



OVC FAST FACTS



APRIL 2012

Office for Victims of Crime Reports on FYs 2009–10 Programs and Services

\$1.2 Billion Supports Compensation and Assistance to 7 Million Victims

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) 2011 Report to the Nation—*Rising to the Challenge: A New Era in Victim Services*—summarizes the progress made in upholding victims' rights and providing assistance to victims of crime during fiscal years (FYs) 2009–10. The report highlights innovative programs and services, summarizes financial allocations to states and territories, and provides insight into OVC's strategic efforts to address both new and long-standing challenges to improving victim services. Inspiring stories of victims learning not only to survive, but to thrive, are a testament to the success of these services.

Fast Facts About the Crime Victims Fund

- The Crime Victims Fund (the Fund) was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 to provide federal funding for victim services nationwide. OVC was subsequently established to administer the Fund by an amendment to VOCA in 1988.
- In keeping with VOCA's mandated allocation process, \$380 million in formula grants was channeled from the Fund to states and territories to support compensation for crime victims in FYs 2009–10.
- Under the same process, states and territories received \$775 million in formula grants to support assistance to victims of crime during the reporting period.
- In 2009, OVC received \$100 million in Recovery Act funding; \$95 million augmented Fund allocations for victim compensation and assistance, while \$5 million was competitively awarded to support capacity-building projects and programs.

OVC'S MISSION

OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

RESOURCES

What Is the Office for Victims of Crime?

www.ovc.gov/publications/factshts/what_is_OVC2010/fs_000321.html

Crime Victims Fund

www.ovc.gov/publications/factshts/cvf2010/fs_000319.html

Online Directory of Crime Victim Services

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/findvictimservices>

National Calendar of Crime Victim Assistance-Related Events

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>

HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forum

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum>

OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center

www.ovctfac.gov

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

www.ovc.gov/hcwrw

OVC Gallery of Crime Victims' Rights and Services

www.ovc.gov/gallery

Fast Facts About FYs 2009–10 Programs and Services

- The most common types of **direct assistance** to victims were telephone information and referrals (5.1 million victims), criminal justice support and advocacy (4.4 million victims), and onsite information and referrals (3.6 million victims).
- **Domestic violence** accounted for 50 percent of all victims who received direct assistance and was a factor in nearly 21 percent of the compensation claims paid. This pervasive crime often involves other crimes: 45 percent of domestic violence claims were related to stalking, while 30 percent were related to assault.
- **Child sexual abuse** accounted for 10 percent of victims receiving direct assistance, with child victims of physical abuse making up another 8 percent. OVC invested \$2.5 million to support programs in 10 states and the District of Columbia under the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Initiative to assist child victims and witnesses to crime.
- Poverty, isolation, lack of victim services, and high crime rates in many **American Indian/Alaska Native communities** make this traditionally underserved population a high priority for culturally competent projects and programs. In FYs 2009–10, OVC provided \$14.6 million to help tribes respond to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, among other crimes.
- During FYs 2009–10, \$4.8 million in OVC's **Antiterrorism Emergency Assistance Program** was used to meet a variety of needs of victims of domestic and international terrorism and mass violence, including crisis counseling, temporary housing, and emergency transportation/travel.
- **Access to legal services** is essential to ensuring justice for victims. In FYs 2009–10, OVC continued to support a network of legal clinics to provide victims with direct representation by pro bono attorneys, in addition to victims' rights training for practitioners.
- OVC supported **national training conferences** for service providers and allied professionals to build skills in responding to various types of crime (e.g., sexual assault, mass casualties, trafficking) and to specific populations (e.g., victims with disabilities).
- As of December 2010, OVC's **Support for Victims of Human Trafficking Initiative** included 32 programs serving foreign national victims, 5 serving domestic minor victims, and 3 serving all victims. Another program focuses on training/technical assistance for youth organizations.
- OVC responded to the rise in **identity theft** by funding projects to strengthen providers' networks and programs; partnering with other agencies to develop better victim response; developing online resources to extend outreach; releasing an online curriculum for service providers; and more.
- OVC promotes **awareness of victims' rights and services** through its sponsorship of National Crime Victims' Rights Week every April. In addition to providing extensive resources to local agencies, OVC funds community action grants that, in FYs 2009–10, enabled more than 100 communities to effectively localize public awareness activities.
- OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center supports a biannual educational development event, the **National Victim Assistance Academy**. In FYs 2009–10, nearly 300 participants received continuing education units to add to their professional credentials.
- The **OVC Resource Center disseminated some 150,000 copies of publications and products**. The most frequently ordered materials were three multimedia training packages: two on victims with disabilities and one on older victims of domestic violence. (See "Resources" for popular downloadable tools.)

View the report online to learn more about OVC's evidence-based practices, dynamic multidisciplinary partnerships, and effective strategies for addressing the challenges of the 21st century. Visit www.ovc.gov/pubs/reporttonation2011/index.html.

THE CHALLENGE OF MEETING VICTIMS' NEEDS

Over three decades, the concept of justice for victims of crime has become an integral part of the justice system. Now, the field is being challenged by rapidly changing social realities and an increased demand for services—from shifting demographic trends to new technologies.* A critical aspect of OVC's capacity-building strategy is a reliance on research to guide planning and set priorities. The 2011 Report to the Nation emphasizes OVC's efforts to support evidence-based, culturally competent, victim-centered programs and services that will help practitioners strengthen their response to victims, families, and communities.

*Although advances in technology, such as the Internet, are making possible criminal activities on a massive scale, they also provide an unprecedented opportunity to reach out to victims. Additionally, the influx of immigrants and refugees has brought a new linguistic and ethnic diversity that challenges the field to provide culturally competent services to victims.

