School of Law
- Annual Crime in Montana Reports began

1980s

- Jail standards developed
- New programs implemented including Incident-Based Reporting System for crime statistics and Reservation and Community Victims Assistance Program
- Crime Stoppers initiative statewide

1990s

- Grant Management Information System (GMIS)
- Regional Juvenile Detention Reform: Juveniles removed from adult jails
- Criminal History Record system improvements – Automated fingerprint ID systems
- Training/Certifications offered include Juvenile detention, Emergency communication and Probation & Parole
- The Montana Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) was created in 1991 by Executive Order from Governor Stan Stephens and was designated to be housed within the Board of Crime Control

2000s

- Governor's Meth Summit
- National Governor's Association Policy Academy on substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Online sub-grant application system
- Ongoing funding of seven drug task force apprehension programs
- Forensic crime lab improvements
- FBI certification of MT National Incident Based Reporting System

2010s

- Implemented the Automated Victims' Information Database (AVID)
- Developed new Juvenile Detention Data Reporting System
- Created information exchanges between Courts, Dept. of Justice and Corrections; streamlining offender management and victim notification
- Jail suicide prevention initiative, including universal screening and assessment
- Provided scholarships for Montana Victim Advocate Academy training

2020s

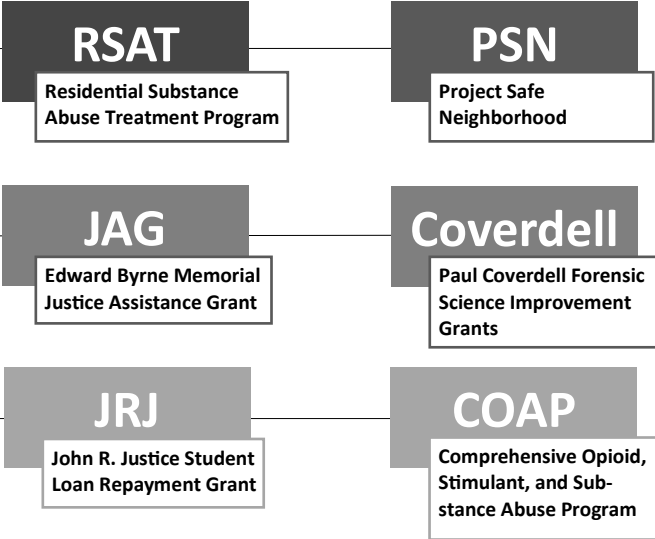
- Implemented Linking Systems of Care Youth Screening tool
- Montana moves from monthly crime reporting for the 106 reporting law enforcement agencies
- Administered Delinquency Prevention Program (DPP) grant
- Launched Victim Liaison Project to map victim services throughout the state and assess needs and gaps
- Distributed approximately \$3.3 million of Coronavirus Emergency Supplement Funding (CESF); funded 70 Montana programs to address the impact of COVID-19 on the state
- Participated in statewide effort to select a new grant management system, AmpliFund, that would be used by all state agencies; implemented AmpliFund in 2020
- In 2022, MBCC Administered Montana's DtWT program for the 15th year and hosted the 16th annual Crime Prevention Conference



OVW
Office on Violence
Against Women



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance

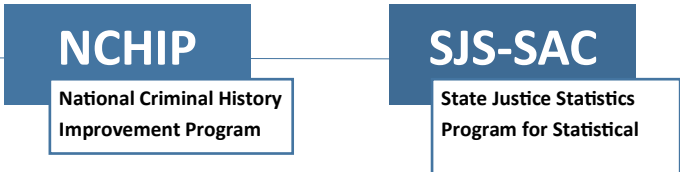


OJP
Office of Justice Programs

SMART
Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking



BJS
Bureau of Justice Statistics



OJJDP
Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime





Supporting Communities Throughout the Pandemic

Supporting Communities Throughout the Pandemic

MBCC'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic introduced many new financial, logistical, and technological challenges throughout the entire state of Montana. MBCC implemented a number of solutions to ease the financial strain on subgrantees and to ensure the board could continue to carry out its duties as a State Administering Agency (SAA) without interruption.

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF)

The federal CESF program provided funding to eligible states, local units of government, and tribes and must have been utilized in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.

Allowable projects and purchases included, but were not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses (particularly related to the distribution of resources to the most impacted areas), and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) distributed approximately \$3.3 million to eligible applicants throughout Montana including units of city, county, and tribal governments; state agencies; non-profit agencies; for-profit agencies; detention centers and jails; and statewide justice-involved associations, to assist in their efforts to address the coronavirus pandemic.

To ensure CESF funds were distributed in an equitable manner throughout the state, all applicants to MBCC for CESF funding were strongly recommended to collaborate with other entities within their areas desiring to receive CESF assistance, to directly address their coronavirus needs as well.

A total of 70 CESF programs were funded by MBCC through direct awards over an approximate three-year period from January 2020 through December 2022.

VOCA Match Waiver

Throughout the pandemic, victim services agencies continued to provide services to the people of Montana through grant funds provided by MBCC. These agencies had to find creative solutions around how they provided services, raised funds, and utilized volunteers. The match portion of the grant is typically 20% of the total grant amount and agencies often use volunteers as part of the match. Because of the restrictions and fears surrounding COVID-19, many agencies went without volunteers and could not carry out their usual fundraising events and strategies, making it impossible for them to meet the match requirements. To ease some of the financial burden, MBCC was able to approve a match waiver for all VOCA grantees during the pandemic. This waiver was authorized until one year after the pandemic was declared over.

Remote Meeting and Training Solutions

In a time when in-person gatherings were prohibited or limited, MBCC started scheduling all quarterly meetings and subcommittee meetings of the Board and YJC as Zoom meetings. Members and staff could continue to convene from anywhere with an internet connection and the public from all corners of the state could request a link to observe or offer public comment. This practice increased participation, efficiency of communication, and transparency. To this day, MBCC continues to offer a remote option for every public meeting.

Every year, public safety partners look forward to the trainings, networking opportunities, and continuing education credits at the annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference. Since large, in-person events

were prohibited, MBCC opted to host the first entirely virtual conference. The live event was well-attended, and the 17 training sessions were recorded, edited, and posted on the MBCC conference webpage for attendees to view at their convenience.

The 2020 conference paved the way for other virtual and hybrid trainings and events. In October 2020, MBCC hosted the first remote subgrantee training and facilitated a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Strategic Planning Stakeholder Meeting in February 2021. MBCC was able to improve and streamline pre-application Offeror's Calls in which staff walk potential applicants through important information related to funding opportunities. Staff hosted many remote AmpliFund Support Calls to familiarize new applicants and existing subgrantees with MBCC's new grant management system and ease their transition from OSAS to AmpliFund. While the subgrantee training in October 2022 was hosted in-person, a remote option was provided to accommodate attendees who were unable to travel.

While gathering restrictions have lifted, MBCC continues to utilize the technological solutions adopted and the best practices learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen existing processes, boost efficiency, and increase accessibility of information and resources.

