

OVC NEWS & PROGRAM UPDATES

SERVING CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE



NOVEMBER 2011

Children Exposed to Violence: What the Research Says

By Debra Whitcomb, Visiting Fellow, Office for Victims of Crime



Exposure to crime, abuse, and violence is all too common for children in this country. These experiences have serious consequences for children, families, and communities. The good news is that we are learning about effective ways to *protect* children from exposure to violence, help children *heal* from their experiences, and ensure that all children *thrive* in their families, schools, and communities.

Research on children's exposure to violence generally addresses three core questions:

1. How often are children exposed to violence?
2. How are children affected by exposure to violence?
3. What services are available to prevent or address exposure to violence?

A great deal of research has already been done and more is underway.

Highlights from completed studies are presented below. For more details, please visit the Office of Justice Programs' CrimeSolutions.gov.

How Often Are Children Exposed to Violence?

The 2008 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence revealed for the first time the extent to which children experience all kinds of crimes and violence—at home, at school, and in their neighborhoods.¹ Researchers

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Updated almost daily, OVC.gov provides quick and easy access to many resources that help to enhance victim services around the Nation. Tour the [OVC Web site](http://OVC.gov) now!

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm very pleased to introduce this issue of *OVC News & Program Updates*, as it offers a wealth of information about one of our most vulnerable victim populations: America's children. I began my career as a Child Protective Services caseworker in rural Texas, where resources were extremely scarce. Today, it's rewarding to see the needs of young victims being addressed through improved coordination, collaboration, and evidence-based practices.



We've provided an excellent introduction to child victimization in "Children Exposed to Violence: What the Research Says." With 60 percent of our children exposed to violence, there is a compelling need to expand our awareness. Greater awareness is crucial to successful action, and the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Initiative calls attention to efforts long supported by OVC, while creating new opportunities for meeting the needs of children.

There's more. This issue profiles the Federal Interagency Task Force on Drug Endangered Children and reports on the alarming rise in child identity theft. But there is progress to share, such as the successful OVC-tribal partnership at Flandreau Indian School, where students with unaddressed victimization issues are responding to the staff's culturally sensitive support.

We hope that you are finding the *News* to be of practical value, and we would particularly appreciate your feedback on this issue. Are there any topics of special interest to you? If so, let us know.

—Joye Frost, Acting Director
Office for Victims of Crime

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conducted telephone interviews with children, and with parents of young children, about a wide range of scenarios in which children might be exposed to violence. This national survey is the most current and reliable source on the topic and includes the following statistics:

- **More than half—60 percent—of American children were exposed to violence, crime, or abuse** in their homes, schools, or communities in the year before the survey was conducted. In fact, children were more likely to be exposed to crime and violence than adults.
- **Many children were direct victims of serious crimes:**
 - Physical assault—46 percent.
 - Sexual assault—6 percent.
 - Physical bullying—13 percent.
 - Maltreatment (physical or emotional abuse or neglect)—10 percent.
- **One-fourth of the children in the survey witnessed violence.** For 6 percent of children, this violence occurred within their families. One-third of the children who witnessed violence involving a parent were also direct victims of physical abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect.

- **Nearly half of the children surveyed were victimized in more than one way:**

- Children who experienced one type of victimization in the past year had double, and some even had triple, the risk of other types of victimization.
- One in 12 children experienced 7 or more kinds of victimization.

Researchers have coined the term “polyvictimization” to describe these children’s experiences. Taking into account the multiple ways in which a single child can be exposed to violence is important in understanding the impact of victimization or witnessing violence, as shown in the following section.

How Are Children Affected by Exposure to Violence?

Exposure to violence can have serious, long-lasting consequences. Children exposed to violence are more likely than other children to—

- Abuse drugs and alcohol.
- Suffer from depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic disorders.

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In Kindergarten and in Debt

The Problem of Child Identity Theft

By Jaimee Napp, Visiting Fellow specializing in financial fraud, and Bethany Case, Visiting Fellow specializing in child abuse, Office for Victims of Crime

At 7 years old, Brandon watched his mother being handcuffed and taken away by the local sheriff. She was arrested for using his identity—specifically his Social Security number—on a job application to evade her past criminal record.

