United States Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

Working Together to End the Violence

2014 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs Under the Violence Against Women Act

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Executive Summary

Background

Congress first enacted the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994 to improve our national criminal justice response to violence against women, ensure services for victims, and create informed policy on the issue. Programs and policies authorized by VAWA and subsequent legislation address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.[1] 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 the Congress' commitment to effective strategies for preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence, holding offenders accountable, and ensuring safety, autonomy, and justice for victims.[2]

> *"[The VAWA-funded attorney] was at my and my daughter's side during this terrifying time in our life. She let us know that we weren't alone, that we had someone to stand beside us when we needed her the most."*
>
> **Client feedback, reported by Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc.**

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 grantees can effectively combat the four crimes in their communities. OVW administers **19** discretionary and **3** formula programs that provide grants to criminal justice agencies, victim services organizations, and other entities that address domestic and sexual violence.[3]

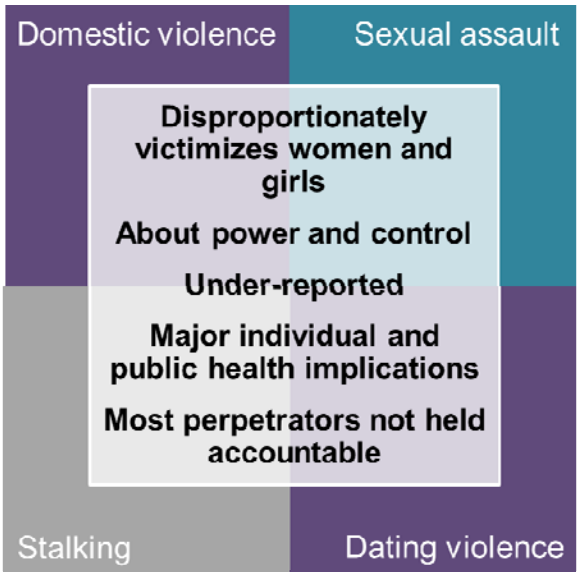
[1] The four crimes addressed by VAWA all predominantly victimize women. However, VAWA programs and policies are designed to serve all victims of the four crimes, including men.
[2] The term "victim" is used in this summary instead of "survivor" to emphasize that violence and abuse are criminal in nature and to account for victims who survive violence and those who do not.
[3] This is a retrospective report on VAWA-funded grant activities, so it includes programs authorized by VAWA 1994, 2000, and 2005. The 2013 reauthorization includes changes that will be reflected in future reports on activities occurring after VAWA 2013 went into effect. A list with descriptions of VAWA grant programs is available at: http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/ovwgrantprograms.htm.

OVW's grantmaking and technical assistance account for the unique ways—and in some cases disproportionate rates at which—these crimes 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, and transgender (LGBT) individuals. In developing programs and policies, OVW also considers the particular impact of the four crimes on victims who are male, immigrants, living in rural areas, elderly, youth, or college students to ensure that services and justice solutions address their needs.

Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, OVW funded nearly **2,000** grantees and technical assistance providers. This Executive Summary is a brief synopsis of efforts funded through VAWA over this 2-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 2014 Biennial Report to Congress includes detailed descriptions of grantees' accomplishments and aggregated data on their work spanning the report period. This summary and the full report include snapshots of the ways grant recipients are using VAWA funds to help victims and administer justice.[4]

Scope and Impact of the Four Crimes

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 crimes. National data and research findings, taken with numerical and narrative information that OVW grantees report about the victims they serve and the services they provide, paint a picture of a



[4] The Executive Summary does not reflect information regarding the activities and accomplishments of OVW grantees awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). A final report of Recovery Act activities is included as Part B.

persistent criminal justice and public health crisis for which solutions—however innovative and effective—are in limited supply.

OVW uses primarily 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 an ongoing telephone survey that collects information from people 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 surveys, the NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes, including those reported and not reported to law enforcement, against people 12 and older.

Other national data sets, such as the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uses to publish

No other grant or funding source offers [such] flexibility in providing critical supports for our residents that ensure [their] opportunity to transition successfully to safe, stable, permanent, and independent living.

YWCA of Central Alabama (AL)

❖

Our attorney helped the family understand the criminal justice process, did safety planning, helped them understand how to document and report the perpetrator's violations of no-contact bond conditions, assisted them in contacting the district attorney's office for a protective order, helped them document lost wages and counseling fees so that they would be reimbursed through crime victims' compensation...[T]his family was able to preserve their safety, maintain their economic stability, and obtain services to begin their journey of healing.

Texas Legal Services Center (TX)

❖

[VAWA] funds have enabled us to get legal advice and assistance for victims of domestic violence who cannot afford an attorney. They are able to explore their options in a confidential manner and are empowered to make informed decisions about their legal rights.

Community Legal Aid Services, Inc. (Akron, OH)

❖

The victim advocate provided support to a victim through the student conduct and criminal justice process...the perpetrator was found responsible for the violation... The victim expresses feeling safe on campus again and is attending classes...[she] reports feeling [that] she has gotten her power back and is moving forward in her healing process.

Regents of the University of California (CA)

statistics on crimes known to law enforcement, and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), which monitors behaviors that contribute to violence among youth, 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 these crimes on communities.

Finally, OVW uses the findings of studies funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and other federal agencies to further inform its grantmaking. These studies describe the dynamics and impact of the four crimes, 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 the four crimes and hold offenders accountable.

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 3,108 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month reporting period**, including attorneys for victims, victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), and program coordinators and administrative staff. VAWA funds training, materials, equipment and supplies, and other necessities for responding effectively to the four crimes. 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 the 19 discretionary programs according to the eligibility criteria defined in each program's statute. Grants are typically awarded for a 2- or 3-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).

In FY 2012, OVW made **527** discretionary awards totaling nearly **$241 million.** Awards and funding totaled **517** and just over **$226 million**,

respectively, in FY 2013. The next sections summarize the types and quantities of activities funded by VAWA during the 2-year period.

Note that throughout this document, figures with asterisks represent 6-month averages.

Criminal Justice Response

Over the past 20 years, VAWA funding has transformed how criminal justice systems in many communities respond to the four crimes. Some of the innovations funded by VAWA are law enforcement collaboration with victim services providers and health care professionals; use of evidence-based lethality assessments to curb domestic violence-related homicides; improved forensic medical 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.

In addition, grantees' reports demonstrate that VAWA-funded criminal justice solutions are evolving alongside the changing dynamics of violence and victimization and are used to address the four crimes as they intersect with issues like cyber-stalking and advances in forensic science.

In the 2 years covered by this report, VAWA grantees funded under the Arrest Program[5] reported the following accomplishments in violence against women cases:

- Law enforcement made **96,911** arrests, including **10,359** for protection order violations.
- Prosecutors disposed of **157,086** cases, of which **54 percent**[6] resulted in convictions.
- Courts disposed of **7,973** criminal cases, of which **71 percent** resulted in convictions.
- Courts monitored **2,113**[7]***** offenders for compliance with court-ordered conditions at **18,587** individual review hearings.
- Probation agencies supervised **5,918*** offenders and conducted **253,565** monitoring activities.

[5] The Arrest Program is the primary discretionary program vehicle for VAWA-funded criminal justice response. Arrest grantees report relevant data for entire funded agencies or jurisdictions.
[6] This percentage includes deferred adjudications.
[7] Throughout this executive summary, numbers with asterisks represent six-month averages.

Snapshots of the impact of VAWA funds on criminal justice systems

- In Michigan, VAWA funding supports the state's Cold Case Sexual Assault Unit, which investigates and prosecutes cold cases that were not thoroughly investigated by law enforcement when they were first reported.
- Austin, Texas used VAWA funds to hire a prosecutor for strangulation cases. The prosecutor increased the number of cases brought before a grand jury, and indictments were issued in all 106 cases from the first three months of the grant reporting period.
- In Mobile, Alabama, where—before funding—domestic violence offenses were not tracked across municipal court systems, a VAWA grant was used to expand the courts' database to include 20 counties in southern Alabama.
- The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice used VAWA funds to develop a data collection tool and database for Virginia's domestic violence fatality review teams that will track and analyze a set of 120 data points at the local and state levels.
- The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California used VAWA funds to hire law enforcement officers specifically to respond to domestic violence calls.
- The Women's Crisis Center in Hebron, Kentucky reported that VAWA funds were used to work with three rural counties' Sheriffs' Departments to establish policies for responding to sexual assault.
- In rural Kennebec and Somerset Counties in Maine, a VAWA-funded Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program provides forensic medical services at four hospitals, reducing the distance a victim has to travel for an exam.

- Supervised offenders who violated protection orders or did not attend mandatory batterer intervention had their probation revoked more than half (**54 percent**) 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 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 for 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.

This project has been a catalyst to bring our criminal justice system together with our community service providers to improve our response to cases of abuse and exploitation of older adults. We have observed new partnerships [develop] among agencies that previously were unaware of each other's services. The funding through this grant has also allowed our community to participate in critical training that helps our partners better identify and respond to cases where abuse, neglect or exploitation might be present.

County of Ada, Idaho (ID)

❖

[The reported] positive outcomes are a direct result not only of the individual service providers but also of the synergy of the collaboration between multiple service providers working together to identify issues [affecting] delivery of legal services to foreign born victims and working together to resolve them. The collaboration not only aids us in providing holistic legal services to victims but also provides us with a team of colleagues who are committed to learning from each other.

Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PA)

VAWA grantees provided more than 1 million (**1,040,127**) services to victims in the 2 years covered by this report. On average, they provided services to **146,271*** individuals every 6 months, including **125,041*** primary victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or child or elder abuse; as well as victims' children and secondary victims of violence and abuse. The services that grantees provided to victims and family members most often were:

- Housing bed nights[8]—**1,532,525**
- Hotline calls—**616,103**

[8] Bed nights are determined by multiplying the total number of victims, children, and other dependents by the total number of nights each person stayed in the emergency and/or transitional housing unit, during the current reporting period.

- Victim advocacy—**219,451**
- Crisis intervention—**174,661**
- Criminal justice advocacy—**98,437**
- Civil legal advocacy—**92,967**

Coordinated Community Response

VAWA-funded grantees are required to work in meaningful ways with community partners to ensure an effective, coordinated response to the four crimes. 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 coordinated community response 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 – (typically comprising law enforcement, victim services providers, prosecutors, court services providers, and parole and probation), 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.

This grant allows [us] to help Haitian survivors with Creole-speaking advocates…Without these services, survivors would not know that they can be protected from their abusers and legalize their immigration status in the United States. These funds have established a sense of trust within the Haitian community by serving clients in their native language.

Americans for Immigrant Justice (FL)

❖

The funding has allowed us to create structured and sustainable partnerships with other organizations in the area so we can serve the community more efficiently through our different strengths and specialties and not waste resources trying to be everything.

Korean American Family Service Center (NY)

❖

[VAWA funding] allowed us to provide representation to abused immigrants who otherwise would not have been able to obtain representation for lack of services in their locations, lack of financial resources, and language barriers.

HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia (PA), which provides services to immigrant victims

The following agencies and organizations met regularly with VAWA grantees during the report period to address systems-level issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking: [9]

- Domestic violence organizations/programs
- Law enforcement agencies
- Social service organizations
- Health/mental health organizations
- Prosecution offices
- Sexual assault organizations/programs
- Courts
- Legal services organizations

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 less favorable experiences with the criminal justice system when they report. 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.

Every 6 months, on average, VAWA grantees served the following numbers of primary victims who are

- American Indian or Alaska Native—**9,987***
- Black or African American—**25,642***
- Hispanic or Latino—**23,965***
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander—**864***
- Immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers—**17,786***
- Residents of rural areas—**34,398***
- People with disabilities—**8,323***

[9] The 8 most frequently reported types of partner agencies/organizations are reported here.

- People with limited English proficiency—**18,176***
- Children (up to 12 years old)—**1,442***
- Youth and young adults (ages 13 to 24)—**29,849***
- Elderly adults 60 or older—**4,240***

Technical Assistance

OVW funds technical assistance providers (TA providers) to offer VAWA grantees training, site visits, tools and resources, and consultation with experts to help them effectively respond to the four crimes. 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 the four crimes with a goal of creating sustainable improvements that last beyond the grant period.

In the aftermath of the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell military policy, many military advocates and providers contacted us for technical assistance on working with LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking in the military. Rural [and tribal] service providers have increasingly reached out to us for assistance working with LGBTQ survivors.

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects (NY)

❖

"As a small non-profit, having [web-based training] available for free is invaluable to me, my office, and my volunteers, which is a constantly changing group and always needs to be brought up to speed on issues."

Technical assistance recipient, as quoted by the Victim Rights Law Center, Inc. (OR)

In shaping its Technical Assistance Program, 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 report period:

- Training events—**3,415**
- People trained with TA funds— **202,195**
- Technical assistance site visits—**1,962**
- Responses to requests for information—**37,772**
- Technical assistance products developed or revised—**7,865**

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, launching social marketing campaigns, and organizing educational and mentoring programs.

> *This program enables us to reach students at the most vulnerable time in their young adult lives. We have an opportunity to educate first year students about violence, offer services to those previously victimized, and offer opportunities for them to become involved in campus and community anti-violence groups.*
>
> **Eastern Kentucky University (KY)**

More than 1.5 million (**1,503,675**) individuals participated in VAWA-funded education, awareness, or prevention activities related to sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or child or elder abuse during the 2-year period. Typically these events and activities provided information about the nature and dynamics of these victimizations, available resources, and strategies for prevention. Of these individuals,

- **304,417** were elementary, middle or high school students;
- **530,728** were college students; and
- **668,530** were other youth, professionals, and community members.

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 forensic 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, makes informed decisions, and prevents further harm.

> *The funding [is supporting] project partners to build an online course for American Sign Language interpreters to prepare them for interpreting in roles involving response to domestic violence and sexual assault in the Deaf community.*
>
> **Travis County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survival Program (TX)**

Ongoing training plays a crucial role in equipping people to respond to the four crimes. The majority of OVW-funded programs support training for professionals who work directly with victims.

During the 2-year period covered by the report, VAWA grantees used funds to train a total of **686,477** service providers, criminal justice personnel, and other professionals to improve their response to victims. People trained included the following:

- Staff of organizations and agencies that advocate for, and provide services to, victims[10]—**130,272**
- Law enforcement officers[11]—**88,016**
- Health/mental health professionals, including Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners—**57,365**
- Attorneys and law students—**40,450**
- Educators (K-12), university faculty, and university staff—**40,732**
- Court personnel, including judges—**19,178**
- Volunteers—**17,220**
- Child protective services (CPS) workers and child advocates—**13,578**
- Prosecutors—**14,773**
- Corrections staff—**11,190**
- Faith-based organization staff—**9,131**

Remaining Areas of Need

VAWA grantees are asked to identify in their reports what needs remain unmet. Their responses help OVW 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 report period:

- Sustaining core services for victims, particularly safe housing
- Addressing victims' basic needs, i.e., food and shelter, during the economic downturn
- Providing culturally- and linguistically-competent services
- Providing adequate criminal justice responses to the four crimes
- Ensuring that services are accessible to people with disabilities and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing

[10] This number includes victim advocates, domestic violence program staff, sexual assault program staff, dual sexual assault/domestic violence program staff, coalition staff (including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dual coalitions), victim-witness specialists, and victim services organization staff.

[11] This number includes campus police officers and security staff.

- Providing legal representation for low-income victims in cases involving divorce, custody, and visitation
- Ensuring sufficient training opportunities for first responders
- Ensuring sufficient opportunities for training on sexual assault and stalking
- Enhancing organizational capacity, including hiring and retaining staff
- Mitigating barriers to confidentiality, particularly in rural and tribal communities
- Making available comprehensive victim services to address substance abuse and mental health needs that co-occur with, or result from, victimization
- Building partnerships in general, and specifically building relationships between tribal communities and federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors
- Modernizing prevention and community education strategies to keep them relevant to young people's lives

The 2014 Biennial Report to Congress includes aggregated data on activities funded by VAWA during the report period, along with snapshots of the impact of VAWA on individual communities, organizations, and victims. The report reflects 2 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 it highlights where much work remains to be done.

Introduction

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA)[12] marked an historic step forward in our nation's response to crimes of violence that predominately victimize women. 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 no longer tolerates domestic and sexual violence and stalking. To this end, VAWA established, within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS), both formula and discretionary grant programs to help communities respond to the needs of individuals who had experienced or were at risk of domestic or sexual violence. DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) awards grants to help states, territories, tribal communities, units of local government, educational institutions, and non-profit victim services agencies across the country develop innovative and effective strategies to respond to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA 2000)[13] strengthened the original law by improving protections for battered immigrants, survivors of sexual assault, and victims of dating violence. VAWA 2000 also reauthorized for five years key grant programs created by VAWA and subsequent legislation. It established programs to provide legal assistance for victims[14] 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, and sexual assault.

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005)[15] improved and expanded legal tools and grant programs; reauthorizing grant programs

[12] Title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103–322.
[13] Division B of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106–386.
[14] 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.
[15] Section 3 and Titles I through IX of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, Public Law 109—162, as amended by Public Law 109—271.

created by the original VAWA and subsequent legislation, and strengthening federal criminal and immigration laws. The Act also created new programs, with an increased emphasis on violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, sexual assault survivors, and youth victims.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013),[16] reauthorized key grant programs originated in earlier enactments of VAWA and subsequent legislation, consolidated several smaller, previously established grant programs, and provided enhanced focus on underserved populations, including victims underserved because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It also included a new "nondiscrimination" grant condition, which prohibits discrimination in any VAWA-funded program or activity on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability (42 U.S.C. §13925 (b)13(A)).

VAWA 2013 also included an historic provision to address a jurisdictional loophole that had left many Native American women without sufficient protection in Indian country. The Act recognized the inherent power of "participating tribes" 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 protection orders in Indian country. The Act also specified the rights that a participating tribe must provide to defendants in SDVCJ cases (Title IX, §904 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, 25 U.S.C. §§1304(a)–(c)). Under VAWA 2013, all "eligible" tribes will be able to exercise SDVCJ beginning March 7, 2015.[17]

To better 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. Specifically, the statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789p) 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

[16] Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, Public Law 113—4.

[17] The Act establishes a "Pilot Project" that authorizes the Attorney General to grant a tribe's request to be designated as a "participating tribe" on an accelerated basis. [Id., sec. 908] On February 6, 2014, the Department of Justice announced that three Indian tribes—the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the Tulalip Tribe of Washington, and the Umatilla Tribes of Oregon—have been designated as "participating tribes" under the Pilot Project. See http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/February/14-ag-126.html.

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.

- **Report 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 grant programs described in subsection (a), including the information contained in any report under that subsection.

In response to these reporting requirements, OVW 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.

This 2014 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs Under the Violence Against Women Act (2014 Biennial Report) covers the period from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013. It describes data submitted by grant recipients in 18 grant programs.[18] It also includes data submitted by OVW's technical assistance providers. Data for each of these programs are provided in separate chapters of this report.[19]

[18] See page 13 for a list of the grant programs included in this report.
[19] This report does not include data from STOP Formula Grant Program or Sexual Assault Services (SASP) Formula Grant Program grantees or subgrantees; the accomplishments of these programs are addressed in a separate Report to Congress.

VAWA Grant Programs

For Congress, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking have been major public policy issues for 20 years. The violence may be perpetrated by those closest to the victim or by a total stranger, and it encompasses a continuum of crimes and related behaviors that primarily, but not exclusively, affect women and girls. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization or to be victimized by multiple perpetrators over their lifetime. This violence rarely consists of one time occurrences but rather comprises clusters of behavior that are ongoing and repetitive. The violence is generally purposeful, designed to coerce, entrap, and subordinate victims, and to engender fear in them. It harms the body and spirit, and may result in protracted recovery or permanent injuries. The economic costs are often far-reaching, and victims rarely receive even partial reparations. The adverse effects of this violence have a ripple effect, expanding well beyond the victim to the children, other family members, the workplace, and the community, ultimately affecting all sectors and institutions of society.

Domestic Violence

Under VAWA, the term "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 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)(8)). As with sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, it affects all segments of society regardless of socioeconomic status, age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity.

It is estimated that more than 42 million women in the United States have experienced physical violence, rape, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. As many as 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence, 1 in 10 women have been raped by their intimate partners (Black et al., 2011), and nearly 13 million women have

experienced stalking by an intimate partner (Breiding, Chen, & Black, 2014).

Although both men and women use violence in intimate partnerships, the most severe violence (e.g., hitting with a fist; kicking; slamming against something; strangling; using a gun or knife; being burned) is overwhelmingly inflicted by males against their female partners (Breiding et al., 2014), with often devastating and far-reaching consequences. In 2012, 992 women were killed by their male partners (current or former husbands or current boyfriends) and 264 men were killed by their female partners (current or former wives or current girlfriends) in the United States (U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, 2013).

The impact of domestic violence extends beyond individual victims to their children, families, and society as a whole. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), conducted by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, examined lifetime prevalence and found that of the women who disclosed as victims of intimate partner violence (IPV),[20] 72 percent were fearful, 63 percent experienced post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, 62 percent were concerned for their safety, 42 percent were physically injured (e.g., bruises, cuts, broken bones or teeth, strangulation), and 28 percent missed work or school as a result of the violence inflicted by their partner. Thirty-five percent of male victims reported that the intimate partner violence had impacted their life in some way (Breiding et al., 2014). A smaller study found similar rates of fear, PTSD, and injuries among the female victims and also noted that women who feared their past abusive partners reported experiencing more severe PTSD (Jaquier & Sullivan, 2014).

In addition to its immediate consequences, domestic violence is known to affect the long-term physical and mental health of its victims. Women who are victims of intimate partner violence report higher rates of adverse health conditions than women who have not experienced abuse from an intimate partner. These conditions include chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, irritable bowel syndrome, frequent headaches, diabetes, asthma, and activity limitations (Breiding et al., 2014). Both female and male domestic violence victims disclose poor mental health at higher rates than do those who are not victims (Black et al., 2011).

Often coinciding with and compounding the physical and mental health consequences are the economic impacts of the abuse. Securing and

[20] "Historically called ‘domestic violence,’ ‘intimate partner violence’ describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former intimate partner or spouse," http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/intimate-partner-violence/Pages/welcome.aspx.

maintaining employment is often compromised by a variety of controlling tactics by the abusive partner. Victims may sustain physical and emotional injuries that keep them from showing up to work or concentrating while at work, and batterers can show up or harass them at their place of employment (Adams, Sullivan, Bybee, & Greeson, 2008). This employment instability can result in significant material hardship and major reductions in job benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, retirement), and overall economic well-being. In a study of 536 women, researchers found that women who had recently experienced IPV and those who had experienced it within the previous three years showed a significant reduction in the amount of time they were employed at any one job by approximately 3 months compared to women who had not experienced IPV. As expected, these same women also reported a shortage of money to pay their bills and purchase food, insufficient housing, and subsequent negative perceptions regarding their financial futures (A. Adams, Tolman, Bybee, Sullivan, & Kennedy, 2012).

Dating Violence

Relationship violence often begins at a young age.[21] Of those who have been victims of intimate partner violence, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men were between 11 and 17 years old at the time of their first violent experience. A total of 69.5 percent of female victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced dating violence before the age of 25 (Black et al., 2011). More than 10 percent of high school students reported being hit, slapped, or otherwise physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the year preceding their participation in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey; this rate has not changed significantly in more than a decade (Kann et al., 2014). A nationally representative sample of 12- to 17-year-olds showed lifetime rates of teen dating violence of 6.4 percent. Rates of teen dating violence rise dramatically for youth who have been physically abused by a caregiver (17 percent), youth who have been raped (25 percent), and youth who have experienced statutory rape by a partner at least 5 years older (50 percent). Further, teen dating violence was found to be significantly associated with sexual victimization (Hamby, Finkelhor, & Turner, 2012).

Some studies of teen dating violence suggest higher rates of male victimization than female victimization. However, when studies define "dating violence" as incidents in which the victim is afraid of a dating partner or of receiving an injury, or actually being physically injured, the proportion of female victims to male victims is higher: 5.1 percent for females compared

[21] "Dating violence" refers to violence in intimate relationships between current or former dating partners, often those involving teens. Dating violence includes many of the elements of domestic violence. The key difference exists in the relationship to the perpetrator. Dating violence includes violence committed by a person who is or has been in a *social* relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim (Office on Violence Against Women, 2013).

with 3.1 percent for males (Hamby & Turner, 2013). When psychological violence is taken into account, particularly with technology-based or "cyber" dating violence, the prevalence for females increases (Zweig, Dank, Yahner, & Lachman, 2013).

Cyber dating abuse occurs with the use of technology and new media. These may include social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, or the use of cell phones and instant messaging. More than 25 percent of youth (male and female) in a dating relationship are victims of cyber dating abuse. The most frequent activities include hacking into a social networking account, sending threatening messages by text or email, and sexual cyber abuse (sending unwanted text/email messages of an explicit sexual nature, and/or pressuring victims to send sexual photos of themselves). Eleven percent report sexual cyber abuse, with females twice as likely as males to experience this type of victimization. More than half of the sexual cyber abuse victims also report sexual coercion (being forced to engage in unwanted sexual acts), a rate seven times greater than the rate reported by those who had not experienced sexual cyber dating violence (Zweig et al., 2013). Of youth daters who perpetrate dating violence, 41 percent use computer-mediated communication—text messaging in particular (Korchmaros, Ybarra, Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Boyd, & Lenhart, 2013).

The consequences of teen dating violence are serious. Teens who are abused by their dating partners are more likely to experience intimate partner violence in future relationships and have increased rates of heavy drinking, depression, smoking, and suicidal ideation (Bonomi, Anderson, Nemeth, Rivara, & Buettner, 2013; Exner-Cortens, Eckenrode, & Rothman, 2013).

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" (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)(29)). The NISVS revealed that approximately 18 percent of women and 1.4 percent of men in the United States have been victims of attempted or completed rape. Close to half of women (44.6 percent) and nearly a quarter of men (22.2 percent) have experienced some other form of sexual violence, including being forced to penetrate, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences (Black et al., 2011). While both women and men are victims of sexual violence, findings suggest that women experience lifetime prevalence of sexual violence by an intimate partner at significantly higher rates (Breiding et al., 2014).

Sexual assault is perpetrated in a variety of situations and relationships. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports that a study of female victims of

sexual violence found that 78 percent knew their offender. The relationships between victim and offender ranged from intimate partners and relatives to well-known or casual acquaintances. The other 22 percent of victims reported their perpetrator was a stranger (Planty, Langton, Krebs, Berzofsky, & Smiley-McDonald, 2013). Likewise, according to the NISVS, of all female victims who had experienced rape—whether completed, attempted, or alcohol- or drug-facilitated—51 percent were raped by a current or former intimate partner and 41 percent by an acquaintance (Black et al., 2011).

Age is one of a number of factors that can place a woman at increased risk of sexual assault. According to the NISVS, more than 75 percent of women surveyed who had been victims of a completed rape were first raped before their 25th birthday; 42 percent of these victims experienced their first completed rape before the age of 18. More than 25 percent of male victims were raped before the age of 11. And women who were raped before the age of 18 were twice as likely to be raped as adults: More than 33 percent of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults compared with 14 percent of women without an early rape history (Black et al., 2011).

Because a large number of 18- to 25-year-old women reside on college campuses, researchers have studied this statistically vulnerable population to determine the prevalence of violence and associated circumstances within it. One study examining fear of rape among 1,905 undergraduate college women found that nearly a third of the respondents indicated experiencing at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact and a quarter reported receiving multiple obscene phone calls by a male perpetrator (Pryor & Hughes, 2013). The Historically Black College and University Campus Sexual Assault Study (HBCU CSA), which assessed multiple factors related to sexual assault on four HBCU campuses, found that approximately 10 percent of the nearly 4,000 undergraduate women surveyed had experienced either an incapacitated or physically forced sexual assault since entering college. In both types of victimization, the most frequently reported assailants were classmates or fellow students (Krebs et al., 2011; Lindquist et al., 2013). In a study of 795 college males, slightly more than 20 percent reported engaging in at least one form of technology-based sexual coercion (Thompson & Morrison, 2013).

As noted in two clinical reviews of practice, the consequences of sexual victimization are considerable. Sexual assault and sexual violence are associated with varied and serious physical, psychological, and emotional health consequences for victims. These include depression, PTSD, shame, and substance abuse. Sexual assault may also result in physical injuries ranging from minor injuries and bruising to blunt force trauma, defensive injuries, and attempted strangulation. Victims may also suffer internal and

anogenital injuries (Linden, 2011; Probst, Turchik, Zimak, & Huckins, 2011). Findings from the HBCU CSA Study indicate that students who are victims of sexual assault are more likely to report symptoms of depression and PTSD than those who have not experienced sexual assault (Lindquist et al., 2013).

Despite the high rates of prevalence and adverse consequences, sexual assault remains under-reported, particularly to law enforcement. A BJS study found that reports of sexual assaults to police fell from a high of 56 percent in 2003 to 35 percent in 2010; and between 2005 and 2010, victims reported that police collected evidence in only 19 percent of the cases to which they responded. Additionally, victims reported that an arrest was made at the scene or during a follow-up investigation 31 percent of the time (Planty et al., 2013).

Victims are more likely to disclose sexual assault to friends and peers. In a study of 2,000 college women, more than 40 percent reported having received an informal disclosure of rape from a female peer, and more than 70 percent reported that they encouraged the victim to report the rape (Paul et al., 2013). In a study of 374 first-year college women, approximately 36 percent reported unwanted sexual experiences (including unwanted sexual contact, sexual coercion, attempted rape, and completed rape) and nearly 75 percent of those women reported that they had talked with someone about the experience, most often to female peers (86 percent) (Orchowski & Gidycz, 2012).

Stalking

OVW defines “stalking” as a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Stalking may include repeated, unwanted, intrusive, and frightening communications from the perpetrator by phone, mail, and/or email. Perpetrators may leave unwanted items, presents, or flowers; or follow or wait for their victim at locations such as home, school, work, or places of recreation. They may make direct or indirect threats to harm the victim, the victim's children, relatives, friends, or pets; they may damage or threaten to damage personal property. Perpetrators may engage in cyber stalking, which can involve harassing the victim through the Internet, posting information or spreading rumors about the victim on the Internet, obtaining personal information by accessing Internet records, and using GPS and spyware to track the victim’s activities and whereabouts (Black et al., 2011; Catalano, 2012; Stalking Resource Center, 2012). More than 75 percent of female victims report having received unwanted phone calls and messages, nearly 60 percent report being approached at work or at home, and more than 33 percent

report being watched, followed, or tracked with some form of device during their lifetimes (Breiding et al., 2014).

Approximately 1 in 6 women (16.2 percent) and 1 in 19 men (5.2 percent) in the United States have experienced stalking at some point in their lives and felt afraid or thought someone close to them would be harmed or killed, according to the NISVS. The general public may be most familiar with stalking by strangers, but females are stalked by strangers only 9 to 13 percent of the time. The majority of female and male victims are stalked by individuals they know: As the NISVS found, more than two-thirds of female victims reported being stalked by a current or former intimate partner and nearly one-quarter reported stalking by an acquaintance. Likewise, approximately four out of ten male victims reported being stalked by an intimate partner and four out of ten reported stalking by an acquaintance. Women who are divorced or separated experience the highest rates of stalking (Black et al., 2011; Breiding et al., 2014; Catalano, 2012).

Stalking is not a singular act. Among stalking victims, nearly half (46 percent) report at least one unwanted contact per week and 11 percent report that they have been stalked by the same person for 5 years or more (Baum, Catalano, Rand, & Rose, 2009; Catalano, 2012).

The fear a victim experiences is an important factor in stalking situations. Most state criminal code definitions of stalking contain an element of the crime requiring that a victim feels fear as a result of the stalker's actions. Research reveals that females are nearly four times more likely to be afraid at the onset of stalking than are males (Reyns & Englebrecht, 2013).

Age is also a risk factor for stalking. Victims between the ages of 18 and 24 experience the highest levels of stalking, and more than half of female victims report that their first stalking experience occurred before the age of 25 (Breiding et al., 2014; Catalano, 2012). Stalking is more common on college campuses than in the general population. According to one study of approximately 1,600 college students, researchers found that the frequency of stalking exceeded 40 percent. However, the victims rarely acknowledged being stalked. Of students reporting behavior that qualified as stalking, only 25 percent self-identified as being stalked and their acknowledgment of the stalking was linked with more severe and injurious offenses by the offenders (McNamara & Marsil, 2012).

Because victims often have to move, cancel cell phone plans, change jobs, and purchase expensive security systems, they face significant financial hardships. A survey of 3.4 million stalking victims found that of those who had jobs and lost time for reasons related to stalking, more than half lost 5 or

more days of work during the previous 12 months; approximately 130,000 victims were either asked to resign or were fired from their jobs (Baum et al., 2009). A history of being stalked and experiencing fear and threats was found to be significantly correlated with the severity of PTSD symptoms, among post-abuse women (Fleming, Newton, Fernandez-Botran, Miller, & Burns, 2012). The psychological, emotional, and financial devastation to victims can last for months or even years after the stalking ceases (L. Miller, 2012).

VAWA Funding

VAWA funding has been critical in addressing the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As of October 2014, VAWA funds 14 discretionary grant programs,[22] the comprehensive technical assistance provider initiative (Technical Assistance Program or TA Program), and 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 the Tribal Coalitions Program.[23] In addition, VAWA funds several special initiatives to enhance victim safety and autonomy, increase the availability of victim services, and enhance offender accountability.

Discretionary grant funds are awarded to a variety of recipients. The federal statute explicitly defines the eligible recipients for each discretionary grant program, and they vary widely (e.g., states, tribal governments, city and county governments, government agencies, universities, and nonprofit organizations that serve victims). Grants are typically awarded for a period of 2 or 3 years depending on the specific program, although grantees in most programs may apply for continuation funding.

Grant Programs Included in this Report

During the period covered by this report, OVW administered 21 grant programs[24] 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 sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding

[22] VAWA 2013 consolidated four grant programs. The Courts Program and the Supervised Visitation Program were consolidated into the new Justice for Families grant program and the CEV Program and the EMY Program were consolidated into the new Consolidated Youth grant program. The data from these two new programs will be captured in the 2016 MEI Report to Congress.
[23] This 2014 Biennial Report covers the period from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013.
[24] Recipients of the 18 grant programs described in this section, as well as the Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Program, contributed data to this report. Data from the STOP and SASP Formula Grant Programs are reported separately, in biennial STOP and SASP Reports to Congress.

offenders accountable. In Fiscal Year 2012, OVW made 527 discretionary awards totaling nearly **$241 million**; in Fiscal year 2013, awards and funding totaled 517 and just under **$226 million** respectively.[25]

Data from OVW's comprehensive technical assistance provider initiative, 16 discretionary grant programs, and 2 formula grant programs are included in this 2014 Report to Congress.[26] Full descriptions of the programs listed below can be found on OVW's website at http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/ovwgrantprograms.htm#1.[27]

- Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program ***(Abuse in Later Life Program)***
- Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program ***(Arrest Program)***
- Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Program ***(Campus Program)***
- Grants to Assist Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program ***(CEV Program)***
- Court Training and Improvements Program ***(Courts Program)***
- Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program ***(Culturally Specific Services Program, or CLSSP)***
- Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Grant Program ***(Disability Program)***

[25] This information is derived from the OVW website using the following links (subtracting the four formula programs): http://www.justice.gov/ovw/awards/fy-s013-ovw-grant-awards-program, http://www.justice.gov/ovw/awards/fy-20120ovw-grant-awards-program. State Coalitions and Tribal Coalitions Program report every 6 months and therefore, those data are covered in this report.

[26] During this time period, data have also been collected from grantees in five VAWA grant programs and OVW's Technical Assistance Provider initiative (TA Program) that received additional funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA invests in the President and Attorney General's priority initiative to protect the most vulnerable and victimized by providing additional funds to five of VAWA's grant programs: the STOP Formula Grant Program, State Coalitions Program, Transitional Housing Program, Tribal Governments Program, and Tribal Coalitions program. Part B of this report includes data from the five VAWA discretionary grant programs and OVW TA Program funded under ARRA.

[27] Since the compilation of this report, changes have been made to the OVW website reflecting the VAWA 2013 Reauthorization. As well, other website links in this report, while current as of September 29, 2014, may have changed.

- Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program ***(EMY 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 Program)***
- Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program ***(State Coalitions Program)***
- Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program ***(Supervised Visitation Program)***
- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault Program ***(Transitional Housing Program)***
- Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program ***(Tribal Coalitions Program)***
- Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program ***(Tribal Governments Program)***
- Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program ***(T–SASP Program)***
- Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Program ***(Youth Services Program)***

Overview of Effectiveness

Demonstrating the effectiveness of services provided to victims and families and the effectiveness of the criminal and civil justice response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by agencies funded under VAWA is crucial to help OVW invest in proven strategies and meet the reporting mandate of VAWA 2000. Related research, prevalence data, statistical information, and anecdotal reports from the grantees themselves demonstrate or strongly suggest that certain practices are effective in furthering the goals of VAWA. Victim services and criminal justice response, as well as education and prevention programs and activities, continue to evolve as they are informed by experience and research; all undergo continuous examination and evaluation. Research on the effectiveness of specified grant-funded activities has been included in this section of the report; when such research is not available, information on best practices in the field is presented.

Many criminal justice and victim services approaches designed to improve the response to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking have been found to enhance the safety of victims. Examples include training on lethality risk factors such as stalking and strangulation and the use of lethality assessment tools to reduce risk (Messing et al., 2014); expansion of legal advocacy; enhancement of state statutes to include sexual assault, dating violence and stalking protection order codes (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2012a; Smith, 2014); practices for improving probationer compliance with court orders for domestic and sexual violence offenders (Gies et al., 2012; A. Klein, Centerbar, Keller, & A. Klein, 2014); support and advocacy services for victims (Allen, Larsen, Trotter, & Sullivan, 2013); Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE/SART) Programs (R. Campbell et al., 2014); and specialized sentencing in domestic violence cases (A. Klein et al., 2014).

All of these activities, and many additional best or promising practices, have been funded and supported by the discretionary grant programs described in this report. The following sections consider some of the critical components of activities funded under VAWA, discuss why they are important, and present research on the effectiveness of these practices if it is available.

Specific VAWA-funded projects are featured to illustrate the effectiveness of grant-funded activities.

Criminal Justice Response

Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are crimes that require the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest, and prosecution, as well as through close judicial scrutiny and management of offender behavior. Each year these crimes have fatal consequences. In 2012, for example, 992 women were killed by their male partners (i.e., current or former husbands and current boyfriends), 264 men were killed by their female partners (i.e., current or former wives and current girlfriends), and 6 people were killed by an acquaintance while being raped in the U.S. (U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, 2013).[28] To ensure that victim safety is a paramount consideration in the development of any strategy to address these crimes and prevent homicide, criminal justice agencies must collaborate among themselves and in meaningful partnerships with nonprofit, sexual assault and domestic violence agencies and organizations, including local shelters, rape crisis centers, victim services organizations, and sexual assault and domestic violence coalitions.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is the gatekeeper to the criminal legal system. Without immediate and informed law enforcement response to crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, victims remain in jeopardy and offenders escape accountability, almost invariably committing more crimes of violence. In the absence of thorough investigation, probable cause assessment, arrest, and charging, offenders are immune from prosecution and potential sanctions. Over the past 20 years, many law enforcement agencies have adopted significant changes in policy, procedure, and practice. These changes have enhanced the criminal legal process and have contributed to reduced recidivism and increased victim safety and satisfaction.

A study of law enforcement response to sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking in Alaska demonstrated the pivotal role of law enforcement in the criminal legal system. Swift response to reported abuse and meticulous investigation increased rates of referral to prosecution, acceptance of cases, and conviction. Sixty percent of the sexual assault arrests and 84 percent of

[28] 2012 is the most recent year for which intimate partner homicide data is available from the FBI.

the domestic violence arrests referred for prosecution were accepted, and 80 percent of both resulted in convictions. Factors that predicted referral for prosecution were collection of physical or DNA evidence, identification of multiple offenses, documentation, tape recording of victim and/or suspect, admissions of guilt by the accused, other corroborative evidence, victim cooperation, and prompt arrest or referral of the case to prosecutors (i.e., within 14 to 19 days of the reported crime). Researchers noted that time, training, and resources are essential for full investigation resulting in higher rates of referral (Rosay, Wood, Rivera, Postle, & TePas, 2011).

A national study of domestic violence witnessed by children found that arrests of perpetrators were most likely to occur when law enforcement used at least six of the following 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, Finkelhor, & Turner, 2014).

However, when supplemental police resources are necessary but unavailable, arrest rates may sharply decline. When domestic violence suspects flee from the scene of domestic abuse, for example, arrest rates often sharply decrease. A study of 25 police departments in four states found that fleeing offenders were more than five times less likely to be arrested than those who remained at the scene. Officers do not typically pursue fleeing offenders or seek arrest warrants for them, notwithstanding the increased likelihood that these assailants will inflict more-serious violence and more frequently reoffend. Departmental guidelines that authorize the use of supplemental resources may be critical to arrest offenders who have fled the scene (Hirschel & Buzawa, 2013).

*"*Predictive policing" is an approach to cost-effective, enhanced crime prevention and intervention increasingly used by law enforcement agencies. It collects data from various sources, analyzes them, and uses the results to anticipate, prevent, and respond to potential crime (Perry, McInnis, Price, Smith, & Hollywood, 2013). One method of predictive policing is assessing the risks of future domestic violence. The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) employs an 11-item evidence-based assessment tool for use by law enforcement with victims of domestic violence during 911-call response (Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 2012). Should the assessment tool identify high-risk for repeat, severe, or near-lethal domestic abuse, responding officers, with the permission of victims, place a call to the local domestic violence service program to connect victims with hotline

advocates who then discuss safety planning and inform victims of domestic violence services. This officer-initiated intervention is also designed to educate victims about the risk factors in their intimate partner relationships, to improve victim decision-making about self-care, and to encourage victims to pursue shelter and advocacy services. In some jurisdictions, officer-advocate teams make home visits to those victims assessed to be at high risk for severe or escalated violence. The team informs "high-risk victims" of services such as legal advocacy, counseling, emergency housing, health care, and other services offered by domestic violence programs and other community resources (Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 2012; Messing et al., 2014).

Research reveals that when first responders use LAP, the frequency and severity of violence against victims decrease and they adopt protective strategies and seek help more often. Victims in the Oklahoma LAP study were more likely to take immediate action—such as removing or hiding their assailants' firearms, seeking civil protection orders, engaging in the criminal legal process against violent partners, and obtaining domestic violence services—and to continue doing so throughout the duration of the study (approximately 7 months) (Messing et al., 2014).[29]

Strong multi-agency relationships ensure effective response to domestic violence. Coordinated response by police and advocate teams increases victims' feelings of safety and comfort with police, which in turn results in more reporting of repeat violence to police (Stover, 2012).

Significant changes in police leadership, policy, and perspectives on sexual assault appear to be critical for appropriate response to sexual assault. Notwithstanding available evidence, arrests of alleged perpetrators of sexual assault may be infrequent, particularly in intimate partner and non-stranger cases. A 4-year study of officer responses to victim reports of sexual assault to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) revealed that only 1 in 9 of the suspects was arrested. Arrest rates were low despite corroborative evidence—e.g., witnesses, physical evidence, or SART exams—in almost half of the reported cases. In about two-thirds of the cases, victims were physically, as well as sexually, assaulted and nearly half were injured. A quarter of the incidents involved the use of a gun, knife, or other weapon. Interviews of LAPD detectives revealed two contrasting approaches to arrest based on beliefs about the credibility of victims of intimate partner and non-stranger sexual assault. Many officers stated that intimate partner/non-

[29] In 2014, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted an amendment to the state's "victim rights" law requiring that the first officer who responds to a domestic violence call must conduct a risk assessment that includes the LAP elements and then refer the victim to domestic violence services.

stranger rape is "not real rape," is the "fault" of the victim, and does not implicate "public safety" as does stranger rape. Other detectives, expressing beliefs that were not victim-blaming and that affirmed victim credibility, attributed the low arrest rate in sexual assault cases to the lack of departmental leadership (Spohn & Tellis, 2012). Research on police response to sexual assault in other jurisdictions reveals that extra-legal factors, particularly the "lack of credibility" of victims, were cited as reasons not to arrest (Tasca, Rodriguez, Spohn, & Koss, 2013).

The following Arrest Program grantee's experience is consistent with the research showing that evidence-based risk assessment by law enforcement enhances victim safety and connection to services:

> The Lethality Assessment Program is being conducted in six of the nine Baltimore City Police Districts. Not all victims of domestic violence identify themselves as victims and seek out the services of the House of Ruth, Maryland on their own. This program allows us to partner with the Baltimore City Police Department to reach out to those victims and provide domestic violence education, safety planning, and introduction to other programs and services available to them. About 30% of the victims reached (through LAP) enrolled in other programs at the House of Ruth, Maryland.
>
> ***—City of Baltimore, Maryland***

Another Arrest Program grantee illustrates the vital need for resources in investigating sexual assault crimes:

> The investigator has been able to track down leads never followed up with by the initial investigators, obtain confirmation DNA samples from (sexual assault) suspects for comparison to the unknown samples recovered from the survivor, and identify and locate previously unknown witnesses. The investigators are afforded the time needed to properly work their cases. This can mean working on cases in a very large geographical area and throughout the state, exhausting every possible lead, locating every possible witness, and attempting to locate the physical evidence within the police agency.
>
> ***—Michigan Department of Human Services***

This Arrest Program grantee discusses the importance of VAWA funding in expanding the investigative capacity of law enforcement:

> Advanced surveillance technology has greatly enhanced the ability of law enforcement and prosecution to build strong cases against offenders, especially in stalking-related cases. Equipment is expensive to purchase and maintain and often, very few individuals within an agency are trained to install, maintain, or troubleshoot equipment failures.
>
> ***—City of Columbus, Mayor's Office, Ohio***

An LAV grantee points out the value of multi-system collaboration in beginning to forge essential reforms in law enforcement policy and practice:

> The LAV grant has provided the opportunity to work on system level changes that reduce barriers and challenges for victims. During the current reporting period LSNY [Legal Services of New York] worked in efforts to enhance police responsiveness to the needs of DV victims. One of the LAV-funded family law attorneys participated in a meeting of DV advocates with a high-level police department representative wherein improvements in NYPD [New York Police Department] practice, including evidence collection, language access, the integration of DV liaisons into local police precincts, ways to monitor the quality of police response to DV incidents, and NYPD certifications for U visa applications, were all discussed.
>
> ***—Legal Services of New York, Bronx Corporation***

During the 2 years covered by this report, **124** VAWA grantees[30] (Arrest, Rural, and Tribal Governments) used funds for law enforcement activities. VAWA grantees hired an average of **84** law enforcement officers, and **70** Arrest Program and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and train specialized law enforcement units in each 6-month reporting period.

Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, grantees trained **83,448** law enforcement officers, and law enforcement officers in Arrest Program-funded agencies responded to **417,805** calls for assistance from sexual assault, domestic violence/dating violence, and stalking victims, arresting more than **96,911** offenders and referring **91,133** cases to prosecutors. During the most recent reporting period included in this report (January 1–June 30, 2013), **784** grantees from all grant programs included in this report engaged in coordinated community response-related meetings with law enforcement agency staff (local, state, and/or federal), and **149** grantees from the Rural, Tribal Governments, and T–SASP Programs engaged in these meetings with tribal law enforcement.

Prosecution

Since the enactment of VAWA, significant innovations in prosecution of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking have been implemented. Among these advances are the development of policies and procedures for comprehensive investigation; establishment or expansion of

[30] This number represents an unduplicated count of Arrest, Rural, and Tribal Governments grantees using funds for law enforcement across all four reporting periods. The same grantees may have engaged in law enforcement activities in more than one of the four reporting periods, but they have been counted only once.

specialized units; upgrades in databases and technology; increased staffing by dedicated prosecutors, investigators, and victim advocates; and training and technical assistance on complex cases. Results include better outreach to victims, enhanced charges for repeat abusers, higher prosecution and conviction rates, upgraded sanctions of convicted abusers, and protections and restitution for victims.

Early intervention and outreach to victims immediately after defendants are arraigned may lead to an increase in victim participation in prosecution and in conviction rates. The Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Project in the Kings County, N.Y., District Attorney's Office contacts domestic violence victims by telephone immediately after a defendant is arraigned to advise of the charges, bail conditions, release status, court dates, criminal protection orders, and available emergency shelter, counseling, and other services. EVE staff conduct follow-up with victims for safety planning, and clarification of the legal process. An investigation of the rates of victim participation in the prosecution process and convictions of domestic violence assailants compared EVE-involved cases with domestic violence cases where there were no EVE services. EVE Project outreach and services to victims whose assailants were in the community before their trials produced increased victim participation in intake appointments with district attorney staff and higher rates of conviction (Peterson, 2013). Similarly, an impact evaluation of the Domestic Violence Coordinated Triage Intervention Project in Denver, Colorado, found that victim-focused contact improves the participation of domestic violence victims in the prosecution of criminal cases; in fact, women who were contacted by system-based advocates were six times more likely to participate in prosecution (DePrince, Belknap, Labus, Buckingham, & Gover, 2012).

Findings of a study looking at domestic violence cases in two metropolitan jurisdictions—one employing evidence-based prosecution and the other a victim-centered strategy—suggest that victims whose cases are prosecuted using a victim-centered approach are less likely to report both psychological and physical violence after case disposition (Finn, 2013). Videotaping statements of domestic violence perpetrators by prosecutor staff may increase the rate of convictions, particularly when victim testimony is not available at trial, when defendants acknowledge the existence of a protection order, or they admit to violating the order (Peterson, 2012).

Within the past 10 years, many states have enacted strangulation laws. Recent mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that strangulation/hanging/suffocation accounts for upwards of 12 percent of the homicides of females annually in the states that participated in the National Violent Death Review Reporting System (Parks, Johnson,

McDaniel, & Gladden, 2014). An 11-city study revealed that the risk of previous non-fatal strangulation for future attempted homicide and homicide of women is more than seven times greater, respectively, than the risk of other acts of violence inflicted on battered women. The same study showed that non-fatal strangulation occurred in 45 percent of the attempted homicides, in 47 percent of the subsequent homicides, and in 10 percent of other acts of domestic violence (Glass et al., 2008). In a 10-year-long case review of living victims of strangulation, the medical examiner's office in a midsize metropolitan community found that most victims (79 percent) were strangled by an intimate partner. Manual strangulation was the method used in nearly 80 percent of the cases and upwards of 40 percent of the victims lost consciousness during the strangulation. Sexual violence was involved in 13 percent of the attacks, and almost 10 percent of the victims were pregnant when the strangulation occurred (Shields, Corey, Weakley-Jones, & Stewart, 2010). The relatively recent recognition that strangulation poses an acute lethal risk has led to a sharp rise in the number of prosecutions for strangulation of both sexual and domestic violence victims in Travis County, Texas. A prosecutor who specializes in strangulation reports that 400 strangulation cases were filed in 2013; 3 years earlier, in 2010, that number was 200 (McKay, 2014). VAWA funding offers prosecutors training on strangulation and related forensic evidence. New diagnostic guides and instructional materials provide blueprints for prosecuting strangulation cases (California District Attorneys Association & Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, 2013).

Although many prosecution practices have greatly improved since the enactment of VAWA, not all types of violence against women are equally likely to be prosecuted. Non-evidentiary factors consistently emerge as significant determinants of whether a rape case is prosecuted or a defendant is found guilty, and of the severity of the sentence imposed. Charging decisions in non-stranger sexual assault cases are affected by several legally irrelevant victim characteristics: whether the victim had a prior criminal record, whether the victim was drinking alcohol prior to the assault, and whether the victim invited the suspect to her residence (Beichner & Spohn, 2012). However, sexual assault cases may be more likely to be investigated and prosecuted, and reach the final stages of prosecution (i.e., conviction at trial and/or guilty plea bargains), after the implementation of a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) program (R. Campbell, Patterson, & Bybee, 2012).

While much is now known about stalking and cyber stalking, there is little current research on the prosecution of either (Baum et al., 2009; Black et al., 2011; Logan, 2010; Reyns, Henson, & Fisher, 2012). Preliminary research on prosecution of domestic violence stalkers found that even when police identified criminal conduct as stalking, prosecutors were more likely to

charge lower-level crimes (A. Klein, Salomon, Huntington, Dubois, & Lang, 2009).

An Arrest Program grantee describes improvements in victim services, the importance of coordination with community partners, and specialization among prosecutors for successful prosecution of domestic and sexual violence.

> Because of the specialized Prosecution Team for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, victims receive more support in the judicial process . . . . Funding has allowed an expansion into lethality assessment with a focus on victim and family safety. This has been an important expansion as an estimated 90 percent of all homicides in the region during this reporting period were related to domestic violence.
>
> Through a coordinated community response effort, the Prosecution Team provides linkage and support throughout the service providers and MOU partners to decrease court case dismissal, to increase victim support, to increase the collection of critical forensic evidence, to decrease the number of cases dropped by victims, and to increase the number of successful prosecutions. Cases are streamlined through the Prosecution Team.
>
> ***–County of Haywood, North Carolina***

Another Arrest Program grantee reports on enhancements made in the investigative process.

> The two grant-funded investigative screeners assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit have increased our ability to more thoroughly prepare domestic violence cases for trial, leading to more successful prosecutions . . . . The investigative screening process includes gathering all of the relevant evidence such as 911 tapes, medical records, certified copies of protection orders, photographs, police reports etc.; contacting the victim to obtain further information about the case and to refer them to the victim assistance program for services; assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the case; and consulting with the domestic violence attorney in preparation for trial. The addition of the two legal assistants has directly affected our ability to handle the significant increase in U Visa certification requests made by victims of domestic violence.
>
> ***–County of Montgomery, Alabama***

This Arrest Program grantee reports on key elements to successful prosecution of domestic violence strangulation cases:

A dedicated prosecutor for strangulation cases has significantly increased the Family Violence Protection Team's capacity to effectively prosecute these cases. The prosecutor has taken increasing numbers of cases to the Grand Jury; in this first three-month reporting period 100 percent of the 106 cases she presented received indictments. She has trained hundreds of police, prosecutors, investigators and advocates and developed expert witnesses who are often critical to successful prosecution of strangulation.

–City of Austin, Texas

During the 2 years covered by this report, VAWA funds were used to train **7,879** sexual assault nurse examiners/sexual assault forensic examiners (SANEs/SAFEs). Data reported by Arrest Program-funded prosecution offices between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, showed a conviction rate[31] of **73** percent for sexual assault cases.

VAWA grant programs promote development and improvement of effective prosecution strategies to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. During the 2 years covered by this report, **101** VAWA grantees[32] funded prosecution activities. VAWA grantees hired an average of **65** prosecutors; and **65** Arrest and Rural grantees, on average, used funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized prosecution units in each 6-month reporting period.

Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, VAWA grantees trained **14,904** prosecutors. A total of **218,485** cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking were referred to Arrest Program-funded prosecutors; **75** percent of the cases were accepted for prosecution. From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, **157,086** cases were disposed of by Arrest Program-funded prosecutors, with **84,939** of those cases resulting in convictions.[33]

Courts

Over the past 20 years, reforms in court systems produced significant changes in policy, structure, technology, rules, practice guidelines, and court-

[31] Convictions include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 7 percent of sexual assault conviction outcomes.
[32] This number represents an unduplicated count of Arrest, Rural, and Tribal Governments grantees using funds for prosecution across all four reporting periods. The same grantees may have engaged in prosecution activities in more than one of the four reporting periods, but they have been counted only once.
[33] Convictions include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 12 percent of all conviction outcomes.

related programs. From pre-trial to post-conviction, enhanced court processes related to sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking increase access to justice for victims, and both heighten accountability and deter perpetrators (Lippman, 2012). Judges are leaders in the configuring of new court structures and processes such as criminal domestic violence courts, integrated domestic violence courts, and dockets for mental health-involved domestic violence offenders (Leventhal, Angiolillo, & D'Emic, 2014). VAWA funds support these improvements and innovations.

Risk assessment appraisals inform bail-setting and conditions of pre-trial release, offer guidance on sentencing, identify "red flags" for probation conditions, and augment judicial monitoring of perpetrators. Judicial officers in California are using a risk assessment tool designed for application in civil, criminal, and family law cases. The tool, adapted from the evidence-based *Danger Assessment*[34] tool on domestic violence, identifies red flags for severe and potentially fatal domestic assault (J. Campbell & Chatman, 2013).

Local or statewide automated data systems apprise victims of offender location and movement, the status of court proceedings, the content of court orders, and information on bail and the release of offenders from custody in 47 states. Access to victim notification services varies—these systems may be broadly available to the public or may be accessible only by registered victims, family members, other affected persons and community members, and legal system professionals. Users generally report that notification systems are effective, timely, accurate, and readily understood (Irazola, Williamson, Niedzwiecki, Debus-Sherrill, & Stricker, 2013; Wicklund & Brenenman, 2013).

Judicial monitoring is a system of mandated court appearances before judicial officers to determine offender compliance with sentencing provisions and to impose swift sanctions for non-compliance. Judicial officers report that judicial monitoring sessions are opportunities to reiterate and clarify information about requirements, restrictions, and consequences for violations. Likewise, offenders assigned to judicial monitoring may be more likely to understand their obligations and to recognize that noncompliance will result in severe adverse consequences (Labriola, Cissner, Davis, & Rempel, 2012).

Youth domestic violence criminal courts are crafting relief that recognizes the developmental needs of juvenile offenders, offering resources and programs

[34] A more detailed description of the instrument can be found at http://www.dangerassessment.org/about.aspx.

that address the unique needs of teen abusers, and connecting teen victims with specialized services (Center for Court Innovation, 2014). Teen protection order courts pay special attention to the unique safety requirements of teen victims, particularly in light of the overlap of offender and victim social networks and enrollment in the same schools and community programs. Court procedures, rules, and resources to enhance victim safety and well-being in teen protection order courts are in varying stages of development (A. Klein et al., 2013).

The goals, policies, and structures of specialty domestic violence courts (i.e., domestic violence dockets, specialized domestic violence courts, unified family courts, and/or integrated domestic violence courts) may vary (Labriola, Bradley, O'Sullivan, Rempel, & Moore, 2010; Moore, 2009). However, the following components of criminal domestic violence courts are considered essential and exist across the country: case management/coordination, expedited hearings, victim advocacy, close supervision and evaluation of offenders, batterer intervention and other treatment programs, courthouse safety, and collaboration of key stakeholders (Hovda, 2012).

Research findings on case processing and outcomes in specialty domestic violence courts, including those comparing integrated domestic violence (IDV) courts[35] with domestic violence and traditional criminal courts, are mixed (Cissner, Labriola, & Rempel, 2013; Peterson, 2014; Schlueter, Wicklund, Adler, Owen, & Halvorsen, 2011). Preliminary research in Idaho suggests that domestic violence criminal courts produce greater case efficiency, judicial contact, victim support services and satisfaction, stakeholder collaboration, and more convictions than traditional criminal courts (Hovda, 2012). A New York statewide investigation of domestic violence courts found that these courts reduced 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 (Cissner et al., 2013). In another New York study comparing nine IDV courts with family and traditional criminal courts, researchers found that IDV court offenders were significantly more likely to be rearrested for criminal contempt charges, most likely for violation of protection orders (Katz & Rempel, 2011). The number of offenders recidivating in crimes of violence pre-disposition, as well as the brevity of time to onset, the frequency of reabuse, protection order violations, or other non-violent crimes, may be higher in IDV courts than in criminal DV or traditional courts.

[35] Integrated domestic violence courts follow a "one judge, one family" approach, scheduling criminal, civil, protection order, and other related cases and matters involving the same family to be heard by the same judge and, whenever possible, on the same date.

Closer surveillance of IDV offenders and engagement of victim witnesses in the prosecution may be the reasons for the higher rate of pre-disposition recidivism (Cissner, Picard-Fritsche, & Puffett, 2011; Katz & Rempel, 2011; Peterson, 2014; Picard-Fritsche, Cissner, & Puffett, 2011).

Beyond the effects of court structure and process, recidivism may further be deterred by the court's imposition of more-severe sanctions. A study examining the impact of differential sentencing of domestic violence offenders found that the rate of new domestic violence crimes was lower for those batterers who were sentenced more severely for domestic violence and non-domestic violence crimes during the first years of their experience with criminal courts. More-severe sanctions deterred recidivism over an 8-year period (A. Klein et al., 2014).

Employment of "domestic violence" managers in administrative offices of state courts who manage information dissemination, help develop court rules and forms and consult on ways to improve court systems (National Center for State Courts, 2012). There has been enactment of laws in more than half of the states that require training judicial officers on domestic violence; some state laws also address training for judicial officers on sexual assault and stalking ("Mandatory domestic violence training for judges," 2013).

A Courts Program grantee describes how the use of lethality assessment by the courts enhances the administration of justice and offers critical opportunities for safety planning and services.

> The DV case manager began administering a Lethality Assessment (LA) with every petitioner who filed an Ex Parte CPO [civil protection order]. The LA contains 20 questions which research has shown to be the highest indicators of domestic homicide. This assessment has given the DV Case Manager the opportunity to speak with 159 victims about safety planning. Out of these 159 victims, 69 of them scored in the most dangerous tier of the assessment. . . . As one victim acknowledged after being strangled, "After I did this [lethality assessment] with you, I realized, this man tried to kill me twice." This showcases an increase in victim recognition of the severity of DV based on the LA. A total of 52 petitioners indicated there was sexual abuse in their relationships and were given direct access to the Rape Crisis Center. Prior to the assessment being in place these 52 petitioners would not have been identified as needing services relating to sexual abuse.
>
> ***–Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Ohio***

Another Courts Program grantee reports on improved pre-trial monitoring of offenders and increased victim engagement in the criminal justice process.

> We had the fortune of hiring a retiring Chief Probation Officer [as a compliance officer for bond conditions] who possesses a degree and background in social work who loves the simple concept of holding offenders accountable and having the system working for the victims. . . . [I]ndividuals receiving bond conditions were not really being monitored unless they committed a new crime. . . . We are already hearing from victims that they love being contacted so soon after the first appearance hearing and from offenders that they may as well go ahead and enter BIP since they are being monitored and they are even entering plea agreements faster.
>
> ***–County of Rockdale, Georgia***

A third Courts Program grantee describes how their VAWA-funded coordinator strengthened and streamlined post-conviction oversight of offenders through weekly communication of information essential for review in probation revocation hearings.

> The OAC [court project coordinator] is communicating weekly via email with all BIP service providers. This email communication contains information about hearings that are scheduled. This communication is then relayed to the prosecutors so that the prosecutors have the most up-to-date information for probation revocation hearings. Also, the OAC communicates the information that may be missing from the court record so that the providers can bring that information to court and thus cut down on unnecessary continuances for them to retrieve that information. This leads to a quicker response to probation violations.
>
> ***–City of Kansas City, Kansas***

The following Courts Program grantee reports on how this funding has transformed the tribal courts in their jurisdiction.

> With the Courts Program funding, we have been able to coordinate a Domestic Violence Court between 5 Tribal Courts in our region; develop a culturally-relevant local Batterer Intervention Program curriculum to enhance court remedies and services aimed towards ending the cycle of violence and realign community members with their culture; train our judges as domestic violence experts (through the Enhanced Judicial Skills for Domestic Violence Cases workshops); and improve uniform domestic violence and ancillary family law forms for use in Tribal court.
>
> ***–Northern California Tribal Court Coalition***

An Arrest Program grantee used VAWA funding to make dramatic changes in the tracking of domestic violence offenses.

> Prior to receiving this funding, we did not track domestic violence offenses from each municipal court system. Therefore, in our extremely large county, with multiple municipal courts, the offender was being treated like a first time offender. As our database has expanded to include 20 counties in Southern Alabama, we are now able to track these offenses and make them available state-wide through LETS [Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety]; this would not have been possible without this program funding.
>
> ***–Mobile County Commission, Alabama***

The Court Training and Improvements Program supports the development and enhancement of model courts and training for court-related personnel.[36] A total of four VAWA-funded grant programs—Arrest, Courts, Rural, and Tribal Governments—used funds for court activities. Between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013, VAWA funds were used to support an average of **22** court personnel FTEs[37] per reporting period.

During the four reporting periods covered by this report, **56** VAWA grantees[38] funded court activities. Between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013, VAWA grantees trained **19,799** court personnel and used funds to support an average of **38** specialized courts. Arrest Program-funded courts disposed of **7,973** sexual assault, domestic violence/dating violence, stalking, and/or related cases, more than half of which were domestic violence/dating violence misdemeanors; **71** percent of those charges disposed of resulted in convictions.[39]

The Arrest Program-funded court programs engaged in judicial monitoring of an average of **2,113** offenders and conducted **18,587** individual review hearings. During the most recent reporting period (January 1–June 30, 2013), **585** grantees from all grant programs included in this report engaged in CCR-related meetings with local, state, and federal courts; and **131** grantees from

[36] VAWA 2013 authorized the Justice for Families Program, which combines two pre-existing VAWA-funded programs—Court Training and Improvements and Supervised Visitation and Exchange—into one. OVW initiated the Mentor Court Initiative in 2014 to recognize well-established specialized courts and enable them to guide other courts and court-based programs that wish to significantly improve their court responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases and ensure victim safety and offender accountability. Data from this new program and initiative will be included in the 2016 Biennial Report.

[37] These court personnel were judges, clerks, docket managers, etc.

[38] This number represents an unduplicated count of Arrest, Courts, Rural, and Tribal Government grantees using funds for court activities across all four reporting periods. The same grantees may have engaged in court activities in more than one of the four reporting periods, but they have been counted only once.

[39] Convictions include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 28 percent of all conviction outcomes.

the Rural, Tribal Governments, and T–SASP Programs engaged in these meetings with tribal courts.

Probation

Since the enactment of VAWA, probation and parole departments have devised policies and practices to respond to the heightened scrutiny and more nuanced sentencing by courts in cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Increasingly, probation departments have adopted specialized practices for intensive supervision of offenders and many specialized units provide outreach and support to victims.

A review of studies looking at programs that are applying swift, certain, and proportional responses to offender violations suggests that the field of community corrections is relying on this evidence to support and inform the implementation of such practices in other programs and jurisdictions (American Probation and Parole Association, National Center for State Courts, & Pew Charitable Trust, 2013).

An analysis of data on more than 150,000 offenders in Washington State revealed that domestic violence offenders had more extensive criminal histories, were charged with more assaults and violent offenses, and were identified as "higher risk to re-offend" than non-domestic violence offenders. Domestic violence offenders also had higher rates of recidivism for both domestic violence and non-domestic violence crimes (Harmon & Miller, 2013). Other research confirms that batterers often engage in other criminal conduct in addition to domestic violence (Richards, Jennings, Tomsich, & Gover, 2013).

A statewide study in Rhode Island tracked the patterns of domestic violence and non-domestic violence offenses committed by domestic violence perpetrators over ten years, beginning with their earliest criminal justice system involvement. Where probation officers violated batterers for noncompliance and corresponding sanctions for violations were severe, recidivism was significantly lower. This reduction, however, occurred most often when batterers were sanctioned more severely for domestic violence offenses than for non-domestic violence offenses. Where the punishment for non-domestic violence crimes was greater, batterers were more likely to continue abusing their partners (A. Klein et al., 2014).

Research on high-risk sex offenders suggests that electronic monitoring programs using GPS technology produce significantly better outcomes. Compliance with conditions of parole was three times greater when

offenders were tracked with GPS monitors rather than subjected to traditional parole supervision. Recidivism—including rearrest, reconviction, and return to incarceration—was more than twice as high among parolees who received traditional supervision. Similarly, re-incarceration for parole violations was almost 40 percent higher among those subjected to traditional parole supervision (Gies et al., 2012).

Two Arrest Program grantees describe improved probation monitoring and intensive supervision of offenders.

> Grant funding enables intensive supervision of offenders. Previously one misdemeanor probation officer was assigned to all domestic violence and other types of cases. Now a veteran probation officer is assigned exclusively to the domestic violence caseload, in addition to the current officer, providing a two-person team to monitor high-risk offenders. Probation now has the ability to conduct frequent home visits, employment verification, etc., and can more accurately report to the court regarding offender compliance.
>
> ***–County of Bannock, Idaho***

> Grant funding has supported an increased flow of information . . . that allows community partners and the courts to view offenders' compliance records with the BIP. This has led to increased monitoring of offenders, both those that are supervised through our DV Probation Officer and those that are placed on unsupervised probation. The increased information flow and compliance review structure in DV Court has led to increased compliance, swifter sanctions for non-compliance, and higher overall offender accountability due to the improved working relationships between community partners . . . . Additionally, we have revised our Lincoln County Domestic Violence Protocol to update and help memorialize current practices in our response to Domestic Violence.
>
> ***–County of Lincoln, Oregon***

A third Arrest Program grantee illustrates the positive outcomes from treatment during the course of probation supervision.

> Data tracked on 158 offenders who successfully completed treatment . . . indicated significant drops in system involvement during the 2 years after they completed treatment when compared to their criminal involvement 2 years prior to and including the year of completion. There was a 74 percent drop in law enforcement calls alleging domestic violence, an 85 percent decrease in criminal charges against these offenders, and an 87 percent drop in protection orders being sought against them.
>
> ***–City of Grand Forks, North Dakota***

During the 2 years covered by this report, **63** VAWA grantees[40] funded probation activities. VAWA grantees hired an average of **39** probation officers and an average of **38** Arrest Program and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized probation units during each 6-month reporting period. Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, VAWA grantees trained **11,346** corrections personnel, including probation and parole officers, correctional facilities staff, and other offender monitors. During the same 2-year report period, Arrest Program-funded probation agencies made **253,565** contacts with offenders and **30,112** contacts with victims. They disposed of **9,633** probation violations, of which **2,739** resulted in probation revocation and incarceration, and **2,794** in partial revocation.

Services to Victims and Families

The provision of services to victims and families is critical in creating safety and security. Victims and families struggle with the physical, emotional, and financial implications of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse. An estimated 1,900 domestic violence programs and 1,300 rape crisis centers operate in the U.S. alone (T. Poore, personal communication, August 22, 2014; National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2014a). Beyond providing services for victims and families, organizations across the country offer a wide variety of educational and preventive services.

To address the complex needs of victims and families, advocates and communities have worked diligently to create responsive programs and services. During the 2 years that this report covers, 14 of the VAWA discretionary grant programs (Abuse in Later Life, Arrest, Campus, CEV, CLSSP, Courts, Disability, LAV, Rural, SASP–CS, Transitional Housing, Tribal Governments, T–SASP, and Youth Services Programs) funded an array of direct services to victims. These services included crisis intervention, emergency assistance (e.g., clothing, food, medical care, and housing), victim advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, civil legal advocacy, civil legal assistance, counseling and support, victim-witness notification, medical response, interpreters/language lines, hotline services, transportation, and referrals to community resources and agencies. In addition to direct services, CEV grantees provided services and support to children directly or indirectly exposed and to parents/caregivers of children directly exposed to violence.

[40] This number represents an unduplicated count of Arrest, Courts, Rural, and Tribal Governments Program grantees using funds for probation across all four reporting periods. The same grantees may have engaged in probation activities in more than one of the four reporting periods, but they have been counted only once.

The Supervised Visitation and Tribal Governments Programs provided visitation and exchange services to families affected by domestic violence. The number of victims, children, youth, and other dependents served by all **15** grant programs averaged **146,271** in each 6-month reporting period.[41]

Crisis Intervention Services

Crisis intervention is the process by which a trained professional, such as a victim advocate or social worker, identifies, assesses, and intervenes on behalf of an individual in crisis. Crisis intervention seeks to reduce the psychological stress a victim experiences during the immediate crisis, as well as in the aftermath of violence. It involves delivering or brokering emergency housing, legal assistance, and economic services coupled with emotional support. These professionals also work with the victim to assess risk and plan for safety according to the victim's response to the crisis.