SUBGRANTEE RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC

In response to the rapid and critical need to adapt to the pandemic, MBCC took the opportunity to ask subgrantees what challenges and successes they encountered as they continued to provide needed services.

Victim Services

Counselors and victim advocates added virtual sessions, teletherapy was added to grant programs, and shelters added rigorous cleaning and safety precautions to prevent the spread of illness. Rural communities, in particular, continue to find ways to

serve victims in areas where internet and phone service are not available. One proposed solution is to use grant funding to purchase mobile hot spots and devices that will be available to individuals who need them.

Judicial

Courts and associated judicial agencies used CESF funding distributed by MBCC to purchase laptops so that juvenile probation, judges, court staff, and more could continue to participate remotely in legal and court hearings throughout the court office and courtroom closures caused by COVID. Likewise, county attorneys' offices purchased case management systems and laptops to allow attorneys and other key staff to work from home, make remote video court appearances, case review, and document submissions necessary or continuation of the judicial process. Detention centers and courthouses worked together to install video conferencing systems, allowing virtual inmate appearances in Justice Court, City Court, and District Court. Montana Public Defenders offices installed intercom systems allowing them to talk to clients and other people without being in direct contact.

Education and Juvenile Justice

Most schools were closed during the pandemic, providing an overload of kids and lack of staff within youth service agencies.

CESF funds were provided to those agencies to hire additional staff, counselors, and therapists to assist in managing the influx of kids. Oftentimes, overtime funds were provided to reimburse staff working extra hours. Masks, gloves, and other personal protective equipment (PPE), along with cleaning and disinfectant supplies were purchased and provided to facilities serving youth. Regional Juvenile Detention Facilities in the state requested overtime pay for employees. They also purchased PPE, cleaning supplies, COVID testing kits, separation windows, and intercom systems.



MBCC Strategic Goals

Goal Number 1: Support efforts to improve Criminal Justice Data collection and sharing across the state (2022-2023).

1. Partner with legislature, stakeholders, and information technology resources to facilitate data collection efforts.
2. Research funding opportunities to assist Criminal Justice data collection efforts.

Goal Number 2: Reduce crimes against persons, property, and society through effective drug enforcement and education.

1. Increase law enforcement investigative activities by 5% per year
2. Increase prevention initiatives by 25% per year.
3. Implement deconfliction standards for JAG- funded MJDTFs

Goal Number 3: Provide opportunities and resources to strengthen and sustain victim services at the program and community level.

1. Increase access to potential funding by providing quarterly information regarding grant opportunities.
2. Increase sugrantee knowledge of and access to trainings.
3. Improve funding priority and decision making through data provided in subgrantee reports.

Goal Number 4: Support jail alternatives through early interventions, chemical dependency treatment services, jail diversion programs, and restorative justice initiatives by 2026.

1. Increase individuals served by MBCC funded early intervention programs.
2. Research funding opportunities for the creation and expansion of early interventions, chemical dependency treatment services, jail diversion programs, and restorative justice initiatives.
3. Provide training and education for early interventions, chemical dependency treatment services, jail diversion programs, and restorative justice initiatives.



MBCC Agency Goal #1:

Support efforts to improve Criminal Justice Data collection and sharing across the state.

Quality Data Matters

In 2019, Montana received funds for a new repository for the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data. The new repository allows the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Crime Analysts to better manage the quantity, accuracy, and reliability of state crime data. This results in better quality crime data for legislators, criminal justice partner planning, law enforcement agencies, and public inquiries.

NIBRS data in collaboration with National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) grants have focused on creating electronic data transfer from the calls to 911, to the law enforcement records management systems, to the jail management systems for all police departments and sheriff's offices. NIBRS data set collects data at the beginning of the criminal justice pipeline, so accuracy and reliability is critical when sharing data upstream. This foundational step is the basis for gathering statewide law enforcement data.

SHIFTING TO XML

By the end of 2023, all NIBRS reporting law enforcement agencies will be submitting data in real time when feasible using nationally standardized Extensible Markup Language (XML) file transmissions. Though limited to deidentified data for incident, offense, offender, victim and arrest related information, XML files can be more easily modified to include additional information to be shared with other justice partners. The national standardization of this data set will allow data to be shared with state justice partners and compared across the country.

Systems are becoming more automated and processes are being implemented to highlight quality, quantity, and reliability issues of concern for each records management system vendor and their law enforcement customers. Montana currently works with nine records management vendors for 106 NIBRS reporting agencies. These 106 agencies cover crime data for over 99.3% of the 1,104,271-state population. Currently only three jurisdictions covering 3,037 of Montana's citizens are not reporting crime data. Two of those agencies will be reporting in 2023 because of an NCHIP grant that aided in the purchase of a records management system to allow them to submit NIBRS data via XML.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF DATA

Law enforcement participation and data accuracy provide an excellent basis for the starting point of the criminal justice information sharing effort. The SAC is continuously improving crime data through a number of strategies.

Training

The first strategy has been to work collaboratively with records management vendors and their law enforcement customers, our NIBRS repository vendor and the FBI to mitigate any conflicts with Montana laws and NIBRS requirements. The SAC has tracked these data disconnects for 20 years and worked with these team members to create elegant solutions. The vast majority of issues in the past were often corrected unsuccessfully with training. The comprehensive team identified training cannot fix poor programming, or differing definitions in Montana laws versus NIBRS definitions. As a collaborative effort, boots on the ground officers and reporting staff are consulted about what data is missing or appears inaccurate. Often the FBI wants only a sliver of a data element while a law enforcement agency may find value in collecting all the data available for an element such as drugs or domestic violence. Montana is able to provide better data to the FBI and all justice partners by not narrowly limiting the data collected at the local level.

MBCC Agency Goal #1

In addition to team system improvement, Montana has coordinated two training sessions that include 1.) basic FBI training and 2.) the Montana strategies to deconflict issues between the FBI and Montana laws; vendor out of the box systems; and the NIBRS repository verifications to meet FBI NIBRS regulations.

Examples of these training sessions can be found on our website:

• **July 20-24, 2020**

<https://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/MTIBRS-Updates>

• **August 27-29, 2022**

<https://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/MTIBRS-Training>

Additional 30-minute topical training sessions can be found here:

<https://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/MTIBRS-Training>.