When we think of a child’s safety, we think of his or her physical and emotional well-being, but what about financial safety? According to the Carnegie Mellon Cylab’s report, [Child Identity Theft](#), published in April 2011, children’s identities are increasingly used to commit fraud.

Just as a criminal can use an adult’s personal information to commit fraud, he or she can use a child’s identity to—

- Open credit accounts.
- Take out student loans and home, boat, or car loans.
- Receive government benefits and unemployment compensation.
- Receive tax refunds.
- Access medical care.
- Secure employment.

Many criminals turn to stealing children’s identities because it can go unnoticed for years, and this crime carries virtually no consequences.

The child victims, on the other hand, inherit significant debt, have a tarnished credit history, and suffer the emotional impacts—particularly if the offender is a parent or other family member—all before they reach legal age.

How is child identity theft even possible? Unfortunately, the biggest loophole is the credit-granting system itself. The system isn’t set up to verify if the information provided in a credit application is accurate (i.e., that the Social Security number presented corresponds with the age and name of the person to whom it was issued by the Social Security Administration).

For now, the most important steps we can take are to help build awareness of this issue, learn more, and talk to our friends and family about child identity theft.

Brandon’s future is uncertain. We don’t know how his mother’s actions affected him or what emotional impact he may endure, but we do know that this crime should not have happened. As protectors of children, whether as parents, caregivers, guardians, or those who work on issues affecting children, we have a duty to all children to send them into the world with hope—not a tarnished future.

[Learn more about child identity theft.](#)

- Fail or have difficulty in school.
- Develop chronic diseases.
- Have trouble forming emotional attachments.
- Have aggression and behavioral problems.

Exposure to violence in childhood also perpetuates a cycle of violence within families and communities. Children who witness or experience violence are more likely to become victims—or perpetrators—of dating violence and to engage in delinquent or criminal behavior later in life.

The consequences are particularly severe for children who are exposed to multiple forms of violence, also known as polyvictims. These children are far more likely to suffer trauma symptoms than less victimized children. Children who witness family violence and are victims of child maltreatment are more likely to have behavioral problems. In fact, witnessing violence at home is just as detrimental to children as direct victimization. Older children tend to demonstrate more serious adverse outcomes than younger children, perhaps because of longer exposure to violence and/or abuse.

Despite a growing body of research examining the consequences of children's exposure to violence, many questions remain. What is the long-term impact of exposure to violence? Do the long-term consequences differ by type of violence? Do the consequences differ when the exposure is chronic versus episodic? Researchers are exploring these and other questions and our understanding of them will grow over time.

What Services Are Available To Prevent or Address Exposure to Violence?

Research on the effectiveness of various approaches to prevention, intervention, treatment, and response is limited. Nonetheless, several common elements of effective programs and services have emerged:

- Involve both parents and children.
- Combine home- and center-based approaches.
- Combine multiple treatment strategies (e.g., individual, family, and group therapy along with case management and advocacy) or different therapeutic models (e.g., selected components of cognitive behavioral therapy and psychodynamic therapy).
- Offer parenting training, both as a preventive measure and as a healing strategy.
- Educate and partner with service providers who interact with children and families throughout the stages of a child's development.

For more information about specific interventions, please see [Evidence-Based Practices for Children Exposed to Violence: A Selection from Federal Databases](#).



In sum, the available research underscores the compelling need to expand our perspective on violence as it relates to children and families. Children experience violence in their lives at home, in school, and in their communities, and these experiences accumulate over time and result in serious consequences. Addressing this multifaceted issue effectively requires a similarly multifaceted approach, one that builds bridges across academic disciplines, professions, governmental agencies at all levels, schools, social services, the faith community, community organizations, youth groups, and private citizens. There is a role for everyone.

