
2018 - 2020

2020 Biennial Report

The 2020 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of
Grant Programs Under the Violence Against Women Act

United States Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women



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Acknowledgments

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In addition, we wish to express our appreciation to the VAWA grantees who collected and reported the data on which this report is based. Their efforts, and the data and stories they share about responding to domestic/sexual violence, demonstrate the effectiveness of VAWA funding across the country, and highlight where work remains to be done.

Allison Randall
Acting Director
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice

Considerations for the Reader

In response to the reporting requirements authorized by VAWA 2000, the 2020 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Funds under the Violence Against Women Act (2020 Biennial Report) presents aggregate qualitative and quantitative data submitted by grantees of 15 currently and two formerly authorized discretionary grant programs, as well as two formula grant programs administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).ⁱ This report also presents current research on best practices to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, which OVW uses to invest in proven strategies and solutions to further the common goal of ending domestic and sexual violence.

The following sections outline key notes for the reader to consider when reviewing the 2020 Biennial Report.

The Scope and Burden of Violence

- VAWA addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, all of which predominantly victimize women. However, VAWA programs and policies serve all victims of these crimes, including men.
- For brevity, these crimes are referred to throughout this report as “domestic/sexual violence.”
- The term “victim” is used in this report instead of “survivor” to emphasize that violence and abuse are criminal in nature and to account for victims who survive violence and those who do not.

The Effectiveness of VAWA Discretionary Grant Funding

- Throughout this document, the icon shown here is used to highlight established and emerging research on national best practices to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This report incorporates many of the most recent academic and practice-based studies on the activities carried out by OVW-funded grantees under the statutory purpose areas of VAWA, as well as national survey data on incidence



ⁱFor a detailed list of grant programs authorized by VAWA and funded by OVW, see “VAWA Funding and its Effectiveness” in the Introduction of this report.

and prevalence. The studies and data highlighted here are meant to provide broader context for the grantee-reported information presented in the chapters of this report. OVW uses this research to invest in proven strategies and solutions to further the common goal of ending domestic and sexual violence.

- More information on the evidence base for VAWA programs can be found in OVW’s 2018 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs Under VAWA, the National Institute of Justice’s Compendium of Research on Violence Against Women, and many scholarly sources.

Data Presentation

- This report contains data reported by grantees who were funded both prior to and after the 2013 reauthorization of VAWA.
- Prevalence data are presented to the tenth decimal place where possible, and presented as whole integers if unavailable.
 - For example: *In 2014, The National Violent Death Review Reporting System (NVDRS) analyzed data from 18 participating states and found that strangulation, hanging, and suffocation account for 8.6% of female homicides annually.*
- Each chapter presents the most frequently reported data (for example, purpose areas or victim services). For more information about the types of data that grantees provide, refer to the sample forms located on the VAWA MEI website: <https://www.vawamei.org/tools-resources/>.
- Grantee data are often presented as totals across the two-year reporting period.
 - For example: *Grantees received a total of **575,162** hotline calls.*
 - In some cases, a total is not available. Some victims may seek multiple services in a given reporting period, or seek services over multiple reporting periods. In those cases, a calculated average across the four six-month reporting periods is presented.
 - For example: *During each six-month reporting period, on average, Legal Assistance for Victims Program grantees provided services to **28,204** victims.*
- Grantee data are presented as whole integers.
 - For example: **102** *Improving Criminal Justice Response, Rural, and Tribal Governments* grantees used funds for law enforcement activities; these grantees supported a semi-annual average of **45** full-time equivalent (FTE) law enforcement officers.
 - In some cases, due to rounding, “nearly 100%” is used to indicate that percentages are greater than or equal to 99.5%, but less than 100%.

- For example: *Nearly **100%** of child victims who sought services received them during each six-month period.*
- Additionally, due to rounding, percentages may add to more than 100%.
- In other cases, due to rounding, numbers may appear the same while their percentages are different.
 - For example: *Supervised Visitation grant funds supported an average of **5** supervision staff (**20%**) and **5** program coordinators (**18%**) per each six-month reporting period.*
- Some grantees provide services to victims, children, and other dependents. In these program chapters, demographic tables, as opposed to charts, are displayed. Where they appear, these tables do not include the total for race as persons could select multiple racial categories.

Executive Summary

Congress first enacted the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994 to improve the nation's criminal justice response to violence against women, ensure services for victims, and create informed policy on the issue (Violence Against Women Act of 1994).

PROGRAMS AND POLICIES AUTHORIZED BY VAWA AND SUBSEQUENT legislation address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. They promote a coordinated community response to these crimes, meaning an approach in which law enforcement, victim services providers, prosecutors, courts, and others work together in a seamless, systemic way. Reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013, VAWA articulates Congress's commitment to effective strategies for preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence, holding offenders accountable, and ensuring safety, autonomy, and justice for victims.

\$257 million in FY 2016

In Fiscal Year 2016, OVW made 550 discretionary awards totaling just under \$257 million.

\$257 million in FY 2017

In Fiscal Year 2017, OVW made 534 discretionary awards totaling just over \$257 million.

\$269 million in FY 2018

In Fiscal Year 2018, OVW made 535 discretionary awards totaling just over \$269 million.

\$282 million in FY 2019

In Fiscal Year 2019, OVW made 642 discretionary awards totaling over \$282 million.

\$291 million in FY 2020

In Fiscal Year 2020, OVW made 554 discretionary awards totaling nearly \$291 million.

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) administers grants under VAWA and provides technical assistance and training to grant recipients so that funds are used to support evidence-based interventions, when and where possible, and so that grantees can effectively combat these crimes in their communities. As of October 2020, OVW administers 15 statutorily authorized discretionary and four formula programs that provide grants to criminal justice agencies, victim services organizations, and other entities that address domestic and sexual violence.



The United States has a history of migration, and a diverse, changing population. In 2019, 39.9% of the population identified as a member of a racial or ethnic minority group, such as Asian or Asian American; Black or of African descent; Latinx or Hispanic; Native American or American Indian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; multi-racial; along with other religious and ethnic minorities (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). As the United States becomes a more diverse country, researchers and practitioners alike must better understand the impact of violence on different communities, the barriers victims face in seeking services, and best practices for systems to respond effectively and in ways that account for cultural and social differences (Gillum, 2019; Lee, 2019; Murshid & Bowen, 2018; Njie-Carr et al., 2019).



NY • Grantee Perspective

For the last three years, SASP-CS funding has been our primary technical and funding resource while building Violence Intervention Program's Sexual Assault Program. It enabled us to create policies and procedures to integrate sexual assault language and knowledge into our client assessment, counseling, and data collection. It helped us to recruit, identify, and train counselors who share their knowledge and skills with their teammates and improve the overall quality of the services we offer to the sexual assault victims. It gave us access to the network of other social service organizations and the best practices they implement. We increased our network of partners in every reporting period, which led to provision of higher quality wrap-around services. As a result of the tangible client outcomes we produced as a SASP-CS grantee, we have been able to leverage our success to access other sexual assault funds. We have built a solid foundation based on the best practices and lessons-learned and we will continue to utilize our expertise in order to ensure program sustainability and continuous service provision.

**VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM, INC.,
NEW YORK (SASP-CS)**

OVW's grant-making and technical assistance account for the unique ways—and in some cases disproportionate rates at which—these victimizations affect underserved and vulnerable populations, including women of color, women living in poverty, American Indian and Alaska Native women, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals. In developing programs and policies, OVW also considers the particular impact of domestic and sexual violence on men and boys, immigrants, residents of rural areas, the elderly, youth, and college students to ensure that services and justice solutions address their needs.

Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2019, over 1,500 grantees and technical assistance providers reported their VAWA-funded accomplishments and challenges. This Executive Summary is a synopsis of efforts funded through VAWA over this two-year period to help people and communities recover from the destructive and pervasive effects of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The accompanying 2020 Biennial Report to Congress (2020 Biennial Report) includes detailed descriptions of grantees' accomplishments, aggregated data on their work spanning the two years, and scholarly research that supports the effectiveness of grant-funded activities. This summary and the full report include snapshots of the ways grantees are using VAWA funds to help victims and administer justice.

The Scope and Burden of Violence

Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Sex Trafficking, and Stalking in the United States

OVW relies on current national data and empirical research to inform its understanding of the scope and nature of domestic and sexual violence in the United States. National surveys administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) measure the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and some of the adverse outcomes associated with those victimizations. National data and research findings, taken with numerical and narrative information that VAWA-funded grantees report about the victims they serve and the services they provide, paint a picture of a persistent criminal justice and public health problem.


OVW primarily uses two national measures of incidence and prevalence to estimate the extent of domestic and sexual violence. Because one is health-based and the other is criminal justice-based, these surveys generate different data on rates of violence. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is a telephone survey that collects information from people ages 18 and older about their experiences of sexual violence, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. The NISVS makes national- and state-level data available simultaneously and contributes to an understanding of the impact of violence and abuse on distinct populations. Whereas the NISVS takes a public health approach to measuring incidence and prevalence, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) represents a criminal justice perspective. Through household telephone surveys, the NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes, including those reported and not reported to law enforcement, against people ages 12 and older.

Other national data sets are also used to further understand the extent to which sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking affect millions of people in the United States and the considerable impact of violence and abuse on communities. These include crime statistics reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other surveys administered by federal agencies.


OVW uses the findings of studies funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and other federal agencies to further inform its grant-making. These studies describe the dynamics and impact of domestic and sexual violence, including perpetrator behavior and characteristics, physical and mental health outcomes among victims and their children, criminal justice processes and outcomes, and the effectiveness of system- and community-based interventions to prevent and respond to domestic and sexual violence and hold offenders accountable.



About one in four women and one in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an IPV-related impact during their lifetime (Smith et al., 2018).



The rate of rape or sexual assault increased from 1.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2017 to 2.7 in 2018 (Morgan & Oudekerk, 2019). That rate was 1.7 in 2019 (Morgan & Truman, 2020).



OH • Grantee Perspective



Transitional Housing program funding allows us to provide safe housing, other supplemental living necessities, and supportive services that allow survivors to stabilize and begin to rebuild their lives free from abuse. Often it may take six months or more of residency in our TH program for survivors to begin to engage in any type of change-oriented conversation or actions to increase their chances of long-term stability and permanent housing. It is the trauma-informed, client-focused setup of the program and the adequate housing timeframe that allow residents the opportunity to progress out of the crisis stage, begin to rebuild their lives, and become empowered to make their own choices for their future.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT, INC.,
OHIO (TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM)**



Domestic violence affects millions of people in the United States every year. The NISVS found that an estimated one in 18 (5.5%) women and one in 20 (5.2%) men in the U.S. experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey (Smith et al., 2018). As with other forms of violence, risk markers for domestic violence vary depending on individual, community, and structural contexts. For instance, research continues to show that not only are there different risk indicators for heterosexual and same-sex intimate partner violence, but markers of risk for men and women in same-sex relationships also differ from one another (Kimmes et al., 2019).



More than one in four women and nearly one in seven men who were victims of violence were less than 18 years old at the time of their first violent encounter. About 71.1% of female victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced dating violence before the age of 25 (Smith et al., 2018). Emerging research suggests that many youth, regardless of gender, both experience and perpetrate some form of dating violence (Karlsson et al., 2016; National Institute of Justice, 2017; Ybarra et al., 2016). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth experience teen dating violence at rates higher than their heterosexual peers, both by prevalence and frequency (Olsen et al., 2017).



Of the population of the United States, well over one third (43.6%) of women and nearly a quarter (24.8%) of men report experiencing some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes (Smith et al., 2018). The majority of sexual assaults are perpetrated by known assailants. The NCVS found that 34% of female victims of rape or sexual violence were assaulted by an intimate partner, 6% by a relative or family member, and 38% by a friend or acquaintance. Twenty-two percent were victimized by a stranger, a figure that remained steady between 1994 and 2010 (Planty et al., 2013).

OVW launched its Research and Evaluation Initiative in 2016 to study effective approaches to combatting domestic and sexual violence. The purpose of the Initiative is to generate more knowledge about strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable, thereby equipping communities with information to better align their work with practices that are known to be effective, while also increasing grantees' ability to generate empirical knowledge on the efficacy of their work.

Domestic Violence

Under VAWA, “domestic violence” includes “any felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction” (Violence Against Women Act of 1994). As with sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, domestic violence affects all segments of society regardless of socioeconomic status, age, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity.

Dating Violence

“Dating violence,” which includes many elements of domestic violence, refers to violence committed by a person who is or has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. Dating violence often begins at a young age and involves teenagers or young adults.

Sexual Assault

VAWA, as amended by VAWA 2013, defines the term “sexual assault” as “any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent” (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013). Broadly, sexual assault may include rape, attempted sexual assault, and threats of sexual violence.

Stalking

VAWA, as amended by VAWA 2005, defines “stalking” as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is a form of sexual violence that involves the use of physical violence, threats, force, fraud, or other types of coercion to force victims to engage in commercial sex acts. Traffickers frequently target vulnerable individuals, and then use these forms of power and control to induce victims to perform such acts and stay involved in the sex industry (Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2017; Polaris Project, 2013, 2017).


Effectiveness of VAWA Discretionary Grant Funding

VAWA grants are critical to addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. They funded an average of **2,816** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each six-month reporting period outlined in this report, including attorneys for victims, victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), program coordinators, and administrative staff. VAWA provides funding for training, materials, equipment and supplies, and other necessities for responding effectively inside and outside the justice system. Funding is used in some places to enhance existing programs and services, while in other places it is used to fill gaps in services or establish programs where none existed. To the extent possible, OVW prioritizes funding for programs and practices that research has shown to work.


Grants are awarded under discretionary programs according to the eligibility criteria defined in each program's statute. Grants are typically awarded for a two- or three-year period, and grantees can usually apply for continuation funding. In addition to administering formula and discretionary programs authorized by VAWA, OVW supports several special initiatives designed to address emerging issues in the field (e.g., the need for more comprehensive services for sexual assault victims) and to enhance victim services and offender accountability through promising and/or evidence-based approaches (e.g., domestic violence homicide reduction). The next sections summarize the types and quantities of activities funded by VAWA during the two-year period covered by this report.

Criminal Justice Response

Over the past 25 years, VAWA funding has transformed how criminal justice systems in many communities respond to domestic and sexual violence. Some of the innovations funded by VAWA are law enforcement collaboration with victim services providers and healthcare professionals, use of evidence-based lethality assessments to curb domestic violence-related homicides, improved medical forensic examinations for sexual assault victims, investigation and prosecution policies and practices that focus on the offender and account for the effects of trauma on victims, specialized law enforcement and prosecution units, specialized courts and dockets, enhanced offender monitoring strategies, and improved training opportunities for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges.



Though stalking is underreported, nearly one in six (16%) women and one in 17 (5.8%) men in the United States have experienced stalking at some point in their lives (Smith et al., 2018). The general public may be most familiar with stalking by strangers, but only about one in seven (14.7%) women and one in six (16.6%) men are stalked by strangers. The majority of victims are stalked by individuals they know. Six in 10 (61.5%) female victims and four in 10 male victims (42.8%) are stalked by a current or former intimate partner. Women are stalked by their intimate partners at rates far greater than men; approximately one in 11 (9.2%) women and one in 40 (2.5%) men are stalked by intimate partners during their lives (Black et al., 2011). Women who are divorced or separated experience the highest rates of stalking (Baum et al., 2009). In addition, a recent analysis of NISVS data showed that bisexual women experience more stalking than heterosexual and lesbian women and gay men experience more stalking than heterosexual men (Chen et al., 2019).



Overall, research on the prevalence of sex trafficking victimization and commercial sexual exploitation remains limited, and obtaining reliable estimates that provide information about victims' experiences has proven complicated (McGough, 2013; Raphael, 2017). Victims are often invisible to society, as traffickers regularly confine, hide, and relocate them. Moreover, disclosure of their victimization may result in severe repercussions from traffickers and/or criminalization by law enforcement. As such, many victims are not accounted for in criminal justice databases and statistics. Legislative and reform efforts aim to shift attitudes toward and treatment of trafficking victims so that they may be more likely to report their victimization, receive support, and achieve justice (Barnert et al., 2016; Yu et al., 2018).



In many communities, fatality review teams have been established to identify deaths caused by domestic violence and to examine any systemic interventions, in the hopes of improving the systemic response. For more information, visit: <http://ndvfri.org/>



In 2018 OVW led a joint effort between the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to identify best practices for the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence. This effort culminated in a report to Congress that summarizes themes from listening sessions OVW held with leaders in law enforcement, prosecution, healthcare, forensic science, and other fields, as well as with survivors. The report also describes initiatives underway within and beyond the Department of Justice to support communities in caring for victims and properly handling evidence. For more information, visit: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1100476/download>



In some jurisdictions, “high-risk response teams,” often composed of law enforcement, victim advocates, court personnel, human service providers, and attorneys representing victims, deliberate with victims exposed to high risk of recurring, severe violence about possible heightened deterrence strategies to avert repeat violence. Team representatives may make home visits, accompany victims to legal proceedings, advocate for enhanced protective services, or support victims attempting to access critical counseling or economic resources. For more information, visit: <http://www.dvhr.org/>



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

T-SASP funding has allowed us to have a safe space for victims of sexual assault to come and get help. Prior to our Tribe receiving this grant, the tribal members of our community only had the Dearing House or the State-run shelter to report to, other than the hospital. Many of the tribal people in our area would rather not go to any of those places due to poor treatment and racism. This grant has also given us the means to host our talking circles, the funding to do our cultural activities, as well as the materials to hand out at the health fairs, community days, and powwows.

PONCA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA (T-SASP)

In addition, grantees’ reports demonstrate that VAWA-funded criminal justice solutions are evolving alongside the changing dynamics of violence and victimization, and are being used to address domestic and sexual violence as they intersect with challenges such as cyberstalking and with advances in forensic science. In the two years covered by this report, VAWA-funded grantees supported under the Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Program reported the following accomplishments:

- Law enforcement made **77,892** arrests, including **7,872** for protection order violations;
- Prosecutors disposed of **46,466** cases, of which **55%** resulted in convictions;
- Courts disposed of **1,390** criminal cases, of which **47%** resulted in convictions;
- Courts engaged in judicial monitoring of a semi-annual average of **343** offenders for compliance with court-ordered conditions at **12,826** individual review hearings;
- Probation agencies supervised a semi-annual average of **4,381** offenders and conducted a total of **176,750** monitoring activities; and
- Supervised offenders who did not attend mandatory batterer intervention, engaged in new criminal behavior, or violated protection orders or another condition of probation had their probation revoked more than half (**66%**) of the time.

Services for Victims and Families

VAWA grant funds are used to provide services to victims and their families as they cope with the immediate and often long-term impact of violence in their lives. These services help victims stay safe and establish independence after leaving an abusive relationship, and they connect victims with resources to support their recovery and, if they choose, pursuit of justice. Direct services funded through VAWA include:

- Crisis intervention to help victims deal with their immediate needs after being victimized, find resources, and plan for safety in the aftermath of violence;
- Legal advocacy and representation in civil and criminal matters, which help victims navigate the legal system and obtain favorable outcomes in their cases;
- Assistance with obtaining orders of protection, which are one of the most frequently sought legal remedies for domestic violence victims and have been shown to reduce further violence and improve quality of life for victims;

- Shelter and transitional housing for victims fleeing abuse, with accompanying services to help them find employment and permanent housing for themselves and their children; and
- Supervised visitation and monitored custody exchanges, which account for the elevated risk of violence and homicide faced by victims and their children during the post-separation period.

Spotlight on services: Over 1,000,000 services provided

360,667

**VICTIM
ADVOCACY**
services provided

172,770

**CRISIS
INTERVENTION**
services provided



1,415,115

HOUSING BED NIGHTS

114,038

**CIVIL LEGAL
ADVOCACY**
services provided

95,570

**CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
ADVOCACY**
services provided



490,601

HOTLINE CALLS

MT • Grantee Perspective



The program funding has allowed many survivors of domestic violence to have access to holistic civil legal services, which they would not have had prior to funding. Prior to funding, survivors with limited financial resources had to rely on the generosity of the local bar to provide civil legal services. Such legal services, when available, often lacked competent, client-centered representation in cases of domestic and sexual violence. By having access to attorneys who are educated and experienced in the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence, the program has provided education to the judiciary and court personnel that would not be available without grant funding. The attorney's use of expert witnesses in court proceedings provides education to the judiciary. The judiciary is then able to apply their newfound knowledge in the case at hand, as well as broadly in future cases involving domestic and sexual violence which come before the judiciary.

**SANDERS COUNTY COALITION FOR FAMILIES,
MONTANA (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**

Coordinated Community Response

VAWA-funded grantees are required to work in meaningful ways with community partners to ensure an effective, coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic and sexual violence. VAWA-funded grantees provide information on their partnerships and collaborative efforts with their applications for funding and over the course of their projects.

Multidisciplinary teams shape local approaches for preventing and responding to violence and abuse, provide cross-disciplinary training so each member understands the others' roles, facilitate referrals, and assess gaps and weaknesses in the community's response. An example of a CCR often funded by VAWA is the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). SARTs are designed to meet victims' needs, improve investigation and prosecution, and foster accountability for each system involved. Another example is domestic violence fatality review teams, which determine what led to a domestic violence homicide and aim to correct system deficiencies identified in the process. Grantees report that collaboration with community partners improves the quality of services and the effectiveness of the justice system response.

When advocates are present in proceedings following a rape, victims fare better in both the short- and long-term, experiencing less psychological distress, physical health struggles, sexual risk-taking behaviors, self-blame, guilt, depression, and barriers to continued engagement in legal matters (Douglas, 2017; Patterson & Campbell, 2010; Patterson & Tringali, 2015; Xie & Lynch, 2016).



Research shows that strategies to combat domestic/sexual violence are most effective when combined and integrated across disciplines (Beldin et al., 2015; DePrince et al., 2012; Family Justice Center Alliance, 2013; Gagnon et al., 2018; Greeson et al., 2016; Robinson & Payton, 2016; Rosen et al., 2018; Shepard & Pence, 1999).





Recognizing that an effective response must account for the unique needs of marginalized and culturally specific populations, some grantees have refocused their collaborative efforts on involving a more diverse range of community stakeholders in impactful ways. For instance, see the National Latin@ Network's Community-Centered Evidence-Based Practice Approach at <https://nationallatinonetwork.org/exploring-community-evidence/what-is-community-centered-ebp>



An ongoing longitudinal study by leaders in the field of IPV research is testing the outcomes of a web-based, culturally specific danger assessment tool and safety planning interventions designed for immigrant, refugee, and indigenous women. This research aims to provide evidence that will inform practice in order to decrease risk and improve health and well-being outcomes for underserved survivors. (Sabri et al., 2019).



NC • Grantee Perspective

LAV grant funding has allowed victims to maintain legal actions for child custody and defend retaliatory actions by the perpetrator of domestic violence. This is an ongoing need for victims. Dedicated responses by LAV-funded attorneys can turn the insidious tide of this frequently utilized control technique, which involves using child custody to keep survivors in abusive relationships. The victims' ability to access quality, holistic legal support is beneficial for their ability to maintain their safety. Without LAV funding, most of these victims would not be able to receive legal services. Escaping abusive relationships without legal representation puts many at a higher safety risk. This risk is mitigated due to LAV grant attorneys and their legal services. Without assistance from LAV attorneys and advocates, victims of underserved populations such as immigrant, Latino, and limited English proficiency speakers would be unable to access and receive legal services in their community.

30TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLIANCE, NORTH CAROLINA (LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAM)



VAWA-funded grantees **collaborate across disciplines to address systems-level issues** related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking:

In the two years covered by this report, VAWA-funded grantees met regularly with:

-  **LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS**
-  **SEXUAL ASSAULT ORGANIZATIONS/PROGRAMS**
-  **PROSECUTION OFFICES**
-  **HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS**
-  **SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**
-  **COURTS**
-  **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS/PROGRAMS**

Services for and Response to Underserved and Other Vulnerable Populations

Victims' experiences and a growing body of research confirm that certain populations are victimized by violence and abuse—and report it—at different rates and may have harmful experiences with the criminal justice system when they report due to the presence of bias and lack of understanding. The ways that victims experience, resist, and survive violence can be shaped by a host of cultural, social, and economic factors.

Thus, funds authorized by Congress through VAWA are used to address unique challenges that people from underserved and marginalized populations face when they are victimized. Grantees are encouraged—and in many cases are required—to conduct culturally and linguistically specific outreach to these populations and to develop policies, practices, and resources that ensure these victims can access services and that their abusers are held accountable.


During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees served:ⁱ

- **9,601** victims who identified as American Indians or Alaska Natives;
- **4,222** victims who identified as Asian;
- **15,863** victims who identified as Black or African American;
- **20,147** victims who identified as Latinx or Hispanic;
- **562** victims who identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander;
- **4,722** victims who were children or youth (infancy to age 17);ⁱⁱ


ⁱVictims were reported once in each race/ethnicity category that applied.

ⁱⁱ These numbers do not include children and youth indirectly exposed to violence who were served (797) by Consolidated Youth grantees.


- **5,056** victims who were 60 or older;
- **8,927** victims with disabilities;
- **14,047** victims with limited English proficiency;
- **13,703** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers;
- **28,161** victims who lived in rural areas;
- **8,888** victims who identified as male; and
- **636** victims who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ),ⁱⁱⁱ and
- **231** victims who are Deaf or hard of hearing.^{iv}



A recent study confirmed prior research on the positive impacts of culturally specific practices and found that trauma-informed and culturally specific support provided at Latina-serving community-based organizations contributed to Latina survivors' well-being and self-confidence. (Serrata et al., 2020).




VAWA-funded grantees offer training and technical assistance for those responding to the needs of victims, such as best practices in organizational structures, developing supportive work environments, managing secondary trauma (i.e., the trauma suffered when one hears about others' firsthand experiences of trauma), reducing compassion fatigue (i.e., reduced feelings of compassion toward those who have suffered, developing as a result of frequent exposure to other people's trauma), and improving self-care. Advocates who are well-trained are better able to support victims seeking to become and remain free from violence (Choi, 2016; Frey et al., 2017; Merchant & Whiting, 2015).



Research shows that health care providers who receive training on screening for and identifying victims of domestic violence improve their practice, professional attitudes, and comfort in asking about violence in the patient's home (Alvarez et al., 2017; Ambuel et al., 2013; Zachor et al., 2018).

NY • Grantee Perspective



Live interpreters must be provided in emergency departments for substantive communication with D/deaf survivors. Disability Program funding has allowed us to target this critical service gap. It has allowed us to recruit a small cohort of experienced interpreters, provide them with training on trauma-informed interpreting for survivors, and establish an on-call system to ensure the availability of qualified interpreters when a D/deaf survivor presents to a partnering emergency department. Disability Program funding allows us to compensate this cohort of specially-trained interpreters, including both hearing ASL interpreters and Deaf interpreters, in order to incentivize their on-call participation. While this is a small pilot in a single participating hospital, we believe it is an important step towards achieving equal access for D/deaf survivors.

**BARRIER FREE LIVING, NEW YORK
(DISABILITY PROGRAM)**

Technical Assistance

OVW funds technical assistance providers (TA providers) to offer VAWA-funded grantees training, site visits, tools and resources, and consultation with experts to help them effectively respond to domestic and sexual violence. Technical assistance is designed to enhance and support grantees' implementation of their VAWA-funded projects and thereby maximize the impact of grant funding. In addition, technical assistance supports grantees in building organizational and community capacity to address domestic and sexual violence with a goal of creating sustainable improvements that last beyond the grant period.

In shaping its Technical Assistance Initiative, OVW solicits input from grantees to ensure that training and other technical assistance is responsive to their needs, promotes good practices, and helps them implement their OVW-funded grant activities most effectively.

The following technical assistance activities were reported by TA providers during the two-year reporting period:

- Training events: **3,735**
- People trained with TA funds: **242,020**

Training for Professionals

Victims have contact with a range of professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, health and mental health professionals, and others. Victims' experiences with these people can have a profound effect on their recovery and their willingness to assist the criminal justice system. Whether it is a police officer responding to a call, a nurse conducting a sexual assault medical forensic exam, or a judge hearing a case that involves a history of domestic violence, it is critical that each person responds appropriately,

ⁱⁱⁱ All grant programs serve victims of domestic/sexual violence who identify as LGBTQ. As of this report, data on the number of victims who identify as LGBTQ is only available from Consolidated Youth, Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Jurisdiction grantees.

^{iv} All grant programs serve victims of domestic/sexual violence who identify as Deaf or hard of hearing. As of this report, data on the number of victims who identify as Deaf or hard of hearing is only available from Consolidated Youth, Culturally Specific Services, Disability, Justice for Families, Rural, SASP-Culturally Specific, Tribal Jurisdiction, Tribal SASP, and Underserved grantees.



A recent study of nearly 1,000 police from a large urban police department in the U.S. showed that law enforcement personnel who participated in trauma-informed training reported misperceptions about trauma at significantly lower rates than the pre-training sample. These findings indicate that training on the impacts of trauma has the potential to improve outcomes pertaining to first contact with SA/DV victims, case investigations, holding offenders accountable, and public safety (Franklin et al., 2019).



Recent research shows that violence prevention education, such as bystander intervention programs, can be effective in changing behavior and reducing dating violence (Coker et al., 2017, 2016; DeGue et al., 2014; Jouriles et al., 2018; Taylor et al., 2013; Zapp et al., 2018). In some cases, these results have been shown to last several years after program delivery (Coker et al., 2017; Foshee et al., 2004).



MA • Grantee Perspective

It is remarkable to consider the impact funding has made on the community. Over the course of the last four years, the YWCA and grant partners have crafted and tailored a multi-faceted response to the violence that youth and young adults experience in the Springfield community. Over the last four years, a Youth Advisory Board who provides peer leadership training to youth and young adults was molded and shaped to become a powerful force of prevention work. What started as a non-existent program is now a thriving youth leadership initiative. Additionally, the grant has allowed for over 800 youth and young adults across the city of Springfield to participate in Safe Dates group and other prevention programming initiatives. Prior to grant funding, there was not a specific group that oversaw prevention efforts in the city of Springfield. With grant funding, we have engaged young people in education on sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking, as well as how to build healthy relationships.

**YWCA OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
(CONSOLIDATED YOUTH PROGRAM)**

makes informed decisions, and prevents further harm. Ongoing training plays a crucial role in improving professionals' capacity to respond to violence. The majority of OVW-funded programs support training for professionals who work directly with victims.

VAWA-funded grantees **provide trainings to professionals** to **improve their response to victims.**

In the two years covered by this report, VAWA-funded grantees trained:

645,614
PROFESSIONALS

across **multiple systems:**



**GOVERNMENT
BASED**



**COMMUNITY
BASED**



**CRIMINAL JUSTICE
RESPONSE**



**SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS**

Community Education, Awareness, and Prevention

Community education, awareness-raising, and prevention activities funded by VAWA are designed to reduce violence through changing attitudes and beliefs that legitimize or promote domestic and sexual violence. Some promising approaches to this work involve engaging men and boys in advocacy and outreach, promoting bystander intervention, running social media campaigns, and organizing educational and mentoring programs.

More than 1.2 million individuals participated in VAWA-funded education, awareness, or prevention activities related to sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or child or elder abuse. Typically, these events and activities provided information about the nature and dynamics of these victimizations, available resources, and strategies for prevention. Of these individuals:

- **163,558** were elementary, middle, or high school students;
- **371,554** were college students; and
- **522,720** were other youth, professionals, and community members.

VAWA-funded grantees **provide education, awareness, and prevention activities to communities.**

In the two years covered by this report, **VAWA-funded grantees provided information to:**

1,057,832
INDIVIDUALS

on **topics** such as:

the **NATURE AND DYNAMICS** of **VICTIMIZATIONS**

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION

Remaining Areas of Need

VAWA-funded grantees are asked to identify in their reports what needs remain unmet. Their responses help OVV understand the emerging and under-resourced issues faced by victims and the systems designed to serve them, and barriers to holding offenders accountable. Grantees identified the following critical areas of unmet need during the two-year reporting period:

- Sustaining core services for victims and families, particularly safe transitional and long-term affordable housing;
- Providing increased community education and outreach to combat misconceptions and negative stereotypes of victims and encourage reporting of crimes;
- Addressing victims' basic needs, including food, shelter, transportation, mental health services, and child care;
- Making available comprehensive victim services to address substance abuse and mental health needs that co-occur with, or result from, victimization;
- Providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services, outreach, and education, especially interpretation and translation services to underserved communities;
- Enhancing coordination and collaboration between mainstream service providers and domestic violence/sexual assault organizations;
- Building relationships between tribal communities and federal, state, and local law enforcement, courts, and prosecutors;
- Providing civil legal representation for low-income victims in cases involving divorce, custody, and visitation;

CA • Grantee Perspective



Asian Women's Shelter cannot stress enough the importance of culturally responsive services for survivors, especially language access. In the San Francisco Bay Area, we have received calls from limited English proficiency survivors who stayed at other domestic violence shelters and expressed that they have not fully received or understood the available services due to language/cultural barriers, or that their time was up at those shelters and they would need to leave soon without having any plans. At times, survivors would have to stay at one shelter after another, while afraid of becoming homeless and postponing their healing and stability from the abuse. Language access is a civil right as well as a trauma-informed practice for survivors of domestic violence, which we have hoped mainstream domestic violence shelters could improve upon.

ASIAN WOMEN'S SHELTER, CALIFORNIA
(**CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM**)

MN • Grantee Perspective



While domestic violence impacts people of all socioeconomic levels, it disproportionately affects women with incomes below the poverty level. The need for safe, affordable housing for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking is without question. And yet, finding safe, affordable housing continues to be one of the greatest obstacles facing women who are attempting to leave abusive relationships and often forces them to choose between living in unsafe, substandard conditions or returning to their abusers. In addition, victims often face multiple barriers that make securing safe, affordable housing significantly more challenging: lack of access to financial resources, unemployment/ underemployment, lack of social/family supports, poor credit and rental history, criminal records, mental health issues, and issues related to their abusive partners' behavior that lead to eviction or unlawful detainers. For low-income families in Minnesota, the demand for affordable housing far exceeds supply and for the few that do find housing, the majority of their income is paid towards rent which can result in an increased risk of future homelessness. While there are government programs that can assist low-income households with their housing cost, there is currently a five to seven year wait for applicants who are on the list.

ALEXANDRA HOUSE, INC., MINNESOTA
(**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM**)



NY • Grantee Perspective

Another significant barrier for safety and offender accountability is an inconsistent judicial response to domestic violence. For example, orders of protection are not consistently granted or written to include requested provisions as allowable under the law. Bail conditions are not uniformly set, and some judges appear not to know the full range of bail options, including remand under certain conditions. Additional training for judges, clerks, and magistrates across the County would improve these responses. For foreign-born survivors of domestic violence, access to DV services in their native language would help to ensure survivors can remain safe and stable. Yet, access to professional interpreters with the specific expertise needed to support survivors is often expensive, especially when the language is unique and/or the interpreter is needed on an emergency basis. Funding for appropriate language access is an area of ongoing need.

**ERIE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,
NEW YORK (ICJR PROGRAM)**

- Increasing organizational capacity to serve a greater number of victims and to provide more comprehensive services for their clients;
- Mitigating barriers to consistent and comprehensive services for victims in rural areas and tribal communities, such as challenges to maintaining confidentiality and lack of transportation;
- Providing sufficient trauma-informed and evidence-based training to victim service providers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and court personnel;
- Institutionalizing policies toward sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking on college campuses to ensure a uniform response;
- Providing services and support to immigrant and refugee victims and their communities, and improving training for service providers on the particular needs of these populations;
- Increasing access to qualified interpreters and translation services for victims with limited English proficiency (LEP) and other underserved victims;
- Ensuring that services are accessible to people with disabilities and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, and addressing the specific needs of elder victims; and
- Improving offender accountability through monitoring, batterer intervention programs (BIP), and stricter enforcement of protective orders.

The 2020 Biennial Report includes aggregated data on activities funded by VAWA during the two-year reporting period, established and emerging research on national best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence, along with snapshots of the impact of VAWA on individual communities, organizations, and victims. The report reflects two years of collective efforts to respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking across the nation. It describes significant accomplishments that would not have been possible in the absence of VAWA funding, and highlights where much work remains to be done.

Introduction

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) marked an historic step forward in our nation's response to crimes of violence that predominantly victimize women (Violence Against Women Act of 1994).

VAWA CHANGED THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE, CREATING POWERFUL criminal and civil enforcement tools for holding perpetrators accountable and for offering victims access to safety and justice. In addition, VAWA recognized that, given the strong social barriers that keep these crimes hidden, public support for specialized outreach, services, training, and enforcement is critically important to achieving the vision of a society that does not tolerate domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

To this end, VAWA established formula and discretionary grant programs to help communities respond to these crimes and better address the needs of victims. The Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) awards grants to support states, territories, tribal communities, local government, educational institutions, and nonprofit victim services agencies across the country in developing innovative and effective strategies to respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

IL • Grantee Perspective



The Culturally Specific Services Program has enabled us to provide patients with wrap-around case management services through the funding of our case managers. These services are the backbone of our programming and the case managers are the center's passion and greatest strength. They provide exemplary direct service to survivors, are survivor-centered, trauma-informed, queer-affirming, and committed to improving outcomes for survivors and community. They center harm reduction and anti-oppression frameworks in the delivery of services. In addition to the day-to-day work of the case managers, the funding has also allowed for drop-in programming for queer young people who are survivors. There is a lack of services in the Chicagoland area specifically designed for LGBTQ survivors. Additionally, the drop-in programming acts as prevention education for young people on community violence, consent, and healthy sexual relationships. The funding has also encouraged ongoing conversations, partnerships, and trainings with other agencies that provide care for survivors.

**HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER, ILLINOIS
(UNDERSERVED PROGRAM)**

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA 2000) strengthened the original law by improving protections for battered immigrants, survivors of sexual assault, and victims of dating violence. VAWA 2000 also reauthorized key grant programs created by VAWA and subsequent legislation. It established programs to provide legal assistance for victims, and to address elder abuse, stalking, violence against individuals with disabilities, and safe visitation and exchange of children in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking (Violence Against Women Act of 2000).

The National Congress of American Indians serves as a resource center for tribes implementing and preparing to implement special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction under VAWA. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncai.org/tribal-vaawa/get-started/itwg>



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Without OWW funding, there would not be a Tribal Domestic and Sexual Assault Coalition. If the Wabanaki Women's Coalition, Inc. (WWC) did not exist, there would not be a technical assistance provider to respond daily to the many programmatic and fiscal questions from the member advocacy centers. There would not be culturally specific training for advocates or a Tribal voice at the many statewide meetings where decisions are made that impact the Tribes. With the funding of the WWC, Tribal advocates receive the necessary training required by state law to provide advocacy services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Funding also enables WWC to coordinate awareness activities in all of Maine's Tribal communities and bring training to each community to meet their needs in responding to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and trafficking. WWC is able to provide opportunities for survivors from all the Tribal communities to attend a weekend healing retreat. This funding has changed the landscape of the response that native women can expect to receive in Tribal communities throughout Maine.

WABANAKI WOMEN'S COALITION, INC.
(TRIBAL COALITIONS PROGRAM)



ME • Grantee Perspective

Spruce Run-Womancare Alliance has been the recipient of transitional housing program funds for many years. This support has dramatically enhanced the organization's capacity to serve victims of domestic/sexual violence as they seek to establish and maintain safe housing. Financial assistance at critical junctures offers the most dramatic improvement to the lives of the victims we serve. Perhaps the second greatest benefit has been the depth of support and advocacy they have available to them as they transition away from abusers and into sustainable, autonomous, living situations. Whether crisis intervention and support in an apartment, personal accompaniment at a court hearing, or advocacy for a child's needs at a local school, compassionate and trained advocates are available to transitional housing residents. This accessibility is invaluable.

PARTNERS FOR PEACE, MAINE
(TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM)

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005) improved and expanded legal tools and grant programs, reauthorized programs created by the original VAWA and subsequent legislation, and strengthened federal criminal laws and legal protections for immigrants (Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005). The Act also created new programs, with an increased emphasis on violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, as well as meeting the needs of sexual assault and youth victims.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013) made important changes and improvements to OWW-administered grant programs. It is the first federal funding statute to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation. VAWA 2013 included an historic provision to address a jurisdictional loophole by recognizing tribes' inherent authority to exercise "special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction" (SDVCJ) over both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners, or who violate certain protection orders in Indian Country. In addition, VAWA 2013 amended the federal assault statute to empower federal prosecutors to seek significant penalties for felony-level violence against a spouse, intimate partner, or dating partner committed in Indian Country, including a 10-year offense for assaulting an intimate partner by strangling or suffocating. VAWA 2013 also clarifies that VAWA funds can be used to assist victims with issues related to severe forms of trafficking co-occurring with domestic/sexual violence, and amended several grant program statutes to authorize the use of funds to serve victims of sex trafficking (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013).

To document the effect of VAWA funding, VAWA 2000 required the U.S. Attorney General to report biennially on the effectiveness of activities carried out with VAWA grant funds (Violence Against Women Act of 2000). Specifically, the statute provides:

Reports by Grant Recipients. The Attorney General or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall require grantees under any program authorized or reauthorized by this division (i.e., VAWA 2000) to report on the effectiveness of the activities accomplished with amounts made available to carry out that program, including number of persons served, if applicable; number of persons seeking services who could not be served; and such other information as the Attorney General or Secretary may prescribe.

Reports to Congress. The Attorney General or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall report biennially to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the authorized grant programs.

In response to these reporting requirements, OWW entered into a cooperative agreement with the Muskie School of Public Service, Catherine E. Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy (Muskie School) at the University of Southern Maine to develop and implement state-of-the-art reporting tools to capture data that demonstrate the effectiveness of VAWA grant funding. For more information see <https://www.vawamei.org/>.

VAWA Funding and its Effectiveness

VAWA funding has been critical in addressing domestic and sexual violence. As of October 2020, OVW administers 19 statutorily authorized grant programs, 15 of which are discretionary. Additionally, OVW's portfolio includes active awards that were made under previously authorized programs, as well as a comprehensive technical assistance provider initiative (Technical Assistance Program) and several special initiatives. VAWA funds four formula grant programs—STOP Violence Against Women (STOP Program), Sexual Assault Services (SASP Program), Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions (State Coalitions Program), and Grants to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Tribal Coalitions Program (Tribal Coalitions Program).

Discretionary grant funds are awarded to a variety of recipients. Eligibility for each program is defined by the program's federal statute. States, tribal governments, city and county governments, government agencies, universities, nonprofit organizations that serve victims, and others may apply for discretionary VAWA funding. Grants are typically awarded for a period of two or three years depending on the specific program, and grantees under most programs may apply for continuation funding.

During the July 1, 2017-June 30, 2019 reporting period, OVW administered 17 current and formerly authorized discretionary grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and subsequent legislation. These grant programs are designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic/sexual violence and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.

Discretionary Grant Programs

- Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program (**Abuse in Later Life or ALL Program**)
- Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (**Campus Program**)
- Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies (**Consolidated Youth or CY Program**)
- Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (**Culturally Specific Services Program or CSSP**)
- Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Grant Program (**Disability Program**)
- Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (**Justice for Families or JFF Program**)
- Improving Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (**ICJR Program**)

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Prior to T-SASP funding, only two counties within our eleven county jurisdiction provided specific services to children impacted by sexual assault. As a result of T-SASP funding, the Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) has hired a child advocate and implemented services specific to children and their families/caregivers who have been impacted by sexual violence. Child advocacy has made a profound difference for families coping with child sexual assault. Prior to T-SASP funds, many families were left to navigate the criminal process alone. With the support and advocacy provided by the child advocate, child survivors and their families/caregivers have the support and guidance to help alleviate some of the stress of the civil and criminal processes. Families who have accessed services through FVPP for child advocacy have disclosed that they do not know what they would have done without the support, guidance, and advocacy services from the program. As a result of these services, families have learned healthy and appropriate coping skills, how to thrive after the trauma, and ways to provide positive support to the survivor. T-SASP funding has made it possible for families to be empowered and find the means to cope through the traumas of sexual abuse.

MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION (T-SASP PROGRAM)

In addition to statutorily authorized programs, OVW funds several special initiatives to enhance victim safety and autonomy, to increase the availability of victim services, and to enhance offender accountability.

\$257 million in FY 2016

In Fiscal Year 2016, OVV made 550 discretionary awards totaling just under \$257 million.

\$257 million in FY 2017

In Fiscal Year 2017, OVV made 534 discretionary awards totaling just over \$257 million.

\$269 million in FY 2018

In Fiscal Year 2018, OVV made 535 discretionary awards totaling just over \$269 million.

\$282 million in FY 2019

In Fiscal Year 2019, OVV made 642 discretionary awards totaling over \$282 million.

\$291 million in FY 2020

In Fiscal Year 2020, OVV made 554 discretionary awards totaling nearly \$291 million.



Domestic and sexual violence have lasting impacts on victims' lives and take a significant toll on communities, affecting millions of people in the United States every year. These crimes can have fatal consequences: in 2017, nearly 11 times more women were killed by intimate partners than by strangers (Violence Policy Center, 2019). Further, those who perpetrate domestic/sexual violence often have extensive criminal histories; they are charged with more assaults and violent offenses than people who do not perpetrate domestic violence and have high rates of recidivism for both domestic violence and non-domestic violence crimes. Therefore, effective responses to these crimes have the potential to widely impact safety (Drake et al., 2013; Katsiyannis et al., 2017; Richards et al., 2013, 2014; Zeoli & Paruk, 2020).



VT • Grantee Perspective

The Team has just completed all of the work for its Safety Audit project. The Safety Audit provided us with the chance to look in-depth at the response to violations of protection orders and conditions. Generally, funding sources support the daily work that advocates, police, and prosecutors do, which is absolutely necessary and greatly appreciated, but funds that support this type of opportunity are rare and so important if we want to improve our systems' response to domestic violence. Through this safety audit work, we anticipate making changes in our community's response that will increase victim safety and better hold batterers accountable.

CIRCLE, INC., VERMONT (ICJR PROGRAM)

- Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (**LAV Program**)
- Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program (**Rural Program**)
- Sexual Assault Services Program—Grants to Culturally Specific Programs (**SASP-CS**)
- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (**Transitional Housing Program**)
- Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (**Tribal Governments Program**)
- Grants to Tribal Governments to Exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Program (**Tribal Jurisdiction Program**)
- Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (**T-SASP**)
- Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations (**Underserved Program**)

Using current research on strategies to serve victims and hold offenders accountable, OVV invests in proven strategies and solutions to further the common goal of ending domestic/sexual violence. Grant-funded activities fall into the areas discussed below.

Criminal Justice Response

The criminal justice system is designed to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest, and prosecution, as well as through close judicial scrutiny and management of offender behavior. To ensure that the rights and protections of victims are paramount in the development of strategies to address these crimes, VAWA-funded agencies within the criminal justice system must collaborate through meaningful partnerships with nonprofit, sexual assault, and domestic violence organizations and coalitions.

Law Enforcement

VAWA funds efforts to improve and expand the criminal justice system's response to victims of domestic/sexual violence. In particular, ICJR, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees are awarded funds for law enforcement activities and staff. Other programs that are awarded funds for training can train law enforcement officers, and engage law enforcement in CCR efforts.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **113** ICJR, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees used funds for law enforcement activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **55** full-time equivalent (FTE) law enforcement officers;

- **54** ICJR and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized law enforcement units;
- Overall, VAWA-funded grantees trained at least **81,379** law enforcement officers;
- Overall, VAWA-funded grantees trained **12,496** Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SANEs/SAFEs);
- Overall, a semi-annual average of **831** VAWA-funded grantees engaged in CCR related meetings with local, state, and/or federal law enforcement agency staff; and
- A semi-annual average of **135** Rural, Tribal Governments, and T-SASP Program grantees engaged in these meetings with tribal law enforcement.

Law Enforcement

Across the two-year reporting period, **ICJR Program-funded agencies:**

INVESTIGATED
174,090
cases

REFERRED
89,899
cases to prosecutors

Prosecution

VAWA grant programs promote development and improvement of effective prosecution strategies to address domestic/sexual violence. In particular, ICJR, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees are awarded funds for prosecution activities and staff. ICJR and Rural Program grantees can use funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized prosecution units; other programs that are awarded funds for training can train prosecutors.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **66** ICJR, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction Programs grantees funded prosecution activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **44** full-time equivalent (FTE) prosecutors;
- VAWA-funded grantees trained at least **12,349** prosecutors;
- **46** ICJR and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized prosecution units; and
- Data reported by ICJR Program-funded prosecution offices showed a conviction rate of **67%**^v for sexual assault cases.

Law enforcement officers are traditionally the gatekeepers of the criminal legal system. Without an appropriate law enforcement response, victims' safety remains in jeopardy and offenders escape accountability, almost invariably committing more violence. In the absence of thorough investigation, probable cause assessment, arrest, and charging, offenders are immune from prosecution and potential sanctions: arrest rates remain low, removal of firearms from perpetrators is inconsistent, and sexual assault kits go untested (for research findings on these issues, see: Alderden & Ullman, 2012; Campbell et al., 2015; Campbell, Feeney et al., 2017; Campbell & Fehler-Cabral, 2017; Lynch et al., 2018; Seave, 2006; Shaw et al., 2016; Valentine et al., 2019; Webster et al., 2010; Wintemute et al., 2015; Zeoli et al., 2016).

Since the enactment of VAWA, there have been significant innovations in the prosecution of domestic/sexual violence, such as the development of comprehensive investigation policies and procedures; the establishment and expansion of specialized units; technology upgrades; increased numbers of dedicated prosecutors, investigators, and victim advocates; and the availability of training and technical assistance. However, additional systemic improvements are necessary, as the prosecutorial response to domestic/sexual violence is inconsistent within and across jurisdictions. For example, while laws have been enacted in all states regarding strangulation, it is not prosecuted consistently (Pritchard et al., 2015; Reckdenwald et al., 2017; Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention and California District Attorneys Association, 2013). Further, many domestic/sexual violence cases are declined by prosecutors and non-evidentiary factors consistently emerge as significant determinants of whether a case is prosecuted, whether a victim is deemed credible and/or agrees to cooperate, and whether a defendant is found guilty; likewise, these factors influence the severity of the sentence imposed (Alderden & Long, 2016; Alderden & Ullman, 2012).

^v Convictions include cases resulting in deferred adjudication, which represent 6% of sexual assault conviction outcomes.



Some judges have been leaders in configuring new, specialized court structures and processes, such as criminal domestic violence courts, civil protection order dockets, integrated domestic violence courts, teen or youth courts, sex offender courts, tribal domestic violence dockets, and sex trafficking courts (Angiolillo, 2016; Leventhal et al., 2014; Martinson & Jackson, 2017). These specialized courts use recommended practices, such as risk assessment, judicial monitoring, case management/coordination, victim advocacy, expedited hearings, opportunities for victim participation, staff training, and partnerships with key stakeholders (Angiolillo, 2016; Birnbaum et al., 2016; Buzawa & Buzawa, 2017; Hood & Ray, 2017).



OH • Grantee Perspective

ICJR Program funding has allowed Summit County to maintain a streamlined approach to felony intimate partner domestic violence cases. Having these cases handled by our Domestic Violence Unit from beginning to end ensures that offenders will be held accountable and victims will be informed and empowered throughout the process. By centralizing these cases in one courtroom with one judge, consistency is maintained and familiarity is developed with repeat offenders and survivors. ICJR Program funding supports three full-time specialized domestic violence unit assistant prosecuting attorneys and one full-time domestic violence investigator. Our unit is trained in the evidence-based prosecution philosophy so that we can move forward with cases which otherwise might not be prosecutable due to a victim's decision not to come forward or to recant.

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO (ICJR PROGRAM)



MD • Grantee Perspective

The project offers materials designed specifically for probation officers, focusing on improved responses to sexual assault within the context of offender supervision. It provides an overview of why this work is important, highlights the criminal justice response to sex offenders, provides an overview of the Comprehensive Approach model of sex offender management, and provides a definition of what victim-centered supervision is. It also defines specialized approaches to sex offender supervision, shares sample tools, and provides a scorecard for assessing, and ultimately re-assessing, the extent to which a jurisdiction's probation practices are victim-centered.

CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY, MARYLAND
(TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

Prosecution

Across the two-year reporting period, **ICJR Program-funded prosecution activities included:**



Courts

Four VAWA-funded grant programs—ICJR, Justice for Families, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction—used funds for court activities. Other programs can engage court personnel in coordinated community response efforts.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **36** ICJR, Justice for Families, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees engaged in grant-funded court activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **12** full-time equivalent (FTE) court personnel, such as judges, clerks, and docket managers;
- VAWA grantees trained at least **18,019** court personnel;
- ICJR, Justice for Families, and Rural grantees used funds to support a semi-annual average of **21** specialized courts;
- ICJR Program-funded courts disposed of **1,390** sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, and/or related cases, more than half of which (**51%**) were domestic/dating violence misdemeanors; **47%** of all charges disposed of resulted in convictions;^{vii}
- ICJR Program-funded court programs engaged in judicial monitoring of a semi-annual average of **343** offenders and conducted **12,826** individual review hearings;
- Overall, a semi-annual average of **532** VAWA-funded grantees engaged in CCR-related meetings with local, state, and federal courts; and
- A semi-annual average of **127** Rural, Tribal Governments, Tribal Jurisdiction, and T-SASP Program grantees engaged in these meetings with tribal courts.

^{vi} Among all dispositions, 55% of cases resulted in conviction. Convictions include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 14% of all conviction outcomes.

^{vii} Convictions include cases resulting in deferred adjudication, which represent 32% of all conviction outcomes.

Probation

VAWA-funded grant programs promote the development and improvement of effective probation and parole strategies to address domestic/sexual violence. Four VAWA-funded grant programs—ICJR, Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Governments—used funds for probation activities. Other programs that are awarded funds for training can train probation and corrections personnel.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **39** ICJR, Justice for Families, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees engaged in grant-funded probation activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **22** full-time equivalent (FTE) probation officers;
- A semi-annual average of **19** ICJR and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized probation units; and
- Overall, VAWA-funded grantees trained at least **10,900** corrections personnel, including probation and parole officers, correctional facilities staff, and other offender monitors.

ICJR Program-funded probation agencies made **176,750** contacts with offenders and **10,097** contacts with victims. They disposed of **5,239** probation violations, of which **3,452** resulted in partial or full probation revocation, including incarceration.

Services for Victims and Families

During the two-year reporting period, **16** current and formerly authorized VAWA discretionary grant programs funded direct services to victims, such as:

- Core services; including crisis intervention, hotline services, transportation, and referrals to community resources and agencies;
- Safety planning;
- Emergency assistance (e.g., clothing, food, medical care, and housing);
- Victim advocacy, counseling, and support;
- Criminal justice advocacy;
- Civil legal advocacy and assistance;
- Victim-witness notification; and
- Medical response.

During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees provided services to **107,351**^{viii} victims, children, youth, and other dependents.

Nearly 1,900 domestic violence programs, and 1,300 rape crisis centers operate nationwide (National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women, 2001; National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2019).



Effective advocacy requires a diverse set of skills, ongoing training, and strong connections to community partners. Taking a survivor-defined, trauma-informed approach entails following the victim's lead, adapting to their specific strengths and circumstances, facilitating access to community resources, and working to ensure that systems are responsive to their needs and the needs of survivors more broadly. (Sullivan & Goodman, 2019). Further, while the provisions of VAWA 2013 made important changes in order to combat discrimination on the basis of gender identity, sexuality, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability, there is still room for improvement to ensure that advocacy is accessible to the most vulnerable victims (Jordan et al., 2020).



A core component of crisis intervention is safety planning, done in collaboration with victims. Ideally, safety plans provide for safety from immediate violence and incorporate longer term goals, and can be modified as victim preferences and conditions change. Individualized plans should incorporate risk assessments to gauge the likelihood that victims and their children might endure further violence. Safety plans may or may not include leaving abusive situations as the ultimate goal, depending on a victim's preferred outcomes and the victim's knowledge of how best to stay safe from further abuse. Regardless, safety plans must also incorporate economic, health, housing, and educational needs; and must consider whether the victim will remain in contact with the abusive partner (Davies & Lyon, 2013; Davies, 2009; Ford-Gilboe et al., 2017; Goodman, Thomas et al., 2016; Kulkarni et al., 2012; Linnell & Davies, 2017; Macy et al., 2016; Messing, Ward-Lasher et al., 2015; Murray et al., 2015; Nichols, 2013; Sullivan, 2018).



^{viii} This number does not include families served by Justice for Families, Supervised Visitation, and Tribal Governments grantees, or non-abusing parents receiving supportive services from Consolidated Youth grantees.

If victims fleeing abusers cannot find immediate shelter or new housing, they may have no choice but to stay in or return to abusive situations. VAWA-funded shelters and transitional housing programs can offer victims and their children alternatives to homelessness. Shelters offer short-term emergency housing and support, and transitional housing programs provide extended housing and support services. These allow victims time to work toward physical, emotional, and economic recovery and to establish permanent, safe, and affordable residences for themselves and their children. Unfortunately, victims and VAWA-funded service providers consistently report a severe lack of both emergency shelter and affordable long-term housing.



Although victims can obtain civil protection orders without legal representation, VAWA-funded attorneys, paralegals, and legal advocates can be valuable resources for victims engaged in this process. Research shows that attorney representation, particularly attorneys with domestic/sexual violence experience, is associated with more favorable outcomes for victims, compared to outcomes for victims without an attorney and victims with privately retained attorneys lacking expertise in domestic violence (Kernic, 2015). In addition, cases in which LAV-funded attorneys represented victims in protection order hearings resulted in better agreements, increased court efficiency, and high victim satisfaction (Institute for Law and Justice, 2005).



MA • Grantee Perspective

The most significant impact of the LAV funding is the ability to conduct outreach to underserved populations and to create access points to legal services in community locations where survivors first turn for help. Most significantly, this project funds a legal advocate at Casa Myrna Vazquez and supervising attorney at the Domestic Violence Institute (DVI). The DVI's work is dedicated to coalition building with community providers working directly with underserved populations and tailoring the services available to those communities' needs.

**CASA MYRNA VAZQUEZ, INC., MASSACHUSETTS
(LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAM)**

Crisis Intervention

Across the two-year reporting period, VAWA-funded grantees responded to **490,601** hotline calls.

During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees provided **31,814** primary victims with crisis intervention services.

Shelter and Transitional Housing

During each six-month reporting period, on average:

- Transitional Housing Program grantees provided transitional housing to **827** victims, **1,086** children, and **19** other dependents, and provided **1,137** victims with vouchers or rent subsidies for housing; and
- Abuse in Later Life, CSSP, Disability, Rural, Tribal Governments, Underserved, and Consolidated Youth Program grantees provided emergency shelter to **1,971** victims and **1,913** family members, and provided transitional housing to **303** victims and **467** family members.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- Transitional Housing Program grantees provided a total of **938,893** bed nights, and spent **\$11,099,074** on vouchers and rent subsidies for housing; and
- Abuse in Later Life, CSSP, Disability, Rural, Tribal Governments, Underserved, and Consolidated Youth Program grantees provided a total of **292,362** emergency bed nights and a total of **183,860** transitional housing bed nights.

Legal Advocacy and Legal Services

The Legal Assistance for Victims Program (LAV Program) is the primary VAWA-funded vehicle for delivering legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence. During each six-month reporting period, on average, LAV Program grantees:

- Provided services to **26,019** victims and addressed **37,731** legal issues;
- Helped **5,665** victims with more than one type of legal issue (22% of those provided with services); and
- Most frequently supported victims in seeking protection orders (**9,047**), divorces (**6,808**), child custody and visitation (**6,536**), and child support (**3,843**).

During each six-month reporting period, on average, other VAWA-funded grantees provided:

- Civil legal assistance from attorneys and paralegals to **5,762** victims, primarily limited to assistance with protection orders;
- Civil legal advocacy from nongovernmental or community-based advocates and paralegals to **22,082** victims; and
- Criminal justice advocacy from governmental victim assistants, victim-witness specialists, or advocates to **18,064** victims.

Orders of Protection

During the two-year reporting period, VAWA-funded professionals (e.g., advocates, law enforcement personnel, and prosecutors) provided assistance to victims in securing **38,701** final civil protection orders.

LAV Program grantees primarily deliver legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence. During each six-month reporting period, on average, LAV Program grantees provided assistance to **9,047** victims seeking protection orders.

ICJR Program grantees focus on improving the enforcement of protection orders. Across the two-year reporting period, ICJR Program grantees engaged in the following activities, some of which were supported through VAWA funding:^{ix}

- Law enforcement agencies made **7,872** arrests for violations of protection orders;
- Prosecution offices disposed of **3,646** protection order violations, with **62%** resulting in convictions;^x
- Courts conducted post-conviction judicial monitoring, disposing of **25** violations of protection orders by offenders;
- Courts imposed sanctions such as partial or total revocation of probation, fines, and/or added conditions for **92%** of those violations; and
- Probation agencies supervised offenders who had **844** protection order violations, **87%** of which resulted in the imposition of sanctions.

The Courts and Justice for Families Programs support courts in improving their responses to victims of domestic/sexual violence. Across the two-year reporting period, Courts and Justice for Families Program-funded courts:

- Issued **4,976** final civil protection orders;
- Disposed of **820** protection order violation cases in criminal courts, with **62%** resulting in convictions;^{xi} and
- Conducted post-conviction judicial monitoring, disposing of **269** violations of protection orders by offenders and imposing sanctions for **76%** of those violations.

Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Services

During each six-month reporting period, on average, Justice for Families, Supervised Visitation, and Tribal Governments Program grantees provided services to **1,631** families, including **2,459** children, **1,633** custodial parents, and **1,629** non-custodial parents (the Supervised Visitation Program was eliminated under VAWA 2013, but grants from previous years were still active during the period covered by this report).

DE • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed the Delaware Family Court to train mediators, judges and commissioners in specialized domestic violence and child custody matters. Protection From Abuse (PFA) hearings in the state's three counties are now conducted much more uniformly with a focus on making the process fair and transparent for petitioners and respondents. This funding has allowed Family Court of Delaware to produce critical information for self-represented litigants, including a new PFA packet, child custody packet, and seven one-page infographics on court procedures.

**DELAWARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
(JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**

KY • Grantee Perspective



Funding has allowed this organization to provide a formalized process for supervised visitation and monitored custodial exchange services for this region, utilizing evidence-based practices that have enhanced security and accountability. It provides a means for children to have a voice in this process and to have that voice utilized as a consideration in all planning efforts. Sunflower Kids has provided services to more than 160 families in Kentucky and surrounding states and has become a center revered for its ability to handle complex family situations. In its operation, there were zero incidents of violence on Sunflower Kids property, and there was a reduced risk of continued interpersonal violence as a result of its existence. In addition, the organization created partnerships between community entities and law enforcement that have enhanced the stability and safety of families in the communities where it operated.

**LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT,
KENTUCKY (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**

^{ix} ICJR Program grantees' criminal justice activities reach beyond the individual unit, and, as a result, grantees report criminal justice data for the entire agency within the jurisdiction.

^x This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents 6% of all conviction outcomes.

^{xi} This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents 13% of all conviction outcomes.



For many victims of domestic violence, leaving the relationship does not end the abuse perpetrated by their partners. The risk of abuse to the non-abusing parent and children during or immediately after separation, divorce, or the arrest of the abuser often continues or increases; in some cases, abusers may kill their partners and children during this escalating period of violence (Rezney, 2020; Ward-Lasher et al., 2020; Watson & Ancis, 2013).



CCRs foster communication, improve understanding of different roles among members, create changes in practice and policy, and provide opportunities to share critical information that may improve how cases are handled. Typically, representatives of participating organizations increase their knowledge and awareness of each other's roles and responsibilities in their community systems, make professional connections that enable meaningful and increased referrals and services for victims, and influence important decision-making within the legal system (Cole, 2018; Herbert & Bromfield, 2019; Nowell & Foster-Fishman, 2011).



Service providers and researchers have identified a need for more community-based, participatory research in order to better understand the impacts of race and ethnicity on the prevalence of sexual violence, and to develop culturally appropriate interventions. Many studies have methodological limitations that do not allow for conclusive findings, which can contribute to misunderstandings about the dynamics of violence in certain populations (Gill, 2018; Hamby, 2015; Robertson et al., 2016; Shaw & Lee, 2019).

Across the two-year reporting period, these grantees provided the following services to families:

- A total of **40,098** one-to-one visits to a semi-annual average of **1,211** families; and
- A total of **25,308** supervised exchanges to a semi-annual average of **373** families.

Families were most likely to be referred to the program by a family court order (**60%**), and to have issues of domestic violence (**93%**).

Coordinated Community Response

Grantees focus on interagency coordination and collaboration, whether through formal partnerships or community networking, and report the frequency of victim referrals and victim or case-level consultations, and of systems-level interactions, such as task force, work group, or coordinating council meetings.

Across the two-year reporting period, **1,760** VAWA-funded grantees engaged in CCR-related activities.

Services for and Response to Underserved and Other Vulnerable Populations

VAWA defines “underserved populations” as “populations traditionally underserved due to geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age).”

Historically underserved and vulnerable populations face unique challenges and barriers to accessing criminal justice, receiving services, and obtaining social and economic supports.

In response to these dynamics, Congress authorized VAWA funding to assist historically underserved victims with the unique challenges they face when seeking to become and remain free from violence.

American Indians and Alaska Natives

During each six-month reporting period, on average, T-SASP, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees served **7,234** victims.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **9,601** victims and **439** other family members who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native during each six-month reporting period.

Immigrants and Refugees

LAV Program grantees assist immigrant victims in self-petitioning and seeking U visa status. During each six-month reporting period, on average, LAV Program grantees provided services to **7,331** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers.

CSSP, SASP-CS, and Underserved Program grantees also provide assistance to victims on immigration issues. During each six-month reporting period, on average, these grantees provided services to **2,055** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **13,703** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers, and an average of **14,047** victims who had limited English proficiency during each six-month reporting period.

People with Disabilities

Across the two-year reporting period, Disability Program grantees:

- Trained **4,957** people (including health and mental health care providers, government agency staff, domestic violence service providers, disabilities organizations staff, law enforcement personnel, and residential, institutional, and independent-living staff) to provide more effective services to victims with disabilities; and
- Provided **646** technical assistance activities, which included **601** consultations and **45** site visits.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **9,158** Deaf and/or disabled victims during each six-month reporting period.

People Victimized in Later Life/Elder Abuse

Across the two-year reporting period, Abuse in Later Life Program grantees:

- Used grant funds to train **5,741** individuals, including **3,040** law enforcement officers and **158** prosecutors; and
- Provided services to an average of **766** victims aged 50 or older during each six-month reporting period.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **5,056** victims aged 60 or older during each six-month reporting period.

