

Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

FISCAL YEAR 2017 DATA ANALYSIS REPORT

This report was produced by Booz Allen Hamilton under contract number DJO-BJA-16-S-0272, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this report are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



INTRODUCTION

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, more than **\$1.8 billion** was allocated to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program. **Fifty-six** grantees funded **9,422** subawards to **6,867** subgrantee organizations, which provided assistance to **5,088,858** victims of crime for the first time.¹ VOCA-funded service providers also assisted more than **675,000** anonymous contacts through hotlines, online chats, Internet forums, and other services.²

VOCA-FUNDED VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS

Subgrantee Characteristics

In FY 2017, 6,867 victim service providers were funded as VOCA subgrantees. States are required to provide details about the type of subgrantee organization, the designation, the victim population to be served, the types of victimizations the organization responds to, and the program activities that will be conducted.

Most Common Subgrantee Organization Type

4,668 Nonprofit Organizations

2,049 Government Agencies

89 Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations

61 Campus Organizations

Most Common Designation

{ Multiservice Agencies }

{ Prosecutor Services }

{ Domestic-Family Violence/Sexual Assault Service Providers }

{ Campus-Based Victim Services }

Four states noted in their narrative responses that they updated the subgrantee application process to promote funding opportunities more broadly, increase competition and transparency, and streamline application forms. Eight states noted updating their subgrantee monitoring procedures to include activities such as pre-award site visits for new subgrantees, subgrantee risk assessment, and ongoing monitoring activities such as conducting site visits, desk reviews, and more detailed report audits.

¹ To ensure the privacy of victims, victim service providers do not share personally identifiable information with other providers. As such, this number may include duplicates in cases where victims received services from multiple service providers.

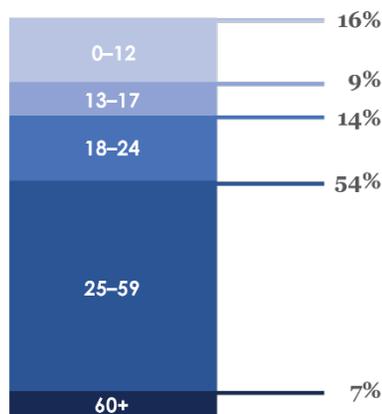
² The number of anonymous contacts reflects only data reported between April and September 2017.

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

Victims served had the opportunity to self-report their age, gender identity, race/ethnicity, and special classifications to their VOCA-funded service provider. Some individuals chose not to provide this information, or the subgrantee organization was unable to track some or all of the demographic data.³

Age

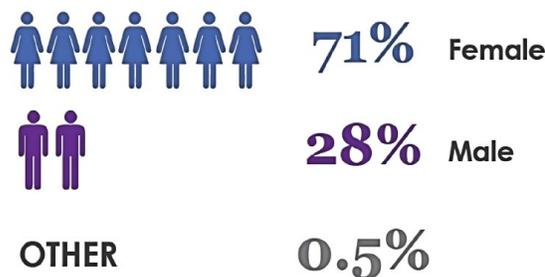
Self-reported by 71 percent of victims



Individuals who self-reported their age as 25–59 years old at the time of their victimization represent a 20 percent increase from FY 2016.