¹ D. Finkelhor, H. Turner, R. Ormrod, and S. Hamby, 2009, "Violence, Abuse, and Crime Exposure in a National Sample of Children and Youth," *Pediatrics* 125(5): 1–13; D. Finkelhor, H. Turner, R. Ormrod, S. Hamby, and K. Kracke, 2009, *Children's Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

OVC Partners With Flandreau Indian School

The staff at [Flandreau Indian School](#) (FIS), located in South Dakota, are more than teachers, dorm counselors, or administrators—they are in many ways surrogate parents to approximately 300 students who attend and live at the school during the school year. It is the passion and commitment of the staff that led to a partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). Both FIS and OVC anticipate this partnership will provide not only mental health support to FIS American Indian and Alaska Native students but also help the students develop stronger, more effective, culturally appropriate, healthy coping strategies to address lifetime and historical exposure to violence, trauma, and victimization.

FIS staff recognized that many of the students had experienced victimization during their

lifetime and that this victimization was going unaddressed. With so much focus and energy on educational priorities, the staff felt underequipped to help these students cope with their life experiences and, unfortunately, saw the students' victimization manifesting itself into behavior problems, substance abuse, and unhealthy relationships. At the same time, promising solutions were surfacing—staff were finding that approaches that used a cultural foundation were working—and students were responding positively and integrating Native American cultural values such as pride, respect, honor, wisdom, courage, and love. (See "Promising Solutions" for examples.)

In the words of Art WarBonnet, a boys' dorm counselor, "Our students are hurting. When we connect them to their culture, they're able to begin to heal and take pride in themselves,

in part due to their strong heritage and the ancestors who came before them."

During the next 4 years, FIS will be working with OVC to establish a trauma-informed system of care by providing ongoing training and technical assistance to all levels and types of school staff and students. Concurrently, FIS will use dedicated positions to provide consistent mental health services and mental health-related programming resources (e.g., recreational therapeutic programs) to respond to the immediate needs of the students. The ultimate goal of the project is to create an environment that is fully equipped to respond to the needs of students (proactively and reactively), which will, in turn, create a healthy environment for students to heal from their experiences of victimization and reach their full potential.

PROMISING SOLUTIONS

FIS dorm staff discovered that students were vandalizing school property by drawing on the dorm walls, but rather than responding punitively, staff channeled students' energy into an activity. Students may now paint murals on their dorm walls—a positive outlet that allows youth to discover their artistic abilities in a way that honors their culture.

Students are also provided opportunities to participate in cultural activities, such as sweat lodge ceremonies. This practice is common in many Native American cultures, and students have been very responsive to this opportunity to seek spiritual, physical, and mental cleansing in a culturally rooted practice.



Student mural on boys' dorm wall using Native American symbols. Photo by Art WarBonnet.



Art WarBonnet, boys' dorm counselor, gives OVC staff a guided tour of a hand-crafted sweat lodge. Photo by Bethany Case.

Head of Chilean Victims of Crime Division Meets With U.S. Officials

The Head of the Chilean Victims of Crimes Division, Gonzalo Fuenzalida, visited Washington, D.C., on June 8–10, 2011, to meet with Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) staff, officials from other U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) agencies, and local and national organizations that provide victim assistance including the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Mr. Fuenzalida had the opportunity to learn about OVC and DOJ and to exchange valuable experiences on achievements and challenges in providing support and assistance to victims.

Mr. Fuenzalida stated, “It certainly was a splendid opportunity to get acquainted with

the remarkable work accomplished by all of you in order to enhance the capacity to assist crime victims and lead the change of attitudes, policies, and practices in the United States to promote justice and well-being for all victims.”

The [Chilean Victims of Crimes Division](#) is an office of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety that provides free services to victims through its centers for assistance. The division has 31 centers throughout Chile that assist victims of violent crimes using psychologists, attorneys, and social workers to provide comprehensive, specialized, and professional services. Currently, the division is formulating a national victim assistance policy for Chile.

The Chilean Victims of Crimes Division also announced that the President of Chile,

Sebastian Piñera, [signed a Constitutional Amendment](#) recognizing the right to legal advice for people who have been victims of crimes.