Children and Youth

During each six-month reporting period, on average:

- Consolidated Youth, Justice For Families, Rural, SASP-CS, Supervised Visitation, Transitional Housing, Tribal Governments, Tribal Jurisdiction, and T-SASP Program grantees provided services to **6,668** children (infancy to age 12);



Taboos on speaking about sexuality, fear of engaging non-Native criminal justice and social services systems, and hesitancy to name respected community members as abusers for fear of the consequences are all rooted in histories of colonization and impact the likelihood of disclosure and help-seeking by AI/AN victims of sexual violence. Limited jurisdiction also inhibits the provision of justice in cases of sexual assault and child abuse in Alaska Native communities and throughout Indian Country. Many AI/AN domestic/sexual violence advocacy organizations have developed practices that acknowledge these histories and address them using traditional ways of healing and building community, while also exploring alternative methods for holding offenders accountable (Braithwaite, 2018; Deer, 2017, 2018; Mending the Sacred Hoop, n.d.).

OH • Grantee Perspective



The Keys 4 Deaf project partners, which include Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center, Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center, Cleveland Division of Police, and Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, have developed a coordinated response team to effectively respond to victims with disabilities. This partnership has created a sustainable protocol for victims in the community. This strong partnership has also effectively increased accessibility to services as major organizations serving victims of crime. Each organization has been able to build capacity to serve victims with disabilities with a trauma informed service delivery. The partners are committed to continue work as an advisory committee to maintain the level of services available and provide technical assistance to organizations serving D/deaf victims. This work would not have been possible with the Disability Program Funding.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER,
OHIO (DISABILITY PROGRAM)**



As is the case with adult victims of domestic/sexual violence, children who are exposed to violence are best served by research, policy, and practice that takes into account the many layers of their identities and their complex social positions, including gender, age, sexuality, race, ethnicity, poverty, and culture (Barrios et al., 2020; Etherington & Baker, 2018).



As of the 2010 Census, nearly 20%, or one in five Americans, lived in rural areas (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). Rural victims seeking to escape violence face unique challenges and barriers, such as geographic isolation, limited infrastructure and available services, few material resources, strong social and cultural pressures, and lack of anonymity and security when seeking shelter and services (Davidov et al., 2017; Dudgeon & Evanson, 2014; Farber & Miller-Cribbs, 2014; Gustafsson et al., 2016; Johnson & Hiller, 2019; Lynch & Logan, 2017; Peek-Asa et al., 2011; Remison et al., 2013; Roush & Kurth, 2016). Rural victims of violence may have worse psychosocial and physical health outcomes than their urban counterparts, due to these challenges. This includes higher rates of intimate partner homicide, and in particular, femicide. (Edwards, 2015; Farber & Miller-Cribbs, 2014; Martz et al., 2016; Nemeth et al., 2016; Reckdenwald et al., 2018; Strand & Storey, 2019; Walker & Logan, 2018).



Specialized training for nurses and other medical forensic professionals who examine and treat victims of sexual assault is essential to ensure proper collection and storage of forensic evidence; provision of information and treatment on related medical issues and prophylactic care; coordination with advocates to ensure that crisis intervention, advocacy, and support services are offered before, during, and after the exam; heightened understanding of common trauma responses to sexual assault; and being prepared to offer testimony in court (Office on Violence Against Women, 2013, 2016).

- Grantees from all programs that serve victims and their families provided services to **5,040** adolescents (ages 13 to 17);^{xii, xiii} and
- Rural Program grantees provided services to **1,023** victims of child sexual abuse.^{xiv}

Victims and Families Living in Rural Areas

To address barriers to accessing justice and respond to rural victims of domestic/sexual violence, VAWA funds the Rural Program. During each six-month reporting period, on average, Rural Program grantees provided services to **12,694** victims.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees provided services to an average of **28,161** victims who lived in rural areas (including reservations and Indian Country) during each six-month reporting period.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Victims

- During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees served **636** victims who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ).^{xv}

Technical Assistance and Training for Professionals

Nearly all VAWA-funded grant programs provide training and expert technical assistance to a wide variety of professionals on a broad range of topics related to domestic/sexual violence. In the course of seeking services, victims may interact with advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, health and mental health professionals, campus personnel, educators, and government agency staff. To best serve victims of domestic/sexual violence, professionals must understand the causes, circumstances, and consequences of violence, as well as best practices to address violence and victimization.

^{xii}Total does not include non-custodial or custodial adolescent parents receiving supervised visitation services from Justice for Families, Supervised Visitation, or Tribal Governments grantees. However, it does include children and adolescents served by these three grant programs. In addition, Abuse in Later Life grantees only serve victims aged 50 years and older.

^{xiii}The Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program youth age category spans from 11-17.

^{xiv}Depending upon the age at which a victim seeks services, this number could include both child and adult victims of child sexual abuse.

^{xv}All grant programs serve victims of domestic/sexual violence who identify as LGBTQ. As of this report, data on the number of victims who identify as LGBTQ is only available from Consolidated Youth, Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees.

With this foundation, they can effectively respond to victims, prevent further harm, avoid unintended negative consequences, and hold offenders accountable. Grantees prioritize training law enforcement, court personnel, health care providers, and advocates, who are often first responders to victims, meaning they may be the first people that victims disclose their victimization to or ask for help.

Across the two-year reporting period, **1,318** VAWA-funded grantees convened a total of **23,299** training events, and trained **645,614** professionals, including:

- **149,449** victim advocates and other advocacy organization and agency staff;
- **81,379** law enforcement officers;
- **57,962** health professionals, such as mental health providers, health care professionals, and SANEs/SAFEs;
- **36,498** attorneys and law students;
- **21,467** government agency staff;^{xvi}
- **18,019** court personnel;
- **12,349** prosecutors; and
- **6,701** faith-based organization staff.

VAWA-funded grantees most often provided training on the dynamics of domestic/sexual violence and services available to victims of these crimes, safety planning, and confidentiality.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **320** Disability, State Coalitions, Technical Assistance, and Tribal Coalitions Program grantees provided **117,084** consultations and **4,561** site visits to a broad range of professionals; and
- **83** LAV Program grantees provided technical assistance to legal professionals (including attorneys, judges, prosecutors, legal services staff, Guardians ad litem, friends of the court, and court mediators) and victim advocates.

Community Education, Awareness, and Prevention

Community education, awareness-raising, and prevention activities funded by VAWA are designed to reduce violence through changing attitudes and beliefs that legitimize or promote domestic and sexual violence.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- Consolidated Youth Program grantees provided **238** ongoing educational and mentoring activities that reached **5,156** youth (**3,927** of whom were students) and **2,977** other community members.

^{xvi} This number includes 5,702 tribal government agency staff.

TN • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the TN Coalition to End Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (TN Coalition) to continue our Training and Technical Assistance Project, which provides extensive technical assistance on matters of legal advocacy, domestic/sexual violence, as well as empowerment-based and trauma-informed advocacy. Training and technical assistance provided by the TN Coalition builds the capacity of victim advocates and professional allies to better serve victims of domestic and sexual violence, and to work more effectively with criminal justice agencies to reduce violence against women, increase safety for victims, and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. This funding has allowed the TN Coalition to expand webinar offerings, including a greater variety of trainings on topics for both beginning and advanced advocates and training on serving underserved populations. These webinars are recorded and accessible by advocates and allied professionals across the state at any time, so that those individuals who work unusual hours, or agencies that have limited training funds, can easily access a variety of training materials. This funding has also allowed the TN Coalition to offer more on-site trainings for victim services agencies and allied organizations. In this way, the TN Coalition is able to offer training that is tailored to the challenges and needs of an individual agency, to alleviate the strain of travel and lodging costs, and the burden of pulling multiple staff off-site and away from clients to fulfill their training needs. This enables more small, rural agencies to provide their staff with more frequent and higher-quality training, improving their capacity to serve survivors.

TENNESSEE COALITION TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (STATE COALITIONS PROGRAM)

Research shows that children and adolescents are more likely to disclose abuse and bullying, recognize and stop abusive behavior in themselves and others, and engage in positive bystander and self-protective behavior when they receive school-based curricula focusing on building healthy relationships (Lester et al., 2017; Miller et al., 2013; Morrison et al., 2017; Walsh et al., 2018). This form of prevention education is particularly effective when it includes multiple lessons and parental involvement (Finkelhor et al., 2014; Letourneau et al., 2017; Lesneskie & Block, 2016).



Overall, VAWA-funded grantees conducted **17,459** educational and public awareness programs and events that reached **535,112** students and **522,720** other community members.^{xvii}

Formerly Authorized Discretionary Grant Programs

- Court Training and Improvements Program (**Courts Program**)
- Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program (**Supervised Visitation Program**)

Formula Grant Programs

- Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program (**State Coalitions Program**)
- Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program (**Tribal Coalitions Program**)
- STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (**STOP Formula Grant Program**)
- Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (**SASP Formula Grant Program**)

In addition, OVW administers the Technical Assistance Program (**TA Program**) to provide grantees with training and expertise they need to meet the challenges of addressing domestic/sexual violence and stalking.

This 2020 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs under the Violence against Women Act (2020 Biennial Report) describes data submitted by grantees of 17 current and formerly authorized discretionary grant programs. It also includes data submitted by State and Tribal Coalitions, and OVW's technical assistance providers. Data for each of these programs are provided in separate chapters of this report.

Data from the STOP and SASP Formula Grant Programs are shared in separate biennial reports to Congress.

Full descriptions of OVW-administered grant programs can be found on the OVW website. For more information, visit: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>.

^{xvii} Not included in this figure are media campaigns and awareness events convened by State Coalitions and Tribal Governments Program grantees.

The Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program

While sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking can affect victims in any age group, individuals who are 50 years of age or older who experience elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation can face unique barriers to receiving assistance.

RECOGNIZING THIS, THE ENHANCED TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program (Abuse in Later Life or ALL Program) supports a comprehensive coordinated community response (CCR) to address and prevent elder abuse.

50 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 50 unique grantees reported activities funded by the ALL Program.

766 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 766 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

5,741 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 5,741 people.

Age or disability may increase isolation for victims of elder abuse, and professionals may mistakenly perceive age or disability, rather than abuse, as the reason for a victim's injuries. Victims may depend on their abusers for care or housing, and abusers may intimidate them using threats of placing the victim in a nursing home. The victim may also experience shame or embarrassment in addition to the fear of losing the support their abuser provides. It is particularly critical for criminal justice professionals and victim service providers to recognize indicators that an older individual is being abused.

Sexual violence against older women is rarely talked about. Ageism contributes to the mistaken notion that older people are asexual, which fosters the dangerous assumption that they cannot be targets of sexual violence. Older women may be reliant on their perpetrators to provide their care, which makes victims especially vulnerable to continued violence (Fileborn, 2017).





The population of Americans aged 65 and older grew by more than a third (34.2%) between 2010 and 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). By 2030, one in five Americans, or 73 million people, are expected to be over 65; approximately 40 million of them will be women (Vespa et al., 2018).



GA • Grantee Perspective

With this funding, the End Abuse in Later Life (EALL) program has been able to assist family members in helping their loved ones by assisting with guardianship paperwork and fees, and covering transportation costs for family members to provide complete care for their loved one. We have also been able to assist with living expenses, if it has been determined that the victim can continue to live independently, or enroll them into a senior living facility, if they are unable to care for themselves. With the funding from the Elder Grants Program, advocates have been able to widen their area of service by meeting clients who have mobility challenges. The EALL advocates have been able to provide food and other basic necessities that many of the senior survivors have lived without during their abuse. Prior to receiving Elder Grant Program funds, we were unable to provide these services to our clientele. With the support of this funding, each elder client is able to be identified and serviced in a means that best suits them.

GEORGIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL



UT • Grantee Perspective

We had the opportunity to give an Elder Abuse DV services overview presentation to the Interfaith Council, with representatives from four different faiths and attended by seven clergy/faith leaders. We were very excited for that opportunity as most of the elders in our community are very connected to their religious community and close with clergy and faith leaders. We were all motivated by the great dialogue, questions, and creative processes that arose during that particular training.

UTAH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION

The Abuse in Later Life Program enhances the safety of victims by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent elder abuse. Purpose areas include:

- Train programs to assist criminal justice system personnel in recognizing, addressing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Provide or enhance services for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Create or support multidisciplinary collaborative community responses to victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Conduct cross-training for victim service organizations, governmental agencies, courts, law enforcement, and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Provide training programs to assist attorneys, healthcare providers, faith-based leaders, or other community-based organizations in recognizing and addressing instances of abuse in later life; and
- Conduct outreach activities and awareness campaigns to ensure that victims of abuse in later life receive appropriate assistance.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **50** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **7** (14%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Create or support multidisciplinary collaborative community responses to victims.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide services to victims and training for criminal justice professionals to help ensure a CCR to victims of elder abuse. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **48** (96%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **42** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds for program coordinators and victim advocates.

Table 1 | Staff supported with Abuse in Later Life grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	42	
Program coordinators	19	45%
Victim advocates	16	38%
Trainers	2	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

A growing body of research has shown that training, education, risk assessment tools, policy-level interventions, and coordination amongst various service providers are all necessary measures to prevent and respond to elder abuse (Daly, 2018).



Training

Grantees train professionals to effectively respond to older victims of domestic/sexual violence and elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- 40 (80%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of 144 training events.

SC • Grantee Perspective



These grant funds have allowed the Mayor’s Office on Aging to respond to a training need identified by the police and fire department to ensure that all first responders are trained to identify signs of elder abuse. When first responders are dispatched, the Fire Department/EMS often arrives before law enforcement and depending on the type of call (i.e. elderly falls), law enforcement may not be dispatched at all. Having well-trained first responders who identify signs, document suspected abuse, and request law enforcement assistance can create opportunities for early intervention.

CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

In the two years covered by this report, **ALL Program grantees trained:**

5,741
PROFESSIONALS

across **multiple systems:**



LAW ENFORCEMENT



ELDER SERVICES



VICTIM SERVICES

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Prior to receiving this funding, there were no funds reserved specifically to meet the needs of older victims. With the Elder Grants Program funding, we are now able to assist older victims with transitional housing/rental assistance, money for moving expenses, emergency gas cards, emergency food and clothing, and bus tickets.

MEMONIEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. Victims may receive victim advocacy, crisis intervention, financial counseling, legal advocacy, transportation, safety planning, or other services as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- 37 (74%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of 766 victims during each 6-month period.
- 99% of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.



CA • Grantee Perspective

Elder Grant Program funding has allowed Tulare County to have a more collaborative, victim-centered approach to elder abuse. Prior to funding, Tulare County service providers and law enforcement had been unable to attend out-of-town training opportunities and receiving this funding was able to bring those much needed opportunities to our area. Each training has brought agencies closer together as they become more educated on the complex needs of elder abuse victims. As a community, we have learned that one agency alone is rarely able to identify and meet every need of victims in elder abuse cases. Elder Grant Program funding has allowed us to see the importance and benefit of collaboration within intervening agencies. With this understanding, the Abuse in Later Life Victim Advocate has begun to reach out to agencies within our community that serve marginalized populations in hopes to educate them on elder abuse community resources. The Source, a local agency within our community that supports LGBTQ+ people, provides space and hosts a senior support group once a week called “Silver Foxes.”

FAMILY SERVICES OF TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



A nationally representative study showed that one in ten adults aged 60 or older experienced emotional, physical, or sexual mistreatment or potential neglect in the past year (Acierno et al., 2010). Another study of women aged 55 and older found that nearly half of the sample experienced some type of physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, and/or financial abuse since turning 55 (Fisher et al., 2011). Further, 14% of women over 65 report having been physically or sexually assaulted, or both, by intimate partners during their lifetime, and many of them exhibit symptoms of PTSD, depression, and anxiety even decades after the trauma (Cook et al., 2013; Eaton et al., 2016).

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **502** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **251** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **299** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **211** victims;
- Financial counseling services to **109** victims;
- Transportation services to **88** victims; and
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **75** victims.

Hotline calls:

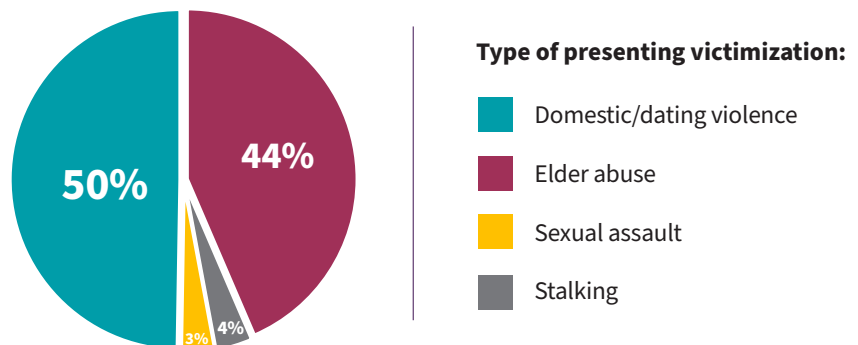
- Grantees received a total of **5,472** hotline calls.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- Most victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (50%).

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by Abuse in Later Life Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization
Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)





Emerging research is illuminating the ways in which multiple forms of violence against older adults often occur in tandem, or alternatively, one form of violence can trigger a cascade of other abuses (Teaster, 2017). In addition, practitioners and scholars are recognizing the need for more specific knowledge on the ways elder abuse plays out in underserved populations, calling for investigations that go beyond culture and consider geography, socioeconomic status, and access to resources (Dong, 2017; Jervis et al., 2016).

Table 2 | Victims seeking services with Abuse in Later Life grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	778	
Victims served	742	95%
Victims partially served	24	3%
Victims not served	12	1%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Abuse in Later Life Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Abuse in Later Life Program grant.

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve older victims of domestic/sexual violence and victims of elder abuse. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (44%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **family or household member** (23%) or a **child/grandchild** (16%).

Figure 2 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

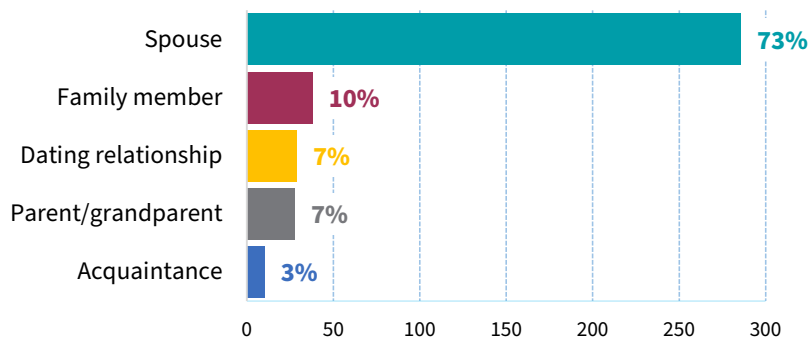
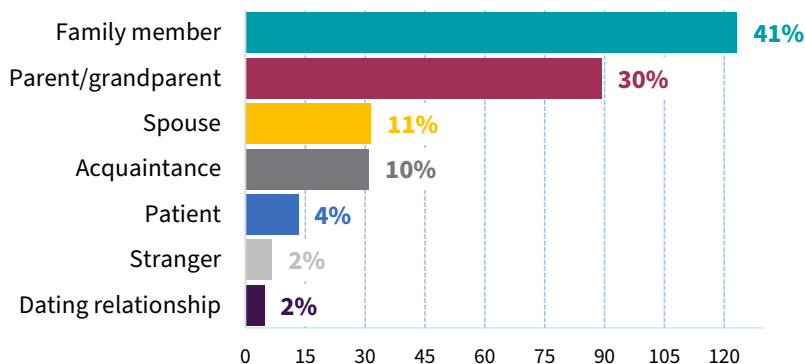


Figure 3 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Elder abuse** (6-month average)



NC • Grantee Perspective



The Abuse In Later Life grant funding has allowed our Elder Justice Project to provide consistent, high-quality training to officers working in seven different municipal law enforcement agencies within our county. This training has been critical in ensuring that trained officers have the information to help them identify and appropriately respond to cases involving abuse in later life. The county DSS Adult Protective Services program has reported a significant increase in the number of elder abuse reports by law enforcement as a result of this training. Officers were encouraged to work together with APS workers throughout the life of cases when feasible and appropriate, to avoid retraumatizing victims and to enhance prosecution. Officers were also encouraged to make referrals to local victim services agencies for immediate and ongoing victims' assistance. In addition, this grant funding allowed our Elder Justice Project to provide consistent, high-quality training to victim services providers and direct services providers within the senior services network, many of whom had not traditionally worked together.

ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



When reported, elder abuse is primarily the responsibility of Adult Protective Services agencies, which investigate, prosecute, and protect against abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults (Kilbane & Spira, 2018). Domestic violence and sexual assault services, by comparison, specifically address domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. Because of their issue-specific orientation, these organizations may struggle to respond to the particular needs of older adults who may be victimized by a relative or caregiver. It is thus critical that domestic violence and sexual assault agencies respond to older victims' specific needs and circumstances, and develop effective collaborations with adult protective services and others supporting older adults (Bows, 2017, 2018; Brossoie & Roberto, 2015; James et al., 2015).



NY • Grantee Perspective

The Elder Grants Program funding has allowed us to offer training to nearly 250 law enforcement officers and 129 victim and aging service professionals across disciplines, which has been met with a very positive response. We have learned that there has been a significant increase in call volume to Adult Protective Services from law enforcement, which we can only assume is directly related to the heightened awareness among law enforcement and other service professionals about the services and resources available to them in elder abuse cases. In addition, we have also learned that the local Police Training Academy will be incorporating the Abuse in Later Life Law Enforcement Training into their ongoing recruit training curriculum. Going forward, this training will be given to all law enforcement recruits at the onset of their careers when it can most influence the way law enforcement approaches and handles potential elder abuse cases.

**SENIOR SERVICE CENTER OF THE ALBANY AREA,
NEW YORK**

Figure 4 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)

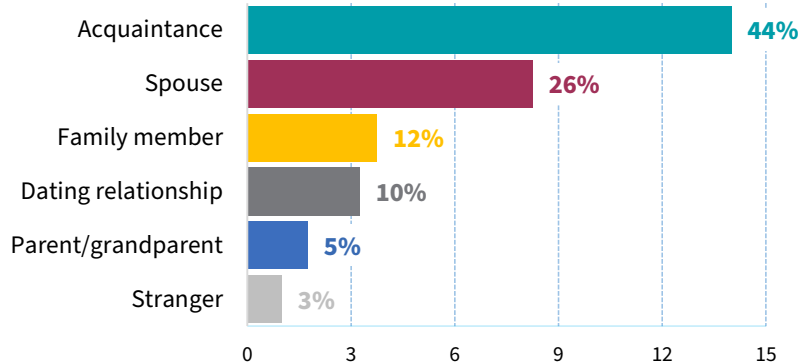
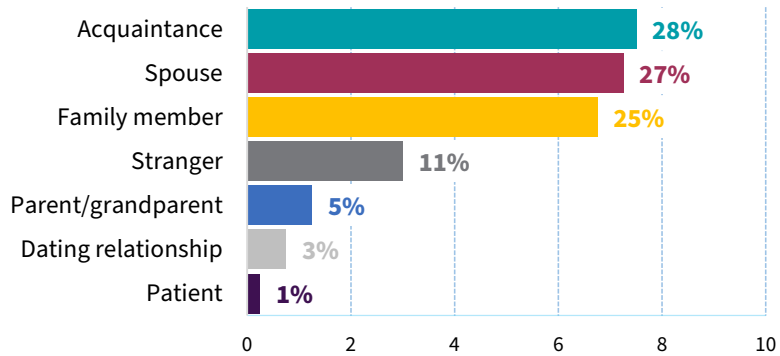


Figure 5 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Services inadequate/inappropriate for victims with mental health issues;
- Services were not appropriate for victim; or
- Program rules not acceptable to victim.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **766** victims during each 6-month reporting period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (63%), **female** (83%), and between the ages of **60 and 75** (44%).

Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

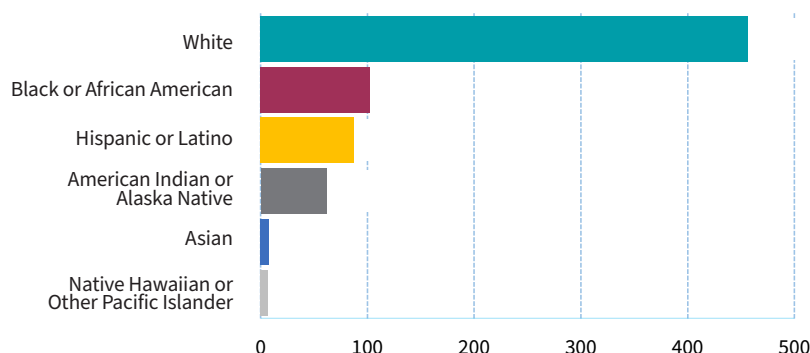


Figure 7 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

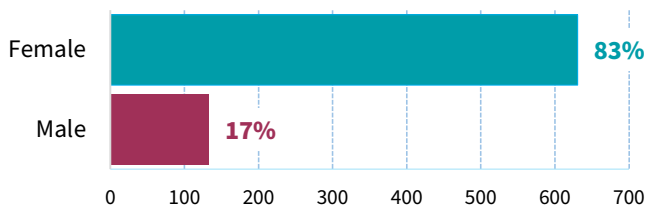


Figure 8 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

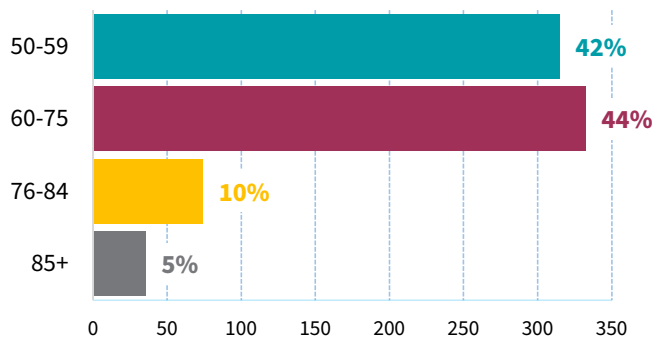
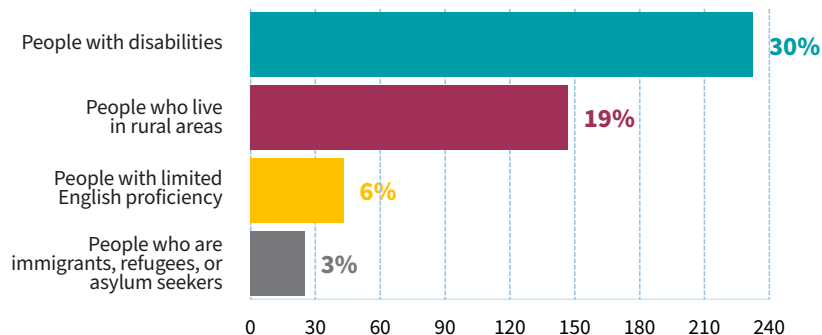


Figure 9 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



WA • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed us to develop a Coordinated Community Response Team focused on systems change and multi-agency collaboration to improve our response to elder abuse in our community. Prior to this funding, we did not have a concentrated effort dedicated to this cause. As a result of this funding, we now have the opportunity to provide direct victim services to older adult victims of abuse, which was previously not possible as there are no similar programs specific to this population in our community. While there are several domestic violence, sexual violence victim advocacy programs and various aging network providers that serve older adults, there had not been an Elder Abuse Victim Advocate who focuses specifically on assisting older victims of abuse through victim advocacy services, crisis intervention, and civil legal advocacy until we received funding which allowed for the development of this position. Most of the domestic violence victim advocacy programs in our county are specific to intimate partner violence, which prevented older adults with abusers of a different relationship (e.g., children, grandchildren, caregivers, etc.) from receiving much-needed help and services. This funding has allowed us to fill this gap and serve the needs of the older community. Specifically, the Elder Abuse Specialist/Victim Advocate has been able to assist older adults in filing for domestic violence and vulnerable adult protection orders, which had not been possible prior to funding, leaving older adult victims to navigate this process alone.

PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Recent studies have pointed toward the need to adapt lethality screenings by age since older perpetrators of intimate partner homicide are more likely to express suicidality, less likely to be estranged, and less likely to have known histories of partner violence (Salari & Maxwell, 2016; Salari & Sillito, 2016). Emerging research indicates that murder-suicide rates may be on the rise in elderly populations. Like in the general population, the vast majority of murder-suicide victims in this age category are women killed by intimate partners (Langley, 2015).





ME • Grantee Perspective

The biggest obstacles that seniors face here in Maine are the lack of affordable, low-cost housing and the lack of public transportation.

Through These Doors (TTD) has continued to experience difficulty assisting older individuals with safe and affordable low-cost housing that is in an area that is populated and on a public transportation line. TTD serves Cumberland

County, which is one of the more urban counties in Maine; however, the county is large and there are sections of it that remain very remote and isolating for seniors who need access to the local public transportation system. Unlike larger cities, we do not have a subway system and our overall public transportation system is very spotty and difficult to navigate, making more rural locations for seniors inaccessible.

THROUGH THESE DOORS, MAINE



MA • Grantee Perspective

The most significant area of remaining need with regard to obstacles faced by older individuals is their ability and/or willingness to talk about elder abuse and to discuss their concerns about their own safety. We try to normalize these conversations; however, there is great shame and guilt about being abused by family members whom society expects to be loving and caring. There is even greater fear on the part of older victims/survivors about outcomes if those people are removed from the older person's life by the criminal justice system.

REACH BEYOND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
MASSACHUSETTS



MT • Grantee Perspective

There are several areas of need and obstacles faced by older individuals seeking safety. One of the most significant obstacles faced by individuals is still the lack of services for older adults who experience abuse, in conjunction with limited community resources and transportation. There is still a significant lack of communication among service providers, law enforcement, and aging services professionals. The gap is slowly closing due to Elder Grants funding through local trainings and the coordinated community response in Broadwater and Yellowstone counties.

MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees noted that **victim service providers and law enforcement agencies need better training in order to enhance services to victims of elder abuse**, especially around issues of:

- Trauma-informed practice;
- Recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting cases of elder abuse;
- Cross-training of elder advocates and domestic and sexual violence advocates; and
- Adherence to mandatory reporting requirements.

They emphasized the need to **increase public education and victim outreach efforts** in order to encourage victims to come forward.

Grantees noted that the **failure to report abuse** constituted a significant barrier to serving victims of abuse in later life. They cited a number of reasons for the lack of reporting, including:

- Shame and embarrassment on the part of the victim;
- Manipulation by family members and caretakers;
- Physical isolation due to lack of access to transportation;
- Little knowledge about available services; and
- Lack of community education about the dynamics of elder abuse.

Grantees also cited **access to emergency and long-term affordable housing** as a challenge facing victims of abuse in later life. In addition to a shortage of adequate housing, service providers also cited a number of unique challenges of working with older clients, including:

- The limited mobility of many of their clients;
- The need for enhanced mental health care; and
- The unique financial circumstances of older victims.

Grantees felt that **enhanced coordination and collaboration between service providers and improved case management** would allow victims of elder abuse to better access services.

Finally, grantees cited the need to reach out to and **provide culturally specific services for underserved populations**, including:

- Victims in rural areas;
- Victims with limited English proficiency; and
- Immigrant victims.

Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program

The Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (Campus Program) is designed to encourage institutions of higher education to adopt a comprehensive coordinated community response (CCR) to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

176 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 176 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Campus Program.

693 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 693 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

157,504 Students Reached

Grantees reached a total of 157,504 incoming students through Campus-funded prevention education programming (14% of all incoming students).

Campuses address these crimes by developing campus-and community-based responses, which include:

- Campus victim services;
- Campus law enforcement;
- Health services;
- Mandatory education of incoming students; and
- Links to local criminal justice agencies and service providers.

An examination of ten public universities' sexual assault prevention and reporting policies found that universities' policies tend to focus on the threat of violence, as opposed to perpetrated sexual violence itself, often leaving sexual violence victims without critical resources that a more explicit sexual misconduct policy could provide (Streng & Kamimura, 2015).





NJ • Grantee Perspective

Prior to funding, our campus response to sexual and domestic violence was comprised of a disconnected array of basic services such as Counseling and Public Safety. In addition, many underserved groups did not have easy accessibility to victim-centered services.

Prevention education was non-existent other than a few lectures included in random courses.

Grant funding has enabled us to develop an infrastructure that promotes continuous improvement and increased coordination of communication for sexual and domestic violence issues through the establishment of a Coordinated Community Response Board (CCRB) that has since been successfully institutionalized. Our CCRB is comprised of the following members: V.P. of Student Affairs, Title IX Coordinator, Director of Public Safety (who is also the Clery Act Compliance Officer), Counseling, Judicial, Office of Specialized Services, P.R.I.D.E. Club, VIP, external agencies, and Student Ambassadors. Bergen Community College has successfully created victim-centered systemic responses, appeals, and sanctions on campus. We have comprehensive training for student peer “Ambassadors”. Additionally, we now collaborate with campus and community partners to deliver education and training on the full range of sexual and domestic violence issues for all incoming freshman and internal constituencies. We have created, implemented and institutionalized mandatory online training for all incoming students.

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NEW JERSEY



In response to the high prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses, the Bureau of Justice Statistics developed and validated the Campus Climate Survey Validation Study (CCSVS). Colleges nationwide can use the validated survey instrument and toolkit to gauge sexual assault prevalence on their campuses, assess students' perceptions of their school's response to sexual assault, and identify solutions. Findings from the pilot study, conducted on nine college campuses with over 23,000 respondents, showed that incoming first-year students were at particular risk of being sexually assaulted early in the school year; highlighting the need for prevention education before college ever begins (Krebs et al., 2016).

The Campus Program enhances the safety of victims by supporting higher education institutions in the development of services and programs uniquely designed to address and prevent domestic/sexual violence on campuses. Purpose areas include:

- Provide personnel, training, technical assistance, and data collection, to increase apprehension, investigation, and adjudication;
- Develop and implement campus policies, protocols, and services that more effectively identify and respond to these crimes;
- Implement educational programming on prevention;
- Develop or strengthen victim services programs, including providing legal, medical, or psychological counseling;
- Provide assistance and information about victims' options on-and-off campus to bring disciplinary or other legal action, including assistance to victims in immigration or trafficking matters;
- Expand data collection and communication systems;
- Provide capital improvements including improved lighting and communications facilities;
- Support improved coordination among campus administrators, campus security personnel, and local law enforcement;
- Develop or adapt and provide developmentally, culturally appropriate, and linguistically accessible print or electronic materials to address both prevention and intervention; and
- Develop and promote population-specific strategies and projects for victims from underserved populations on campus.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **176** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **7** (4%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - Support improved coordination;
 - Implement and operate education programs for prevention; and
 - Develop and implement campus policies, protocols, and services.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, coordination, prevention education, and victim services to ensure a CCR to domestic/sexual violence on college campuses. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **168** (95%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **114** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and trainers.



While more research is needed on the effectiveness of dating violence prevention approaches, a recent study showed that bystander education programs, which take a broad community approach to preventing violence, are more effective than traditional awareness education programs in changing attitudes, beliefs, efficacy, intentions, and self-reported behaviors. (Peterson et al., 2018).

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	114	
Program coordinators	73	64%
Trainers	14	12%
Victim advocates	10	9%
Administrators	8	7%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

ME • Grantee Perspective



The Campus Program has allowed us to hire a Program Coordinator who can dedicate her full attention to the creation of a true prevention curriculum. This curriculum is the cornerstone of our efforts to reduce sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking on our campus. Our programming around these issues has expanded exponentially and at a pace far faster than we could have accomplished without this grant. The leverage of the Campus Program has brought new individuals to the table to discuss these important issues and has focused the campus in ways we have not been able to previously. Because of the overwhelming attention the grant has brought to these topics, we have also been able to secure institutional dollars for initiatives that support the work of the grant.

BATES COLLEGE, MAINE

Minimum Requirements

Each campus receiving funds must address four requirements:

1. Create a CCR to address domestic/sexual violence on campus. This multidisciplinary response involves the entire campus as well as the larger community including: student affairs, student health, athletics, residence life, campus police, campus judicial boards, local law enforcement, local victim services providers, prosecutors, and state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions.
2. Provide mandatory prevention and education programs about domestic/sexual violence for all incoming students:
 - **555,039** incoming students received prevention education (51% of all incoming students).
 - **157,504** incoming students received prevention education supported with grant funds (14% of all incoming students).
3. Provide training for campus police and security:ⁱ
 - **1,905** campus police/security officers received training with grant funds.
4. Train judicial/disciplinary board members about domestic/sexual violence:ⁱ
 - **4,753** judicial/disciplinary board members received training with grant funds.

GU • Grantee Perspective



Funding allowed us to finalize and distribute our new domestic and dating violence brochure, which addresses campus and community resources such as University of Guam's Campus Security Safe Ride/Safe Walk Program, community-based victim services programs, as well as national websites to prevent domestic and dating violence.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

ⁱ Attendees at training events are not necessarily unduplicated. Attendees may be reported in both the minimum requirements section and the training section.



Emerging research suggests that sexual assault risk reduction and resistance programs are particularly effective in reducing rates of sexual violence, especially when combined with efforts directed toward perpetrators and broader social and structural change (Orchowski & Gidycz, 2018). College students who engage in violence prevention as bystanders report feeling greater responsibility for ending interpersonal violence and more confidence as bystanders; they perceive greater benefits of stepping in to help, and have a greater awareness or knowledge of sexual and partner abuse (Exner-Cortens & Cummings, 2017; Hoxmeier et al., 2017; Labhardt et al., 2017; Moynihan et al., 2015).



DE • Grantee Perspective

At the Delaware State University (DSU), the Campus Program has provided stipends to pay student Sexual Assault Response Advocates (SARAs). SARAs are fulfilling the critical role of mandatory education for incoming students, as required by federal law. Furthermore, the Campus Program made it possible for DSU to support the development of student leadership by offering training opportunities and new responsibilities to SARA students.

SARA students currently hold key student leadership positions in other organizations on campus, such as President of the Men's Council, Recording Secretary for the sophomore class, and Resident Hall President.

DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY



CT • Grantee Perspective

The Campus Program has allowed the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) campuses to receive training and resources from national experts as well as a community of grantees who share information and ideas. The program has elevated the issue of gender based violence and brought increased awareness and education to students, faculty, staff, and state administrators for the CSCU system. The program has allowed the CSCU campuses to network with each other and create a mentorship relationship between the four universities and the twelve community colleges. Prior to Campus grant funds, no coordinated prevention education/training existed between the campuses.

ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CONNECTICUT

Training

In addition to the training of campus police and judicial/disciplinary board members to fulfill minimum requirements, grantees train professional members of the campus community, such as student affairs staff, faculty, campus law enforcement officers, health and mental health staff, and other community-based professionals. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **129** (73%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees trained a total of **28,337** people.ⁱ

In the two years covered by this report, Campus Program grantees hosted:

1,487

TRAINING EVENTS

for staff across the **campus community**:



EDUCATORS



STUDENT AFFAIRS



PEER EDUCATORS

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims of domestic/sexual violence, including victim advocacy, crisis intervention, and legal advocacy. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **66** (38%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **693** victims during each 6-month period.
- Nearly **100%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **401** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **347** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **214** victims;
- Academic/educational advocacy services to **196** victims;
- Legal advocacy/court accompaniment services to **72** victims; and
- Disciplinary board advocacy services to **71** victims.

Hotline calls:

- Grantees received a total of **1,516** hotline calls; and
 - The majority of these calls (**66%**) came from victims.

Victims also requested protection orders with the assistance of grant-funded staff. Across the 2-year reporting period:

- **223** temporary protection orders were requested and **209** (94%) were granted; and
- **164** final protection orders were requested and **152** (93%) were granted.

Victims Seeking Services

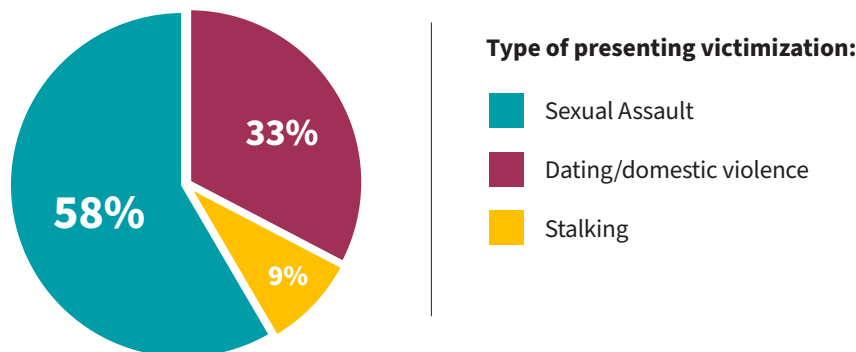
Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **sexual assault** (58%).

A recent review of campus responses to sexual violence showed that the number of colleges and universities who reported providing on-campus counseling for victims had increased by 16% since 2002; 55% of schools reported providing on-campus victim advocates; and just over two-thirds (76%) of schools identified off-campus resources for sexual assault victims so that they may seek services when campus resources are unavailable or not preferred (Richards, 2019). While these figures may demonstrate progress, research has shown that sexual assault prevalence as well as risk and protective factors vary greatly between institutions, indicating the need for more research and responses at the individual campus-level (Moylan & Javorka, 2020).



Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by Campus Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization
Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



MA • Grantee Perspective



Campus Program funding has been crucial for Salem State University. One of the biggest achievements is implementing the 24/7 confidential advocacy hotline. This service has provided support, information, crisis intervention, and advocacy for many Salem State students. This is the only office on campus that is dedicated to survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking and this office was not available prior to the grant. Advocates are trained in providing trauma-informed, culturally sensitive services and they have helped students with medical accompaniment, assistance with protection orders and other court proceedings, information about the university conduct process and more. We also fund a part-time licensed clinician who provides therapy for survivors. This holistic response to survivors helps provide better outcomes and helps students feel supported through these difficult processes.

SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY, MASSACHUSETTS

MS • Grantee Perspective



Training for our law enforcement/campus safety officers has been very successful. Topics covered in these trainings include report writing, roles of officers, bystander prevention techniques, domestic violence legislative updates, human trafficking, and sexual assault interview techniques. This advanced training has allowed our law enforcement/campus safety officers to better serve our campus and have better knowledge of advanced tactics, and as a result, they have become more thorough in their investigations and report writing.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Table 2 | Victims seeking services with Campus grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	693	
Victims served	685	98%
Victims partially served	8	1%
Victims not served	3	< 1%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Campus Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Campus Program grant.



A recent survey of college students found that approximately four in ten respondents had experienced some form of stalking victimization (Brady et al., 2017). However, victims often do not recognize stalking as a crime. Among college students who reported behavior that qualified as stalking, only one-quarter (24.7%) self-identified as stalking victims; their acknowledgment of the stalking was linked with more severe and injurious offenses by the offenders (McNamara & Marsil, 2012).



OR • Grantee Perspective

When Western Oregon University first received this grant, we did not have ongoing meetings to coordinate with important partners across the campus community, we lacked confidential advocates, training for law enforcement and Student Conduct was minimal, and prevention efforts were sporadic and siloed. Since receiving the grant, not only does a large group meet to discuss coordinated responses, but smaller groups have emerged to address aspects like comprehensive prevention and engaging men. Without the grant, not only would the Coordinated Community Response Team not exist, but the smaller groups would not be able to meet and discuss how to prevent sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, or stalking in a comprehensive way. The grant provides an excuse to meet and plan and a knowledge base that our campus would not be able to provide without it. Now, administrators are more willing to invest. For example, we now have a full-time professional confidential advocate, will be hiring a second, part-time bilingual advocate, and campus law enforcement and Conduct are investing more into training and in-services for staff.

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY



A 2017 study examining college students' disclosure decisions found that victims are significantly less likely to disclose experiences of unwanted sexual contact, unwanted intercourse, and intimate partner violence when the perpetrator is a current or former romantic partner. Violence within their relationships may be interpreted as a private matter, so victims may hesitate to tell others. Conversely, stalking victims are more likely to disclose their experiences when the perpetrator is a former partner, perhaps due to the perception that the behaviors of a former partner are more threatening than those of a stranger (Demers et al., 2018).

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by an **acquaintance** (34%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (27%) or by a **spouse or intimate partner** (26%).

Figure 2 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

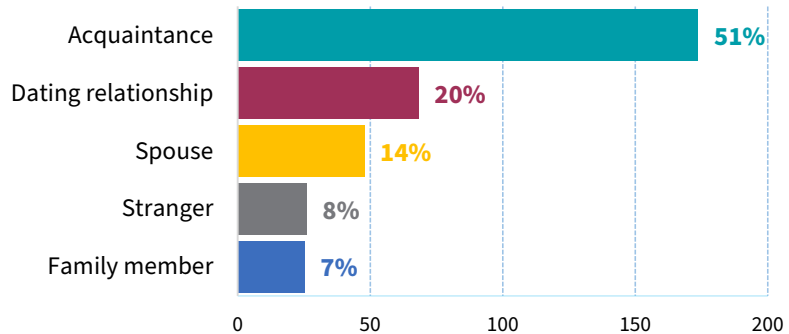


Figure 3 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Dating/domestic violence** (6-month average)

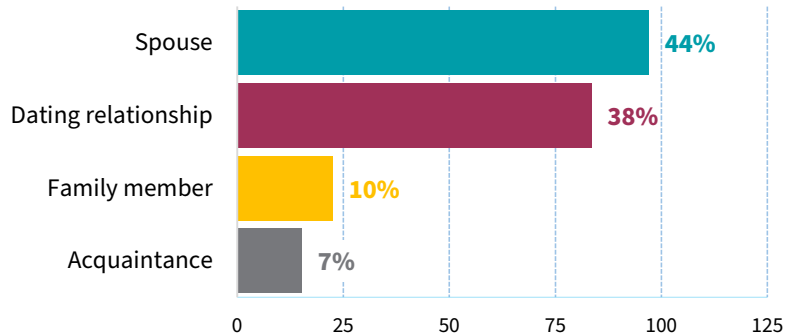
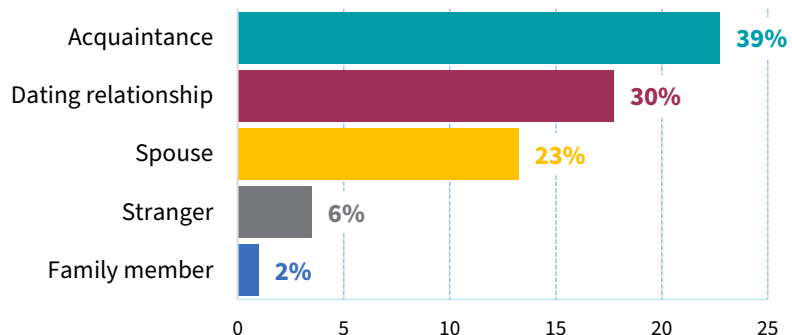


Figure 4 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Hours of operation;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements; and
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims with mental health issues.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **693** victims during each 6-month reporting period. The majority of those victims were **white** (58%), **female** (93%), and between the ages of **18 and 24** (80%).

Figure 5 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

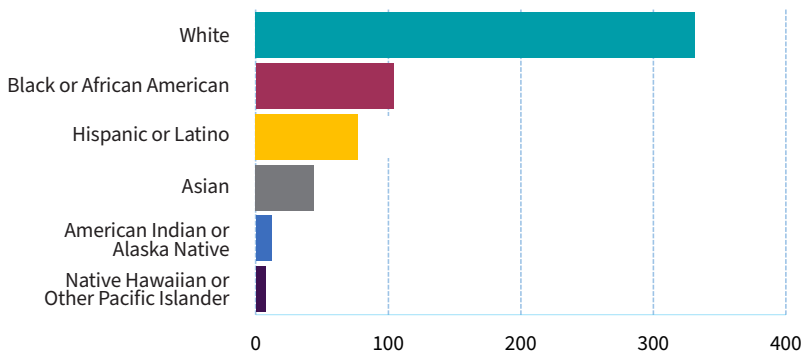
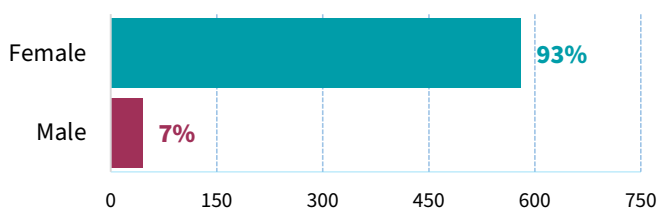


Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



NC • Grantee Perspective



This grant award has provided Mars Hill University with a fresh look at a problem that had largely been ignored until this grant was awarded. Because of the funds from this grant, we have been able to bring awareness to the safety and security needs of our students in the specific areas of dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This is something that, prior to this grant, our campus was not raising awareness about and, outside of the security office, we had no actual knowledge that a problem existed. Because of these grant funds, we have been able to improve security measures around our campus in regard to lighting, communication, and training that have vastly improved how our security personnel respond to the needs of our students. The Bystander Training program has also changed how our students and faculty/staff view their responsibility to help meet the needs of another or, at the very least, no longer turn a blind eye to what is going on around them but rather, step in and take an active stand against domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus.

MARS HILL UNIVERSITY, NORTH CAROLINA

As the problem of domestic/sexual violence on campuses has gained national attention, the need for responses tailored to specific racial, sexual, and gender identities has become clearer. A large survey of undergraduate students from across the U.S. found that the predicted probability of sexual assault for Black transgender students was 57.7%, compared to 2.8% for white cisgender students (Coulter et al., 2017).



IL • Grantee Perspective



The grant strengthened our ability to get the Athletics Department involved in violence prevention. In the Spring semester, the Athletics Department was involved in the creation of the It's On Us campaign that was organized by the Project Coordinator. They assisted in filming and editing a video to engage student athletes in the campaign. The video is now posted on the University violence prevention web page and can be used for educational programs with incoming and current students, parents, faculty, and staff. We have also posted our It's On Us posters across campus and are asking students to sign a pledge and wear It's On Us bracelets to share messages on campus.

BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY, ILLINOIS



LGBTQ students are at increased risk of experiencing sexual violence; however, a recent survey of nearly 2,000 undergraduate students found that higher levels of campus inclusivity of LGBTQ people are correlated with lower levels of sexual assault (Coulter & Rankin, 2020).



TX • Grantee Perspective

These funds have allowed us to speak openly about gender-based violence (GBV). We have been working to train campus administrators about GBV at our quarterly Coordinated Community Response Team meetings. We have been able to bring to our campus a bystander intervention program that will be here long after the grant funds run out. We were also able to bring a speaker to campus from the law enforcement technical assistance (TA) provider list who spoke about GBV in the LGBT community and how we can better serve our students and community. The student conduct TA providers took a look at our student handbook looking for cultural competence and ensured us we were being sensitive and using inclusive language. This grant has been very helpful; there is a lot of access to information that just was not present before.

TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY



CA • Grantee Perspective

Funding enabled the creation of a 14-member Coordinated Community Response Team that meets monthly, plans together, and received extensive training together. This has fostered closer working relationships amongst team members and wider collaborations for educational programming and response services. Funding has enabled the expansion of part-time counseling services into full-time, year-round services. As a result, the EmPOWER Center was able to serve more student survivors throughout the year and was able to offer support staff and faculty during winter and summer breaks. Funding for a grant Project Coordinator effectively doubled prevention staff at the EmPOWER Center, expanding capacity for prevention education programming, including on specialized topics such as healthy relationships and healthy sexuality skill-building as protective factors against sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking risk and impact.

SCRIPPS COLLEGE, CALIFORNIA

Figure 7 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

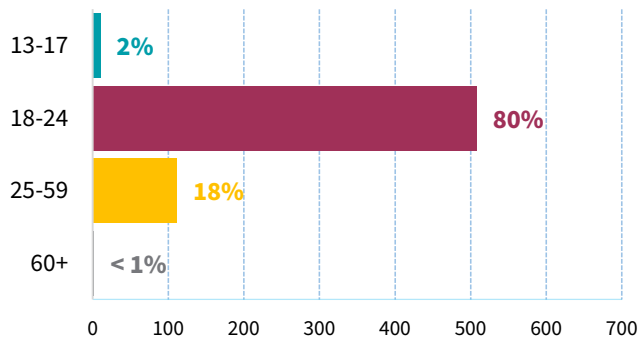
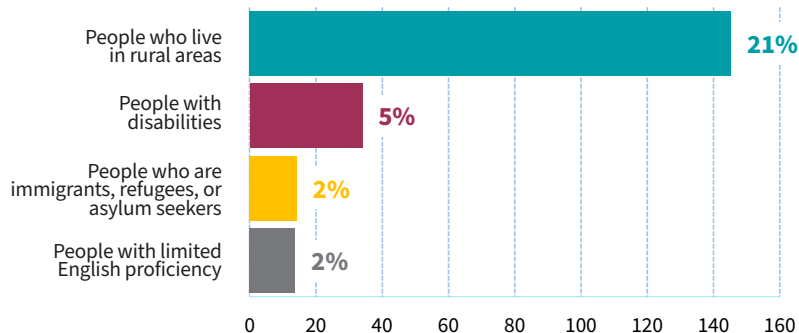


Figure 8 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



Campus and Community Measures

Grantees provide information, to the extent that information is available, on domestic/sexual violence offenses that occur on campus and on public property or other property related to the institution that are reported to campus security or local law enforcement.ⁱⁱ Of those reported by grantees:

- **547** offenses resulted in criminal charges being filed in the local jurisdiction; and
- **1,195** offenses resulted in campus/disciplinary board actions.

ⁱⁱ This information is not limited to offenses responded to with Campus Program grant funding.

Remaining Areas of Need

As complex organizations, colleges and universities pointed to **difficulties they faced institutionalizing campus-wide policies toward sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking**. Along these lines, grantees called for:

- Increased collaboration and coordination between CCRT partners;
- Enhanced communication and collaboration between on-and off-campus service providers;
- Better training for staff and faculty on reporting procedures and referrals to on-campus resources;
- Consistent training of campus law enforcement and first responders;
- Increased communication between divisions within the university, including Title IX offices and campus law enforcement; and
- Formalized and written policies and procedures to ensure uniform responses to instances of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Grantees frequently emphasized the need to **increase awareness of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking among all student groups**.

Many pointed to the need to **expand mandatory education and prevention training to all students**, including students entering campus during winter and spring sessions, online students, graduate students, and off-campus students, including those studying abroad. Others suggested expanding outreach efforts beyond mandatory prevention education to reach more students.

In addition to expanding education on sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, many grantees felt that **victims were not sufficiently aware of or willing to use the services and options available to them**. In order to increase victims' use of on-and off-campus services, grantees suggested:

- Training staff, faculty, and graduate students in trauma-informed response and increasing their awareness of the services available to students;
- Training staff, faculty, and graduate students on how to handle disclosures from students;
- Involving more students in bystander intervention training;
- Improving the protocol for first responders, including campus security and local police;
- Better direct communication and targeted outreach to students about available services; and
- Having a victim advocate on campus to provide immediate assistance to prevent gaps in referrals or services.

MS • Grantee Perspective



A significant area of remaining need is to enhance the publicity of available resources. We feel it would be beneficial for our campus' reporting process to be publicized through means like press releases, brochures, posters, radio and video feeds, and web-based messages. We feel that in order to serve victims, it is imperative to get the information out there. The information will provide our campus community with valuable resources and assist them with learning our universal process. We have found a coordinated approach to be very effective. If the key partners are in place, it truly enhances the community response.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

PA • Grantee Perspective



The most significant areas of remaining need in the college's OWW Campus grant continue to be engaging and serving marginalized communities to ensure victim services, prevention education, and response measures all reflect cultural competency and best practices from the field. While the college has taken steps to centralize the needs and experiences of marginalized community members, we still have a long way to go in terms of aligning CCRT campus and community partners' efforts to prioritize victims from the most marginalized communities on our campus (specifically victims who identify as LGBTQIA+, students of color, international students, immigrant students, and DACA students). While the number of students who may identify (openly) with some of these marginalized populations may be a small percentage of the College's reported demographics, we know that individuals with marginalized identities (especially those with intersecting, multiple, marginalized identities) are statistically at greater risk of experiencing victimization in their lifetime. We also know that historically, marginalized populations such as those named here are less likely to report crimes (including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking) to authorities due to institutionalized oppression and mistrust of public systems that may exist in that community.

GETTYSBURG COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA



NJ • Grantee Perspective

One area of need is policy revision; terms such as “consent” and “sexual assault” could be defined more clearly and the reporting process outlined more clearly. Another area of need is written protocols and procedures. While the university has a solid policy in place, there are gaps with regard to the steps both confidential employees and employees with a duty to report should follow after a disclosure from a survivor. In one document, a procedure lists informing the Assistant Dean of Residence Life and Conduct about a disclosure, but does not provide a rationale as to why, or what that person will, in turn, do with the information.

To make reporting as survivor-centered as possible, only the most essential campus partners should receive such information. Revisiting and closing gaps in these protocols and procedures will improve the reporting procedures at Caldwell.

CALDWELL UNIVERSITY, NEW JERSEY

Grantees emphasized the need to **reach out to underserved populations on campus** to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including:

- LGBTQ community members;
- International students;
- Students with disabilities; and
- Students of color.

Overall, grantees cited a need to combat **misinformation about sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking as well as negative stereotypes of victims, which they felt discouraged victims from reporting crimes to law enforcement** and Title IX offices. Grantees suggested a number of interventions to improve reporting of crimes, including:

- Engaging male students in anti-violence initiatives;
- The use of campus climate surveys and program evaluation;
- Increasing offender accountability; and
- Clarifying campus policies and protocols for investigation.

Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies

The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA authorized two youth-focused grant programs for which Congress has not appropriated funds. Rather, federal appropriations since FY 2012 have included funding for a Consolidated Youth Program that serves victims ages 0 to 24 and promotes boys' and men's roles in combating violence against women and girls. VAWA 2013 also added sex trafficking as a victimization that could be addressed under VAWA's tribal- and youth-specific programs.

CONSOLIDATED YOUTH PROGRAM GRANTEES INCORPORATE CEV, EMY, STEP, and Youth Services purpose areas, including teen dating violence awareness and prevention, programs that respond to children's exposure to violence in their homes through services and training, and engaging men as leaders and role models.

69 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 69 unique grantees reported activities funded by the CY Program.

1,095 Child Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 1,095 child victims during each 6-month reporting period.

21,990 People Reached

Grantees reached a total of 21,990 people at community-wide events.

Findings from a nationally representative study of children exposed to violence showed that one-third of respondents experienced a physical assault in the past year, and 13% of those aged 14-17 experienced sexual assault or abuse in that time. Another large national study found that among high school adolescents, 11.7% of female and 7.4% of male students experienced physical dating violence, and 15.6% of female and 5.4% of male students experienced sexual dating violence (Finkelhor et al., 2015; Olsen et al., 2017).





Like adult victims of domestic/sexual violence, children who are exposed to violence are best served by research, policy, and practice that takes into account the many layers of their identities and their complex social positions, including gender, age, sexuality, race, ethnicity, poverty, and culture (Barrios et al., 2020; Etherington, & Baker, 2018).



MN • Grantee Perspective

With the support of OWW funding we have accomplished many goals that may not have been possible otherwise. We now have the monetary support to hire an advocate to work directly with Latin@ youth, and to have a men and boys coordinator to deepen the work with allies. Prevention with Latino boys has been key to the work. Since the beginning of this grant, we have been able to serve over 100 youth survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, staking and trafficking, and over 2,400 total Latin@ community members have received education, awareness, and training on teen DV, SA, and healthy masculinity. During this grant period the youth advocate has been able to establish strong relationships with key partners including two charter high schools for teen moms, AGAPE and Longfellow, and a charter school specifically serving Latin@ youth. In both sites, the youth advocate and the social worker provide weekly support groups for the Latina teen moms. This setting provides the opportunity for students to discuss issues affecting their lives as parents.

A number of them are new immigrants who have goals and dreams, as any other youth in this country, and with the advocate's support, they can learn how to navigate the school system and pursue higher education. In addition, the youth advocate provides support and advocacy services for youth participants in the community who also are experiencing domestic, sexual, and dating violence.

CASA DE ESPERANZA, MINNESOTA



NY • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving this funding, the Ali Forney Center (AFC) had only one therapist on staff and a long wait list. In part due to funding from this CEV Program, AFC has been able to add therapists and re-establish the role of Clinical Coordinator. We no longer have a therapy wait list, and every client who completes intake with us is assigned a therapist.

ALI FORNEY CENTER, NEW YORK

Grantees must provide culturally, linguistically, and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations, or referrals to existing services within their community.

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Provide services for children and youth exposed to domestic/sexual violence, including youth victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, such as direct counseling, advocacy, or mentoring, and must include support for the non-abusing parent or the child's caretaker;
- Provide training, coordination, and advocacy for programs that serve children and youth (such as Head Start, child care, and after-school programs) on how to safely and confidentially identify children and families experiencing domestic violence and properly refer them to programs that can provide direct services to the children and family; and
- Create public education campaigns and support community organizing to encourage men and boys to work as allies to women and girls, endeavoring to prevent domestic/sexual violence.

VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **69** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **10** (14%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training to professionals who work with children; training and public education to engage men and youth in ending violence; and victim services to child victims and children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **69** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **100** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and trainers.

Table 1 | Staff supported with CY grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	100	
Program coordinators	28	28%
Trainers	14	14%
Mental health professionals	13	13%
Administrators	11	11%
Victim advocates	9	9%
Outreach workers	7	7%
Counselors	5	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

Grantees provide training to social service and healthcare professionals, educators and other school staff, child care providers, and other professionals to improve the professional identification of and response to children exposed to domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **50** (72%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **878** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **17,760** people.
- Most often these trainings reached educators (**24%**), social service organization staff (**9%**), health professionals (**6%**), and mental health professionals (**6%**).

Community Organizing/Mobilization and Prevention

Grant-funded staff assist in community organizing and mobilization, encouraging men and boys to work as allies to prevent physical and/or sexual violence and build safe, supportive, and accountable communities.

- **19** (28%) grantees used funds for community organization/mobilization and prevention.

Community Organizing Events

Grantees provide community-wide events, such as school presentations and public forums, for members of the communities they are working in.

- Grantees hosted a total of **460** community-wide events.
- Grantees reached a total of **21,990** people at community-wide events.
 - Grantees most frequently hosted information tables (**35%**), school presentations (**25%**), and culturally specific events (**53%**).

ND • Grantee Perspective



The Consolidated Youth Program has allowed us to hire and train staff to serve children and youth who have experienced trauma. In addition to funding staff, CY also greatly assists in our ability to provide training to increase staff competency in a variety of areas. For example, we were able to send our child therapist to an Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Child Specialist training, and two CY-funded therapists were able to attend a state Play Therapy conference and receive a certification training in “AutPlay” therapy. This enhanced their ability to work with children who have disabilities and are on the Autism Spectrum who have also experienced trauma. Attending this conference would not have been possible without CY funding.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE CENTER, NORTH DAKOTA

In a recent survey of 11,794 high school students, LGBTQ youth reported higher levels of teen dating violence than non-LGBTQ youth, which is in line with a growing body of research on the subject. LGBTQ students also reported higher levels of anxiety, suicidality, and peer victimization. These findings point toward the need for prevention programming, training, and services that take into account the complex experiences of LGBTQ youth (Espelage et al., 2018).



TX • Grantee Perspective



Prior to receiving CEV funding, we were not able to conduct any prevention programming in the Manor community. With this funding, we were able to engage children and youth in prevention from PreK - 12th grade, and offer opportunities during the school day (e.g. social emotional skills groups; safe dating workshops) or through after school programs (Con Mi MADRE, African American Youth Harvest Foundation) and paid summer youth leadership programs.

THE SAFE ALLIANCE, TEXAS

ME • Grantee Perspective



We have been able to expand our work to fully serve Oxford County, and to provide education to more youth in schools in the region we did not previously have the capacity to serve. We have been able to strengthen our relationships with our grant partners and explore new avenues for collaboration, including co-facilitated support groups and partnering on drop-ins.

SAFE VOICES, MAINE



A recent longitudinal study of teen dating violence suggests that the age of onset for these forms of violence is quite young, with psychological teen dating violence often starting in early adolescence. These findings indicate that middle school primary prevention efforts may be particularly effective, namely those focused on building conflict resolution skills (Shorey, 2018).



Programs and campaigns may increase men's awareness about gender-based violence, encouraging them to commit to ending it by becoming formally involved in violence prevention efforts, and/or by being a role model and vocal proponent of respectful relationships in their own families and communities (Casey et al., 2013, 2017; Tolman et al., 2017).



MI • Grantee Perspective

Without this funding, we would not have been able to provide comprehensive, holistic, trauma-informed, empowerment-based counseling services to youth exposed to intimate partner violence. We would not have been able to build such strong relationships with our community partners and it has improved police response immensely. We have been able to integrate our prevention and intervention efforts and have established a strong, cohesive, youth-led network of peer leaders in Southwest Detroit. We have served 195 youth survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, or youth exposed to these crimes during the reporting period. We have enhanced our relationship with our MOU partners, including Alternatives for Girls, and provided street outreach for sexually exploited youth through this funding. We have also created art installations and videos that help to promote the importance of healthy relationships, safety, and consent among young, Latinx residents of Southwest Detroit.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES/LA VIDA PARTNERSHIP, MICHIGAN

Ongoing Community Organizing Activities

In addition to community-wide events, grantees provided ongoing community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities, such as educational courses and leadership/mentoring trainings, to targeted groups of men and youth.

- Grantees provided **238** ongoing community organizing activities.
 - The most common types of ongoing activities provided were educational courses (**50%**) and leadership/mentorship trainings (**35%**).
- Grantees provided these ongoing activities to **8,133** people.
 - Grantees most frequently reached elementary, middle, high school, and university students (**48%**); culturally specific community group members (**8%**); and fatherhood group members (**8%**).

Public Education/Awareness Campaigns

Grantees create public education campaigns encouraging men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent domestic/sexual violence.

- **12** (17%) grantees used funds for public education/awareness campaigns.

In the two years covered by this report, **Consolidated Youth grantees provided:**

123
**PUBLIC EDUCATION/
AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

via **platforms** such as:

ONLINE SOCIAL
MEDIA

CONTESTS

POSTERS

Services for Child Victims, Children Indirectly Exposed, and their Non-Abusing Parents/Caregivers

Child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence need comprehensive support services that meet a wide array of needs to help them become and remain safe from violence.

- **37** (54%) grantees used funds for victim services.

Child Victim Services

Grantees may provide child victims with individual or group counseling services; offer education advocacy with the child's school; assist the child and accompanying parent or caregiver in obtaining a protection order; and provide safety planning, court accompaniment, shelter, and/or transportation.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,095** child victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of child victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Child advocacy services to **691** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **507** victims; and
- Crisis intervention services to **447** victims.

