

2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide

- Dates:** Sunday, April 26 - Saturday, May 2, 2009
- Theme:** "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act"
- Theme Colors:** Cranberry red (Pantone #208C) and Dark blue (Pantone #534C)
- Fonts:** Berkeley and Futura

(Macintosh versions available on enclosed CD-ROM. PC users may wish to substitute Times New Roman and Franklin Gothic Demi Condensed.)

Resource Guide Contents

- Section 1: Resource Guide Overview
- Section 2: Maximizing Communication and Awareness
- Section 3: Camera-Ready Artwork
- Section 4: Working with the Media
- Section 5: Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services
- Section 6: Statistical Overviews and Resources
- **CD-ROM:** All camera-ready artwork provided in black-and-white and in color and in three electronic formats (JPEG, *fillable!* PDF, and Quark/including fonts)
- **Theme DVD:** The "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act" DVD is included in this year's Resource Guide along with a 60-second television public service announcement

Special Announcements

- The Seventh Annual National Candlelight Observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime in Washington, DC) is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2009.
- The Attorney General's National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony (sponsored by the Department of Justice and coordinated by the Office for Victims of Crime in Washington, DC) is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009.

(For more information about these two special events, including times and locations, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw.)

The complete 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide can be accessed in electronic format at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>. 

Quick Planning Tips

- Review all the contents of the Resource Guide before moving forward.
- Establish a planning committee to help share the workload and tap into even more ideas.
- Develop a timetable detailing all activities and assignments leading up to your event(s).
- Decide what Resource Guide camera-ready materials you want to use and what other materials you might need to develop.
- Develop a current list of local and state media and key reporters and producers.
- Identify other uses for the NCVRW Resource Guide, including victim-related observances planned throughout 2009 (see "Commemorative Calendar" in Section 2).



Celebrating the
Victims of Crime Act



Celebrating the
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1. May I reproduce, modify, or repurpose the materials included on the 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide CD-ROM?

Yes! To promote community awareness of crime victims' rights, the materials created by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Center for Victims of Crime for National Crime Victims' Rights Week are in the public domain and copyright permission is not required. This permission includes verbatim use of any Resource Guide text as well as reprint permission for any of the outreach and awareness posters or artwork. In addition to the enclosed CD-ROM of Camera-Ready Artwork, the complete Resource Guide, CD-ROM artwork, and specially designed Web banners and ads are available for download at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>.

2. Can I add our contact information and logo to the artwork you provided? Can I use the artwork from the CD to create a custom outreach piece or invitation?

Yes! The camera-ready artwork was specifically designed with white space for the purpose of adding your organization's contact information and logo. Additionally, all of the artwork in the Resource Guide is available electronically both on the CD-ROM and online at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html> and can be used to develop custom pieces (with the exception of the photographs and font files contained in the CD-ROM Quark folder, which remain proprietary). Printing companies that use quality presses, inks, and paper will produce the highest-quality products and can often be found through the Yellow Pages or a quick Internet search. Many local quick-copy vendors and office-supply stores (e.g., FedEx/Kinko's, Staples, Kwik Kopy) can also meet your printing needs and usually will be more cost-effective. Your local printer or office-supply store staff can also help you format your piece, whether it be inserting your contact information or creating a custom invitation.

3. I run a small victims' rights organization and am interested in getting the NCVRW public service announcement on the air. Where should I start?

To start, contact the public service departments at your local radio and television stations at least two months prior to National Crime Victims' Rights Week to learn about their requirements and deadlines for PSAs. Ask if they can provide production services, and use the sample PSA scripts that are included in the NCVRW Resource Guide to create your own radio or television spot. Also included in the Resource Guide is a Theme DVD with a 60-second PSA that you can customize with your own tag line. You can share your copy of the DVD with the station or send your contact the link to the video. (Resource Guide contents are available online at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>.) Make sure you include a cover letter that encourages the radio or television station to support your public awareness campaign. For additional ideas, review the "Working with the Media" section of this Resource Guide and Part 4 of OVC's Public Service Announcement Kit, *How to Get Your PSAs Played on Air*, available at www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/psakit/Part4.pdf.

4. How can we arrange for a speaker at our event?

The OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) can help you find expert consultants, victim service professionals, and victims to speak at a conference; conduct a training designed to meet your organization's specific needs; conduct a needs assessment; or design, implement, and evaluate a training program. Contact OVC TTAC at:

OVC TTAC
10530 Rosehaven Street, Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 866-OVC-TTAC (1-866-682-8822)
Fax: 703-279-4673
E-mail: TTAC@ovcttac.org
Web site: www.ovcttac.org
Training and Technical Assistance Online
Request form:
www.ovcttac.gov/tta/tta_apply.cfm



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5. Is there a way to reprint the 8.5" x 11" public awareness posters and artwork in a larger size?

Yes and no. The artwork and posters are designed to print at specific dimensions and scaling them up or altering the width-to-height ratio may distort them. If you are thinking about producing a larger piece, contact your local printer or office-supply staff for printing assistance.

6. Is the camera-ready artwork available in color?

Yes! The CD-ROM included with the hard-copy Resource Guide and the online version of the Resource Guide at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html> both contain digital color JPEG and PDF images. Please note, the smaller, 8.5" x 11" public awareness posters are only available in black and white.

7. How can I be added to the mailing list for next year's Resource Guide? How can I receive more copies of this year's Resource Guide?

To be added to the Office for Victims of Crime distribution list for the *NCVRW Resource Guide*, please submit a request to AskOVC at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/askovc>. Extra copies of the Resource Guide can be ordered through the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Web site for the cost of shipping, while supplies last, at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>. You can also download or print the contents of the Resource Guide from the web site.

8. I want to use the Theme DVD at a Candlelight Ceremony, but I don't have a DVD player. Is there any other way I can play it?

Yes! Many computers have built-in DVD players that can be used for playback. In addition, the Theme DVD can be downloaded onto your computer (right-click on the video file and choose "Save Target As" to save to your hard drive or other device). It is available at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html> and can be played on a computer monitor or projected from a computer onto a screen or wall. The Theme DVD, however, is not available in VHS or Beta format. 📺



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25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act

Introduction

The National Center for Victims of Crime and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, within the U.S. Department of Justice, are proud to once again bring you the 2009 *National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*.

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has been a time of national remembrance—an opportunity for communities, victims and their loved ones, and victim-serving professionals to join together and reflect on the hard-won progress achieved in victims' rights and services and the challenges many crime victims still face.

The 2009 *NCVRW Resource Guide* contains a wide array of readily adaptable outreach tools, information on current levels of victimization and the history of victims' rights in the United States, and tips on how to involve your community in helping crime victims rebuild their lives. We encourage you to explore these resources as you plan your public awareness campaign for this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 26 – May 2, 2009.

2009 NCVRW Theme and Theme Colors

The 2009 NCVRW theme, “25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act,” recognizes and celebrates the profound and wide-reaching impact of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) on victims' rights and resources. For 25 years through the Crime Victims Fund, VOCA has supported thousands of agencies and millions of victims across the nation. The Fund provides critical financial assistance to victim compensation and victim service programs, such as domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers, and it funds information and support for victims as their cases move through the courts. There is much to celebrate!

Materials in the 2009 *NCVRW Resource Guide* incorporate this year's theme colors of cranberry red (Pantone #208C) and dark blue (Pantone #534C).

NCVRW Kickoff Events

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) will commence National Crime Victims' Rights Week with the Seventh Annual National Candlelight Observance on Thursday, April 23, 2009, in Washington, DC. The Attorney General's National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony, which honors individuals and programs for innovations and outstanding achievements, will be held on Friday, April 24, 2009, in Washington, DC. For times, locations, and other event details, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw.

NCVRW Planning Tips

You can enhance your 2009 NCVRW planning and maximize the impact of your efforts by making use of the following suggestions:

- Review each section of the Resource Guide before executing any plans. Decide which materials would be most helpful toward achieving your outreach goals.
- Establish an NCVRW Planning Committee to help brainstorm activities and share the workload. Committee members could include crime victims, survivors, victim service providers, or health professionals; leaders of civic organizations, universities, parent-teacher associations, or student organizations; or members of criminal and juvenile justice agencies, ecumenical congregations, local businesses, the service industry, or the news media. Encourage diversity and collaboration with under-served populations.
- Exchange contact information, including e-mail addresses, to facilitate ongoing communication among committee members.

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- Create or update mailing lists for event invitations and other materials.
- Draft a timetable that includes committee meetings, tasks, deadlines, and areas of responsibility.
- Develop a contact sheet of local media outlets to notify when you schedule special events (see “Section 2: Working with the Media”).
- Coordinate planning for 2009 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with other awareness and prevention campaigns held during April, including National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, National Volunteer Week, and National Youth Service Days.

New This Year! FAQs

Wondering how to find a speaker for your event, whether you can reproduce Resource Guide contents, or how to order more copies of the Resource Guide? Review the new “Frequently Asked Questions” insert, opposite “At-A-Glance.”

2009 NCVRW Resource Guide Contents

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Section 2: Maximizing Communication and Awareness

- Commemorative Calendar
- VOCA Voices
- Sample Proclamation
- Sample Speech
- Extend Your Reach through Partnerships
- Ideas for Special Events

Section 3: Camera-Ready Artwork

- 2009 NCVRW Black-and-White Poster (11” x 17”)
- Logos, Buttons, and Magnets
- Bookmarks
- Ribbon Cards
- Name Tags and Table Cards
- 2009 NCVRW Letterhead
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Information and Referrals Contact List
- *New!* VOCA Chart
- Crime Clock (in English and Spanish)
- Three Public Awareness Posters in English
- Three Public Awareness Posters in Spanish

Section 4: Working with the Media

- Sample News Release
- Sample Public Service Announcements
- Sample Opinion-Editorial Column

Section 5: Landmarks in Victims’ Rights and Services

Crime Victims’ Rights in America: An Historical Overview

Section 6: Statistical Overview and Resources

- *New!* Public Awareness Poster Gallery
- Statistical Overviews (one-page summaries of the most current crime statistics)
 - > Overview of Crime Victimization in the United States
 - > Campus Crime
 - > Child Victimization
 - > Cost of Crime and Victimization
 - > Disabilities and Victimization
 - > Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Victimization
 - > Drunk and Drugged Driving
 - > Elder Victimization
 - > Hate and Bias Crime Victimization
 - > Homicide
 - > Human Trafficking
 - > Identity Theft and Financial Crime
 - > Internet Victimization
 - > Mental Health Consequences of Crime
 - > School Crime and Victimization

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- > Sexual Violence
- > Stalking
- > Substance Abuse and Crime Victimization
- > Teen Victimization
- > Terrorism
- > Workplace Violence
- NCVRW Resource Guide Partners and Other Resources
- Resource Guide Evaluation Form

CD-ROM of the 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide

The enclosed CD-ROM (inserted into folder pocket) features all camera-ready artwork included in the 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide. The CD will allow you to incorporate the artwork into other materials you may develop and to add local contact information in the spaces provided.

New! For the first time, this year's CD-ROM contains PDFs with fillable form fields. This exciting development enables anyone with a computer and a free copy of Adobe Reader to add local contact information to many of the camera-ready pieces. Once again, the PDFs (as well as JPEG images) will be available in both black and white and color. (See "Section 3. Camera-Ready Artwork" for more information about this new feature.)

The camera-ready artwork is provided in three formats:

1. **QuarkXpress® 7.3** layout pages, including the fonts and images required to correctly open and print the artwork. To view these files, the user must have QuarkXPress for MacIntosh, version 6.0 or higher.

2. **JPEG** files available in both **black and white** and **color**. These individual images may be placed in graphics programs, in various word processing programs, and on Web sites.

3. **PDF** files in **black and white** and **color** that can be opened with Adobe Reader, available for free download at www.adobe.com.

These three formats can help simplify replication of Resource Guide materials and make it easier to incorporate this year's artwork into any digital or hard-copy piece, including event fliers, slideshow presentations, television broadcasts, public service announcements, and print advertisements. (For more information on the artwork in this year's Resource Guide, please refer to "Section 3: Camera-Ready Artwork.")

The entire contents of the 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide can be accessed in electronic format at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>.

Theme DVD

The five-minute introductory theme DVD (inserted into pocket folder) is a wonderful public awareness tool and a tribute to crime victims and the advocates and public servants who work with them. You can use the DVD to open ceremonies and luncheons, kick off your public awareness and education events, or inspire local media to cover NCVRW events and topics. Back by popular demand, this year's DVD also includes a 60-second television public service announcement, ready to air on local channels, with room for your contact information.

2009 NCVRW Theme Poster

This year's full-size (22" x 28") poster elegantly celebrates its theme—"25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act." The dynamic image, full of movement and light, combines grace and strength in a compelling display and is sure to enhance any event, gathering, or display.

If you automatically received this Resource Guide in the mail, you will also receive one copy of the theme poster in a separate mailing tube. A limited number of additional copies of the poster and the Resource Guide can be purchased for a small shipping fee by visiting the OVC Resource Center at www.ncjrs.gov. (Click on the Publications/Products tab, and request Order Number PS000020 for the theme poster and NCJ224169 for the Resource Guide.) You can also download both this year's and previous Resource Guides, including the camera-ready artwork and Theme DVDs, at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>.

Resource Guide Overview

Acknowledgements

The National Center for Victims of Crime greatly appreciates the opportunity to partner with the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, on the *2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, and especially wishes to acknowledge the many contributions and efforts of Kimberly Kelberg and Maria Acker, who served as program managers.

This project would not have been possible without the support of Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Jeffrey L. Sedgwick; former Director of the Office for Victims of Crime John Gillis; staff from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice: Joye Frost, Pamela Leupen, Joy Davis, Delano Foster, John Harpe, Kerrie Kang, Olivia Schramm, and Mary Birdwell; and Michael Rand with the Bureau of Justice Statistics and his staff, Cathy Matson, Shannon Catalano, and Erika Harrell.

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This product was prepared by the National Center for Victims of Crime, supported by Grant Number 2008-VF-GX-K001, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Justice. 

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Celebrating the
Victims of Crime Act

Every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) spotlights our nation's response to victims of crime. The NCVRW theme for 2009 celebrates the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which established the Crime Victims' Fund and fostered 25 years of progress for victims of crime. The theme calls us to explore VOCA's history, its powerful reforms, and its network of lifelines to victims of crime. It also honors the visionaries who made VOCA a reality.