From left: James Cantrell, Deputy Director for Operations, Office for Victims of Crime, stands with Gonzalo Fuenzalida, Head of the Chilean Victims of Crimes Division, Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety, during his recent visit to Washington D.C. Also pictured are Joye Frost, Acting Director, OVC; Laura Ivkovich, Policy Advisor, OVC; Paola Palma, Embassy of Chile; and Lou Anne Holland, Program Manager, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Federal Interagency Task Force on Drug Endangered Children

For more than a decade, local law enforcement, child protection, and community-based agencies have worked to identify and respond to children who are endangered by drugs. This community-based approach has been necessary—particularly as drug issues are different for every community and the availability of services to respond to these issues varies. On one hand, communities are able to address the issue creatively and tailor their approaches to fit specific needs. On the other hand, developing this type of response requires the buy-in and motivation of community leaders. One issue is consistently recognized by communities

that have developed effective responses—no single agency or discipline can solve the issue of drug endangered children by itself. It takes a coordinated multidisciplinary approach to ensure that children are safe and able to thrive in healthy homes.

As part of the President’s [National Drug Control Strategy](#), the U.S. Department of Justice was directed to establish the Federal Interagency Task Force on Drug Endangered Children (DEC Task Force) to begin coordinating the Federal Government’s efforts on these issues. In short, the DEC Task Force was directed to support the identification of model

protocols, programming, and best practices. Similar to local communities, the federal response requires a coordinated multidisciplinary team. During the past year, the [federal partners](#) on the DEC Task Force worked to organize and develop a compilation of related resources and a [toolkit of promising practices](#) to assist state, local, and tribal governments in identifying, responding to, and providing services for drug endangered children. Be on the lookout for more information [on the DEC Web site](#) as the task force moves into its second year of work to align federal agencies and resources to address the issue of drug endangered children.

“A drug endangered child is a person, under the age of 18, who lives in or is exposed to an environment where drugs, including pharmaceuticals, are illegally used, possessed, trafficked, diverted, and/or manufactured and, as a result of that environment; the child experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse; the child experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, medical, educational, emotional, or physical harm, including harm resulting or possibly resulting from neglect; or the child is forced to participate in illegal or sexual activity in exchange for drugs or in exchange for money likely to be used to purchase drugs.”

—Federal Interagency Task Force for Drug Endangered Children (2010)

Tribal Youth Poised To Take Action in Indian Country

By Sarah S. Pearson, Tribal Youth Justice Fellow, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

In July 2011, youth from 45 tribes across Indian Country gathered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) organized the event, which took place at the Santa Fe Indian School.

Partner federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Interior (DOI); the Corporation for National and Community Service; the White House; and sister offices within the U.S. Department of Justice sent representatives and engaged in weeks of planning with OJJDP to ensure the event's success.

The summit's theme, "Youth Taking Action in Indian Country," flowed through all activities to enhance tribal youth's ability to influence public safety through leadership and positive community engagement. Youth were provided with opportunities to develop their public speaking skills, to broaden their knowledge

of Native American traditions and culture, and to make better informed health and lifestyle choices.

During the weeklong event, youth were joined by federal officials, youth advocates, and field experts. Youth participated in talking circles and a townhall session, attended seminars led by subject matter experts, and enjoyed a series of workshops led by traditional Native American artisans and craftspeople. They also spent a full day visiting two pueblos—San Felipe and Santa Ana—to engage in a sports/health clinic and a feast day filled with ceremonial dances and traditional food. A session called Listening to Youth Voices provided a venue for tribal youth to share concerns with federal agency leaders and discuss youth-led solutions to issues in their communities.

Speakers at the event included local tribal leaders; officials from HHS, DOI, and the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities; five U.S. Attorneys; Associate

Attorney General Tom Perrelli; and Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason. President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder sent video remarks.

The surprise of the week was a special message from President Obama. The President officially launched the White House Native American Youth Challenge, which asks tribal youth to share stories of how they are making a difference in their communities. Selected stories will be featured on the White House Web site this fall, and a group of tribal youth will be invited to the White House to share their stories personally during Native American Heritage Month in November.

"Across the country, Native American young people like you are doing extraordinary things every day to help solve problems in their communities," said President Obama. "The challenges you face are not small. Solving them won't be easy. But we are making progress, and you're leading the way."