Child Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve child victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- Most victims served or partially served were victims of **sexual assault** (49%).

An estimated one in ten adults report being sexually abused as children. These child victims are more likely to experience other forms of child abuse, maltreatment, and neglect. Additionally, girls are more likely than boys to experience sexual abuse (Perez-Fuentes et al., 2013; Carlson et al., 2015). Notably, however, the incidence of children exposed to or experiencing violence is much higher than the rates of these crimes reported to authorities (Health Resources & Services Administration and Maternal & Child Health Bureau, 2015).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective



The CEV program funding has allowed us to work more closely with youth in the community. Building those one-on-one relationships with children who have been exposed to or who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence has proven beneficial to the children and youth, as well as the advocates. Through this grant we are able to assist children and youth with emergency clothing, hygiene products, food, and school supplies and we are able to eliminate homelessness for children by providing rental assistance to the family. Our Child Therapist has been a wonderful added resource for children and youth who have experienced trauma. Working one-on-one with the children seems to be the most rewarding in our field of work. They start to trust and ask questions and they soon realize we are there for them and no matter what they say, it stays between us and is confidential. Working on crafts, taking them on outdoor adventures and having the children use journals to write their thoughts down has opened a huge door of communication between the child and the advocate. Our major role is building trust between the child and advocate. Soon they start calling their advocate to tell them something exciting that happened to them that day. As indicated by our data, our form of advocacy provides children and youth with a feeling of comfort in coming forward to a safe place to address their DV/SA victimization and exposure.

KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by CY Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Child victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)

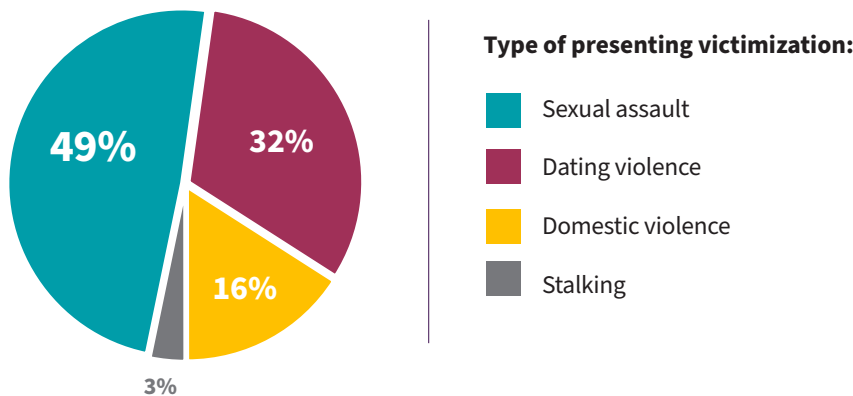


Table 2 | Child victims seeking services with CY grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Child victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total child victims seeking services	1,103	
Child victims served	1,051	95%
Child victims partially served	44	4%
Child victims not served	8	1%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant.



A recent survey of 1,141 high-risk youth who had been exposed to violence found that at particular points during early adolescence, boys may be at equal risk of experiencing teen dating violence as girls. While the fear caused by victimization seems to impact girls more intensely, these data indicate a need to consider the impacts of teen dating violence across age and gender (Reidy et al., 2016).



MA • Grantee Perspective

The CEV grant has brought together key stakeholders in the community to respond to the violence our young people are experiencing, and to build a sustainable plan to support, prevent, and build a healthier community. This has been done through the assembly of our Springfield Responds Advisory Board which comes together each month to both treat and prevent dating violence. With the representatives from community-based agencies, the local police force, the school district, and the District Attorney's Office, we have already made so much headway in shifting the culture of violence in our community. Much of this has been through the creation of a policy that is in the works to be adopted by the Springfield Public School system.

YWCA OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VT • Grantee Perspective

CEV funding has created an unprecedented depth of prevention and intervention services for marginalized youth in Chittenden County, VT. Youth left CEV grant programs with more skills for reaching out to people who can help and provide resources to get that help. One participant said, "I have a community of people to fall back on if I ever need them." Another youth participant shared, "one thing I'm leaving [the program with] that I didn't know before is that there really are other people going through the same things I am, and they understand and actually know how it feels." Building supportive community connection is an enormous source of resilience for marginalized youth who are often isolated and left feeling alone. Because their marginalization can increase their vulnerability to experiences of violence, providing spaces where they connect, learn about healthy relationships and resources, and grow a deeper connection to their sense of self worth and authenticity begins the lifelong pivot toward healing, violence prevention, and ultimately culture shift.

HOPE WORKS, INC., VERMONT

Child Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve child victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The child victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized in the context of the **child's dating relationship** (35%).
- The remaining child victims were most commonly victimized by a **family member** (22%) or by an **acquaintance** (18%).

Figure 2 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Dating violence** (6-month average)

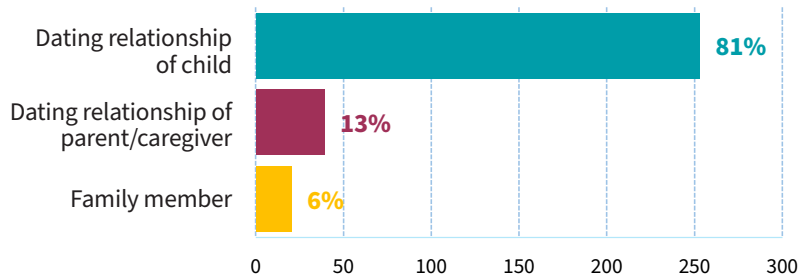


Figure 3 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

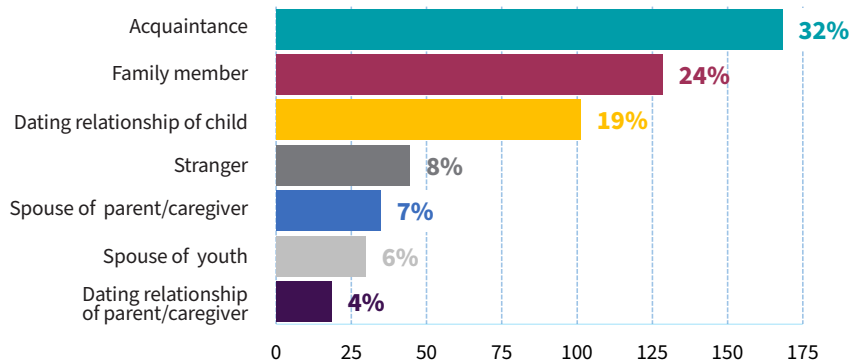


Figure 4 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic violence** (6-month average)

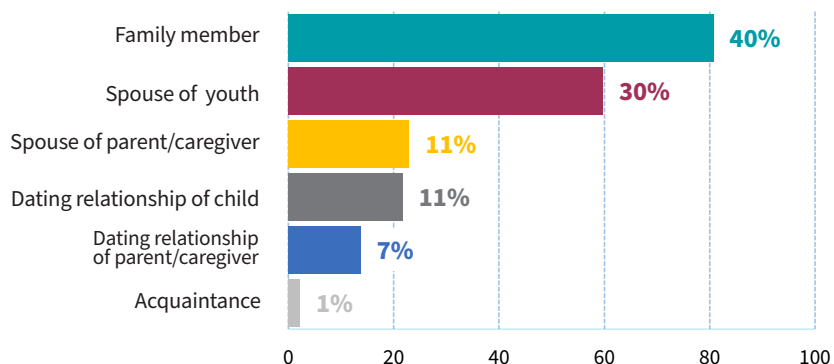
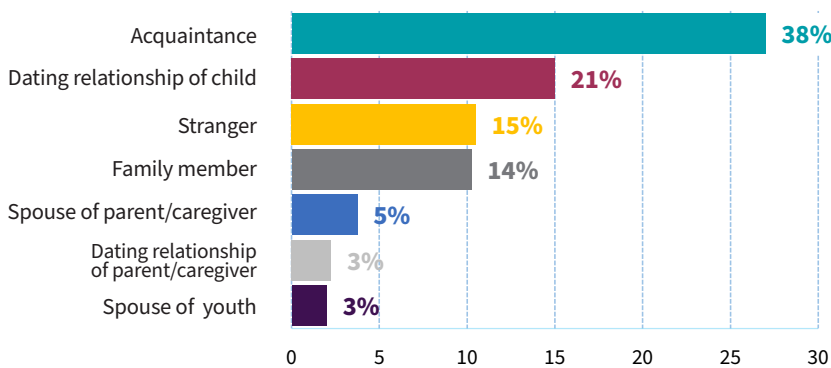


Figure 5 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



Reasons Child Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why child victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Transportation;
- Program reached capacity;
- Services not appropriate for child; or
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements.

Services for Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence

Grantees provide a variety of services to children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence, including child advocacy, crisis intervention, and individual or group counseling. Children indirectly exposed to violence may also require assistance with school- and/or health-related issues, transportation needs, and legal issues. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help children become and remain safe from violence.**

- Grantees provided services to an average of **797** children indirectly exposed to violence during each 6-month period.
- **97%** of children indirectly exposed to violence who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Child advocacy services to **569** children;
- Support group/counseling services to **305** children;
- Education advocacy to **273** children; and
- Crisis intervention services to **205** children.

WA • Grantee Perspective



The Queer Youth Project (QYP) Coordinator has been able to attend Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA) meetings, providing content requested by QSA youth and staff related to healthy relationships, safe sex and self-care planning, consent, as well as to provide other QYP resources to youth at the QSAs. The QYP was also able to create a club at Horizon Middle School, where there had not previously been one. The existence of QSAs on campuses improves outcomes for students who identify as LGBTQ, including in their victimization rates. Funding has also allowed the QYP to continue community training programs. Because of the Safe Futures grant, the Program Coordinator has offered “Queer Informed Care” trainings to 222 adults including Horizon Middle School teachers, Ferndale School District elementary teachers, Blaine High School teachers and Informing Families, a program of the Department of Social and Human Services, which serves people with developmental disabilities, a population that is disproportionately impacted by sexual violence. When those working directly with youth are centering the needs and voices of marginalized youth, they are more likely to reach out for help and support when they are harmed. This is especially important for queer youth who have been victimized, since they often experience additional isolation due to their identities.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES, WASHINGTON

Research increasingly indicates the need to understand youth violence in an integrated, non-siloed way. One such approach is the polyvictimization framework, which considers a web of violence, rather than individual, isolated experiences. This understanding leads to prevention and intervention approaches that are based on poly-strengths; in other words, an accounting of the many tools and resources children and families have available to them to build resiliency and to become and remain safe from harm (Hamby et al., 2018).





A recent meta-analysis found that all forms of violence negatively impact educational outcomes for children. In particular, the study showed that those who experienced sexual violence during childhood scored 25 percentile points lower on standardized tests than those who had not experienced this form of violence and had a 14% probability of not graduating (Fry et al., 2018).



NC • Grantee Perspective

The CEV funding has allowed us to offer evidence-based treatment for victims, train professionals on the behavioral and psychosocial indicators of children exposed to violence in order to improve identification of victims, and to install a Parent Child Interaction Therapy lab to improve access to quality trauma-informed therapy for young children and their non-offending caregivers/parents. Animal-assisted therapy and trauma-sensitive yoga have been implemented to improve engagement for resistant child victims with Autism and/or highly traumatized children/youth. The CEV program funding has allowed four schools to improve teacher/administrator identification of children exposed to violence and has increased the ability within a school setting to identify and respond in a trauma-informed, supportive manner. School advocacy groups have provided prevention activities for all students and decreased the stigma of disclosing violence. We have expanded partnerships with Centro Comunitario to enhance services to children who are Latino, Black/African American, or speak Spanish in the rural community. We are continuing to strengthen the relationship with child protective services (CPS), including expanded parameters of CPS and how to improve the coordinated community response to children exposed to violence.

30TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLIANCE, NORTH CAROLINA



UT • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed our organizations to form an extremely strong partnership to provide meaningful, impactful, and successful services to youth experiencing violence. Prior to this funding, no schools in Cache County had a full-time therapist to provide services for youth. This funding has allowed us to have two therapists available to meet the needs of youth.

CITIZENS AGAINST PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE, UTAH

Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence Seeking Services

Grantees serve children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of children served or partially served were indirectly exposed to **domestic violence** (88%).

Figure 6 | Provision of services to children indirectly exposed to violence by CY Program grantees, by type of violence

Children served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)

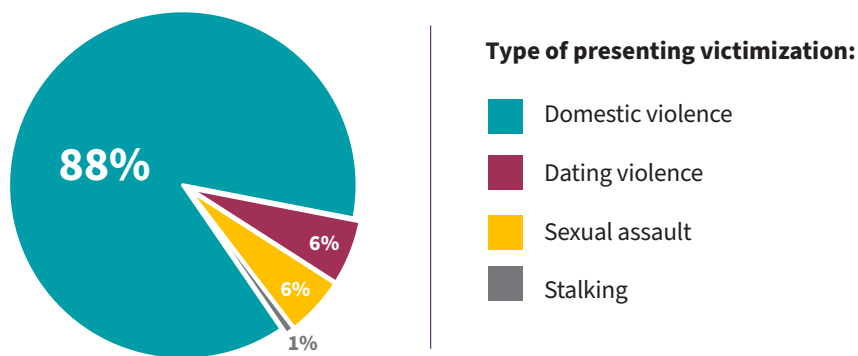


Table 3 | Children indirectly exposed to violence seeking services with CY grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Children seeking services	6-month average	
Total children seeking services	820	
Children served	774	94%
Children partially served	23	3%
Children not served	23	3%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents children who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant. “Not served” represents children who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant.

Indirectly Exposed Children’s Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The children most frequently served or partially served were indirectly exposed to violence by a **spouse or intimate partner of a parent/caregiver** (48%).
- The remaining children were most commonly exposed to violence by a **family member** (44%), or a **dating partner of the parent/caregiver** (5%).

Figure 7 Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender:
Domestic violence (6-month average)

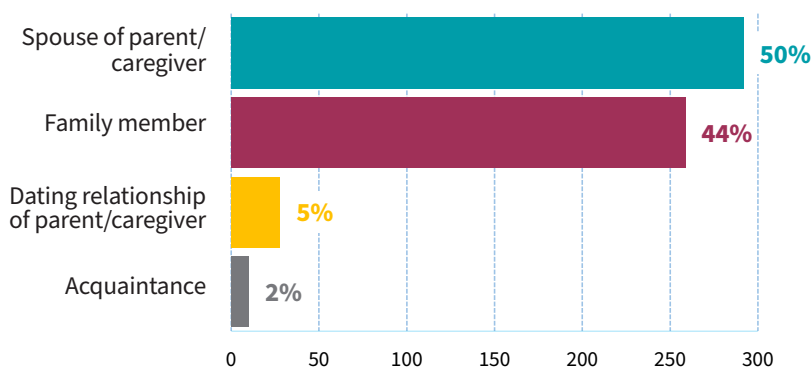


Figure 8 Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender:
Dating violence (6-month average)

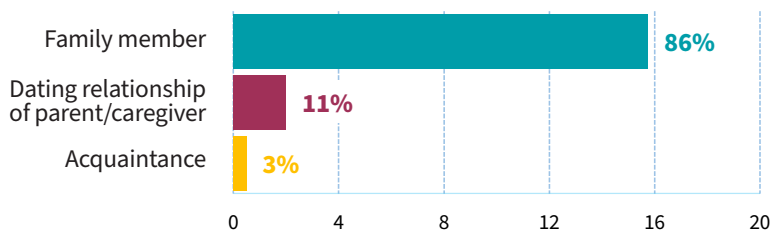
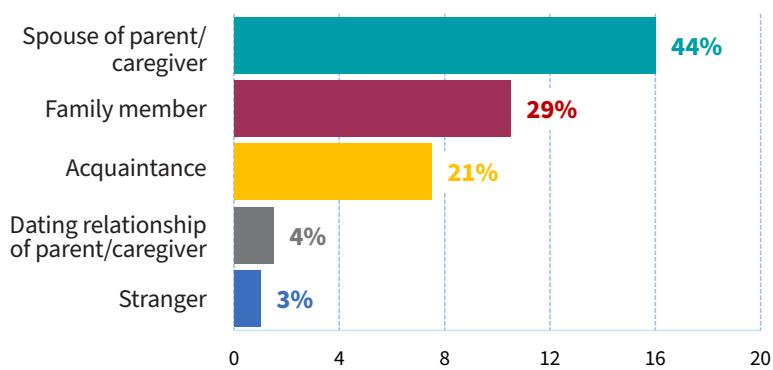


Figure 9 Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender:
Sexual assault (6-month average)



NOTE: Numbers for relationship to offender were too small to compute for stalking victimizations.

Reasons Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why children indirectly exposed to violence were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources; or
- Program reached capacity.

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



This grant opportunity has been crucial in the Washoe Tribe’s ability to interact with youth on a regular basis. Prior to receiving this grant, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking were not discussed in the community, especially with youth. Domestic violence was a taboo subject for most community members. Through this grant, we have been able to reach out to all four Washoe Communities and bring awareness to the realities of violence within the communities. This grant has allowed the Washoe Tribe to have access to educational presentations, staff training, and a continuous source of support. The grant has also allowed the Washoe Tribe to begin the Sons of Tradition Program that will continue to run even after the grant award is over. The Sons of Tradition Program has offered a safe space for many young men and older men to speak about subjects that they may not be able to speak about in their homes. The talking circle has long been a tradition of the Washoe Tribe and continuing the tradition has gotten positive reviews. The Sons of Tradition Program has also allowed the Washoe EMAB Program, and its partner, Cultural Resources, to utilize culture as a means of violence prevention.

WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA

NY • Grantee Perspective



The Justice and Empowerment for Teens program (JET) is innovating to reduce barriers to services for survivors by creating a variety of ways through which to engage youth. CEV funding enabled JET to develop the Thriving Programming that will roll out in September 2018 with creative writing and art workshops for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Over the course of the year, these workshops will expand to include workshops on Muay Thai, cooking and nutrition, and yoga. This programming is a promising practice that we believe will enable us to engage survivors who are not ready to enter counseling. CEV funding is enabling JET to meet with Survivor Leaders from NYC and Seattle. With CEV funding, JET is able to prioritize survivor knowledge and leadership in the process of developing engaging programming for JET clients. Survivor Leaders are providing consultation and assisting JET staff as they integrate Survivor Advocates into JET programming, creating pathways to leadership for JET clients.

SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES, INC., NEW YORK



A recent survey of more than 18,000 culturally diverse high school students found that more than a quarter of gender minority students had experienced sexual or dating violence or made a suicide attempt in the past year, compared with fewer than one in ten cisgender students. Gender minority students also reported receiving significantly less school, peer, community, and family support. The study found that school, peer, and family support were correlated to lower rates of violence and self-harm for all students; however gender minority youth may need particular forms of support in order to overcome the extremely elevated risks they face (Ross-Reed et al., 2019).



NY • Grantee Perspective

African-American boys and LGBTQ youth have not been targeted with comprehensive domestic and sexual violence prevention and intervention services in a sustained, meaningful way. Prevention services in particular are often not directed to these groups. This project targets young African-American boys in the City of Syracuse and LGBTQ youth in Onondaga County with culturally-relevant, accessible prevention and intervention services, and will engage men as active partners in efforts to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. According to Farah Tanis, co-Founder of the Black Women's Health Blueprint, domestic and sexual abuse in the Black community often goes ignored, and the problem is only getting worse. In developing prevention services for LGBTQ youth, we have not found services that address the particular needs of the community. This funding has allowed us to conduct focus groups and develop core prevention programming which places these youth at the center. We see our efforts as amplifying their voices with creative programming that is developed by them and for them. This funding is especially necessary because it provides a way to address these issues in a culturally specific way.

VERA HOUSE, NEW YORK

Demographics of Children Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,095** child victims and **797** children indirectly exposed to violence during each 6-month period. The child victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (50%), **female** (79%), and between the ages of **13 and 17** (47%). Children indirectly exposed to violence were most frequently **white** (37%), **male** (52%), and between the ages of **0 and 12** (64%).

Table 4

Demographic characteristics of children served with CY grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Characteristic	6-month average			
	Child victims		Children indirectly exposed	
	N	%	N	%
Race				
American Indian or Alaska Native	32	3%	39	5%
Asian	21	2%	35	5%
Black or African American	207	21%	161	22%
Hispanic or Latino	233	24%	244	33%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9	1%	3	< 1%
White	492	50%	275	37%
Unknown (missing)	111		51	
Gender				
Female	782	79%	363	48%
Male	213	21%	399	52%
Total	1,095		797	
Unknown (missing)	100		36	
Age				
0–12	131	13%	488	64%
13–17	457	47%	241	32%
18–24	384	39%	31	4%
Total	1,095		797	
Unknown (missing)	123		37	
Other				
Children with disabilities	92	8%	26	3%
Children who are Deaf or hard of hearing	2	< 1%	3	< 1%
Children with limited English proficiency	35	3%	14	2%
Children who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	60	5%	29	4%
Children who live in rural areas	212	19%	136	17%
Children who are homeless/runaways	186	17%	113	14%
Children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex	256	23%	18	2%
Children with mental health issues	315	29%	95	12%

Support Services and Referrals for Non-Abusing Parents/Caregivers

In addition to services for children, grantees provide support services and referrals to non-abusing parents/caregivers of child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence. Grantees may either provide these services directly, or refer parents to other agencies.

- Grantees provided support services to an average of **421** non-abusing parents/caregivers.
- Grantees provided referrals to an average of **341** non-abusing parents/caregivers.

During each 6-month period, grantees provided the following services and/or referrals to non-abusing parents/caregivers:

- Advocacy services;
- Parent education services; and
- Support group/counseling services.

Shelter Services

Grantees provided emergency housing to an average of **55** non-abusing parents/caregivers and **81** accompanying family members for a total of **11,661** bed nights.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees expressed a need for **increased education and outreach to youth and families** along with the need for **greater prevention and intervention programming**, specifically:

- Early prevention education for elementary and middle school students;
- Healthy masculinity programming for men and boys;
- Information for parents and guardians on healthy relationships, violence prevention, and ways to discuss violence and sexual abuse with their children; and
- Education regarding victims' rights.

Grantees also noted the need for **additional training for service providers and those who work with young people**, including:

- Training for teachers and school personnel to identify signs of exposure to violence and make appropriate referrals;
- Strategies for addressing inconsistencies among service providers' understandings of mandated reporting requirements; and
- Training for teachers and school personnel on understanding trauma-informed practices.

Early identification and intervention by health care providers and mental health professionals can support families in breaking intergenerational cycles of violence (Cohodes et al., 2016; World Health Organization, 2017; McFarlane et al., 2017; Montalvo-Liendo et al., 2015; Turner, et al., 2017).



CA • Grantee Perspective



One of the biggest accomplishments of this project has been the creation of In This Together (ITT), a clinical group therapy program for children (ages 0-18) exposed to domestic/dating violence and their non-abusing parents. In this and previous periods, therapy has been provided to survivor parents and their children through multi-family group therapy. To increase accessibility for victims in isolated/remote areas of Marin County (West Marin and Southern Marin), the Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) also launched a bilingual mobile clinical team to provide therapy upon request in these areas, decreasing the need for the survivors to travel to C4DP's centrally-located offices (which they do not have the resources to do) and increasing their access to therapy in a safe, private setting. With OWW funds, C4DP has taken a pilot program with little marketing and grown it into a thriving therapeutic model that includes both group and individual therapy for high-need and underserved populations. Over the course of the entire grant, 412 domestic/dating violence survivors (246 children and 166 adults) participated in ITT group therapy, and in the last two reporting periods, 30 parents with 48 children have participated in individual therapy.

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA

CT • Grantee Perspective



We are always challenged by the ambivalence that some men and boys have about taking a stand against domestic violence. It is not that they believe it is acceptable to be violent, so their silence need not be framed as a lack of awareness or a lack of empathy. We've heard men say that they don't know what to say or how to act. We've heard men express concerns they might get attacked, or this is a "no-win situation." We've heard that men who are silent may feel there is a high risk of misspeaking. Creating a community free of domestic violence requires continual information-sharing and dialogue. Through our technical assistance providers at Men Can Stop Rape, we have learned some techniques on how to get men and boys to open up so they won't feel the backlash of societal pressure to remain silent.

CONNECTICUT COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



WA • Grantee Perspective

It is notable that many of the members of our targeted rural communities face a number of overwhelming needs such as housing instability, lack of transportation, substance use disorder, mental health issues, and poverty. While Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Services works to address the complex needs of survivors by providing information and resources, many of our rural clients face barriers since they often are only provided in Bellingham, which can be difficult to access without reliable transportation, time, and money for gas. Survivors in these regions tend to be more isolated and services are not always accessible. The partnerships with schools have created some leverage for accessibility, but there are still barriers and progress seems slow at times. In these more insular communities, the cultures can be protective and leery of outsiders. It has taken a significant amount of time and resources to build relationships and trust to be able to create more accessible services for these families.

BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION ON SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WASHINGTON

Many grantees also mentioned the importance of **meeting the basic needs of young victims**, particularly surrounding **transportation, emergency and long-term affordable housing, and mental health services**.

Finally, grantees noted that **service providers face additional challenges when working with underserved populations**, particularly:

- Rural youth;
- LGBTQ youth;
- Immigrant and refugee communities; and
- English language learners.

Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

The Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking (Culturally Specific Services Program or CSSP) creates a unique opportunity for culturally specific community-based organizations to address the critical needs of victims of domestic/sexual violence in a manner that affirms a victim's culture and effectively addresses language and communication barriers.

GRANTEES MAY EITHER BE A CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY-BASED program with existing expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence, or a culturally specific community-based program that partners with another organization with expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence.

62 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 62 unique grantees reported activities funded by the CSSP Program.

2,362 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 2,362 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

373 Immigration Matters

On average, grantees provided assistance with 373 immigration matters during each 6-month reporting period.

Latina and African American women who are sexually assaulted may bear an additional burden in seeking support, as they are disproportionately affected by income and asset poverty, and may have limited access to legal, medical, and social support services that may aid in violence prevention and recovery (Loya, 2014; Roschelle, 2017).





GA • Grantee Perspective

This funding allows our organization to increase the capacities of our branches in Northern Virginia, Gulf Coast Alabama, and Mississippi, and expand our services to a new community of Vietnamese Americans in Atlanta, Georgia. It allows us to offer in-house culturally and linguistically specific services that are not available elsewhere, such as case management, mental health counseling, interpreting services, financial literacy training, emergency assistance, and safety planning.

We have been able to provide orientation and training to mainstream service providers on cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed practices before referring clients to their shelters, legal, medical, mental health, and vocational training services. Because of this funding, our program was able to further promote and enhance our outreach effort through a mass media campaign and work in cooperation with community- and faith-based organizations to offer workshops educating community members at large about domestic violence and available services. With our set goals, we will be moving closer to transforming the cultural climate around domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in order to prevent or intervene sooner in future cases, highlighting strategies that fit the distinct needs of Vietnamese Americans.

BOAT PEOPLE S.O.S., GEORGIA

CSSP enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting community-based culturally specific projects to address and prevent domestic/sexual violence. Purpose areas include:

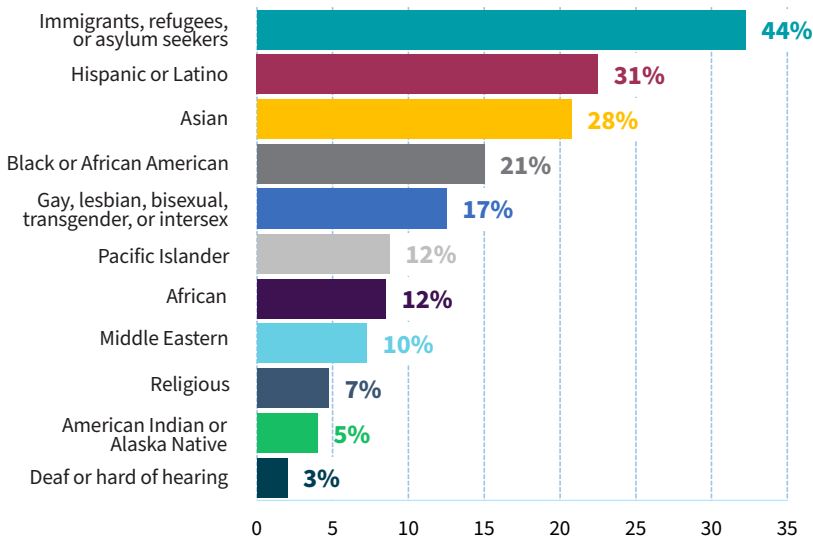
- Increase communities' capacity to provide culturally specific resources and support for victims and their families;
- Enhance traditional services to victims through the leadership of culturally specific programs offering services to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Work in cooperation with the community to develop education and prevention strategies highlighting culturally specific issues and resources regarding victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Provide culturally specific resources and services that address the safety, economic, housing, and workplace needs of victims, including emergency assistance;
- Provide culturally specific programs for children exposed to domestic/sexual violence;
- Work with state and local governments and social service agencies to develop and enhance effective strategies to provide culturally specific services to victims;
- Strengthen criminal justice interventions, by providing training for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities on culturally specific responses to domestic/sexual violence; and
- Examine the dynamics of culture and its impact on victimization and healing.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **62** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **4** (6%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - Increase communities' capacity to provide culturally specific resources and support for victims and their families;
 - Enhance traditional services to victims through the leadership of culturally specific programs offering services to victims of domestic/sexual violence; and
 - Provide culturally and linguistically specific resources and services that address the safety, economic, housing, and workplace needs of victims.

Figure 1 | Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2017–June 2019 (6-month average)



The United States has a history of migration, and a diverse, changing population. In 2019, over one-third (39.9%) of the population identified as a member of a racial or ethnic minority group, such as Asian or Asian American; Black or of African descent; Latinx or Hispanic; Native American or American Indian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; multi-racial; along with other religious and ethnic minorities (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Racial, ethnic, and/or religious minorities may encounter barriers to seeking services and escaping violence due to factors such as poverty, racism, isolation, exclusion, cultural norms, immigration status, limited access to services, and a dearth of linguistically and/or culturally appropriate services (Alvarez & Fedock, 2018; Campbell et al., 2008; Choi et al., 2016; Crenshaw, 1991; Dabby, 2017; Deutsch et al., 2017; Ho et al., 2017; Kapur et al., 2017; Lee, 2013; Mose & Gillum, 2015; O’Neal & Beckman, 2016; Stockman et al., 2014; St. Vil et al., 2017; Yoshihama et al., 2012).



Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, advocacy, counseling, court and medical accompaniment, and community education to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **62** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **74** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

MI • Grantee Perspective



Prior to having CSSP funding, LA VIDA would not have had enough staff to provide culturally specific support groups to Latina women in Southwest Detroit and Southeast Michigan. With the addition of our CSSP Outreach Worker, we have been able to sustain a continuous support group for Latina survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). CSSP funding has also allowed the Special Programs Manager to design and implement a culturally specific Financial Empowerment curriculum for Latina survivors of IPV, especially women who have experienced/are experiencing financial abuse. We have been able to provide regular classes at our location for women that include many financial topics in a culturally specific manner that existing curricula are lacking. We have also been able to provide financial workshops at parent meetings in the community for survivors of financial abuse, which would not have been possible without CSSP funding. Because of these educational workshops, we have seen an increase in women coming to LA VIDA for other services such as adult and youth counseling and legal advocacy.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES/LA VIDA PARTNERSHIP, MICHIGAN

Table 1 | Staff supported with CSSP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	74	
Victim advocates	19	26%
Program coordinators	15	20%
Administrators	10	14%
Outreach workers	8	11%
Counselors	7	9%
Trainers	6	8%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of VAWA (2019), 72 leaders who work in service provision, justice responses, advocacy, and research in the field of domestic/sexual violence told interviewers that enhancing the cultural relevance of responses to violence was a major concern. They reported that all programs, not just those aimed at culturally specific populations, should be prepared to serve victims with intersectional identities and complex experiences, particularly through anti-oppression and social justice approaches. These views point toward the importance of developing and providing training that enhances the flexibility of all programs and agencies that serve victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and communities (White et al., 2019).



MD • Grantee Perspective

The CSSP funding has allowed Progressive Life Center to engage the faith-based community in a way that we have not previously been able to. We have greater credibility in the community as an organization that not only cares about domestic violence and sexual assault, but one that is willing to provide technical assistance and support. We have developed new partnerships with other service providers and faith-based leaders, gained the trust of survivors that we have their best interest at heart, worked with more government entities, worked on coalition building and to create an organized community response. It has also allowed us to create a culturally specific training for African American survivors and the faith community.

PROGRESSIVE LIFE CENTER, INC., MARYLAND

Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **50** (81%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **802** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **14,803** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**13%**), health professionals (**10%**), faith/spiritual-based organization staff (**8%**), volunteers (**8%**), and law enforcement officers (**8%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community, highlighting culturally specific issues and resources, to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people across cultural differences with a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities, inclusive of all members.**ⁱ

- **54** (87%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **2,296** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **56,790** people.

Table 2 | People educated with CSSP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

People educated	2-year total	
Total people educated	56,790	
Community members	27,422	48%
Middle/high school students	6,650	12%
Faith-based groups	5,717	10%
University or college students	5,535	10%
Community groups	3,039	5%

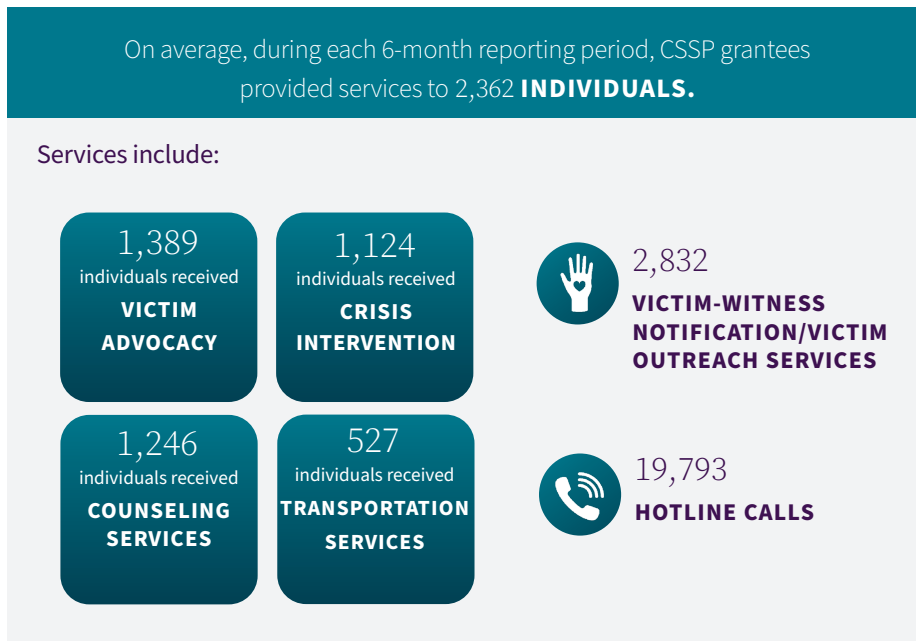
NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

ⁱ Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.


Victim Services

Victims of domestic/sexual violence within diverse cultures experience unique barriers when seeking and utilizing assistance. Culturally competent services for these victims may include providing advocacy and support to those who seek protection orders; accompaniment during medical procedures, such as a sexual assault forensic examination; providing interpretation or translation services; assistance with safety planning; accompaniment to court; shelter and transitional housing assistance; or immigration assistance. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**


- **61** (98%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **2,362** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.



By presenting violence as a public health issue that is relevant to everyone, and not just victims, grantees work to change both collective social norms and individual behavior and perceptions (Ford et al., 2017; McMahon & Baker, 2011; Tabachnick & McCartan, 2017; Yoshihama et al., 2012). Depending upon the needs and resources of specific communities, grantees' efforts might range from posting materials on bulletin boards in rural settings to large social media campaigns in major metropolitan areas.



The VAWA self-petition and the T and U visas are remedies available to immigrant and refugee victims of domestic/sexual violence and other crimes to assist them in obtaining safety and escaping their abusers (Angel & Orloff, 2014; Orloff et al., 2014; U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2016; Warren, 2016). The VAWA self-petition is designed to prevent an abusive citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse from using immigration-related threats to keep an abused immigrant spouse from reporting the abuse or leaving the abusive relationship (Procedure for Granting Immigrant Status, 2013; Violence Against Women Act of 1994, 2000; Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005). The T and U visas are vehicles of humanitarian relief for victims of certain serious crimes who lack lawful status in the United States and who are helpful, have been helpful, or are likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crimes. T visas may be granted to victims of severe forms of trafficking, and among the crimes for which a U visa may be granted are rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault; however, victims must have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the crime (Immigration and Nationality Act; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2016).



NM • Grantee Perspective

The CSSP funding has allowed our organization to continue to collaborate with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center to provide crucial legal immigration services to victims of domestic violence. With these funds, we are able to comprehensively assist many victims/survivors with specific types of immigration needs and meet a tremendous gap in services. Prior to receiving this funding, we were very limited in the number of cases we could accept for direct representation, especially complex cases involving removal defense or asylum. This funding has allowed us to provide direct representation, specifically in more complicated cases which are not accepted by other agencies.

ENLACE COMUNITARIO, NEW MEXICO



CA • Grantee Perspective

Our Korean advocate provides linguistically and culturally specific support for the Korean LGBTQ community. It is difficult for LGBTQ Korean Americans to seek out support for domestic violence for a myriad of reasons, ranging from fear of ostracization in the Korean community to experiences of outright or latent homophobia and transphobia. Through her work and partnerships with Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence, she gathered and created community resources for LGBTQ Korean Americans on peer support and identifying violence. These resources range from a national research publication, *With You*, to queer conference presentations, to a series of daylong workshops dedicated to skills-building around survivor support in the community. Community members and participants have expressed what a different experience it is to get to discuss such issues and be open about experiences of violence, particularly at the intersections of Korean identity and queerness.

ASIAN WOMEN'S SHELTER, CALIFORNIA

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided assistance with the following immigration matters:

- U visa services for **102** victims;
- VAWA self-petition services for **44** victims;
- Work authorization services for **39** victims;
- T visa services for **18** victims; and
- Cancellation of removal services for **5** victims.

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

Table 3 | Victims sheltered with CSSP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	47	50	7,192
Transitional housing	23	12	9,607
Total	69	62	16,799

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (73%).

Figure 2 | Provision of victim services by CSSP grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)

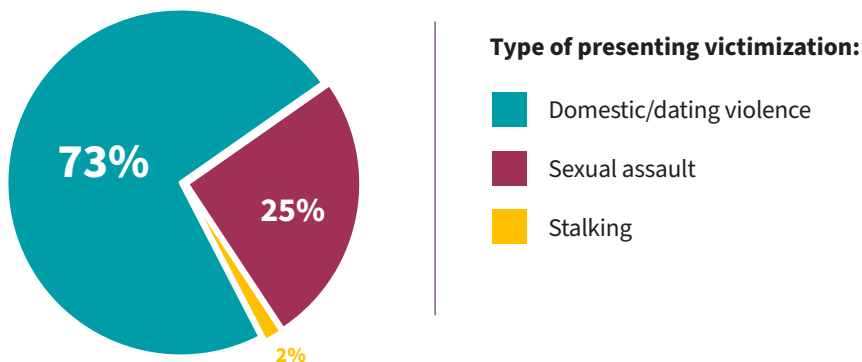


Table 4 | Victims seeking services with CSSP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	2,390	
Victims served	2,255	94%
Victims partially served	107	4%
Victims not served	29	1%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CSSP grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CSSP grant.

Victims’ Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner (76%)**.
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship (8%)** or by another **family or household member (8%)**.

Figure 3 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

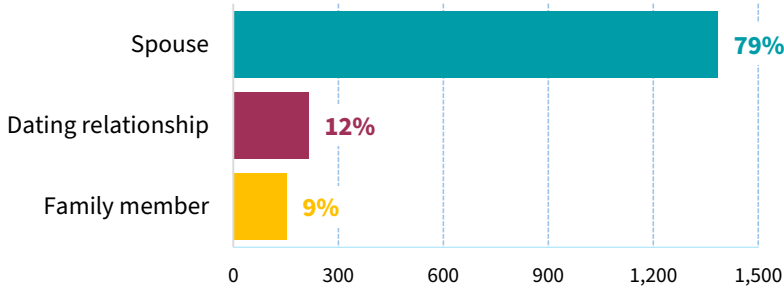
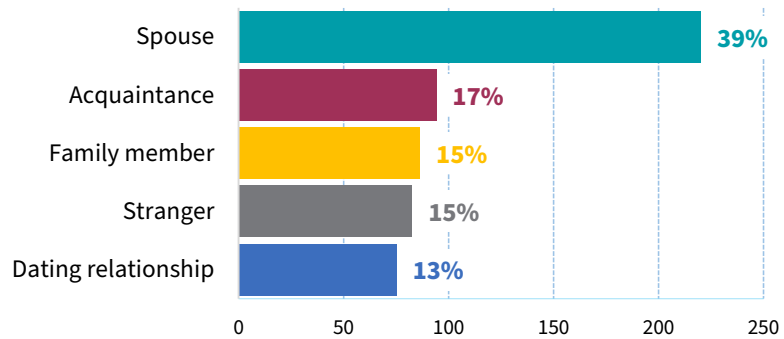


Figure 4 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



OR • Grantee Perspective



The funding has allowed us to hire additional staff and offer more frequent and different types of culturally specific trauma groups. These support groups offer a space for survivors to heal and recover in a safe environment and build connections and supports that continue beyond the group. Trauma group members were afforded one-on-one case management and mental health therapy with a culturally specific therapist. We have been able to serve more survivors and offer services to youth affected by domestic violence, and have offered groups for youth in our Self-Enhancement, Inc. schools. Advocates were able to attend extensive training and share the practices with the organization, as well as provide greatly needed training in our state to advocates working in mainstream organizations in communities without many culturally specific services for African Americans. Advocates were able to advocate for survivors at community coordinated access meetings. Advocates were given one-on-one and group clinical supervision with an African American clinical supervisor.

SELF ENHANCEMENT, INC., OREGON

IL • Grantee Perspective



Having a second adult counselor will allow us to have the capacity to make a greater impact in the lives of survivors through our counseling services. Our state of Illinois has struggled to pass a state level budget, forcing some agencies to close and decreasing service options for survivors. Those that remain open, like our agency, are noting an increase in clients seeking services. It is especially important for our agency to increase its capacity to serve immigrant survivors who have even fewer options and resources. We find that many Spanish-speaking survivors prefer to travel long distances and wait for services at our agency because of our culturally proficient services. CSSP funds have been particularly critical during this period of instability in our state.

MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCION, ILLINOIS

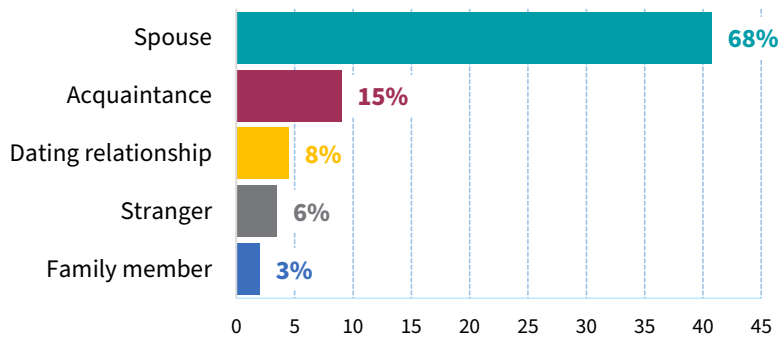


IL • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the organization to have a better understanding of domestic violence and how it manifests in the community. The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) can now offer holistic health and wellness services through the various relationships established within the domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking network of providers. This would likely not be possible without this funding source. Historically, the PRCC has provided culturally and linguistically competent programs that serve Puerto Rican/Latino African American/Black survivors and are inclusive of the LGBTQ community in a culturally sensitive manner. This enhancement grant has allowed us to complement all of our current health and educational programs with domestic violence direct services including education, counseling, and case management.

PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER, ILLINOIS

Figure 5 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Transportation;
- Services were not appropriate for victims with mental health issues; or
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **2,362** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (42%), **female** (95%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (71%).

Figure 6 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

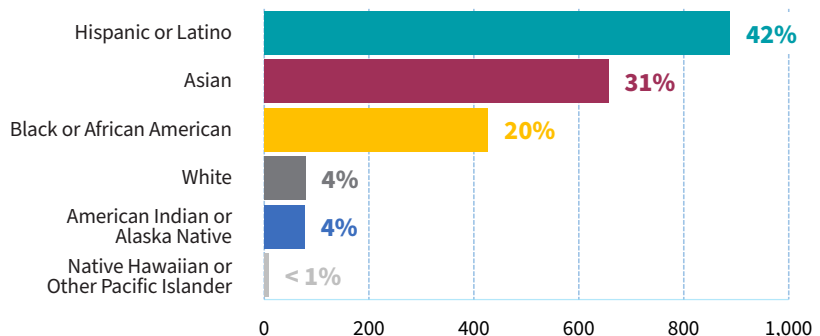


Figure 7 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

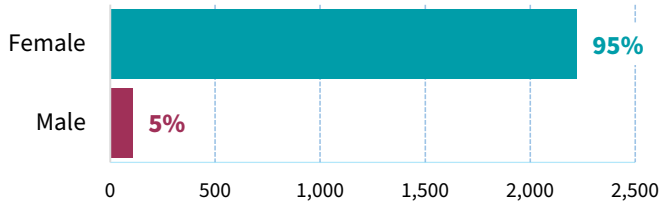


Figure 8 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

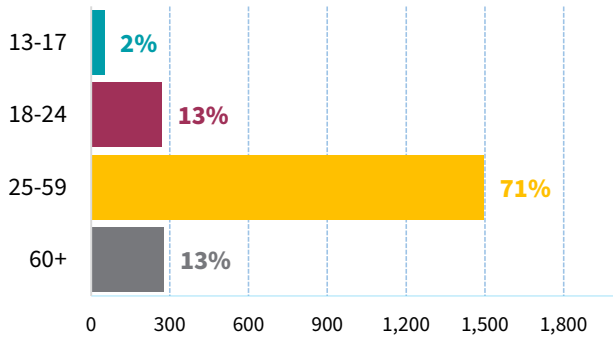
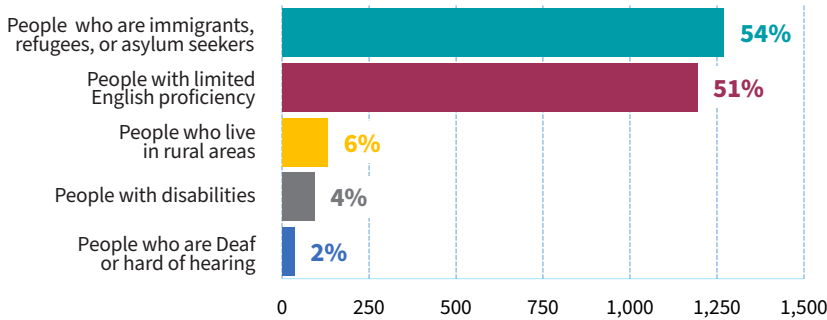


Figure 9 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



MI • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed us to provide and maintain culturally identifiable spaces where victims feel validated and affirmed. It has allowed us to have a Crisis Line, to provide trauma-informed workshops with supporting materials, and to obtain training and technical assistance. Funding has given us the opportunity to provide full-time culturally specific services to victims and survivors in the Black community that were not there before. Now with our Culturally Specific funded programming, Black women who have never had an opportunity to even tell their stories, have someone to believe them, or a place to go to experience hope, help, and healing at our center. They are becoming economically empowered and getting referrals for services that really help them.

SISTERS AGAINST ABUSE SOCIETY, MICHIGAN

PA • Grantee Perspective

This grant continues to allow us to form strong partnerships and collaboration with mainstream service providers and law enforcement in the counties that we serve. It also allows us to provide services to immigrant survivors in places where there are limited services available to them. Funding from this grant also allows us to obtain qualified interpreters and telephonic translation services for our clients during our appointments and immigration interviews.

NATIONALITIES SERVICE CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



MO • Grantee Perspective

Two of the most significant areas of remaining need with regard to improving services to victims/survivors of sexual assaults, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking are awareness and education. Our communities continue to perceive and define violence in their own terms and have prejudiced and biased perceptions based upon media, religious influences, personal experiences, and community influences. Recent societal influences are impacting the response to victims. Lack of respect for law enforcement, racism, street violence, poverty, and distrust of others all impact the services provided to victims of domestic violence. The communities of Missouri are affected by these influences. Victims are often regarded as guilty due to race, religion, language, or other human characteristics. Latino victims suffer discrimination and persecution due to language barriers, skin color, and lack of understanding of the system.

HAND IN HAND MULTICULTURAL CENTER, MISSOURI



GA • Grantee Perspective

The legal system has not been culturally competent at times and courts often have not offered proper language/interpretation services. Survivors who have limited English proficiency (LEP) experience a difficult time in seeking services since law enforcement will often show hesitation or frustration about handling a case involving a LEP survivor and use the abuser or other family members for interpretation. This is very dangerous in cases that move forward to clients acquiring temporary protection orders and has made a significant difference in the outcome of the hearing and final order by the judge.

RAKSHA, GEORGIA

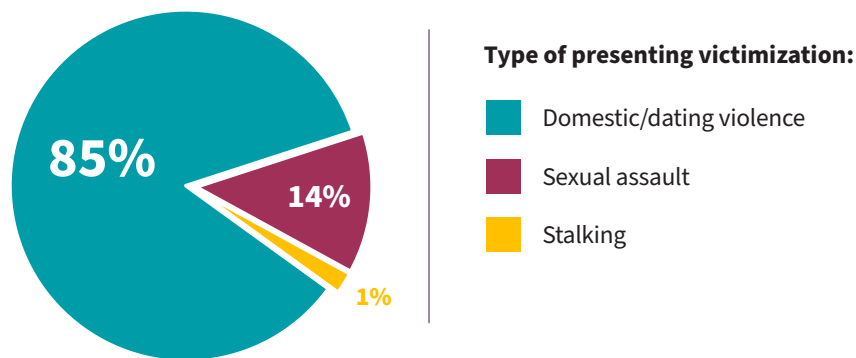
Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic/sexual violence, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **552** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

Figure 10 | Provision of services to secondary victims by CSSP grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Secondary victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees frequently cited **insufficient access to qualified interpreters and a lack of translation services** as serious barriers to victims receiving the help they needed. The inability to understand and be understood by law enforcement, service providers, and court personnel **discouraged victims from seeking assistance, and sometimes compromised their safety.**

Specifically, grantees called for **more trained bilingual advocates across shelters, social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, cities, and counties.**

Grantees also cited the need for more **community education, outreach, and awareness in the cultural communities in which they worked** in order to:

- Encourage open discussion of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Promote positive community beliefs that support victims;
- Educate young people about healthy relationships;
- Promote available services; and
- Encourage victims to come forward.

Grantees also reported a need for more **culturally and linguistically appropriate victim services**, especially:

- Mental health and substance abuse services; and
- Civil legal services.

Additionally, grantees identified **increased access to free or low-cost civil legal assistance** as a growing need in marginalized communities.

Grantees stated that **immigrant and refugee victims often faced highly complex legal issues** due to their immigration status and cultural background, and **victims from marginalized groups struggled with cultural and social isolation and long histories of trauma** in addition to their experiences with domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Grantees also emphasized the need to provide **training to law enforcement, judges, court personnel, and service providers on culturally-sensitive, trauma-informed practices**.

Grantees often struggled to **help victims meet basic needs**, especially:

- Emergency, transitional, and long-term housing;
- Transportation;
- Employment; and
- Child care.

Finally, grantees noted that **a number of groups remain underserved**, including:

- Immigrant victims;
- Youth or child victims;
- LGBTQ victims;
- Male victims;
- Victims in rural areas; and
- Victims with limited English proficiency.

Whether because of **isolation, difficulty ensuring anonymity, fear of reporting due to immigration status, or lack of knowledge of available services**, grantees reported difficulty in adequately serving these populations.

D.C. • Grantee Perspective



Based on our program's experience with the community we serve, one of the remaining areas of significant need is the expansion of access to legal services, especially for family and immigration matters. There is also great need for more readily available information about the issue of child custody and child support, as well as for political asylum for domestic violence victims. The demand for legal advice and services associated with these issues is too high within our community and the services that our Entre Amigas program has access to, while reflective of an amazing strong network of partners, are not enough to address the need.

LA CLINICA DEL PUEBLO, WASHINGTON, D.C.

NJ • Grantee Perspective



We still identify a lack of language access as a significant area of remaining need for South Asian survivors seeking services. In order to report a crime, appear in court, or even access a single social service, the survivor's needs must be understood. We have found, from speaking with our survivors, a lack of language access not only deters them from seeking help elsewhere but often keeps them in their current situation.

MANAVI, NEW JERSEY

NY • Grantee Perspective



Due to the intersectionality of sexual violence with immigration and socio-economic status, many victims refrain from reporting crimes and enter the legal system with the fear of being exposed to immigration related issues, job loss and even arrest. They fear losing their children and being deported and as a result, continue being abused.

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM, INC., NEW YORK

Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Grant Program

The Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Grant Program (Disability Program) recognizes the need to focus on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against individuals who are Deaf and/or disabled.

THESE CHALLENGES SIGNIFICANTLY COMPOUND PROBLEMS FACING those seeking support to end the violence in their lives. They also complicate the criminal justice system's ability to investigate and prosecute cases, and create difficulties for victim service providers to assist victims.

41 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 41 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Disability Program.

4,957 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 4,957 people.

2,860 People Educated

Grantees educated a total of 2,860 people.

The Disability Program enhances the safety of victims of domestic/sexual violence by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes against individuals with disabilities.

People with disabilities may be even more susceptible to domestic/sexual violence, due to key risk factors, such as lower socioeconomic status (e.g., more poverty, less education and income), increased isolation, and increased dependency on others (Hahn et al., 2014).





Further research is needed to accurately determine the prevalence of victimization among individuals who are Deaf and/or disabled, in part because these victims may be marginalized or overlooked by society, health care professionals, service providers, and researchers (Ballan et al., 2016; Ballan & Freyer, 2017a; Mastrocinque et al., 2017; Mikton et al., 2014; Plummer & Findley, 2012).



KY • Grantee Perspective

Prior to this funding, individuals with disabilities had limited accessible service options. One of the most wonderful things to report is that we now have interpreters who are being accessed monthly at the Women's Clinic in Auxier. The funding set aside for interpreters made it possible for these women to finally break the barrier and get the care they so desperately needed.

MOUNTAIN COMPREHENSIVE CARE CENTER, INC.,
KENTUCKY



IL • Grantee Perspective

The funding has supported engagement of staff, MOU partners, and self-advocates, which results in focused time addressing sexual violence against people with disabilities and Deaf people. The development of resources by state-level partners for rape crisis centers and disability service staff is possible because OVV funding supports the time for development as well as production, distribution, follow-up training, and technical assistance.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Provide personnel, training, technical assistance, advocacy, intervention, risk reduction, treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance;
- Conduct outreach activities to ensure that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate assistance;
- Conduct cross-training for victim service organizations about risk reduction, intervention, and prevention;
- Provide technical assistance to help with modifications to policies, protocols, and procedures to ensure equal access to services;
- Provide training and technical assistance on the requirements of shelters and victim services organizations under federal anti-discrimination laws;
- Modify facilities, purchase equipment, and fund personnel so that shelters and victim service organizations can accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities;
- Provide advocacy and intervention services for individuals with disabilities; and
- Develop model programs providing advocacy and intervention services within organizations.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **41** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **One** grantee reported that their grant specifically addressed tribal populations.

Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:

- Provide personnel, training, technical assistance, advocacy, intervention, risk reduction, treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance;
- Develop model programs providing advocacy and intervention services; and
- Conduct cross-training for victim service organizations about risk reduction, intervention, and prevention.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, consultation, and information to service providers about responding to violence against women with disabilities. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **41** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **41** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators, administrators, disability advocates, and victim advocates.

Table 1 | Staff supported with Disability grant funds, July 2017–June 2019:
Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	41	
Program coordinators	23	56%
Administrators	4	10%
Disability advocates	4	10%
Victim advocates	4	10%
Deaf advocates	2	5%
Support staff	2	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

OK • Grantee Perspective



The Disability Program funding has allowed Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) to hire a Deaf project coordinator. This staffing has created more awareness among DVIS staff who do not normally encounter Deaf individuals. Staff has started to pick up some basic sign language and overall, they have reported feeling more comfortable about interacting with Deaf clients and using interpreters since the project coordinator was hired. Having access to interpretation funds has removed a communication barrier which allows us to build on the existing collaborations and create more meaningful relationships. Funding has also allowed collaboration members to attend various training opportunities and actually dedicate time to the Deaf community to improve sexual and domestic violence services for Deaf survivors.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION SERVICES, OKLAHOMA

Cross-training between disability services and victim services organizations allows providers to serve Deaf and/or disabled persons most effectively. Because victims with disabilities come from various cultural, racial, socioeconomic, geographic, and ethnic populations, and have different disabilities, it is critical that victim services, law enforcement agencies, and other first responders tailor their programs to appropriately respond to the full spectrum of assistance victims need (Ballan et al., 2014; Ballan & Freyer, 2017b; Khemka & Hickson, 2017; Lund et al., 2017; Nelson & Lund, 2017).



Training

Grantees train professionals in the service-delivery system to respond more effectively to victims with disabilities by providing information on the unique needs of these individuals and the special challenges they face when they become victims of violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **22** (54%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **215** training events.

MA • Grantee Perspective



Critical first steps that this funding has made possible to date include collecting valuable data from stakeholders, as well as collecting useful data regarding existing agency policies and procedures and the physical characteristics of our service locations. Also as a result of this grant funding, we were able to complete a second set of indicators, compiling further data we have since used to inform our Needs Assessment Plan. Perhaps the most valuable of all is the opportunity the grant has afforded us to offer individual interviews and focus group participation to the survivors themselves. The information gathered through our research would not have been possible with out this funding, and would have left many problem areas undiscovered.

THE ARC OF BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

In the two years covered by this report, Disability Program grantees trained:

4,957
PROFESSIONALS

across **the service delivery system:**

DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

DUAL SEXUAL ASSAULT/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS



OH • Grantee Perspective

With the support of the Disability Program Funding, we have been able to provide direct advocacy services and improve outreach in the D/deaf community. Through the work of the deaf advocate, victims have received services such as advocacy in court proceedings, accompaniment to legal appointments, weekly support groups, and employment assistance. These services were delivered to victims with the assurance of language accessibility. The project was able to provide education to organizations in the community to improve accessibility for victims with disabilities. Keys 4 Deaf was able to have a presence at major events in the community to increase awareness of services available. Resource materials were made available at these events to increase accessibility to services as needed. The project was able to educate first responders on Deaf culture and equip the Cleveland Division of Police with tools for effective communication. Due to the education of interpreters and medical personnel, victims are able to receive a culturally informed response when seeking services.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILD
ADVOCACY CENTER, OHIO



A recent review of the literature on crisis response services for people with mental illness and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) reveals that populations with mental illness have received far more research attention than those with I/DD. While several important studies report on promising practices in the field, more research is needed that incorporates all stakeholders, including people with disabilities, to help practitioners improve their evidence-based responses to victims with disabilities (Watson, Compton, & Pope, 2019).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**ⁱ

- **10** (24%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **96** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **2,860** people.

Table 2 | People educated with Disability grant funds, July 2017–June 2019:
Selected groups

People educated	2-year total	
Total people educated	2,860	
Deaf individuals	1,364	48%
Parents/guardians of individuals with disabilities	769	27%
People with disabilities	358	13%
Community groups	204	7%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Technical Assistance

In addition to training, grantees provide technical assistance to service providers to enable them to improve services to individuals with disabilities who are victims of domestic/sexual violence. Technical assistance may be provided through site visits, consultations, information responses, referrals, or other collaboration, and may include guidance on collaboration and cross-training for responding to victims with disabilities; responding to violence against women with mental illness; accessible communication (ASL interpreters/communication devices); and managing disclosure, confidentiality, and safety.

- **10** (24%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of **646** technical assistance activities.

ⁱ Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **7** (17%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **28** victims during each 6-month period.
- **100%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Support group/counseling services to **14** victims;
- Case management to **10** victims;
- Victim advocacy services to **10** victims;
- Peer support services to **9** victims;
- Crisis intervention to **8** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **7** victims; and
- Personal planning services to **7** victims.

Other services:

- Grantees received a total of **34** hotline calls; and
 - **79%** of these calls came from victims.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (79%).

People with intellectual disabilities are sexually assaulted at a rate seven times higher than that of people without disabilities, according to an analysis of Justice Department data (Shapiro, 2018).



WA • Grantee Perspective

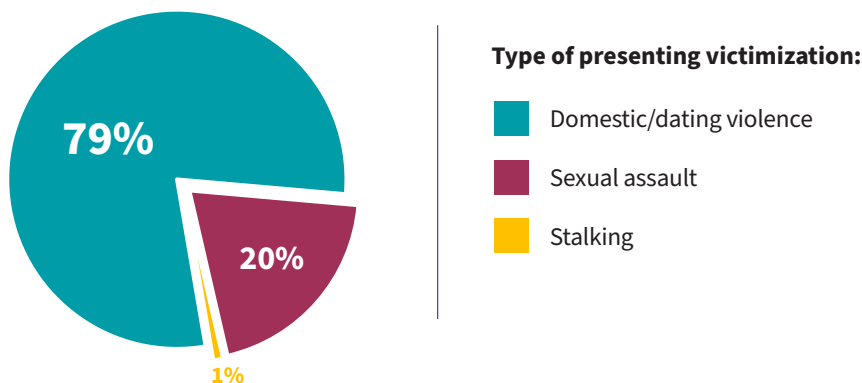


The tight-knit collaboration with the partners has been instrumental in helping develop common language and common goals, and identifying and addressing common barriers to meet the needs of resident survivors in long-term care settings. Having space and time to regularly meet with partners to build strategies; discuss policies, procedures and practices; and develop deliverables has expanded our internal capacity, awareness, and expertise extensively. We could not have done this without funding. We have an increased awareness of how to reach, respond to, and support survivors in a collaborative and intersectional way, where we did not before. Disability program funds were also essential in developing in-depth understanding of trauma, abuse disclosure, accommodation provision, and access. It also gave our collaboration tools to better identify and respond to the hurdles that are specific to survivors in long-term care, many of whom face too great a threat of retaliation to disclose. The Long-Term Care Ombudsperson has seen a general increase in reporting of sexual abuse, as has the Developmental Disability Ombudsperson. All organizations have changed the way they respond to abuse.

DISABILITY RIGHTS WASHINGTON

Figure 1 Provision of victim services by Disability Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)





Interpreters who are specially trained in a trauma-informed approach can help ensure that Deaf, hard of hearing, and low English proficiency victims may communicate with service providers in a clear and transparent way (Bancroft et al., 2017).



MA • Grantee Perspective

Every individual who has worked most closely with the collaborative has shared significant changes in worldview because of this work. Participants shared that they learned to recognize ableism and have a deeper understanding of what inclusion and access means. Participants shared about recognizing the broad range of needs of survivors with disabilities and the importance of every role. Participants have shifted from coming together as separate agencies to truly seeing themselves as a collaborative. They also shared that their new understanding is something they bring into their personal lives, as well as professional.

This depth of change on both an individual and systems level would not be possible without the grant funding we've received since 2011 under the OWW Disability Program. The program's cooperative model, including its focus on process as a significant part of product development, has been critical to our successes. Additionally, we also recognize that being funded for a lengthy period of time has contributed to our ability to make these significant changes. It would be unlikely to be able to make some of these more sustainable changes in only one grant period.

**BOSTON AREA RAPE CRISIS CENTER,
MASSACHUSETTS**



College students and young adults with disabilities are nearly twice as likely to have experienced psychological, sexual, stalking, or physical abuse as those without disabilities (Brown et al., 2017; Findley et al., 2016; Haydon et al., 2011; Reynolds & Scherer, 2018; Scherer et al., 2016). In particular, a recent study using data from the National College Health Assessment concluded that female students with disabilities were over 100% more likely to experience completed assaults, attempted assaults, and relationship assaults compared to female students without disabilities (Campe, 2019).

Table 3 | Victims seeking services with Disability grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	28	
Victims served	27	96%
Victims partially served	1	4%
Victims not served	0	0%

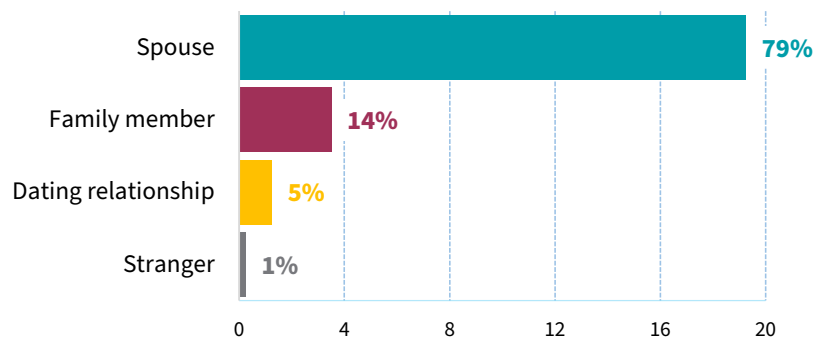
NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Disability Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Disability Program grant.

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (65%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **family or household member** (16%), or in the context of a **dating relationship** (8%).

Figure 2 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic violence** (6-month average)



NOTE: Numbers for relationship to offender were too small to compute for sexual assault and stalking victimizations.

Reasons Victims Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources; and
- Transportation.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **28** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (45%), **female** (92%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (77%).



Emerging research suggests that men with disabilities experience abuse at similar rates to women with disabilities, and more often than non-disabled men, pointing toward the need for targeted intervention strategies (Mitra et al., 2016; Platt et al., 2017). Further, individuals with multiple disability types experience sexual assault rates more than 1.5 times those experienced by people with one disability (Harrell, 2017).