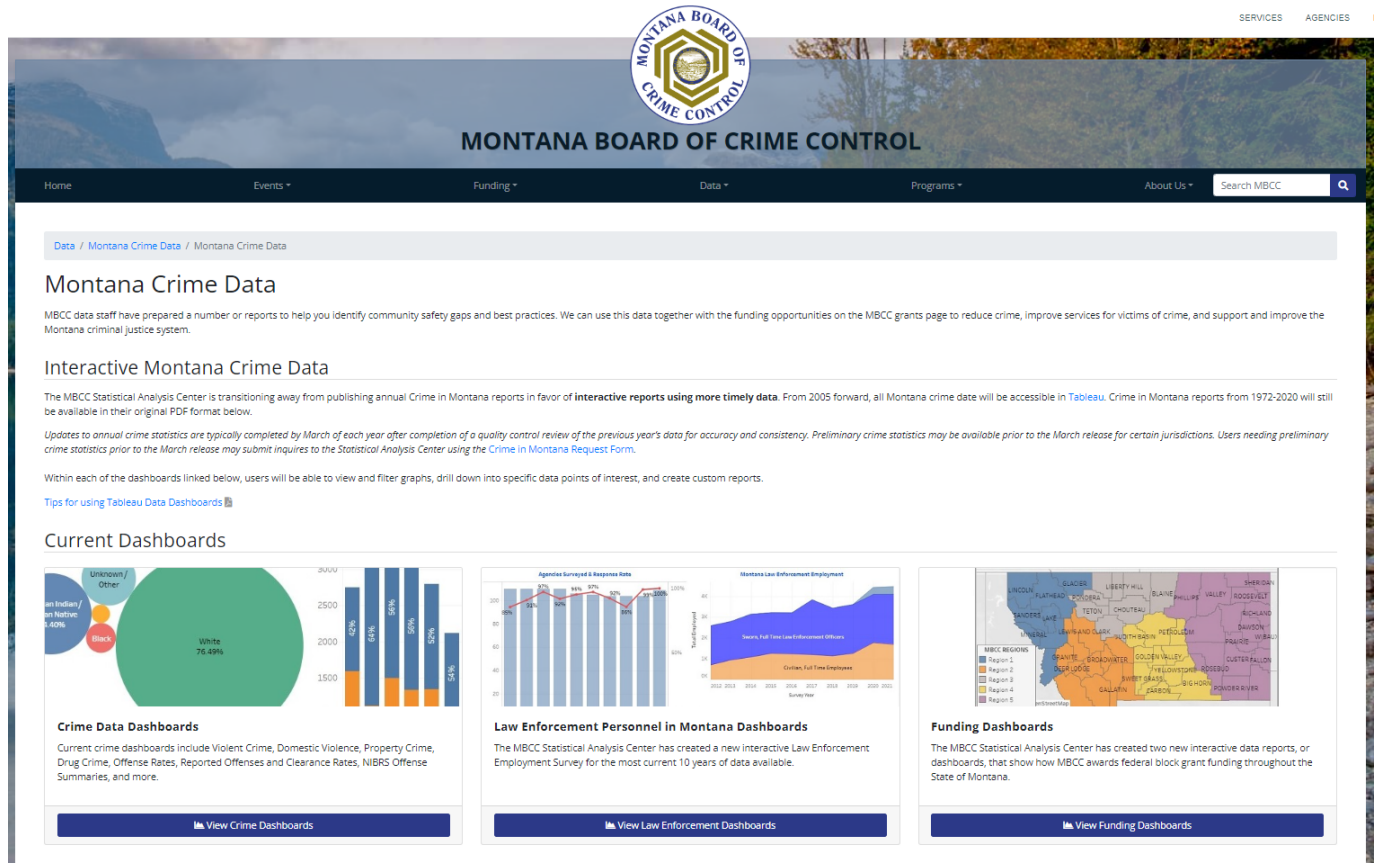
These sessions address the issues of most concern with agencies based on requests, or as identified by data or team members.

Crime in Montana Reports

Many of the issues and strategies have come from our publications of the annual [Crime in Montana reports](#). These reports were typically over 100 pages of a variety of data sets dating back to 1972. As agencies, the media, legislators, and the public reviewed the data, issues were brought to life. The SAC pulled together team members researched the root causes as well as potential resolutions. One of the biggest issues was always the fact that data lagged by sometimes up to 23 months.

XML is the strategy to resolve the timeliness issue, and the dashboards were the vehicle to provide more real time access to crime data that is relevant to the need. The dashboards were designed based on the previous Crime in Montana reports, and the data requests received.

Click this link to view these dashboards: <https://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/Montana-Reports/>.



Collaboration

COLLABORATION WITH STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Over the last few years, the SAC and Montana law enforcement have built up a strong bond of trust and collaboration. MBCC is fortunate to have SAC staff who have law enforcement experience and understand what reporting looks like for our law enforcement partners. SAC staff display exceptional attention to detail when analyzing the data for errors and take the time to reach out to each agency individually to answer questions and provide technical assistance. In turn, our law enforcement partners are comfortable reaching out to ask reporting questions so that they may resolve any errors. Montana law enforcement already have so much work to perform, and even though NIBRS is a voluntary program, they understand its importance and still take the time to work with the SAC to report timely crime data with extremely low error rates. The FBI allows for a 4% error rate. Montana law enforcement agencies have set the standard nationally with a typical error rate has been less than .2%, essentially nonexistent. Additionally, the SAC sends out an annual law enforcement employment survey every year, and for the second year in a row, the SAC has received a 100% response rate. The survey is just another example of the outstanding partnership between Montana law enforcement and the SAC.

REQUIRED FEDERAL REPORTING

Montana has been a critical member of Federal taskforces to develop or revise crime data reporting. These taskforces have provided Montana the opportunity to voice issues and corrective strategies that can be more easily monitored given our smaller population and high level of law enforcement participation. Two SAC staff members have participated in the following FBI lead national taskforces or crime data efforts:

Use of Force Data Reporting (UoF)

Montana is one of the first states to fully participate in UoF data collection beginning in January 2019. Montana developed our own webpage to assist agencies in submitting these incidents to the SAC. The SAC also enters zero reports for agencies monthly to assist all agencies in remaining current with this data set.

Death in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA)

Montana participated in a taskforce to identify DICRA fields needed for this data set that were not already collected in the NIBRS submissions. Montana was also one of the first states to utilize the Violent Death Registry data to assist with local death in custody cases. Montana also established a relationship with the Department of Corrections and Vital Statistics bureau to collect the most complete data possible.

Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection

The SAC served as one of the national taskforce members assisting with the implementation of the newest FBI data set. Utilizing the Use of Force processes, Montana will assist agencies when these incidents occur. To date, the SAC has not been made aware of any suicides to report but stand ready to assist when needed.

Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA)

Montana has served in this dataset redesign committee since 2019. This committee resulted in changes that reduced the data burden of these incidents for local law enforcement but utilizing the data already collected by their records management system.

Beyond 2021 National Incident-Based Report System (NIBRS) Taskforce

This taskforce was designed to move law enforcement data collection to the next level. As one of 16 states that have been 100% NIBRS since 2004, Montana has provided a number of topics for the group to focus on including:

- improved drug statistics;
- removing duplicative data fields;
- more cohesive state law to NIBRS mapping;
- expanded location, drug type and victim to offender relationships; and
- removing the complexity of NIBRS for officers when records management and state NIBRS repository vendors can programmatically deal with inconsistencies.

NIBRS Quality Assurance Working Group

Montana presented our unique focus on Quality Assurance Review redesign. The prior system focused on a 32-page FBI questionnaire primarily dealing with issues that records management systems ensure and reviewing a random sample of 10% of incidents for each agency. While the random reviews yielded some data issues, the QARs seldom focused on the causes for the issues. As a result, often the errors identified did not decrease over time. Montana will focus on utilizing the data we have collected for 20 years to identify significant trends or potential issues. The goal will be to identify the root causes and collaborate with vendors, the FBI and agencies to identify the most elegant solutions for all partners.

