



M O N T A N A
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL
V I O L E N C E

Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee
1/21/05
contact: Kate Cholewa, 406-459-8590

EXHIBIT 24
DATE 1-21-05
HD _____

Domestic violence victims are over represented in the public assistance population. In nearly all of the studies which have addressed the prevalence of domestic violence among public assistance recipients, well over 50% of the women receiving public assistance reported that they had experienced physical abuse by an intimate male partner at some point during their adult lives. When women were asked about more recent violence, the rates remained high – from 19.5% to 32%.

difficult
Abused women on welfare, like those not on welfare, suffer from depression, post traumatic stress disorder, drug and alcohol abuse, and physical health problems more than those who had not been abused. Further, high percentages of abused women report arguments with their ex-partners about child support, visitation, and child custody. They also suffer from interference from their ex-partners with their education, training, and work.

Poverty is difficult for all families experiencing it. A history of domestic violence makes progress all the more challenging. We would encourage you to fund the continuum of services that victims of domestic violence and their families who are on public assistance need. Without these services, many women would have no other choice but to remain in or return to a violent situation. We would also encourage you in your deliberations to consider ways of better integrating the service systems families need.

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