



Vision 21 Talks: Engaging With Experts on Trending Topics

Realizing the Vision for the Future of Victim Services: *Translation, Data Dissemination, and Bridging the Divide*

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The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not reflect the official views or position of the U.S. Department of Justice.



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Welcome



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Presenters

- **Joye E. Frost**, Director, Office for Victims of Crime
- **Heather Warnken, J.D., LL.M.**, Visiting Fellow, Office for Victims of Crime/Bureau of Justice Statistics



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Lack of Capacity To Serve All Victims

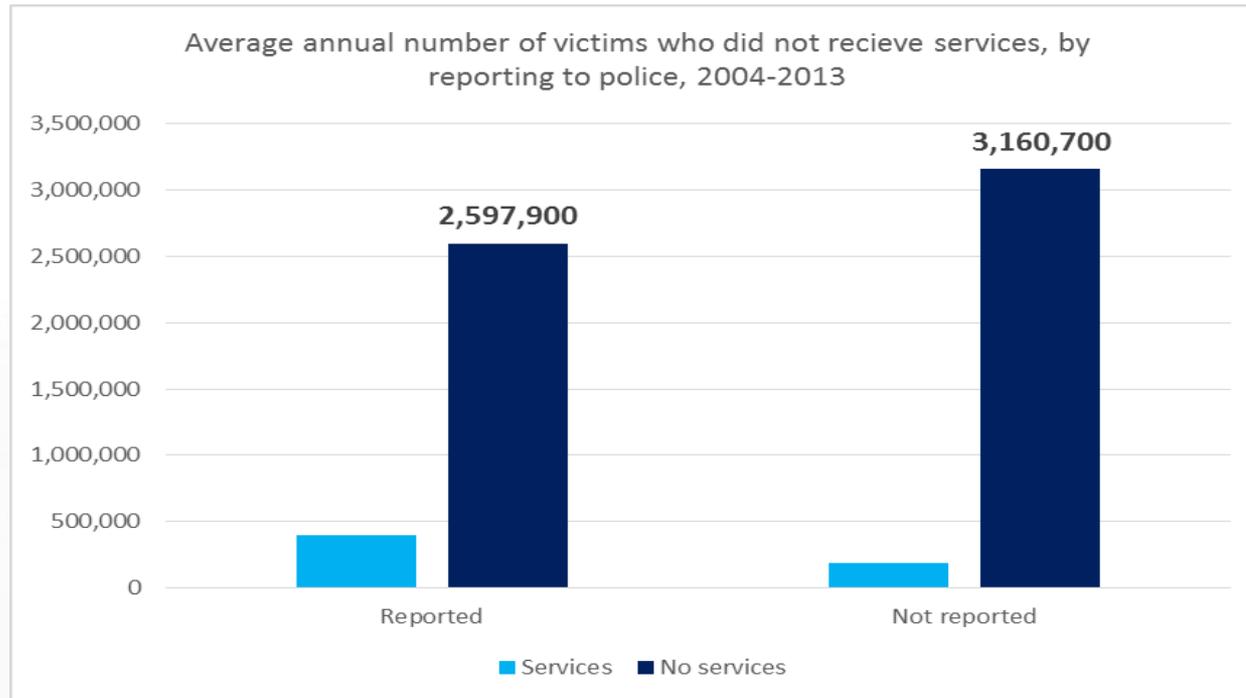
- According to NCVS, only 9 percent of victims of serious violent crime receive access to services (4 percent when the crime is unreported).
- A staggering 54 percent of victims never report violent crime to law enforcement.
- Those most likely to experience crime are often least likely to access services.



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Victim Services—Reporting to Police

The majority of violent crime victims who did not receive assistance did not report to police.



NCVS, 1992–2013, Special Tabulations/Preliminary Estimates.



Lack of Data and Research on Victim Services

- V21 highlights the need for research:

"Victims will be served through a national commitment to support robust, ongoing research and program evaluation that informs the quality and practice of victim services throughout the Nation. Evidence-based, research-informed victim service programs will become the standard of excellence in providing assistance and support to victims of all types of crime."

- Ongoing investment and collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Institute of Justice.



