



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 2022

Reporting Period: January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021



OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
STEVE SIMON

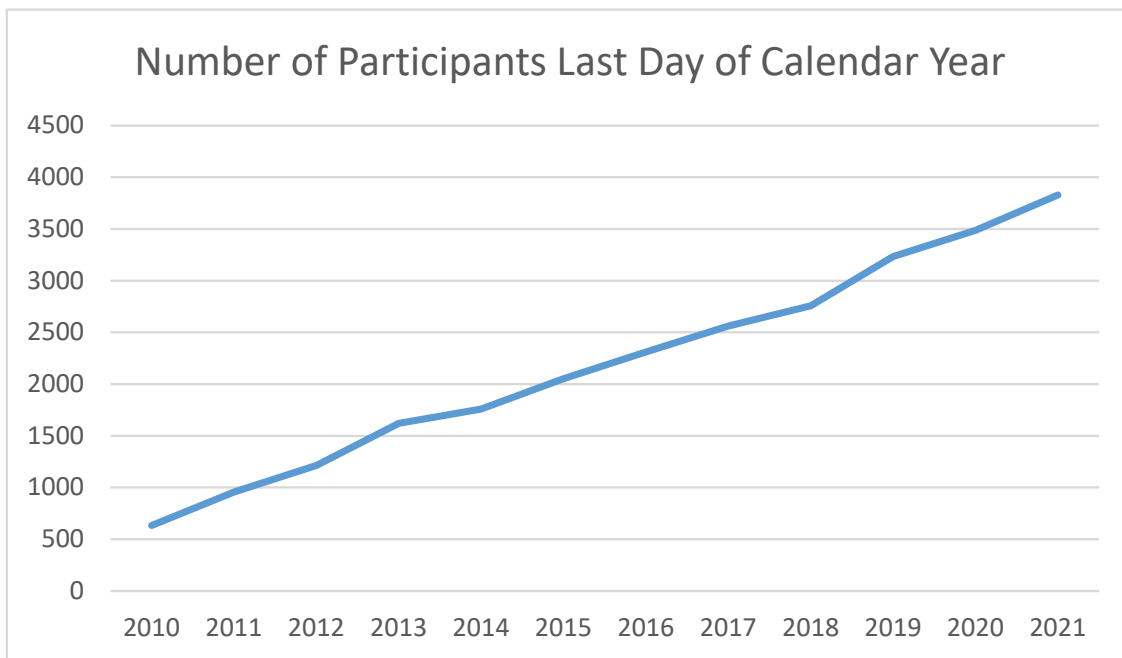
Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$2,722.49. Most of these costs involved staff time in analyzing data and preparing the written report. Incidental costs include paper, copying, and other office supplies.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2016, Section 3.197, requiring the cost for preparing a report to be provided at the beginning of a report to the legislature.

Safe at Home Program Overview

The Safe at Home address confidentiality program is managed by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. The program, which began September 1, 2007, is open to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and those who otherwise fear for their safety, including law enforcement and judicial personnel.



Participants in Safe at Home are assigned a designated address (a PO Box in Saint Paul) that can legally be used for all of their interactions with others. The designated address allows the participant to go about their daily life without disclosing their actual home, employment, or school address. All private and public entities in the state of Minnesota must accept the Safe at Home address as a participant's actual address per Minnesota Statutes, Section 5B.05(a).

Safe at Home receives participants' mail, forwards their First Class Mail to them, and assists them with their interactions with third parties should problems arise when giving the Safe at Home address to others.

Staff also works with third party stakeholders, such as county offices, utility companies, banks, and schools, to ensure legal compliance and to make sure their business practices accommodate the safety needs of Safe at Home participants.

Since the program's inception, more than 12,000 different participants and applicants have received multiple services and the program continues to grow annually. Current participation numbers are indicated below in Chart 1, 2021 Program Participation.

