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Informational Webinar on the 2023 National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP)

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Webinar Agenda

- Goals and importance of BJS' Victim Services Statistical Research Program (VSSRP)
- Quick history
 - National *Census* of Victim Service Providers and
 - National *Survey* of Victim Service Providers
- 2023 National Census of Victim Service Providers
- BJS needs ***your*** help!

Overarching goals and importance of BJS' Victim Services Statistical Research Program



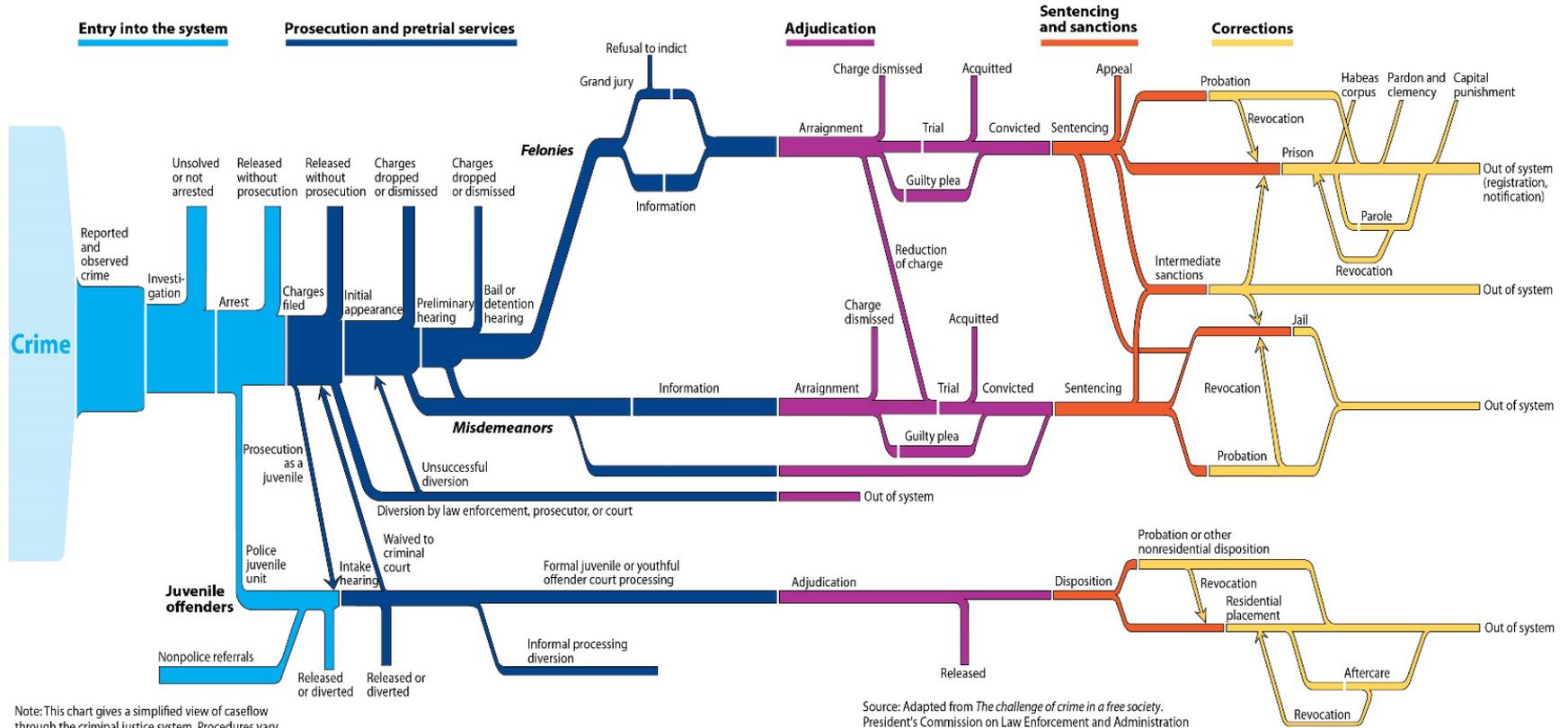
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The Bureau of Justice Statistics

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is one of 13 principal statistical agencies housed in the U.S. government. Each of these 13 agencies has statistical activities as their core mission.
- BJS's mission is to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.
- BJS also provides financial and technical support to state, local, and tribal governments to improve both their statistical capabilities and the quality and utility of their criminal history records.