Figure 3 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

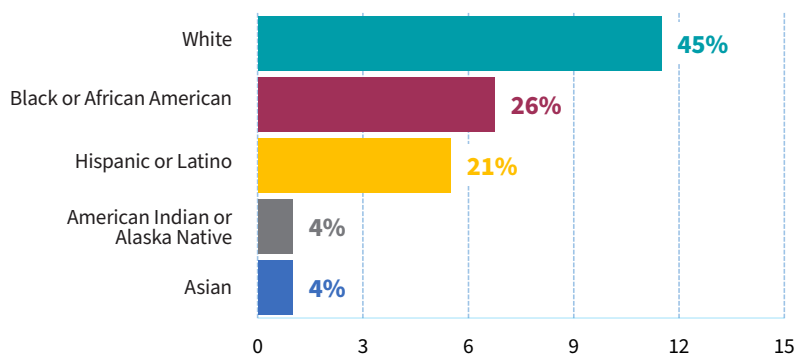


Figure 4 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

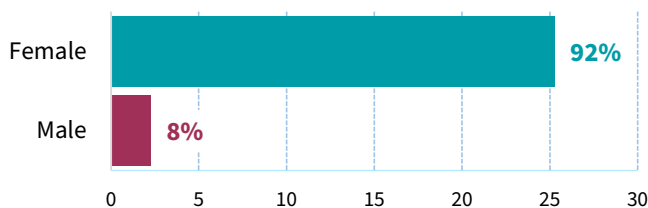
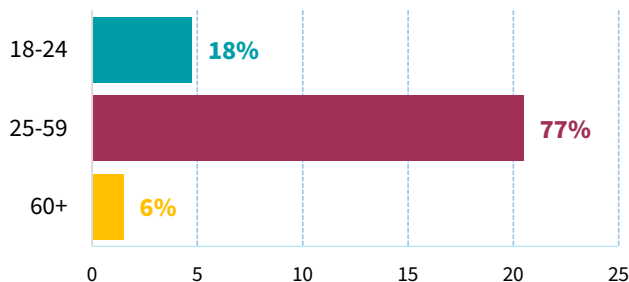


Figure 5 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



NY • Grantee Perspective

This grant made it possible for three partner agencies to join together in pursuit of the mutual goal of improving our collective capacity to serve Deaf survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Representatives of all partner agencies have significantly improved their individual cultural competency, and the agencies as a whole have gained a better understanding of the unique issues facing Deaf survivors. We have been able to incorporate these learnings into tangible changes that will positively impact services for Deaf survivors. We ensured agency policies and procedures are sensitive to the needs of Deaf survivors and we have implemented a mandatory training program for all staff and volunteers. We were able to host a Trauma Informed Qualified Interpreters training to ensure a pool of local interpreters were trained on trauma-informed interpreting for survivors. Access to services has improved as both RESTORE and Willow have experienced a continuous increase in the number of Deaf survivors seeking services. Most importantly, the accomplishments made possible through OVV funding will continue to make an impact beyond this grant cycle as these changes have been incorporated into agency services. The Deaf Gain Collaborative is looking forward to building upon the positive foundation we have made and making more positive changes when we address the remaining three key findings of the needs assessment that were not included in the strategic plan.

ALTERNATIVES FOR BATTERED WOMEN, NEW YORK



CA • Grantee Perspective

Although the 15 years of collaborating has brought a lot of change and infusion of understanding of the intersection of disability and abuse, there continues to be a need to emphasize that responding to and supporting victims with disabilities is not an added service.

Part of having comprehensive services to all victims of abuse means being prepared to provide appropriate supports to victims with disabilities. We believe that this is happening, but sometimes agencies feel that they need to have a “specialized” advocate to respond.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES MAYOR'S OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, CALIFORNIA

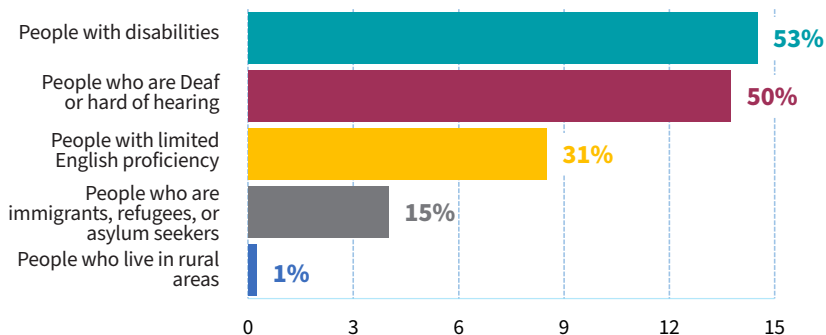


WI • Grantee Perspective

Language barriers, access to interpreters, and insufficient numbers of responders who are experienced in identifying individualized learning styles, modes of communication, and other individualized needs are all barriers to meaningful services and supports. Of particular concern is the lack of expertise and capacity to provide services to those survivors who are non-verbal. A lack of adequate familiarity with and availability of technology such as augmentative systems and access to varied equipment (for example the TTY is available for Deaf survivors) all demonstrate obstacles in the area of communication.

DISABILITY RIGHTS WISCONSIN

Figure 6 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees noted that **service providers and victim advocates need specialized training and technical assistance to better serve victims with disabilities**, including the ability to:

- Understand and accommodate the communication needs of Deaf and hard of hearing victims;
- Communicate with individuals with cognitive disabilities;
- Provide better accessibility for victims with physical disabilities;
- Work with victims with severe mental illness and/or substance abuse; and
- Collaborate with adult guardians in order to provide care to victims.

Without the proper tools to serve victims with disabilities, grantees felt that victims with disabilities **would hesitate to report** abuse and therefore put themselves in further danger.

Grantees also pointed to the need for more **community education and outreach to victims with disabilities, caretakers, and community members**, including:

- Creating awareness of available DV/SA services for people with disabilities;
- Educating the community about violence against people with disabilities;
- Combating social stigmas and discrimination against people with disabilities, which prevent victims from getting the help they need; and
- Educating people with intellectual disabilities about sex, consent, and healthy relationships.

Grantees also noted how barriers to accessing services abound for victims with disabilities. The **lack of accessible transportation, physically inaccessible facilities, or the lack of appropriate assistive technology** all hinder a victim's ability to access much needed services.

Noting that disability rights organizations and domestic/sexual violence service providers often work in silos, grantees called for **more collaboration between service providers** to serve the unique needs of victims with disabilities, as well as **proper training to service providers and the criminal justice system on:**

- The use of appropriate language and terminology when working with victims with disabilities;
- Accommodating the unique needs of clients with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; and
- Trauma-informed practices for working with victims with disabilities.

Grantees also emphasized the importance of **meeting the basic needs of victims with disabilities**, including:

- Safe and accessible shelter and long-term housing;
- Transportation; and
- Mental health services.



FL • Grantee Perspective

We need better communication across interconnecting systems, such as healthcare, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system. While education and community awareness of resources is of critical importance in addressing obstacles faced by people with disabilities, it is imperative that the resources and systems in place to serve people with disabilities are functioning collaboratively and have a common language and understanding of how to provide trauma-informed and accessible services.

DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE GROUP, INC., FLORIDA

Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Programⁱ

The Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (ICJR Program) is designed to treat domestic/sexual violence as serious violations of criminal law by encouraging collaborative partnerships among state, local, and tribal governments and courts.

THROUGH A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR), THE ICJR Program challenges entire communities to communicate, identify problems, and share ideas for responding to victims of domestic/sexual violence. This results in new responses and the application of best practices to enhance victim safety and ensure offender accountability at each juncture in the criminal justice system through investigation, arrest, prosecution, and close judicial oversight.

225 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 225 unique grantees reported activities funded by the ICJR Program.

36,402 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 36,402 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

174,090 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 174,090 cases.

A study in one jurisdiction found that, of incidents of rape, physical assault, or stalking by an intimate partner known to police, roughly 32% result in the arrest or detention of the offender, and an estimated 7% of incidents result in criminal prosecution (Broidy et al., 2016).



Research shows that a more negative response from police can increase the likelihood of victims experiencing greater PTSD symptom severity (Srinivas & DePrince, 2015).



ⁱ Formerly the Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, this program was renamed beginning in FY 2016 to more accurately reflect the scope of the program. Throughout this report, the program will be referred to as ICJR.



LA • Grantee Perspective

Because of the ICJR Program, the Stopping Abusive Family Environments Task Force in our Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) continues to meet and address issues as they arise with open discussion, training, and policy changes. Because of the rotation of people holding public offices, being assigned to domestic violence-related positions, or entering or leaving the workforce, the challenge is to keep a level of consistency in knowledge and application of guiding principles. While our area still has a much higher rate of domestic violence than the nation, the rate of domestic violence in Ouachita Parish has dropped 35% since the opening of the Family Justice Center (FJC) in 2005. Because of the ICJR funds, our area has seen a reduction in homicides. Recent data showed that there has been a drop of roughly 70% in domestic violence homicides since 2011. After recent review of 2016/2017 DV homicide statistics, it has been determined that this reduction has been maintained for six years. This proves that collaboration of the FJC, CCRT, and community is saving lives while being firm about holding batterers accountable for their actions. Even more recently, the interim Director of the Louisiana Coalition of Domestic Violence stated that the Wellspring and FJC are a spot of hope for the state of Louisiana because of the change we are making and the fact that we are saving lives.

PARISH OF OUACHITA, LOUISIANA



OR • Grantee Perspective

We know the odds for a homicide increase 750% for victims who have been previously strangled, compared to victims who have never been strangled. Utilizing data from our High Risk Response Team (HRRT) cases we were able to testify to the fact that 65% of our HRRT victims had reported they were strangled by their partner or former partner. This local data from our HRRT team helped us to educate our legislators about this heinous crime.

CLACKAMAS WOMEN'S SERVICES, OREGON

The scope of the ICJR Program is vast, as required to accomplish these goals. Purpose areas include:


- Develop or strengthen policies and training that assist in the recognition, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against older individuals and individuals with disabilities;
- Implement pro-arrest programs, policies, and training in police departments (for example, policies improving responses to protection order violations), and improve tracking of criminal cases;
- Develop state, tribal, territorial, or local policies, procedures, and protocols for preventing dual arrests and prosecutions;
- Coordinate computer tracking systems to ensure communication;
- Provide technical assistance and equipment to facilitate the enforcement of protection orders, including the development of protection order registries, across departments, agencies, states, and tribal jurisdictions;
- Centralize and coordinate police enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility;
- Strengthen legal advocacy service programs;
- Develop and establish comprehensive victim service and support centers, such as family justice centers;
- Educate judges and court-based personnel (including juvenile courts);
- Improve the response of the criminal justice system to immigrant victims;
- Develop and promote legislation and policies to enhance best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence;
- Develop Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner programs;
- Develop multidisciplinary high-risk teams for reducing domestic violence and dating violence homicides;
- Train prosecutors;
- Develop Sexual Assault Response Teams or similar CCRs for sexual assault;
- Improve investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and treatment of victims;
- Provide HIV testing, counseling, and prophylaxis for victims; and
- Address sexual assault evidence backlogs, including notifying and involving victims, and develop protocols for addressing backlogs.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **225** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **12** (5%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - Strengthen legal advocacy service programs;
 - Centralize and coordinate police enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility; and
 - Develop and implement policies and training directed at the criminal justice response to sexual assault.

The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA added a purpose area to the ICJR program aimed at developing Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs). SARTs bring together professionals from the criminal legal, medical, mental health, and advocacy sectors to enhance cross-system coordination and strengthen each sector’s ability to respond to sexual assault. Research shows that SARTs can improve legal outcomes, help-seeking experiences of victims, and relationships between multidisciplinary responders (Greeson et al., 2016; Greeson & Campbell, 2015).



Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, victim services, law enforcement activities, prosecution, court services, supervision of offenders, and batterer intervention programs to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **223** (99%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **421** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

NY • Grantee Perspective



ICJR Program funding has allowed for the development and continuing implementation of a High Risk Team in Erie County. Without funding for a Coordinator position, this would not have been possible. The High Risk Team has created a mechanism to train advocates, law enforcement, and community stakeholders in consistent implementation of evidence-based risk assessment tools, and to refer the cases identified as having a higher level of risk for lethality or serious assaults for additional intervention. By creating this multidisciplinary team, Erie County is able to develop individualized intervention plans to keep victims safe and hold dangerous offenders more accountable. The High Risk Team is also a tool to assess and improve system responses to domestic violence in Erie County and improve communication across systems.

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

CA • Grantee Perspective



The ICJR grant program that funds the Elk Grove Domestic Violence Response Team (EGPD DVRT) provides clients and the community with victim/survivor focused direct services. Without the ICJR funding, victims would be forced to seek out and visit several agencies before receiving services or assistance. Victims would not have the support of an advocate when interacting with law enforcement or other agencies. Clients would attend civil, family or criminal court hearings without guidance, knowledge of the system and without a safety plan. The ICJR grant program funds not only provide a dedicated victim advocate stationed at the Elk Grove Police Department, the funding provides effective victim services. The EGPD DVRT program is well established and respected in the community, thanks to the current ICJR funding, and previous Arrest Program funding (from January 2014 - September 2016).

CITY OF ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA

Table 1 Staff supported with ICJR grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups		
Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	421	
Victim advocates	154	37%
Program coordinators	62	15%
Law enforcement officers	42	10%
Prosecutors	30	7%
Victim assistants	20	5%
Administrators	19	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



A recent study of nearly 1000 police from a large urban police department in the U.S. showed that law enforcement personnel who participated in trauma-informed training reported misperceptions about trauma at significantly lower rates than the pre-training sample. These findings indicate that training on the impacts of trauma has the potential to improve outcomes pertaining to first contact with SA/DV victims, case investigations, holding offenders accountable, and public safety (Franklin et al., 2019).



OK • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR funding has provided two unique and necessary positions that support, train and assist Coordinated Community Response Teams, Sexual Assault Response Teams, High Risk Teams and all members of the criminal justice system who work with survivors and offenders of domestic and sexual violence. Grant funding has provided over 600 instances of training and technical assistance that was requested by the team members and professionals who work with survivors. Without this funding, these trainings would not have taken place and the technical assistance questions would not have been answered. This has allowed clear, consistent, and accurate information to be transmitted statewide. Funds have also allowed for the training of 24 judges who directly affect cases where domestic and/or sexual violence is a major component, 12 in this reporting period alone. One of these judges reported back that the training she attended was the best she had ever participated in. She stated that the ability to network with other judges from different states was a great learning experience as well.

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL



In some jurisdictions, “high-risk response teams,” often composed of law enforcement, victim advocates, court personnel, human service providers, and attorneys representing victims, deliberate with victims exposed to high risk of recurring, severe violence about possible heightened deterrence strategies to avert repeat violence. Team representatives may make home visits, accompany victims to legal proceedings, advocate for enhanced protective services, or support victims attempting to access critical counseling or economic resources. For more information, visit: <http://www.dvhr.org/>.

Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation and correction officers, child protection staff, sexual assault forensic and nurse examiners, and mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective CCR to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **155** (69%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **4,329** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **90,627** people.
- Most often these trainings reached law enforcement officers (**37%**), victim advocates (**10%**), multidisciplinary groups (**9%**), and health professionals (**7%**).

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. Victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **177** (79%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **36,402** victims during each 6-month period.
- Nearly **100%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **22,133** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **17,455** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment services to **13,093** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment services to **12,381** victims; and
- Support group/counseling services to **7,232** victims.

Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **94,537** times;
- Grantees received a total of **241,471** hotline calls; and
 - The majority of these calls (**51%**) came from victims.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (87%).

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by ICJR Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization
Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)

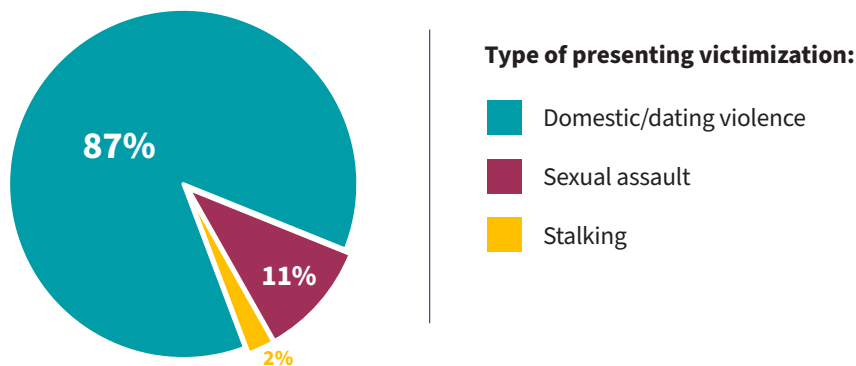


Table 2 | Victims seeking services with ICJR grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	36,551	
Victims served	35,591	97%
Victims partially served	810	2%
Victims not served	149	< 1%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the ICJR Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the ICJR Program grant.

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (68%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (19%) or by another **family or household member** (7%).

When advocates are present in proceedings following a rape, victims fare better in both the short- and long-term, experiencing less psychological distress, physical health struggles, sexual risk-taking behaviors, self-blame, guilt, depression, and barriers to continued engagement in legal matters (Patterson & Campbell, 2010; Patterson & Tringali, 2015; Xie & Lynch, 2016). A recent study found that access to and utilization of victim services reduced the associated risk of revictimization by 40% (Xie & Lynch, 2016). Another study found that rape survivors with advocates were more likely to have police reports taken (59% of the time) than those without advocates, whose reports were taken only 41% of the time (Campbell, 2006).



AL • Grantee Perspective



ICJR grant funding provides trauma-informed, victim-centered services in the SafeHouse/ SafeShelby four county service area which was not available prior to this funding. Victims had to travel several hours for forensic exams and often had limited access to transportation or support. A huge gap in services existed prior to the funding. Additionally, through the provision of services offered through SafeShelby, there have been numerous requests for services from persons who experienced sexual assault or violence months and sometimes many years ago. These victims either did not feel safe asking for help or did not have access to or know about resources available to help with the healing and recovery process.

SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

CA • Grantee Perspective



This funding allows our subgrantee, the Family Violence Law Center, to operate the only Mobile Response Team (MRT) for Alameda County, which allows us to respond on-scene if a survivor requests support from an advocate when filing a domestic violence report or when they are receiving medical treatment following an incident. MRT Advocates can then help the client develop a safety plan and often serves as a critical bridge to safe housing. Regardless of what time of night it may be or whether it is a weekend or a holiday, our advocates can temporarily help clients get a hotel overnight and then access a confidential domestic violence shelter.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Religious beliefs, cultural practices, race or ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexuality, age, language, immigration status, geographic location, access to resources, and economic opportunity are all factors that can affect how a victim perceives, manages, and resists violence (Bridges et al., 2018; Cheng & Lo, 2015; Cho, 2012; Cho et al., 2017; O'Neal & Beckman, 2016; Weng, 2016).



OR • Grantee Perspective

The funding provided to the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT) project through the ICJR program allows us to continue to be a leader in our community and in our state in recognizing and responding to high-risk domestic violence cases. DVERT partners and staff are able to access high-level training and resources that increase their knowledge and ability to effectively impact family violence. Additionally, ICJR funds allow us to have staff who are able to do outreach, education, and training throughout our county and state. Due to ICJR funding, the DVERT project is able to increase survivor safety and offender accountability. We are able to provide survivors escaping violence in their home with access to highly skilled and trained advocates who have specialized knowledge pertaining to working within the criminal justice system. Additionally, this funding allows us to provide survivors with limited client assistance funds to help them flee from and maintain safety in high lethality-risk domestic violence cases. Lastly, ICJR funds have allowed DVERT to strengthen connections with surrounding counties and jurisdictions statewide, which has led to improvements in our system response to domestic violence, and access to training for partners to deepen system understanding around dynamics of abuse.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



AZ • Grantee Perspective

Funding for Emerge's Men's Education Program (MEP) has enabled them to continue to provide twice-monthly domestic violence orientation sessions for men, which better prepare and motivate them for their Batterer Intervention Program classes. It also allows Emerge to continue to provide an effective, best-practices model of offender accountability and victim safety for the community. One victim reported to a Probation Officer that her partner who completed MEP, "has really changed into a better person, and we are co-parenting well. He has shown great improvements, and he is doing well overall."

ARIZONA SUPERIOR COURT IN PIMA COUNTY

Figure 2 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

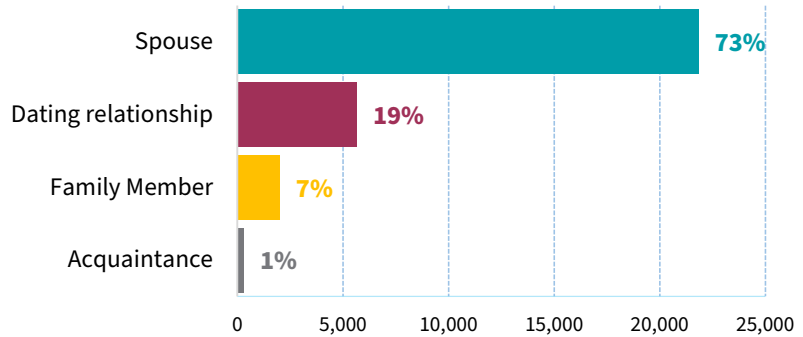


Figure 3 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

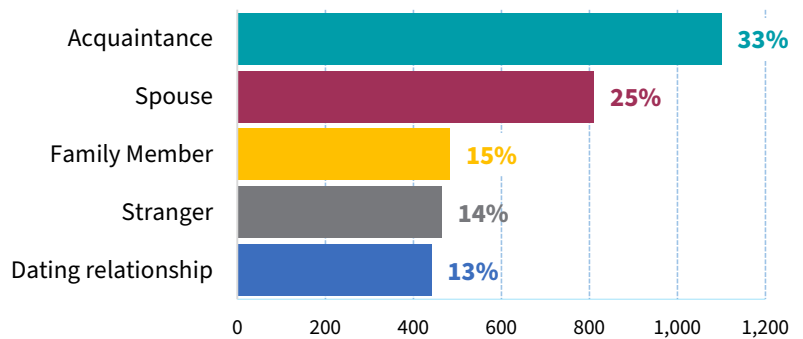
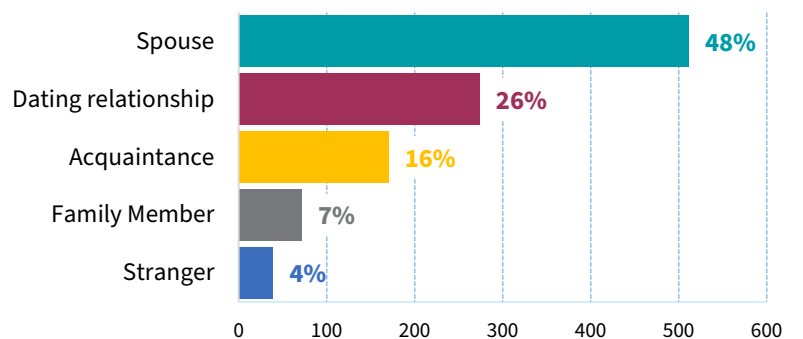


Figure 4 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

- Conflict of interest;
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources; and
- Program reached capacity.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **36,402** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (48%), **female** (89%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (75%).

Studies have shown that the provision of trauma-informed, culturally sensitive services can significantly improve victims' sense of well-being (Serrata et al., 2020).



Figure 5 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

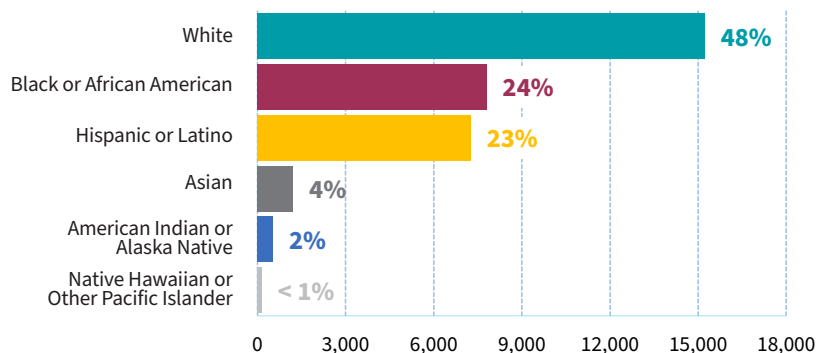


Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

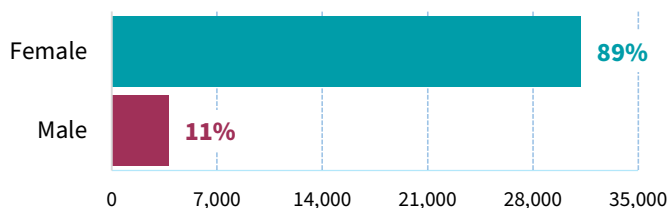
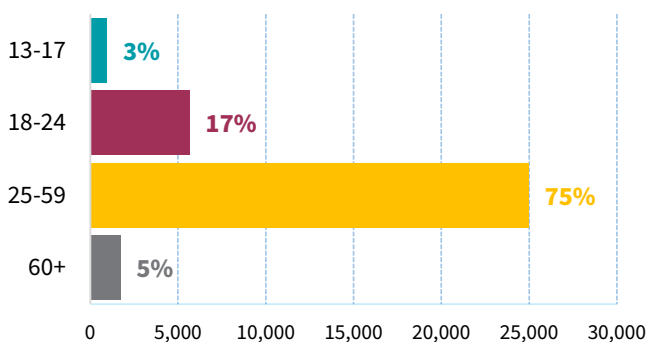


Figure 7 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



IN • Grantee Perspective



ICJR Program funding allowed us to co-locate services for survivors by including civil legal, criminal justice, social service and medical professionals. This project allowed us to additionally hire an attorney to provide representation for protective order proceedings, which encourages survivor participation in the civil legal system. We have found so far that it also enhances communication between the prosecutor's office deputy prosecutors in reporting violations of the protective order that could result in criminal charges. Having a clerk of the courts on-site provides expedited filing and also provides a direct link with the civil judges who preside over protective order cases. Additionally, ICJR Program initiatives send the message throughout the U.S. and to our community in St. Joseph County, Indiana, that improved protective order response is critical. Before this project, victim service providers and government entities recognized the need, but now we have the resources and the coordination to make a difference.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

NC • Grantee Perspective



This funding has supported the creation of the Buncombe County Family Justice Center (FJC), one safe and welcoming place for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking to begin their journey to strength, safety and hope. Program funding has allowed us to contract with partner agencies, Helpmate, a domestic violence prevention agency and Our VOICE, a sexual assault response organization, to provide two full-time Intake Specialists. These Intake Specialists serve as the first point of contact for survivors seeking services at the FJC. They greet survivors, escort them into our client rooms and talk with them to identify the survivors' needs and resource options. Intake Specialists explain the services available at the FJC provided by multiple partners, review confidentiality policies, and coordinate initial service provision.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



MT • Grantee Perspective

Grant funding has allowed the Lake County Attorney's Office to maintain victim contact and buy-in at a level which never existed before. Prior to grant funding, the County Attorney's Office simply did not have the resources to provide regular victim outreach. This benefit cannot be overstated. When a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to prosecution is utilized, victims feel the criminal justice system is listening to their needs and this results in far greater offender accountability.

LAKE COUNTY, MONTANA

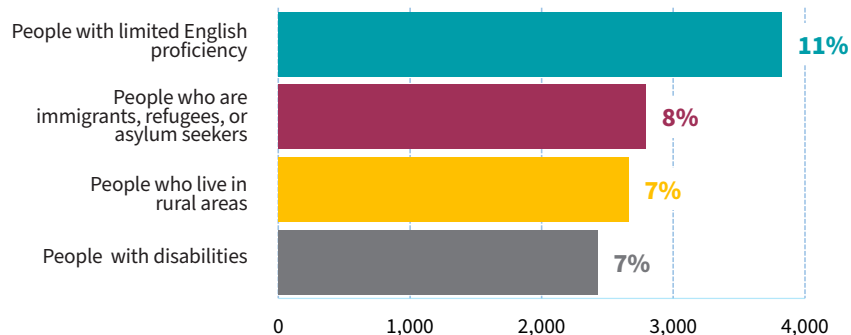


A recent study examining ten years of National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data found that while mandatory arrest statutes have resulted in higher arrest rates, the impacts of primary aggressor laws have been mixed. The findings indicate that primary aggressor laws effectively decrease the number of dual arrests as a percentage of overall arrests; however the overall percentage of police interventions in intimate partner violence that result in arrest appears to decline in jurisdictions implementing these laws. Further, there is significant variation in rates of arrest based on the race and sexual orientations of the victim and offender. These findings point to a need for further research into the effectiveness and impact of arrest laws (Hirschel et al., 2017).



Without proper training, an officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor, may unknowingly minimize a victim's trauma, may fail to collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. Moreover, if an officer sides with an abuser, a victim may not report future assaults. Research shows that law enforcement were most likely to arrest perpetrators when they received training on and followed best practices such as: in-person investigation, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to the violence, providing victims with 911 telephones, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe (Hamby et al., 2015).

Figure 8 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



Criminal Justice

The ICJR Program supports the efforts of local jurisdictions to develop or enhance a CCR that brings together law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. It is expected that grantees' criminal justice activities will reach beyond the individual unit or grant-funded staff person and, as a result, grantees report criminal justice data for the entire agency within the jurisdiction.

Law Enforcement

Grantees address the role of law enforcement in responding to domestic/sexual violence.

- **74** (33%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **112,081** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

A proactive response and victim-centered attitude influence whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.

A meaningful and serious response by law enforcement agencies involves listening to the victim about what they want and need in tandem with ICJR grant-funded activities including :

- Documenting all calls for services;
- Actively investigating all sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents;
- Referring cases to prosecutors (as appropriate);
- Seeking warrants and statements of charges (as appropriate);
- Arresting the perpetrator;
- Helping victims secure protection orders;

- Accompanying the victim to the home to retrieve their immediate belongings (as appropriate);
- Making referrals (as appropriate); and
- Providing victims with information about available services.



Many law enforcement agencies have adopted significant policy, procedural, and practical changes that have enhanced the justice process, contributing to reduced recidivism and increased victim safety and satisfaction. These changes include implementing collaborative relationships with service providers and other stakeholders to facilitate a coordinated community response to domestic/sexual violence (Ward-Lasher et al., 2017; White & Sienkiewicz, 2018). As of 2013, about one-half of local police departments and one-third of sheriff's offices serving 250,000 or more residents operated a full-time victim assistance unit (Reaves, 2017).

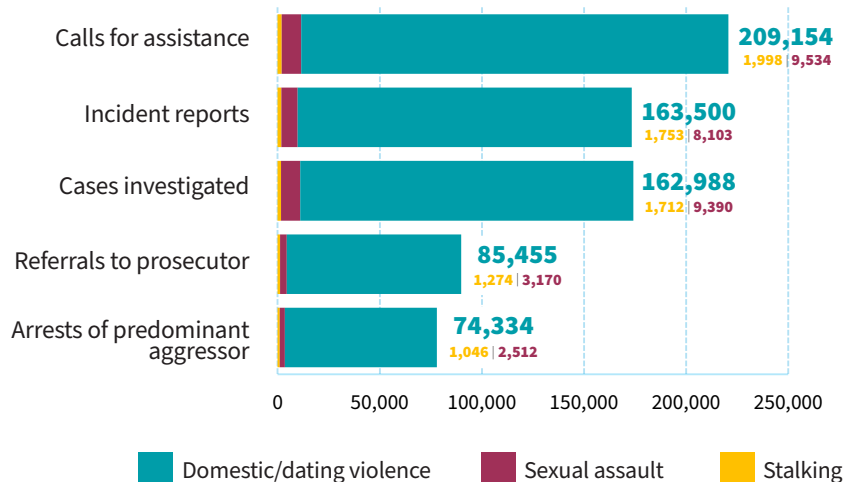


Swift responses to reported abuse and thorough investigations, supported with training and resources, can increase the rates at which cases are referred to prosecutors, accepted for prosecution, and result in convictions (Morrow et al., 2016; Rosay et al., 2010).



The Sexual Assault Justice Initiative (SAJI) is a special project launched by OVW in 2015 to improve the justice system's response to sexual violence, with a focus on prosecution. The initiative involves the development and implementation of performance measures that look beyond conviction rates and reflect best practices for prosecuting sexual assault. Through this initiative, AEquitas: The Prosecutors Resource on Violence Against Women, works closely with OVW and experts in the field to test performance measures contained in the Response to Sexual Violence for Prosecutors (RSVP) Model and assist prosecutors in seven jurisdictions to adopt the model (<https://aequitasresource.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Model-Response-to-Sexual-Violence-for-Prosecutors-RSVP-An-Invitation-to-Lead.pdf>).

Figure 9 Law enforcement activities in ICJR Program criminal cases, July 2017–June 2019



Prosecution

Jurisdictions with specialized prosecution programs often boast high prosecution and conviction rates. These programs may include specialized prosecution units, specialized prosecutorial training, and vertical prosecution procedures.

- **42** (19%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecution staff made a total of **46,741** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

Across the two-year reporting period, **ICJR Program-funded prosecution activities included:**



ⁱⁱ Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period.



WI • Grantee Perspective

Without the funding of this grant, it would be virtually impossible for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office to implement vertical prosecution on all felony domestic violence cases. Vertical prosecution, which occurs when one prosecutor is assigned to one case from beginning to end, is a proven best practice for prosecution and the proof is in the success we have experienced to date on felony domestic violence cases. Most importantly, vertical prosecution allows the victim to know which prosecutor is assigned to their case and fosters relationships and trust through the process. In Milwaukee, we have three specialized domestic violence courts that have trials scheduled virtually every week. Felony prosecutors have to be present at the Sojourner Family Peace Center to review and charge cases, as well as provide guidance and assistance to the younger and less experienced misdemeanor domestic violence prosecutors. The ICJR Program grant funding makes vertical prosecution possible in Milwaukee, leading to a conviction rate approaching 80% and a success rate of 100% on felony DV trials during January 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



The judicial supervision and noncompliance sanctions in specialized integrated domestic violence (IDV) courts may lead to lower re-arrest rates among some offenders; however, others may be more likely to be re-arrested for criminal contempt charges, such as violations of protection orders (Labriola et al., 2012). In either case, the close surveillance of IDV offenders and engagement of victim witnesses in the prosecution may explain the higher reported rates of pre-disposition recidivism, since new offenses might be more apparent to the specialized court (Cissner et al., 2011; Katz & Rempel, 2011; Peterson, 2014; Picard-Fritsche et al., 2011). In one study of nine New York State courts, defendants processed in IDV courts were nearly twice as likely as those in criminal courts to be re-arrested exclusively on criminal contempt charges, indicating their sole offenses were violations of protection orders (Katz & Rempel, 2011). These findings imply that IDV courts may be particularly effective in monitoring prohibited contact with victims.

Table 3 Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the ICJR Program by type of victimization, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
All cases	78,883	50,455	64%
Domestic/dating violence	76,265	48,699	64%
Sexual assault	2,127	1,405	66%
Stalking	441	351	80%

Table 4 Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the ICJR Program by type of victimization, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	46,466	25,477	55%
Domestic/dating violence	40,775	21,814	53%
Sexual assault	1,197	806	67%
Stalking	290	157	54%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.

Courts

Specialized domestic violence courts improve offender compliance with court-ordered conditions and impose enhanced penalties for non-compliance.

- **3** (1%) grantees used funds for court activities.
- Court staff made a total of **1,368** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

Courts funded by the ICJR Program conduct a range of activities, including:

- Coordinating with criminal justice and social service agencies to identify resources to address gaps in the system of services;
- Providing extensive and ongoing training on domestic/sexual violence issues;
- Implementing practices to ensure consistency in case handling;
- Enhancing case information flow between partner agencies;
- Emphasizing defendant monitoring and accountability; and
- Enhancing protection for, and services to, victims.

Judicial Monitoring

Judicial monitoring improves the justice system's ability to ensure offender accountability. Convicted offenders are required to make regular court appearances to determine whether they are complying with the conditions of their sentences.

- An average of **343** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.
- A total of **12,826** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.

The data reported in Table 5 reflect the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. A number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**5%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**79%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **16%** of the cases.

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of parole	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 25)	0	0%	2	8%	0	0%	2	8%	21	84%
New criminal behavior (N = 38)	0	0%	3	8%	0	0%	0	0%	35	92%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 31)	0	0%	3	10%	0	0%	1	3%	27	87%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 0)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 72)	0	0%	19	26%	0	0%	5	7%	48	67%

NOTE: Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.

Probation and Parole

Following the example of police, prosecutors, and courts, probation departments have adopted specialized methods for managing domestic violence offender cases. These specialized domestic violence units enforce intensive supervision on their probationers and may require attendance at batterer intervention programs.

- **20** (9%) grantees used funds for probation activities.
- Probation staff made a total of **5,966** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

Offender Monitoring

Probation officers monitor offenders to review progress and compliance with court orders. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- An average of **4,381** offenders were monitored during each 6-month period.
- Across the 2-year period, these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:



MI • Grantee Perspective

We believe that the ICJR Program funding has saved lives in our community. The Court offers specialized domestic violence services to survivors, utilizes probation officers with specialized knowledge of the complex dynamics of domestic violence and stalking, and holds offenders accountable by participating in long-term batterer intervention programs and other rehabilitative services. With the funding, judges and magistrates have received specialized education and are able to make more informed decisions. By coordinating our DV dockets, we maximize the ability of SafeHouse Center to staff our DV dockets and offer free, confidential safety planning, counseling, residential and non-residential services to survivors. The funding has greatly facilitated cross-jurisdictional collaboration between the courts and community partners to help make appropriate resources available to all DV survivors and offenders across a large geographical and multi-jurisdictional area.

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MICHIGAN



Grantees have developed emerging, evidence-based models for probation supervision of domestic/sexual violence offenders that frame probation services as one portion of a larger coordinated community response (Crowe et al., 2009; Sadusky et al., 2015). These models, now being implemented across the country, take an integrated systemic approach that incorporates fundamental principles and guidelines for all participating stakeholders, including criminal justice agencies, advocacy organizations, and victim services providers, to use when intervening and working with victims (New Orleans District Probation and Parole, 2014; White & Sienkiewicz, 2018). They provide consistent accountability mechanisms and treatment for perpetrators, while ensuring victim safety.



ID • Grantee Perspective

The High Risk Probation Officer is a staff position that was made possible through Arrest Program funding. This position has overwhelmingly helped with offender accountability and victim safety. The addition of this half-time probation officer has lessened the time between an offender's sentencing and their first probation meeting and has increased the number of contacts with high risk probationers, for both face-to-face contacts and in-home visits. This intense monitoring, coupled with the ability to perform random drug tests more frequently on domestic violence offenders with substance abuse issues, is helping the team better address domestic violence in the community. Without Arrest Program funding, in-court advocacy for victims would not be a reality in Bannock County, where the resources of the local advocacy program were stretched thin. They have now been able to hire more advocates who can provide court advocacy. In the past six months, Bannock County has seen an increase in the number of requests for criminal court advocacy and requests for assistance in completing civil protection order petitions. Without the Arrest Program funding, Bannock County would not be able to meet these needs.

BANNOCK COUNTY, IDAHO



MI • Grantee Perspective

The Circuit Court bench has an increased awareness about the need for individualized bond conditions rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Circuit Court Pre-Trial Services is receiving much more information than it did previously, giving a broader and more accurate picture of potential lethality and safety issues. The implementation of the Blueprint for Safety lethality questions has helped not only prosecution, but also victims'/survivors' perspective of law enforcement. After the Blueprint questions were fully implemented, data collected by the Advocacy Initiated Response program showed that victims/survivors frequently reported feeling like officers genuinely cared and wanted to know how they were doing. Administrative and direct staff alike have a better understanding of the VAWA/VOCA confidentiality mandate and often bring it up before the community-based agency even has a chance. Simply put, ICJR Program funding has been incredibly valuable for everyone involved and the ripple effects are more than we could have imagined.

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT, MICHIGAN

- A total of **88,226** face-to-face contacts with an average of **3,602** offenders;
- A total of **56,804** telephone contacts with an average of **3,064** offenders; and
- A total of **31,720** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **1,720** offenders.

Probation officers also contact victims as a strategy to increase victim safety.

- A total of **5,239** violations were reported across the 2-year period.
- The most frequently reported types of violations and responses to those violations were as follows:
 - Failure to comply with other conditions of probation or parole accounted for **1,589** (30%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**1,087** or 68%);
 - Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program represented **1,093** (21%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**682** or 62%); and
 - New criminal behavior accounted for **1,057** (20%) of violations and was the violation most likely to result in partial or full revocation of probation (**731** or 69%).

The data reported below (Table 6) reflect the consequences imposed for violations of probation. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **5%** of the cases and issued fines in **5%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**16%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**66%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **8%** of the cases.

Table 6 Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by ICJR Program-funded probation and parole agencies, July 2017–June 2019

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of probation	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 844)	35	4%	75	9%	30	4%	121	14%	583	69%
New criminal behavior (N = 1,057)	75	7%	67	6%	44	4%	140	13%	731	69%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 1,093)	47	4%	98	9%	68	6%	198	18%	682	62%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 656)	32	5%	42	6%	49	7%	164	25%	369	56%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 1,589)	66	4%	127	8%	74	5%	235	15%	1,087	68%

NOTE: Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.

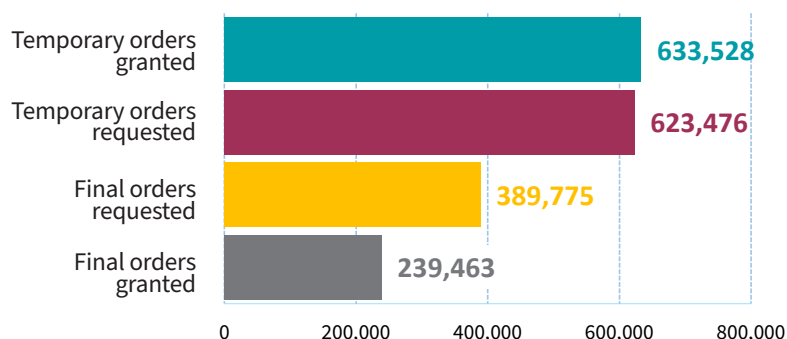
Community Measures

Grant funds are intended to support a CCR that will affect the entire jurisdiction. For this reason, grantees are asked to report on the number of protection orders requested and granted within the jurisdiction.ⁱⁱⁱ



Research has shown that petitioners' perceptions of safety increased after receiving protection orders, even in cases where orders were violated (Cattaneo et al., 2016; Logan & Walker, 2009; Logan et al., 2009). Women using emergency shelter services who also obtained a protection order were found to experience fewer PTSD symptoms and less sexual violence six months after leaving the shelter than sheltered women without protection orders (Messing et al., 2017; Wright & Johnson, 2012).

Figure 10 Protection orders requested and granted under the ICJR Program, July 2017–June 2019



Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **access to affordable emergency and long-term** housing for victims and families as the most significant remaining area of need.

Along with affordable long and short-term housing, grantees also cited a number of **unmet needs within victim services**, including:

- Transportation;
- Short-term financial assistance;
- Mental health counseling;
- Child care;
- Employment;
- Job training; and
- Substance abuse counseling.

In particular, grantees pointed to the need for **low cost and pro bono civil legal assistance** to help victims with divorce, child custody matters, and the collateral consequences of victimization, including issues relating to housing and personal property.

Grantees emphasized the need to **expand victim-centered, trauma-informed training** to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and court personnel.

ⁱⁱⁱ Numbers represent all cases in which data was available for protection orders requested and granted. In some jurisdictions grantees report difficulty in obtaining protection order data; for example, if a city is the grant-funded jurisdiction and protection order data are collected at the county level, it is not possible to report precisely on the number of orders requested or granted in the city.

MD • Grantee Perspective



Affordable housing continues to be the greatest unaddressed need among the population served by this grant. Without the funds to move to a new living situation, victims are often forced to stay with their abusive partner. This is especially true for parents of small children who cannot afford the childcare needed for them to work a full-time job. Without safe, affordable housing, victims are often forced to choose between their family's mental, physical, and emotional safety and homelessness. The problem often continues to occur following the termination of a violent relationship. A victim may move to a safe, confidential location only for her abuser to find her, meaning she must once again find a new place to live. While House of Ruth can provide temporary emergency shelter for victims and their children, demand always exceeds the shelter's capacity.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION, MARYLAND

WA • Grantee Perspective



Thurston County and the South Sound region of Washington is facing a gap in free civil legal representation. Survivors served by the Family Justice Center program are often asking for legal consult for their parenting plan, divorce, child support, and protection order matters. Our team has built a positive relationship with our on-site partner, Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services, which offers free legal clinics to low income individuals and survivors. The clinics, however, are often with attorneys who do not specialize in civil matters, and they are unable to represent the client. The attorneys can give feedback on the forms, ensure everything is completed properly, but they are unable to represent the client at hearings. Our advocate attends protection order hearings weekly, and is often in a tough spot when the respondent has an attorney, and the survivor remains unrepresented.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OF SOUTH SOUND, WASHINGTON



IA • Grantee Perspective

One of the most significant areas of remaining need is that system professionals lack the training and technical assistance to ensure that they serve domestic violence (DV) victims and offenders in the most effective manner possible. Many court staff and judges handling DV matters lack an understanding of DV dynamics and related issues, which greatly influences how the courts respond to the needs of DV victims when they come to the courthouse for assistance. It can also prevent true offender accountability if court staff are unaware of the tactics offenders use. Outside of the court system, additional training and technical assistance needs to be presented to system professionals to better ensure all community resources respond to DV with a victim-centered approach.

IOWA JUDICIAL BRANCH



MI • Grantee Perspective

A continuing concern is a lot of public misinformation on the nature of sexual assault. Just as first responders require training and education, the general public also needs to be educated on the same issues. Societal pressures and preconceptions help shape victim behavior. There will be a continued reluctance on the part of victims to seek justice because of the response of the public to their disclosure. Members of the general public also make up the majority of jurors in a criminal case. A public education campaign on emerging research on the effects of trauma on victims, the expected lack of physical evidence in cases of sexual assault, issues related to non-stranger assaults and/or transient victims would be of great benefit.

WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTORS OFFICE, MICHIGAN



NY • Grantee Perspective

In our efforts to engage and support immigrant victims/survivors of domestic violence, we see victims experiencing fear or anxiety about reporting a crime or entering a courthouse or government office to receive services. The reasons for not engaging law enforcement may include the fear that the victim or opposite party may be deported or that children will be taken away, the fear that the victim will be misunderstood or even wrongfully arrested due to a language barrier, economic and financial concerns, and community beliefs about the police and government. Even when victim advocates and police officers are well-trained and engage in community outreach and trust-building efforts, it can be challenging to overcome these hurdles.

SAFE HORIZON, NEW YORK

Grantees cited the need to **improve offender accountability**, through:

- Standardization and improvement of batterer intervention programs;
- Streamlining the process for victims to obtain orders of protection;
- Better enforcement of protection orders;
- Pre-trial supervision of offenders and enhanced offender monitoring in misdemeanor cases;
- Coordination of domestic violence and sexual assault protocol and policy across jurisdictions;
- Information sharing and improved collaboration between courts, probation, and law enforcement; and
- Shortening trial wait times to encourage victim participation.

Additionally, grantees cite the need for **more trained investigators and prosecutors specializing in domestic violence and sexual assault cases**.

Grantees also emphasized the need for more **community education and awareness activities** in order to:

- Educate the community on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Promote available advocacy services and resources in the community;
- Educate young people about healthy relationships; and
- Combat stigma and misinformation on the nature of sexual assault.

Grantees cited difficulty in providing **culturally sensitive victim services, translation, and outreach** to underserved populations, particularly **immigrants, refugees, and those with limited English proficiency**.

Grantees also emphasized the need to improve services and outreach to:

- Victims in rural areas;
- Persons with one or more disabilities;
- LGBTQ populations; and
- Elderly victims.

Finally, grantees called for **greater access to dedicated sexual assault victim services, including SANE services, and more aggressive prosecution of sexual assault**.

Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program

VAWA 2013 authorized the Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (Justice for Families or JFF Program), which consolidated two pre-existing VAWA-funded programs: the Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program), and the Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program (Supervised Visitation Program), and added new purpose areas as well.

JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES GRANTEES SEEK TO IMPROVE THE RESPONSE of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic/sexual violence or child sexual abuse. JFF grantees do this by promoting the development of supervised visitation and exchange centers, improving civil and criminal court responses to victims of domestic/sexual violence, and training court-based and court-related personnel on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The last grants made under the Courts and Supervised Visitation programs were awarded in FY 2013.¹

97 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 97 unique grantees reported activities funded by the JFF Program.

6,339 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 6,339 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

63,382 Supervised Visitations

Grantees provided a total of 63,382 supervised visitation and exchange services to an average of 1,496 families.

In specialized courts, trained advocates can provide support throughout the proceedings and share information with victims, and judges demonstrate knowledge of domestic/sexual violence and respectful treatment of victims. These practices can help victims as they navigate legal proceedings. These courts have also been shown to reduce rearrests for any criminal charges, inclusive of domestic violence charges, among convicted offenders who were subject to policies such as judicial supervision and sanctions for noncompliance (Anderson, 2015; Bell et al., 2011; Cissner et al., 2015).



¹ Justice for Families was authorized by VAWA 2013 in March of 2013, and Congress appropriated funds for this new program. However, OWW had already accepted applications under the former Supervised Visitation and Courts programs for FY 2014 funding, so FY 2014 Justice for Families awards were made to applicants that had applied under the two programs' solicitations.



AZ • Grantee Perspective

OWV funds have allowed us to develop a coordinated community response that is unparalleled in the State of Arizona. We are able to provide two victim advocates on-site at the courthouse to be present at every hearing, and these advocates are able to connect victims to services far beyond the court assistance. The Court and Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse have forged a partnership with the Deaf community in Tucson and their service providers, and have improved their language access for Deaf and hard of hearing people, as well as refugee populations. We now have ASL interpreters trained in interpreting for victims of domestic violence and trauma. We have a probation review calendar attended by up to five probation officers, all of our approved treatment providers, and our advocates. The Court has been designated a Mentor Court by OWV and we are able to travel to various courts in Arizona and share our procedures and forms and our challenges and achievements.

TUCSON CITY COURT, ARIZONA



A supervised visitation and exchange program can protect children during visits with their abusing parents by first identifying abusive tactics and then intervening on behalf of the victim and children (Parker et al., 2008; Saini et al., 2012). These programs offer a safe place for the exchange of a child or a secure and nurturing environment for children to interact with non-custodial parents. Visitation centers employ multiple safety strategies, such as staggered drop-off/pickup times and separate entrances and exits. Staff at supervised visitation centers are trained to intervene during the parent/child visit so that any threats to safety are addressed and the abusive parent is redirected.

The scope of the Justice for Families Program is vast, as required to accomplish these goals. Purpose areas include:

- Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children and youth by and between parents in situations involving domestic or dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking;
- Educate and train court-based and related personnel on issues relating to victims' needs, perpetrator behavior, and offender accountability;
- Provide resources in juvenile court matters to ensure victims receive necessary services;
- Provide civil legal assistance to victims and non-offending parents (where the other parent is represented by counsel);
- Enable courts or court-based or related programs to develop new or enhanced:
 - Court infrastructure;
 - Community-based initiatives within the court system;
 - Offender management/monitoring/accountability programs;
 - Safe and confidential information storage and sharing databases;
 - Education and outreach to improve community access to the courts; and
 - Other projects to improve court responses to domestic/sexual violence.

VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **97** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **11** (11%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children and youth;
 - Educate court-based, court-related, and court-appointed personnel and child protective service workers; and
 - Provide civil legal assistance and advocacy services.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide supervised visitation and safe exchange for children; develop community consulting committees; engage in issuing protection orders or helping victims obtain them; support victims in family matters and/or criminal cases; and establish statewide training and technical assistance projects to increase supervised visitation and safe exchange options. They provide training, supervised visitation, victim services, offender management, and support criminal and civil courts. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **92** (95%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **156** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support supervision staff and program coordinators.

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	156	
Supervision staff	46	29%
Program coordinators	29	19%
Attorneys	17	11%
Victim advocates	16	10%
Administrators	10	6%
Security staff (including Court security)	8	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

Grantees train law enforcement, court personnel, legal personnel, prosecutors, probation officers, guardians ad litem, victim advocates, child welfare workers, and other social service agency staff to help improve the response to victims, children, and families with a history of domestic/sexual violence or child sexual abuse. **This training enables visitation staff to meet the safety needs of all family members and improves the professional response to victims while increasing offender accountability.**

- **64** (66%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **617** training events.

PA • Grantee Perspective

The JFF Program has allowed us to add a non-attorney paralegal who provides holistic services to victims appearing in court for Protection From Abuse (PFA) cases and links these clients with Women Against Abuse, Inc. attorneys more seamlessly. The paralegal is stationed in the PFA courtrooms four days a week to provide petitioners who appear for their hearings with intake, information, safety planning, and referrals. We are able to get clients to attorneys more quickly since the paralegal can do on-site intakes. We are also able to provide more intensive brief services to clients who do not seek attorney representation.

WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE, INC., PENNSYLVANIA

In a recent evaluation of a widely used training program for judges on the dynamics of domestic violence, the majority of participants reported specific benefits and changes in behavior relating to access to justice, offender accountability, judicial leadership, and victim safety (Jaffe et al., 2018).





LA • Grantee Perspective

Funding through Justice for Families affords us the opportunity to participate in nationwide trainings in the field of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This exposure and level of engagement has built upon the years of experience in our agency. All of our counselors, advocates, and visitation staff are working from a trauma-informed perspective and exposing our partners—which include local law enforcement, judges, the local bar, and child protection workers—to trauma-informed principles. These experiences challenge us and our partners to continue to expand and extend our efforts to effectively respond to and meet the needs of survivors in our community.

WELLSPRING ALLIANCE FOR FAMILIES, LOUISIANA



Extensive research has demonstrated that providing trauma-informed, survivor-focused services can improve victim outcomes, particularly safety-related empowerment (Goodman, Thomas, et al., 2016; Trabold et al., 2020).



VT • Grantee Perspective

The funding has allowed us to represent victims/survivors in relief from abuse cases and to start a legal clinic for survivors that provides counsel and advice on a wide range of civil legal issues. It has also allowed Vermont Legal Aid to provide legal training to Voices Against Violence staff. The Justice for Families Program enables Voices Against Violence to meet the needs of victims/survivors of domestic/sexual violence and/or child sexual abuse, along with their families. As a result of this funding, our program has been able to increase our capacity to meet the needs of a growing number of survivors reaching out to our program through hotline calls, court referrals, and community partner referrals by employing a part-time advocate. Our advocate provides daily direct service to a significant number of victims/survivors who are seeking information, legal support, and safety planning for themselves and their children.

JFF funding has allowed us to expand our supervised visitation services in the community so that we can meet the growing needs of families. It has also enabled us to upgrade our security measures for families and staff.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, VERMONT

In the two years covered by this report, Justice for Families Program grantees trained:

10,729

PROFESSIONALS

across **multiple systems:**



COURT
PERSONNEL



VICTIM
ADVOCATES



ATTORNEYS/LAW
STUDENTS

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims navigating the court and legal system. These services may include legal advocacy to secure a protection order or custody, civil legal assistance, criminal justice advocacy, and victim advocacy, including safety planning. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **58** (60%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **6,339** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

During each 6-month reporting period, on average, grantees provided:

Advocacy services:

- Civil legal advocacy to **3,057** victims;
- Victim advocacy to **2,853** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy to **1,035** victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services to **334** victims.

Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **8,450** times; and
- Grantees made a total of **8,785** referrals to governmental victim services and **10,148** to non-governmental victim services.

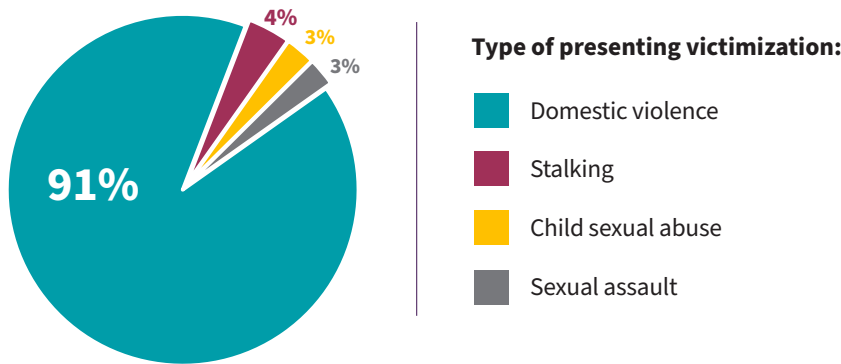
Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (91%).

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by JFF Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



Multiple studies have shown that services offered to domestic violence victims, such as shelter, advocacy, support groups, and counseling, have positively impacted their short- and long-term safety, mental health, and sense of self-efficacy (Sullivan, 2018). A recent study also found that receiving tangible aid from both formal community providers and informal supports was associated with an increased likelihood that victims would report sexual assault to the police (DePrince et al., 2020).

NY • Grantee Perspective



JFF Program funding has significantly impacted our ability to serve clients in a positive way. We have been able to hire an experienced family law attorney with strong supervisory skills and experience mentoring pro bono counsel. She has enabled us to improve and expand our intake process so that clients can receive on-site intake at the courthouse if the court or Department of Probation is their first point of contact with the system. She has trained the advocate to do legal screenings and to draft family offense and custody petitions, and has created a system for handling legal emergencies as they arise. She spends a good deal of time interacting with our hotline and domestic violence advocacy staff so that they understand when to refer clients for legal consultations. She is also educating staff from other programs regarding attorney/client privilege so that we can coordinate services in a way that is not at the expense of that privilege. As a result, 25% of all clients received a legal consultation during the reporting period, compared to 15% in the year 2017.

CENTER FOR SAFETY AND CHANGE, NEW YORK

Table 2 | Victims seeking services with JFF grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	6,489	
Victims served	6,113	94%
Victims partially served	227	3%
Victims not served	149	2%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant.

Victims’ Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (68%).
- The remaining victims were most often victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (20%) or by a **family member** (9%).

WI • Grantee Perspective



The Justice for Families funding has allowed the Milwaukee Visitation Center to help Milwaukee families receive much needed assistance during volatile times. Parents and children have a place to go to spend quality time in a safe environment. Parents can access and receive resources and domestic violence education while at the center, while modeling healthy relationships and healthy responses to situations. Eighty-nine percent of victims of abuse report an increased perception of safety when utilizing the Center and its services.

CITY OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



While violence touches all communities, victims from historically underserved populations may face greater barriers to accessing help from service providers and the justice system. Access to resources, religious beliefs, cultural practices, race or ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexuality, age, language, immigration status, geographic location, and economic opportunity are all factors that can affect how a victim perceives, manages, and resists violence (Bridges et al., 2018; Cheng & Lo, 2015; Cho, 2012; Cho et al., 2017; O'Neal & Beckman, 2016; Weng, 2016).



MN • Grantee Perspective

This program has allowed our site to enhance our child-related relief calendars and develop a court infrastructure to meet the needs of domestic violence victims, offenders and their children. As part of this program, we were able to hire a State/Tribal Court Liaison that serves as a liaison between the Native American community and Hennepin County District Court to build relationships, provide improved support, and enhance the courts infrastructure when it comes to resources, knowledge, and accessibility. Additionally, the State/Tribal Court Liaison helps identify barriers in Native survivors' usage of Family Court and helps implement changes to remove those barriers. As a result of this program, the Fourth Judicial District has been presented with the flags of seven of the 11 federally recognized tribal nations of Minnesota which are flying in our courthouse next to the US and Minnesota flags. This is significant given that we are the first court system in Minnesota to ever be gifted these flags. Also, as a result of this program, we were able to designate a space for smudging in all of our Fourth Judicial District courthouses. For thousands of years, Indigenous traditional medicines such as sage, sweetgrass, and cedar have been considered as sacred, cleansing, and protective plants. Sacred smoke created from burning medicinal plants is a practice common to Indigenous peoples. The Fourth Judicial District Court now honors the cultural traditions and ceremonies involving smudging. The Fourth Judicial District welcomes this time-honored practice in our courthouses. This would not have happened without the support of OVV and the JFF Program.

JUDICIARY COURTS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Figure 2 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

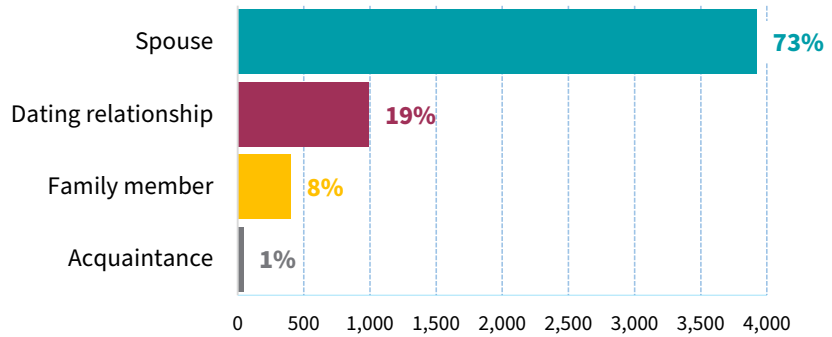


Figure 3 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)

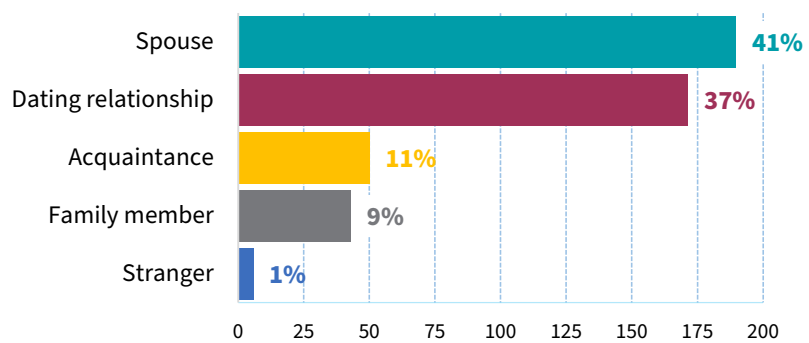


Figure 4 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

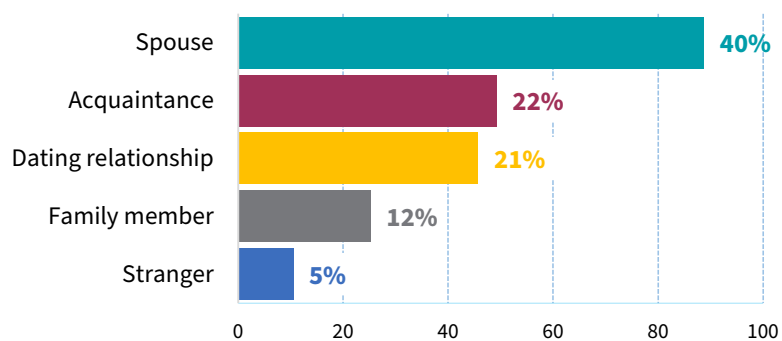
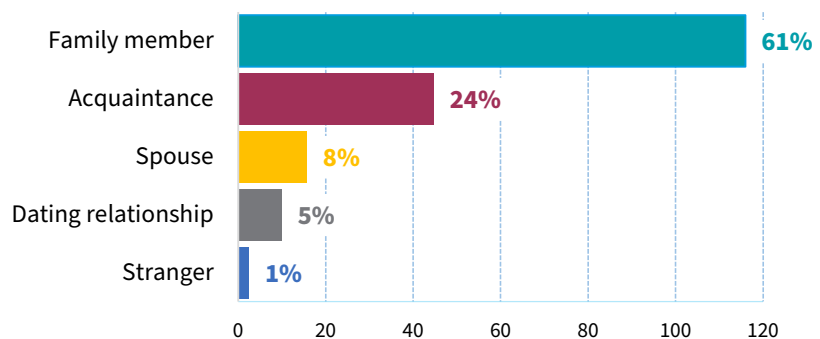


Figure 5 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Child sexual abuse** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Conflict of interest;
- Need not documented;
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements; and
- Services not appropriate for victim.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **6,339** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **white** (53%), **female** (88%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (80%).

Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

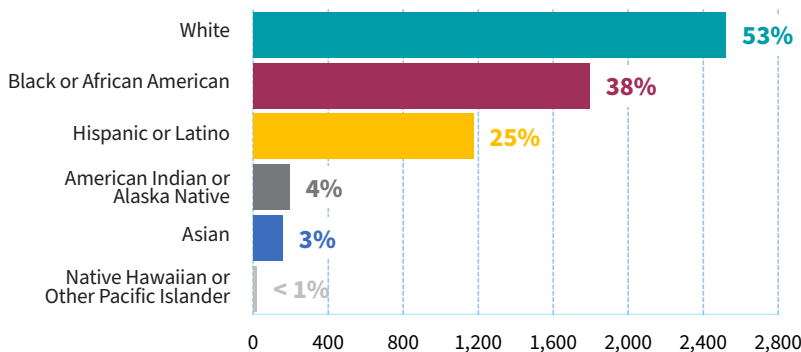
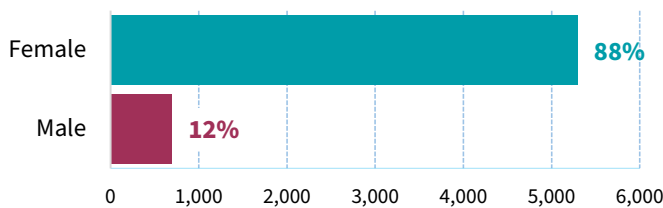


Figure 7 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



OR • Grantee Perspective



Justice for Families (JFF) Program funding has allowed us to provide vital advocacy services for limited English proficient Spanish-speaking and other survivors at the entry point of the Deschutes County Courthouse. In addition to the services provided by the client assistant program (courthouse) advocate, funding has provided the opportunity to thoughtfully investigate barriers for Spanish-speakers seeking to access these services at the courthouse with the goal of improving access. Funding also supported ten hours per week of on-site, trauma-informed advocacy to survivors involved in supervised visitation/safe exchange by the Mary's Place Advocate. Without JFF funding, the time she has available to serve Mary's Place-involved survivors would be significantly less.

DESCHUTES COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, OREGON

OH • Grantee Perspective



Funding has provided advocates who assist survivors in the criminal courts in Trumbull County. Connecting survivors to advocates provides a lifeline to anyone experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Advocates provide confidential services and assist survivors in navigating the criminal justice system. They assist survivors with safety plans, connect them with community resources, and assist the survivor with other issues they may be going through such as housing, visitation/custody, and financial matters.

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SERVICES, INC., OHIO

NC • Grantee Perspective



The JFF funding has been instrumental in providing additional legal services for victims/survivors and has allowed us to coordinate services with County DV advocates and qualified private attorneys. While domestic violence victims can obtain free legal assistance and representation from Legal Aid for protective orders, the JFF funding provides legal representation at no cost for victims seeking custody, divorce, and equitable distribution assistance.