Crisis intervention assistance can include 24-hour hotlines, victim advocacy, emergency shelter, and referrals to community-based services. Hotlines, which have existed since the emergence of rape crisis centers in the mid-1970s (Maier, 2011), offer telephone consultations to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Hotlines are typically available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on national, state, and local levels. Recent innovations include online hotlines that people can use to chat with or text victim advocates (Loveisrespect.org, n.d. http://www.loveisrespect.org; The National Domestic Violence Hotline, n.d. http://www.thehotline.org/help).

The need for crisis intervention is clear and undeniable. According to the 2010 NISVS, more than a third of female victims of intimate partner violence needed services and nearly a quarter reported needing medical care (Breiding et al., 2014). Safety planning can be a core component of crisis intervention. Developing an individualized plan must incorporate an assessment of risk for further violence to victims and their children. Safety plans may be part of a strategy to leave the abusive situation, making sure to incorporate not only safety needs but also economic, health, housing, and educational needs; and taking into consideration whether the victim will remain in contact with the abusive partner. Safety plans are reported to be most effective when they are developed in collaboration with victims and incorporate more than just responding to the immediate violence. Ideally,

[41] This does not include custodial and non-custodial parents served by the Supervised Visitation and Tribal Governments grant program or non-abusing parents receiving supportive services from CEV grantees.

they will provide for longer-term goals and are modified continually as conditions change (Davies, 2009; Nichols, 2013).

Crisis intervention is also vital for victims of sexual assault. When advocates are present in the legal and medical proceedings following rape, victims fare better in both the short- and long-term periods, experiencing less psychological distress, physical health struggles, sexual risk-taking behaviors, self-blame, guilt, and depression. Rape survivors with advocates were more likely to have police reports taken (59 percent of the time) than survivors without advocates, whose reports were taken only 41 percent of the time (R. Campbell, 2006).

Addressing and minimizing the trauma that victims experience would be impossible without counseling and crisis intervention. For victims of sexual assault, crisis intervention provides an opportunity to begin to return to a level of functioning that existed before the assault. A quasi-experimental study confirmed the need for these services, particularly given the evidence that these victims are frequently exposed to re-traumatization by the legal and medical systems (R. Campbell, 2006). These services help victims to eventually move beyond their victimization onto a path of resiliency and healing.

A Youth Services Program grantee illustrates the importance of developing a variety of options to provide crisis support to victims:

> Youth Grant-funded staff have worked to develop online advocacy services: a new chat line for youth survivors of sexual violence. This reporting period is the first in which the chat feature, launched onto HOPE Works website as the first available chat line for survivors of sexual violence in the State of Vermont, was available for youth. . . .The chat service allows youth to log on without providing any identifying information and chat with a confidential advocate. The advocates providing services are crisis worker certified in the State of Vermont and are trained to provide emotional support, information, and referrals to youth and those who support them.
>
> ***—Spectrum Youth and Family Services Inc., Vermont***

Over the 2 years that this report covers, Abuse in Later Life, Arrest, Campus, CLSSP, Courts, Disability, Rural, SASP–CS, T–SASP, Transitional Housing, Tribal Governments, and Youth Services grantees responded to **616,103** hotline calls and provided an average of **169,977** primary victims with crisis intervention services.

Shelter and Transitional Housing

Shelters provide some of the most essential services to those who are affected by sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. For the past 4 decades, they have offered victims of domestic violence and their children an alternative to homelessness, because fleeing from the abuser often means leaving their home. Transitional housing programs provide extended housing and support services, allowing victims more time to work toward physical, emotional, and economic recovery and to establish permanent, safe, and affordable residential environments for themselves and their children.

Of the 1,905 identified domestic violence programs in the United States, 1,649 (87 percent) responded to the National Domestic Violence Counts annual point-in-time survey.[42] On September 17, 2013, 77 percent of the respondent programs provided emergency shelter and 37 percent provided transitional housing to victims and their children; 11,870 children and 11,647 adults received emergency shelter and an additional 7,561 children and 5,271 adults were provided with transitional housing (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2014a).

Housing insecurity can result in a victim staying with or returning to the abuser. On the day of the National Domestic Violence Counts survey, victims made 9,641 unmet requests for services, 60 percent (5,778) of which were for housing (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2014a). Women and men who have experienced housing insecurity are at higher risk for rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner. The NISVS found that in a 12-month period, 10 percent of women and 8 percent of men who faced housing insecurity were victims of intimate partner violence, as compared with 2.3 percent of women and 3.1 percent of men who did not face housing insecurity (Breiding et al., 2014). A recent study found that housing instability is as strong a predictor of poor health outcomes in abusive relationships, as is the level of danger. The greater the number of risk factors for housing instability, the more likely it is that victims will report symptoms consistent with PTSD, higher levels of depression, reduced quality of life, increased absence from work and/or school, and increased hospital and emergency room use (Rollins et al., 2012).

[42] The Domestic Violence Counts survey provides aggregate data from across the United States on the unduplicated number of adults and children requesting and/or receiving services at domestic violence shelter programs on a given day. It is an annual point-in-time survey that collects data for a specific 24-hour period and has been conducted once a year since 2006. The survey is non-invasive and accounts for victim confidentiality. It was developed by a team of experts in the domestic violence field and is administered by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

Shelters are a safe place for victims who are leaving abusive relationships: In addition to housing, they may provide counseling and advocacy, legal assistance, and referrals to other sources of help. Shelter and transitional housing programs give victims the follow-up support they need to remain on their path to self-sufficiency by removing barriers to long-term housing security. They promote economic empowerment through financial literacy education, and employment and career counseling. One study of 70 domestic violence centers in Illinois found that women who were in shelter received a wide range of services for a more extended period of time than women who never entered a shelter (Grossman & Lundy, 2011). Survivor-focused services enhance survivors' agency by nurturing the capacity of victims to live independently from their abusers. By incorporating the input of victims, programs most effectively develop services to meet their individual needs (Kulkarni, Bell, & Rhodes, 2012).

VAWA-funded transitional housing is designed to bridge the gap between emergency and permanent housing. Grant-funded programs are able to offer a wide range of supportive services (e.g., case management, childcare, financial assistance, therapy, job and education development, parenting groups, etc.) to help victims develop self-sufficiency. Housing units are either owned or rented by the programs, from local housing authorities or private landlords. Programs may provide housing at no cost to the victim or provide subsidies to offset rental costs, and may pay all or portions of required deposits, utilities, and phone services. Residents are generally permitted to remain in transitional housing units from 6 months to 2 years and are typically required to establish goals to work toward economic stability.

The funding has been responsible for assisting victims in overcoming considerable barriers, as illustrated by two Transitional Housing Program grantees:

Interval House has the unique capacity to provide specialized, comprehensive service to low-income, culturally underserved, and high-barrier victims of domestic violence and their children facing significant personal and financial obstacles to obtaining and retaining permanent housing. As a result of intentional commitment to diversity and inclusion, Interval House continues to be presented with individuals who are challenged by systems unable to bridge the barriers of language, race, tradition, culture, sexual orientation, and ability. It is Interval House's intent to continue to increase capacity for care of such families, individuals, and communities. We do this by utilizing the skilled individuals who have benefited from our programs in the past and leveraging them to help elevate others in the community. The net result is: the underserved clients benefit from seeing others they know become elevated, so they are modeling social advancement; and victims are able to get help from individuals who have experienced the same barriers, thereby opening up levels of trust and making them more open to the services.

—Interval House, California

Most of our clients are not able to leave their abuser because they have financial burdens. Having another option for safe, affordable housing is an immeasurable benefit to those victims served. As one domestic abuse advocate stated, "They are able to save up money, work on goals and concentrate on themselves and their children and the crises going on in their lives without worrying about how to come up with rent and utility money. With one particular client, she would have had no choice but to go back to her abuser without the transitional housing program. She fled with no job, childcare, or money, which would have been huge barriers to overcome without the [Transitional Housing] program."

—Helping Services of Northeast Iowa

Abuse in Later Life, CLSSP, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Youth Services Program grantees provided emergency shelter to an average of **2,365** victims and **2,497** of their family members during each 6-month reporting period and provided a total of **302,880** bed nights during the 2 years covered by this report.[43]

Transitional Housing Program grantees provided transitional housing to an average of **925** victims, **1,324** children, and **19** of their other dependents during each 6-month reporting period and provided a total of **1,059,998** bed nights over the 2-year report period. Abuse in Later Life, Rural, Tribal Governments, and Youth Services Program grantees provided transitional housing to an average of **306** victims and **484** of their family members during each 6-month reporting period and provided a total of **169,647** bed nights over the 2-year report period.

[43] These numbers do not include non-abusing parents from CEV (69), accompanying family members (106), or the number of bed nights (18,374).

Legal Advocacy and Legal Services

Providing legal advocacy and legal representation for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking is an essential component of the efforts to end violence against women and to improve the safety of victims. Knowledgeable OVW-funded advocates (attorneys and victim advocates) can provide victims with information, support, and representation in civil and criminal matters, which are often confusing and intimidating to victims. Assistance from attorneys and advocates can greatly enhance the quality of the victim experience in the legal system and improve outcomes (National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women, 2001).[44]

OVW-funded attorneys may provide direct representation for victims in court cases, most often protection order cases but also in family law (e.g., divorce, parental rights and responsibilities, custody/visitation, and child and spousal support), immigration, housing, consumer credit, employment, and other matters.[45] Representation in family matters is especially important to 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, and create ongoing challenges through litigation. Through "paper abuse,"[46] offenders can exert coercive control long after victims terminate the abusive relationship. Victims with children are particularly vulnerable to this type of abuse because offenders routinely use the courts to challenge custody, child support, and visitation arrangements (S. Miller & Smolter, 2011).

Governmental victim assistants (also known as victim-witness specialists or advocates)[47] in law enforcement and prosecution offices may provide a broad range of support to victims by explaining the criminal justice system and what to expect at each stage of the proceedings; assisting with victim impact

[44] See next section, titled "Orders of Protection" in this Biennial Report.
[45] The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant Program is the primary OVW-funded vehicle for delivering comprehensive legal assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The Tribal Governments Program also funds comprehensive legal services. Only attorneys funded by these two programs were allowed to provide the full range of direct representation described above during the 2 years covered by this report. Attorneys and paralegals funded by Arrest, Campus, CEV, CLSSP, Courts, Rural, Transitional Housing, and Youth Services Program grants also provide civil legal assistance (civil legal services provided by an attorney and/or paralegal), but that service was generally limited to representation and assistance with protection order cases. VAWA 2013 expanded services under the Rural Program to include comprehensive legal assistance.
[46] The authors define "paper abuse" as "a range of behaviors such as filing frivolous lawsuits, making false reports of child abuse, and taking other legal actions as a means of exerting power, forcing contact, and financially burdening their ex-partners."
[47] Arrest, CEV, Courts, Rural, and Tribal Governments Programs fund both governmental and nongovernmental advocates; Campus, CLSSP, SASP–CS, Transitional Housing, and Youth Services Programs fund only nongovernmental advocates.

statements; accompanying victims to hearings and interviews; notifying victims of the release of perpetrators from custody, dates of upcoming hearings, continuances, and other events in the criminal case; and preparing crime victim compensation applications. These activities are considered "criminal justice advocacy."

Nongovernmental or community-based advocates and paralegals may help victims prepare protection order applications; accompany them to protection order or other civil or administrative hearings; and advocate at administrative hearings on such issues as eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food stamps, Medicaid, unemployment benefits, crime victim compensation, insurance, and Social Security benefits. These activities are considered "civil legal advocacy."

Attorneys and/or nongovernmental advocates may also assist victims in criminal cases,[48] accompanying the victim to meetings with the prosecutor to clarify evidentiary matters, request bail conditions or modifications, and discuss plea agreements and sentencing sanctions. Victims with pending criminal cases who were also receiving services from civil attorneys and community-based advocates reported feeling that they had a voice[49] in cases in which they also had direct contact with the prosecutor (Cattaneo, Goodman, Epstein, Kohn, & Zanville, 2009). Those victims who had empowering experiences[50] in criminal court reported a greater improvement in quality of life (measured 6 months after the criminal process) and were more likely to say they intended to use the legal system if violence recurred (Cattaneo & Goodman, 2010).

The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Program is the primary OVW-funded vehicle for delivering legal assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. LAV-funded staff provided services to an average of **34,232** victims during each 6-month reporting period and addressed an average of **49,815** legal issues. An average of **7,103** (25 percent) victims received help with more than one type of legal issue in each 6-month reporting period. The most common legal issues addressed by LAV-funded staff were protection orders (**10,946** victims received assistance with this issue, on average, during each 6-month reporting period), divorces (**9,885**), child custody and visitation (**9,321**), and child support (**6,308**).

[48] OVW-funded attorneys are not allowed to act as defense counsel for victims who have been charged with crimes.

[49] "Victim voice" was defined as the extent to which victims felt they had been able to express their opinions and that those opinions had been valued and heard during the court process.

[50] "Empowering experience" was described as the victims' feeling of being able to express what they wanted and seeing their wishes reflected in decisions or responses in the court process.

OVW grantees[51] provided civil legal assistance (civil legal services provided by an attorney and/or paralegal) to an average of **4,407** victims during each reporting period; these services were generally limited to assistance with protection orders. These grantees also provided civil legal advocacy to an average of **23,231** victims and criminal justice advocacy to an average of **24,609** victims during each 6-month reporting period.[52]

A common comment made by abusers is that their partner will not "ever see their kids again." Often, the abuser is the one with access to the finances of the family and will limit the victim's ability to access those funds. With this grant, [we are] able to provide those victims with legal services to assist in divorces, custody, child support, and other family law matters to make sure the victim retains their rights when they leave their abusers. Because of the extent of the legal services we are able to provide, many of our victims are able to remain free from their abusers and begin a safe and healthy lifestyle.

—Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Tribal Governments)

The Life Span civil staff attorney and paralegal assist TAC [The Abuser Call, a CCR] victims with the civil legal issues such as paternity, child support, child visitation, and immigration issues that may also have otherwise stopped them from pursuing their criminal case or permanently leaving their abuser.

—Cook County, Illinois (Arrest)

[51] Arrest, Campus, CEV, CLSSP, Courts, Rural, Transitional Housing, Tribal Governments, and Youth Services Program grantees provided civil legal assistance.

[52] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. For example, victims may have received both civil legal advocacy and criminal justice advocacy in the same reporting period.

Operating a statewide legal hotline, supporting and advocating for victims in civil and criminal court cases, and providing comprehensive legal representation of victims are some of the ways in which VAWA grantees ensure that the legal system is responsive to the needs of victims.

> Without this funding, we would not be able to effectively operate our legal advocacy hotline. This hotline averaged 571 calls per month during the January 2013–June 2013 reporting period. Many victims and survivors depend on this service for legal information and referrals. It provides a free service to those who cannot afford legal representation, in order to better navigate the legal system. It is the only one of its kind in Arizona.
>
> ***—Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (State Coalitions)***

> We are now able to provide holistic representation by representing victims in obtaining a restraining order, divorce, child custody, child and spousal support, and any other family law matters in which they need assistance. Our project paralegal is able to assist clients in filling out legal documents. This is beneficial especially for those who are unable to read and write the English language. . . . LAV program funding has allowed us to even the playing field by offering free legal representation to victims who often go to court unrepresented, while the opposing party is often represented by counsel.
>
> ***—Marjaree Mason Center, Inc., California (LAV)***

> GEMS provides a consistent presence in the criminal courts systems throughout NYC and in the Family Court systems to ensure the commercially exploited youth are getting services in lieu of detention or jail and offers alternatives to incarceration to hundreds of victims each year. We also have strong working relationships with many other service providers throughout the city.
>
> ***—Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, New York (Youth Services)***

Orders of Protection

Protection orders are the most widely used remedy in the justice system for victims of intimate partner violence (Logan & Walker, 2009); victims of domestic violence are able to petition for a civil order of protection in every state. In addition to prohibiting or limiting an offender's contact with the victim and prohibiting further abusive behavior, the order may address custody, visitation, economic support, firearms restrictions, and other conditions tailored to the victim's particular needs and circumstances. Protection orders provide victims flexibility, authority, and remedies not present in the prosecution of a criminal case.

A state-by-state review of legislative action relating to domestic violence found that protection orders were the most significant focus: 18 states took action to reform their protection order statutes in 2013. Some established or strengthened criminal sanctions for violating orders and addressed obstacles to enforcement; others reduced barriers to obtaining protection orders. Several states introduced relief to protect victims and families from economic harm (e.g., requiring the respondent to continue paying basic expenses, prohibiting disposal or transfer of property, or requiring return of identification documents) (Smith, 2014).

VAWA defines protection orders broadly, and its full faith and credit provision requires that all valid protection orders (including those for sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, as well as for domestic violence) be enforced in all jurisdictions within the United States (National Center on Protection Order and Full Faith and Credit, 2011).[53] However, not every state allows victims of sexual assault and stalking to petition for and receive protection orders if they are not or have not been the spouse or intimate partner of, or in a family or household relationship with, their abuser: 15 states make no specific provision for protection orders for non-domestic violence stalking victims and 26 states do not address non-partner sexual assault in their protection order statutes (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2012b).[54] [55]

A study of the effectiveness of civil protection orders in one state found at the 12-month point after issuance of the order: 70 percent of the orders were still in effect, two-thirds of the women did not continue in or reestablish a relationship with their abusive partners, 2 out of 5 women did not experience violations of their orders, and the vast majority of petitioners felt the protective order was effective and felt safer after its issuance (Logan & Walker, 2009). Another study in the same state showed that even in cases where orders were violated, there was a significant reduction in violence and

[53] These jurisdictions include all states, tribal lands, and territories; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the District of Columbia; and all military installations. *See* U.S.C. §2265 (2006).

[54] Even in states without stalking- or sexual assault-specific protection orders for non-domestic violence victims, these victims may request more generic anti-harassment or restraining orders.

[55] Only 21 states have stalking-specific protection orders: 13 have orders exclusively for stalking; 8 include the word "stalking" in their title, often in combination with "sexual assault;" and an additional 10 states have orders that include stalking in the definition but not in the title. Twenty-one states have sexual assault-specific protection orders—4 for sexual assault exclusively, 8 including sexual assault/violence/abuse in the title, and 9 including sexual assault in the definition but not in the title. These counts of states also include the District of Columbia and the territory of Puerto Rico. They are based on an April 2014 review of Web-posted documents http://www.womenslaw.org/, a site sponsored by the National Network to End Domestic violence. A searchable database with information on the types of protection/restraining orders available in each state, as well as an overview of state laws relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking can be found at http://www.womenslaw.org/laws_state_type.php?statelaw_name=Restraining%20Orders&state_code=GE.

abuse six months after issuance (Logan, Walker, Hoyt, & Faragher, 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 (Wright & Johnson, 2012).

Although civil orders of protection are designed so that a victim can gain relief without legal representation, OVW-funded attorneys, paralegals, and legal advocates can be invaluable resources for victims engaged in this process. Cases in which LAV-funded attorneys represented victims in protection order hearings were reported to result in better agreements, increased court efficiency, and an overwhelmingly high rate of satisfaction on the part of the represented victims (Institute for Law and Justice, 2005). Following are examples of how VAWA grantees assist victims with protection orders—by ensuring that they are processed and served promptly, that they address critical needs of the victim, and that they are enforced when violated. These grantees may be supporting a victim's first step in the direction of freeing themselves from abuse and achieving safety for themselves and their children.

> Our project staff continued our policy of safety audits for each personal protection order entered by the court. Staff make contact with each petitioner within two weeks of entry of the personal protection order they requested to confirm that the petitioner is safe, provide any information regarding service of the order as requested, and ensure that any necessary paperwork is complete.
>
> ***—Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan (Courts)***

> The identification of the protection order violation, as well as its enforcement, would not have been [achieved] in the system without this grant opportunity. . . . The combination of law enforcement and advocacy has enabled the effective and efficient handling and assessment of cases that are considered high risk. The [Law Enforcement] Coordinator is able to hold the offender accountable by making arrests on protective order violations and is able to pass important and pertinent information onto the courts and law enforcement agencies. The advocate is able to contact the victim to assist in planning for safety and accessing needed resources.
>
> ***—Montgomery County Commission, Alabama (Arrest)***

LAV-funded staff provided assistance to an average of **10,946** victims seeking protection orders in each reporting period. Staff (e.g., advocates, law enforcement personnel, and prosecutors) from other OVW-funded programs

provided assistance to victims who were granted a total of **78,716** final civil protection orders over the 2-year period covered by this report.[56]

One of the primary purposes of the Arrest Program is to improve the enforcement of orders of protection. During the 2 years covered by this report, criminal justice agencies receiving Arrest Program funds engaged in the following activities:[57] law enforcement agencies made **10,359** arrests for violations of protection orders; prosecution offices disposed of **8,103** protection order violations, with **59** percent resulting in convictions;[58] courts conducted post-conviction judicial monitoring, disposing of **458** violations of protection orders by offenders and imposing sanctions for **60** percent of those violations;[59] and probation agencies supervised offenders who had **1,095** protection order violations, **82** percent of which resulted in the imposition of sanctions.

Courts Program-funded courts granted **6,413** final civil protection orders; disposed of **508** protection order violation cases in criminal courts, with **64** percent resulting in convictions;[60] and conducted post-conviction judicial monitoring, disposing of **117** violations of protection orders by offenders and imposing sanctions for **69** percent of those violations.

Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Services

For many victims of domestic violence, leaving an abusive relationship does not end the abuse perpetrated by their partners; rather, the risk of abuse to the mother and her children during the period of separation, and even after divorce, often continues or increases, and may ultimately lead to domestic homicide of both mothers and children (Araji & Bosek, 2010; Shepard & Hagemeister, 2013; Watson & Ancis, 2013). During the post-separation period, children are often exposed, directly or indirectly, to violence, threats, intimidation, manipulation, and coercive controls. The degree to which the

[56] CEV Program grantees assisted children exposed to violence (both direct child victims and those indirectly exposed) and non-abusing parents/caregivers in obtaining final protection orders. They assisted with separate orders for 119 non-abusing parents/caregivers and 2 children and assisted with 96 orders that were for both children and non-abusing parents/caregivers. These numbers are not included with the protection order numbers in the above text.
[57] Arrest Program grantees report agency-wide data reflecting criminal justice (i.e., law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and probation) activities of the funded agency or jurisdiction, not just the activities directly supported with Arrest Program funding.
[58] This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents three percent of all conviction outcomes.
[59] Sanctions included partial or total revocation of probation, fines, and/or added conditions.
[60] This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents 17 percent of all conviction outcomes.

experience compromises the emotional stability and psychological well-being of the child is often profound.[61]

Despite the noted harmful effects of post-separation violence and abuse on victims and children, custody evaluators regularly fail to recommend visitation arrangements that safeguard children and prevent direct contact between the abused and abusive parents (Davis, O'Sullivan, Susser, & Fields, 2011; Saunders, Faller, & Tolman, 2012). A supervised visitation and exchange center designed to identify subtle and explicit tactics of abuse and to intervene on behalf of the victim and her or his child can provide protection that will minimize the trauma resulting from visits with abusive parents (Parker, Rogers, Collins, & Edleson, 2008).

The Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program (Supervised Visitation)[62] awards grants to visitation and exchange programs specifically designed to address the safety and security needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child abuse. 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 appropriate behavior is modeled for the child. Supervised Visitation Program grantees follow six guiding principles developed by the Supervised Visitation Program National Steering Committee (Office on Violence Against Women, 2007)

- equal regard for the safety of child and adult victims
- appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity
- incorporation of an understanding of domestic violence into center services
- respectful and fair interactions
- community collaboration
- advocacy for child and adult victims

[61] For a more extensive discussion of research on harm to children exposed to domestic violence, see "Historically Underserved and Other Vulnerable Populations" and "Children and Youth" later in this chapter.

[62] VAWA 2013 authorized the Justice for Families Program, which combines two pre-existing VAWA-funded programs—Court Training and Improvements and Supervised Visitation and Exchange—into one. OVW initiated the Mentor Court Initiative in 2014 to recognize well-established specialized courts and enable them to guide other courts and court-based programs that wish to significantly improve their court responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases and ensure victim safety and offender accountability. Data from this new program and initiative will be included in the 2016 Biennial Report.

We are proud of the work we are doing at the Visitation Center. Though slow, it is demonstrating deep change. We have families that have been developing skills and changing behaviors. Women feel that they have safety for themselves and their children with visits/exchange being monitored. We are seeing fathers regularly spend more time connecting with their children in a positive way and staff have seen the difference in how this impacts their relationships.

—Saint Louis County, Minnesota

One family had exceptional safety concerns, particularly the children who had witnessed their father holding a gun to their mother's head. Their father is former law enforcement and the children feared he still had access to weapons. They insisted that during their visit, the father sit on one side of a very large conference table and they would sit on the other side. About 15 minutes into the visit, the children opted to move to the children's area of the visitation center and indicated to the monitor after the visit that they knew they would be safe because there was "someone watching to make sure" they were safe.

—Solano County, California

During each reporting period between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, Supervised Visitation Program grantees and supervised visitation services provided through OVW's Tribal Governments Program provided services to an average of **2,346** families, including **3,564** children, **2,351** custodial parents, and **2,341** non-custodial parents. During the 2-year period covered by this report, a total of **52,399** one-to-one visits were provided and **54,091** supervised exchanges occurred. Families were most likely to be referred to the program by a family court order (**49** percent) and to have issues of domestic violence (**86** percent).[63]

Historically Underserved and Other Vulnerable Populations

Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking affect all populations in the United States. However, for underserved populations, the types of violence used or control exerted, the community supports available, strategies for seeking help, gender roles, access to resources, and the dictates of social norms may be distinct from those in the dominant culture. A victim may perceive, manage, and resist violence based on religious beliefs, ethnicity, language, race, immigration status, cultural and social norms, geographic isolation, and economic opportunity (M. Adams & Campbell, 2012; Cho, 2012; Rennison, DeKeseredy, & Dragiewicz, 2012).

[63] These percentages are based only on data from the Supervised Visitation Program.

American Indians and Alaska Natives; other underserved racial and ethnic populations;[64] immigrants and refugees; people of color; women with disabilities; older women; children and young people; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people; and women living in rural areas are all groups who often face unique challenges and barriers to accessing criminal justice response, receiving assistance, and obtaining social and economic supports.

In response, Congress authorized VAWA funding to assist historically underserved victims with the unique challenges they face. In each 6-month reporting period, VAWA grantees served the following victims from the groups discussed in this section of the report (numbers presented are averages per reporting period):[65] **9,987** victims who were American Indians or Alaska Natives; **4,240** victims who were 60 or older; **5,947** victims who were children or youth (infancy to age 17); **8,323** victims with disabilities; **18,176** victims with limited English proficiency; **17,790** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers; **257** victims who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI);[66] and **34,398** victims who lived in rural areas.

American Indians and Alaska Natives

American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) are a diverse people, represented by 566 federally recognized tribes, with an estimated combined population of 2.9 million. Approximately 67 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native people live outside tribal lands, an increase of 3 percent since the 2000 Census (Norris, Vines, & Hoeffel, 2012).

Studies reveal that AI/AN women report higher rates of intimate partner violence than women of any other ethnic or racial background. Data collected by the U.S. Department of Justice suggest that the average annual rate of rape and sexual assault for AI/AN people is four times higher than the

[64] VAWA 2005 at Section 40002 (a)(32) defines "underserved populations" as including "populations underserved because of geographic location, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alien 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." VAWA 2013 at Section 13925 (a)(39) expands the definition of "underserved populations" to include populations underserved because of sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.

[65] Victims were reported once in each race/ethnicity category that applied.

[66] Although all grant programs that serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking serve victims who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI), only the Children Exposed to Violence and Youth Services Programs progress reporting forms provide categories in which to report specific numbers for child and youth victims and children indirectly exposed who self-identified as LGBTI.

national average (Williams, 2012). Data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' annual National Crime Victimization Survey indicate that AI/AN people are victims of serious violent crimes, i.e., rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, at rates more than 2 ½ times greater than white people and more than twice the rate of African-American and Latino populations. These differences have been relatively stable since 2004 (Truman, Langton, & BJS Statisticians, 2014). The findings of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey confirm that 46 percent of AI/AN women have been victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime (Breiding et al., 2014). The 2010 Census found that 29.1 percent of AI/AN people live in poverty, making this population particularly vulnerable to domestic violence (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012).

Two tribal studies examined the relationship between community perception of and personal experiences with domestic violence. The first study, conducted on the Rosebud Lakota Sioux Reservation, found that more than 90 percent of respondents in the small community sample believed that violence against women was an issue on their reservation. Sixty-four percent reported being victims of either domestic violence or sexual assault, and nearly 75 percent said they knew someone in the community who had been a victim of either domestic violence or sexual assault (Levin, Black Bull, & Lunderman, 2013). In the second study, conducted in the State of California with five participating tribal communities, 37 percent of adult respondents reported previous abuse by a partner and 42 percent of the youth participants reported that they had witnessed a family member abusing another family member (Herrscaft & Dolan, 2013). When asked about addressing the problem of domestic violence, respondents from both studies were unanimous in advocating for more community education and awareness events.

The public safety challenges in Indian country vary widely from district to district—and from tribe to tribe—depending on jurisdictional issues, geography, tribal cultures, and myriad other factors. The ratio of law enforcement officers to population served remains lower on Indian reservations than in other jurisdictions across the country. And, law enforcement agencies in Indian country have the daunting challenge of patrolling large areas of sparsely populated land. In many places, the local FBI field office, the U. S. attorney's office, and the federal courthouse are located many miles away from where tribal members reside, which only compounds the difficulties facing investigators and prosecutors, as well as victims, witnesses, and defendants involved in a federal prosecution (U.S. Department of Justice, 2012). As discussed in a law review article, efforts to protect these victims are further 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. Too often, incidents of domestic violence are under-reported or undocumented because victims are not able to obtain assistance from police or medical professionals and "as a result numerous perpetrators are never held accountable" (Petillo, 2013).

Until the passage of VAWA 2013 (25 U.S.C. §§1304(a)–(c), tribal courts could not exercise jurisdiction over crimes committed by non-Indians on tribal land.[67] The restriction resulted from the United States Supreme Court's 1978 decision in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe,* which held that tribes had no criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants. The ruling extended to domestic violence and dating violence committed by non-Indian abusers against their Indian spouses, intimate partners, and dating partners. On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed into law the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4, 127 Stat. 54), which, among other protections, recognizes the inherent power of "participating tribes" 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 protection orders, in Indian country. The Act also specifies the rights that a participating tribe must provide to defendants in SDVCJ cases. Under VAWA 2013, tribes generally cannot exercise SDVCJ until at least two years after the date of VAWA 2013's enactment—that is, March 7, 2015.[68]

On February 6, 2014, the Department of Justice announced that three Indian tribes—the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the Tulalip Tribe of Washington, and the Umatilla Tribes of Oregon—had been designated as "participating tribes" under the Pilot Project. These three tribes are the first in the United States to exercise SDVCJ, regardless of a defendant's Indian or non-Indian status. The department's decision to approve the tribes' requests was based on a detailed review of application questionnaires submitted by the tribes in

[67] The majority of the following material is taken largely from two U.S. Department of Justice Reports on Indian Country Investigations and Prosecutions. More detailed information for (CY) 2011-2012 and (CY) 2013 can be found online at http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/tribal/legacy/2013/05/31/tloa-report-cy-2011-2012.pdf and http://www.justice.gov/tribal/docs/icip-rpt-cy2013.pdf.

[68] The Act establishes a "Pilot Project" that authorizes the Attorney General to grant a tribe's request to be designated as a "participating tribe" on an accelerated basis. [Id., sec. 908] On February 6, 2014, the Department of Justice announced that three Indian tribes—the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the Tulalip Tribe of Washington, and the Umatilla Tribes of Oregon—have been designated as "participating tribes" under the Pilot Project. See http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/February/14-ag-126.html.

December 2013, along with excerpts of tribal laws, rules, polices, and other relevant information.

During the course of consultation about how to structure the Pilot Project, tribal officials and employees repeatedly highlighted the usefulness of exchanging ideas with their counterparts in other tribes, peer to peer. With these views in mind, in June 2013, the Department of Justice established an Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group on Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (ITWG). Forty tribes have voluntarily joined the ITWG, and almost of all of them have remained actively engaged in ITWG meetings, webinars, and exchanges of information. The department is supporting the ITWG with training and technical assistance, including an award by OVW to the National Congress of American Indians to support the ITWG's ongoing work.

The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) (Public Law 111-211, 124 Stat. 2281 (2010)) was signed into law by President Obama on July 29, 2010. Section 212 of TLOA requires the Attorney General to submit an annual report to Congress detailing investigative efforts by the FBI and dispositions of matters received by United States Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) with Indian country responsibility. To satisfy TLOA Section 212, for calendar year (CY) 2013, the FBI and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) have compiled four types of case-specific information:

- The type of crimes alleged
- The status of the accused as Indian or non-Indian
- The status of the victim as Indian or non-Indian
- The reason for deciding against referring the investigation for prosecution (FBI) or the reason for deciding to decline or terminate the prosecution (USAOs)

The data presented in the Indian Country Investigation and Prosecutions report cover only those offenses reported to the FBI and federal prosecutors. Notably absent are the majority of criminal offenses committed, investigated, and prosecuted in tribal communities—namely, those adjudicated in tribal justice systems. In many parts of Indian country, tribal courts are holding lawbreakers accountable, protecting victims, providing youth prevention and intervention programs, and dealing with precursors to crime such as alcohol and substance abuse. These efforts are often in partnership with federal agencies or accomplished by accessing federal programs and federal grant dollars. Some key findings in the data are the following:

- **A substantial majority of Indian country criminal investigations opened by the FBI were referred for prosecution.**

- **A substantial majority of Indian country criminal cases opened by the United States Attorneys' Offices were prosecuted.**

- **The most common reason FBI Indian country investigations were closed administratively without referral for prosecution was that the investigation concluded that no federal crime had occurred.** Analysis of CY 2013 data indicates that 679 FBI Indian country investigations were closed administratively without referral to a prosecuting authority—approximately 33 percent of the investigations that were opened. Reasons for non-referral include deaths determined to be the result of natural causes, accident, or suicide (i.e., non-homicides; 20 percent in CY 2013 of all investigations not referred), and unsupported allegations in which there was insufficient evidence of criminal activity (24 percent in CY 2013).

- **All but 30 of the 164 death investigations the FBI closed administratively in CY 2013 were closed because the FBI established that the deaths were due to causes other than homicide—i.e., accidents, suicide, or death from natural causes.**

- **USAO data for CY 2013 show that 34 percent (853) of all Indian country submissions for prosecution (2,542) were declined for prosecution. In CY 2012, USAOs declined approximately 31 percent (965) of all Indian country submissions for prosecution (3,145). USAO data for CY 2011 indicate that just under 37 percent (1,041) of all Indian country submissions for prosecution (2,840) were declined.**

- **The most common reason for declination by USAOs was insufficient evidence (56 percent in CY 2013, 52 percent in CY 2012, and 61 percent in CY 2011).**

- **The next most common reason for declination by USAOs was referral to another prosecuting authority (21 percent in CY 2013, 24 percent in CY 2012, and 19 percent in CY 2011).**

In 2012, to facilitate the prosecution of intimate partner crimes committed in Indian country, OVW implemented the Tribal Special U.S. Attorney (SAUSA) program. Four tribes—located in Nebraska, New Mexico, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota—were awarded cooperative agreements to cross-

designate tribal prosecutors to pursue violence against women cases in both tribal and federal courts. The goal of the program is to train eligible tribal prosecutors in federal law, rules of criminal procedure, and investigative techniques to increase the likelihood that criminal offenses can be prosecuted in tribal court, federal court, or both. The program enables tribal prosecutors to bring violence against women cases in federal court and to serve as co-counsel with federal prosecutors on felony investigations and prosecutions of offenses occurring in communities (U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, 2012).

> The effectiveness of the training "Weaving Webs of Women's Wisdom" was tremendous. It brought our community together to talk about sexual assault. Elders from all over were present to help bring the topic to light. The community is ready to talk about sexual assault and domestic violence. They showed their support by coming out for three days of lectures which were culturally specific to Native Americans. Throughout the gathering, there was continued support offered by trained professionals to help [participants] with any past traumas that could have been triggered.
>
> ***—Haudenosaunee Coalition for Women's Empowerment***

To be effective, strategies to address violence against American Indians and Alaska Natives must be culturally responsive, as explained by a Tribal Coalitions grantee.

> The Youth Victim Witness Specialist position is fully funded through this grant. This staff member plays an important role in services and outreach to our youth victims of domestic and dating violence, stalking and sexual assault. . . .The Youth Victim Specialist is able to focus even more on the immediate services that have not being provided to our youth on the Menominee Indian Reservation. This grant has allowed [us] to provide more wrap-around services to youth and young adults on the Menominee Indian Reservation along with the initial crisis response. This includes meeting with youth at the Menominee Indian High School during school hours, doing home visits with youth and their families, coordinating educational activities with youth and their families, and providing further support and advocacy.
>
> ***—Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin***

A dedicated advocate can make a significant difference in the lives of victims, as illustrated by this Youth Services Program grantee.

The Tribal Governments Program provides funds to tribes to develop and implement governmental strategies to curtail sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This funding provides tribal governments the flexibility to develop solutions appropriate for their communities.

> The funding has allowed for us to work with victims on and off the reservation and to be more culturally specific. The funding has helped us expand our working relationships with other agencies and programs which has helped us provide more trainings and education to these programs to better serve our victims. The funding has provided our law enforcement liaison advocate to be stationed within the White Earth Police Department. This has created a better working relationship between law enforcement and our advocates as well as the three county law enforcement agencies and court systems. The liaison is able to assist law enforcement on calls when appropriate and respond to victims and offer resources on the scene. We have seen an increase in victims reporting to law enforcement due to having an advocate more readily available. This funding has helped staff our shelter, as it needs to be staffed 24/7. This funding has created those positions. This funding has allowed for our advocates to start a SART/DART team in our community, as this was a huge need and so far it has been a huge success.
>
> ***—White Earth Reservation Tribal Council***

The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (T–SASP) provides funds to tribes to specifically address sexual assault. They do this through the development and implementation of direct intervention and related assistance (e.g., crisis intervention, cultural advocacy, hospital accompaniment, transportation, criminal/civil justice advocacy) to AI/AN victims.

Tribal Governments Program and T–SASP grantees reported serving an average of **6,507** victims in each 6-month reporting period between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013. The most common categories of services provided were victim advocacy, counseling services/support group, transportation, crisis intervention, civil legal advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, and cultural advocacy. VAWA grant programs[69] reported serving an average of **9,987** victims and **689**[70] other family members who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native during each 6-month reporting period.

Immigrants and Refugees

According to the 2010 Decennial Census, approximately 13 percent of the U.S. population is foreign-born, which equates to almost 40 million people. Approximately half are women, and half are between the ages of 18 and 44 (Greico et al., 2012). In 2012, the U.S. admitted nearly 60,000 individuals as

[69] Includes data from the Abuse in Later Life, Arrest, Campus, CLSSP, Courts, Disability, LAV, Rural, SASP-CS, T-Housing, and Youth Services grant programs.

[70] "Other family members" includes parents and children served by the Supervised Visitation and Tribal Government Programs, and children and other dependents served by the Children Exposed to Violence and Transitional Housing Programs. This will remain true throughout this section of the report addressing underserved and vulnerable populations.

refugees, and approximately 30,000 individuals were granted asylum. Most of these individuals were from Asia, and 46 to 49 percent were women (Martin & Yankay, 2013).

Women who are refugees and asylum seekers are often victims of sexual violence, famine, economic displacement, and war in their home countries, and are unable or unwilling to repatriate to their home countries because of fear of persecution or death based on their race, ethnicity, religion, political or social affiliations, or other status. The violence they suffered may have been state-sponsored or organized by sectarian groups (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2009; International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies, 2012; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2013). Increasingly, human trafficking is the violence from which women immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are fleeing (U.S. Department of State, 2014).

Immigrant and refugee victims of sexual assault and domestic violence face many barriers to safety including lack of English proficiency, lack of knowledge of the systems that are in place to help them, and cultural barriers such as pressure to keep these crimes secret for fear of bringing shame upon the family (Mindlin, Orloff, Pochiraju, & Echevarria, 2013; National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2014b; Yoshihama, Bybee, Dabby, & Blazevski, 2011). In addition to cultural and linguistic barriers, structural barriers to serving immigrant and refugee victims, such as social inequality and lack of available social services, can make it difficult for women to exit abusive relationships and become safe from violence (M. Lee, 2013). Even where services are available, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who have limited English proficiency face challenges (e.g., waits of hours, days, or even weeks) in their attempts to access services such as counseling, health care, housing, and education if no qualified interpreter is available or if service providers do not speak their language (N. Lee, Quinones, Ammar, & Orloff, 2013).

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 percent 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. In 24 percent of the more than 6,000 domestic violence cases in which an unqualified interpreter was used, the interpreter was a child or children of the victim or perpetrator;

in 23 percent of these cases, it was a friend or neighbor; and in 8 percent of these cases, police spoke with the English-speaking perpetrators. Additionally, in sexual assault and domestic violence cases in which a victim called police but no police report was taken, the reason given more than 50 percent of the time was a language barrier (N. Lee et al., 2013).

Fear of deportation is a tremendous concern for some immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and can result in the victim not calling the police for help (Hass, Yang, Monahan, Orloff, & Anver, 2014). Undocumented immigrant victims, in particular, are afraid to report abuse to the police, believing it will result in their own deportation. The VAWA self-petition and the U and T visas are remedies available to immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes to assist them in obtaining safety and escaping their abusers (Mindlin et al., 2013).

The VAWA self-petition option, first enacted in VAWA 1994 (8 U.S.C § 1154), is designed to prevent an abusive citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse from using the threat of not completing immigration documents to keep an abused immigrant spouse from reporting the abuse or leaving the abusive relationship. Through self-petitioning, a battered immigrant woman can independently seek legal immigration status for herself and her children without the assistance or knowledge of the abuser (Preda, Olavarria, Kaguyutan, & Carra, 2013). Final approval of the self-petition allows the victim to be granted legal permanent resident status and to apply for U.S. citizenship.[71]

The U visa is a vehicle 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

[71] The VAWA self-petition requires that the victims prove that they are or were married to U.S. 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 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 U.S. 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 she receives her employment authorization documents, the victim may legally work and obtain a driver's license.
(Title IV, Subtitle G, of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 [Public Law 103–322]; Title V of Division B of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 [Public Law 106–386]; Title VIII of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 [Public Law 109–162, as amended by Public Law 109–271]). Numerous regulations, decisions, and memos from the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service provide more specific guidance on these processes.

the crimes (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2010). Among the crimes for which a U visa may be granted are rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault, and the victim must have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the crime. U visa status allows recipients to remain in the United States for up to 4 years, to work, and to apply for permanent resident status (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2011). A survey of attorneys and advocates who assisted more than 4,000 immigrant victims with U visa applications found that domestic violence was the basis for nearly half of the U visas granted, sexual violence (from rape to sexual exploitation) for nearly a third, and in slightly more than half of the cases, the recipients had experienced more than one crime (Orloff & Feldman, 2013).

In addition to funding staff with specialized expertise, VAWA provides funding to train professionals who respond to immigrant victims so they will be better informed about the particular needs of immigrant, refugee, sex-trafficked, and asylum-seeking victims and the challenges they face. Funds are also used for culturally specific outreach to immigrant communities, to provide information about services, and in some cases to begin conversations within those communities about domestic violence and sexual assault. The following grantee quotes provide examples of various ways in which VAWA funds may be used to respond to violence against immigrant women.

Sexual assault and dating violence are hard topics to discuss, especially in the Somali community. This is the first time the community has engaged men in family violence prevention. The key activity is to talk about family violence and its consequences with the Somali community leaders and the imams. Our outreach worker has met and discussed the project with 95 religious leaders and has garnered their support for the project.

—Refugee Women's Alliance, Washington (Engaging Men and Youth)

Many of our clients face extreme difficulties navigating the legal system due to cultural and linguistic barriers. As immigrant victims, many are not willing to seek protections unless they know that they will have legal representation. Unfamiliar with the U.S. legal system and other benefits to which they are entitled, we often have to walk them through every aspect, explaining their rights and how to go about accessing the judicial system. LAFLA's holistic approach to serving our clients has resulted in extremely successful outcomes.

—Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, California (LAV)

> These events marked the first time that our agencies have offered a training program to law enforcement officials regarding immigrant victims and U visa certifications. One marker of the success of these trainings is that the chief of police for one township in Chester County (who himself attended our event) signed a U visa certification for the first time after he attended, when previously we had been unable to obtain certifications from this police department.
>
> ***—Hias and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (CLSSP)***
>
> These funds have enabled us to develop and implement the Texas Remote Interpreter Project, which provides free foreign language interpretation services, including services provided by licensed Spanish court interpreters, in cases involving intimate partner violence . . . [and] provide training to judges and court staff about addressing victims' linguistic needs.
>
> ***—Office of Court Administration, Texas (Courts)***

LAV Program grantees have been actively assisting immigrant victims in self-petitioning and seeking U visa status. These grantees reported addressing an average of **6,066** immigration issues on behalf of victims and providing services to an average of **9,543** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers per 6-month reporting period. They also reported assisting an average of **3,262** victims with U visa matters, **1,360** victims with VAWA self-petitions, and **78** victims with T visa matters. LAV grantees reported **1,429** administrative decisions on U visa matters, **539** administrative decisions on VAWA self-petitions, and **53** administrative decisions on T visa matters during the 2 years covered by this report.

Grantees from the CLSSP and SASP–CS Programs also provided assistance to victims on immigration issues.[72] [73] These grantees reported addressing an average of **576** immigration issues on behalf of victims and providing services to an average of **2,126** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers per 6-month reporting period. They also reported assisting an average of **222** victims with U visa matters, **100** with VAWA self-petitions, **102** with work authorizations, and **11** with T visa matters.

During each of the 6-month reporting periods from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, VAWA discretionary grantees overall reported serving an

[72] CLSSP had an average of 55 grantees per reporting period and SASP–CS had an average of 12 grantees per reporting period; therefore, the great majority of these numbers represent the work of CLSSP grantees. These grantees do not report on the outcomes (e.g., administrative or court decisions) of immigration issues, as LAV grantees do.

[73] Rural Program grantees also provide assistance to victims in immigration matters; however, unlike the reporting forms for CLSSP, LAV, and SASP–CS, the forms for Rural Program grantees do not permit them to indicate whether they addressed an immigration matter or what type of immigration matter they addressed on behalf of victims.

average of **17,786** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers.[74]

Women with Disabilities

An individual with a disability is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment (42 U.S.C. § 12102(1) (U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section, 2009). In the United States, approximately 56.7 million people, 18.7 percent of the population, live with one or more of a wide array of disabilities, including communicative disabilities such as hearing, sight, and speech challenges; mental disabilities such as intellectual and learning disabilities; and physical disabilities such as mobility challenges, musculoskeletal difficulties, and head and spinal trauma (Brault, 2012).

Studies suggest that women living with a disability are as much as four times more likely than those without disabilities to experience physical and sexual violence (Casteel, Martin, Smith, Gurka, & Kupper, 2008; Scherer, Snyder, & Fisher, 2013). In addition, a higher degree of severity of disability, as well as greater visibility of a disability, may put individuals at increased risk for abuse, with the most severely disabled individuals and those with the most visible disabilities having the highest risk of sexual victimization (Bones, 2013).

Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, researchers found that in a population of young adults, 26 to 32 years old, 25 percent of female respondents reported unwanted sexual experiences, including coerced and forced sex. Women in the study with a physical disability were nearly 50 percent more likely to have experienced a forced sexual encounter than women without a physical disability (Haydon, McRee, & Halpern, 2011). In a nationally representative study of college-age women, female respondents with disabilities were about twice as likely to have experienced psychological, sexual, or physical abuse in the previous 12 months as those without disabilities (Scherer et al., 2013).

Deaf female college students reported approximately twice the rate of victimization, including physical assault, sexual coercion, and psychological aggression, in the previous year as hearing students (Anderson & Leigh,

[74] Of note is the fact that more than 54 percent of these victims were served by LAV Program grantees.

2011). In a survey of Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, 44 percent of the respondents reported domestic violence in past relationships (Crowe, 2013).

Mental health disabilities can precede or result from sexual assault and physical abuse of women, and the abuse can significantly compromise mental health and impede well-being. In a study of perinatal women with mental health disorders receiving care in a psychiatric hospital, those who were experiencing current abuse were more likely to leave the treatment program than those who were not (Creech, Davis, Howard, Pearlstein, & Zlotnick, 2012). Pregnant women with disabilities reported a rate of physical abuse in the 12 months before pregnancy almost five times greater than pregnant women without disabilities; the rate of abuse was more than three times higher during pregnancy (Mitra, Manning, & Lu, 2012). In a sample of adult mental health consumers with serious mental illness, the rate of forced sexual trauma for women was 47 percent and for men, it was 22 percent. Those with existing serious mental illness who were exposed to sexual trauma were significantly more likely to be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, which negatively impacted their physical and mental health (Subica, 2013).

Women with disabilities face significant risks for abuse and barriers to disclosure, including dependence on their caregiver, who may be the perpetrator of the abuse. Victims with disabilities identify forms of abuse such as destruction of their adaptive equipment and financial exploitation by the perpetrator, in addition to physical and sexual abuse (Curry et al., 2009). 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).

Victim services providers for people with disabilities may perceive their services as being accessible, whereas clients may identify many barriers to access. Cross-training between disability services and victim services organizations should occur in order to serve victims with disabilities more effectively. Because victims with disabilities come from various cultural, racial, and ethnic populations, and have diverse disabilities, it is critical that victim services tailor their programs to appropriately respond to the full spectrum of assistance these victims need (Lund, 2011).

A series of 10 focus groups were held with disabled and Deaf victims who had reported interpersonal violence to law enforcement in order to understand their experiences (Child, Oschwald, Curry, Hughes, & Powers, 2011). The same researchers also conducted focus groups with law enforcement officers to assess barriers and challenges to responding to

victims with disabilities from their perspective (Hughes et al., 2011). Several common themes emerged in the two groups, including challenges in identifying oneself as a person with a disability or recognizing that an individual has a disability, communication difficulties, and the importance of high-quality training for law enforcement on responding to victims with disabilities.

VAWA funds the Disability Program to train criminal justice professionals, court personnel, and victim services providers to respond effectively to victims with disabilities. Grantees of the Disability Program have worked diligently to improve criminal justice response and services available to victims with disabilities and to strengthen collaboration with community agencies.

> Funding has allowed the collaboration a window into the Deaf community that was not previously open to the partner agencies. It has allowed the partner agencies the opportunity to learn about a population whose needs were previously unknown. Grant funds have allowed for discussion among the partner agencies leading to a recognition of the enormous disparity in the way we interact with Deaf individuals in comparison [with] hearing individuals.
>
> ***—Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center, Ohio***

> Training on accessibility has expanded to include multidisciplinary organizations. The result has been a change in service delivery practice with a specialized focus on how best to reduce barriers for victims with disabilities. Adaptive equipment has been placed in the Justice Center and through training, the prosecution staff is now linked to equipment that can be used in a court-room to assist a witness with a disability, to assist a jury member with a disability and to present forensic evidence in a format that is much easier to see for someone with visual barriers. There is also access to a real-time two-way communication device (Ubi-Duo) that a Deaf or hard-of-hearing person can use if coming directly to the Justice Center to file a protection order. A two-way keyboard allows communication to occur between the victim and the magistrate or clerk of courts with a resulting file documentation that can be saved to a computer client file. . . . For victims with disabilities in the mental health field, access to adaptive equipment has increased opportunities for therapy through tele-psychiatry. Law enforcement also has immediate use of adaptive equipment and can use the equipment during a 911 domestic violence response call if there is a victim with a disability.
>
> ***—30th Judicial District Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Alliance, North Carolina***

Two compelling stories on the importance of services designed for victims with disabilities are shared by State Coalitions and Tribal Governments Program grantees.

One example of a program seeking specific resources occurred when a domestic violence advocate called because she had a client who was blind and requested domestic violence advocacy material in Braille. Coalition staff worked with a variety of victim service agencies within the state and across the country in search of Braille materials. When it was discovered that the specific information that the client was requesting had not been printed in Braille in a way that was easily attainable, Coalition staff worked with the advocate to find someone in the community who could transcribe the materials into Braille specifically for that client.

—Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

The transitional housing program has been extremely successful. One client was 60 years old and disabled. The client was fleeing the abuser after 20+ years together. The client's abuser would neglect and verbally abuse the client causing further health concerns for the client who was already on dialysis three times a week. The client described how the abuser would purposely not turn on the heat in their house during the winter time so that the client was left in a freezing house to the point where the client was able to see her own breath. This client was in desperate need of our transitional housing program and is very thankful for her advocate and this program.

—Inter-tribal Council of Nevada, Inc.

From July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013, Disability Program staff trained **7,106** 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. Disability Program grantees provided **1,393** technical assistance activities, which included **1,359** consultations and **34** site visits. The majority of these technical assistance activities were provided to staff at dual sexual assault and domestic violence programs (**268**), disability organizations (**162**), domestic violence programs (**135**), mental health organizations or practices (**135**), community advocacy organizations (**94**), and government agencies (**79**).

During each reporting period, grantees providing services to victims[75] served an average of **8,323** people with disabilities who were victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child sexual abuse, and/or elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.[76]

[75] These include grantees from the following grant programs: Abuse in Later Life, Arrest, Campus, CEV, Courts, CLSSP, Disability, LAV, Rural, SASP–CS, Tribal Governments, T–Housing, T–SASP, and Youth Services.

[76] Only CEV, Rural, SASP–CS, and T–SASP Program grantees address child sexual abuse, which includes sexual assault committed against children under the age of 13, and only Abuse in Later Life Program grantees address elder abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

Women Experiencing Abuse in Later Life/Elder Abuse

We are living in an aging society: The 2010 U.S. Census recorded the highest number (40.3 million) and percentage (13 percent of the population) of people 65 and older in the history of the Census (Werner, 2011). By 2030, over 20 percent of Americans, or 73 million people, are expected to be 65 or older; approximately 40 million of them will be women (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2012) . The implications for protecting this expanding and increasingly vulnerable population—and responding appropriately and effectively to abuse of elders—are critical and compelling.

According to the National Elder Mistreatment Study and the New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study, only a small percentage of abuse incidents, of any nature, against older persons comes to the attention of authorities. Victims of these incidents are also less likely to receive services. Consistent with other research, those with low social supports are much more likely to report experiencing some form of abuse (Acierno et al., 2010; Lachs & Berman, 2011). Elder abuse is primarily the responsibility of adult protective services (APS) agencies, which investigate, prosecute, and protect against abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults. Domestic violence services, by comparison, specifically address abuse related to domestic violence, intimate partner sexual assault, and/or stalking, and usually integrate feminist empowerment theory into their models, promote self-agency, and define perpetrators primarily as intimate partners (Kilbane & Spira, 2010). Many sexual assault programs are similarly issue-specific and feminist-oriented. Historically, agencies assisting victims of elder abuse, such as Area Agencies on Aging, focus on services associated with family, caregiver, and financial abuse—not with intimate partner or sexual abuse or stalking. Because of this obscuring of intimate partner violence among older victims, confusion can arise about appropriate responses and provision of services for them. While some services for victims of domestic violence may be appropriate for victims who are older, the specific and unique needs of this population are often not adequately addressed (Desmarais & Reeves, 2007).

To date, only a limited number of studies have specifically examined the experiences and patterns of domestic violence against older women; most research is limited to women seeking medical care or other services for the abuse. A comprehensive review of the research literature found that non-physical intimate partner violence persists into later life and may become more severe as physical violence decreases (Roberto, McPherson, & Brossoie, 2013). Evidence shows that such violence is often overlooked.

Studies both large and small find that 25 to 48 percent of older women report a history of abuse—physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, and/or financial (Bonomi et al., 2007; Fisher, Zink, & Regan, 2011). Fourteen percent of women older than 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, Pilver, Dinnen, Schnurr, & Hoff, 2013).

Older abused women often have distinct and special needs. Few are employed, and most are receiving public assistance and/or Social Security benefits and/or are dependent upon family members for their care (Lundy & Grossman, 2009). For many, the length of their relationships with the abusers can be a complicating factor. Women who have been married 25 years or more may feel that their options are limited (Leisey, Kupstas, & Cooper, 2009). Given these differences, it is vital that sexual assault and domestic violence agencies create a response that is specific to the needs and disabilities of older victims and that these agencies develop effective ways to collaborate with adult protective services and other service providers targeting older adults.

The Abuse in Later Life Program is designed to address the special needs of older victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This grant program recognizes the importance of a well-informed and coordinated community response to, and readily available and appropriate services for, victims in later life. Collaborations engage numerous professionals and agencies in local initiatives and provide them with training on issues specific to victimization of older adults. Included in these collaborations are criminal justice personnel (law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other court staff); adult protective services; community-based elder services; and domestic violence and sexual assault victim service organizations.

All VAWA-funded grantees that provide services to victims, with the exception of Children Exposed to Violence[77] and Youth Services Program grantees, also provide services to victims who are older, and engage in other funded activities to improve the response to these victims. Following are examples of services and other activities engaged in by grantees relating to victims who are older.

[77] CEV grantees provide support and referrals for non-abusing parents and caregivers of child victims and children exposed to violence, but these are not included in the victims served or demographic data in this report.

Senior Legal Hotline (SLH) . . . provid[ed] training that focused not only on DV, but also on steps that elder DV victim advocates and service providers could take to ensure the safety, independence and self-determination of elder DV survivors: housing, financial security, public benefits, divorce, amending estate planning documents, and income maintenance. . . . As a result of SLH's work, California elder DV victim advocates have an increased awareness of the necessity of holistic services for victims and survivors of elder DV.

—Legal Services of Northern California (LAV)

Our team of an advocate and an attorney also routinely do home visits, bringing our services directly to the victim. This greatly increases the effectiveness of our program. This allows us to serve elderly clients who often have trouble, due to disability or a variety of other reasons, getting to and from appointments. In addition, we are able to provide clients with in-depth legal services that they otherwise have no way to obtain. . . . There is no other program in San Diego that provides victims of abuse in later life both an advocate and an attorney who will directly represent them in civil legal cases. Because of this unique attribute, the HOPE Team is an innovative model for all victim service providers who work with older adults.

—Center for Community Solutions, California (Abuse in Later Life)

One glowing example of upward mobility facilitated through the use of these grant funds is "Betty," an [older adult] client who received transitional housing assistance. She had recently left her abusive spouse who continued to stalk and threaten her in her new apartment. We were able to move her to a different apartment, help implement a safety plan, assist in the legal arena to get a disorderly conduct restraining order in place, and provide ongoing emotional support and financial case management. . . . She is now divorced, has learned skills to eliminate debt, has a strong working safety plan, and has even publicly shared her story in order to heal and empower others. Betty has stated that she would not have been able to achieve this level of wellness and peace without the emotional and financial support the program provided to her.

—Community Violence Intervention Center, North Dakota (Abuse in Later Life)

From July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013, Abuse in Later Life Program grantees used grant funds to train **4,334** individuals, including **2,016** law enforcement officers and **85** prosecutors. Other trainees included court personnel, victim witness specialists, and corrections staff. During each 6-month reporting period, grantees from all programs that provide services to primary victims[78] served an average of **4,240** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence,

[78] These programs are Abuse in Later Life, Arrest, Campus, CLSSP, Courts, Disability, LAV, Rural, SASP–CS, Transitional Housing, Tribal Governments, and T–SASP.

dating violence, stalking, or elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation who were 60 or older.[79]

Children and Youth

Children and youth are among the most vulnerable of groups in the United States. Each year, millions of children and adolescents are exposed to and/or experience sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence,[80] and/or stalking. These experiences can significantly damage a child's physical, mental, and emotional health, and their harmful effects may last well into adulthood.

The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV) indicates that more than 1 in 9 children (11 percent) were exposed to some form of family violence in the past year, and that 1 in 15 (6.6 percent) witnessed intimate partner violence between their parents or between a parent and that parent's partner. In addition, over their lifetimes, 1 in 4 children (26 percent) are exposed to some type of family violence (psychological, emotional, and/or physical) and 17.9 percent are exposed to physical intimate partner violence only (Hamby, Finkelhor, Turner, & Ormrod, 2011).

A number of researchers and public policy makers have studied the detrimental effects of domestic violence on children and their overall health and well-being. Both immediate and long-term consequences have been identified for children exposed to domestic violence. Effects can include acting out, aggression, depression, nightmares, disturbances in sleep patterns, cognitive difficulties, delinquency, antisocial behavior, problems in school, and in some cases post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide (Cuevas, Finkelhor, Shattuck, Turner, & Hamby, 2013; Listenbee Jr. et al., 2012; Margolin & Vickerman, 2011; Sousa et al., 2011).

Witnessing parental violence as a child or young person is associated with other forms of victimization (e.g., sibling abuse, property crime, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence) that may continue throughout a lifetime (Hamby et al., 2011; Listenbee Jr. et al., 2012). Women who were physically and sexually abused as children and who witnessed domestic violence are more likely than other women to report victimization by an

[79] Abuse in Later Life grantees served an average of 732 victims who were 50 or older during each 6-month reporting period. These are the only grantees funded by OVW to respond to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, in addition to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. Also, Abuse in Later Life grantees may choose among the age categories 50–59; 60–75; 76–84; and over 85; all other grantees listed in the previous footnote must choose between the age categories "25–59" and "over 60" when reporting adult victims they have served.

[80] For more information on teen dating violence, please see Dating Violence section, page 7.

intimate partner later in life. Men exposed as children are significantly more likely than other men to report dating violence or domestic violence perpetration (Eriksson & Mazerolle, 2014; Jouriles, Mueller, Rosenfield, McDonald, & Dodson, 2012; Narayan, Englund, Carlson, & Egeland, 2014; Young-Wolff et al., 2013).

Exposure to domestic violence can also put a child at greater risk of experiencing other forms of abuse. In a national study of more than 34,000 adults, researchers found that rates of witnessing domestic violence were much higher for individuals who reported a history of child sexual abuse as compared to those who did not report child sexual abuse. The researchers also found that child sexual abuse victims were four times more likely to experience other forms of child abuse, maltreatment, and neglect than those who were not victims (Pérez-Fuentes et al., 2013). Current research estimates that child sexual abuse affects approximately 1 in 10 children (Butler, 2013; Pérez-Fuentes et al., 2013). In 2012, 62,936 substantiated cases of sexual abuse were reported to various child welfare agencies throughout the United States. Of these cases, more than a quarter of the victims were between the ages of 12 and 14 and one-third (33.8 percent) were under the age of 9 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2013). Although both genders are at risk of child sexual assault, females are more likely than males to be sexually abused and women who are victims of child sexual abuse have a significant increase in the likelihood they will be victims of adult sexual assault (Balsam, Lehavot, & Beadnell, 2011; Finkelhor, Shattuck, Turner, & Hamby, 2014; Pérez-Fuentes et al., 2013; Simmel, Postmus, & Lee, 2012; Walsh, DiLillo, & Scalora, 2011).

Child sexual abuse has severe negative consequences for the victims that are often long-term, extending into adulthood. Children affected by sexual abuse can internalize (e.g., withdraw, become anxious or depressed, complain of bodily health problems) or externalize (e.g., have attention deficit problems, engage in aggressive behaviors, break rules) the trauma. Victims who exhibit externalized behaviors are noted to be at increased risk of engaging in sexual intercourse before the age of 15, having multiple partners, and not using protection, thereby increasing the likelihood of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Furthermore, victims have also been found to engage in increased alcohol consumption and illicit drug use. Adults who were sexually abused as children show higher incidences of mental health problems throughout their lifetime, including post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder. Researchers have identified that survivors of sexual abuse during childhood are eight times more likely to attempt suicide than members of the general population (Balsam, et al., 2011; Jones et al., 2013; Pérez-Fuentes et al., 2013, Walsh et al., 2011).

VAWA grantees are taking significant steps to address the needs of younger victims as illustrated in the following example described by a CEV grantee.

> Child sexual abuse cases are among the highest percentage of reported sexual assault cases within the Spirit Lake community. Due to a change of infrastructure within Spirit Lake Social Services, communication between the agencies has increased, which in turn has better served the victim and strengthened the response to child sexual abuse. By making phone calls, asking questions, and educating court personnel, communication between the Spirit Lake Tribal Court system and Spirit Lake Victim Assistance Program has also increased. Communication with the federal advocate has been excellent; this has also benefited the victims by preparing them for their upcoming trials. Although there are still obstacles, the effectiveness of communicating with these agencies and encouraging them to make referrals has overall improved the response to the victims.
>
> ***—Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe***

This T–SASP grantee has focused on building and strengthening collaborations with federal agencies and court systems to improve the response to victims of child sexual abuse in their tribal community.

> Through our community collaboration/multidisciplinary team, we have been able to successfully find justice for many young victims. Although not every case has a just ending, we know we successfully help the victims by making sure their basic needs are met. The difference we see in children pre and post therapy services is significant. Our children leave therapy with skills for assertive communication, emotional management skills, a safety plan, increased self-awareness and the experience of having communicated with a nonjudgmental, safe adult. Frequently this is the first time a child has had the undivided attention and unconditional caring of an adult.
>
> ***—Nevada Office of the Attorney General***

Many grantees focus their efforts on outreach and prevention. Following is an example from a Rural Program grantee.

> The Rural Program funding has allowed us to expand our services to adolescent victims and survivors, a previously underserved population at our agency. Funding has allowed us to enhance our Revolution program, which continues to be extremely successful. Through this program, we have been able to address school assemblies and spread the message of non-violence to thousands of area students. Revolution has been receiving requests from agencies and schools across the United States for assistance in creating their own peer prevention programs, focusing on reducing violence in relationships. Revolution has also been asked on many occasions to assist in various community service activities. This allows us to provide outreach to a wide audience that we might not be able to access otherwise.
>
> ***—Center for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors, Nebraska***

A number of VAWA-funded programs provide services to child and adolescent primary victims of sexual assault, in addition to serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Several programs also provided emergency shelter, transitional housing, and visitation services for children and adolescents who were affected by these victimizations. CEV, Rural, SASP–CS, Supervised Visitation, Transitional Housing, Tribal Governments, and T–SASP Program grantees provided services to an average of **8,135** children[81] (infancy to age 12); grantees from these seven programs, as well as those from the Arrest, Campus, CEV, CLSSP, Courts, LAV, and Youth Services Programs provided services to an average of **5,548** adolescents[82] (ages 13 to 17) during each 6-month reporting period.

Victims and Families Living in Rural Areas

Research is clear that women residing in rural areas are at elevated risk for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. In 2011, more than 19 million women 18 and older lived in rural areas, representing 16.7 percent of all adult women (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2013). A survey of approximately 1500 battered women attending a family planning clinic in the Midwest revealed that women living in remote, isolated rural areas are at especially high risk of domestic and sexual violence. More than 60 percent of women living in remote rural areas had been assaulted four or more times during the previous 12 months, compared with slightly fewer than 40 percent of women in urban areas; the severity of abuse was three times greater for rural as compared with urban victims (Peek-Asa et al., 2011). Another study found that women living in rural areas are more likely to be victims of intimate partner violence than urban or suburban women. Specifically, 25.2 percent of all violence against women in rural areas was perpetrated by an intimate partner in comparison with 19.2 percent for women in urban, and 21.0 percent for women in suburban areas (Rennison, DeKeseredy, & Dragiewicz, 2013).

Rural women must often travel great distances to reach the services that are available. The distance to services is often three times greater for rural women than for their urban counterparts, with 25 percent traveling more than 40 miles to the closest victim services program (Peek-Asa et al., 2011).

[81] Rural, SASP–CS, and T–SASP Program grantees are the only grantees represented in this report authorized to serve and report child victims who are the primary victims of sexual assault. The other programs listed above provided services to children of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, and to adolescents against whom the sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking was directed.

[82] Total does not include non-custodial or custodial adolescent parents using supervised visitation services from the Supervised Visitation Program or Tribal Governments Program grants. However, it does include children and adolescents served by these two grant programs.

Beyond the geographic obstacles, research suggests that victims residing in rural areas often face a complex interweaving of cultural, psychological, emotional, and systemic barriers that may prevent them from seeking assistance. Expert legal and advocacy service providers working with sexual assault victims in rural Virginia identified confidentiality issues and additional resource needs (e.g., transportation, legal services, mental health professionals, SANEs) specific to rural settings, and low levels of reporting related to victim-blaming (Annan, 2011).

In rural communities, people often place a great deal of value on family privacy, traditional gender roles, and keeping families intact, even when violence is present (Shepard & Hagemeister, 2013). Rural culture can reinforce the normative belief that one should not report crime because it is a private concern (Johnson, McGrath, & Miller, 2014). Even in cases where intimate partner violence is identified by primary care physicians and resources are available, rural culture and low socioeconomic status persist as barriers to treatment and services; rural women may be less educated, more economically dependent on their abuser, and more likely to normalize the violence (McCall-Hosenfeld, Weisman, Perry, Hillemeier, & Chuang, 2014)

A literature review of interpersonal violence and disabilities in rural communities identified lack of anonymity as another identified reason that victims may be reluctant to report the violence. While rural communities have lower population densities, they have greater acquaintance density (Fitzsimons, Hagemeister, & Braun, 2011). It is common in rural communities for family members of the victim and perpetrator to live in close proximity. When children are present, this closeness poses extra complications because ongoing conflicts over child custody and visitation arrangements may involve extended family networks within the community (Shepard & Hagemeister, 2013).

On a systemic level, rural criminal justice systems may be politicized and unresponsive—a situation that may leave victims vulnerable to retaliation (Fitzsimons et al., 2011). In addition, the rural ideology that facilitates the perception that “home troubles” are private troubles can impede appropriate criminal justice response. Community and social pressure to avoid any criminal justice engagement can also hinder the relationship between the victim and the advocate, who could help initiate contact with the criminal justice system (Johnson et al., 2014).

An LAV Program grantee describes how VAWA funding has dramatically improved responses and challenged barriers to services in rural areas.

> This grant continues to be a critical source of support for Pisgah Legal Services' Mountain Violence Prevention Project (MVPP), which is the primary resource for free legal assistance for low-income victims of domestic violence in a six-county area in the Appalachian region of western North Carolina. With LAV funding, MVPP has assisted some of our region's most disadvantaged citizens who are suffering from domestic violence and lack the financial resources to hire the necessary legal representation to stop the abuse, protect their children, and begin to rebuild their lives independently of the abuser.
>
> ***—Pisgah Legal Services, North Carolina***

A T–SASP grantee offers another compelling example of the impact VAWA funds can have in under-resourced rural areas, particularly for victims of sexual assault:

> Most of the Yurok tribal members are faced with the many challenges of rural living such as transportation. T–SASP funding has provided the means for our program to assist with [this issue] via accompaniment by an advocate or providing gas vouchers and bus passes. Assisting with logistical issues such as transportation enable for more of a successful follow through with counseling and medical appointments related to assault and trauma.
>
> ***—Yurok Tribe***

VAWA's Rural Program is designed to help rural communities overcome barriers and respond to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. In each reporting period from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, Rural Program grantees served an average of **16,087** victims. During each 6-month reporting period, the discretionary grantees provided services to an average of **34,398** victims who lived in rural areas (including reservations and Indian country).

LGBT Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking

The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA included an amendment prohibiting withholding of victim services based on gender or sexual identity. Before this, services for LGBT victims of violence perpetrated by intimate partners and acquaintances was limited (FORGE, 2013). Except for LGBT-specific agencies, the victim services communities were largely unprepared to offer sensitive and appropriate advocacy and shelter to LGBT victims of sexual, domestic, and dating violence (The Northwest Network, 2013). The legal system was often victim-blaming and sometimes even biased against LGBT victim's claims of non-stranger violence and stalking. Research on the prevalence and

manifestations of violence toward LGBT people in intimate relationships was nascent. Even commentary in the literature of the domestic violence, sexual assault, and victims' rights movements contained little validation of the experiences of LGBT victims (Lobel, 1986). In the past 20 years, a seismic cultural shift toward appreciating the humanity of LGBT people and recognizing the human rights of these previously marginalized, even invisible, people has occurred.