BJS and the Criminal Justice System



Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseload through the criminal justice system. Procedures vary through the criminal justice system.

Source: Adapted from *The challenge of crime in a free society*. President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration



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Victim Services Statistical Research Program (VSSRP)

- Build knowledge about victim service provisions across the criminal justice system
- Improve understanding of help-seeking and access to services among victims of crime and abuse
- To date, the VSSRP includes 2 data collections specifically focused on gathering information directly from victim service providers (VSP)
 - 2017 National *Census* of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP)
 - 2019 National *Survey* of Victim Service Providers (NSVSP)



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Value of collecting data from VSPs

- Multiple perspectives on victim service provision are critical to understanding whether the field can meet victims' needs.

Victims can tell us if they needed, accessed, or received services.

Victim service providers can provide information about who they serve, who they weren't able to serve, and whether VSPs are sufficiently staffed, funded, trained, and resourced to meet victims' needs.

The Census and Survey of VSPs provide the first ever national data on the VSP field!



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VSSRP

Victim Services Statistical Research Program

Victim Perspective

National Crime
Victimization
Survey



Current Items

- Did you (or someone in your household) receive any help or advice from any office or agency—other than the police—that deals with victims of crime?
- Was that a government or private agency?

Testing New Items

- Informal help seeking
- Whether victims do or do not receive formal services
- Types of services received (e.g., hotline, legal services, or housing)
- How satisfied victims were with services received
- Why services were not received for those who sought but did not receive services
- Reasons for not seeking services when the victim wanted services

Victim Service Provider Perspective

National Census
of Victim Service
Providers



Brief Survey for All VSPs

- Type of VSP
- Services provided
- Funding of VSPs

National Survey
of Victim Service
Providers



Detailed Survey for a Sample of VSPs

- Victims served and victim characteristics
- Services provided by VSPs
- Referrals to VSPs
- Staffing at VSPs

Items on Other BJS Surveys

- Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA)
- National Survey of Prosecutors (NSP)
- National Survey of Tribal Court Systems (NSTCS)
- Census of Medical Examiners and Coroners (ME/C) Offices
- Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities (CCF)

2017 National *Census* of
Victim Service Providers



2017 NCVSP

- Developed a roster of all VSPs across the country
- Conducted a pilot test to determine the quality of the roster and test survey instrument
- From October 2016 – July 2017, conducted a census of the field to examine basic characteristics of VSPs
- Cleaned the roster (*deleted duplicate organizations, organizations not providing services, missing data on key census items*)
- **Final product was a comprehensive, up-to-date, and descriptive roster of VSPs that could serve as a sampling frame for future VSP surveys**



2017 NCVSP

- BJS published *Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017* analyzing the census data, which includes
 - Number of VSPs by type of organization
 - Map of VSPs by location
 - Map of VSPs per 100,000 residents
- Data file and codebook were archived through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data for public download



Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017

Barbara A. Oudekerk, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*, and Heather Warnken, J.D., L.L.M., *BJS and OVC Visiting Fellow*
Lynn Langton, Ph.D., *former BJS Statistician*

A total of about 12,200 victim service providers (VSPs) operated in the United States in 2017 (table 1). Those included non-profit, governmental, health-care, tribal, for-profit, educational, and other organizations that served victims of crime or abuse as their primary function, or that had dedicated staff or programs to serve victims. (See *Terms and definitions*.) The four largest states (California, Texas, Florida, and New York), which made up about a third of the U.S. population, had nearly a quarter (23%) of the VSPs (map 1).

Findings are based on the 2017 National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP), the first nationwide data collection on VSPs. The census asked organizations whether they had served victims in the 6 months prior to the survey. From October 2016 to July 2017, the NCVSP gathered data on location and type of organization from VSPs. These data were compared to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates to develop rates of VSPs per state. The rate of VSPs ranged from about 2 VSPs per 100,000 U.S. residents in Florida and New Jersey, to almost 15 VSPs per 100,000 U.S. residents in Wyoming and the District of Columbia. Six states (Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming) and the District of Columbia had 8 or more VSPs per 100,000 U.S. residents (map 2).

