

2019 Annual Report

To end violence, inspire hope, and provide unwavering support for all people affected by domestic and sexual violence by engaging our community in safety, equality, and partnership.

Embrace envisions a courageous social change taking place ending all forms of oppression and violence and creating healthy communities where every person has the support to thrive.

In 2019, we served

998 people with in-person domestic and sexual violence advocacy services. This is a **27** percent increase of in-person services when compared to just one year earlier. **37** percent of all people served were children and youth, and **3** percent were age 60 or older. **787** people accessed Embrace's advocacy support for the first time through the 24/7 crisis line.

59 survivors at high-risk of homicide received **1,336** nights of safe shelter services including comprehensive advocacy-based counseling and case management support. **51** percent of shelter residents left shelter for stable housing, and **27** percent rented a new, safe home.



Service Numbers

787 crisis calls.

38 Lethality Assessment Program calls took place with survivors at high-risk of homicide. 27 percent of all callers made an appointment with an advocate.

681 sexual assault survivors

received in-person services. 205 were child sexual assault survivors, and 35 adult survivors reported sexual abuse as a child.

8,534 advocacy services

provided. Each survivor coming to Embrace received an average of 8.6 different services such as legal assistance, safety planning, transportation, crisis counseling, etc.

450 survivors attended support groups more than 1,600 times

throughout the year; a 16 percent increase in support group attendees compared to 2018. 36 of the support group sessions were offered online through the secure HelpRoom platform provided to Embrace through a unique partnership with RAINN.

Average reach of 300 people and 18 likes

per Facebook post. Embrace's Facebook page has 1,261 followers and Embrace's Instagram has 341 followers. Embrace staff curate outreach and awareness posts every weekday.

Embrace connected with 101 teens

in student groups and/or on-site counseling sessions at the schools who needed support and advocacy related to teen dating violence.

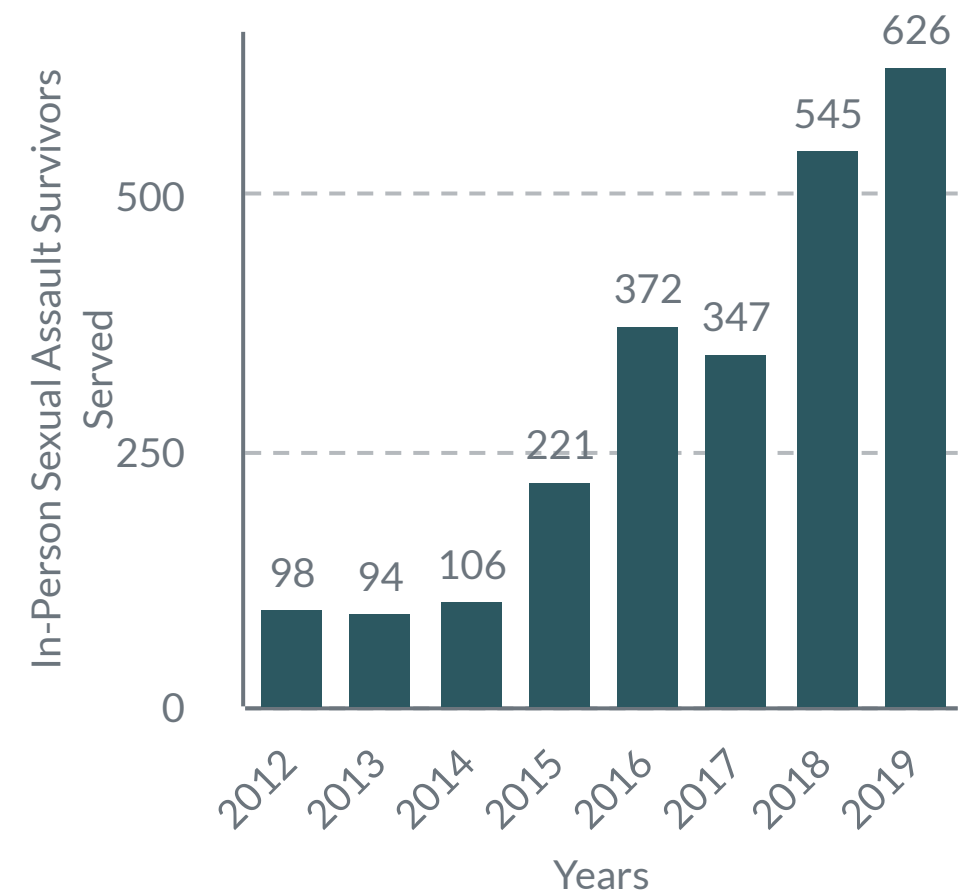
Meeting survivors where they are at.