Gender Identity

Self-reported by 78 percent of victims

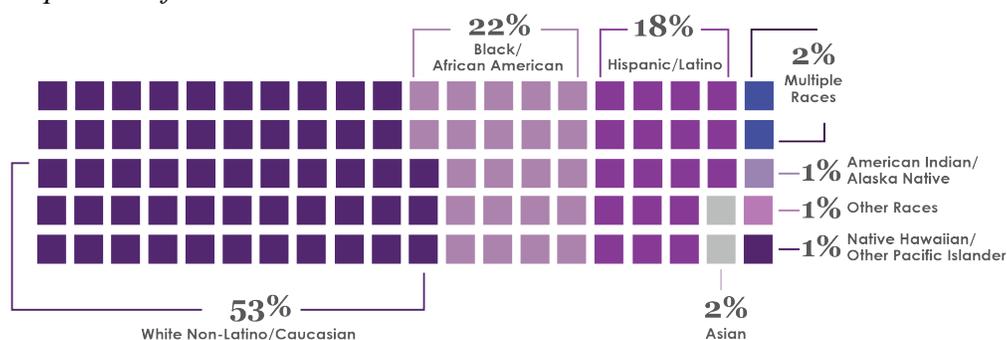


*Note: Percentages do not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

There were 19,090 individuals who self-identified as “other,” representing a 63 percent increase over the number reported in FY 2016. When asked to provide further explanation about one’s gender identity, some of the responses included transgender, non-binary, gender non-conforming, intersex, and gender fluid.

Race/Ethnicity

Self-reported by 69 percent of victims



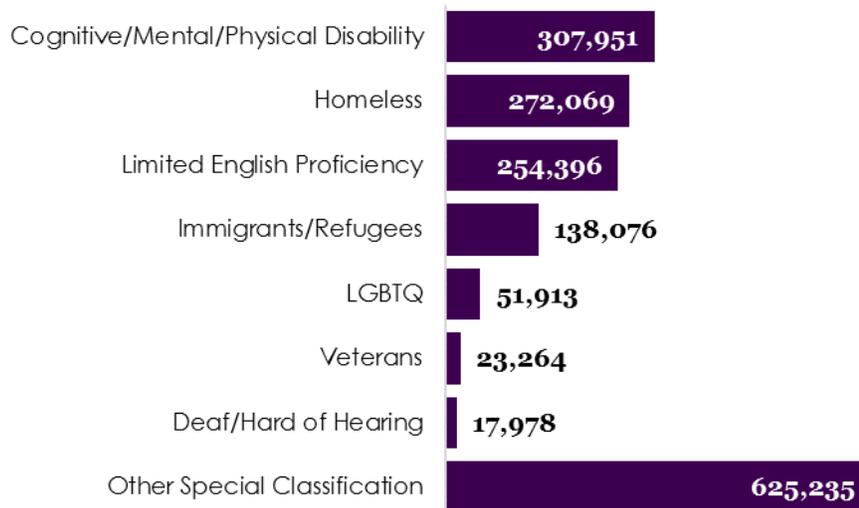
The FY 2017 victim assistance figures contrast somewhat from the FY 2016 data reported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). According to the NCVS, Whites constituted 62 percent of violent crime victims in FY 2016, while Blacks and Hispanics constituted 13 and 17 percent, respectively.⁴

³ In FY 2017, there were 2,223 organizations that did not track age, 1,452 organizations that did not track gender, and 2,501 that did not track race/ethnicity.

⁴ Morgan, R. E. & Kena, G. 2018. *Criminal Victimization, 2016: Revised*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved on November 9, 2018, from <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6427>.