COUNTY OF CHATHAM, NORTH CAROLINA



CA • Grantee Perspective

Without the funding provided by the JFF grant, the Court would be unable to extend the free legal services that the staff attorney position currently provides to low-income victims of domestic violence. These services have proven crucial in assisting protected parties with family issues such as civil restraining orders and residence exclusions, custody and visitation disputes, divorce, legal separation, and support and parentage cases. There are a limited number of agencies in the County that offer free attorney-provided legal assistance to low-income individuals. There are even fewer that focus on assisting victims of domestic violence who need affordable legal services that are accessible, relevant, and provided by those with expertise in DV. With this grant funding, OWW Staff Attorneys are able to meet with litigants on the day of court, before their court hearing, to explain court process, ensure compliance with court procedures, address pending matters such as custody and visitation, and connect victims with on-site domestic violence advocates from community-based organizations.

CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR COURT, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



Since civil and criminal justice processes can often be confusing and intimidating, attorneys and advocates can enhance victims' experience in the legal system and improve outcomes by supporting them through attorney access, support with self-representation, and language and disability assistance (National Center for Access to Justice, 2018).



MT • Grantee Perspective

The program funding has allowed many survivors of domestic violence to have access to holistic civil legal services, which they would not have had prior to funding. Prior to funding, survivors with limited financial resources had to rely on the generosity of the local bar to provide civil legal services. Such legal services, when available, often lacked competent, client-centered representation in cases of domestic and sexual violence. By having access to attorneys who are educated and experienced in the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence, the program has provided education to the judiciary and court personnel that would not be available without grant funding.

SANDERS COUNTY COALITION FOR FAMILIES, MONTANA

Figure 8 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

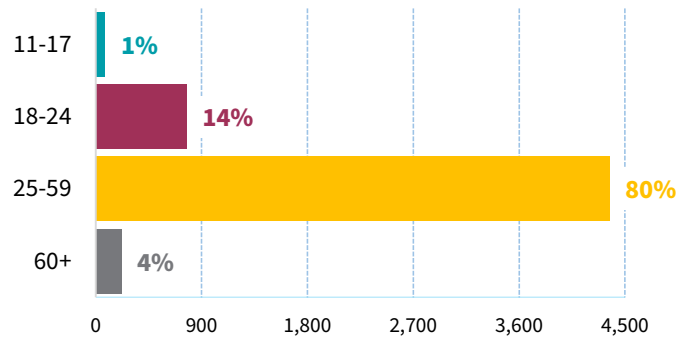
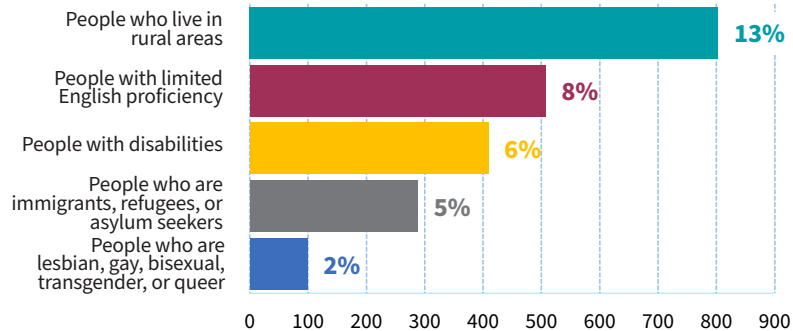


Figure 9 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



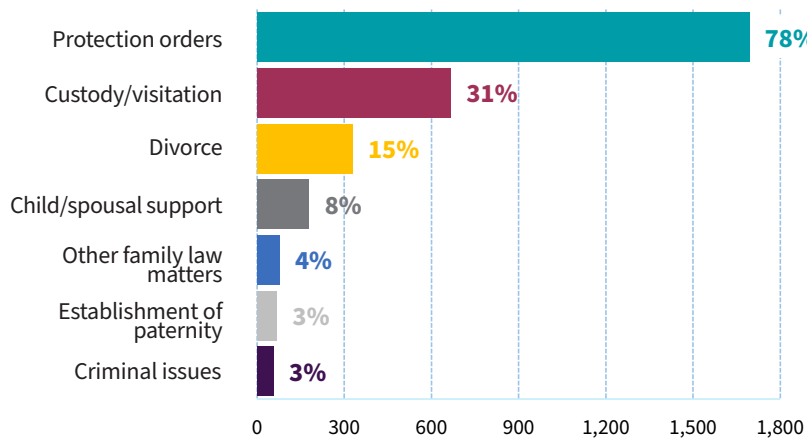
Legal Services

Grantees began providing legal services to victims and non-offending parents on July 1, 2014. These services, which were provided by grant-funded attorneys or paralegals, can include representing non-offending parents in matters of child sexual abuse, providing assistance to victims in divorce and custody cases, and helping victims obtain protection orders against their abusers. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- **33** (34%) grantees used grant funds for legal services.
- Grantees addressed an average of **3,185** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **874** victims (40% of those receiving services).
- Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and custody/visitation.

Figure 10

Victims who received assistance with legal issues addressed by JFF Program grantees, July 2017–June 2019 (6-month average)



Services for Families

Grantees provide one-to-one supervised visits, group supervised visits, and supervised exchanges. Before providing services, grantees conceptualize and develop supervised visitation and exchange services through community-based consulting committees. **This comprehensive, collaborative planning process ensures the safety of adult victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children during visitation or exchange.**

- **52** (54%) grantees used funds to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,496** families during each 6-month period.
- **87%** of families who requested services received them during each 6-month reporting period.

Across the 2-year period, grantees provided the following services:

- A total of **37,471** one-to-one supervised visits to an average of **1,117** families;
- A total of **22,419** supervised exchanges to an average of **347** families; and
- A total of **3,492** group supervised visits with an average of **90** families.

IA • Grantee Perspective



Support from OVW allowed Iowa Legal Aid to provide legal services to vulnerable clients who may not have been able to access those services before. Domestic violence contributes to poverty in many ways, and legal services are one of the most effective means of addressing both. Victims need to achieve permanent freedom and safety from their abusers and to secure custody of their children before they can achieve the emotional stability and independence they need to work. The legal aid attorney successfully achieved outcomes for clients by providing sufficient legal advice and full representation on many cases in court, by negotiating settlements, and helping clients prepare for the future through safety planning. Funding has allowed Iowa Legal Aid to successfully obtain nine restraining orders. Three of the nine cases awarded custody or denied visitation, one case awarded custody with the possession of the home, and one case awarded the possession of the family home. Furthermore, the attorney provided tailored legal advice on the remaining 23 cases. Having a more constant advocacy presence in the courthouse has also allowed us to meet with survivors that may never have known about advocacy services, and we believe that Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence presence makes the courthouse a more comfortable space for those needing services. The funded advocate has been able to prevent families from becoming homeless by advocating for employment and financial assistance, and in the juvenile court system.

SIouxLAND HUMAN INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP,
IOWA

A recent longitudinal study of urban and rural survivors of intimate partner violence who received civil legal services found that this kind of assistance was positively associated with victims' psychological wellbeing, economic self-sufficiency, and safety over time (Copps Hartley & Renner, 2016).





KY • Grantee Perspective

The Justice for Families Program funding has allowed us to offer a much needed service to survivors of domestic violence in this small rural area. Before this funding, there was not a secure place for supervised visitation and exchanges to take place. They often happened in parking lots or at family members' homes. With this funding, we have been able to make this process much more secure for all parties involved. Victims of domestic violence can feel confident using our facility knowing their children are safe and secure.

JOHNSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT, KENTUCKY

During the 2-year reporting period, grantees reported that the following safety and security problems occurred during supervised visitation and/or safe exchanges:

- **163** attempts to contact other party;
- **41** threats made;
- **32** violations of protection orders; and
- **16** times security staff were unavailable.

During each 6-month reporting period, nearly **one-third** (31%) of families receiving services completed services or services were terminated.

- **58%** of the families discontinued involvement because threats ceased, there was a change in the court order, mutual agreement, or treatment was completed; and
- **26%** were terminated because they habitually did not keep appointments, were incarcerated, did not comply with program rules, or were terminated due to supervisor's discretion.

Families Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

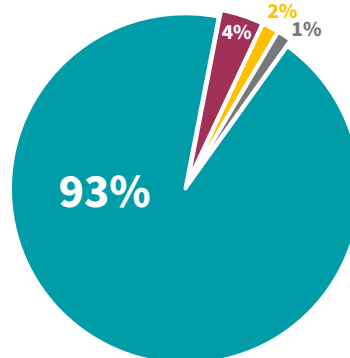
- The majority of families served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (93%).



For many victims of domestic violence, leaving the relationship does not end the abuse perpetrated by their partners. The risk of abuse to the non-abusing parent and children during separation and after divorce often continues or increases; in some cases, abusers may kill their partners and children during this escalating period of violence. After separation, children are often exposed, directly or indirectly, to violence, threats, intimidation, manipulation, and coercive controls, which can profoundly compromise their emotional stability and psychological wellbeing (Crossman et al., 2016; Ellis, 2017; Jaffe et al., 2017; Rezey, 2020).

Figure 11 | Provision of family services by JFF Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Families served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



Type of presenting victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence
- Child sexual abuse
- Sexual assault
- Stalking

Table 3 | Families seeking services with JFF grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Families seeking services	6-month average	
Total families seeking services	1,718	
Families served	1,419	83%
Families partially served	78	5%
Families not served	221	13%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant. "Not served" represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant.

Families Referred to Supervised Visitation or Safe Exchange Programs

Grantees report on referral source and primary victimization for all families they serve or partially serve.

- The majority of families served or partially served were referred by a **family court order** (62%).
- The remaining families were most commonly referred by a **protection order** (14%) or a **domestic violence court order** (12%).

Table 4 | Average number of families using supervised visitation or safe exchange by primary victimization and referral source, July 2017–June 2019

Referral source	Number of families	
Family court order	925	62%
Protection order	205	14%
DV court order	173	12%
Child welfare agency	50	3%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥50 families).

Reasons Families Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons families were not served or were only partially served:

- Hours of operation;
- Program reached capacity; or
- Family was not accepted into program.ⁱⁱ

For those families who were not accepted into the program, grantees reported the following reasons:

- Client unwilling to agree with program rules;
- Situation was deemed too dangerous; or
- Conflict of interest.

ⁱⁱ These are families who requested grant-funded services and were willing and able to partake in those services, but who were not accepted into the program.

Despite the noted harmful effects of post-separation violence and abuse on victims and children, custody evaluators regularly fail to recommend visitation arrangements that best serve the well-being of children and prevent direct contact between the abused and abusive parents (Davis et al., 2011; Khaw et al., 2018; Saunders et al., 2016; Saunders & Oglesby, 2016; Staroneck & Ake, 2018).



NC • Grantee Perspective



Since acquiring the OWW Justice for Families grant funding, the Mecklenburg County Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange (SVSE) has hired and trained our full-time Court Liaison. We recognized that there was a significant lapse in time between services being ordered by the courts and services being received. The court liaison's function is to meet with families directly following their court hearing. As we continue to use this position, it will enable the program to decrease the service delivery time down to days, as opposed to weeks when the program initially began several years ago. This funding has also made available to us a direct referral source for legal assistance provided for our victim parents. They can receive services ranging from a consultation up to full legal representation in civil proceedings. Both these positions have increased safety and made service provision easier for parents through the SVSE center.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



MD • Grantee Perspective

Without the Visitation Center and legal representation through House of Ruth Maryland (HRM), victims would be particularly vulnerable during their family law cases. Judges will not automatically refer cases to the Visitation Center. It is an important duty of the Justice for Families-funded attorney to argue and advocate that their client be given access to the Visitation Center. Victims whose abusers are court-ordered to have only supervised visitation with their children also often have highly-contested custody cases that involve complicated factual issues. Access to the JFF-funded attorney in these cases can significantly increase a victim's safety and his or her chances of a positive result from the court. JFF Program funding has allowed HRM to provide legal services to 49 victims of domestic violence in family law cases that HRM would not have been able to serve without this grant.

CITY OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



GA • Grantee Perspective

The Justice for Families Grant has allowed DeKalb County Magistrate Court to continue to employ a Domestic Violence Case Coordinator. It is her responsibility to ensure that judges are provided with all available and pertinent information before they conduct a hearing; that scheduling conflicts are resolved in the most economical manner; that incarcerated parties are present for hearings; and to perform any other duties to ensure that the court can continue to increase victim safety while holding respondents accountable.

DEKALB COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT, GEORGIA

Demographics of Families Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,496** families during each 6-month reporting period. The majority of custodial parents were **white** (78%), **female** (74%), between the ages of **25 and 59** (88%), with children between the ages of **0 and 6** (50%). Noncustodial parents were most likely to be **white** (74%), **male** (72%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (89%).

Table 5 Demographic characteristics of parents and children served with JFF grant funds, July 2017–June 2019 (6-month average)

Characteristic	Custodial parent		Non-custodial parent		Children	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race						
American Indian or Alaska Native	18	1%	17	1%	22	1%
Asian	39	3%	37	3%	72	4%
Black or African American	228	17%	275	21%	411	21%
Hispanic or Latino	256	19%	280	21%	472	24%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	13	1%	13	1%	19	1%
White	1,027	78%	970	74%	1,484	76%
Unknown (missing)	174		189		300	
Gender						
Female	1,102	74%	411	28%	1,109	51%
Male	378	26%	1,083	72%	1,084	49%
Total	1,496		1,496		2,241	
Unknown (missing)	16		3		49	
Age						
0–6	-	-	-	-	1,118	50%
7–17	-	-	-	-	1,095	49%
11–17	2	< 1%	1	< 1%	-	-
18–24	159	11%	145	10%	6	< 1%
25–59	1,277	88%	1,300	89%	0	0%
60+	19	1%	15	1%	-	-
Total	1,496		1,496		2,241	
Unknown (missing)	41		36		22	
Other						
People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)	8	1%	7	< 1%	1	< 1%
People with disabilities	41	3%	62	4%	82	4%
People with limited English proficiency	73	5%	78	5%	36	2%
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	43	3%	39	3%	13	1%
People who live in rural areas	217	14%	215	14%	341	15%

Criminal Justice

The Justice for Families Program promotes a coordinated community response that includes representatives from victim service agencies, child welfare agencies, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, healthcare providers, and public and private community resources. To enhance protection for and services to victims within the court system, grantees work with criminal justice and social service agencies to address service gaps; provide training; ensure consistency in case handling; enhance case information flow among partner agencies to improve judicial decision-making and partner agency operations; and emphasize defendant monitoring and accountability.

Criminal Cases

JFF-funded courts use funds for dedicated dockets, specialized courts, and other practices to enhance case flow; information sharing; and successful prosecution of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse.

- **11** (11%) grantees used funds for criminal case activities.

Case Dispositions

Table 6 | Dispositions of cases by JFF Program-funded courts, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in conviction	
		Number	Percent
All cases	8,038	4,592	57%
Misdemeanor domestic/dating violence	4,712	2,548	54%
Felony domestic/dating violence	1,741	893	51%
Violation of protection orders	820	504	61%
Violation of probation or parole	534	475	89%
Violation of other court order	119	109	92%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.



Research shows that when victims receive services from civil attorneys and community-based advocates, they experience strengthened protection from revictimization and improved self-efficacy in and out of the courtroom (Cattaneo et al., 2009; Copps Hartley & Renner, 2016). Additionally, victims who had empowering experiences in criminal court reported greater financial stability, mental health, and self-advocacy six months later. They were also more likely to report intending to use the legal system if violence recurred (Cattaneo & Goodman, 2010; Goodman et al., 2016).

AL • Grantee Perspective



The Justice for Families Program funding has allowed our County to restructure its judicial response to how it handles domestic violence cases. This funding has enabled us to create a designated court for domestic violence cases and quickly bond defendants to this docket, decreasing the time it takes for a case to be resolved. This decrease in time has increased victims' safety, has allowed the victim to play an active role in the process of holding defendants accountable, and has given us the opportunity to implement new protocols for how we provide services to victims. The Victims Advocate now has the ability to make contact with victims within 72 hours of an offenders arrest and provide immediate resources. Through the Justice for Families Program funding, we have had the ability to hire a full-time Case Manager. This position enables the courts to better provide for victims' safety, research defendants before they ever appear on a docket, coordinate the sharing of information, and ensure that defendants are complying with court orders. The Justice for Families grant funds have also allowed us to expand our Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program, making room for more referrals.

SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA



Law enforcement recovery of firearms from domestic/sexual violence perpetrators who are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition by state and federal laws remains infrequent in many jurisdictions (Lynch et al., 2018; Lynch & Logan, 2017; Seave, 2006; Wintemute et al., 2015; Zeoli et al., 2017). This failure can have deadly consequences. A recent study found that women in states with higher rates of gun ownership are at a higher risk of being killed by someone they know. The researchers found that gun ownership rates alone explain 40% of the variation in women's homicide victimization rates, compared to only 1.5% of the variation in men's victimization rates (Siegel & Rothman, 2016).



Judicial monitoring may facilitate offender adherence to court orders and sentencing provisions. Judicial monitoring sessions are opportunities to reiterate and clarify information about requirements, restrictions, and consequences for violations. Offenders assigned to judicial monitoring may be more likely to understand their obligations and to recognize that noncompliance will result in serious consequences (Labriola et al., 2012).

Criminal Protection Orders

Criminal protection orders are issued as bail conditions or as conditions of release to protect the victim during the pendency of a criminal case or following a conviction, or deferred adjudication, of the offender.

Table 7

Criminal protection orders issued by JFF Program-funded courts by type of victimization, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Granted as a condition of:	
	Bail	Deferred disposition/probation
All cases	1,758	950
Domestic/dating violence	1,516	746
Sexual assault	241	159
Stalking	1	45

Judicial Monitoring

Judicial monitoring occurs when the court schedules regular probation or court reviews to determine whether convicted offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- An average of **887** offenders were monitored in each 6-month reporting period.
 - The overwhelming majority of offenders reviewed were domestic violence offenders (**98%**).
- A total of **10,383** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.

Judges monitor offenders to review progress and compliance with court orders. The data reported in Table 9 reflects the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **17%** of the cases and issued fines in **less than 1%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**12%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**49%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **22%** of the cases.

Table 8 Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by JFF Program-funded courts, July 2017–June 2019

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of probation	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 269)	55	20%	10	4%	1	0%	20	7%	183	68%
New criminal behavior (N = 185)	18	10%	22	12%	0	0%	16	9%	129	70%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 599)	149	25%	211	35%	1	0%	80	13%	158	26%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 100)	15	15%	61	61%	0	0%	2	2%	22	22%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 478)	37	8%	59	12%	2	0%	75	16%	305	64%

NOTE: Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.

WA • Grantee Perspective



Justice for Families has provided us the opportunity to recruit, train, and support a broad bandwidth of community volunteers to observe criminal prosecution of sexual assault cases and provide feedback to the courts. This has not only been well accepted by the courts, but the program also regularly hears from volunteers that it has changed their lives as well, making them aware of how courts operate, deepening their insight into sexual assault, and giving them a sense of pride that they are able to directly contribute to improving court and legal responses to sexual assault. The program also routinely hears from the judiciary that they greatly appreciate the volunteer feedback. The impact on volunteer court monitors expands exponentially. Volunteers are the top recruiters of new volunteers, and often share accounts of how they share with their community about the richness of their CourtWatch experience. This program has also provided our program with the support to obtain and analyze data with great depth. This has led to crucial conversations with the court, prosecution, and legislators and has enabled staffing, system, and policy changes which have led to improved time to disposition in the prosecution of sexual assault cases.

KING COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER, WASHINGTON

Civil Justice

Civil Protection Orders

Civil orders of protection, also known as restraining orders, are court-issued injunctions that prohibit or limit an offender’s contact with the victim and prohibit further abusive behavior. These orders may include custody and visitation directives, economic relief, and temporary restrictions on possession of firearms. Orders of protection are enforceable throughout the country, not solely in the issuing jurisdiction.

- **11** (11%) grantees used funds for civil protection order cases.



VAWA defines protection orders broadly, and its full faith and credit provision requires that all valid protection orders be enforced in all jurisdictions within the United States, including tribal lands and territories (Battered Women’s Justice Project, 2016; Richards et al., 2018). However, a limitation to the effectiveness of this provision exists in the fact that not every state allows victims of sexual assault and stalking to petition for and receive protection orders unless they have been the spouse or intimate partner of, or in a family or household relationship with, their abuser (Fields, 2017; National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2018). In addition, some states and counties do not enforce protection orders issued by tribal courts due to lack of understanding about jurisdiction or lack of compatibility in tracking systems (Walter & Freedman, 2019).

Table 9 Civil protection orders issued by JFF Program-funded courts by type of victimization, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Temporary orders	Final orders
All cases	12,385	4,976
Domestic/dating violence	3,585	1,204
Stalking	689	287
Sexual assault	0	6
Type of victimization unknown	8,111	3,479



OR • Grantee Perspective

The creation of the navigator position has allowed the court to provide services to litigants dealing with domestic violence and family law matters. In the past, we have provided family law “forms” facilitators who were focused on providing assistance with our very complex forms, and guiding all litigants through the family law court. The navigator position has allowed more one-on-one contacts to assist survivors through the system. Over the course of the grant and the changing role of the navigator position, the court has realized that we need to conduct more outreach to community partners and the Department of Human Services/Child Protective Services. The court is planning on having locally-funded facilitators begin to provide services and workshops in the community. Additionally, over the course of the grant, we have been able to provide significant training to lawyers, custody evaluators, advocates, judges, and court staff. Due to the training provided for family law judges and staff through the grant, the court has now created a training committee and held semi-annual trainings on different topics for all judges and court staff.

OREGON OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR, OREGON



Representation in family law matters is especially crucial for victims of domestic violence because offenders may continue to exert control over victims by using the legal system to force contact, restrict victims’ access to protection, make implicit threats, and create ongoing challenges through litigation. These forms of “paper abuse” are particularly harmful for victims with children because offenders routinely use the courts to challenge custody, child support, and visitation arrangements (Campbell, 2017; Douglas, 2017; Miller & Smolter, 2011; Watson & Ancis, 2013). In addition, further research is needed to understand the dynamics of economic and/or financial abuse as a form of intimate partner violence that occurs on its own, or in the context of physical or sexual violence. This may take the form of bank account control or surveillance, employment sabotage, or theft of money or property, for example (Postmus et al., 2020).

Table 10

Types of relief issued in final protection orders by JFF Program-funded courts, July 2017–June 2019

Types of relief	Number of protection orders/cases
Stay away/no contact	3,106
Firearms restrictions	1,475
Batterer intervention program (BIP)	373
Supervised visitation/exchange	316
Custody	280
Sole parental rights to petitioner	513
Sole parental rights to respondent	4
Shared parental rights	11
Allocated parental rights	11
Other offender treatment (e.g. substance abuse or other counseling, does not include BIP)	155
Child support	145
Economic relief (e.g. spousal support, debt assignment, payment of obligations and/or losses)	103

NOTE: Custody represents the number of protection orders in which custody was addressed but the specific outcome was not known.

Table 11

Post-judgment/post-adjudication judicial reviews of civil protection order conditions, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Number of cases (6-month average)	Number of hearings (2-year total)
Civil protection order case reviews	198	4,048

Family Cases

The issues facing victims in family law matters — divorce, custody, child or spousal support, or parental rights and responsibilities — are complex. When criminal and/or protection order cases are also pending, the situation can be overwhelming and burdensome for victims, and competing or conflicting orders may place them at greater risk. Grantees may structure their dedicated docket or specialized court to include family matters where families are experiencing domestic violence. This could be a “one judge, one family” system in which one judge hears all matters relating to that family. Specially trained court staff who are aware of the dynamics of domestic violence will understand that some offenders use the court system to exert control over victims and force ongoing contact.

- **7 (7%)** grantees used funds for family cases.

Table 12 | Number of new and pending family cases addressed by the JFF Program, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Number of cases (6-month average)	Number of hearings (2-year total)
Divorce (children in common)	100	1,509
Divorce (no children in common)	49	829
Parental rights/responsibilities	36	256

Table 13 | Post-judgment/post-adjudication judicial reviews of family cases, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Number of cases (6-month average)	Number of hearings (2-year total)
Family case reviews	206	1,567

Court-Based Probation or Other Offender/Respondent Compliance Monitoring

Probation officers or other court-based compliance monitors conduct offender monitoring to determine whether offenders/respondents are complying with the terms of their court orders. Those orders could be pre-trial, bail, protection orders, probation, or other conditions of release.

- 8 (8%) grantees used funds for probation or monitoring activities.
- An average of **275** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.
- On average, grantees reviewed BIP information or contacted BIP staff for **343** offenders/respondents, and had meetings or contact with **217** offenders/respondents.
- As a strategy to increase victim safety, probation staff contacted an average of **28** victims in each 6-month reporting period.
- All (100%) offenders/respondents monitored were for domestic/dating violence offenses.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently reported that **judges, court personnel, victim service providers, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies need better training in order to enhance services to victims**, especially around issues of:

- Trauma-informed practice;
- Dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- Proper investigation and identification of primary aggressors;
- Supervised visitation; and
- Enforcement of protection orders.

IL • Grantee Perspective



Participating in the Domestic Violence Mentor Court Initiative [a special initiative funded by JFF] has allowed the Winnebago County Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts (DVCC) to exchange best practice information with other national DV courts and gain insight into other innovations that help us continue to evolve as a Mentor Court. We have utilized our technical assistance providers to help facilitate discussions with other jurisdictions who are looking to implement a specialized or coordinated court on a large scale. The funding has allowed us to employ a part-time Case Docket/Resource Coordinator for our DV Criminal Court, who is a key part of the DVCC and would not otherwise be included in the court's budget. We have also utilized opportunities to present on Center for Court Innovation webinars and participate in conversations through the DV Court Forum as a way to continue to evaluate our work and identify areas of remaining need and improvement/updates. Additionally, we were able to hold conference calls with several other jurisdictions to field questions regarding DV specialized court structure, compliance monitoring, and support personnel such as case docket/resource coordinators. Finally, the funding awarded by the Mentor Court Initiative has allowed us to continue to demonstrate the effort and progress made by the DVCC to our project partners and stakeholders and engender their continued support.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, ILLINOIS

Research has shown that data-driven risk assessment tools can aid judges in effective decision-making in cases of violent crime; however jurisdictions may grapple with how to implement these tools, and concerns have been raised about potential racial and ethnic bias in their outcomes. Nonetheless, more education and evaluations of these approaches are needed since they may improve the use of community-based sanctions that ultimately build public safety and accountability (Crank et al., 2019).





MD • Grantee Perspective

There remains a large unmet need for civil legal representation for victims of domestic violence in family law cases. The Justice for Families-funded attorney was able to serve only about one-third of the total number of victims who sought services during the reporting period. Even after the attorney completes her training and has a full caseload, the need for services is so high that there will always be a large number of victims who she is unable to represent. Most of the victims seeking services were of limited income, making it difficult if not impossible for them to pay for a private attorney.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE - VISITATION AND EXCHANGE CENTER, MARYLAND



ND • Grantee Perspective

The most significant area of remaining need with regard to increasing offender accountability is a lack of effective supervised probation for domestic violence offenders. Domestic Violence Court will provide a layer of judicial monitoring; however, it cannot replace the benefits of supervised probation in regards to both offender accountability and rehabilitation. First of all, the use of unsupervised probation for a large number of domestic violence offenders is a notable concern. In the current system, the majority of misdemeanor cases are placed on unsupervised probation. Unsupervised probation not only lacks direct monitoring in the community, but it also makes any violation of conditions of probation virtually impossible for law enforcement to enforce. Without the oversight and guidance of a probation officer, offenders tend to be less compliant with finishing their sentencing conditions before their probation expires, especially when their probation term is only one year.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER, NORTH DAKOTA



MI • Grantee Perspective

In order for services to victims and survivors to improve, survivors need to feel supported by the family court and criminal court systems. Judges would benefit greatly from having a deeper understanding of the dynamics of sexual and domestic violence. It is also crucial that judges/referees have a clear understanding on the impact of trauma and be trained on how to arrive at rulings in a trauma-informed way. Mandatory trainings should be made available to judges, referees, and their clerks regarding domestic and sexual violence and the effects that these issues have on children.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Providers of **supervised visitation and exchange** underscored the need to improve access to services by:

- Opening satellite facilities;
- Expanding hours of service; and
- Increasing awareness of their services within their communities.

Grantees also emphasized the need for access to **low cost civil legal services** for victims and for **improved legal resources for pro se litigants**.

A number of grantees pointed to the need to **enhance offender accountability** through:

- Improved access to batterer intervention programs;
- Stricter enforcement of protective orders; and
- Enhanced pre-trial supervision.

Grantees reported numerous **difficulties meeting the needs of victims with limited English proficiency**. These needs included:

- A need for more qualified interpreters;
- A shortage of bilingual advocates and court personnel; and
- A lack of cultural competency among providers.

Grantees cited the need to reach out to and **provide services to chronically underserved and marginalized populations** in order to improve their experiences within the criminal justice system.

Finally, grantees highlighted the need to **improve coordination between courts and service providers and between jurisdictions** in order to improve outcomes for victims.

Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program

The Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (LAV Program) is intended to support victims of domestic/sexual violence who are seeking relief in legal matters arising from their abuse. The LAV Program develops innovative, collaborative projects that provide quality representation to victims of domestic/sexual violence, and provides opportunities for communities to examine how the legal needs of victims can be met.

THE LAV PROGRAM MAKES AWARDS TO LAW SCHOOL CLINICS, DOMESTIC violence services programs and shelters, bar associations, rape crisis centers, and other sexual assault services programs; private nonprofit entities; Indian tribal governments and tribal organizations; territorial organizations; legal aid or statewide legal services; and faith- and/or community-based legal service providers. Grant funds may be used for direct legal services to victims of domestic/sexual violence. In addition, grant funds may be used to provide enhanced training for lawyers representing these victims as well as for advocates.

226 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 226 unique grantees reported activities funded by the LAV Program.

26,019 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 26,019 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

37,731 Legal Issues Addressed

Grantees addressed an average of 37,731 legal issues and achieved a total of 94,544 outcomes.

Grantees may provide assistance to adult and youth victims in family, immigration, employment, administrative agency, and housing matters; campus administrative, protection or stay away order proceedings, or other similar matters; in addition to criminal justice investigations, prosecutions, and post-trial matters (including sentencing, parole, and probation) that impact the victim's safety and privacy.

Legal representation in family matters is especially crucial for victims of domestic violence, because offenders may continue to exert control over victims by using the legal system to force contact, restrict victims' access to protection, make implicit threats, and create ongoing challenges through litigation. Through these forms of "paper abuse," offenders can exert coercive control long after victims end the abusive relationship. Civil legal advocacy has been shown to decrease revictimization and improve self-sufficiency and psychological and economic well-being, thus working against these kinds of ongoing abuse (Coppes Hartley, & Renner, 2016; Douglas, 2017; Miller & Smolter, 2011).





AK • Grantee Perspective

The Yukon-Kuskokwim (Y-K) Delta region of Alaska has incredibly high rates of both poverty and domestic violence/sexual assault.

As the only provider of free, comprehensive civil legal services in the region, the demand for our services is extremely high. Our Bethel office serves all low-income individuals in Bethel and the Y-K region, not just victims of domestic violence. Without this funding, we would not have an attorney dedicated solely to victims/survivors in need of civil legal aid and, as a result, we would be able to help only a small fraction of the victims/survivors that we are currently able to serve. This funding has also given us the flexibility to serve victims and survivors that may be over 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG). The Y-K region has an extremely high cost of living and even those over 200% of the FPG are highly unlikely to be able to afford one of the few private attorneys who practice in this region. Without this funding, we could not travel to villages for outreach and intake. Currently, this funding will allow us to take 12 trips over the duration of the grant. Before the grant, we were only able to take such trips as funding permitted and/or if another organization funded our trip. With these outreach trips, we are able to make contact with individuals who may not know about the critical services provided by the grant partners or their options within the legal system.

ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



NY • Grantee Perspective

The additional LAV staffing provides an enormous benefit in conjunction with Pace Women's Justice Center's new Walk-In Legal Clinic. When we accept a domestic violence or sexual assault case from the walk-in clinic, an LAV attorney is often available to meet with the client that same day. This is both effective in terms of providing holistic care (e.g. referrals for shelter, counseling and other important social services), and more convenient for the client; it saves the client taking off another day from work to come to our office.

PACE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Implement, expand, and establish cooperative efforts and projects between domestic violence and sexual assault victim services organizations and legal assistance providers to help victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Implement, expand and establish efforts and projects to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence by organizations with a demonstrated history of providing such direct legal or advocacy services; and
- Implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide competent, supervised pro bono legal assistance for victims of domestic/sexual violence.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **226** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **17** (8%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide legal assistance for victims of domestic/sexual violence by organizations with a demonstrated history of providing direct legal or advocacy services on behalf of these victims.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide direct legal services, training, and mentoring for lawyers representing victims, and support services for victims, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **227** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **401** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support staff attorneys, paralegals, and victim advocates.



A recent study found that in one county between 2011 and 2018, judges denied at least twice as many orders of protection for victims representing themselves than for those with advocate or attorney representation. The same report found that victims without attorneys were almost three times as likely to drop their cases before receiving final protection (Duker, 2019). Other data showed that cases in which LAV-funded attorneys represented victims in protection order hearings resulted in better agreements, increased court efficiency, and high victim satisfaction (Institute for Law and Justice, 2005).

Table 1 | Staff supported with LAV grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	401	
Attorneys	225	56%
Paralegals	41	10%
Victim advocates	39	10%
Legal advocates	33	8%
Support staff	20	5%
Program coordinators	19	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Pro Bono Attorneys and Law Students

The civil justice system can address the needs of victims of violence in many ways. Law schools, licensure programs, continuing legal education programs, pro bono projects, and law firms can provide and receive training on the many complex legal issues that victims face. Grantees may coordinate efforts between law firms and law schools, local and state bar associations, victim services organizations, and legal services programs to provide quality representation to victims.

- Grantees recruited **1,711** pro bono attorneys, trained **1,667** pro bono attorneys, and mentored **2,254** pro bono attorneys.
 - Of those trained and mentored, pro bono attorneys accepted **3,302** and completed **2,620** cases.
- Grantees recruited **2,375** law students, trained **2,433** law students, and mentored **1,725** law students.
 - Law students worked on an average of **5,399** cases during each 6-month period.

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. Beyond traditional legal services, lawyers and non-lawyers provide safety planning and other support services. The partnerships between legal services providers and victim services organizations allow grantees to increase the number and type of support services they offer. The need for legal services includes emergency access to protection orders, legal representation in divorce and custody matters, housing, economic assistance, employment advocacy, and immigration assistance. **Victims require competent legal representation so they can become and remain safe from violence.**

- **227** (100%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **26,019** victims during each 6-month period.
- **94%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

ND • Grantee Perspective

The LAV funding has enabled Community Violence Intervention Center to build a legal staff that is trained in understanding the dynamics of domestic/sexual violence and the considerations that come into play when cases involving this type of violence are negotiated and litigated. This understanding is used to better serve our clients and work toward eliminating outdated and problematic notions about domestic violence. Progress has been made, but the district court at which the LAV attorney appears regularly has continued to undergo changes. Just last year, the two magistrate positions which heard all the protection/restraining order hearings were eliminated and now the five district court judges have a five-week rotation hearing protection/restraining order cases. LAV funding has been, and will continue to be, essential in allowing the LAV attorney to advocate for survivors in front of the five judges that are all relatively new to adjudicating cases involving domestic violence and sexual assault, and to provide these newer judges with adequate education on the complex nature of these cases.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER,
NORTH DAKOTA



Victims with children are particularly vulnerable because offenders routinely use the courts to challenge custody, child support, and visitation arrangements. Furthermore, judges and court-appointed third parties, like mediators and custody evaluators, do not necessarily have the requisite understanding of domestic violence and their decisions and recommendations do not always account for the safety needs of domestic violence victims and their children (Saunders, 2015).



MD • Grantee Perspective

LAV Program support has enabled the Baltimore area's largest legal aid and immigrant women's legal services organizations to join forces to collaboratively meet the needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

As we deliver lifesaving services, we are not only empowering survivors to continue their fight for justice, we are also developing long-lasting inter-agency bonds that strengthen the community safety net. Furthermore, Tahirih effectively multiplies every federal grant dollar into multiple dollars of impact as a result of extensively leveraging the time and resources of private pro bono attorneys from the region's leading firms. In fact, our LAV-funded project is our largest partnership collaborative project to date, enabling Tahirih and Maryland Legal Aid to work together in a much more meaningful way to ensure wrap-around and holistic legal services are delivered to victims.

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER, MARYLAND



TX • Grantee Perspective

LAV funding has allowed us to continue to expand our capacity and focus on the most vulnerable populations of domestic/sexual violence victims. It has also given us the capacity to reach larger numbers within the victim populations including the disabled, limited English proficiency victims, and rural victims with limited access to transportation and dependable communication. The funding also allows us to pursue closer and more substantive relationships with our partners who serve this vulnerable population on a daily basis. Through collaboration, these closer partnerships give us the ability to provide holistic legal and non-legal services to those most in need.

LONE STAR LEGAL AID, TEXAS

Non-legal Victim Services

Grantees provide support services and safety planning as needed.

During each 6-month period, on average, grant-funded lawyers provided:

- Safety planning to **9,647** victims;
- Support services to **3,654** victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services to **514** victims.

During each 6-month period, on average, other grant-funded staff provided:

- Safety planning to **8,883** victims;
- Support services to **5,951** victims;
- Non-attorney legal advocacy services to **5,573** victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services to **376** victims.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence (78%)**.

Figure 1 Provision of victim services by LAV Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)

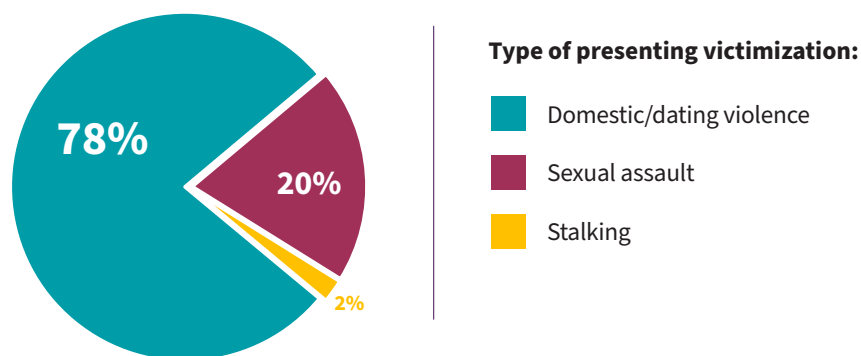


Table 2 | Victims seeking services with LAV grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	27,712	
Victims served	22,455	81%
Victims partially served	3,564	13%
Victims not served	1,693	6%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the LAV Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the LAV Program grant.

VA • Grantee Perspective

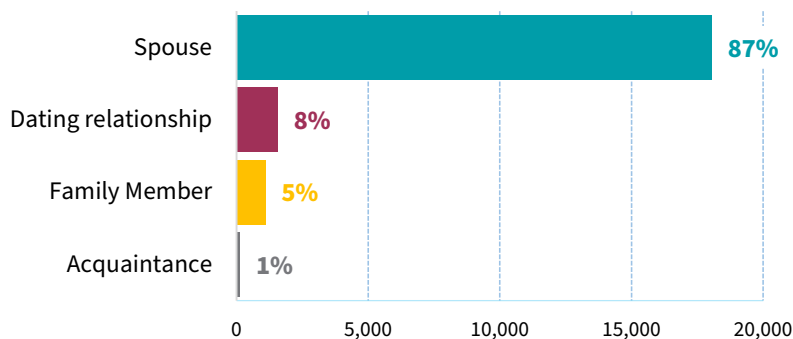
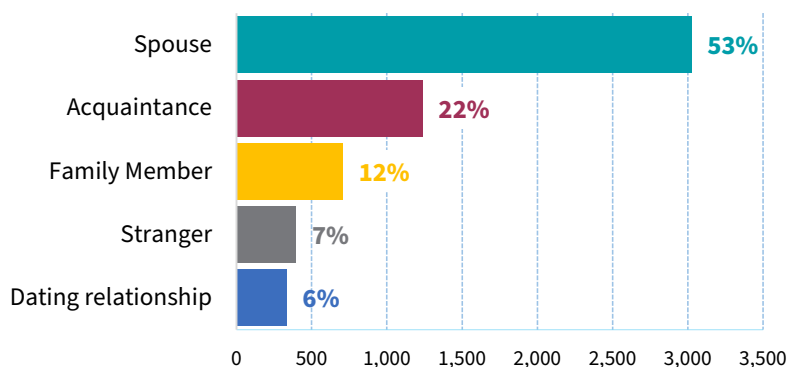
LAV Program funding ensures that LAV attorneys are able to offer consultations much earlier in the court process and represent more survivors who move forward with court proceedings. LAV Program funding is critical to ensuring that survivors are effectively represented in court. Having a full-time protective order attorney is an enormous benefit to victims because it allows them to achieve safety and security for themselves and their children. Through protective orders, further abuse is prevented while allowing victims to remain in their homes with custody of their children, vehicles, and pets. Likewise, having a full-time family law attorney is a tremendous benefit to survivors because it allows them to obtain legal guidance and potentially gain access to marital assets that are often controlled by their abusers. The full-time family law attorney may represent survivors in custody, child support, and/or spousal support hearings in court. Representation in court is crucial in cases where abusers hire high-priced attorneys to maintain access to their property and prevent survivors from accessing finances.

LOUDOUN CITIZENS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, VIRGINIA

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (79%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (7%) or by another **family or household member** (7%).

Figure 2 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

Studies have shown that the use of victim services is associated with a 40% reduction in a victim's chances of revictimization.

Further, the care offered by advocates can increase victims' confidence and empowerment and improve the likelihood that they will report their victimization. With advocate support, victims may also be more likely to participate in the criminal justice process (Patterson & Tringali, 2015; Xie & Lynch, 2016).





AK • Grantee Perspective

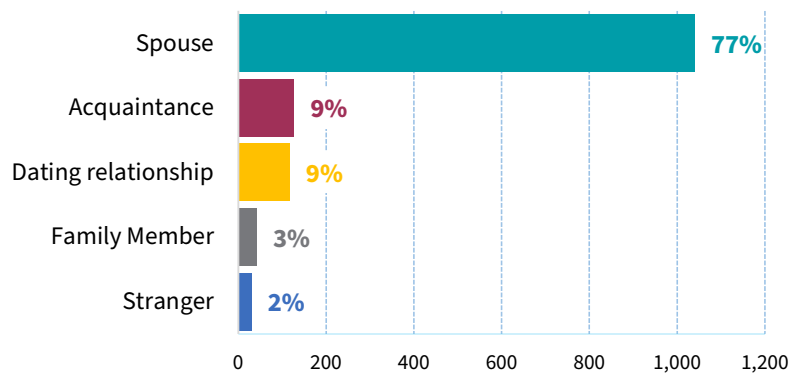
LAV funding has allowed our agency to begin addressing barriers that victims face and gaps in our community's legal needs. We have been able to help over 100 victims since receiving this grant with full or partial services including pro se assistance, referrals, and full representation in divorce, custody, protective order, and property matters. Additionally, we have been able to provide general legal information and consultation for our advocates when they are attending court and providing information to clients so they are more accurately and adequately prepared. We have also been able to build a robust relationship with many of our community members to create a strong referral, resource, and mentoring relationship. This includes providing training for incoming lawyers, being a technical resource for pro bono attorneys taking domestic violence cases, and providing subject matter expertise on litigation and violence in our community.

INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER FOR NON-VIOLENT LIVING



Research on the help-seeking behaviors of victims of intimate partner violence demonstrates the importance of victim services that are tailored to individual victims' and communities' needs. For instance, women are more likely to seek help than men following victimization. Due to barriers to access in the legal system and victim services, as well as cultural factors, Black and Latinx victims may be more likely to seek informal rather than formal supports. Similarly, foreign-born survivors seek informal help more than those born in the United States (Cho, et al., 2017).

Figure 4 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

- Program unable to provide services because of limited resources;
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Program reached capacity;
- Conflict of interest; or
- Services were not appropriate for victim.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **26,019** victims during each 6-month period. Victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (47%), **female** (94%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (80%).

Figure 5 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

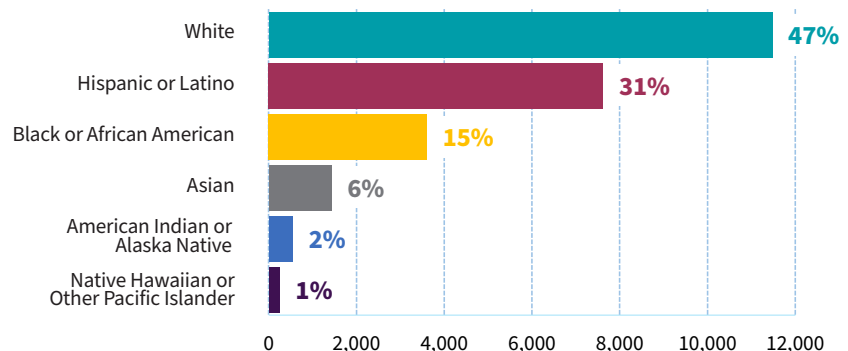
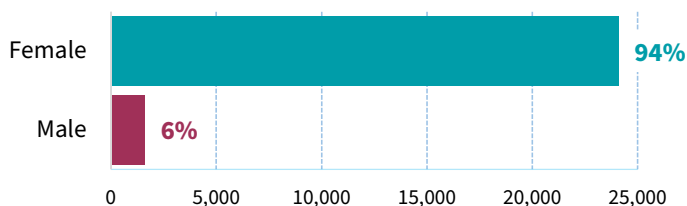
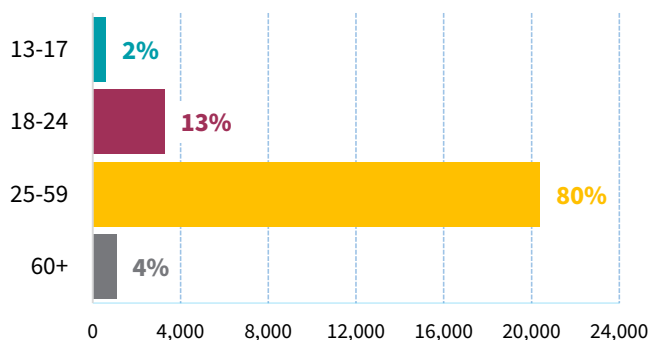
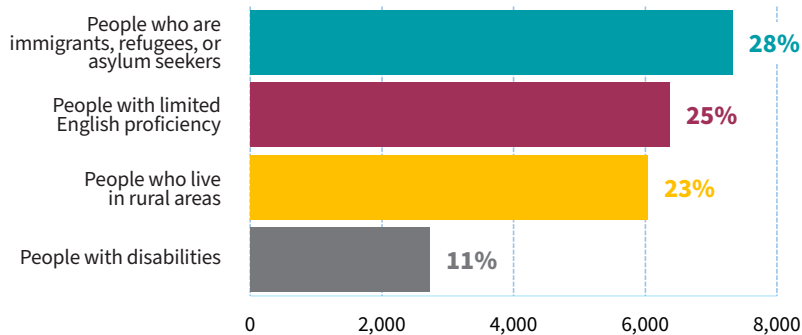


Figure 6 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)**Figure 7** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)**Figure 8** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)**MN • Grantee Perspective**

LAV funding makes it possible for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) attorneys to serve more victims/survivors by holding regular office hours and providing legal advice to survivors onsite at our partner organizations, such as: the Committee Against Domestic Abuse shelter in Mankato, which serves south central Minnesota; Hope Center, a domestic violence shelter in Fairbault; and Crisis Resource Center of Steele County. These office hours allow survivors to meet with an attorney without the need to leave their shelter. SMRLS attorneys who hold regular office hours at grant partner organizations routinely assist multiple clients and walk-ins during every visit. SMRLS staff have also developed relationships with our partners and their staff, which have resulted in a high level of trust and respect on both ends. SMRLS staff attorneys regularly assist partners and community organizations with general and specific questions, both in person and over the phone.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

MD • Grantee Perspective

The Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) would not exist if not for LAV funding. The organization was formed and developed using LAV funding and remains one of the few legal service providers in the country devoted exclusively to serving survivors of sexual assault. Prior to the formation of SALI, many sexual assault survivors, particularly those who had experienced a non-domestic sexual assault, had no access to legal assistance and were not provided with information about their legal options outside of the criminal justice system. Thanks to LAV funding, SALI attorneys now provide comprehensive and holistic legal advice and representation to survivors.

MARYLAND COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



The VAWA self-petition requires that victims prove that they are or were married to United States citizens or legal permanent residents, that their spouse subjected them to battery or extreme cruelty in the United States, that they were married in good faith, that they lived with their abusive spouses, and that they are persons of “good moral character.” A “prima facie determination” on the self-petition enables the applicant to receive public benefits while her/his case is pending. The final approval of the petition results in the granting of deferred action status and the ability to apply for employment authorization as well as for legal permanent resident status, if the applicant is otherwise eligible. Battered spouses of United States citizens who are not in deportation proceedings may concurrently file their VAWA self-petition (I-360), adjustment of status application (I-485) to become a legal permanent resident, and employment authorization application (I-765). Once they receive their employment authorization documents, the victim may legally work and obtain a driver’s license. For more information, visit: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/battered-spouse-children-and-parents>.



MI • Grantee Perspective

Most significantly, we are able to provide comprehensive legal services to many more survivors because of LAV funding. Because it is our mission to always provide comprehensive legal services and to train law students, we have to take fewer clients. LAV funding expands our capacity significantly. Because we are able to take more clients, we are also able to increase the number of law students that we train and mentor. Thus, more new attorneys are being trained in domestic/sexual violence, safety planning, and trauma-informed service provision. LAV funding has permitted us to develop a close working relationship with the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. LAV funding has also given us the ability to spend resources and time on developing a top-notch training for lawyers representing survivors pro bono or at low cost. We simply would not have the resources to do this without LAV funding.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLINIC,
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Legal Services

Grantees represent victims of domestic/sexual violence in a variety of legal matters, including family law (divorce, child custody, and visitation), protection orders, immigration, and housing.

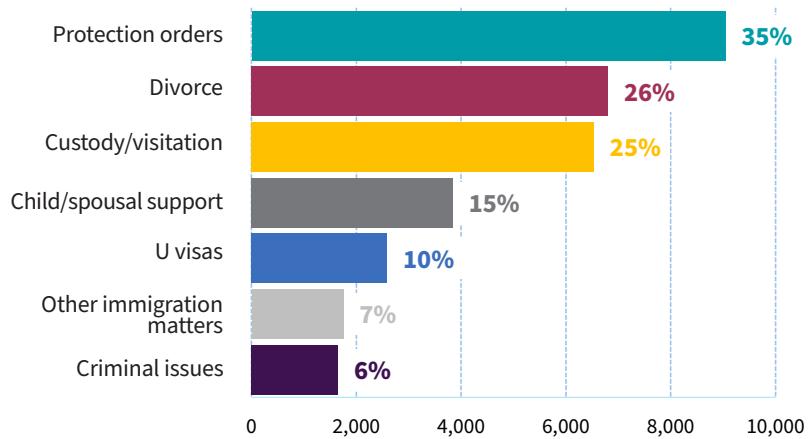
Legal Assistance for Victims Program grantees **represent victims of domestic/sexual violence in a variety of legal matters.**

On average, during each 6-month reporting period, LAV Program grantees addressed:



- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **5,665** victims (22% of those receiving services).
- Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and divorces.

Figure 9 | Victims who received assistance with legal issues addressed by LAV Program grantees, July 2017–June 2019 (6-month average)



**Table 3**

Outcomes of legal issues addressed by LAV Program grantees,
July 2017–June 2019

Legal matter	Outcomes (N=105,543)		Information/ referrals/ advice	Court decision	Brief services	Negotiated resolution/ filed action
	N	%				
Protection order	29,004	31%	31%	39%	9%	11%
Child custody/ visitation	16,964	18%	50%	20%	12%	11%
Divorce	16,059	17%	50%	18%	14%	9%
Child/spousal support	8,547	9%	49%	21%	12%	12%

NOTE: Outcomes data represent issues disposed of, not the number of victims. Percentages for outcomes are based on the number of issues disposed of in each category; not all categories of outcomes or legal matters are included. Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only ($\geq 5\%$).

CA • Grantee Perspective

1736 Family Crisis Center has been able to continue the expanded legal services to victims of domestic/sexual violence that were established with our previous grant. These are clients of our shelter and non-residential programs who need legal services, but who were previously unable to receive them due to funding limitations, particularly clients who are ineligible for CalWorks (also known as TANF). This is an absolutely essential free service for this vulnerable population. We are the only shelter-based agency in the area able to provide highly specialized services in this full-scale, holistic fashion in the community. Because of the funding, we are able to fully staff the program so that their legal issues can be attended to immediately. Since receiving LAV funds, clients are able to receive representation in high conflict cases in court (i.e. restraining orders/custody, visitation, immigration). Prior to LAV funds, our legal department had to turn away domestic violence victims with immigration issues. Now we are able to fully serve these clients in-house.

1736 FAMILY CRISIS CENTER, CALIFORNIA



D.C. • Grantee Perspective

Organizational capacity to serve additional survivors remains an urgent need. Despite receiving funding through LAV, Ayuda's capacity to serve clients is limited by the number of attorneys that we have. Every month when we open for scheduling new immigration consultation appointments, our appointments are filled within hours. Countless victims are unable to get consultations for services due to the limited number of appointments that are available. During the current reporting period, four clients were not able to receive ongoing representation for needed family law services due to capacity issues.

AYUDA, WASHINGTON, D.C.



OH • Grantee Perspective

Despite the efforts of Legal Aid, current funding levels remain insufficient to meet the tremendous needs of victims. At current funding levels, priorities for case acceptance still mean that victims that need help and can't afford a lawyer must represent themselves. This problem extends past protection orders into other areas of family law, consumer law, housing law, income maintenance, and other areas. Without stability and an ability to meet basic needs, victims struggle to stay separated from abusers.

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SERVICES, INC., OHIO

Remaining Areas of Need

Though grantees have made significant inroads in serving low-income victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, they frequently cited the need for **increased organizational capacity** to serve a greater number of victims and to provide more comprehensive services for their clients. In particular, grantees mentioned the need for:

- Additional attorneys, paralegals, and victim advocates;
- Family law attorneys able to represent clients in custody and divorce cases;
- Attorneys capable of working on complex immigration cases; and
- Increased funds in order to provide access to free or low-cost civil legal assistance.

Grantees reported numerous **difficulties meeting the needs of immigrant victims and victims with limited English proficiency**. These needs included:

- A need for more qualified interpreters;
- A shortage of bilingual advocates and attorneys;
- Better translation of court documents and informational materials;
- Greater availability of immigration legal services;
- Cooperation with law enforcement in pursuing U visa applications; and
- Addressing the backlog of U visa applications.

Additionally, grantees noted an overwhelming number of **immigrant victims hesitate in accessing civil legal services** because of potential immigration consequences. **Fear of deportation or retaliation** by their abusers prevents victims from engaging with the legal system, which leaves a tremendous amount of abuse unreported.



MA • Grantee Perspective

Many Asian immigrant victims do not receive timely, linguistically and culturally competent legal counsel and assistance, and thus turn to our program for Limited Representation assistance. Our help often means the difference between receiving child support or nothing at all, a restraining order extension or vacature, parenting time with the child, or not seeing the child for weeks or months. It can also mean the difference between an immigration petition filed in a timely manner versus one that is filed without sufficient evidence or merit, placing the victim at further risk. Since the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence is a legitimate, trusted linguistically and culturally competent organization in the Asian immigrant community, the in-house LAV program sees these last-minute cases immediately as they come in, often at the same moment the victim opens and attempts to read her court notice. We are now at maximum capacity in being able to assist such clients in pro se limited representation pleadings, full representation immigration petitions, law student internship positions, and post-hearing pro bono referrals. Continued and increased funding is needed for our LAV staff to expand to full-time so that we may provide direct representation of clients for the neediest high-risk cases.

ASIAN TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
MASSACHUSETTS



CA • Grantee Perspective

There remains a need for more education around what intimate partner violence looks like not only for the community at large, but amongst judicial officers who preside over the cases that can turn a survivor's life around. While the judicial officers receive some training around domestic violence as part of their regularly scheduled annual education, there seems to be some variation in their reactions to survivors. This is especially key for survivors who litigate cases without documentary evidence and must rely on their testimony to be perceived as credible in order to obtain favorable court decisions. Often, judicial officers are tasked with a daunting responsibility of determining which party they find to be more credible largely based on the party's demeanor in court. As such, it is key for the officers to understand the effects of trauma and how it may impact survivors' ability to speak about the events that took place.

STAND STRONG, CALIFORNIA

Grantees noted that low-income victims **face significant financial burdens**, which can jeopardize their safety. These include:

- Access to housing, transportation, and child care;
- Difficulty securing stable employment with a living wage;
- Consumer credit issues stemming from victimization; and
- Costs associated with litigation, such as mediation, guardian ad litem fees, and expert testimony.

Additionally, grantees pointed to the need for **low-cost mental health services for victims and families**.

Grantees emphasized the need to **improve outreach and services to chronically underserved populations**, especially:

- Immigrants, refugees, and victims with limited English proficiency;
- Victims in remote rural areas;
- LGBTQ populations; and
- Young victims, including high school and college students.

Grantees also cited a need for **better training of judges, court personnel, law enforcement, and attorneys** especially around issues of:

- Dynamics of domestic and sexual violence;
- Trauma-informed practice;
- Understanding the needs of victims;
- Immigration and U visa applications; and
- Child custody.

Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program

The Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program (Rural Program) recognizes that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse who live in rural communities face unique challenges and barriers to receiving assistance rarely encountered in urban areas, including:

- Geographic isolation;
- Poor economic structure;
- Strong social and cultural pressures;
- Lack of available services in rural jurisdictions; and
- Lack of anonymity and security when seeking shelter services.

THESE CHALLENGES SIGNIFICANTLY COMPOUND PROBLEMS FACING those seeking support to end violence in their lives. They also complicate the criminal justice system's ability to investigate and prosecute cases, and create difficulties for victim service providers to identify and assist victims.

185 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 185 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Rural Program.

12,463 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 12,463 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

1,093 Calls for Assistance

Grantees fielded a total of 1,093 calls to law enforcement for assistance.

Rural victims of domestic/sexual violence who seek to become and remain safe from violence face geographic challenges in reaching service providers. They may need to travel great distances, and there may be limited public transportation services in their communities. In one study, over 25% of women in small rural and isolated areas lived more than 40 miles from the closest service provider, compared to less than 1% of women in urban settings (Adi, 2016; Peek-Asa et al., 2011).





Collaboration between victim advocacy organizations and criminal justice agencies, known as a coordinated community response (CCR), frames all VAWA grantees' efforts to address domestic/sexual violence.

Research shows that strategies to combat domestic/sexual violence are most effective when combined and integrated in this way (Beldin et al., 2015; DePrince et al., 2012; Family Justice Center Alliance, 2013; Gagnon et al., 2018; Greeson et al., 2016; Robinson & Payton, 2016; Rosen et al., 2018; Shepard & Pence, 1999).



ME • Grantee Perspective

A wealth of programming developments and additional resources for victims and survivors have been enabled by this funding. Advocates have documented an increase in referrals for direct services from hospitals, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, schools, and community members. Advocates have conducted greater outreach to healthcare providers, as evidenced by "Health Cares About DV Day," participation in strangulation trainings for nursing staff, and careful relationship building with emergency departments. Advocates are now present in all of the courts serving our rural region, which has improved the accessibility of court advocacy and accompaniment for survivors and victims. This has also enriched relationships with court clerks, who made several referrals to services during this grant period.

PARTNERS FOR PEACE, MAINE



The Rural Program includes a purpose area which focuses on high-risk cases and the prevention of domestic/dating violence homicides. One tool used by grantees is the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The LAP is an evidence-based intervention used by law enforcement in 37 states when responding to victims of domestic violence. Responding officers employing the LAP engage domestic violence victims in assessing the levels of risk posed by their intimate partners, and facilitate their access to victim services. When first responders use the LAP process, the frequency and severity of violence decrease, and victims may adopt protective strategies and seek help more often (Campbell et al., 2017; Dutton et al., 2017; Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 2018; Messing et al., 2014, 2016; Messing, Campbell et al., 2015).

The Rural Program enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting projects uniquely designed to identify, address, respond to, and prevent these crimes in rural America. Purpose areas include:

- Implement, expand, and establish collaborative initiatives among law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, healthcare providers, including sexual assault forensic examiners, and related parties to investigate and prosecute these crimes;
- Provide treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance to adult and minor victims;
- Work cooperatively with rural communities to develop education and prevention strategies that address their unique social, economic, and geographic conditions;
- Develop multidisciplinary teams focusing on high-risk cases with the goal of preventing domestic and dating violence homicides;
- Increase treatment, counseling, advocacy, and legal assistance;
- Develop education and prevention strategies;
- Develop, enlarge, or strengthen programs addressing sexual assault; and
- Focus on the needs of victims residing in remote rural and geographically isolated areas.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **185** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **47** (25%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Provide treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance to adult and minor victims.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, law enforcement, prosecution, and probation, among other services, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **175** (95%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **359** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

Table 1 | Staff supported with Rural grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	359	
Victim advocates	146	41%
Program coordinators	50	14%
Administrators	22	6%
Trainers	20	6%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, and mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence. **This training improves professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **131** (71%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **2,594** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **36,656** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**16%**), health professionals (**12%**), law enforcement officers (**12%**), and educators (**9%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**ⁱ

- **133** (72%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **8,487** education events.
- Grantees educated a total of **265,816** people.

Table 2 | People educated with Rural grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

People educated	2-year total	
Total people educated	265,816	
Community members	101,496	38%
Middle and high school students	69,172	26%
Elementary school students	30,773	12%
University or college students	22,716	9%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

OR • Grantee Perspective



The Rural Program has allowed the District Attorney's Office Victim's Assistance Program (DA-VAP), Proyecto UNICA and Clackamas Women's Services to fund three full-time advocates and improve response to rural service areas, as well as the number of services that are offered to rural survivors. Each advocate provides comprehensive direct services and specializes in their own area of expertise. Some survivors may access one or all three partners depending on their need for support and advocacy. Each advocate is mobile and can meet with survivors in their homes, in the community, or at our small satellite office in Sandy. Additionally, the DA-VAP Advocate has developed relationships with law enforcement agencies and is able to respond with them or with the DA-VA Investigator on-scene or in their homes.

CLACKAMAS WOMEN'S SERVICES, OREGON

A recent study showed that training law enforcement officers on the dynamics of trauma in the context of sexual and domestic violence can reduce their misperceptions regarding victim behavior and potentially improve outcomes related to victim well-being, case attrition, and public safety (Franklin et al., 2019). Another study demonstrated that training can encourage officers' use of best practices in interviews with sexual assault victims, but that these outcomes are influenced by officers' attitudes toward victims. These findings demonstrate the need for widespread education aimed at shifting perceptions of victim credibility (Lorenz & Maskaly, 2018).



AK • Grantee Perspective



These funds have allowed us to provide training opportunities and technical assistance for Village Advocates and village sexual assault victim response providers from the tribe, as identified by Bristol Bay Native Association Family Services Program. It has allowed us to supplement utility costs of facilities we use for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners, events, victim services, support groups, and trainings. These funds have allowed us to provide Village Advocates with cell phones and/or landlines that are secure and separate from their personal/home use phones. These funds have also allowed us to provide office supplies and equipment to our Village Advocates, which they would not be able to get in their villages.

SAFE AND FEAR FREE ENVIRONMENT, INC., ALASKA

ⁱ Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and/or child sexual abuse. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or child sexual abuse that enables a professional to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



Beyond geographic obstacles, victims residing in rural areas may face a complex interweaving of cultural, psychological, emotional, and systemic barriers to resources. Small, isolated communities may prioritize family privacy, traditional gender roles, and keeping families intact, even when violence presents a potentially fatal threat (DeKeseredy et al., 2016; Shepard & Hagemaster, 2013).



UT • Grantee Perspective

Because of the Rural Program funding, our Center is the only agency in the region offering parenting classes for community members and psychoeducational classes to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Classes are taught in both English and Spanish, and are available with sign language interpreters upon request. Last year we offered 16 parenting classes for community members and 24 psychoeducational classes for victims of rape and sexual assault in Wasatch and Juab Counties. We also provided over 300 sessions of individual therapy which has made a significant difference in the mental health of many survivors. This important program continues to perform a vital role in these communities.

CENTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN CRISIS, UTAH



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Funding allowed the Kalispel Tribe to develop an agency with full wrap-around services to assist victims and survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Services now include legal, medical, and cultural advocacy; counseling; support groups; and financial assistance for such things as rent and utility assistance, gas vouchers, food, and emergency clothing. We continue to collaborate with surrounding agencies within the Tribe and community, building trust with community members and improving services. We have been able to provide a safe and confidential place for clients to come, making it possible for victims/survivors to come forward to seek assistance and a life change. This funding has also allowed us to purchase a vehicle for the Kalispel Tribe Victim Assistance Services. Mobile Advocacy is the most effective way we do our work. It allows us to meet clients where they feel most comfortable and safe and where the advocate is safe, as well.

KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **158** (85%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **12,694** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

On average, during each 6-month reporting period, Rural grantees provided services to **12,694 INDIVIDUALS.**

Services include:

13,047
individuals received
**VICTIM
ADVOCACY**

9,080
individuals received
**CRISIS
INTERVENTION**

5,126
individuals received
**SUPPORT
GROUPS/
COUNSELING**

4,986
individuals received
**CIVIL LEGAL
ADVOCACY**



24,608
**VICTIM-WITNESS
NOTIFICATION/VICTIM
OUTREACH SERVICES**



124,437
HOTLINE CALLS

Across the 2-year period, grantees most frequently provided the following services:ⁱⁱ

- Victim advocacy services **127,287** times;
- Crisis intervention services **55,334** times;
- Support group/counseling services **47,849** times; and
- Civil legal advocacy services **28,428** times.

ⁱⁱThe Rural Program, Tribal Governments Program, and Tribal Jurisdictions Program are unique in that grantees are asked to report the number of times each type of service is provided. This allows for the reporting of an unduplicated count of number of services, despite the duplicated count of number of victims served.

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

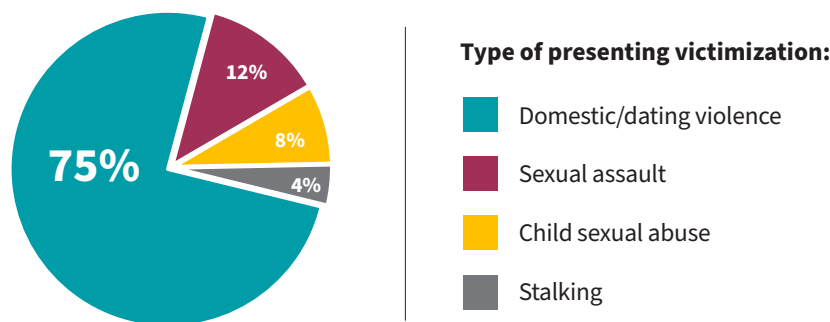
Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	847	616	113,027
Transitional housing	40	32	19,023
Total	887	648	132,050

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (75%).