The 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide sets the stage for your NCVRW observance, and the "Maximizing Communication and Awareness" section provides a strong set of tools to amplify your messages. The following sample proclamation, speech, special events and partnership ideas, and visual display tips will help you share VOCA's impact on your community and on victims of crime.

Commemorative Calendar

In the 25 years since VOCA became law, victim service providers, allied professionals, and individual advocates have found many ways to honor and help victims of crime. Some have set aside a day, week, or month to educate the public about the impact of crime (e.g., Crime Stoppers Month, National Stalking Awareness Month, National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week, National Missing Children's Day); honor law enforcement agencies (e.g., National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, National Police Week); or promote public safety (e.g., America's Safe Schools Week, Week Without Violence). The commemorative calendar included in this section lists many of these observances, as well as contact information for the primary sponsor of each event. Use this calendar to help plan your events and find partners for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

OVC Events Calendar. Visit <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar> to view the National Calendar of Crime Victim Assistance-Related Events, coordinated by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. This constantly updated, comprehensive calendar lists national, state, and local events on victim-related topics with links to more details about each event. Use the calendar throughout the year, particularly as you plan your NCVRW observance, to check events of interest to your organization.

You can also add your own local observances to the calendar.

VOCA Voices

Victims of crime—more than anyone—know the impact of victimization and the challenges victims face. Victims can eloquently describe how they felt and what they needed after crime invaded their lives. This section includes quotations from victims about the effects of crime, the dilemmas they faced, and the power of VOCA programs to help them rebuild their lives. It also features statements from victim advocates and elected officials about the significance and impact of the historic law.

Sample Proclamation

Proclamations from public officials—the President of the United States, senators, mayors, and governors—focus public attention and lend authority to National Crime Victims' Rights Week. NCVRW ceremonies often begin with proclamations describing the impact of crime on the nation, the reasons for observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the significance of the year's theme. Officials often invite sponsoring agencies and local media to attend public signings of these proclamations. To request proclamations for your NCVRW observance, contact your government officials' offices **at least one month in advance**, and plan to use those proclamations in your promotional literature and events.

Sample Speech

Even if your NCVRW plans do not include speeches, you'll want to understand the background and inspiration for this year's NCVRW theme. Why should we celebrate VOCA? What difference does it make to victims? How does VOCA rebuild victims' lives? The sample speech included in this section opens a window on VOCA, exploring its history and impact on victims. If you are planning a speech, identify the issues that interest your particular audience, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, terrorism, child sexual abuse, or financial crime. Start with a real or fictionalized victim in your town 30 years ago. Describe what that victim

MAXIMIZING COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

might have faced before VOCA, and then explain how VOCA has changed the landscape for victims of crime. If you're not planning a speech, write a brief "then and now" narrative to use in your other promotional materials. By describing how VOCA works, you can inspire your community to celebrate the Victims of Crime Act during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Extend Your Reach through Partnerships

If you've ever posted a link on a partner organization's Web site or participated in a listserv, you already know the power of partnerships. Partnerships expand the staff, resources, and audience for any campaign. To plan your NCVRW observance, you can work with corporations and businesses, allied professional associations, civic organizations, faith communities, and other interested groups to promote NCVRW events and boost the impact of your campaign. Identify potential partners, determine your mutual interests, contact them immediately, and plan your joint campaign. Once your partnership is underway, you can explore other joint projects to help local crime victims throughout the year.

Ideas for Special Events

Throughout the United States, communities establish traditions for observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week. They may hold opening ceremonies, marches or walks, art or poetry contests, or educational events to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week. They may display paintings or quilts to commemorate victims and honor those who serve them. Each year since 2006, the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice

Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, has offered Community Awareness Project grants to support new, creative NCVRW public awareness campaigns. Last year, through a cooperative agreement with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA), OVC competitively selected 54 public agencies, nonprofit programs, community-based victim service

organizations, faith-based organizations, and community coalitions to receive these grants. You can visit NAVAA's Web site (<http://cap.navaa.org>) for ideas on how these communities planned their NCVRW events. Some of these projects appear among the ideas for special events featured in this section of the Resource Guide. 5

Tips for Using the Theme DVD

Enclosed in your 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide is a **Theme DVD** that includes two broadcast-quality videos for your use: a 5-minute "Theme Video" that introduces this year's theme and a 60-second public service announcement (PSA) that you can customize with your organization's contact information. If you plan to ask a local television station to broadcast your PSA, be sure to discuss with the station the guidelines and procedures for airing public service announcements in your area. Also, allow enough time for the local station (or video production company) to add your contact information in the 7-second interval reserved at the end of the 60-second PSA for the "tag" about your organization.

Other ideas for using the theme DVD:

- Use the 5-minute Theme Video to open a news conference on victims' rights.
- Feature the video in your planned activities for National Crime Victims' Rights Week (e.g., to begin a candlelight vigil, panel discussion, or reception at your facility).
- Build your own public awareness event around a special screening of the video.
- Encourage allied professionals to show the video at staff meetings and board retreats.
- Encourage faith-based organizations to use the video in their social justice outreach work.
- Share the video with local media as a catalyst to encourage coverage of events during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. (Let your broadcasting contacts know they are welcome to use clips of the longer video in their features.)

Tips for holding your own screening:

- Choose a location where your audience will be comfortable watching the video. It should be quiet and dark, with seating if possible.
- You will need a DVD player or a computer that plays DVDs, good speakers, and a large monitor or screen to properly show the video at an event. If you do not have your own equipment, you can rent these items from an audiovisual equipment company. You can also choose a location with an in-house system. (Many hotels, schools, libraries, and conference facilities provide this service.)

2009 COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

The most effective outreach efforts are those that continue beyond a single day, week, or month. Fortunately, as this commemorative calendar shows, opportunities abound throughout the year to educate your community about the impact of crime and the ongoing need to help victims rebuild their lives.

JANUARY

CRIME STOPPERS MONTH

Crime Stoppers International
800-850-7574
www.c-s-i.org

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

MENTOR
703-224-2200
www.mentoring.org

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

National Center for Victims of Crime
Stalking Resource Center
202-467-8700
www.ncvc.org/src

FEBRUARY

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

February 2-6, 2009
Texas Advocacy Project
Teen Justice Initiative
512-225-9579
www.texasadvocacyproject.org

MARCH

NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

March 23-27, 2009
National Association of Students Against
Violence Everywhere (SAVE) and GuidanceChannel.com
800-999-6884, ext. 3037
www.violencepreventionweek.org

APRIL

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Prevent Child Abuse America
312-663-3520
www.preventchildabuse.org

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
717-909-0710, 717-909-0715 (TTY)
www.nsvrc.org

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS

April 24-26, 2009
Youth Service America
202-296-2992
www.ysa.org

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

April 26-May 2, 2009
U.S. Department of Justice
Office for Victims of Crime
800-851-3420
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html

MAY

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Administration on Aging
Department of Health and
Human Services
800-877-8339
www.aoa.gov

NATIONAL LAW DAY

May 1, 2009
American Bar Association
800-285-2221
www.abanet.org

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' WEEK

May 3-9, 2009
American Correctional Association
800-222-5646
www.aca.org

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

May 12-16, 2009
Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.
573-346-4911
www.nationalcops.org

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

May 15, 2009
Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.
573-346-4911
www.nationalcops.org

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

May 25, 2009
National Center for Missing
and Exploited Children
800-843-5678
www.missingkids.com

JULY

NATIONAL PROBATION, PAROLE, AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WEEK

July 19-25, 2009
American Probation and Parole Association
859-244-8203
www.appa-net.org

AUGUST

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

August 4, 2009
National Association of Town Watch
800-NITE-OUT
www.nationaltownwatch.org

SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Security On Campus, Inc.
888-251-7959
www.securityoncampus.org

NATIONAL YOUTH COURT MONTH

National Association of Youth Courts
410-528-0143
www.youthcourt.net

2009 COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

September 6-12, 2009
American Association of Suicidology
202-237-2280
www.suicidology.org

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

September 25, 2009
National Organization of Parents
Of Murdered Children, Inc.
888-818-POMC
www.pomc.org

OCTOBER

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

National Crime Prevention Council
202-466-6272
www.ncpc.org

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

National Coalition Against Domestic
Violence
303-839-1852
www.ncadv.org

NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK

October 4 - 10, 2009
PACER Center, National Coalition for
Parent Involvement in Education,
National Education Association, and
National PTA
952-838-9000, 952-838-0190 (TTY)
www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org

WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE

October 14-20, 2009
YWCA of the USA
202-467-0801
www.ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org

AMERICA'S SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

October 18-24, 2009
National School Safety Center
805-373-9977
www.nssc1.org

NOVEMBER

TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
800-GET-MADD
www.madd.org

DECEMBER

NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
800-GET-MADD
www.madd.org

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This year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week honors the 25th anniversary of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the establishment of the Crime Victims Fund. The following quotations were gathered from crime victims who found support and assistance at VOCA-funded agencies and from victim advocates, allied professionals, and lawmakers who have witnessed the profound impact of VOCA on the provision of victim services. Feel free to quote these testimonials in your speeches, interviews, and written materials during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year. You may also wish to collect quotations yourself from victims you serve or from others in your community who support and applaud the Victims of Crime Act.

Before VOCA

"Our concern for crime victims rests on far more than simple recognition that it could happen to any of us. It's also rooted in the realization that ... all of us have an interest in seeing that justice is done not only to the criminal, but for those who suffer the consequences of his crime. In creating this task force ... I am convinced both that we should and that we can achieve more than has been accomplished in the past."

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
APRIL 23, 1982

In establishing the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, whose recommendations led to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

"Before VOCA, victims and survivors were on their own, needing to scrape together money for medical care or funeral costs. Before VOCA, service providers had to rely on spaghetti dinner fundraisers or bake sales, and the fiscal kindness of friends to survive."

SHARON ENGLISH, DIRECTOR (RETIRED)
California Youth Authority Office of Victim and Survivor Services

"Before VOCA, taking a job at a victim services program often meant forgoing medical benefits, retirement funds, and higher-paying positions. Many victim services staff members had to depend on food stamps and other government assistance to feed and house their families in order to continue their work with victims."

CAROL L. LAVERY, VICTIM ADVOCATE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

"Prior to the '70s, there wasn't anyone who was specifically there for the needs of the victim. Victims were falling through the cracks. They had to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and muddle along without anyone paying attention to what their needs were."

VICKI SHARP
Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program

"My world fell apart when our precious daughter was killed by a drunk driver. At the time, the availability of skilled victim advocates was sparse. Today that has changed. Thanks to VOCA-funded trainings, thousands of outstanding, well-trained victim advocates are working in every field of victimization. Without this resource, we would be in the dark ages again, with victims desperately struggling on their own."

JAN WITHERS, NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER
*Chairperson, Victim Services Committee
Mothers Against Drunk Driving*

"The 1984 VOCA legislation was born out of the firsthand experiences of crime victims. Prior to the enactment of VOCA, victims were often left alone, with little or no financial assistance. VOCA proved then to be a critical lifeline for victims as well as to victim/witness assistance programs in the federal, state, and local systems."

DAN LEVEY, NATIONAL PRESIDENT
National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

"Just as our daughter's brutal murder 26 years ago divided our lives into 'before' and 'after,' so too has VOCA transformed victim services from 'then' to 'now.' The catalyst for the nonprofit organization we founded in 1982 in Stephanie's memory was the complete absence of community support, criminal justice assistance, or counseling for families of homicide victims. Today, VOCA enables victims and survivors to receive the professional services they need and deserve."

ROBERTA ROPER, FOUNDER
*Stephanie Roper Committee & Foundation, Inc.
Board Chair, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.*

VOCA VOICES

After VOCA

“As a victim of identity theft, I’m pleased to see victims of financial crime being served by passionate and innovative programs all across the country. Although identity theft and financial fraud are relatively new crimes, VOCA services and assistance have been essential to victims’ recovery.”

JAIMEE NAPP, IDENTITY THEFT VICTIM, FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Identity Theft Action Council of Nebraska

“When victims receive the proper services, the ripple effect is tremendous. Those services reach far beyond the primary victims to everyone who touches their lives.”

DEBBIE SMITH
Sexual assault victim/Legislative advocate

“Being at The Bridge translates to being safe. The staff is wonderful. We came with our clothes and nothing else. Each day here I feel stronger and know I am important and that I am changing. I am very thankful to The Bridge for all the help they have given my daughter and me.”

Victim letter to VOCA-funded services agency

“Thank you for everything you have done for me. You have given me so much hope for the future by helping me grow and become a better person. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.”

Victim letter to VOCA-funded services agency

“Special people touch lives. You can count on them to be there to help, to listen or lend you a hand. You can tell it’s all done with a true heart. It’s your heart that makes doing your job so special. Thank you so much for being there and helping me in every way when I needed you.”

Victim letter to VOCA-funded services agency

“The many branches of today’s crime victim assistance field can trace their roots to the Victims of Crime Act. VOCA funding and the collaboration it promotes have had a profound, positive impact on direct services to crime victims and survivors, the implementation of victims’ rights, and the overall growth of our field.”

ANNE SEYMOUR, SENIOR ADVISOR
Justice Solutions

“Without the money that comes in from the Crime Victims Fund, many victim assistance programs would not be able to exist. It’s helped thousands of people, one individual at a time.”

CHERYL GUIDRY TYSKA, DIRECTOR
Victim-Witness Services, Anne Arundel County State’s Attorney’s Office

“Thank you, VOCA, for 25 years of service to victims of crime. With your support, Mothers Against Drunk Driving has served thousands of victims of drunk driving as they journey through devastating challenges of loss because of this senseless crime.”

GLENDIA RICHARDSON, FORMER CHAIR
MADD Victim Services Committee

“It was 1984, and President Reagan just signed into law a simple concept—use fines and penalties collected from federal defendants to fund services for crime victims. VOCA was the watershed event in direct services to victims—a pipeline of financial support that has enriched and sustained the landscape of victim services.”

JAY HOWELL, VICTIMS’ RIGHTS ATTORNEY
Former Executive Director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

“If I could focus on any one thing that has had the most major impact during my tenure in this field, it would be VOCA, without a doubt. It was a godsend because it was the first funding that provided money to just do direct services regardless of what type of crime victim it was.”

JEANNETTE M. ADKINS, ADMINISTRATOR
Greene County Prosecutor’s Office

“It helps victims to know that most of the funding for state victim compensation programs comes from offenders, which means that the person who has done a criminal act against them is required to pay back, to make amends for that offense.”