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Intertribal Youth Summit participants. Photo by Karol Mason.



Youth enjoy activities at the summit. Photo by Sarah Pearson.



Youth watch intently as a Native American artisan makes moccasins. Numerous workshops at the summit focused on traditional arts and crafts, which included beading, drum making, and silversmithing. Photo by Sarah Pearson.

The summit concluded with a reflection session led by Mary Lou Leary, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs. In this session, tribal youth teams shared their plans to commit to service and leadership back home. Plans included designating a day for youth to shadow a tribal leader in the community, developing an antidrug policy on the reservation, building a cultural center that also provides health care services and a safe place for youth to go, starting a fitness center to promote physical health, and sponsoring family days.

As fall approaches, we'll be looking for further developments from tribal youth on their leadership commitments.



Tom Perrelli, Associate Attorney General, and Hilary Tompkins, Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, address youth at the 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit. Photos by Karol Mason and Sarah Pearson.

Spotlight on OVC's Human Trafficking Program and Grantees

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Its victims can be male or female, adults or minors, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals. Traffickers view their victims as property and profit by exploiting them through forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

One form of sex trafficking is commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), which takes place when children under the age of 18 are induced to engage in commercial sex acts, which are defined broadly but most frequently involve acts of prostitution or any sex act on account of which anything of value is exchanged by any person. The exchange need not involve cash, but may consist of food, shelter, or other things of value. Sex trafficking of minors can occur in contexts other than classic street prostitution. For example, sex trafficking may occur in sexualized industries (e.g., stripping/exotic dancing, cantina "bar girl," massage parlors, nightclubs) if commercial sex acts are performed there. Sex trafficking may also occur in the commercial production of child pornography if something of value is exchanged in connection with filmed or photographed sex acts performed by the child.

Labor trafficking of minors may involve, but is not limited to, forced labor or services in agricultural or factory work; construction;

food services; domestic work (e.g., cleaning, childcare, care of older individuals); janitorial work; door-to-door sales; street peddling; begging; hair, nail, or beauty salons; or within sexualized industries.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers funding through its Services for Victims of Human Trafficking grant program to address the problem of human trafficking. For almost 10 years, OVC has administered this program by funding grantees to provide a comprehensive array of services to trafficking victims. OVC also administers funding to provide national scope training or technical assistance on specialized topics. Two of OVC's programs are highlighted below, as is a new anti-human trafficking e-guide.

Domestic Minor Victims of Human Trafficking Demonstration Project

In 2009, OVC awarded funding to organizations in New York City, Chicago, and San Francisco to implement a comprehensive strategy to serve victims of human trafficking who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents under the age of 18. The overall purpose of these 3-year demonstration projects is to identify promising practices in the delivery of services to domestic minors who are victims of sex or labor trafficking.

The service model centers on the concept of intensive case management for every victim enrolled in the program. The goal of intensive

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TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 defines "severe forms of trafficking" as—

- (A) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- (B) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

case management is to ensure the provision of wraparound services to help each child work through the trauma of the trafficking situation and interact with the criminal justice system, child welfare system, shelter systems, and educational and other critical services and to ensure the victim's rights are upheld along the way. Case managers work with Child Protective Services, runaway shelters, homeless shelters, substance abuse treatment centers, and other settings where case management is required. The programs' case managers also assist with the child's integration into a safe family environment and help the victim to understand how his or her safety is affected by contact with the traffickers, including family members or friends who may have been involved in the sex or labor trafficking scheme.

Each site is participating in a national process evaluation supported by the National Institute of Justice that will (1) document the components of program implementation; (2) identify promising practices in serving domestic minor victims; and (3) inform the delivery of current and future efforts by youth-serving agencies, law enforcement, and others that serve trafficking victims.

For a list of the grantees that provide services for domestic minor victims of human trafficking, see the bottom of the [OVC-Funded Grantee Programs To Help Victims of Trafficking Web page](#).

GEMS Survivor-Informed Training and Technical Assistance Project

[Girls Educational and Mentoring Services' \(GEMS\)](#) mission is to empower girls and young women ages 12–24 who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking, helping them to exit the commercial sex industry and develop to their full potential.