Impact on the Criminal Justice System

Montana has collected Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) data since at least 1972. Montana was one of the first states to move to the more detailed crime reporting collection known as the National Incident-Based Crime Reporting Program (NIBRS) in 2004. Montana remained one of 16 states submitting NIBRS data until 2021, when all states were limited to submitting only NIBRS data. Converting Montana law enforcement agency NIBRS submissions from flat file monthly submissions to real time XML submissions accomplished several goals:

TIMELINESS OF DATA

Data will now be available in almost real time. Previously, XML data was often up to 18 months old on our public facing sites. XML will help demonstrate trends more quickly.

MODIFICATIONS MADE EASIER

The XML format is more easily altered by vendors when federal rules or state laws change. In the past, these changes often took 12 to 18 months to implement.

XML FORMAT IS MORE EASILY EXCHANGED

Making local law enforcement data from 911 calls for service, through arrests and detention, was not realistic with flat file submissions. XML provides a nationally acceptable format for data exchanges between systems. The template that collects the deidentified data for NIBRS can be expanded to collect any of the additional fields collected by law enforcement. This copy and paste format can then be directed towards any criminal justice partner without providing personally identifiable data to the SAC.

MODIFICATIONS THAT DOVETAILED WITH XML CONVERSIONS

With agencies moving to the new format, Montana jumped at the opportunity to address the concerns expressed about NIBRS from law enforcement over 20 years. The SAC was able to review issues that stem from conflicts between the FBI specifications and Montana laws. These differences can corrupt data and reduce the confidence in the NIBRS data and

data collection. A few of the issues that will be resolved with XML to provide better upstream data for our criminal justice partners include:

- Better drug data, including non-drug crimes such as robbery and burglary.
- Drug type information included for the existing fields of suspected of using drugs during the commission of a crime. Previously, drug types were not available.
- Better domestic violence data based on offense and victim to offender relationship rather than a yes/no indicator that was at least 50% inaccurate.
- A field has been added to better identify crimes against healthcare workers or elderly recipients, and educators or students. Montana will be better able to capture the circumstances of these crimes with the addition of location, injury type, drug types, victim to offender relationships, and weapon fields.
- Montana will now map the NIBRS codes to our Montana Code Annotated statutes and will require certified records management vendors to update this crosswalk for all their customers. Previously, agencies maintained their own statute tables, resulting in significant mapping errors and data inconsistencies. This single change will drastically reduce these issues.

The changes detailed above and others will assist the state in providing better quality data for the state data repository. Additionally, Montana is working with the FBI to ensure we meet or exceed their NIBRS requirements, while striving to improve the data for them, but also for use at the local and state level.



MBCC Agency Goal #2:

Enhance crime prevention and reduction activities to reduce crimes against persons, property, and society.

Programs

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAM (DPP)

MBCC was awarded a \$1 million dollar Delinquency Prevention Program (DPP) grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). DPP seeks to prevent delinquency among at-risk youth in rural and impoverished areas by providing restorative justice interventions, coordination of care, and mentoring services.

Outdoor Behavioral Therapy

MBCC awarded \$447,094 to the Missoula County Community Justice Department (MCCJD) and its subgrantee, Inner Roads, Inc. With this grant, Inner Roads has become the only outdoor therapeutic program of its kind in the U.S. to provide youth and families with services free of charge. Since the project period began in April of 2022, MCCJD and Inner Roads have provided a total of 25 youth and their families:

- Six-week outdoor summer expeditions for youth accompanied by a licensed therapist, wilderness guide, and mentors.
- Two high school credits.
- Three-day family workshops.
- Parent coaching and family psychoeducation.
- Weekly individual youth mentoring services to encourage engagement in safe and sober activities that align with their interests.

Mentoring Services for At-Risk Youth

The Missoula City-County Health Department and its subgrantee, Friends of the Children, were awarded a total of \$417,000 in October 2022. The DPP grant will support long-term professional mentoring services for at-risk youth and their parents from the ages of 4-6 through 18. The program model has been very successful in other states, with 93% of mentees staying out of the juvenile justice system. Friends of the Children plans to expand the program to Mineral and/or Lake Counties during the project period.

JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) STRATEGIC PLANNING

In January 2021, the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) facilitated a planning meeting to initiate the conception of Montana's five-year 2021–2025 Statewide Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Strategic Plan. Knowledgeable professionals from the MBCC Anti-Drug Committee and the six JAG-funded Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces (MJDTF) were in attendance to identify and discuss funding priorities as they relate to the MJDTF. Additional discussion was had regarding MJDTF programs stabilization and sustainability if there is future reduction or absence of JAG funds.

In February 2021, the Anti-Drug Committee of the MBCC met again in collaboration with the MJDTF and numerous diverse Montana justice system expert stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and identify other programs and practices already being facilitated throughout Montana that help to satisfy the eight JAG purpose areas. The group also identified gaps in resources and unmet needs in the state, prioritizing JAG purpose areas to be addressed if additional JAG funds, or alternative resources to compliment the JAG program become available to meet those gaps and needs. It was mutually agreed that the continued JAG funding of MJDTF was the number one priority.

In May 2021, the Anti-Drug Committee met to review discussions and decisions, priorities, goals, and outcomes from the prior two planning meetings. The Committee discussed, finalized, and voted to approve the 2021–2025 JAG Strategic Plan, to be recommended for final approval by the MBCC.

In June 2021, the MBCC voted and adopted the JAG Strategic Plan recommended by the Anti-Drug Committee.

Collaboration

PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT

MBCC funds the Montana State Crime Lab (forensic crime laboratory) through the Paul Coverdell grant so that they can continue to improve their services, which are crucial to the outcome of criminal cases. The primary goal is to help improve forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services, including services provided by laboratories operated by states and units of local government. Continued funding improves the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner/coroner services in the state and helps eliminate the backlog of forensic science evidence, including, among other things, a backlog with respect to firearms examination, latent prints, toxicology, controlled substances, forensic pathology, questioned documents, and trace evident. Funding the Montana State Crime Lab also assists in their efforts in developing and providing law enforcement Evidence Collection Manuals including Serology and DNA evidence collection techniques that offers guidance to law enforcement on the best practices on collecting evidence.

On May 23rd, 2022, it was announced that for the second year in a row, the Montana Department of Justice's Forensic Science Division (FSD) has again been recognized as a top-performing forensic laboratory, earning the Foresight Maximus Award from the American Society of Crime Laboratory - Directors (ASCLD). It is one of just 13 forensic laboratories in the world to earn the award for operating at 90% or better of peak efficiency based on Foresight business metrics.

The lab has been providing essential services to the state of Montana since it became accredited in 2005. Continued funding through the Coverdell grant helps ensure Montana stays current and efficient in the services provided to the criminal justice system and people of Montana.

