OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME GRANT PROGRAMS
Victim Services for Children

Each year, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), through its Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance and victim compensation grant programs and its discretionary grant programs, awards funding to states and victim service organizations to address the emotional, advocacy, and financial needs of victims of crime. This topical snapshot details the services provided to child victims[1] of crime by the 6,837 organizations that received VOCA victim assistance funds and the 53 agencies that administered VOCA victim compensation during fiscal year (FY) 2019.

Victim service organizations are vital in providing effective services to child victims and in advocating for the best interests of those children (e.g., in court proceedings or during medical examinations). Service providers and allied professionals can better prepare their organizations to serve young victims by understanding the extent of child victimization and knowing which services child victims typically need.
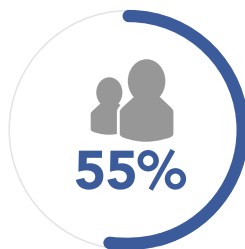
Organizations Serving Child Victims

In FY 2019, 85 percent of VOCA-funded organizations throughout the country provided services to child victims. Overall, VOCA state administering agencies (SAA) allocated 20 percent ($692,135,409) of their VOCA funds to address the needs of child abuse victims—the second-highest priority area among SAAs.

VOCA Victim Service Providers Serving Child Victims

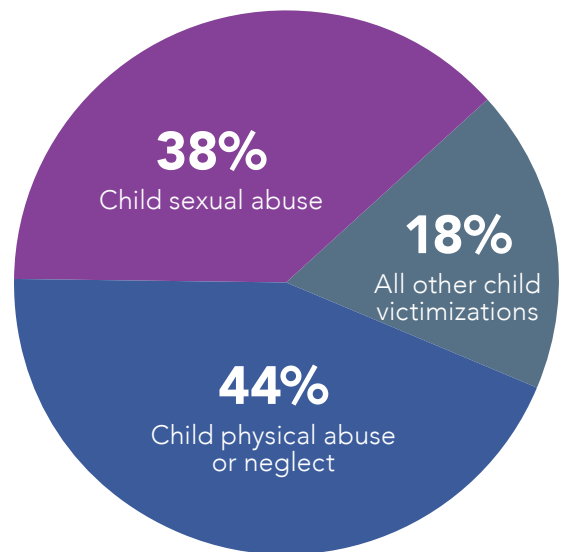**85%**

of VOCA-funded organizations served child victims.

55%

of subawards allocated funds to support child abuse victims.

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[1] The term "child victim" refers to any victim from birth to 17 years old.
[2] Including services provided to adults who were abused as children.
[3] Among VOCA-funded organizations.
[4] Based on the average number of victimizations per quarter.

Child Victimizations

VOCA-funded organizations served more than 7 million new victims in FY 2019. Children represented approximately 1.1 million (16 percent) of the new victims served. Child victimizations[2] include bullying, child abuse and neglect, child sexual assault, child pornography, kidnapping (custodial and noncustodial), and teen dating violence.

Most-Common Types of Child Victimization[3,4]

38% Child sexual abuse

18% All other child victimizations

44% Child physical abuse or neglect

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS
JUSTICE FOR ALL

Office for Victims of Crime
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Personal Advocacy and Accompaniment for Child Victims

In FY 2019, there were 1,463 VOCA-funded organizations that reported serving a majority of child victims. Among those organizations, 95 percent of the new victims served were children.[5]
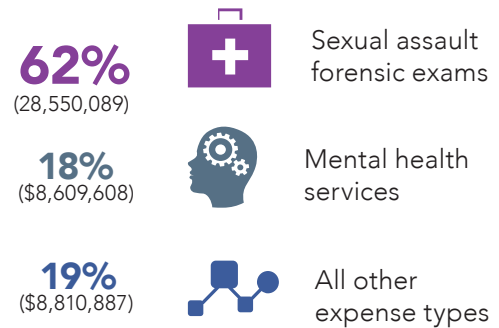
Personal Advocacy and Accompaniment Services for Child Victims

1,003,999

Instances[6] of law enforcement advocacy or accompaniment

345,119

Instances of personal assistance or services, including transportation, interpretation, and child care

121,491

Instances of advocacy or accompaniment to emergency medical care, medical forensic exams, or medical evidence collection
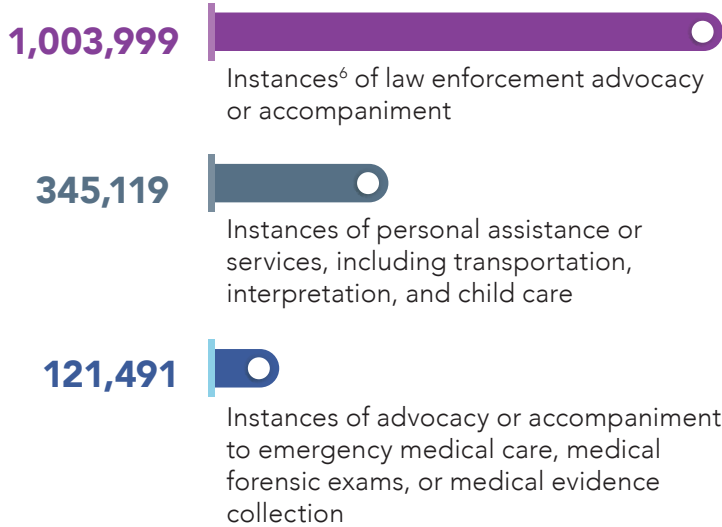
Victim Compensation Claims Paid for Child Sexual Assault Victims

Service providers can help child victims and their families apply for compensation to cover the costs associated with medical and dental care, mental health treatment, and other expenses, such as economic support and relocation assistance. For example, child sexual assault was the most prevalent type of child victimization among VOCA victim assistance organizations. These individuals can submit compensation claims for related expenses, such as mental health, medical/dental, and other expenses.

Expenses Paid for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse by State Victim Compensation Programs in FY 2019

62%
(28,550,089)

Sexual assault forensic exams

18%
($8,609,608)

Mental health services

19%
($8,810,887)

All other expense types

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[5] Among VOCA-funded organizations for which child victims accounted for 75 percent or more of the new victims served.
[6] Victims may have received one or more services multiple times. Each instance reflects a single time that a service was provided.