OVC provided funding to GEMS, Inc., under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to develop a survivor-informed guide to providing services for commercially sexually exploited and domestically trafficked girls and young women and provide trainings, based on the guide, in five cities across the United States. GEMS staff—many of whom are survivors—drafted the content for the guide, which will provide practical

guidance on the application of key principles for working with this victim population. The final document is intended for publication in 2012 as an online resource on OVC's Web site for victim service organizations, allied professionals, and other interested parties.

Anti-Human Trafficking e-Guide

The [Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Strategy and Operations e-Guide](#) supports the important work of multidisciplinary anti-human trafficking task forces around the country and provides direction and promising practices on the creation, structure, and enhancement of task forces. It also includes links to many tools, trainings, and resources for victim service providers, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors.

Additional Resources

[Resources from the Innocence Lost National Initiative](#), National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

[OVC's Human Trafficking Web page](#)

Defending Childhood: Protect, Heal, Thrive

In September 2010, Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., launched a comprehensive initiative to address the exposure of children to violence, both as victims and as witnesses to crime. The goals of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) initiative, [Defending Childhood](#), are to prevent exposure to violence, mitigate the negative impact of exposure when it does occur, and develop knowledge and spread awareness about this national crisis. DOJ is working to support the initiative's "far and wide" approach in several ways—funding eight demonstration sites, including two tribal sites, across the country; developing a task force that will hold hearings in various sites in the coming year; and developing a media campaign to bring attention to these issues.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is pleased to be a part of this initiative, which brings attention to efforts that have long been supported by OVC funding, such as state and local Victims of Crime Act-funded programs, and creates new opportunities to collaborate with other DOJ bureaus and offices to improve services to children. In support of this initiative, OVC funded [6 action partnership projects and 10 public awareness projects](#) in 2010 that are now developing various trainings, tools, and materials to improve responses to children—nationally through professional membership organizations and locally based on the needs of underserved populations. OVC expects to publish the final products as they are developed. Check [OVC's Web Site](#) often for updates.

DEFENDING CHILDHOOD PROTECT HEAL THRIVE

"Through renewing and refocusing our efforts to serve our Nation's most vulnerable and most distressed children, we can transform the country we love for the better—one child at a time. ... For me, the issue of children's exposure to violence has been both a personal and professional concern for decades. As our Nation's Attorney General, and as a parent, it remains a top priority."

— Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.