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by Rural Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization
Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	12,796	
Victims served	12,425	97%
Victims partially served	270	2%
Victims not served	102	1%

NOTE: "Partially Served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Rural Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Rural Program grant.

Rural location can compound the specific barriers to services already faced by disabled, LGBTQ, impoverished, elder, and minority victims (Harley & Teaster, 2018). Features of rural culture can reinforce the normative belief that one should not report domestic/sexual violence because those are private matters (Burnett et al., 2016; Johnson et al., 2014). Further, victims might be reluctant to report domestic/sexual violence in rural communities because there are simply practical barriers to maintaining confidentiality and anonymity (Annan, 2011; Fitzsimons et al., 2011; Strand & Storey, 2019).

NV • Grantee Perspective

Rural Program funding provided a seamless collaborative to immediately meet the needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking by following an established protocol to increase victim safety, provide immediate services, and offer future resources. The funding has allowed us to dedicate investigation and victim advocacy personnel to cases of domestic/sexual violence, thus decreasing incident response time, increasing victim trust and cooperation, and enhancing victim safety and offender accountability. Consequently, our conviction rate jumped from 15% pre-Sexual Violence Response Team to 89% during the course of this funding.

DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA

WV • Grantee Perspective

The project has provided significant training and cross-training for first responders. It is enabling services to begin to expand to address emerging issues. An example of that in this report period was the issue of human trafficking. While the rape crisis centers have been tasked with serving trafficking victims, no training accompanied this designation. The project was able to survey the advocates to identify their training needs and design a 4-part training series to build their capacity in areas such as immigration laws, T-Visas/U-Visas, and West Virginia-specific laws and protocols. While significant work remains to fully respond to victims of trafficking, at least a baseline of information has been provided. Rural Program funding has also enabled the seven pilot counties to establish viable sexual assault response teams, coordinated by project-supported advocates.

WEST VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR RAPE INFORMATION AND SERVICES



IL • Grantee Perspective

This funding is allowing our office to better support victims of sexual assault in this five county area of western Illinois. Ultimately, this funding will support improved access to medical forensic care, prosecutorial support for sexual assault cases, and the development of a Regional Rural Sexual Assault Response Team. Because we provide evidence-based, trauma-informed, victim-centered responses, victims of sexual assault will receive the best treatment possible following an assault, which will improve victim engagement in the criminal justice system and increase victim reporting, leading to increased prosecutions of sexual assault.

ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE



WA • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funds have allowed us to establish a satellite office in Belfair, Washington. Due to the opening of this office, we have been able to reach out and be a presence in North Mason County, where victims previously could not access services. Before the Belfair office opened, many victims would have to travel long distances to other counties or cities in order to access DV/SA services. These victims often do not have vehicles and rely on local buses or rides from friends for transportation. We have been able to bring support groups, legal advocacy, and a variety of services to this community in need. We are very hopeful we will only continue to grow as the community becomes aware of our presence.

TURNING POINTE SURVIVOR ADVOCACY CENTER, WASHINGTON



A growing body of research indicates that services to rural domestic/sexual violence victims provided using telehealth technologies have the potential to increase access to SANE/SAFE services, mental health counseling, and follow-up medical care (Gray et al., 2015; Walsh et al., 2019).

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (65%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (15%) or in the context of a **dating relationship** (11%).

Figure 2 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

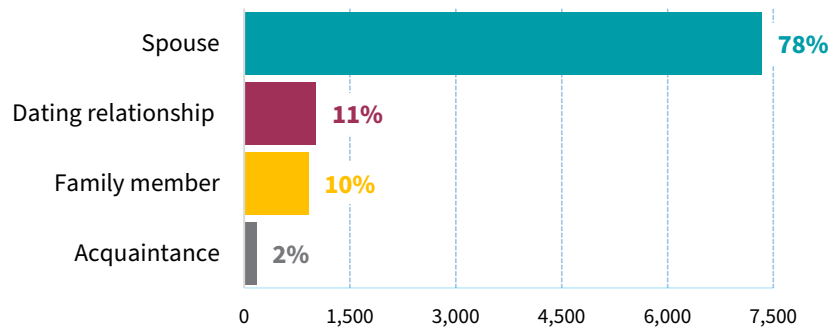


Figure 3 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

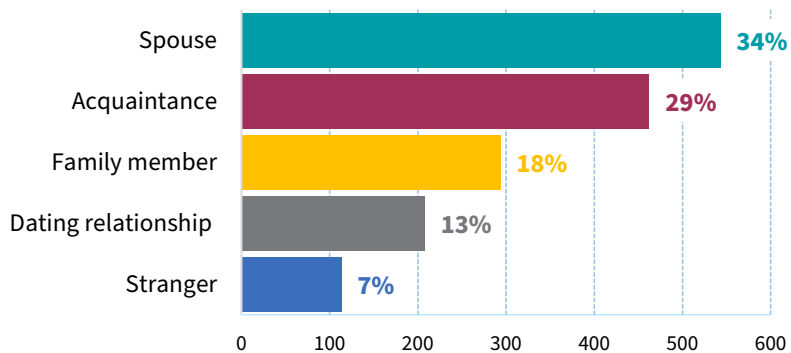


Figure 4 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Child sexual abuse** (6-month average)

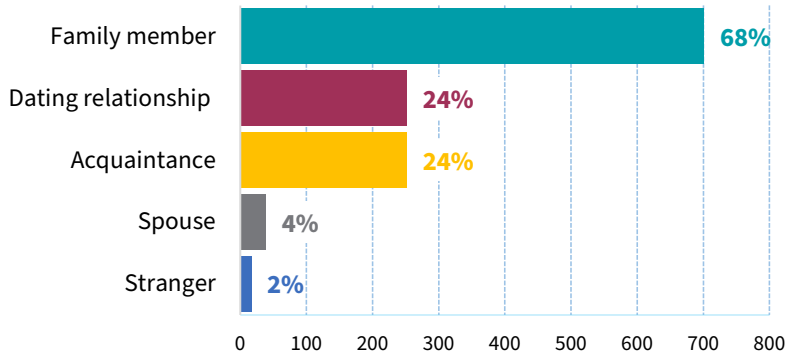
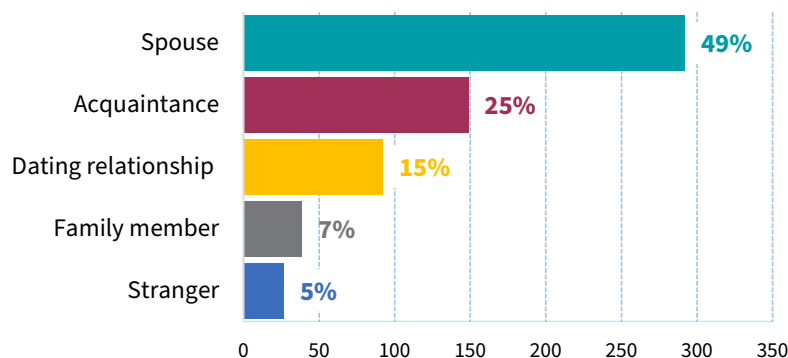


Figure 5 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**
(6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting;
- Services not appropriate for victim;
- Program reached capacity;
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements; or
- Program rules not acceptable to victim.

Reasons Victims Were Not Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served:

- Conflict of interest;
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Program reached capacity;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting; or
- Services not appropriate for victim.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **12,694** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **white** (66%), **female** (89%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (65%).

AK • Grantee Perspective



Rural DV funding is allowing the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ), in partnership with domestic violence and sexual assault programs in the rural communities of Bethel and Kodiak, to transform access to critical safety, advocacy, and legal services for underserved survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. In the past six months, we have provided critical services to 119 underserved survivors in rural Alaska, including 35 limited English proficient survivors, and 39 survivors who are immigrants, refugees or asylum seekers. AIJ has partnered with two rural domestic violence and sexual assault programs, Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center and Tundra Women's Coalition, to increase their capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to underserved rural communities. AIJ has made qualified interpretation and translation services available to limited English proficient survivors and provided 597 hours of interpretation and translation services for survivors from the start of this grant through June 2018.

ALASKA INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE

Efforts to protect American Indian and Alaska Native victims are often complicated because many live in isolated rural communities with limited or no access to cellular/landline phone services, transportation, or emergency care, and limited criminal justice, legal assistance, and safe housing resources. Getting to or receiving services can often be tremendously challenging. Frequently, incidents of domestic violence are underreported or undocumented because victims are not able to obtain assistance from police or medical professionals. Less than one-third of Native American land is within a 60-minute driving distance of healthcare centers that offer SART/SANE services (Juraska et al., 2014; Petillo, 2013).





Multiple studies have shown that services offered to domestic violence victims, such as shelter, advocacy, support groups, and counseling, have positively impacted their short- and long-term safety, mental health, and sense of self-efficacy (Sullivan, 2018).



NM • Grantee Perspective

We have had the ability to expand and provide services that were not available before in the extremely rural tri-county areas such as the Pecos mountains, Ribera, Anton Chico, Mora community, and surrounding areas. We are able to go to the client when necessary, and clients have a choice of where they can go to get services. We handle more crisis situations, have more partners who collaborate with us, the community is more aware of DV, and we have obtained more community, agency, and business involvement to help our clients because we are more visible. We have been able to expand our programs at the main office and offer more cultural, spiritual, and holistic programs which are tailored to the area. We have added three new programs: Grief and Loss, Dress for Success, and a Wellness Program, which consists of yoga, exercise, meditation, and relaxation. Because of the outreach, the Tri-County Family Justice Center has expanded collaborative efforts within the community. We have been successful with our internship program with one of New Mexico's major universities (Highlands University), where we now obtain students for internships from the social work, psychology, and guidance counseling departments. We have had the ability to open the first safe room/forensic unit in the history of the tri-county area for sexual assault. We are on the last stages working with a committee to open a camp for children, and we are currently working on establishing a stress relief program through acupuncture and massage.

**TRI-COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
OF NORTHEAST NEW MEXICO**

Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

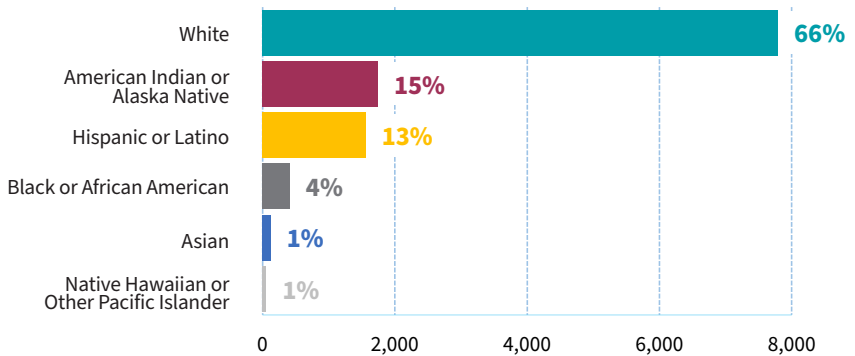


Figure 7 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

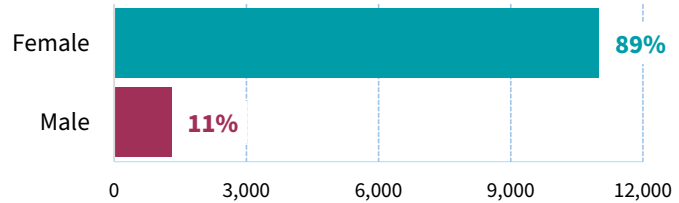


Figure 8 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

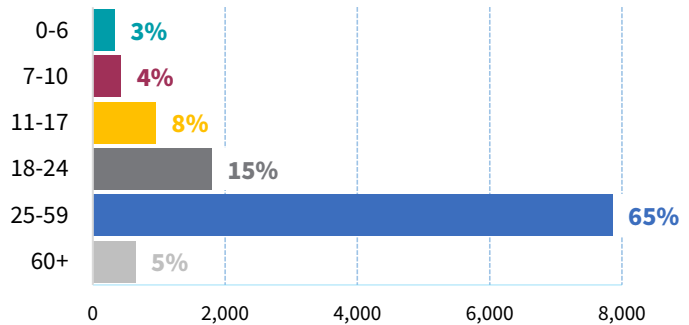
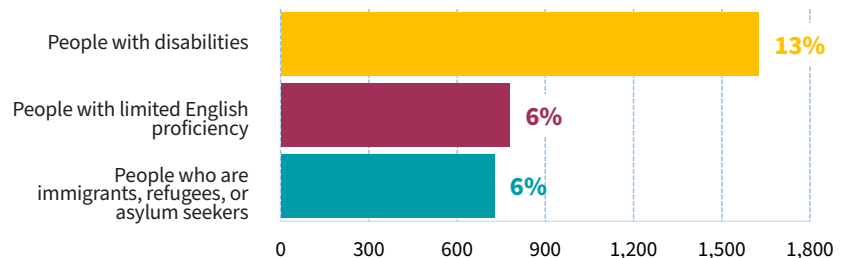


Figure 9 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



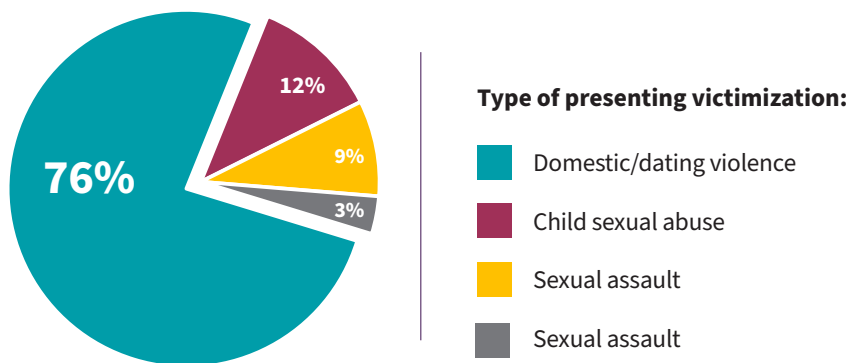
Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **4,846** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

Figure 10 Provision of services to secondary victims by Rural Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Secondary victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



Legal Services

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims.

- **30** (16%) grantees used funds for legal services.
- Grantees addressed an average of **2,087** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided legal services to an average of **1,083** victims every 6 months.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **304** victims every 6 months (28% of those receiving legal services).

Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and custody/visitation.

Criminal Justice

The Rural Program promotes a coordinated community response that includes representatives from victim service agencies, child welfare agencies, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, healthcare providers, and public and private community resources.

VT • Grantee Perspective



The Rural grant has allowed us to have more interaction with Valley Vista, the substance abuse rehab in Vergennes, Vermont. We have a point-person at the rehab who connects us with residents who might have been affected by domestic or sexual violence. We started this work in the past grant round and have been building stronger relationships with residents at Valley Vista. Because we have been able to have so much interaction there, we have been able to start an educational support group around healthy relationships, consent and boundaries, and how substance dependency and domestic/sexual violence commonly intersect. Since this group started, we have had five disclosures. This funding and partnership with Valley Vista also allows us to work with the staff to make sure every survivor displaced by domestic violence has a safe place to exit to that will also support their recovery, making them less vulnerable and more empowered than when they entered recovery.

WOMEN SAFE, INC., VERMONT

MN • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed us to establish a presence in the community. Prior to receiving this funding, we had a very limited staff, all living and working in Sevier County. We responded to four other counties in our coverage area using volunteers and staff during the day. Attendance at meetings and interaction with victims was very limited due to such a small staff and having to travel long distances. Previously, we were only being called when shelter services were requested. We now have outreach offices open in three other counties. We have hired advocates in each of these counties who live locally and are able to be in touch with community needs. Our bilingual advocate is also able to work at the shelter to provide the care and resources needed to Spanish-speaking families, as well as meeting with victims who are not in shelter. Having local staff in these counties will assist in growing relationships with law enforcement and prosecutors. Simply having the ability to continually educate these communities on available resources and services will improve the number of victims who are aware of and will access services. There is a faster response to victims having an advocate who is local, and also able to spend more time with them.

NEW HORIZONS CRISIS CENTER, MINNESOTA



Without proper training, an officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor, may unknowingly minimize a victim's trauma, may fail to collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. Moreover, if an officer sides with an abuser, a victim may not report future assaults. Research shows that law enforcement were most likely to arrest perpetrators when they received training on and followed these best practices: in-person investigating, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to the violence, providing victims with 911 telephones, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe (Hamby et al., 2015).



VT • Grantee Perspective

Have Justice Will Travel, Inc. (HJWT) is often the only access to representation a victim will have. Many clients are able to contact our office by telephone prior to their administrative protective order hearings, and many are able to either meet with the attorney at their home, if it is safe, or another convenient location. In some cases, the attorney will be able to have a telephone conference with the client to discuss the facts surrounding his or her complaint for relief, and prepare for the upcoming hearing.

If a victim has been able to contact HJWT prior to the hearing and cannot arrange for transportation, the attorney will pick up the client to ensure they get to court. HJWT provides representation and advice to victims in legal matters from divorce and child support, to landlord/tenant matters. Victim advocates working with HJWT MOU partners refer victims to HJWT for a variety of legal issues which are either handled by the HJWT attorney, or referred to the appropriate legal agency to handle. HJWT is able to assist clients and give them the support and knowledge necessary to represent themselves in cases when the HJWT attorney is unable to enter a notice of appearance. Without the Rural Program funding, we would not have been able to help these clients and many others to successfully move forward with their lives, obtain the orders that will allow them to break from the violence and abuse, and open new and healthy chapters in their lives.

HAVE JUSTICE WILL TRAVEL, INC., VERMONT

Law Enforcement

Grantees address the role of law enforcement in responding to domestic/sexual violence.

- **21** (11%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **2,926** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

A proactive response and victim-centered attitude influence whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.

A meaningful and serious response by law enforcement agencies involves listening to the victim about what they want and need in tandem with Rural grant-funded activities including :

- Documenting all calls for services;
- Actively investigating all sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents;
- Referring cases to prosecutors (as appropriate);
- Seeking warrants and statements of charges (as appropriate);
- Arresting the perpetrator;
- Helping victims secure protection orders;
- Accompanying the victim to the home to retrieve their immediate belongings (as appropriate);
- Making referrals (as appropriate); and
- Providing victims with information about available services.

Table 5 Law enforcement activities in Rural Program criminal cases, July 2017–June 2019

Law enforcement activities	Sexual assault	Domestic/dating violence	Stalking	Child sexual abuse	Total
Calls for assistance	201	871	65	220	1,357
Incident reports	311	1,257	53	552	2,173
Cases investigated	574	3,521	100	829	5,024
Referrals to prosecutor	288	926	35	514	1,763
Arrests of predominant aggressor	103	332	19	185	639

NOTE: Grantees report only on law enforcement activities that are funded under the Rural Program and they may receive funds for one or for a number of these activities. Therefore, no relationships can be inferred or comparisons made between activities reported here.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees found it particularly difficult to serve victims in rural areas, where **vast distances, challenging economic conditions, and physical isolation** presented **significant barriers** to helping victims escape violence and achieve self-sufficiency.

Of the problems inherent in rural areas, some of the most challenging were:

- Lack of law enforcement;
- Low availability of SANE services;
- Services that were not culturally or linguistically appropriate;
- Lack of offender accountability; and
- Limited or non-existent batterer intervention programs.

Due in part to the scarcity of services in rural areas, grantees reported **extreme challenges in helping victims meet basic needs**, particularly:

- Transportation;
- Affordable long-term housing and emergency shelter;
- Mental health care and substance abuse counseling;
- Civil legal assistance;
- Education and employment; and
- Childcare.

Rural grantees also reported **significant gaps** in available services, especially for **underserved populations**, including:

- Immigrant and refugee victims;
- Child victims;
- LGBTQ victims;
- American Indians or Alaska Natives; and
- Seniors and persons with one or more disabilities.

Grantees cited a number of reasons **service providers, law enforcement, and the court system struggled to fully serve these populations**, including:

- Cultural and linguistic barriers;
- Geographic and physical isolation;
- Victims' fear of discrimination or challenges maintaining anonymity;
- Fear of deportation; and
- Difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified personnel.

ME • Grantee Perspective



One of the greatest impacts Rural funding has made in Oxford County is throughout the criminal justice system. One vital difference has been the DV/SA specialized prosecutor, who has been able to prioritize the needs of victims and increase offender accountability. Specifically, the role has made a significant impact around high numbers of cases being referred to deferred disposition. Since 2016, cases accepted by prosecution have increased 22%, and the most recent reporting period showed that the percentage of cases being referred to deferred disposition had decreased from 14% to 8%, compared to the same period in 2016. Additionally, Rural funding has immensely altered Safe Voices' capacity to serve survivors and victims in the criminal court process and Superior Courts. Since 2017, we have had a 92% increase in the survivors who received criminal justice advocacy.

SAFE VOICES, MAINE

KS • Grantee Perspective



Language access continues as a significant area of remaining need for limited English proficient and Deaf and Hard of Hearing victims/survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. For marginalized and underserved populations, accessing services is already difficult, but if language access is a barrier, their needs often go unmet.

KANSAS COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NY • Grantee Perspective



A significant area of need is training for law enforcement. While Rural-funded staff continue to build strong partnerships with the District Attorney's office and members of law enforcement, training on domestic and sexual violence victimization, victim sensitivity, trauma-informed response and how to connect victims to our services would help address gaps in services and increase victim's participation in the criminal justice system. Rural-funded staff continue to reach out to offer trainings, but find that it is difficult for law enforcement agencies to find the time to accommodate these trainings. While staff make it a priority to stress the advantages of these trainings and that further education and collaboration with Services to Aid Families will only increase victims' access to services and create more positive and fruitful interactions between law enforcement and victims, staff continue to experience barriers in getting into these agencies to provide training.

OSWEGO COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES, INC., NEW YORK



ME • Grantee Perspective

In terms of serving underserved populations, specifically refugees and immigrant victims and survivors of assault, major barriers remain.

The first involves education to refugee and immigrant communities in their language of choice about abuse (domestic and child abuse), laws and rights, and resources that exist to address these issues. This should also include training of interpreters on issues of domestic violence and child abuse, warning signs and reporting, and confidentiality in order to ensure that the privacy of community members is maintained. Education and discussion of these issues should also take place for youth in order to combat the stigma that so often exists related to domestic violence, and ensure that the next generation is more informed and aware of these issues. For refugee and immigrant communities, there is often a lack of culturally and linguistically accessible services for victims, and those who do reach out for services are often concerned about the community backlash they may receive by doing so, which may be as isolating as the abuse itself. Addressing these remaining gaps means developing more linguistically and culturally appropriate resources related to domestic violence, training existing providers on cultural awareness and humility, and providing community education to a range of different groups and ages within the Lakes Region.

THROUGH THESE DOORS, MAINE

Grantees additionally stressed the need to **expand training on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges** in order to **increase offender accountability**.

Finally, grantees reported ongoing needs for **community education and outreach** in order to:

- Combat stigma and negative stereotypes about victims of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Inform victims and community members of available services; and
- Teach young people about healthy relationships.

Sexual Assault Services Program—Grants to Culturally Specific Programs

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) was created by VAWA 2005, and is the first federal funding stream dedicated solely to direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. SASP encompasses four different funding streams for states and territories: tribes; tribal organizations and nonprofit tribal organizations; state, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions; and culturally specific organizations.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES CULTURALLY Specific Grant Program (SASP-CS) is to establish, maintain, and expand sustainable sexual assault services provided by culturally specific organizations. Grantees are nonprofit organizations that focus primarily on culturally specific communities and have experience in the area of sexual assault, or who partner with an organization having such expertise. They provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g. accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, and police departments), support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault; non-offending family and household members of victims; and those collaterally affected by sexual assault.

43 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 43 unique grantees reported activities funded by the SASP-CS Program.

1,143 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 1,143 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

369 Secondary Victims Served

On average, grantees served 369 secondary victims during each 6-month reporting period.

In a national survey, providers (at legal services, social services, and domestic violence and sexual assault programs) who serve immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking related that, when victims called law enforcement, responding officers were able to identify the language spoken by victims in fewer than half of the cases and, in 30% of those cases, unqualified interpreters were used. They further reported that clients experienced bias when courts and law enforcement relied on inappropriate or unqualified interpreters who may intentionally or unintentionally misrepresent the victim's statements (Lee et al., 2013).





Both researchers and service providers point to the need for more community-based, participatory research to better determine the prevalence of sexual violence as it relates to race and ethnicity, and to develop culturally appropriate interventions. Researchers often fail to recruit samples large enough to achieve significance or to appropriately analyze race- and ethnicity-related demographic data and therefore present findings that are either inconclusive or misleading (Gill, 2018; Hamby, 2015; Robertson et al., 2016; Shaw & Lee, 2019).



MO • Grantee Perspective

SASP Culturally Specific Program funding has allowed Hand In Hand Multicultural Center (HIHMC) to expand coordination and cross-referrals with sexual assault agencies in Southwest Missouri in order to provide comprehensive, culturally specific interventions and related assistance and services for Hispanic/Latino victims/survivors and their families. HIHMC also provides legal and immigration advice to victims/survivors and their families. This funding has allowed HIHMC to continue being an organization with two representatives accredited by the DOJ’s Executive Office for Immigration Review. HIHMC is the only organization recognized by the EOIR in the 4th, 7th, and 8th Missouri Congressional Districts.

HAND IN HAND MULTICULTURAL CENTER, MISSOURI



CA • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving SASP-CS funding, Korean American Family Services (KFAM) didn’t have enough funds to officially develop a program just for sexual assault. With this funding, we were able to hire a victim advocate just for SA, and to commit our staff time and effort in order to provide services around SA in the Korean American community. SA has been a shameful issue to discuss in the community, so there is a lot of work to be done in order to break the silence and to bring awareness. KFAM started working with the faith community in the SA context, and building networks with other SA agencies in order to provide hard-to-reach Korean victims with culturally and linguistically specific services. During the grant period, KFAM will continue to work with the community and mainstream agencies to break the silence and to make the community a safer space for victims of SA.

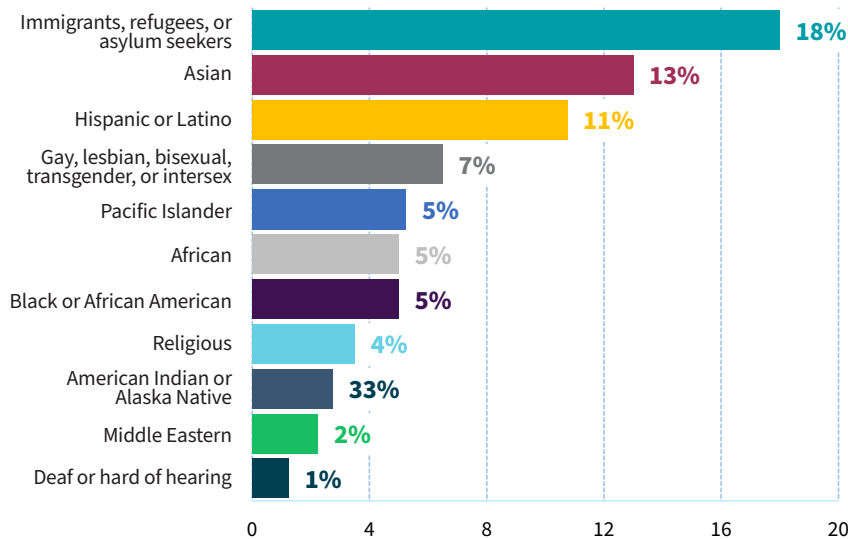
KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICES, CALIFORNIA

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **43** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **2** (5%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.

Figure 1 Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2017–June 2019 (6-month average)



Staff

Grant-funded staff primarily establish, maintain, and expand coordinated community responses within their catchment areas, and provide victim services, including advocacy, crisis intervention, legal assistance, court and hospital accompaniment, and transportation. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **42** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **37** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates, counselors, and program coordinators.

Table 1 Staff supported with SASP-CS grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	37	
Victim advocates	15	41%
Counselors	7	19%
Program coordinators	7	19%
Administrators	4	11%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Victim Services

Grantees address the specific cultural needs of victims, and may provide crisis intervention, safety planning, and services such as legal advocacy, medical and counseling services from healthcare professionals, and accompaniment to forensic exams and to court. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **42** (98%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,143** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

On average, during each 6-month reporting period, SASP-CS Program grantees provided services to **1,143 INDIVIDUALS**.

Services include:

753

individuals received

**SUPPORT
GROUPS/
COUNSELING**

641

individuals received

**VICTIM
ADVOCACY**



8,700

**VICTIM-WITNESS
NOTIFICATION/VICTIM
OUTREACH SERVICES**

501

individuals received

**CRISIS
INTERVENTION**

327

individuals received

**TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES**



11,481

HOTLINE CALLS

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided assistance with the following immigration matters:

- U visa services for **43** victims;
- VAWA self-petition services for **26** victims;
- Work authorization services for **18** victims;
- T visa services for **16** victims; and
- Cancellation of removal services for **2** victims.

The lack of culturally sensitive and appropriate services can pose daunting barriers to safety, justice, and healing. Victims may choose not to engage in services or may terminate services early if programs fail to incorporate issues of culture and heritage (Mose & Gillum, 2015).



IL • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed us to expand our services. Survivors have the opportunity to address the trauma of sexual violence and mental health issues in a culturally appropriate setting. The services are delivered by a trained, compassionate staff that provides services in a language and space appropriate for the needs of the survivors. The lack of culturally appropriate services are a great challenge for Latinos seeking therapy. Without this type of service, many of our participants would continue to experience the negative impact of the trauma of sexual violence.

MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCION, ILLINOIS

CA • Grantee Perspective



SASP-CS Program funding allows culturally-grounded organizations like the Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF) to address sexual assault in our communities through healing modalities that originate from our communities. Rather than approaching our communities with Western traditional talk therapy or counseling-oriented services, CPAF is identifying ways in which our communities know how to heal and offering support for those ways. CPAF is fortunate to have SASP-CS funding because it allows communities of color to own our healing and address the issue of sexual assault in ways that will help open up and not close off opportunities to receive healing.

CENTER FOR THE PACIFIC ASIAN FAMILY, CALIFORNIA



TX • Grantee Perspective

Our promotora de salud goes out to the community providing information on services available to survivors. Our recruited lideres are also bridges for victims/survivors. They are well known, trusted, and established in their colonias or communities and many times, victims/survivors seek them out for assistance.

Lideres are an essential part of the program Un Nuevo Manana, allowing for sustainability across colonias and across Hidalgo County. The underserved Latino population we serve faces many barriers when seeking help and/or services and is unaware of resources and organizations that can help them. With the funding from SASP-CS, we have been able to refer survivors to services they were previously unaware of and would have otherwise gone without. Some of the barriers they are facing when seeking victim/survivor services are the lack of available culturally specific services and/or not being able to communicate in their language with the organizations. Through the funding provided by the SASP-CS, we have been able to specifically focus on outreach to victims/survivors of sexual assault and assist survivors who only speak Spanish who had not sought out services prior to our contact with them.

MHP SALUD, TEXAS



NY • Grantee Perspective

The SASP-CS grant has allowed us to conduct culturally specific outreach with communities and community organizations that would have otherwise been difficult to reach. As such, the grant has allowed us to provide culturally sensitive services to families who otherwise might not have had someone to speak to. Our SASP-CS-funded staff conduct the majority of our presentations in Mandarin and provide a cultural perspective when discussing child sexual abuse. The familiarity of culture and language allows the topic to become accessible to the audience and there is a significant increase in interaction and engagement. Recognizing the cultural stigma around sexual violence, we have modified our presentations to be sensitive to that taboo such that we are able to discuss consent, boundaries, and appropriate and inappropriate touch from a perspective that does not offend the sensibilities of our audience. As a result of this approach, we are receiving more requests to conduct presentations in schools and neighborhoods that cater to the Asian community.

NEW YORK ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTER

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault.

Table 2 | Victims seeking services with SASP-CS grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	1,152	
Victims served	1,111	96%
Victims partially served	32	3%
Victims not served	9	1%

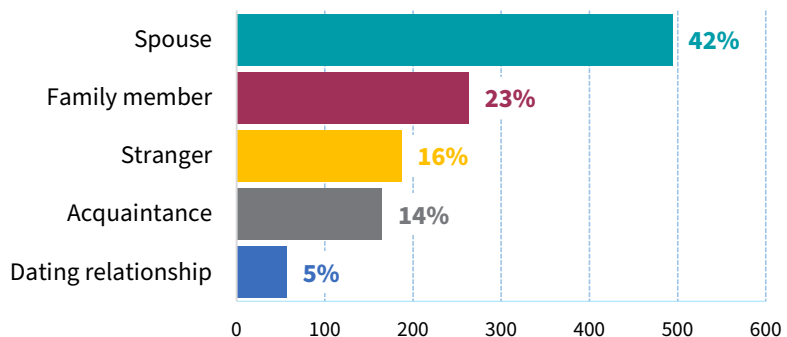
NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the SASP-CS grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the SASP-CS grant.

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (42%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (23%) or by a **stranger** (16%).

Figure 2 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide services due to limited resources;
- Transportation;
- Hours of operation;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Lack of childcare; and
- Program rules not acceptable to victim.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,143** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (35%), **female** (93%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (71%).



A national survey found that service providers who reported collaborating with law enforcement on outreach to culturally specific, immigrant, and low English proficiency communities, reported that law enforcement used qualified interpreters and language lines more often than those who did not report such partnerships (Lee et al., 2013).



CA • Grantee Perspective

SASP Culturally Specific Program funding has allowed Casa de La Familia to reach more victims of sexual assault and/or abuse in a targeted and meaningful way. Before we received this funding, we were limited to providing counseling to victims who reached out to us for help. This limited us greatly in many ways. SASP-CS grant funding has also allowed us to target specific communities that are marginalized and underserved, in the Watts area of Los Angeles County, for example. Through this grant funding, we were able to meet with the counseling team and principal of a school in Watts, and the 13 Reasons Program was well received. We then formalized an MOU with this school and launched our first support group in May. The school site was 100% supportive, and we are looking forward to hosting more support groups throughout the grant period.

CASA DE LA FAMILIA, CALIFORNIA



NJ • Grantee Perspective

With the help of the SASP-CS grant we are able to develop partnerships with other organizations and coordinate workshops in diverse South Asian communities in New Jersey. With these partnerships we are able to spread awareness about sexual assault on a larger scale and in different demographics. With the help of this grant, Manavi has been able to develop a culturally and linguistically appropriate sexual assault support services program to cater to the needs of South Asian survivors of sexual assault. We have also been able to create two separate posters that demonstrate the effects of sexual violence on South Asian women. The materials have been distributed to diverse communities and have allowed us to spread awareness about sexual assault.

MANAVI, INC., NEW JERSEY

Figure 3 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

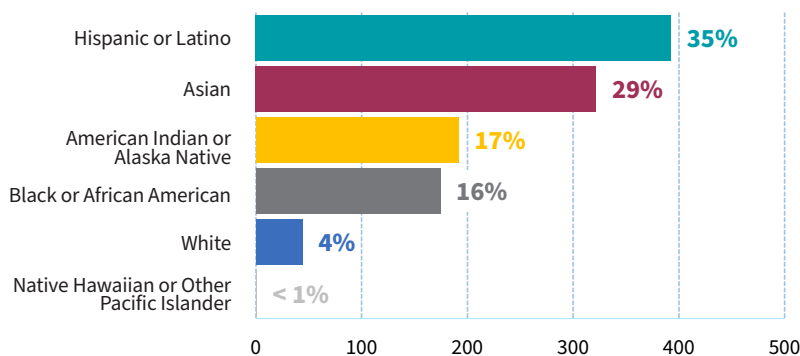
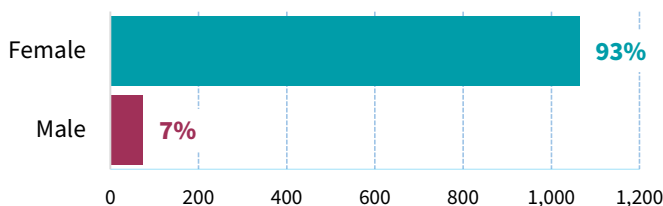


Figure 4 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)





Nearly half of the transgender respondents in a recent survey reported that they had been sexually assaulted in their lifetimes. Victimization rates were even higher for transgender respondents who were American Indian (65%), multiracial (59%), Middle Eastern (58%), and Black (53%). These figures underscore the importance of a coordinated community response to sexual violence that takes into account the multiple layers of victims' identities (National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 2019; White et al., 2019).



CA • Grantee Perspective

SASP-CS funding has allowed us to provide direct services and advocacy to victim/survivors of sexual assault. Victim Advocates assist victim/survivors with filing restraining orders, and provide court accompaniment, safety planning, case management, and linkages. As a result, victims are able to navigate the criminal justice system with support and without fear. Through safety planning, victims/survivors can address any fears they have and build a support system with their families and friends. These activities allow victims to participate in the criminal justice process with someone they trust. As a result, staff have seen an increase in requests for services and follow through.

CENTRO LA FAMILIA ADVOCACY SERVICES, INC.,
CALIFORNIA



NY • Grantee Perspective

Our clients report several structural and cultural barriers both at the policy and implementation level that lead to unreported crimes, re-traumatization, and marginalization. Given the current political environment, the highest need has been for language access and cultural humility in law enforcement and legal systems. Due to the intersectionality of sexual violence with immigration and socio-economic status, many victims refrain from reporting the crime and entering the legal system with the fear of being exposed to immigration related issues, job loss, and even arrest.

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM, INC.,
NEW YORK

Figure 5 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

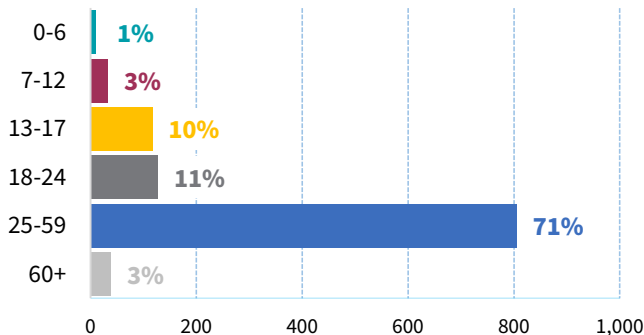
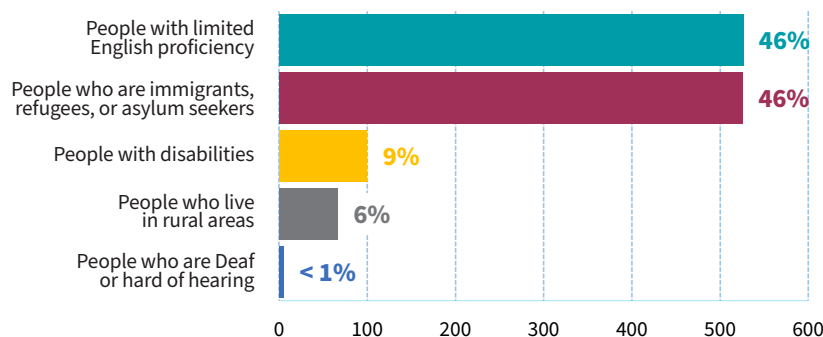


Figure 6 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by sexual assault, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **369** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited **victims' reluctance to access services and report crimes** as their biggest obstacle to providing services. They attributed this reluctance to a number of factors, including:

- Cultural taboos around discussions of sexual violence;
- Familial pressures to refrain from reporting or disclosing sexual assault;
- Mistrust of law enforcement and fear of deportation;
- A lack of confidentiality and anonymity within some communities;
- Financial and social dependence on abusers;
- Insufficient knowledge of legal rights; and
- Insufficient legal accountability for offenders.

Grantees also noted **there is a tremendous lack of culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services** across the spectrum of providers. To better serve victims there is a great need for:

- More qualified interpreters;
- More bilingual advocates;
- Culturally and linguistically specific mental health services; and
- Cultural competency training for service providers.

Grantees called for **more community education and outreach** in order to:

- Inform victims of their legal rights;
- Educate communities about sexual assault and healthy relationships;
- Combat victim-blaming and negative stereotypes about victims; and
- Publicize available resources.

Grantees frequently cited challenges in **assisting victims in meeting basic needs**, such as:

- Shelter and housing;
- Mental health services;
- Transportation;
- Civil legal assistance; and
- Employment and job training.

Finally, grantees noted a need for **greater awareness of and improved services to underserved victims within their communities**, including:

- Immigrant victims;
- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- Youth victims; and
- LGBTQ victims.

MN • Grantee Perspective



Lack of interpreter services for the Latino community is a concern. Court interpreters only interpret during the court hearing but after the court hearing is done, no one is there to clarify questions or concerns. In addition, emergency housing options (shelters) for victims/survivors and children following an immediate crisis or assault are needed. Most Latino survivors do not have family or additional support in the state. This results in survivors staying in a home where the abuse/assault takes place because it is the only option they have. Providing a safe space and distance from where the assault took place allows survivors to heal and begin focusing on the next steps following an assault.

**COMMUNIDADES LATINAS UNIDAS EN SERVICIO,
MINNESOTA**

NY • Grantee Perspective



There is a significant need for early education and violence prevention programs. To break down cycles of violence, we need to educate children about consent and healthy relationships from an early age. By doing so, we can help end cycles of violence and allow more people to live healthier, safer lives. An example would be a mentoring or peer-teaching program led by the Youth Community Project Team, in which members visit elementary, middle, and high schools to engage in activities with students on the topic of consent and sexual assault (depending on age). By educating our youth and focusing on prevention, we can help increase survivors' safety and enhance community response.

**THE KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTER,
NEW YORK**

Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program

The Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program (State Coalitions Program) funds state-level coalitions to collaborate and coordinate with relevant federal, state, and local entities. Coalitions consist primarily of organizational members (e.g. sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, tribal victim services agencies, and other victim services agencies) but may also include individual members.

STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITIONS AND STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE coalitions play a critical role in advancing the goals of VAWA, serving as a collective voice to end domestic/sexual violence through collaboration with federal, state, territorial, and local organizations.

87 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 87 unique grantees reported activities funded by the State Coalitions Program.

113,007 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 113,007 people.

74,804 Technical Assistance Activities

Grantees provided 71,889 consultations and 2,915 site visits.

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Coordinate state victim services activities; and
- Collaborate and coordinate with federal, state, and local entities engaged in domestic/sexual violence activities, including but not limited to:
 - Provide training and technical assistance (TA) to member agencies;
 - Expand the technological capacity of coalitions and/or member agencies; and
 - Bring local programs together to identify gaps in services and to coordinate activities.

Coalitions play a number of roles in responding to domestic/sexual violence: they serve as organizing bodies for local agencies; advocate for policy, legislation, or practice changes on behalf of their member agencies; and support collaboration between agencies building community relationships.



WV • Grantee Perspective

State Coalitions Program funding provides the coalition with the infrastructure to participate in the numerous collaboratives that are transforming the landscape for services for sexual assault victims in West Virginia. These include the SANE advisory board, the SAFE Commission, work with correctional facilities, the sexual assault kit initiative, and the most recent significant focus: the state's human trafficking task force. As State Coalitions Program funds provide significant financial support for core coalition staff, without it the coalition would not have the capacity to facilitate or participate in all of these time-intensive initiatives that are having such an impact on victim services and the service delivery system itself.

WEST VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR RAPE
INFORMATION AND SERVICES



VAWA-funded grantees offer training and technical assistance for those responding to the needs of victims, such as best practices in organizational structures, developing supportive work environments, managing secondary trauma (i.e., the trauma suffered when one hears about others' firsthand experiences of trauma), reducing compassion fatigue (i.e., reduced feelings of compassion toward those who have suffered, developing as a result of frequent exposure to other people's trauma), and improving self-care. Advocates who are well-trained are better able to support victims seeking to become and remain free from violence (Choi, 2016; Frey et al., 2017; Merchant & Whiting, 2015).



D.C. • Grantee Perspective

The State Coalitions Program funding allows the D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence to expand its advocacy and leverage staff time to focus on statewide policy issues that would otherwise not include domestic violence. This year, we have reviewed health education standards and explored healthy relationships programming for youth. We have adopted prevention as a key component of our work and drafted a healthy relationships curriculum for middle school educators, as well as continued our work with youth-serving organizations invested in trauma-informed supports for young girls. Funding has also allowed us to focus intensively on creative solutions and integral partnerships, and build trust to address the housing crisis for survivors fleeing abuse in D.C.

D.C. COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **87** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **31** (36%) grantees reporting were domestic violence coalitions, **31** (36%) were sexual assault coalitions, and **25** (29%) were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.

Nearly all grantees use funds to develop or enhance standards of service for underserved populations, by identifying gaps in services and supporting member and community organizations in their provision of outreach to and services for victims.

- **85** (98%) grantees used funds to address underserved populations.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end domestic/sexual violence and hold offenders accountable. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **87** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **127** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and administrators.

Table 1 Staff supported with State Coalitions grant funds, July 2017–June 2019:
Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	127	
Program coordinators	37	29%
Administrators	31	24%
Support staff	17	13%
Technical assistance providers	11	9%
System advocates	9	7%
Communication specialists	8	6%
Trainers	8	6%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only ($\geq 5\%$).

Training

Grantees help train states, territories, and communities to develop coordinated responses to reduce domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **79** (91%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **4,164** training events.

In the two years covered by this report, VAWA-funded grantees trained:

113,007
PROFESSIONALS

across **multiple systems:**



**VICTIM
ADVOCATES**



**MULTIDISCIPLINARY
STAFF**



**LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

Technical Assistance

Grantees provide technical assistance to member programs through site visits and other consultations. Consultations may include in-person, telephone, electronic, or other types of contact with programs. The goal of technical assistance is to improve the response of professionals and organizations to victims of domestic/sexual violence, by improving organizational infrastructure; developing, revising, and implementing policies, protocols, and procedures; and providing materials on relevant issues.

- **85** (98%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of **74,804** technical assistance activities.

Across the 2-year period, providers most frequently delivered the following forms of assistance:

- A total of **71,889** consultations; and
- A total of **2,915** site visits.

When health care providers ask questions about interpersonal violence during confidential, routine medical examinations, they provide opportunities for victims to disclose abuse and receive appropriate services and referrals (Pagels et al., 2015). Research shows that health care providers who receive training on screening for and identifying victims of domestic violence improve their practice, professional attitudes, and comfort in asking about violence in the patient's home (Alvarez et al., 2017; Ambuel et al., 2013; Zachor et al., 2018).



HI • Grantee Perspective

The State Coalitions Program funding has allowed Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) to continue to provide training and education to member programs, community members, and the general public statewide. Due to the unique geographic location and rural communities of Hawaii, accessing resources is a challenge for so many programs. State Coalitions Funding allows HSCADV to fly to neighboring islands to provide quality, in-person training opportunities for those communities. The funding has also provided an opportunity to engage multidisciplinary systems, such as law enforcement, Child Welfare, and the Judiciary, to improve the response to victims of domestic violence. Last reporting period, HSCADV collaborated with the Judiciary, law enforcement, parole, and legislators to provide an open forum for victims of domestic violence and their experiences within systems across the state. As a result of the statewide forum, shifts have occurred, such as providing a safe place for victims in courthouses away from perpetrators, improvements in judges' responses to domestic violence victims within hearings, and mandated domestic violence training for judges statewide. Furthermore, the funding permits a collaboration between domestic violence agencies, HSCADV, and law enforcement for the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), and the police response to victims of domestic violence.

**HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



NM • Grantee Perspective

Significant areas of remaining need for improving services for sexual assault survivors, increasing their safety, and enhancing community responses include: continuing to develop new services for survivors from underserved populations, delivered by culturally specific organizations run by and for members of these populations; continuing to enhance services for survivors from underserved populations delivered by current Sexual Assault Service Providers (SASPs); increasing the number of SASPs such that survivors in un/underserved areas have improved access to sexual assault services; and the continued development of full-spectrum services to address the needs of all survivors, particularly those with complex trauma resulting from prolonged experiences of sexual violence.

NEW MEXICO COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS, INC.



CO • Grantee Perspective

Services for culturally specific and other underserved populations continues to be a huge need in Colorado. Often, mainstream service providers don't even know who is in their community, as evidenced by a lack of data provided on grant reports in relation to questions about underserved populations in their service area. There is a great need for information and training on providing culturally appropriate services as well as building organizational capacity to do this kind of work.

COLORADO COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees noted a need to **enhance collaboration and coordination between service providers** in response to domestic violence and sexual assault. This included collaboration between:

- Health and human services providers and DV/SA organizations;
- DV/SA organizations and religious organizations;
- Criminal justice professionals and victim service providers; and
- Tribal, state, and local law enforcement and courts.

Grantees pointed to the need to **devote more resources to serving victims of sexual assault**, including:

- Developing sexual assault response teams (SARTs) within their states;
- Improving availability of SANE exams;
- More equitable distribution of resources for assisting sexual assault survivors; and
- Improving law enforcement and criminal justice responses to sexual assault.

Grantees emphasized the need for increased **community education and outreach** in order to:

- Educate legislatures and policy-makers on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence as it relates to the law and policies they implement;
- Expand awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault in underserved communities;
- Promote available services; and
- Encourage victims to come forward.

Grantees frequently reported the need to **provide culturally informed and linguistically appropriate domestic violence and sexual assault services and outreach to underserved populations** within their respective states, including:

- Victims in remote rural areas;
- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- Immigrant victims;
- LGBTQ populations; and
- Victims with disabilities, including Deaf or hard of hearing populations.

A majority of grantees reported **difficulty in maintaining current services given budget cuts and financial constraints**, as well as **difficulty meeting new state and federal mandates without concurrent increases in funding**. These challenges had **significant impacts on agencies' ability to recruit and retain qualified staff**.

Grantees also felt that **more training was needed on trauma-informed response and evidence-based practices among:**

- Law enforcement and first responders;
- Judges and court personnel;
- Victim service providers; and
- Prosecutors.

Finally, many grantees underscored difficulties in **providing victim services,** such as:

- Housing and shelter;
- Mental health and substance abuse services;
- Legal assistance;
- Financial support; and
- Transportation.

MN • Grantee Perspective



Overall, one of the greatest areas of need is still a lack of knowledge, training, and experience amongst systems professionals in providing trauma-informed care to victims/survivors. Across the state, this issue is the backbone of multiple problems our organizations face. For example, this lack of training increases issues in coordination of care and collaboration with local advocacy organizations. A lack of awareness of sexual violence issues creates trickle down effects, often resulting in community-wide disadvantages, as well as large-scale policy issues. A specific example of this is Minnesota's current issues around billing of SANE exams. A lack of clear policy and collaboration created a system that revictimizes those seeking exams.

MINNESOTA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

Technical Assistance Program

The Technical Assistance Program (TA Program) provides VAWA grantees with training, expertise, and problem-solving strategies to address the diverse needs of victims of domestic/sexual violence.

Technical assistance (TA) providers typically are national, tribal, statewide, or other nonprofit organizations or institutions of higher education with the capacity to provide training and technical assistance on a national level. This may include:

- Educational opportunities;
- Conferences, seminars, and roundtables;
- Peer-to-peer, individualized consultations;
- Policy development; and
- Site visits.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE TA PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE A WIDE range of direct technical assistance to VAWA grantees and subgrantees, so that they can successfully implement grant-funded projects. In addition, the TA Program focuses on building the capacity of criminal justice and victim services organizations to respond effectively to domestic/sexual violence. Providers seek to support grantees in fostering partnerships among organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address these forms of violence, such as faith- and community-based organizations.

248 Projects

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, the TA Program funded 248 projects.

70,451 TA Activities

Grantees provided a total of 38,370 consultations, and responded to 25,986 requests for information.

242,020 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 242,020 people.

The Technical Assistance (TA) Program provides grantees with training, expertise, and problem-solving strategies so they can better address domestic/sexual violence. TA projects may offer in-person or online educational opportunities, peer-to-peer consultations, site visits, and more, so that grantees can work with experts and one another.



There is a perpetual need for both basic and advanced training and technical assistance for advocates and staff in the victim services field, which is chronically under-resourced and subject to high staff turnover. Many agencies serving victims of domestic/sexual violence operate with limited budgets, and staff are likely to juggle high caseloads. In 2019, the annual Domestic Violence Counts survey found that in a single 24-hour period, victims made 11,336 requests for services that could not be met, because programs did not have the resources to provide these services (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2019).



MD • Grantee Perspective

There was a clear need for training and technical assistance, as well as the development of written “how-to” resources for the field that focus on operational tools that advocates and supervision officers can use to collaborate more efficiently with a common goal of reducing victimization. The e-curriculum developed under this effort will help probation staff to increase their awareness, understanding, and practical application of victim-centered approaches to the specialized supervision of sex offenders. Topics covered include defining victim-centeredness as a fundamental tenet of sex offender management, key principles and practices of specialized sex offender supervision, various points at which probation officers’ decisions and practices have implications for victims and their families, the role of victim advocates in promoting victim-centered supervision practices with sex offenders, and promising examples of victim-centeredness in practice.

CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY, MARYLAND



VAWA funding supports state and tribal coalitions and topically specific technical assistance providers who work to strengthen domestic/sexual violence prevention and response efforts. OVV also helps coordinate all of these efforts by supporting initiatives like the Resource Sharing Project, which compiles and disseminates resources and works with coalitions on issues such as organizational growth, professional development, and policy/protocol development. For more information visit: resourcesharingproject.org.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **248** individual projects, located in **103** provider agencies for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period. Providers may deliver technical assistance in discrete issue areas related to a specific knowledge gap or promising practice, or may manage multiple projects spanning a variety of topics.

- TA projects funded an average of **249** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- **167** (67%) individual TA projects used funds to specifically address underserved populations.

Training

TA providers offer training events to other VAWA grantees to enhance services for victims of domestic/sexual violence, to improve offender accountability, and to promote coordinated community responses to reduce violence. **This training helps grantees successfully implement projects supported by VAWA grant funds.**

- **200** (81%) TA projects used funds for training.
- Most often these trainings reached domestic violence program staff (**11%**), dual sexual assault and domestic violence program staff (**11%**), law enforcement officers (**9%**), and multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**8%**).

In the two years covered by this report, TA Program grantees trained:

242,020
PEOPLE

at

3,735
TRAINING EVENTS

Technical Assistance

TA providers deliver technical assistance through site visits, consultations, information request responses, and referrals. Assistance may include guidance on developing, revising, and implementing policies, protocols, and procedures; building a coordinated community response and community support; and overcoming barriers to effective service delivery.

- **208** (84%) individual TA projects used funds for technical assistance.
- TA providers delivered a total of **70,451** technical assistance activities.

Across the 2-year period, TA providers delivered the following forms of assistance:

- A total of **38,370** consultations;
- A total of **25,986** information request responses;

- A total of **5,197** referrals; and
- A total of **898** site visits.

Products

To provide standardized best practices to professionals and organizations, TA providers develop, revise, and distribute a variety of products about domestic/sexual violence, including training curricula, reports, tool kits, and other materials.

- **221** (89%) individual TA projects used funds for products.
- TA providers developed or revised a total of **5,253** products.

Remaining Areas of Need

The needs expressed by technical assistance providers were as **diverse as the organizations they serve**. However, across the array of sexual assault and domestic violence services, technical assistance providers most frequently reported the need to **help grantees provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services and resources to diverse groups of victims**, including:

- Victims with disabilities, including Deaf or hard of hearing populations;
- LGBTQ populations;
- Victims in remote rural areas;
- American Indians or Alaska Natives;
- Immigrant victims, including undocumented immigrants;
- Racial minorities;
- Youth victims; and
- Victims with limited English proficiency.

The need to provide **linguistically appropriate and culturally informed services** was particularly pronounced for **immigrant victims, victims with limited English proficiency, American Indian or Alaska Native victims, and racial minorities**. According to TA providers, these **needs included**:

- Training for law enforcement on cultural sensitivity and implicit bias;
- Training for service providers, judges, court personnel, and attorneys on immigration proceedings;
- Training for all providers on trauma-informed responses to victims;
- Improved translation and interpretation services;
- More bilingual advocates and service providers; and
- Culturally specific outreach methods to increase safety and accessibility of services.

TA providers also emphasized the need to **support grantees in their efforts to enhance collaboration with other service providers** in response to domestic violence and sexual assault. This included collaboration between:

PA • Grantee Perspective

The Women of Color Network, Inc. Economic Policy and Leadership Project leads with the vision that, despite violence and inequity, our communities and survivors are resourceful and are entitled to economic security, a voice at the table, and safety and health for all of our communities. The innovations we make in our culturally specific programs have the power to transform lives, communities, institutions, the field, and our society. By gathering women of color advocates; facilitating expert and peer sharing of concrete strategies, resources, and skills for addressing economic insecurities; as well as fostering organizational capacity and leadership development, we enhance our culturally specific advocacy and community connection while challenging the systemic inequities faced by survivors of color.

WOMEN OF COLOR NETWORK, PENNSYLVANIA

D.C. • Grantee Perspective

Training remains a significant need for law enforcement agencies in the response to sexual assault and domestic violence. Specifically, investigators need training on trauma-informed practices and proper report writing for sexual assault and domestic violence cases. This especially appears to be a need in smaller agencies, who may encounter funding and logistical barriers that prevent or delay the receipt of this needed training. If police agencies do not receive the proper training, victim/survivor safety may be compromised and offenders may not always be held accountable for their offenses. From our interaction with project sites and agencies applying to receive technical assistance, it appears that officers may be receiving basic training on sexual assault in the academy, but are not receiving regular in-service training on this topic. Regular training is critical in order to ensure that officers and investigators are up to date on victim-centered practices and appropriate interview techniques.

POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM, WASHINGTON, D.C.

CA • Grantee Perspective

We see a need with regard to increasing victim/survivor safety around the infrastructure of organizations and staff support. Programs need organizational structures, strategies, practices, and policies to support staff and address and minimize secondary trauma within direct services programs, including supervision for and by staff who may be survivors, and how to navigate staff's past trauma experiences.

FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE, CALIFORNIA



MN • Grantee Perspective

Casa de Esperanza and partners have noted that many OWW grantees representing the CSSP, Rural, Tribal, and Underserved programs had a similar issue with managing their grants along with strengthening their organizational infrastructure. Grantees explained that their programs were able to serve their diverse and varying communities, but that keeping up with the compliance needs was an issue for them. A significant area of remaining need for increasing victim/survivor safety and offender accountability was the availability of resources and materials for their organizations to better manage and maintain their overall compliance systems to meet and/or sustain the federal requirements. Meeting these needs would allow organizations to better focus on serving their participants. Through this project, Casa de Esperanza aims to work with grantees to strengthen their organizational capacities to enable better services for their communities.

CASA DE ESPERANZA, MINNESOTA



CO • Grantee Perspective

As the Center continues to develop rapport with grantees of the Consolidated Youth (CY) Program, it is clear that there is a strong interest, as well as a need, for creating more comprehensive coordinated community responses to children, youth, and young adults exposed to dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. We speculate that CY grantees would benefit from having a very defined community and population to work with. CY grantees may also benefit from OWW more clearly requiring a coordinated community response approach to their work. A stronger CCR requirement may serve to enhance their capacity for developing coordinated and comprehensive connections between youth service providers, rape crisis centers, shelters, law enforcement, schools, and other stakeholders. Responses to youth who are reporting abuse vary dramatically person-to-person and community-to-community. Children, teens, and young adults need more consistent support from adults, and pathways for reporting.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER CENTER ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Law enforcement agencies and DV/SA service providers;
- Criminal justice professionals and victim service providers; and
- Tribal, state, and local law enforcement and courts.

Grantees also underscored the need to assist service providers in their efforts to **educate youth and community members** about **healthy relationships and violence prevention**.

TA providers discussed the need to **assist service providers, especially non-profit organizations, with organizational management** in order to ensure their long-term sustainability. These needs included:

- Providing adequate staff training and development opportunities;
- Increasing organizational capacity through technical assistance;
- Providing alternative modes of training, including more online and remote training opportunities; and
- Assisting organizations with day-to-day administrative tasks, including grant management and data tracking.

In the criminal justice arena, TA providers detailed a number of **training and TA needs for law enforcement**, including:

- Trauma-informed practices;
- Cultural responsiveness and anti-bias policing practices;
- Protection order enforcement;
- Working with victims with limited English proficiency;
- Best practices in sexual assault response and investigation;
- Identification of the primary aggressor; and
- Training to identify victims of trafficking.

Grantees also reported the need to **provide training and TA to prosecutors and judges** in order to **enhance offender accountability** and **achieve justice for victims**. Training needs included:

- TA and training for attorneys working in complex family law cases;
- TA and training for judges and attorneys in cases involving interstate custody;
- Training on immigration law and the U visa process;
- Training on youth culture and teen dating violence;
- Training on protection orders and protection order-related issues; and
- Basic training in trauma-informed practices.

Finally, TA providers identified the need to provide **training to victim service providers on issues of confidentiality** in order to maintain victim safety and encourage reporting.

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Transitional Housing Program) funds programs that provide transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services to victims, their children, and other dependents.

THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE holistic, victim-centered transitional housing services that move individuals to permanent housing.

261 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 261 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Transitional Housing Program.

6,729 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 2,760 victims, 3,864 children, and 104 other dependents during each 6-month reporting period.

938,893 Bed Nights

Grantees provided a total of 938,893 bed nights to victims, their children, and other dependents.¹

Grantees provide housing units, rental vouchers, and victim-centered services such as case management, housing advocacy, counseling, job training, child care, transportation, and other assistance. It is crucial that these programs provide a wide range of flexible and optional services that reflect the differences and individual needs of victims, and allow them to choose the best course of action for their specific circumstances. Trained staff work with victims to help them determine and reach their goals for permanent housing.



Research shows that when victims work to become and remain free from violence, they may experience negative consequences such as limited access to financial resources, potentially escalating violence, and residential instability (Thomas et al., 2015).

¹ This number does not include nights spent in housing supported through a voucher or other rental assistance.



MN • Grantee Perspective

The OVV Transitional Housing grant has allowed Alexandra House, Rise, and Anoka County Job Training Center to work collaboratively to address the current gaps that exist in the housing market for low-income survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking in Anoka County. We are pleased to report that ten households are currently enrolled in the program. Prior to receiving the grant, these households faced many obstacles and barriers. Some of these included lack of support from family and friends, lack of community resources, and also a lack of financial stability (no savings, poor credit history, and inconsistent work placement). Survivors who were able to work had to work multiple jobs to afford housing, which left them little time with their families, limited their opportunities to further their education, and in some cases resulted in reliance on their abuser for help. A housing subsidy is provided to households served under the grant for a period of a year or more, with the household not paying more than 30% of their net income towards rent. Households receive information and assistance on landlord/tenant relationships, credit repair, expungement, and more. As a collaborative, we have been able to share resources, and utilize each other's expertise to support survivors in our short-term housing program. Our individual agencies offer numerous services, including job readiness, transportation, legal advocacy, therapy and support groups, housing-related assistance, basic needs support, and voluntary in-home case management. These services have assisted survivors in securing and maintaining permanent housing, improved access to resources, created options for safety, and promoted dignity and self-sufficiency. The housing subsidy specifically has allowed survivors to save money and build a solid rental history.

ALEXANDRA HOUSE, INC., MINNESOTA



In a recent study of homelessness, families assigned permanent housing subsidies were half as likely to report intimate partner violence at a 20-month outcome measurement than families who had not been offered any priority access to homeless or housing assistance (Gubits et al., 2016).

The Transitional Housing Program enhances the safety and security of victims, their children, and other dependents by supporting an array of services that are critical to the provision of temporary housing and the attainment of permanent housing. Purpose areas include:

- Provide transitional housing, including funding for the operating expenses of newly developed or existing transitional housing;
- Provide short-term housing assistance, including rental or utilities payments assistance, and assistance with related expenses such as security deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to transitional housing;
- Provide support services designed to help victims fleeing violence locate and secure permanent housing and integrate into a community by providing them with services, such as transportation, counseling, child care services, case management, and other assistance; and
- Expand support services to help victims secure employment, via employment counseling, occupational training, job retention counseling, and/or counseling concerning reentry into the workforce.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **261** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **14** (5%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Provide support services, including counseling, transportation, and employment services.

Provision of Housing

The ability to provide housing is a vital part of supporting victims in leaving their abusers by allowing them to live safely in the community. Grantees note that without housing, a victim must often choose between becoming homeless or remaining with their abuser.

- **225** (86%) grantees used funds to directly support housing units.

Grantees use a variety of strategies to provide housing to victims, their children, and other dependents. Some programs use funds to support either program-owned or program-rented units, whereas other programs use rental assistance vouchers to provide housing to victims.

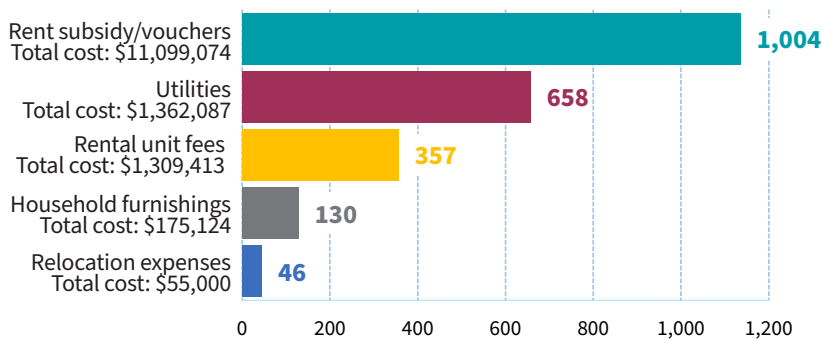
During each 6-month reporting period, on average, grantees provided victims, children, and other dependents:

- **368** program-owned housing units;
- **216** program-rented housing units; and
- **1,100** vouchers/rent subsidies.

Housing Assistance

In addition to funding housing units, grantees used funds to support other expenses related to housing, such as relocation expenses and utilities.

Figure 1 Average number of victims provided with housing assistance by Transitional Housing Program grantees, July 2017–June 2019



Increasing Accessibility of Housing and Services

Some programs are able to offer units that are accessible to people with disabilities and/or enhance their programs' accessibility by providing interpretation services, language lines, translation of documents, and/or telecommunication devices for Deaf or hard of hearing victims.