In 2013, VAWA was amended to explicitly require that grantees of the Office on Violence Against Women not discriminate against survivors of violence based on actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation. VAWA 2013 also identifies LGBT victims as an underserved population (42 U.S. Code § 13925)(U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Civil Rights, 2014).[83]

In the past decade, advances in research have offered a foundation for understanding the prevalence of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking experienced by LGBT adult victims. However, research is just beginning to document the contexts and consequences of the acts and patterns of violence against LGBT people, the array of services and advocacy they require, the particular obstacles that LGBT victims confront when they seek help and protection, the quality of justice they receive, the strength of the support networks available to them, and prevention strategies that can avert violence against them. Policy and practice have yet to be refined through the critical lens that research can offer to the development of evidence-based intervention, assistance, and advocacy.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey report on victimization by sexual orientation reveals that lesbian, gay, and bisexual people experience higher lifetime rates of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by intimate partners than do heterosexual adults. For lesbians, the lifetime prevalence rate is 44 percent; for bisexual women, 61 percent; for heterosexual women, 35 percent; for gay men, 26 percent; for bisexual men, 37 percent; and for heterosexual men, 29 percent. The rate of lifetime rape of bisexual women (46 percent) far exceeds the rates for heterosexual women (17 percent) and lesbians (13 percent). Almost half of bisexual women and a quarter of heterosexual women were first raped between the ages of 11 and 17. The number of gay and bisexual male victims reporting rape was too low for researchers to estimate reliable lifetime rates for them. The rates of sexual violence (other than rape) experienced over a lifetime by gay (40 percent) and bisexual (47 percent) men were twice the rate experienced by heterosexual men (21 percent). Stalking of bisexual women

[83] http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2014/06/20/faqs-ngc-vawa.pdf.

was more than double (37 percent) that of heterosexual women (16 percent). Data on stalking of lesbians and gay, bisexual, and heterosexual men were insufficient for reliable estimates. The NISVS did not address violence against transgender people (Walters, Chen, & Breiding, 2013).

A secondary analysis of the National Violence Against Women Survey suggests that the prevalence of domestic violence against lesbians, gays, and bisexuals may be twice that among heterosexual intimate partners. Bisexuals were most frequently targeted for all forms of intimate partner abuse (e.g., physical, sexual, and verbal/controlling abuse) and were most likely to be abused by opposite-sex bisexual partners. The most common intimate partner abuse was verbal/controlling behaviors, followed by physical and then sexual violence (Messinger, 2011).

A 20-year meta-analysis encompassing 75 studies on sexual assault of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people found that overall, studies that used community-based, non-probability, and convenience samples reported significantly higher rates of sexual assault. Studies found a wide range of sexual assault prevalence rates, with the highest rates reaching 85 percent (lifetime sexual assault) and 76 percent (childhood sexual assault) for lesbian/bisexual women and 54 percent (lifetime sexual assault) and 59 percent (childhood sexual assault) for gay/bisexual men. Overall, lesbian and bisexual women report more child and intimate partner lifetime sexual assault than gay/bisexual men (Rothman, Exner, & Baughman, 2011).

Data from member programs of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) reveal that almost two-thirds of the LGBT victims reporting were people of color. Reports of intimate partner violence were nearly 30 percent higher in the year of the most recent report compared with rates in the preceding year. One-third of the victims were youth between the ages of 19 and 29. Nearly half of the victims identified as gay. More than half of reporting victims sustained injuries from the abuse. Further, LGBT people of color suffer intimate partner violence at rates 1.6 times higher than those for white LGBT people (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2013).

The research on victim advocacy and shelter services for LGBT victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking is limited. The 2011 domestic violence shelter census noted a lack of culturally specific services for LGBT victims (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2012a). The National Center for Victims of Crime and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) conducted two related national surveys to assess the state of victim assistance for LGBT victims of violent crime. More than 10,000 victim assistance agencies and the membership of NCAVP

were sent surveys. Six hundred and forty-eight crime victim assistance organizations responded. Only six percent of responding organizations were LGBT-specific service providers. Respondents described the need for the following: LGBT-specific services, culturally-specific outreach, training for staff on LGBT victims of violence, data collection forms identifying LGBT victims of violence, LGBT-specific policies and practices, collaboration between LGBT and mainstream victim services providers, funding for LGBT-specific services, and emergency shelter for LGBT people. The reasons articulated for the lack of LGBT-specific services were the limited capacity to serve traditional clients and the consequent inability to expand to serve LGBT victims; homophobia and transphobia among staff; fear of backlash from funders, politicians, and the community for serving LGBT victims; and the lack of a way to document the need for such LGBT-tailored services (Ciarlante & Fountain, 2010).

LGBT victims' access to shelter and advocacy services appears to be improving substantially. The 2013 NCAVP report reveals that more than 85 percent of LGBT victims who sought shelter from domestic violence programs in 2012 received it; an increase from 38.4 percent in 2011. Almost 80 percent of LGBT survivors seeking civil protection orders were granted them (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2013). Because many shelters, victim services, and advocacy programs across the country are funded by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and OVW, their nondiscrimination directives portend reduced bias against LGBT victims who wish to access the full spectrum of victim services.

It is important for LGBT victims to have access to services that are appropriate and welcoming. One LAV Program grantee describes the impact of VAWA funding for LGBT victims seeking relief in civil courts and administrative hearings.

> For the first time we have been able to refer clients to a culturally competent attorney who works closely with client advocates to ensure coordinated safety planning and services. Prior to this grant, GLBT victims often faced judges alone when seeking a protective order. Very few of our clients were successful in obtaining restraining orders in same-sex relationships or when identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming. Through this grant our clients were able to appear before judges supported and represented by the Program Attorney or from the pro bono attorney pool. Most importantly, our clients won in court. Our clients were successful in court and administrative hearings, winning or obtaining their desired outcome in more than 80 percent of their cases.
>
> ***–Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project, Massachusetts***

A Youth Services Program grantee reports on a new initiative to reach and serve LGBT victims younger than 18.

> Because of this Youth Services Program funding we have been able to fill in an important gap in our domestic violence services. Historically, the NW Network has served LGBT survivors of domestic violence but traditional domestic violence funding hasn't allowed us to fully serve LGBT survivors of domestic violence under the age of 18. This funding has allowed us to provide the essential services necessary to support the self-determination and advocacy needs of domestic and dating violence survivors under the age of 18.
>
> ***–Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse, Washington***

Coordinated Community Response

As communities across the country came to identify domestic and sexual violence as significant concerns, victim advocacy organizations and criminal justice agencies began to collaborate on strategies to stop the violence, protect victims, and hold offenders accountable. This collaboration, "a cornerstone of VAWA," has come to be known as coordinated community response, or CCR. CCR initially focused on reforms in the criminal legal system, examining and modifying policies, procedures, and rules that guided the practice of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and probation personnel. Criminal justice practitioners and advocates provided and received training on these revisions in practice and established systems to evaluate adherence to the reforms by each sector of the criminal justice and advocacy systems.

Eventually, CCR members discovered that reforms in their individual sectors were not enough, and CCR efforts moved in the direction of cross-disciplinary collaborations to address remaining shortcomings and obstacles to achieving the goals of victim safety and offender accountability. An example of a process developed to promote effective cross-disciplinary collaboration is the "Institutional Analysis/Community Assessment."[84] This audit process engages all sectors of the criminal legal system and victim advocacy/service agencies in local, cross-disciplinary teams to do the following: examine current policies, protocols, guidelines, forms, and work routines; evaluate whether they strengthen or impede safety for victims of battering and sexual assault; and produce recommendations for systemic change (Praxis International, 2010).

[84] Materials and tools for Institutional Analysis/Community Assessment can be found on the PRAXIS International website at http://www.praxisinternational.org/praxis_institutional_analysis_community_assessment_home.aspx.

Efforts to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking have been found to be most effective when they are combined and integrated into a coordinated community response (DePrince et al., 2012; EMT Associates, 2013; Shepard & Pence, 1999). Organizations participating in these domestic violence collaboratives were found to have increased knowledge and awareness of which sector does what in their community systems, expanded social capital that results in increased referrals and services for victims, and heightened influence on important decision-making within the legal system (Nowell & Foster-Fishman, 2011).

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a broadly implemented example of a coordinated collaborative community response. Typically, SARTs bring together professionals from the criminal legal, medical, mental health, and advocacy sectors to strengthen resources for victims and enhance each stakeholder's ability to respond to sexual assault effectively, appropriately, and with sensitivity toward victims. The Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT) is a more comprehensive coordinated approach involving a broader range of professionals—the initial responders (i.e., law enforcement, advocates, and health care providers) as well as those providing and coordinating ongoing resources for sexual assault victims within the community (e.g., mental health, public health, substance abuse, and other social services) (Lonsway, Archambault, & Littel, 2013). Through the use of a national protocol for sexual assault forensic examinations,[85] SARTs/SARRTs are instrumental in assuring victims access to immediate care and services and in facilitating the development of evidence that can be used to support the prosecution of offenders (Littel, 2013). Research suggests that SARTs can improve legal outcomes, the help-seeking experiences of victims, and multidisciplinary relationships between responders (Greeson & Campbell, 2013).

Illinois' statewide network of family violence coordinating councils is another example of community-based collaboratives that coordinate interagency intervention to address domestic violence. These councils help build stronger relationships and enhanced knowledge among stakeholders. Both the presence and age of these councils are associated with an increased rate at which emergency protection orders became final orders (Allen et al., 2013).

The concept of "community" in "coordinated community response" can and has been broadened by OVW grantees to include schools, workplaces,

[85] The U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women released a second edition of *A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/ Adolescents* in April 2013. The revised protocol updates the original 2004 protocol to reflect current technology and changes in VAWA 2005 and increases the emphasis on victim-centered care.

churches, community groups, neighborhoods, tribes, and families. Including employers in the coordinated response, for example, may contribute to changing social attitudes about intimate partner violence through the implementation of workplace policies and procedures that support victims and penalize batterers (Pennington-Zoellner, 2009).

CCRs foster communication, improve understanding, create changes in practice and policy, and provide opportunities to share critical information that may bring immediate benefits to diverse groups of victims, as illustrated by the following grantees.

> The SART coordinators visit law enforcement, prosecutor, and hospital project partner agencies [in two rural counties] weekly to build relationships and catch up. This is in addition to the monthly SART meetings. This has been highly successful. Just in the past few months one county particularly has seen a change in how the prosecutors and law enforcement view the importance of the SART coordinator/victim advocate. They will now call her at the scene when they have questions about protocol or the best way to respond to the specific needs of a victim.
>
> ***—Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (Rural)***

> As a result of funding, the Domestic Incident Unit of the Troy Police Department is now located within the domestic violence program. The officer and advocate work closely on DV cases, reviewing all domestic incident reports, conducting joint follow up home visits, and case conferencing with victim informed consent. When a victim working with the DV program decides to file a police report, the report is taken right at the DV program office with the advocate present, maximizing the victim's comfort level. When an offender is on probation, the DV unit within the Probation Department coordinates and conferences with the officer and advocate to ensure offenders are held accountable and victims are offered services. The response from victims who have been engaged in the project is overwhelmingly positive. Victims have reported feeling supported and heard by law enforcement and the community. As a result of the home visits, DV services are reaching more victims as links to services are made in the field.
>
> ***—City of Troy, New York (Arrest)***

> Building on existing collaborations and partnerships, the CLSSP funding has enabled our program to create awareness and provide education on the needs of the refugee and immigrant victim, thus establishing a stronger coordinated community response when a refugee and immigrant victim seeks services. As a result, mainstream domestic violence and sexual assault programs are becoming more aware of the unique needs of refugee and immigrant victims and therefore the agencies work with us closely to provide cultural competency trainings for their staff in an effort to better serve the refugee and immigrant victims.
>
> ***–United Somali Women of Maine (CLSSP)***

> This grant has allowed the OAC [court project coordinator] to enhance collaboration with law enforcement, other court jurisdictions, probation and parole, and batterer intervention treatment providers to ensure offender accountability and participation in the batterer intervention programs. The grant has also allowed information sharing about some of the most violent and persistent offenders from the Kansas City, Missouri area.
>
> ***—City of Kansas City, Missouri (Courts)***

In recognition of the importance of interagency coordination and collaboration, OVW requires grantees of most grant programs [86] to develop and/or participate in a meaningful CCR to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in their communities. These grantees must provide information on the number of formal partnerships (the number of organizations with which the grantees have executed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] for purposes of their OVW grant) and on the frequency of interactions with both their MOU partners and a broad range of other organizations. These grantees report on 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.[87] Finally, they describe the nature and effectiveness of their CCR activities in narrative responses, from which the above examples were taken.

[86] Grantees not required to provide data on CCR activities are SASP–CS, State and Tribal Coalitions, Supervised Visitation, and Transitional Housing grantees; grantees of the 14 other grant programs included in this report are required to provide data on CCR activities.

[87] Because the majority of OVW-grant programs require grantees to have a CCR, and each grantee reports a large number of variables for partner organizations and the type and frequency of interactions with those organizations, analyzing and reporting comprehensively on the CCR data for all programs is not feasible. Some data reflecting the number of grantees who engaged in CCR activities with criminal justice agencies do appear in the law enforcement, prosecution, court, and probation sections of the Effectiveness chapter of this report.

Community Education/Public Awareness/ Prevention

Reducing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking requires efforts on numerous, critical fronts, in addition to criminal justice and victim services interventions and the strategies (e.g., CCR and training) designed to improve those responses. Changing individual and community beliefs and attitudes that legitimize or support violence, building social competencies that contribute to healthy relationships, and decreasing the consequences of early victimization and perpetration are critical to reducing violence (Haegerich & Dahlberg, 2011). By recognizing the influence of community and society on individual behavior and by promoting change in families, organizations, and communities, broader public education and awareness activities can help build a community's capacity for violence prevention. This approach presents the issue of violence as relevant to all community members and can use vehicles such as social norms marketing[88] to change perceptions (McMahon, 2011; Tharp, Simon, & Saul, 2012; Yoshihama, Ramakrishnan, Hammock, & Khaliq, 2012).

Comprehensive programs that promote healthy relationships among adolescents employ school-based strategies, parent programs, training for teachers, tools for neighborhood organizations, and social media to reinforce their message (Tharp et al., 2012). Delivery of a school-based curriculum to adolescents that focuses on changing social norms and building healthy relationships is an example of an effective, evidence-based strategy to prevent intimate partner violence (Haegerich & Dahlberg, 2011). Where school and community-based programs also involve parents and present curriculum in multiple lessons (including role-playing), children of all ages are more likely to disclose bullying[89] and dating violence to parents and authorities (Finkelhor, Vanderminden, Turner, Shattuck, & Hamby, 2014). Rigorous evaluation of a widely-implemented dating violence prevention program found it to be effective in reducing physical dating violence, even years after the program was delivered to middle school students[90] (Foshee et al., 2004).

[88] Social norms marketing uses information on actual behavioral norms to correct common misperceptions regarding problem behaviors, with the goal of reducing those behaviors and/or increasing healthy behaviors.
[89] OVW grant funds may not be utilized by grantees to address bullying.
[90] Building upon the success of this program, other school-based prevention programs—specifically Dating Matters and Second Step—are currently being implemented and evaluated using randomized, longitudinal, multi-site designs (see http://www.cdc.gov/injury/erpo/awards/coop/2009/1-U01-CE001677-01.html and http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datingmatters).

At the college level, students exposed to a campus-based sexual violence prevention program on the dynamics of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and active bystander roles engage in significantly more bystander intervention behavior[91] than those students who were not exposed (Tharp et al., 2012). College students who engage in more helpful bystander behavior also report feeling more responsibility for ending sexual and relationship violence and more confidence as a bystander; they also perceive greater benefits of stepping in to help (Brown, Banyard, & Moynihan, 2014).

Some of the most promising practices in primary prevention of these crimes are those directed at engaging men and boys. These approaches may include educational programs, social marketing campaigns, and the fostering of men's commitment as activists and advocates for women (Flood, 2011). Male high school athletes who completed a full primary prevention program delivered by their coaches reported increased intentions to intervene, more recognition of abusive behavior, and more-positive bystander behavior (E. Miller et al., 2012).

In recognition of the crucial role men and boys can play in the effort to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, VAWA 2005 authorized a grant program specifically to engage men and youth in this effort: Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking (EMY Program). EMY Program grantees and grantees from the CLSSP, Campus, Disability, Rural, State Coalitions, Tribal Coalitions, and Tribal Governments Programs conduct educational and public awareness initiatives as part of their OVW-funded activities. Campus Program grantees are required to offer awareness and prevention programs for incoming students. Coalitions sponsor public awareness events (e.g., "awareness month" campaigns on sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking; Clothesline Projects; and Silent Witness poster sessions).[92] CLSSP, Rural, Tribal Coalitions, and Tribal Governments Program grantees create educational activities for students and community

[91] Intervention can range from simply staying in an area if it feels unsafe to leave someone alone, to asking whether help is needed, or calling the police.

[92] The Clothesline Project displays shirts with messages and illustrations designed by survivors of violence and others who love someone who has been killed. The project's purpose is to increase awareness of the impact of domestic violence, to celebrate the strength of survivors, and to break the silence that often surrounds this crime. More information on this project can be found at http://www.clotheslineproject.org/index.htm. "The Silent Witness Project is part of a national initiative to remember those murdered in acts of domestic violence. . . . The Silent Witness Project is a traveling memorial honoring women who were murdered in acts of domestic violence. The exhibit is made of life-size wooden figures, each representing a woman who once lived, worked, had neighbors, friends, and family before her death. Each silhouette represents a person murdered by an intimate partner" (http://www.violenceresource.org/silentwit.htm).

members on topics such as sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and healthy relationships.

Depending upon the specific community and the needs and resources of that community, education, awareness, and/or prevention activities may range from posting materials on a bulletin board in an extremely rural setting to using web-based media in a major metropolitan area. Following are some examples of VAWA-funded grantee activities that educate communities and increase awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and of the services available to victims; and that seek to prevent victimization.

Since our Stalking Awareness event, there has been an increase in the number of students and faculty reporting stalking incidents. These incidents were reported to our University Police Department CCRT members and educators where they were provided stalking logs and an incident reporting sheet to document the stalking. They were also counseled on ways to handle the incidents and what other measures they should take to ensure their safety.

–Louisiana State University Health Sciences (Campus)

Without funding there would be no outreach to the villages. . . . Awareness posters and flyers are so important to be posted in villages where there are no resources because they are read by people who can make a difference, by people who can use their voices when others are afraid to. Women and leaders of villages have said when reading signs: "See, these are the signs of domestic violence, these are the signs of sexual assault—we have to do something about it." Many times these are their only resources. Women are coming together, discussing, identifying, supporting, and building skills and leadership among themselves to create systematic change.

–Yupik Women's Coalition (Tribal Coalitions)

The scale of this Engaging Men campaign allows us to reach thousands of Koreans throughout Southern California (and beyond). We have been able to invest in modern approaches to public education/awareness, including YouTube, video blog, DV blog, and an enhanced website as never before. Also, a full-time, Korean male project staff dedicated to this program allows us to significantly increase our outreach and develop strategic partnerships with new groups. . . . [B]y hiring a Korean male project lead and focusing on community mobilizing of men, we are able to work with new, male-oriented partners [such as Fatherhood programs, churches, and civic groups] who may not have partnered with us in the past because they identified DV as a women's issue, not their issue.

—Korean American Family Service Center, California (Engaging Men and Youth)

> Boys to Men collaborated with Mentors in Violence Prevention to train all fall athletes at the University of Southern Maine in bystander intervention and violence prevention skills. Trainings addressed preventing sexual assault, dating abuse and stalking through bystander intervention, and focused on violence prevention as a leadership issue. The trainings highlighted the natural leadership roles of athletes and the potential impact they have on creating social change. The trainings were well-received by athletes and coaching staff and will continue throughout the year until all athletes are trained.
>
> ***—Maine Boys to Men (Engaging Men and Youth)***

> Administrators have commented that after our presentations, they saw an increase in students using key words such as abuse and control. Students were also able to articulate how they were feeling using adjectives other than happy, mad or sad. Students were also pinpointing and most importantly reporting actions of others that were not healthy. . . . [S]tudents who culturally may not discuss these sensitive issues at home [have] a forum to listen, learn and ask questions without fear of violating any taboos. Due to cultural and economic situations, many of the homes in the eight counties are multifamily and multigenerational. The ability to cross this cultural barrier that once existed is of remarkable success and only possible due the funding provided by OVW.
>
> ***—BCFS Health and Human Services, Texas (Rural)***

Grantees from the CLSSP, Campus, Disability, Engaging Men and Youth, Rural, State Coalitions, Tribal Coalitions, and Tribal Governments Programs conducted **30,816**[93] educational and public awareness programs and events that reached a total of **828,354** students[94] and **659,607** other community members over the 2-year period covered by this report. Engaging Men and Youth grantees provided **255** ongoing educational and mentoring activities [95] that reached a total of **8,786** youth (6,791 of whom were students) and **6,928** other community members during the same time period.

[93] This does not include activities of the 56 State Coalitions grantees that provided activities such as Take Back the Night, Clothesline Project, media campaigns, and video and theater productions. State Coalitions grantees report the type of public awareness activities they engaged in but do not report the number of events.

[94] This number includes middle school, high school, and university students. Engaging Men and Youth grantees also reported 731 community education/awareness/prevention events, with 81,320 attendees, 15,824 of whom attended presentations and events at schools. These grantees are not required to specify whether attendees were students or other community members, therefore the attendees are not included in the total number of students.

[95] Ongoing activities supported by Engaging Men and Youth grantees included educational courses, support groups, retreats and outings, online social media, and leadership/mentoring training.

Training and Technical Assistance

In recognition of the important role training plays in combating sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, the majority of OVW-funded programs[96] support training of a wide range of professionals who interact with victims, with the goal of improving their response to these crimes.[97] Understanding the causes, circumstances, and consequences of these victimizations is critical to developing an effective response and to preventing further harm and unintended negative consequences. Training provided by VAWA grantees or with VAWA funds may also address policies, protocols, and best practices that enable professionals to improve their own response to victims and to better understand the roles and responsibilities of other professionals and agencies in their community.

Victims may come in contact with a wide variety of professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, health and mental health professionals, and government agency staff. As a first responder, the law enforcement officer is often the person who can direct the victim to appropriate services and send a clear message that the community views domestic and sexual violence as serious criminal matters. An untrained officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor or collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. If the officer sides with the abuser, the victim may not report future assaults. Responding to a sexual assault, a law enforcement officer and emergency personnel may unknowingly re-traumatize the victim or fail to identify, preserve, and collect evidence necessary for a criminal prosecution.

Health care providers can play a critical role by screening for and identifying domestic violence among their patients. When health care providers are given screening questions and are trained to ask about interpersonal violence during confidential, routine medical examinations, the door opens for a victim to disclose the abuse and receive appropriate services and referrals. Without training on how to screen and what safety precautions to take during visits, many providers will not ask the prescribed questions. Such training has been shown to support an increase in the identification of domestic violence victims, to improve attitudes and comfort in asking about violence in the home, and to improve documentation of screening (McColgan et al., 2010). Specialized training for nurses and other forensic medical professionals who examine and treat victims of sexual assault is essential to

[96] Transitional Housing, Youth Services, SASP–CS, and T–SASP Programs do not use OVW funds for training other professionals.

[97] Additional victimizations addressed by OVW grantees include child sexual abuse for the Rural Program and elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation for the Abuse in Later Life Program.

assure appropriate and accurate collection and storage of forensic evidence; provision of information and treatment on related medical issues; 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, if necessary (Littel, 2013).

Professionals involved in divorce, custody, or child protection cases—e.g., guardians ad litem, custody evaluators, psychological evaluators, case workers, parent coordinators, attorneys, and judges—may make inappropriate or even harmful recommendations and decisions in situations where the presence of domestic violence is minimized or not recognized at all. Their actions or inaction may further expose children to an abusive parent, place the victim in danger, or not safeguard the domestic violence victim against an abuser who uses the court or child protective systems to continue the abuse. For example, training attorneys on risk assessment and safety planning is especially important in domestic violence and sexual assault cases because victims may face greater danger when they attempt to leave (Araji & Bosek, 2010; Shepard & Hagemeister, 2013; Watson & Ancis, 2013).

Training plays a crucial role in preparing these and other professionals to respond to a victim of abuse in an appropriate and helpful manner. It is also an integral component of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The following are examples of how VAWA-funded training programs can improve the understanding, collaboration, and responses of criminal justice and other professionals to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

> Bring[ing] nationally recognized trainers to our county, with the local police trained side by side with the county sheriff deputies, prosecuting attorneys and judges (all getting the same message) had a very positive impact on our community. After the justice community was appropriately trained, they became much more involved in the community coordinated response, and were able to gain a strong, working understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the social service agencies, emergency room doctors, shelters, and adult protective services.
>
> ***—Lakeshore Legal Aid, Michigan (Abuse in Later Life)***

Following a law enforcement training in Lander County, we had multiple officers in the region discuss their change in thinking and the possibility of re-opening cases that had been closed in their jurisdiction after learning about the dynamics of sexual assault. They had once believed victims were lying and after the training, they no longer felt that way.

—Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Assault (State Coalition)

By providing trainings to law enforcement, school social workers, health workers and advocates, we get referrals, but we also educate each service provider on the vulnerable youth outside their area of expertise. For example, advocates for LGBT youth have learned about the risks that undocumented youth are experiencing and have been able to make referrals and provide services to youth within the Latino population based on our trainings.

—Haven House, Inc., North Carolina (Youth Services)

During the course of the reporting period, the La Paloma Center Program Coordinator trained Child Protective Services (CPS) staff on issues related to supervised visitation, domestic violence, and child abuse. During the training, several of the CPS staff mentioned that they were not aware that a facility such as La Paloma Center existed in Pinal County. The staff mentioned that the majority of their caseload involved parents that had a history of domestic violence and could benefit from using La Paloma Center. Since that training, referrals from CPS to La Paloma Center have increased.

—Arizona Governor's Office for Children (Supervised Visitation)

Four out of the five domestic relations judges who potentially rule on ex parte civil protection orders (CPOs) were trained on the laws of stalking as grounds for a CPO and the increased lethality of stalking in DV cases. The Legal Department, including all staff attorneys, and numerous magistrates were also given the same training. This allowed for an open discussion on the dangerousness of stalking by abusers and highlighted red flags for behavior which could turn lethal.

—Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Ohio (Courts)

During the 2 years covered by this report, **1,075** VAWA grantees[98] trained **686,477** professionals, including the following:

- Victim advocates: **85,247**[99]
- Law enforcement officers: **83,448**
- Health professionals: **57,470**[100]

[98] This number represents an unduplicated count of grantees providing training across all four reporting periods. The same grantees may have provided training in more than one of the four reporting periods, but they have been counted only once.

[99] This number includes both governmental victim assistants or victim witness specialists (9,567) and nongovernmental and tribal victim advocates (75,680). VAWA grantees also trained (47,147) staff of domestic violence, sexual assault, and dual agencies, and coalitions including tribal.

- Attorneys and law students: **40,778**
- Court personnel: **19,799**
- Government agency staff: **19,218**
- Prosecutors: **14,904**
- Faith-based organization staff: **9,135**

Grantees most often provided training[101] on the following: domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; safety planning for victims; and confidentiality.

Technical assistance comprises a wide variety of activities designed to facilitate individual professional or agency change by providing expert problem-solving. VAWA-funded professionals with specialized expertise offer technical assistance to other professionals seeking help with specific questions and issues. They may engage in peer-to-peer consultations and/or site visits tailored to the needs of other VAWA grantees and give them the opportunity to learn from experts and from one another about effectively responding to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

During the 2 years covered by this report, **280** grantees[102] from the Disability, State Coalitions, Technical Assistance, and Tribal Coalitions Programs engaged in **189,637**[103] technical assistance activities, including **5,399** site visits, for a broad range of professionals. In addition, **96** LAV 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 between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013.[104]

[100] This number combines the categories "health care professional" (31,616), "mental health professional" (17,975), and "SANEs/SAFEs" (7,879).
[101] Grantees report on training topics by checking a box if they offered training on that topic during the relevant 6-month reporting period; the actual number of training events offered on the selected topics is not reported.
[102] This number represents an unduplicated count of grantees providing technical assistance across all four reporting periods. The same grantees may have provided technical assistance in more than one of the four reporting periods, but they have been counted only once.
[103] This number does not include TA information requests or referrals.
[104] LAV Program grantees report only that they provided technical assistance to specific categories of legal or other professionals; they do not report the number of professionals receiving the technical assistance nor do they report the number of technical assistance activities they provide.

Conclusion

The data from our grantees included in the 2014 Biennial Report illustrates that VAWA funding makes a difference in the way that communities across the United States help victims and hold offenders accountable. Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, OVW discretionary programs funded nearly 2,000 grantees and technical assistance providers. More than 1 million services were provided to victims and their families as they coped with the immediate and long-term impact of violence in their lives, helping victims remain safe and establishing independence after leaving an abusive relationship, and connecting victims with resources to support their recovery. On average, supportive services such as shelter, crisis intervention, and advocacy were provided to 146,271 individuals every 6 months.

It is critical that each person working directly with victims responds appropriately, makes informed decisions, and prevents further harm. To advance this goal, grantees used funds to train a total of 686,477 service providers, criminal justice personnel, and other professionals to improve their response to victims. More than 1.5 million individuals participated in VAWA-funded education, awareness, or prevention activities. Grantees' reports demonstrate that VAWA-funded criminal justice solutions are evolving alongside the changing dynamics of violence and victimization. During the two-year report period, law enforcement made 96,911 arrests and courts disposed of 7,973 criminal cases, of which 71 percent resulted in convictions.

The 2014 report reflects 2 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 it highlights where much work remains to be done.

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

Recognizing that individuals who are 50 years of age or older who are victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, face unique barriers to receiving assistance, Congress created the Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program (Abuse in Later Life Program). This grant program creates a unique opportunity for providing or enhancing training and services to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation—including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking—involving victims who are 50 years of age or older.

The term "elder abuse" means any action against a person who is 50 years of age or older that constitutes the willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical harm, pain, or mental anguish; or deprivation by a person, including a caregiver, of goods or services with the intent to cause physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness. Elder abuse victims face unique obstacles in seeking assistance because they often are dependent on the abusers and may not have the option to move or otherwise end the abusive relationships.

It is critical for those in the criminal and civil justice system to recognize indicators that an older individual is being abused.

It is critical for those in the criminal and civil justice system to recognize indicators that an older individual is being abused. These indicators may include unexplained physical injuries or contradictory explanation of injuries; sudden changes in behavior such as withdrawal, increased agitation, or depression; malnutrition; substandard care or poor physical hygiene in spite of seemingly adequate financial resources; or sudden transfers of assets to family members, caregivers, or other persons.

Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking affect victims in all age groups. However, older victims face additional challenges in accessing services they need to enhance their safety. Appropriate interventions may be compromised by misconceptions that older persons are not victims of these types of crimes, that domestic violence does not occur or lessens in later life, or that the abuse is an expression of stress associated with caring for an aging individual. Age or disability may increase the isolation of these victims and their dependence on abusers for care or housing. Also, these cases may go unnoticed because criminal justice system personnel may perceive a victim's injuries as arising from aging, illness, or disability instead of recognizing that the injuries may be attributed to violence in the home or other care facility.

By statute, funds under the Abuse in Later Life Program may be used for the following purposes:

- Training programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, governmental agencies, victim assistants, and relevant officers of Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and local courts in recognizing, addressing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking against victims who are 50 years of age or older
- Providing or enhancing services for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, who are 50 years of age or older
- Creating or supporting multidisciplinary collaborative community responses to victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, who are 50 years of age or older
- Conducting cross-training for victim service organizations, governmental agencies, courts, law enforcement, and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, who are 50 years of age or older.

Later in Life funding has allowed the Nez Perce Tribe to be empowered to take a stand, to educate, to support elders, to make sure our agencies are responding, to collaborate, and not allow any one elder to feel alone in the process.

—Nez Perce Tribe

Had Denver not received this funding, we would not be addressing elder abuse on anything other than a case-by-case basis from our siloed perspectives. Now, however, we are building partnerships between agencies that historically have had tense or nonexistent relationships. Moreover, we are operating in a spirit of trust, respect, and collaboration. It has been exciting to build and watch, and I believe most (if not all) involved now consider it an honor to be a part of the collaborative groups we have pulled together.

—City and County of Denver, Colorado

The Abuse in Later Life funding will have a far-reaching and long-lasting impact on Riverside County. The coordination of a passionate CCR has already increased communication and identification of services for victims of abuse later in life. This collaborative approach to problem-solving will continue to be a springboard for new and innovative programs to provide services to this unique population of victims.

—County of Riverside/District Attorney's Office, California

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **51** individual Abuse in Later Life Program grantees[105] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **41**
- January–June 2012: **36**
- July–December 2012: **44**
- January–June 2013: **34**

Staff

Abuse in Later Life Program-funded staff provide training and information to criminal justice professionals to help ensure a coordinated system response to victims who are elderly.

[105] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support program coordinators.

Table 1. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Abuse in Later Life Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**31**	**36**	**34**	**33**
Total FTE staff funded	**28**	**37**	**32**	**30**
Program coordinators	14	15	14	16
Victim advocates	5	8	10	9
Administrators	2	3	2	2

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

Training

Grantees train professionals to more effectively respond to older victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as well as to increase offender accountability.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **45** (88 percent of grantees)[106]
- Total number of training events: **107**
- Total number of people trained: **4,334**

Table 2. People trained with Abuse in Later Life Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 4,334)	
Position	**Number**	**Percent**
Law enforcement officers	2,016[107]	47
Elder service agency staff	692	16
Victim service organization staff	446	10
Government agency staff	336	8

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

[106] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[107] This number includes the categories of law enforcement officers (1,310), law enforcement agency staff (229), and detectives/investigators (477).

> Hundreds of professionals have received training about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation and effective ways to respond to it. This would not have happened without this grant program. . . .The more information that is fed into the community, the more the community wants to know about how to effectively respond to elder abuse.
>
> ***—King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Washington***
>
> Numerous police officers who attended the training . . . stated that before the training they would not have recognized the signs [of elder abuse]. . . . APS has reported receiving numerous phone calls from officers who say they are making a referral because of what they learned in the training classes.
>
> ***—Arkansas Department of Human Services***

Each year, OVW provides intensive and comprehensive technical assistance to Abuse in Later Life Program grantees. This technical assistance includes: 1) mandatory 3-day train-the-trainer events intended to provide multidisciplinary teams with the skills necessary to provide training to local law enforcement personnel; 2) mandatory 3-day train-the-trainer events intended to provide multidisciplinary teams with the skills necessary to provide training to local service providers; and 3) a ½-day cross-training event for victim service organizations, governmental agencies, courts, law enforcement, and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving older victims.

> We are able to maximize the efficiency of grant funds because of our "train-the-trainer" model. By training our staff across different practice areas, and then having our staff train our community partners, we are able to educate the maximum number of people about both the unique issues elder abuse victims face and the resources available to them.
>
> ***—Center for Community Solutions, California***
>
> The [Abuse in Later Life] Program funding has made it possible to begin the long, difficult process of changing the culture of how elder abuse victims are served by the law enforcement, criminal justice, and aging services communities.
>
> ***—Partnership for Families Children and Adults, Tennessee***

Victim Services

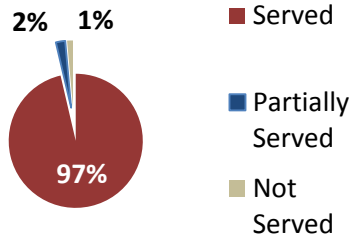
The availability of a wide range of services for older victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation–including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking–is a critical part of a coordinated community response. Elder victims need comprehensive support services that may include legal

assistance to secure a protection order; legal advocacy to obtain appropriate benefits; medical and counseling services from health care professionals; services from victim advocates, including safety planning or housing assistance; and/or transportation to appointments.

Research indicates that women who work with advocates more effectively access community resources.

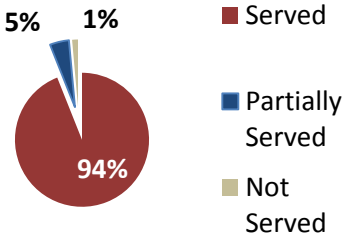
- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **19** (37 percent of grantees)[108]
- Abuse in Later Life Program grantees provided services to an average of **732** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or elder abuse, neglect or exploitation to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[109]

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **630** victims sought services from Abuse in Later Life Program grantees.
- Of these, **621** (99 percent) victims received services and **9** (1 percent) were not served.



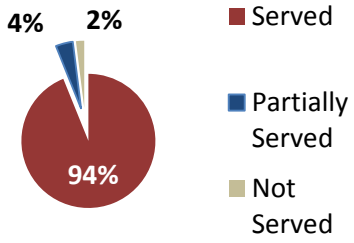
January–June 2012:

- **910** victims sought services from Abuse in Later Life Program grantees.
- Of these, **897** (99 percent) victims received services and **13** (1 percent) were not served.

[108] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[109] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

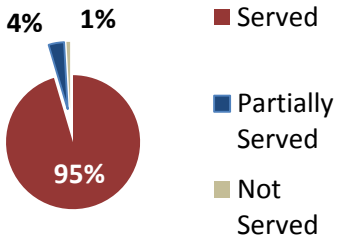
July–December 2012:

- **868** victims sought services from Abuse in Later Life Program grantees.
- Of these, **851** (98 percent) victims received services and **17** (2 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **565** victims sought services from Abuse in Later Life Program grantees.
- Of these, **560** (99 percent) victims received services and **5** (1 percent) were not served.



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

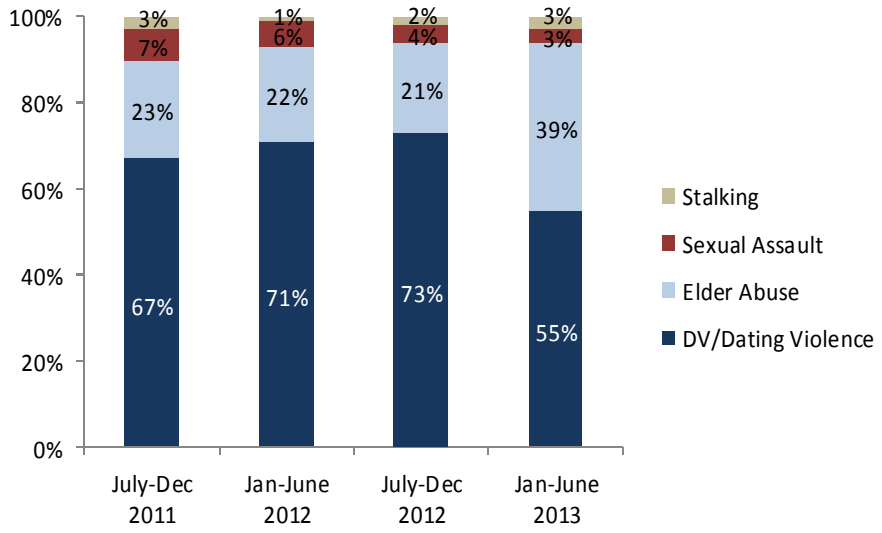
Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims with mental health issues
- Rules not acceptable to victim
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority-setting
- Did not meet statutory requirements
- Hours of operation
- Program reached capacity
- Services not appropriate for victim

Abuse in Later Life Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse. The majority of those served by Abuse in Later Life Program grantees were reported as victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (55-73 percent)**.**

Figure 1. Provision of victim services by Abuse in Later Life Program grantees, by type of victimization[110]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

Table 3. Relationship to offender of victims served by Abuse in Later Life Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	246	464	424	331
Other family or household member	98	183	202	82
Parent/grandparent	51	92	58	86

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Abuse in Later Life Program grantees served or partially served an average of **732** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[111] The majority of those victims were **white**, **female**, and between the ages of **50 and 59**.

[110] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse victims served do not reflect that fact.

[111] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 4. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Abuse in Later Life Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian/ Alaska Native	10	10	6	4
Asian	18	20	16	20
Black or African-American	54	132	226	46
Hispanic or Latino	61	104	97	46
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	1	3	17
White	387	532	433	379
Unknown	93	98	70	48
Gender				
Female	516	658	716	425
Male	56	162	117	135
Unknown	49	77	18	0
Age				
50–59	294	353	350	172
60–75	184	335	351	253
76–84	43	74	70	66
85+	27	45	36	51
Unknown	73	90	44	18
Other				
People with disabilities	194	207	169	165
People with limited English proficiency	69	41	35	28
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	9	22	13	11
People who live in rural areas	46	82	63	77

NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Types of Victim Services

Abuse in Later Life Program grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. These services include victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and helping victims navigate the legal system. Victims of

sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health-related issues, financial and transportation needs, employment, and legal issues.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods: [112]

- Victim advocacy: **1,632**
- Crisis intervention: **1,533**
- Counseling/support group: **1,037**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **491**
- Civil legal assistance: **310**
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment: **292**

> One . . . client, together with her 15 year-old grandson for whom she provides care, was placed in transitional housing to assist her in breaking free from her physically, emotionally, and sexually abusive husband. Since her placement in transitional housing, she has been provided with ongoing support, counseling, financial counseling, and emergency financial assistance.
>
> ***—Community Violence Intervention Center, North Dakota***

Remaining Areas of Need

Abuse in Later Life Program grantees regularly cited the need to educate the elderly about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, and about resources available in their communities.

Many grantees cited housing, including emergency housing, for victims who are elderly, as a remaining area of need. They also cited the need to provide services at home. Transportation systems for the elderly to access services were seen as lacking, especially in rural communities. Additionally, grantees mentioned the scarcity of mental health services for older victims.

[112] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most the frequently reported categories of services are presented.

> Transitional housing is difficult to obtain in Boulder County. . . . Often, victims are unable to arrange independent living and many must live with their abusers. Additional housing options, supported by federal, state, or county funding, would assist victims in making the transition to independent living and allow them to leave dangerous living environments.
>
> ***—Boulder County Area Agency on Aging, Colorado***

Training and education needs discussed by grantees included informing law enforcement about the symptoms of abuse in the elder population, educating older victims about their rights and available resources, and educating victims and service providers about financial abuse and exploitation.

> We are noticing an increase in the number of financial exploitation cases in the county—there is a decided lack of information for financial institutions about recognizing and responding to financial exploitation, as well as difficulty on the part of Area Agency on Aging and law enforcement to obtain information from banks which would help investigate and prosecute these cases.
>
> ***—Network of Victim Assistance in Buck's County, Pennsylvania***

Abuse in Later Life Program grantees also regularly mentioned the need to improve the responsiveness of the criminal justice system to crimes against elders, and specifically mentioned the need for investigation and prosecution of elder abuse cases.

> There is a need for more training and education of all service providers, including not only victim services and law enforcement, but also other first responders and the medical community. In addition, there is still not enough awareness of local community resources and options that may be available for seniors facing issues of abuse.
>
> ***—Vera House Incorporated, New York***

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

The Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (Arrest Program) is designed to encourage state, local, and tribal governments and state, local, and tribal courts to treat sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law requiring coordination with nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocates, and representatives from the criminal justice system. This program challenges the whole community to communicate, identify problems, and share ideas that will result in new responses and the application of best practices to enhance victim safety and offender accountability.

Victim safety must be a fundamental consideration at each juncture in the criminal justice system.

The scope of the Arrest Program includes the following purpose areas during the period covered in this report: implementing pro-arrest programs and policies; improving tracking of cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; centralizing and coordinating police enforcement, prosecution, or judicial responsibility for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases; coordinating computer tracking systems to ensure communication between police, prosecutors, parole and probation officers, and both criminal and family courts; strengthening legal advocacy service programs; educating judges in criminal and civil courts (including juvenile courts); providing technical assistance and computer and other equipment to police departments, prosecutors, courts, and tribal jurisdictions to facilitate the widespread enforcement of protection orders; developing or strengthening policies and training for police, prosecutors, and the judiciary in recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of sexual assault and domestic violence against older individuals and individuals with disabilities; developing state, tribal, territorial, or local policies, procedures, and protocols for preventing dual arrests and prosecutions; developing and establishing comprehensive victim service and support centers, such as family justice

centers; developing and implementing policies and training for police, prosecutors, probation, and parole officers, and the judiciary in recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of sexual assault; developing, enhancing, and maintaining protection order registries; and developing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing programs for sexual assault perpetrators and notification and counseling protocols.

The Arrest Program recognizes that sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are crimes that require the criminal justice system to hold violent offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest, prosecution, and close judicial oversight of offender behavior.

Victim safety must be a fundamental consideration at each juncture in the criminal justice system.

This project funded by the Arrest Program grant is literally transforming the criminal justice systems response to and services for sexual assault and stalking victims on multiple levels in our state. We have been working with the state Legislature to ensure protections and responsive policies; we are working with law enforcement and SARTs to network services and increase accountability; and we are working with our advocates to enhance the responsiveness and accessibility of services to victims and to educate our communities.

—West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Arrest funding has made the difference in the way Montgomery County responds to domestic violence by assisting in the transition from a solo response to a true collaborative response. Prior to receiving funding the various agencies –private and public – each had specialized units and each of those units responded to the best of their abilities, but without much inter-agency communication. . . . Arrest funding has made it possible for the staff to work together to share information affecting the safety and well-being of the victims and to make sure the complete information is getting to investigators, to judges and prosecutors at bail review hearings, to probation agents who may be supervising a defendant for a prior incident, to judges at protective order hearings, to investigators in criminal cases, to counselors who may not know the abuser's history of violence.

—Montgomery County, Maryland

Prior to receiving Arrest Program funding, victims had to navigate approximately 23 different agencies in order to have their needs met and/or to keep themselves and their children safe. With Arrest Program funding, we've been able to coordinate, plan, and implement a single point of service that brings together nine of these agencies in one location. Prior to grant funding, staff was serving an average of 180 victims in a 6-month period. After grant funding and with additional services being provided, staff is serving an average of 310 victims in a 6-month period; this is about a 65 percent increase in the number of victims served!

—Solano County, California

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **241** individual Arrest Program grantees[113] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

> ***Nine** percent of Arrest Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

- July–December 2011: **221**
- January–June 2012: **195**
- July–December 2012: **200**
- January–June 2013: **190**

Nine percent of Arrest Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified approximately **36** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Staff

Arrest Program-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.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support victim advocates, program coordinators, and law enforcement officers.

Table 5. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Arrest Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**202**	**189**	**187**	**186**
Total FTE staff funded	**720**	**673**	**648**	**626**
Victim advocates	216	214	212	201
Program coordinators	73	69	66	74

[113] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 5. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Arrest Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Law enforcement officers	66	62	65	62
Prosecutors	64	54	50	43
Victim assistants	48	48	42	43
Legal advocates	47	32	31	27
Administrators	33	32	27	25
Probation officers	31	30	30	20
Support staff	31	28	25	25

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: The numbers in staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported staff categories are presented.

> As a result of the Arrest Program funding, we have been able to have an extra advocate available to serve victims more thoroughly. We have been able to spend more time in the courtroom advocating for our victims, accompany more victims to the hospital, law enforcement agencies and prosecuting offices, spend more time on the affidavit on the Order of Protection, etc. Having an extra person on staff allows us to better serve our victims.
>
> ***—Hill County, Montana***

> Getting a SANE center up and running with staff would not have been possible without the grant. Hospitals had been reluctant to release nurses for training, and the cost to provide the training necessary was out of our reach. Arrest Program funding enabled us to reimburse the hospitals for the wages paid to nurses for training time . . . and to equip the center so that victims are served in a dignified manner while collecting evidence that will be stronger in court situations.
>
> ***—Manatee County, Florida***

Training

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Nearly all Arrest Program grantees provide training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victimization issues to victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, and mental health and other professionals. This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were domestic violence overview; advocate response; law enforcement response; safety planning for

victims; coordinated community response; domestic violence statutes/codes; criminal court procedures; protection orders; sexual assault overview; confidentiality; and stalking overview. Training may range from conferences and workshops to roll call training for law enforcement officers.

This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **190** (79 percent of grantees)[114]
- Total number of training events: **6,393**
- Total number of people trained: **116,908**

Table 6. People trained with Arrest Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 116,908)	
Position	Number	Percent
Law enforcement officers	38,197	33
Multidisciplinary group	13,086	11
Health professionals	9,373	8
Victim advocates	9,350	8
Volunteers	5,468	5
Social service organization staff	5,433	5
Government agency staff	4,711	4

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

Training funded by the Arrest Program grant has resulted in law enforcement officers making better decisions when identifying predominant aggressors. Officers are also displaying greater skills and understanding while identifying, documenting, and collecting evidence. . . . Evidence-based prosecution has increased and is more effective as a direct result of training to officers.

—City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Having a trained advocate who can listen and is knowledgeable about stalking conduct is vital to assisting victims in their safety planning. All too often, victims of stalking feel that no one understands what they are going through. Stalking victims express relief when they can speak with an advocate who listens and provides concrete information on stalking behaviors.

—Bucks County, Pennsylvania

[114] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

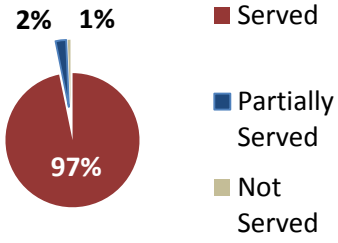
Victim Services

The availability of a wide range of services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking is a critical part of a coordinated community response. Victims need comprehensive support services that may include legal advocacy to secure a protection order or custody of their children; medical and counseling services from healthcare professionals; services from victim advocates, including safety planning or accompaniment to court; or transitional housing assistance.

The availability of a wide range of services . . . is a critical part of a coordinated community response.

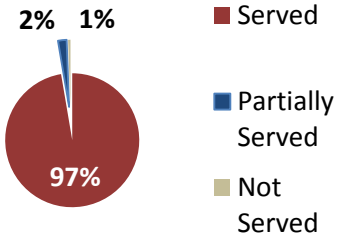
- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **192** (80 percent of grantees)[115]
- Arrest Program grantees provided services to an average of **55,404** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[116]

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **57,363** victims sought services from Arrest Program grantees.
- Of these, **56,999** (99 percent) victims received services and **364** (1 percent) were not served.



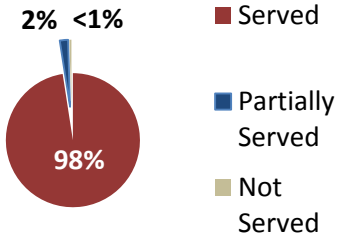
January–June 2012:

- **56,165** victims sought services from Arrest Program grantees.
- Of these, **55,837** (99 percent) victims received services and **328** (1 percent) were not served.

[115] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[116] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

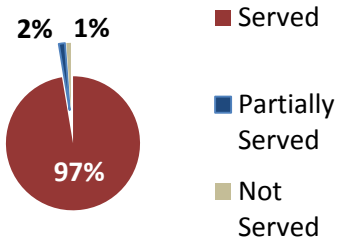
July–December 2012:

- **52,835** victims sought services from Arrest Program grantees.
- Of these, **52,583** (99.5 percent) victims received services and **252** (<1 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **56,835** victims sought services from Arrest Program grantees.
- Of these, **56,196** (99 percent) victims received services and **639** (1 percent) were not served.



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

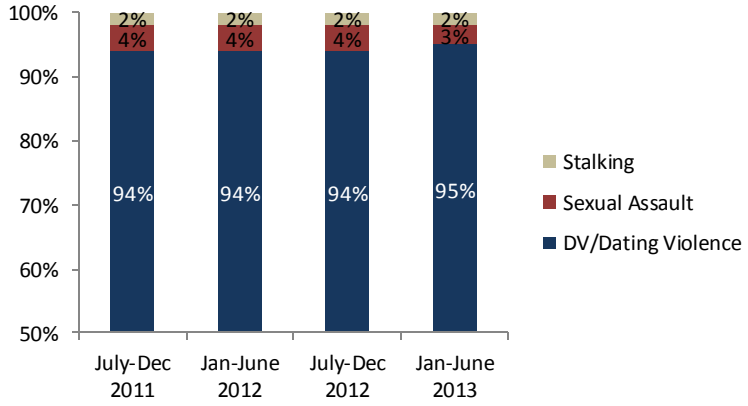
Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Conflict of interest
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements
- Services not appropriate for victim
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources
- Rules not acceptable to victim

Arrest Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by Arrest Program grantees were overwhelmingly reported as victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (94-95 percent).

Figure 2. Provision of victim services by Arrest Program grantees, by type of victimization[117]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

Table 7. Relationship to offender of victims served by Arrest Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	33,668	34,335	34,457	35,951
Dating relationship	12,214	12,292	10,828	10,567
Other family or household member	4,725	4,721	4,200	5,797

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Arrest Program grantees served or partially served an average of **55,404** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[118] The majority of those victims were **white**, **female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

[117] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims served do not reflect that fact.

[118] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 8. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Arrest Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,096	653	537	677
Asian	1,495	1,538	1,361	1,336
Black or African-American	16,928	17,993	16,582	17,625
Hispanic or Latino	8,086	9,468	8,487	9,319
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	169	260	333	552
White	24,038	22,378	21,507	22,620
Unknown	5,386	4,051	4,083	4,687
Gender				
Female	48,037	48,821	46,237	48,633
Male	6,457	6,269	6,063	6,709
Unknown	2,505	747	283	854
Age				
13–17	1,310	1,412	1,548	1,345
18–24	11,402	11,677	11,021	11,424
25–59	36,831	37,303	34,750	37,847
60+	1,647	2,161	2,030	2,176
Unknown	5,809	3,284	3,234	3,404
Other				
People with disabilities	2,498	2,924	2,667	2,464
People with limited English proficiency	7,458	6,142	5,684	5,042
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	4,022	4,965	4,987	3,771
People who live in rural areas	5,692	5,018	5,060	3,782

NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify With more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Types of Victim Services

Arrest Program grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These services include victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and helping victims navigate the legal system. Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health-related issues, school-related issues, financial and transportation needs, employment, and legal issues. Women with children also need assistance with childcare, counseling, and other matters related to their children.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods: [119]

- Victim advocacy: **132,566**
- Crisis intervention: **98,814**
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment: **79,636**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **62,912**
- Counseling services/support group: **47, 746**

> Without Arrest Program funding we would not be able to have a victim advocate dedicated to providing comprehensive services and assistance to domestic violence victims. . . . [H]aving the victim advocate housed at the Police Department with the detectives allows her to respond to the initial call of a domestic violence incident to provide on-scene crisis intervention and immediate support at the most critical time for a victim.
>
> ***—City of Gainesville, Florida***
>
> The most significant achievement of the Sexual Assault Response Project has been the development of local Medical Forensic Exam programs . . . in 8 new project sites and at least 5 rural, non-project sites. [This] has significantly improved victim access, victim response, and enhanced relationships between law enforcement, advocates and medical professionals.
>
> ***—Colorado Division of Criminal Justice***

[119] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

Hotline Calls

- Out of a total of **310,864** hotline calls received, more than half (**186,308**) were received from victims.[120]

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **189,802 unsolicited** letters, phone calls, and/or visits to victims.[121]

Criminal Justice

The Arrest Program supports the efforts of local jurisdictions to develop or enhance a CCR that brings together the resources and efforts of law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. It is expected that the criminal justice activities of Arrest Program grantees will reach beyond the individual unit or organization funded, and, as a result, grantees report criminal justice data for the entire agency within the jurisdiction receiving funds. The effects of Arrest Program funds are intended to have an impact on the criminal justice system as a whole.

> We have made the most of [Arrest Program funding] to enhance training for law enforcement in domestic violence dynamics, community services available to victims and their families, prosecution investigation, evidence and case planning, and corrections custody and community supervision after release. For years, law enforcement was the missing link in our CCR, and Arrest funding has allowed us to fully engage them in identifying and solving systemic gaps in our approach to ensuring justice for domestic violence victims and offenders.
>
> ***—City of Vancouver, Washington***
>
> The Michigan Statewide Cold Case Sexual Assault Unit is the first unit of its kind in the country to focus on the investigation and prosecution of cold case sexual assaults at a statewide level. . . . As a result of the Arrest Program funding, dozens of unsolved, closed, or cold sexual assault cases in our state have been re-opened and given a second review.
>
> ***—Michigan Department of Human Services***

[120] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims, and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.
[121] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.

Law Enforcement

The role of law enforcement is crucial in responding to violence against women. The response and attitude of law enforcement officers influence whether or not victims will report domestic violence offenses, and whether appropriate evidence will be collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders in court.

***Eighty-one** individual grantees (34 percent) are using funds for law enforcement.*

Figure 3. Law enforcement activities in Arrest Program for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases for all four reporting periods

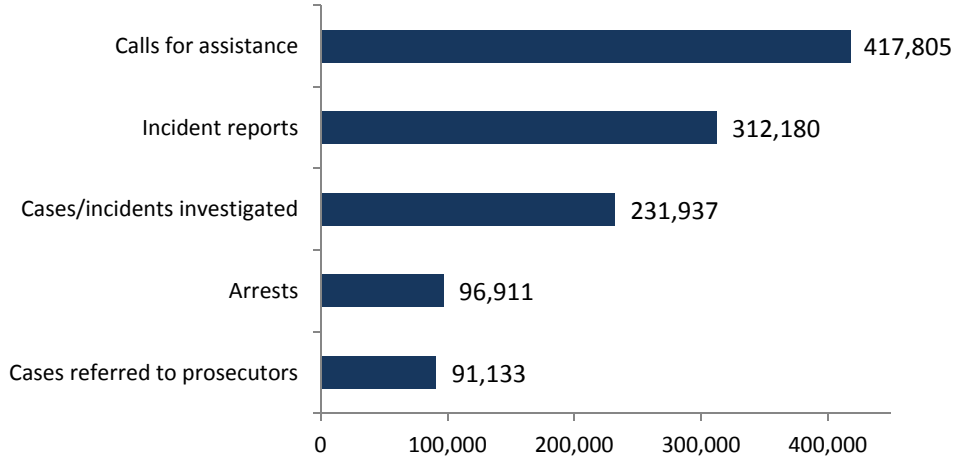


Table 9. Law enforcement activities in Arrest Program for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases for all four reporting periods, by type of victimization

Activity	Sexual assault	Domestic violence/dating violence	Stalking	Total activities
Calls for assistance	9,879	405,462	2,464	417,805
Incident reports	8,709	301,205	2,266	312,180
Cases/incidents investigated	8,220	221,702	2,015	231,937
Arrests	1,892	94,425	594	96,911
Cases referred to prosecutor	2,408	87,886	839	91,133

Referrals to Victim Services

- Law enforcement staff made **122,045** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services.

> The continued staffing of a full-time detective assigned to the Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Firearms Compliance Unit has allowed specific focus to ensure the firearm prohibition of parties subject to protective orders is enforced. Prior to this funding, there was no pro-active enforcement to see that restrained parties were contacted, investigated, and surrendered their firearms.
>
> ***—San Mateo County, California***
>
> Arrest Program funding provides for two specialized investigators who specifically deal with cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This allows for increased and improved follow-up investigations of these crimes [and] provides for early and improved identification of high-risk cases. This provides for better communication between the investigators and the victims and aids in obtaining the needed resources to be employed for the victims. These investigators have also formed a closer relationship with the advocacy group and the prosecutors to ensure that a more rounded approach is used in dealing with these specific crimes.
>
> ***—City of Bismarck, North Dakota***

Prosecution

Prosecution of domestic violence offenders varies from state to state. Generally, misdemeanor offenses are handled by city or county officials in municipal or district courts and felony offenses are handled by county prosecutors in superior courts. After police arrest a suspect, it is usually up to the prosecutor to decide to charge the offender and prosecute the case.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for prosecution: **73** (30 percent of grantees)[122]
- Prosecutors received **218,485** sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking case referrals, and accepted **163,326**[123] (75 percent) cases for prosecution.

[122] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are reported only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[123] Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period.

Table 10. Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the Arrest Program for all four reporting periods, by type of victimization

Type of case	Cases referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent
All cases	**218,485**	**163,326**	**75**
Domestic violence/dating violence	210,084	156,852	75
Sexual assault	4,845	3,212	66
Stalking	3,556	3,262	92

Table 11. Prosecution of cases by prosecutors funded by the Arrest Program for all four reporting periods, by type of victimization

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions[124]	
		Number	Percent
All cases	**157,086**	**84,939**	**54**
Domestic violence/dating violence	141,290[125]	74,375[126]	53
Sexual assault	2,841[127]	2,074[128]	73
Stalking	1,511	1,167	77

> Because one prosecutor, one investigator, and one victim assistant are assigned to [domestic violence and sexual assault] cases, these cases are not competing with other criminal cases for attention. A unit that is highly trained on intimate partner crimes provides victims with patience, understanding, recommendations, and creative solutions to achieve victim safety and offender accountability.
>
> ***—County of Haywood, North Carolina***

Referrals to Victim Services

- Prosecution staff made **112,627** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services.

[124] Convictions, for purposes of this report, include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 12 percent of all conviction outcomes. Deferred adjudication accounts for 13 percent of all domestic violence/dating violence convictions, 7 percent of all sexual assault convictions, and 2 percent of all stalking convictions.
[125] Includes a total of 251 domestic violence/dating violence homicide cases disposed of.
[126] Includes a total of 229 domestic violence/dating violence homicide cases resulting in conviction.
[127] Includes a total of two sexual assault homicide cases disposed of.
[128] Includes a total of two sexual assault homicide cases resulting in conviction. Deferred adjudication accounts for 7 percent of all sexual assault convictions.

Courts

Courts funded by the Arrest Program conduct a range of activities, including networking with criminal justice and social service agencies to identify resources to address gaps in the system of services; providing extensive and ongoing training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; implementing practices to ensure consistency in case handling; enhancing case information flow between partner agencies to improve judicial decision-making and partner agency operations; emphasizing defendant monitoring and accountability; and enhancing protection for, and services to, victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for court activities: **14** (6 percent of grantees)[129]

Judicial Monitoring

Judicial monitoring occurs when the court schedules court appearances at regular intervals to determine whether convicted offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences.

- An average of **2,113** offenders were monitored in each 6-month reporting period. During the 2-year period covered by this report, **18,587** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted.

Judges monitor offenders to review progress and compliance with court orders. The data reported below reflect the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **3** percent of the cases and issued fines in **7** percent of the cases. In a significant number of cases, the courts added conditions (**18** percent) or partially (**18** percent) or fully (**40** percent) revoked probation. The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **14** percent of the cases.

[129] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 8. Disposition of violations of probation and other court orders by courts funded by the Arrest Program for all four reporting periods

	No action taken		Verbal/ written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial revocation of probation		Probation revoked/ incarcerated	
Violation	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Protection order (N = 458)	3	1	178	39	5	1	118	26	79	17	75	16
New criminal behavior (N = 605)	4	1	65	11	27	4	100	17	113	19	296	49
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 1,748)	49	3	238	14	195	11	319	18	315	18	632	36
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 828)	24	3	90	11	42	5	118	14	224	27	330	40
Other conditions of probation or parole (N = 1,294)	52	4	136	11	82	6	224	17	139	11	661	51

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

> The first felony domestic violence court in the state of Ohio . . . and we have 65 offenders on our specialized docket of intensive supervision. More and more cases are resolving because of our streamlined approach to these cases. None of this would have been possible without Arrest Program funding.
>
> ***—Summit County, Ohio***

Referrals to Victim Services

- Court staff made **4,275** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services.

Probation

If a probationer violates any terms of probation, the probation officer has the power to return the probationer to court for a violation hearing, which could result in a verbal reprimand or warning, a fine, additional conditions, or revocation of probation. As arrests of domestic violence offenders increased, probation and parole officers began to adopt policies and practices for dealing with domestic violence offenders. Following the example of police, prosecutors, and courts, some probation departments adopted specialized caseloads for domestic violence. Many specialized domestic violence units enforce intensive supervision for their probationers, and many require attendance at batterer intervention programs. Some probation offices have also begun reaching out to victims to better understand their needs.

*Total number of new and continuing cases handled by probation: **23,656***

- Number of individual grantees using funds for probation activities: **34** (14 percent of grantees)[130]

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 **5,914** offenders were monitored by Arrest Program-funded agencies in each of the four reporting periods covered by this report. During the same 2-year period these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:

- **127,578** face-to-face contacts
- **80,624** telephone contacts
- **45,363** unscheduled surveillance contacts

In addition to offender monitoring, probation officers also contact victims as a strategy to increase victim safety.

A total of **9,633** dispositions of probation violations were reported. The most frequently reported types of violations and responses to those violations were as follows:

[130] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention programs accounted for **1,727** (18 percent) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation **862** (50 percent).
- New criminal behavior represented **1,683** (17 percent) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation **1,103** (66 percent).
- Failure to attend mandated offender treatment programs accounted for **1,271** (13 percent) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation **649** (51 percent).

Grantees report taking numerous steps in response to violations of probation, as shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Actions taken by Arrest Program grantees in response to violations of probation for all four reporting periods

	No action taken		Verbal/ written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial revocation of probation		Probation revoked/ incarcerated	
Violation	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Protection order (N = 1,095)	38	3	156	14	26	2	206	19	253	23	416	38
New criminal behavior (N = 1,683)	113	7	139	8	63	4	265	16	404	24	699	42
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 1,727)	24	1	424	25	45	3	372	22	431	25	431	25
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 1,271)	63	5	292	23	36	3	231	18	350	28	299	24
Other conditions of probation or parole (N = 3,857)	137	4	755	20	84	2	631	16	1,356	35	894	23

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

Referrals to Victim Services

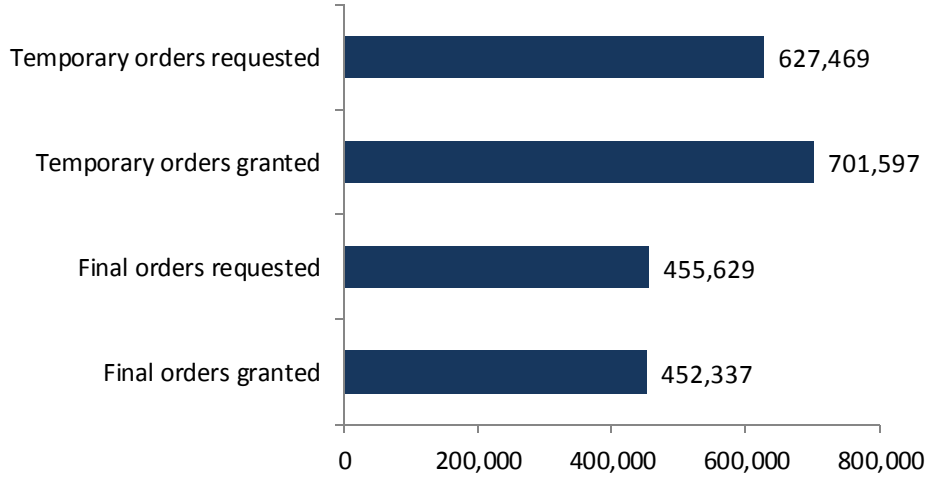
- Probation staff made **9,018** victim referrals to governmental and nongovernmental victim services.

> Arrest Program funding enables specialized, intensive pre- and post-trial case management and supervision of DV offenders. Both the DV pretrial case manager and the specialized probation officer conduct home visits to monitor compliance with conditions of release, and a higher level of supervision than would be possible without the dedicated funding. . . . Both also send out victim contact letters to explain their roles in the system and provide information about the conditions of supervision to the victims.
>
> ***—Cumberland County, Maine***

Community Measures

Arrest Program funds are designed to encourage a CCR that will affect the entire funded jurisdiction. For this reason, grantees are asked to report on the number of protection orders requested and granted within the funded jurisdiction.[131]

Figure 4. Protection orders requested and granted under the Arrest Program for all four reporting periods.



[131] Numbers represent cases in which complete data were available for both requested and granted orders. In some jurisdictions grantees report difficulty 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.

Remaining Areas of Need

Arrest Program grantees most often reported the need for housing options to enable domestic violence victims to leave abusive relationships. A shortage of emergency shelter, transitional housing and long-term affordable housing continued to be a major problem.

> There is still an overwhelming need for housing options for victims. Many of these victims are unable to stay in conventional battered women shelters for a variety of reasons. Accommodations must be made for the victims through the existence of other unconventional residential resources (rent stipends, transitional housing programs, etc.).
>
> ***—Gaston County, North Carolina***

Grantees reported that economic challenges such as employment, transportation, and childcare prevent many victims from seeking and continuing services. Financial challenges were one of the most frequently reported reasons that a victim would return to an abusive relationship.

> The financial challenges presented to victims of domestic violence when leaving an abusive relationship or marriage and attempting to establish an independent life cannot be overstated. Housing, day care, employment, transportation are all financial barriers to establishing a life away from an abuser. These financial barriers are even more accentuated in rural areas where resources are limited.
>
> ***—Colorado Judicial Department***

Legal services for victims is another signicant area of need that grantees mentioned consistently. The scarcity of low- or no-cost alternatives, created a gap in services and led to dire consequences for victims.

> Affordable civil representation for victims of domestic and sexual abuse is not available. Victims are served throughout the criminal justice system, yet when there is a divorce and child custody dispute or a property issue that stems from the abuse, victims often face a very large financial burden or, in most cases, do not receive representation, because it is not affordable and very few attorneys will take pro bono cases.
>
> ***—Oklahoma District Attorney Council***

Grantees also indicated that clients who were immigrants with limited English proficiency had additional challenges and a greater need for free civil legal representation and financial support.

> A lot of the victims who are undocumented are not able to work or drive and therefore cannot support their children. This county does not have an agency that assists victims of domestic violence with filings for legal status in order for them to be able to work and earn financial independence.
>
> ***—Tulare County, California***

Further, grantees cited training for the judicial system on civil legal issues such as divorce, custody, child support, and visitation when domestic violence is present. Training for first responders, particularly law enforcement personnel and victim advocates, was consistently mentioned as being critical for working effectively with victims.

> One area of need is strengthening evidence-based prosecution. The biggest obstacle here is that we seem to have a judicial system that on occasion is somewhat resistant to a shift in the idea that evidence-based prosecution is possible when the victim is hesitant or fearful to testify. . . . Unfortunately, there are still some officers, magistrates, and other court officials who do not understand the dynamics involved in domestic violence situations.
>
> ***—Chatham County, Georgia***

Grantees wrote about the challenges of meeting the needs of underserved populations, including victims who are immigrants, victims with disabilities, older victims, incarcerated victims, and victims from tribal, African-American, Latino, and Asian communities. Grantees consistently reported language services (translation and interpreting) as a critical remaining area of need. The two related needs they cited most often were producing printed materials for victims and providers who speak a variety of languages and ensuring that qualified translators are available to law enforcement and others when they respond to non-English-speaking persons.

> A remaining significant need in Fairfax County is assistance with language access issues. We have a very diverse population, requiring our staff to interact with victims and offenders in a variety of languages. Each of our Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) partners face this challenge, whether it's patrol officers or victim services specialists on the scene of the crime, advocates who see victims the next day, or court intake staff who work with victims filing for protective orders.
>
> ***—Fairfax County, Virginia***

Grantees said that training and education for communities and responders to increase their understanding of sexual assault and stalking cases remain a critical need.

> Changing the negative attitudes toward and perceptions of sexual assault victims, by society and criminal justice community responders, remains the most significant area of need. Community and responder education and training remain critical in addressing this need.
>
> ***—Colorado Division of Criminal Justice***

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 support institutions of higher education to adopt comprehensive, coordinated responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As part of the Campus Program, campuses, in partnership with community-based nongovernmental victim advocacy organizations and local criminal justice or civil legal agencies, must adopt protocols and policies that treat violence against women as a serious offense and develop victim service programs that ensure victim safety, offender accountability, and the prevention of these crimes.

Institutions of higher education must develop services and programs tailored to meet the specific needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campuses.