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Why Now? A Field in Transition

Proliferation of:

- **Funding:** Approximately \$2.578 billion from VOCA available to the states in FY 2017.
- **Flexibility:** VOCA rule finalized August 8, 2016, fostering partnerships and innovation.
- **Opportunities:** For training, evidence-based decision-making, and delineation of roles within the field.



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Bridging the Divide

- V21 recognized the need to “bridge the longstanding and seemingly intractable translation gap” in the victim services field.
- V21: “Federal agencies must move beyond supportive language and take concrete action.”
 - Bridging the Gap Initiative (2013–2015)
 - Fellowship dedicated to improving the use, translation, and dissemination of data and research (2016–2018)
 - National Resource Centers for Research, Evaluation, and Reaching Underserved Victims (project launching fall 2016)



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Short-Term Wins, Long-Term Change

- Elevating the voices of practitioners and impacted communities at the design and decision-making table, and throughout the data collection process.
- Front-end planning on effective translation and dissemination of activities significant to the field.
- Engaging new audiences and stakeholders (i.e., Federal Interagency Reentry Council and Public Health forums).
- Engaging new mediums, (i.e., DOJ blog).



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Working Together To Prevent Cycles of Harm

Main Justice Blog

April 18, 2016

Courtesy of Daryl Atkinson (Bureau of Justice Assistance) & Heather Warnken (Office for Victims of Crime), Visiting Fellows, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

This April, during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the first National Reentry Week, we celebrate America's progress in supporting both crime victims and the thousands of individuals who return to our communities every year from jails and prisons. Only one calendar week separates the two observances, but the gulf of public perception – who society envisions as victims and perpetrators of crime – is much wider, often to the detriment of getting people the help they need.

Americans are conditioned to view victims and incarcerated people as two separate if not mutually exclusive categories. As two attorneys privileged to work on the front lines of criminal justice policy reform, each in fellowships designed to build bridges and elevate the voices of impacted communities, we understand the need to address these oversimplified notions. As two survivors of serious violent crime, we understand what is at stake.

Notwithstanding game-changing victories in law and policy on behalf of crime victims, a majority remain unserved and unseen. Only about nine percent of



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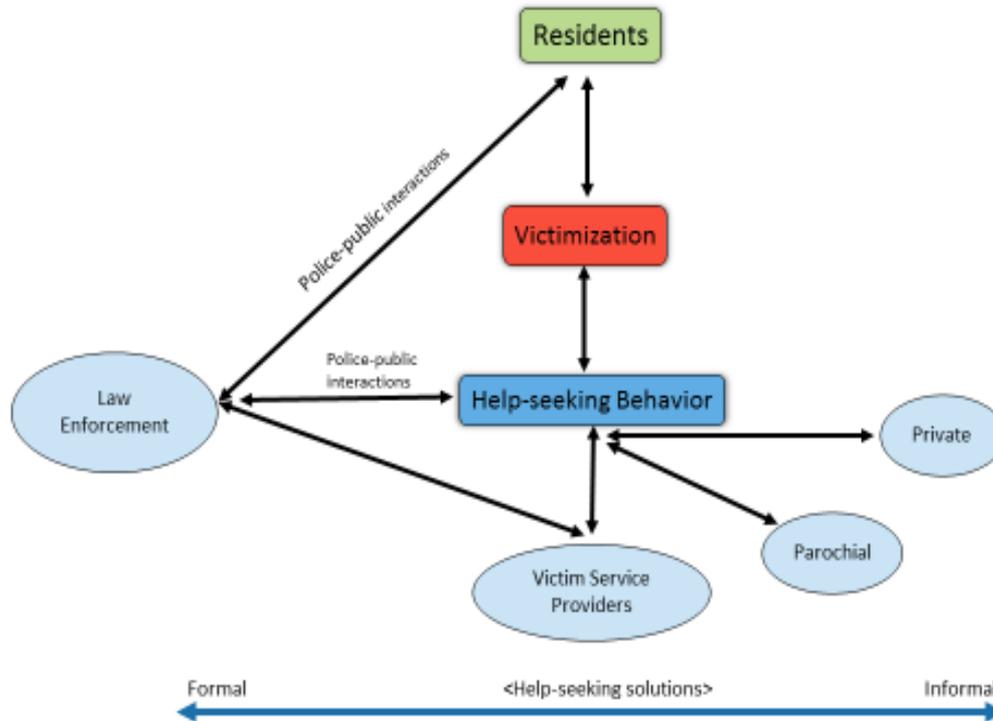
Limitations of Existing Data

- Notwithstanding its significance for the field (especially in capturing “dark figure of crime”), NCVS does not collect info on:
 - Victimization of children younger than age 12
 - Certain crime types (e.g., drunk driving, homicide)
 - Homeless and transient victims; those experiencing victimization in institutional settings
- Currently reports only national-level data.