- An average of **666** housing units were accessible to people with disabilities (for example, people who are blind or vision-impaired, people with physical disabilities, and people with diagnosed mental illness, if their activities are so limited) during each 6-month period.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide direct services to victims, children, and other dependents, as well as program administration. **Being able to hire staff is critical for the overall function and success of programs.**

- **255** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **210** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support case managers and program coordinators.



FL • Grantee Perspective

Transitional Housing Program Funding has allowed Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) to sustain our transitional housing program in Palm Beach County. While all other programs shifted their focus, AVDA remains the last standing Transitional Housing Program for survivors of domestic violence in our 2,000 square mile county with a population of 1.3 million.

AID TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE, INC., FLORIDA



Emerging research has indicated that, for some domestic violence victims, flexible funding assistance can mean the difference between stability and lost jobs, homelessness, and further abuse. The ability to use funds for things like back-rent, bills, security deposits, and transportation-related expenses can contribute to long-term safety and well-being for victims and their children (Bomsta & Sullivan, 2018; Klein et al., 2019; Sullivan et al., 2019).



VT • Grantee Perspective

As always, the ongoing 6-18 months of housing subsidy payments for each TH participant would not be possible without the grant funding provided by OWW. At a time when community funding is scarce and existing housing funding assistance is one-time or once a year at most, 6-18 months of ongoing support provides a needed safety net for survivors who are struggling to make ends meet after fleeing violent situations, often after years of abuse and with little to no rental or employment history.

WOMENSAFE INC., VERMONT



ID • Grantee Perspective

During this reporting period, we have been able to provide full housing assistance and services to nine families. This program has allowed many families the option to flee their abusive situations and secure housing options and services much more quickly than other housing programs in the community. Ada County continues to have very limited housing options for victims fleeing domestic/sexual violence. Without this funding, victims would have no choice but to remain with their abuser, or live in places not meant for human habitation. This funding has given many women an opportunity to be safe and independent during a transition period between the shelter and a permanent housing option.

ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY, IDAHO



Women who reside in a shelter tend to receive a broader range of support services for a longer period of time, compared to women who never enter a shelter (Grossman & Lundy, 2011; Sullivan & Virden, 2017b). A recent study found that the amount of help received in a shelter positively influenced victims' ability to advocate for themselves and their hopefulness for the future (Sullivan & Virden, 2017a).



VT • Grantee Perspective

Transitional Housing Program funds have allowed our agency to house families and individuals that would otherwise be in shelters long-term or on the streets. These funds allow families (moms and children) to stay together and start over in a safe environment. With Section 8 not always accessible, TH Program funding is even more important. Participants will need the full two years to heal, gain strength, and where applicable, learn new skills to earn better, self-sustaining wages. Funding has also allowed us to deepen our relationship with the Abenaki community, and as a result, we collaborated on a cultural competency training for staff as well as other interested parties. Evaluations of the training were overwhelmingly positive.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, VERMONT



NJ • Grantee Perspective

The Transitional Housing Program has allowed us to provide women with the services they need to strengthen their skill set, seek gainful employment, and secure permanent housing.

The funding has also allowed us to have a part-time Bilingual Vocational Case Manager. Clients have the opportunity to assess their dreams and goals of furthering their education and to become more financially empowered.

We have been able to provide Financial Empowerment and Work Readiness workshops. The TH Staff has been able to secure training from the National Network to End Domestic Violence/OWW Conferences, and trainings on best practices in working with our clients. We have been able to install new computers in each of our Transitional homes which allows the women to seek employment, engage in on-line courses, and assist their children with their studies from the comfort and safety of their TH homes. The funding has allowed the clients the opportunity and time to rest, heal, and rebuild their lives in a safe environment.

CENTER FOR HOPE AND SAFETY, NEW JERSEY

Table 1 | Staff supported with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	210	
Case managers	78	37%
Program coordinators	42	20%
Housing advocates	24	11%
Victim advocates	17	8%
Administrators	14	7%
Transitional services advocates	11	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Services for Victims, Children, and Other Dependents

Grantees provide an array of support services to victims, their children, and other dependents to locate, secure, and maintain permanent housing and economic stability. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **250** (96%) grantees used funds for services provided to victims, their children, and other dependents.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **2,760** victims, **3,864** children, and **104** other dependents during each 6-month period.
- **71%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

Support Services for Victims, Children, and Other Dependents

On average, during each 6-month reporting period, Transitional Housing grantees provided services to:

2,760
VICTIMS

3,864
CHILDREN

104
OTHER DEPENDENTS

Services include:

Services include:

2,472
individuals received
CASE MANAGEMENT

1,735
individuals received
HOUSING ADVOCACY

1,884
individuals received
CASE MANAGEMENT

1,333
individuals received
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

1,477
individuals received
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

1,369
individuals received
FINANCIAL COUNSELING

1,045
individuals received
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

859
individuals received
VICTIM ADVOCACY



A recent study confirmed prior research which has shown that accessing housing-related services is even more challenging for certain victims, namely victims with children and/or pets, male victims, college students, and those with disabilities (Rizo et al., 2020).



SC • Grantee Perspective

This program has helped survivors with rental assistance, utility bills, and security deposits to secure safe housing in the community. These survivors have achieved greater self-determination and confidence through life skills workshops, and have obtained legal advocacy, group and children’s counseling, and transportation. In this reporting period, three clients have gone to counseling on a regular basis. The Transitional Housing Program funding has allowed Sistercare to house 11 families who did not fit other funding criteria and otherwise would have remained unserved. Additionally, the program has allowed Sistercare to continue to help homeless battered and sexually abused women and their children establish their own violence-free households and increase self-sufficiency. Without this grant, victims would not have had the funding or resources to have their own home independent from their abusers. By living without domestic and sexual violence, survivors had time to stabilize their financial situation and become financially independent from their abusers so they would not have to return to a life of violence. Overall, battered and sexually abused women were able to reduce further injuries from assaults and in some instances, save their lives.

SISTERCARE, INC., SOUTH CAROLINA



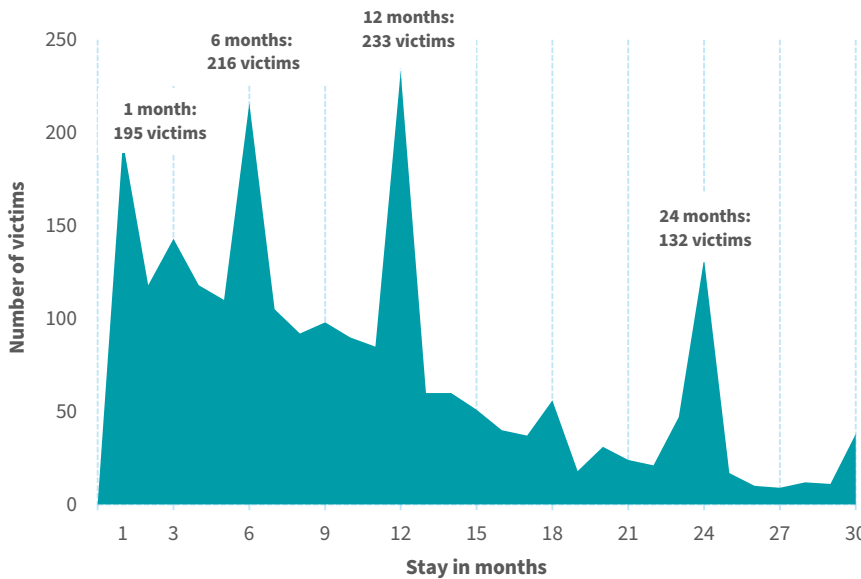
Victims seeking housing may face discrimination by landlords based on their histories of abuse, their gender or sexual identities, and/or their race/ethnicity. Indigenous victims and immigrants may also encounter barriers to housing due to lack of documentation. Affordable housing shortages across the country also present challenges for those seeking to leave abusive housing arrangements (Gezinski & Gonzalez-Pons, 2019).

Table 2 | Victims, children, and other dependents sheltered with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Transitional housing	Number of people (6-month average)	Number of bed nights (2-year total)
Victims	827	402,031
Children	1,086	527,199
Other dependents	19	9,663
Total	1,932	938,893

NOTE: These numbers do not include victims, children, or other dependents receiving housing through a voucher or other rental assistance.

Figure 2 | Victims and their families’ length of stay in transitional housing in months, June 2017–July 2019



Victims, Children, and Other Dependents Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence.

Table 3 | Victims seeking services with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average					
	Victims		Children		Other dependents	
Total victims seeking services	3,865		5,184		111	
Victims served	2,613	68%	3,697	71%	99	90%
Victims partially served	148	4%	167	3%	5	5%
Victims not served	1,104	29%	1,320	25%	7	6%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents victims, children, and other dependents who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant. “Not served” represents victims, children, and other dependents who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant.



VA • Grantee Perspective

The gift of having 18 months to work with families allows our residents, who have often had negative experiences with systems, time to develop trust. It allows us to do the trauma work that begins with developing healthy supportive relationships with our clients. And it allows our residents, who often come to us having been isolated from family and community, an opportunity to develop lifelong friends among their neighbors here and a lifelong support system through our organization. Although Transitional Housing is not the answer for every victim, it is truly life changing and sometimes life saving (these words coming from so many victims we have served). Thank you for this funding.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY, INC., VIRGINIA



A recent report on serving Latinx survivors who are seeking housing identified innovative and successful strategies for meeting the particular needs of these communities, including incorporating faith-based organizations, providing alternative housing to immigrant survivors, employing housing assistance specialists, and utilizing informal networks of support (Hernandez-Martinez et al., 2018).



WA • Grantee Perspective

This funding is what creates our program, makes it possible to carry a reasonable case load, assist survivors with tangible things that make their lives and the lives of their children better, and ensures that we can have an ongoing partnership with our housing authority that provides subsidized housing for our clients. It is an excellent program that is well thought-out in terms of training, best-practices, and access to technical support through the National Network to End Domestic Violence. If all the shelters and housing programs in our community had this type of support, training, and infrastructure, what a positive difference it would make. We are so appreciative of this funding stream and the opportunity it affords us to better serve our clients.

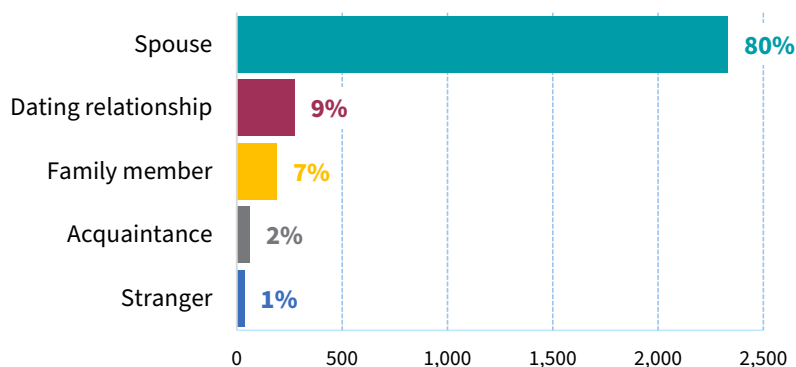
YWCA OF PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (80%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (9%) or by another **family or household member** (7%).

Figure 3 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 reporting period, grantees reported that an average of **808** victims, **989** children, and **7** other dependents were not served or were only partially **served solely due to a lack of available housing**.

Grantees most frequently noted the following additional barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Party(ies) did not meet statutory requirements;
- Program rules not acceptable to party(ies);
- Services were not appropriate for party(ies); or
- Services not available for party(ies) based on family composition.

Demographics of Victims, Children, and Other Dependents Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **2,760** victims, **3,864** children, and **104** other dependents during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (44%), **female** (98%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (85%).

Table 4 Demographic characteristics of victims, children, and other dependents served with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017-June 2019

Characteristic	6-month average					
	Victims		Children		Other dependents	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race						
American Indian or Alaska Native	123	5%	177	5%	4	3%
Asian	100	4%	100	3%	8	8%
Black or African American	827	30%	1,383	37%	25	24%
Hispanic or Latino	534	20%	936	25%	33	32%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	24	1%	54	1%	2	2%
White	1,197	44%	1,333	35%	34	33%
Unknown (missing)	47		100		2	
Gender						
Female	2,691	98%	1,926	50%	60	58%
Male	57	2%	1,925	50%	43	42%
Total	2,748		3,852		103	
Unknown (missing)	12		13		1	
Age						
0-6	-	-	1,831	48%	-	-
7-12	-	-	1,308	34%	-	-
13-17	5	0%	704	18%	-	-
18-24	332	12%	-	-	88	85%
25-59	2,328	85%	-	-	11	10%
60+	72	3%	-	-	5	5%
Total	2,737		3,843		103	
Unknown (missing)	23		22		1	
Other						
People with disabilities	528	19%	205	5%	19	18%
People with limited English proficiency	431	16%	173	4%	9	9%
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	411	15%	177	5%	12	12%
People who live in rural areas	617	22%	797	21%	20	19%

NY • Grantee Perspective



As a result of Transitional Housing Program funding, we have been able to build alliances with landlords and property management companies. Through successful landlord engagement, we have expanded our housing resources for the survivors that we serve. We have found that tenant needs are being addressed by landlords more frequently, leading to fewer requests for advocacy services from survivors. We continue to share program information with other service agencies and organizations, which has led to a greater number of referral sources within the community. This in turn has allowed us to provide housing and support services to a more diverse population of survivors. Grant funding has allowed us to provide support networks and financial resources to address both the short- and long-term housing needs of individuals and families. By assisting with security deposits, rent, and other support services we are able to coordinate a service plan that not only places survivors in safe, affordable housing, but also allows them to become self-sufficient, while maintaining their housing independently. Successfully maintaining their housing eliminates the need for shelter stays and encourages survivors to feel empowered. While learning and strengthening key skills, survivors feel supported every step of the way as they enter their new independent life.

YWCA OF ROCHESTER AND MONROE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Women and men who have experienced housing insecurity are at higher risk for rape, physical violence, or stalking. NISVS found that 10% of women and 8% of men who faced housing insecurity were victims of intimate partner violence, as compared with 2.3% of women and 3.1% of men who did not face housing insecurity (Breiding et al., 2014). Housing instability is a strong predictor of poor health outcomes for those in abusive relationships, exacerbating PTSD, depression, substance abuse, medical noncompliance, absences from work and/or school, and hospital/emergency room use (Daoud et al., 2016; Rollins et al., 2012).



**PA • Grantee Perspective**

Without this funding, the YWCA would not be able to maintain the transitional housing program offered to this rural community. Victims/survivors and their children would be forced to uproot their lives to escape the trauma they were experiencing at home, as the closest domestic violence shelters are in Harrisburg and Carlisle, which are 27 miles and 26 miles away respectively. In addition, supportive services would be extremely limited, if not for this grant. The YWCA is state-funded to provide sexual assault services in Perry County, but not services for survivors of domestic violence. These services are to be provided by another non-profit; however, the majority of the work they do in the county is related to filing protection orders. As such, without this funding, case management, financial empowerment groups, transportation assistance, employment assistance and job skills, accompaniments, and other services would no longer be provided to this population of survivors.

YWCA OF GREATER HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

**MN • Grantee Perspective**

Life House has been operating a variety of youth transitional, permanent supportive, and support service housing programs for 25 years. While we have always provided youth-specific programming, we have now focused our services to address the needs of several different sub-populations within the youth category (i.e. singles, families, long-term homeless, youth/youth families fleeing DV and trafficked/sexually exploited teens). With the addition of OWW Transitional Housing funding, our current housing stock now includes apartments for youth ages 18 through 24 fleeing domestic/sexual violence; apartments providing permanent supportive housing for high-barrier long-term homeless youth; and Sol House, a five-bed transitional housing program for teen victims of sex trafficking. Our newest program, The Loft, provides emergency shelter for homeless or sexually exploited youth ages 15-19. Our West End Apartments Program is now a well-established supportive housing building, with five one-bedroom units dedicated for our OWW Transitional Housing Program participants.

LIFE HOUSE, INC., MINNESOTA

Transitional Housing and Destination Upon Exit

Grant funds can be used to house victims for up to 24 months.ⁱⁱ Grantees reported that victims most often moved to permanent housing of their choosing, after their stay in grant-funded housing.

Table 5 | Victims' housing destination upon exit, July 2017–June 2019

Destination upon exit	2-year total
Permanent housing of choice (Section 8, return to home, rent or purchase housing)	1,692
Temporary housing with family or friend	213
Transitional housing (not grant-funded program)	53
Healthcare facility/substance abuse treatment program	39
Domestic violence emergency shelter	26
Incarceration/jail	25
Homeless emergency shelter	18
Hotel/motel	14
Unknown	188

Victims' Perception of Risk of Violence Upon Exit

Victims most often reported perceiving a lower risk of violence (**75%**) after their stay in Transitional Housing grant-funded housing units.

Table 6 | Victims' perception of risk of future violence upon exit, July 2017–June 2019

Perception of risk of future violence	2-year total	
Lower risk of violence	1,702	75%
Equal risk of violence	91	4%
Does not know	85	4%
Greater risk of violence	24	1%
Unknown	374	

Follow-up Support Services

If grantees use funds for housing units and support services, they are required to provide a minimum of 3 months follow-up services to victims after their stay in transitional housing units. These follow-up services are intended to continue to connect victims and their families with assistance from the program.

- **229** (88%) grantees used funds for follow-up services.

ⁱⁱ By statute, a grantee may waive the 24-month restriction for no more than 6 months for victims who have made a good-faith effort to acquire permanent housing but have been unable to do so.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Case management services to **447** victims and **305** children and other dependents;
- Housing advocacy services to **197** victims and **60** children and other dependents;
- Victim advocacy services to **186** victims and **135** children and other dependents;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **173** victims and **157** children and other dependents;
- Support group/counseling services to **142** victims and **52** children and other dependents;
- Crisis intervention services to **138** victims and **60** children and other dependents; and
- Financial counseling services to **121** victims and **11** children and other dependents.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited a **lack of safe and affordable long-term housing** as the biggest obstacle confronting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.


In addition to **high prices and low availability of rental units**, victims encountered **additional challenges to securing housing**, including:

- Long waitlists for Section 8 and public housing;
- No credit or poor credit history;
- Inability to meet the income requirements of landlords and property managers;
- A history of evictions;
- The presence of a criminal background; and
- Outstanding debt.

These challenges sometimes pushed victims into housing that was **unsafe, outside their target area, or poorly maintained**.

Grantees also cited difficulty in **helping clients secure employment that provided a living wage**. Challenges included:

- High unemployment rates in service areas;
- Lack of training and/or education;
- Little or no employment history;
- An inability to secure child care, especially for nighttime shifts; and
- Inadequate access to reliable transportation.



Shelter and transitional housing program staff may provide follow-up support, counseling and advocacy, legal assistance, financial literacy education and employment counseling, and referrals to other sources of help. Helping victims find stable housing requires addressing interconnected issues related to trauma, poverty, disabilities, and discrimination, and an advocate may spend up to 10 hours or more per week with each victim (Sullivan et al., 2018).

ME • Grantee Perspective



One specific financial intervention available through TH program support is assistance with rent and associated move-in or relocation costs. Often survivors are forced to deal with credit histories and/or debts that are directly connected with their prior experience of abuse or assault. The financial burden associated with this past can present an insurmountable obstacle; even with steady employment, they lack the resources necessary to secure safe, sustainable housing. TH program funds can be brought to bear in this situation. That initial hurdle overcome, many of the recipients of this support go on to maintain stable housing. This can be a life-changing event.

PARTNERS FOR PEACE, MAINE

WI • Grantee Perspective



Our program currently has 70 families on the waitlist who are homeless as a result of fleeing violence. Accessible shelter and housing for families is grossly under-resourced in this community. As a result, families have to be divided to find any kind of shelter, and are often forced into situations that further compromise the client's and the children's safety, leading to further victimization.

WISE WOMEN GATHERING PLACE, WISCONSIN

IA • Grantee Perspective



One of the most significant areas of remaining need is access to legal services, specifically for civil family law and immigration issues. We have a number of participants who are in need of legal services regarding child custody and other civil matters, but are unable to access the few legal assistance programs in our area due to the high demand. A majority of our clients are not able to obtain their own private legal representation due to financial hardship. We've seen some families remain separated or left in unsafe situations due to their inability to obtain legal representation.

ASSAULT CARE CENTER EXTENDING SHELTER & SUPPORT, IOWA



CA • Grantee Perspective

The most significant areas of remaining need are: access to affordable housing units, job training and employment resources, and childcare. Our county is located in close proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area and has been deeply impacted by rising rents and lack of housing inventory. Rents have increased dramatically over the past several years and wages have not. Affordable housing units have long waitlists, and even market rate units are in very high demand. Landlords have noted that 100 or more people may apply for one open rental. We have relied heavily upon our relationships with property management companies and landlords to get clients into market rate units. Clients have expressed concerns about how they will take over the rent on their units when the rental subsidies from Haven's Housing Program ends. Many of our clients have struggled to find employment, stay in employment, and/or find employment that pays a living wage. Minimum wage in California is currently \$11 per hour and the median rent for an apartment in Stanislaus County is \$1,230. We recognize the need for resources, including time, energy collaboration and funding to dedicate toward employment programs.

HAVEN WOMEN'S CENTER, CALIFORNIA

The **inability to earn a living wage and achieve financial self-sufficiency put victims at a much greater risk of returning to their abusers.**

Finding employment and housing was particularly difficult for **underserved populations**, especially:

- Immigrant victims, especially those in the process of obtaining legal status;
- Victims in remote rural areas;
- LGBTQ populations;
- Victims with disabilities;
- Victims with limited English proficiency; and
- Elderly victims.

Grantees emphasized the need to **provide additional services to victims to promote self-sufficiency**, including:

- Affordable and pro bono civil legal services;
- Job training, employment counseling, and education;
- Mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling;
- Funds for moving expenses, utilities, and security deposits; and
- Financial education.

Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions

The Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions (Tribal Coalitions Program) builds the capacity of nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal coalitions to end domestic/sexual violence in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

COALITIONS CONSIST PRIMARILY OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS (e.g. sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, tribal victim services agencies, and other victim services agencies) but may also include individual members. The Tribal Coalitions Program enhances the safety of victims by supporting projects uniquely designed to address domestic/sexual violence amongst American Indian and Alaska Native women.

18 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 18 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Coalitions Program.

8,392 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 8,392 people.

6,927 Technical Assistance Activities

Grantees provided 6,224 consultations and 703 site visits.

Tribal Coalition grantees play a number of roles in responding to domestic/sexual violence: they serve as organizing bodies for local agencies; advocate for policy, legislation, or practice changes; and support collaboration between agencies to improve access to critical services for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women.



American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) are a diverse people, represented by 574 federally recognized tribes (National Congress of American Indians, 2020a). Due to a history of colonization, displacement, and racism, AI/AN persons and communities face markedly high rates of housing instability, food insecurity, limited income and education, and ill health (Indian Health Services, 2017; Office of Minority Health, 2018; Penman-Aguilar et al., 2016; Pindus et al., 2017; U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2012). AI/AN women report higher rates of intimate partner violence than women of any other ethnic or racial background (Chmielowska & Fuhr, 2017; Herrschaft & Dolan, 2013).



NM • Grantee Perspective

Throughout the duration of this reporting period, the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW) has been able to maintain focus on improving and strengthening the capacity, outreach, and presence of our organization with the Tribal Coalition Program funding received for our service area. This includes enhancing the response to violence against Native women at the federal, state, and tribal levels, while also identifying and providing technical assistance and community support to our membership and Tribal communities. The coalition continues to assist our Native Nations in promoting legislation and policies that increase best practices for responding to violent crimes against Native women and children through strategic and deliberate external communication, mindful relationship building, as well as visible community presence and support. The funding has enabled CSVANW the opportunity to effect change in our communities through social media, our website, handouts, and community outreach to our relatives across New Mexico. As a result of the monetary support, we have been able to further our online outreach while also being present for advocacy on a legislative level at the roundhouse to better advocate for community programs and relatives that make up our membership/coalition. The increased presence in our communities enables our staff to better understand the ways in which CSVANW can be in solidarity with our relatives while also showing that we honor their presence.

COALITION TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN, NEW MEXICO

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence in AI/AN communities;
- Enhance the response at the tribal, federal, and state levels;
- Identify and provide technical assistance (TA) to coalition members and tribal communities to improve access to critical services; and
- Assist Indian tribes and tribal leadership in developing and promoting state, local, and tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to these forms of violence.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **18** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- The majority of grantees (**89%**) were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Identify and provide technical assistance (TA) to coalition members and tribal communities to improve access to critical services.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end domestic/sexual violence in AI/AN communities and hold offenders accountable. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **18** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **51** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support administrators and program coordinators.

Table 1 | Staff supported with Tribal Coalitions grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	51	
Administrators	13	25%
Program coordinators	12	24%
Support staff	9	18%
Trainers	7	14%
Communications specialists	4	8%
Technical assistance providers	3	6%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

Grantees train professionals to improve their response to AI/AN victims of domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **18** (100%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **429** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **8,392** people.
- Most often these trainings reached domestic violence program staff (**24%**), sexual assault program staff (**12%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**6%**), tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**6%**), and educators (**6%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide information and outreach to communities to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. Outreach activities can include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, bake sales, and parades. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**ⁱ

- **17** (94%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees convened a total of **621** education events.



Nearly half (46%) of AI/AN women suffer some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime (Smith et al., 2017). Homicide rates are also particularly high among AI/AN women, who may be murdered at more than 10 times the national average (Bachman et al., 2008; Petrosky et al., 2017; Wilson, 2017). Coordinated tribal, community, and federal efforts that are culturally appropriate are essential in responding to these epidemic rates of violence.



MN • Grantee Perspective

This funding has helped us provide support for advocates throughout Minnesota on the issues of sexual violence against Indian women. We started with the single position of a Director and we now have an eight person staff. We have created an office space that contains a library and clearinghouse for materials to assist communities that work with Native American victims/survivors of sexual violence. We also worked to create a 40-hour Tribal Specific Sexual Assault Advocate Training Curriculum, “Through the Teachings of Our Grandmothers.” We are so grateful for this opportunity to unify our collaborative efforts to end sexual violence in Minnesota.

MINNESOTA INDIAN WOMEN’S SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION



AZ • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Coalitions funding has allowed the Hopi-Tewa Women’s Coalition to End Abuse to provide training, technical assistance, and outreach events for the Hopi community and service providers. Over the course of this grant period, our relationships with partner agencies have increased, the number of calls for technical assistance have increased, as has our outreach presence in the community.

HOPI-TEWA WOMEN’S COALITION TO END ABUSE, ARIZONA

In the two years covered by this report, **Tribal Coalitions Program grantees provided information to:**

23,776
INDIVIDUALS

groups such as:



COMMUNITY MEMBERS



STUDENTS



**TRIBAL GOVERNMENT/
AGENCY STAFF**

ⁱ Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables an individual to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



A growing body of research has shown that a focus on individual, family, and community resilience may strengthen violence prevention and intervention efforts with those who have experienced trauma and adversity, including AI/AN people and communities (Burnette, 2017; Fast & Collin-Vezina, 2019; Hamby et al., 2018; Teufel-Shone et al., 2018; Yuan et al., 2015).



MI • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Coalitions funding has allowed Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (UTFAV) to provide important and culturally relevant technical assistance, training, and resources to the 12 Tribes of Michigan and other agencies that work with Tribal survivors. Providing important training opportunities to service providers directly impacts how they respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking. Funding allows UTFAV to continue to provide assistance to Tribes with program development, policy and procedure writing, and other technical assistance requests to ensure that Tribes can provide the most effective and appropriate services to survivors, as well as continue to inform advocates of important legislation that directly impacts survivors. Funding has also allowed the sharing of resources and helped to create connections between advocates to further network and utilize each other as resources and references. Finally, UTFAV has had the opportunity to impact policy/procedural change at the national and state level to improve the institutional response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

UNITING THREE FIRES AGAINST VIOLENCE, MICHIGAN

Technical Assistance

Grantees provide technical assistance to help other professionals and organizations improve their response to AI/AN victims and develop their organizational infrastructures, through site visits and consultations. Assistance may include developing or enhancing culturally appropriate services, building a coordinated community response and community support, and supporting victim service administration and operations.

- **17** (94%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of **6,927** technical assistance activities.

Across the 2-year period, providers most frequently delivered the following forms of assistance:

- A total of **6,224** consultations; and
- A total of **703** site visits.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees emphasized the need for **community outreach and education in order to:**

- Address common misconceptions and negative stereotypes of victims;
- Educate tribal leaders, community members, and youth about domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- Encourage victims to seek services.

Grantees frequently cited a need for **ongoing staff training because of high turnover** among advocates and other program staff, as well as **stable and sustained funding for services.**

Grantees also felt that more training was needed on **trauma-informed responses, especially when working with American Indian/Alaska Native victims**, among:

- Tribal leadership and courts;
- Law enforcement and first responders;
- State courts; and
- Native and non-Native service providers.

Grantees felt that **enhanced coordination and collaboration between service providers** would increase victim safety and reduce barriers to accessing culturally appropriate services.

Grantees noted the need to **improve offender accountability** in order to encourage victims to come forward. They attributed the lack of accountability to:

- Insufficient law enforcement presence on tribal lands;
- Low rates of prosecution;
- A lack of treatment programs for offenders; and
- Jurisdictional issues between tribal, state, and local government.

Several grantees emphasized the need for **an improved law enforcement response**. Both a shortage of law enforcement officers and slow response times jeopardize victim safety and their willingness to report abuse.

Finally, grantees pointed to a number of **unmet needs in victim service delivery**, particularly:

- Long-term affordable housing and emergency shelter;
- Delivery of culturally appropriate services;
- Transportation;
- Child care; and
- Mental health and substance abuse services.

OK • Grantee Perspective



Training for members of the judiciary and prosecutors remains a real and significant need in Oklahoma Indian Country. Often times the women we serve in Oklahoma Indian Country go through state court systems for protective orders, child custody, and divorces due to our complex jurisdiction. These systems often revictimize the victims and have procedures that jeopardize the safety of domestic violence survivors. In some counties in Oklahoma, if a victim refuses to testify against her perpetrator at their criminal hearing, the victim is told by the prosecutor that he will make a referral to have her children removed.

NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE, OKLAHOMA

CA • Grantee Perspective



Mental health and substance abuse are an ongoing concern for victims seeking our services. There needs to be better intersections of services for victims suffering from multiple afflictions. Advocacy, counseling, and case management do not work when there are underlying mental health and substance abuse issues. Many victims are unable to move forward with self-sufficiency without mental health or substance abuse treatment. Unfortunately, if we are unable to find treatment for them within a week of program entry we often find that victims do not follow up with their case managers, advocates, and counselors. We often lose these clients for long-term care.

STRONG HEARTED NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION, CALIFORNIA

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

The goals and objectives of the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) are to decrease the number of violent crimes (sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking) against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and girls, assist Indian tribes in using their sovereign authority to respond to those crimes, and ensure that people who commit violent crimes against AI/AN women are held responsible for their actions through a strong coordinated community response.

232 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 232 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program.

6,624 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 6,624 victims and 3,209 children during each 6-month reporting period.

1,004 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 1,004 cases, and referred 752 cases to prosecutors.

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Develop and enhance culturally competent governmental strategies to reduce violent crimes against and increase the safety of Indian women;
- Increase tribal capacity to respond to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Strengthen tribal justice interventions, including tribal law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities;
- Enhance services to Indian women victimized by domestic/sexual violence;
- Develop a community response regarding education and prevention;
- Protect the safety of victims and their children by providing supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange;
- Provide transitional housing, support services, and financial assistance to victims;
- Provide legal assistance to victims seeking justice;
- Address the needs of youth victims, including providing support to their non-abusing parent or caretaker; and
- Develop and promote legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence against Indian women.

A nationally representative study found that AI/AN women were 1.2 times more likely to experience domestic violence than non-Hispanic white women (Rosay, 2016).





The 2018 American Community Survey found that 23.7% of AI/AN people live in poverty, the highest rate of any racial group, making this population particularly vulnerable to domestic violence (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Wyandotte Nation is extremely grateful for the Tribal Governments funding. This funding has allowed for the Nation to employ a full-time Advocate to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. This is the first time there has been an Advocate available within the rural community of Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Since the hire date of the full-time Advocate, the number of clients for the program has doubled and the time devoted to each one has made a significant impact on that client's life. The Advocate has provided accompaniment to the emergency room for several victims, assisted with obtaining protective orders, accompanied clients to court proceedings, transported clients to treatment facilities, assisted with obtaining safe and suitable housing for victims and their families, as well as numerous other shelter and supportive services. Without this funding, the Nation would not have been able to assist victims within the community. Funding has also allowed the Nation to provide education and awareness to the local community and the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation across the country. Through these efforts the Nation desires to not only make the public aware of the epidemic problem in Indian Country, but also to provide the community with a network of resources to assist victims in their time of need.

WYANDOTTE NATION

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **232** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - Enhance services to Indian women victimized by domestic violence/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
 - Increase tribal capacity to respond to crimes against Indian women; and
 - Develop education and prevention strategies directed towards issues of domestic violence/dating violence and stalking programs, and to address the needs of children exposed to domestic violence.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, supervised visitation, law enforcement, prosecution, probation, court services, and batterer intervention programs, among other services, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **226** (97%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **337** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates, administrators, and program coordinators.

Table 1 | Staff supported with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	337	
Victim advocates	132	39%
Administrators	44	13%
Program coordinators	43	13%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

Grantees train a wide range of professionals, from tribal elders and spiritual leaders to health professionals and victim advocates, among others, how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence.

This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.

- **137** (59%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **962** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **17,057** people.
- Most often these trainings reached tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**15%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**12%**), and victim advocates (**10%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide information and outreach to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. Outreach activities can include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, bake sales, and parades. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**ⁱ

- **182** (78%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **232,981** people.
- Grantees conducted a total of **6,276** outreach activities.

Table 2 People educated with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups	
People educated	2-year total
Total people educated	232,981
Community members	144,969 62%
Students	43,276 19%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Our Tribal Governments Program funding allowed the Tribe to develop and staff a victims' advocacy program. The program has been able to adapt to changes in staff, leadership, office locations, and community partnerships. The Tribe has been able to continue expanding program delivery and services to meet the needs of American Indian/Alaska Native victims and survivors, who are at-risk of violence at disproportional rates. Tribal Governments Program funding has allowed the Tribe to offer advocacy, outreach, community education and training, as well as to forge beneficial partnerships to enhance services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS OF OREGON

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



The funding has allowed the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Violence Prevention Program the opportunity to be a part of empowering victims of domestic/sexual violence. The funding has also enabled the Nation to serve victims through linkages with community social services. All of these services are essential and play an important role in empowering victims to know that survival is achievable, and that they do not have to feel that their only choice is returning to the abuser. Funding enables the program to continue providing education and awareness training to the community, and the surrounding social service entities to bring about a more culturally-relevant means of serving victims. Additionally, it has allowed the program to continue collaboration with other tribal and non-tribal violence prevention programs, social services programs, court systems and law enforcement agencies in the development of a more comprehensive, enhanced, and culturally-relevant awareness campaign to stop violence against women.

SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

ⁱCommunity education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables an individual to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



In order to address epidemic rates of violence in Indian Country, culturally appropriate interventions must take into account historical harms committed against native people and draw on the strengths of native families and communities to inform processes of healing and justice and prevent further victimization. (Burnette, 2017; Burnette & Sanders, 2017; Deer, 2017; Matamonasa-Bennett, 2014; Petillo, 2013; Riley, 2017; Sabri et al., 2019; Yuan et al., 2015).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding fulfills a vital need for many victims living in a rural area - transportation. Public transportation is almost non-existent. For rural areas, the hours can be extremely limited and do not meet the needs of the clients we serve. Tribal Governments funding allows the program to hire a full-time transportation aide to ensure program participants can access resources, emergency shelter, medical assistance, and counseling. This grant also provides expansion of sexual assault services to Native victims via the sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. Grant funding assists with SANE supplies and training for those providing the exams. At this time, The Chickasaw Nation Medical Center currently has five fully trained SANE nurses, and SANE services at the tribal hospital have been in full operation since October 2012. Prior to this program, SANE exams were only offered at the local community hospital. If a SANE was not available, victims were given the choice to travel 40 miles or more to receive an exam, and often would decide not to follow through. This grant has allowed the Chickasaw Nation Violence Prevention to be instrumental in implementing and maintaining the SANE program at our tribal hospital, ensuring SANE exams are available 24-hours a day for our Native women, and the services provided are victim-centered and culturally appropriate.

CHICKASAW NATION



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

If we did not receive OVV funding, we would not be able to provide full services to victims in the form of advocacy, transportation, shelter, assistance with food while in shelter, transitional housing, or legal assistance. We would not be able to fund three full-time advocates, legal services, or a counselor without OVV funding. This program would not exist.

AROSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims and their children, including safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **199** (86%) grantees used funds for victim services.

Grantees provide victims with a wide range of services, including victim advocacy, civil legal advocacy, and crisis intervention. Victims also need assistance with material goods and services, as well as health, education, financial, transportation, employment, and legal issues. In addition, grantees provide a variety of services to victims’ children including, but not limited to, child care, transportation, and counseling.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **6,624** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.
- Grantees also provided a total of **43,872** services to an average of **3,209** children of victims during the 2-year reporting period.

Across the 2-year period, grantees most frequently provided the following services:ⁱⁱ

- Victim advocacy services **100,326** times;
- Support group/counseling services **33,786** times;
- Transportation services **23,916** times; and
- Crisis intervention **21,758** times.

On average , during each 6-month reporting period, Tribal Governments Program grantees provided services to **6,624 INDIVIDUALS.**

Services include:

<div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>4,007 individuals received VICTIM ADVOCACY</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>3,238 individuals received CRISIS INTERVENTION</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 10px;"> </div> <div> <p>28,729 VICTIM-WITNESS NOTIFICATION/ VICTIM OUTREACH SERVICES</p> </div> </div>
<div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>2,112 individuals received SUPPORT GROUPS/ COUNSELING</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>1,605 individuals received TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 10px;"> </div> <div> <p>76,050 HOTLINE CALLS</p> </div> </div>

ⁱⁱThe Rural Program, Tribal Governments Program, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program are unique in that grantees are asked to report the number of times each type of service is provided. This allows for the reporting of an unduplicated count of number of services, despite the duplicated count of number of victims served.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (90%).

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by Tribal Governments Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)

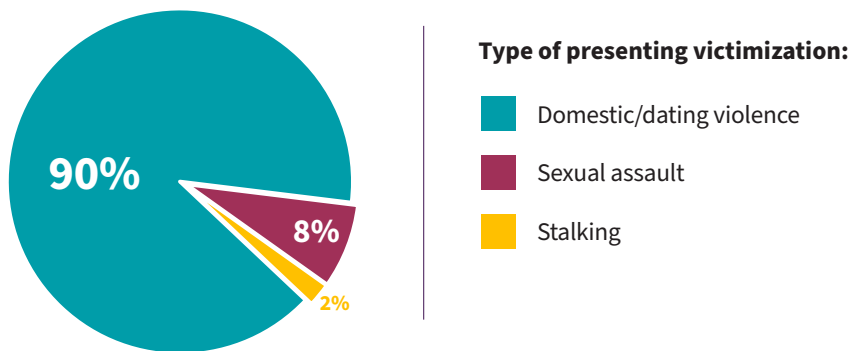


Table 3

Victims seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	6,790	
Victims served	6,193	91%
Victims partially served	432	6%
Victims not served	166	2%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Before receiving the Tribal Governments Program funding we could only provide minimum services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. Victims had few options when seeking services: seek services over 70 miles away or not report at all. Since we have implemented programs such as transitional housing services and emergency services, we have been able to provide victims with options when leaving an abusive relationship. We have been able to offer emergency placement when a victim and her/his children need to leave immediately and have nowhere to go. From there we can offer short-term housing assistance to aid them with security deposits and monthly rent to acquire a home or apartment. During their participation in the transitional housing program, victims receive well-rounded services that support them and their families. Victims receive access to resources and participate in goal setting to identify needs which helps lead them to self-sufficiency. These goals and resources include, but are not limited to, transportation assistance, employment seeking, counseling, and financial wellness training. This program was appreciated by victims and their families who otherwise would have had nowhere else to seek services.

FALLON PAIUTE-SHOSHONE TRIBE

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



This funding has been what has kept the program functioning. It has been the source of safety, healing, and comfort for clients and their children. This funding has provided advocates to serve those clients needing assistance getting out of an abusive relationship. This funding provides counseling to many, including the children who witness the violence in their homes, so the impact on their lives will be great. This funding provides accountability to those that perpetrate violence towards women. Without this funding, there would not be a program. The funding provides so much for victims.

COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE



Far fewer AI/AN women (35%) and men (33%) have experienced violence at the hands of another AI/AN person at least once in their lifetimes than those who have experienced violence committed by someone of another race, at least once in their lifetimes (97% and 90%, respectively (Rosay, 2016).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has continued to allow the Kalispel Tribe Victim Assistance Services program to provide assistance to victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking with vital services such as advocacy (including mobile advocacy), civil and criminal legal advocacy, medical advocacy, cultural advocacy, counseling, support groups, crisis intervention, as well as financial assistance. Financial assistance is a substantial part of victims having the opportunity to leave their abusive situation, move forward and acquire suitable and affordable housing for themselves and their children. Financial assistance may consist of rental and deposit assistance, utility assistance, gas and food vouchers, toiletries and emergency clothing. We continue to collaborate with neighboring agencies within the Tribe and community for referral services, safety options and work towards building robust trusting relations with community members. We continue to offer a safe and confidential place for victims to seek services, which has allowed us to reach more victims coming forward seeking assistance.

KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Before receiving this funding, there was no local domestic violence program available to victims in our area. Since receiving the funding, a full program with a wide scope of services has been created. A 24/7 crisis hotline has been established, emergency assistance and counseling services have been made available upon request, transportation is available to clients, and a transitional housing policy has been created with the funding we have received. The safety of our clients is the number one focus, therefore collaboration with the local police departments in our service area has been key.

IOWA TRIBE OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (76%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (12%) or in the context of a **dating relationship** (8%).

Figure 2 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

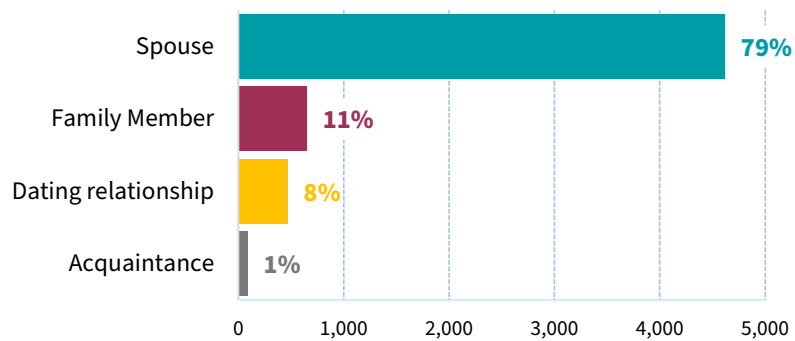


Figure 3 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

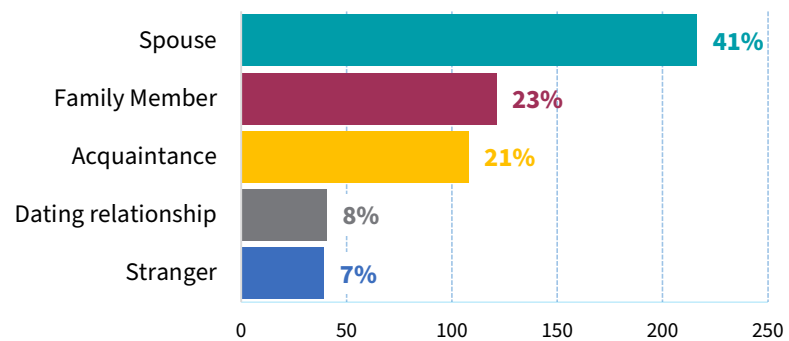
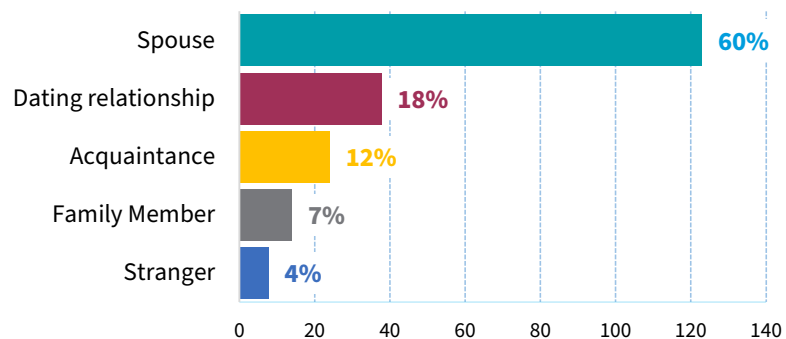


Figure 4 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting;
- Program rules not acceptable to victim;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Program reached capacity; or
- Conflict of interest.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **6,624** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (84%), **female** (93%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (76%).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to be more mobile within our communities which allows victims more access and allows us to attend weekly and monthly meetings with local service providers that do not interrupt services for victims. We have victims asking the abuser to go to the Men's Groups because they want the abuse to stop and may not want the marriage to end. Without this funding, we are not able to focus on the entire family. Our Gii-wi-taa Ododewisiwin (circle of family) allows victims, community members, and staff to participate in cultural teachings in a safe atmosphere of learning that promotes personal empowerment. This funding allows the Advocate to work closely with an abused victim in order to access court advocacy, make resources available, assist in relocating, and educate on abuse and the effects abuse has on the children, all while the Cultural Mentors work closely with the adult men and young men to learn about domestic violence, and what they can do to counteract it. They learn new avenues in helping themselves, define their own purpose as warriors, and provide for themselves in a healthy manner. Thank you for this funding, as it has allowed us to implement services through enhancing the message that abuse and violence is not a way of life. We have made progress, and receive positive feedback from the people we help as well as the community at large, including our governing body, the Tribal Council.

RED LAKE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Governments Program has allowed us to serve many women and children who were fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault. Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter is centrally located on the Choctaw reservation, where the clients are able to stay close to their jobs, their families, their children's schools, and the tribal court system. They are able to come to a safe and secure place without having to pay fees to stay, and are provided with basic needs such as shelter, food, and clothing. Shelter staff enable clients to set and attain goals and guide clients with school registration, healthcare, obtaining necessary documents, job resources, and transportation.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Figure 5 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

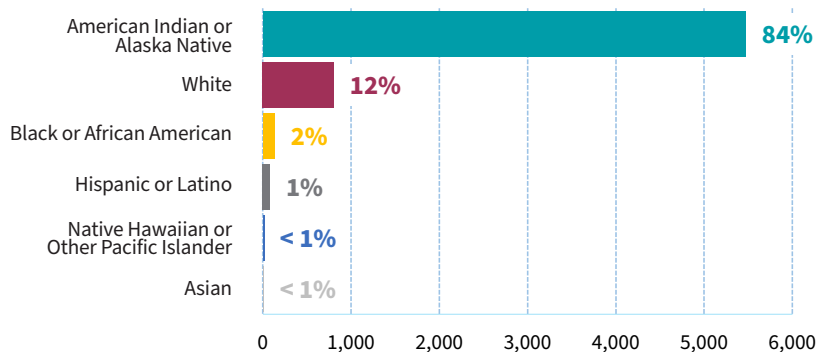
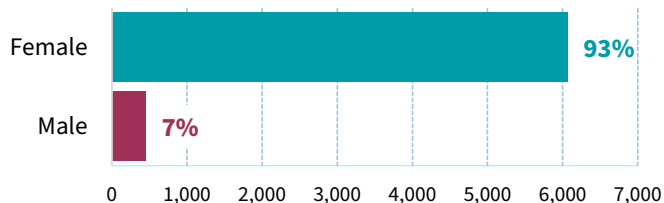


Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)





Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Without this funding, we can continue to advise women that they need to leave abusive situations, but would be unable to help them find a place to go. This money has been amazing and gives us the ability to help women find safe and affordable housing, go back to school, find a new job, and make a new start for themselves and their children. If not for this funding, our community as a whole would suffer. There are very limited resources in our Reservation area available to victims of DV, SA, and stalking. With only four shelters within a one-hour drive of our headquarters, most of them almost always full, the funds that we receive often help transition women who qualify for our program out of these shelters and into safe homes of their own. We help them become self-sufficient and independent. We provide for basic needs such as groceries, utility deposits, rent, and transportation. The money that we receive has given many women a new lease on life. The shelters are so grateful for the assistance that we provide the clients as it enables them to, in turn, provide services to more women. This funding provides advocacy to victims that, absent of this funding, could not be provided.

CHEROKEE NATION



A recent study of AI/AN housing conditions and policies in Indian Country, the largest of its kind to date, found that physical housing problems in tribal areas are generally more severe than they are for U.S. households on average. Twelve percent of AI/AN households reported experiencing heating deficiencies and 16% reported overcrowded conditions, as compared to a national average of 2% of households in both categories. These challenges, along with higher rates of disability and ill-health, poverty, prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse, and the legacies of colonialism in AI/AN communities compound the difficulty of becoming and remaining safe from domestic/sexual violence (Harley, 2018; Indian Health Services, 2017; Office of Minority Health, 2018; Pindus et al., 2017)

Figure 7 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

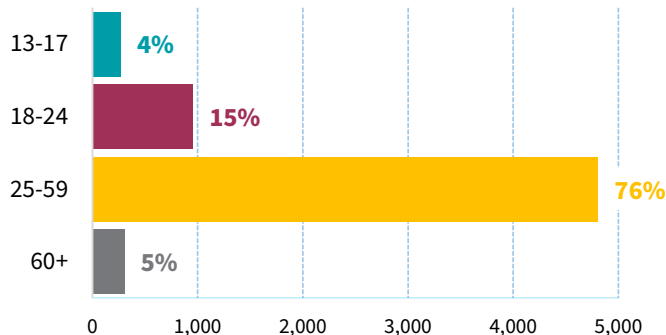
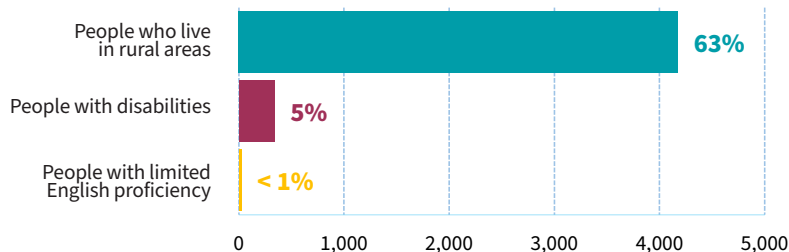


Figure 8 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



Shelter/Transitional Housing Assistance

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

- 139 (60%) grantees used funds for shelter/transitional housing services.

Table 4 | Victims sheltered with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	1,020	1,102	156,555
Transitional housing	236	422	154,440
Total	1,256	1,524	310,995

Legal Services

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims.

- **72** (31%) grantees used funds for legal services.
- Grantees addressed an average of **807** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided legal services to an average of **496** victims every 6 months.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **209** victims every 6 months (42% of those receiving legal services).
- Grantees achieved a total of **3,433** case outcomes.
- Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and custody/visitation arrangements.

Supervised Visitation

Grantees provide an array of supervised visitation and/or exchange services to families. These services include, but are not limited to, one-on-one supervised visits, group supervised visits, supervised exchanges, and telephone monitoring.

- **14** (6%) grantees used funds for supervised visitation and/or exchange services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **49** families during each 6-month period.
- **96%** of families who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

Across the 2-year period, grantees provided the following services:

- A total of **215** one-to-one supervised visits to an average of **21** families; and
- A total of **510** supervised exchanges to an average of **14** families.

Families Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of families served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (99%).

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Through the funding of the Tribal Governments grant, the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) Advocate Case Manager and Family Law Attorney have successfully assisted victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. ANJC is able to provide legal assistance through court accompaniments, assistance in filing protective orders, divorce and custody complaints. We are also able to consult during our monthly Pro-Se clinics for divorce and custody. We are honored to hear their stories and we're able to coach and support participants in building new life skills. We offer assistance in safety planning, applying for stable housing, child care, applying for TANF, seeking employment, getting referrals to counseling, and providing referrals to other agencies that offer services that we do not offer, so that they are receiving wraparound care and support to become successful. ANJC connected with the District Attorney's office and opened the door for communication and referrals from their office. We were able to establish a relationship with the understanding that we can provide wraparound services to victims of crimes. Due to this new connection, we are accessing a larger percentage of Alaskan Native victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER, INC.

Many AI/AN victims live in isolated rural communities with limited or no access to cellular/landline phone services, transportation, or emergency care; and limited criminal justice, legal assistance, and safe housing resources. Getting to or receiving services can often be tremendously challenging. Frequently, incidents of domestic violence are underreported or undocumented because victims are not able to obtain assistance from police or medical professionals. Further, less than one-third of Native American land is within a 60-minute driving distance of healthcare centers that offer SART/SANE services (Juraska et al., 2014; Petillo, 2013).



Table 5 Families seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Families seeking services	6-month average	
Total families seeking services	51	
Families served	45	89%
Families partially served	4	7%
Families not served	2	4%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. "Not served" represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

Demographics of Families Served and Partially Served

The majority of custodial parents were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (86%), **female** (84%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (91%), with children between the ages of **0 and 6** (50%). Non-custodial parents were most likely to be **American Indian or Alaska Native** (86%), **male** (69%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (88%).



A recent study confirmed earlier research that showed that the participation of paraprofessional police, based in communities that may otherwise lack law enforcement presence, can enhance the criminal justice response to domestic and sexual violence in Alaska Native communities. This evidence further supports the fact that successful coordinated community responses to sexual and domestic violence must account for the challenges of a rural landscape and the unique cultural dynamics of each tribal community (Myrstol, 2018).

Criminal Justice

In addition to the disproportionate impact of violence on Native women, men, and children, there are unique legal and geographical barriers to responding to these crimes. Factors including the race of the victims and perpetrator, the legal status of the land on which the incident occurred, and the type of crime committed determine under whose jurisdiction a particular crime falls. Some crimes fall under federal jurisdiction, others under the tribe's, and the legal factors of some incidents are such that no agency has jurisdiction, meaning that victims can face escalated danger and their offenders will not be held accountable. VAWA 2013 included a provision that restores tribes' inherent authority to exercise jurisdiction over some crimes of domestic violence and violations of protection orders involving non-Native offenders. In addition to jurisdictional issues, many tribal communities are remote and isolated and some tribes have limited resources for responding to domestic/sexual violence. For instance, law enforcement response time in some parts of Alaska can take hours or even days.

The Tribal Governments Program supports the efforts of tribal governments to develop or enhance a coordinated community response that brings together law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. Some Tribal Governments grantees have used grant funds to support their effort to exercise jurisdiction under VAWA 2013, in accordance with all applicable laws.

Law Enforcement

Grantees use funds to support law enforcement response to domestic/sexual violence. Tribal law enforcement officers respond to emergency calls for assistance, interview key witnesses, and are often familiar with the people and circumstances involved in a given case, due to the small and isolated nature of some tribal communities. Every other agency, including prosecution, depends on them to supply critical information about a case. For this reason, it is common for tribal law enforcement officers to provide continuing assistance throughout the length of a case. Tribal law enforcement is a vital component of the peacekeeping and accountability process for the tribal nations they serve.

- 16 (7%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of 734 victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

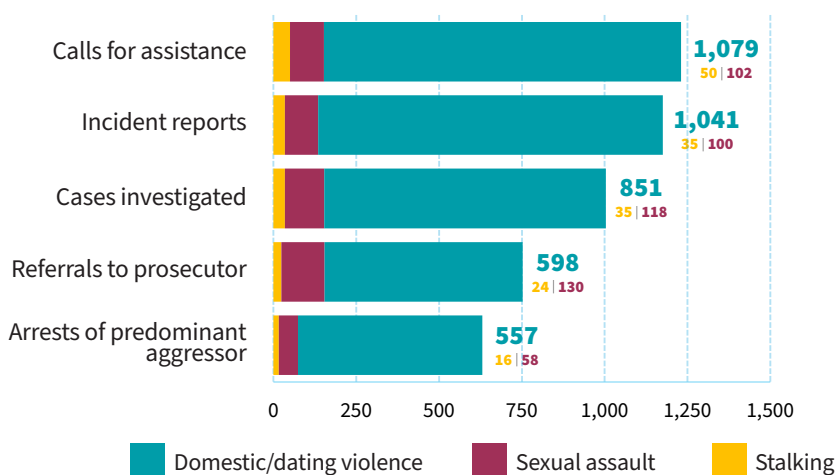
A proactive response and victim-centered approach influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.



VAWA 2013 requires all tribes, territories, and states to recognize and enforce protection orders from any other jurisdiction. Unfortunately, however, many states and counties have not consistently carried out the requirements of this statute, leaving Native victims vulnerable to continued abuse. This may be due to a misunderstanding about tribal jurisdiction, differences in documentation, and/or lack of alignment between data systems. A recent report generated by tribal and state leaders highlights promising strategies to overcome this challenge, which include: codifying solutions in law, enhancing collaborative state-tribal relationships, improving education and training, and continually assessing civil protection order procedures (Walter, & Freedman, 2019).

Figure 9

Law enforcement activities in Tribal Governments Program criminal cases, July 2017–June 2019



NOTE: Grantees report only on law enforcement activities that are funded under the Tribal Governments Program and they may receive funds for one or for a number of these activities. Therefore, no relationships can be inferred or comparisons made between activities reported here.

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



This funding has helped increase focus on investigation specific to intimate partner violence, sexual assault/rape, teen dating violence, elder abuse, and stalking. The Special Victims Criminal Investigator spends more time on these specific cases to aid in offender accountability and enhance safety of the victim(s), often through partnership with the Tribal community-based victim advocate(s). Of course, without this funding, we wouldn't be able to enhance accountability, nor move towards a more aware community with the batterers intervention program. This program started because our community requested a step towards maintaining our community in a healthy way, knowing offenders may remain or return. Victims may want them back in their life for whatever the reason, the offender's family may want them to stay nearby or within the community they grew up in, and more often than not, they will return to our community. This program allows for space, tools, and practice in changing, enhancing or morphing an offender's identity to, hopefully, one of honor and respect with every breath. Family Violence Services has an excellent, long-standing victims advocacy program and the batterer intervention program seemed fitting as a possible solution for our community. So far, it seems to be a positive step!

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION



In partnership with OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), OVW funds and manages a Violence Against Women

Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorney (Tribal SAUSA) Initiative that trains cross-deputized tribal prosecutors in federal law, procedure, and investigative techniques to enable them to bring every viable domestic or sexual violence case in tribal court, federal court, or both. These SAUSAs maintain an active caseload while also helping to promote higher quality investigations and better federal-tribal communication. Such strategies help ensure that sexual assault victims who report these crimes will be met with a strong, coordinated justice response and access to services to support their recovery.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has also enabled us to split a staggering prosecutorial case load up by providing an additional prosecutor, which has allowed us to prosecute more crimes and to focus more attention on each defendant. This in turn allows us to focus on tailoring penalties towards a successful outcome, reducing recidivism by treating the problem instead of just punishing someone. We look forward to utilizing the funds to design, develop, and collaborate with other tribal entities on community events that bring awareness to the subjects of domestic violence and sexual assault. The funds will allow us to increase our visibility within the community, which will benefit victims and hold the potential to create a trust that is needed for their safety as well as the community's.

MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding opportunity has allowed us to build a dedicated team of professionals who work together on a daily basis to achieve a common goal of protecting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and strangulation. This team consists of an investigator, a prosecutor, and a victim advocate. In addition, we have built a strong working relationship with our federal partner. The Investigator and the FBI agent have worked many cases in conjunction with one another and this has led to what we believe is an increase in reporting, especially with respect to sexual assault cases. The FBI is on the reservation every week working cases with the Investigator, sometimes multiple times a week.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COLVILLE

Prosecution

Tribal prosecutors play a significant role in securing safety and justice for Native victims of domestic/sexual violence. Approaches to prosecution vary by state and tribal nation. Tribal police and prosecutors need to be equipped with the tools, resources, and expertise to respond to domestic/sexual violence, make charging decisions, and issue sentences consistent with applicable statutes. **Grantees that use funds for prosecution activities may pursue prosecution by making referrals to appropriate external agencies and/or by prosecuting case referrals they received.**

- **8** (3%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecutors received a total of **839** case referrals pertaining to domestic/sexual violence, and accepted a total of **902**ⁱⁱⁱ cases for prosecution across the 2-year period.
- Prosecution staff made a total of **658** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

Table 6 Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
All cases	839	902	108%
Domestic/dating violence	797	866	109%
Sexual assault	29	26	90%
Stalking	13	10	77%

Table 7 Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2017–June 2019

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	863	791	92%
Domestic/dating violence	630	564	90%
Sexual assault	18	18	100%
Stalking	1	1	100%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period. Consequently, agencies may report more cases accepted than referred in any given reporting period.

Courts

There is wide variety in the types of tribal court systems, and the laws are unique to each tribal nation. Some tribal courts are modeled similarly to Western-style courts, where written laws and rules of court are applied. Other tribes adhere to more traditional means of resolving disputes, including the use of peacemaking, elders’ councils, sentencing circles, and banishment. Many tribes that are implementing new tribal courts, or enhancing established ones, are developing hybrid or blended systems that incorporate both traditional dispute resolution practices and Western judicial procedures.

- **4** (2%) grantees used funds for court activities.
- A total of **50** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.
- Court staff made a total of **55** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.



Until the passage of VAWA 2013, tribal courts could not exercise jurisdiction over certain crimes committed by non-Indian domestic violence offenders on tribal land (Tribal Jurisdiction Over Crimes of Domestic Violence, 2013). The restriction resulted from the United States Supreme Court’s 1978 decision in Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe. VAWA 2013 recognized tribes’ inherent power to exercise “special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction” (SDVCJ) over both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners, or who violate certain protection orders, in Indian Country. The Act also specifies the defendants’ rights which a tribe must honor in SDVCJ cases (Singh, 2014; Tribal Jurisdiction Over Crimes of Domestic Violence, 2013; U.S. Department of Justice, 2018).

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	180	120	67%
Domestic/dating violence	73	44	60%
Sexual assault	2	2	100%
Stalking	1	1	100%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed us to help Native women break the cycle of violence. Without it, Native women would not have a place to go. Our funding has allowed us to have an office located on the reservation where clients can come for culturally competent assistance. Residents know where we are located and can come to us for information or help in an emergency. We are located near the tribal police and tribal court where clients can also receive support and help.

BISHOP INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Tribal Probation/Offender Monitoring

Offender monitoring occurs when the court schedules probation or court reviews to determine whether offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- **4** (2%) grantees used funds for review activities.
- An average of **560** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.

Across the 2-year period, these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:

- A total of **2,575** face-to-face contacts with an average of **115** offenders;
- A total of **2,002** telephone contacts with an average of **67** offenders; and
- A total of **12** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **3** offenders.

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Funding enables us to provide probation services (a service many of the pueblos cannot afford to have) to the Eight Northern Pueblos for offenders of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking. Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC), Inc. PeaceKeepers Probation Officer works closely with the courts. The Probation officer travels the long distance to the rural courts and police departments to let them know that ENIPC, Inc. PeaceKeepers is available to help as needed. The probation officer also meets with clients in their respective pueblos since many do not have a way to come to the PeaceKeepers office. Not having the offenders come into the office to meet with the probation officer creates a safe environment for victims. ENIPC, Inc. PeaceKeepers is actively working to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault in the Eight Northern Communities, and engaging the communities to do so as well.

EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Our community is in desperate need of a safe home/shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Our village is one of the most populated along the Yukon River, most homes are occupied by multiple families because there is no available housing. With overcrowded homes, not many people are willing to open their doors to victims in need. These living situations can be very stressful and result in abusive behavior where the victims and children who suffer have nowhere else to go, even if only for a night or two. An emergency intake shelter would greatly benefit our community. If a shelter is funded, we may also be better able to hold the abusers accountable by referring them to our Tribal Courts, as opposed to victims not having a safe place to go and continuing to live in the cycle of abuse with no action taken to address and correct the pattern of abuse.

ASA'CARSMIUT TRIBAL COUNCIL



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

One of the most significant areas of remaining need with regard to improving services to victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking is funding for counseling services and substance abuse assessments. Specialized and accessible counseling services are a vital part of healing and working on future prevention and the long-term success of clients. Survivors often suffer the effects of long-term trauma and may take a year or longer to begin to reveal the nature and effects of the abuse on themselves and their children. Accessible and consistent trauma-informed counseling services would provide a dual purpose, and be utilized for substance abuse assessments as well. This would also allow for continuity of care and coordination of services which would provide support and direction to the DV/SA Advocate. During this reporting period, access to counseling and substance abuse treatment has been a challenge. Obstacles include long waitlists and short staffing. Many of the clients who do receive services are only able to receive crisis intervention counseling which is designed to stabilize but does not help survivors work through their trauma. Survivors experience the same challenges with substance abuse treatment services and assessments. Access to care for substance abuse assessments as well as detox and inpatient treatment are limited in our community. Often, the vital piece in receiving services is the substance abuse assessment, which often takes months of waiting. The lack of access to these services contributes to survivors continuing in their cycles of abuse and hinders and lengthens the healing process.

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE IRA

Table 9

Probation activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program, July 2017-June 2019

Activity	
Average number of offenders (6-month average)	560
Total number of offenders who completed probation	67
Offenders completing probation without violation	52
Offenders completing probation with violation	15

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **housing**, including **emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term affordable housing**, as their biggest unmet need. While shelter services were sometimes available in nearby areas, grantees reported that victims were often reluctant to use these resources, preferring to remain within their own communities.

Additionally, grantees reported that victims struggled to achieve independence due to their **inability to access necessities**, such as:

- Transportation;
- Employment and job training;
- Financial assistance; and
- Child care.

Grantees also frequently reported the need to provide **culturally informed and linguistically appropriate domestic violence and sexual assault services**.

Grantees noted that **co-occurring issues, such as substance abuse, mental illness, and long histories of trauma** complicated efforts to help victims achieve self-sufficiency.

Many grantees emphasized the necessity of **providing community education and outreach** in order to:

- Advance knowledge of available services;
- Promote supportive and understanding attitudes towards victims and combat victim-blaming responses; and
- Teach community members about the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence while providing models for healthy relationships.

Grantees reported the need for measures to **enhance offender accountability**, including:

- Specialized training for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement on the dynamics of domestic violence;
- Funding for dedicated domestic violence investigators, prosecutors, and courts;
- Longer sentencing for repeat offenders;
- Updating tribal codes regarding domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Developing culturally appropriate batterer intervention programs; and
- Improved victim access to legal assistance.

Grantees also reported that **jurisdictional issues between Tribal governments, cities, states, and counties** further complicated community efforts to hold offenders accountable.