Campuses address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by developing campus- and community-based responses. Campus-based responses include campus victim services, campus law enforcement, health services, residence life, campus administration, student organizations, and disciplinary boards. To be effective, these campus-based responses must be linked to local criminal justice agencies and service providers, including local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, courts, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy agencies. This coordinated response enhances victim safety and holds offenders accountable.

> The grant has given us a reason, kind of a central focal point, for bringing people together to talk about crimes of violence against women, work toward common definitions, discover gaps in our response system, and collaborate to make our campus and community safer. . . . [It] is making a significant impact on our campus and community awareness and on our ability to respond to victims and perpetrators of sexual assault appropriately.
>
> ***—Marietta College, Ohio***

Institutions of higher education that receive Campus Program funds must develop services and programs tailored to meet the specific needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campuses. Colleges and universities must address the underlying causes of these crimes on their campuses by instituting prevention programs that seek to change the attitudes and beliefs that permit, and often encourage such behavior. Through their policies, protocols, and actions, colleges and universities demonstrate to every student that these crimes in any form will not be tolerated and that sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence, and stalking are crimes with serious legal consequences.

> A report of this nature cannot adequately capture the changes in attitudes and behaviors we are witnessing on our campus. The work we are doing is paying off. . . . [I]t is apparent in the words of a victim we have helped or the voice of a bystander who chooses to intervene when he or she sees a potentially violent situation.
>
> ***—University of Mississippi***

By statute, funds under the Campus Program may be used for the following purposes:

- To provide personnel, training, technical assistance, data collection, and other equipment with respect to the increased apprehension, investigation, and adjudication of persons committing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus
- To develop and implement campus policies, protocols, and services that more effectively identify and respond to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to train campus administrators, security personnel, and personnel serving on campus disciplinary or judicial boards on such policies, protocols, and services
- To implement and operate education programs for the prevention of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- To develop, enlarge, or strengthen victim service programs on the campuses of institutions involved, including programs providing legal, medical, or psychological counseling for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to improve the delivery of victim assistance on campus. To the extent practicable, such an institution shall collaborate with any entities carrying out nonprofit and other victim services programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victim services in the community where the institution is located. If appropriate victim services are not available in the community or are not accessible to students, the institution shall, to the extent

practicable, provide a victim services program on campus or create a victim services program in collaboration with a community based organization. The institution shall use not less than 20 percent of the funds made available through the grant for a victim services program provided in accordance with this paragraph

- To create, disseminate, or otherwise provide assistance and information about victims' options on and off campus to bring disciplinary or other legal action, including assistance to victims in immigration matters
- To develop, install, or expand data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking campus security to local law enforcement for the purpose of identifying and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions with respect to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus
- To provide capital improvements (including improved lighting and communications facilities, but not including the construction of buildings) on campuses to address the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- To support improved coordination among campus administrators, campus security personnel, and local law enforcement to reduce sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus

> We have been asked to share some of our strategies and plans related to our education and response to interpersonal violence on our campus by other Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The previously taboo subjects of sexual and domestic violence now have a forum for discussion and education on our campus.
>
> ***—North Carolina Central University***

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **113** individual Campus Program grantees[132] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting**

***Four** percent of Campus Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

[132] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

periods. The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **99**
- January–June 2012: **91**
- July–December 2012: **96**
- January–June 2013: **82**

Five Campus Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified approximately **61** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Staff

Campus Program-funded staff provide training, coordination, prevention education, and victim services to ensure a coordinated response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and/or stalking on college campuses.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support program coordinators and trainers/educators.

Table 12. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Campus Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**80**	**88**	**89**	**78**
Total FTE staff funded	**121**	**124**	**119**	**104**
Program coordinators	42	44	42	35
Trainers/educators	29	28	30	28
Victim advocates	17	15	16	15
Support staff	13	15	10	10
Administrators	11	13	12	10
Counselors	4	5	5	4

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported staff categories are presented.

> The Campus Program funding has given us the resources to have a staff person assigned to . . . addressing sexual and gender-based violence [who] can assist the CCR in improving our policies, procedures, and protocols in an intentional and meaningful way that would not have been possible without grant funds.
>
> ***—College of St. Scholastica, Minnesota***

Minimum Requirements

Each campus receiving Campus Program funds must address four requirements. The first requirement is that Campus grantees must create a coordinated community response to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus. This multidisciplinary response involves the entire campus as well as the larger community. Examples of internal partners are student affairs, student health, athletics, residence life, campus police, and campus judicial boards. Examples of external partners are local law enforcement, local victim services providers, prosecutors, and state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions.

> Our greatest number of off-campus referrals are to the Washington Hospital Center, Deaf Abused Women's Network (DAWN), and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department. DAWN signed the EMOU with us and . . . [i]t's the strength of this relationship that allows for open communication about areas of weakness and combined efforts to improve services to students on campus.
>
> ***—Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.***
>
> After our first grant supported SART meeting, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office representative, SANE Nurse, and the Norfolk City Police volunteered to meet with the campus police and SART chair to lay the ground work for better communication/collaboration in response to sexual assault crimes involving students. In light of a recent brutal, stranger rape occurring just off campus, this is a very positive first step toward improving both our victim response and perpetrator accountability.
>
> ***—Old Dominion University Research Foundation, Virginia***

The second requirement for Campus Program grantees is providing mandatory prevention and education programs about violence against women for all incoming students:

- **593,251** incoming students received prevention education (70[133] percent of all incoming students).
- **304,935** of those incoming students received prevention education supported with Campus Program funds (36 percent of all incoming students).

[133] All incoming students may not have received mandatory prevention education for various reasons, including: students received prevention education in a subsequent reporting period; students withdrew from university; funding was delayed; program was under development; processes to track and hold students accountable were under development; challenges prevented reaching graduate students and non-traditional students.

> Having support in the form of federal funding has enabled us to bring in more campus stakeholders to support our efforts of mandatory education and enhancing victim services. We are able to outreach to all incoming students during Orientation and continue to enhance our mandatory prevention and education outreach each year. The majority of publicity and outreach materials for Sexual Assault Awareness Month were funded by the Campus Program grant, and grant-funded staff were able to enhance existing SAAM events as well as coordinate new events this year.
>
> ***—University of California, San Diego***

The remaining two requirements are providing training for campus police and security, and training for judicial/disciplinary board members on violence against women: [134]

- **4,675** campus police/security officers received training with Campus Program funds.
- **1,620** judicial/disciplinary board members received training with Campus Program funds.

> Dr. David Lisak presented to Judicial Affairs hearing board members, high-level University administration in Student Affairs, campus law enforcement and local law enforcement as well as a variety of other Student Affairs professionals and community advocates. This two-day series of presentations was well attended and was a great demonstration of campus and community collaboration around training on cutting-edge research with regard to identifying, investigating and adjudicating repeat sexual offenders on campus.
>
> ***—University of California, Santa Barbara***

Training

As campuses respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, high-quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response. In addition to the training of campus police and judicial/disciplinary board members to fulfill minimum requirements, nearly every Campus Program grantee trains professional members of the campus community—student affairs staff, faculty, campus law enforcement officers, health and mental health staff, and other community-based professionals—to improve

> **This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.**

[134] Attendees at training events are not necessarily unduplicated. They may be reported in this minimum requirements section and in the training section if they attended multiple training events.

their response to victims of violence on campus and to increase offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; dating violence overview, dynamics, and services; stalking overview, dynamics, and services; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; and confidentiality.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **100** (88 percent of grantees)[135]
- Total number of training events: **2,106**
- Total number of people trained: **40,624**

Table 13. People trained with Campus Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 40,624)	
Position	Number	Percent
Student affairs staff	11,699	29
Peer educators	7,076	17
Pre-professional students[136]	5,576	14
Educators	4,800	12
Multidisciplinary	2,968	7
Law enforcement[137]	1,876	5

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

Library staff see student life in action. Our grant-funded survivor advocate provided training to library staff in the spring of 2013. The day immediately following the training, one of the newly trained staff observed a woman crying during their shared elevator ride. He asked her what was wrong. She vaguely indicated that her problem was related to sexual violence. He told her, "I believe you, it's not your fault," and let her know she had options. He then referred the student to our staff advocate, who met with the student later that day and linked the survivor with on-going care.

—Northwestern University, Illinois

[135] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[136] Pre-professional students are students who will serve victims in a professional capacity upon completion of their program, e.g., social work, medical, psychology students.
[137] Law enforcement personnel may be reported in this training section and in the minimum requirements section if they attended multiple training events.

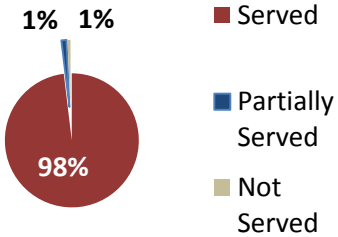
Victim Services

A critical component of the Campus Program is the development and enhancement of victim services. Campus Program grantees provided an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including victim advocacy (actions designed to help victims obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and legal advocacy (assistance navigating the criminal and/or civil legal system).

A critical component of the Campus Program is the development and enhancement of victim services.

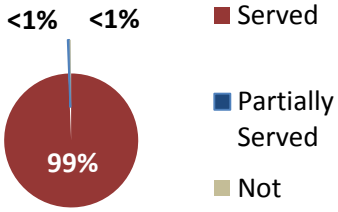
- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **81** (72 percent of grantees)[138]
- Campus Program grantees provided services to an average of **1,145** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[139]

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **1,255** victims sought services from Campus Program grantees.
- Of these, **1,246** (99 percent) victims received services and **9** (1 percent) were not served.



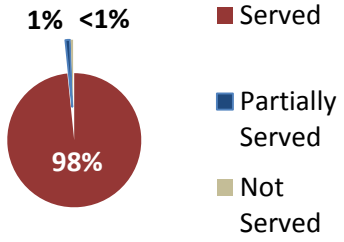
January–June 2012:

- **1,117** victims sought services from Campus Program grantees.
- Of these, **1,114** (99.7 percent) victims received services and **3** (<1 percent) were not served.

[138] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[139] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

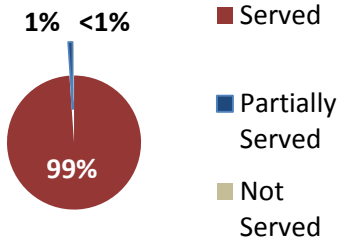
July–December 2012:

- **1,223** victims sought services from Campus Program grantees.
- Of these, **1,216** (99 percent) victims received services and **7** (<1 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **1,006** victims sought services from Campus Program grantees.
- Of these, **1,005** (99.9 percent) victims received services and **1** (<1 percent) was not served.



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents victims who received some service(s) but not all of the services they requested, if 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, if those services were funded under the Campus Program grant.

> The students we provided assistance to were able to remain in school and continue their education, develop safety plans for themselves and their children, seek housing, follow through with proceedings with the judicial board, and seek assistance with getting a restraining order.
>
> ***—Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina***

Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

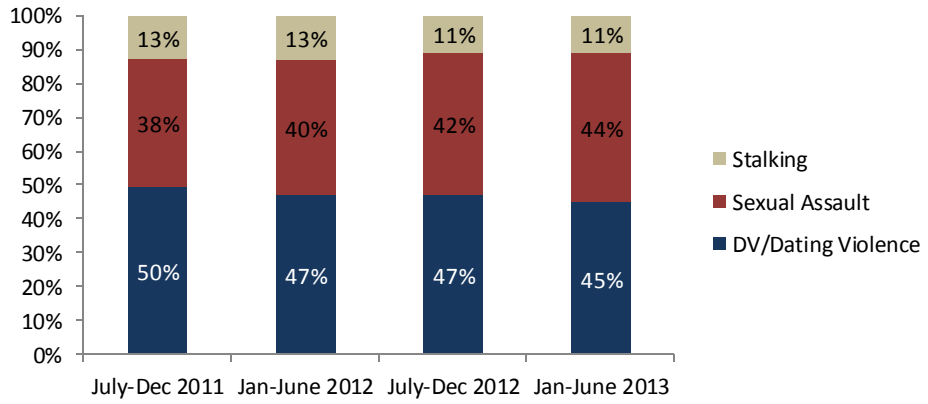
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons that victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements
- Program rules not acceptable to victim
- Conflict of interest
- Services were not appropriate for victim

Campus Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by Campus Program grantees were predominantly reported as victims of **dating violence/domestic violence** (45-50 percent) and **sexual assault** (38-44 percent). There was an

increase in the percentage of victims receiving services for sexual assault over the four 6-month reporting periods.

Figure 5. Provision of victim services by Campus Program grantees, by type of victimization[140]



The majority of sexual assault victims served or partially served were victimized by an **acquaintance** (58 percent). The majority of dating/domestic violence victims were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner** (53 percent). The majority of stalking victims were victimized by an **acquaintance** (40 percent).

Table 14. Relationship to offender of victims served by Campus Program grantees[141]

	Sexual assault		Dating/Domestic violence		Stalking	
Relationship to offender	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Current or former spouse or intimate partner	31	7	280	53	36	26
Other family or household member	44	10	55	10	5	4
Acquaintance	245	58	27	5	56	40
Dating partner	52	12	167	32	32	23
Stranger	52	12	0	0	10	6

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table. Percentages are based on known relationships only.

[140] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence/dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse victims served do not reflect that fact.

[141] These numbers represent calculated averages of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Campus Program grantees served or partially served an average of **1,145** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[142] The majority of those victims were **white**, **female**, and between the ages of **18 and 24**.

Table 15. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Campus Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaska Native	55	49	39	41
Asian	67	63	83	67
Black or African-American	179	161	206	163
Hispanic or Latino	165	132	142	135
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	7	11	14	6
White	624	534	617	519
Unknown	151	169	115	75
Gender				
Female	1,141	1,017	1,106	898
Male	84	74	104	101
Unknown	21	23	6	6
Age				
13–17	10	7	9	9
18–24	818	798	914	776
25–59	313	234	252	192
60+	22	6	8	9
Unknown	83	69	33	19
Other				
People with disabilities	47	44	37	70
People with limited English proficiency	38	9	12	10
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	17	6	21	11
People who live in rural areas	218	103	110	118

NOTE: Data includes victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

[142] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Types of Victim Services

Campus Program grantees provide direct services to students who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on college campuses. The Campus Program supports a coordinated network of support services, often in partnership with the community, provides medical, legal, advocacy, and counseling services to victims on college campuses.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[143]

- Victim advocacy: **2,471**
- Crisis intervention: **2,461**
- Support group and counseling services: **1,753**
- Academic/education advocacy: **972**
- Legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **679**

> As training and education around the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking continues, students are making more reports of such cases. The Campus Program partners worked together to respond to a report of stalking and increased security measures for this student.
>
> ***—Jefferson College of Health Sciences, Virginia***
>
> We have been able to bring awareness of the issues to our students, who often come from very rural areas with limited education and resources. Having an advocate on campus who is Native allows us to address spiritual and cultural blocks with students in a system they historically do not trust (many of our student are coming to our campus directly from a reservation setting with very limited trust of non-Natives). Information is getting to the students who are able to take it back to their home reservations, and the ripple effect is helping countless others.
>
> ***—United Tribes Technical College, North Dakota***

Victims requested protection orders with the assistance of Campus Program-funded staff. Of those protection orders:

- **327** temporary protection orders were requested and **272** were granted (83 percent).
- **238** final protection orders were requested and **233** were granted (98 percent).

[143] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

Victims[144] Reporting Crimes

The Campus Program seeks to strengthen security and investigative strategies to prevent and prosecute sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking on campuses. Campus Program grantees reported that among victims who sought services provided with Campus Program funds:

- **732** victims reported crimes occurring on campus—of those, **664** reported to campus police/security and **68** reported to community law enforcement.
- **736** victims reported a crime occurring off campus—of those, **543** reported to community law enforcement and **193** reported to campus police/security.

> Survivors continue to report to our Campus Safety Department, and the Title IX Deputy Coordinator has streamlined the campus judicial process even more as she entered her second semester in this role. Not all survivors went through a formal reporting process within our campus judicial system, but all survivors were supported in their decision, whatever decision they made, about wanting to move forward with reporting or not.
>
> ***—Loyola University of Chicago***

Campus and Community Measures

Campus Program grantees provide information, to the extent that information is available, on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking offenses that occur on campus, on public property or on other property related to the institution and are reported to campus security or local law enforcement.[145] Of those offenses reported by Campus grantees,

- **746** offenses resulted in criminal charges being filed in the local jurisdiction.
- **1,445** offenses resulted in campus/disciplinary board actions.

> The trainings have begun and new officers are rotating through the CCR meetings in order to connect with the team, share their input, and learn from the trainings. The Office of Student Conduct is currently revising their student hearing board trainings to be more inclusive of intimate partner violence and stalking.
>
> ***—University of California, Irvine***

[144] The numbers of victims presented here are not unduplicated—the same victims may have reported crimes to both campus police/security and community law enforcement and may have reported more than one crime, on and/or off campus, during the two years covered by this report.
[145] This information is not limited to offenses responded to with Campus Program funding.

Remaining Areas of Need

Campus Program grantees most frequently indicated two areas of remaining need: training and education for various groups, and services for and response to victims.

Grantees report that more training for law enforcement, campus judicial and disciplinary boards, campus administrators, and faculty and staff is crucial to keeping students safe, as these are the people who make policy, hear cases, interact with students on a daily basis, and are concerned for their safety while they are on campus. Grantees described the need to address victim under-reporting, as well as victim safety and offender accountability, by providing students, faculty and staff, and law enforcement with the tools to respond in sensitive and appropriate ways to victims who disclose incidents.

Training specific to law enforcement and campus judicial and disciplinary boards is essential to victim safety and offender accountability on campus. Such training will inform their actions and lead to improved outcomes for victims. Developing and enhancing relationships with community and campus law enforcement is another crucial need to ensure victim safety and offender accountability on college campuses. Although many grantees have established, and continue to maintain, successful relationships with both campus and community-based law enforcement, doing so is still a challenge for some.

Providing training to law enforcement under the grant, and law enforcement attendance at the semi-annual Campus Program Training and Technical Assistance Institutes, are helping to build bridges and to solidify relationships.

> Although we have made significant progress in the training for our community and campus law enforcement officials, there is still a strong need for training in some key areas. Officers and detectives have both expressed the need for training in stalking and specifically cyber methods as they have seen an increase in the number of cases.
>
> ***—University of Michigan, Ann Arbor***
>
> The judicial board continues to be in need of training on issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. Our Dean of Students Office developed a specialized sexual violence judicial board training program that will be rolled out over the next few months.
>
> ***—Clark University, Massachusetts***

Providing prevention education for students to prevent sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking is a fundamental need on campuses. Although well-trained first responders are critical, the primary prevention of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence is paramount. Grantees emphasize the need for bystander awareness education to give students, especially male students, the skills to intervene and prevent violence. Increasing bystander awareness, and the motivation to intervene to prevent assaults, is an important component of a campus response, as educated students can be instrumental in preventing these crimes. Providing education programs on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus will also ideally lead to an increase in the reporting of these crimes and an increase in the number of victims seeking support services.

> The majority of students at our university are Asian or Pacific Islanders. Within these cultures, it is common for individuals to keep personal problems to themselves so as to avoid bringing shame upon themselves and their families. Moreover, in some Asian and Pacific Island cultural groups, domestic violence is quite common and is often accepted as a part of family life. These cultural values contribute to the significant under-reporting of crimes involving violence against women in our community. The most important task that remains in order to increase victim safety and offender accountability is to continue providing education and training programs that will directly lead to an increase in the reporting of these crimes and in the number of victims seeking support services.
>
> ***—University of Guam***
>
> The most significant area of remaining need with regard to improving services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking continues to be increased outreach with Asian/Pacific Islander (API) communities. All Violence Prevention Program staff will seek training on issues specifically pertaining to outreach with the API communities.
>
> ***—University of California, Merced***

Grantees cited outreach and services for underserved groups on campus as an area of remaining need. Class, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, and disability may influence victim choices in reporting offenses and use of services. Programs need to increase awareness of potential barriers to reporting and seeking services among these populations and attempt to mitigate these barriers, to provide all students with appropriate assistance.

> Challenges persist in reaching all communities with prevention programming. Based on evaluation data indicating that approximately 80 percent of individuals reached identify as White/Caucasian and less than 10 percent of individuals identify as members of the LGBTQI community, we recognize that messaging is not consistently reaching underserved populations on campus.
>
> ***—Washington State University, Pullman***

Other reported areas of remaining need include better coordination of services and responses, assessment of service needs and program evaluation, economic support, and better systems for coordination and information sharing.

Grants to Assist Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program

The Grants to Assist Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Children Exposed to Violence Program) funds projects which increase the resources, services, and advocacy available to children, youth, and their non-abusing parent or caretaker, when a child has been exposed to incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

CEV Program grantees must provide culturally, linguistically, and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations.

The Children Exposed to Violence Program (CEV Program) grantees provide direct counseling, advocacy, and mentoring for children and youth who have been exposed to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. Grantees also provide support for non-abusing parents and caregivers.

In response to the specific challenges faced by children and youth who come from diverse communities, CEV Program grantees must provide culturally and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations, or linkages to existing services within their community.

Project CHILD employs a CEV-funded Bilingual Family Therapist enabling the program to offer individual and family therapy services to Spanish-speaking non-offending parents and families. The Bilingual Family Therapist is also responsible for conducting client intakes and assessments and facilitating the domestic violence education groups at the Department of Child Protection and Permanency offices so the group is open to clients whose primary language is Spanish.

—Shelter Our Sisters, New Jersey

> The Nooksack Child Protection Team . . . meets monthly and includes representatives from the following tribal programs: education, TANF, Genesis (substance treatment), behavioral health, clinic pediatrician, police, elders, cultural, and a local school district serving Nooksack children. Referrals/communication continue to increase between all tribal programs to programs/services listed above to address needs of children and non-offending care givers. Child advocates now prepare/present cases in written form for guidance and overall case planning for CEV recipients to assure culturally appropriate services are provided.
>
> ***—Nooksack Indian Tribe***

General Grant Information

***Twelve** percent of CEV Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

Information for this report was submitted by **17** individual CEV Program grantees[146] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.**[147] The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **16**
- January–June 2012: **17**
- July–December 2012: **16**
- January–June 2013: **17**

Twelve percent of CEV Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified **3** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Staff

CEV Program-funded staff develop a coordinated community response; develop policies and products; provide training and outreach; and provide victim services, including advocacy, counseling, crisis intervention, legal

[146] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[147] The CEV Program was a new grant program and grantees began reporting data in the July-December 2011 reporting period. Grant activities throughout this chapter show an increase in numbers in each subsequent reporting period as grantees worked to meet their goals and objectives.

assistance, and court and medical accompaniment to increase child safety and offender accountability.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support child advocates and counselors.

Table 16. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by CEV Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**10**	**17**	**16**	**17**
Total FTE staff funded	**6**	**28**	**36**	**43**
Child advocates	2	8	9	12
Mental health professionals	1	5	8	11
Counselors	2	4	8	7
Program coordinators	0	4	2	3
Administrators	1	2	2	3

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> This funding allowed us to provide adequate staffing to provide critically needed therapeutic and trauma-informed services to children exposed to violence in our community.
>
> ***—Travis County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survival Center, Texas***
>
> The CEV Program funding has allowed us to hire one child advocate who is specifically assigned to work with children who have been exposed to violence. . . . Overall the child advocate has given children a voice that they would not have otherwise had.
>
> ***—Your Community Connections, Utah***

Training

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Nearly all CEV grantees provide training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victimization to educators and school staff, mental health professionals, law

This training improves professional responses to children exposed to violence and increases offender accountability.

enforcement officers, government agency staff, victim advocates, child protective service workers, and other professionals. This training improves professional responses to children and increases offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were how to identify children exposed to violence; appropriate referrals for children exposed to violence and their families; how to coordinate with programs serving children exposed to violence; children's indirect exposure to violence; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; advocate response; and safety planning for children and youth.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **16** (94 percent of all grantees)[148]
- Total number of training events: **239**
- Total number of people trained: **2,927**

Table 17. People trained with CEV Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained[149] (N 2,927)	
Position	**Number**	**Percent**
Educators	430	15
Mental health professionals	398	14
Multidisciplinary groups	277	9
Children's advocates	272	9
Social service organization staff	225	8
Law enforcement officers	214	7
Child protective service workers	181	6
Other school staff	173	6

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

> A training tool for enhancing law enforcement response was completed and piloted in its draft format in April 2013. . . . There has been a 97 percent increase in referrals from law enforcement in the current reporting period compared to law enforcement referrals in the last reporting period.
>
> ***—Thirtieth Judicial District Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Alliance, Inc., North Carolina***

[148] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[149] Categories include both school-based and non-school-based professionals trained.

Victim Services

Child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence require comprehensive support services that meet a wide array of needs. Grantees may provide individual or group counseling services to children who have experienced trauma; provide 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 transportation.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **16** (94 percent of grantees)[150]
- CEV Program grantees provided services to an average of **177** child victims of sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[151]

Child Victims Seeking Services

July–December 2011:

- **13** child victims sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **13** (100 percent) child victims received services.

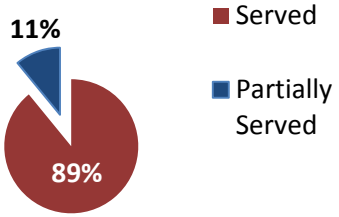
January–June 2012:

- **141** child victims sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **141** (100 percent) child victims received services.

[150] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[151] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

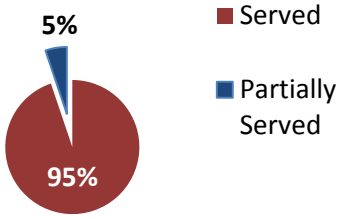
July–December 2012:

- **265** child victims sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **265** (100 percent) child victims received services.



January–June 2013:

- **289** child victims sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **289** (100 percent) child victims received services



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents child victims who received some service(s) but not all of the services they requested, if those services were funded under the CEV Program grant.

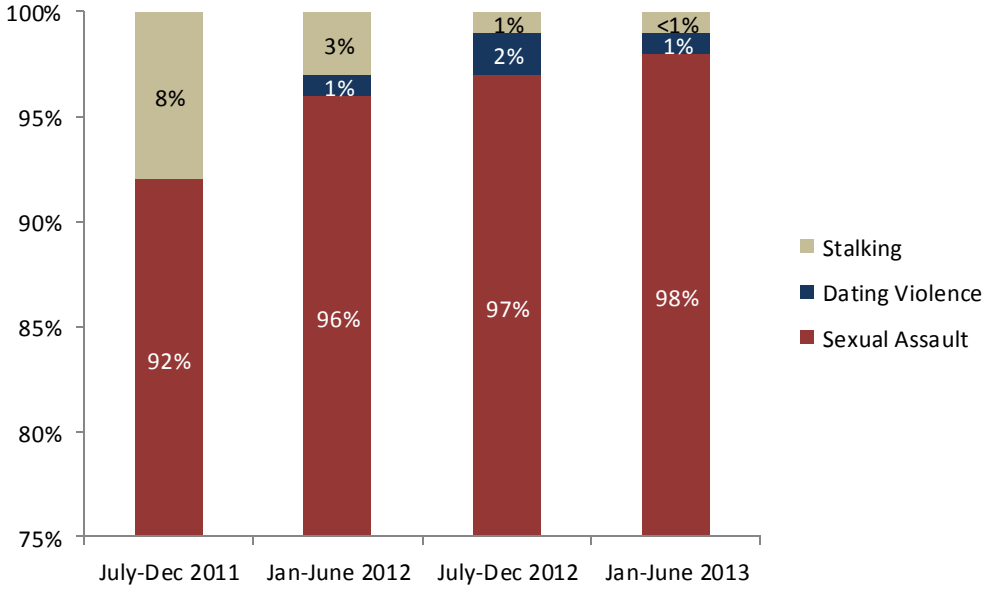
Reasons Child Victims Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons that child victims were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity
- Hours of operation
- Insufficient or lack of services for child victims with disabilities
- Services not appropriate for child

CEV Program grantees serve child victims of sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Those served by CEV Program grantees were primarily reported as child victims of **sexual assault** (92-98 percent).

Figure 6. Provision of child victim services by CEV Program, by type of victimization[152]



The majority of child victims served or partially served were victimized by a **family or household member** or an **acquaintance**.

Table 18. Relationship to offender of child victims served by CEV Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July Dec 2012	Jan June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner of parent/caregiver	1	31	34	56
Family or other household member	5	53	128	104
Dating relationship of parent/caregiver	0	20	21	21
Acquaintance	3	32	80	73
Stranger	1	1	14	9

NOTE: Because child victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of child victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

[152] The overall number of child victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each grantee counts the child victim only once, regardless of the number of times that child victim received services during each reporting period. Because child victims can only be counted once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for child victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., dating violence and stalking or dating violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, dating violence and stalking child victims served do not reflect that fact.

Demographics of Child Victims Served and Partially Served

CEV Program grantees served or partially served an average of **177** child victims in a 6-month reporting period.[153] The majority of those child victims were **white**, **female**, and between the ages of **0 and 12**.

Table 19. Demographic characteristics of child victims served by CEV Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	3	5	6
Asian	0	2	2	0
Black or African-American	0	13	21	13
Hispanic or Latino	10	30	21	21
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	5	4	7
White	2	98	226	240
Unknown	0	2	0	3
Gender				
Female	10	80	160	178
Male	3	59	105	111
Unknown	0	2	0	0
Age				
0–12	11	125	214	221
13–17	2	15	51	68
Unknown	0	1	0	0
Other				
Children with disabilities	2	3	20	16
Children with limited English proficiency	0	4	4	2
Children who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	1	7	6	2
Children who live in rural areas	2	71	220	224
Children who are homeless/runaways	0	9	11	5

NOTE: Data include child victims who were fully or partially served. Because some child victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of child victims served.

[153] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Types of Victim Services

CEV Program grantees provide an array of services to child victims of sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking. These services include child advocacy (actions designed to help the child obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and individual or group counseling. Child victims of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking often need a variety of services, including help with school-related issues, health-related issues, transportation needs, and legal issues.

All child victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to child victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[154]

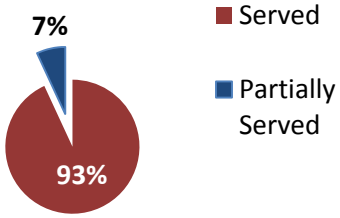
- Child victim advocacy: **527**
- Crisis intervention: **246**
- Counseling/support group: **214**
- Education advocacy: **85**
- Hospital/clinic/other medical response: **80**
- Parent-child counseling: **72**
- Criminal justice advocacy**: 40**

> Children have reported "feeling good about being able to talk about what is bothering them" and "feel better knowing other kids also experience similar family problems." . . . Child-parent psychotherapy interventions have increased the child's bonding with and attachment to the non-offending parent . . . .
>
> ***—Mecklenburg County Community Support Services, North Carolina***

> CEV funds have allowed for free counseling services to [Native American children exposed to violence], . . . counseling and support for non-offending parents, . . . [and] the important work of restoring or strengthening the relationship between the non-abusing parent and their child.
>
> ***—Nevada Office of the Attorney General***

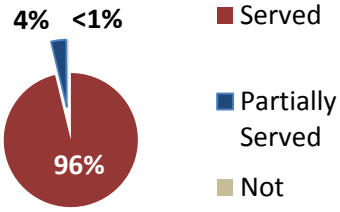
[154] Child victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, child victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

Children Indirectly Exposed[155] to Violence Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **348** children indirectly exposed to violence sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **348** (100 percent) children indirectly exposed to violence received services.

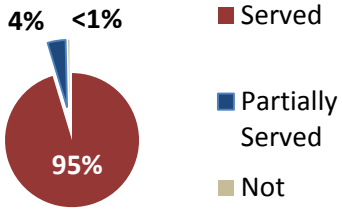


January–June 2012:

- **1,134** children indirectly exposed to violence sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **1,133** (99.9 percent) children indirectly exposed to violence received services and **1** (<1 percent) was not served.

July–December 2012:

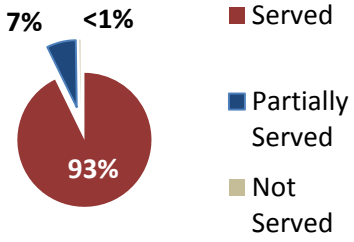
- **1,583** children indirectly exposed to violence sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **1,578** (99.7 percent) children indirectly exposed to violence received services and **5** (<1 percent) were not served.



[155] Children indirectly exposed to violence are children who have been indirectly subjected to a violent act of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking.

January–June 2013:

- **1,753** children indirectly exposed to violence sought services from CEV Program grantees.
- Of these, **1,749** (99.8 percent) children indirectly exposed to violence received services and **4** (<1 percent) were not served.



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents children indirectly exposed to violence who received some service(s) but not all of the services they requested, if those services were funded under the CEV Program grant. "Not Served" represents children indirectly exposed to violence who sought services and did not receive service(s) they were seeking, if those services were funded under the CEV Program grant.

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

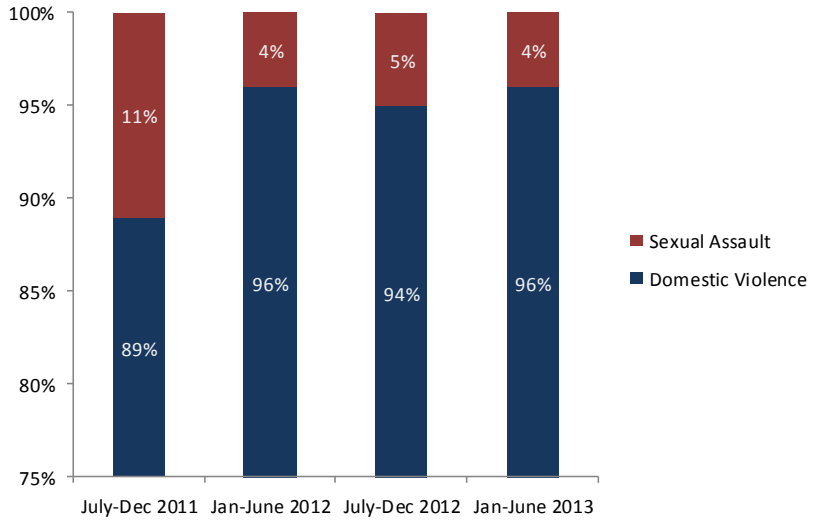
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons that children indirectly exposed to violence were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity
- Hours of operation
- Transportation
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements[156]
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting

CEV Program grantees serve children who are indirectly exposed to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by CEV Program grantees were overwhelmingly reported as children indirectly exposed to **domestic violence** (89-96 percent).

[156] Child did not meet eligibility requirements of the program or did not meet requirements of statute. For example, a youth indirectly exposed to violence requests individual counseling but is over the age of 18.

Figure 7. Provision of services to children indirectly exposed to violence by CEV Program, by type of victimization[157]



NOTE: Because of low percentages, dating violence and stalking are not shown in the above chart.

The majority of children indirectly exposed to violence served or partially served were victimized by **the current or former spouse or intimate partner of a parent or caregiver**.

Table 20. Relationship to offender of children indirectly exposed to violence served by CEV Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July Dec 2012	Jan June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner of parent/caregiver	250	539	703	1,252
Family or other household member	40	232	643	360
Dating relationship of parent/caregiver	42	161	164	197
Acquaintance	7	5	27	34
Stranger	0	0	6	3

NOTE: Because children indirectly exposed to violence may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of children indirectly exposed to violence served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

[157] The overall number of children served who were indirectly exposed to violence represents an unduplicated count; this means that each grantee counts the child only once, regardless of the number of times that child received services during each reporting period. Because a child can only be counted once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for children to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking, or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking children served who were indirectly exposed to violence do not reflect that fact.

Demographics of Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence Served and Partially Served

CEV Program grantees served or partially served an average of **1,202** children indirectly exposed to violence in a 6-month reporting period.[158] The majority of those children indirectly exposed to violence were **Hispanic or Latino**, **male**, and between the ages of **0 and 12**.

Table 21. Demographic characteristics of children indirectly exposed to violence served by CEV Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	20	31	47
Asian	8	9	23	10
Black or African-American	42	167	336	311
Hispanic or Latino	234	378	429	545
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	1	3	9
White	37	337	789	754
Unknown	28	224	34	168
Gender				
Female	165	440	795	887
Male	183	502	781	859
Unknown	0	191	2	3
Age				
0–12	344	859	1,392	1,517
13–17	4	83	184	226
Unknown	0	191	2	6
Other				
Children with disabilities	16	24	60	52
Children with limited English proficiency	3	8	34	60
Children who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	2	6	28	13
Children who live in rural areas	12	275	574	624
Children who are homeless/runaways	0	49	73	66

NOTE: Data include children indirectly exposed to violence who were fully or partially served. Because some children identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of children served.

[158] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Types of Victim Services

CEV Program grantees provide an array of services to children indirectly exposed to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These services include child advocacy (actions designed to help the child obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and individual or group counseling. Children indirectly exposed to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking often need help with school-related issues, health-related issues, transportation, and legal issues.

All children indirectly exposed to violence receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to children indirectly exposed to violence over the four 6-month reporting periods:[159]

- Child advocacy: **2,978**[160]
- Counseling/support group: **2,786**
- Education advocacy: **1,750**
- Crisis intervention: **986**
- Parent-child counseling: **570**
- Transportation: **183**

Support for Non-abusing Parents/Caregivers

In addition to services for children, CEV grantees provide support services and referrals to non-abusing parents/caregivers of child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence.

- CEV grantees provided support services to **2,433** non-abusing parent/caregivers and referrals to **1,648** non-abusing parents/caregivers

Grantees reported that the following services and/or referrals were provided most frequently (not a complete list):[161]

- Advocacy: **2,792**
- Case management: **2,505**

[159] Children indirectly exposed to violence were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, children indirectly exposed to violence may have received multiple services in the same reporting period. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

[160] Actions designed to help the child obtain needed support, resources, or services, including health care, safety planning, etc.

[161] Non-abusing parents/caregivers were reported once for each category of support service or referral received in each reporting period. Support and referral numbers are added together for each category. Only the most frequently reported categories of support services or referrals are presented.

- Parent education classes: **1,068**
- Counseling services/support group: **861**
- Home visitation: **572**
- Crisis intervention: **482**
- Childcare: **378**

> Since the addition of Strong Start services, families staying in shelter have been able to receive childcare for their children more frequently and rapidly. . . . [T]he program has a parent support component that allows staff to meet with parents weekly to discuss any parenting concerns and receive one-on-one coaching and support as needed.
>
> ***—Travis County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survival Center, Texas***

Shelter Services

CEV Program grantees provided emergency housing to an average of **69** non-abusing parents/caregivers and **106** accompanying family members for a total of **18,374** bed nights over the four 6-month reporting periods.[162]

Remaining Areas of Need

CEV Program grant recipients cited several areas of remaining need. Among them are safe housing options for children and families, and transitional and long-term housing. Grantees also reported gaps in service within rural communities and challenges in accessing transportation to receive services in both rural and urban areas.

> Low-income housing is a scarce commodity and is rarely a safe place for children, especially those who are vulnerable after sexual assault. Families impacted by the sexual assault of a child often have an immediate need for low-cost housing. Since it is rarely available on short notice, they often end up staying with relatives or friends, or becoming past-due on their rent or mortgage payments.
>
> ***—King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, Washington***
>
> Public transportation often requires multiple transfers and long waiting times even for short-distance travel and is constantly subject to budget cuts. Our community needs more reliable, efficient, and inexpensive forms of public transportation to increase better access to services for those in underserved communities.
>
> ***—Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, New York***

[162] Non-abusing parents/caregivers and family members may have received emergency shelter or transitional housing in multiple reporting periods.

Grantees also cited the need for educating parents, community members, and others who come into contact with children who have been victimized or exposed to violence.

> Because the area we serve has a high volume of violent acts that a child can be exposed to, [p]arents need continued support in recognizing the signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or trauma and knowing how to get services. Educating teachers, childcare providers, and parents on how to know the differences [between attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or oppositional defiance disorder and PTSD or trauma] and how to plan for services so it does not interrupt the child developmentally is crucial.
>
> ***—Metropolitan Family Services, Illinois***

Grantees want to see more and better coordination between the various agencies that are in contact with these children and their families.

> One of the most significant needs is greater collaboration among agencies that serve or are in contact with victims of domestic violence. . . . [I]t is our hope that the training opportunities for allied professionals, such as child welfare and behavioral health workers, and the model protocol that promotes coordination of services to children exposed to violence and their non-abusing parents and caregivers, will promote the implementation of a coordinated community response resulting in improved services to children exposed to violence.
>
> ***—Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence***

Grantees also mentioned the importance of mental health services for child victims and children exposed to violence. Funding for these services continues to be a challenge, as services often need to be provided over a long period of time.

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

The Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking (CLSSP) funds projects that promote the maintenance and replication of existing successful sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking community-based programs that provide culturally specific services and other resources. The program also supports the development of innovative culturally specific strategies and projects to enhance access to services and resources for victims of violence against women.

This program supports the maintenance and development of culturally specific services that address language and cultural barriers for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

This program creates a unique opportunity for targeted community-based organizations to address the critical needs of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims in a manner that affirms a victim's culture and effectively addresses language and communication barriers.

Advocates report that survivors are more inclined to seek services from organizations that are familiar with their culture, language, and background, and that there is no "one size fits all" approach to adequately addressing these critical needs. Culturally specific community-based organizations are more likely to understand the complex multi-layered challenges and obstacles that victims from their communities face when attempting to access services in response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Culturally specific community-based organizations are also better equipped to form essential relationships and engage their communities in the creation and implementation of services relevant to the diverse and unique needs of the victims. They play a vital role in providing

services that are relevant to their communities and they address complex needs.

> My Sister's House is to be commended because this grant has reached thousands throughout the central valley on television, on radio, and also in person. No murders of Asian/Pacific Islander immigrant women have made the headlines locally as they did before this grant. . . . My Sister's House is grateful to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women for helping our organization be so much more effective at providing cultural and language specific services for Asian/Pacific Islander women in the Central Valley.
>
> ***—My Sister's House, California***

> Funding from CLSSP provided us with dedicated staff to offer direct services to victims for the first time in this agency's history. We have also been able to help our partners and other community agencies understand the Latino, farmworker, immigrant community and offer more culturally aware assistance to those in need. Our access to national trainings has been invaluable for staff capacity development.
>
> ***—Hispanic Center of Western Michigan***

General Grant Information

***Six** percent of CLSSP grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

Information for this report was submitted by **93** individual CLSSP grantees[163] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **83**
- January–June 2012: **63**
- July–December 2012: **70**
- January–June 2013: **53**

Six percent of CLSSP grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified approximately **63** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

[163] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 22. Number of CLSSP grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population

Population	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
African	18	16	16	13
American Indian or Alaska Native	9	7	10	8
Asian	37	28	28	23
Black or African American	19	17	17	14
Deaf or hard of hearing	7	5	7	5
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, or intersex	19	16	21	19
Hispanic or Latino	46	35	39	29
Immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	57	41	44	37
Middle Eastern	25	17	16	14
Pacific Islander	18	13	14	12
Religious	12	8	9	6
Other[164]	8	6	5	7

Staff

CLSSP-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, advocacy, counseling, and court and medical accompaniment to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

Table 23. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by CLSSP grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**70**	**61**	**65**	**52**
Total FTE staff funded	**141**	**117**	**120**	**99**
Victim advocates	36	32	33	26
Program coordinators	25	23	22	18
Outreach workers	16	14	14	9

[164] Examples of "other" include South Asian, Haitian, Afro-Caribbean, queer, genderqueer, and self-identified.

Table 23. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by CLSSP grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Counselors	14	11	12	15
Trainers/educators	18	12	12	9

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

This funding has allowed the program to employ a full-time outreach and advocacy worker, who has focused on relationship building and networking within the target ethnic communities [and] . . . a full-time culturally competent mental health counselor to work specifically with the immigrant victims seeking long term support, and facilitate ethnically and linguistically specific support groups for survivors. All of this work is conducted by working closely with interpreters, also funded through the grant.

—International Institute of Buffalo, New York

Prior to receiving funding, DWAVE was volunteer-run and focused primarily on prevention and education. Volunteers were able to provide advocacy to Deaf sexual assault survivors in a hospital setting only. Since receiving the funds, DWAVE has been able to employ two full-time staff. Now we are able to more fully meet the needs of Deaf survivors. DWAVE is able to work closely with hearing service providers to adapt services to meet the needs of Deaf survivors as well. When referring Deaf survivors to other agencies for services such as counseling and shelter, DWAVE can provide training and awareness to hearing agencies, improving their capacity to serve Deaf survivors. DWAVE is now able to fully participate in local and regional task forces to solve issues impacting services for Deaf survivors.

—Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere, Ohio

Training

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Nearly all CLSSP grantees provide training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victimization issues to victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, mental health and other professionals. This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were cultural issues; barriers to accessing support services; domestic violence

overview, dynamics, and services; working with victims with limited English proficiency; advocate response; safety planning for victims; and immigration issues.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **77** (83 percent of all grantees)[165]
- Total number of training events: **1,213**
- Total number of people trained: **25,393**

Table 24. People trained with CLSSP funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (*N* 25,393)	
Position	Number	Percent
Victim advocates	3,237	13
Law enforcement officers	2,813	11
Social service organization staff	2,241	9
Volunteers	1,752	7
Multidisciplinary groups	1,642	6

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

> In the trainings with law enforcement, it is evident that we have strengthened officers' knowledge of our culturally-specific services and have increased their cultural sensitivity in response to immigrant victims. Many officers did not know about the 24/7 Spanish language victims of crime hotline that we operate. . . . [T]hey now understand Hispanic culture better and why a victim might tend to stay longer or does not report abuse as frequently. Several officers have reported to us that they take the information they gained in the training into consideration when responding to domestic violence calls.
>
> ***—Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama***

Community Education

CLSSP staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.[166]

[165] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[166] Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.

The most common topics for community education events were domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; cultural issues; issues specific to victims who have limited English proficiency; issues specific to victims who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers; barriers in accessing support services; healthy relationships/domestic violence prevention (community); and culturally and linguistically specific prevention programs.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community education: **79** (85 percent of grantees)[167]
- Total number of education events: **2,732**
- Total number of people educated: **74,078**

Table 25. People educated with CLSSP funds for all four reporting periods: Selected groups

	People educated (*N* 74,078)	
Group	Number	Percent
Community members	29,608	40
Middle/high school students	7,962	11
Community groups	7,657	10
University/college students	7,337	10
Parents or guardians	6,687	9

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

Enlace Comunitario's educational events have resulted in immigrant victims being aware of their rights and the services available to them, regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, they have educated community members about the prevalence of domestic violence, resources available in the community, and their rights as immigrants. As a result, we have seen an increase in demand for DV services by immigrant victims, despite the barriers that they face when accessing services. Additionally, families are learning healthier ways of relating with their partners, and positive communication skills with their children. They are also more aware that DV impacts child witnesses even when they are not in the same room as their parents.

—Enlace Comunitario, New Mexico

Victim Services

Victims need comprehensive support services that encompass a wide array of needs. These services may include providing advocacy and support to a victim who is seeking a protection order, providing accompaniment during

[167] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

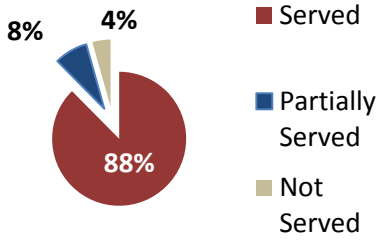
medical procedures such as a sexual assault forensic examination, and providing safety planning, accompaniment to court, shelter and transitional housing assistance, or immigration assistance.

Victims need comprehensive support services that encompass a wide array of needs.

For many diverse cultures, when sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking occur, unique problems are encountered that significantly influence whether a victim will seek assistance. Many victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking experience isolation both physically and emotionally. Employment opportunities may be scarce, and victims may not have access to transportation, interpreter services, or even phone service. Accessing services may become impossible for the victim, who most likely has no experience with "the system" or seeking help to begin with, and/or is overwhelmed with the prospect of overcoming the obstacles.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **81** (87 percent of grantees)[168]
- CLSSP grantees provided services to an average of **4,157** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[169]

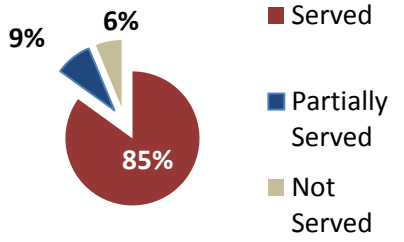
Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **5,181** victims sought services from CLSSP grantees.
- Of these, **4,955** (96 percent) victims received services and **226** (4 percent) were not served

[168] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[169] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

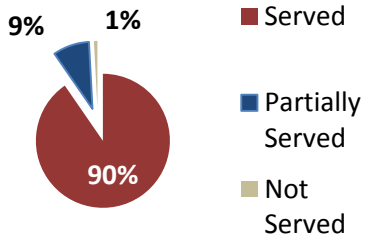


January–June 2012:

- **4,049** victims sought services from CLSSP grantees.
- Of these, **3,795** (94 percent) victims received services and **254** (6 percent) were not served.

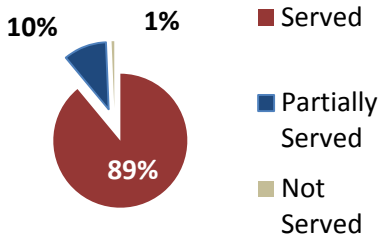
July–December 2012:

- **4,539** victims sought services from CLSSP grantees.
- Of these, **4,501** (99 percent) victims received services and **38** (1 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **3,399** victims sought services from CLSSP grantees.
- Of these, **3,377** (99 percent) victims received services and **22** (1 percent) were not served.



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

Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

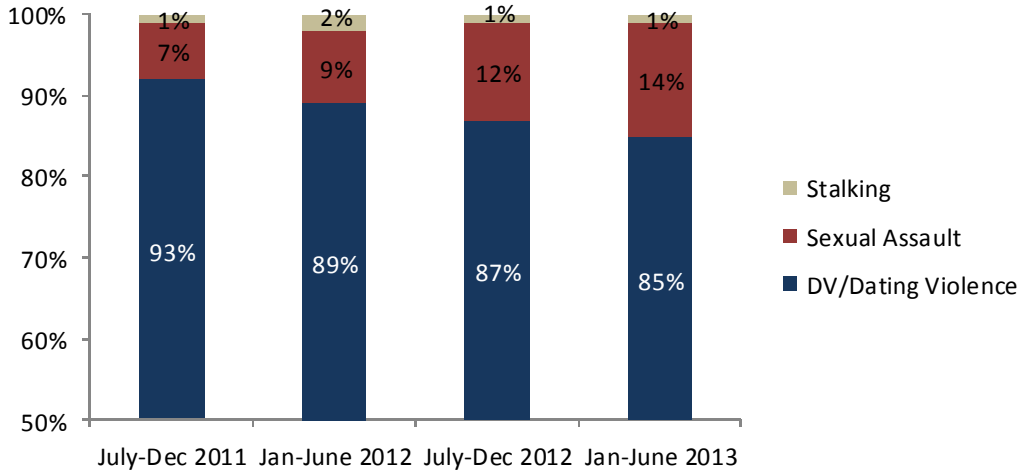
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons that victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service because of limited resources/priority setting
- Program reached capacity
- Transportation
- Services were not appropriate for victim
- Hours of operation
- Lack of childcare

CLSSP grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by CLSSP grantees were overwhelmingly

reported as victims of **domestic violence and dating violence** (85-93 percent). There was an increase in the percentage of victims receiving services for sexual assault.

Figure 8. Provision of victim services by CLSSP grantees, by type of victimization[170]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

Table 26. Relationship to offender of victims served by CLSSP grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	3,891	2,714	3,386	2,578
Dating relationship	596	529	689	498
Other family or household member	242	229	278	214

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

CLSSP grantees served or partially served an average of **4,157** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[171] The majority of those victims were **Hispanic or Latino**, **female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

[170] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims served do not reflect that fact.

[171] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 27. Demographic characteristics of victims served by CLSSP grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	381	94	116	373
Asian	1,192	756	878	606
Black or African-American	704	817	988	521
Hispanic or Latino	1,836	1,572	2,032	1,569
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	7	29	37
White	449	352	342	225
Unknown	417	224	149	72
Gender				
Female	4,580	3,502	4,251	3,212
Male	351	258	212	132
Unknown	24	35	38	33
Age				
13–17	82	94	129	76
18–24	532	434	617	413
25–59	3,546	2,723	3,278	2,652
60+	367	227	124	55
Unknown	428	317	353	181
Other				
People with disabilities	144	128	167	143
People who are Deaf or hard of hearing	33	20	54	78
People with limited English proficiency	2,462	1,958	2,114	1,731
People who are immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	2,265	1,894	1,964	1,743
People who live in rural areas	131	170	274	180

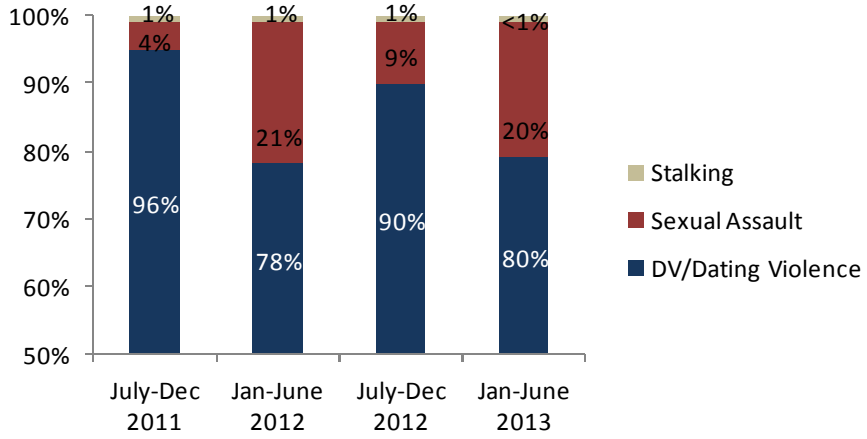
NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Secondary Victims

CLSSP grantees provided services to an average of **1,360** secondary victims. Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by the sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking—children,

siblings, spouses or intimate partners, grandparents, other affected relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Figure 9. Provision of services to secondary victims by CLSSP grantees, by type of victimization[172]



Types of Victim Services

CLSSP grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These services include victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and support group/counseling. Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health-related issues, employment-related issues, financial and transportation needs, employment, and legal issues. Women with children also need assistance with childcare, counseling, and other matters related to their children.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[173]

- Counseling/support group: **9,232**
- Victim advocacy: **8,629**
- Crisis intervention: **6,269**

[172] The overall number of secondary victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each secondary victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that secondary victim received services during each reporting period.

[173] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

- Language services: **3,235**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **2,559**
- Material assistance: **2,286**
- Employment counseling: **1,948**

> CLSSP funding has allowed IOOV to have more of an in depth, comprehensive approach to victim services and service provision. On a micro level, it has allowed us the opportunity to improve our day-to-day client services by increasing our capacity and reducing the language barrier that existed when we had only one English speaking advocate. It also allowed us to provide culturally and linguistically specific mental health services to victims/survivors. We also have the opportunity to expand our LGBT specific domestic violence support line and strengthen our knowledge as it relates to working with survivors of sexual assault (an area in which we were lacking prior to CLSSP funding*).*
>
> ***—In Our Own Voices, New York***

Immigration Matters

Table 28. Immigration matters addressed by CLSSP grantees

	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Immigration matters (unduplicated count of victims receiving assistance in one or more categories below)	523	353	422	698
VAWA self-petition	96	70	79	136
Cancellation of removal	35	9	3	2
Work authorization	81	75	80	147
U-visa	178	110	154	365
T-visa	12	4	10	13
Other immigration matters[174]	143	98	120	142

Hotline Calls

- Out of a total of **47,101** hotline calls received, two-thirds **(31,142)** were received from victims.[175]

[174] "Other immigration matters" include asylum, green cards, legal permanent status applications, change of status, I-75 waivers, and H4 applications.

[175] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims, and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **8,647** unsolicited letters, phone calls, and/or visits to victims.[176]

> This grant allows AI Justice's Nou Kab to help Haitian survivors with Creole-speaking advocates who can specifically understand and serve client needs. Without these services, survivors would not know that they too can be protected from their abusers and legalize their immigration status in the United States. These funds have established a sense of trust within the Haitian community by serving clients in their native language. The fact that the staff members speak Creole builds the survivors trust with AI Justice and helps to better serve their needs.
>
> ***—American Immigrants for Justice, Florida***

Remaining Areas of Need

The areas of remaining need most cited by CLSSP grantees were availability of services to traditionally underserved victims. Grantees consistently reported a lack of access to victim services for limited English proficient (LEP) individuals, including immigrants and refugees. There is a deficiency of professionals who provide services in languages other than English, and of qualified, trained interpreters.

> Despite our work to date with [county domestic violence and rape crisis programs, the criminal justice system, and departments of social services], there are still severe deficits in the areas of having staff on board who are properly trained and competent to provide services to immigrant and undocumented victims. Not only is there an all too frequent lack of bilingual staff, but many programs or agencies still do not even have alternative resources in place, such as language line or trained volunteers, for interpretation and translation. There is also a lack of bilingual literature, including agency intake packets and educational material for victims.
>
> ***—Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.***

Furthermore, grantees consistently report that victims are not accessing critical victim services because they fear deportation as a result of recent immigration laws. Grantees cited training for law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and the clergy, as well as general community member education, as areas of need in the response to victims. In order to improve access to services, hold offenders accountable, and ensure victim safety, these professional and community stakeholders need training on the particular language barriers and cultural sensitivities of the communities they serve.

[176] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.

> Education is the single most significant area of remaining need with regard to improving services to survivors and victims. From the community's perspective, there is a stigma associated with domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and a large percentage of the community continues to sweep the issue under the proverbial rug, pretending that it does not exist. As mental health professionals, we know all too well that our community is not immune to issues of abuse. Nonetheless, we regularly hear that community leaders, educators, parents, volunteers, camp counselors etc. are simply unaware of what signs of abuse, assault and neglect look like.
>
> ***—Jewish Family Service and Children's Center, New Jersey***

Grantees also regularly discussed a need for increased affordable permanent housing, along with transitional housing and emergency shelter. Victims fleeing domestic violence situations often have difficulty in locating permanent and stable housing because of economic hardships. These needs only increase for immigrants, refugees, and LEP victims. Grantees consistently reported the need for increased funding for emergency/transitional housing with a focus on minority populations, and the ability to respond appropriately and sensitively to the distinct cultural and language needs of these underserved victims.

> Many traditional shelters (domestic violence-specific, as well as more general homeless shelters) do not address the unique needs of immigrants. For example, shelters usually have time limits during which they expect residents to be able to secure a job and be on their feet financially; these time limits do not take into account that many of our clients are in the process of an immigration case and therefore do not have a work authorization that would allow them to achieve financial stability (in these cases they are often also ineligible for public benefits such as SNAP benefits and Medicaid as well). Language, cultural, and religious needs can also be a barrier in making these shelters viable options for our clients.
>
> ***—Tahirih Justice Center, Virginia***

Court Training and Improvements Program[177]

The Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program), created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005), recognizes that judicial education and specialized court processes play an integral role in creating an effective response to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The Courts Program creates a unique opportunity for federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local courts or court-based programs to significantly improve their responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases by creating dedicated court dockets, specialized courts, and enhanced court procedures, and by providing key opportunities for training to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

In order to significantly improve internal civil and criminal court functions, court-based and court-related personnel must be educated on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Courts that have adopted a specialized approach in the handling of domestic violence cases are seeing significant improvements in victim safety and offender accountability, decreases in re-offenses and re-abuse, and more efficient case-flow processing. Consolidated domestic violence calendars, specialized domestic violence courts, and increased pre- and post-conviction supervision of defendants result in an increase in successful prosecutions of domestic violence.

In order to significantly improve internal civil and criminal court functions, court-based and court-related personnel must be educated on sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and dating violence. Research indicates that mandatory and ongoing training for judges in domestic violence cases enables them to become more sensitive to the needs of victims and

[177] As the result of the VAWA 2013 reauthorization, this grant program has been replaced with the Grants to Support Families in the Justice System. This new grant program combines Supervised Visitation and Court Training and Improvements Programs with a new grant program to improve civil and criminal justice system response to families with histories of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse.

understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence. Judges have also acknowledged that better training on the unique challenges and varying types of adult victim sexual assault cases would significantly improve their decision-making skills when presiding over these cases. Through specific training, judges and other court personnel can work with their communities to develop specialized practices and utilize educational resources that will result in significantly improved responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases, ensure offender accountability, and promote informed judicial decision-making.

The purpose areas of the Courts Program that were in effect during the period covered by this report include: improving civil and criminal court practices and procedures; educating court-based and related personnel on issues relating to victims' needs, perpetrator behavior, and holding perpetrators accountable; collaborating and training with federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local agencies and organizations (public and nongovernmental) to improve enforcement of relevant law; providing technical assistance to courts at all levels to improve their practices and procedures; and enabling 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 (including enhanced access for underserved populations), and other projects to improve court responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

General Grant Information

***Eleven** percent of Courts Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

Information for this report was submitted by **38** individual Courts Program grantees[178] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **29**
- January–June 2012: **26**

[178] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- July–December 2012: **37**
- January–June 2013: **33**

Eleven percent of Courts Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified approximately **9** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Staff

Courts Program-funded staff are engaged in protection order, family matter, criminal case and other specialized court and docket activities relating to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. They also provide training, victim services, offender supervision, batterer intervention, and sex offender management programs. All funded activities are for the purpose of increasing victim safety and offender accountability.

Grantees most often used Courts Program funds to support case/docket managers and victim advocates.

Table 29. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Courts Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	17	19	28	29
Total FTE staff funded	14	18	25	34
Case/docket manager	4	5	6	8
Compliance monitor	2	3	3	5
Victim advocates	2	2	4	5
Program coordinators	1	1	2	5
Court clerk	2	2	1	1
Administrator	<1	1	2	2
Victim assistant	0	0	2	2

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: The numbers in staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported staff categories are presented.

The consolidated docket has allowed the court and collaborative partners to provide additional services in the courtroom (e.g., providing enforceable restraining orders to litigants before they leave the courtroom, safety planning, court accompaniment). The court provides two staff members to prepare and process orders while the collaborative partners have committed to having advocates present for all hearings. The project has also led to increased coordination between the court and domestic violence service providers.

—Superior Court of California, County of Solano

Training

This training improves responses to victims on the part of judges, court personnel, and other professionals and increases offender accountability.

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Courts Program grantees provide training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking to court personnel (e.g., judges, clerks, court security), attorneys, prosecutors, probation officers, and victim advocates. This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were domestic violence overview; judicial monitoring, advocate response, domestic violence laws, specialized courts, coordinated community response; protection orders; risk assessment; and intimate partner sexual assault. Training events may range from conferences and workshops to roll call training for law enforcement officers.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **30** (79 percent of grantees)[179]
- Total number of training events: **182**
- Total number of people trained: **3,043**

[179] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 30. People trained with Courts Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

Position	People trained (N 3,043) Number	Percent
Court personnel	623	21
Judges/judicial officers	616	20
Victim advocates	387	13
Attorneys/law students	328	11
Probation officers	154	5
Prosecutors	131	4
Law enforcement	120	4
Court clerks	106	3

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only. "Court personnel" represents court administrators, court coordinators, mediators, and schedulers reported in the "other" category.

We sponsored the 2013 Domestic Violence Summit on 3/15/2013. This program had 334 participants from throughout Arizona—court staff and judges, law enforcement, tribal, advocates, attorneys, clinicians, probation/parole/ surveillance officers, interpreters, volunteers, and trainers. The agenda included survivor statement; sex trafficking; protective orders; U-Visa; witness intimidation; victims, children and dependency issues; domestic violence courts and coordinated community response teams; and stalking and technology. Faculty included local, state, and national experts. Overall rating of the conference was 4.29 on a 5.0 scale.

—Arizona Supreme Court

Maryland does not have any mandatory domestic violence training for judges and the trainings offered every two years consist of only a half day of domestic violence materials. The grant has allowed our judges to attend an intensive domestic violence program that was not an option prior to funding. Judges continue to praise the training and have started using the info garnered at the training in their home courts.

—Maryland Administrative Office of the Court

Victim Services

The availability of services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking engaged in court actions is a critical part of a coordinated community response that seeks to increase victim safety and well-being. These court-based services may include legal advocacy to secure a protection order or custody of their children; translation services; victim

Research indicates that women who work with advocates more effectively access community resources.

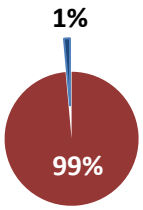
advocacy, including safety planning or accompaniment to court hearings; childcare; and access to supervised visitation and exchange services.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **10** (26 percent of grantees)[180]
- Courts Program grantees provided services to an average of **285** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[181]

Victims Seeking Services

July–December 2011:

- **66** victims sought services from Courts Program grantees.
- Of these, **66** (100 percent) victims received services.



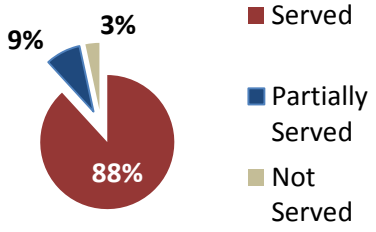
January–June 2012:

- **69** victims sought services from Courts Program grantees.
- Of these, **69** (100 percent) victims received services.

[180] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[181] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

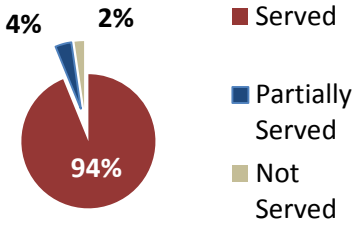
July–December 2012:

- **415** victims sought services from Courts Program grantees.
- Of these, **401** (97 percent) victims received services and **14** (3 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **617** victims sought services from Courts Program grantees.
- Of these, **603** (98 percent) victims received services and **14** (2 percent) were not served.



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

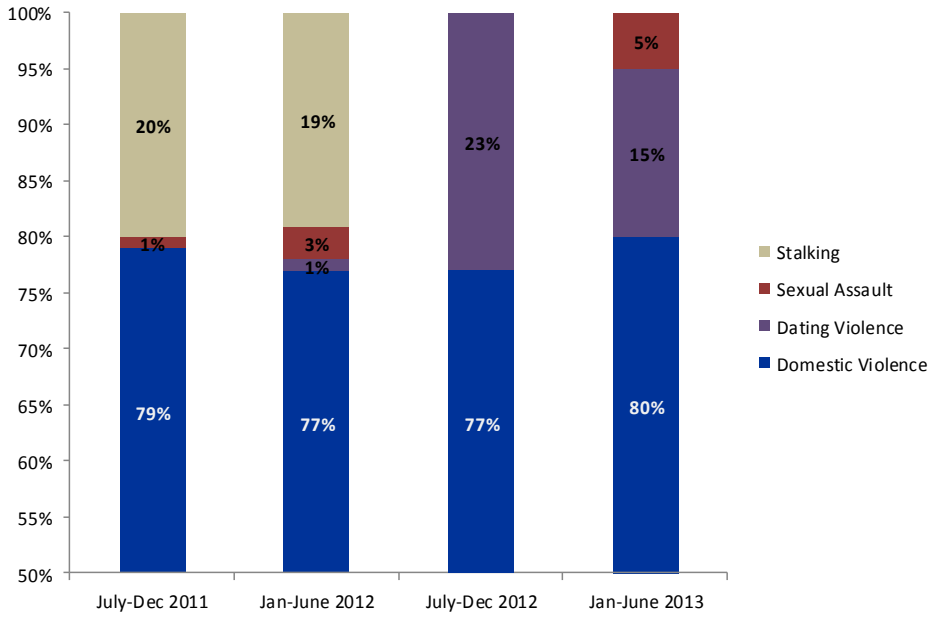
Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Hours of operation
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting
- Insufficient/lack of language capacity (including sign language)

Courts Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by Courts Program grantees were overwhelmingly reported as victims of **domestic violence** (77-80 percent).

Figure 10. Provision of victim services by Courts Program grantees, by type of victimization[182]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

Table 31. Relationship to offender of victims served by Courts Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	63	66	279	484
Dating relationship	0	1	91	86
Other family or household member	3	2	30	34

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Courts Program grantees served or partially served an average of **285** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[183] The majority of those victims were **white**,

[182] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking, or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims served do not reflect that fact.

female, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

Table 32. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Courts Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	2	2
Asian	0	0	0	9
Black or African-American	28	26	145	210
Hispanic or Latino	28	26	57	102
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	1	1
White	8	14	161	263
Unknown	2	3	35	19
Gender				
Female	59	66	338	529
Male	6	2	63	74
Unknown	1	1	0	0
Age				
13–17	2	0	3	5
18–24	12	10	53	106
25–59	45	50	323	453
60+	4	7	22	32
Unknown	3	2	0	7
Other				
People with disabilities	4	3	15	32
People with limited English proficiency	13	13	31	48
People who are immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	12	3	8	27
People who live in rural areas	0	0	1	10

NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

[183] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Types of Victim Services

Courts Program grantees provided civil legal advocacy (**789**), criminal justice advocacy (**336**), victim advocacy (**193**), and civil legal assistance (**74**) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods covered by this report.[184]

> Because of the grant funding, Emerge!, the victim service provider and partner in this project, has been able to place an advocate within Tucson City Court to provide victim services to victims of domestic violence. Our advocate has an office outside the domestic violence court room. This allows greater access to victims and allows prosecution and judges more access to an advocate, when needed.
>
> ***—Tucson City Court, Arizona***

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **1,766 unsolicited** letters, phone calls, and/or visits to victims.[185]

Referrals to Victim Services

- Courts Program-funded staff made **103** victim referrals to governmental victim services and **1,167** to non-governmental victim services.

Criminal and Civil Case Activities

Criminal Cases

Courts funded by the Courts Program conduct a range of activities, including the following: networking with criminal justice and social service agencies to identify resources to address gaps in the system of services; providing extensive and ongoing training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; implementing practices to ensure consistency in case handling, enhancing case information flow among partner agencies to improve judicial decision-making and partner agency operations; emphasizing defendant monitoring and accountability; and enhancing protection for, and services to, victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for criminal case activities: **13** (34 percent of grantees)[186]

[184] These numbers represent victims who were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and received the same services in multiple reporting periods.
[185] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.
[186] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Case Dispositions

Table 33. Dispositions of cases by Courts Program-funded courts for all four reporting periods, by type of victimization

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions[187]	
		Number	Percent
All cases	**8,915**	**5,086**	**57**
Misdemeanor domestic violence/dating violence	4,571	2,457	54
Domestic violence/dating violence ordinance	2,397	1,272	53
Felony domestic violence/dating violence	1,331	973	73
Violation of protection order	508	324	64

Criminal Protection Orders

These orders are issued in the form of bail conditions or as conditions of release to protect the victim during the pendency of the criminal case or following the conviction, or deferred adjudication, of the offender.

Table 34. Criminal protection orders issued by Courts Program-funded courts for all four reporting periods, by type of victimization

Type of case	Granted as condition of:	
	Bail	Deferred disposition/ probation
All cases	**4,005**	**3,374**
Sexual assault	2	0
Domestic violence	2,874	3,120
Dating violence	1,096	252
Stalking	33	2

Judicial Monitoring

Judicial monitoring occurs when the court schedules regular court appearances at certain intervals to determine whether convicted offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences.

[187] For purposes of this report, "convictions" include cases of deferred adjudication unless otherwise indicated. Deferred adjudication represents 28 percent of all convictions outcomes. Deferred adjudication accounts for 35 percent of all domestic violence misdemeanor convictions, 33 percent of all domestic violence ordinance convictions, 5 percent of all domestic violence felony convictions, and 26 percent of all protection order violations. Not all dispositions or all case types are shown.

- An average of **1,680** offenders[188] were monitored in each 6-month reporting period. During the 2-year period covered by this report, **14,116** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted.