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BJS Victimization Unit



Efforts To Expand Service Data From *Victims*

Expansion and redesign of the NCVS:

Do victims seek/receive formal services?

What types of assistance did they receive?

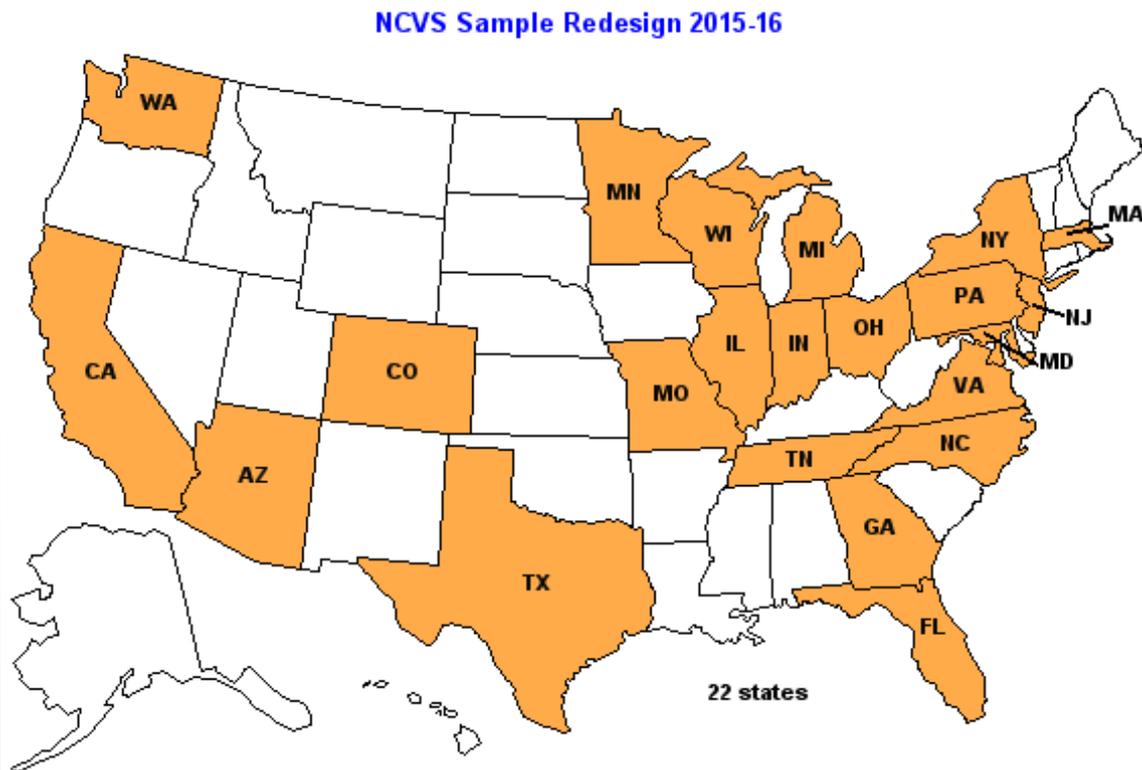
If victims sought services but didn't receive them, why?

- Considering questions about satisfaction, how they learned about services, times spent obtaining assistance, outcomes.



NCVS Redesign and Subnational Program

- Pilot boost in 11 states (July 2013–December 2015).
- Full boost in 22 states (started January 2016).
- State-level estimates of victimization and:
 - Services received.
 - Crimes reported to police.



Data Collection Focus on Victims

We often think about *victims'* pathway to services, and so collect information from victims:

Victim Need for Services

Victim Access to Services

Victim Receipt and Satisfaction With Services



Data Collection Focus on Service Providers

Data from service providers are equally important.