Selected 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.

TABLE 1
Victim service providers, by type of organization, 2017

Type of organization	Number	Percent
Total	12,196	100%
Non-profit/faith-based	5,505	45.1%
Governmental	5,297	43.4%
Prosecutor's office	2,220	18.2%
Law enforcement agency	1,886	15.5%
Other ^a	1,191	9.8%
Hospital/medical/emergency	358	2.9%
Tribal ^b	262	2.1%
University or college campus/educational	245	2.0%
Informal ^c	179	1.5%
For-profit ^d	138	1.1%
Unknown ^e	212	1.7%

Note: Includes victim service providers (VSP) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Excludes VSPs within the U.S. military.
^aIncludes juvenile justice facilities, offender custody and supervision organizations, social services, and other governmental agencies.
^bIncludes tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, courts, juvenile justice facilities, offender custody and supervision organizations, advocacy programs, coalitions, social services, and other tribal organizations.
^cIncludes independent support groups/volunteer, grassroots, or survivor networks; or other programs not formally part of a governmental agency, registered non-profit, or business.
^dIncludes private counseling/other mental-health care providers, private legal offices/law firms, and other businesses.
^eIncludes non-responding VSPs that could not be categorized based on public information.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Census of Victim Service Providers, 2017.

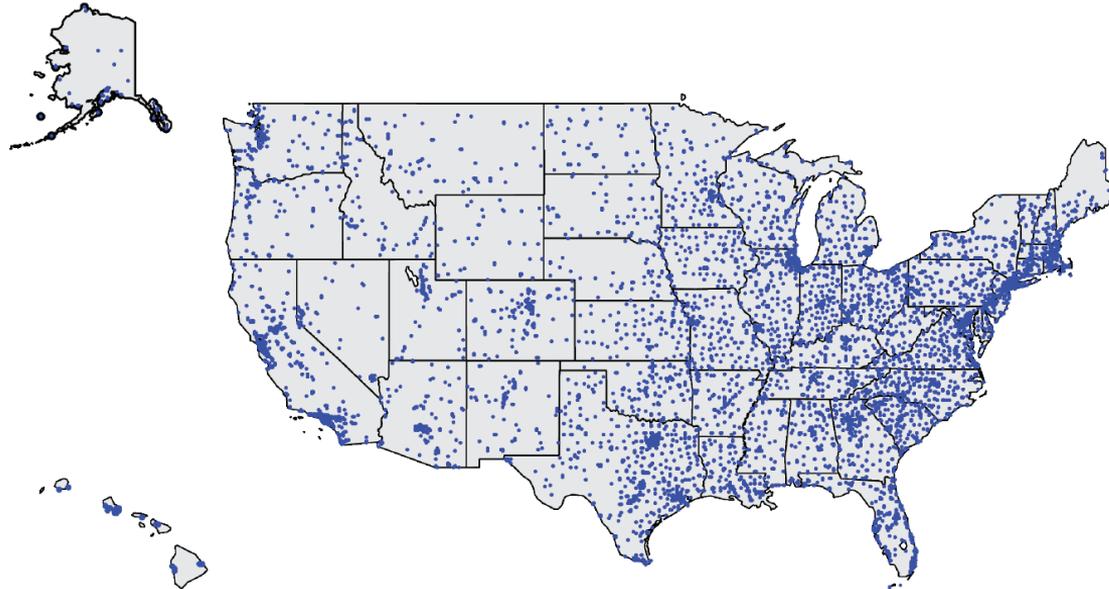


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Nearly a quarter (23%) of VSPs were in the four largest states (California, Texas, Florida, and New York)

Victim service providers, 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. See appendix table 1 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Census of Victim Service Providers, 2017.