64 adult survivors participated in the evidence-based Seeking Safety group curriculum offered in local jails that addresses PTSD and co-occurring addiction.

Program Growth

Sexual Assault Survivors

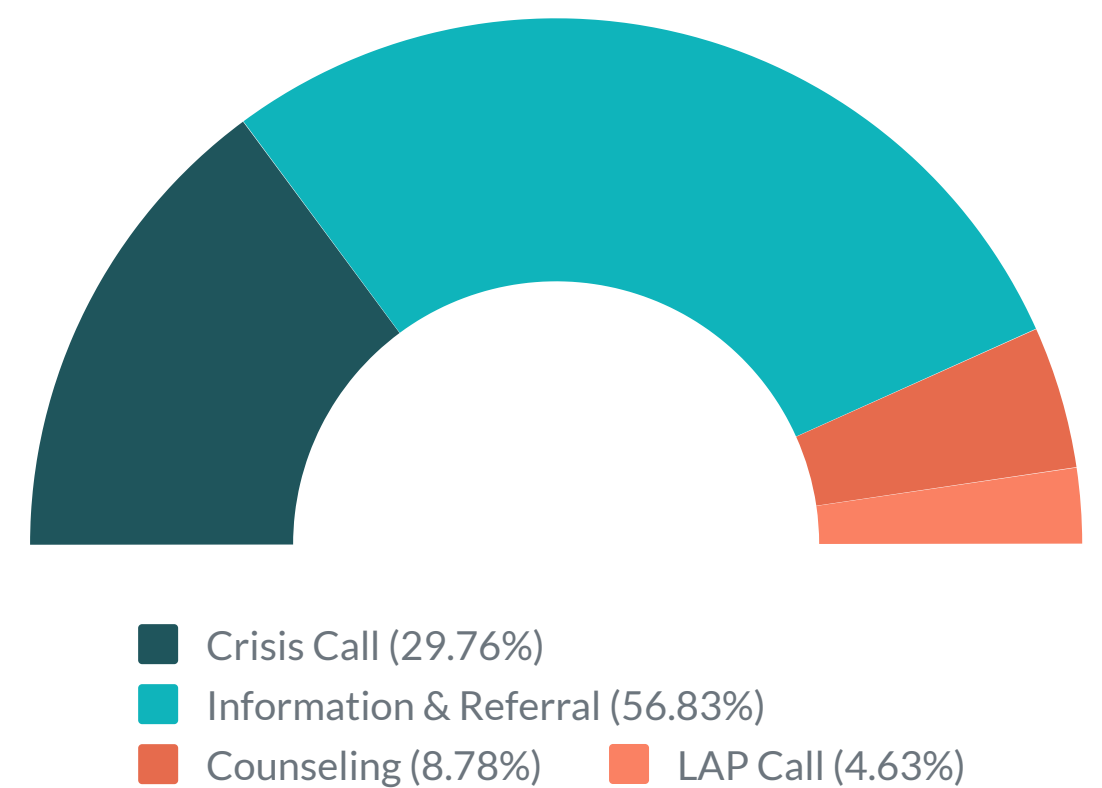
A vast majority of people Embrace serves in any given year disclose both domestic and sexual violence and receive comprehensive support for both crimes they experienced. Survivors reaching out after experiencing standalone sexual violence crimes most commonly access crisis counseling services and criminal justice advocacy services thanks to the new After a Sexual Assault Options outreach materials developed in 2019. Since 2012, the number of sexual assault survivors who have reached out to Embrace and received in-person advocacy has increased by five-fold because Embrace equitably prioritizes rural sexual assault survivors alongside domestic violence programs.