Chart 1 2021 Program Participation

Participants and Applicants Served in 2021	4,589
Participant Households December 31, 2021	1,745
Individual Program Participants December 31, 2021	3,828
Net growth December 31, 2020 - December 31, 2021	11%

Safe at Home Application Assistants

Safe at Home is a successful private sector–government partnership that utilizes limited state resources to recruit, train, and monitor application assistants. Application assistants are victim advocates who are employed by community-based organizations throughout Minnesota. As of December 31, 2021, Safe at Home had partnerships with 83 different community-based organizations and 310 individual application assistants. In 2021, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State provided training to 35 victim advocates in Minnesota so that they could assist eligible people in applying to the program. Although due to the pandemic this was the lowest number trained in a calendar year since the program inception, the number of available application assistants stayed above 300 and coverage through the state remained stable.

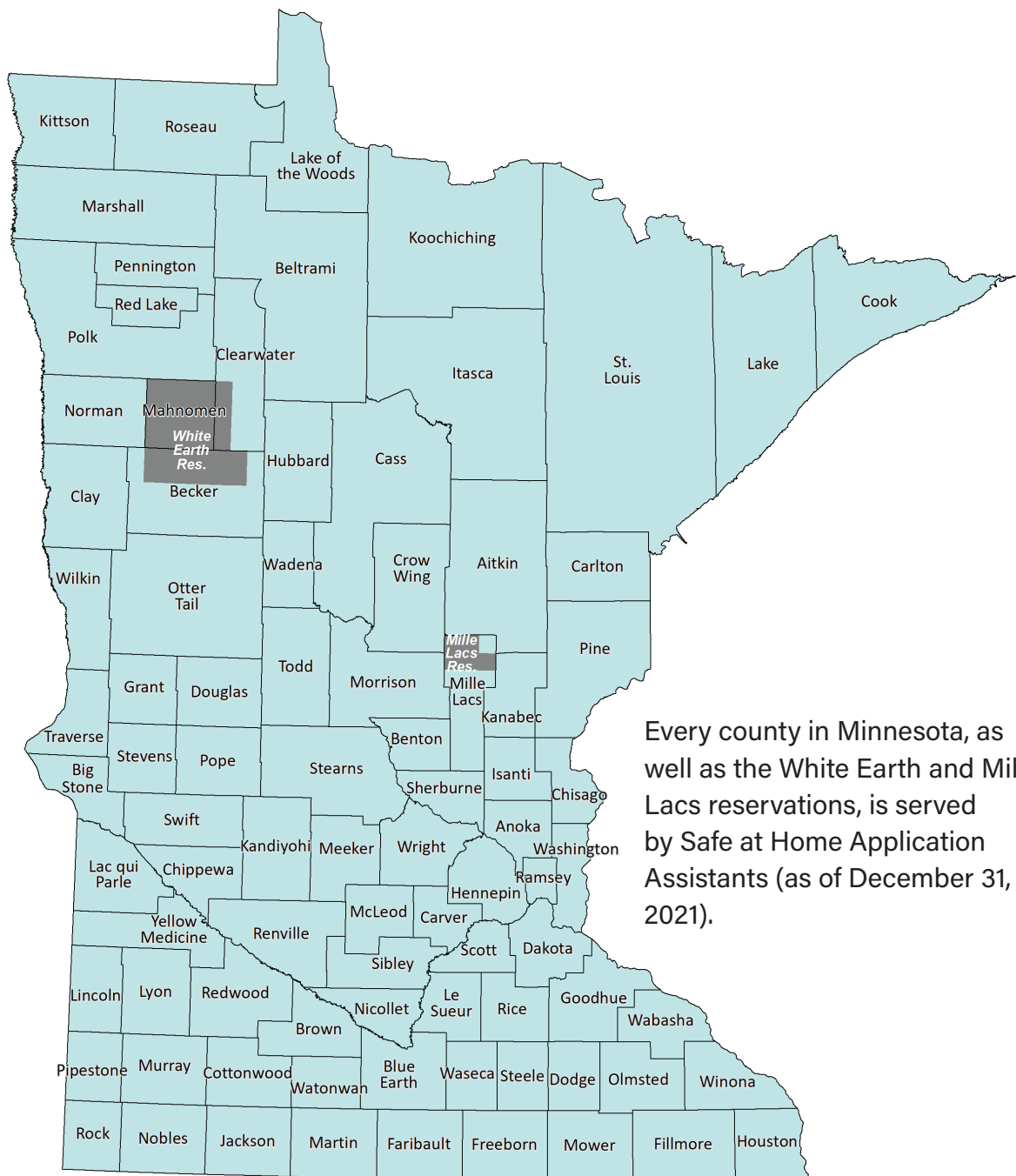
The role of the application assistant is vital. The Safe at Home Application Assistant meets one-on-one with a potential applicant to discuss their situation and help them determine whether applying to Safe at Home is an appropriate safety step for them to take. During this process, the application assistant helps them understand the program basics, performs individualized safety planning, and guides the application process.