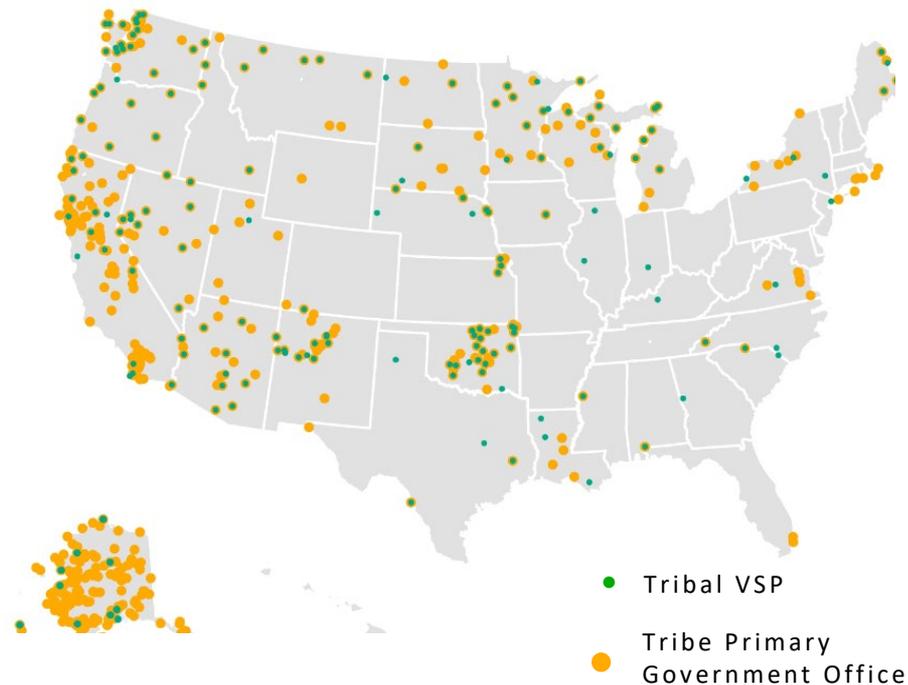


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VSP collections offer new perspectives on services for hard-to-reach victim populations

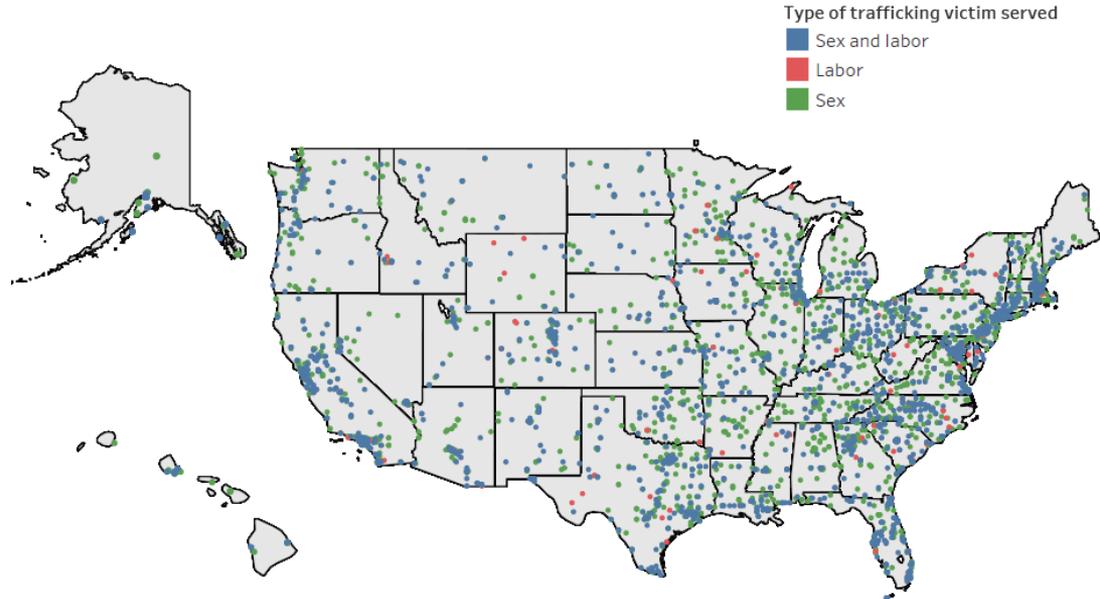
- This example shows **tribal VSPs** mapped with **federally recognized tribes** at the county level.