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (PSN)

The primary Goal of Montana's PSN project is to reduce violent crime by protecting the public from those persons causing violence, including methamphetamine traffickers and dealers, armed robbers, violent felons who continue to illegally possess firearms, and the most significant violent offenders who have pending arrest warrants.

Montana's PSN initiative targets violent crime in communities most significantly impacted by violent crime, firearms offenses, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. The most serious violent crime problems in the Montana stem from methamphetamine trafficking, armed robberies, and the possession of firearms by violent felons. Montana's PSN strategy centers around "focused and strategic enforcement" through aggressive enforcement efforts, along with "prevention and intervention" with support for methamphetamine prevention and treatment, and prisoner re-entry programs in targeted communities to reduce violent crime.

MBCC administers the PSN program through a collaborative effort with the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) and numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement and criminal justice partners. The USAO in collaboration with the PSN Task Forces and leadership groups secure the support of qualified research partners to work out of the Billings and Missoula Police Departments in the Yellowstone and Missoula County focus sites to review and analyze violent crime files and data. Research efforts identify through objective criteria individuals most likely to commit a violent crime and provide that information to the PSN tactical teams. Designated law enforcement agencies within the focus areas investigate, identify, and prosecute violent criminals and initiate coordinated efforts to address the planned strategies designed to meet Montana's primary PSN goal and objective.

Impact on the Criminal Justice System

COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE SITE-BASED PROGRAM (COAP)

COAP's purpose is to provide financial and technical assistance to states, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by the opioid epidemic. COAP funding helps implement and enhances prescription drug monitoring programs, promotes cross-system planning and coordination of service delivery, and reduces the incidence of fatal overdoses associated with opioid use. MBCC distributed funding to two subgrantees in 2021-2022:

Montana Department of Corrections (MT DOC)

COAP funding allowed MT DOC to train Montana State Prison (MSP) and Montana Women's Prison (MWP) behavioral health staff on the addition and treatment of Substance Use Disorder (SUD). 500 doses of Naloxone were received and will be distributed to offenders as they discharge. Boyd Andrew Community Services completed 19 American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) assessments and 10 Quality Assurance reviews. MT DOC will continue to use COAP funds to purchase automated dispensing machines, implement and modify Electronic Health Record (EHR) interfaces, and implement medication and counseling components of Medication Assisted Treatment at MSP and MWP.

Yellowstone County Detention Facility (YCDF)

So far, YCDF has been able to provide 19 out of the target 50 inmates with Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) assessments. 6 individuals were released to the community, and 13 were screened for services, and 31 referrals were submitted for assessment for SUD and MOUD.

YCDF reviews client cases, makes recommendations

for referrals to services, and develops treatment plans weekly. They have been able to address data issues, work through policies and procedures, and have engaged in significant collaboration with community partners. YCDF will continue to use COAP funding to establish treatment and create options for release and re-entry support and supervision.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL - JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)

The JAG Program provides states and units of local governments with critical funding necessary to support a broad range of criminal justice initiatives utilizing eight general purpose areas:

1. *Law enforcement programs;*
2. *Prosecution and court programs, to include indigent defense;*
3. *Prevention and education programs;*
4. *Corrections and community corrections programs;*
5. *Drug treatment and enforcement programs;*
6. *Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs;*
7. *Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation); and*
8. *Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.*

In Montana, JAG is guided by a collaborative strategic plan with funds designated to support Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces (MJDTF) statewide, within the "law enforcement" purpose area. Montana's MJDTF, supported by mutually engaged agencies, play a critical prevention role to maintain a drug interdiction presence statewide. MJDTF efforts of intelligence sharing, prevention, education, deterrence, public safety, and cases resulting in arrests are also important to help reduce crimes against persons, property, and society.



MBCC Agency Goal #3:

Provide opportunities and resources to strengthen and sustain victim services at the program and community level.

Programs

HIGH RISK TEAMS (HRT) PROJECT

Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) is a federal grant program from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). MBCC applied for an ICJR grant dedicating the project to developing high risk teams (HRT) throughout the state of Montana. The HRT grant was designed to enhance evidence based and best practices to existing HRTs as well as developing HRTs in different areas of the state of Montana. HRTs are focused on responding to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and we believe they will help strengthen the continuity of services across the state. By identifying potential high-risk situations early and keeping first responders informed, we hope to

decrease these events drastically in the prevention of homicide.

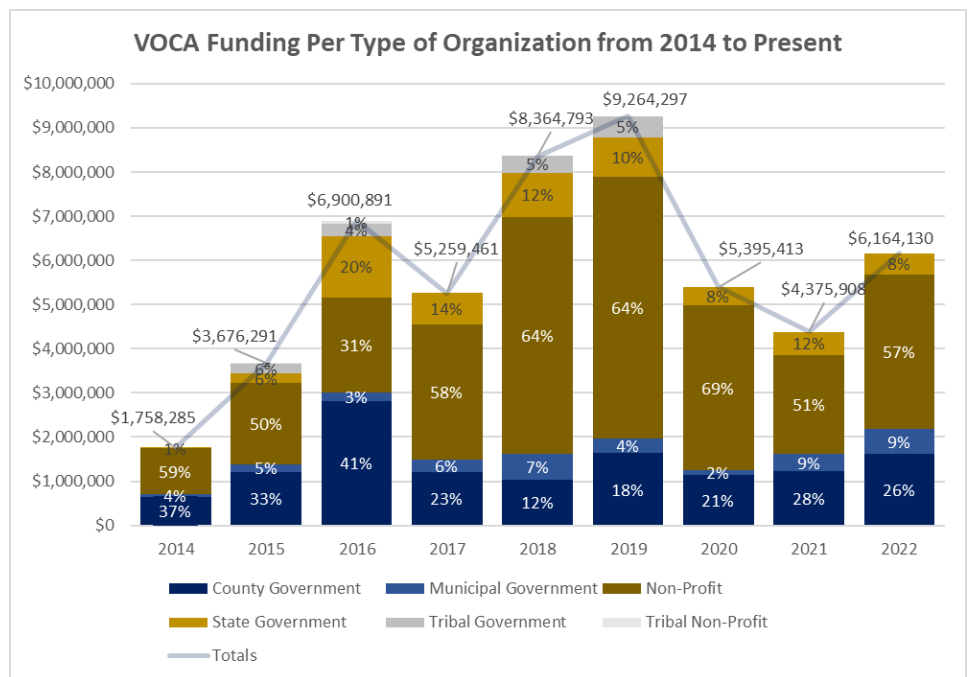
ENHANCED TRAINING SERVICES TO END ABUSE IN LATER LIFE (ETSEALL)

Enhanced Training Services to End Abuse in Later Life (ETSEALL) is a grant program from the Office on Violence Against Women. This grant is dedicated to education and training on elder abuse. Training teams are utilized to provide education and training to professionals working with the aged communities. Two different trainings are utilized, one specifically for victim service advocates and the other for law enforcement.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)

MBCC distributed federal funds through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program to 64 agencies over two years. \$4,375,908 was distributed in 2021 and \$6,164,130 in 2022 to service and community-based programs across Montana that support primary and secondary victims of crime. The federal focus areas of this grant aid victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and victims in underserved populations. More specifically, VOCA funds in Montana support shelters for adults and children

impacted by abuse and family violence, advocates that assist a victim throughout the entire legal process, 24/7 crisis hotlines, court appointed special advocates to represent children and minors, access to counseling, emergency legal advocacy, and countless other valuable services. From the most rural to the densely populated areas of Montana, VOCA funded programs provide unique solutions to best support the individual needs of all Montana communities.