DAN EDDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards

“When I surveyed the states [about VOCA], the common response was ‘we would not have anything if it was not for VOCA.’ It was not only the financial resources it provided, it was the formal recognition of the importance of victim services.”

STEVE DERENE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators

“VOCA created not only a new, stable infrastructure for victim service programs, but it also became a powerful force to reform compensation programs—to make them more generous in payments to victims, make the application process easier, and improve outreach to victims. The success of VOCA with its unique funding scheme is admired and envied by our counterparts across the globe.”

JOHN STEIN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
International Organization for Victim Assistance
(former Public Affairs Director, National Organization for Victim Assistance)

“I was honored to support the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, which established the Crime Victims Fund. VOCA-funded victim assistance programs serve nearly 4 million crime victims each year. The programs have transformed and modernized the services that states are able to provide crime victims. I will continue to work to ensure the long-term stability of the VOCA Fund.”

U.S. SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY (D-VT)
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

“For more than two decades, VOCA has been providing critical funding to victims’ service organizations and direct compensation to victims of crime. These grants come from a fund that is financed by those who commit crimes, not taxpayer dollars. I will continue to lead efforts to make the vast majority of what is taken into the Fund every year available for grants the following year, as was intended in the original law enacted in the late 1980s.”

U.S. SENATOR MIKE CRAPO (R-ID)

“Over the last 25 years, VOCA has been one of the most important federal programs to assist crime victims, who very well could be our own mother, father, sibling, best friend, or neighbor. Every hour of every day crimes occur, and victims need to know that they have supportive organizations to help them through a rough time. There are approximately 4,400 agencies that depend on VOCA funding, serving nearly 4 million victims each year. I want to join our nation in celebrating the 25th anniversary of VOCA, and pledge that I will continue to ensure this vital fund is protected.”

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JIM COSTA (D-CA)
Co-Chair, Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus

“As a former judge, I witnessed firsthand the dire need for crime victims to have services and guidance to help them navigate the criminal justice system and to understand their rights under law. Twenty five years later, I am pleased with the progress that has resulted from the passage of VOCA and all that VOCA-funded agencies across the country do to assist and support crime victims. On the silver anniversary of VOCA, I am proud to continue my commitment to ensuring the integrity and intent of VOCA.”

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JUDGE TED POE (R-TX)
Founder and Co-Chair, U.S. Congressional Victim’s Rights Caucus



SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 26 – May 2, 2009

- Whereas, more than 33 million Americans are victims of crime each year;
- Whereas, victims may suffer emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of crime;
- Whereas, victim assistance and compensation programs across the country provide vital and supportive services for victims that help individuals, families, and communities cope with the impact of crime;
- Whereas, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims Fund, a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime throughout the United States;
- Whereas, the Fund comprises fines and penalties levied on offenders and affirms the principle that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for their actions;
- Whereas, the Crime Victims Fund provides support to states for victim assistance and victim compensation programs, as well as support for federal victims of crime, child abuse prosecution, emergency reserve to assist victims of terrorism, and training and technical assistance for the victim services field;
- Whereas, the Crime Victims Fund supports more than 4,400 state and local victim assistance programs, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, victim assistants in law enforcement and prosecutor offices, and other direct service providers that help millions of victims every year;
- Whereas, victim compensation programs pay for medical and counseling costs, funeral bills, crime-scene cleanup, and lost wages for victims of crime;
- Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week—April 26 – May 2, 2009—provides an opportunity for our country to recognize the Victims of Crime Act as a major bedrock of support for victim services and to reaffirm our nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and
- Whereas, (Your Organization) is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout (Your City/County/Parish/State/Tribe) and America to observe the 25th anniversary of VOCA during National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

Now, therefore, I, _____, as (Governor/County Executive/Mayor/etc.) of _____, do hereby proclaim the week of April 26 – May 2, 2009, as

(Your City/County/Parish/State/Tribe) Crime Victims' Rights Week

And reaffirm the commitment of (City/County/Parish/State/Tribe) to helping victims of crime rebuild their lives through supportive services and victim compensation during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

_____ (signature)

_____ (date)

Then and Now: How VOCA Serves Victims of Crime in America

Thirty years ago, a 50-year-old woman woke up to find an intruder standing over her with a knife at her throat. As she began to scream, the intruder beat her, cut her, and then sexually assaulted her. He rampaged through her house, smashing furniture and windows, ripping out phone wires, and taking her jewelry and other valuables. He told her he would kill her if she ever called the police.

When the attacker left, the victim ran to a neighbor's home, called the police, and was taken to a hospital. An intern seemed annoyed to have to treat her, and a nurse implied the victim "should not have been out alone at this time of night." After the exam, the victim returned home in a taxi, at her own expense, wearing only a hospital gown because the police had seized her clothes as evidence. The hospital later billed her for the forensic exam.

The attacker was arrested but soon began making threatening phone calls to the victim from jail. Without notifying the victim, the judge released the defendant on bail and then refused to have him arrested when he was seen lurking in the street near the victim's home. The court rescheduled proceedings, often without informing the victim, consuming all her leave time and putting her job at risk. No one ever explained the court system to her or asked her how the crime had affected her. No one prepared her for brutal cross examinations that implied she was to blame for the crime. When the offender was finally convicted, his family—but not the victim—was allowed to make a statement at the sentencing. The judge sentenced the rapist to three years.

This victim's plight, which was cited in the report of the 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, was typical at the time. The Task Force, appointed by President Ronald W. Reagan in 1982, had heard many such stories

from victims throughout the nation. Victims described an "unexplained" and "hellish" criminal justice system that callously ignored their needs.¹ One victim disabled by a crime said he cashed in his life insurance to pay for heat and food. Another said she paid for her own psychological counseling, while the defendant's was covered by the state. Another anguished that the court failed to protect a child victim of sexual abuse. Victims noted that during trials, the state clothed, fed, and housed defendants. Offenders received physical and psychiatric care, job training, education, support for their families, a free lawyer, and counsel on appeal. But victims were on their own. Such treatment, said one victim, made "the criminal and the criminal justice system partners in crime."²

Federal Government Takes Action

The Task Force concluded that "poor treatment of victims was more widespread than [members] had imagined" and that "the criminal justice system regularly revictimizes victims."³ The Task Force recommended new federal legislation to fund state victim compensation programs and local victim assistance programs to improve the treatment and rights of victims. In 1984, Congress passed landmark legislation to ease the burdens faced by victims of crime in the United States.

The new law, called the Victims of Crime Act, established the Crime Victims Fund to support crime victims throughout the United States. The law provided that fines from offenders—not taxes from the Treasury—would supply the resources for the Fund. States would receive money from this Fund to support crime victim compensation and victim assistance programs. Victim compensation programs

¹ Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, "Final Report of the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime," (Washington, DC: GPO, 1982), 9, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/presdntstskforcrprt/voc.pdf> (accessed September 19, 2008).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

SAMPLE SPEECH

pay many out-of-pocket expenses—such as medical care, counseling, funerals, and lost wages—that victims face in the aftermath of crime. Victim assistance programs—such as rape crisis and domestic violence programs—help victims gain physical and emotional stability, and support to navigate the criminal justice system.

Today, the Fund also supports the federal victim notification system and federal victim coordinators in U.S. Attorneys' and FBI offices throughout the nation. VOCA also funds child abuse prosecution, the antiterrorism emergency reserve, and training and technical assistance for victim service providers throughout the United States. In its 25-year history, the Fund has grown from \$68 million to more than \$2 billion and is disbursed in amounts determined by Congress every year.

What VOCA Means to Victims of Crime

So what do these programs mean to victims of crime?

[Suggestion: Use a comparable example from your local community.]

Last year in California, a young woman was sexually assaulted in her apartment at 2:00 a.m. Distraught and sobbing, she called a 24-hour hotline for victims of sexual assault. The kind voice of a trained volunteer answered the call, waited until the victim stopped crying, and asked her if she was in a safe place. The volunteer encouraged the victim to seek medical treatment and to consider reporting the crime. The victim said no one would believe that she had been raped because she had invited the man to her home. The volunteer urged the victim to go to the nearest emergency room, where a counselor and advocate would meet her to help her talk with nurses and the police. The victim agreed to go.

When she reached the hospital, a victim advocate met her in the emergency room, where she was examined by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) trained in collecting forensic evidence and helping victims of sexual

assault. Both the advocate and the nurse examiner assured the victim that she was not at fault for being assaulted and guided her through the forensic exam, paid for by the state. The advocate outlined the questions the police would ask the victim, witnessed her report to the police, and gave her new clothes in place of her own, which the police had taken as evidence. The victim also received a voucher for a taxi ride home, an offer of shelter, and referrals to find a new apartment if she wanted to move.

When the case entered the criminal justice system, the victim advocate outlined the steps the case would follow, alerted the victim about her rights, helped her enroll in the state victim notification system, and accompanied her to court. When the attacker was identified and arrested, the advocate was available to answer questions. When the defendant was released on bail, the victim was notified. After the DNA evidence collected by the nurse examiner helped convince the jury of the defendant's guilt, the advocate helped the victim submit a victim impact statement, which the victim read in court. The victim received compensation to help pay for housing, medical care, psychological counseling, and time lost from work to be present in court. The defendant got 12 years in prison.

Both of the sexual assaults I've described today devastated the victims and disrupted their lives. But the recent victim did not have to face her trauma alone. The sexual assault hotline, SANE, victim advocate, and victim notification system that helped her were all supported by VOCA funds. These services helped the victim negotiate the criminal justice system, exercise her rights, and begin rebuilding her life.

Not all victims receive such assistance, and not all communities have access to the range of services the recent victim received. Yet in 1984, Congress built a foundation and a system of lifelines for victims of crime throughout the United States. In 2009, VOCA gives victims hope and the field much to celebrate. 🍷

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Since 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) has helped meet victims' needs and support their rights. This year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) celebrates VOCA's 25 years of rebuilding victims' lives. Communities across the country will explore VOCA's history and honor the pioneers who helped pass this landmark law. Your 2009 NCVRW events can help showcase VOCA's impact on your community.

VOCA-funded agencies form a core alliance for planning your NCVRW events. To begin, you can make a list of local agencies with missions like yours, and contact them to explore joint NCVRW outreach. Then branch out to other organizations that are likely to support your work. Businesses, corporations, and civic organizations, for example, have a stake in fighting crime and helping victims. Public officials, government agencies, and educational institutions seek to reduce the impact of crime. The following list offers ideas on partnerships you might consider to help plan 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Allied Professionals

Professionals in criminal justice, social services, and health care make strong NCVRW partners. These professionals know the services victims need, and they understand how VOCA helps local victims. Mobilizing contacts and resources from all these fields will strengthen your planning and expand the scope of your NCVRW outreach campaigns.

Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, and Corrections and Probation Officers

Every day, criminal justice professionals witness the impact of crime on victims. They know that victims need information, effective advocacy, and financial support. Some police departments have materials to educate victims about available resources and spokespeople who promote public safety. As you plan your NCVRW activities, partner with criminal justice professionals to educate the community about VOCA-funded services. Ask prosecutors and corrections officers to speak about VOCA services, such as notification and victim advocacy, that protect victims and support their participation in the criminal justice system.⁴ Include businesses that partner with law enforcement to

enhance public safety. Invite them to help plan your events, support your outreach, and display NCVRW posters in their businesses.

Health Care Professionals

Health care providers often treat victims of violence. Such professionals strongly support programs that help victims recover from crimes. Collaborate with your local medical and dental society, nurses' association, and physical and occupational therapists to educate their members about the range of services available for victims. Invite your local hospitals to host information fairs and professional forums, display outreach posters and banners, and engage their board members in celebrating the Victims of Crime Act during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Mental Health Professionals

Mental health professionals understand that victims, often scarred by crime, may need a wide range of services. Work with your community mental health associations to educate their members about local services available for victims. Inform them about safety planning, victim compensation, and other services that can help their clients. Invite mental health professionals to join community coalitions of counselors, teachers, school admin-

istrators, and parents to prevent crime and help victims. Include these professionals in planning your NCVRW events, and invite them to support your outreach through their professional publications and communications networks.

Businesses and Corporations

Businesses have a strong interest in public safety and crime prevention, and they support programs that enhance the well-being of their communities. Look for partners by researching the businesses and associations that support the local police department. Invite some of them to help plan your local NCVRW events. Encourage them to offer resources, planning tools, advertising and marketing skills, and to display posters, banners, and other NCVRW outreach materials.

Chambers of Commerce

Contact your local chamber of commerce, and ask for a brief meeting with officers or a few minutes to address their members at an event. Tell them why 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week will celebrate the Victims of Crime Act, and inform them about VOCA-funded services in your

⁴Victims have the right to be notified about important developments in their cases, such as the arrest, arraignment, escape, or release of the offender; court proceedings; parole hearings; and sentencing. VOCA supports the notification systems used in the federal court system and helps fund victim advocates who inform victims about both their rights and the notification systems that alert them about developments in their cases.

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

community. Ask for members' help in planning NCVRW messages and community outreach. If your community holds an NCVRW ceremony, honor the Chamber of Commerce leaders and members who supported your local events.

Visitors' and Convention Bureaus

Visitors' and convention bureaus strongly support public safety. Contact these agencies, explain the purpose of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and describe the VOCA-funded victim services in your community. Invite local visitors' bureaus to distribute public education materials for victims, such as palm cards with crime prevention and victim assistance tips, and give them a list of resources, such as the National Center for Victims of Crime's National Crime Victim Helpline (1-800-FYI-CALL) and Web site, www.ncvc.org, or the Office for Victims of Crime Web site, www.ovc.gov, that help travelers protect themselves and find help during or after an emergency. Invite these agencies to join your NCVRW planning committee, and recognize their contributions in your outreach materials and at your events.