VSP collections offer new perspectives on services for hard-to-reach victim populations

- This example shows VSPs that reported they served at least one victim of **sex and labor**, **labor only**, or **sex only** trafficking.





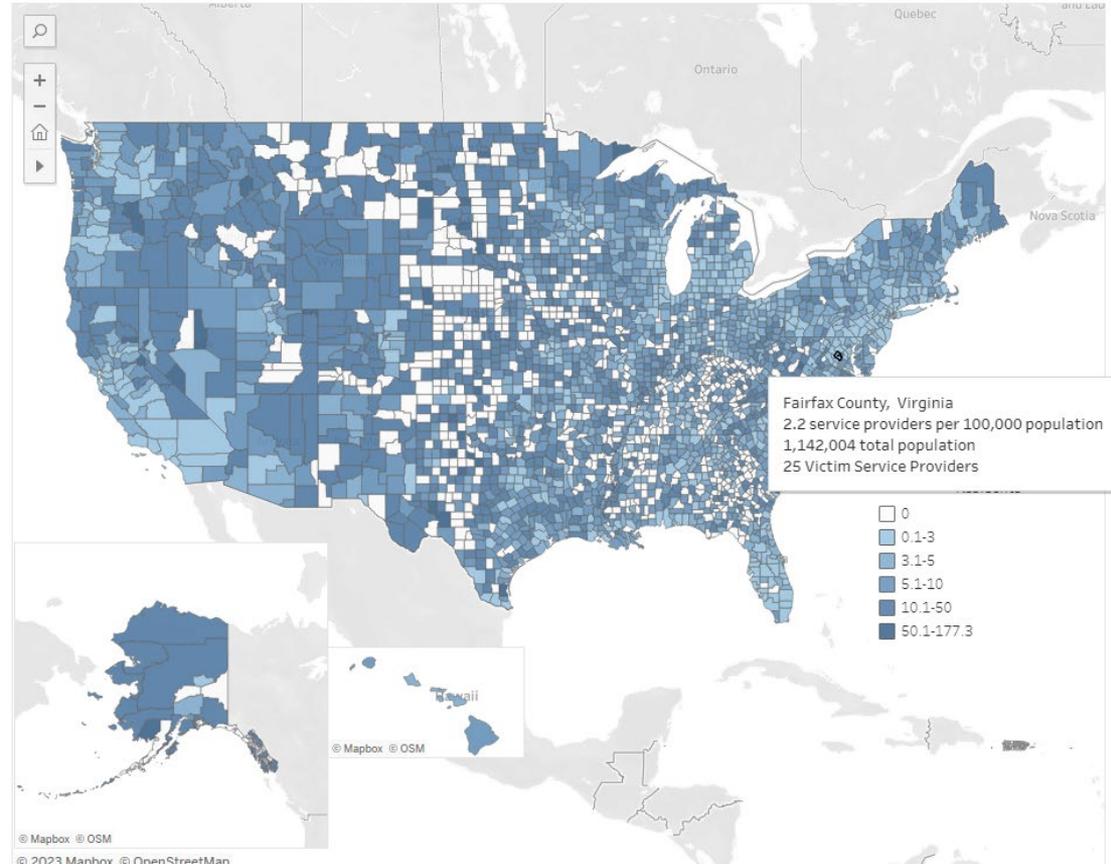
Coming soon!