Primary Crisis Call Services

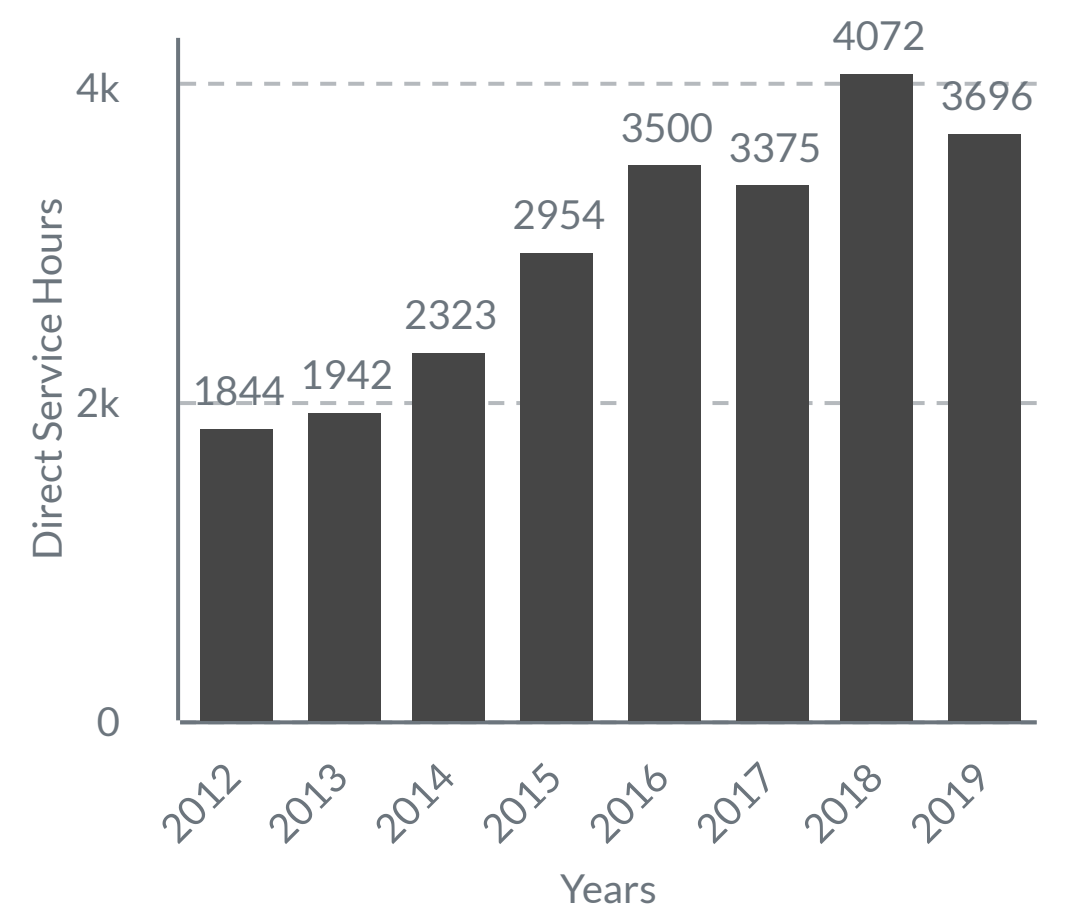
Crisis Calls

Crisis callers are people who are new to receiving Embrace's services. Callers can be a primary or secondary victim who are connecting with an advocate for the first time via phone, text, fax, email, community partner referral, or via social media. In 2019, 71 percent of crisis calls that came in were by phone. 177 callers remained anonymous, and 41 percent of all crisis line callers indicated their needs were met after talking with an advocate.



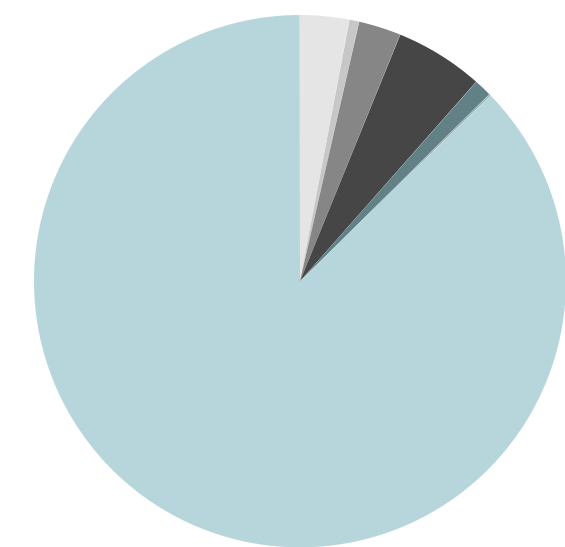
In-Person Advocacy Hours

Embrace's staff has expanded outreach and strengthened "out-patient" type services, and the number of survivors who have accessed advocacy-based counseling services throughout our communities has more than doubled since 2012. Inversely, this has meant survivors have needed to rely less on the last-resort safety services of shelter. In 2019, Embrace served 500 more survivors than in the previous year, but the overall amount of time spent with survivors went down slightly estimated in part due to the staff time devoted to expanding programs to the new Barron County service area. The 998 survivors served in 2019 had 6,554 contacts with staff during the 3,696 hours of advocacy provided.

