

### Fast Facts

- 347 families, including over 1,000 children were served by the MFVU over three years of project funding

#### Victim Profile

- 94% of victims were female
- 52% alcohol abuse
- 21% had used a women’s shelter
- 21% injuries required medical attention

#### Perpetrator Profile

- 100% unemployed
- 89% alcohol abuse
- 52% drug abuse
- 30% suicidal ideation
- 30% gang involvement

#### Children

- 64% of MFVU families required open file with Child Welfare
- 6% of children were reported to have gang involvement

#### SROI Results

Year 1: 3.57 : 1  
Year 2: 5.35 : 1  
Year 3 : 4.20 : 1  
Over 3 years: 4.37: 1

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### Program Background

The Maskwacis Family Violence Unit (MFVU) is a collaborative and interdisciplinary initiative originally undertaken by the following six partners: Ermineskin Women’s Shelter Society, Makwacis RCMP, Maskwacis Victim Services, Central Alberta Children and Families Service, Kasohkowew Child Services, and Akamkispatinaw Ohpikihaw (AKO) Child Services. The Family Violence Unit enhances the community and RCMP response to rising incidents of family violence within the Four Nations of Hobbema. MFVU serves the Four Nations of Hobbema, Alberta: Samson, Louis Bull, Ermineskin, and Montana.

The original MFVU program design consisted of four team members that included RCMP, Outreach Worker, Children’s Services worker and a part time Elder. In year two after the Children’s Services worker left, the team was changed to RCMP, Outreach Worker and two part time Elders (one female; one male).

In the project’s final year, the team was changed to two RCMP constables and two part time Elders, with expanded hours for Elder support.

The role of RCMP and Outreach Worker is to provide follow up safety planning, referrals and connection with community support services, to work collaboratively with Children’s Services and to increase

community awareness of domestic violence through community education initiatives. The role of Elders is to provide social/emotional, cultural and spiritual support and guidance to individuals and families who are experiencing domestic violence, individuals being held at the RCMP detachment, and to other members of the community who may be seeking support.

#### Theory of Change

If a comprehensive and coordinated response to domestic violence with culturally relevant supports is provided to First Nations individuals and families involved in high risk and chronic domestic violence situations, the incidents of domestic conflict will decrease.

#### Participant Profile

The MFVU program supports First Nations individuals affected by high risk (extremely violent ) and continually recurring (chronic) violence in the home. Affected individuals include victims, children who witness the violence and perpetrators.

#### Participant Outcomes

A sample file review of MFVU cases showed that 67% had no further incidents of domestic violence in the year following MFVU intervention.

Elders made on average 18 referrals per month to AA or addiction treatment and report that approximately 30% of clients engaged with these services.

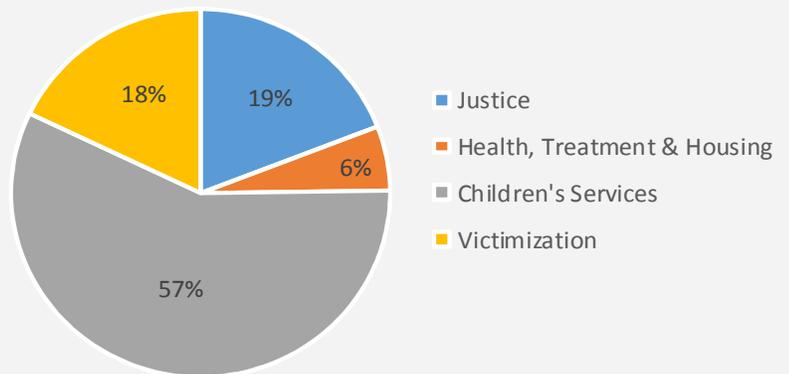
MFVU team members report gradually increasing levels of trust in the community that positively impacts MFVU’s ability to assist families.

**Social Value Creation**

The Maskwacis Family Violence Unit creates social value in a number of significant ways through the provision of a follow up team response to high conflict domestic violence situations. This value is enhanced by understanding the historical and cultural context of the target stakeholders and emphasizing the inclusion of culturally appropriate supports provided by community elders.

As the Maskwacis Family Violence Unit decreases the incidence and severity of domestic violence in their community, fewer resources are used by victims and perpetrators. This includes decreased victimization and use of victims’ or health services as well as decreased justice system involvement including incarceration, police time, legal time, etc. Further, fewer services are used by the implicated children of involved families. While the direct children’s services costs have been accounted for in this analysis, the long-term implications and cost savings of breaking a ‘cycle of violence’ within families has not been fully captured. It is apparent, however, that when family violence can be decreased, there is a direct positive impact on the reduced use of Children’s Services, which may be one of the most valuable aspects of the program.

SROI Value Creation Breakdown  
(Total over three years)



**Conclusions**

The SROI analysis reveals that over three years of pilot funding, **Maskwacis Family Violence Unit creates an average of \$4.37 for every dollar invested** in the program.

Fluctuations in the SROI ratio over the three years as illustrated in the chart to the right indicate the sensitivity to participation rates and specific participant profiles. Further, the SROI ratio was lower in the initial year of funding due to time and resources spent on program implementation. Nevertheless,

significant social value has been created by this pilot project. While results from the analysis presented here speak to the significant value created by the program there are some outcomes, like breaking the cycle of violence or improved quality of life, that may never be full valued in financial terms. For this reason, the results presented should be considered a conservative estimation of the true social value created.

SROI Ratios Over Three Years of Pilot Funding