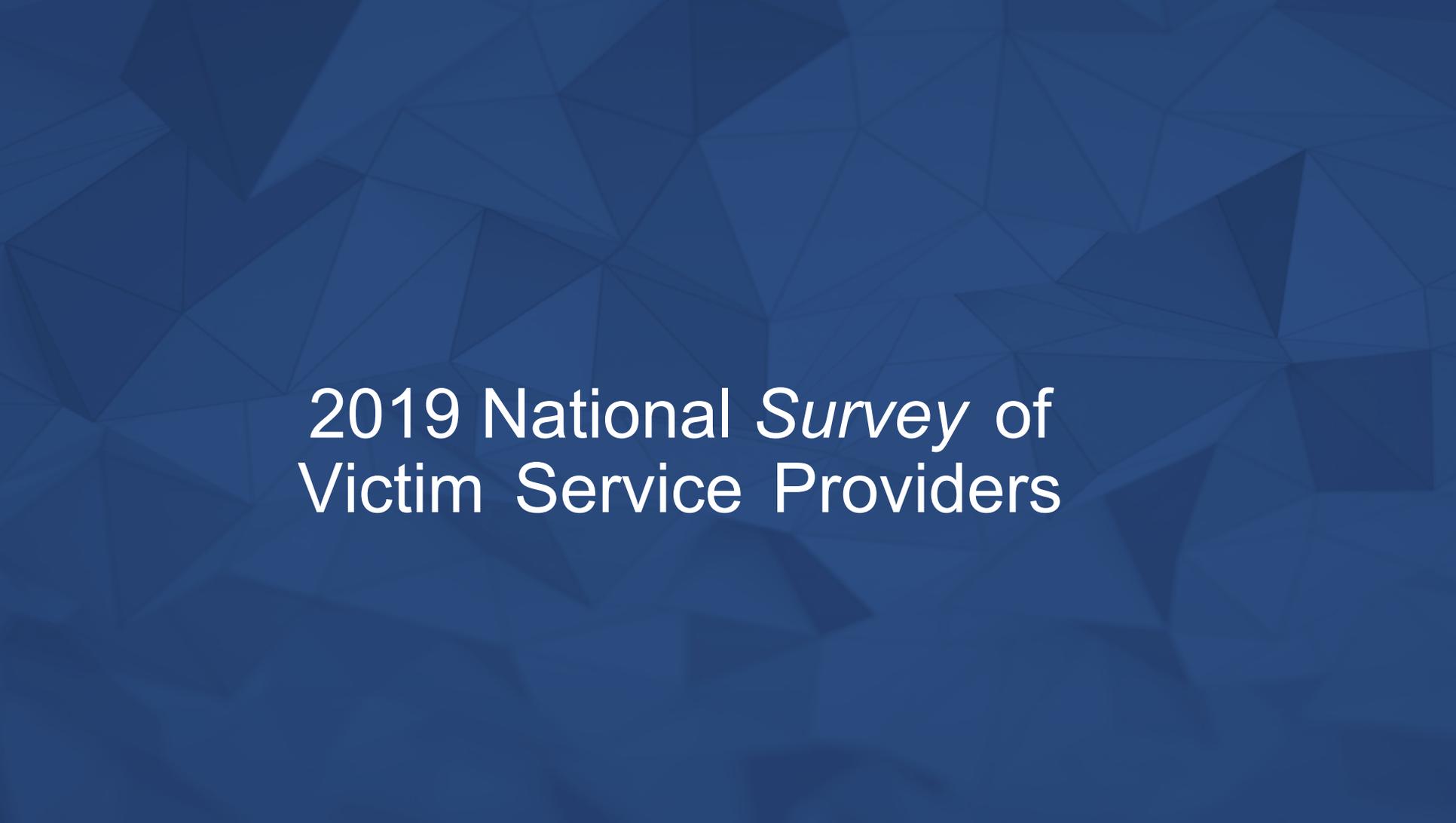
Interactive county-level maps analyzing 2017 NCVSP data and U.S. Census Bureau population data!

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<https://bjs.ojp.gov/subscribe>

Figure 1: Rate of victim service providers per 100,000 county residents, 2017





2019 National *Survey* of
Victim Service Providers



2019 NSVSP

- From May – November 2019, conducted a more detailed survey with a representative sample of VSPs (sampled from the census roster)
- To be eligible to participate in the survey, a VSP had to –
 - Categorize itself as one of the five eligible types (nonprofit or faith-based; governmental; hospital, medical, or emergency; tribal; or campus)
 - Provide victim services in the 6 months prior to the survey
 - Have a specific program or staff dedicated to working with crime victims
- Learned more specific characteristics about the VSP field including –
 - Types of services provided by VSPs
 - Types of victims served
 - Gaps in services



2019 NSVSP

- BJS released *Services for Crime Victims, 2019* (NCJ 300741, BJS, October 2021) analyzing the NSVSP data
- Report includes –
 - Top-five services provided by VSPs
 - Most commonly provided services by VSP type
 - Gaps in services reported by VSPs
- NSVSP data file and codebook archived through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data and are available for public download