Special Classifications

1,690,822 victims self-reported at least one special classification



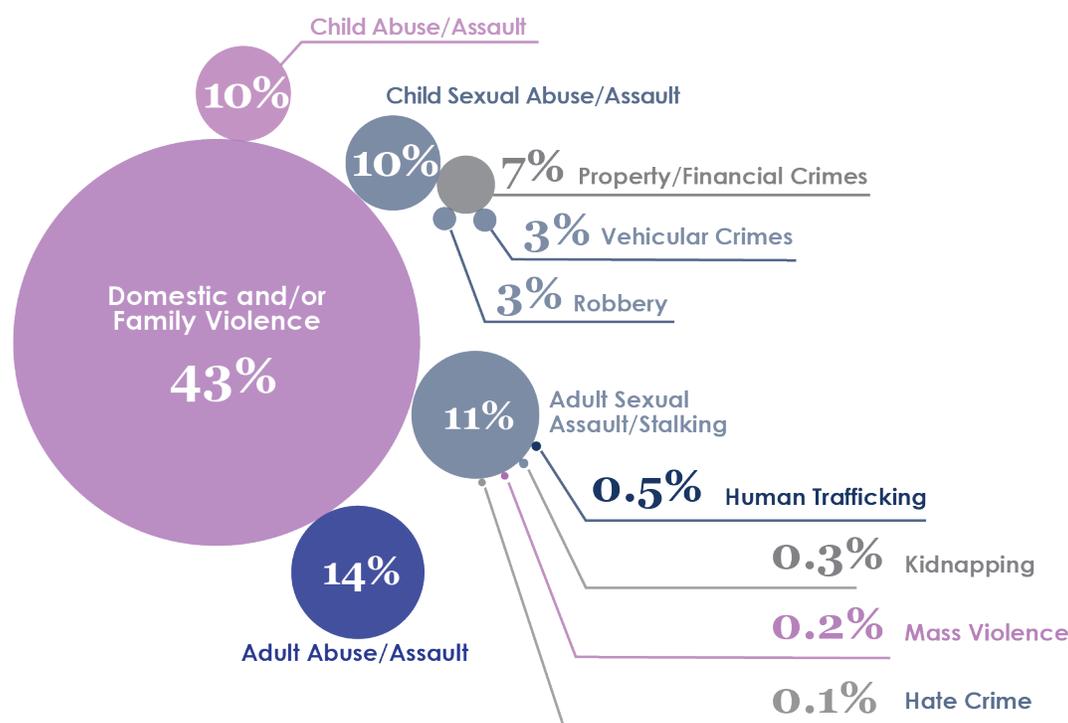
Thirty-seven percent of individuals reporting a special classification self-reported in the “other” category. Within this category, the most commonly cited classifications included residing in rural areas (found in 20 percent of responses), substance abuse/addiction (12 percent), elderly (9 percent), blind/visually impaired (7 percent), and incarcerated (6 percent). As individuals provide information about special conditions they are facing, service organizations may gain additional information that will help them continue to effectively serve victims of crime.

Individuals who identify with a special classification may represent some of the most underserved victims, due to the added challenges they may be experiencing. For example, victims of crime living in rural areas may find it difficult to access services, due to limited transportation, little or no available childcare, and lack of proximity to victim service providers.⁵ When responding to a narrative question, 30 percent of grantees identified rural communities as a new, underserved population receiving VOCA funds in FY 2017.

⁵ Office for Victims of Crime. n.d. *Victim Services in Rural Law Enforcement*. Retrieved on September 6, 2018 from <https://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/RuralVictimServices/intro.html>.

TYPES OF VICTIMIZATION

Individuals were counted at least once by the type of victimization experienced.⁶ Grantees reported that 1,111,304 individuals experienced multiple victimization types, representing 22 percent of the total victims served, an increase of 56 percent over the number reported in FY 2016.



Note: Percentages total more than 100 percent due to rounding.

When a victim assisted by a service provider presents with a crime type that does not fit into the predefined categories, providers have the option of designating the victim’s crime type as “other.” In FY 2017, a wide range of crime types were reported as other. Some of the responses included violation of a court protective order, community violence, criminal mischief, false imprisonment, and criminal trespassing.

Victim service providers who assist victims of hate crime are asked to include the motivation for the crime, when available. Among VOCA-funded service providers, race/ethnicity was the most commonly provided motivation, mentioned in 22 percent of responses, followed closely by sexual orientation (21 percent), then gender identity (14 percent).⁷

⁶ See appendix A for the categorizations of victimization types.

⁷ Forty-seven percent of organizations that served victims of hate crimes were unable to provide the hate crime motivation.