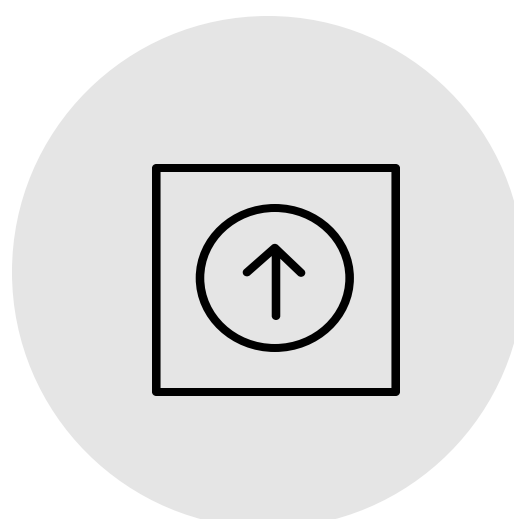


Services to Historically Marginalized Survivors

15 percent of all survivors served in-person by Embrace were Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), up from 10 percent one year prior. Population wide, Embrace's service area ranges from 5 to 6 percent BIPOC. People of Color are disproportionately impacted by domestic and sexual violence in Embrace's service area. Embrace is committed to centering the most marginalized and oppressed survivors and developing tailored services to properly address the higher rates of violence and isolation they experience. In 2019, 28 survivors identified as Limited English Proficiency and Embrace advocates utilized translators to provide advocacy services to these individuals. 81 percent of survivors identified as female, 18 percent as male, and 16 people identified as LGBTQ+.



New Funding and Enhanced Programs



Two office moves! The 2019 expansion into the new service area of Barron County brought a shared office location with fellow victim service agencies, St. Croix SART and Community Referral Agency. In Price County, Embrace moved out of the courthouse to a larger and more private location to meet with survivors.

Embrace was awarded an increased federal Victims of Crime Act grant in October 2019 doubling the capacity of youth programming and victim accompaniment services.

Embrace overhauled program evaluation and outcomes measurement tools in 2019. Staff have begun to tailor outreach, services, and funds to the people most in need; determine which program elements work well and which ones do not; and identify gaps in training, as well as areas of strengths.

Emergency Victim Assistance Fund expanded beyond transportation assistance to include hotel nights, housing support, and other payments to assist in establishing a survivor's immediate safety.

Embrace structured cost of living wage increases to more closely mirror Embrace staff to the 2018 Wisconsin Fair Minimum wage levels. The Embrace Board voted to increase paid time off prioritizing staffs' self-care and wellness.

Takeaways

Embrace's immense growth in the number of survivors coming forward, the increase in partnerships with community agencies working to close the gaps in systems, and the organization's strengthened infrastructure are direct results of retaining its professional staff. Embrace staff have the respected expertise to work collaboratively with community partners and successfully manage the increased grant funding and programs .

Outreach, Awareness, and Prevention Education Highlights

Embrace prioritizes ending violence by not only providing high-quality direct services to every person affected by violence but by focusing on outreach and collaboration with community partners who are also encountering survivors. Embrace knows the cycle of violence will not end without taking a proactive approach and tapping into collective roles with community allies to develop joint solutions heading toward social change.



In 2019, Embrace reached more than 13,000 people with a total of 1,084 student and community education presentations, media and tabling events, and facilitated meetings with community partners.



Innovative Presentations

300 formal prevention education presentations took place reaching 5,556 people, primarily youth, in the local school districts. The evidence-based child abuse prevention curriculum, Second Step, was expanded to all Washburn County elementary schools, the gender-based violence prevention curriculum, Athletes as Leaders, was completed with a Prentice High School volleyball team, and presentations on consent and sexual assault support were completed in partnership with Public Health to Rusk County high schools' health classes. Embrace hosted the WI Dept. of Justice's "Best Practices in Sexual Assault Investigations" for law enforcement partners throughout the service area. Program Coordinators presented on childhood trauma, advocacy resources, and Prison Rape Elimination Act rights to inmates at Flambeau Correctional Center.

Engaging Local Businesses

4,230 "Brew Love, Not Hate" and 2,825 drink coasters with information about sexual assault myths were given to patrons of coffee shops and bars throughout the four-county service area during Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Months as part of new outreach strategies and growing prevention and awareness partnerships with local businesses.

Collaborative Homicide Prevention

Police Departments in Price County, Barron County Health and Human Services, and all seven of the Barron County law enforcement jurisdictions implemented the life-saving Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) referral system that connects survivors at risk of homicide to Embrace. The Barron County District Attorney also put in place streamlined incident investigation worksheets. Data analysis and outcomes measurement tools were developed and are reviewed at Response Team meetings to identify inter-agency gaps.

Dismantling Oppression and Privilege

At the annual Board and Staff Training and Retreat, Embrace gained a deeper understanding of "Identity and Intersectionality in the Anti-Violence Movement" and how domestic and sexual violence are inextricably linked to other social justice issues. Throughout 2019, staff participated in journaling and discussions examining our complicity in white supremacy systems and the importance of centering women of color in our work. For the second year in a row, Embrace hosted the statewide training "Providing Inclusive Services to LGBTQ+ Communities".



Board of Directors

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**35 volunteers and interns
donated nearly 250 hours to
the organization.**