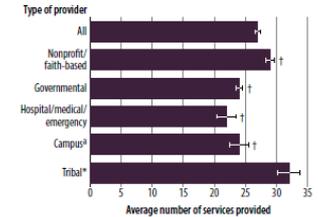
Services for Crime Victims, 2019

Alexandra Thompson and Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D., *BJS Statisticians*
Heather B. Warnken, J.D., LL.M., *former Visiting Fellow, U.S. Department of Justice (BJS and Office for Victims of Crime)*
Barbara A. Oudekerk, Ph.D., *former BJS Statistician*

Victim service providers (VSPs) delivered an average of 27 services to meet the critical needs of crime victims in 2019 (figure 1). Tribal VSPs reported providing the most services on average (32), followed by nonprofit or faith-based VSPs (29). Hospital, medical, or emergency; governmental; and campus VSPs provided 22 to 24 services on average in 2019.

Findings in this report are based on the 2019 National Survey of Victim Service Providers (NSVSP), which examined a representative sample of VSPs from the roster developed for the 2017 National Census of Victim Service Providers. (See *Methodology*.) From May to November 2019, the NSVSP gathered information on the characteristics and functions of VSPs and the types of victims they served. Data were also collected on the services that victims commonly sought and found difficult to obtain locally, as well as the types of agencies that referred victims to VSPs. VSPs reported information from their most recent 12 months of calendar year or fiscal year data to the survey, depending on how they operated. Therefore, the 2019 survey covers VSP operations between 2018 and 2019.

FIGURE 1
Average number of services provided, by type of victim service provider, 2019



Note: Figure shows 95% confidence intervals. See appendix table 4 for estimates and standard errors.
^aComparison group. Compared to each type of victim service provider (VSP) and not to all VSPs.
^bDifference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
^cIncludes VSPs located on university or college campuses or in other educational institutions.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Victim Service Providers, 2019.

Highlights

In 2019—

- Tribal victim service providers (VSPs) provided the greatest range of services on average (32).
- About three-quarters of VSPs (71%) assisted victims with filing for a restraining, protection, or no-contact order.
- Three-quarters of VSPs (75%) provided immediate or emergency safety planning to victims.
- Most VSPs (81%) reported that shelter or housing was a difficult service to obtain.
- Law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, police, or sheriffs' departments, were among the top-three sources of victim referrals to VSPs (69%).





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What can the NSVSP data tell us?

**Victims served
and victim
characteristics**

**Services
provided by
VSPs**

**Types of victims
that received
services**

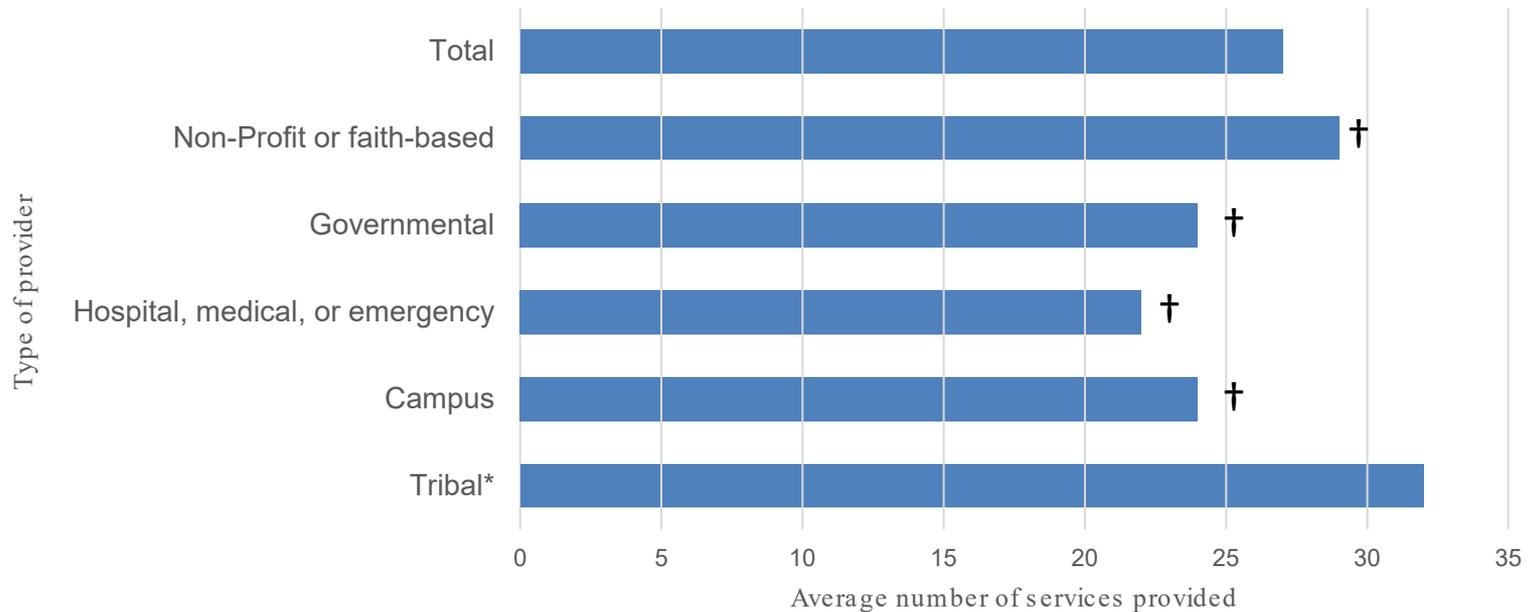
**Services that
are difficult to
obtain**

