



# Victim Services Statistics

DECEMBER 2020

## Victim Services Statistical Research Program

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) initiated the Victim Services Statistical Research Program (VSSRP) to build knowledge about victim services by collecting and analyzing national data from victims and the diverse entities that serve victims. The program works to address gaps in understanding how victim services are provided, including—

- the organizations and agencies that make up the victim services field
- how victim service providers (VSPs) are staffed, funded, and organized
- the number of crime victims that VSPs serve each year
- the kinds of services provided to victims
- the number of victims who need but cannot access victim services.

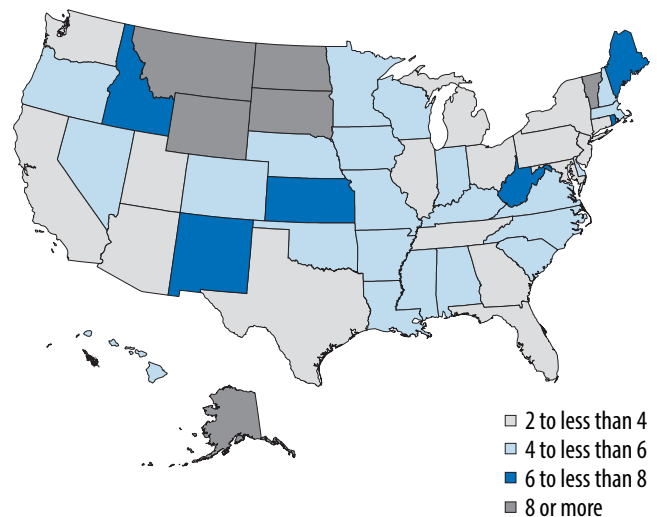
For the past 20 years, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the Office on Violence Against Women have worked to promote justice through the delivery of support services to crime victims. With OVC's funding and assistance, BJS developed the National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP) and the National Survey of Victim Service Providers (NSVSP) to gather information about the VSP field. These collections are implemented in two phases:



## National Census of Victim Service Providers

The census is administered to all organizations in the NCVSP frame. The NCVSP describes the basic

## Rates of victim service providers per 100,000 residents, by location, 2017



Note: Includes victim service providers (VSPs) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Excludes VSPs within the U.S. military. The rate per 100,000 residents is calculated as the number of VSPs divided by the state population and multiplied by 100,000. There were 8 or more VSPs per 100,000 residents in the District of Columbia.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Census of Victim Service Providers, 2017; and U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2017.

characteristics of the organizations and programs serving victims, including—

- the number of VSPs that currently exist
- where the VSPs are located
- the number of paid staff nationwide who serve crime victims
- the number of VSPs that use volunteers to administer services
- the types of victim services provided
- the types of victims who seek services
- the number of VSPs concerned about future funding.



## National Survey of Victim Service Providers

Using the information gathered from the NCVSP, the NSVSP surveys a nationally representative sample of VSPs. The survey provides more in-depth information about both the organizations serving victims and the victims receiving services, including—

- organizational resources required to provide services to crime victims
- the range of services being provided to victims
- the number and characteristics of victims who were served
- the number, characteristics, and job functions of staff at VSPs
- gaps in victim services.

## National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) gathers information from crime victims. Administered by the U.S. Census Bureau on behalf of BJS, the survey provides data on the characteristics of victims who received help or advice from a VSP, including the type of crime and the victim's sex, race or ethnicity, age, injuries from the crime, and relationship to the offender. NCVS data can be used to understand relationships between the help that victims obtain from VSPs and the criminal-justice-system actions, such as reports to police, arrests, or judges or prosecutors contacting the victims.

## Research and Development

BJS has ongoing research and development efforts to strengthen information collected on victim services from VSPs and crime victims. The current NCVS instrument includes two items asking victims about help received from a VSP. As part of the NCVS redesign, additional questions about victim services, such as the types of services victims received are under evaluation.

Other efforts focus on maintaining and building the NCVSP roster. BJS and the National Center for Health Statistics collaborated to collect a list of hospital-based VSPs. BJS has also added questions about the provision of victim services to existing surveys of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices. All agencies that provide victim services will be added to the NCVSP roster to ensure future collections provide a comprehensive picture of victim services.

## Recent findings

- Almost 90% of VSPs were non-profit or faith-based organizations (45%) or governmental agencies with staff or programs to serve crime victims (43%).
- Most governmental VSPs operated in prosecutors' offices (18% of all VSPs) or law enforcement agencies (15%).
- Hospital, medical, or emergency facilities with dedicated victim programs made up 3% of VSPs.
- About 2% of VSPs were located in tribal organizations.
- About 2% of VSPs were located on university or college campuses or in other educational institutions.
- Assistance from VSPs was received for 8% of violent victimizations in 2019, which was a decline from the percentage in 2018 (11%).
- The percentage of violent victimizations committed by an intimate partner for which victims received assistance from a VSP increased from 18% in 2018 to 26% in 2019.

Source: *Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017*, NCJ 252648, BJS, November 2019; and *Criminal Victimization, 2019*, NCJ 255113, BJS, September 2020.

## Contact BJS

For more information on statistics about victim services, contact—

**Heather Brotsos**, Statistician  
202-307-0765 | [AskBJS@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskBJS@usdoj.gov)