Victim Need for Services/
VSP Demand

Victim Access to/
VSP Accessibility for Services

Victim Receipt/
VSP Delivery of Effective Services

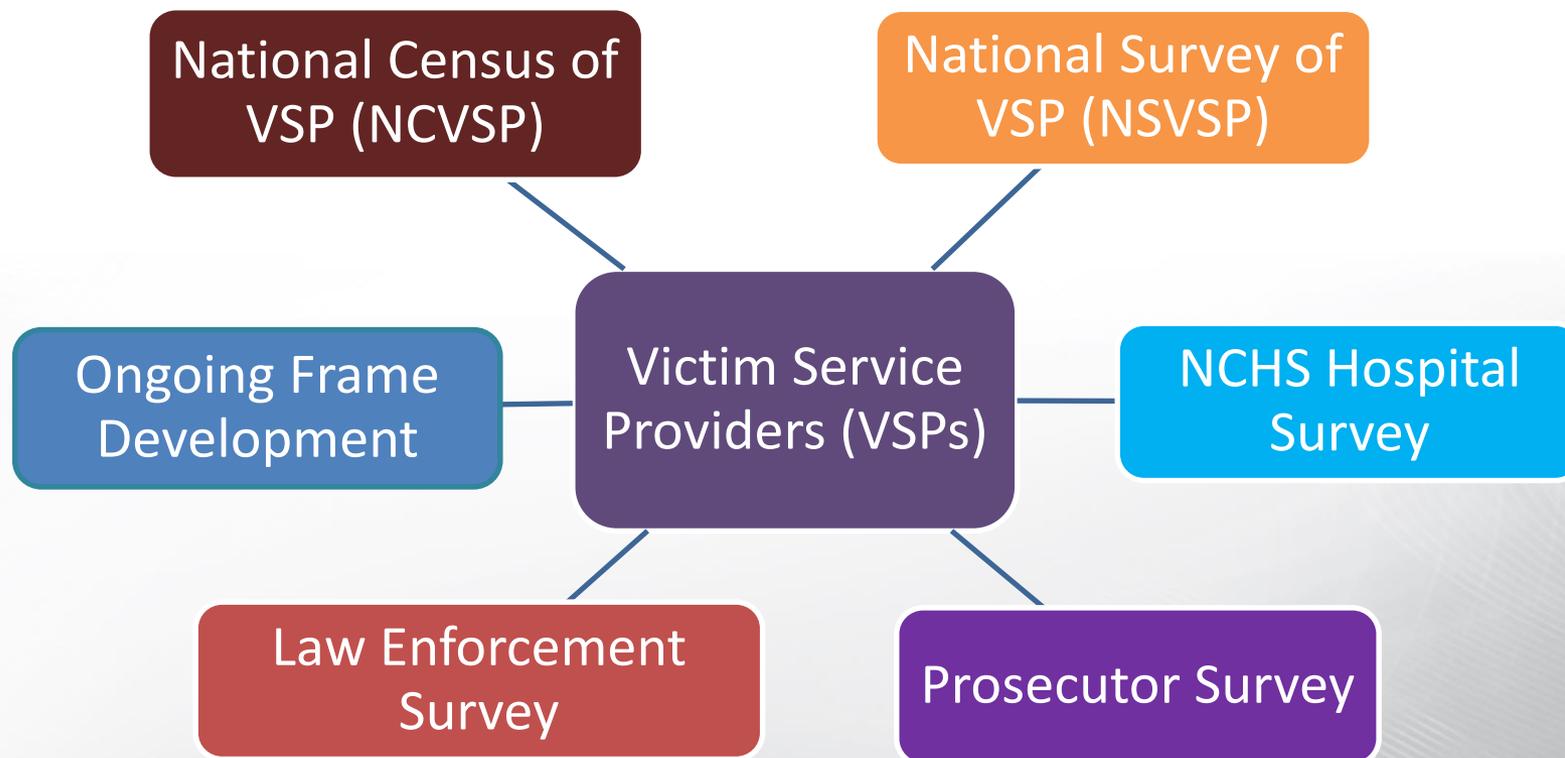
Are victim service providers sufficiently staffed, funded, trained, and resourced to effectively reach and support all the victims who seek their services?