SPOTLIGHT: VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE

All Service Providers

Number serving
at least one victim age 60+

4,682

Estimated number of
older victims served

263,912

Providers Serving Only Older Individuals

Number serving
only victims ages 60+

73

Number of
victims reported served

15,768

Victims of elder abuse (i.e., individuals 60 years of age or older who are victims of crime) may be especially vulnerable to victimization due to real or perceived changes in physical and mental health functioning, isolation, memory loss, and diminished cognitive ability. Dependency on caregivers adds another layer of vulnerability, increasing the likelihood that older individuals will experience a criminal act.*

In FY 2017, the top three victimizations experienced by older individuals were elder abuse or neglect, identity theft/fraud/financial crime, and burglary, as reported by VOCA-funded service providers that exclusively served older victims. These organizations reported information and referral as the most common service category provided to these victims, followed by emotional support or safety services and criminal/civil justice system assistance. Specifically, information about victims' rights, information about the criminal justice process, and referrals to other services, supports, and resources were the most commonly provided services to victims of elder abuse.

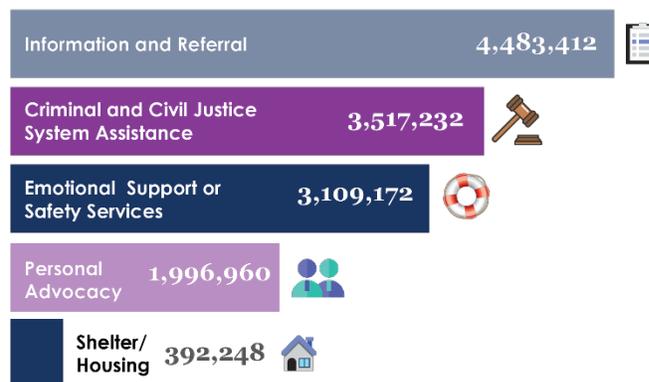
* Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center. 2012. "Elder Abuse." Retrieved September 4, 2018, from https://www.ovcttac.gov/downloads/views/trainingmaterials/NVAA/documents_nvaa2011/resourcepapers/Color_Elder_Abuse_Resource_Paper_2012_final_-_508c_9_13_2012.pdf