Despite efforts to encourage victims to report abuse and receive needed services, grantees reported that **domestic violence and sexual assault victims were often hesitant to come forward**. They attributed this to:

- A lack of anonymity in small rural communities and on tribal land;
- Deeply embedded beliefs and family structures that make it difficult for victims to leave their abusers;
- A lack of law enforcement presence on tribal lands;
- The need to maintain financial stability and housing;
- Little knowledge of available services; and
- Beliefs that offenders would not be held accountable for their actions.

Grantees also noted a need to **enhance collaboration and coordination between service providers** in response to domestic violence and sexual assault, especially between Tribal, state, and local law enforcement, and courts.

Finally, grantees expressed a need to ensure the sustainability of programs and services by addressing **staff shortages and high turnover rates** in grantee organizations, especially in rural and geographically isolated communities.

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



One of the greatest needs to increase victim safety and offender accountability in Oklahoma are laws that require mandatory training, and oversight to ensure training in domestic and sexual violence for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and Department of Human Services workers who impact survivors' lives by the decisions they make through their role in the civil/criminal justice systems. The on-going revictimization and victim blaming that takes place through the civil and criminal legal process continues to be a huge barrier to survivors seeking help and lives free from abuse. In the majority of our counties, victims are blamed for cases of domestic violence not being prosecuted against an abuser because they are "uncooperative." In this case, "uncooperative" means they can't be reached for follow-up photos or follow-up interviews or are unwilling to testify in the criminal case. Sadly, few if any of our counties are utilizing evidence-based prosecution to hold offenders accountable for their actions; rather they rely solely on the testimony of the victim. A lack of understanding of power and control and an abuser's use of the civil/criminal process to continue control over the victim continues to put the victim at great risk for revictimization should she choose to participate in the civil/criminal case.

MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

NE • Grantee Perspective



A significant need exists for increased understanding of Native American culture and the unique viewpoints and structures of each Tribe. If more people have knowledge about Native culture and tribal communities, the dynamics and effects of domestic violence, and the services available to survivors, more people will respond appropriately to violence, more survivors will feel comfortable seeking assistance, and perhaps violence will be prevented.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA

Tribal Jurisdiction Program

Throughout their lifetimes, nearly 1 in 2 American Indian and Alaska Native women will suffer physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking by an intimate partner (Rosay 2016). However, until the passage of VAWA 2013, tribal courts could not exercise jurisdiction over crimes committed by non-Indian domestic violence abusers against their Indian spouses, intimate partners, and dating partners on tribal land. The historic provision within VAWA 2013 formally recognized the inherent power of participating tribes to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ) over both Indians and non-Indians who commit crimes of domestic violence or dating violence, or violate certain protection orders in Indian Country. Accordingly, VAWA 2013 authorized the Tribal Jurisdiction Program,ⁱ which first received appropriations in FY 2016, and is designed to assist Indian tribes that have jurisdiction over Indian Country in exercising SDVCJ.

THROUGH THIS GRANT PROGRAM, INDIAN TRIBES RECEIVE SUPPORT and technical assistance for planning, developing, and implementing changes in their criminal justice systems necessary to exercise SDVCJ. The Tribal Jurisdiction Program encourages the coordinated involvement of the entire tribal criminal justice system and victim service providers to incorporate systemic change that ensures victim safety and offender accountability.

17 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 17 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Jurisdiction Program.

AI/AN women are nearly 1.3 times more likely in their lifetime to experience physical and or sexual violence, or stalking by an intimate partner than non-Hispanic white women (Smith et al., 2017).



Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Strengthen the tribal criminal justice systems to assist the tribes in exercising SDVCJ;
- Provide indigent criminal defendants with defense counsel;
- Ensure that jurors are summoned, selected, and instructed in a manner consistent with applicable requirements; and
- Ensure that victims' rights are similar to the rights of crime victims in other jurisdictions and consistent with tribal culture.

ⁱ Competitive awards were made for the first time in 2016, and tribes' efforts to prepare to implement SDVCJ started prior to their receipt of Tribal Jurisdiction grants. Thus, while there are limited data from the periods covered in this report, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)'s five-year report on SDVCJ implementation provides detailed information about nationwide implementation of SDVCJ, including what Tribal Jurisdiction grantees accomplished prior to and following their receipt of Tribal Jurisdiction awards (National Congress of American Indians, 2018).



In order to successfully exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction, tribes need to engage tribal leaders, tribal judges, tribal prosecutors, tribal defenders, tribal attorneys, law enforcement, and victim service providers, and tribes must include resolution from their governing body demonstrating this cooperation in their grant applications.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

We have been able to provide training to many staff who would not have otherwise had the opportunity to advance their knowledge of domestic violence dynamics, special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction, or about crimes against women in Indian Country. Within the past few months we have been able to train judges and staff from our Tribal Court, an attorney from our legal department, a caseworker from our Family Services program, and staff from our batterer's intervention program partner organization. Not only do these trainings improve the quality of our response, but it also enhances our ability to coordinate and work together when we are able to understand the issues that we must jointly manage at each stage of the justice and recovery process.

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS



In 2013, the Department of Justice established an Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) to support SDVCJ implementation. The ITWG is a peer-to-peer learning forum addressing issues such as revising tribal codes, assembling more representative jury pools, detaining non-Indian offenders, and ensuring a victim-centered approach. As of June 2019, over 50 tribes participate in the ITWG and 25 tribes are exercising SDVCJ. These tribal nations have reported 237 arrests of non-Indian abusers which led to 95 convictions.

No habeas petitions have been filed by non-Indian defendants in federal court challenging their arrest or prosecution. (National Congress of American Indians, 2018 & 2020b; Office on Violence Against Women, 2019).

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **17** grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 reporting periods.

- Of the four purpose areas addressed by the Tribal Jurisdiction Program, grantees most frequently addressed strengthening the tribal criminal justice system to assist tribes in exercising SDVCJ.
- All grantees must participate in the Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG), a group of tribal representatives who exchange views, information, and best practices regarding the implementation of SDVCJ.

Staff

- **9** grantees (53%) used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **7** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most frequently used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and administrators.

Table 1 Staff supported with Tribal Jurisdiction grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups	
Staff funded	6-month average
Total FTE staff funded	7
Program coordinators	2 29%
Administrators	1 14%
Victim advocates	1 14%
Victim witness specialists	1 14%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

- **12** grantees (71%) used funds to provide or attend training.
- A total of **460** people were trained.

Table 2 People trained with Tribal Jurisdiction grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups	
People trained	2-year total
Total people trained	460
Law enforcement officers	121 26%
Court personnel	51 11%
Tribal government/agency staff	46 10%
Prosecutors	46 10%
Multidisciplinary	28 6%
Victim advocates	21 5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



The grant has provided a platform to revise the tribal domestic violence code. A very important aspect has been the opportunity to meet with the other tribes who are in the planning process, or who may have already implemented the domestic violence jurisdiction. Their experience and insight has been very beneficial to the development of the code-drafting process and planning for implementation. The support of the DOJ and National Congress of American Indians staff has also been very helpful.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS RESERVATION

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims and their children, including safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **3** (18%) grantees used funds for victim services.

Grantees provide victims with a wide range of services, including victim advocacy, civil legal advocacy, and crisis intervention. In addition, grantees provide services to victims’ children including, but not limited to, child care, transportation, and counseling.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **44** victims during each 6-month period.
- **100%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.
- Grantees also provided a total of **19** services to an average of **5** children of victims during the 2-year reporting period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment services to **27** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment services to **25** victims; and
- Victim advocacy services to **24** victims.

Across the 2-year period, grantees most frequently provided the following services:ⁱⁱ

- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment services **111** times;
- Victim advocacy services **101** times; and
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment services **99** times.

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Under the Tribal Jurisdictions Program, we are able to sustain and continue upon the founding of the Domestic Violence Court Docket. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians feels they are ready to implement SDVCJ with our current policies and procedures. Having this funding has allowed us to attend several trainings including the New Grantee Orientation, the 10th Inter-Tribal Working Group meeting, and the Women Are Sacred Conference. In addition, the Coordinator was able to visit another Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (SDVCJ) implementing tribe to observe their domestic violence court in action and further develop a relationship with that tribe. Overall, having this funding will allow us to finalize all policies and procedures surrounding SDVCJ, solidify services, develop a process for indigent defendants, maintain the DV docket, provide strengthened offender surveillance, and provide necessary ongoing DV training.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS

ⁱⁱ The Rural Program, Tribal Governments Program, and Tribal Jurisdiction Program are unique in that grantees are asked to report the number of times each type of service is provided. This allows for the reporting of an unduplicated count of number of services, despite the duplicated count of number of victims served.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve primary victims of domestic violence.

Table 3 | Victims seeking services with Tribal Jurisdictions grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	44	
Victims served	44	100%
Victims partially served	0	0%
Victims not served	0	0%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Jurisdiction Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Jurisdiction Program grant.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited the need to **create, revise, amend, and/or implement Tribal codes** as the biggest barrier to exercising SDVCJ. Grantees reported the need for:

- More time to complete the drafting of Tribal codes;
- Comprehensive training for program staff, law enforcement, and judges who work under the SDVCJ; and
- Ability to test the new codes, procedures, and protocols (such as jury selection), which have been adopted to implement SDVCJ, to assess if and where modifications are needed.

In addition, grantees reported the need to **increase offender accountability and offender monitoring**.

Grantees also noted a need to **enhance collaboration and coordination between local counties and state jurisdictions** to develop protocols for identification of cases and assumption of jurisdiction by Tribes.

Finally, grantees expressed a need to ensure that victims have **access to affordable emergency and long-term housing, and medical services including mental health and substance abuse treatment**.

Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (T-SASP) was created by VAWA 2005, and is the first federal funding stream dedicated solely to developing culturally relevant services that are specifically responsive to sexual assault victims within tribal communities. Because tribes reflect great diversity of history, geographic location, language, socioeconomic conditions, and retention of traditional spiritual and cultural practices, the T-SASP tribal grantees are strongly encouraged to incorporate cultural and traditional practices (e.g. talking circles, healing ceremonies, and sweat lodges) for those who have been sexually victimized.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF T-SASP IS TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND expand culturally specific intervention and related assistance for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) victims of sexual assault. Grantees are Indian tribes, tribal government organizations, and nonprofit tribal organizations. They provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g. accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, and police departments), support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault; non-offending family and household members of victims; and those collaterally affected by sexual assault.

38 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 38 unique grantees reported activities funded by the T-SASP Program.

565 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 565 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

288 Secondary Victims Served

On average, grantees served 288 secondary victims during each 6-month reporting period.

Many Native Americans do not live near a facility offering SANE or SART services. Research shows gaps in sexual assault services and coverage for more than two-thirds of Native American lands, and some communities have no coverage at all. Efforts are underway to improve interagency coordination and develop tribal-centric SARTs to address the particular needs of AI/AN victims of sexual violence. These efforts were facilitated by the SDVCJ provisions of VAWA 2013 (Deer, 2017; Juraska et al., 2014).





In order to build the base of knowledge regarding the experiences of Native women, including their experiences of sexual violence and help-seeking, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is conducting the National Baseline Study: A Study of Health, Wellness, and Safety of American Indian and Alaska Native Women Living in Tribal Communities. This study is intended to provide reliable data to inform policy reform as well as prevention and intervention methods that will better serve AI/AN people and communities. For more information on this important research see: <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-indian-women-national-baseline-study>.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Without our T-SASP funds our clients would not have access to mental health care following sexual assault; cultural healing through events, materials, and support groups; nor would they have the quality of care needed to walk them through their processes. Without a worker dedicated to addressing sexual assault in our community our program would have limited power to fully engage and respond to individuals' needs. Having someone to talk to, to ask for help, to utilize for assessing their needs in the systems they run into, is invaluable. Our TSASP coordinator is able to respond in a culturally specific manner meaning that they center their response on our connectedness to one another as tribal people.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS

VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose area to this program:

- Address the needs of youth victims, including providing support to their non-abusing parent or caretaker.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under the added purpose area could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **38** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

Staff

Grant-funded staff primarily establish, maintain, and expand coordinated community responses within their catchment areas, and provide victim services, including advocacy, crisis intervention, legal assistance, court and hospital accompaniment, and transportation. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **38** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **30** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates, administrators, and program coordinators.

Table 1 | Staff supported with T-SASP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	30	
Victim advocates	18	60%
Administrators	3	10%
Program coordinators	3	10%
Counselors	2	7%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Victim Services

Grantees address the specific cultural needs of AI/AN victims, and may provide crisis intervention; safety planning; services such as legal advocacy, medical, and counseling services from healthcare professionals; and accompaniment to forensic exams and to court. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **38** (100%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **565** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

On average, during each 6-month reporting period, T-SASP grantees provided services to **565 INDIVIDUALS.**

Services include:



2,996
**VICTIM-WITNESS
NOTIFICATION/VICTIM
OUTREACH SERVICES**



2,593
HOTLINE CALLS

Taboos on speaking about sexuality, fear of engaging non-Native criminal justice and social services systems, and hesitancy to name respected community members as abusers for fear of the consequences are all rooted in histories of colonization and impact the likelihood of disclosure and help-seeking by AI/AN victims of sexual violence. Limited jurisdiction also inhibits the provision of justice in cases of sexual assault and child abuse in Alaska Native communities and throughout Indian Country. Many AI/AN domestic/sexual violence advocacy organizations have developed practices that acknowledge these histories and address them using traditional ways of healing and building community, while also exploring alternative methods for holding offenders accountable (Braithwaite, 2018; Deer, 2017, 2018; Mending the Sacred Hoop, n.d.).

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



Prior to T-SASP funding, advocacy services for children impacted by sexual abuse were extremely limited or non-existent within our community. Often families had to endure the criminal process with little to no support. T-SASP funding has made it possible for families who have been impacted by sexual violence to receive child advocacy services. Our data shows that there has been a steady increase of child sexual assault victims who are requesting and benefiting from advocacy services offered through Family Violence Prevention Program. The Child Advocate provides complex services that would not be available without T-SASP funding. This funding provides our program with a fully dedicated Child Advocate who is able to work with the child and non-offending parent by providing a variety of advocacy and supportive services. The implementation of the T-SASP project has significantly increased support for child survivors and their families.

MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

Tribal • Grantee Perspective



The funding has allowed us to hire a full-time Sexual Assault Advocate. The position was able to provide 100% of her time to providing services to victims of sexual assault and those collaterally affected. Due to the historical violence our People have faced, it has become too common that our women and men have been sexually violated at young ages from people they should have been able to trust. The funding has allowed us to open the door to allow our People a chance at healing.

PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault.

Table 2 | Victims seeking services with T-SASP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	576	
Victims served	556	97%
Victims partially served	9	2%
Victims not served	10	2%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the T-SASP grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the T-SASP grant.



A recent NIJ study showed that more than one in seven (14.4%) American Indian and Alaska Native women had experienced sexual violence in the past year. AI/AN women are also much more likely than any other racial group to experience violence perpetrated by someone of a different race (Deer, 2018; Mending the Sacred Hoop, n.d.; Rosay, 2016).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving the T-SASP funding, the department did not provide services to children under 13, so if a parent was seeking services for their children due to a sexual assault, that family would need to be referred to services outside of the Tribal Behavioral Health. Now, children of all ages are able to access sexual assault treatment within the department. Additionally, therapy is provided in a modality that is non-threatening and is more aligned with a child's natural way of expressing and processing, which is play and creativity. Individuals who have experienced sexual trauma may be reluctant to begin mental health treatment because they report finding it too overwhelming to talk about what happened. By utilizing a non-verbal approach to treatment, child and adult clients are able to process the trauma effectively in a manner that is acceptable to them. There are clients currently seeking services for assaults that occurred over a decade ago, but they were never able to process and heal until they were offered a non-verbal approach to treatment. This funding has allowed individuals who would not otherwise engage in mental health services to actively participate and begin to heal.

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA
AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

T-SASP funding has provided us with more resources that are not only culturally specific, but survivor-centered. T-SASP funding has also been instrumental in supporting our traditional ways of healing, and for the first time, every Avellaka Program was able to offer a healing gathering for our women to whom we provided services for sexual assault. The results are positive; the healing and support still continue through the program and from the sisterhood developed through this healing gathering.

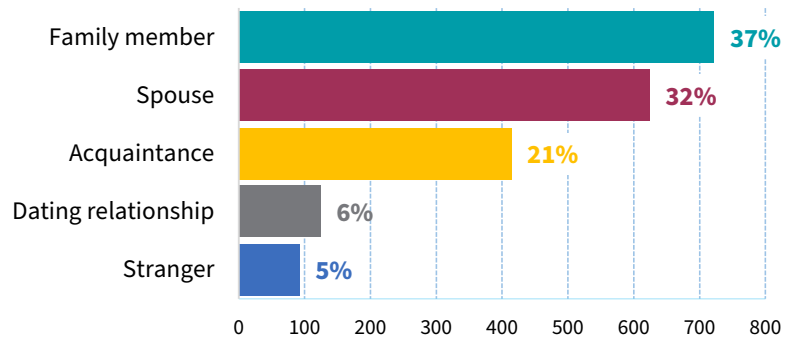
LA JOLLA BAND OF LUISENO INDIANS

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by a **family or other household member** (37%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (32%) or by an **acquaintance** (21%).

Figure 1 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Services were inappropriate or inadequate for victims with substance abuse issues;
- Program unable to provide services due to limited resources.
- Conflict of interest;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Hours of operation;
- Lack of child care; or
- Transportation.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **565** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **American Indian and Alaska Native** (86%), **female** (92%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (45%).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

As native people, families are taught to stick together and always support one another through good times and very hard times. Many of us have been raised in extended-family homes. Some households have 15 people from the same family under one roof, many include more than one generation living together. This is the native traditional way of living and has evolved for many reasons, but because of this extended family living, domestic abuse and sexual abuse are often not discussed out of shame, because it is a beloved family member, or because we have been taught that families stick together. Realizing that abuse is occurring in homes and families are refusing to break up, our program has developed a unique way of providing domestic violence and sexual assault education that includes the entire family. We have found that this approach to helping our families has worked very well in a community where extended family living is an important way of everyday life. By providing educational opportunities for multi-generational groups, we can hold perpetrators accountable and promote the safety of victims.

LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The T-SASP funding has allowed us to begin a Sexual Assault Services Program culturally specific to our Tribal population's need. As a result of our funding, the Director and our part-time advocate were able to attend the Women are Sacred Training Conference in Albuquerque. This gave us an opportunity to learn more regarding assisting Native American women who have been victimized by Sexual Assault/ Child Molestation, as well as giving us valuable information on Tribal Court Codes and historical trauma experienced by Native American Tribes. Due to the T-SASP funding, we have been able to provide a 24-hour hotline, an advocacy office, a sustainable Talking Circle Group, and a Cultural Healing event every quarter. We have been able to support victims through court advocacy, crisis intervention, forensic interviews, transportation, case management, referrals, and other needed support. Finally, we have been able to offer transitional housing, utility, and gas assistance.

PONCA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

Figure 2 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

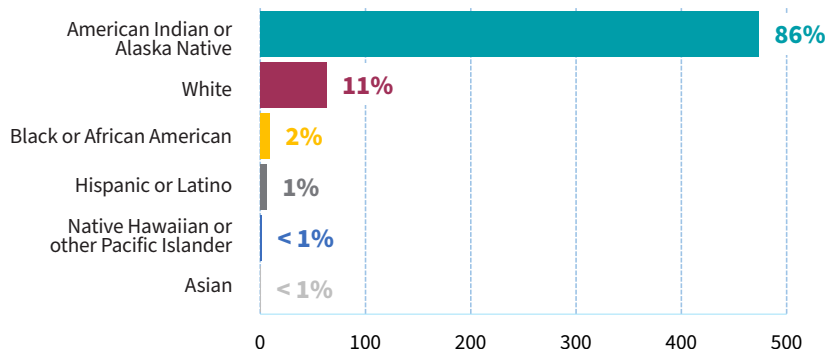


Figure 3 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

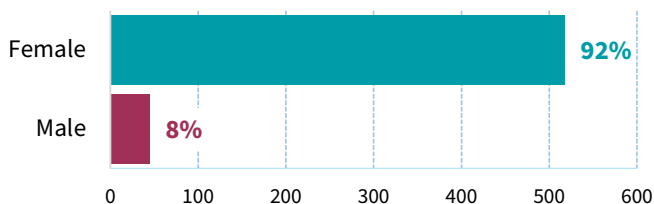


Figure 4 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

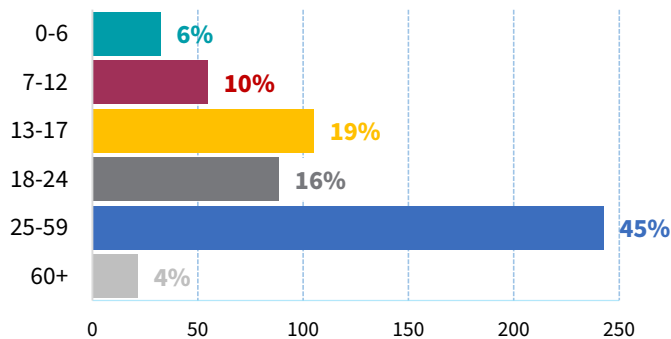
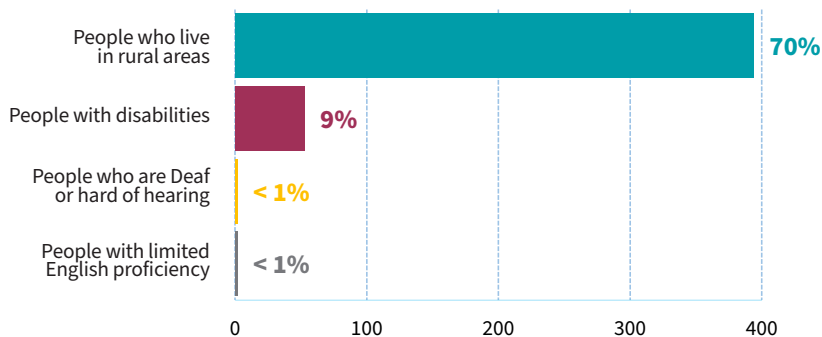


Figure 5 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)





Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Our society as a whole puts undue pressure upon victims of sex crimes to prove that they have been sexually assaulted. Victim blaming is too often a social norm, and an unflattering and unjust stigma generally follows victims of sex crimes. In order to combat the stigma, programs that advocate on behalf of victims must create and continue to seek strong collaborations within other social service programs, law enforcement, and court systems.

Each of these entities has a vital role in the wellbeing and safety of a victim. Too often we see the burden of proof being placed upon the victim rather than where all blame belongs, on the perpetrator. If that burden of proof is unmet or the victim presents themselves in a less than satisfactory way we see less stringent sentencing if any sentence at all. Strong collaborations that are cognizant of not only the perpetrator's rights and due justice, but also the victim's rights, are a necessity in every community, both tribal and non-tribal. Holding perpetrators accountable at every step of the process is imperative.

SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA



SD • Grantee Perspective

It is safe to say that sexual violence remains a grossly underreported victimization in our area and that it is nearly a taboo item to discuss with some people and in some communities. Although significant progress has been made to lessen any stigma, it still remains somewhat of a taboo subject that is best "swept under the rug" rather than being openly discussed and service being provided to victims/survivors. Continued outreach into the outlying communities will help to lessen the burden of the victimization and in turn result in more victims seeking the assistance that they need.

SACRED HEART CENTER, SOUTH DAKOTA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Our most significant area of need is lack of local resources like counseling, affordable housing, and public transportation. The counties we serve all have small communities that may have affordable housing, but lack basic things like grocery stores, let alone services needed to help aid healing. These victims often fall through the cracks. They do not seek services or have the ability to follow through as they do not have the transportation to get their needs met, like getting to the hospital to get a SANE exam or getting to the Courthouse for various court dates.

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by sexual assault, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **288** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited a **need for more community education and outreach** in order to:

- Combat stigma associated with sexual violence;
- Encourage reporting of sexual assault;
- Increase awareness of available sexual assault services;
- Teach youth and adults about consent, healthy relationships, and how to respond to incidents of sexual assault; and
- Strengthen efforts toward increasing offender accountability.

Many grantees also reported difficulty serving victims due to **fear and stigma surrounding the reporting of domestic violence and sexual assault in their communities.**

Grantees stressed the importance of **holding offenders accountable**, through:

- Updating tribal legal codes;
- Increased law enforcement presence on reservations;
- More arrests and prosecutions; and
- Stronger sentencing.

Grantees also cited a need for more **ongoing support for victims**, including:

- Mental health and substance abuse counseling;
- Emergency shelter and long-term housing;
- Transportation;
- SANE services; and
- Child care.

Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations

The Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations Program (Underserved Program) funds projects to develop and implement outreach strategies and enhanced services to adult and youth victims of domestic/sexual violence in underserved populations.

GRANTEES DO THIS BY BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF BOTH MAINSTREAM organizations and organizations specifically serving underserved populations to provide culturally appropriate and inclusive services, and increasing training and outreach activities of organizations providing services to underserved populations.

50 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 50 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Underserved Program.

1,839 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 1,839 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

46% Served LGBTI Victims

Nearly half (46%) of grantees served victims who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersex.

Survivors from underserved populations face challenges in accessing comprehensive and effective victim services that are accessible, culturally relevant, and responsive. The Underserved Program supports projects that address these gaps.

The term “underserved populations” means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013).





NY • Grantee Perspective

This grant allows us to continue offering specialized elder advocacy work in our community. We have been able to look at how advocacy for an older adult may have to differ from advocacy for a younger victim. This grant also continues to support our local Elder Justice Committee (CCR) and our Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT), which has been used to look at complex cases of elder abuse. The CCR provides an excellent opportunity to network with other service providers, learn more about the issue of abuse in later life, and build partnerships to improve system response to the issue. As a result of the E-MDT meetings, we always learn about additional options for the victims and can discuss ways in which community partners can work better together. We are excited to be reaching out to underserved older adults with this grant and refining the strengths in outreach that we already have. We hope to create new materials and new CCR members to continue to broaden our knowledge of how to best work with older victims in underserved communities.

VERA HOUSE, INC., NEW YORK



PA • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to hire two FTE positions to focus on the issue of LGBTQ sexual violence. It has allowed both agencies in this partnership to exchange expertise, skills, and referrals that would have never happened if not for this formalized partnership. WOAR - Philadelphia Against Sexual Violence now has all of their staff trained in LGBTQ-affirming care, does significant outreach to the LGBTQ community, and offers a sexual violence support group specific to LGBTQ community members. The agency is aware of the LGBTQ community as an underserved population and is actively working to combat that. This grant allows for us to make these strides possible.

This funding has enabled Mazzoni Center to train all of their staff on how to receive disclosures of sexual violence, proper reporting methods, and bystander intervention for sexual harassment. Together our agencies have formed a strong alliance that we can model for other providers when advocating for the care of LGBTQ victims and survivors of sexual violence.

MAZZONI CENTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Underserved Program fills gaps that survivors from underserved populations face in seeking to obtain accessible, culturally relevant, and responsive victim services. Purpose areas include:

- Work with federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, agencies, and organizations to develop or enhance population-specific services;
- Strengthen the capacity of underserved populations to provide population-specific services;
- Strengthen the capacity of traditional victim service providers to provide population-specific services;
- Strengthen the effectiveness of criminal and civil justice interventions by providing training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other court personnel on domestic/sexual violence in underserved populations; and
- Work in cooperation with underserved populations to develop and implement outreach, education, prevention, and intervention strategies that highlight available resources and the specific issues faced by victims of domestic/sexual violence from these populations.

The Attorney General may use up to 25% of funds available under the Underserved Program to make one-time planning grants to eligible entities to support the planning and development of specially designed and targeted programs for adult and youth victims of domestic/sexual violence in one or more underserved populations.

General Grant Information

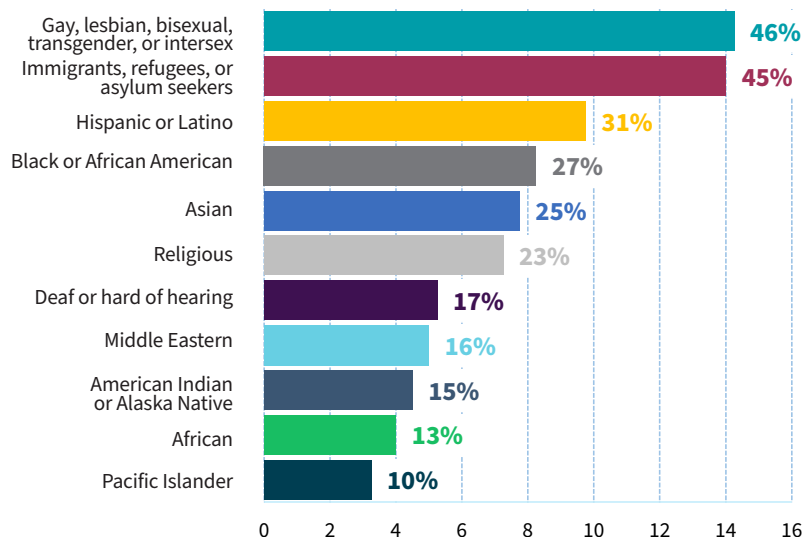
The Underserved Program was authorized by VAWA 2013. Information for this report was submitted by **50** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- Grantees frequently (**46%**) served victims who identified as LGBTI.



Figure 1

Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2017–June 2019 (6-month average)



LGBTQ victims of intimate partner violence face numerous barriers to accessing and receiving appropriate services. These barriers include stigma and the general lack of understanding and bias about the dynamics of LGBTQ experiences with violence that victims may encounter in criminal justice, healthcare, and social services systems. Further, diversity within LGBTQ populations necessitates more research and practice interventions that account for differences of experience based on gender, race, class, and culture (Calton et al., 2016; National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 2019).

IL • Grantee Perspective



Prior to this funding, the program consisted of a program manager who was responsible for seeing all patients, developing programming, and addressing all administrative concerns. The demands of that position resulted in about 12-15 patients being seen in one month. The addition of the 2 case managers funded by this grant helped increase access exponentially; in just January 2019 we were able to serve 59 people. This grant has allowed us to reach patients that never would have accessed medical or case management care outside of our agency. We have had patient after patient report how life changing the program has been. We have helped people who were living on the train find and keep stable housing, patients whose partner assaulted them find safe housing on their own, gotten patients access to SNAP benefits, and coordinated care with mental health providers. These are just a few of the real and tangible outcomes for our patients.

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER, ILLINOIS

NM • Grantee Perspective



This funding has been so helpful to Casa Fortaleza, allowing us to be here in the community providing necessary culturally specific services. It has allowed us to grow, become more stable, and ultimately to provide more therapy services and advocacy case management services to Spanish speaking sexual assault survivors. It is allowing CF to say it is here and will be around for the needs of Spanish speaking survivors. Culturally and linguistically specific sexual assault services that would not otherwise be available for Spanish speaking survivors are available because of this funding. This grant has made a huge impact on our ability to offer services and to function well as an organization, to further grow and become sustainable as an organization in central New Mexico.

CASA FORTALEZA, NEW MEXICO

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, advocacy, counseling, court and medical accompaniment, and community education to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- 49 (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of 52 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

Table 1

Staff supported with Underserved grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	52	
Victim advocate	15	29%
Program coordinator	12	23%
Trainer	7	13%
Administrator	6	12%
Counselor	5	10%
Outreach worker	3	6%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



Many victims of domestic/sexual violence belong to religious or spiritual communities. Some may turn to these communities as trusted supports, while others may hesitate to seek guidance due to stigma or fear. Emerging research shows that training faith leaders in the dynamics of domestic/sexual violence may result in better outcomes for victims and communities (Drumm et al., 2018; Oyewuwo-Gassikia, 2019).



WA • Grantee Perspective

Funding from the Underserved Program is a critical source of support for our advocacy work in LGBTQ communities. It has allowed us to continue offering and expanding meaningful support to a broad range of LGBTQ survivors of sexual violence through one on one advocacy-based counseling, including medical, legal, crisis, and long-term support for all survivors.

Funding has enabled us to strengthen our partnerships, collaborations, and referrals with other SA service providers, especially regarding legal and medical advocacy. The Underserved program has increased our ability to provide systems advocacy, court accompaniment, medical advocacy, and in person support to SA and DV survivors. Finally, funding has increased our ability to do public awareness and community outreach that expand knowledge about the unique experiences of LGBTQ+ survivors and increase knowledge about the resources and support we can offer our community.

THE NW NETWORK OF BISEXUAL, TRANS, LESBIAN, AND GAY SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, WASHINGTON

Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **41** (82%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **581** training events.

In the two years covered by this report, Underserved Program grantees trained:

13,516

PROFESSIONALS

across **multiple systems:**



**VICTIM
ADVOCATES**



**LAW
ENFORCEMENT**



**HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS**



**SOCIAL SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS**

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**ⁱ

- **41** (82%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **998** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **23,397** people.

ⁱ Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system

Table 2

People educated with Underserved grant funds, July 2017–June 2019:
Selected groups

People educated	1-year total	
Total people educated	23,397	
Community members	8,376	36%
Victims	3,930	17%
Middle/high school students	3,354	14%
Faith-based groups	2,493	11%
University/college students	2,221	9%
Community groups	1,476	6%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Victim Services

Underserved victims of domestic/sexual violence may face unique barriers to seeking and utilizing assistance. Supporting these victims with a wide range of services may include providing advocacy and support to a victim who is seeking a protection order; accompaniment during medical procedures, such as a sexual assault forensic examination; providing interpretation or translation services; assistance with safety planning; accompaniment to court; shelter and transitional housing assistance; or immigration assistance. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **42** (84%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,839** victims during each 6-month period.
- Nearly **100%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Crisis intervention services to **951** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **945** victims;
- Victim advocacy services to **914** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **198** victims;
- Transportation services to **177** victims;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **167** victims; and
- Language services (i.e. interpretation or translation) to **104** victims.

Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **2,855** times; and
 - Grantees used English, Spanish, and American Sign Language (ASL) for these activities.

MA • Grantee Perspective



TOD@S funding has enabled the Violence Recovery Program to provide training and support to communities of color and underrepresented individuals from the queer and trans people of color community. The funding has also allowed the organization to implement trainings and presentations in both English and Spanish in several areas outside of the health center. In addition, the TOD@S funding has allowed survivors of color to receive services such as culturally specific therapeutic approaches that are sensitive to their identities. Funding also allowed staff to purchase culturally sensitive materials such as books and program brochures to reach out to the communities targeted with this grant.

FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC., MASSACHUSETTS

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of VAWA (2019), interviews with 72 leaders who work in domestic/sexual violence service provision, justice responses, advocacy, and research revealed wide agreement that victim-centered, culturally informed, community-based collaborations should be at the heart of efforts to respond to violence (White et al., 2019)



NY • Grantee Perspective



OWV funding continues to allow In Our Own Voices, Inc. (IOOV) the opportunity to be a vital lifeline to LGBT victims/survivors (primarily Black/African-American and Latin@ victims/survivors) through culturally specific and affirming, comprehensive, wrap-around services. These services include providing much needed mental health support, as well as advocating in systems that have been historically exclusive to these communities. It allows IOOV the opportunity to be at “the table” where discussions are being held and add the voices of our communities where they would otherwise go unheard. OVV funding allows IOOV the opportunity to train and educate providers, the community, first responders, and others on the unique issues and cultural barriers impacting our communities so that they can be informed allies as we work towards equity in victim services and society as a whole.

IN OUR OWN VOICES, INC., NEW YORK



Studies have shown that the provision of trauma-informed, culturally sensitive services can significantly improve victims' sense of well-being (Serrata et al., 2020).

- Grantees received a total of **7,754** hotline calls;
 - The majority of these calls (**55%**) came from victims; and
 - Grantees used English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, and ASL when responding to these requests for information or assistance.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **sexual assault** (53%).



VT • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to intentionally focus on creating a network of support for immigrant farmworkers in Vermont and enhancing our capacities to more adequately and comprehensively serve LGBTQ+ and immigrant farmworker survivors. Each of our partner organizations brings unique knowledge and expertise to this collaboration, but we also had gaps in our service provision when it came to serving these specific populations. We have spent a substantial amount of time building rapport and learning about one another's work and communities, while also working to create sustainable change within our organizations. We have learned and are continuing to learn more about various barriers and challenges that immigrant farmworkers and LGBTQ+ survivors face, and have done work in our organizations to address and mitigate some of these barriers. We have participated in workshops, webinars, and conversations; looked at our policies and practices; assessed our language accessibility; and made relevant changes. These funds allowed our organizations to make inroads with communities and advocates that we otherwise would not have been able to with such focused efforts. We were able to work towards the creation of outreach materials, complete professional trainings, sit in community with target populations, and further build a network of response and care in the aftermath of violence. We have had access to more resources and support around working with immigrant farmworkers and LGBTQ+ survivors and we are striving to continually learn and improve upon our services.

PRIDE CENTER OF VERMONT

Figure 2 Provision of victim services by Underserved Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)

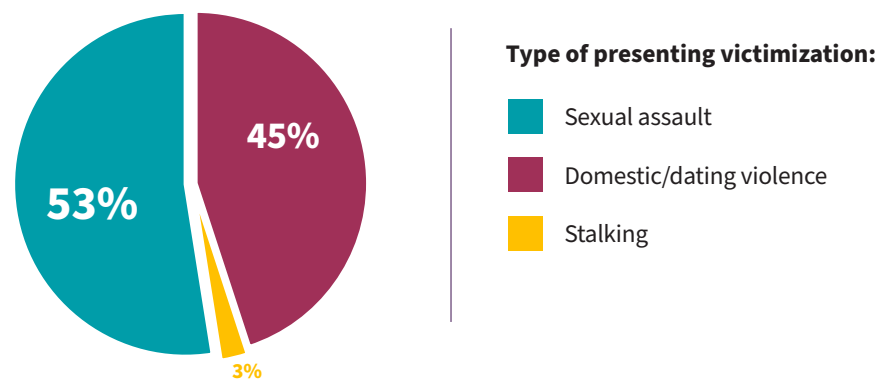


Table 3 | Victims seeking services with Underserved grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	1,844	
Victims served	1,823	99%
Victims partially served	16	1%
Victims not served	6	0%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Underserved Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Underserved Program grant.

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (57%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **family or household member** (19%), or in the context of a **dating relationship** (12%).



TX • Grantee Perspective

This funding allowed our Deaf SHARE staff to hire a staff interpreter who will increase SAFE's ability to serve Deaf survivors. Deaf survivors now have the choice to choose between Deaf staff, staff who are fluent in ASL, and hearing staff who will use the on-staff interpreter for effective communication. This allows them the full range of possible choices for their own comfort and privacy.

THE SAFE ALLIANCE, TEXAS

Figure 3 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

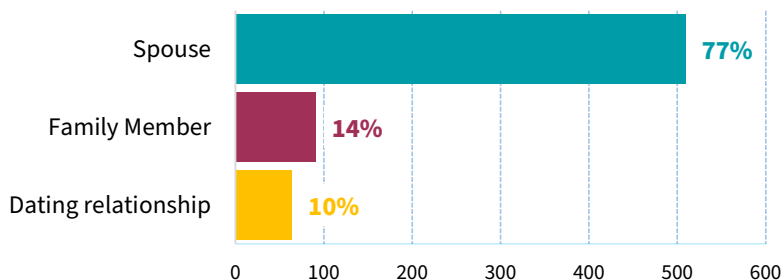


Figure 4 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

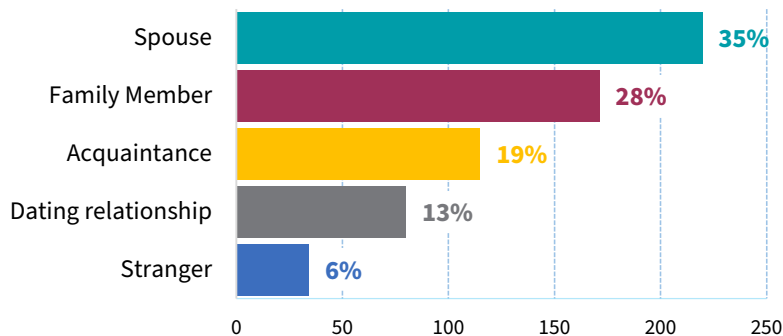
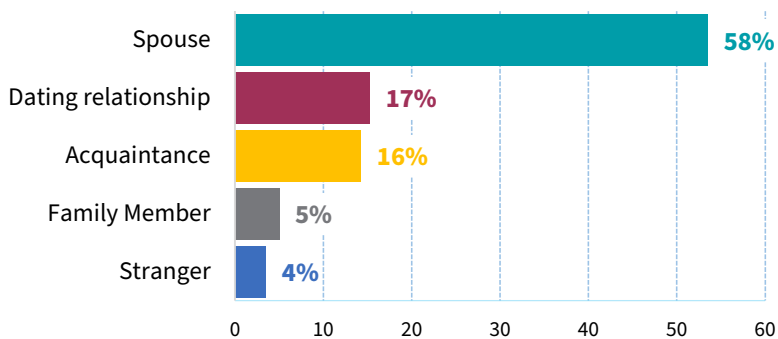


Figure 5 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



Research indicates that the general population of people with disabilities are two to five times more likely to experience domestic/sexual violence than people without disabilities (Breiding & Armour, 2015; McGilloway et al., 2018). The consequences of high rates of domestic/sexual violence among individuals who are Deaf and/or disabled are severe. People with disabilities may face significant barriers to disclosing abuse, such as dependence on caregivers who may be perpetrating the violence. They may experience other compounding forms of abuse such as destruction of their adaptive equipment and financial exploitation by their perpetrator (Curry et al., 2009; Shah et al., 2016). When these victims disclose abuse, they may risk protective intervention that could result in losing their independence or being compelled to leave their own homes, particularly if the abuser is also their caregiver (Curry et al., 2011; Robinson et al., 2017).





Spoken language and sign language interpreters can make a critical difference in a victim's experience, from the moment of disclosure through the justice process and healing from violence. Those who are specially trained in a trauma-informed approach can help ensure that Deaf, hard of hearing, and low English proficiency victims may communicate with service providers in a clear and transparent way and prevent re-traumatization (Bancroft et al., 2017).



NM • Grantee Perspective

This funding has enabled us to have a Community Promotora Coordinator Educator (CPOE) who has organized a Promotora program. We have fully trained four community member Promotoras who have been out in their own communities presenting on SA and advocating for survivors. Another group of eight Promotoras will begin training in July 2018. The CPOE is also out in the community providing education and information about sexual assault and resources. This brings in many survivors because when people in the community hear about the services we offer, they call to request them or call to ask how they can help. This resource is invaluable because it gives community members information about sexual assault and sexual assault resources and gets the word out in the community that people have the right to not be sexually assaulted and if it happens, they can call someone for help.

ENLACE COMUNITARIO, NEW MEXICO

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,839** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (48%), **female** (79%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (60%).

Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

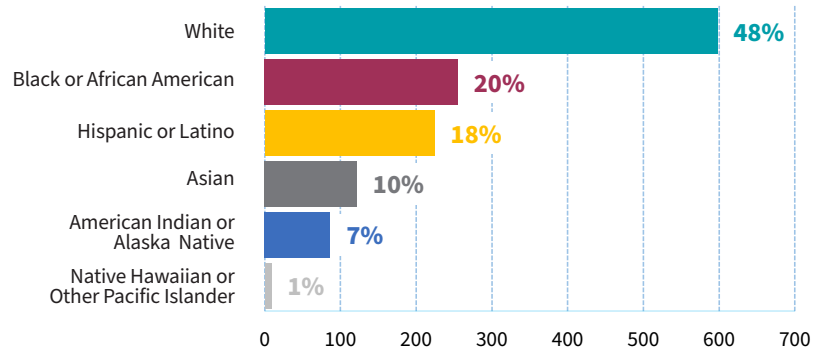


Figure 7 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

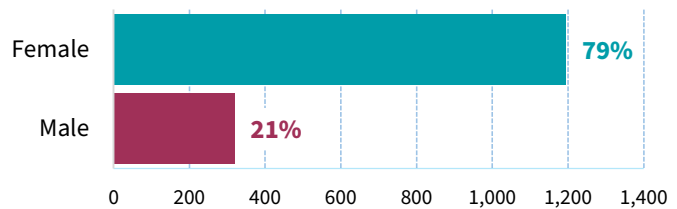


Figure 8 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

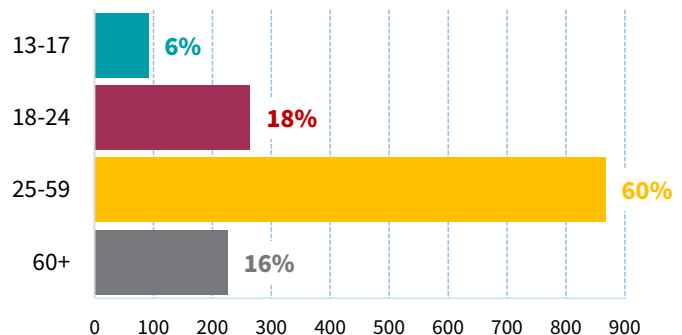
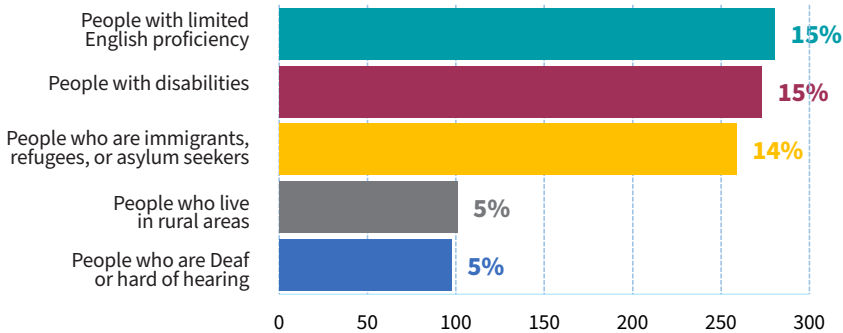


Figure 9 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



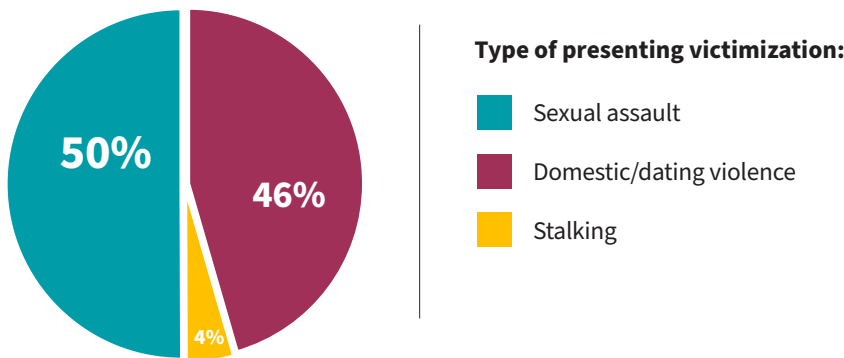
Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic/sexual violence, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **232** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

Figure 10 | Provision of services to secondary victims by Underserved Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Secondary victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **access to culturally and linguistically competent victim services** as their biggest area of unmet need. They noted that **mainstream victim service providers sometimes struggled to properly meet the needs of underserved groups** due to:

- A lack of training in cultural sensitivity and working with marginalized groups;
- Individual biases and institutional discrimination against people from marginalized communities; and
- Insufficient coordination between social justice organizations and victim services providers.

IL • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed KAN-WIN and partners to increase our capacity to serve sexual assault survivors. It allows us to maintain an active advisory committee on sexual violence in the Asian American/immigrant community; to reach out to a greater number and variety of people in the Asian American/immigrant community; and to develop trainings for staff and volunteers on advocacy skills, empathetic listening, and trauma-informed practices for sexual assault victim advocacy.

KAN-WIN, ILLINOIS

NY • Grantee Perspective



The Underserved funding has helped us fill a gap and ensure that the victim advocate can holistically assist callers in cases where the attorney does not have the capacity to represent a victim-survivor. For example, the victim advocate has been instrumental in assisting callers who were unable to get full representation for their child support cases. The victim advocate assisted one victim-survivor in applying for an upward modification of child support and another in filing a violation petition for non-payment of child support. The advocate attended numerous court appearances with both of these victim-survivors who were tasked with representing themselves. She worked to emotionally support them on the day of their court appearances and passed on legal advice in the weeks leading up to the appearance.

SHALOM TASK FORCE INC., NEW YORK

IL • Grantee Perspective



The criminal justice system is becoming less and less an option for communities of color, especially for those who have concerns or mistrust of law enforcement due to police brutality, those who have immigration concerns, or those who are financially dependent on their abusers. As such, it is crucial to explore alternative mechanisms of community accountability, such as restorative justice, and what that looks like in situations of sexual violence.

HEART WOMEN AND GIRLS, ILLINOIS



OH • Grantee Perspective

Currently, the most significant area of need with regard to improving services continues to be cultural competence and humility training for providers to learn about and create safe and accessible resources for LGBTQI victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. SafeZone Member programs that have received SafeZone Project training have implemented LGBTQI-inclusive policies for staff and victims, have LGBTQI-specific resources, and practice inclusive and welcoming language that creates accessible programs and spaces for all survivors. However, as high turnover rates continue at many rape crisis and domestic violence programs, there is a need for ongoing training, technical assistance, and assessment of best practices for programs to utilize.

BUCKEYE REGION ANTI-VIOLENCE ORGANIZATION, OHIO



NJ • Grantee Perspective

Financial assistance continues to be a significant area of need for the older adults in our community. Many are on a fixed income and when a family member is financially abusing them, it is near impossible for them to get out of the situation and back on their feet without support. Many agencies that do offer financial assistance are limited on what they can provide and have many regulations and qualifications that an individual needs to meet before being eligible for assistance.

PROVIDENCE HOUSE-CATHOLIC CHARITIES, NEW JERSEY

Grantees reported that **service providers, religious leaders, judges, and law enforcement agencies need better cultural competency training in order to enhance services to victims.**

Many grantees also reported difficulty serving victims due to the **underreporting of domestic violence and sexual assault.** Victims were often hesitant to come forward due to:

- Fear of deportation;
- Fear of law enforcement and the criminal justice system;
- Fear for personal safety;
- The shame and stigma in their communities surrounding domestic violence/sexual assault; and
- A lack of culturally and linguistically responsive services.

Grantees highlighted the need to **help victims achieve self-sufficiency** through the provision of:

- Shelter and housing;
- Trauma-informed and culturally specific mental healthcare;
- Financial support; and
- Legal services.

Research & Evaluation Initiative

The Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative is designed to study and evaluate approaches to combatting domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. By generating more knowledge about strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable, communities that benefit from VAWA funding will be better equipped to align their work with practices that are known to be effective, and they will be more capable of generating empirical knowledge on the efficacy of new and promising ways of doing things. R&E prioritizes researcher-practitioner partnerships and rigorous methods for investigating if and how VAWA-funded strategies help keep communities safe and promote justice.

25 R&E Grants totaling
over \$9.9 million

The projects range in duration from 12 to 36 months, and final reports on methods and findings will be available at the conclusion of each study.

Projects recently funded through R&E are:

- A study examining the trajectories of violence and victimization in the lives of women who are incarcerated, and evaluating the effectiveness of an inmate-led program designed to reduce the impact of previous victimization and prevent further violence.
- A collaboration to evaluate the outcomes of a therapeutic horticulture program at a domestic violence shelter.
- A randomized controlled trial to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of a learning-collaborative as an implementation strategy to advance the use of cognitive processing therapy (CPT) for treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in 15 rape crisis centers.
- A process and outcome evaluation of a transitional living program for women with histories of substance use disorders and domestic and/or sexual violence.
- A study to identify patterns and disparities in court-related experiences among litigants from cultural and linguistic minority groups through analysis of court system data.
- An evaluation of a training curriculum for all sworn officers in a large police department, designed to improve the law enforcement response to domestic and sexual violence.
- A randomized controlled trial of two batterer intervention programs (BIPs), the Duluth Model and Achieving Change Through Value-Based Behavior (ACTV).
- An evaluation of the impact of a cross-system, cooperative mandatory reporting response to adolescent sexual assault survivors in one jurisdiction in which policy requires that all cases involving victims under age 18 are reported to law enforcement.
- A mixed-methods, longitudinal program evaluation that will explore the short- and longer-term outcomes of a VAWA-funded transitional housing program.
- A mixed-methods evaluation of a domestic and sexual abuse prevention program designed to help people with moderate to severe intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) distinguish between healthy and unhealthy relationships and know what to do when confronted with an unhealthy situation.
- A quasi-experimental evaluation of the Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment InitiativeS (APRAIS), which is adapted from the Danger Assessment five-item instrument (DA-5). The study will assess mandated use of the APRAIS in two counties and its effect on offender recidivism, justice system responses to domestic violence, victims' use of advocacy services, and fidelity of implementation.
- Development, implementation, and evaluation of an integrated, peer-led, group intervention for survivors of domestic violence.
- Implementation and evaluation of virtual case simulation training for religious leaders in order to increase scientific understanding around the development of culturally specific and technology-informed strategies to assist immigrant victims of domestic violence in accessing justice and obtaining services.

- A study aiming to understand the short-term effects of the OVW-funded Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP) on the safety and fairness of child-related remedies in orders for protection for litigants and their children in a large Midwestern county, as well as the longer-term effects of FCEP on court-ordered parenting arrangements and violations of child-related conditions of protection orders.
- Evaluation of a victim notification protocol for untested sexual assault kits (SAKs) in order to understand survivors' decisions about reengagement with the justice system, their experiences after reengaging, and their perceptions of justice in their cases.
- A study examining whether supportive services addressing unemployment, mental health problems, substance abuse, and parenting, provided by community partners on-site at a batterer program, can reduce violent and non-violent criminal re-offending in a high-risk urban sample.
- Evaluation of electronic filing for domestic violence protective orders (DVPOs) in one state, the first study to evaluate the implementation of DVPO e-filing in the United States, which is an OVW-funded solution that has the potential to improve victim services, reduce domestic violence homicide, and increase safety for survivors, families, and communities.
- A systematic review of the literature and a meta-analysis of experimental and quasi-experimental research examining the effects of college sexual assault prevention programs on sexual assault attitudes and behaviors among college students.
- A community-based participatory research project using mixed methods to evaluate the effectiveness of a culturally specific Latina victim service program and better understand Latina survivors' self-defined goals and needs, and the extent to which the program's services meet those needs.
- A national survey of restorative justice (RJ) responses to domestic violence, meaning interventions that focus on healing rather than punishment.
- A mixed-methods study on domestic and sexual violence-related experiences, service needs, and help-seeking among refugees, asylum-seekers, and other vulnerable new-immigrant women
- A descriptive study to explore and document how forensic compliance, meaning compliance with a VAWA funding condition that requires that sexual assault victims be given medical forensic exams free of charge and regardless of whether they choose to report the assault to law enforcement, is currently implemented in two jurisdictions.
- A national survey of judicial engagement in coordinated community response (CCR) models addressing Intimate Partner Violence.
- Implementation research on the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations (SAFE Protocol) aimed at illustrating the extent to which the SAFE Protocol guides the response to sexual assault in states and local communities.
- A survey to collect nationally representative data on cyberstalking, which can inform the development of programs and policies to reduce cyberstalking and strengthen law enforcement and victim services responses to it.

*For an example of a final report from a project funded by OVW's Research & Evaluation Initiative, see **A National Portrait of Restorative Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence: Pathways to Safety, Accountability, Healing, and Well-Being** at <https://www.courtinnovation.org/publications-RJ-IPV>*

Formerly Authorized Programs

The data presented in this chapter reflect programs previously authorized under earlier iterations of VAWA. VAWA 2013 consolidated two formerly authorized programs, the Courts Training and Improvements Program and the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program, into the Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (Justice for Families or JFF Program).ⁱ Awards are no longer being made under either of the two formerly authorized programs outlined here.

Formerly authorized programs displayed in this chapter include:

- Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program); and
- Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program (Supervised Visitation Program).

ⁱ Justice for Families was authorized by VAWA 2013 in March of 2013, and Congress appropriated funds for this new program. However, OWW had already accepted applications under the former Supervised Visitation and Courts programs for FY 2014 funding, so FY 2014 Justice for Families awards were made to applicants that had applied under the two programs' solicitations.

The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (Justice for Families or JFF Program) consolidated two pre-existing VAWA-funded programs:

- **Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program)**; the last grants made under the Courts program were awarded in fiscal year 2013.
- **Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program (Supervised Visitation Program)**; the last grants made under the Supervised Visitation Program were awarded in fiscal year 2014.

Because these programs were phasing out and no additional awards have been made in recent years, only limited data on grant-funded activities of these formerly authorized programs are presented, and instead the total number of grantees reporting for each program in the 6-month reporting periods, between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, are portrayed. With such a small grantee pool, data on activities conducted are sparse. For a written description of the types of activities conducted by Courts and Supervised Visitation Program grantees, please refer to the Justice for Families Program chapter, which contains all of the same types of activities, in addition to activities added upon the creation of the new Justice for Families grant program. For an in-depth look at the previously authorized programs, please see the 2016 Attorney General's Biennial Report to Congress.

Grant program	Reporting period			
	July - December 2017	January - June 2018	July - December 2018	January - June 2019
Courts	2	1	0	0
Supervised Visitation	12	5	4	3

Court Training and Improvements Grant Program

The Courts Program data was too small to present.

Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program

The Supervised Visitation Program was designed to fund the supervised visitation and safe exchanges of children—by and between parents—in situations involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, child abuse, or stalking. The goals of the program were to ensure the safety of adult victims and their children during supervised visits and exchanges; protect children from the trauma of witnessing domestic or dating violence; and reduce the risk of further abuse, injury, or abduction of the children during supervised visits and monitored exchanges.

Table 2 | Staff supported with Supervised Visitation grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	9	
Supervision staff	3	33%
Program coordinators	2	22%
Administrators	2	22%
Security staff (including court security)	1	11%
Victim advocate	1	11%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Table 3 | Families seeking services with Supervised Visitation grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Families seeking services	6-month average	
Total families seeking services	91	
Families served	78	86%
Families partially served	8	9%
Families not served	5	6%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Supervised Visitation Program grant. “Not served” represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Supervised Visitation Program grant.

Table 4 | Services provided to families supported with Supervised Visitation grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Service	Number of families (6-month average)	Times provided (2-year total)
One-to-one supervised visits	73	1,767
Supervised exchanges	13	850
Group supervised visits	2	47

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Appendix

VAWA Funding Supports Evidence-based Practices

Across the United States, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants support effective strategies for combatting domestic and sexual violence. This document identifies some of those strategies, along with some of what we know about their impact, and how OVW grantees are using those strategies to keep their communities safe.

Victims who have **advocates** may suffer less psychological distress and fewer physical health problems, and endure less self-blame, guilt, and depression than victims who do not have an advocate.¹ Advocacy can reduce a victim's fear² and improve their well-being.³

OVW discretionary grantees serve more than 100,000 victims every six months. STOP formula funds serve almost 350,000 victims each year. Victim services staff funded through VAWA grants and subgrants answer over 750,000 hotline calls in a year.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs can enhance the healthcare that victims receive after an assault, improve the quality of forensic evidence, and increase prosecution rates over time.⁴

Over a two-year period, OVW discretionary grantees trained almost 12,500 nurses who provide medical forensic care, ensuring that they are equipped to competently and compassionately collect forensic evidence from a victim's body while tending to their medical needs. In 2018, STOP formula funds paid salaries and wages for 28 full-time equivalent (FTE) forensic nurses who performed over 10,300 medical forensic exams during the year.

Protection orders—which grant various types of protection and relief for victims of domestic and sexual violence—can deter further abuse and increase victims' perceptions of their own safety,⁵ reduce victims' posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms,⁶ and have shown a cost-benefit of tens of millions of dollars in one state.⁷

Every year, VAWA-funded professionals (e.g., advocates, law enforcement personnel, and prosecutors) assist victims in securing nearly 200,000 protection orders.⁸

Civil legal assistance provided by attorneys funded through OVW's Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Program increases the quality, quantity, and efficiency of legal services for low-income domestic violence victims.⁹ Legal aid attorneys who are trained on domestic violence may attain the most favorable outcomes for their clients on custody matters, when compared with victims who represent themselves and victims with privately retained attorneys.¹⁰ Victims who obtain civil legal services may suffer less subsequent physical violence and stalking and achieve more economic self-sufficiency.¹¹ Victims who get help from attorneys and community-based advocates may be more likely than victims without that assistance to perceive themselves as having a voice in the justice process.¹²

Every six months, LAV grantees alone provide legal assistance to over 26,000 victims. OVV discretionary grantees reported training more than 36,000 attorneys and law students over a recent two-year period, making them better prepared to represent domestic violence victims in court and obtain safe custody and visitation arrangements for victims' children.

Victims who use **transitional housing** receive a wider range of services over a longer period of time than do victims who never use shelter services,¹³ and they report having a greater ability to plan for their safety, are aware of more resources in their community, have more hope for the future, and feel better able to achieve their goals.¹⁴

OVV grantees and subgrantees provide almost 1.5 million housing bed nights to victims and their children each year. Nearly 8 out of 10 victims leaving a Transitional Housing Program-funded shelter report perceiving a lower risk of violence, and the majority of victims exit to permanent housing of their choice.

Law enforcement officers who are trained in and use best practices—like following up with victims, helping victims make safety plans, assessing the needs of children exposed to domestic violence, and describing protection orders and court procedures—may be more likely to arrest domestic abusers.¹⁵ Taking an offender into custody and documenting evidence of injury increases the odds that a domestic violence case will be prosecuted.¹⁶ A swift police response to sexual assault and thorough investigation may make it more likely that a case will be referred to a prosecutor, accepted for prosecution, and result in a conviction.¹⁷

Every six months, OVV discretionary grantees train an average of more than 20,000 law enforcement officers.

Specialized domestic violence law enforcement units have been found to decrease the frequency and severity of future domestic violence and produce higher case clearance rates, compared to a standard patrol response.¹⁸

OVV grants and subgrants pay the salaries of more than 270 law enforcement officers at any given time. In a year, these officers' departments respond to more than 180,000 calls for service, investigate over 160,000 cases, and refer almost 79,000 cases to prosecutors. OVV discretionary grants support more than 50 specialized law enforcement units.

The frequency and severity of domestic violence can decrease, and victims might be more likely to seek help, in jurisdictions that implement the **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)**, which involves police and victim services providers working together to identify and protect victims at risk for repeated and severe domestic violence.¹⁹

OVV's Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative is testing several models—one of which is LAP—designed to reduce the number of domestic violence-related murders in the participating jurisdictions.

Victim-centered prosecution—which engages victims in the justice process, prioritizes their safety, and seeks their input—is associated with lower incidence of re-abuse.²⁰ Community-coordinated outreach to victims may increase their participation in prosecution.²¹ Victims who feel empowered in the justice process suffer less depression and report better quality of life,²² and they are more satisfied with the system and more likely to seek its help, if needed, in the future.²³ Jurisdictions with **specialized domestic violence prosecution units** generally prosecute these crimes at a higher rate.²⁴

Nearly 350 prosecutors' salaries are paid through OVV grants and subgrants at any given time, and their offices reportedly accept the majority of the 175,000+ cases referred to them for prosecution. Grantees and subgrantees achieve convictions in roughly two-thirds of the sexual assault cases they charge. STOP-funded prosecutors obtained convictions in 60 domestic violence homicide cases in a recent year. OVV discretionary grants support more than 45 specialized prosecution units.

Domestic violence victims who share child custody with an abuser may consider **supervised visitation and safe exchange centers** an especially helpful resource.²⁵

Every six months, OVV discretionary grantees provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to over 1,600 families, including almost 2,500 children.

Efforts to address domestic and sexual violence are effective when they are implemented as a **coordinated community response** involving advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, forensic healthcare providers, and others.²⁶

In a recent two-year period, over 1,700 OVW grantees engaged in coordinated community response activities.

Designing or adapting services to address victims' cultural backgrounds may make those services more effective.²⁷ **Culturally specific services**, such as the *promotora* model, which involves peer leadership and information sharing among Latina immigrant victims, can have transformative effects on individuals and their communities.²⁸ Offender treatment may also be more effective when it is culturally relevant.²⁹

Culturally Specific Services Program (CSSP) grantees serve more than 2,300 victims every six months. Almost half of CSSP grantees specifically serve immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers; and almost half of OVW's Underserved Program grantees specifically serve LGBTQ communities. CSSP grantees use over 20 different languages to provide services to victims.

Specialized domestic violence courts, which exist to enhance victim safety and offender accountability,³⁰ may reduce reoffending,³¹ increase conviction rates,³² increase offender compliance,³³ and result in victim satisfaction.³⁴

OVW discretionary grants support around 20 specialized courts. VAWA-funded courts monitor thousands of offenders every year.

A multidisciplinary approach—involving collaboration across the advocacy, social services, healthcare, and justice sectors, and with faith communities—can enhance the **response to elder abuse**.³⁵

OVW Abuse in Later Life (ALL) Program grantees serve an average of almost 800 victims ages 50 and older every six months, and trained over 5,700 people over a recent two-year period.

People with disabilities are at a much greater risk for abuse—and face greater barriers to accessing help and justice—than do people without disabilities. In fact, people with intellectual disabilities are sexually assaulted at a rate seven times higher than that of people without disabilities, according to an analysis of Justice Department data.³⁶ **Accessible services for victims with disabilities** can help address these survivors' unique safety needs.³⁷

Over a two-year period, OVW Disability Program grantees trained nearly 5,000 people to provide effective services to victims with disabilities. OVW grantees across all programs served over 9,000 victims who are Deaf and/or victims with disabilities every six months.

Bystander intervention programming can change behavior and reduce dating violence and sexual assault among high school and college students.³⁸

Over two years, Campus Program grantees reached over 550,000 incoming students through prevention education programming, including programming focused on bystander intervention.

Research³⁹ confirms what is well understood by people who have suffered violence, or know someone who has been victimized:

It matters how people respond.

It is not easy to talk about violence and abuse, and it may be difficult to ask for help. By training more than 575,000 people each year, OVW grantees and subgrantees ensure that justice and healthcare professionals, victim advocates, educators, volunteers, and others are equipped to respond competently and compassionately when a victim requests their assistance.

A note about the research cited in this document: This paper offers a snapshot of evidence of the effectiveness of VAWA-funded practices; it is not a comprehensive picture of what studies on VAWA-funded interventions have reported. More information on the evidence base for VAWA programs can be found in OVW's 2018 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs Funded under VAWA (available at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1292636/download>), the National Institute of Justice's Compendium of Research on Violence Against Women (available at <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572/223572.pdf>), and many scholarly sources.

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2020 Biennial Report

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