

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE POLICY DIVISION

# ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION PROGRAM REVIEW

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JULY 1, 2007 THRU FEBRUARY 29, 2008

# ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION PROGRAM REVIEW

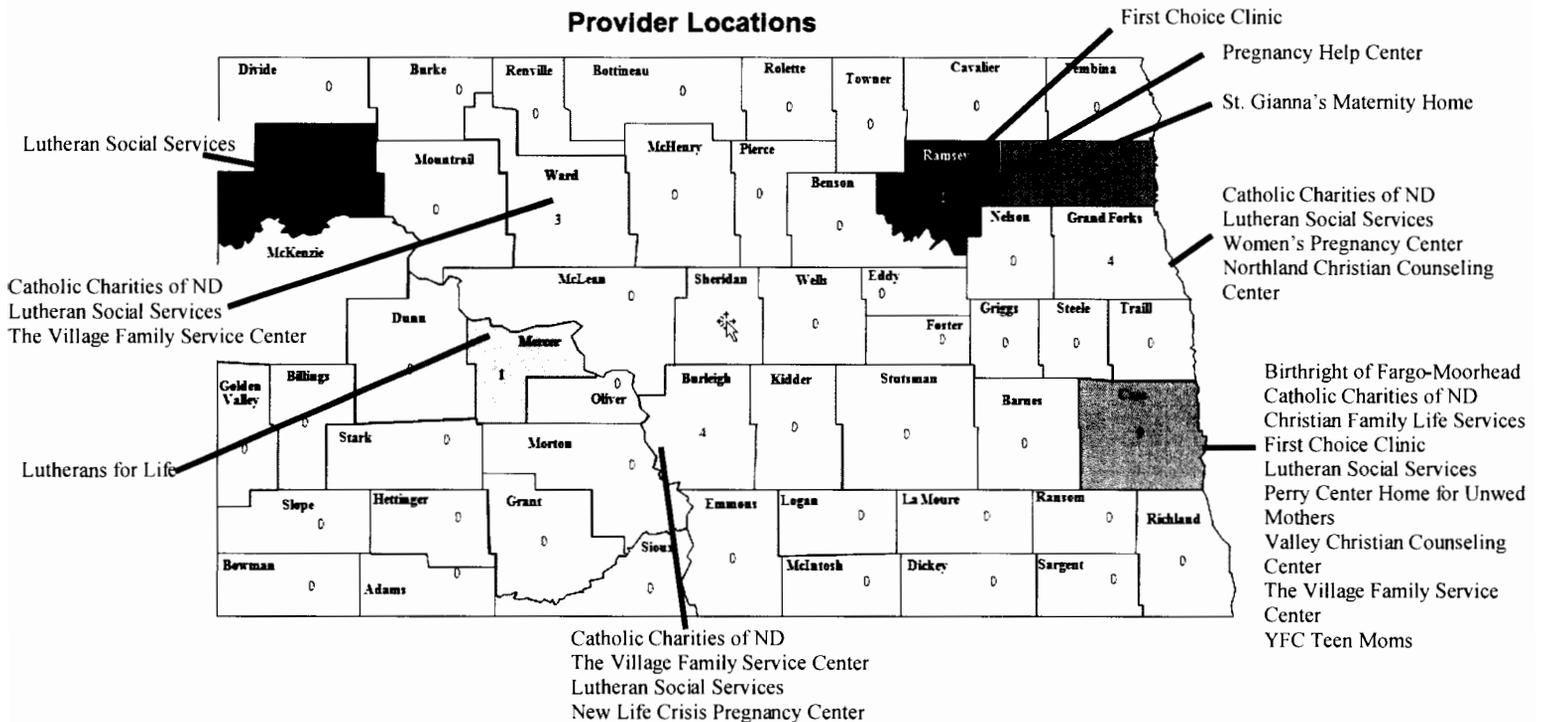
JULY 1, 2007 THRU FEBRUARY 29, 2008

## BACKGROUND

During the 2007 legislative session, the Legislature directed the Department of Human Services to continue the alternatives-to-abortion services program. "The program began in 2005 and provides funds to organizations that provide alternatives-to-abortion services and to educate the public about the program. The department is providing alternatives-to-abortion services by making vouchers available to individuals needing the service. Those individuals use the vouchers to access the services, and the service providers use the vouchers to bill the department. This method allows the department to pay all interested providers for these services."<sup>1</sup>

## PROVIDERS

15 agencies are currently providing alternative-to-abortion services. Nine agencies provide outpatient services while two are residential facilities for pregnant women. Several agencies provide services in more than one county. Alternatives-to-abortion services are directly provided by both professional and para-professional staff, from program directors, program supervisors, nurses, other paid staff and trained volunteers.



<sup>1</sup> North Dakota Legislative Council, *Minutes of the Human Services Committee*, July 18, 2007, page 12.

Services that are provided by professional staff are billed at \$12.50 per unit of service. Services provided by para-professional staff and trained volunteers are billed at \$5.00 per unit of service.

Services offered by all 15 agencies include counseling, education and referrals. According to the description of services that each agency provided, counseling is generally providing assistance to the women or couples with decision-making of whether to parent, make an adoption plan or terminate the pregnancy. Education is generally about options available to the mothers and couples, such as adoption and parenting. Education can also include pre-natal education, fetal development, making healthy choices during and after pregnancy, and information about childbirth.