The above graph represents the types of organizations funded through the Montana Board of Crime Control's (MBCC) federal VOCA award. The legend outlines the types of organizations while the chart breaks down the percentage of money that was awarded to each group per year beginning in 2014.

Collaboration

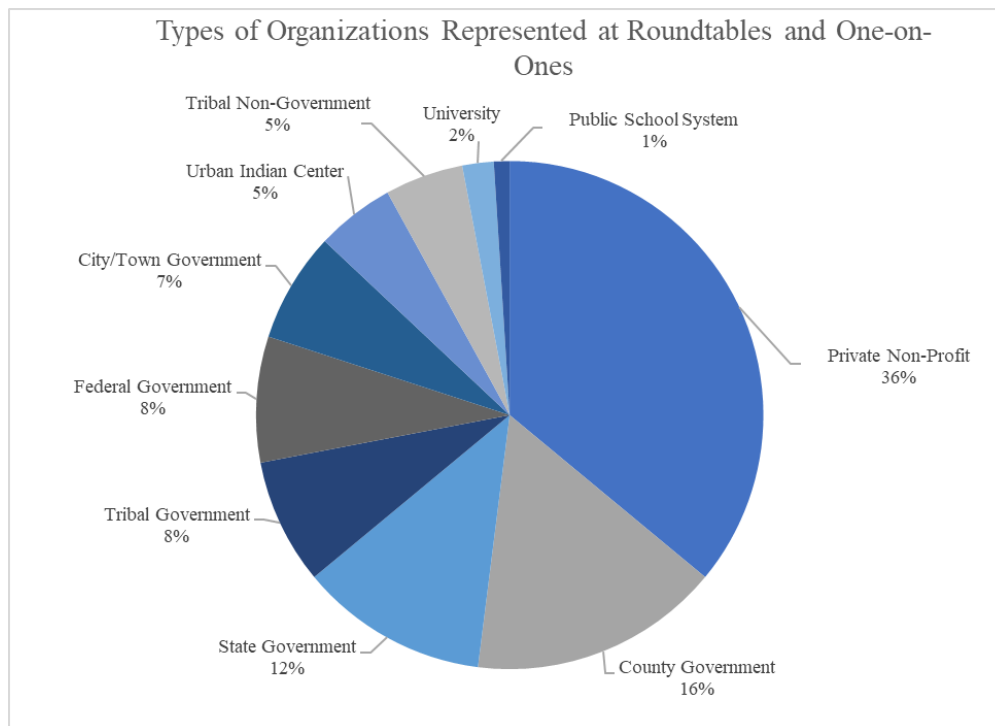
MBCC regularly meets with other state administering agencies, federal focus groups, and technical assistance providers to learn and share best practices and techniques for the most successful administration of state and federal dollars.

VICTIM SUBGRANTEE CHECK-IN CALLS

MBCC provides monthly check-ins for the subgrantees to discuss any issues or concerns they may have. MBCC provides support to organizations by providing training, technical assistance, data collection and other resources. Staff reviews common questions and provides trainings on the new grant management system, AmpliFund, for a better understanding of the expectations and requirements of the grants. Documents or websites containing valuable information are often emailed to subgrantees before or after each call.

ROUNDTABLES THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Over the last year and a half, the State and Tribal Victim Liaisons have hosted several roundtables in communities such as Helena, Billings, Missoula, Dillon, Butte, Great Falls, Bozeman, and Kalispell. They have also met one-on-one with many victim service providers and allied partners to discuss what services are available for survivors and where there are gaps and barriers to services. These conversations have allowed the liaisons to not only build collaborations with service providers across the state but have also allowed service providers and allied partners to build relationships that ultimately benefit victims and survivors.



Through these roundtables and meetings, the liaisons have captured data related to the type of organizations that are available for victims and survivors and the most common services that are available. As shown in the graph, it has been identified that the most common service provider is a non-profit. The data also shows that the most common type of service provided is assistance communicating with other agencies. This data was collected through a short survey that is being used to create a larger

Statewide Needs Assessment. During these discussions, MBCC's liaisons also collected information related to the largest gaps and barriers reported by service providers. The most identified barrier to services has been continuity of care for the survivors and access to basic needs such as employment and housing.

STATE SUPPORT FOR VICTIM SERVICES

In response to the needs of victims and those that serve them, the MBCC requested a study bill in 2021. This study assessed the need for state support of victim services programs in Montana. Over the course of the interim, MBCC and stakeholders educated legislators on the critical services provided to victims throughout Montana.

Through collaboration with stakeholders, MBCC identified the need to review where there are gaps and barriers to accessing victim services across Montana. From Fall of 2021 and throughout 2023, MBCC has traveled throughout the state to meet with victim service providers, allied partners, and survivors. The purpose of these visits was to discuss the strengths of victim services and opportunities for growth. The number one gap identified at roundtables and in one-on-one conversations was a lack of state funding devoted to victim services. This lack of funding creates instability as federal funding is not consistent or reliable.

Through the collaborative efforts of MBCC, the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, Montana County Attorney's Association, allied partners, victim service providers, and survivors during the 2023 Legislative Session, \$2 million per year was dedicated for the next biennium to supporting victim services in Montana. State funding allows MBCC to dive deeper into the needs of our victim services providers and ensures these crucial services remain available. Federal funding for these services is volatile, and the legislature recognized the need for the state to help stabilize and support victim services programs so they may provide critical services.



Impact on the Criminal Justice System

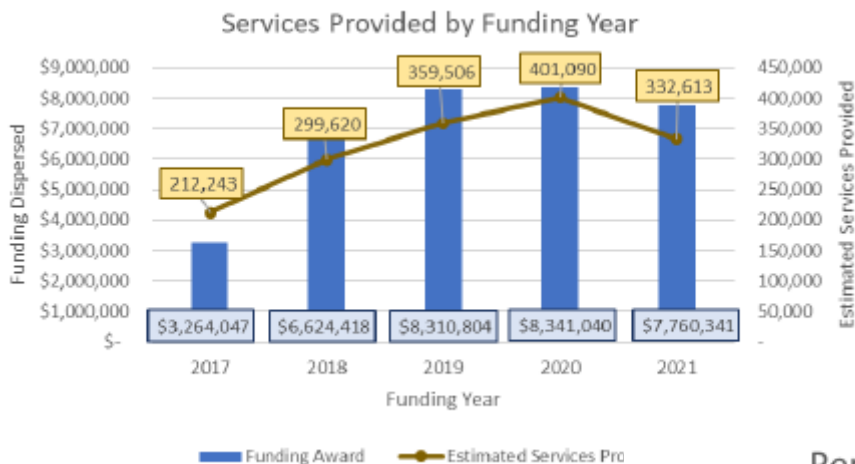
STATE VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

Over the course of the three-year Victim Liaison Project, the State and Tribal Victim Liaisons will collaborate with victim service providers and allied partners to collect data. The data will be used to identify where there are gaps and barriers and to establish an accurate, consistently updated map of services in Montana. The creation of a consistently updated map of victim services in Montana would have a significant and positive impact on the knowledge of services for both victims and survivors and for service providers.