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BJS Victim Services Research Program

Efforts To Gather Data on VSP





NATIONAL CENSUS OF VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS

A project funded by the
U.S. Department of Justice,
Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and Office
for Victims of Crime (OVC)



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NCVSP Project Team



Analytic and quantitative expertise.



Extensive contacts in victim service field.



Expertise in survey development and administration.

 **two advice and assistance bodies**
60 representatives to provide input and assistance.



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Input From the Field

Expert Panel

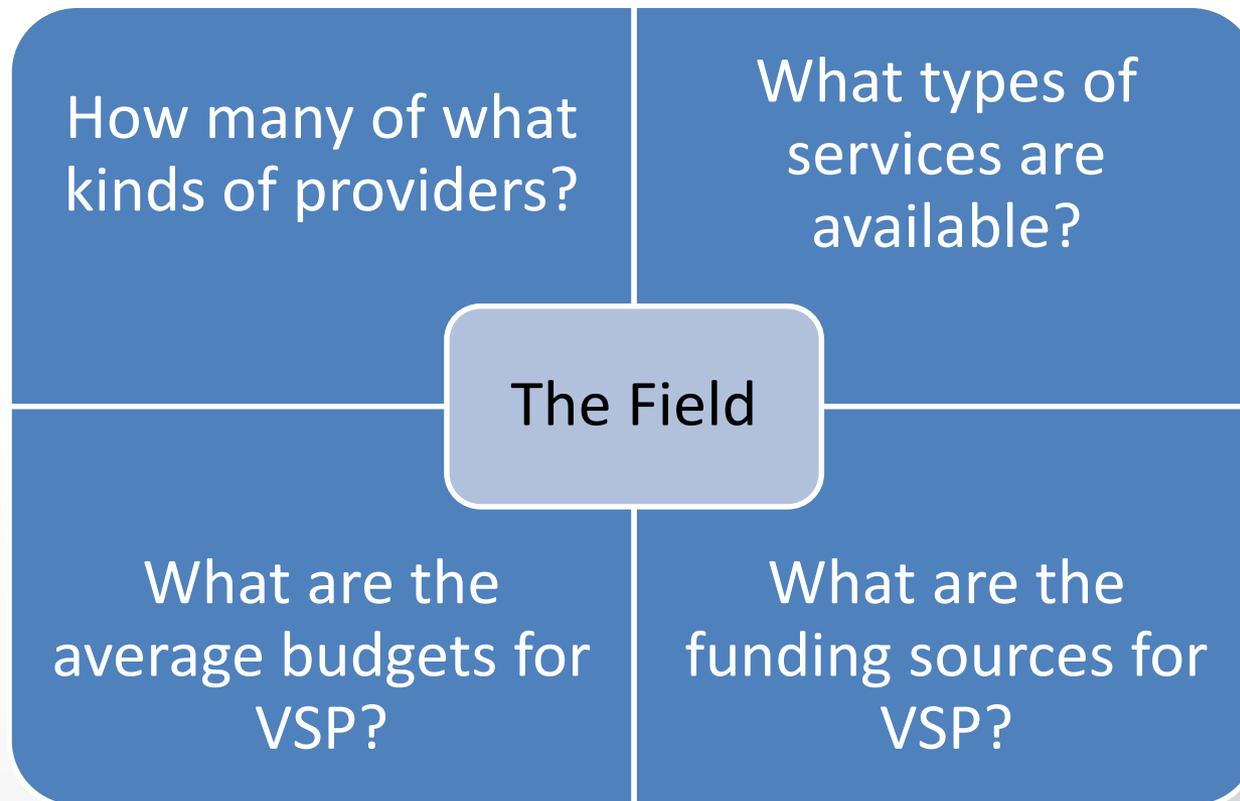
- Defined field.
- Survey drafts.

Project Input Committee (PIC)

- Answered questions.
- Identified sample agencies/organizations for testing.



What Will the NCVSP Tell Us?