Judges monitor offenders to review progress and compliance with court orders. The data reported below reflect the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **11** percent of the cases. In a significant number of cases, the courts partially (**3** percent) or fully (**47** percent) revoked probation. The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **23** percent of the cases.

Table 35. Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by Courts Program grantees for all four reporting periods

	No action taken		Verbal/ written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial revocation of probation		Probation revoked/ incarcerated	
Violation	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Protection order (N = 117)	14	12	22	19	0	0	21	18	6	5	54	46
New criminal behavior (N = 301)	53	18	57	19	0	0	29	10	4	1	158	52
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 326)	26	8	82	25	0	0	50	15	4	1	164	50
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 114)	20	18	33	29	0	0	14	12	1	1	46	40
Other conditions of probation or parole (N = 612)	48	8	144	24	1	<1	118	19	34	6	267	44

NOTE: Other conditions include substance abuse and alcohol treatment, drug testing, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.

[188] The overwhelming majority of offenders reviewed were domestic violence offenders. For example, in the July-December 2012 reporting period, 1,227 of 1,255 or (98 percent) were domestic violence offenders.

> Winnebago County now has a fully operational Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts Division, with a dedicated DV criminal court and a dedicated civil court. Intimate partner violence cases have begun to receive the dedicated court response that is required for victim safety and offender accountability. . . . [This] has been implemented through judicial training, case and docket coordination, strategic planning sessions, and collaboration with community partners and national technical assistance providers.
>
> ***—Winnebago County Circuit Court, Illinois***

Civil Protection Orders

Civil orders of protection[189] are court-issued injunctions that prohibit or limit an offender's contact with the victim and prohibit further abusive behavior. These orders may also 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. Because they are initiated by the victim and can be tailored to the specific requirements of an individual victim, as well as modified or dismissed at the request of the victim, they provide victims with flexibility, authority, and remedies not present in the prosecution of a criminal case. Victims of domestic violence are able to petition for a civil order of protection in every state.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for civil protection order cases: **11** (29 percent of grantees)

Table 36. Total number of civil protection orders issued by Courts Program-funded courts for all four reporting periods, by type of victimization

Type of case	Temporary orders	Final orders
All cases	**5,173**	**6,413**
Sexual assault	24	476
Domestic violence	786	3,484
Dating violence	79	68
Stalking	0	0
Type of victimization unknown[190]	4,284	2,385

[189] These orders may also be called restraining orders, anti-harassment orders, or sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking protection orders. See http://www.womenslaw.org/.
[190] These protection orders were reported by grantees in jurisdictions that do not distinguish protection orders by type of victimization.

Table 37. Types of relief granted in final protection orders by Courts Program-funded courts for all four reporting periods

Types of relief	Number of protection orders/ cases
Stay away/no contact	3,007
Custody	991
Sole parental rights to petitioner	483
Sole parental rights to respondent	1
Shared parental rights	18
Allocated parental rights	109
Supervised visitation/exchange	116
Child support	130
Firearms restrictions	2,718
Economic relief (spousal support, debt assignment, payment of obligation and/or losses, etc.)	56
Batterer intervention program (BIP)	157
Other offender treatment (e.g., substance abuse or other counseling; does not include BIP)	72

Table 38. Post-judgment/post-adjudication judicial reviews of protection order cases by Courts Program-funded courts for all four reporting periods

Cases reviewed and review hearings	Number
Protection order cases reviewed	578
Individual protection order case review hearings	1,089

Our project staff continued our policy of safety audits for each personal protection order entered by the court. Staff make contact with each petitioner within two weeks of entry of the personal protection order they requested to confirm that the petitioner is safe, provide any information regarding service of the order as requested, and ensure that any necessary paperwork is complete.

—Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

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. Courts Program 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. Judges without an understanding of these dynamics may issue inappropriate orders that further endanger the victim and the victim's children.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for family cases: **2** (5 percent of grantees)

Table 39. Number of new and pending family cases addressed and number of hearings conducted by the Courts Program-funded courts[191]

	July–Dec 2011		Jan–June 2012		July–Dec 2012		Jan–June 2013	
Type of case	Cases	Hearings	Cases	Hearings	Cases	Hearings	Cases	Hearings
Divorce (no children in common)	0	0	9	12	50	108	79	174
Divorce (children in common)	0	0	24	29	92	247	163	498
Parental rights/ responsibilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	27

Table 40. Number of family cases reviewed post-judgment/post adjudication and number of family case review hearings conducted by Courts Program-funded courts

Type of case	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Post-judgment/post-adjudication family cases reviewed at hearing	0	0	1	22
Individual post-judgment/post-adjudication family case review hearings	0	0	1	38

Court-based Probation or Other Offender/Respondent Compliance Monitoring

Offender monitoring can be done by probation officers or by other court-based compliance monitors, 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. On average, **2,069** offenders were monitored by Courts Program-funded

[191] These numbers represent two Courts Program-funded courts—one that began addressing family cases in the January–June 2012 reporting period and another that began in January–June 2013; there were no family court activities in the July–December 2011 reporting period.

personnel in each of the four reporting periods covered by this report. During the same 2-year period these grantees reported the following monitoring activities:

- **4,793** meetings with offenders/respondents
- **2,628** reviews of Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) information/contacts with BIP staff

In addition to offender/respondent monitoring, probation/compliance officers also contact victims as a strategy to increase victim safety; these staff made, on average, **61** victim contacts in each of the four reporting periods.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for probation or monitoring activities: **12** (32 percent of grantees)[192]

Table 41. Types of offenders/respondents monitored by Courts Program grantees

Type of offender/ respondent	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Sexual assault	0	0	7	3
Domestic violence	308	965	1,220	2,352
Dating violence	269	757	875	773
Stalking	7	131	293	315

Defendants ordered to batterers intervention programs (BIPs) as a condition of bond report their progress to the [pre-trial compliance] officer, and the officer routinely communicates with the court-approved BIP providers about offenders. Finally, the officer provides the judge with information about new offenses committed by offenders on bond by conducting more frequent computer searches of each offender.

—County of Dallas, Texas

[192] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 42. Types of offender/respondent monitoring activities engaged in by Courts Program grantees

Monitoring activity	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Meeting/contact with offender/respondent	0	1,532	1,707	1,554
Review of information from/contact with batterer intervention programs	91	576	878	1,083
Review of information from/contact with other mandated offender treatment programs	2	9	63	52
Review of information from/contact with substance abuse counselors/agencies	0	3	7	34
Review of information from/contact with other counselors/agencies	0	0	56	4
Contact with victims	9	37	79	118

Remaining Areas of Need

The most outstanding need cited by Courts Program grantees in terms of services for victims was more legal representation, including more affordable legal representation for middle income victims, particularly in protection order and custody cases, and for victims with limited English proficiency. Other needs mentioned were mental health and trauma–informed services, services delivered in a culturally specific and sensitive manner, and housing.

> While the court and collaborative partners have been able to provide free legal self-help services and help obtaining benefits such as emergency shelter and counseling, the need for affordable legal representation has not been filled. Staffing shortages have also decreased the availability of services offered to non–English-speaking litigants.
>
> ***—Superior Court of California, County Of Solano***

Grantees also frequently discussed the need for ongoing training of judges and other court personnel, particularly in areas where the judges are not assigned to, or where there are no domestic violence dockets or courts. They specifically cited the importance of training on the removal of firearms in protection order hearings, when appropriate.

> There are many jurisdictions without a domestic violence court, and the judges in those courts also need training to issue protection orders properly, including removal of firearms in those orders as appropriate, and to monitor offenders and hold them accountable.
>
> ***—Village of Spring Valley, New York***

Several grantees pointed specifically to the critical need for criminal justice professionals (law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and BIP providers) to be trained in identifying and responding appropriately to sexual assault in intimate partner relationships. Grantees also discussed the importance of educating a broad range of stakeholders, specifically mentioning teens and new residents, on what constitutes domestic violence and dating/relationship violence.

> One of the most difficult aspects of these cases, and therefore one of the greatest areas of need, continues to be identification of sexual assault by first responders (victim advocates, police, prosecutors, hospital staff, courts, etc.) due to the historic practice of labeling victims' experiences as either 'sexual assault' or 'domestic violence' so that either the power and control dynamics of the relationship or the sexual assault remains unacknowledged/unidentified.
>
> ***—New York State Unified Court System***

Numerous grantees cited the need for additional, better (i.e., certified), more-affordable, culturally, and otherwise appropriate batterers intervention programs and more diligent monitoring of BIP attendance.

> The most significant areas of remaining need are developing awareness among the general population including youth of what behaviors constitute domestic violence that may not include physical assault; disseminating information about the remedies available for victims, especially teens; . . . [and] teaching a course on what constitutes domestic violence and what remedies are available to new residents and/or citizens.
>
> ***—District of Columbia Courts***

Finally, grantees expressed the need for more sharing of information between civil and criminal courts and between courts and law enforcement agencies, to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

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 Grant Program) was authorized by Congress in VAWA 2005. Congress, the Office on Violence Against Women, and victim advocates recognized the need to focus on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals because of the proliferation of such violence and the gaps in service provision, and in the criminal justice response for this population. The goal of this program is to create sustainable change within and between organizations that results in accessible, safe, and effective services for individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to promote accountability for perpetrators of such crimes.

The goal of this program is to create sustainable change within and between organizations that results in accessible, safe, and effective services for individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to promote accountability for perpetrators of such crimes.

Disability Program recipients provide training, consultation, direct services and information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals.

The statutory purpose areas of the Disability Program are as follows:

- To provide personnel, training, technical assistance, advocacy, intervention, risk reduction, and prevention of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against individuals with disabilities.

- To conduct outreach activities to ensure that individuals with disabilities who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking receive appropriate assistance.
- To conduct cross-training for victim service organizations, governmental agencies, courts, law enforcement, and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving individuals with disabilities about risk reduction, intervention, prevention, and the nature of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking for individuals with disabilities.
- To provide technical assistance to assist with modifications to existing policies, protocols, and procedures to ensure equal access to the services, programs, and activities of victim service organizations for individuals with disabilities.
- To provide training and technical assistance on the requirements of shelters and victim services organizations under federal anti-discrimination laws, including:
    (A) The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 [42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq]
    (B) Section 794 of title 29.
- To modify facilities, purchase equipment, and provide personnel so that shelter and victim service organizations can accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities.
- To provide advocacy and intervention services for individuals with disabilities who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
- To develop model programs providing advocacy and intervention services within organizations serving individuals with disabilities who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

Grantees are required to identify and support multidisciplinary collaborative teams composed of, at a minimum, one nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services organization or tribal organization serving victims, such as a state or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalition, and at least one nonprofit, nongovernmental organization or tribal organization serving individuals with disabilities.

Through this funding, we have been able to have in-depth conversations and planning sessions, which bring disabilities services and support services for survivors of sexual violence to the table. This has not previously happened in our community. This grant has allowed us to take the time to build a strong, sustainable collaboration which has an outlined philosophy and highlights and values the unique perspectives of our organizations.

—Hills and Dales Child Development Center, Iowa

Funding from the Disabilities Project continually allows us to expand our knowledge at the intersection of domestic violence, disabilities, and mental illness. . . . Many services for people with disabilities and/or mental illness remain fragmented and compartmentalized. This project has started a rich conversation about creating integrated, trauma informed, and fully accessible services at the intersection [of domestic violence, disabilities, and mental illness.]

—Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Delaware

The grant has had a transformational effect on our partner agencies. It has enabled us to have a staff person who is solely dedicated to helping us to achieve our goals. It has enabled us to work together in ways that were not feasible prior to the grant award and to sustain and strengthen our relationships over time. We have been able to directly address areas of conflict between the partner agencies and resolve them in a way that has improved services.

—King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **43** individual Disability Program grantees[193] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **38**
- January–June 2012: **32**
- July–December 2012: **37**
- January–June 2013: **33**

Staff

Disability Program-funded staff provide training, consultation, and information to service providers about responding to violence against women with disabilities, as well as direct services to victims.

[193] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees were counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support program coordinators.

Table 43. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Disability Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**35**	**32**	**37**	**33**
Total FTE staff funded	**54**	**48**	**54**	**56**
Program coordinators	26	23	25	25
Advocates[194]	10	10	13	15
Administrators	9	8	8	7
Support staff	6	5	5	5
Trainers/educators	1	1	2	2

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> This funding has allowed each partner agency to dedicate time and staff necessary to adequately assess and implement strategies to make services more accessible, welcoming, safe and culturally competent for people with disabilities who experience domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
>
> ***—Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, Minnesota***

Training

As communities have developed strategies to improve services to individuals with disabilities who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, the need for high quality training has become evident. Quality training builds a safer community for all. 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.

Quality training builds a safer community for all.

The most common topics for training events were recognizing and responding to violence against women with disabilities; trauma informed response; accessibility; guardianship issues; disability rights organizations; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; safety planning for

[194] This number includes FTEs for staff reported as Deaf advocates, disability advocates, legal advocates, victim advocates, and victim assistants.

victims with disabilities; resources for victims with disabilities; confidentiality; and sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **22** (51 percent of grantees)[195]
- Total number of training events: **322**
- Total number of people trained: **7,106**

Table 44. People trained with Disability Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 7,106)	
Position	Number	Percent
Mental health professionals	1,665	23
Domestic violence program staff	923	13
Disability organization staff	910	13
Law enforcement officers	656	9
Dual sexual assault and domestic violence program staff	590	8
Sexual assault program staff	376	5

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

Ten American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters were trained through Project EMERGE to provide effective communication to Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence. In addition, six individuals were trained to be Deaf/signing volunteer advocates (four of them also completed the ASL interpreter training). The training for each consisted of nearly 30 hours of classroom training over a period of eight days

—Vera House Incorporated, New York

Community Education

Community education is essential to increase awareness and knowledge about sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against people with disabilities and Deaf individuals.

The most common topics of community education events were community resources for victims with disabilities; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; recognizing and responding to violence against women with disabilities; accessibility; overview of violence against women with

[195] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

disabilities; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; caregiver abuse overview, dynamics, and services; physical and attitudinal barriers to accessibility.[196]

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community education: **9** (21 percent of grantees)[197]
- Total number of education events: **137**
- Total number of people educated: **1,592**

Table 45. People educated with Disability Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected groups

Group	People educated (N 1,592)	
	Number	Percent
Deaf individuals	722	45
Community groups	250	16
Community businesses	232	15
Individuals with disabilities	160	10
Parents/guardians of individuals with disabilities	13	1

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

> Disability Program funding is allowing us amazing opportunities to increase the capacity of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in our community to provide communication services to Deaf abuse survivors. . . . We have also embarked on an exciting initiative to begin utilizing social media to engage the Deaf community in dialogue about topics related to domestic and sexual violence.
>
> ***—Travis County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survival Center, Texas***

Technical Assistance

Grantees provide technical assistance to service providers to enable them to improve services to individuals with disabilities who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking. Technical assistance is provided through site visits and other types of consultations.

The most common topics for technical assistance were collaboration and cross-training for responding to victims with disabilities; disability

[196] 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.
[197] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

organizations' response to violence against women with disabilities; responding to violence against women with developmental disabilities; responding to violence against women with mental illness; accessible communication (ASL interpreters/communication devices); disclosure, confidentiality, and safety; sexual assault experienced by women with disabilities; and domestic violence experienced by women with disabilities.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for technical assistance: **16** (37 percent of grantees)[198]
- Total number of technical assistance activities provided: **1,393**

Planning and Development

Disability Program grantees are required to engage in a planning and development phase, which provides an extended process of building relationships, assessing needs, and developing strategic plans related to their communities' responses to victims with disabilities. The activities most frequently engaged in by these grantees were developing needs assessment plans and tools, developing collaboration charters, developing needs assessment reports, and cross training with MOU partners.

- Number of grantees using funds for planning and development: **28** (65 percent of grantees)
- Number of people attending planning and development activities: **1,046**

> Without the funding of the Disability Program it would have been impossible to conduct the comprehensive needs assessment that … has allowed Montgomery County, Ohio to identify both barriers and potential solutions and develop a strategic plan and a collaboration team that will last long after funding for the project has ceased.
>
> ***—Wright State University Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues Program, Ohio***

These grantees have also been the recipients of technical assistance throughout the planning and development process. Technical assistance site visits and consultations by OVW technical assistance providers most often addressed needs assessment plans and tools, strategic plans, and collaboration charters.

[198] This number represents an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Number of site visits conducted by OVW technical assistance providers: **30**
- Number of consultations conducted by OVW technical assistance providers: **827**

Remaining Areas of Need

An area of need frequently mentioned by Disability Program grantees was the provision of services for Deaf and hard-of-hearing victims and individuals with disabilities.

> While the Right Response Collaborative has made a huge difference in the delivery of services to persons who are Deaf or who have a disability in Los Angeles, we struggle to provide services to all of Southern California since accessible services are severely lacking in the surrounding counties.
>
> ***—Peace Over Violence, California***

Grantees cited the importance of educating individuals with disabilities and other community members to recognize potential risks for abuse, understand the nature of victimization, work to increase their personal safety, and learn how to access help.

> Survivors/victims with disabilities may feel unsafe or be afraid of losing their existing resources (such as transportation) by disclosing or reporting a sexual assault, and may be unaware of the resources, options and services available to them or may be unaware that they can disclose or report an assault.
>
> ***—Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Massachusetts***

Training for criminal justice professionals was consistently mentioned as being vital in responding effectively to victims with disabilities. Training for service providers is also essential, to better equip them to respond to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking who have disabilities or who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing.

> The need for law enforcement to be prepared to respond to victims with disabilities in emergency situations in an appropriate and expedient manner continues to be a challenge. Hard to prosecute cases, such as victims with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, need increased focus and commitment so that prosecution moves forward. The acceptance of victimless or evidence based prosecution by prosecutors and judges is also a significant need when a victim with a disability is unable to testify but there is enough evidence of abuse on which to build a case.
>
> ***—Thirtieth Judicial District Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Alliance, Inc., North Carolina***

> We see that more training, education and awareness is necessary for those providing services to individuals with disabilities. It is critical that these service providers have a deep understanding of not only disabilities themselves, but ancillary issues that often affect individuals with disabilities and community resources available for individuals with disabilities.
>
> ***—Safe Harbor, Inc., South Carolina***

Grantees also cited the need to overcome the stigma of mental health disabilities and provide services for individuals with mental illness, the need to provide services for people with traumatic brain injuries, the need to provide access to services for culturally diverse individuals, and the need to develop consistent policies or protocols for screening and responding to victims with disabilities.

> The most significant need in regards to obstacles faced by individuals with brain injuries is payment for diagnostic tests. Most individuals that seek safe housing within a domestic violence shelter do not have sufficient medical coverage that will pay for medical diagnosis of a brain injury. This creates an additional barrier when safety planning with individuals. Someone with a brain injury may not comprehend what to take with them when they leave, how to find transportation, or how to make safe and informed decisions.
>
> ***—Tubman, Minnesota***

Grantees regularly discussed the need for broader and more effective collaboration, for regular training, and for communication across disciplines and agencies to improve the flow of services to victims.

> Although there is a lot of great collaborative work happening between our partner agencies, the majority of staff members at all partner agencies have limited knowledge of each agency's programs. . . . It has been a challenge to fully address the needs at the intersection of disability and victim services with a lack of staff time, shortage of dedicated funding for direct service, and staff changes.
>
> ***—Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, Minnesota***

Grantees mentioned the lack of affordable housing for victims with disabilities and their children. Grantees also reported communication barriers that Deaf and hard of hearing victims face when trying to access services.

> Another significant barrier is survivors who are not eligible for housing assistance because of mental health concerns and/or substance use issues and/or criminal history. As fiscal resources decrease, demand outstrips the capacity of all local agencies, both survivors with mental health concerns and substance use issues and community agencies confront an on-going change in the array of services and struggle to negotiate changing systems.
>
> ***—Friendship Home, Nebraska***

Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program

The Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Engaging Men Program) funds projects that develop or enhance new or existing efforts to engage men and youth in preventing crimes of violence against women with the goal of developing mutually respectful, nonviolent relationships.

Engaging Men Program grantees encourage men and boys to work as allies with women and girls in their prevention efforts.

Engaging Men Program grantees encourage children and youth to pursue nonviolent relationships and reduce their risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as well as create public education campaigns and assist in community organizing efforts to encourage men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

> This grant has provided the space and opportunity for three strong and independent organizations who work with youth and communities in South Los Angeles to develop a cohesive mission to advance the work of men advocating for non-violence in their communities. The partnership between Peace Over Violence, Brotherhood Crusade, and Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic has allowed for greater outreach to the South Los Angeles community, as each agency has been able to leverage its own resources at raising awareness surrounding the issues of violence against women.
>
> ***—Peace Over Violence, California***
>
> This funding has allowed for the structure and support for men in communities to become stronger. Because of the programming that is occurring it is giving men opportunities to check in and have conversations that otherwise may not exist. It has shown the importance of how developing relationships is vital to continued success....
>
> ***—Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault***

> We have had great success in engaging a variety of men from across the state that are committed to the work we are doing and continue to stay a part of the work even though at times it has been a challenging process. I think our success comes from honestly engaging them and letting them know that we want and value their input and participation. It really shows that if you invest the time to create meaningful relationships you will have greater success.
>
> ***—Maine Boys to Men***

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **35** individual Engaging Men Program grantees[199] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each period was as follows:

***Twenty** percent of Engaging Men Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

- July–December 2011: **23**
- January–June 2012: **23**
- July–December 2012: **34**
- January–June 2013: **35**

Twenty percent of Engaging Men Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified **21** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Staff

Engaging Men Program-funded staff develop a coordinated community response; develop policies and products; provide training and public education; and act as community organizers to engage men and youth in preventing violence against women through leadership trainings, public forums, and awareness campaigns.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support program coordinators and educators/trainers.

[199] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 46. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Engaging Men Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**23**	**23**	**30**	**35**
Total FTE staff funded	**36**	**37**	**47**	**49**
Program coordinators	12	12	13	16
Administrators	8	7	11	11
Educators/trainers	5	7	10	9
Community organizers	7	7	7	7

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> Bringing in a new male staff to lead this project allowed us the flexibility to hire a Korean male with strong ties to the Korean faith communities. Although he understood domestic violence (DV) and had worked with victims and families before as a minister, he understood the importance of taking a male-centered approach to this project, as opposed to a female-centered (usually victim-centered) approach. As a man who could connect well with other men, particularly male faith-based leaders with great influence amongst Korean immigrant families, he was much more effective at engaging Korean men than most traditional victim-centered DV advocates would be.
>
> ***—Korean American Family Service Center, California***

Community Organizing/Mobilization and Prevention

Engaging Men Program staff assist in community organizing and mobilization to encourage men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The most common topics for community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities were men/boys as allies to women/girls; domestic violence/dating violence prevention; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; bystander/upstander intervention; and mentoring/role modeling.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community organizing/mobilization and prevention: **28** (80 percent of grantees)[200]
- Engaging Men Program grantees reached **97,034** people through community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities.

Community Organizing Events

Grantees provided community-wide events such as information tables, school presentations, and public forums.

- Total number of people reached through community organizing events: **81,320**

Table 47. Types of events provided with Engaging Men Program funds for all four reporting period

	Events (N 731)	
Type of event	Number	Percent
School presentation	179	24
Information table	144	20
Culturally specific event	124	17
Public forum	118	16

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

Ongoing Community Organizing Activities

In addition to community-wide events, grantees provide ongoing community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities to targeted groups of men and youth. The most common types of ongoing events are educational courses and leadership/mentoring trainings.

Table 48. Number of people reached through ongoing community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities

	People reached (N 15,714)	
Group	Number	Percent
Students (elementary, middle, high school, university)	6,791	43
Community members	3,913	25
Culturally specific community group members (adult and youth)	1,580	10
Athletes (adult and youth)	743	5
Faith-based group members (adult and youth)	679	4

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

[200] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Training

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Many Engaging Men grantees provide training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking prevention and victimization issues to educators, victim advocates, athletic organizations, culturally specific program staff and other professionals. This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

> Our Engaging Men Program community organization, mobilization and/or prevention activities have been effective in cultivating community consciousness. . . . The results are established "open" lines of communication within our communities in Hidalgo County that allow a safe space to address what would otherwise be considered taboo in the Hispanic culture. Many community members and leaders believe that the De Hombre a Hombre (Man to Man) efforts are for a great cause and a program that is long overdue.
>
> ***—Migrant Health Promotion, Inc., Texas***

The most common topics for training events were men/boys as allies to women/girls; domestic violence/dating violence prevention; dating violence and/or domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; healthy relationships/domestic violence/dating violence prevention; and bystander/upstander intervention.

This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **24** (69 percent of grantees)[201]
- Total number of training events: **183**
- Total number of people trained:[202] **2,612**

[201] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[202] Includes grant-funded staff/MOU partners, non-grant-funded staff/MOU partners, and all other professionals trained.

Table 49. People trained with Engaging Men Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 2,612)	
Position	Number	Percent
Faith-based organization staff	607	23
Health/mental health professionals	207	8
Educators	185	7
Dual program staff	179	7
Domestic violence program staff	171	7

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

> Through the training for men we have provided, men have grown in their understanding on how thoughts, comments and gestures contribute to violence against women. They have also learned various ways that men and boys can both help educate their peers and the important role their engagement plays. They have been learning how privilege afforded to men throughout our culture also presents opportunities and severe consequences as it relates to violence against women.
>
> ***—North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault***

Public Education/Awareness Campaigns

Engaging Men Program grantees create and utilize public education campaigns to encourage men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The most common intended audiences for public education/awareness campaigns are men/youth who are educators; who are fathers/father-figures/caregivers; who are high school students; who are immigrants; and men/youth who are black or African American.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for public education/awareness campaigns: **19** (54 percent of all grantees)[203]
- Total number of public education/awareness campaigns: **427**

[203] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 50. Types of public education/awareness campaigns supported with Engaging Men Program funds for all four reporting periods

	Types of campaigns (N 427)	
	Number	Percent
Radio advertisements	83	19
Media articles/opinion editorials	61	14
Online social media	50	12
Print	49	11
Television advertisements	43	10
Merchandising	37	9
Web-based video/internet advertisements	36	8
Poster campaigns	31	7

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

Volunteer Activities

Engaging Men and Youth Program staff recruit, train, and utilize volunteers to assist in engaging men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for volunteer activities: **17** (49 percent of grantees)[204]
- Total number of volunteers recruited: **906**
- Total number of volunteers trained: **663**

Table 51. Types of volunteer activities supported with Engaging Men Program funds for all four reporting periods

	Number of volunteers (N 906)	
	Number	Percent
Community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities	458	51
Mentoring	346	38
Public education/awareness campaigns	71	9

[204] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> Our success has been that the Native men and boys we have asked to participate in this planning phase have felt validated and needed, and the most openly resistant advocates have taken a 'wait and see' position, which is quite frankly, great progress. What started out as two people at two organizations, committed to engaging Native men and boys in sexual violence prevention, has now grown into a solid group of Native men, representing six organizations/programs.
>
> ***—Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition***

Remaining Areas of Need

The most often cited areas of remaining need by Engaging Men grantees was the need for culturally specific and responsive approaches and services. Grantees consistently identified a need for programs for both victim and offenders for specific populations including, Somali, Spanish and Russian-speaking, Korean immigrant, migrant workers, refugees and American Indian and Alaska Native.

> Klamath County has a strong migrant agricultural labor population. Partners have identified gaps in services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in a historically insulated community that fears outside involvement. A primary goal includes establishing stronger relationships with the Hispanic community by providing culturally-specific advocacy services and resource opportunities.
>
> ***—Klamath Crisis Center, Oregon***
>
> In our targeted populations, Somali and Russian-speaking communities are still lacking education and information about domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Prevention is challenging because people are not aware, or have no knowledge of domestic violence. Many of them do not even know the definition of the word domestic violence or sexual assault.
>
> ***—Refugee Women's Alliance, Washington***

Further, grantees consistently reported the need for continued outreach to engage men and boys. Within this regard, grantees stated that in order to be successful in their endeavors to engage men and boys, it has become critical that they establish a way to change and disrupt community norms. It was reported that too often, these opinions and norms significantly impact the safety and resources that are available to victims in the communities. It also hampers efforts to appropriately hold offenders accountable for their actions.

> Victims in rural communities continue to struggle to find services that are affordable and accessible. Rural culture prevents many victims from accessing services and geographic isolation contributes to difficulties with transportation. Engaging men and youth in rural areas can be difficult when victimization is often a silent epidemic that victims endure alone and the community is reluctant to get involved in "private matters."
>
> ***—Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence***
>
> One of the most significant areas of remaining need is engaging men and boys in ways that are survivor-informed. It is critical that men and boys are involved but they need to be guided by the leadership of women in the movement and accountable to agencies that work with survivors. Engaging boys and men in this way will create models of engagement, prevention and accountability for their communities. Ensuring that men and boys are informed by the experiences of survivors and guided by domestic violence and sexual assault programs will empower them to hold their peers accountable for the behaviors that support or condone violence against women, as well as holding batterers and sex offenders accountable for their choices.
>
> ***—Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence***

Grantees also regularly discussed a need for affordable and accessible services in rural areas. In many rural areas, programs are challenged to provide services to victims and hold offenders accountable due to barriers associated with remote and isolated communities. Some of the barriers noted were: lack of affordable, reliable and/or public transportation, limited means of communication, lack of affordable and/or emergency housing options, and economic barriers associated with decreased employment opportunities. Grantees further noted that, in addition to these barriers, they must also address a “cultural attitude” specific to rural communities.

> Housing has been seriously lagging in nearly all communities affected by the oil boom, and as a result, "man camps" are popping up all over western North Dakota—they range from sophisticated complexes with dining facilities to former cropland that has been transformed into a makeshift RV camp. Many women and children travel with men as they work and spend increased time in isolation as these camps are often located in very rural communities that lack social resources.
>
> ***—North Dakota Council on Abused Women, North Dakota***

Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program

The Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (LAV Program) is intended to increase the availability of civil and criminal legal assistance[205] needed to effectively aid adult and youth victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking who are seeking relief in legal matters arising as a consequence of that abuse or violence.

The LAV Program makes awards to law school clinics, domestic violence victims' 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 community- based legal service providers. Grant funds may be used for direct legal services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in matters arising from abuse or violence and to provide enhanced training for lawyers representing these victims as well as for advocates. The objective of the LAV Program is to develop innovative, collaborative projects that provide quality legal representation and assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The LAV Program provides an opportunity for communities to examine how the legal needs of victims are met.

The LAV Program provides an opportunity for communities to examine how the legal needs of victims are met. By statute, funds may be used to do the following:

- Implement, expand, and establish cooperative efforts and projects between sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victim services organizations and legal assistance providers to

[205] "Legal assistance" includes assistance to adult and youth victims in a) family, immigration, employment, administrative agency, and housing matters, campus administrative or protection or stay away order proceedings, and other similar matters; and b) criminal justice investigations, prosecutions, and post-trial matters (including sentencing, parole, and probation) that impact the victim's safety and privacy. LAV Program funds may not be used to provide criminal defense services.

provide legal assistance for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

- Implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide legal assistance for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by organizations with a demonstrated history of providing such direct legal or advocacy services.
- Provide training, technical assistance, and data collection to improve the capacity of grantees and other entities to offer legal assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

> In some cases, the batterers are so litigious and file so many motions, it is challenging to handle the work and impossible to imagine how the client would have managed on her own. These comprehensive services that move clients from crisis to stability are only possible because of this grant. . . . [W]e bring experts [into family court] who not only serve individual clients, but educate courts in ways that will benefit future victims. . . . [W]e are also training a new generation of legal professionals in advanced domestic violence topics and best practices.
>
> ***—Tulane University, Louisiana***

OVW has a special interest in establishing or strengthening the following: programs that provide holistic representation that goes beyond the victim's need for a protection order and includes legal proceedings that address child support, child custody, legal separation/divorce, unemployment compensation, immigration matters, financial matters and/or housing; projects focused solely or primarily on providing a broad range of legal assistance to victims of sexual assault; and programs that provide legal representation to adult and youth victims on lands within the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

OVW also recognizes the need for LAV grantees to conduct outreach to traditionally underserved and/or underrepresented populations, including members of racial, ethnic, and cultural minority groups and victims living in rural areas.

General Grant Information

Information for this chapter was submitted by **184** individual LAV Program grantees[206] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

***Nine** percent of LAV Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

- July–December 2011: **165**
- January–June 2012: **142**
- July–December 2012: **175**
- January-June 2013: **156**

Nine percent of LAV Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified approximately **91** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Staff

LAV Program-funded staff provide direct legal services and advocacy to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; training and mentoring for lawyers representing victims; and support services for victims.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support staff attorneys. Many programs also funded legal advocates and paralegals who assisted victims with legal matters, such as preparing paperwork, and victim advocates who assisted victims with a range of support services.

[206] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 52. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by LAV Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**159**	**142**	**171**	**156**
Total FTE staff funded	**457**	**420**	**462**	**406**
Attorneys	245	230	251	222
Paralegals	51	43	45	41
Victim advocates	40	44	41	43
Legal advocates	43	35	51	35
Support staff	23	21	23	17
Program coordinator	20	16	19	19
Administrator	17	15	16	13

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: The numbers in staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported staff categories are presented.

> Most significantly, the LAV program funding has enabled Peace Over Violence (POV) to hire both a staff attorney and a legal advocate. This has greatly increased the capacity of the program to provide legal representation and assistance to survivors. Many similar programs that provide legal advocacy are not able to hire full-time staff attorneys, which severely limits the scope of legal services that they are able to provide. . . . [B]ecause POV has been able to hire a staff attorney, many more cases can be effectively resolved.
>
> ***—Peace Over Violence, California***
>
> Prior to implementation of the LAV funding, the Legal Clinic was attempting to provide services to a seventeen (17) county service area with just one attorney handling all of the cases. Some of the cases were in courts as far away as 2.5 hours one direction or 5 hours round trip. . . . The LAV funding has allowed for the hiring of an additional attorney to handle the eleven (11) northern counties in the legal clinic's service area. With the addition of another full-time attorney and legal advocate, the legal clinic is able to provide services to a much larger number of victims.
>
> ***—Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence, Mississippi***

Training and Technical Assistance

A large majority of LAV Program grantees provide enhanced training for lawyers who represent victims and training for other professionals who serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The most common topics for training events were protection orders (including full faith and credit); safety planning; identifying legal issues; domestic violence laws; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; serving underserved populations; divorce/custody/visitation/child support; and confidentiality. This training is critical because the legal issues victims face are complex and cover a wide range of topics.

This training improves professionals' understanding of the complex issues faced by victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **144** (78 percent of grantees)[207]
- Total number of training events: **2,978**
- Total number of people trained: **64,934**

Table 53. People trained with LAV Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 64,934)	
Position	Number	Percent
Attorneys	10,729	17
Victim advocates (domestic violence, sexual assault, and dual)	9,650	15
Law students	6,009	9
Law enforcement officers	5,118	8
Multidisciplinary	5,081	8
Health professionals	3,676	6
Social services organization staff	3,224	5
Volunteers	2,845	4
Child welfare workers	1,957	3
Mental health professionals	1,784	3
Court personnel	1,710	3

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

[207] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

The most exciting trainings Sexual Assault Legal Services and Assistance (SALSA) conducted were at the Statewide Judicial Conference, on the topic of Sexual Assault Protection Orders (SAPOs). . . . SALSA trained 111 judicial officers, including many from remote/rural counties. . . . Numerous judges took the time to write specific positive feedback, including a half-dozen who shared the opinion that: "This was by far the best session so far. Excellent work."

—Sexual Violence Law Center, Washington

LAV funding also enables the Clinic to train law students to become effective advocates for victims through an integrated program of instruction on the substantive law and practical skills necessary to represent domestic violence survivors. Clinical instruction [includes] individual case review meetings and case rounds throughout the academic year. A co-requisite three credit hour course . . . covers a broad array of domestic violence issues, including criminal justice, family law and evidence. Law students carry their knowledge and skills to legal careers in jurisdictions throughout the country.

—Tulane University, Louisiana

Although the Roll Call time to train police officers [including Airport Police] is short, by doing training once a quarter, we are able to cover a number of topics . . . [and] we are able to reach most of the patrol officers. Roll call training to police officers has helped to make the officers more sensitive to victims and their needs. As a result, GLSC continues to see a high number of referrals from the Guam Police Department for protective orders.

—Guam Legal Services Corporation, Guam

LAV Program grantees provide technical assistance to a range of professionals, including victim advocates, attorneys, legal services staff, prosecutors, judges, mediators, friends of the court, and guardians ad litem who are working with victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Grantees provided technical assistance most frequently to victim advocates, who may need assistance in identifying legal issues or helping victims complete affidavits for protection orders, and to attorneys, who may be less experienced and may need guidance with immigration paperwork or preparing for a divorce trial. A total of **96** individual grantees (52 percent of all grantees)[208] reported providing technical assistance to victim advocates and attorneys, followed by legal services staff, prosecutors, judges, and friends of the court/mediators/guardians ad litem.[209]

[208] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported providing technical assistance in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[209] LAV Program grantees report only that they provided technical assistance to specific categories of legal or other professionals; they do not report the number of professionals receiving the technical assistance nor do they report the number of technical assistance activities they provide.

We have continued our work providing trainings and technical assistance to medical providers and law enforcement on legal issues surrounding sexual assault exams and kits, including victim privacy and compliance with our state's victim rights laws. This has led to positive policy changes in several areas of the state, as well as increased collaboration among members of several SARTs. We have also seen an increased number of referrals from our community partners as a direct result of these efforts.

—Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Victim Services

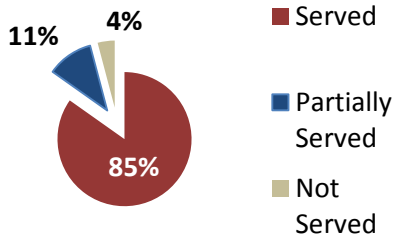
The LAV Program provides a wide range of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Beyond traditional legal services, lawyers and non-lawyers provide safety planning and other support services. The partnerships between legal service providers and victim services programs allow the grantees to increase the number and type of support services they offer to victims. The LAV Program recognizes that victims require competent legal representation so they can be free of abusive relationships, and remain safe and financially independent. 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. Economic viability is a critical factor in the decision-making process for a domestic violence or sexual assault victim who is considering separation from the perpetrator.

Victims require competent legal representation so they can be free of abusive relationships and remain safe and financially independent.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **183** (99 percent of grantees)[210]
- LAV Program grantees provided services to an average of **34,232** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[211]

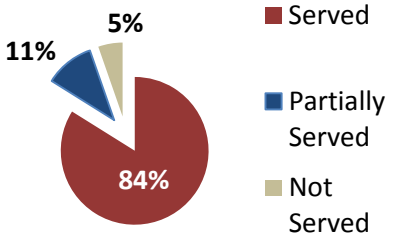
[210] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[211] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **38,154** victims sought services from LAV Program grantees.
- Of these, **36,587** (96 percent) victims received services and **1,567** (4 percent) were not served.

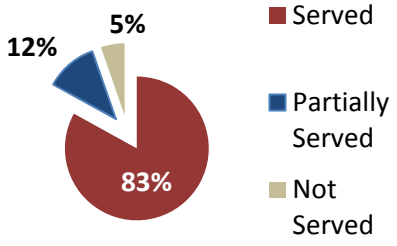


January–June 2012:

- **36,655** victims sought services from LAV Program grantees.
- Of these, **34,698** (95 percent) victims received services and **1,957** (5 percent) were not served

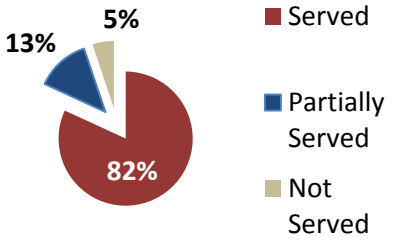
July–December 2012:

- **36,378** victims sought services from LAV Program grantees.
- Of these, **34,425** (95 percent) victims received services and **1,953** (5 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **32,925** victims sought services from LAV Program grantees.
- Of these, **31,216** (95 percent) victims received services and **1,709** (5 percent) were not served



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents victims who received some service(s) but not all of the services they requested, if 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, if those services were funded under the LAV Program grant.

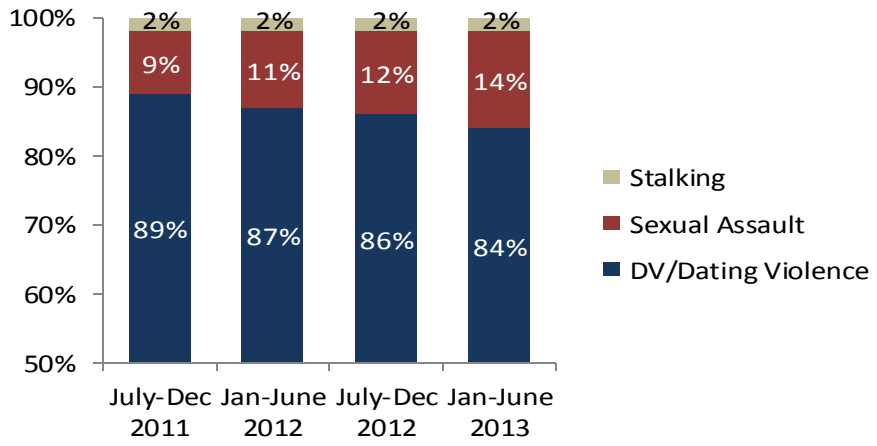
Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Program unable to provide services because of limited resources/priority-setting
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements
- Program reached capacity
- Conflict of interest
- Services not appropriate for victim

LAV Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by LAV Program grantees were overwhelmingly reported as victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (84-89 percent). There was an increase in the percentage of victims receiving services for sexual assault.

Figure 11. Provision of victim services by LAV Program grantees, by type of victimization[212]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

[212] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence/dating violence, and stalking victims served do not reflect that fact.

Table 54. Relationship to offender of victims served by LAV Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	31,895	30,250	29,415	28,073
Dating relationship	2,200	2,179	2,432	1,903
Other family or household member	2,289	2,098	2,140	1,871

NOTE: Because victims may have been abused by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

LAV Program grantees served or partially served an average of **34,232** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[213] The majority of those victims were **white**, **female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

Table 55. Demographic characteristics of victims served by LAV Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	771	629	619	529
Asian	1,718	1,852	1,917	1,956
Black or African-American	5,586	4,828	5,491	4,431
Hispanic or Latino	9,671	9,886	9,525	9,248
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	232	223	257	670
White	16,926	15,542	14,883	12,955
Unknown	1,782	1,885	2,021	1,583
Gender				
Female	34,215	32,731	32,439	29,211
Male	2,229	1,894	1,862	1,732
Unknown	143	73	124	273
Age				
13–17	926	859	780	848
18–24	6,874	6,342	6,447	5,512
25–59	26,615	25,521	24,933	23,234
60+	1,006	732	971	644

[213] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 55. Demographic characteristics of victims served by LAV Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Unknown	1,166	1,244	1,294	978
Other demographics				
People with disabilities	2,959	2,722	2,579	2,435
People with limited English proficiency	7,717	7,765	7,829	7,762
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	9,305	9,529	9,769	9,568
People who live in rural areas	8,764	7,701	7,437	6,477

NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Non-legal Victim Services

LAV Program grantees provided other support services and safety planning as needed.

Grantees reported that the following non-legal services were provided to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[214]

- Safety planning (provided by lawyers): **49,178**
- Safety planning (provided by other staff): **53,340**
- Support services (provided by lawyers): **18,828**
- Support services (provided by other staff): **32,854**
- Pro se clinics/group services (provided by lawyers): **3,028**
- Pro se clinics/group services (provided by other staff): **3,864**
- Non-attorney legal advocacy (provided by other staff): **33,461**

Legal Issues

LAV Program grantees represent victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in a variety of legal matters, including family law (divorce, child custody, and visitation), protection orders, immigration, and housing.

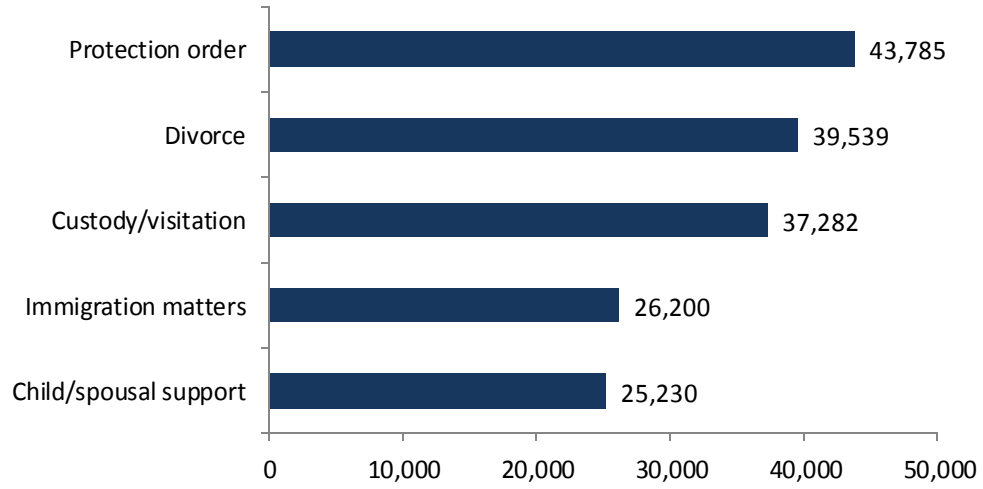
- Total number of legal issues[215] addressed: **199,260**

[214] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods.

- Average number of victims who received assistance with multiple legal issues in each 6-month reporting period: **7,103** (21 percent of those receiving services)

> The LAV funding has allowed us for the first time to partner and provide comprehensive legal services that combine civil, family and immigration law, to address the needs of domestic violence victims and survivors of domestic violence in a comprehensive and holistic manner. Our clients are able to come to one place to get all the information and services they need. . . . LAV funding has allowed us to streamline these services.
>
> ***—Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, New York***

Figure 12. Legal issues addressed by LAV Program grantees for all four reporting periods



Legal Outcomes

LAV Program grantees report on the results achieved after legal services have been provided in cases for which there was a final disposition. Legal outcomes are defined broadly to include the provision of information and referral services only, brief services, negotiated resolution, court decision, and/or administrative decisions. Grantees report on the disposition of each legal matter they address.

- Number of issues disposed of: **114,065**

[215] Legal issues represent the total number of new and pending matters for which victims received assistance. Victims are counted only once for each legal issue addressed during a 6-month reporting period.

Table 56. Outcomes of legal matters addressed by LAV Program grantees for all four reporting periods

Legal matter	Outcomes (*N* 114,065)		Information/ referrals/ advice (%)	Court decision (%)	Brief services (%)	Negotiated resolution/ filed action (%)
	Number	Percent				
Protection order	28,432	25	35	33	9	14
Divorce	22,848	20	45	23	11	10
Child custody/ visitation	22,564	20	46	23	10	12
Child/spousal support	13,403	12	47	24	8	11
Immigration matters	9,856	9	37	2	12	1

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.

> Securing an immigration benefit allows our clients to fully free themselves from abusive and dangerous relationships benefitting their children as well as themselves. For successful U Visa petitioners, they have been able to obtain a legal status in our country allowing them to receive employment authorization and to obtain a social security number and driver's license. This allows them to participate more fully in community life without fear of apprehension because of unlawful presence. The ability to work outside the shadows leads to less chance for labor exploitation and greater economic stability which allows our clients and their children to lead healthier, happier and more secure lives.
>
> ***—New Hampshire Catholic Charities, Inc.***
>
> One of the areas where we had particular success this period was collecting child support. In the past 6 months, we were able to help several of our clients pursue their ex-husbands for unpaid child support and we also obtained final judgments of divorce that included child support provisions. . . . Using discovery and bank records, we were also able to prove that abusers made far more money than they claimed and consequently we were able to get higher child support orders than offered.
>
> ***—Legal Services for New York City***

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 service organizations, and legal services programs to provide quality representation to victims.

From July 2011 to June 2013, LAV Program grantees recruited **4,332** pro bono attorneys, trained **2,691**, and mentored **2,941**. Pro bono attorneys accepted **4,571** cases and completed **3,256** cases over the four reporting periods. During the same time, grantees recruited **3,635** law students, trained **2,830**, and mentored **2,436**. Law students worked on an average of **2,035** cases per reporting period.

> LAV Program funding has allowed NLSLA to design and develop a viable pro-bono attorney project to provide immigration services for victims of sexual assault. This project has helped expand the limited resources our agency has by recruiting and training attorneys who are interested in taking some of these cases as pro-bono matters.
>
> ***—Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, California***

Remaining Areas of Need

LAV grantees regularly cited the need for more civil legal services, including the need for more attorneys to represent low-income victims in cases involving divorce, custody, visitation, employment discrimination, and housing. Grantees also made frequent mention of the need for support services, such as housing and employment assistance.

Grantees identified unique barriers to providing legal services in rural communities, such as a lack of public transportation, long waiting lists for housing, and scarce financial resources. They also mentioned the unique challenges associated with providing legal services and obtaining support services for specific underserved populations, including victims who are older, Deaf, non-English speaking, LGBT, or have mental health issues.

> Greater efforts also need to be made to reach out to the LGBTQ community. Due to the traditional values of many in the region, particularly in the rural communities, there are few LGBTQ organizations outside of the city of Fresno, which makes outreach to LGBTQ individuals more difficult. Some victims have stepped forward; the numbers are still far below what national statistics suggest they should be.
>
> ***—Central California Legal Services***

Grantees spoke of the need for training for themselves as well as for others, including law enforcement officers, judges, and guardians ad litem. In some instances, grantees cited a need for training on specific topics so they could better respond to the needs of a special population, such as immigrants or LGBT victims. In other instances, they cited the need for more general

training, for example, to familiarize judges with no previous experience in family court on the dynamics of domestic violence.

> In our family law system, the turnover in the judiciary happens every couple of years. Judges are rotated in and out of the family law bench in each county. For some it is there first assignment and few have any family law experience prior to serving, let alone experience with domestic violence. New judges bring different levels of understanding and experience to the issue of domestic violence. While judges do eventually undergo some training in family law and domestic violence, it is minimal and judges are learning as they go.
>
> ***—Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, California***
>
> We have identified a gap in services when our attorneys work with domestic violence clients who have developmental disability or mental health issues. There are few to no resources that merge the mental health, developmental and domestic violence provider disciplines, which makes providing services to these victims even harder. It would be helpful to have an advocate who specializes in mental health or disability issues to work in conjunction with the attorneys, and provide the many hours of supportive services such as transportation to court, court accompaniment, assistance with life skills, and counseling services for these clients who have very specialized needs.
>
> ***—The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, New York***

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. The geographic isolation, often poor economic structure, particularly strong social and cultural pressures, and lack of available services in rural jurisdictions significantly compound the problems confronted by those seeking support to end the violence in their lives. These factors also complicate the ability of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse cases. In addition, socio-cultural, economic, and geographic barriers create difficulties for victim service providers to identify and assist victims of these crimes. The Rural Program enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural America.

The geographic isolation, economic structure, social and cultural pressures, and lack of available services in rural communities significantly compound the problems faced by victims seeking to end the violence in their lives.

The Rural Program provides jurisdictions with the opportunity to design community responses, policies, and programs to address their unique social, economic, and geographic conditions. It encourages collaboration between victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, pre-trial service personnel, probation and parole officers, and faith- and/or community-based leaders to address and overcome the problems of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse and ensure that victim safety is paramount in providing services to victims and their children.

Rural grant funding supports outreach and victim services in Colorado, Fayette, and Lee Counties. These rural counties lie between the cities of Austin and Houston, and the Family Crisis Center is the only domestic violence/sexual assault agency serving these areas. Funding makes it possible for victim services staff to travel on a weekly basis in order to provide crisis intervention, counseling services, court accompaniment, and advocacy for rural clients. Without funding to support outreach victim services, many clients would have no access to these services because it is too costly for them to travel to the agency's main office in Bastrop County, much less the domestic violence programs in Austin and Houston.

—Bastrop County Women's Shelter, Inc., Texas

[In rural Fresno County] mobile advocates were able to connect with clients and meet with them in their communities. The clients did not need to worry about how they were going to get transportation or childcare. They did not have to drive to the City of Fresno where our administrative office is. The advocates were able to safety plan, provide options and referrals based on the client's environment and need.

—Marjaree Mason Center, Inc., California

As a result of Rural Program funding, S.A.F.E. was able to provide individual services to survivors and their children, including support and advocacy to survivors who are parents. The model has been particularly effective for families experiencing multiple victimizations. For example, when a mother is a survivor of domestic violence, but her daughter has also been victimized by child sexual abuse, having a domestic violence advocate and a child advocate under the same roof allows families to develop a more effective support team.

—Supporters of Abuse Free Environments, Inc., Montana

General Grant Information

***Thirty** percent of Rural Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

Information for this report was submitted by **159** individual Rural Program grantees[216] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each period was as follows:

[216] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- July–December 2011: **157**
- January–June 2012: **126**
- July–December 2012: **122**
- January–June 2013: **102**

Thirty percent of Rural Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified approximately **97** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Staff

Rural Program-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, law enforcement, prosecution, and probation among other services to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

Table 57. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Rural Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**150**	**122**	**118**	**102**
Total FTE staff funded	**489**	**415**	**387**	**310**
Victim advocates	165	143	132	104
Program coordinators	85	70	57	50
Trainers/educators	50	47	46	39
Administrators	26	25	25	17
Counselors	28	24	19	19
Outreach workers	28	25	21	14
Support staff	24	21	21	15
Victim assistants	16	15	11	10
Children's advocates	13	11	12	8

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

The majority of the communities on the Rosebud Reservation are located in extreme rural areas; the only towns on the reservation are Mission and Rosebud, where all of the available services are located. Milks Camp community is located 408 miles to the east, making it very difficultly for those in isolation and without transportation to access services and assistance. With this grant, we have been able to fund a Children's Advocate and Victim Advocate allowing us to increase and extend our services to all communities on the Rosebud Reservation, including those at a great distance.

—White Buffalo Calf Woman Society, South Dakota

Training

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse. Rural Program grantees provide training on these issues to victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, and mental health and other professionals. This training improves professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.

This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; advocate response; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; confidentiality; safety planning for victims; dating violence overview, dynamics, and services; coordinated community response; and mandatory reporting requirements.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **135** (85 percent of grantees)[217]
- Total number of training events: **3,697**
- Total number of people trained: **54,982**

[217] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 58. People trained with Rural Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

Position	People trained (N 54,982)	
	Number	Percent
Educators	8,924	16
Victim advocates (non-tribal–5,731; tribal–673)	6,404	12
Law enforcement officers (non-tribal–5,792; tribal–509)	6,301	11
Health professionals	5,339	10
Social service organization staff	3,793	7
Multidisciplinary groups	3,754	7

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

One of our collaborative service providers coordinated a training for members of the Sexual Assault Response Team and all law enforcement working in Caribou County and surrounding rural county areas served by this grant. The training focused on appropriate and effective response to cases of sexual assault. Several officers in attendance reported that they have never investigated a sexual assault case. Since the training, there has been an increase in calls from law enforcement requesting advocacy services. Law enforcement officers in attendance reported an increased understanding of the dynamics of sexual assault and effective investigative techniques.

—Oneida Crisis Center, Inc., Idaho

As a result of three of our city judges being sent to national trainings, there is an overall increased awareness and sensitivity to victims of domestic violence and their children. The judges understand the dynamics in these cases and have been very cooperative in issuing temporary restraining orders and are extremely vigilant about victim safety, requiring the petitioner to leave the courtroom first and be transferred to a room while the respondent leaves the area completely so there are no confrontations or stalking once they have left the building. The judges have attended our volunteer advocate trainings to share what they have learned and to advise our advocates on best practices for success in their courtrooms.

—Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County, Montana

Community Education

Rural Program staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse. Community education can be used as a tool

to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.[218]

The most common topics for community education events were domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; dating violence overview, dynamics, and services; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; healthy relationships/domestic violence prevention (grades 6–12); safety planning; healthy relationships/domestic violence prevention (community); and domestic violence prevention program.

Community education can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community education: **136** (86 percent of grantees)[219]
- Total number of education events: **13,779**
- Total number of people educated: **460,702**

Table 59. People educated with Rural Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected groups

	People educated (N 460,702)	
Group	Number	Percent
Middle/high school students	167,368	36
Community members	124,841	27
Elementary school students	52,526	11
University/college students	33,762	7
Parents or guardians	21,918	5
Community groups	19,838	4

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

[218] Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or child sexual assault that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.
[219] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

OVW funding has allowed us the opportunity to complete the child by preparing students with life skills, knowledge, and education on topics not discussed in school curriculum; but are current issues in the eight counties. Bringing these issues to the forefront has begun to shape how students view relationships.

—BCFS Health and Human Services, Texas

Interaction with our youth advocate may be the only opportunity that many youth have to learn about domestic violence and what constitutes a healthy and safe relationship. This work has been significant since our youth advocate is the only professional providing specific dating violence education within the ten county jurisdiction. Implementation of a dating violence curriculum has been extremely successful within our tribal jurisdiction and very well received in middle and high schools and communities throughout our area.

—Muscogee Creek Nation

Victim Services

Victims need comprehensive support services that address a wide array of needs. These may include advocacy and support provided to the victims as they are seeking a protection order, accompaniment during medical procedures such as sexual assault forensic examinations, safety planning, accompaniment to court, or transitional housing assistance.

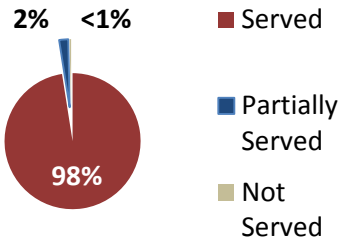
Regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability, when sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or child sexual abuse occurs in a rural area, unique problems are encountered that significantly influence whether a victim will seek assistance. Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims in rural areas are isolated both physically and emotionally. Employment opportunities may be scarce and victims may not have access to transportation or even phone service.

Victims need comprehensive support services that address a wide array of needs.

Given the dynamics of a rural environment, it is not uncommon for the batterer to be well-known in the community, or even related to one or more of the individuals working within the criminal justice system. The batterer's reputation for violence may be such that few members of the rural community are willing to risk retaliation by offering the victim shelter. Often, domestic violence shelters are not available in the immediate area, or if there is a shelter in the area, it may be full. If a victim chooses to stay at a shelter, the whole community (including the batterer) may soon know her/his location. Anonymity and security are significant additional obstacles for victims and their children.

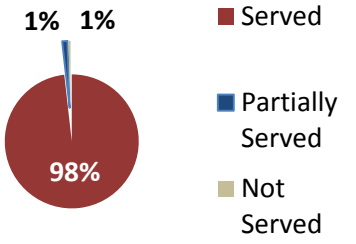
- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **141** (89 percent of grantees)[220]
- Rural Program grantees provided services to an average of **16,087** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual assault to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[221]

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **20,040** victims sought services from Rural Program grantees.
- Of these, **19,968** (99.6 percent) victims received services and **72** (<1 percent) were not served.



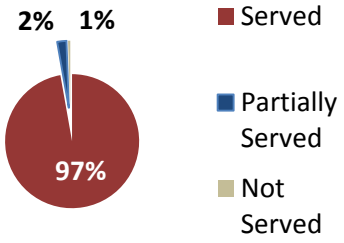
January–June 2012:

- **16,307** victims sought services from Rural Program grantees.
- Of these, **16,225** (99.5 percent) victims received services and **82** (1 percent) were not served.

[220] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[221] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

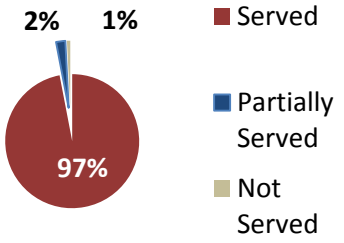
July–December 2012:

- **14,851** victims sought services from Rural Program grantees.
- Of these, **14,768** (99 percent) victims received services and **83** (1 percent) were not served



January–June 2013:

- **13,490** victims sought services from Rural Program grantees.
- Of these, **13,386** (99 percent) victims received services and **104** (1 percent) were not served.



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

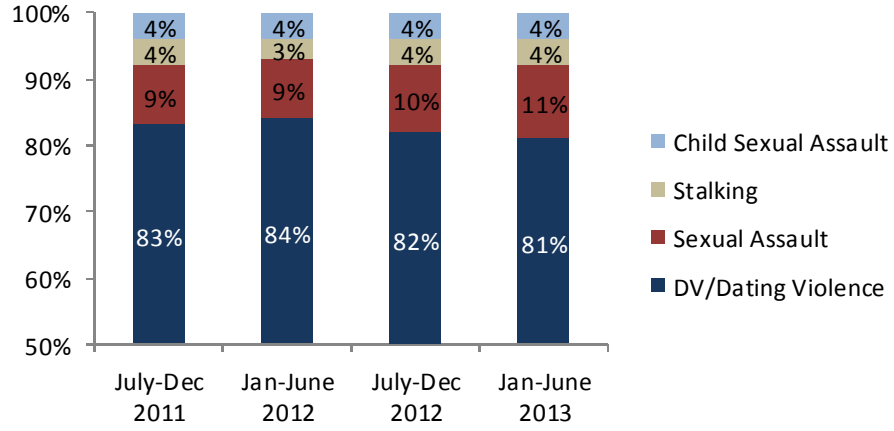
Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Services were not appropriate for victim
- Program unable to provide service because of limited resources/priority setting
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements
- Program reached capacity
- Program rules not acceptable to victim

Rural Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse. Those served by Rural Program grantees were overwhelmingly reported as victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (82-84 percent). There was a slight increase in the percentage of victims receiving services for sexual assault.

Figure 13. Provision of victim services by Rural Program grantees, by type of victimization[222]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

Table 60. Relationship to offender of victims served by Rural Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–Jun 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	12,676	10,878	9,288	9,246
Other family or household member	2,536	1,999	2,146	1,823
Dating relationship	2,933	2,282	2,242	1,590

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Rural Program grantees served or partially served an average of **16,087** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[223] The majority of those victims were **white**, **female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

[222] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence/dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse victims served do not reflect that fact.

[223] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 61. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Rural Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,500	2,393	2,053	2,158
Asian	139	107	88	65
Black or African-American	817	329	512	382
Hispanic or Latino	2,635	2,338	1,959	1,905
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	74	30	40	39
White	12,668	9,694	9,103	7,580
Unknown	1,216	1,432	1,052	1,313
Gender				
Female	17,861	14,609	12,946	12,024
Male	2,014	1,575	1,759	1,335
Unknown	93	41	63	27
Age				
0–6	748	651	654	575
7–12	602	534	558	551
13–17	1,416	1,108	1,175	882
18–24	3,717	3,074	2,502	2,031
25–59	11,756	9,389	8,498	7,677
60+	584	452	420	416
Unknown	1,145	1,017	961	1,254
Other				
People with disabilities	1,809	1,366	1,441	992
People with limited English proficiency	1,561	1,483	1,234	1,077
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	1,209	1,278	1,064	911

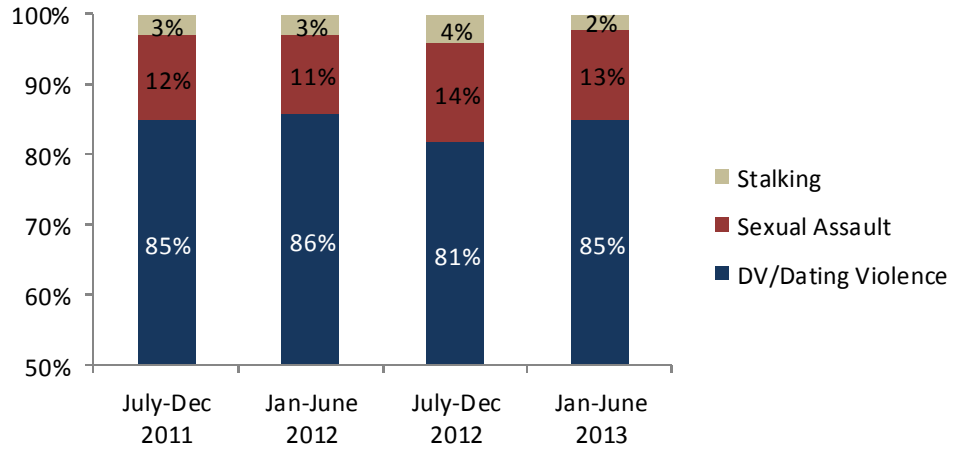
NOTE: Data includes victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Secondary Victims

Rural Program grantees provided services to an average of **7,602** secondary victims. Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking—children,

siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other affected relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Figure 14. Provision of services to secondary victims by Rural Program grantees, by type of victimization[224]



Types of Victim Services

Rural Program grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse. These services include victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and support group/counseling. Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health-related issues, school-related issues, financial and transportation needs, employment, and legal issues. Women with children also need assistance with childcare, counseling, and other matters related to their children.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[225]

- Victim advocacy: **40,289**
- Crisis intervention: **36,996**
- Support group/counseling services: **20,642**

[224] The overall number of secondary victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each secondary victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that secondary victim received services during each reporting period.

[225] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **15,544**
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment: **9,866**

> HJWT focuses on a unique mobile multi-service model. HJWT attorneys and paralegals will meet with clients in their homes, if that location is safe. If that is not a safe location and the client is unable to meet at our office, we will meet with them in a safe location close to their home, for example a cafe or library. Using this holistic approach, we have been able to assist 121 victims in the first six months of 2012.
>
> ***—Have Justice Will Travel, Vermont***

Shelter Services

Rural Program grantees provided emergency shelter and transitional housing to an average of **1,578** victims and **1,648** family members for a total of **207,846** bed nights over the four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 62. Victims receiving emergency shelter and/or transitional housing assistance by the Rural Program: July 2011-June 2013

Shelter service	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013	Total
Emergency shelter					
Victims	2,024	1,614	1,192	1,265	1,524
Family members	1,738	2,049	1,279	1,200	1,567
Bed nights	57,419	53,377	37,322	28,875	176,993
Transitional housing					
Victims	71	57	47	40	54
Family members	104	109	58	53	81
Bed nights	6,643	10,829	5,000	8,381	30,853

NOTE: Victims and family members may have received emergency shelter or transitional housing in multiple reporting periods.

Due to Rural Program funding, the Enlightening Native Daughters (END) program offers more direct victim services at a one stop location for American Indian women and children within Robeson County, NC. Direct victim services such as, a Safe Haven House, hotel, food, clothing, transportation, and information and referral services is provided by the END program. In addition, the program offers court advocacy, private case management, counseling services, and support group services.

—Lumbee Nations Tribal Programs, Inc.

Our Rural Program grant funding has allowed us to continue to improve the delivery of sexual assault medical forensic services to the four hospitals in our rural two county area by supporting the regionalized Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program. This program delivers forensic medical services to patients in the hospital of their choice in Kennebec and Somerset Counties. The funding has also allowed the continued close integration of forensic medical and advocacy services. . . . Funding for the Family Violence Project advocate is critical to providing appropriate support and follow up for Emergency Department patients who are victims of domestic violence.

—Maine General Medical Center

Hotline Calls

- Out of a total of **159,612** hotline calls received, more than half (**92,249**) were received from victims.[226]

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **27,048** unsolicited letters, phone calls, and/or visits to victims.[227]

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, health-care providers, and public and private community resources.

Law Enforcement

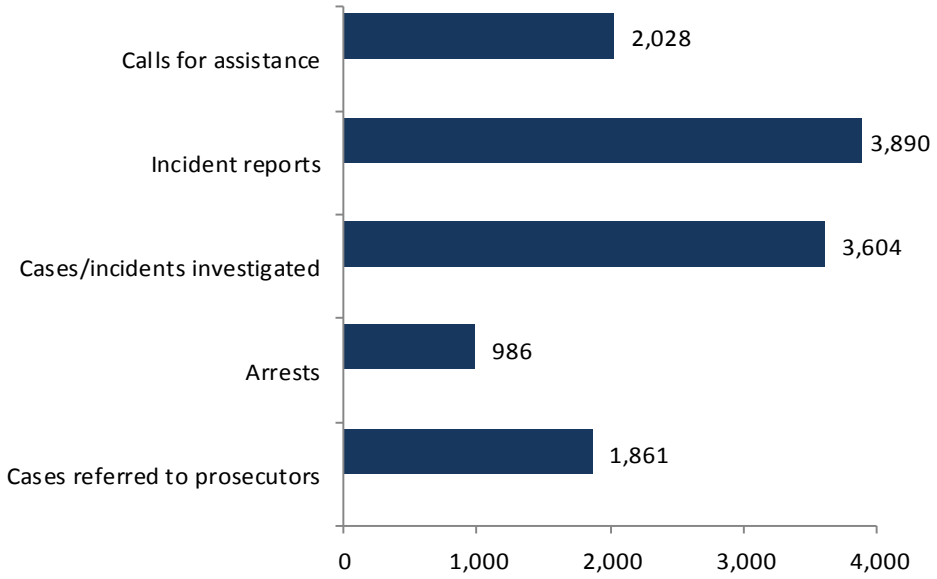
The role of law enforcement is crucial in responding to sexual assault, domestic violence,

***Twenty** individual grantees (13 percent) are using funds for law enforcement.*

[226] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims, and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.
[227] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.

dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse. The response and attitude of law enforcement officers may influence whether or not victims will report these offenses and whether appropriate evidence will be collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders in court. Law enforcement officers should be proactive and aggressive in addressing these matters. A meaningful and serious response by law enforcement agencies includes arresting the perpetrator, providing victims with information about available services and making appropriate referrals, documenting witness statements, and helping victims secure protection orders.

Figure 15. Law enforcement activities in Rural Program for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual assault cases for all four reporting periods



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.

Referrals to Victim Services

- Law enforcement staff made **2,218** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services.

Cases of teen dating violence present complex challenges for investigators, prosecutors, and advocates. Teen victims often are unable to identify the conduct of their partner as abusive. Thus, these cases require skilled and intensive investigations. And complicating the cases is that a victim's peers are often witnesses, and victims often fear reprisal from those peers if they come forward. Prior to receiving this funding, an investigator would meet with a victim who was reluctant to discuss his/her victimization because the victim did not understand that their partner's conduct was abusive, or did not want to disclose abuse because they did not want all of their friends involved. That would be the end of the investigation. As a result of this funding, the grant funded investigator is skilled in interviewing those victims and knows to access other members of the multidisciplinary team to support the victims in their disclosures. As a result, there are more disclosures of abuse that are investigated and more victims who are getting victim services. Consequently, prosecutions of these cases are victim-centered.

—Champlain Valley of Economic Opportunities, Vermont

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees reported significant gaps in available services, especially for American Indian and Alaska Natives, immigrants, and victims living with one or more disabilities. Grantees working with these populations lack the resources and the coordinated community response required to provide culturally specific services and help increase the safety of victims.

Immigrant and Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking face unique and similar barriers that prevent them from seeking safety and protection in Alaskan rural communities. Many immigrants and Alaska Natives reside in communities that are accessible only by boat or small plane. Geographic isolation coupled with a lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services and a lack of familiarity with the United States legal system can create potentially lethal domestic violence situations in Alaska's immigrant and Alaska Native rural communities.

—Alaska Justice Institute

There is a continuous struggle to meet the basic needs of affordable housing, employment, food security, health care services, and prescription drug costs for victims. Grantees reported additional support is needed for assistance with relocation expenses, childcare, financial literacy training, and legal services. The lack of access to private or public transportation in rural areas is repeatedly noted as a major hindrance to victims attempting to flee violence and also for the service providers trying to help them escape. These services and supports are critical to assisting victims in establishing safety and self-sufficiency for themselves and their children.

The lack of confidentiality and anonymity is an ongoing issue in rural areas. Grantees report that they struggle with engaging victims in services because of this issue.

