

# Uintah County Domestic Violence Community Services Assessment

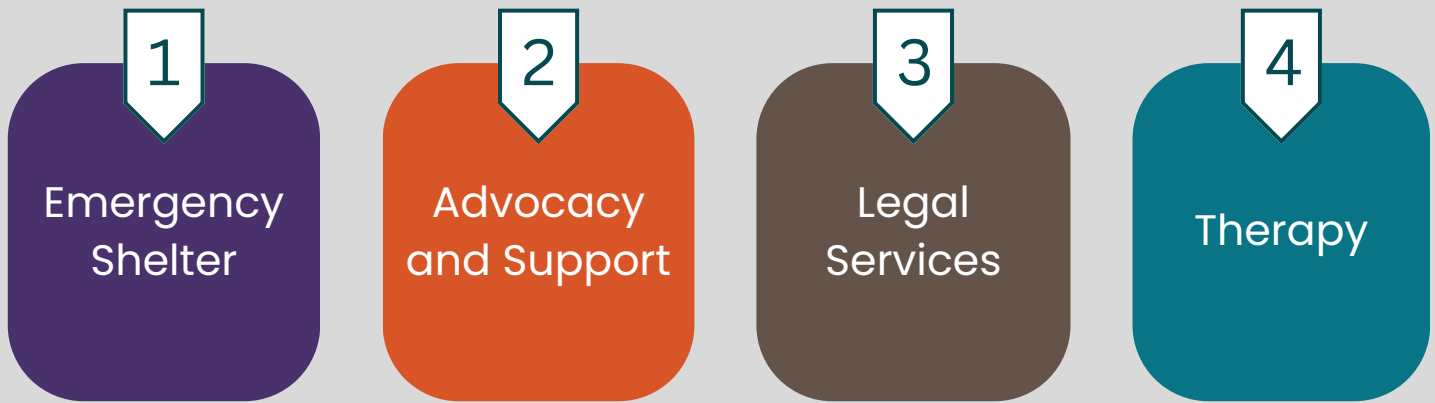
Rural counties in Utah, including Uintah County, are witnessing an alarming surge in domestic violence rates (Utah Women and Leadership Project, 2023). To address the problems of DV in their community, the Uintah Basin Domestic Violence Coalition (UBDVC) and Friends Against Family Violence (FAFV) engaged with Utah State University's Transforming Communities Institute (TCI) to conduct a human services assessment focused on domestic violence services in Uintah County.

## Project Goals

- assessing available services related to domestic violence;
- identifying gaps in the domestic violence service network/coalition;
- uncovering organizational capacity issues in domestic violence organizations/services; and
- understanding the relationship and communication dynamics between domestic violence services.

The following findings come from survey data collected in 2023 from domestic violence service providers throughout Uintah County.

## Top 4 Available Services as Perceived by Service Providers



### Obstacles for Organizations Addressing Domestic Violence:

- Staffing issues
- Lack of funding
- Poor inter-agency communication

### Top Services Needed in Uintah County Via Service Providers

1. Housing Support
2. Financial Support
3. Childcare Services
4. Therapy Services
5. Legal Services

### Asset Map of Domestic Violence Services in Uintah Basin



# Organizational Capacity of Service Providers

Organizational capacity is defined as anything that allows an organization to meet its mission, including staff, funding, technology, space, policy, and training, among other areas.

## Strengths

- Technology
- Organizational Structure
- Policies & Procedures
- Training & Professional Development
- Internal Organizational Communication