DIRECT SERVICES

NUMBER OF SUBGRANTEES THAT PROVIDED DIRECT SERVICES



NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED

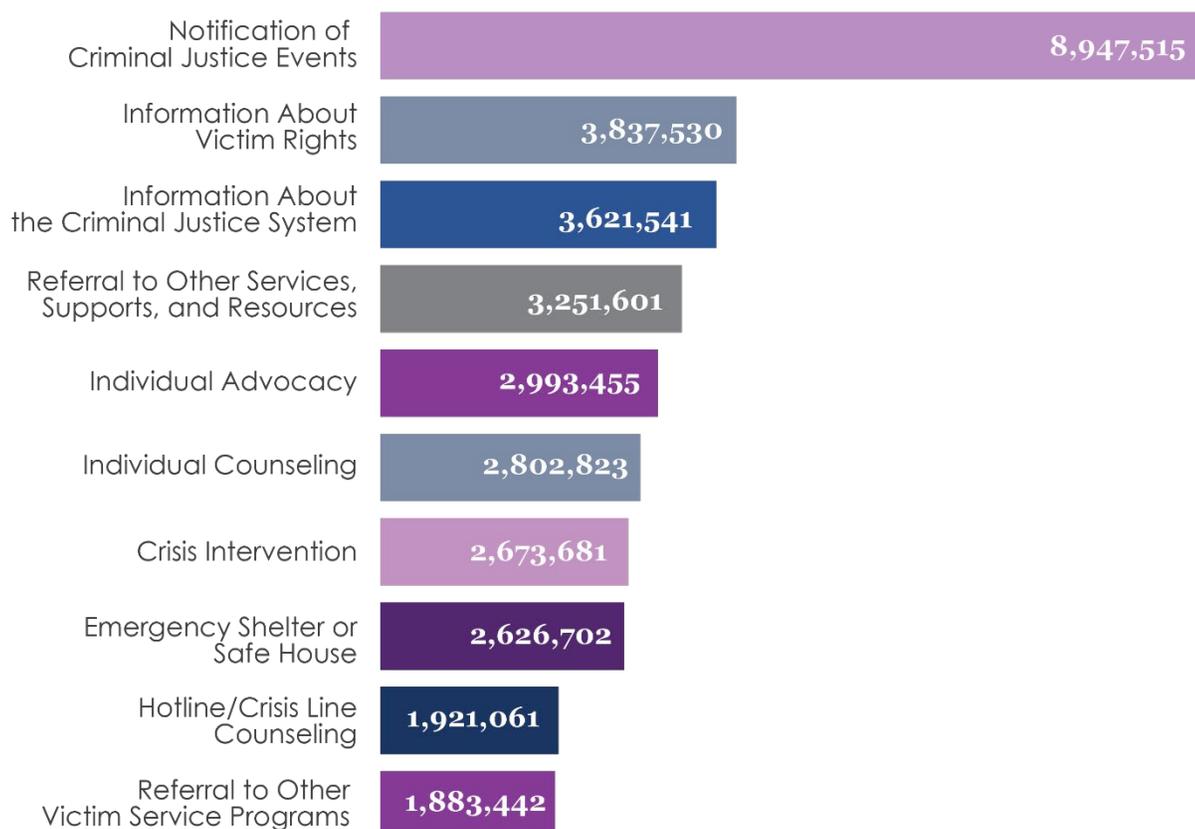


In the aftermath of crime, victims may experience an array of physical, emotional, or psychological outcomes. Victim service providers are essential, as they help victims and their families work through the devastation.⁸ VOCA-funded organizations report the number of individuals served in each of the five main direct service categories. Within each main service category, the number of times each subcategory of service was provided to individuals is reported.⁹ As individuals may receive a service multiple times, the number of times a service was provided may be greater than the number of individuals served. The graphic below displays the top 10 services provided by victim service providers.

⁸ Newmark, Lisa C. 2004. "Crime Victims' Needs and VOCA-Funded Services: Findings and Recommendations from Two National Studies." Alexandria, VA: The Institute for Law and Justice. Retrieved August 27, 2018 from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/214263.pdf>.

⁹ See Appendix B for a full list of services within each category.

NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED



STATE EDUCATION AND COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

Fourteen states reported receiving requests for education activities, which may come from VOCA assistance administrative staff, victim service providers, and allied professionals. These states provided training for 12,310 individuals at 358 events. Although the trainings varied, the most common included victim assistance academies, crisis response, service provision to sexual assault victims, and victim-witness coordination.

Twenty-four states used grant funding to support coordination activities. Many of these states reported an attempt to enhance coordination of victim services for at least one priority/underserved victimization type (e.g., sexual assault, child abuse, or domestic violence). Nine states described coordinated efforts with their state compensation programs to streamline the compensation application process for victims of crime, providing awareness of the program, general victim information, and assistance with filing claims.

Notable Trends/Emerging Issues

Grantees provide annual information about notable trends and emerging issues facing victim service organizations as they provide assistance to victims of crime. In FY 2017, some of these trends and issues included:

- A lack of affordable housing options for victims who need to leave their current home, or are transitioning out of shelters
- An increase in the number of human trafficking victims due to enhanced outreach efforts
- Difficulty receiving appropriate mental health services due to lack of availability
- Language barriers that hinder the ability of non-English speaking individuals to receive victim services or advocacy
- An increase in efforts to provide comprehensive victim services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence

CONCLUSION

In FY 2017, grantees funded 9,422 subawards to 6,867 subgrantee organizations, representing increases of 10 percent and 9 percent, respectively, from the previous year. These organizations provide numerous invaluable services to victims of crime, as they work to rebuild their lives. The quantitative data submitted offers an overview of the victim population being served by subgrantees, while narrative responses allow grantees to present information that may be affecting victim service providers in their states. These data offer a general overview of the victim assistance efforts being undertaken throughout the country. Grantees and local-level service organizations can reflect on these data to identify potential changes, trends, or gaps, which will allow them to expand and enhance services to victims.