Challenges

- **Framing**
 - Already tremendous diversity among VSPs.
 - Continued challenge of identifying “the field” at a time of unprecedented growth and change.
- **Instrumentation**
 - Many items of interest; balance against burden on respondents.
- **Scope**
 - Informal VSP without dedicated staff/programs may not maintain records of victims served or services provided.



Addressing the Challenges

Development of a two-part NCVSP/NSVSP approach:



NATIONAL CENSUS OF VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS



NATIONAL SURVEY OF VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Census of all 31,000 VSP on roster to collect basic information and identify active VSP.
- Followed by more detailed survey conducted with a representative sample.



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Moving From Anecdote to Evidence: *Spotlight on LE-Based Victim Services*

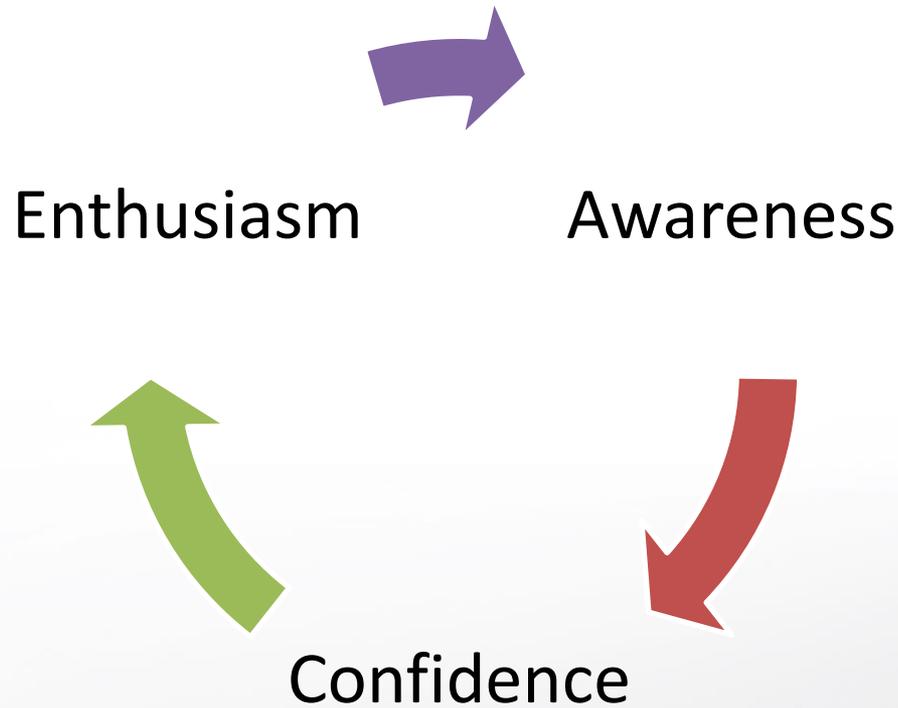
Ways in Which Law Enforcement Agencies Are Structured to Provide Victim Assistance (LEMAS 2013)

- Specialized unit with full-time personnel (9 percent).
- Specialized unit with part-time personnel (4 percent).
- Dedicated personnel (12 percent).
- Related policies, procedures, or training (54 percent).
- Issue not formally addressed (20 percent).



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Why We Need You



Persistent Challenges & Priorities

- Bridging the public health divide.
 - V21: “The field will continue to push for a larger role in primary prevention.”
 - Embracing the knowledge and leadership of hospital-based and other public health-oriented strategies, such as those at the forefront of OVC’s Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Initiative.
- Guarding against misuse of data.
- Generating local level, program-specific data, which will remain key.





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Q & A

If you are joining us via webcast,
please email questions to
OVCWebcast@ovcttac.org.



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Webinars
Online trainings, conferences, and informative gatherings are available live or prerecorded.

DID YOU KNOW?
OVC offers an array of resources to help build capacity to improve services and outcomes for victims of crime. These materials address the full spectrum of issues that impact victims and the people who provide assistance and services to them, and they are available in a variety of formats and delivery methods.

Resources
Training Resources
Special Initiatives
Toolkits
Additional Resources

How We Can Help
Training
Customized Technical Assistance
National Victim Assistance Academy
Speaker Support
Professional Development Scholarships

National Calendar of Events
Directory of Crime Victim Services
Web Forum
Vision 21

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Thank you!



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