Civic Organizations

Millions of Americans belong to civic organizations that support their communities. NCVRW planners can work with parent-teacher organizations, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, professional retirees' groups, city and county advisory commissions, neighborhood watch groups, Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA, and other community organizations to plan and host events, distribute materials, and encourage their members to volunteer their services at NCVRW events. Groups representing underserved

communities (e.g., ethnic minorities, victims with disabilities) in particular, may need information about VOCA-funded services. Contact these groups, inform them about VOCA programs, and ask if they can provide volunteers, translators (if appropriate), and guidance on how to involve their communities in National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Community Development Agencies

Community development agencies have links to local businesses and community organizations, city and county planners, builders, retailers, community neighborhood associations and ethnic groups, banks, media, health care organizations, and government agencies. Contact your community development agency director or meet with agency staff and ask them to suggest potential partners for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Faith Communities

Faith communities make great NCVRW partners because they have strong commitments to their members and their communities. Make a list of local faith communities and invite them to help plan your NCVRW activities. Explain why National Crime Victims' Rights Week will celebrate VOCA and describe how VOCA programs can help their members. Ask them to publicize NCVRW events and VOCA program services through their communications networks, especially if they have bilingual staff or their own newsletters. Ask for their suggestions and honor their contributions to National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Public Agencies

Libraries, regional centers, agencies for youth and seniors, commissions for women, and ethnic community liaison agencies can help promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week and educate the public about VOCA programs and services. Invite the following local agencies to serve as NCVRW partners:

Libraries: Public libraries can display posters and brochures, offer information on VOCA programs, host forums and exhibits, and offer meeting space to plan local NCVRW events.

Minority Liaison Offices: Many cities, counties, and states have minority liaison offices for various ethnic communities. These offices work with political leaders and civic organizations within these communities and they understand the impact of crime on specific populations. Such offices can help alert their communities about VOCA programs that could help many of their members, who may not understand their rights or the services that are available to them. Invite minority liaison officials to help plan your NCVRW outreach and events.

Senior Agencies: Senior centers, adult protective services, area agencies on aging, and consumer protection agencies in your city, county, or state might collaborate on outreach to seniors on VOCA-funded services (such as victim advocacy and compensation) that can help them if they are victimized by elder abuse, financial fraud, robbery, or other crimes.

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Public Officials

Public officials lend authority, prestige, and support to NCVRW observances. Contact the offices of your mayor, city council members, or state and federal legislators. Ask for their advice, endorsement, and support. Point out how VOCA-funded programs help your community, and invite your local officials to speak or serve as masters of ceremony at NCVRW events. Publicly honor their contributions, and be sure to thank them for their support.

Schools

By working with schools, you can reach children, parents, teachers, administrators, and entire neighborhoods. Schools can teach students how the Victims of Crime Act helps their communities. They can hold art, banner, poster, and essay contests and exhibitions to celebrate the Victims of Crime Act and National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Middle school and high school students can launch their own outreach campaigns—using school art and drama departments and

communications studios—to publicize the week. Schools can host assemblies, films, debates, forums, and plays on issues selected by students, and schools may offer community service credits to students who help plan and present NCVRW events. 📣



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IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the nation, communities plan ingenious, creative observances for National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). They develop their own traditions to honor victims and convey the challenges they face. Communities may hold ceremonies or educational events, issue proclamations and press statements, conduct marches or walks, hold art and poetry contests, or display quilts and other artistic works to portray the impact of victimization. Every year, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in collaboration with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, competitively selects jurisdictions throughout the United States to receive partial funding for public awareness events and activities during National Crime Victims' Rights Week through its NCVRW Community Awareness Project initiative. OVC bases these awards on proposed collaboration, innovation, community impact, media involvement, and experience with victims' issues. As you plan your 2009 NCVRW activities, you can choose any of the following event ideas or use them to inspire your own celebration of the Victims of Crime Act.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Special Events

Art Exhibits

Butterfly Release

Candlelight Vigils/Observances

Clothesline Projects

Commemorative Displays

- *Balloon Release*
- *Commemorative Quilts*
- *Empty Seat at the Table*
- *Empty Shoes Display*
- *Memorial Walls*
- *Memorial Walkways*
- *Silhouette Displays*

Dramatic Presentations

Educational Forums

Flag Display

Funeral Procession

Grocery Store Campaigns

Information Expos/Fairs

Initiative Announcements

Kite Festivals

Media Outreach

Rallies

Sports Tournaments

Theater Infomercials

Tree and Flower Plantings

Walk/Run for Victims' Rights

Youth Events

- *Art, Poetry, and Essay Contests*
- *Kids Are Our Business Breakfast*
- *Kisses for Cops Campaign*
- *Rethink-Rediscover-Remember*
- *Safety for Kids Activities*
- *Toys Against Violence*

IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Art Exhibits

Art can powerfully convey victims' experiences and the human costs of crime. During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, community centers, libraries, and government centers can host exhibits of paintings, sculptures, murals, or other works by local artists, students, advocates, or victims to reflect this year's theme. Last year in Boston, Massachusetts, the state Office of Victim Assistance hosted the second annual "Violence Transformed" exhibit of visual and performing arts in the State House to express the horror of violence, commemorate victims, foster healing, and imagine alternatives. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, the University of Minnesota held its fifth "Art of Recovery" exhibit of paintings about violence by victims of crime to convey victims' pain and urge the community to take responsibility to end violence. The Harbor House Domestic Violence Program in Appleton, Wisconsin, commissioned artwork by a college student to be displayed in the Justice Center and Courthouse to inspire crime victims, and the Wayne County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc., in Wooster, Ohio, unveiled a mural by a local artist and abuse survivor, with the theme "Justice for All."

Butterfly Release

According to some American Indian legends and traditions, wishes whispered to a butterfly will take to the heavens and be granted. In Oklahoma, Head Start children released butterflies with the wish, "Justice for Victims...Justice for All." The butterfly releases, held in two counties (LeFlore and Latimer), were sponsored by San Bois CASA, Inc.

Candlelight Vigils/ Observances

The symbolism of many candles lighting the darkness captures the spirit of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The U.S. Department of Justice and many communities throughout the nation launch their NCVRW observances with candlelight ceremonies to remember, honor, and support victims of crime. You can invite local officials, artists, choirs, victims, advocates, service groups, and the public to join the ceremony. Also invite the media to cover the event, and send photos to your community newspapers and organization newsletters.

Clothesline Projects

The original Clothesline Project, launched in the 1990s, sought to break the silence, educate the public, and bear witness to the tragedy of domestic violence. The idea was that each victim would paint a T-shirt to tell his or her own story, hang the T-shirt on a clothesline, and then begin—with the support of others—to move beyond the pain he or she experienced. NCVRW observances often include clothesline projects to mobilize communities against violence. Last year, the Bronx District Attorney's Office in New York City; the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office in Detroit, Michigan; and the Durham, North Carolina, Police Department were among the agencies that presented clothesline displays during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Commemorative Displays

Commemorative quilts, memorial walls, and other powerful displays evoke the pain, loss, and emptiness caused by crime. The rich variety of these visual tributes increases every year.

Balloon Release

At the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Complex Unit II in Mart, Texas, incarcerated youth released balloons representing the victims they had harmed. The balloon release, part of a two-day NCVRW observance that included presentations from victims, aimed to improve the young offenders' future choices. The Urban League of Columbus, Ohio, and the DeKalb County, Georgia, Task Force on Domestic Violence kicked off National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a balloon release honoring victims of crime. In Columbus, Ohio, in 2007, Parents Of Murdered Children released nearly 300 balloons with the names of local homicide victims, as well as 32 orange and maroon balloons to remember the victims of the Virginia Tech murders.

Commemorative Quilts

Throughout our nation's history, Americans have designed intricate, vibrant quilts to tell their own stories, commemorate the settlement of the West, and brighten their homes. Churches, civic organizations, and communities still sew quilts to celebrate important local leaders and events. During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, some cities display completed quilts, and others add new squares to existing quilts to honor recent victims of crime. Communities may invite local businesses to donate supplies and recruit students and civic organizations to contribute new squares. Commemorative quilts make great exhibits not

IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

only during National Crime Victims' Rights Week but also at local organizations throughout the year. The Fresno County Probation, James Roland Crime Victim Assistance Center in Fresno, California, holds an annual Crime Victims' Memorial Quilt Unveiling. Quilts displayed at the Washoe County District Attorney's Office event, "A Night to Remember" in Reno, Nevada, included the Crime Victims' Memorial Quilt and the Domestic Violence Quilt. The Cherokee Judicial Circuit Court in Georgia also displayed its Crime Victims Awareness Quilt at various sites during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Empty Seat at the Table

An "Empty Seat at the Table" display (in which at least one place setting represents a victim whose life and hopes were destroyed by crime) and other memorial exhibits paid tribute to homicide victims at the Kansas Governor's annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference in Topeka. A similar display was featured at the candlelight vigil in Alachua, Florida, as a poignant reminder of the impact of violence on families and the community.

Empty Shoes Display

In Reading, Pennsylvania, a "Walk a Day in Our Shoes" display featured the empty shoes of victims of all walks of life, arranged on rocks representing the stumbling blocks victims encounter on their road to justice. In Alameda, California, 1,779 pairs of shoes in the "Soles of Survivors" display each represented an open sexual assault case, and the 1,234 empty shoes displayed in Collin County, Texas, represented the number of victims who walked through the county justice system that year.

Memorial Walls

The Binghamton, New York, Homicide Memorial Wall—the site of an NCVRW press conference featuring the mayor, a district attorney, and a representative of the state attorney general's office—was on exhibit to commemorate murder victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Crisp County, Georgia, held its candlelight vigil at the county's Victims' Memorial Wall.

Memorial Walkways

Each year in Albany, New York, new bricks bearing the name of recent victims are added to the walkway at the New York State Crime Victims' Memorial in the Empire State Plaza, which honors all victims of crime in New York State. At the annual Memorial Brick Dedication Ceremony, held during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the names on each new brick are read out loud as the state pays tribute to crime victims and the advocates who serve them.

Silhouette Displays

Silhouettes representing victims bear silent witness to lives changed by crime. The Government Center in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, displayed 1,569 silhouettes labeled with the crime committed against each victim. The San Bernardino, California, display, featured on Los Angeles television, remembered local victims of crime. At the display in Florence, Arizona, each silhouette represented a different NCVRW event planned by local law enforcement and social service agencies.

Dramatic Presentations

NCVRW observances in Macon, Georgia, included a production of "Restoring My Joy," a play by Teresa Harris, the mother of domestic violence and murder victim Crystal Harris. Mrs. Harris played herself in the staged production. The Very Special Arts/The Awareness Theater Company of Waterbury, Vermont—in conjunction with local organizations statewide—presented a series of performances of "And Justice for All," a play about victimization and the help available to crime victims.

Educational Forums

Victim service organizations often hold forums and conferences during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The Governor of Kansas conducted the state's annual crime Victims' Rights Conference in Topeka, and the Attorney General of Guam held a three-day training conference on victims' rights and services in Hagatna. The Baltimore, Maryland, Police Department and several community organizations presented a "Justice for Victims Crime Seminar" at the Community College of Baltimore City; the Oklahoma Department of Corrections held a "Justice for Victims. Justice for All." conference and training on victims' rights and related issues; and Catholic Charities of Dallas, Texas, presented a seminar to help immigrant victims of crime understand their legal rights.

IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Flag Display

In Tucson, Arizona, NCVRW opening ceremonies included the raising of a flag specially designed for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Funeral Procession

The concluding ceremonies for National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Houston, Texas, included a "funeral procession" of 14 hearses, sponsored by Houston Funeral Directors and Morticians' Association, to highlight teen homicides in some Houston neighborhoods.

Grocery Store Campaigns

Grocery bags offer a great vehicle to reach a broad audience that regularly shops for groceries. NCVRW planners may use ads (often in several languages) on grocery bags and inserts, as well as in store windows and on grocery carts, to alert many different communities about NCVRW messages and activities. Grocery stores in several Arkansas communities distributed inserts about sexual offenders (provided by the Crisis Center for Women) in their grocery bags for one week in April.

Information Expos/Fairs

Information "expos" and fairs offer both fun and useful information about victimization. The Victims' Rights Street Fair in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, included children's activities, a poster logo contest, self-defense demonstrations, information booths, a Silent Witness Display, and other events. The Third Judicial District Attorney's Office of Las Cruces, New Mexico, hosted a booth at the El Paso District Attorney's Victims' Rights Fair, distributing information on immigrant and border victims of crime, followed by three-day informational forums in three cities, on victims' rights, gang violence, methamphetamine abuse, and other issues. In Columbus, Ohio, the Urban League's sexual assault awareness fair focused on preventing family violence and teen dating violence, and in Detroit, Michigan, the Children's Center of Wayne County presented "Justice for Victims. Justice for All: Letting You Know We Care," offering information about the wide range of rights and services available to residents who have been victimized by crime.

Initiative Announcements

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a great time to unveil new programs that serve victims. In 2008, Berks County, Pennsylvania, unveiled its new victim notification system, and the state of Missouri promoted its new "Safe at Home" address protection program. Phoenix, Arizona, announced a new interagency sweep to arrest fugitives, and the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit in Chattanooga, Tennessee, showcased its new victims' resource centers in courthouses throughout the circuit.

Kite Festivals

SAFE House in Albuquerque, New Mexico, held a "Soar above Violence" kite festival and victim tribute with free kites, windsocks, and wind chimes; food, music, and dance performances; community service information booths; and a contest to choose the best NCVRW-themed kite or windsock. Organizers distributed materials for children to make wind chimes and pinwheels. The event ended with a release of balloons bearing messages of hope and tribute to victims.

Media Outreach

NCVRW media campaigns take many forms. Jefferson, Wisconsin, launched its "I Don't Use Violence...I'm Better Than That" campaign, using billboards; posters; victims' rights tip cards; and newspaper, television, and radio public service announcements. The "Shine a Light on Crime" public awareness campaign in Pullman, Washington—which asked the whole community to turn on its lights at the same time to raise awareness about crime—included television, radio, and newspaper ads, as well as widely distributed flyers, buttons, and bookmarks. Oregon's statewide public awareness campaign, "Victims Have Rights, and Offenders Will Be Prosecuted," included a press conference; posters; print, radio, and television ads; and month-long billboard displays throughout the state. The campaign in Reno, Nevada, used ads on city buses, tip cards, bookmarks, and milk cartons that highlighted NCVRW information and Web site addresses, and the District of Columbia featured ads on metro buses and radio and a display at City Hall.

IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Rallies

NCVRW observances often include rallies to honor and support victims of crime. A rally at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort, Kentucky, hosted by the attorney general, honored victims and promoted organ donation. Every year in Houston, the families of murder victims share memories and raise awareness about the impact of crime. “Take Back the Night” rallies—such as those in Lowell, Massachusetts, and State College, Pennsylvania—mobilize public sentiment for victims and against crime.

Sports Tournaments

Flint, Michigan, held a “Hoops for Justice” NCVRW basketball tournament, and several organizations—such as Crime Survivors of Irvine, California—held golf tournaments to raise funds for their work with victims.