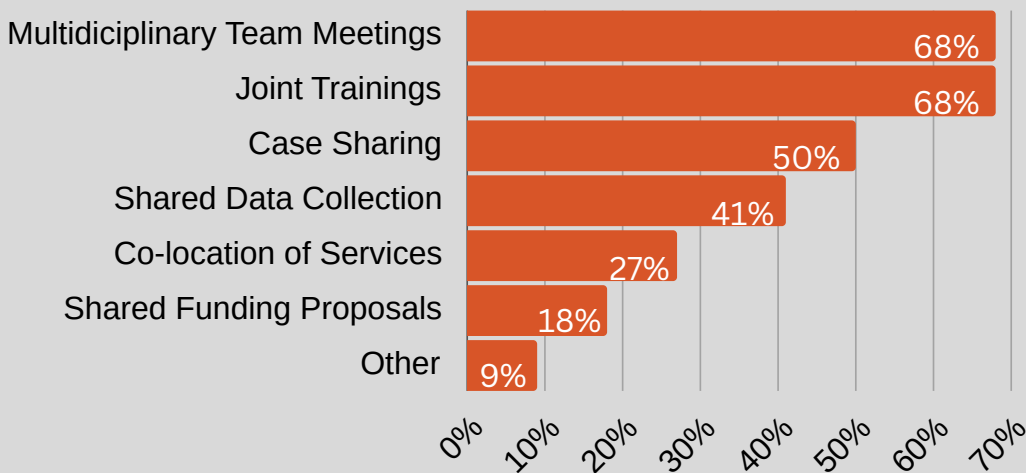
## Areas of Growth

- Funding
- Staffing
- Space
- Inter-Agency Communication

## Communication and Collaboration Among Service Providers

### Methods of Collaboration Between Providers

■ % of Responses for Each Met...



- Providers reported a lack of communication and collaboration between providers
- 78.3% communicate with other agencies 2+ times per week
- Inter-agency communication: 54.5%: somewhat effective
- 22.7%: neither effective nor ineffective

## Barriers to Collaboration Between Agencies

Participants who agreed the obstacle was a significant barrier to collaboration



## Recommendations

Increase public awareness of services through a community-wide campaign

Recruit mental health care providers to bolster available mental health services

Expand the participation of individuals in the local domestic violence coalition

Establish partnerships with existing childcare centers to develop tailored programming

Collaborate with local stakeholders to establish transitional housing options for survivors

Explore the implementation of a peer advocate volunteer program

# Uintah County Domestic Violence Survivor Experiences

Fourteen survivors of domestic violence were interviewed to learn about their experiences accessing and utilizing various domestic violence services in Uintah County. The participants' experiences occurred between 1998 and 2023. Thirteen participants were women and one was a man.

## Most Frequently Accessed Services



85.7% of participants utilized a victims' advocate

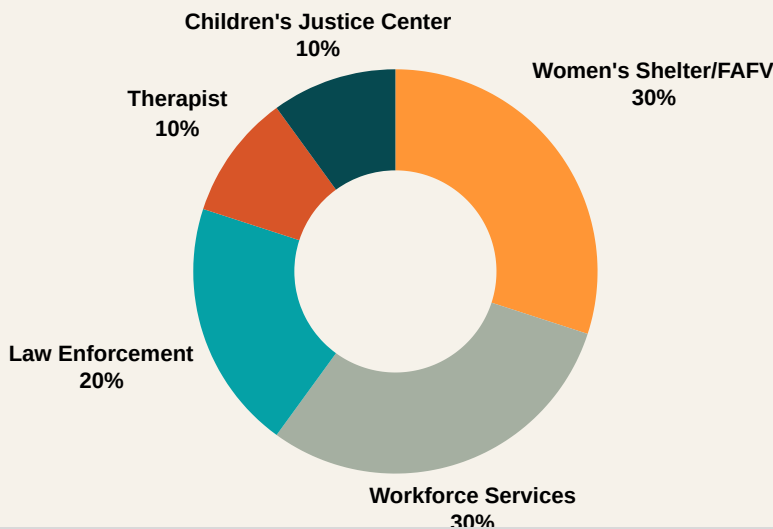
78.6% of participants utilized a therapist

71.4% of participants utilized law enforcement

## Referrals to Service Providers

Six service providers accounted for all referrals made to other service providers. For the purpose of this chart, we have combined Women's Shelter and Friends Against Family Violence (FAFV) as they are the current shelter in the area.

The percentages represent the referrals made by these service providers to other service providers.