The liaisons will use the data collected directly from victim service providers and the data captured from the Needs Assessment to identify the following and more:

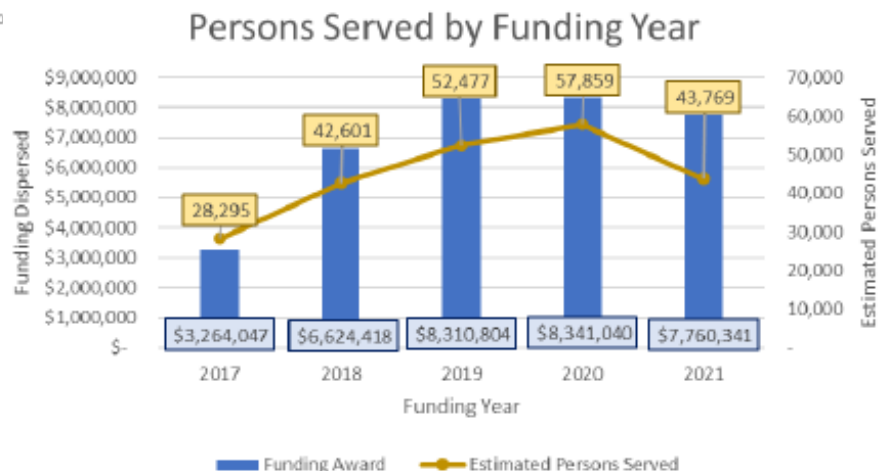
- Which regions have access to victim services, and which do not.
- Which victim service providers receive funding through MBCC, and which receive funding elsewhere.
- Which victim service providers have access to essential trainings, and which still need access.

With this information, MBCC can map the gaps and overlaps pertaining to victim services and propose evidence-based recommendations to the Board. The Board can then determine whether existing resources can be reallocated or if new services need to be created, prioritize funding in areas with the greatest needs, and avoid duplicating efforts where services already exist.



Graph illustrates funding dispersed and reported persons served. As funds increase and decrease, the number of persons served increases and decreases respectively.

Graph illustrates funding dispersed and estimated services provided. As funds increase and decrease, the reported services provided increases and decreases respectively.





MBCC Agency Goal #4:

To increase the capacity of jail alternatives by more than 15% through early intervention, pre-trial services, jail diversion programs, and Restorative Justice interventions.

Programs

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

TRAINING PROGRAM

Montana's Crisis Intervention Team grant is used to fund the training and development of local community programs for first responders. The trainings prepare law enforcement officers, detention staff, dispatchers, and many other first responders to assess, engage, and assist individuals experiencing a mental health crisis (and co-occurring substance use/abuse issues). CIT engagement helps divert unnecessary arrests, use-of-force, and even fatal encounters and directs in-crisis individuals to more appropriate interventions and resources.

Since the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office brought CIT to Montana in 2007, CIT has been expanding throughout the state. In July 2020, the City of Missoula entered into a contract with Missoula County to hire a full-time CIT Program Manager to support a community-led CIT Program that involved the hospitals, law enforcement, EMS, fire department, etc. to respond to the community need for full-time CIT services. In continuing to fund CIT training, MBCC aims to encourage and support such efforts throughout the entire state of Montana.

RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (RSAT) FOR STATE PRISONERS PROGRAM

The RSAT Program assists states with developing and implementing residential substance use disorder treatment programs within state and local correctional and detention facilities. The program encourages the inclusion of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) as part of any substance use treatment program. RSAT Program funds may be used to implement three types of programs: residential, jail-based, and aftercare.

For multiple years, MBCC has administered RSAT funds to Butte-Silver Bow County (BSBC). BSBC and

the surrounding areas have struggled with substance abuse issues that most often lead to criminal activity. In addition to providing 100 chemical dependency evaluations per year, BSBC continues to work on making MAT available to inmates. The RSAT program has assisted in narrowing the gap between initial arrest and final outcome on a misdemeanor or felony conviction.

MBCC recently awarded RSAT funds to support the Yellowstone County Detention Facility (YCDF) in their efforts to address substance misuse and abuse. YCDF plans to enact programs to ensure offenders participate in jail-based substance use disorder treatment, mental health assessments, and the implementation of aftercare services. Case management, care coordination, and re-entry support services will be provided for offenders transitioning back into the community. YCDF expects that the number of offenders with additional charges while released on pre-trial or post-conviction sentences will decrease, reducing the recidivism rate back into YCDF.

TITLE II JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Title II grant to states comes from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Montana typically received \$400,000 to \$600,000 per year, depending on federal allocations. The Youth Justice Council selected the following priority areas in FY2021: Delinquency Prevention, Community-Based Programs and Services, Mentoring Programs, School Programs, Diversion Programs, and Indian Tribe Programs. Title II grantees have included multiple Big Brothers Big Sisters programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, outdoor residential programs, the Chippewa Cree Tribal Court, and other local organizations. Subgrantees provide a wide variety of services that hold youth accountable, keep them in school, connect them to positive role models, and teach them valuable work and life skills.

Collaboration

SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

MBCC is receiving technical assistance from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and iCHAMPS, a Utah-based nonprofit, to develop and implement trainings for School Resource Officers and School Administrators. The goal of these trainings will be to strengthen existing relationships and encourage participants to develop written roles and responsibilities related to school discipline and offenses that occur on campus. Schools and SROs in Flathead County have generously contributed their time and expertise to this project. The first training will likely be held in Kalispell. With feedback from the training and new partnerships in Eastern Montana, MBCC hopes to improve and expand this training to urban and rural jurisdictions throughout the state.

YOUTH JUSTICE COUNCIL (YJC)

[The Youth Justice Council](#) is a governor-appointed state advisory group that spreads awareness about juvenile justice issues, sets funding priorities, promotes evidence-based practices in the treatment of juveniles, and submits funding recommendations to the Montana Board of Crime Control for all juvenile-related grants. The YJC includes educators, counselors, judges, nonprofits, elected officials, youth, individuals who have firsthand experience with the juvenile justice system, and others. The YJC approves Montana's Three-Year Title II Plan and submits a separate biennial report to the Governor and the Legislature. Members discuss important issues that impact the juvenile justice system, including mental health, substance abuse, trauma, legislation, and the needs of American Indian youth.