Theater Infomercials

Local theaters may help promote National Crime Victims’ Rights Week by airing “infomercials” featuring NCVRW messages. For 10 weeks, Kenai, Alaska, theaters played infomercials (three slides with a brief audiotaped narrative) advertising local victims’ services and distributed NCVRW brochures and informational bookmarks to patrons. In Utica, New York, the YMCA of the Mohawk Valley developed a 15-second crime victims’ awareness infomercial for local movie theaters to show during intermission, and the Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc., of Salamanca, New York,

and the Seneca Nation of Indians and their partners promoted National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with a 2-minute movie trailer on the effects of crime.

Tree and Flower Plantings

Tree- and flower-planting ceremonies honor victims and suggest renewed life for victims and communities. Each year in Oswego County, New York, a different community is chosen to host a tree-planting ceremony in honor of victims of crime. In 2008, Reno, Nevada; Mansfield, Ohio; and Anchorage, Alaska, held tree or flower plantings to commemorate and honor victims. At the Gainesville, Texas, State School, incarcerated youth tied red ribbons to many of the trees on campus to recognize and remember the victims of their crimes. As the week progressed, yellow ribbons—symbolizing the youths’ acknowledgements of the hurt they caused their victims—began to appear on the trees. The week’s events culminated in a tree-planting ceremony in honor of victims, which included presentations by several youth.

Walk or Run for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

Opening and closing NCVRW ceremonies often include a 5K walk/run for justice. Among the communities holding such events were Ft. Wayne and Richmond, Indiana; Galveston, Texas; Los Angeles and Yreka, California; Kansas City, Missouri; Knoxville, Tennessee; Jackson, Mississippi; and Shreveport, Louisiana.

Youth Events

Art, Poetry, and Essay Contests

By involving schools, parents, and students, NCVRW contests inform entire communities about what it means to be a victim of crime. Brockton, Massachusetts, held an “Art of Justice” poster contest for art students in three county high schools, sponsored by VETO, a coalition against domestic violence and sexual assault. Both Meridian, Mississippi, and Sarasota, Florida, held art contests for elementary school students to build students’ awareness about victimization. Allegan County, Michigan, held an essay contest for local youth on how crime affects teens, sponsored by the Allegan County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and local businesses, and the District Attorney’s Office of Queens County, New York, sponsored a poetry contest for youth on stopping violence at home and school.

Kids Are Our Business Breakfast

The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead, North Dakota, in partnership with the area Child Advocacy Center, produced and aired a series of three radio commercials promoting the theme “Justice for Victims. Justice for All.” The commercials ran for three weeks, from April 1 to April 18, ending just before the Annual “Kids Are Our Business Breakfast,” an event that promotes the National Crime Victims’ Rights theme and usually draws 500 people.

Kisses for Cops Campaign

The YMCA of Richmond, Indiana, held a “Kisses for Cops Campaign,” which includes a contest to see which classrooms can bring in the most Hershey kisses. Kids write thank you cards to various criminal justice professionals as part of the program’s “Children’s Card Campaign.”

NATIONAL
Crime Victims'
Rights
Week

25
years of
Rebuilding
Lives

Celebrating the
Victims of Crime Act

Each year, the *NCVRW Resource Guide* offers a range of high-quality, camera-ready designs to help unite your public awareness efforts with NCVRW observances across the country. You are encouraged to add local contact information in the space provided and to disseminate these materials throughout the year to augment your organization's ongoing outreach.

2009 NCVRW Artwork Elements

This year's artwork reflects both the 2009 NCVRW theme, "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act," and colors, cranberry red (Pantone #208C) and dark

blue (Pantone #534C). The artwork uses fonts from the Futura and Berkeley font families. Macintosh users can find versions of these fonts in the Quark folder on the enclosed CD-ROM. (You can upload these fonts from the CD-ROM into your operating system's font folder.¹ PC users may wish to substitute the widely available Times New Roman and Franklin Gothic Demi Condensed fonts.) All enclosed 8.5" x 11", black-and-white artwork sheets have a one-quarter-inch margin and are camera ready, which means that local printing presses can print new copies from these sheets. You can also make copies of the artwork on home or office printer or photocopy machines.

A Printing Primer

You may have wondered why materials printed on your home or office color printer often look different from materials printed by a professional press or posted on the Web. The answer lies in the how different color systems are generated: **CMYK, spot colors, and RGB.**

CMYK: Office printers, and those used by quick-copy print shops, use only four inks—cyan (blue), magenta, yellow, and black. These inks are known as CMYK, process inks, or four-color process. These four inks intermix to create a multitude of colors that you see on your printout. There are differences, though, between how these colors appear on a computer monitor and on the printed page (see RGB below).

Spot Colors: Professional "offset" print shops can print products designed for CMYK inks. However, they can also print designs that use spot-color inks, specific colors that are mixed according to precise formulas—usually set by the Pantone Matching System (PMS), a color system widely used by professional printers and designers. By selecting colors from PMS "swatchbooks" (sample books), designers can know exactly what the final printed color will be, regardless of how the design appears onscreen, and can be sure that the colors will be consistent in all products. Organizations often design their logos in Pantone colors, for example, to eliminate color variations among their printed materials and other branded products.

The more spot colors a design requires, the more it costs to print. Designers can save their customers money, though, by varying the density of the inks (the concentration of printed dots,

called "screens") in a design to create the illusion of multiple colors. Printing dense ink dots will produce a full-strength color, while printing sparse dots creates a lighter tone. Intermixing dots of two spot colors can create the illusion of a third color, such as the purple that appears in the 2009 NCVRW theme poster.

RGB: Monitors, which are fundamentally different from printers, display color through varied mixtures of red, green, and blue (RGB) light rather than through pigmented inks. Red, green, and blue light values are added and subtracted to create different perceptions of color, and each monitor is calibrated to display color a little differently. In addition, Web browsers often use a very limited RGB spectrum. As a result of these limitations in Web browsers and variations in monitors, online images and Web sites may appear different to various users.

Each of these three colors systems has its own spectrum and distinct color values. When materials are created in spot colors but printed on machines using CMYK inks (and vice versa), the final output is a color translation that approximates the original design. How closely the approximation resembles the original depends on the relation of the spot colors to the CMYK spectrum. Moreover, how the design appears on a computer screen is rarely (even for professionals) how the design appears when printed.

The *2009 NCVRW Resource Guide* was printed using spot (PMS) colors, so Resource Guide materials that are reproduced with CMYK inks may differ slightly in appearance.

¹Fonts are provided solely for reproducing the Resource Guide camera-ready artwork and may not be used for other purposes.

CAMERA-READY ARTWORK

Artwork on CD-ROM

Increasingly, print shops of all types are using digital art files to print clients' products. For flexibility and convenience, the accompanying CD-ROM contains electronic artwork in a variety of formats:

1. **QuarkXpress® 7.3.** QuarkXpress is a professional layout program used by graphic designers, publishers, and print shops. To view or manipulate these layout pages, users must have QuarkXpress 6.0 or higher for Macintosh. The fonts and images used to create this year's artwork are available in the Quark folder on the CD-ROM.
2. **JPEG.** JPEG files are individual images that can be placed in graphics programs, various word processing programs, and on Web sites. Each piece that incorporates this year's theme and poster artwork is available as a JPEG. The CD-ROM includes both black-and-white and color JPEG images.

TIP: To place JPEG files in Microsoft Word, choose "insert > picture > from file" and select the desired file from the CD-ROM. To type on top of the image, select "format > picture > layout > behind text." Then create a text box and place it over the image. (Make sure the text box does not have a fill or border color selected.)

3. **PDF.** PDFs are widely accessible files that can be opened with Adobe Reader, available for free download at www.adobe.com. The CD-ROM contains PDFs in both black and white and color.

New This Year! Text Fields on Fillable PDFs. Select PDFs on this year's CD-ROM contain text fields that allow users to type directly on the PDF in Adobe Reader. You can easily add your contact information to posters, type names on name tags or table cards, or fill out certificates of appreciation. Simply place your cursor over the appropriate region of the artwork. When you are over a "fillable" text field, the cursor will change to an I-beam. Click on the field to change the I-beam to a text cursor, and begin typing. Alternatively, for access to different fonts, sizes, and colors, format your text in Microsoft Word and copy and paste it into the PDF text fields. **Note:** Fillable PDFs edited in Adobe Reader can be printed but not saved. To save a PDF with text added, Adobe Acrobat is needed. (Adobe Acrobat is available for purchase at www.adobe.com.)

These three formats balance versatility with ease of use. Incorporate this year's artwork into all your NCVRW materials, including media kits, public service announcements, outreach materials, and giveaways.

The *2009 NCVRW Resource Guide* electronic artwork is available for free download at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>.

Camera-Ready Artwork Contents

- **2009 NCVRW Black-and-White Poster.** You can reproduce this 11" x 17" poster, a black-and-white version of the 2009 NCVRW theme poster, on standard tabloid-size paper. This poster contains space to add local contact information.
- **Logos, buttons, and magnets.** Use these cost-effective giveaways at your events to highlight the importance of the Victims of Crime Act to your community.
- **Bookmarks.** Mix and match these bookmark designs front to back to meet your outreach needs. Space is provided to add local contact information. A heavy paper stock, such as 80-pound cover stock, is recommended for these pieces.
- **Ribbon cards.** To make ribbons for these cards, cut two eight-inch strands of cranberry red and deep blue ribbon at a bias and form a loop; secure the strands to the ribbon card with a two-inch stick pin. Local school, community, business, or prison programs may wish to help assemble the ribbon cards. These cards work best with a heavy paper stock (at least 80-pound cover).
- **Name tags and table card.** Attention to detail can help elevate an event. You can use these templates for name tags and table cards at exhibits, ceremonies, conferences, or any formal gathering.

CAMERA-READY ARTWORK

- **Letterhead.** Event organizers and other community leaders can use this versatile letterhead for letters of introduction, requests for sponsorship, news releases, public service announcements, fact sheets, and event announcements. Highlight NCVRW partners, planning committee members, or sponsoring organizations by including them on the letterhead.
- **Certificate of Appreciation.** These certificates, printed on parchment, fine paper, or attractive card stock, can help you publicly commend community members who have made outstanding contributions to crime victims' rights. Certificates should include the recipient's name in calligraphy (either handwritten or with the help of a word processor), the name of the public figure or organization presenting the certificate, and the date on which it is presented.
- **Information and Referrals Contact List.** Every community member should have a copy of this valuable resource that lists toll-free contact information for the nation's leading victim-serving organizations. You can request permission to post the list in public spaces, such as libraries, schools, grocery stores, and community centers, and ask local police departments, doctors' offices, and victim-serving agencies to post copies in their waiting rooms and on their Web sites. (Send the electronic version located on the CD-ROM.) Local businesses, particularly human resource departments, may also find the handout useful.
- **New! VOCA Chart.** Use the "Victims of Crime Act: Rebuilding Lives through Assistance and Compensation" chart as a handout during NCVRW events or in background materials you share with the media to help increase understanding about VOCA's vital role in supporting crime victims.
- **Crime Clock.** You can educate your community about the rate and impact of crime with this powerful portrayal of national prevalence statistics. The Crime Clock, provided in both English and Spanish, includes space to add local contact information.
- **Public Awareness Posters.** The *2009 NCVRW Resource Guide* features six new black-and-white public awareness posters, which you can personalize with local contact information for use throughout the year:
 - > "Crime Hurts the Whole Family"—targeted to family members affected by crimes against a loved one.
 - > "Trapped?"—targeted to victims of domestic violence.
 - > "Respect Your Elders"—targeted to community members who suspect an older person they know is being exploited, abused, or neglected.
 - > "Crime Hurts the Whole Family" (translated into Spanish).
 - > "Trapped?" (translated into Spanish).
 - > "Respect Your Elders" (translated into Spanish).

Get Help!

Many members of your community may be willing to help you produce your NCVRW outreach materials. Area businesses may donate paper, use of copying or printing services, or tips on how to market to your local community. Printers and designers may provide services or supplies at cost, particularly if a loyal customer makes the request. Correctional agencies often provide printing and assembly services at reduced fees, and even local community or faith-based groups may be willing to help stuff and distribute materials. Inviting these groups to partner with you can increase both the help you receive and your impact on the community. 🔄

NATIONAL
Crime Victims'
Rights
Week

25
years of
Rebuilding
Lives

Celebrating the
Victims of Crime Act

Most Americans have never heard of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). They may know about domestic violence shelters or rape crisis centers. They may have heard about victim notification systems or victim advocates. Yet they probably do not know that VOCA established the Crime Victims Fund, which provides critical support to their communities.

This year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) celebrates VOCA's achievements. For 25 years, VOCA has provided the assistance people need in the aftermath of crime. Without VOCA, victims of crime would face more challenges with fewer resources.

To engage your community in celebrating VOCA, you will need an effective media campaign. You'll want to tell compelling stories about local victims who have rebuilt their lives through VOCA-funded services. Finding such stories and the television, radio, or newspaper reporters to tell them will help you launch a powerful campaign.

How to Interest the Media

Throughout the year, you may find opportunities to build relationships with reporters. You can regularly monitor the media to see which reporters cover criminal justice, legal issues, public policy, or health. You can keep a regularly updated list of such reporters (see "Media Lists" on this page). If you notice a particularly thoughtful or well-researched news article or television feature, call or e-mail the reporter to express your appreciation. If you think your organization could provide information for an ongoing news story, contact the media outlet to offer your help. Such outreach makes friends for your organization and positions you as a resource for the media.

Most reporters view National Crime Victims' Rights Week and other such observances as "soft" news, best covered by "human interest" stories that show how victims cope with the aftermath of crime. You might check your own organization's service history for interesting cases that show how VOCA helps your community. If any of the victims you have served agree to share their stories, you can pitch them to local reporters

as part of your campaign. You might suggest a spokesperson from your organization for reporters to interview, or refer reporters to a victim or victim service provider speakers' bureau, if one is operating in your community. If you develop your messages and find resources for reporters ahead of time, you increase your chances of gaining coverage.

Media Lists

To compile a list of media contacts, you can start with producers and reporters you may have interacted with during the year. Then you can research the following resources to find how to reach more local media:

- **Internet:** You can use your favorite search engine to find the Web sites of local media, which often list editors, producers, and reporters, as well as phone numbers and e-mail addresses for some staff members.
- **Yellow and White Pages:** You can search under "newspapers," "television," or "radio" to find the names of media outlets.
- **Libraries:** Many local libraries keep community media directories in their reference departments. Check this resource for detailed information about local reporters and producers who might be interested in crime-victim issues.