> Survivors living in a rural community face additional barriers when trying to leave an abusive or unsafe situation. Since rural communities are typically small, many residents know one other making it difficult for survivors trying to access services. Finding confidential services within the community is a challenge and are usually limited or require transportation.
>
> ***—Clackamas Women's Services, Oregon***

Finally, grantees reported on the continued need for new and expanded early intervention and education programs for youth, particularly in the area of teen dating violence, sexual assault, and cyberstalking. Educational programs also need to be updated on a regular basis to keep current with new methods and technologies used for abuse.

> Each school year there is a new group of teenagers that need to be educated on the issue of adolescent dating abuse so ongoing education is crucial. The Center for Healthy Teen Relationships is working to improve and expand the existing curricula to encompass sexual assault for high school teens transitioning to post-high school activities.
>
> ***—Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence***

Grants to State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions; and Sexual Assault Services Program for State and Territorial Coalitions

The Grants to State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program (State and Territorial Coalitions Program) and Sexual Assault Services Program for State and Territorial Coalitions (SASP – State and Territorial Coalitions Program) fund state-level domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions to coordinate victim service activities, collaborate and coordinate with relevant federal, state, territorial, and local entities, and support the maintenance and expansion of state and territorial sexual assault coalitions.

State sexual assault coalitions and state domestic violence coalitions have played a critical role in advancing the goals of VAWA, serving as a collective voice to end violence against women through collaboration with federal, state, and local organizations. 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 have played a critical role in advancing the goals of VAWA.

Statewide sexual assault coalitions provide direct support to member rape crisis centers through funding, training and technical assistance, public awareness activities, and public policy advocacy. Statewide domestic violence coalitions provide comparable support to member domestic violence shelters and other domestic violence victim service providers. In some states and territories, these supportive services are provided through a dual sexual assault and domestic violence coalition.

By statute, funds under the State and Territorial Coalitions Program may be used for the following purposes:

- Coordinating state and territorial victim services activities
- Collaborating and coordinating with federal, state, territorial and local entities engaged in violence against women activities

Examples of activities that may be supported by the State and Territorial Coalitions Program are as follows:

- Providing training and technical assistance to member agencies
- Expanding the technological capacity of coalitions and/or member agencies
- Developing or enhancing appropriate standards of services for member programs, including culturally appropriate services to underserved populations
- Conducting statewide, regional and/or community-based meetings or workshops for victim advocates, survivors, legal service providers, and criminal justice representatives
- Bringing local programs together to identify gaps in services and to coordinate activities
- Increasing the representation of underserved populations in coordination activities, including providing financial assistance to organizations that serve underserved communities to participate in planning meetings, task forces, committees, etc.
- Engaging in activities that promote coalition building at the local and/or state level
- Coordinating federal, state, territorial and/or local law enforcement agencies to develop or enhance strategies to address identified problems

Grant funds awarded under the SASP – State and Territorial Coalitions Program support the maintenance and expansion of state and territorial sexual assault coalitions. Activities supported may include:

- Working with local sexual assault programs and other providers of direct services to encourage appropriate responses to sexual assault within the state or territory
- Working with judicial and law enforcement agencies to encourage appropriate responses to sexual assault cases
- Working with courts, child protective services agencies, and children's advocates to develop appropriate responses to child custody and visitation issues when sexual assault has been determined to be a factor
- Designing and conducting public education campaigns

- Planning and monitoring the distribution of grants and grant funds to their state or territory
- Collaborating with and informing federal, state, and local public officials and agencies to develop and implement policies to reduce or eliminate sexual assault

> The Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS) was considering changes to the Families First Program (TANF) including . . . a lifetime disqualification from the program after the third sanction and reducing the amount of time a family can get transitional childcare from 18 to 12 months. The coalition surveyed domestic violence shelters to collect information about how these proposed changes would impact survivors' ability to achieve self-sufficiency. The coalition met with the DHS commissioner and presented the survey results. As a result, the commissioner agreed to make an exception to the sanction policy for victims of domestic violence and tabled the proposal to shorten the transition childcare program.
>
> ***—Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence***
>
> Under the SASP portion of this award, HCASA collaborated [for the first time] with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and the Oahu Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) to develop a training video to enhance the response of beat officers to cases involving adult sexual assault victims. . . . HPD will be using the video to train new recruits and beat officers so there will be more continuity between a victim's first contact with the beat officer and the transfer of the case to a Sex Crimes Unit detective. SATC [will] use the video as a training tool during the sexual assault training class at the police academy.
>
> ***—Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault***

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **90** individual State and Territorial Coalitions Program grantees[228] for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **87**
- January–June 2012: **88**
- July–December 2012: **84**
- January–June 2013: **86**

Thirty-seven percent of the grantees reporting were domestic violence coalitions, **37** percent were sexual assault coalitions, and **26** percent were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.

[228] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Staff

State and Territorial Coalitions Program-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end domestic and sexual violence and hold offenders accountable.

Grantees most often used funds to support program coordinators and administrators.

Table 63. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by State and Territorial Coalitions Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**86**	**88**	**84**	**84**
Total FTE staff funded	**121**	**131**	**120**	**118**
Program coordinators	35	39	37	43
Administrators	33	35	32	29
Support staff	16	18	15	14
Technical assistance provider	8	9	9	9
Communications specialist	8	7	8	6
Trainers	6	10	6	4
Systems advocate	5	4	4	5

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> The Outreach Advocacy Coordinator position has allowed us to work on identifying and addressing the needs of historically underserved survivors of sexual and domestic violence and their children, especially immigrant survivors, survivors with limited English proficiency, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) survivors, survivors of color, and survivors in rural communities.
>
> ***—South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault***

Training

As states, territories, and communities develop coordinated responses to reduce violence against women, high-quality training is of paramount importance in the development of effective strategies. Grantees train coalition members and other professionals to improve their response to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and to increase offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were advocate response to victims; confidentiality; safety planning for victims; collaboration; coordinated community response; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; outreach to diverse/underserved populations; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; law enforcement response; and mandatory reporting requirements.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **88** (98 percent of grantees)[229]
- Total number of training events: **4,734**
- Total number of people trained: **127,180**

Table 64. People trained with State and Territorial Coalitions Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N =127,180)	
Position	Number	Percent
Victim advocates	43,102	34
Multidisciplinary	23,589	19
Law enforcement officers	10,505	8
Health professionals	5,374	4
Child welfare workers/children's advocates	4,906	4
Mental health professionals	3,821	3
Educators	3,451	3
Attorneys/law students	3,389	3

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

When the Regional Mobile SANE programs ceased providing SANE services, FRIS provided extensive technical assistance to four hospitals by providing face-to-face emergency department trainings, development of independent study materials to help physicians learn more about the collection of evidence and the forensic medical exam, help with protocol development for one of the hospitals and answering questions about best practices in regard to the collection of forensic samples and the needs of victims throughout the process.

—West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information Services

[229] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> This year we highlighted the training on immigration, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking directed to newly-appointed state prosecutors. We started this effort last year with training on the psychosocial aspects of the prosecutor's intervention with victims and survivors in order to facilitate and improve services. We continued this year with a specialized training in order to better serve the immigrant community on the Island.
>
> ***—Coordinatora Paz Para La Mujer, Puerto Rico***

Technical Assistance

State and Territorial Coalitions Program 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. The goal of technical assistance is to improve the response of professionals and organizations to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by improving organizational infrastructure; developing, revising, and implementing policies, protocols and procedures; and providing materials on relevant issues.

The most common topics of technical assistance were response to domestic violence and sexual assault victims, developing or enhancing culturally appropriate services for underserved populations, coordinated community response, curricular and training issues, program development, safety planning, state and local policies and practices, and program development.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for technical assistance: **84** (93 percent of grantees) [230]
- Total number of technical assistance site visits: **3,216**
- Total number of technical assistance consultations: **126,015**
- Total technical assistance (site visits and consultations): **129,231**

[230] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> Quite simply, we could not continue to build a statewide system of sexual assault services without state coalitions program funding. The executive director and statewide rape crisis coordinator . . . provide continuous technical assistance, policy development, education, and coalition-building to enhance services for survivors. [They] have worked very closely with the Department of Health to enhance funding for rural and new sexual assault providers to achieve funding equity for providers. They also use state-specific data to increase understanding about sexual violence and service needs among policy [makers] and lawmakers throughout New Mexico.
>
> ***—New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs***
>
> MCEDV has provided consultation and technical assistance to domestic violence resource centers that are working with community partners to develop high-risk response teams in their use of risk assessment as well as in the enhanced coordinated community response. Maine has gone from having no high-risk response teams one year ago to having teams being developed in seven of eight districts—with the final district expected to come on this fall. Reports are that these teams are improving responses in victim safety and in system coordination.
>
> ***—Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence***

Products

State and Territorial Coalitions Program grantees develop and revise a variety of products for distribution, including brochures, manuals, training curricula and materials, newsletters, and videos. The purpose of the products is to provide standardized information to professionals and organizations about sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The target audiences for the products include member organizations and other local, statewide, and tribal agencies that address sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking; the general public; and victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for products: **59** (66 percent of grantees)[231]
- Total number of products developed or revised: **1,344**
- Total number of products used or distributed: **3,297,790**[232]

[231] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once, even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[232] This number includes 2,522,217 website page views.

The Resource and Technology Coordinator has developed or enhanced awareness materials on our agency's ADA compliant website for persons that read and speak languages other than English, including Spanish, French, Russian, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, and ASL. She has also developed or enhanced website resources specific to LGBTQI and older populations.

—Ohio Domestic Violence Network

The State Coalition Grant supports the annual Report on Domestic Violence Fatalities in Pennsylvania. . . . PCADV's fatality report is the only comprehensive report with this information. Without it, the big picture and the devastating impact would be lost on law enforcement and policy makers who have the power to implement effective intervention and prevention strategies.

—Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Underserved Populations

Grantees use funds to develop or enhance standards of service for populations that are underserved because of geographic location (e.g., rural isolation), underserved racial and ethnic populations, underserved because of sexual orientation or gender identity, populations that are underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, immigrant status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the state planning process in consultation with the Attorney General. Grantees identify underserved populations, develop materials for underserved populations, organize caucuses to increase participation by members of underserved populations, and initiate other activities as the need becomes apparent.

- Number of individual grantees using funds to address underserved populations: **83** (92 percent of grantees)[233]

Grantees also used funds to identify gaps in services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence who were members of underserved populations. Grantees used funds to support training and technical assistance on conducting outreach, providing appropriate and accessible services for underserved victims, and providing appropriate responses by the criminal justice system to the unique needs of these victims.

[233] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> The Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence has provided extensive technical assistance and training to a developing culturally-specific domestic violence program. . . . This organization is a much-needed resource for mono-lingual and bi-lingual Spanish-speaking victims of domestic and dating violence and stalking in the Denver-metro area. Technical assistance has included multiple site visits, policy and procedure development, information on nonprofit management and governance, Colorado laws, confidentiality, mandated reporting of child abuse, board training, on-call advocate training, funding application review, support and mentoring.
>
> ***—Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence***

Remaining Areas of Need

State and Territorial Coalitions Program grantees frequently report that lack of economic self-sufficiency is a barrier to victims achieving stability and security. Other specific needs include access to transitional and permanent housing, reliable transportation, and employment opportunities.

Grantees documented the importance of training professionals, including law enforcement, court personnel, health care workers, and other service providers, to respond to and work effectively with victims. Ongoing staff development for victim advocates was also mentioned as being vital to providing the best-quality services to victims.

> The issues facing survivors are becoming increasingly complex and often involve multiple systems and issues. It is critical for domestic violence advocates to receive the training, technical assistance, and support necessary to provide evolving services to best meet the needs of survivors.
>
> ***—New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence***
>
> One of the most significant areas of need . . . is education for court staff, law enforcement, and other criminal justice partners on evidence collection and prosecution of perpetrators. . . . This remains a significant need in the State of Florida, as there is limited funding for intensive and specialized training, particularly for prosecutors.
>
> ***—Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence***

Consistently cited by coalitions is the need for enhanced offender accountability, with a particular emphasis on sex-offender management and batterer intervention programs. Many also cite a need for additional prevention education in schools.

> Offender accountability remains an important issue. Sex offender management continues to be a critical issue in communities across Washington. The Coalition as well as local service providers must continue to be a part of conversations regarding sex offender management.
>
> ***—Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs***
>
> An extremely significant area of remaining need is for rape prevention education throughout all levels of education. The evidence-based curricula approved by the Centers for Disease Control could have an enormous effect (over time) on how sexual violence is viewed and how we treat victims and offenders.
>
> ***—Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault***

Another need frequently reported is for new, enhanced services for underserved populations, especially for victims who are LGBTQ, disabled, immigrant, or live in rural communities.

> People from varied backgrounds (such as disabilities, LGBTQI, mental health, male victimization, and substance abuse) are experiencing a need for well-trained individuals to provide trauma-informed care. The turn-over rate of professionals in our field is common, and the training needs of advocacy programs has been highlighted as something that could be beneficial if provided online and in quarterly increments to ensure proper training and on-going refresher training for staff with varied amounts of time in the field.
>
> ***—Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault***
>
> One need of advocacy and training identified by domestic violence programs is assistance with immigrant victims. Language, culture, and immigration status are barriers for immigrant victims who need help and do not know where to turn or who to trust. Intervention by law enforcement and immigration authorities can be harmful to the well-being of immigrant victims and their families.
>
> ***—Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence***

Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program[234]

The Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program (Supervised Visitation Program) provides an opportunity for communities to support 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 are 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. Activities funded under this grant program must reflect equal regard for the safety of children as well as adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

The goals of the program are to ensure the safety of adult victims and their children during supervised visits and exchanges.

The Supervised Visitation Program provides funding to state and local units of government as well as Indian tribal governments to develop new supervised visitation and exchange services or enhance existing services. Grantees are required to develop community-based consulting committees to plan and implement safe visitation and exchange services and to effectively train project staff and volunteers to address the unique needs of target populations. Grantees must build their work around an understanding of family violence, and they are required to establish minimum safety and security measures at their visitation and exchange sites. In addition, grantees are required to develop and implement standards, policies, and procedures regarding security, intake, case referral, recordkeeping, and confidentiality.

[234] VAWA 2013 reauthorization of funds replaced the Supervised Visitation and Court Improvements Programs with a new grant program entitled Grants to Support Families in the Justice System. The purpose of this consolidated program is to improve civil and criminal justice system response to families with histories of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse.

A victim who did not speak English was told by Child Protective Services (CPS) that they would take her child away if the batterer was in the home. . . . The [visitation] center was able to provide a connection for the mother to an MOU partner who provides services in her language and [spoke] with the CPS investigator about options for family violence victims and the unintended consequences for victims when they are labeled as noncompliant in the CPS system. The center then was able to bring these larger issues of how CPS safety plans often are in conflict with a family court order to the larger CCR to discuss how services can be better implemented.

—Dallas County, Texas

Advocates have direct access to judges in settings in which judges feel more comfortable accepting feedback about how victims experience court procedures. One of the Judges on our Core Planning Group, referred to this particular aspect of the experience as "transformative," referring to the beliefs she re-examined as an outcome of her involvement in the planning and implementation process.

—Multnomah County Family Court Services, Oregon

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **100** individual Supervised Visitation Program grantees[235] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

***Six** percent of Supervised Visitation Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

- July–December 2011: **86**
- January–June 2012: **81**
- July–December 2012: **95**
- January–June 2013: **85**

Six percent of Supervised Visitation Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified approximately **8** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

[235] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one six-month reporting period.

Staff

Supervised Visitation Program-funded staff provide supervised visitation and safe exchange for children, develop community consulting committees, and establish statewide training and technical assistance projects to increase supervised visitation and safe exchange options.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support supervision staff and program/center coordinators.

Table 65. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Supervised Visitation Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**69**	**69**	**73**	**71**
Total FTE staff funded	**142**	**136**	**147**	**135**
Supervision staff	59	58	57	59
Program/center coordinators	45	39	43	37
Administrators	18	16	20	19
Security	11	14	19	11

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> The Supervised Exchange and Parenting Time Program hired an Hispanic staff member fluent in Spanish. This was due to an increasing Hispanic client population who, at times, were more comfortable speaking in their native language. This hire also allowed the program to translate the Welcome Package and forms in order to be client friendly to Spanish speakers.
>
> ***—El Paso County, Colorado***

Training

Supervised Visitation Program grantees train law enforcement, court staff, legal staff, guardians ad litem, victim advocates, social service agency staff, and child welfare workers to help them improve the response to children and families with a history of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or child abuse. The training is designed to help agencies and staff give equal

The training is designed to help agencies and staff give equal regard to the safety and best interests of children and their non-offending parents.

regard to the safety and best interests of children and their non-offending parents, given that the period immediately following separation can be a time of heightened danger both for adult victims of domestic violence and for their children. For those grantees operating visitation centers that were originally created to focus exclusively on the needs of the child, grant funding has enabled them to train their staff to account for domestic violence and meet the safety needs of *all* family members so that children may maintain a relationship with the non-custodial parent in a safe and secure environment.

The most common topics for training events were supervised visitation and exchange; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; dynamics relating to non-offending parents and offending parents; collaboration; safety planning; and parenting issues.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training and/or staff development: **75** (75 percent of grantees)[236]
- Total number of training events: **384**
- Total number of people trained: **5,996**

> Family Visitation Center (FVC) staff provided training to the 11th Judicial Circuit Judges [regarding] FVC services offered, court report policy, resources for families, dynamics of DV, effects of DV on children, behaviors of batterers observed in supervised visitation/exchanges, and communication between the court and the FVC. Evaluation results showed the judges were satisfied with the FVC services provided and they were interested in further trainings provided by FVC staff. Referrals from the courts increased after the training.
>
> ***—McLean County, Illinois***

Table 66. People trained with Supervised Visitation Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 5,996)	
Position	Number	Percent
Multidisciplinary group	1,066	18
Victim advocate	705	12
Court personnel	483	8
Child welfare workers/children's advocates	419	7
Social service organization staff	408	7
Attorney/law student	396	7

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

[236] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Staff Development

Grantees train their staff to increase the safety of families during supervised visitation and exchange; staff are also trained about sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child abuse.

- Total number of staff development events: **684**
- Total number of staff attending staff development events: **867**[237]

> We trained staff on how to view violent offenders through lenses that would promote non-defensive interchanges. This issue was developed to challenge staff to be personally reflective and honest about their feelings, thoughts, and behaviors in the visitation space. As staff, we regularly discuss the decisions we make regarding families and make sure they are aligned with the Safe Haven guiding principles and our policies.
>
> ***—Saint Louis County, Minnesota***

Policies

Supervised Visitation Program grantees develop and implement policies and procedures regarding security and safety, intake, case referral, documentation, and confidentiality.

- Number of individual grantees using Supervised Visitation Program funds to develop or implement policies: **83** (83 percent of grantees)[238]

In general, the policies most commonly developed, revised, or implemented with Supervised Visitation Program funds included center operation procedures such as recordkeeping and report writing; confidentiality; flexible hours of operation; service provision procedures such as court feedback procedures, supervised exchange procedures, service termination procedures and appropriate responses to underserved populations; and various safety and security measures.

Grantees report specifically on the development, substantial revision or implementation of policies designed to enhance the safety and security for children and adult victims using the supervised visitation and safe exchange programs. Listed below are the ten most frequently reported safety measures employed by grantees.

[237] This is not necessarily an unduplicated count. Individual staff members may attend multiple staff development events across reporting periods.
[238] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Security measures such as cameras, staff, etc.
- Staggered arrival/departure times
- Different entrances for parties
- Private, secure entrances for children and custodial parents
- Escort for children and custodial parent
- Private, secure drop-off location for children
- Security guards
- Security staff observations
- Panic buttons
- Metal detectors

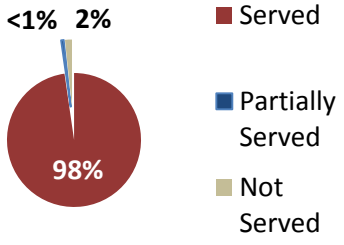
Services

Supervised Visitation Program grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking and their children. New grantees spend the first 12 months of their project conceptualizing and developing supervised visitation and exchange services through a collaborative process, and they begin providing services only after completing all planning activities. Services include one-to-one supervised visits, group supervised visits, and supervised exchanges.

- Number of individual grantees using funds to provide services to families: **60** (60 percent of grantees)[239]
- Supervised Visitation Program grantees provided services to an average of **2,294** families in a 6-month reporting period.[240]

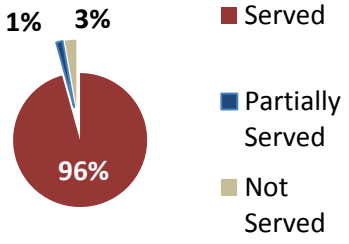
[239] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period. Grantees not reporting the provision of services were most likely engaged in planning and development activities.
[240] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Families Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **2,451** families sought services from Supervised Visitation Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,410** (98 percent) families were served or partially served and **41** (2 percent) families were not served.

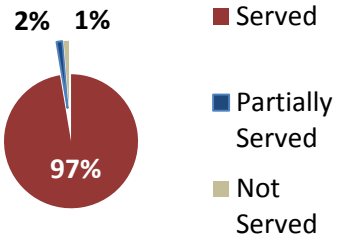


January–June 2012:

- **2,584** families sought services from Supervised Visitation Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,513** (97 percent) families were served or partially served and **71** (3 percent) families were not served.

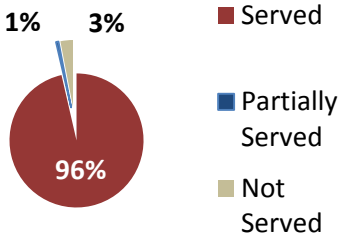
July–December 2012:

- **2,239** families sought services from Supervised Visitation Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,211** (99 percent) families were served or partially served and **28** (1 percent) families were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **2,104** families sought services from Supervised Visitation Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,040** (97 percent) families were served or partially served and **64** (3 percent) families were not served.



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents families who received some service(s) but not all of the services they requested, if those services were funded under the Supervised Visitation Program grant. "Not Served" represents families who sought services and did not receive the services(s) they were seeking, if those services were funded under the Supervised Visitation Program grant.

Reasons Families Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Family was not accepted into program[241]
- Program rules were not acceptable to the family
- Hours of operation
- Program reached capacity
- Services were not appropriate for party(ies)
- Transportation problems

For those families who were not accepted into the program, grantees reported data on the following reasons:

Table 67. Families not accepted into Supervised Visitation Program by reason not accepted

	Number
Client unwilling to agree with program rules	60
Too dangerous	17
Conflict of interest	2

Demographics of Families Served and Partially Served

Collectively, supervised Visitation Program grantees served or partially served an average of **2,294** families in each 6-month reporting period.[242] The majority of custodial parents were **white**, **female**, between the ages of **25 and 59**, with children between the ages of **newborn to 6**. Non-custodial parents were most likely to be **white, male,** and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

[241] 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.
[242] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 68. Demographic characteristics of parents and children served by Supervised Visitation Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
Custodial parents				
American Indian or Alaska Native	59	64	32	31
Asian	59	58	51	47
Black or African-American	332	335	282	271
Hispanic or Latino	341	338	273	241
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	8	11	8
White	1,612	1,685	1,579	1,454
Unknown	61	78	35	23
Non custodial parents				
American Indian or Alaska Native	55	54	46	36
Asian	54	50	41	37
Black or African-American	366	359	320	335
Hispanic or Latino	359	374	299	259
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	7	8	11	11
White	1,548	1,606	1,498	1,353
Unknown	55	81	38	25
Children				
American Indian or Alaska Native	107	87	86	69
Asian	100	99	85	72
Black or African-American	559	557	496	545
Hispanic or Latino	617	645	529	433
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	12	8	15	13
White	2,352	2,426	2,293	2,179
Unknown	141	116	69	57
Gender				
Custodial parents				
Female	1,913	2,033	1,759	1,611
Male	499	484	458	437
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Non custodial parents				
Female	512	513	485	479
Male	1,889	1,996	1,720	1,553
Unknown	7	0	0	0
Children				
Female	1,767	1,851	1,627	1,600

Table 68. Demographic characteristics of parents and children served by Supervised Visitation Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Male	1,875	1,898	1,700	1,549
Unknown	1	1	2	9
Age				
Custodial parents				
13–17	3	10	6	7
18–24	300	393	288	256
25–59	2,030	2,061	1,892	1,766
60+	21	27	21	15
Unknown	58	26	10	4
Non custodial parents				
13–17	3	14	5	5
18–24	255	313	222	202
25–59	2,064	2,137	1,944	1,801
60+	20	13	22	19
Unknown	66	32	12	5
Children				
0–6	1,841	2,020	1,686	1,582
7–12	1,440	1,379	1,268	1,271
13–17	355	332	365	291
18–24	5	6	8	5
25–59	0	0	1	1
Unknown	2	13	1	8
Other [243]				
People with disabilities	314	414	372	395
People with limited English proficiency	300	359	252	193
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	279	295	221	207
People who live in rural areas	1,527	1,724	1,559	1,607

NOTE: Data includes families who were fully or partially served. Because some individuals identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of custodial parents, non-custodial parents, and children served.

Families Referred to Supervised Visitation or Safe Exchange Programs

Grantees report on the referral source and primary victimization for all families they serve or partially serve.[244]

[243] Includes custodial parents, non-custodial parents and children.

Table 69. Number of families using supervised visitation or safe exchange by primary victimization and referral source for all four reporting periods

Referral Source	Number of families	Sexual assault	Domestic violence	Stalking	Child abuse
Child welfare agency	203	17	72	6	108
Other social service	89	5	60	2	22
Criminal court order	244	20	182	2	40
Family court order	4,534	86	3,869	103	476
Juvenile court order	166	4	137	9	16
Domestic violence court order	951	7	901	5	38
Protection order	2,236	68	2,037	50	81
Other civil order	387	1	374	0	12
Mediation services	41	0	32	5	4
Self-referral	309	13	239	21	39

An unduplicated count of primary types of victimization was collected by grantees on the families served or partially served during the reporting period. A 6-month average of each victimization type is shown below:

- Domestic violence/dating violence: **1,976**
- Child abuse: **209**
- Stalking: **51**
- Sexual assault: **55**

Types of Services

Grantees reported that the following services were provided to families over the four 6-month reporting periods:[245]

- **53,457** supervised exchanges were provided to an average of **743** families
- **51,396** one-to-one supervised visits were provided to an average of **1,386** families
- **9,584** group supervised visits were conducted with an average of **257** families

[244] Families were reported once for each referral source and primary victimization in each reporting period.
[245] Families were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period.

Implementing the transition planning program has increased our case management work with the families participating in this program. Both parents and children meet with staff individually to create a plan and a network of community connections to support safe transitions. Safe 4 Us assists the family with facilitating gradual transitions according to their plan and frequent and routine follow-up is provided to the family.

—Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Dept., California

Grantees reported that the following safety and security problems occurred during supervised visitation and/or safe exchanges over the four 6-month reporting periods.[246]

- Attempted to contact other party: **206**
- Threats: **125**
- Violation of protection order: **83**
- Violence: **17**
- Security staff unavailable: **16**
- Attempted parental abductions: **9**
- Parental abductions: **1**

During each 6-month reporting period, approximately **one-third** of families receiving services completed services or services were terminated. Over **sixty** percent of the families discontinued involvement because threats ceased, there was a change in the court order, mutual agreement, or treatment was completed. **Nineteen** percent were terminated because they habitually did not keep appointments or did not comply with program rules. The remaining participants terminated services or stopped using the program at the supervisor's discretion, because the child refused to participate, or one or more of the parents were deceased, deported, incarcerated or moved out of the area.

Considerable effort was spent on providing information and support for prosecutors, probation officers, and judges to use Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange as a way to help stabilize criminal cases and provide support to victims in criminal cases. The experience has been that many victims end up not cooperating in the case because of the pressure they receive from children and perpetrators because parenting time is not taking place or because of pressure placed during exchange for parenting time. The Center offers a safe alternative that can be helpful during an especially volatile time.

—Livingston County Circuit Court, Michigan

[246] This is not necessarily an unduplicated count. Multiple incidents within each reporting period or across reporting periods may have occurred prior to termination of services according to program rules.

Community Measures

Supervised Visitation Program grantees are mandated to report parental abduction data for the entire jurisdiction receiving funds. However, grantees report difficulty in obtaining data on parental abductions[247] because many jurisdictions do not collect this information. Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, grantees reported the following number of abductions in the jurisdictions they serve:

- Criminal parental abductions: **772**
- Civil parental abductions: **1,364**

Remaining Areas of Need

Supervised Visitation grantees consistently noted that comprehensive and affordable legal representation for victims of domestic violence is crucial for families involved in civil and family court systems. Grantees noted that it is not uncommon for victims of domestic violence to lose custody of their children early on in the separation process and have little recourse for regaining custody or increasing their access to their children. Visitation centers report seeing a large number of victims as the visiting, non-custodial parent.

Additionally, Supervised Visitation grantees stated that increased training for multiple community stakeholders and engagement in a strong coordinated community response is vital. Training for judges, attorneys, court clerks, law enforcement, child protective staff, and mental health and substance abuse practitioners must occur regularly to ensure safety for victims and their children, with training areas of need including understanding tactics of post-separation violence, holding batterers accountable, and the effects of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Grantees noted that there is an increased need for culturally responsive services. Challenges identified include providing trained interpreters for non-English-speaking visiting families.

[247] Although parental abduction is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, often parental abduction constitutes a crime only in cases in which a custody order has been violated. In other states, no custody order is required for parental abduction to be considered a criminal offense. In civil cases, the court has the authority to address the welfare or the return of the child as well as to impose sanctions, such as fines or restraining orders, on parents who violate court orders. Civil remedies may also include compensation to the injured parent and/or child. Criminal courts, in contrast, focus on the offender and may issue a warrant for the arrest of the offending parent.

> In Delaware, we have seen an increase in the number of women losing custody of their children to their batterers. The unmet need has to do with lack of legal representation for these victims. CHILD, Inc. and Turning Point of People's Place II, Inc., local non-profit agencies serving families, respectively have relationships with the local law school and/or private attorneys. They have assisted victims to obtain legal representation on hearing days to secure their protection from abuse orders. This service barely scratches the surface of the need for counsel for custody and divorce cases.
>
> ***—Delaware Health and Social Services***

> There continues to be a significant need for multi-lingual services in the community, particularly when navigating the court system. Court orders are complex documents that are difficult to decipher even for native English speakers. Understanding the court order becomes further complicated if families are not proficient in English. Having translation services provided on an on-going basis (currently provided during hearings, etc.) by the court or community agencies that have the technical expertise to help the family read through the order and translate it to them in their native language, would serve to help families more easily understand court mandates over time.
>
> ***—Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Dept., California***

Economic barriers for victims including affordable housing and reliable transportation to visitation centers were seen by many Supervised Visitation grantees. Transportation barriers include the rising cost of gas, lack of public transportation systems in many areas, the long distances to travel within rural communities, and the limited income of many victims and offenders.

> Finding ways to address rural isolation is the most significant remaining need to victims that we serve. Victims and their families often face financial and transportation barriers to accessing needed services. There is a lack of housing vouchers and of affordable housing in our community; unfortunately, there are times when the victim may lose custody due to the victim's inability to find adequate, affordable housing.
>
> ***—Maine Department of Health and Human Services***

Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Grant Program

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) was created by VAWA 2005 and is the first federal funding stream dedicated solely to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. SASP encompasses four different grant programs for states and territories; tribes; state, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions; and culturally specific organizations. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g., accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, and police departments, etc.), support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault; non-offending family and household members of victims; and others affected by the sexual assault (e.g., friends, family members).

Survivors of sexual assault from culturally specific communities frequently confront unique and additional challenges when seeking assistance.

Survivors of sexual assault from culturally specific communities frequently confront unique and additional challenges when seeking assistance, such as linguistic and cultural barriers.

In order to provide the most appropriate services to such victims, the SASP Culturally Specific Grant Program (SASP–CS Program) targets nonprofit organizations that focus primarily on culturally specific communities and have experience in the area of sexual assault or partner with an organization having such expertise. The goal of the SASP–CS Program is to create, maintain, and expand sustainable sexual assault services provided by culturally specific organizations, which are uniquely situated to respond to the needs of sexual assault victims within culturally specific populations.

CPAF could not be as effective or reach as many sexual assault survivors within Asian immigrant populations, without the assistance of SASP-CS grant funds. The complex, multi-layered issues surrounding sexual assault, particularly within the Asian Pacific Islander population, is vast and requires programming, outreach, and of course competent staff specifically geared towards assisting these sexual assault survivors.

—Center for the Pacific Asian Family, California

[OVW funding] allows us to address the gaps in current services by including culturally competent advocacy services that answer to the geographical challenges met by victims of sexual assault and their families. This can only be met by creating services that travel to meet the victim. Advocacy is critical when victims find themselves without resources such as crisis intervention, counseling, housing, and other necessary emergency needs. This includes assisting victims in meeting their transportation needs to and from services.

—Sacred Spirits, Minnesota

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **23** individual SASP–CS Program grantees[248] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each period was as follows:

***Thirteen** percent of SASP–CS Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

- July–December 2011: **17**
- January–June 2012: **17**
- July–December 2012: **18**
- January–June 2013: **18**

Thirteen percent of SASP–CS Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified **22** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Seventy percent of SASP–CS Program grantees were private nonprofit organizations focused primarily on culturally specific communities that provide sexual assault services.

[248] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Thirty percent of SASP–CS Program grantees were private nonprofit organizations focused primarily on culturally specific communities that are partnering with an organization with experience in providing sexual assault services.

Table 70. Number of SASP–CS grantees serving culturally and linguistically specific populations by type of population

	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
African	0	2	1	2
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	3	5	5
Asian	3	4	5	5
Black or African-American	1	1	1	2
Deaf or hard of hearing	1	2	2	1
Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersex	5	6	5	5
Hispanic or Latino	6	7	7	7
Immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	6	10	9	9
Middle Eastern	3	3	1	3
Pacific Islander	3	3	1	2
Religious	1	2	3	3

Staff

SASP–CS Program-funded staff develop a coordinated community response, policies, and products, and provide victim services including advocacy, crisis intervention, legal assistance, court and hospital accompaniment, and transportation.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

Table 71. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by SASP–CS Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**13**	**17**	**16**	**18**
Total FTE staff funded	**19**	**25**	**22**	**26**
Victim advocates	7	11	10	7
Program coordinator	6	7	6	10
Counselor	3	3	4	4

Table 71. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by SASP–CS Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Administrators	2	3	2	4
Support staff	1	1	1	1

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> This funding allows us to provide intensive therapy for [monolingual, low-income immigrant Latina] survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse who are enduring ongoing mental health issues brought on by the traumatic event. The services are delivered by trained, compassionate staff who provide services in the language and setting appropriate to the survivors' needs.
>
> ***—Mujeres Latinas en Accion, Illinois***

Victim Services

The availability of a wide range of services to victims of sexual assault is a critical part of a coordinated community response. Victims may need crisis intervention, comprehensive support, and advocacy services that may include legal advocacy, medical and counseling services from health-care professionals, services from victim advocates, including safety planning, and accompaniment to forensic exams and to court.

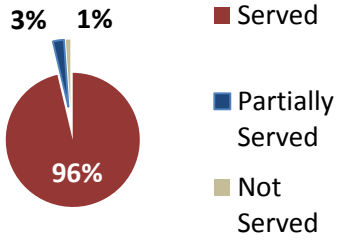
It is crucial that sexual assault services be provided in a manner that addresses specific cultural needs of victims.

It is crucial that sexual assault services be provided in a manner that addresses specific cultural needs of victims. The lack of culturally sensitive and appropriate services can pose daunting barriers to safety, justice, and healing. For example, victims may choose not to engage in services or may terminate services early if programs fail to incorporate issues of culture and language.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **23** (100 percent of grantees)[249]
- SASP–CS Program grantees provided services to an average of **549** victims of sexual assault to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[250]

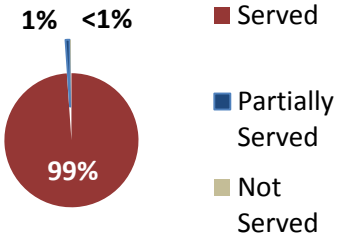
[249] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[250] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **378** victims sought services from SASP–CS Program grantees.
- Of these, **374** (99 percent) victims received services and **4** (1 percent) were not served.

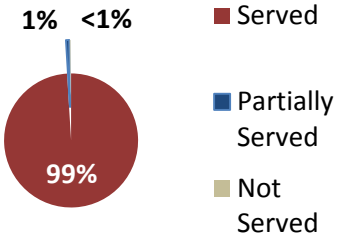


January–June 2012:

- **633** victims sought services from SASP–CS Program grantees.
- Of these, **632** (99.8 percent) victims received services and **1** (<1 percent) were not served.

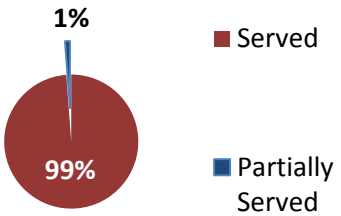
July–December 2012:

- **521** victims sought services from SASP–CS Program grantees.
- Of these, **520** (99.8 percent) victims received services, and **1** (<1 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **671** victims sought services from SASP–CS Program grantees.
- Of these, **671** (100 percent) victims received services.



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

Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Transportation
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources and priority setting

The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

Table 72. Relationship to offender of victims served by the SASP–CS Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Current/former spouse or intimate partner	142	162	106	267
Dating relationship	54	51	48	46
Other family or household member	43	114	127	163
Acquaintance	61	90	85	91
Stranger	12	83	90	156

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

SASP-CS Program grantees served or partially served an average of **549** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[251] The majority of those victims were **Hispanic or Latino, female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

[251] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 73. Demographic characteristics of victims served by SASP–CS Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	18	29	17	31
Asian	60	48	39	98
Black or African American	9	49	70	121
Hispanic or Latino	126	248	193	177
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	17	4	1
White	61	100	68	97
Unknown	99	144	134	148
Gender				
Female	292	530	433	547
Male	19	33	52	44
Unknown	63	69	35	80
Age				
0–6	5	10	15	10
7–12	6	13	17	13
13–17	50	55	35	56
18–24	43	102	57	157
25–59	158	280	201	289
60+	11	7	38	15
Unknown	101	165	157	131
Other				
People with disabilities	32	65	83	41
People who are Deaf or hard of hearing	38	32	23	3
People with limited English proficiency	131	241	161	235
People who are immigrants/ refugees/asylum seekers	107	179	134	217
People who live in rural areas	13	10	20	31

NOTE: Data include victims and children who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Secondary Victims

SASP–CS Program grantees provided services to an average of **291** secondary victims. Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by sexual assault—e.g., children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, grandparents, other affected relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Types of Victim Services

SASP–CS Program grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault. These services include victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and support group/counseling. Victims of sexual assault often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health-related issues, school-related issues, financial and transportation needs, and employment. Most victims have not been exposed to the justice system, so assistance from an advocate can help them navigate through the various legal processes.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[252]

- Counseling/support group: **1,202**
- Crisis intervention: **1,201**
- Victim advocacy: **809**
- Material assistance: **445**
- Transportation: **409**
- Language services: **249**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **229**

> With the funding we can now have staff dedicated solely to working with victims and bringing awareness to the community about sexual assault. Prior to this funding, there were no sexual assault programs that could meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Arab-American victims in New York City. . . . We also train other professionals on best practice when working with Arab-American victims . . . [and with] the development of this program, we will be able to create a model of best practice for other organizations that work with Arab-American victims of sexual assault.
>
> ***—The Arab-American Family Support Center, New York***

[252] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

Immigration Matters

Table 74. Immigration matters addressed by the SASP–CS Program grantees

	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Immigration matters (unduplicated count of victims receiving assistance in one or more categories below)	16	58	44	22
VAWA self-petition	3	13	2	2
Work authorization	0	9	15	0
U-visa	10	32	27	12
T-visa	1	1	0	2
Other immigration matters[253]	1	3	2	5

Hotline Calls

- Out of a total of **7,373** hotline calls received, nearly half (**3,086**) were received from victims.[254]

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **2,042** unsolicited letters, phone calls and/or visits to victims.[255]

> Victims are linked to support groups and receive critical immigration information, including information about their rights as victims. Victims are more connected to the criminal justice process resulting in victims cooperating with the investigation and perpetrators being held accountable. The advocacy services have resulted in increased awareness of sexual assault and an increase in referrals from the local community, family members, sexual assault providers, and law enforcement.
>
> ***—United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc., Wisconsin***

[253] Examples of "other immigration matters" include asylum, green cards, legal permanent status applications, change of status, I-75 waivers, and H4 applications.
[254] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.
[255] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.

Remaining Areas of Need

SASP–CS Program grantees most often cited culturally- and linguistically-specific community education and awareness of sexual assault as an area of remaining need. The other needs commonly cited were economic support, shelter services, housing, and transportation.

> We believe that the communities' willingness to understand and accept that sexual assault exists is needed to ensure that victims are provided with resources and support. Currently we are having a difficult time speaking to the community about sexual assault because it is a topic that is never spoken about. . . . If the community is unable to admit that it exists, it will make it difficult for victims to use their families and community as a source of support during a traumatizing time. The fact that the subject is taboo makes it difficult for victims and survivors of sexual assault to disclose or seek help.
>
> ***—The Arab American Family Support Center, New York***

> MUA staff have experienced a lot of resistance generating awareness and dialogue around the issue of sexual assault and abuse, and our crisis line. There is a significant need to acknowledge these problems and their effects on victims in the Latino community. There is so much shame and taboo around sexual assault and abuse, it is difficult for people to want to talk about it, take a flyer with information, or even sit through a presentation on the subject.
>
> ***—Mujeres Unidasy Activas, Illinois***

Grantees also consistently noted the need for services in the victim's language and increased interpretation services by qualified and trained professionals.

> One major concern the sexual assault advocate has come across in work with her clients is the lack of emergency housing for non domestic violence survivors, specifically survivors of only sexual assault. These clients are often put on the general waiting list for housing that is not as safe or confidential as DV-specific programs. Another barrier around housing is the lack of shelters for transgender clients, where policies are not clear and a shelter may discriminate against a client and not permit them into the shelter based on perceived gender.
>
> ***—Consejo Counseling and Referral Services, Washington***

> Accessing interpreters is a significant need. In some of our cases, our clients were not provided interpreters during police interactions, court hearings, and/or medical appointments. This greatly hinders their chances of leaving their abusive situation and/or being safe.
>
> ***—Asian and Pacific Islander Women and Family, Washington***

Technical Assistance Program

Since 1995, OVW's Technical Assistance Program (TA Program) has provided VAWA grantees with the training, expertise, and problem-solving strategies they need to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. OVW's technical assistance projects offer educational opportunities, conferences, peer-to-peer consultations, site visits, and tailored assistance that allows VAWA grantees and others to learn from experts and one another about how to effectively respond to crimes of violence against women.

In shaping its technical assistance program, OVW has solicited input from its grantees to ensure that training and other technical assistance is responsive to communities' needs, promotes good practices, and helps grantees implement their OVW-funded grant activities most effectively. As part of its commitment to continuous improvement, OVW seeks feedback on a regular basis from grant recipients so that technical assistance can be enhanced and refined in response to emerging issues and challenges.

The primary purpose of the OVW TA Program is to provide direct technical assistance to grantees and sub-grantees to enhance and support their efforts to successfully implement projects funded by OVW. In addition, OVW is focused on building the capacity of the criminal justice system and victim services organizations to respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to foster partnerships among organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address violence against women.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **210** individual TA Program projects located within **95** agencies for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of projects reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **174**
- January–June 2012: **143**
- July–December 2012: **170**
- January–June 2013: **164**

Staff

TA Program-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and to ensure offenders are held accountable.

Table 75. Full-time equivalent staff funded positions by Technical Assistance Program projects

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Projects using funds for staff	**142**	**135**	**153**	**153**
Total FTE staff funded	**247**	**244**	**256**	**264**

Training

Technical assistance providers (TA providers) offer training events to OVW grantees to enhance services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; to improve offender accountability; and to promote coordinated community responses to reduce violence against women. Training is delivered in person and using web-based technology.

The most common topics for training events were advocate response; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; coordinated community response; safety planning for victims; confidentiality; and law enforcement response.

- Number of individual TA Program projects using funds for training: **159** (76 percent of all projects)[256]
- Total number of training events: **3,415**
- Total number of people trained with TA Program funds: **202,195**

[256] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

This grant has been a wonderful opportunity to advance our mission and strengthen our prevention work. We are currently working with Men Stopping Violence to make their batterers intervention program model adaptable to our particular community. Thanks to technical assistance funds from this project, we were able to bring an expert from that program to train us in getting that started. It's because of grants like this one that we are able to bring quality projects to our organization to benefit the entire community.

—Enlace Comunitario, New Mexico (Engaging Men and Youth Grantee)

Two DV judges in Wake County participated in an OVW sponsored training by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. . . . One of the judges stated the following, "Attending the DV workshops through the grant process has been a rewarding experience. . . . The workshop allowed me to focus on domestic violence and how it affects the entire family, not just the parties. The same children who are the subject of custody cases are affected by domestic violence within their homes. The opportunity to learn about resources and processes that are utilized by other jurisdictions was invaluable."

—North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (Courts Grantee)

Technical Assistance

TA Program projects provide technical assistance to OVW grantees through site visits, consultations, information responses, and referrals. Technical assistance activities are provided in order to assist grantees in implementing best practices in a comprehensive and consistent manner. These activities may include providing 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.

The most common topics of technical assistance were collaboration, curricula and training issues, response to domestic violence victims, policy/protocol development, and program development.

- Number of individual TA Program projects using funds for technical assistance: **164** (78 percent of projects)[257]
- Total number of technical assistance site visits: **1,962**
- Total number of technical assistance consultations provided: **55,980**
- Total number of information request responses: **37,772**
- Total number of referrals: **9,467**

[257] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Total technical assistance activities provided: **105,181**

> Technical assistance from Vera has proven critical in revising our policies and deepening our understanding of the mission and purpose of supervised visitation programs. With the support of the Supervised Visitation Program, we were able to develop new policies, in line with national best practices.
>
> ***—City of New Orleans, LA (Supervised Visitation Grantee)***

Products

TA providers develop and revise a variety of products for distribution, including brochures, manuals, training curricula and materials, newsletters, and videos. The purpose of the products is to provide standardized best practice information to professionals and organizations about sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The target audiences for the products include member organizations and other local, statewide, and tribal agencies that address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; the general public; and victims.

- Number of individual TA Program projects using funds for products: **171** (81 percent of grantees)[258]
- Total number of products developed or revised: **7,865**
- Total number of products used or distributed: **11,271,384**[259]

> The Crossroads Transitional Housing Program has put into effect significant policy changes to [our] operating manual and application process with the assistance of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. This reporting period we were able to implement these changes and have seen a great success with incoming clients. Changing our focus to empowering individuals with complex lives to make decisions for themselves and their families has strengthened the Crossroads Transitional Housing Program.
>
> ***—Helping Services for Northeast Iowa (Transitional Housing Grantee)***

[258] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[259] This number includes 8,887,552 unique visitors to websites.

Underserved Populations

TA providers use funds to develop or enhance standards, protocols, or procedures for underserved populations and to encourage the representation of underserved populations in coordination activities. Populations may be considered underserved because of geographic location (i.e., rural isolation), composition of racial and ethnic populations, sexual orientation, gender identity, and populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, immigrant status, or age).

- Number of individual TA Program projects using funds to address underserved populations: **144** (69 percent of projects)[260]

> This award is crucial for NCALL because it allows us to work with other OVW TA providers and their grantees while also building awareness around the issue of elder abuse. NCALL is working with the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence to raise the visibility of older victims by creating materials on elder abuse to disseminate to civil attorneys, legal advocates and others.
>
> ***—National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, Wisconsin (TA Provider)***

> In the aftermath of the repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell military policy, many military advocates and providers contacted NCAVP for technical assistance on working with LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking in the military. Rural [and tribal] providers have increasingly reached out to NCAVP for assistance working with LGBTQ survivors.
>
> ***—National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects, New York (TA Provider)***

Remaining Areas of Need

TA providers noted a need for high-quality training, technical assistance, and on-going support of grantees and their community partners.

> The most significant areas of remaining need with regard to increasing victim safety and offender accountability include: 1) providing judicial training around batterer behavior and protective parenting and how these dynamics can present in the courtroom; 2) increasing government partner involvement in the grant program, the enhanced role of government in the grant program and how this increased involvement can increase safety on a community level; and 3) encouraging community and collaborative partners work together to develop services that are competent in domestic violence issues.
>
> ***—National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, Nevada (TA Provider)***

[260] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

TA providers spoke of the need to expand knowledge of, resources for, and services to underserved populations who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The most commonly identified underserved populations were American Indian, immigrants and refugees, victims with limited English proficiency, teens/juveniles, victims with disabilities, LGBT victims, and women residing in rural areas and women living in poverty.

> We are seeing ongoing problems that grantees encounter obtaining U Visa certification for their immigrant clients. Without certification eligible immigrant DV and SA victims are not able to access immigration protections. More training, materials and technical assistance are needed for police, prosecution and judicial grantees and potential grantees to promote and support U Visa certification more broadly by OVW funded agencies across the country.
>
> ***—Legal Momentum, District of Columbia (TA Provider)***
>
> The continuing issue of addressing complex jurisdictional issues has not made much headway; American Indian and Alaska Native women are still caught in a crossfire of federal, state, tribal, and county jurisdictions. Each has the authority to address and ensure the safety of Native women, but lack coordination and the will to implement and enforce existing laws and statutes necessary to curb the epidemic proportions of violence against Native women.
>
> ***—Mending the Sacred Hoop, Minnesota (TA Provider)***

Increased training and technical assistance on issues of sexual assault for key responders, such as police, was mentioned frequently as a remaining area of need. In addition, there is a need for more culturally specific and more trauma-informed services to sexual assault survivors. The need to expand services for sexual assault victims, such as transitional housing services, was also noted.

> There are challenges to creating comprehensive sexual assault services: low visibility of sexual assault services in the community, discomfort in the community with talking about sexual assault . . . and a lack of basic knowledge and experience with sexual violence. All of these issues impede victims understanding of services, desire to seek help, and available choices if they do seek help or report the violence.
>
> ***—Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (TA Provider)***

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program (Transitional Housing Program) funds programs that provide transitional housing and supportive services to victims, their children, and other dependents. Grant-funded programs provide housing units, rental vouchers, and victim-centered services such as case management, housing advocacy, counseling, job training, childcare, transportation, and other assistance.

The purpose of the Transitional Housing Program is to provide holistic, victim-centered transitional housing services that move individuals to permanent housing. Grants support programs that provide assistance to victims who are in need of transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services as a result of fleeing a situation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Successful transitional housing programs provide a wide range of flexible and optional services that reflect the differences and individual needs of victims. Transitional housing grantees offer safety planning, support groups, and advocacy services as well as practical services such as licensed childcare, transportation vouchers, telephones, and referrals to other agencies. Additional educational services in the areas of occupational training and financial literacy counseling are provided by transitional housing programs in an effort to promote economic independence and financial empowerment strategies for victims.

The purpose of the Transitional Housing Program is to provide holistic, victim-centered transitional housing services that move individuals to permanent housing.

The use of the Resident Advisory Board has been a very valuable tool in providing a voluntary service model at this facility. The residents have taken ownership of their new home and addressed the conflicts and challenges that often arise with communal living. . . . In addition, the weekly resident board meetings have offered an opportunity for the women to bond together and provide peer support to each other. These successes along with the supportive services offered through case management and community resources have truly empowered the residents. The counseling and children's activities place an emphasis on building healthy relationships and assist the children in adjusting to their new environment.

—YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

We have the capacity to assist women who are fleeing domestic violence and need to relocate into another living situation. Often, they do not have the money or credit history to obtain a lease. This grant allows assistance which in turn allows a woman to sustain her dignity by securing housing for her and her family. The grant allows a woman the ability to "re-boot" her life after domestic violence. The voluntary service model allows a woman to choose what works for her and her family and their recovery goals. How empowering! We simply did not have the resources to aid women in the way that this grant allows.

—Wings Program Inc., Illinois

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **259** individual Transitional Housing Program grantees[261] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

***Nine** percent of Transitional Housing Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

- July–December 2011: **222**
- January–June 2012: **190**
- July–December 2012: **227**
- January–June 2013: **195**

Nine percent of Transitional Housing Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations. These grantees identified

[261] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

approximately **86** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Provision of Housing

The ability to provide housing is seen by grantees as 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 an abuser.

The percentage of programs that used funds to directly support housing units rose from **67** percent in the July–December 2011 reporting period to **85** percent in the January–June 2013 reporting period.

Table 76. Number of grantees using Transitional Housing Program funds to support housing units

	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for housing units	149	147	168	166

Transitional Housing Program 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.

Table 77. Number and type of housing units funded by Transitional Housing Program grantees

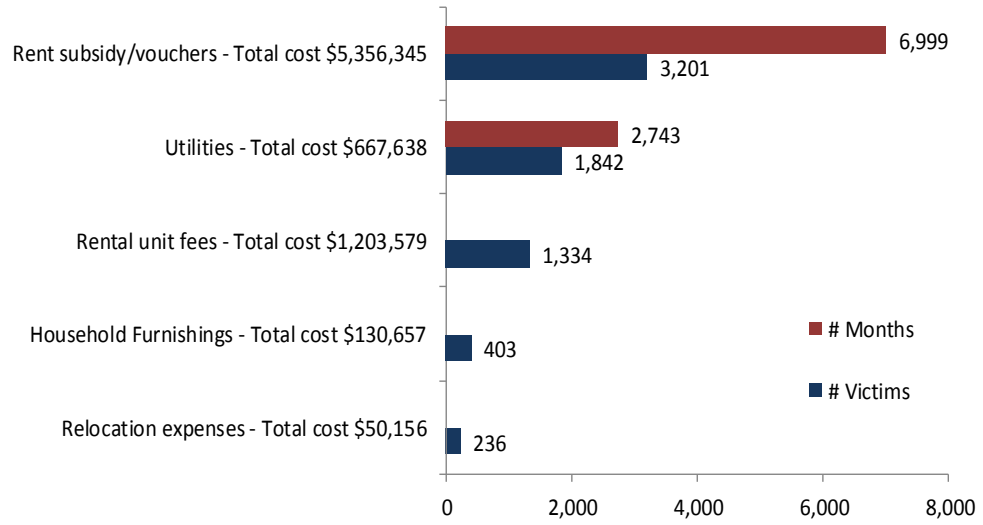
Number of units/vouchers	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Program-owned units	291	293	325	331
Program-rented units	287	335	273	250
Vouchers/rent subsidies	679	611	655	727

Housing Assistance

In addition to funding housing units, Transitional Housing Program grantees assist victims with security deposits, rental assistance, and utility payments.

> The rental assistance funding has saved victims from becoming homeless when they have no other options available for them and their children. With this funding we are able to assist survivors in a timely manner so they do not have to return to their abusers. We are able to give our clients a chance and the hope that they can start a new life free from violence.
>
> ***—Parents and Children Together, Hawaii***

Figure 16. Number of victims provided with housing assistance by the Transitional Housing Program grantees for all four reporting periods



NOTE: Victims may have received these services during each of the four 6-month reporting periods.

Increasing Accessibility of Housing and Services

Some grantees have targeted services to reach typically underserved populations. A number of programs used funds to support housing units that were accessible to people with disabilities:

- July—December 2011: **590** units
- January—June 2012: **562** units
- July—December 2012: **552** units
- January—June 2013: **521** units

Using funds to support accessible housing units allows programs to house underserved populations. Transitional Housing Program grantees have also used funds to provide services and resources to victims with limited English-language skills or who are Deaf/hard of hearing.

> Our transitional housing program remains the only accessible housing with cultural and linguistically appropriate services for Deaf and Deaf-Blind families. We accept families from other states. In addition to housing assistance, we offer DV advocacy, safety planning, immigration assistance, parenting, and independent living skills.
>
> ***—Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services, Washington***

Staff

Transitional Housing Program-funded staff provide direct services to victims, children, and other dependents, as well as program administration.

Grantees most often used funds to support case managers and program coordinators.

Table 78. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Transitional Housing Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**199**	**184**	**218**	**192**
Total FTE staff funded	**194**	**187**	**198**	**193**
Case managers	79	79	87	80
Program coordinators	29	31	30	33
Housing advocates	12	16	19	17
Transitional services advocates/coordinators	15	15	13	13
Victim advocates	17	11	11	17
Administrators	12	12	14	13

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> The program funding has allowed us to hire a full-time housing specialist that can devote her time to the housing needs of women leaving abusive relationships. The funding has allowed us to help women move into safe, permanent housing while continuing to offer services related to their sustainability and success.
>
> ***—Project Against Violent Encounters, Vermont***

> Without OVW dollars, supportive case management services focused on financial literacy and empowerment and career exploration would not exist. Since we have had a full-time position dedicated to transitional housing residents and their needs, we have been able to develop more comprehensive services and supportive opportunities for participants. Financial literacy programs or support is offered one to one or in a group format. . . . Financial abuse, budget skills, credit scores and repair, and banking services including loans, savings, home loans, and retirement strategies are reviewed.
>
> ***—Safe House of Shelby County, Alabama***

Services for Victims, Children and Other Dependents

Transitional Housing Program grantees provide a broad array of services to victims, their children, and other dependents. These services include housing and housing advocacy, case management, crisis intervention, and counseling. Transitional Housing 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 course of action that is best for them. Victims often require individualized assistance to overcome barriers to economic self-sufficiency. This assistance is a step toward housing stability for victims and their dependents.

Victims often require individualized assistance to overcome barriers to economic self-sufficiency.

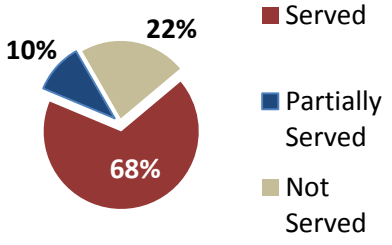
- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **253** (98 percent of grantees)[262]
- Transitional Housing Program grantees provided services to an average of **3,504** victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking and **4,318** children and other dependents to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[263]

In Johnson County, Kansas, where SAFEHOME is the only domestic violence agency serving victims of domestic violence and their children; affordable housing is in short supply. The Timitri Transitional Living Program is unique and successful in that women have the freedom to choose their permanent housing in the community. Over the 12 month period of graduated rent assistance, case management, and support, women have gained the skills and emotional strength to remain independent.

—SAFEHOME Inc., Kansas

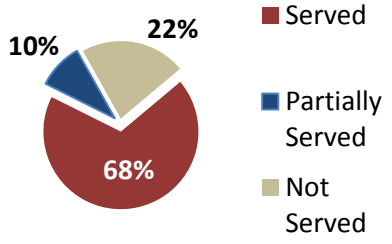
[262] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[263] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **4,435** victims sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **3,451** (78 percent) victims received services and **984** (22 percent) were not served.

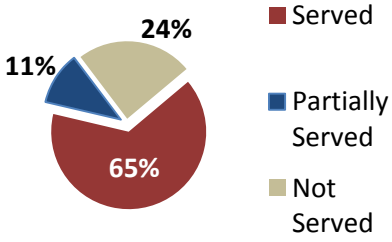


January–June 2011:

- **4,441** victims sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **3,464** (78 percent) victims received services and **977** (22 percent) were not served.

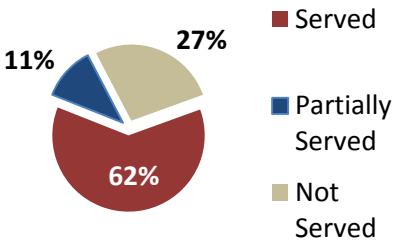
July–December 2012:

- **4,607** victims sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **3,492** (76 percent) victims received services and **1,115** (24percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **4,952** victims sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **3,610** (73 percent) victims received services and **1,342** (27percent) were not served.



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

Number of Victims, Children and Other Dependents Not Served or Partially Served Solely Because of Lack of Available Housing

Transitional Housing Program grantees using funds to support housing units are asked to report on how many victims, children, and other dependents they cannot fully serve because of capacity issues related solely to lack of available housing units.

Table 79. Number partially served or not served solely because of lack of available housing

	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Victims	878	812	861	975
Children	736	657	1,039	1,204
Other dependents	4	7	0	10

Other Reasons Victims, Children and Other Dependents Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, the greatest number of grantees noted the following barriers as reasons victims, children, and other dependents were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements
- Services not appropriate for parties
- Program rules not acceptable to parties
- Services not available for party(ies) based on family composition
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for people with substance abuse issues
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for people with mental health issues

The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner**.

Table 80. Relationship to offender of victims served by the Transitional Housing Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	2,962	3,027	2,999	3,050
Other family or household member	183	141	195	268
Acquaintance	53	47	35	52

Table 80. Relationship to offender of victims served by the Transitional Housing Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Dating relationship	323	272	292	301
Stranger	48	36	16	12

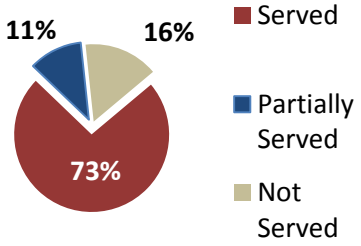
NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served. Not all reported relationships are represented in the table.

Services for Children and Other Dependents

Transitional Housing Program grantees provide housing and other supportive services including counseling, childcare, transportation, and advocacy to children and other dependents of victims who are receiving transitional housing services. Grantees respond to the needs of thousands of children each grant period, as well as other dependents that a victim may be supporting.[264]

> This project has allowed us to have more stable, safe housing and be able to engage in more comprehensive family centered services than ever before. Comprehensive family-centered treatment is a model that addresses the impact of substance use on the entire family. It is highly individualized, gender responsive, and culturally sensitive. Because comprehensive family-centered treatment accommodates whole families, women are encouraged to create healthy connections to others, especially children and family members.
>
> ***—STEP 2 Inc., Nevada***

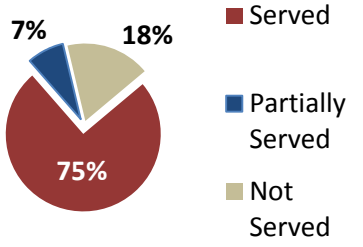
Children and Other Dependents Seeking Service



July–December 2011 (5,366 children and 104 dependents)**:**

- **5,470** children and other dependents sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **4,619** (84 percent) children and other dependents received services and **851** (16 percent) were not served.

[264] Other dependents may be people in the household that the victims are supporting, such as older relatives or adult children still living with a parent.

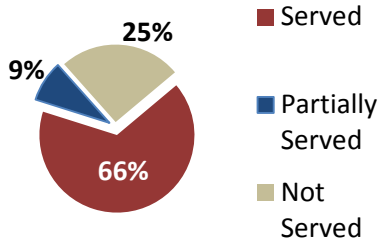


January–June 2012 (4,998 children and 79 dependents)**:**

- **5,077** children and other dependents sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **4,183** (82 percent) children and other dependents received services and **894** (18 percent) were not served.

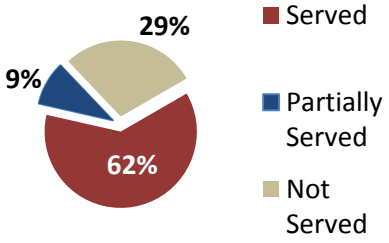
July–December 2012 (5,497 children and 82 dependents)**:**

- **5,579** children and other dependents sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **4,158** (75 percent) children and other dependents received services and **1,421** (25 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013 (5,893 children and 119 dependents)**:**

- **6,012** children and other dependents sought services from Transitional Housing Program grantees.
- Of these, **4,311** (72 percent) children and other dependents received services and **1,701** (28 percent) were not served.



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents children/other dependents who received some service(s) but not all of the services they requested, if those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant. "Not Served" represents children/other dependents who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, if those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Transitional Housing Program grantees served or partially served an average of **3,504** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[265] The majority of those victims were: **white**, **female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

Table 81. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Transitional Housing Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian and Alaska Native	277	276	242	185
Asian	115	106	141	148
Black or African-American	684	682	797	854
Hispanic or Latino	625	668	548	601
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	48	42	58	81
White	1,648	1,729	1,749	1,846
Unknown	127	65	55	70
Gender				
Female	3,377	3,436	3,442	3,574
Male	35	27	47	24
Unknown	39	1	3	12
Age				
13–17	5	8	1	2
18–24	536	566	520	515
25–59	2,763	2,829	2,858	3,010
60+	50	47	74	49
Unknown	97	14	39	34
Other				
People with disabilities	558	788	622	648
People with limited English proficiency	483	471	458	469
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	425	402	422	462
People who live in rural areas	788	1,021	1,042	874

NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, the number of race/ethnicities reported may exceed the total number of victims served.

[265] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Demographics of Children and Other Dependents Served and Partially Served

Table 82. Demographic characteristics of children and other dependents served by Transitional Housing Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
Children				
American Indian and Alaska Native	422	365	331	181
Asian	115	103	142	147
Black or African-American	1,089	1,042	1,258	1,303
Hispanic or Latino	1,133	1,066	927	946
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	95	99	98	141
White	1,666	1,454	1,467	1,620
Unknown	163	81	46	130
Other dependents				
American Indian and Alaska Native	9	2	7	4
Asian	3	0	7	9
Black or African-American	29	28	22	35
Hispanic or Latino	21	8	12	23
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	6	3	5	4
White	41	34	29	41
Unknown	1	1	2	4
Gender				
Children				
Female	2,260	2,103	2,044	2,038
Male	2,179	2,003	2,019	2,080
Unknown	80	6	15	80
Other dependents				
Female	60	38	38	62
Male	40	33	40	51
Unknown	0	0	2	0
Age				
Children				
0–6	2,174	2,055	1,992	2,056

Table 82. Demographic characteristics of children and other dependents served by Transitional Housing Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
7–12	1,508	1,402	1,350	1,392
13–17	747	632	713	715
Unknown	90	23	23	35
Other dependent				
18–24	81	63	67	99
25–59	11	7	9	8
60+	6	1	1	2
Unknown	2	0	3	4
Other				
Children				
Children with disabilities	192	161	176	153
Children with limited English proficiency	295	270	254	211
Children who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	224	133	155	133
Children who live in rural areas	1,074	961	946	745
Other dependents				
Dependents with disabilities	10	9	14	17
Dependents with limited English proficiency	14	6	3	10
Dependents who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	9	9	5	7
Dependents who live in rural areas	25	19	24	22

NOTE: Data include children and other dependents who were fully or partially served. Because some children or other dependents identify with more than one race/ethnicity, the number of races/ethnicities reported may exceed the total number of children or other dependents served.

Types of Victim Services

Transitional Housing Program grantees provided an array of support services designed to enable victims who are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking, to locate and secure permanent housing. Economic stability is required for victims to maintain stable housing for themselves and their children. In order to assist victims in achieving long-term economic security, grant programs often provide services to assist

families in healing from abuse and integrating into the community. Grantees provided crisis counseling, case management, housing advocacy, transportation, counseling, childcare services, financial counseling, employment counseling, children's activities, and educational assistance to victims, their children, and other dependents.

Grantees reported that the following support services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[266]

- Case management: **11,875**
- Housing advocacy: **8,091**
- Counseling/support group: **7,750**
- Other victim advocacy: **6,887**
- Crisis intervention: **6,733**
- Material assistance**: 6,391**
- Financial counseling: **6,074**

> The Transitional Housing Program funding allowed us to create a Transitional Living Program to provide services and support to clients that have reached that final step of housing and independent living. . . . Transitional housing within the community, including wrap around services, has allowed many women to thrive in their self-sufficiency. We created a scattered site model for housing, formed relationships within the community to source housing inventory, designated a case manager to work with clients in the program, provided support with childcare subsidy and successfully transitioned 27 families into apartments and jobs.
>
> ***—House of Ruth, Inc., California***

The ability of victims to provide financially for themselves, their children, and other dependents can lead to long term stability and security, including maintaining permanent housing. Programs funded by Transitional Housing Program grants can provide more than crisis counseling; they can give the victim the time and support needed to establish economic self-sufficiency.

Types of Services for Children and Other Dependents

Children who have lived with domestic violence in the home may need support to help them understand and cope with such violence, and other supports to help them develop socially, behaviorally, emotionally, and academically. Programs that provide case management and advocacy

[266] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

services to children can increase access to health, mental health, and other services tailored to individual children. Some programs provided direct services designed to increase children's social and emotional development, such as support groups and children's activities. Other services provided include transportation, childcare, and clothing.

The most frequently reported support (not a complete list) provided to children and other dependents by Transitional Housing Program funded grantees over the four 6-month reporting periods:[267]

- Case management: **8,294**
- Material assistance: **5,447**
- Children's activities: **5,224**
- Other victim advocacy: **3,890**
- Crisis intervention: **3,311**
- Childcare: **3,141**
- Counseling/support group: **3,059**

Transitional Housing and Destination upon Exit

Transitional housing grant funds can be used to house victims for up to 18 months.[268] After their stay in grant-funded housing, victims most often were reported as moving to permanent housing of their choice.

Table 83. Number of victims in each destination category upon their exit[269]

Destination upon exit	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Permanent housing of choice (Section 8, return to home, rent or purchase housing)	327	397	392	337
Temporary housing with family or friend	75	75	62	66
Transitional housing (other than grant-funded program)	21	9	13	26
Domestic violence emergency shelter	12	5	11	4

[267] Children and/or other dependents were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, children and/or other dependents may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are represented.
[268] By statute, a grantee may waive the 18-month restriction for no more than 6 months for victims who have made good-faith efforts to acquire permanent housing and have been unable to acquire permanent housing. This restriction was extended to 24 months by VAWA 2005. The 6-month waiver provisions still apply.
[269] Only the most frequently reported destinations are presented.

Victims' Perception of Risk of Violence Upon Exit

Victims most often reported perceiving a lower risk of future violence upon their exit from transitional housing.

Table 84. Number of victims who indicated each of the following perceptions about their risk of violence upon exit

Perception about the risk of future violence	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Lower risk of violence	344	429	397	374
Equal risk of violence	30	28	27	25
Greater risk of violence	1	6	7	6
Does not know	22	13	22	23
Unknown (did not ask victim)	93	57	82	54

Follow-up Support Services

If grantees use funds for housing units and supportive services, grantees must provide a minimum of three months follow-up support 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.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for follow-up services: **214** (83 percent of grantees)[270]

The following types of funded follow-up services were most often reported (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:

Victims:

- Case management: **1,722**
- Counseling/support group: **684**
- Housing advocacy: **680**
- Material assistance: **676**
- Other victim advocacy: **664**
- Crisis intervention: **573**
- Financial counseling: **535**

[270] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Children and other dependents:

- Case management: **1,416**
- Material assistance: **648**
- Children's activities: **418**
- Crisis intervention: **387**
- Counseling/support group: **375**
- Other victim advocacy: **301**
- Transportation: **292**
- Housing advocacy: **289**

Case management services are provided to any participants who exit the program. Persons exiting the program are encouraged to maintain contact with the case worker in case any further supportive services are needed. Many clients exiting the program were transferred to a similar permanent housing program staffed by the same employees, which was helpful in preserving the therapeutic relationships already formed and maintaining continuity of care.

—START Corporation, Louisiana

Funding from Transitional Housing has allowed survivors and their children to receive ongoing support and advocacy after their crisis, on their journey to self-sufficiency. By being able to provide long term wrap around services we are able to support them and further their progress toward self-sufficiency and independence.

—Project Dove, Oregon

Remaining Areas of Need

Transitional Housing Program grantees cited the lack of affordable housing as one of the greatest challenges in the path to economic self-sufficiency. Long waiting lists of up to two years for low-income housing posed a significant barrier for victims fleeing abuse. Grantees frequently listed that the shortage of money for security deposits, utilities, and moving expenses hindered victims when trying to secure permanent housing of choice.

Transitional housing grantees also noted that for many victims this may be the first time they have lived independently. For this reason, programs described a variety of educational needs for victims, particularly in the areas of securing employment, financial literacy, building credit, and other tools essential for economic empowerment. In addition to housing and educational needs, grantees reported lack of transportation as a significant barrier to attaining self-sufficiency. Victims need reliable and convenient transportation to maintain employment, attend school and to travel to court and medical appointments. In order to be able to work or attend school, victims also need access to safe and affordable childcare services.