Tim Brurud resigned as YJC Chairman and congratulated his successor, Randy Shipman, in March 2022. From left to right: Rachel Gemar (MBCC Juvenile Justice Specialist), Natalia Bowser (Director), Tim Brurud (former YJC Chairman), Randy Shipman (YJC Chairman), Mark Thatcher (MBCC Program Specialist)

Impact on the Criminal Justice System

DATA FROM JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAMS

The Center for Restorative Youth Justice (CRYJ) diverts first-time and low-level offenders from further involvement in the juvenile justice system using restorative justice practices. Youth with status offenses and certain misdemeanors can be referred to CRYJ by SROs, schools, youth courts, and even parents. The program allows youth to avoid involvement in the juvenile justice system by directly repairing the harm they caused to individuals and the community. Through restorative practices (victim-offender mediation, circles, etc.) youth reflect on their actions, take responsibility, and participate in a plan to mend their relationship to the community. Most youth complete the program within 30-60 days.

In 2021, CRYJ served 89 youth, with a graduation rate of 93%. From January - September of 2022, CRYJ received a total of 113 referrals (72 direct school referrals, 37 Youth Court referrals, and 4 Law Enforcement referrals).

Havre Youth Reporting Center (YRC) is a community-based pre-adjudication diversion program for juveniles who would otherwise enter the juvenile justice system or who are referred as a condition of their probation for competency development or for sanctioning due to technical or minor probation violations. While most referrals come from the Hill County Juvenile Probation Office, the YRC can also accept referrals from the City Court (Havre), Justice of the Peace, and Havre Public Schools. The YRC provides daily supervision, tutoring, career exploration, job skill development, recreation, health education, anger management/conflict resolution, life skills, mentoring, and meals during its regular hours of operation. This program is directed at assisting young offenders to break patterns of delinquent behavior and to replace them with life competencies.

2021 – The YRC served 57 unduplicated youth who completed 646 hours of community service and 41 classes. Between January 1st and November 9th, 2022, the YRC has had 98 referrals and 40 program completions. Youth contributed 627.5 hours of community service and participated in 33 classes.



For the past 15 years, MBCC has facilitated Do the Write Thing (DtWT), a national writing contest that allows middle school students to express their experiences and thoughts on youth violence. Teachers consistently report that DtWT has allowed them to engage with their students about important topics and learn more about what issues young Montanans face. As a result, teachers and school counselors have been able to help many children who are the victims of abuse, neglect, and other forms of physical and emotional violence.

Each year, a panel of judges chooses ten finalists to be honored at the state celebration in Helena. Of these ten finalists, two are chosen to represent Montana as Student National Ambassadors in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented Montana's 2020 and 2021 ambassadors from attending the national celebration in person. However, in 2022 Montana's ambassadors were able to travel to Washington, D.C. to explore the city, visit historical sites, and discuss the importance of addressing youth violence with Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester.

[2021 Finalists and Student National Ambassadors](#)

[2022 Finalists and Student National Ambassadors](#)



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National Criminal History Improvement Program

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Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life

Improving Criminal Justice Responses Grant - High Risk Teams

STOP Violence Against Women Act

Victims Liaison Program

Victims of Crime Act

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Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program
Justice Assistance Grant

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act

Victims of Crime Act

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Delinquency Prevention Program

Misdemeanor Probation - Domestic Violence Grant

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment

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Do the Write Thing

Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitoring

Sexual Assault Services Program

Title II Formula Grant

Title II Juvenile Justice

Victims of Crime Act

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Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life

Improving Criminal Justice Responses Grant - High Risk Teams

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STOP Violence Against Women Act

Victims of Crime Act

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Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program

Montana Crisis Intervention Teams

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant

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Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding

Justice Assistance Grant

Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitoring

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Regional Juvenile Detention Grant

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act

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Victims of Crime Act

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2021-2022 Montana Board of Crime Control

Leo Dutton - Chair

Lewis & Clark County Sheriff & Coroner
Representing: Law Enforcement

Rick Kirm – Vice Chair

Fort Peck Tribal Member and
Rural Montana Representative
Representing: Tribal Government

Laurie Barron

Evergreen School District Superintendent
Representing: Educator

Bryan Lockerby

Administrator, Division of Criminal Investigation
Representing: Delegate for the Attorney General

Terry Boyd

Probation & Parole Officer
Representing: Community Corrections

Doug Overman

Kalispell Chief of Police
Representing: Law Enforcement

Jared Cobell

Assistant U.S. Attorney
Representing: Montana U.S. Attorney's Office

Beth McLaughlin

Court Administrator
Representing: Judiciary

Wyatt English

Unit Supervisor, Pine Hills Correctional Facility
Representing: Correctional Facility

Meaghan Mulcahy

Data Control, Montana Dept. of Labor & Industry
Representing: Public Representative

Shantelle Gaynor

Director, Missoula Co. Community Justice Dept.
Representing: Victims Services

Angela Russell

Attorney
Representing: Public Representative

Wyatt Glade

Custer County Attorney
Representing: Law Enforcement

Michael Sanders

East Helena Chief of Police
Representing: Law Enforcement

Brian Gootkin

Director, Department of Corrections
Representing: Law Enforcement

Kaydee Snipes-Ruiz

District Court Judge
12th Judicial District
Representing: Judiciary

Rhonda Lindquist

Director, Office of State Public Defender
Representing: Office of State Public Defender

Amy Tenney

CEO, Boyd Andrew Community Services
Representing: Corrections Treatment Programs



2021-2022 Youth Justice Advisory Council

Tim Brurud – Chair

Representing: Nonprofit with special focus on preserving, strengthening families, parent groups

Rhonda Lindquist – Vice Chair

Public Agency concerned with Delinquency Prevention or Treatment

Qasim Abdul-Baki

Representing: Law Enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, including juvenile and family court judges;

Isaac Nehring

Representing: Youth

Minnetta Armstrong

Representing: Non-profit w/special focus on preserving, strengthening families, parent groups

Ava Parsons

Representing: Youth

Kevin Buerkle

Representing: Law Enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, including juvenile and family court judges

George Real Bird III

Representing: Local government

Georgia Cady

Representative of victim or witness advocacy groups, for sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma

Emily Sallee

Representing: Persons licensed or certified in mental health and substance abuse

Chase Comes at Night

Representing: Youth

Jaxx Saunders

Representing: Youth

Mike Chavers

Representing: programs that are alternatives to incarceration

Brie Shulman

Representative of programs that are alternatives to incarceration, including recreational activities

Wyatt English

Representing: Law enforcement & juvenile justice agencies, including juvenile & family court judges, etc.

Geri Small

Representing: Competency Addressing Youth Learning & Emotional Disabilities

Tamara Greeling

Representing: Parent of Justice Involved Youth

Pat Steinwand

Representing: Volunteer who works with Delinquents or Potential Delinquents

Quinn Leighton

Representing: Non-profit w/special focus on preserving, strengthening families, parent groups

RaeGyn Trombley

Representing: Youth

Hon. Mary Jane Knisely

Representing: Judiciary

Derek VanLuchene

Representing: victim advocacy groups with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse/exploitation and trauma

Holly Mook

Representing: Experience and competence in addressing problems related to school violence and vandalism