Once you have completed your research on local media, you can use the following sample tools to support your outreach campaign.

Sample News Release

The sample news release announces National Crime Victims' Rights Week and its theme: "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act." The release describes the dramatic progress the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) has fostered for crime victims and the important programs VOCA supports. You can use the release to alert local media about the purpose of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the local observances you are planning.

Working with the Media

To ensure that local media have complete information on your local NCVRW events, you can submit a one-page media advisory that lists all events, activities, dates, times, locations, sponsors, brief descriptions of the events, and contact information. (See “More Tools” for more information on media advisories.) You can highlight activities for specific groups (e.g., children, older adults) and make sure that organizations serving these groups receive your media advisory and news release.

It’s helpful to send out your NCVRW news release *at least 10 days* before your event. Then you can make follow-up calls to confirm media participation and to provide background information for producers and reporters.

Sample Public Service Announcements

This Resource Guide provides sample public service announcements (PSAs)—brief on-air messages that you can use to inform your community about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and to alert victims of crime that services are available for them. For optimum flexibility, we have included three sample scripts—for a 15-second, 30-second, and 60-second PSA—that you can produce with your local television or radio station or use as “live copy” scripts for TV or radio talent to read on the air. Each script should include your organization’s name, phone number, Web site, and e-mail address so viewers and listeners can contact you if they need more information.

The enclosed 2009 NCVRW **Theme DVD** also includes a broadcast-quality 60-second television PSA with space for your organization’s contact information (see script on page 5).

It’s wise to contact the public service departments at your local radio and television stations *at least two months* before National Crime Victims’ Rights Week to explore their willingness to air your message and to find out their deadlines and other requirements for PSAs. When you send your script or completed PSA to the media, include a cover letter describing the importance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and VOCA and urging them to air your PSA.

Sample Op-ed Column

Your media outreach will seek to educate your community about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and the critical role VOCA plays in assisting victims to rebuild their lives. You can achieve that goal by publishing an “op-ed” in your local newspaper or other publications. Op-eds are opinion pieces, usually printed opposite a newspaper’s editorial page, that present a unique point of view on a topic of current interest. You might begin by focusing on a crime that affects your community and examine the needs of local victims of that crime. Perhaps you can find a victim with a particularly compelling story and then describe the VOCA-funded local services that are available to help that victim. Although you can approach the op-ed from many different angles, your task is to convey in personal

terms why your community and the nation have reason to celebrate VOCA this National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

More Tools

Media Advisories: You can boost your impact on the media by distributing *media advisories*, or *media alerts*, one-page notifications about newsworthy NCVRW events. Media advisories briefly describe the event you want to publicize and its significance. Advisories then list the “who,” “what,” “where,” “when,” and “why” of the event. After you have distributed your advisory, follow up with calls to the reporters you think might be interested in attending your event. You can also list your event on the “day book” of major news wire services (e.g., Reuters or Associated Press) if they have bureaus in your city. Visit the wire services’ Web sites for information on how to contact their day-book desks.

Fact Sheets: This Resource Guide includes a wealth of information about crime trends, the history of the victims’ rights movement, and other facts that will interest reporters, who always need background for their articles. You can increase your chances of gaining publicity by assembling fact sheets on issues highlighted by your campaign—such as national and local crime statistics, the Victims of Crime Act, the Crime Victims Fund, and services for local crime victims. It’s a good idea to have your fact sheets ready before you launch your campaign.

More Media Strategies

- Contact editors, producers, and station managers *two months* in advance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Suggest program topics your local media might want to cover during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Ask your mayor and other local officials to issue an NCVRW proclamation, and announce their participation in your news releases. A sample proclamation is provided in Section 2 of this guide.
- Send high-quality video or high-resolution photos or digital images from your NCVRW events to your local television stations and newspapers. Although the media may not have staff to cover your event, they may use the video or photos you provide. Include a caption that identifies everyone in the photo, a short description of the event, and contact information for someone who can answer media inquiries. 5

VOCA Resources for Reporters

Reporters always need accurate facts and background information for their stories. You can help them gather interesting data about the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) by referring them to the following helpful online resources.

OVC Fact Sheet: Victims of Crime Act Crime Victims Fund

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/factshts/vocacvf/fs000310.pdf>

VOCA Nationwide Performance Reports

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/vocareps.htm>

OVC Links to Victim Assistance and Compensation Programs

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/help/links.htm>

Victims Served State-by-State

State Performance Reports on Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/state.htm>

Oral History of the Crime Victim Assistance Field

Video and Audio Archive

<http://vroh.uakron.edu>

Final Report of the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime

<http://ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/presdntstskforcprprt/welcome.html>

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SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Date]

CONTACT:

[Contact Name/Title]

[Agency Name]

[Phone Number]

[E-mail Address]

[Your City] Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Victims of Crime Act National Crime Victims' Rights Week to Honor Landmark Legislation

[City/State] April 26 marks the beginning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to focus on victims of crime and celebrate our nation's progress in serving them. This year's theme, "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act." honors a landmark national commitment to victims of crime.

Before 1984, victims of crime received little public support. The President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, formed by President Ronald W. Reagan in 1982, found widespread poor treatment of victims by a criminal justice system indifferent to their needs. Although most states had some form of victim compensation, most programs were poorly funded. Despite the few victim assistance programs available in some states and the federal effort to fund victim/witness programs throughout the nation, most communities relied on a few grassroots organizations—funded by sporadic private donations and bake sales—to help victims of crime.

In 1984, moved by the President's Task Force report findings and the work of victim advocates, Congress passed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which created the Crime Victims Fund, financed not by taxpayers but by fines and penalties paid by offenders. In 25 years, the Fund has grown from \$68 million to more than \$2 billion and is disbursed throughout the nation in amounts determined by Congress every year.

The Fund supports victim compensation programs, which reimburse victims for many out-of-pocket expenses—such as medical care, counseling, funerals, and lost wages—that victims face in the aftermath of crime. It also helps fund victim assistance programs—such as rape crisis and domestic violence programs—that support victims by providing physical and emotional care and guidance in navigating the criminal justice system. In 2006, VOCA funds supported more than 4,400 public and nonprofit agencies serving almost 4 million victims, and paid more than \$440 million in victim compensation.

"Every day in every state, VOCA shows victims they are not alone," said John W. Gillis, former director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. "VOCA represents hope, renewal, and a nation that stands behind victims of crime."

The U.S. Department of Justice will open National Crime Victims' Rights Week with its annual national Candlelight Observance Ceremony on April 23, 2009, and its National Crime Victims' Service Award Ceremony on April 24, 2009, both held in Washington, DC, to honor extraordinary individuals and programs that serve victims of crime. For more information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week and opening ceremonies in [local area], please contact [agency/organization] at [area code/telephone number] or visit [agency's] at [Web site address]. For more information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week, visit the Web site of the Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw. 

**Type your news release, double spaced, on the sample letterhead included in this Resource Guide.
Distribute your release to local media outlets at least 10 days before the event.**

SAMPLE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

15-Second PSA

[Background: clock ticking]

A crime may last only a few seconds. But the impact of that crime can last a lifetime. If you or anyone you know is a victim of crime, help is available. For 25 years, the Victims of Crime Act has supported victim services in communities throughout the nation. To find help in your area, contact [your organization] at [your phone number], or visit [your Web site].

30-Second PSA

[Background: clock ticking]

A crime may last only a few seconds. But the impact of that crime can last a lifetime. Victims of crime need help, and help is available. For 25 years, the Victims of Crime Act has supported thousands of agencies and millions of victims throughout the nation. If you or anyone you know has been harmed by crime, contact [your organization] at [your phone number], or visit [your Web site] for information about services in your community. Thanks to the Victims of Crime Act, help is available.

60-Second PSA

[Background: clock ticking]

A crime may last only a few seconds. But the impact of that crime can last a lifetime. Victims of crime need help, and help is available. For 25 years, the Victims of Crime Act has supported thousands of agencies and millions of victims throughout the nation. The Fund helps provide victim compensation and victim assistance, such as domestic violence shelters

and rape crisis centers. It funds information and support for victims as their cases move through the courts. If you or anyone you know has been harmed by crime, contact [your

organization] at [your phone number], or visit [your Web site] for information about services in your community. Thanks to the Victims of Crime Act, help is available. 5

60-Second Broadcast Quality TV PSA

(featured on the enclosed DVD along with the 5-minute Theme DVD Video)

Judge Lois Haight (Chairman, President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, 1982): For quite some time, we had a criminal justice system that focused on the criminal. It focused on the attorneys and focused on the judges and just ignored and mistreated and blamed the victim.

Steve Derene (Executive Director, National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators): Victims became removed from the system. It became pretty common to refer to victims as "the forgotten people."

Judge Lois Haight: The Victims of Crime Act made big changes.

Steve Derene: Not only did it establish a statutory basis for victim rights, but it provided funding for services.

Victim Advocate: Without the money that comes in from the Crime Victims Fund, many victim assistance programs probably would not be able to exist.

Crime Victim: With the resources that are available now and the wonderful people who work in victim services, there are people who can help victims like myself to become survivors.

Victim Advocate: It's helped thousands of people, one individual person at a time.

(Interval for local tagging)

AT THE END OF THE PSA, LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION CAN BE ADDED DURING A SEVEN-SECOND INTERVAL FOR TAGGING. (Note: White or yellow text works best; some TV stations might be willing to add a voiceover to read your contact information.)

25

HOW TO WRITE AN OP-ED

Through an op-ed in your local paper, you can introduce your community to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the reasons National Crime Victims' Rights Week will celebrate VOCA this year. The 25th anniversary of this historic law reminds Americans how far our nation has come in helping victims of crime rebuild their lives. An effective op-ed can tell a compelling story about why your community should know more about VOCA.

What Is an Op-Ed?

Op-eds are brief essays in newspapers, often by a non-staff writer, that take a position on a newsworthy topic and seek to convince readers to adopt the writer's point of view. Effective op-ed writers always consider the makeup of their audience and what they want readers to know or do. This year, you may want to educate your community about the importance of the Victims of Crime Act to crime victims and your community.

Choosing a Strategy

Your main goal is show readers why they should care about the Victims of Crime Act, but you can take several different approaches to meet that goal. A standard op-ed grabs attention with a memorable first line and then states a point of view in the first or second paragraph. If using this approach, you might state in the first paragraph that for 25 years, the Victims of Crime Act

has steadily built a network of supports for crime victims. Then you can describe different categories of VOCA-funded programs with brief anecdotes about how local programs are helping local victims.

Another approach is to pose a question in the title or opening paragraph—such as why the nation will celebrate the Victims of Crime Act this National Crime Victims' Rights Week—and then tell one story about a local victim that answers your question. Either way, you can effectively make your point.

To find background information for your op-ed, try scanning your local newspaper headlines and watch television news (or review your own organization's case files) for stories that typify crime trends in your community. A high percentage of VOCA funds support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, but you can focus on any type of crime. You can tell the story of an actual crime victim (removing any details that might identify the victim), or you can create a "composite" victim—a fictional victim who represents the kind of cases typical in your area—such as the victim described in the "Sample Op-Ed Column" in this section.

Op-ed Writers' Checklist

- ❑ **Start with a memorable opening.**
Example: "She never knew what would happen when her husband walked through the door."
- ❑ **State the position you are taking in your op-ed.**
Example: "VOCA offers millions of American crime victims the tools to help rebuild their lives."
- ❑ **Show your readers why they should care.**
Example: "Whether it's domestic violence, identity theft, burglary, or sexual assault, crime can strike anyone at anytime."
- ❑ **Link your op-ed to National Crime Victims' Rights Week.**
Example: "April 26 – May 2 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, when we celebrate how the Victims of Crime Act helps victims across the country and in our own community."
- ❑ **Support your main idea with two or three points.**
Examples:
 - "Our community is vulnerable to many different types of crimes."
 - "The Victims of Crime Act created services previously in short supply."
 - "Local victims can access many VOCA-funded services."

❑ **Back up your statements with facts, statistics, and quotations.**

Examples:

- “The specter of violent crime and the knowledge that, without warning, any person can be attacked or crippled, robbed or killed, lurks at the fringes of [our nation’s] consciousness,” said Judge Lois Haight Herrington, chair of the President’s Task Force on Victims of Crime.¹
- “Compensation programs paid \$68 million to victims in 1984 and more than \$440 million in 2006.”²
- “By 2006, VOCA grants helped fund more than 4,400 public and nonprofit agencies serving almost 4 million victims throughout the nation.”³

❑ **End by restating the NCVRW theme:**

“This year’s theme, ‘25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act,’ spotlights the network of lifelines VOCA has extended through our nation.”

Style Tips

- ❑ Use short words, sentences, and paragraphs.
- ❑ Use an informal, conversational tone.
- ❑ Use active verbs (e.g., “law enforcement solved the crime” versus “the crime was solved by law enforcement”).
- ❑ Avoid clichés (e.g., “it’s always darkest before the dawn”) and technical jargon (e.g., “victim intake” for “the first meeting with a victim”).
- ❑ Limit your op-ed to 750 words (and check with your local newspaper on length requirements).

How to Get Your Op-ed Published

- ❑ Choose local publications that are likely to accept your submission.
- ❑ Check your newspaper’s guidelines on space limits, deadlines, and other requirements (usually available on the publication’s Web site).
- ❑ Find out how to submit the document: mail, e-mail, or fax.
- ❑ Include your name, address, title, e-mail address, and phone numbers.



¹ Melissa Hook and Anne Seymour, “A Retrospective of the 1982 President’s Task Force on Victims of Crime,” (Washington, DC: Office for Victims of Crime, 2005), 2.
² Ibid.

³ Steve Derene, “Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victims Fund: Briefing Background 2009 Budget,” (Madison, WI: National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, 2008), 7.

SAMPLE OP-ED COLUMN

Why Celebrate the Victims of Crime Act? 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week

[Note: You can use the following sample case, which is a “composite” drawn from many actual domestic violence cases, or you can substitute a case that occurred in your own community.]

Last year in [your city] a man left work after arguing with his boss, stopped for a few drinks, then drove home in a foul mood. When he found his wife outside caring for the children instead of making dinner, he flew into a rage. As the children watched in horror, he threw his wife on the ground, kicked her, and when she tried to get up, twisted and fractured her arm. It was the fifth such attack in three months.