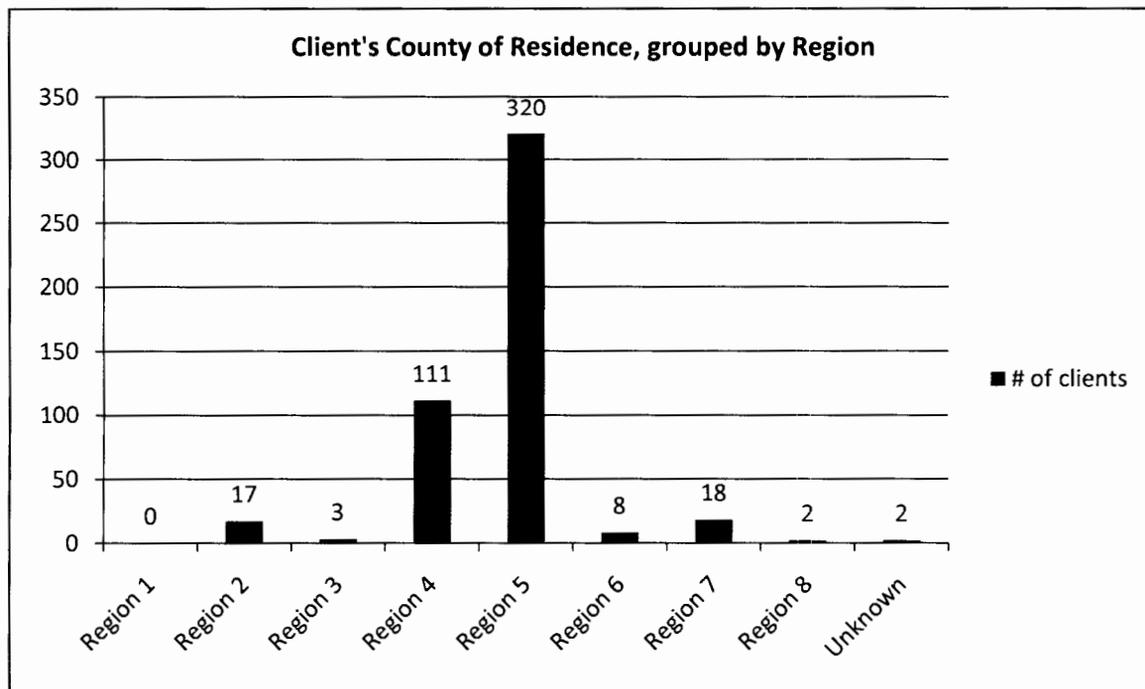
All agencies indicate that they assess the needs of the women or couples and make referrals to other community agencies and providers, as appropriate.

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### SERVICES RECEIVED

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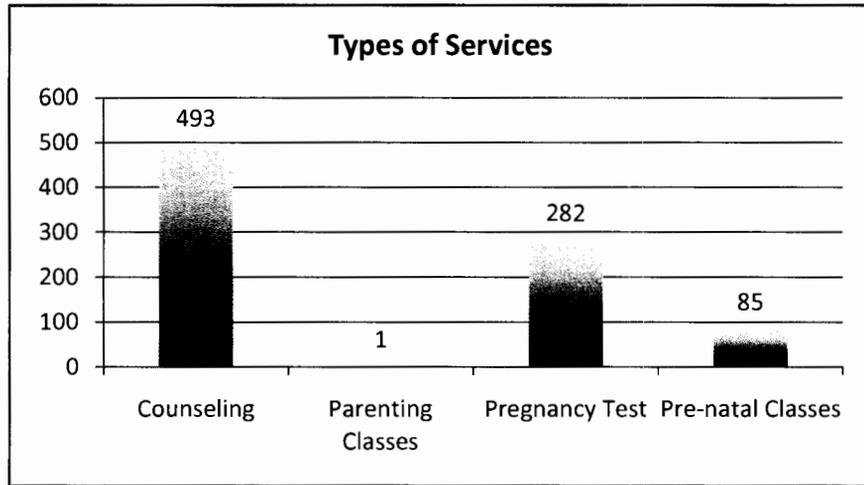
Approximately 472 women in 22 counties received alternatives-to-abortion services from July 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008. The majority of women received services in the Regions 4 and 5.



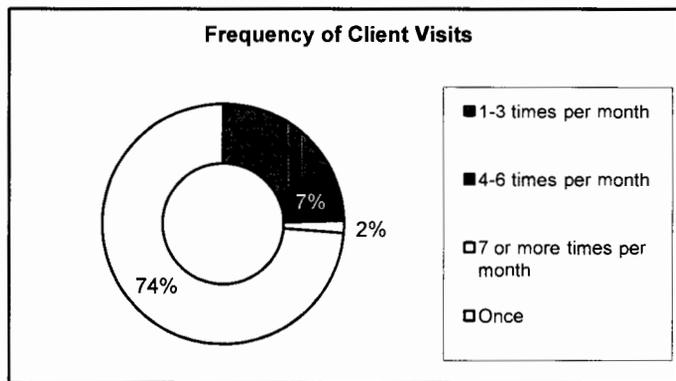
The county of residence is based on client report. Only 2 clients did not report a county of residence.

The age range served was between 13 and 45 years. The average age was between 22 and 23 years old. The age recorded the most was 19 years old.

Services shown below were counted once for each client by type of service they received. Many clients received more than one type of service during this reporting period.



Seventy-four percent of the clients were seen only once; however, during the visit, most clients typically received a combination of services, such as pregnancy test and counseling. Seventeen percent were seen one to three times per month while seven percent were seen four to six times per month.



**OUTCOMES**

The outcomes were tabulated based on the last service the clients received. Out of the approximate 472 women served, 119 had negative pregnancy test results. In addition to the pregnancy test, these clients received counseling.

