

Caregiver Survey Results Summary

Objective 2; Task 5 of the Work plan:

Survey caregivers to gather information on target populations served, their demand for respite and unmet respite needs; and other caregiver support services (such as caregiver support groups or caregiver education and training programs)

The answers to survey questions were multiple choice so responses are not unduplicated.

Responses Received:

1. Populations

Developmental Disabilities	52
Physical Disabilities	45
Mental/Emotional Issues	32
Medical Challenges	26
Dementia/Alzheimer's	25
Autism	25
At Risk	22
Chronic Illness	14
TBI	9

Individuals may be listed in more than one population or be dually diagnosed.

2. Would use Respite for:

Short Breaks	79
Overnights/Weekends	64
Socialization	63
Help w/daily living skills	51
Running Errands	40
Housekeeping	34
To attend training/education	29
For transportation	22
Help w/transferring	15
Medical appointments	10

Many caregivers would like to use respite in a variety of ways, the top three together often needed by the same caregiver.

Barriers to Receiving Respite

¹ Financial	54
² Shortage of Providers	50
Providers not available when needed	33
Concerned about quality	33
Don't trust anyone	25

Traveling distance	12
On a waiting list	10
Too overwhelmed to seek help	10
Respite not offered	7
Don't know where to go	5
Don't know what it is	4

Caregivers may have faced more than one barrier in accessing respite.

¹Financial issues were evenly divided between ages 0 – 50 and ages 50 and up. When divided between the Eastern and Western sides of the state it was quite different with 42 caregivers from the Western side of the state feeling like finances were an issue compared to only 15 caregivers from the Eastern side of the state.

²Approximately 27% of the caregivers in the Eastern side of Montana list shortage of providers as a barrier compared to 54% of the caregivers in the Western side of Montana.

3. Other Caregiver Supports Used

Family	85
Friends & Neighbors	54
³ Other Agency or Organization	37
Home Health/Personal Care	25
Agency on Aging	24
Church or Civic Group	20
Support Groups	20
Habilitation Aide	18
Caregiver Training	14
Meals on Wheels	13
Mental Health	13
Caregiver Education	11
Specialized Nursing	5

³ Over 50% of the caregivers choosing “Other Agency or Organization” listed the agency that provides them respite, but not everyone listed their respite providing agency in the “Other” category reducing the number of other agencies used.

4. Funding Source for Respite

⁴ Self-pay	41	
Developmental Disabilities	34	
Other	22	(includes Medicaid(5) and VA(2))
Child & Family Services	15	
Elderly Funding	15	
Family/Private Pay	13	
Volunteers	7	
Physical Disabilities	3	
Addictive/Mental Health	2	

⁴ Twenty-two of the forty-one caregivers responding with “Self pay” are over 60 years of age. The remaining nineteen are distributed among the other age groups under 60.

Additional Information: Number of surveys received per Region:

Region 5	44
Region 1	26
Region4	21
Region 3	18
Region 2	8

The survey did not ask for city so in many cases the postmark or phone prefix was used to determine Region. The number of surveys from each region however is unduplicated.

In summarizing, these are the survey responses that stand out:

- Funding and shortage of providers seem to be the most widespread issues for Montana caregivers
- Needs that are not being adequately addressed are overnight, weekend and extended stays
- Adults between the ages of 25 and 60 seem to have less available resources than any other age group
- Caregivers overall are concerned about the quality, reliability and integrity of respite providers in general