A neighbor saw the commotion and called the police, who arrived immediately, witnessed the woman's injuries, and arrested the husband. The officers gave the victim a resource card listing victim services and called an ambulance that took her to the hospital. When the victim returned home, she decided—for the first time—to seek help.

The next day, the victim visited a domestic violence shelter, spoke with a victim advocate, decided to press charges against her husband, and went to court to seek a protection order. A team of domestic violence advocates helped her obtain the order, accompanied her to court proceedings against her husband, arranged for counseling for her and the children, and helped her find a part-time job. They helped her seek victim compensation to receive health care and counseling and to enroll in the state's victim notification system so she would know the instant that her husband was released from jail. For the first time, she and her children were on the road to a safer life.

Twenty-five years ago, most of the services that helped this victim were in short supply. Although many states had victim compensation, most programs were poorly funded. A few grassroots victim assistance organizations had formed throughout the nation, but relatively few victims had access to their services. Victims whose cases reached the criminal justice system found the courts bewildering and indifferent to their needs. No one helped them negotiate the court system, find services, or stay safe.

Then in 1984, in response to a report from President Ronald Reagan's Task Force on Victims of Crime, Congress passed the landmark Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). VOCA established the Crime Victims Fund—supported by fines from offenders rather than taxpayers—to fund victim compensation and victim services throughout the nation as well as training for service providers. In the past 25 years, the Fund has grown from \$68 million to more than \$2 billion, disbursed in amounts determined by Congress every year. In 2006, VOCA grants helped fund more than 4,400 public and nonprofit agencies serving almost 4 million victims throughout the country.⁴

For our local domestic violence victim, VOCA opened the door to safety and hope. VOCA helped fund the resource cards the police officer gave her, the victim advocate who counseled her, and the victim compensation that paid for health care and counseling. Other services—such as VOCA-funded hotlines—were available if she had sought them. Every year, for this victim and millions like her, VOCA offers the tools to build a better life.

This year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 26 to May 2) celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Victims of Crime Act. The theme, “25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act,” spotlights the network of lifelines VOCA has extended through our nation. In 25 years, VOCA has become “a part of what we are and...how we take care of people,” said Kathryn Turman, director of the FBI Office of Victim Assistance. “The better job we do in taking care of victims, the healthier our communities will be.”⁵

That's why National Crime Victims' Rights Week celebrates the Victims of Crime Act this year.

Editor's Note: The domestic violence case described above is a fictional “composite” drawn from many actual domestic violence cases.

⁴Steve Derene, “Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victim Fund: Briefing Background 2009 Budget,” (Madison, WI: NAVAA, 2008), 7.

⁵Kathryn Turman, interviewed in “History and Impact of the Victims of Crime Act,” <http://www.rijjustice.ri.gov/voca> (accessed August 19, 2008).

Crime Victims' Rights in America: An Historical Overview

During 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we celebrate landmark federal legislation that was enacted 25 years ago on behalf of victims of crime. The 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) affirmed our nation's commitment to helping crime victims rebuild their lives. VOCA established the Crime Victims Fund, a non-taxpayer funding source, which continues today to provide critical support to state victim compensation and community victim assistance programs throughout the United States.

VOCA and countless other laws and policies reflect the tremendous progress that has been made over the past four decades in securing legal rights, protections, and services for victims of crime.

"Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services" charts that progress—from 1965 to the present—by highlighting the enactment of critical federal and state laws, the growth of national and community victim service organizations, the release of ground-breaking reports that focused national attention on crime victim issues, and the development of new victim assistance strategies that expanded the nation's capacity to help victims rebuild their lives.

You can use this historical overview—updated through October 2008—to tell the story of the victims' rights movement, an incredible journey by victims, victim advocates, and many others who have worked tirelessly to bring hope to the millions of individuals, families, and communities harmed by crime each year. This tool can be a valuable resource as you educate your community through public service announcements, presentations, speeches, media interviews, op-ed columns, and other education efforts during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

Key Federal Victims' Rights Legislation

- 1974 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- 1980 Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
- 1982 Victim and Witness Protection Act
- 1982 Missing Children's Act
- 1984 **Victims of Crime Act**
- 1984 Justice Assistance Act
- 1984 Missing Children's Assistance Act
- 1984 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- 1985 Children's Justice Act
- 1988 Drunk Driving Prevention Act
- 1990 Hate Crime Statistics Act
- 1990 Victims of Child Abuse Act
- 1990 Victims' Rights and Restitution Act
- 1990 National Child Search Assistance Act
- 1992 Battered Women's Testimony Act
- 1993 Child Sexual Abuse Registry Act
- 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act
- 1994 Violence Against Women Act
- 1996 Community Notification Act ("Megan's Law")
- 1996 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act
- 1996 Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act
- 1997 Victims' Rights Clarification Act
- 1998 Crime Victims with Disabilities Act
- 1998 Identity Theft and Deterrence Act
- 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act
- 2001 Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (established September 11th Victim Compensation Fund)
- 2003 PROTECT Act ("Amber Alert" law)
- 2003 Prison Rape Elimination Act
- 2003 Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act
- 2003 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
- 2004 Justice for All Act, including Title I *The Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act*
- 2006 Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act

NATIONAL
Crime Victims'
Rights
Week

25
years of
Rebuilding
Lives

Celebrating the
Victims of Crime Act

25

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS IN AMERICA

“We must remember that a right lost to one is lost to all.”

William Reece Smith, Jr. (1925 -)

1965

- The first crime victim compensation program is established in California.
- By 1970, five additional compensation programs are created in New York, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maryland, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

1972

- The first three victim assistance programs are established:
 - > Aid for Victims of Crime in St. Louis, Missouri.
 - > Bay Area Women Against Rape in San Francisco, California.
 - > Rape Crisis Center in Washington, DC.

1973

- The results of the first National Crime Victimization Survey are released. The survey, commissioned by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, asks U.S. household members about their exposure to crime. It is intended to complement what is known about crime from the FBI's annual compilation of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies.

1974

- The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funds the first victim/witness programs in the Brooklyn and Milwaukee District Attorneys' offices, plus seven others through a grant to the National District Attorneys Association, to establish model assistance programs for victims, encourage victim cooperation, and improve prosecution.

- The first law enforcement-based victim assistance programs are established in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Congress passes the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which establishes the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. The new Center establishes an information clearinghouse and provides technical assistance and model programs.

1975

- The first “Victims' Rights Week” is organized by the Philadelphia District Attorney.
- Citizen activists from across the country unite to expand victim services and increase recognition of victims' rights through the formation of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA).

1976

- The National Organization for Women forms a task force to examine the problem of battering. It calls for research into the problem, along with money for battered women's shelters.
- The first national conference on battered women is sponsored by the Milwaukee Task Force on Women in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- In Fresno County, California, Chief Probation Officer James Rowland creates the first victim impact statement to provide the judiciary with an objective inventory of victim injuries and losses at sentencing.

- The first hotline for battered women is started by Women's Advocates in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Women's Advocates and Haven House in Pasadena, California, establish the first shelters for battered women.
- Nebraska and Wisconsin become the first states to abolish the marital rape exemption.

1977

- The National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards is established by the existing 22 state victim compensation programs to foster a nationwide network of compensation programs.
- Oregon becomes the first state to enact mandatory arrest in domestic violence cases.

1978

- The National Coalition Against Sexual Assault is formed to combat sexual violence and promote services for rape victims.
- The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is organized as a voice for the battered women's movement on a national level.
- Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC), a self-help support group, is founded in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Minnesota becomes the first state to allow probable cause (warrantless) arrests in cases of domestic assault, regardless of whether a protection order has been issued.

AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

1979

- Frank G. Carrington, considered by many to be “the father of the victims’ rights movement,” founds the Crime Victims’ Legal Advocacy Institute, Inc., to promote the rights of crime victims in the civil and criminal justice systems. The non-profit organization is renamed VALOR, the Victims’ Assistance Legal Organization, in 1981.
- The Office on Domestic Violence is established in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services but is later closed in 1981.
- The World Society of Victimology is formed to promote research relating to crime victims and victim assistance, advocate for victims’ interests, and advance cooperation of international, regional, and local agencies concerned with crime victims’ issues.

1980

- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is founded after the death of 13-year-old Cari Lightner, who was killed by a repeat drunk-driving offender. The first two MADD chapters are established in Sacramento, California, and Annapolis, Maryland.
- Congress passes the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980.
- Wisconsin passes the first “Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights.”
- The First National Day of Unity is established in October by NCADV to mourn battered women who have died, celebrate women who have survived the violence, and honor all who have worked to end domestic violence.
- The first Victim Impact Panel is sponsored by Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID) in Oswego County, New York.

1981

- President Ronald Reagan proclaims the first “National Victims’ Rights Week” in April.
- The abduction and murder of six-year-old Adam Walsh prompt a national campaign to raise public awareness about missing children and enact laws to better protect children.
- The Attorney General’s Task Force on Violent Crime recommends that a separate national task force be created to examine victims’ issues.

1982

- In a Rose Garden ceremony, President Reagan appoints members of the Task Force on Victims of Crime, which holds public hearings in six cities across the nation to focus attention on the needs of crime victims. The Task Force’s Final Report offers 68 recommendations that become the framework for the advancement of new programs and policies. Its final recommendation, to amend the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to guarantee that “...the victim, in every criminal prosecution, shall have the right to be present and to be heard at all critical stages of judicial proceedings...” becomes a vital source of new energy to secure state victims’ rights constitutional amendments.
- The Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 brings “fair treatment standards” to victims and witnesses in the federal criminal justice system.
- California becomes the first state to amend its constitution to address the interests of crime victims by establishing a constitutional right to victim restitution.
- The passage of the Missing Children’s Act of 1982 helps guarantee that identifying information about

missing children is promptly entered into the FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer system.

- Congress abolishes, through failure of appropriations, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; many grassroots and system-based victim assistance programs close.

1983

- The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is established by the U.S. Department of Justice within the Office of Justice Programs to implement recommendations from the President’s Task Force on Victims of Crime. OVC establishes a national resource center, trains professionals, and develops model legislation to protect victims’ rights.
- U.S. Attorney General William French Smith establishes a Task Force on Family Violence, which holds six public hearings across the United States.
- U.S. Attorney General Smith issues the first *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, which outlines standards for federal victim and witness assistance and implementation of victims’ rights contained in the federal Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982.
- In April, President Reagan honors crime victims in a White House Rose Garden ceremony.
- The First National Conference of the Judiciary on Victims of Crime is held at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, with support from the National Institute of Justice. Conferees develop recommendations for the judiciary on victims’ rights and services.
- President Reagan proclaims the first National Missing Children’s Day in observance of the fourth anniversary of the disappearance of six-year-old Etan Patz.

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS IN AMERICA

- Wisconsin passes the first Child Victim and Witness Bill of Rights.
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police Board of Governors adopts a Crime Victims' Bill of Rights and establishes a Victims' Rights Committee to focus attention on the needs of crime victims by law enforcement officials nationwide.

1984

- The passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) establishes the Crime Victims Fund, made up of federal criminal fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures, to support state victim compensation and local victim assistance programs.
- President Reagan signs the Justice Assistance Act, which establishes a financial assistance program for state and local government and funds 200 new victim service programs.
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is established as the national resource agency for missing children. The Center was mandated as part of the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1982.
- The Task Force on Family Violence presents its report to the U.S. Attorney General with recommendations for action, including improving the criminal justice system's response to battered women and establishing prevention and awareness activities, education and training, and data collection and reporting.
- The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 is enacted, providing strong incentives to states to raise the minimum age for drinking to 21, saving thousands of young lives in years to come.

- The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services in Charleston, South Carolina, is founded to involve the faith community in violence prevention and victim assistance.
- Congress passes the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which earmarks federal funding for programs serving victims of domestic violence.
- Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) is organized at the first police survivors' seminar held in Washington, DC, by 110 relatives of officers killed in the line of duty.
- A victim/witness notification system is established within the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- Victim/witness coordinator positions are established in the U.S. Attorneys' Offices within the U.S. Department of Justice.
- California State University, Fresno, initiates the first Victim Services Certificate Program offered for academic credit by a university.
- OVC establishes the National Victims Resource Center, now named the Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center (OVCRC), to serve as a clearinghouse for OVC publications and other resources.

1985

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$68 million.
- The National Victim Center (renamed the National Center for Victims of Crime in 1998) is founded in honor of attempted-murder victim Sunny von Bulow to promote the rights and needs of crime victims and to educate Americans about the devastating effect of crime on our society.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of

Power that serves as the basis for victim service reform at national and local levels throughout the world.

- President Reagan announces the Child Safety Partnership to enhance private sector efforts to promote child safety, clarify information about child victimization, and increase public awareness of child abuse.
- The U.S. Surgeon General issues a report identifying domestic violence as a major public health problem.

1986

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$62 million.
- OVC awards the first grants to support state victim assistance and compensation programs.
- Two years after its passage, the Victims of Crime Act is amended by the Children's Justice Act to provide funds specifically for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse.
- More than 100 victim advocates meet in Washington, DC, at a forum sponsored by NOVA, and formally agree to seek a federal constitutional amendment on victims' rights.
- Rhode Island passes a victims' rights constitutional amendment granting victims the rights to restitution, to submit victim impact statements, and to be treated with dignity and respect.
- MADD's "Red Ribbon Campaign" enlists motorists to display a red ribbon on their automobiles, signaling a pledge to drive safely and soberly during the holidays. This national public awareness effort has since become an annual campaign.
- By year's end, 35 states have established victim compensation programs.

AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

1987

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$77 million.
- The National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network and Steering Committee are formed at a meeting hosted by the National Center for Victims of Crime. This initiative becomes instrumental in the passage of victims' rights amendments throughout the United States.
- Security on Campus, Inc., (SOC) is established by Howard and Connie Clery, following the tragic robbery, rape, and murder of their daughter, Jeanne, at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. SOC raises national awareness about crime and victimization on our nation's campuses.
- The American Correctional Association establishes a Task Force on Victims of Crime.
- NCADV establishes the first national toll-free domestic violence hotline.
- October is officially designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month to honor battered women and those who serve them.
- In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Booth v. Maryland* (482 U.S. 496) that victim impact statements are unconstitutional (in violation of the Eighth Amendment) when applied to the penalty phase of a capital trial because "only the defendant's personal responsibility and moral guilt" may be considered in capital sentencing. Significant dissenting opinions are offered.
- Victims and advocates in Florida, frustrated by five years of inaction by their legislature on a proposed victims' rights constitutional amendment, begin a petition drive. Thousands of citizens sign petitions supporting constitutional protection for victims' rights. The

Florida legislature reconsiders, and the constitutional amendment appears on the 1988 ballot.