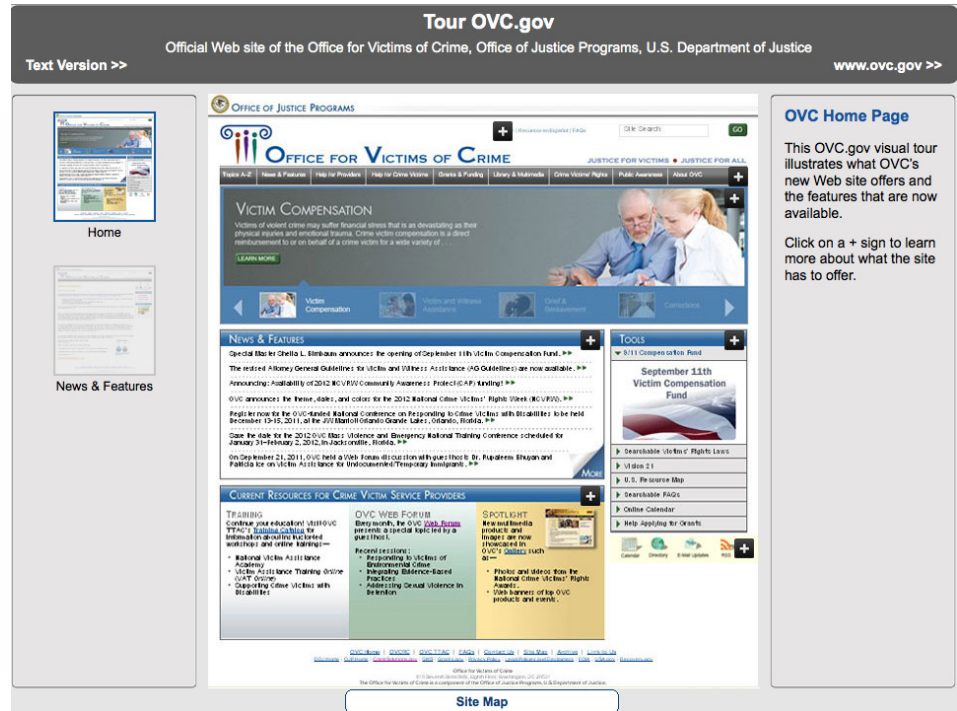
Tour OVC.gov

The updated OVC.gov had its first birthday in October! Revisit OVC.gov today to learn about—

- Funding opportunities.
- Online and instructor-led trainings.
- Technical assistance and conference support.
- Publications and multimedia.
- Skill-building tools.
- Information by topic.

To learn more about what OVC.gov has to offer and how resources are organized, the Web team created [Tour OVC.gov](#), a visual tour that offers visitors the site's home page and one of its subpages to browse and click on to learn more about each aspect of the Web site, including—

- A panoramic photo carousel highlighting key topics.
- A showcase for news and current resources.



- An expandable list of online tools.

Take the tour of OVC.gov to become familiar with the home page, the site's streamlined

navigation, and the News & Features subpage. Check for new additions in the coming months.

Resources

Publications

[A Victim-Centered Approach to Crimes Against American Indian & Alaska Native Children](#) (August 2008)

This guide gives the legal drafting committees of tribal governments an overview of comparative federal, tribal, and state statutory provisions for drafting new or amended tribal child protection laws.

[Click here](#) to browse additional U.S. Department of Justice publications by topic.

Organization

[Helping and Lending Outreach Support \(HALOS\)](#)

HALOS provides resources and special opportunities to abused and neglected children and their caregivers through partnerships with faith-based and other community organizations.

Instructor-Led Training

[Supporting Children Living with Grief and Trauma: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#)

This 2-day interactive training hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is designed

for victim advocates and other professionals who want to develop knowledge and skills to provide appropriate services for children experiencing trauma and grief as a result of violence. Look for this training on OVC's list of instructor-led trainings.

Web Forums

[OVC HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forums](#)

OVC developed this resource as an online tool for victim service providers and allied professionals to share ideas, suggestions, and recommendations concerning promising practices, best practices, and victim issues. Guest hosts lead online discussions

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on various topics. Below is a listing of discussions related to children exposed to violence and victimization. Each topic includes a link to the transcript.

April 2011

[Using Therapy Dogs to Respond to Child Victims](#)

Guest Host: [Andrea Cardona](#), founder of FLA Four Legged Advocates, Inc., and Detective [Curtis Allen](#), Manager with the Tooele County Children's Justice Center's Healing Paws program

January 2011

[Serving Child Victims of Sex Trafficking](#)

Guest Host: [Mollie Ring](#), Director of Anti-Trafficking Programs at the Standing Against Global Exploitation Project

July 2010

[Addressing Child Identity Theft as Financial Exploitation](#)

Guest Host: [Howard Davidson](#), Director of the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, and [Joanne McNabb](#), Chief of the California Office of Privacy Protection

Conferences

[Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities National Training Conference](#)

December 13–15, 2011
Orlando, Florida

[2012 OVC Mass Violence & Emergency National Training Conference](#)

January 31–February 2, 2012
Jacksonville, Florida



STAY TUNED . . .

In upcoming issues of *OVC News & Program Updates* you'll learn about—

- Innovative court approaches when the victim is an older individual.
- Elder justice centers.
- Financial exploitation cases involving elderly victims.
- Turning research into practice in elder abuse cases.

ABOUT THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Office for Victims of Crime is one of six components within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Led by Acting Director Joye E. Frost, OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

Established in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, OVC is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund. Through OVC, the Fund supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing to support them as they rebuild their lives. Millions of dollars are invested annually in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for training, technical assistance, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance service providers' ability to support victims of crime in communities across the Nation.

For more information, visit www.ovc.gov.

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