APPENDIX A: TYPES OF VICTIMIZATION

Subgrantees reported data on individuals who received services based on 26 presenting victimization types. These types as reported by subgrantees were compiled into 13 main victimization types. The following list outlines the types of victimizations that make up each category.

- **Adult abuse/assault**
 - Adult physical assault (*includes aggravated and simple assault*)
 - Elder abuse or neglect
 - Survivors of homicide victims
- **Adult sexual/stalking**
 - Adult sexual assault
 - Adults sexually abused/assaulted as children
 - Stalking/harassment
- **Child abuse/assault**
 - Bullying (*e.g., verbal, cyber, or physical*)
 - Child physical abuse or neglect
 - Teen dating victimization
- **Child sexual abuse/assault**
 - Child pornography
 - Child sexual abuse/assault
- **Domestic and/or family violence**
- **Hate crimes**
 - Hate crime: Racial/religious/gender/sexual orientation/other
- **Human trafficking**
 - Human trafficking: Labor
 - Human trafficking: Sex
- **Kidnapping**
 - Kidnapping: Custodial
 - Kidnapping: Noncustodial
- **Mass violence**
 - Mass violence (domestic/international)
 - Terrorism (domestic/international)
- **Other**
- **Property/financial crimes**
 - Arson
 - Burglary
 - Identity theft/fraud/financial crime
- **Robbery**
- **Vehicular crimes**
 - Driving under the influence/driving while intoxicated incidents
 - Other vehicular victimization (*e.g., hit and run*)

APPENDIX B: DIRECT SERVICES

The Direct Services section (beginning on page 4) describes the types of services provided to victims by subgrantees. There are five main categories of services in which subgrantees are asked to report the total number of individuals who received services. Within each main category, there are several subcategories of services on which subgrantees are asked to report the number of times each service was provided. The main categories of services, and the subcategories within each, are provided below.

- **Information and Referrals**
 - A1. Information about the criminal justice process
 - A2. Information about victims' rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.
 - A3. Referral to other victim service programs
 - A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (*includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations; address-confidentiality programs; etc.*)

- **Personal Advocacy/Accompaniment**
 - B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care
 - B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam
 - B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment
 - B4. Individual advocacy (*e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects*)
 - B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview, or medical evidence collection
 - B6. Immigration assistance (*e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief*)
 - B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution
 - B8. Child or dependent care assistance (*includes coordination of services*)
 - B9. Transportation assistance (*includes coordination of services*)
 - B10. Interpreter services

- **Emotional Support or Safety Services**
 - C1. Crisis intervention (*in-person, includes safety planning, etc.*)
 - C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling
 - C3. On-scene crisis response (*e.g., community crisis response*)
 - C4. Individual counseling
 - C5. Support groups (*facilitated or peer*)
 - C6. Other therapy (*traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.*)
 - C7. Emergency financial assistance (*includes emergency loans and petty cash, payment for items such as food and/or clothing, changing windows and/or locks, taxis, prophylactic and nonprophylactic medications, durable medical equipment, etc.*)

- **Shelter/Housing Services**
 - D1. Emergency shelter or safe house
 - D2. Transitional housing
 - D3. Relocation assistance (*includes assistance with obtaining housing*)

- **Criminal/Civil Justice System Assistance**

- E1. Notification of criminal justice events (*e.g., case status, arrest, court proceedings, case disposition, release*)
- E2. Victim impact statement assistance
- E3. Assistance with restitution (*includes assistance in requesting and when collection efforts are not successful*)
- E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order
- E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues (*e.g., custody, visitation, or support*)
- E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance
- E7. Immigration assistance (*e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief*)
- E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment (*includes accompaniment with prosecuting attorney and with victim/witness*)
- E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment
- E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment
- E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel