



Victim Services Statistics

NOVEMBER 2024

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.

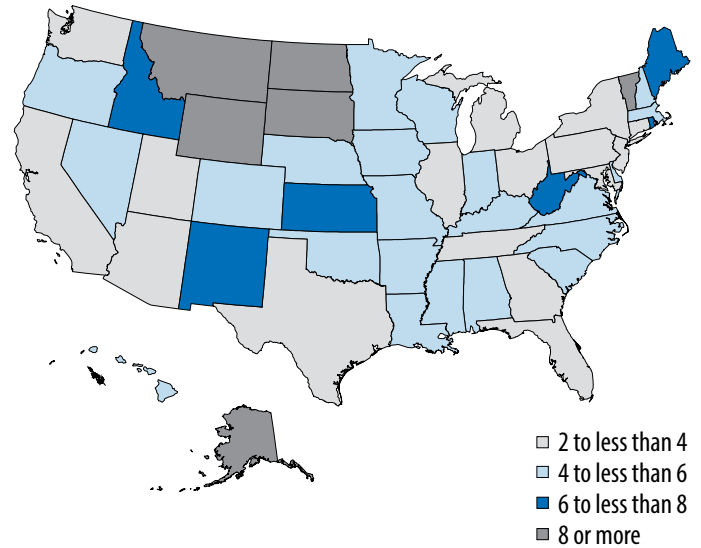
For the past 20 years, the Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the Office on Violence Against Women have worked to promote justice through the delivery of support services to crime victims. With OVC’s funding and assistance, BJS developed the National Census of Victim Service 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 assistance 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 assistance that victims obtain from VSPs and actions in the criminal justice system, such as reports to police, arrests, or contact by judges or prosecutors.

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 will be collected. More information can be found at: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign>.

Other efforts focus on maintaining and building the NCVSP roster. 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.

In anticipation of future administrations of these collections, BJS continues work to—

- refresh and build upon the original 2017 NCVSP frame
- revise the survey instrument and improve what did not work as intended, while maintaining comparability over time
- produce a high-quality and accurate frame that can be used to sample VSPs in the next NSVSP.

Recent reports

- *Criminal Victimization, 2023*, NCJ 309335, September 2024
- *Victim Service Providers in U.S. Counties, 2017*, NCJ 305315, January 2023
- *Services for Crime Victims, 2019*, NCJ 300741, October 2021
- *Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017*, NCJ 252648, November 2019

Contact BJS

For more information on statistics about victim services, contact—

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