Participants reported 59 total experiences working with service providers

Participants reported ten instances when a service provider referred them to one or more other services

Overall, most participants were unable to recall how they learned about available resources

## Barriers to Accessing Services

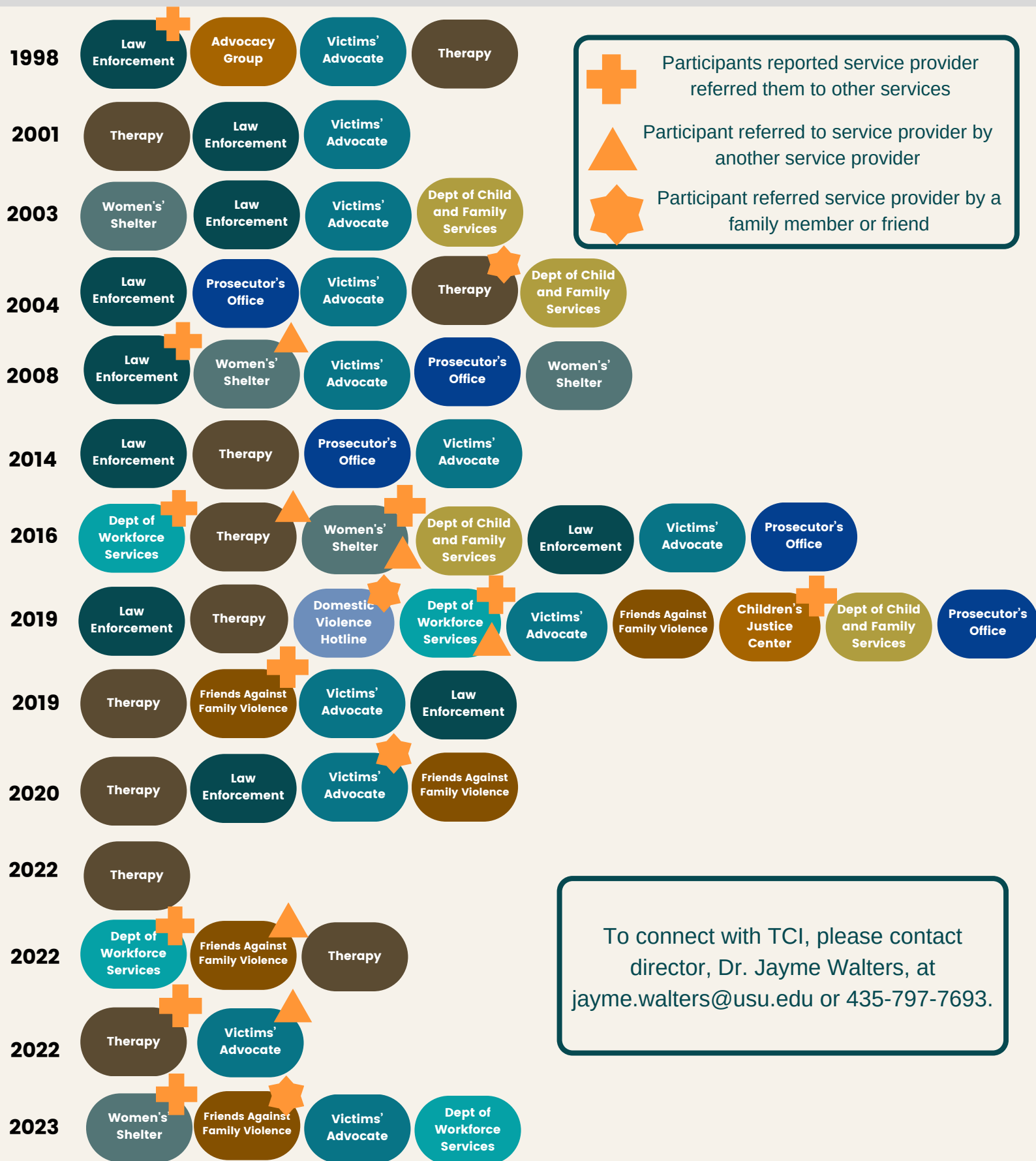
- Trust in Service Providers
- Lack of Awareness
- Fear of Retaliation by Perpetrator
- Lack of Family Support
- Belief that Service Provider Won't Meet Needs
- General Fear or Anxiety.

## Participant Suggestions for Reducing Barriers

- Improved advertising of available services
- Community and family education about domestic violence
- Informational resources with easy-to-read language
- Support groups



# Journeys of Domestic Violence Survivors in Uintah County



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