> Victims of domestic violence continue to struggle with economic self-sufficiency and locating affordable permanent housing. Job development programs remain a high-level need for this population; 1736 Family Crisis Center has developed a 12-module, job-development course . . . teaching skills such as writing resumes, as well as learning the emotional tools needed to secure a job. Increased permanent housing options and programs are another remaining need, as well as access to day care to allow clients with young children to be available to pursue employment opportunities.
>
> ***—1736 Family Crisis Center, California***

Transitional Housing Program grantees often mentioned the difficulties faced in serving non-English speaking victims and their children. Particular challenges encountered involved the lack of benefits available, the need for culturally competent service providers, the provision of legal advocacy, and the need for long-term support in working toward economic self-sufficiency. Many of these victims may also have co-occurring mental health issues.

> The Bridge continues to see gaps in services for mental health that are long-term and affordable, particularly for the Spanish speaking population. Clients are referred to community organizations, but waiting lists are long and many times clients cannot afford continuous services. Many of the clients being served have mental health issues that create barriers to gaining self-sufficiency. The lack of housing options for these women often creates more stress for victims as they work to gain stability, safety, and economic self-sufficiency. In addition, affordable translation services are needed to help meet diverse language needs within our community. We continue to attend community networking meetings to increase our knowledge of resources.
>
> ***—The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Texas***

The need for the development and strengthening of community partnerships was also noted as an ongoing requirement in order to provide continuity in follow-up support for victims and build capacity for programs.

> One of the many needs that I have witness over this past year is the continual need to develop local community partners such as land lords, banks, electrical companies, faith based resources, etc. By forming these collaborations, we can build better resources and support systems that can continue to help and support victims as they leave the shelter programs. These types of community collaborations take a long time to develop and create strong and lasting relationships that will to continue to support our DV programs and victims into the future.
>
> ***—Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Oklahoma***

Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions

The purpose of the Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions (Tribal Coalitions Program) is to build the capacity of survivors, advocates, Indian women's organizations, and victim services providers to form nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions to advance the goal of ending violence against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women. Given the high rates of domestic and sexual violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, the Tribal Coalitions Program grant funds are awarded to increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault against AI/AN women; enhance the response at the tribal, federal, and state levels; and identify and provide technical assistance to coalition members and tribal communities in an effort to enhance access to critical services.

Tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions support efforts to develop tribal leadership to affect social change and systemic reform to end violence against Indian women.

A coalition is a group of individuals, victim services providers, and/or organizations working together for a common purpose—to make more effective and efficient use of resources to create visibility for the issues addressed by members, establish leadership of members on those issues, and utilize the power of the membership to create critical social change. Tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions support efforts to develop tribal leadership to affect social change and systemic reform to end violence against AI/AN women, ensure the safety of AI/AN victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and promote the accountability of offenders. The leadership and expertise of AI/AN victims who have been battered and/or sexually assaulted or persons who are working with victims are critical to the successful development and operation of tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions.

> Without this funding, we would not be able to travel to the villages to help establish safe homes for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. We have been faced with the coldest winter temperatures in decades this winter and back to back winter storms. Without safe homes, women would flee to steam baths, fish caches, behind or under homes in the dark and cold weather. To the three villages we travelled, we were able to meet with tribal leaders, village health aides, village police officers, previous safe home volunteers, village school counselors, ICWA Coordinator, and individuals who voluntarily opened their home to victims. These are the primary resources each village has. We talk to whoever is available to talk and share what is going on in their villages. We have at least three safe houses in the three villages we visited.
>
> ***—Yupik Women's Coalition***

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **19** individual Tribal Coalition Program grantees[271] for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each 6-month period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **15**
- January–June 2012: **17**
- July–December 2012: **16**
- January–June 2013: **14**

Ninety percent of the grantees were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions, **5** percent were domestic violence coalitions, and **5** percent were sexual assault coalitions.

Staff

Tribal Coalitions Program-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end violence against AI/AN women and hold offenders accountable.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support administrators.

[271] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 85. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Tribal Coalitions Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**14**	**16**	**16**	**14**
Total FTE staff funded	**18**	**26**	**30**	**25**
Administrators	8	12	12	10
Program coordinators	5	6	5	6
Support staff	2	3	5	6
Trainer/educator	1	3	4	2

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> The media specialist has been instrumental in starting a community group to look at the problem of violence in their community. They are setting goals to look at solutions such as helping with a men's re-education group and getting a women's shelter started. The director has been involved in the local nonprofit shelter board and SART response team to help build model programs and continue to understand the complexities…
>
> ***—Native Women's Society of the Great Plains***

Training

Grantees train professionals to improve their response to AI/AN victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. High quality training also helps increase offender accountability. Tribal Coalitions Program grantees trained professionals across a broad spectrum: victim advocates, tribal elders, tribal law enforcement officers, tribal prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, and health and mental health professionals.

The most common topics for training events were advocacy for American Indian and/or Alaska Native women; cultural issues specific to American Indians and Alaska Natives; dynamics and history of violence against American Indian and/or Alaska Native women; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; and collaboration.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **16** (84 percent of all grantees)[272]
- Total number of training events: **213**

[272] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Total number of people trained: **6,073**

Table 86. People trained with Tribal Coalitions Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

Position	People trained (N 6,073)	
	Number	Percent
Domestic violence program staff (tribal–997; non-tribal–263)	1,260	21
Tribal community group members	740	12
Sexual assault program staff (tribal–478; non-tribal–243)	721	12
Multidisciplinary groups	607	10
Law enforcement officers (tribal–183; non-tribal–127)	310	5
Court personnel (tribal–211, non-tribal–28)	239	4
Tribal elders	237	4

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

These funds have allowed the Coalition to provided needed training on domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and stalking to the Tribal programs within the State of New Mexico. We have also become a resource for various programs within the State and outside requesting information on speakers to present during conferences on domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and stalking issues.

—Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women

Community Education

Community education is designed to increase awareness of violence against AI/AN women, inform community members about what they can do to respond, and offer guidance on how people may help a family member or friend who has been victimized. Outreach activities may include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, bake sales, and parades.[273]

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community education: **17** (89 percent of grantees)[274]
- Total number of education events: **228**

[273] 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.

[274] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Total number of people educated: **29,176**

Table 87. People educated with Tribal Coalitions Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected groups

Group	People educated (N 29,176)	
	Number	Percent
Community members (tribal–13,820; non-tribal—377)	14,197	49
Students (tribal—10,823; non-tribal—137)	10,960	38
Tribal government staff	982	3
Tribal elders	940	3
Community groups (tribal—110; non-tribal—483)	593	2
Parents/guardians (tribal—528; non-tribal—14)	542	2

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently selected categories only.

Technical Assistance

Tribal Coalitions Program grantees provide technical assistance to programs to help other professionals and organizations improve their response to AI/AN victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to help other professionals and organizations improve organizational infrastructure. Tribal coalitions develop, revise, and/or implement policies, protocols, procedures, and/or develop and deliver training. Grantees provide technical assistance through site visits and/or other types of consultations, including in-person, telephonic, electronic, or other types of contact with member programs.

The most frequent areas of technical assistance were developing or enhancing culturally appropriate services for underserved populations; coordinated community response; response to sexual assault victims, victim service administration and operations; and response to domestic violence victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for technical assistance: **16** (84 percent of grantees)[275]
- Total number of technical assistance consultations provided: **884**
- Total number of technical assistance site visits: **187**

[275] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Total assistance (site visits and consultations) provided: **1,071**

> Indian Health Service Director called and wanted to meet with Coalition staff regarding the upcoming proposed changes in IHS policy in responding to sexual assault victims, also set up an "in service" for staff. We coordinated to have the SANE Trainer discuss the importance of coordinated community response to sex crimes in our communities-also discussed curriculum of SANE training while encouraging Native nurses to participate-as there was only ONE Native American nurse in the SANE training this past year.
>
> ***—First Nations Women's Alliance***

Policies

Tribal Coalitions Program grantees develop, revise, and implement policies to provide standardized guidance to organizations and professionals on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against AI/AN women.

Types of policies most frequently developed, revised, and implemented were appropriate response to underserved populations; victim services standards of service; staff, board, and/or volunteers represent diversity of your service area; confidentiality; and training standards for staff and volunteers.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for developing, revising, and/or implementing policies: **8** (42 percent of grantees)[276]

Products

Tribal Coalitions Program grantees develop and revise a variety of products that address violence against women. These products may include brochures, manuals, training curricula and materials, newsletters, and videos. The purpose of distributing these materials is to provide information to professionals and organizations on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against AI/AN women.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for products: **13** (68 percent of grantees)[277]
- Total number of products developed or revised: **83**

[276] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[277] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Total number of products distributed: **24,525**

MIWSAC has created training, for use in one's own community, on how to duplicate The Solidarity Shawl Project, the red, purple and teal shawls created to raise awareness and honor Native survivors of violence. We also used the Solidarity Shawls to introduce sexual violence awareness to the residents of the St. Paul Elders Lodge. The gatherings were started as a way to bring youth and Elders together to build relationships and create a safe space to dialogue about sexual violence. The Gatherings started off as part of a 2010 foundation grant, but has blossomed into a self-sustaining monthly community event. Our first event was a barbecue feast and Solidarity Shawl-making at the Elders Lodge. Over the next few months, we made moccasins, did bead work, and other sewing projects. The best part about these gatherings is that it is a community event now. We just have a big potluck and not only the children and grandchildren join us, but community members bring their own sewing projects as well. We have so much fun, and it is such a blessing to share this time with our Elders.

—Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

Remaining Areas of Need

The majority of Tribal Coalitions Program grantees reported a strong need to build and reinforce relationships between tribal and non-tribal communities, specifically with federal courts and government agencies. This effort would help to ensure that non-Native offenders committing acts of violence against Native women would not fall through the cracks and avoid or escape prosecution.

Strengthening collaborations between tribal law enforcement, tribal judiciary, medical and mental health professionals, tribal governments, and other relevant parties at all levels would create an environment in which victims would be more likely to report these crimes and seek services. Lack of immediate response and follow-through to incidents of violence was noted as a significant reason why victims say they are reluctant to come forward. Further, lack of offender accountability erodes trust and perpetuates both low rates in reporting to criminal justice agencies and of other help-seeking by victims.

> The major area of remaining need is building a united working process between all tribal programs and tribal courts. The areas of collaboration are so limited they continue to hinder the safety, trust, and follow through on behalf of the victim. There continues to be on-going struggles between the courts continuity when working with victims of domestic and sexual violence. Currently many of the tribes struggle with tribal orders of protection due to the courts inconsistent approval of the orders. Also, the need for further collaboration between all programs must be considered a priority. Moreover, the need to further communication between the federal agencies and tribal domestic and sexual violence needs to be considered a priority as well. There appears to be a disconnection when the crime committed against the victim moves forward federally. Often the communication stops, leaving the tribal program and the victim hanging with no knowledge of the progression of the case.
>
> ***—Montana Native Women's Coalition***

Tribal Coalitions Program grantees continue to report the need for an increase in services in isolated communities, particularly legal services.

> Of all the calls that the NAAV receives with regard to identification of services available to victims, the request that we are often unable to satisfy is the request for legal assistance. . . . It is well know that there are many barriers experienced by victims when they make the decision to leave their batterers. One of the most common barriers is a fear that they will lose custody of their children. . . . After escaping their batterer, these victims often have little to no financial resources, and provided they stay separated from their batterer for any length of time, custody litigation often ensues. The batterers often have ample financial resources and availability to legal counsel. The victim, however, has neither. While there are a few (less than 5) tribal services programs that have a legal assistance component to their menu of services available to victims, often their services are restricted to their program service area. Moreover, the victims who escape their perpetrators and seek services from their tribe's domestic violence programs may be residing in the tribal jurisdiction and facing custody litigation in the state court county of resident of their perpetrator, which again, is often outside of the tribal jurisdictional boundaries. While the NAAV staff does not provide direct services to victims, of those calls that we do and have received from victims, they have all been seeking legal assistance. Their stories are heartbreaking as they relay the fact that they would rather be beaten, ridiculed, and abused by their partners than lose their children.
>
> ***—Native Alliance Against Violence***

Capacity development was also reported as an ongoing area of frustration for grantees during recent reporting periods. Staff retention, staff development, and staff hiring are all issues that were reported that directly affect service delivery. Grantees also state that training for victim advocates, law enforcement, and court staff is a must, as it will allow for continuity in provider responses and victim services.

Many Native specific programs face a high turnover rate amongst advocates. In rural tribal communities, advocates are faced with large geographical areas and are usually the sole advocate for the entire reservation. In urban settings, the Native advocate is oftentimes housed within a non-Native program, and is responsible for not only advocating for all Native women who enter the program, but to educate the rest of the program staff on the dynamics of domestic violence among Native women. These are only a couple of the issues that Native advocates face that leave them feeling burnt out and overwhelmed. Then when a new advocate is hired to replace them, they are met with an empty office and housed inside of a social service or other agency that does not share the basic principles of domestic violence advocacy. It is because of these reasons that advocates desire basic training that gives them the opportunity to participate in training that has immediate application in their jobs. The training needs involve everything from how to respond to crisis calls, advocating in institutions, the history of the Native domestic violence movement, support group facilitation, and community education and organizing.

—Mending the Sacred Hoop

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) committed against Indian women and girls; assist Indian tribes in using their sovereign authority to respond to crimes of violence against Indian women and girls; and to ensure that people who commit violent crimes against Indian women are held responsible for their actions.

The Tribal Governments Program provides grantees[278] the opportunity to engage in a number of purpose areas including: comprehensive strategic planning to develop and enhance governmental strategies to increase the safety of Indian women; providing comprehensive services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including crisis intervention, emergency shelter and transitional housing, legal advice and representation, supervised visitation and exchange, etc.; strengthening the tribal criminal justice system's response to victims by establishing court dockets, batterer's intervention programs, conducting fatality reviews and entering into law enforcement or prosecution cross-designation or cooperative agreements with federal, state, or local partners and undertaking activities to implement enhanced sentencing under the federal Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA); training professionals on the appropriate responses to victims; develop outreach strategies that promote coordinated efforts within the community; and incorporating cultural and traditional practices, including talking circles, healing ceremonies for those who have been sexually assaulted, gender specific traditional gatherings for victims, and sweat lodges for victims.

In 2009, based on a series of meetings across the country with tribal communities, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) made the decision to decrease the number of applications tribes and tribal consortia were required to submit to receive grant funds from the DOJ. In 2010, DOJ launched its first-ever Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)

[278] Grantees under the Tribal Governments Program include "Indian tribes, authorized designees of tribes, and consortia of tribes."

combining DOJ's existing tribal government-specific competitive solicitations into one, and thus requiring only one application from each tribe or tribal consortium. This approach provides federally-recognized tribes and tribal consortia the opportunity to develop a comprehensive approach to public safety and victimization issues.

Tribal Government funding has allowed the Journey To Healing Program to help hundreds of victims who would have been without the guidance from culturally trained advocates. The employment of a full-time victim advocate and counselor is the main reason we have been able to expand the program and increase the amount of individuals receiving services. Funding has allowed us to increase the awareness of the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking among community members and our governmental and enterprise employees.

—Bay Mills Indian Community

The funding has allowed the Hopi Tribe to provide protection, advocacy, and support for victims and accountability for the abusers. The Hopi people have much hardship due to the economic problems, geographic location, and lack of resources. . . . Prior to receiving this assistance, the tribe struggled to find a solution that would not only support the victim but it also left questions as to what were the needs of the abusers. The customs and traditions of the Hopi people are centered around family and respect. Ceremonies are performed by the men but family oriented so that simply splitting up families was not and is not a solution. The funding enabled the program to develop a batterer's intervention program to get help for convicted offenders which sends the message to Hopi people that the priority is family focused with intentions to provide assistance to both parties involved.

—The Hopi Tribe

The grant has given the Yurok Tribe the ability to create some stability in the lives of victims. The financial assistance has made a way for victims to maintain their housing or find new housing. It also gives survivors/victims the opportunity to see that they have the ability to maintain a safe and violence free home independently from their perpetrators. The legal assistance that is available through the grant encourages victims to prosecute their perpetrators and provides them with the support needed to do so while navigating the court system. . . . The grant also employs half of the time of a paralegal who assists with the review and filing of restraining orders to ensure all information is documented correctly to increase the likelihood that orders are successfully granted.

—Yurok Tribe

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **185** individual Tribal Government Program grantees[279] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **206**
- January–June 2012: **188**
- July–December 2012: **201**
- January–June 2013: **194**

Staff

Tribal Governments Program-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, supervised visitation, law enforcement activities, prosecution, court services, supervision of offenders, and batterer intervention programs to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support victim advocate positions, administrators, and program coordinators.

Table 88. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Tribal Governments Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**187**	**177**	**184**	**189**
Total FTE staff funded	**353**	**349**	**374**	**434**
Victim advocates	129	122	144	163
Administrators	43	42	42	47
Program coordinators	39	35	42	42
Support staff	20	25	28	27
Law enforcement officers	20	14	15	14
Outreach staff	11	16	18	19

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported staff categories are presented.

[279] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Training

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The training of professionals builds a safer community for all members. A majority of Tribal Governments Program grantees provide training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking for batterer intervention staff, health professionals, and victim advocates. This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

This training improves professional responses to victims and increases offender accountability.

The most common topics for training events were domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; advocacy for AI/AN women; cultural issues specific to American Indians and Alaska Natives; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; and safety planning for victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **117** (63 percent of grantees)[280]
- Total number of training events: **1,049**
- Total number of people trained: **15,904**

Table 89. People trained with Tribal Governments Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 15,904)	
Position	Number	Percent
Health professionals (1,248 tribal; 587 non-tribal)	1,835	12
Law enforcement (927 tribal; 622 non-tribal)	1,549	10
Tribal government/ tribal government agency staff	1,428	9
Victim advocates (871 tribal; 553 non-tribal)	1,424	9
Multidisciplinary groups (824 tribal; 589 non-tribal)	1,413	9

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

[280] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> The training session provided tribal first responder staff with information and tools regarding the dynamics of domestic violence in Indian country, enforceable domestic violence protection orders; full faith and credit, dynamics of sexual assault in Indian country, stalking, and ways to develop a holistic response to domestic violence and sexual assault crimes. Participants were able to discuss the process of the justice system on the reservation versus county and state jurisdictions. This session gave great insight to the participants to recognize the gaps in services currently found in the justice system and the social services department. In the weeks to follow, the participants have implemented some of the strategies discussed and communication has increased. Law enforcement is helping to bridge the gap in services offered to victims. Tribal court staff has made an effort to assist the domestic violence advocate and law enforcement to provide necessary documents when needed. Policy and procedures are in the process of review to better serve the families of our Native American Indian reservation. Through our training efforts we are able to strengthen our justice system, increasing the safety of our community members and building a strong relationship as a community.
>
> ***—Makah Tribal Council***

Community Education

Community education increases awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education can connect people who share the goal of building a safe, supportive, and accountable community.[281] A large number of grantees provided education to community members.

The most common topics for community education events were domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; dating violence overview, dynamics and services; youth awareness of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking; domestic violence/dating violence prevention; and healthy relationships/domestic violence/dating violence prevention (community).

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community education: **150** (81 percent of grantees)[282]
- Total number of people educated: **212,936**

[281] 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.
[282] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 90. People educated with Tribal Governments Program funds for all four reporting periods: Selected groups

Group	People educated (N 212,936)	
	Number	Percent
Community members	97,199	46
Students	57,921	27
Parents/guardians	11,881	6
Community groups	10,202	5

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

> This domestic violence program has been effective in bringing awareness within the tribal community that domestic violence is not okay. There is help and hope available for survivors that had never been available before within the reservation. While leaving their abuser is still a huge step that will take time for many survivors to be ready to take; those in the community are aware of services and supports available to help them remain safe when they make that decision.
>
> ***—The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri***

Outreach Activities

- A total of **4,343** activities were conducted throughout the four 6-month reporting periods. The most common outreach activities were education exhibits such as the Clothesline Project, Silent Witness, and information tables.

Victim Services

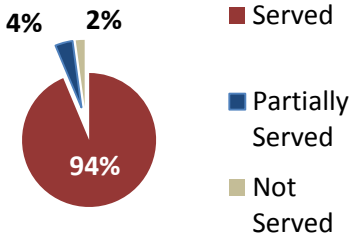
Tribal Governments Program grantees provide a wide range of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These services are a critical part of a coordinated community response and may include victim advocacy, legal services, and transitional housing. Services may be provided by a victim services agency; legal services organization; or staff providing victim services within law enforcement, prosecution, or the court system. Services from victim advocates may include safety planning or accompaniment to court, transitional housing assistance, or supervised visitation and exchange services.

> **To eliminate violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women . . . it is crucial to provide services in a manner that addresses the specific cultural needs of American Indian and Alaska Native women.**

To eliminate violence against AI/AN women and to support the recovery of victims, it is crucial to provide services in a manner that addresses the specific cultural needs of AI/AN women. The lack of culturally sensitive and appropriate services for these victims can pose additional barriers. For example, women may choose not to engage in services or may terminate services early if service providers fail to incorporate issues of their culture and language.

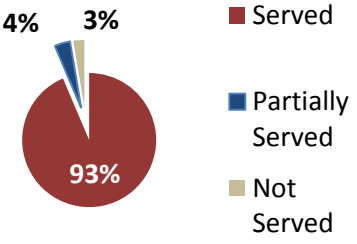
- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **166** (90 percent of grantees)[283]
- Tribal Governments Program grantees provided services to an average of **6,229** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[284]

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **6,281** victims sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **6,147** (98 percent) victims received services and **134** (2 percent) were not served.



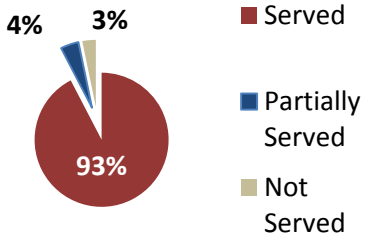
January–June 2012:

- **6,010** victims sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **5,851** (97 percent) victims received services and **159** (3 percent) were not served.

[283] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[284] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

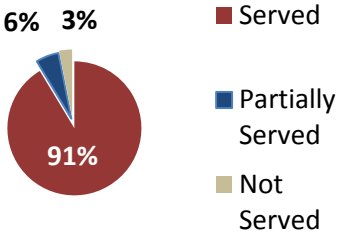
July–December 2012:

- **6,088** victims sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **5,890** (97 percent) victims received services and **198** (3 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **7,254** victims sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **7,027** (97 percent) victims received service, and **227** (3 percent) were not served.



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

> Prior to this funding, some victims were being transported to other counties for SANE services due to the lack of certified SANE nurses in our community. This grant program has brought awareness about this need and staff has assisted our tribal hospital in developing a SANE policy and protocol. Grant funding has allowed the purchase of SANE equipment and assisted with training cost for four additional nurses to perform SANE exams for Native American victims of sexual assault. This funding has allowed the Chickasaw Nation to hire a full-time sexual assault advocate to meet the needs of sexual assault victims. This advocate has been able to build relationships with our tribal and community hospitals, tribal police, local law enforcement, and other agencies within the Chickasaw Nation service area. The result has been a more proactive response and streamlining of services for sexual assault victims.
>
> ***—Chickasaw Nation***

Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

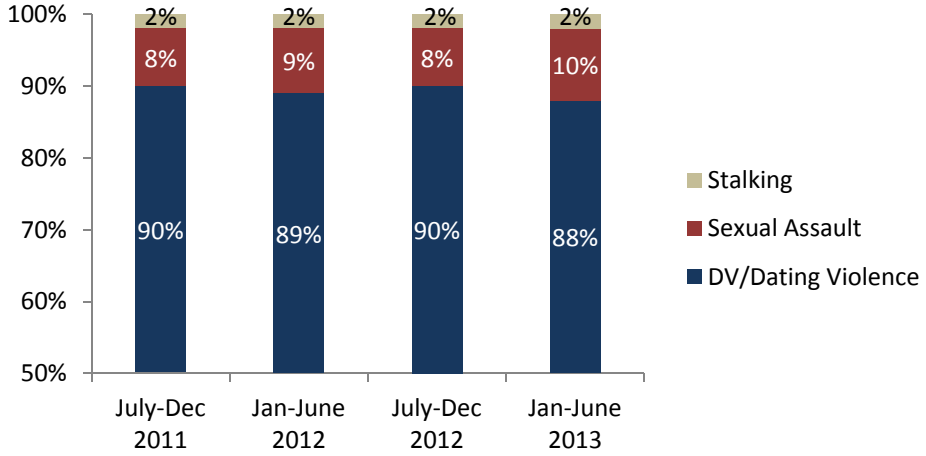
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently reported the following barriers as reasons that victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements
- Services not appropriate for victim
- Program unable to provide services because of limited resources/priority setting

- Program rules not acceptable to victim
- Program reached capacity
- Transportation

Tribal Governments Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by Tribal Governments Program grantees were overwhelmingly reported as victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (89-90 percent).

Figure 17. Provision of victim services by Tribal Governments Program grantees, by type of victimization[285]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former intimate partner**.

Table 91. Relationship to offender of victims served by the Tribal Governments Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	4,866	4,560	4,706	5,466
Other family or household member	795	629	601	841
Dating relationship	339	401	379	547

[285]The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each victim is counted only once by each grantee, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can be counted only once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking, or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence/dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse victims served do not reflect that fact.

Table 91. Relationship to offender of victims served by the Tribal Governments Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Acquaintance	317	246	225	215
Stranger	65	30	55	48

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Tribal Governments Program grantees served or partially served an average of **6,229** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[286] The majority of those victims were **American Indian or Alaska Native**, **female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

Table 92. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Tribal Governments Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	5,487	4,972	5,154	6,145
Asian	3	7	12	8
Black or African-American	65	96	63	74
Hispanic or Latino	50	56	60	61
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5	4	6	73
White	518	669	542	670
Unknown	45	85	57	60
Gender				
Female	5,750	5,487	5,524	6,641
Male	392	356	361	380
Unknown	5	8	5	6
Age				
13–17	173	186	282	204
18–24	1,443	1,235	1,226	1,285
25–59	4,143	4,071	4,103	5,120
60+	278	190	226	298
Unknown	110	169	53	120

[286] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 92. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Tribal Governments Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Other				
People with disabilities	242	274	345	444
People with limited English proficiency	100	70	39	23
People who live in rural areas	4,030	4,078	3,963	4,189

NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Services to Children

Tribal Governments Program grantees provided services to an average of **2,769** children of victims over the four 6-month reporting periods. Services including childcare, transportation, and counseling were provided an average of **5,840** times.

Types of Victim Services

Tribal Governments Program grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking, including victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services); civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment (assisting a victim with civil legal issues, such as preparing paperwork for protection orders, accompanying a victim to a protection order hearing, administrative hearing, or other civil proceeding, and all other advocacy within the civil justice system); and crisis intervention. Victims often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health, school, finances, transportation, employment, and legal issues.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods: [287]

- Victim advocacy: **14,937**
- Counseling services/support group: **7,663**
- Transportation: **6,991**

[287] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

- Crisis intervention: **10,409**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **6,872**
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment: **5,089**

Hotline Calls

- Grantees reported a total of **74,512** crisis or information and referral calls received by an agency's hotline or office telephone.[288]

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **24,620** letters, phone calls, and/or visits to victims.[289]

Shelter/Transitional Housing Assistance

Tribal Government Program grantees provide emergency shelter and/or transitional housing to victims and family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations. Victims and their family members received assistance with costs associated with clothing, food, rental unit fees, transportation, and utilities.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for shelter/transitional housing services: **119** (64 percent of grantees)[290]

Tribal Governments Program grantees provided emergency shelter and transitional housing to an average of **996** victims and **1,265** family members for a total of **247,925** bed nights over the four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 93. Victims receiving emergency shelter and/or transitional housing assistance by the Tribal Governments Program: July 2011–June 2013

Shelter service	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013	Total
Emergency shelter					
Victims	677	520	747	1,080	3,024
Family members	875	657	794	1,161	3,487
Bed nights	26,812	14,242	33,611	40,440	115,105

[288] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.
[289] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.
[290] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they received funds in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 93. Victims receiving emergency shelter and/or transitional housing assistance by the Tribal Governments Program: July 2011–June 2013

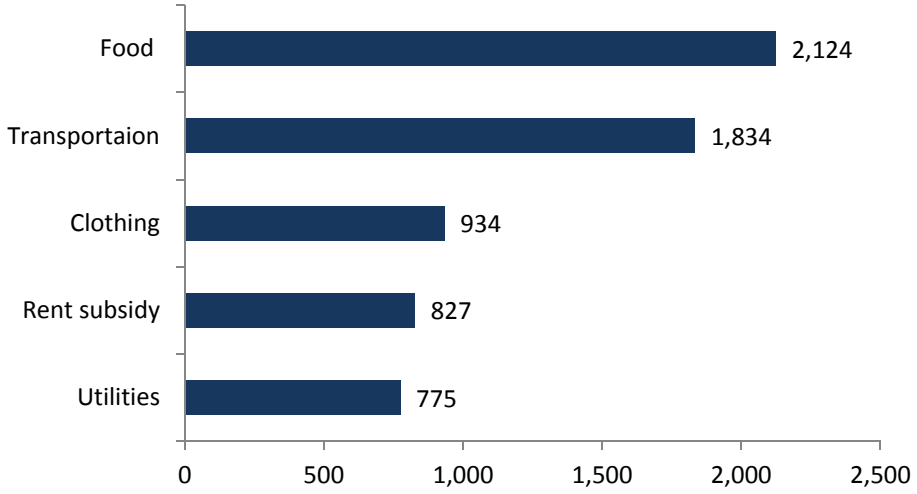
Shelter service	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013	Total
Transitional housing					
Victims	255	245	267	192	959
Family members	433	450	416	274	1,573
Bed nights	31,513	30,424	40,086	30,797	132,820

NOTE: Victims and family members may have received emergency shelter or transitional housing in multiple reporting periods.

Housing Assistance

In addition to transitional housing, Tribal Governments Program grantees assist victims with expenses for transportation, food, clothing, security deposits, rent, relocation, and utilities to enable them to maintain or procure housing.

Figure 18. Number of victims provided with housing assistance for all four reporting periods by Tribal Governments Program grantees



Legal Services

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims through the Tribal Governments Program.

Most grantees provided legal assistance with protection orders and divorce.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for legal services: **55** (30 percent of grantees)[291]
- Total number of legal issues[292] addressed: **3,673**
- Average number of victims receiving assistance with legal issues: **519**
- Average number of victims who received assistance with multiple legal issues: **211** (41 percent of those receiving legal services)

> This funding has allowed us to provide direct legal services which are vital to the victim being able to successfully leave a violent situation. Prior to receiving this funding, victims would have had to apply for legal aid and the services within our area are far overwhelmed with clients from the more urban areas of Northern Nevada.
>
> ***—Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe***
>
> We continue to better assist victims in fully obtaining the help they need. Sometimes a victim may be able to leave the offender, but after that initial stage she is unable to proceed with a divorce/separation from the perpetrator. This funding has allowed victims to obtain free legal representation for divorces, custody, and paternity disputes. The victim not only can get a protective order, but is now able to be free from the perpetrator without having to worry about affording an attorney. Additionally, this funding has allowed our Tribe and our attorneys to interact with the domestic violence programs, and become a part of the local coordinated community response team.
>
> ***—Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma***

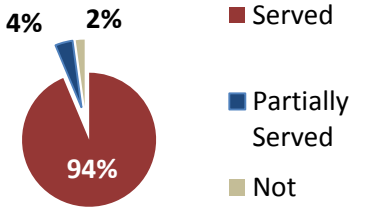
Supervised Visitation

The Tribal Governments Program 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.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for supervised visitation: **10** (5 percent of grantees)[293]
- Average number of families that received services: **52** families.[294]

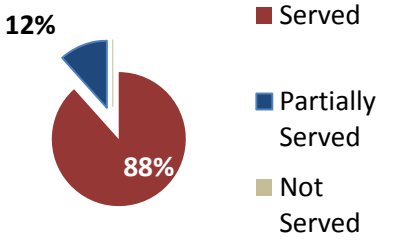
[291] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[292] Legal issues represent the total number of new and pending matters for which victims received assistance. Victims are counted only once for each legal issue addressed during each 6-month reporting period.
[293] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[294] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Families Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **52** families sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **50** (96 percent) families received services and **2** (4 percent) were not served.

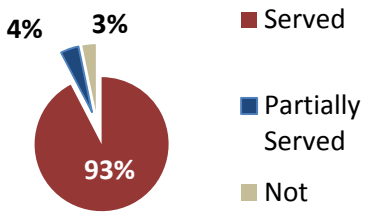


January–June 2012:

- **43** families sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **43** (100 percent) families received services.

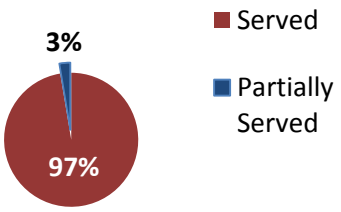
July–December 2012:

- **81** families sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **78** (96.3 percent) families received services and **3** (3.7 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **38** families sought services from Tribal Governments Program grantees.
- Of these, **38** (100 percent) families received services.



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents families who received some service(s) but not all of the services they requested, if those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. "Not Served" represents families who sought services and did not receive the services(s) they were seeking, if those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

The majority of custodial parents were **American Indian or Alaska Native**, **female**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**, with children between the ages of **0 and 6**. Noncustodial parents were most likely to be **American Indian or Alaska Native**, **male**, and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) over the four 6-month reporting periods.[295]

- **1,003** one-to-one supervised visits to an average of **30** families
- **634** supervised exchanges to an average of **12** families

> The Tribal Government Program grant has had a positive effect on the community in allowing for supervised visitation between custodial and non-custodial parents. Without the ability to do supervised visitations there were gaps in visitation within the family. Having the resources to do supervised visitations and safe exchanges has allowed for a much more positive family environment. Being able to offer these services gives both the custodial and the non-custodial parents their time with the children. This makes the situation more pleasurable for both the parents and the children and increases the safety of the Native American women involved by allowing for her to [remove} herself from the visitation process.
>
> ***—Stockbridge-Munsee Community***

Criminal Justice

The matter of jurisdiction in Indian Country can often pose significant challenges. Jurisdiction may belong to the state, federal, or tribal government depending on a host of factors including the race of the victims and perpetrator, the legal status of the land where the incident occurred, and the type of crime committed. Determining the appropriate agency to respond to an incident on tribal lands can be extremely confusing. This complicated jurisdictional legal landscape can lead to misunderstandings and disputes about which jurisdiction is responsible. To add to the confusion, while many tribes operate their own police department and court system, there are limitations to the types of crimes and individuals that can be prosecuted under tribal law. Until the passage of VAWA 2013, a non-Native offender could not be prosecuted in a tribal court.[296] Many grantees whose tribal communities have a criminal justice system have developed or instituted important changes in tribal codes pertaining to sexual assault,

[295] Families were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, families may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

[296] See section on American Indians and Alaska Natives beginning on page 47 for more detailed information.

domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Some have adapted state laws in their own codes to be more culturally relevant, whereas others have formulated entirely new codes based on ancestral laws that had been historically successful before European influences.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers are crucial to prevention and justice for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking. Tribal law enforcement officers respond to emergency calls for assistance, interview witnesses, and are often familiar with the personalities and circumstances involved, due to the small and isolated nature of tribal communities. Every other agency, including prosecution, depends on them for their information and understanding of a case. For this reason, it is common for tribal law enforcement officers to provide continuing assistance throughout the length of a case. Further, the manner in which tribal law enforcement responds to a call is critical. Their response and attitude may influence whether victims will report sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking offenses, and whether appropriate evidence will be collected to allow prosecutors to successfully bring cases against offenders. Tribal law enforcement is a vital component of the peacekeeping and accountability process for the tribal nations that they serve.

***23** individual grantees (12 percent) are using funds for law enforcement.*

Figure 19. Law enforcement activities in Tribal Governments Program for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases for all four reporting periods

NOTE: Grantees report only on those 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.

Table 94. Law enforcement activities in Tribal Governments Program sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases for all four reporting periods, by type of victimization

Activity	Sexual assault	Domestic violence/ dating violence	Stalking	Total activities
Calls for assistance	317	3,600	24	3,941
Incident reports	356	3,671	22	4,049
Cases/incidents investigated	292	2,937	20	3,249
Arrests	70	1,639	0	1,709
Cases referred to tribal prosecutor	55	1,576	5	1,636

Referrals to Victim Services

- Law enforcement staff made **1,483** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services.

We have found that our increased communication, through regular meetings and networking with our courts, law enforcement and other agencies, has resulted in our victims accessing services much more quickly than they were in the first few months of our program. Additionally, our victims are feeling increasingly trusting of the services being provided. Two of our clients, who came into our program stating they would not call law enforcement even if they felt threatened, have, after working collaboratively with our program and our courts, subsequently reached out to law enforcement on their own.

—Suquamish Tribe

The investigator is an integral part of the post incident/arrest process. After prosecution has received the formal complaint the DV investigator is a valuable resource for prosecution and can be utilized to procure any other information needed for a specific case. The investigator can initially review the police report and immediately begin to look for areas of the report that may need additional information or clarification. This allows for a more streamlined case.

—Reno Sparks Indian Colony

Prosecution

Tribal prosecutors play a significant role in securing safety and justice for Native victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Prosecution of offenders varies by state and tribal nation. Given the complex jurisdictional issues, it is essential to provide police and prosecutors with the tools, resources, and expertise to correctly identify specific sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking offenses and

enhance charges and sentences consistent with applicable statutes. Incorporating the voices of the victims, coupled with the proper charging of abusers (Native and non-Native) and followed by prosecution, safeguards victims and their children from further abuse and reduces overall recidivism by criminal abusers.

Tribal Governments Program grantees that use funds for prosecution activities may pursue prosecution by making referrals to appropriate external agencies and/or by prosecuting case referrals received. Domestic violence cases are any assaults, battery, vandalism, or other offenses that occurred during a domestic violence incident.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for prosecution: **16** (9 percent of grantees)[297]
- Prosecutors received **2,793** sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking case referrals and filed charges in **2,485** (89 percent) of the cases.

Table 95. Disposition of cases by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program for all four reporting periods

Activity	Number
Total number of cases disposed of	1,856
Total number of cases dismissed	479
Total number of convictions[298]	1,368
Total number of victim referrals to tribal victim services	1,214

> The effectiveness of prosecution activities funded by the tribal governments program grant speaks for itself. The domestic violence prosecutor has a success rate of getting guilty pleas without lessening charges. Some guilty pleas occur at time of arraignment, most occur during pretrial and jury readiness hearings. Since contracting with the DV prosecutor, we have not gone to trial. There are higher cash only bails on the guilty pleas and more protection order violation convictions are occurring now too. The tribal community is aware that domestic violence is taken seriously and the prosecutor will not drop protection orders, which we've seen increases the safety to the victims because defendants don't want to sit out their jail sentence for probation/protection order violations or an assault in general. There are now more victims turning in the violence which is a positive and success for the program thanks to the funding from the tribal government program grant.
>
> ***—Spokane Tribe of Indians***

[297] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[298] This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents 14 percent of all conviction outcomes.

Referrals to Victim Services

- Prosecution staff made **1,243** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services.

Courts

There are a wide variety in the types of tribal court systems, and the laws are unique to each tribal nation. Some tribal courts resemble western-style courts, where written laws and rules of court are applied. An increasing number of tribes are returning to traditional means of resolving disputes, including the use of peacemaking, elders' councils, sentencing circles, and banishment. Many tribes that are establishing new tribal courts, or enhancing established ones, are developing hybrid or blended systems that incorporate traditional dispute resolution procedures that have proven effective within their cultures and communities, while also ensuring that the "rule of law" and due process are operative.

There is wide variety in the types of tribal court systems, and the laws are unique to each tribal nation.

Courts funded by the Tribal Governments program conduct a range of activities.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for court activities: **3** (2 percent of grantees)[299]

Table 96. Disposition of court cases funded by the Tribal Governments Program for all four reporting periods

Activity	Number
Total number of new cases	866
Total number of cases disposed of	743
Total number of cases dismissed	253
Total number of convictions (including deferred adjudications)[300]	464

[299] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[300] This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents 9 percent of all conviction outcomes.

> The wrap-around services we are able to provide to address the variety of barriers facing native women increases the safety not only of those specific individuals, but their children, families, and their broader circles of influence. The positive outcomes and positive experiences of the women with whom we interact translate to an enhanced sense of connection between women in the community as well as between women and the criminal justice system. The coordination between various agencies of the Tribe helps victims and potential victims of crime gain a sense of the coherence and collaboration that are essential to their own safety and well-being, as well as sense of community. Due to the coordinated efforts of the team, the court has been very responsive to requests for special accommodations that enable victims to participate more fully in the process.
>
> ***—Tulalip Tribes of Washington***

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.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for review activities: **11** (6 percent of grantees)[301]
- An average of **296** offenders received **2,718** face-to-face monitoring contacts over the four reporting periods.

Table 97. Probation activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program for all four reporting periods

Activity	Number
Average number of offenders	**653**
Total number of offenders who completed probation	**203**
Offenders completing probation without violations	114
Offenders completing probation with violations	89

[301] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> The probation officer is doing a great job and has been working well with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Courts and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Prosecution. This program has been a great asset to the domestic violence program, it holds abusers accountable and assures the victims and their families that the abuser will have to complete all the obligations to the Northern Cheyenne tribal Courts and the Northern Cheyenne tribal Law and Order Code. It allows the Tribe to monitor the abuser that is placed on probation and ensure that he/she stays in compliance.
>
> ***—Northern Cheyenne Tribe Inc.***

Referrals to Victim Services

- Tribal probation made **233** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services.

Remaining Areas of Need

Overwhelmingly, tribes reported a pressing need for more safe housing options. In particularly remote and rural areas, the availability of safe housing is woefully limited. Grantees reported that victims often choose to stay in abusive situations solely because of the lack of available housing and the significant discomfort they feel about seeking non-native shelter options outside their community. The need for a culturally relevant on-site emergency shelter emerged as a common concern amongst grantees reporting housing issues; affordable housing is also a re-occurring problem. Given the economic environment (the cost of fuel, food, and childcare; lack of employment options, etc.), victims are often faced with a dilemma that may cause them to reconsider leaving the abusive situation. Poor credit scores complicate victims' ability to obtain housing for themselves, which in turn decreases their chances for independence.

> During this funding period the wait list for the Transitional Living Program has consistently been between 35 and 40 families with over 115 children who are chronically homeless. Many families move from couch to couch or friends or families weeks or days at a time. Some families are living in their car. Individuals report that they have to voluntary place their children outside of their care due to such high rates of transitions into houses that are potentially dangerous. Over the past six months the secure shelter for domestic violence has been at capacity, therefore unable to safely house many families. The local family shelter has a waiting list of approximately three to six months.
>
> ***—Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin***

Grantees also indicated a critical need for improved relationships with federal, state, and local partners, including federal and state prosecutors, and state and tribal law enforcement agencies. Tribes reported the need to enhance collaborative efforts amongst victim centered agencies through the continued use and development of coordinated community response teams and training for professionals. Grantees cited training as a highly anticipated area of need in regards to increasing accountability, improving victim services, and as a means for beginning systems level change.

> Systems change is critical to the improvement of services for victims. The fact that law enforcement and advocacy programs have high turnover results in inconsistencies in training and level of experience. Established training protocols for all agencies that serve victims is critical. Meaningful participation in the DV/SA task force for individual service providers must include some level of accountability to the group. . . . When the system changes, and victims are less likely to be re-victimized at court, in the emergency room, and even in the shelter, then services for victims will result in some level of improvement; and hopefully increase safety for victims and children.
>
> ***—Ketchikan Indian Corporation***
>
> Access to affordable and available housing continues to be our greatest need and challenge in supporting our victims, especially as they try to flee unsafe situations. Many of our victims do not have a high school diploma or GED, employment, or family support and arrive at our program fleeing unsafe environments. We have few, if any, resources to address housing in these types of situations. We live in a relatively rural area where there is very little low-income housing and our clients do not have the credit history, current employment or ability to pay rent in any traditional rentals. Compounding this problem is that most, if not all, of our victims have children and so the needs and costs are even greater. The funds we do have are not enough to pay first/last/deposit and sustain rent for any length of time. These challenges often lead to a hopelessness in our victims that puts them in further danger of returning to their DV relationships.
>
> ***—Suquamish Tribe***
>
> The most significant need in our community is the education component. Educating the community, tribal staff, partners and local law enforcement on what domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking is, how to appropriately respond in our community, what services are available, and how these services can benefit the community. The leading challenge in delivery of this information will be how to get the community to respond to assist in the development of the program and attend the trainings.
>
> ***—Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians***

Grantees also discussed declinations of felony domestic violence cases from the U.S. Attorney's office and lack of investigation of cases by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Several grantees expressed a need to enhance tribal codes for

elder abuse, crime victims' rights, and domestic violence, and to upgrade some of these charges to felonies. Tribes also expressed a need for more batterer intervention and re-education programs, as well as tougher penalties for habitual offenders.

> It is imperative that tribal communities share information and network services so that victims can receive the best possible services with an emphasis on anonymity and safety. It is of high importance that tribes work together to provide professional referrals to appropriate agencies. Often tribes are unaware of the programs appropriate referrals. Enforcement and updating of tribal codes is also of high importance in order to ensure offender accountability for both batterers and sex offenders.
>
> ***—Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma***

> Our most remaining need is trying to assist women in shelter who have addictions or mental health issues. Our advocates are provided training in advocacy, but when you have a woman in shelter who is dealing with addictions and mental health issues advocates do not know how to respond. We need a full-time drug alcohol counselor for women. Most of the time women are using due to their abuser or due to past issues of sexual assault.
>
> ***—Wiconi Wawokiya Inc.***

Another significant remaining area of need is for more comprehensive victim services including outpatient and inpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment. Providing treatment services for both victims and offenders could enhance victim safety. For rural and isolated communities, anonymity is an additional problem. Victims may feel apprehensive if they know the person who is conducting their sexual assault forensic exam, or may worry that the community will find out about their situation or, worse, that their partner may find out that they are seeking assistance.

> One area of most significant need within the community is the availability of mental health services to the clients we serve. Many times the people we work with need additional therapy or other mental health services to process the trauma they have been through. Currently there is a very limited number of therapists and counselors available within our service area. In some cases, the program makes referrals as far as Green Bay, which is about an hour drive. It is difficult, if not impossible, for the people we work with to make appointments at this distance on a regular basis. In some cases, the unavailability of these services can keep some of the people we work with stuck in the cycle of violence.
>
> ***—Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin***

Finally, many tribes discussed the need to address how the sexual assault of adults and children affect the functioning of both family and community. Most communities lack specialized services to address these issues. The need for resources and tools was identified as fundamental to the healing process.

> More services tailored to the immediate needs of sexual assault victims is an area of need. Currently the Seminole Nation Domestic Violence Program provides sexual assault advocacy but the community itself does not have the resources to provide immediate crisis services to those who are victims of rape. The surrounding communities as well need this immediate service for rape victims.
>
> ***—Seminole Nation of Oklahoma***

> There is a continued need for more awareness and education about the truths of sexual assault and the impact on our society as a whole, especially among the Native population and school-age teenagers. There is a great need for more accountability programs and education about perpetrators. Victim blaming is an area of concern as this impacts the victim coming forward to report the assault. Also, most victims are not believed and most often do not realize they have been sexually violated which hinders victims coming forward for medical care and or reporting to law enforcement. A more unified approach as a community is a need as state programs do not always want to work with tribal programs.
>
> ***—Chickasaw Nation***

Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005) created a sexual assault services program for Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and nonprofit tribal organizations. The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (T–SASP) provides federal funding directly to tribes, tribal organizations and non-profit entities to create and maintain sustainable sexual assault services. T–SASP encourages tribal governments to provide critical and culturally relevant services that are specifically responsive to the needs of 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, sweat lodges) for those who have been sexually victimized.

> T-SASP funding has allowed the White Earth DOVE Program to provide specifically tailored services to American Indian populations by allowing us to fund a sexual assault advocate with the experience, skills, and training it takes to respond to sexual assaults as an advocate throughout the communities within the White Earth Reservation. . . . The sexual assault advocate is also very knowledgeable of the Ojibwe language, culture, traditions and can connect victims with appropriate spiritual leaders, ceremonies/sweat lodges, practices, and to those who speak the Ojibwe language.
>
> ***—White Earth Reservation Tribal Council***
>
> This grant has allowed the services to be expanded in the cultural context of Native traditional healing practices, which has a major impact on the victims healing process and the ability to move beyond the immobilization of victimization toward living a normal, healthy lifestyle.
>
> ***—Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians***

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **25** individual T–SASP grantees[302] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **9**
- January–June 2012: **10**
- July-December 2012: **22**
- January-June 2013**: 24**

Staff

Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program-funded staff develop a coordinated community response, policies, and products. They provide victim services including advocacy, crisis intervention, legal assistance, court and hospital accompaniment, and transportation.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support victim advocates.

Table 98. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by T–SASP grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**8**	**9**	**13**	**23**
Total FTE staff funded	**9**	**9**	**13**	**22**
Victim advocates	5	4	7	10
Counselor	5	2	2	5
Administrators	1	1	0	1
Legal advocates	1	1	1	0
Program Coordinator	0	1	2	3

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

[302] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> Providing a tribal sexual assault advocate has helped to bridge the difference in cultures when it comes to victims obtaining services from those who are non-tribal. In the rural area of Seminole County it is extremely hard to find a Native American LPC counselor so the need of a culturally sensitive sexual assault advocate has offered Native victims understanding, compassion, and support.
>
> ***—Seminole Nation of Oklahoma***
>
> The T-SASP funding has allowed the Tribe to hire an advocate to help sexual assault victims and provide for victims' needs. The contracting of therapists' services in the provision of support groups and individual counseling to assist victims in their recovery is something the Tribe has never been able to do previous to receiving this funding.
>
> ***—Yurok Tribe***

Policies

T–SASP grantees develop, revise, and implement policies to provide standardized guidance to organizations and professionals on sexual assault against AI/AN women.

Types of policies most frequently developed, revised, and implemented were appropriate responses to victims to avoid or eliminate re-traumatization; confidentiality; procedures for anonymous, confidential, or Jane Doe reporting of sexual assaults; victim informed about crime victims compensation and victim impact statements; and advocate response to emergency rooms.

- Number of individual grantees using T–SASP funds for developing, revising, and/or implementing policies: **10** (40 percent of grantees)[303]

Victim Services

It is crucial that sexual assault services be provided in a manner that addresses the specific cultural needs of American Indian and Alaska Native victims.

The availability of a wide range of services to victims of sexual assault is a critical part of a coordinated community response. Victims may need crisis intervention, comprehensive support, and advocacy services that may include legal advocacy; medical and counseling services from health-care professionals; services from victim advocates, including safety planning, and accompaniment to forensic exams and to court.

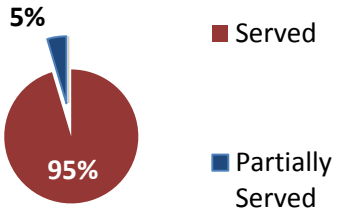
[303] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

It is crucial that sexual assault services be provided in a manner that addresses the specific cultural needs of AI/AN victims. The lack of culturally sensitive and appropriate services can pose daunting barriers to safety, justice, and healing. For example, victims may choose not to engage in services or may terminate services early if programs fail to incorporate issues of culture and language.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **24** (96 percent of grantees)[304]
- T–SASP grantees provided services to an average of **278** victims of sexual assault in a 6-month reporting period to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[305]

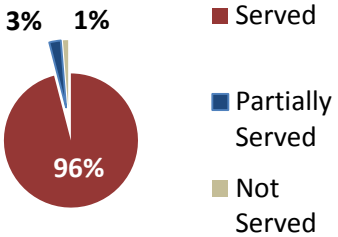
> This grant award funds a clinical social worker to provide therapeutic services to victims of sexual assault. In this past reporting period, the clinical social worker was able to provide services to 47 victims. These are critical services, without which victims and survivors may never begin, much less complete, healing from the trauma they have endured. The impact of this program has been tremendous, and cannot be overstated.
>
> ***—Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians***

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **130** victims sought services from T–SASP grantees.
- Of these, **130** (100 percent) victims received services.



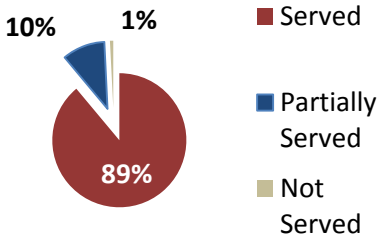
January–June 2012:

- **322** victims sought services from T–SASP grantees.
- Of these, **318** (99 percent) victims received services and **4** (1 percent) were not served.

[304] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[305] This number represents a calculated average of four 6-month reporting periods.

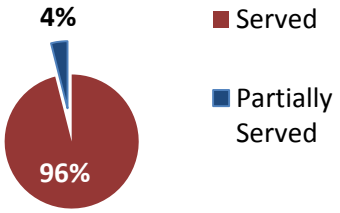
July–December 2012:

- **262** victims sought services from T–SASP grantees.
- Of these, **260** (99 percent) victims received services and **2** (1 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **404** victims sought services from T–SASP grantees.
- Of these, **404** (100 percent) victims received services.



NOTE: "Partially Served" represents victims who received some service(s), but not all of the services they requested, if those services were funded under the T–SASP grant. "Not Served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive service(s) they were seeking, if those services were funded under the T–SASP grant.

Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

- Conflict of interest
- Hours of operation
- Lack of childcare
- Program unable to provide service because of limited resources/priority setting

The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by **other family or household members**.

Table 99. Relationship to offender of victims served by the T–SASP grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Spouse or intimate partner	39	45	41	102
Other family or household member	35	74	93	113
Acquaintance	37	23	49	92
Dating relationship	9	14	21	28
Stranger	4	3	10	31

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

T–SASP grantees served or partially served an average of **278** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[306] The majority of those victims were **female** and between the ages of **25 and 59**.

Table 100. Demographic characteristics of victims served by T–SASP grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaska Native	123	306	251	392
Asian	0	1	1	1
Black or African-American	1	2	2	4
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	0	1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
White	4	9	6	6
Unknown	2	11	0	1
Gender				
Female	116	289	229	367
Male	14	29	29	37
Unknown	0	0	2	0
Age				
0–6	9	18	30	37
7–12	23	22	37	57
13–17	26	44	24	73
18–24	12	15	25	59
25–59	59	213	137	150
60+	1	4	4	10
Unknown	0	2	3	18
Other				
People with disabilities	13	13	27	26
People who are Deaf or hard of hearing	0	0	0	0
People with limited English proficiency	0	1	1	6
People who live in rural areas	96	158	137	245

NOTE: Data include victims and children who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

[306] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Secondary Victims

T–SASP grantees provided services to an average of **126** secondary victims. Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by sexual assault—e.g., children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, grandparents, other affected relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Types of Victim Services

T–SASP grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault. These services include victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and support group/counseling. Victims of sexual assault often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health-related issues, school-related issues, financial and transportation needs, and employment. Most victims have not been exposed to the justice system, so assistance from an advocate can help them navigate through the various legal processes.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[307]

- Counseling/support group: **933**
- Victim advocacy: **642**
- Transportation: **486**
- Crisis intervention: **405**
- Material assistance: **338**
- Cultural advocacy: **288**
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment: **221**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **209**

> T-SASP funding has dramatically increased our capacity to provide direct services through a child advocate who has transported victims to SANE exams, facilitated transport of every child to forensic interviews during an investigation, and has provided transport for victims to therapy appointments and follow up medical appointments. The advocate has also made supportive outreach calls to family members of victims, assisted with filing of protection orders and attended court hearings on such orders as a support to the non-offending family members. Our T-SASP funded child therapist has developed relationships with the reservation schools in furtherance of our goals to reach child victims on campus with services.
>
> ***—Tulalip Tribes of Washington***

[307] Victims and children were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

Hotline Calls

- Out of a total of **3,240** hotline calls received, more than half (**1,916**) were received from victims.[308]

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **751** unsolicited letters, phone calls and/or visits to victims.[309]

Remaining Areas of Need

Largely, grantees indicated the need for acknowledgment and a comprehensive awareness of sexual assault within their communities. Although domestic violence has become more widely recognized in tribal communities, sexual assault still remains identified as somewhat of a taboo.

> The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community OVW Programs and Services Office continue to recognize the need to improve the response to sexual assault in our community. We recognize a severe under reporting of sexual assault. In addition to stigma, fear of reprisal, and secondary victimization from various community services including police, prosecutors, doctors, and nurses; survivors sometimes are responded to in a way that leaves them feeling blamed or doubted.
>
> ***—Keweenaw Bay Indian Community***
>
> At this time in the program, the area that stands out the most is to raise awareness in the community about sexual assault among Native women. It seems that because we are in such tight knit areas, the public is scared to intervene or even get involved. So if we can let them know how to keep themselves safe while saving someone else in the process, we would be one step closer having a successful program.
>
> ***—Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma***

By and large, tribal grantees in rural areas and isolated communities report slow response times to incidents and express a significant need for access to transportation and support services, such as shelter and/or transitional housing for victims.

[308] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims, and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.
[309] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.

> Due to our isolation, transportation to receive adequate support and access to outside resources is limited. It would be much more appropriate to have immediate and local access to services or funding for outside transportation needs, which would allow us to more sufficiently serve the adult, youth, and child victims as well as family and household members within our community.
>
> ***—Chippewa Cree Tribe***

Grantees also specified a need for culturally competent training of stakeholders and staff who work directly with victims. Communication and collaboration were also noted universally as critical needs, particularly among health care providers, law enforcement, prosecution and behavior health departments.

> Our one advocate is overloaded with the severity of our cases. We are lacking in our community prevention services. We do not have the staff to cover the additional needs we have. The first and foremost issue that we need to address is our tribal health. They do not provide sexual assault exams so we are transporting our victims 1½-3 hours for sexual assault exams. We feel we are re-victimizing our clients by dragging them all over our state. We need to have more collaboration with our clinic. There is a need for additional specialized law enforcement officers and training for road officers. There is major turnover in law enforcement so it is difficult to stay on top of training with every officer.
>
> ***—Three Affiliated Tribes of Ft. Berthold***
>
> In the jurisdictional area of the Seminole Nation we have no SANE nurses or a hospital that is currently equipped to handle SANE exams. These areas are a great need in our community and within the surrounding communities as well. The need for a tribal CASA program is also need within the Seminole Nation to provide supportive services to our children involved in court proceedings who are relying on the justice system for prosecution and protection. Training specific to sexual assault cases for tribal judges, prosecutors, social service program, ICWA, and law enforcement would be a major benefit to both tribal and non-tribal service providers in Seminole County.
>
> ***—Seminole Nation of Oklahoma***

It was reported that improving the response to sexual assault in these communities would help address the issue of under reporting and allow victims to feel comfortable engaging in services with service providers and other community members.

We need to hire a long-term advocate to provide more focused support to victims and non-offending caregivers. Another area is investigation leading to prosecution. Currently, our region does not have a specific investigator for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse. Ideally, we would be able to hire an investigator who could focus on these crimes which would lead to a higher prosecution rate. I think that if victims who are silent see that perpetrators are being prosecuted and removed from their communities, they may be more willing to come forward.

—Kawerak Inc.

Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Program

The Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Grant Program (Youth Services Program) funds projects that provide direct intervention and related assistance services for youth victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking that are designed to meet the specific needs of youth and young adults.

Youth Services Program grantees are required to provide direct counseling and advocacy for youth and young adults (ages 13–24) who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Grantees may also provide mental health services, legal advocacy, and other services such as childcare, transportation, educational support, and respite care.

Youth Services Program grantees must also provide culturally, linguistically, and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations.

In response to the specific challenges faced by youth and young adult survivors who come from diverse communities, Youth Services Program grantees must also provide culturally, linguistically, and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations, or linkages to existing services within their community.

Youth Services Program grantees are also required to complete a planning phase during which a needs assessment, strategic plan, and policies must be completed and submitted to OVW for review and approval before implementing their project.

We have seen and heard from youth, young adults, and professionals about how thankful they are that a program like ours exists. Virtually all of the clients we have served have received support that they would have otherwise gone without. Through this program barriers to minor consent have improved as well as ease of access to legal support. Clients have sent staff texts and phone calls after they have completed the program to give updates of their lives. . . . This speaks to our strong bonds formed with clients and positive influence in their lives.

—Tubman, Minnesota

General Grant Information

***Nine** percent of Youth Services Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.*

Information for this report was submitted by **34** individual Youth Services Program grantees[310] for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. **Unless otherwise noted, data were included for all four 6-month reporting periods.** The number of grantees reporting in each period was as follows:

- July–December 2011: **33**
- January–June 2012: **33**
- July–December 2012: **32**
- January–June 2013: **31**

Nine percent of Youth Services Program grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations; these grantees identified **three** unique tribes or nations they were serving or intended to serve.

Sixty-one percent of Youth Services Program grantees are non-profit, nongovernmental entities whose primary purpose is to provide services to teen and young adult victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

Twelve percent of Youth Services Program grantees are community-based organizations specializing in intervention or violence prevention services for youth.

[310] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Eighteen percent of Youth Services Program grantees are non-profit, nongovernmental entities that provide services for runaway or homeless youth affected by domestic or sexual abuse.

Staff

Youth Services Program-funded staff develop a coordinated community response; develop policies and products; provide training and outreach; and provide victim services including advocacy, counseling, crisis intervention, legal assistance, and court and medical accompaniment to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

Grantees most often used grant funds to support counselors and victim advocates.

Table 101. Full-time equivalent staff positions funded by Youth Services Program grantees

Staff funded	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Grantees using funds for staff	**27**	**33**	**32**	**31**
Total FTE staff funded	**37**	**41**	**46**	**52**
Counselors	11	13	12	12
Victim advocates	10	12	14	16
Program coordinators	9	8	12	12
Administrators	3	4	4	4

FTE = full-time equivalent
NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

Funding has allowed Pathfinders to create the first advocate in Milwaukee that is designated for youth services. With the city-wide needs assessment completed and results pointing to no youth specific advocacy, the Youth Anti-Violence Advocate has been a needed and valuable addition. Our organization works specifically with runaway and homeless youth, LGBT youth, sexually exploited, and traumatized youth. Having a designated staff who can help youth navigate through the medical and legal systems, provide emotional support, and help youth access their resilience to cope with their trauma is invaluable.

—Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Our agency has been able to commit an advocate to spend the time necessary at the Homeless Teen Center to build relationships with both the providers and clients. We have seen number increase in all our services, and have been providing more one-to-one advocacy to homeless and street-involved youth than ever before.

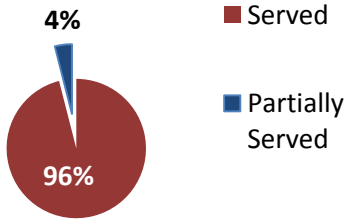
—Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine, Maine

Victim Services

Victims need comprehensive support services that meet a wide array of needs. Grantees may provide advocacy and support to the victims as they seek a protection order; accompany victims during medical procedures such as sexual assault forensic examination; provide safety planning; and provide accompaniment to court, shelter, transportation, and job training.

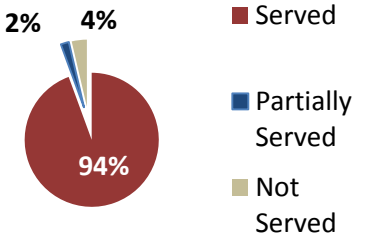
- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **33** (97 percent of grantees)[311]
- Youth Services Program grantees provided services to an average of **2,241** victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to help them become and remain safe from violence in a 6-month reporting period.[312]

Victims Seeking Services



July–December 2011:

- **2,007** victims sought services from Youth Services Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,001** (99.7 percent) victims received services and **6** (<1 percent) were not served.



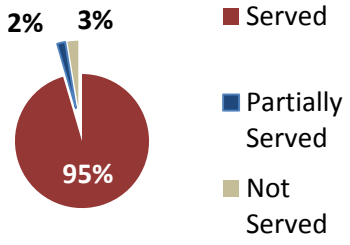
January–June 2012:

- **2,472** victims sought services from Youth Services Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,382** (96 percent) victims received services and **90** (4 percent) were not served.

[311] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[312] This number represents a calculated average for all four 6-month reporting periods.

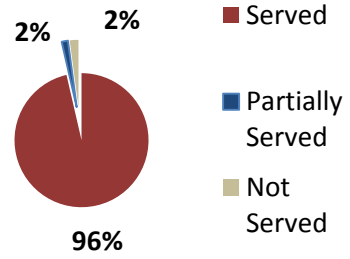
July–December 2012:

- **2,295** victims sought services from Youth Services Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,236** (97 percent) victims received services and **59** (3 percent) were not served.



January–June 2013:

- **2,393** victims sought services from Youth Services Program grantees.
- Of these, **2,343** (98 percent) victims received services and **50** (2 percent) were not served.



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

Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

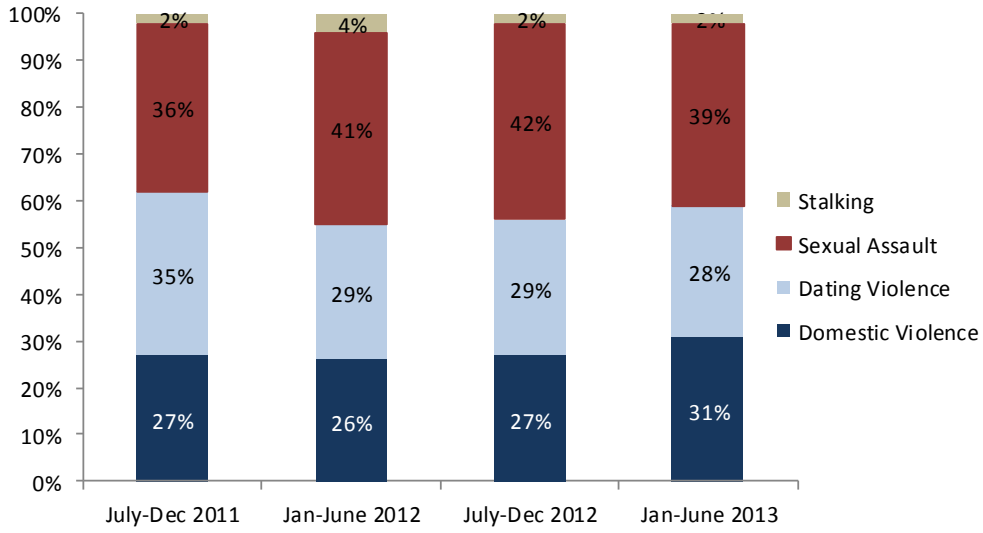
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons that victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting
- Did not meet statutory requirements
- Program rules not acceptable to victim
- Transportation
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims with mental health issues

Victims Served by Primary Type of Victimization

Youth Services Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by Youth Services Program grantees were primarily reported as victims of **sexual assault** (36-42 percent).

Figure 20. Provision of victim services by Youth Services Program grantees, by type of victimization[313]



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized in a **current or former dating relationship**.

Table 102. Relationship to offender of victims served by the Youth Services Program grantees

Relationship to offender	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July Dec 2012	Jan June 2013
Dating relationship	838	751	568	710
Spouse or intimate partner	607	1,032	641	534
Other family or household member	390	534	516	360
Acquaintance	149	288	320	391
Stranger	53	84	138	62

NOTE: Because victims may have been victimized by more than one offender, the number of relationships reported may be higher than the total number of victims served.

[313] The overall number of victims served represents an unduplicated count; this means that each grantee counts the victim only once, regardless of the number of times that victim received services during each reporting period. Because victims can only be counted once, they must be reported under only one primary victimization. It is not uncommon for victims to experience more than one type of victimization (e.g., domestic violence and stalking or domestic violence and sexual assault), but the reported percentages of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims served do not reflect that fact.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Youth Services Program grantees served or partially served an average of **2,241** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[314] The majority of those victims were **white**, **female,** and between the ages of **18 and 21**.

Table 103. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Youth Services Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
Race/ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaska Native	23	75	77	52
Asian	30	25	46	52
Black or African-American	633	663	771	762
Hispanic or Latino	470	404	352	483
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	10	32	16	17
White	532	863	693	718
Unknown	317	341	310	308
Gender				
Female	1,766	2,059	1,894	2,049
Male	219	306	308	269
Unknown	16	17	34	25
Age				
13–17	585	704	643	695
18–21	839	874	941	931
22–24	564	641	619	657
Unknown	13	163	33	60
Other				
People with disabilities	104	126	168	138
People who are Deaf or hard of hearing.	6	13	20	18
People with limited English proficiency	112	178	58	72
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	69	146	73	82
People who live in rural areas	218	210	330	322
People who are homeless/runaways	438	595	571	455

[314] This number represents a calculated average of all four 6-month reporting periods.

Table 103. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Youth Services Program grantees

Characteristic	July–Dec 2011	Jan–June 2012	July–Dec 2012	Jan–June 2013
People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender	224	230	302	267
People with mental health issues	399	462	394	389

NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, data may exceed the total number of victims served.

Types of Victim Services

Youth Services Program grantees provide an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These services include victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services), crisis intervention, and support group/counseling. Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking often need a variety of services, including help with material goods and services, health-related issues, school-related issues, financial and transportation needs, employment, and legal issues.

All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees reported that the following services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the four 6-month reporting periods:[315]

- Counseling/support group: **5,802**
- Victim advocacy: **4,537**
- Crisis intervention: **4,337**
- Transportation: **1,685**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **1,212**
- Material assistance: **1,148**
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment: **960**

[315] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

Funding allows Crisis Center of Tampa Bay to provide bilingual advocacy and counseling services that are specifically tailored for 13-24 year-old clients who have been victims of sexual crimes. Forty-five percent of the population served during this reporting period were children, ages 13-17. Many of these sexual assault clients come for initial visit/exams and/or follow-up with Spanish-speaking only parents. The funding allows us to tailor our knowledge, services and advocacy efforts to aid and often provide explanations to the many questions that arise after an assault has occurred.

—Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Florida

This funding has allowed us to run with an idea that homeless youth who are in precarious circumstances, can still engage in therapy and resolve trauma symptoms. Doing so, puts them in a healthier position to successfully move forward. Trauma symptoms contribute to perpetual homelessness and unemployment and danger. Investing in this population has been the most rewarding work we have done at King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

—King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, Washington

Shelter Services

Youth Services Program grantees provided emergency shelter to an average of **41** victims and **38** family members for a total of **5,629** bed nights over the four 6-month reporting periods.

Hotline Calls

- Out of a total of **8,015** hotline calls received, nearly three-quarters (**5,675**) were received from victims.[316]

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **2,358** unsolicited letters, phone calls and/or visits to victims. [317]

Remaining Areas of Need

Youth Services Program grant recipients reported many areas of remaining need. One of the most prominent areas noted was for safe housing options, particularly for homeless and runaway youth, male and LGBT victims, and sexually exploited youth.

[316] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims, and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.
[317] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.

> This reporting period saw a huge increase in the number of homeless or marginally-housed young people that were denied public housing due to increasingly stringent eligibility criteria and lack of availability. This lack of affordable housing options continues to be a huge barrier to our clients' safety. This is especially true for teens under age 16, who are not eligible for any kind of emergency shelter in New York if they are not accompanied by a parent.
>
> ***—Fund for the City of New York, New York***

Grantees further reported the need for more outreach and prevention in schools, primarily in terms of holding offenders of dating violence and sexual assault accountable. The application of appropriate and consistent sanctions continues to present a challenge for the victims and their families.