**Referrals to
VSPs**

Staffing at VSPs



Average number of services provided, by type of VSP, 2019



*Comparison group. Compared to each type of victim service provider (VSP) and not to all VSPs.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Victim Service Providers, 2019.



Gaps in services

Type of service difficult to obtain	Percent of all VSPs
Shelter or housing	80.9
Mental health services	52.0
Financial or material assistance	45.3
Other/b	22.3
Civil justice related assistance	15.0
Immigration assistance	14.1
Medical or physical health assistance	9.9
Safety services	6.3
Justice related assistance/c	4.4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Victim Service Providers, 2019.

See *Services for Crime Victims, 2019* report on BJS's website for explanation of footnotes.



Referrals to VSPs

Referral source	Percent of all VSPs
Law enforcement agency (e.g., FBI, police or sheriff's department)	68.5
Community-based victim service provider/organization	38.2
Child protection	35.3
Court	31.0
Prosecutor's office	27.0
Hospital/healthcare provider	20.5
Mental healthcare provider	12.5
Other/b	10.6
Legal services agency	7.5
Educational institution/organization	7.3
Corrections (i.e., probation, parole, or correctional facility staff)	5.1
TANF/Welfare/Public benefits agencies	4.9
Faith-based organization	3.1

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Victim Service Providers, 2019.

See *Services for Crime Victims, 2019* report on BJS's website for explanation of footnotes.

2023 NCVSP



BJS Goals for the 2023 NCVSP

1. Refresh and build upon the 2017 NCVSP frame
 - We know there have been significant changes in VSP operations during these years
 - We will build on the strong foundation created with the first administration
2. Improve what did not work as intended while maintaining comparability between 2017 to 2023 Census
 - We will focus on revising the survey items with low quality data and poor item performance
3. Produce a high quality and accurate frame that can be used to sample VSPs in the next NSVSP



We need your help!

- We need a comprehensive and up-to-date list of current victim service programs and organizations in order to have high-quality data about VSPs in the United States .
- At this time, BJS and the project team has collected lists from –
 - 2017 NCVSP and 2019 NSVSP organizations
 - Recent BJS-funded surveys that ask about dedicated victim services staff with prosecutors , police, correctional institutions , and medical examiners and coroners
 - Updated federal grantee lists
 - Other known VSP lists from states, national organizations , and other sources



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We need your help!

- We want to make sure your organizations are included in our final list!
- We have two asks of you –
 1. Complete this simple form with your organization's information (link is in the Webex chat)- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3VHLDKZ>
 2. Complete the 2023 NCVSP when you are contacted by our project team this summer!



NATIONAL CENSUS OF VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS

Thank you!

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Q&A Session

Please type your questions into Q&A
selecting All Panelists



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