In order to ensure enough application assistants are available throughout the state at all times, Safe at Home provides initial trainings to advocates every year. Also, continuing education is provided on an as-needed basis to teach application assistants about legislative changes to the program, to train victim advocates about the unique safety needs of Safe at Home participants, and to keep application skills up to date. Beyond this training and ongoing support, the community-based organizations and individual staff are not compensated by Safe at Home.

Chart 2, Safe at Home Application Assistant Activity, shows the number of application assistants accredited to assist with the Safe at Home application process as of December 31, 2021, as well as the number of victim advocates who were either initially trained to be partners or who were provided with continuing education during the 2021 calendar year in order to keep their application assistant skills up to date.

Chart 2 Application Assistant Activity





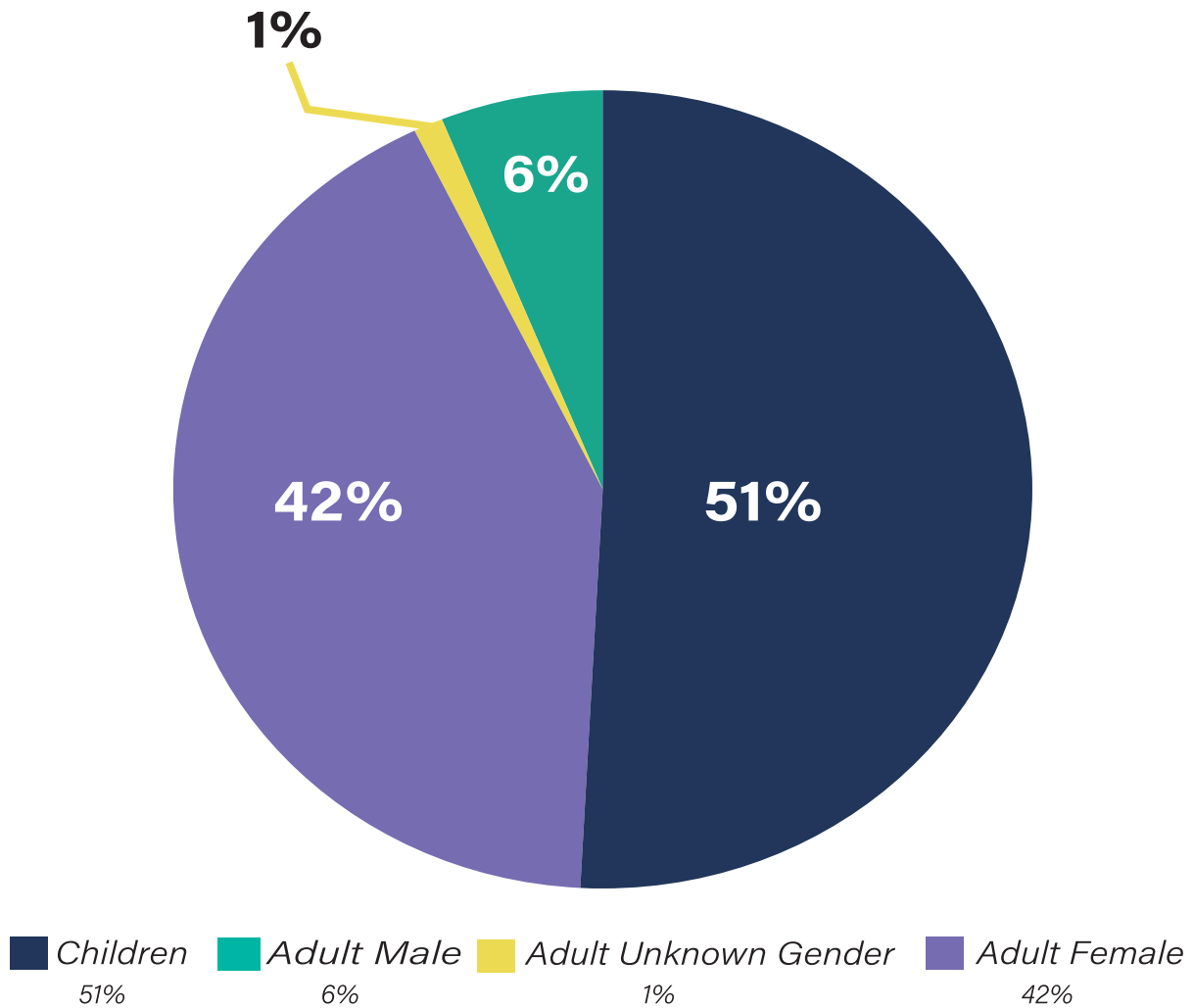
Every county in Minnesota, as well as the White Earth and Mille Lacs reservations, is served by Safe at Home Application Assistants (as of December 31, 2021).