> Victim and perpetrator can both attend the same school and there is little consistency for how this situation is handled within the school system. Sometimes the victim is singled out, and escorted to and from class by the school resource officer. Youth report that this decreases the willingness of other youth to report dating violence as they find the remedy humiliating.
>
> ***—Haven House Inc., North Carolina***

Additionally, the need to establish culturally appropriate and relevant services remains a key barrier to providing effective support for specific populations of victims. Many of the victims presenting for services face additional barriers related to their language capacity, documentation status, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

> This fear is strongest in those who believe they would lose family support and for some, a place to live if their parents knew they were in a same sex dating or intimate relationship. If telling a guidance counselor at school that they were assaulted means losing their family and their home, some minor youth are clear with us that their only real choice is silence even if the abuse or attacks continue.
>
> ***—Spectrum Youth and Family Services, Inc., Vermont***

Finally, grantees noted a need for more specialized services. Rural communities continue to struggle with providing comprehensive services. Geographic barriers are significant, especially for youth victims of sexual assault. Lack of transportation and the ability to access timely medical attention creates challenges to the overall well-being and safety of victim. More pro-bono attorneys who can provide civil-legal assistance, particularly with protection order filings are needed. Many youth do not understand the

complexities of the legal system and find themselves intimidated by the process, so much so, many grantees reported that they simply "give up."

> Our county has a single, on-call physician's assistant who handles all of the county's sexual assault exams and rape kits. She only provides this service for youth age 15 and older; younger victims are referred to a larger, more urban area (such as Sacramento) for this type of exam. These young clients are re-victimized by being sent hours away to conduct this traumatizing exam, and there is no follow-up on the referral, so care providers in our county do not know whether these young clients actually receive all the help they need in the end.
>
> ***—Plumas Rural Services, California***
>
> Many youth and young adults fear the court process for obtaining protection orders. Fears include retribution from the respondent in the case and fear that the court won't believe there story. These fears have led many youth to not seek out protection orders or to start the process and then cancel the order. This could be helped by more available free/low cost attorney counsel or representation.
>
> ***—Tubman, Minnesota***

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United States Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

Working Together to End the Violence

Report on the OVW Grant Programs Funded Under

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Part B

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Background

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. It was an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act was an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need. The Department of Justice's (Department) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) received $225 million of the Federal aid issued through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). OVW distributed the Recovery Act funds by awarding formula and discretionary grants to state and local governments, including Indian tribal governments, as well as private and nonprofit organizations throughout the country to reduce violence against women and administer justice for, and strengthen services to, all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The following is a list of the OVW grant programs that received Recovery Act funds:

- Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program – $8.75 million
- Technical Assistance Program – $8.2 million
- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault – $43 million
- Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Grant Program – $2.8 million
- Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program – $20.8 million
- STOP[318] – $140.4 million

[318] The STOP Recovery Act report is included with the 2014 STOP Report to Congress.

Program Objectives and Activities

OVW's main objective in its implementation of the Recovery Act was to provide the necessary resources, through the use of grants, to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable for their actions. These funds were intended to support local governments and private organizations with similar objectives and, in addition, create and retain jobs across the nation[319]. The following is a list of OVW's program-specific objectives that Recovery Act funding helped to achieve:

- Promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women.
- Encourage the development and improvement of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and improvement of advocacy and services in cases involving violent crimes against women.
- Provide support to coalition members (rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters) through funding, training, and technical assistance, public awareness, and public policy advocacy.
- Provide assistance to individuals who are homeless or in need of transitional housing or other housing assistance as a result of fleeing a situation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for whom emergency shelter services or other crisis intervention services are unavailable or insufficient.
- Enhance the ability of tribes to respond to violent crimes against Indian women, enhance victim safety, and develop education and prevention strategies.
- Enhance the capacity of nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions to end violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

Transparency, Accountability, and Barriers to Effective Implementation

The Recovery Act placed great emphasis on accountability and transparency in the use of taxpayer dollars. A Transparency Board was created along with a website – Recovery.gov – to provide information to the public, including

access to detailed information on grants and contracts made with Recovery Act funds.

OVW management was committed to achieving both the transparency and accountability objectives of the Recovery Act. OVW's current method of ensuring transparency and accountability for all of its grant programs requires operational and financial reports to be submitted by all grantees on a regular basis. Discretionary grant programs grantees are required to submit detailed semi-annual progress reports through the OJP Grants Management System (GMS). Grantees and sub-grantees of the STOP Formula Grant Program are required to submit detailed annual progress reports directly to OVW. After review and approval of grantee reports, OVW transmits these data, as well as sub-grantee data, to the Muskie School of Public Service's Catherine E. Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy (the Muskie School) for further review and analysis.

Sources of Data

This report is based on data submitted by **89** individual grantees funded by the Recovery Act Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program; **17** individual projects funded by the Recovery Act Technical Assistance Program; **94** individual grantees funded by the Recovery Act Transitional Housing Assistance Grants Program; **10** individual grantees funded by the Recovery Act Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions; and **35** individual grantees funded by the Recovery Act Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program.[320]

[320] See Appendix A for a complete breakdown by program for each 6-month reporting period.

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Recovery Act State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program

The purpose of the Recovery Act Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program (Recovery Act State Coalitions Program) was to enhance the capacity of state sexual assault and domestic violence programs to provide technical assistance to member victim service programs and to hire or retain coalition program staff. This program funded three types of statewide coalitions – sexual assault, domestic violence, and dual. Statewide sexual assault coalitions provide direct support to member rape crisis centers through funding, training and technical assistance, public awareness activities, and public policy advocacy (e.g., state coalitions might work with law enforcement, prosecution, and faith-based and community organizations to enhance their responses to victims of sexual assault). Statewide domestic violence coalitions provide comparable support to member battered women's shelters and other domestic violence victim service providers. Dual coalitions provide both types of support to a membership that includes both domestic and sexual violence service providers.

By statute, funds awarded under the Recovery Act State Coalitions Program were used for the following purposes:

- Coordinating state victim services activities
- Collaborating and coordinating with federal, state, and local entities engaged in violence against women activities

Examples of activities that were supported by the Recovery Act State Coalitions Program are as follows:

- Providing training and technical assistance to member agencies, including "train-the-trainer" conferences, interpreters, or translation support for culturally-specific populations
- Expanding the technological capacity of coalitions and/or member programs
- Conducting statewide, regional, and/or community-based meetings or workshops for victim advocates, survivors, legal service providers, and criminal justice representatives
- Bringing local programs together to identify gaps in services and to coordinate activities

- Increasing the representation of underserved populations in coordination activities, including providing financial assistance to organizations that serve underserved communities to participate in planning meetings, task forces, committees, etc.
- Increase personnel for the purposes above or retain personnel that current funding would otherwise not be able to support

This grant has enhanced our communication abilities, data management for grants and audit reporting. The OCADVSA Data Management Specialist has provided support to the OCADVSA Technology Committee in developing a data system for OCADVSA member programs to use in billing for service and managing grant reports. The improved www.ocadvsa.org would not have happened without this funding.

—Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The recovery grant funding has allowed NJCASA to partner with experts on a Law Enforcement Advisory Board and complete the first-ever standardized training for police officers across the state who respond to sexual violence incidents. It has also allowed NJCASA to provide to local programs a data collection system that will yield complete and consistent information on sexual violence incidents, on perpetrators and survivors, and the services that were accessed. This data collection system should enable NJCASA to analyze data and evaluate services in a more comprehensive way.

—New Jersev Coalition Aaainst Sexual Assault

General Grant Information

Information for this chapter was submitted by **89** individual Recovery Act State Coalitions Program grantees[321] for the January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2012 progress report period. Grantees reported semi-annually and **unless otherwise noted, data were included for all eight 6-month reporting periods.**

Thirty-eight percent of the grantees reporting were domestic violence coalitions, **36** percent were sexual assault coalitions, and **26** percent were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.

[321] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Staff

Recovery Act State Coalitions Program staff provided training, education, and technical assistance to help end domestic and sexual violence and hold offenders accountable.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for staff: **86** (97 percent of all grantees)[322]

Grantees most often used funds for program coordinators and support staff.

Table 1. Full-time equivalent[323] staff positions funded by Recovery Act State Coalitions Program grantees

	Full time equivalent (FTE) staff funded	
Staff	**Number**	**Percent of positions funded**
Total FTE staff funded	**140**	**100**
Program coordinators	52	37
Support staff	24	17
Technical assistance providers	16	11
Trainers	14	10
Administrators	11	8
Communication specialist	10	7

NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

[322] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[323] One FTE represents one full-time equivalent staff funded for 1 year.

Our Housing and Economic Justice Coordinator position was vacant for several years due to a lack of funding. The stimulus funding allowed us to fill this core staff position and better meet the needs of victims. In addition, the funds allowed us to hire a full-time Skylark Coordinator for our prison program. This has allowed us to do work we have wanted to undertake for years and become one of the nation's leaders in this area of advocacy.

—Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

With funding from the American Recovery and Investment Act, Day One was able to retain two staff people, two consulting firms, promote the work of the Coalition and to enhance the agency's technological capacity. Without this funding, the Coalition's administrative support person, as well as its IT Coordinator, would not have been able to continue to work on Coalition projects.

—Day One, Minnesota

Training

As states, territories, and communities develop coordinated responses to reduce violence against women, high-quality training is of paramount importance in the development of effective strategies. Grantees trained coalition members and other professionals to improve their response to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and to increase offender accountability.

The most common topics of training events were advocate response to victims; child witnesses; confidentiality; cyberstalking, dating violence overview dynamics and services; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; drug-facilitated sexual assault; and forensic evidence collection and documentation.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **74** (83 percent of all grantees)[324]
- Total number of training events: **1,614**
- Total number of people trained: **37,042**

[324] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 2. People trained with Recovery Act State Coalitions Program funds for all eight reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 37,042)	
Position	Number	Percent
Victim advocates	14,920	40
Multidisciplinary	5,593	15
Health/mental health professionals	2,385	6
Government agency staff	2,123	6
Law enforcement officers	1,501	4
Social service organization staff	1,307	4

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only and may not total 100 percent.

As a result of two community advocate trainings, 93 additional persons, mostly service providers in the community, have increased their knowledge about issues involving sexual assault and domestic violence. Seven of these individuals have accepted the challenge of conducting 50 presentations in neighborhood communities to reach underserved populations with information about victim rights and services available for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

—Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault

We had the opportunity to provide training to Indiana High School Counselors at their annual conference. We trained on responding and reporting incidents of dating violence, including elements of child sexual abuse, stalking, sexual assault, and bullying. Twenty-five counselors attended the session with evaluations indicating that over 95 percent were extremely satisfied with the information received and the knowledge gained.

—Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Intensive training was provided to corrections staff to establish a team response to sexual violence which occurs in the state corrections institutions. Trainings focused on the needs of female inmates. Corrections institutions established a sexual assault response team which connects with the community team. The result is to insure that inmate victims have seamless services.

—Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

Technical Assistance

Recovery Act State Coalitions Program grantees provided technical assistance to member programs through site visits and other consultations. Consultations included in-person, telephonic, electronic, or other types of contact with programs. The goal of technical assistance was to improve the response of professionals and organizations to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by improving organizational infrastructure; developing, revising, and implementing policies, protocols and procedures; and providing materials on relevant issues.

The most common topics of technical assistance included curricular and training issues, coordinated community response, state or local policies and practices, program development, safety planning, and victim service administration and operations.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for technical assistance: **72** (81 percent of grantees) [325]
- Total number of technical assistance site visits: **1,158**
- Total number of technical assistance consultations provided: **20,350**
- Total technical assistance (site visits and consultations) provided: **21,508**

> The Economic Justice Coordinator is providing program development assistance to a new Spanish-speaking employment program in the Portland area, creating domestic and sexual violence trained IRS tax sites/earned income tax credit and financial literacy program development across Oregon. As a result of this funding, there is a concerted interest and program development to increase economic resources for survivors.
>
> ***—Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence***
>
> This particular grant, the ARRA Grant to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions, allowed us to bring together 35 sexual assault and dual-issue program executive directors and/or program directors from across the state to receive technical assistance on best practices in running rape crisis/sexual assault programs. The 2nd Annual Leadership Summit contributed to improved relationships between FCASV and dual-issue programs, in particular, and provided an opportunity for FCASV and dual-issue programs to discuss [their] commitment to providing sexual assault services.
>
> ***—Florida Council Against Sexual Violence***

[325] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Products

Recovery Act State Coalitions Program grantees developed and revised a variety of products for distribution, including brochures, manuals, training curricula and materials, newsletters, and videos. The purpose of the products was to provide standardized information to professionals and organizations about sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The target audiences for the products included member organizations and other local, statewide, and tribal agencies that address sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking; the general public and victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for products: **72** (81 percent of grantees)[326]
- Total number of products developed or revised: **834**
- Total number of products used or distributed: **1,683,508**[327]

> The Native Co-Director hired with this grant, Brenda Hill, has set a new standard for material development and training for our Coalition. She has updated and/or created several new brochures, booklets and public awareness campaign posters, and has provided the information that our programs need to get connected with various systems and organizations that they can work with to educate and prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Her work with the Native teen populations of the state has involved focus groups that guide her decisions in creating materials for teens on dating violence.
>
> ***—South Dakota Coalition Ending Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault***

> Through the research and creation of "The Incidence of Sexual Victimization in Arizona's Underserved Populations" the rates and statistics of sexual assault among various underserved communities have been collected. These groups include tribal and rural communities, the elderly, high school and college victims, the LGBTQ community, and those with physical and/or mental disabilities. In addition, risk factors for victimization and special considerations for identifying and addressing sexual assault among these communities was also collected, along with corresponding recommendations and improvements for how service providers can better assist these often overlooked victims.
>
> ***—Arizona Sexual Assault Network***

[326] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[327] This number includes 1,463,165 website page views.

Underserved Populations

Grantees used funds to develop or enhance standards of service for populations that were underserved because of geographic location (e.g., rural isolation), underserved racial and ethnic populations, underserved because of sexual orientation or gender identity, populations that are underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, immigrant status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the state planning process in consultation with the attorney general. Grantees identified underserved populations, developed materials for underserved populations, included participation by members of underserved populations, and initiated other activities as the need became apparent.

- Number of individual grantees using funds to address underserved populations: **58** (65 percent of grantees)[328]

Grantees also used funds to identify gaps in services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence who were members of underserved populations. Grantees used funds to support training and technical assistance on conducting outreach, providing appropriate and accessible services for underserved victims, and providing an appropriate response by the criminal justice system to the unique needs of these types of victims.

> In connection with the Salt Lake City Diversity and Human Rights Commission, the membership coordinator facilitated community dialogues with Spanish speaking residents on health and safety concerns. These dialogues have proven to be insightful for developing training for the Spanish speaking communities.
>
> ***—Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault***
>
> The organization is very excited about increased use of social media and other online tools to reach one of our core target populations, 13-14 year old African American girls/women.
>
> ***—District of Columbia Rape Crisis Center, Inc.***

[328] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Recovery Act Technical Assistance Program

The primary purpose of the OVW Recovery Act Technical Assistance Program (Recovery Act TA Program) was to provide direct assistance to OVW Recovery Act grantees and subgrantees to develop creative ways to create and retain jobs and promote economic growth while focusing on the needs of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims. Technical assistance projects must have been national or regional in in focus.

OVW awarded funds to projects under the Recovery Act TA Program that addressed one of the following program scopes:

- Provide resources and information to OVW grantees on how to leverage resources during this economic crisis including how to promote sustainability of a project through strategic planning, organizational development, and capacity building
- Have the capacity to convene a summit, new grantee orientation, and other events providing ongoing technical assistance to assist grantees in implementing victim-centered strategies that will stimulate the economy and create or retain jobs

General Grant Information

Information for this chapter was submitted by **17** individual Recovery Act TA Program projects located within **16** agencies for the July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. Progress reports were submitted semi-annually and **unless otherwise noted, data were included for all eight 6-month reporting periods.**

Staff

Recovery Act TA Program staff provided training, education, and technical assistance to help end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and hold offenders accountable.

Grant funds supported an average of **21** staff positions.

- Number of individual projects using funds for staff: **15** (88 percent of all projects)[329]
- Total full-time equivalent[330] staff positions funded by Recovery Act TA Program funds: **74**

Training

Recovery Act Technical Assistance Providers offered training events to OVW grantees to enhance services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; to improve offender accountability; and to promote coordinated community responses to reduce violence against women.

The most common topics for training events were advocate response; domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; transitional housing; sustainability; cultural issues specific to American Indians and/or Alaska Natives; outreach to underserved populations; and strategic planning.

- Number of individual projects using funds for training: **16** (94 percent of all projects)[331]
- Total number of training events: **236**
- Total number of people trained: **7,558**

[329] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[330] One FTE represents one full-time equivalent staff funded for 1 year.
[331] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they received funds in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Shelter advocates have been working with women for many years (at least 20) to help victims find housing, work or obtain TANF, child support and maintenance, participate in job training or obtain college education. The change, the last 5 or so years, focuses on working with survivors on financial management and really understanding their financial situation, working to develop a financial plan that leads to a livable wage job - moving beyond the crisis. States are funding services that provide safety, support, advocacy, and resources to survivors; all of these services are designed to increase the survivors' self-sufficiency, which ultimately leads to economic status improvements. Based on our site visits, some sub grantees also offer the following economic self-sufficiency services to survivors: high level of follow-up post sexual assault or domestic violence incident, job location assistance and skills training, housing and utility assistance, relocation services, and transportation when needed. Learning from these programs that specifically address economic self-sufficiency and connecting them with their peers around the country can increase the focus on high quality economic self-sufficiency work for victims.

—Alliance of Local Service Organizations, Illinois

In partnership with the National Network to End Domestic Violence NNEDV project staff delivered a broad-based training to 79 attendees in October 2011 in Chicago, IL. We developed training materials and adapted curricula to emphasize the areas highlighted in the needs assessment that we conducted in the previous reporting period (e.g. strengthening the parent-child relationship after exposure to DV promoting resilience and adaptive coping reflective supervision and supports for vicarious trauma working with survivors experiencing psychiatric disabilities and/or trauma-related mental health conditions). We secured a keynote speaker and two guest faculty to compliment the training delivered by project staff. The project manager worked closely with the two guest faculty to develop a panel presentation and accompanying materials addressing employment supports for survivors experiencing trauma.

—Hektoen Institute of Medicine, Illinois

Technical Assistance

Recovery Act TA Program projects provided technical assistance to OVW grantees through site visits, consultations, information responses, and referrals. Technical assistance activities were provided in order to assist their work in a comprehensive and consistent manner. These activities included providing 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.

- Number of individual projects using funds for technical assistance: **15** (88 percent of projects)[332]
- Total number of technical assistance site visits: **128**
- Total number of technical assistance consultations provided: **1,876**
- Total number of information request responses: **1,313**
- Total number of referrals: **524**
- Total technical assistance activities provided: **3,841**

> As we move forward with the technical assistance project for financial management, the importance and specificity of issues becomes more apparent. Audits by the Office of the Inspector General have the attention of coalition management. Although the auditors' independence makes it impossible to say exactly what will and will not generate an audit finding, coalitions are accepting the generalizations that can be applied. Peer-to-peer sharing of financial management practices, training, and assistance from technical assistance specialists is helping to narrow the focus for improvements and practices. Narrowing the focus and stimulating change is a big improvement. So far, we have addressed the general financial management training and provided resources that they can use with their member programs. In general, the issues that emerged include cost allocation and time tracking to support it, staffing the financial management area, policies, and procedures. Individual coalitions have different emerging needs
>
> ***—National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence***

Products

Recovery Act TA providers developed and revised a variety of products for distribution, including brochures, manuals, training curricula and materials, newsletters, and videos. The purpose of the products was to provide standardized information to professionals and organizations about sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The target audiences for the products included member organizations and other local, statewide, and tribal agencies that address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; the general public; and victims.

- Number of individual projects using funds for products: **15** (94 percent of grantees)[333]
- Total number of products developed or revised: **471**

[332] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they received funds in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[333] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Total number of products used or distributed: **109,293**[334]

Underserved Populations

Recovery Act TA providers used funds to develop or enhance standards, protocols, or procedures for underserved populations and to encourage the representation of underserved populations in coordination activities. Populations were considered underserved because of geographic location (i.e., rural isolation), composition of racial and ethnic populations, and populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, immigrant status, or age).

- Number of individual projects using funds to address underserved populations: **11** (65 percent of projects)[335]

> A top priority for the tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions is building opportunities for individual and community safety for American Indian and Alaska Native women who are victims of violence. They examine and reveal systems that are in place when a victim reports a crime. One way is establishing a coordinated community response that involves different agencies and stakeholders in systems-wide delivery to American Indian and Alaska Native women. Their goals are to build multi-agency partnerships with tribal governments, tribal police or tribal programs, e.g. shelters, legal assistance, along with local, regional or state groups. How do their communities resolve issues of domestic violence and sexual violence and what are the support systems that are in place to help women who are in potential need of assistance? Their efforts seek to raise public consciousness about the occurrence of domestic violence and sexual assault and the ways to prevent or offer services if these harms arise. If communities begin to examine their systems development or implement systems change, their efforts can save lives.
>
> ***—First Nations Development Institute, Colorado***

[334] This number includes 90,604 website page views.
[335] This number reflects an unduplicated count of projects; projects are counted only once even if they received funds in more than one 6-month reporting period.

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Recovery Act Transitional Housing Assistance Grants Program

The purpose of the Recovery Act Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program) was to increase the availability of transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Transitional housing programs will meet the goals of the Recovery Act through employing victim advocates and other personnel to assist victims, renovating housing for victims, offering additional housing units, and increasing job opportunities for victims through training, education, and other support services.

By statute, funds under awarded under the Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program were used for the following purposes:

- Programs that provide transitional housing, including funding for the operating expenses of newly developed or existing transitional housing
- Programs that provide short-term housing assistance, including rental or utilities payments assistance and assistance with related expenses such as payment of security deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to transitional housing
- Programs that provide support services designed to enable individuals who are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to locate and secure permanent housing and integrate into a community by providing those individuals with services such as transportation, counseling, childcare services, case management, employment counseling, and other assistance

Recovery Act funds could also be used for legal services that were necessary to assist a victim in locating and securing permanent housing and to integrate into a community; minor renovations and repairs to increase the availability of transitional housing for victims; and to address intimate partner abuse and sexual assault committed against individuals aged 50 and older.

Areas of Special Interest to OVW

- Renovate transitional housing to increase accessibility for victims with disabilities
- Increase the availability of transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including through renovations or existing housing and short term rental and utility assistance for victims
- Create new jobs for personnel that assist victims or prevent job loss for such personnel including specialized advocates to assist victims with credit repair and other economic issues
- Increase the ability of victims to obtain jobs, including through employment counseling, job training, and educational support

Nevada is one of the states hardest hit by the recent recession, with high rates of unemployment, bankruptcy, and home foreclosure. As a result of the Transitional Housing Program funding, rural survivors and children in 5 rural regions of Nevada have been provided comprehensive housing assistance packages, including a wide array of support services and follow-up services. During this reporting period alone, 21 primary victims/survivors and their 29 children were offered household furnishings, rent subsidies, relocation expenses, rental unit fees, and utilities. We know the programming funded by this grant is making a difference. Six out of 8 survivors (75 percent) who exited transitional housing this reporting period left for permanent housing of choice, and 100 percent reported their perception of risk of violence was lower.

—Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **94** individual Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees[336] for the July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. Grantees submitted data semi-annually and **unless otherwise noted, data were included for all eight 6-month reporting periods.**

Provision of Housing

The ability to provide housing is seen by grantees as a vital part of supporting victims in leaving their abusers by allowing them to live safely in the

[336] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

community. Grantees note that without housing, a victim must often choose between becoming homeless or remaining with the abuser.

- Across the eight reporting periods, an average of **56** programs used funds to directly support housing units, with a maximum of **73** programs directly supporting housing units in a single reporting period.

Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees used a variety of strategies to provide housing to victims, their children, and other dependents. Some programs used funds to support either program-owned or -rented units, whereas other programs used rental assistance vouchers to provide housing to victims.

Table 3. Number and type of housing units funded by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

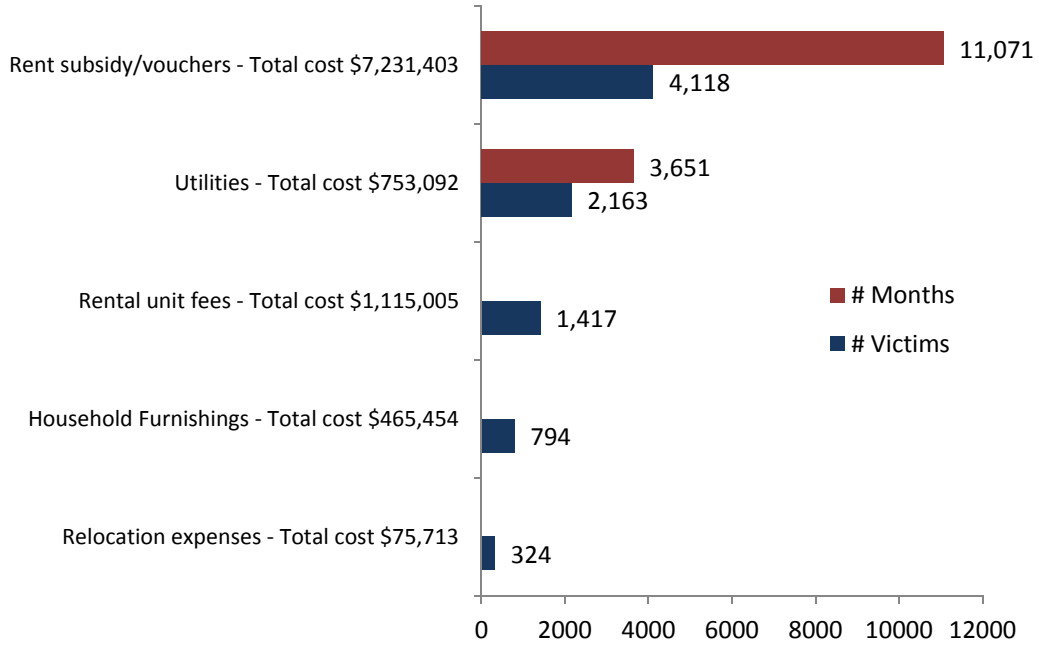
Staff funded	Average number per reporting period	Maximum number in a single reporting period
Program-owned units	95	137
Program-rented units	152	217
Vouchers/rent subsidies	432	656

Housing Assistance

In addition to funding housing units, Transitional Housing Program grantees assisted victims with security deposits, rental assistance, and utility payments.

> This grant has been very beneficial to homeless victims of domestic violence due to the leasing assistance component which empowers survivors and allows them to make the choice of where to live. They are able to choose the area where they feel most comfortable, whether it is to be close to their support system or in a particular school district. At the end of the leasing assistance time, they are able to remain in the home of their choice and do not have to once again move. Another helpful component of this funding is that we are able to offer services region wide, giving survivors even more options for housing.
>
> ***—Wellspring Alliance for Families, Louisiana***

Figure 1. Number of victims provided with housing assistance by the Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees for all eight reporting periods



NOTE: Victims may have received these services during each of the eight 6-month reporting periods.

Increasing Accessibility of Housing and Services

Some grantees have targeted services to reach typically underserved populations. A number of programs used funds to support an average of **270** housing units that were accessible to people with disabilities.

Using funds to support accessible housing units allows programs to house underserved populations. Recovery Act Transitional housing grantees also used funds to provide services and resources to victims with limited English language skills and who were elderly.

> One of the biggest challenges the agency has had is to provide comparable services to Spanish speaking clients. The partnership with Adelante Familia has created an opportunity to assist these women with housing placement in a manner that was not possible before the grant partnership.
>
> ***—House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.***

> The funding for the Transitional Housing Program allowed us to provide transitional housing for elders, which has never been provided in our state before. It has also allowed us to begin the conversations regarding appropriate services for older victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. It also allowed us to provide supportive services for these victims and to conduct cross-training to increase the capacity of existing domestic violence and sexual assault agencies to serve older victims.
>
> ***—Elder Abuse Institute of Maine***

Staff

Staff hired with Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program funds provided direct services to victims, children, and other dependents, as well as program administration.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for staff: **94** (100 percent of all grantees)[337]

Grantees most often used funds for case managers and transitional services advocates.

Table 4. Full-time equivalent[338] staff positions funded by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

	Full time equivalent (FTE) staff funded	
Staff	**Number**	**Percent of positions funded**
Total FTE staff funded	**518**	**100**
Case managers	140	27
Transitional services advocates/coordinators	88	17
Program coordinators	61	12
Victim advocates	48	9
Housing advocates	36	7
Administrators	29	6
Support staff	20	4

NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

[337] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[338] One FTE represents one full-time equivalent staff funded for 1 year.

Transitional Housing Program funding has allowed Coburn Place to rehire a counseling supervisor, four contract therapists, and ensure the employment of case managers. Counseling and case management are two important components of the Coburn Place program. Individual attention, guidance, and support help women break the cycles of domestic violence and poverty.

—Coburn Place Safehaven, Inc., Indiana

Services for Victims, Children and Other Dependents

Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees provided a broad array of services to victims, their children, and other dependents. These services included housing and housing advocacy, case management, crisis intervention, and counseling.

- Number of individual grantees using funds to provide victim services: **94** (100 percent of grantees)[339]

Victims Seeking Services

- An average of **2,155** victims sought services from Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees, with a maximum number of **3,338** victims seeking services in a single reporting period.

- Of these, Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees provided services[340] to an average of **1,783** (83 percent) victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking with a maximum number of **2,845** (85 percent) victims receiving services in a single reporting period.

[339] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[340] This includes fully-served and partially served.

Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS) has increased opportunities for young women ages 18 -24 who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation to obtain shelter and build independent living skills. Prior to receiving funding from OVW, GEMS did not have a cluster site for victims focused on achieving self-sufficiency through active participation in activities centered around education, employment, financial stability, and independent living. Funding from OVW has also enabled GEMS to hire additional staff, thereby reducing the organization's staff/member ratio and increasing overall organizational capacity.

—Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), New York

Number of Victims, Children and Other Dependents Not Served or Partially Served Solely Because of Lack of Available Housing

Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees who used funds to support housing units are asked to report on how many victims, children, and other dependents they cannot fully serve because of capacity issues related solely to lack of available housing units. Across all reporting periods, grantees reported that **75** percent of victims were partially served or not served solely due to a lack of available housing.

Table 5. Number partially served or not served solely because of lack of available housing

	Average	Maximum number in a single reporting period
Victims	80	513
Children	308	615
Other dependents	3	7

Other Reasons Victims, Children and Other Dependents Were Not Served or Were Partially Served[341]

During each reporting period, the greatest number of grantees noted the following barriers as reasons victims, children, and other dependents were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements
- Program rules not acceptable to parties

[341] An average of **372** victims (17 percent) were not served across all reporting periods.

The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former spouse or intimate partner** (83 percent).

Table 6. Relationship to offender of victims served by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

Relationship to offender	Average Victims	Percent
Current/former spouse or intimate partner	1,514	83
Current or former dating relationship	197	11
Other family member	80	4
Acquaintance	24	1
Stranger	11	0.5

NOTE: Percentages are based only on victims for whom the information was known.

Services for Children and Other Dependents

Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees provided housing and other supportive services including counseling, childcare, transportation, and advocacy to children and other dependents of victims who were receiving transitional housing services. Grantees responded to the needs of thousands of children each grant period, as well as other dependents that a victim may have been supporting. [342]

Children and Other Dependents Seeking Service

- An average of **2,466** children and other dependents sought services from Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees, with a maximum of **3,739** children and other dependents seeking services in a single reporting period.

- Of these, Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees provided services to an average of **2,024** (82 percent) children and other dependents with a maximum of **3,005** (80 percent) children and other dependents receiving services in a single reporting period.

[342] Other dependents may be people in the household that the victims are supporting, such as older relatives or adult children still living with a parent.

> This funding has allowed us to implement a comprehensive employment program in collaboration with Goodwill which includes job placement and retention components. As a result of this additional program, we have seen a 5 percent increase in our employment levels for supportive housing clients at exit. Additionally, the OVW funding has allowed us to maintain on-site childcare services that would have been eliminated if not for this grant. As mentioned in a previous reporting period, securing safe, affordable childcare is critical for survivors in trying to establish stability and independence from abusers.
>
> ***—Travis County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survival Center, Texas***

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees served or partially served an average of **1,783** victims. The majority of those victims were: **white** (41 percent), **female** (99 percent), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (75 percent).

Table 7. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

	Victims receiving services	
Characteristics	**Average**	**Percent**
Race/ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	100	6
Asian	31	2
Black or African-American	506	28
Hispanic or Latino	392	22
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	8	1
White	731	41
Unknown	32	NA
Gender		
Female	1,766	99
Male	16	1
Unknown	1	NA
Age		
13–17	13	1
18–24	347	20
25–59	1,340	75
60+	72	4
Unknown	11	NA

Table 7. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

Characteristics	Victims receiving services	
	Average	Percent
Other		
People with disabilities	227	13
People with limited English proficiency	237	13
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	202	11
People who live in rural areas	313	18

NA = not applicable
NOTE: Percentages are based only on victims for whom the information was known.

Demographics of Children and Other Dependents Served and Partially Served

Table 8. Demographic characteristics of children and other dependents served by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

Characteristic	Children and Other Dependents Receiving Services	
	Average	Percent
Race/ethnicity		
Children		
American Indian or Alaska Native	133	7
Asian	29	1
Black or African-American	549	28
Hispanic or Latino	616	31
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	14	1
White	639	32
Unknown	64	NA
Other dependents		
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	10
Asian	1	<1
Black or African-American	8	27
Hispanic or Latino	10	33
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1	<1
White	9	30
Unknown	1	NA

Table 8. Demographic characteristics of children and other dependents served by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

Characteristic	Children and Other Dependents Receiving Services	
	Average	Percent
Gender		
Children		
Female	998	50
Male	991	50
Unknown	6	NA
Other dependents		
Female	16	53
Male	14	47
Unknown	0	NA
Age		
Children		
0–6	985	50
7–12	660	33
13–17	337	17
Unknown	12	NA
Other dependents		
18–24	26	87
25–59	3	10
60+	1	3
Unknown	0	NA
Other		
Children		
Children with disabilities	94	5
Children with limited English proficiency	143	7
Children who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	103	5
Children who live in rural areas	361	18
Other dependents		
Dependents with disabilities	4	0.1
Dependents with limited English proficiency	2	<1
Dependents who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	5	0.2

Table 8. Demographic characteristics of children and other dependents served by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees

Characteristic	Children and Other Dependents Receiving Services	
	Average	Percent
Dependents who live in rural areas	3	0.1

NA = not applicable
NOTE: Percentages are based only on children and other dependents for whom the information was known.

Types of Victim Services

Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program grantees provided an array of support services designed to enable victims who are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking to locate and secure permanent housing. Economic stability is required for victims to maintain stable housing for themselves and their children. In order to assist victims in achieving long-term economic security, grant programs often provide services to assist families in healing from abuse and integrating into the community. Grantees provided crisis counseling, case management, housing advocacy, transportation, counseling, child care services, financial counseling, employment counseling, children's activities, and educational assistance to victims, their children, and other dependents.

Grantees reported that the following support services were provided most frequently (not a complete list) to victims over the eight 6-month reporting periods:[343]

- Case management: **12,207**
- Housing advocacy: **7,973**
- Other victim advocacy: **6,934**
- Crisis intervention: **6,728**
- Counseling/support group: **6,898**
- Material assistance: **6,575**
- Financial counseling: **6,215**

[343] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.

> With this grant funding we have been able to retain our bi lingual/bi cultural case manager who has been able to build a very strong and supportive network within the Spanish speaking community as well as with other agencies providing services to these victims. We are able to provide ESL classes as well as several other classes including safety planning in Spanish. Our case manager has built a very strong network and partnership with Catholic Charities, Community Council of Idaho and most recently working with the Mexican Consulate to help our victims with immigration issues.
>
> ***—Advocates Against Family Violence, Inc., Idaho***

Types of Services for Children and Other Dependents

Children who have lived with domestic violence in the home may need support to help them understand and cope with such violence, and other supports to help them develop socially, behaviorally, emotionally, and academically. Programs that provide case management and advocacy services to children can increase access to health, mental health, and other services tailored to individual children. Some programs provided direct services designed to increase children's social and emotional development, such as support groups and children's activities. Other services provided include transportation, childcare, and clothing.

The most frequently reported support (not a complete list) provided to children and other dependents by Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program funded grantees over the eight 6-month reporting periods:[344]

- Case management: **10,112**
- Material assistance: **5,970**
- Other victim advocacy: **4,175**
- Children's activities: **3,728**
- Child-care: **3,836**
- Crisis intervention: **3,110**
- Counseling/support group: **2,473**

Transitional Housing and Destination upon Exit

Recovery Act Transitional housing grant funds could be used to house victims for up to 18 months.[345] After their stay in grant-funded housing, victims

[344] Children and/or other dependents were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, children and/or other dependents may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods.

[345] By statute, a grantee may waive the 18-month restriction for no more than 6 months for victims who have made good-faith efforts to acquire permanent housing and have been unable to acquire permanent housing. This restriction was extended to 24 months by VAWA 2005. The 6-month waiver provisions still apply.

most often were reported as **moving to permanent housing of their choice** (82 percent).

Table 9. Number of victims in each destination category upon their exit[346]

Destination upon exit	Average	Percent
Permanent housing of choice (Section 8, return to home, rent or purchase housing)	203	82
Temporary housing with family or friend	24	10
Transitional Housing (other than grant-funded program)	10	4
Health Care Facility/substance abuse treatment program	5	2

NOTE: Only the most frequently reported categories are presented. Percentages are based only on victims for whom the information was known.

Victims' Perception of Risk of Violence upon Exit

Victims most often reported perceiving a **lower risk of future violence** (87 percent) upon their exit from transitional housing.

Table 10. Number of victims who indicated each of the following perceptions about their risk of violence upon exit[347]

Perception about the risk of future violence	Average	Percent
Lower risk of violence	205	87
Equal risk of violence	15	6
Greater risk of violence	3	1
Does not know	13	6
Unknown	39	NA

NOTE: Percentages are based only on victims for whom the information was known.

Follow-up Support Services

If grantees used funds for housing units and supportive services, grantees must have provided a minimum of 3 months follow-up support services to victims after their stay in the transitional housing units. These follow-up services were intended to continue to connect victims and their families with assistance from the program.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for follow-up services: **92** (98 percent of grantees)[348]

[346] Only the most frequently reported destinations are presented.
[347] Only the most frequently reported perceptions of risk are presented.
[348] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

The following types of funded follow-up services were most often reported (not a complete list) to victims over the eight 6-month reporting periods:

Victims:

- Case management: **2,032**
- Material assistance: **1,055**
- Housing advocacy: **827**
- Other victim advocacy: **823**
- Financial counseling: **785**
- Counseling/support group: **693**
- Crisis intervention: **680**

Children and Other Dependents:

- Case management: **1,215**
- Material assistance: **844**
- Other victim advocacy: **461**
- Children's activities: **322**
- Child-care: **271**
- Counseling/support group: **195**
- Crisis intervention: **167**

> The Transitional Housing program grant has funded the staff to provide case management and various other supports to survivors after they have left our program. This increases the victim's circle of support and I think it is very beneficial to the client that they have a point of contact to assist them even after they have gained their independence by accessing permanent housing.
>
> ***—Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma***

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Recovery Act Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions

The purpose of the Recovery Act Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions (Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program) was to provide much needed resources for organizing and supporting efforts to end violence against Indian women. These coalitions helped to meet the goals of the Recovery Act through providing technical assistance to their member programs.

By statute, funds awarded under the Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program were used for the following purposes:

- Increasing awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women (AI/AN)
- Enhancing the response to violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women at the tribal, Federal, and state levels
- Identifying and providing technical assistance to coalition membership and tribal communities to enhance access to essential services to American Indian women victimized by sexual and domestic violence

Examples of activities that were supported by the Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program are as follows:

- Providing technical assistance to coalition members, programs, organizations, and service providers to support and develop their leadership in ending violence against Indian women
- Conducting statewide, regional, and/or tribally-based meetings or workshops for tribal victim advocates, survivors, community members, legal services staff, health care professionals, and criminal justice representatives
- Bringing local tribal programs together to identify gaps in services and to coordinate activities

- Coordinating and presenting public awareness or community education programs (including education for youth) to increase understanding of domestic violence and/or sexual assault
- Providing direct services or assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, provided that, no more than 15 percent of the total budget may be used to support these activities
- Hiring staff for the purposes above or retaining staff that current funding would otherwise not be able to support

> The current funding has allowed our Tribal Coalition to continue our services, maintain our office, and expand our staff. More importantly, the funding for Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition has provided our communities, families, and tribal governments with a UNIFIED TRIBAL WOMEN'S VOICE. This coalition funding has allowed nine reservations to come together and be representatives for their women and young girls.
>
> ***—Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition***

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **10** individual Recovery Act Tribal Coalition Program grantees[349] for the period July 1, 2009 to December 30, 2012 progress report period. Grantees reported semi-annually and **unless otherwise noted, data were included for all seven 6-month reporting periods.**

Ninety percent of the grantees were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions and **10** percent were sexual assault coalitions.

Staff

Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program staff provided training, education, and technical assistance to help end violence against AI/AN women and hold offenders accountable.

[349] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for staff: **10** (100 percent of all grantees)[350]

Grantees most often used grant funds for program coordinators.

Table 11. Full-time equivalent[351] staff positions funded by Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program grantees

	Full time equivalent (FTE) staff funded	
Staff	Number	Percent of positions funded
Total FTE staff funded	**29**	**100**
Program coordinators	11	40
Support staff	5	17
Administrators	3	15

NOTE: Staff categories do not add to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported categories are presented.

> For the first time ever, UTFAV is now fully staffed! The program is finally serving its purpose and receiving excellent and enthusiastic responses from the Tribal communities. Tribes have been extremely responsive to our program and are excited about the resources and support they can and are accessing through UTFAV.
>
> ***—Uniting Three Fires Against Violence***

Training

Grantees trained professionals to improve their response to AI/AN victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. High quality training also helps increase offender accountability. Tribal Coalitions Program grantees trained professionals across a broad spectrum: victim advocates, tribal elders, tribal law enforcement officers, tribal prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, and health and mental health professionals.

The most common topics of training events were cultural issues specific to AI/AN; advocacy for AI/AN women; dynamics and history of violence against AI/AN women; and historical trauma.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **8** (80 percent of all grantees)[352]

[350] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once, even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[351] One FTE represents one full-time equivalent staff funded for 1 year.

- Total number of training events: **72**
- Total number of people trained: **2,043**

Table 12. People trained with Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program funds for all seven reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 2,043)	
Position	**Number**	**Percent**
Domestic violence program staff (tribal–161; non-tribal–91)	252	12
Multidisciplinary group	251	12
Sexual assault program staff (tribal–63; non-tribal–177)	240	12
Law enforcement officers (tribal–112; non-tribal–38)	150	7
Tribal community group member	141	7

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

> The Recovery Act dollars have provided us the unique and appreciated opportunity to fully focus on the individual needs of each of the Tribes as each is in different stages of development with staff and law enforcement and tribal court personnel. Training was tailored towards each unique need, we coordinated with Sacred Circle and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to provide unique opportunities to each area – all with the focus on victim safety and offender accountability.
>
> ***—First Nations Women's Alliance***

Community Education

Community education is designed to increase awareness of violence against AI/AN women, inform community members about what they can do to respond, and offer guidance on how people may help a family member or friend who has been victimized. Outreach activities may include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, and parades.[353]

[352] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

[353] 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.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community education: **8** (80 percent of grantees)[354]
- Total number of education events: **270**
- Total number of people educated: **23,896**

Table 13. People educated with Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program funds for all seven reporting periods: Selected groups

	People educated (N 23,896)	
Category	Number	Percent
Community members	13,455	56
Tribal community members	4,902	21
Tribal students	3,540	15
Tribal government staff	531	2
Tribal parents/guardians	165	1

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently selected categories only.

Technical Assistance

Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program grantees provided technical assistance to programs to help other professionals and organizations improve their response to AI/AN victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and to help other professionals and organizations improve organizational infrastructure. Recovery Act Tribal coalitions developed, revised, and/or implemented policies, protocols, procedures, and/or training. Grantees provided technical assistance through site visits and/or other types of consultations, including in-person, telephonic, electronic, or other types of contact with member programs.

The most frequent areas of technical assistance were developing or enhancing culturally appropriate services for underserved populations; coordinated community response; response to sexual assault victims; victim service administration and operations; and response to domestic violence victims.

- Number of individual grantees using Tribal Coalitions Program funds for technical assistance: **8** (80 percent of grantees) [355]
- Total number of technical assistance consultations provided: **700**

[354] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[355] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

- Total number of technical assistance site visits: **247**
- Total assistance (site visits and consultations) provided: **947**

Policies

Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program grantees developed, revised, and implemented policies to provide standardized guidance to organizations and professionals on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against AI/AN women.

Types of policies most frequently developed, revised, and implemented included appropriate response to underserved populations; victim services standards of service; staff, board, and/or volunteers represent diversity of your service area; confidentiality; and training standards for staff and volunteers.

- Number of individual grantees using Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program funds for developing, revising, and/or implementing policies: **7** (70 percent of grantees)[356]

Products

Tribal Coalitions Program grantees developed and revised a variety of products that address violence against women. These products included brochures, manuals, training curricula and materials, newsletters, and videos. The purpose of distributing these materials was to provide information to other professionals and organizations on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against AI/AN women.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for products: **7** (70 percent of grantees) [357]
- Total number of products developed or revised: **83**
- Total number of products distributed: **126,477**

[356] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[357] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> This funding allowed us to address the lack of culturally specific educational and public awareness materials for addressing sexual violence in Indian Country. Tribal advocates have long been asking for a curriculum specific to the needs in Indian Country, and we were able to address that need through this funding. In addition, we were able to create educational brochures, a public awareness booklet, and a video, which will all be useful tools for our advocates in our coalition and in other areas nationwide.
>
> ***—Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition***

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Recovery Act Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

The purpose of the Recovery Act Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program) was to enhance the ability of tribes to address violence against Indian women. These grants support a broad spectrum of activities intended to strengthen the capacity of Indian tribes to respond to violence against Indian women, including providing services to victims and ensuring offender accountability. The grants will help grantees to hire new personnel, develop databases, renovate housing, and help victims achieve economic independence.

By statute, funds awarded under the Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program were used for the following purposes:

- Develop and enhance effective plans for the tribal government to reduce violent crimes against Indian women and help keep them safe. The plans to reduce the violence and keep Indian women safe can be based on tribal law and customs.
- Increase the ability of the tribal government to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking committed against Indian women.
- Strengthen the tribal criminal justice system's ability to get involved with stopping violence against Indian women. This may include improving the ability of tribal law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and other court staff, probation officers, and the staff at tribal jails to become involved in stopping violence against Indian women.
- Improve services that are available to help Indian women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Work with the community to create education and prevention campaigns that are designed to inform members of the tribal community about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs, and that also increase the community's awareness about the needs of children who have witnessed domestic violence.

- Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange programs that allow children to visit with their *non-custodial parent* in cases where one parent has committed an act of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the other. In cases where the court has ordered that the non-custodial parent have supervised visitation with the child, the program should create a place where that parent can have a supervised visit with the child. If the court has not ordered supervised visitation, then the program should offer a safe, neutral place for the non-custodial parent of the child to pick the child up and return the child for unsupervised visitation. A supervised visitation and safe exchange program must have appropriate security measures, policies, and procedures so that victims and their children are safe.
- Provide transitional housing assistance for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The assistance provided to victims may include housing, money for rent, utilities, a security deposit, or other minor costs related to moving into transitional housing. A transitional housing assistance program may also offer victims support and services necessary to help the victim locate and secure permanent housing.
- Provide legal advice and representation to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who need assistance with legal issues that are caused by the abuse that they have suffered. The legal assistance should be provided at minimal or no cost to the victim.

Program Priority Areas

- Establishing partnerships with institutions of higher education, including tribal colleges, community colleges, and four-year universities, to offer victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking financial assistance to help pay for educational costs that are not otherwise covered by financial aid, such as costs for GED programs or vocational programs, as well as assistance with books, supplies, rent and utilities, childcare, and transportation costs (**Note**: The need for this support must be linked to the victimization and support services designed to facilitate victim recovery and encourage victims to obtain economic independence from abusers must be provided)
- Renovating facilities/houses for use as shelter, safe homes, or transitional living units
- Hiring staff, acquiring necessary equipment, or executing contractual agreements to support tribal efforts to comply with the mandates of the Federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act

- Preserving or maintaining staff positions related to providing direct services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or creating new, temporary positions that help tribal governments to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

> Prior to receiving this grant, there was not a program with the Kaw Nation for an issue such as this. We have started an entirely new program for Native Americans locally regarding domestic violence and sexual assault issues. This program is much needed and will benefit so many Native Americans and their families. We will collaborate with two other agencies locally to help provide shelter, and to help those that need to gain their GED to obtain that as well.
>
> ***—Kaw Nation of Oklahoma***
>
> The Tribal Governments Program funding allowed our Family Violence Prevention Program to fund two positions specifically designed to address outreach and victim advocating. The outreach specialist performs his job duties of spreading community awareness about family violence, as well as finding other resources within the community that can be useful for our program's victims and survivors as they seek to overcome dangerous situations. The victim advocate has given our community a reliable individual who is always available to support and advocate for the betterment of a victim of violence. The victims advocate specializes in building relationships with survivors of abuse, often giving them a reliable relationship they might not have elsewhere. These two positions have become a valuable part of the community in which we serve. Their effectiveness in educating the community and supporting a victim of abuse is made possible by the funding our program receives from the Tribal Governments Program.
>
> ***—Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation***

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **35** individual Recovery Act Tribal Government Program grantees[358] for the July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2013 progress report period. Grantees reported semi-annually and **unless otherwise noted, data were included for all eight 6-month reporting periods.**

[358] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once, even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Staff

Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program-funded staff provided victim services, training, outreach, supervised visitation, law enforcement activities, prosecution, court services, supervision of offenders, and batterer intervention programs to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

- Number of grantees using funds for staff: **34** (97 Percent of all grantees)[359]

Grantees most often used funds for victim advocates and administrators.

Table 14. Full-time equivalent[360] staff positions funded by Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees

	Full time equivalent (FTE) staff funded	
Staff	Number	Percent of positions funded
Total FTE staff funded	**201**	**100**
Victim advocates	59	29
Administrators	27	13
Program coordinators	22	11
Case manager	17	9
Support staff	14	7
Trainers/educators	12	6
Counselor	9	5

NOTE: Staff categories do not add up to total FTEs because only the most frequently reported staff categories are presented.

The program was also able to hire a sexual assault counselor. Filling this position has allowed us to provide community education, staff training, and counseling services to victims specifically focused on sexual violence. It has also increased our collaboration with other community agencies, including the SANE Program in Shawano County. The strengthened focus on sexual assault has resulted in more survivors coming forward to receive services and more women realizing that experiences they did not understand to be sexual assault, in fact were just that. These funds have also allowed us to hire 2 shelter support staff to maintain shelter and on site transitional units supervision. The ability to have adequate staff levels is the key to providing direct services as well as maintaining safety for victims.

—Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

[359] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-monthreporting period.
[360] One FTE represents one full-time equivalent staff funded for one year.

> This training has allowed us to begin a dedicated focus on working with elder abuse victims (age 50+) and to provide the education to the communities on elder abuse is a big plus. We hear many stories of abuse and need to focus on our elders in our communities and stress that respect is needed for all mankind. We will have a dedicated investigator to work on the crimes of domestic violence/sexual assault/stalking!
>
> ***—White Earth Reservation Tribal Council***

Training

Quality training is necessary for the development of an effective coordinated community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The training of professionals builds a safer community for all members.

The most common topics for training events were domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; advocacy for AI/AN women; cultural issues specific to American Indians and Alaska Natives; safety planning for victims.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for training: **18** (51 percent of grantees)[361]
- Total number of training events: **114**
- Total number of people trained: **1,967**

Table 15. People trained with Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program funds for all eight reporting periods: Selected professional positions

	People trained (N 1,967)	
Position	Number	Percent
Multidisciplinary groups (205 tribal; 227 non-tribal)	432	22
Victim advocates (227 tribal; 51 non-tribal)	278	14
Law enforcement (168 tribal; 80 non-tribal)	248	13
Tribal government/ tribal government agency staff	210	11
Health professionals (46 tribal; 73 non-tribal)	119	6

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only.

[361] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> We conducted our first every Pueblo-New Mexico-Federal Summit on Coordinated Criminal Justice Strategies in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), National Center on Protection Orders & Full Faith & Credit, and Southwest Center for Law and Policy (our OVW Technical Assistance who helped spearhead this summit for us).
>
> ***—Nambe Pueblo Governor's Office***

Community Education

Community education increases awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education can connect people who share the goal of building a safe, supportive, and accountable community.[362] A large number of grantees provided education to community members.

The most common topics for community education events were domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services; domestic violence/dating violence prevention; dating violence overview, dynamics and services; youth awareness of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking; and healthy relationships/domestic violence/dating violence prevention (community).

- Number of individual grantees using funds for community education: **25** (71 percent of grantees)[363]
- Total number of people educated: **47,669**

Table 16. People educated with Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program funds for all eight reporting periods: Selected groups

	People educated (N 47,669)	
Group	Number	Percent
Community members	22,987	48
Students	13,748	29
Community groups	1,992	4
Parents/guardians	1,655	3

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently selected categories only.

[362] Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables providers to improve their response to victims and to better understand their role in the system.

[363] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Outreach Activities

- A total of **854** activities were conducted throughout the eight 6-month reporting periods. The most common outreach activities were education exhibits, such as the Clothesline Project, Silent Witness, and information tables.

Victim Services

Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees provided a wide range of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These services were a critical part of a coordinated community response that included victim advocacy, legal services, and transitional housing. Services were provided by a victim services agency; legal services organization; or staff providing victim services within law enforcement, prosecution, or the court system. Services from victim advocates included safety planning, accompaniment to court, transitional housing assistance, or supervised visitation and exchange services.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for victim services: **30** (86 percent of grantees)[364]
- An average of **711** victims sought services from Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees, with a maximum number of **1,004** victims seeking services in a single reporting period.
- Of these, Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees provided services[365] to an average of **704** (99 percent) victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking with a maximum number of **998** (99 percent) victims receiving services in a single reporting period.

[364] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[365] This includes fully and partially-served.

> In the past two years we have come a long way in moving into partnerships and coming together as a community. Barrow is an area that is accessible only by plane; the women who were sexually assaulted did not have proper medical exams and care. That is changing; the community SART has been working very well and when the hospital has finished construction they will have an area dedicated to women who are victims of crime and they are creating a victim-sensitive program designed to provide a team approach to responding to sexual assaults in our community. The goals are teamwork, cooperation, communication, and flexibility. A unified SART approach helps to reduce trauma, increase support, and have consistent evidence collection.
>
> ***—Barrow Native Village of Alaska***

Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

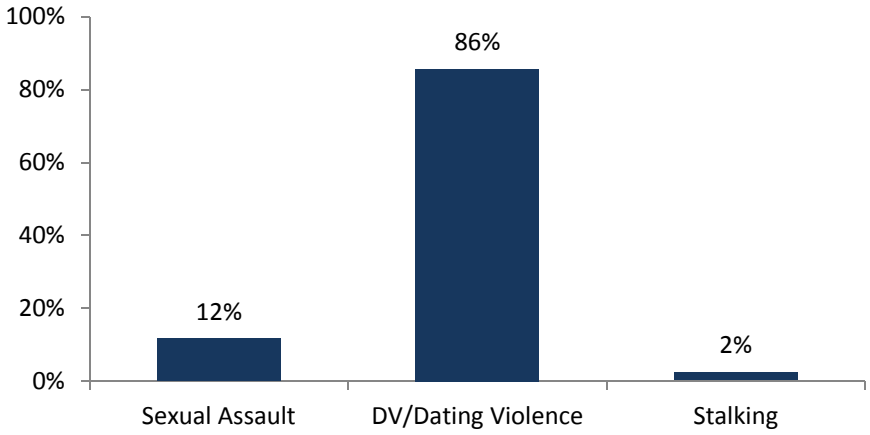
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently reported the following barriers as reasons that victims were not served or were partially served[366]:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements
- Services not appropriate for victim
- Program unable to provide services because of limited resources/priority-setting
- Program rules not acceptable to victim/survivor
- Conflict of interest
- Transportation

Tribal Governments Program grantees serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Those served by Tribal Governments Program grantees were overwhelmingly reported as victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (86 percent).

[366] An average of **7** victims (<1 percent) were not served across all reporting periods.

Figure 2. Provision of victim services by Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program funds, by type of victimization



The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **current or former intimate partner** (83 percent).

Table 17. Relationship to offender of victims served by Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees

Relationship to offender	Average Victims	Percent
Current/former spouse or intimate partner	596	83
Other family member	82	11
Acquaintance	24	3
Current or former dating relationship	18	2
Stranger	5	1

NOTE: Percentages are based only on victims for whom the information was known.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees served or partially served an average of **704** victims in a 6-month reporting period.[367] The majority of those victims were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (81 percent), **female** (94 percent), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (75 percent).

[367] This number represents a calculated average of all eight 6-month reporting periods.

Table 18. Demographic characteristics of victims served by Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees

Characteristics	Victims receiving services	
	Average	Percent
Race/ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	573	81
Asian	<1	<1
Black or African-American	19	3
Hispanic or Latino	11	2
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	11	2
White	109	15
Unknown	5	NA
Gender		
Female	661	94
Male	42	6
Unknown	<1	NA
Age		
13–17	22	3
18–24	131	19
25–59	519	75
60+	22	3
Unknown	10	NA
Other		
People with disabilities	41	56
People with limited English proficiency	2	<1
People who live in rural areas	416	59

NA = not applicable
NOTE: Data include victims who were fully or partially served. Because some victims identify with more than one race/ethnicity, percentages may be greater than 100 percent. Percentages are based only on victims for whom the information was known.

Services to Children

Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees provided services to an average of **469** children of victims over the eight reporting periods with a maximum of **879** in a single reporting period. Services including child care, transportation, and counseling were provided an average of **6,786** times.

Types of Victim Services

Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees provided an array of services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking, including victim advocacy (actions designed to help the victim obtain needed resources or services); civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment (assisting a victim with civil legal issues, such as preparing paperwork for protection orders, accompanying a victim to a protection order hearing, administrative hearing, or other civil proceeding; and all other advocacy within the civil justice system); and crisis intervention.

All victims received safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

Grantees report that the following services (not a complete list) were provided most frequently to victims over the eight 6-month reporting periods: [368]

- Victim advocacy: **3,810**
- Counseling services/support group: **2,908**
- Transportation: **2,052**
- Crisis intervention: **3,317**
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment: **1,317**
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment: **896**

Hotline Calls

- Grantees reported a total of **11,709** crisis or information and referral calls received by an agency's hotline or office telephone.[369]

Victim-Witness Notification/Outreach to Victims

- Grantees reported a total of **12,221** letters, phone calls, or visits to victims.[370]

Shelter/Transitional Housing Assistance

The Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees provided emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and family members. Emergency

[368] Victims were reported once for each category of service received in each reporting period. However, victims may have received multiple services in the same reporting period and the same service(s) in multiple reporting periods. Only the most frequently reported categories of services are presented.
[369] Number of calls is not unduplicated. In addition to victims, hotlines receive calls from intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers of victims and from members of the general public requesting information, some of whom may be victims but who do not identify themselves as such.
[370] Number of notification and outreach activities is not unduplicated.

shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations. Victims and their family members received assistance with costs associated with clothing, food, rental unit fees, transportation, and utilities.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for shelter/transitional housing services: **22** (63 percent of grantees)[371]

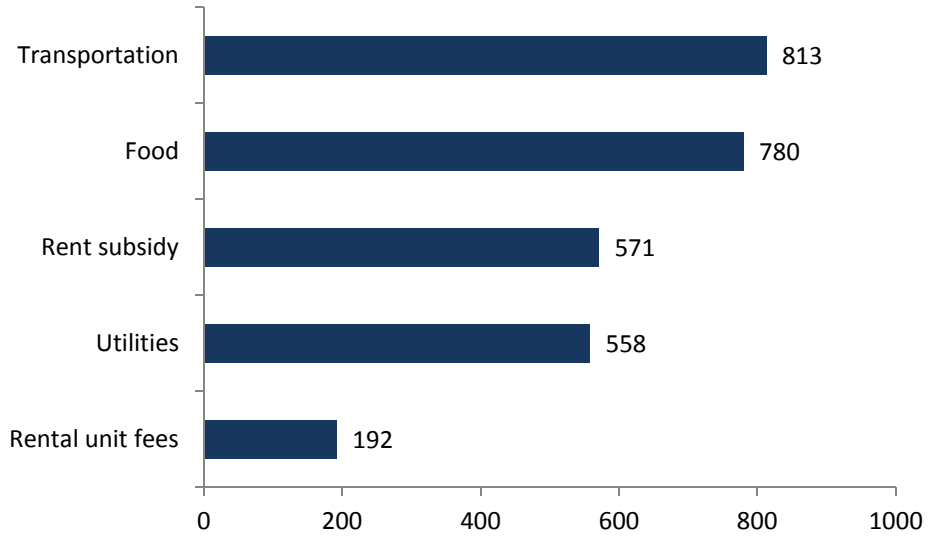
Tribal Governments Program grantees provided the following across the eight 6-month reporting periods:

- Emergency shelter to an average of **64** victims and **89** family members for a total of **28,962** bed nights; and
- Transitional housing to an average of **70** victims and **98** family members for a total of **113,358** bed nights

Housing Assistance

In addition to transitional housing, Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees assisted victims with expenses for transportation, food, clothing, security deposits, rent, relocation, and utilities to enable them to maintain or procure housing.

Figure 2. Number of victims provided with housing assistance for all eight reporting periods by Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees



[371] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they received funds in more than one 6-month reporting period.

> This funding has allowed our program to create a Transitional Living Program for survivors of sexual violence. The program pays for the security deposit, rent and utilities on apartments in the community as well as connected to the domestic violence shelter itself. These payments can last up to 6 months and give a significant benefit to the program participants, who utilize that time to focus on making a slower, healthier transition to an independent life.
>
> ***—Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin***
>
> Without the Tribal Government Program funding we would not be able to have a Transitional Housing Program that allows for the victims and their children to live in a place without the fear of violence. It allows the victim to get back on their feet to be able to start work, go to school, and other services that would not be available.
>
> ***—Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma***

Legal Services

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims through the Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program.

Most grantees provided legal assistance with protection orders and divorce.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for legal services: **8** (23 percent of grantees)[372]
- Total number of legal issues[373] addressed: **843**
- Average number of victims receiving assistance with legal issues: **62**
- Average number of victims who received assistance with multiple legal issues: **20** (32 percent of those receiving legal services)

Criminal Justice

The matter of jurisdiction in Indian Country can often pose significant challenges. Jurisdiction may belong to the state, federal, or tribal government depending on a host of factors including the race of the victims and perpetrator, the legal status of the land where the incident occurred,

[372] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

[373] Legal issues represent the total number of new and pending matters for which victims received assistance. Victims are counted only once for each legal issue addressed during each 6-month reporting period. Some victims receive assistance with multiple legal issues across multiple reporting periods.

and the type of crime committed. Determining the appropriate agency to respond to an incident on tribal lands can be extremely confusing. This complicated jurisdictional legal landscape can lead to misunderstandings and disputes about which jurisdiction is responsible. To add to the confusion, while many tribes operate their own police department and court system, there are limitations to the types of crimes and individuals that can be prosecuted under tribal law. Many grantees whose tribal communities have a criminal justice system have developed or instituted important changes in tribal codes pertaining to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Some have adapted state laws in their own codes to be more culturally relevant, whereas others have formulated entirely new codes based on ancestral laws that had been historically successful before European influences.

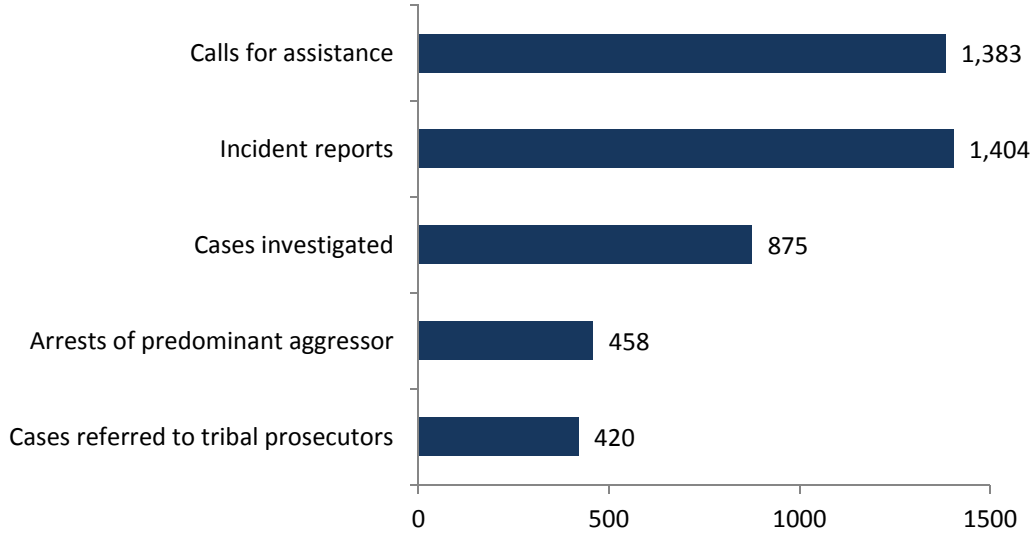
Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers are crucial to prevention and justice for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking. Tribal law enforcement officers respond to emergency calls for assistance, interview the witnesses, and are often familiar with the personalities and circumstances involved. Every other agency, including prosecution, depends on them for their information and understanding of a case. For this reason, it is common for tribal law enforcement officers to provide continuing assistance throughout the length of a case. Further, the manner in which tribal law enforcement responds to a call is critical. Their response and attitude may influence whether victims will report sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking offenses, and whether appropriate evidence will be collected to allow prosecutors to successfully bring cases against offenders. Tribal law enforcement is a vital component of the peacekeeping and accountability process for the Tribal Nations that they serve.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for law enforcement: **4** (11 percent of grantees)[374]

[374] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees may have received funds in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Figure 3. Law enforcement activities funded by Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases for all eight reporting periods



NOTE: Grantees report only on those law enforcement activities that are funded under the Recovery Act 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.

Table 19. Law enforcement activities in Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases for all eight reporting periods by type of victimization

Activity	Sexual assault	Domestic violence/dating violence	Stalking	Total activities
Calls for assistance	91	1,287	5	1,383
Incident reports	103	1,296	5	1,404
Cases/incidents investigated	99	771	5	875
Arrests	35	422	1	458
Referrals of cases to tribal prosecutor	25	395	0	420

Referrals to Victim Services

- Law enforcement staff made **469** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services.

The GTB SART Project funding has allowed the GTB to hire a domestic violence police officer and retain the domestic violence counselor/advocate. With these services it will bridge the gap for the victims and the family. The officer will follow up on cases along with the victim advocate in providing notice to the victims, enforcement of personal protection orders, etc. The Domestic Violence Counselor offers crisis and support counseling, safety planning, direct services provision, and referrals to victims/survivors. The holder of this position will also coordinate the SART, DV Task Force meetings, and facilitate trainings and community awareness activities within our six county service area, in addition to incorporating culture and tradition into the contemporary responses when it is requested by the victim and family. The program has also made it possible to continue to improve collaboration with the United States Attorney's Office of the Western Michigan District. They help discuss procedures and protocol in addressing domestic violence, stalking, dating violence and sexual assault which continues to improve services and the safety of victims and the family.

—Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Prosecution

Tribal prosecutors play a significant role in securing safety and justice for Native victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Prosecution of offenders varies by state and tribal nation. Given the complex jurisdictional issues, it is essential to provide police and prosecutors with the tools, resources, and expertise to correctly identify specific sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking offenses and enhance charges and sentences consistent with applicable statutes. Incorporating the voices of the victims, coupled with the proper charging of abusers (Native and non-Native) and followed by prosecution, safeguards victims and their children from further abuse and reduces overall recidivism by criminal abusers.

Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program grantees that used funds for prosecution activities may have pursued prosecution by making referrals to appropriate external agencies and/or by prosecuting case referrals received. Domestic violence cases are any assaults, battery, vandalism, or other offenses that occurred during a domestic violence incident.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for prosecution: **2** (6 percent of grantees)[375]
- Prosecutors received **1,151** sexual assault, domestic violence, dating

[375] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

violence, and/or stalking case referrals and filed charges in **879** (76 percent) of the cases.

Table 20. Disposition of cases by prosecutors funded by the Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program for all eight reporting periods

Activity	Number
Total number of cases disposed of	865
Total number of cases dismissed	119
Total number of convictions[376]	746
Total number of victim referrals to tribal victim services	434

Referrals to Victim Services

- Prosecution staff made **442** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services.

> This award has provided the resources to ensure a sexual assault case is handled in a professional and consistent manor. Sexual assault cases are now handled by one prosecutor using the vertical prosecution model often applied to other violent or financial crimes cases. The vertical prosecution model insures that from when charges are filed, through defendant processing, and to final disposition the case is handle by one prosecutor. This provides a more consistent out come in the judicial system as well as easing the survivors stress during the process. We have been able to meet monthly with the police department, local coalitions, the US District Attorney's Office, and the FBI to review how the cases of SA/DV are being reported, filed, processed, and the final disposition in order to assist in establishing a prosecution baseline of reported Sexual Assault crimes.
>
> ***—Tohono Oodham Nation***

Courts

There is wide variety in the types of tribal court systems, and the laws are unique to each tribal nation. Some tribal courts resemble Western-style courts, where written laws and rules of court are applied. An increasing number of tribes are returning to traditional means of resolving disputes, including the use of peacemaking, elders' councils, sentencing circles, and banishment. Many tribes that are establishing new tribal courts, or enhancing established ones, are developing hybrid or blended systems that incorporate traditional dispute resolution procedures that have proven

[376] This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represented 16 percent of all conviction outcomes.

effective within their cultures and communities, while also ensuring the "rule of law" and due process.

Courts funded by the Tribal Governments program conducted a range of activities.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for court activities: **1** (3 percent of grantees)[377]

Table 21. Disposition of court cases funded by the Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program for all eight reporting periods

Activity	Number
Total number of new cases	696
Total number of cases disposed of	542
Total number of cases dismissed	231
Total number of convictions[378]	311

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.

- Number of individual grantees using funds for review activities: **1** (3 percent of grantees)[379]

- An average of **88** offenders received **375** face-to-face monitoring contacts throughout the eight reporting periods.

[377] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.
[378] This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represented 62 percent of all conviction outcomes.
[379] This number reflects an unduplicated count of grantees; grantees are counted only once even if they reported data in more than one 6-month reporting period.

Table 22. Probation activities funded by the Recovery Act Tribal Governments Program for all eight reporting periods

Activity	Number
Average number of offenders	256
Total number of offenders who completed probation	348
Offenders completing probation without violations	167
Offenders completing probation with violations	181

Referrals to Victim Services

- Courts made **6** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services.

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Conclusion

The data from our grantees funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 highlight the efforts made to reduce violence against women and administer justice for, and strengthen services to, all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2013, OVW's Recovery Act program funded 245 grantees from 4 discretionary grant programs and technical assistance providers.

This report reflects approximately 4 years of collective efforts to respond to a serious economic crisis. Programs and projects funded under the Recovery Act initiative worked to maintain staff positions in an attempt to continue to meet the needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking during such a critical time.

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Appendix

Table A1: Number of Recovery Act awards by Program by each 6-month reporting period: 2009–2013

	Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program	Technical Assistance Program	Transitional Housing Assistance Grants Program	Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions	Grant to Indian Tribal Governments Program
January – June 2009	70	0	0	0	0
July – December 2009	85	5	90	10	33
January – June 2010	81	9	84	7	30
July – December 2010	86	13	89	8	28
January – June 2011	80	14	88	8	34
July – December 2011	31	13	87	8	35
January – June 2012	11	13	77	5	34
July – December 2012	1	12	51	2	29
January – June 2013	0	10	29	0	22