The map shows the geographical coverage of counties and tribal governments served by community-based organizations where application assistants were able to assist victims with the application process as of December 31, 2021. Comprehensive state coverage continued. Every county in Minnesota was served by at least one partnering community-based organization.

Demographic Makeup

The majority of Safe at Home participants are children who were enrolled simultaneously with one of their parents. Most commonly, that parent was their mother. It is not uncommon for an adult female to enroll with numerous children and a participant household with a singular adult female is also very common. The demographic breakdown has remained fairly consistent since the program began in 2007 and can be seen in chart 3 below.

Chart 3 Household Demographics



Applications Received and Reasons for Enrollment

There are four types of applications received. The first type is a new application from someone who has never previously applied. The second type is a reinstatement from a former program participant whose status became inactive and they wish to re-enroll. The third type is a renewal application from a current active program participant who wishes to remain in the program for another four years. The fourth application type is called a Certificate of Continuance. This is received from an 18-year-old who still resides with the parent or guardian who enrolled them and by submitting the Certificate of Continuance Application they indicate they still reside with that person, still want to remain in Safe at Home, and indicate they understand it is now their legal responsibility, as the subject of their data, to communicate with Safe at Home directly and submit their own changes of information (address or otherwise).

Chart 4 below shows the number of each type of application received in 2021. An application often contains multiple people in the household that are enrolling. In 2021, the number of people certified or who requested to remain certified in the program totaled 1,608. This figure is in addition to the number of program participants who remained active all through 2021 and did not need to renew their participation, re-apply, or express that they wish to continue their certification.

Chart 4 *Types of Applications Received*

New applications received in 2021	550
Reinstatement Applications received in 2021	174
Renewal Applications received in 2021	165
Certificate of Continuance Applications received in 2021	32
Total Applications received in 2021	921

Although an applicant discusses the specifics of their safety concerns with a Safe at Home Application Assistant, a person who applies for enrollment is not required to disclose to Safe at Home the reason they are applying. However, in 2009, the application form was changed to include the opportunity for applicants to self-disclose the reason for enrollment. On the application form the applicant can check one or more types of victimization they feel warrant their need for participation in an address confidentiality program. Applicants can choose from domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other. Self-reporting is optional and is not required for certification. On average, 98% choose to self-report. Consistently, domestic violence remains the number one reason for enrollment in Safe at Home. 92% of all application types in 2021 indicated domestic violence as the reason or one of the reasons for enrollment. The second most reported reason is stalking.

Questions about this report can be directed to:

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