1988

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$93 million.
- OVC sets aside funds for the Victim Assistance in Indian Country grant program to provide direct services to Native Americans by establishing "on-reservation" victim assistance programs in Indian Country.
- The National Aging Resource Center on Elder Abuse is established by a cooperative agreement among the American Public Welfare Association, the National Association of State Units on Aging, and the University of Delaware. Renamed the National Center on Elder Abuse, it continues to provide information and statistics.
- *State v. Ciskie* is the first case to allow the use of expert testimony to explain the behavior and mental state of an adult rape victim. The testimony is used to show why a victim of repeated physical and sexual assaults by her intimate partner would not immediately call the police or take action. The jury convicts the defendant on four counts of rape.
- The Drunk Driving Prevention Act is passed, and all states raise the minimum drinking age to 21.
- Victims' rights constitutional amendments are introduced in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, South Carolina, and Washington. Florida's amendment is placed on the November ballot, where it passes with 90 percent of the vote. Michigan's amendment passes with over 80 percent of the vote.

- OVC sponsors the first "Indian Nations: Justice for Victims of Crime" conference in Rapid City, South Dakota.
- Amendments to the Victims of Crime Act legislatively establish the Office for Victims of Crime, elevate the position of Director by making Senate confirmation necessary for appointment, and encourage state compensation programs to cover victims of domestic violence, homicide, and drunk driving. In addition, VOCA amendments, at the behest of MADD and POMC, add a new "priority" category for funding victim assistance programs for "previously underserved victims of violent crime."
- OVC establishes a Federal Emergency Fund for victims in the federal criminal justice system.

1989

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$133 million.
- In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirms in *South Carolina v. Gathers* its 1987 decision in *Booth v. Maryland* that victim impact evidence and arguments are unconstitutional when applied to the penalty phase of a capital trial. Again, significant dissenting opinions are offered.
- The legislatures in Texas and Washington pass victims' rights constitutional amendments. Both are ratified by voters.

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS IN AMERICA

1990

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$146 million.
- Congress passes the Hate Crime Statistics Act, requiring the U.S. Attorney General to collect data on the incidence of certain crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.
- The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act, requiring institutions of higher education to disclose murder, rape, robbery, and other crimes on campus, is signed into law by President George H.W. Bush.
- Congress passes the Victims of Child Abuse Act, which features reforms to make the federal criminal justice system less traumatic for child victims and witnesses.
- The Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 incorporates a Bill of Rights for federal crime victims and codifies services that should be available to victims of crime.
- Congress passes legislation proposed by MADD to prevent drunk drivers and other offenders from filing bankruptcy to avoid paying criminal restitution or civil fines.
- The Arizona petition drive to place the victims' rights constitutional amendment on the ballot succeeds, and the amendment is ratified by voters.
- The first National Incidence Study on Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children in America shows that more than one million children are abducted annually.
- The National Child Search Assistance Act requires law enforcement to enter reports of missing children and unidentified persons into the FBI's NCIC computer system.

1991

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$128 million.
- U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduces the first Congressional Joint Resolution (H. J. RES. 247) to place victims' rights in the U.S. Constitution.
- California State University, Fresno, approves the first bachelor's degree program in victimology in the nation.
- The National Center for Victims of Crime releases *America Speaks Out*, a report on the first national public opinion poll to examine citizens' attitudes about violence and victimization.
- In a 7-2 decision in *Payne v. Tennessee* (501 U.S. 808), the U.S. Supreme Court reverses its earlier decisions in *Booth v. Maryland* (1987) and *South Carolina v. Gathers* (1989) and rules that testimony and prosecutorial arguments commenting on the murder victim's good character, as well as how the victim's death affected his or her survivors, do not violate the defendant's constitutional rights in a capital case.
- U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr issues new comprehensive guidelines that establish procedures for the federal criminal justice system to respond to the needs of crime victims. The 1991 *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance* implement new protections of the Crime Control Act of 1990, integrating requirements of the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, the Victims of Child Abuse Act, and the Victim and Witness Protection Act.
- The American Probation and Parole Association establishes a Victim Issues Committee to examine victims' issues and concerns related to community corrections.

- The New Jersey legislature passes a victims' rights constitutional amendment, which is ratified by voters in November.
- Colorado legislators introduce a victims' rights constitutional amendment on the first day of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The bill is unanimously passed by both Houses to be placed on the ballot in 1992.
- In an 8-0 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Simon & Schuster v. New York Crime Victims Board* that New York's notoriety-for-profit statute was overly broad and unconstitutional. Notoriety-for-profit statutes had been passed by many states by this time to prevent convicted criminals from profiting from the proceeds of depictions of their crimes in the media or publications.
- The Washington Secretary of State implements the nation's first Address Confidentiality Program, which provides victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault an alternative, confidential mailing address and secures the confidentiality of two normally public records—voter registration and motor vehicle records.
- By the end of 1991, seven states have incorporated victims' rights into their state constitutions.

1992

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$221 million.
- The National Center for Victims of Crime releases *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*, a groundbreaking study on forcible rape, including data on rape frequency, victims' reporting rate to police, the impact of rape on victims' mental health, and the effect of media disclosure of victim identities on reporting rape to law enforcement.

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- The Association of Paroling Authorities International establishes a Victim Issues Committee to examine victims' needs, rights, and services in parole processes.
- Congress reauthorizes the Higher Education Bill, which includes the Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights.
- The Battered Women's Testimony Act, which urges states to accept expert testimony in criminal cases involving battered women, is passed by Congress and signed into law by President George H. W. Bush.
- In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court—in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*—strikes down a local hate crimes ordinance in Minnesota. The ordinance had prohibited the display of a symbol which one knew or had reason to know “arouses anger, alarm or resentment in others on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender,” and was found to violate the First Amendment.
- Five states—Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, and New Mexico—ratify victims' rights constitutional amendments.
- Twenty-eight states pass anti-stalking laws.
- Massachusetts passes a landmark bill creating a statewide computerized domestic violence registry and requires judges to check the registry when handling such cases.

1993

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$144 million.
- Wisconsin ratifies its victims' rights constitutional amendment, bringing the total number of states with these amendments to 14.
- Congress passes the International Parental Child Kidnapping Act,

which makes unlawful removal of a child from outside the United States with the intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights a federal felony.

- President William J. Clinton signs the “Brady Bill,” requiring a waiting period for the purchase of handguns.
- Congress passes the Child Sexual Abuse Registry Act, establishing a national repository for information about child sex offenders.
- Twenty-two states pass anti-stalking statutes, bringing the total number of states with anti-stalking laws to 50, plus the District of Columbia.

1994

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$185 million.
- The American Correctional Association Victims Committee publishes the landmark *Report and Recommendations on Victims of Juvenile Crime*, which offers guidelines for improving victims' rights and services within the juvenile justice system.
- Six additional states pass victims' rights constitutional amendments—the largest number ever in a single year—bringing the total number of states with amendments to 20. States with new amendments include Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Maryland, Ohio, and Utah.
- President Clinton signs a comprehensive package of federal victims' rights legislation as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. The Act includes:
 - > The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which authorizes more than \$1 billion in funding for programs to combat violence against women.
 - > Enhanced VOCA funding provisions.

- > Establishment of a National Child Sex Offender Registry.
- > Enhanced sentences for drunk drivers with child passengers.
- Kentucky becomes the first state to institute automated telephone notification to crime victims of their offender's status, location, and release date.
- OVC establishes the Community Crisis Response program, using the NOVA model, to improve services to victims in communities that have experienced a crime resulting in multiple violent victimizations.

1995

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$233 million.
- Legislatures in three states—Indiana, Nebraska, and North Carolina—pass victims' rights constitutional amendments that will be placed on the ballot in 1996.
- The National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network proposes the first draft of language for a federal victims' rights constitutional amendment.
- The first class graduates from the National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA) in Washington, DC. Supported by OVC, NVAA provides an academically credited 45-hour curriculum on victimology, victims' rights, and other victim-related topics.
- *The Anatomy of Fraud: Report of a Nationwide Survey* by Richard Titus, Fred Heinzelmann, and John M. Boyle is published. The report is based on the first nationwide survey, conducted in 1991 by the National Institute of Justice, to determine the scope of fraud and its effects, with findings that an estimated \$40 billion is lost to fraud each year. One-third of the people surveyed reported that an attempt

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to defraud them had occurred in the previous year.

- The U.S. Department of Justice issues the revised *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*. These guidelines increase the accountability of federal criminal justice officials, directing that performance appraisals and reports of best efforts include information on compliance with the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*.
- The Beijing World Conference on Women issues a landmark call for global action to end violence against women.

1996

- The Crime Victims Fund reaches an historic high with deposits over \$525 million.
- Federal victims' rights constitutional amendments are introduced in both houses of Congress with bipartisan support.
- Both presidential candidates and Attorney General Janet Reno endorse the concept of a federal victims' rights constitutional amendment.
- Eight states ratify the passage of victims' rights constitutional amendments—raising the total number of such state constitutional amendments to 29 nationwide.
- President Clinton reaffirms his support of federal constitutional rights for crime victims in a Rose Garden ceremony attended by members of Congress, criminal justice officials, and representatives of local, state, and national victims' rights organizations.
- The Community Notification Act, known as “Megan’s Law,” amends the Child Sexual Abuse Registry law to provide for notifying

communities of the location of convicted sex offenders.

- President Clinton signs the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, providing \$1 million to strengthen antiterrorism efforts, make restitution mandatory in violent crime cases, and expand compensation and assistance for victims of terrorism both at home and abroad, including victims in the military.
- OVC uses its new authority under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act to provide substantial financial assistance to the victims and survivors of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.
- The Mandatory Victims’ Restitution Act, enacted as Title II of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, allows federal courts to award “public harm” restitution directly to state VOCA victim assistance programs. The Act makes restitution in federal cases mandatory, regardless of the defendant’s ability to pay. It also requires federal courts to order restitution to victims of fraud.
- The VOCA definition of “crime victim” is expanded to include victims of financial crime, allowing this group to receive counseling, advocacy, and support services.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline is established by Congress to provide crisis intervention information and referrals to victims of domestic violence and their friends and family.
- The Church Arson Prevention Act is signed in response to an increasing number of acts of arson against religious institutions around the country.
- The Drug-induced Rape Prevention Act is enacted to address the emerging issue of drug-facilitated rape and sexual assault.

- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, within the U.S. Department of Justice, issues the *Juvenile Justice Action Plan*, which includes recommendations for victims’ rights and services within the juvenile justice system for victims of juvenile offenders.

1997

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$363 million.
- Congress passes the Victims’ Rights Clarification Act of 1997 to clarify existing federal law allowing victims to attend a trial and to appear as “impact witnesses” during the sentencing phase of both capital and non-capital cases. President Clinton signs the Act, allowing the victims and survivors of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City to observe the trial and to provide input later at sentencing.
- A federal victims’ rights constitutional amendment is reintroduced in the opening days of the 105th Congress with strong bipartisan support. The Senate and House Judiciary Committees conduct hearings on the proposed federal victims’ rights constitutional amendment. While not endorsing specific language, Attorney General Janet Reno testifies at the Senate hearing in support of federal constitutional rights for crime victims.
- To fully recognize the sovereignty of Indian Nations, OVC for the first time provides victim assistance grants directly to tribes in Indian Country.
- Congress enacts a federal anti-stalking law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997.
- Due to the large influx of VOCA funds in the previous fiscal year, OVC hosts a series of regional

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meetings with state VOCA administrators to encourage states to develop multiyear funding strategies to help stabilize local program funding, expand outreach to previously underserved victims, and support the development and implementation of technologies to improve victims' rights and services.

- OVC continues its support of the victims and survivors of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City by funding additional advocates, crisis counseling, and travel expenses for the bombing victims to attend court proceedings. When the venue of the trial is changed to Denver, Colorado, OVC provides funding for a special closed-circuit broadcast to victims and survivors in Oklahoma City.
- OVC releases *New Directions from the Field: Victims' Rights and Services for the 21st Century*, which assesses the nation's progress in meeting the recommendations set forth in the *Final Report of the 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime* and issues over 250 new recommendations from the field for the next millennium.

1998

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$324 million.
- Senate Joint Resolution 44, a new bipartisan version of a federal victims' rights constitutional amendment, is introduced in the Senate by Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). The Senate Judiciary Committee subsequently approves SJR 44 by an 11-6 vote. No further action is taken on SJR 44 during the 105th Congress.
- Four new states pass state victims' rights constitutional amendments: Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana,

and Tennessee. The Supreme Court of Oregon, however, overturns the Oregon state victims' rights amendment, originally passed in 1996, citing structural deficiencies.

- The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 is passed. Part E of this legislation, "Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus," is authorized through the year 2003 and appropriates a total of \$10 million in grant funding to the Violence Against Women Grants Office for Fiscal Year 1999. Another primary aim of this legislation is to reduce binge drinking and illegal alcohol consumption on college campuses.
- Congress enacts the Child Protection and Sexual Predator Punishment Act of 1998, providing for numerous sentencing enhancements and other initiatives addressing sex crimes against children, including crimes facilitated by the use of interstate facilities and the Internet.
- Congress passes the Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act, representing the first effort to systematically gather information about the extent of victimization of individuals with disabilities. This legislation directs the Attorney General to conduct a study on crimes against individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, the Bureau of Justice Statistics must include statistics on the nature of crimes against individuals with developmental disabilities and victim characteristics in its annual National Crime Victimization Survey by 2000.
- The Identity Theft and Deterrence Act of 1998 is signed into law. This landmark federal legislation outlaws identity theft and directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to consider various factors in determining penalties, including the number of victims and the value

of losses to any individual victim. The Act further authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to log and acknowledge reports of identity theft, provide information to victims, and refer complaints to appropriate consumer reporting and law enforcement agencies.

- OVC provides funding to the U.S. Department of State to support the development of a Victim Assistance Specialist position to improve the quality and coordination of services provided to U.S. citizens who are victimized abroad.

1999

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$985 million, the second highest level in the history of the Fund.
- The proposed federal victims' rights constitutional amendment (Senate Joint Resolution 3, identical to SJR 44) is introduced in the 106th Congress.
- The fifth National Victim Assistance Academy is held in June at five university locations across the United States, bringing the total number of Academy graduates to nearly 1,000.
- OVC issues the first grants to create State Victim Assistance Academies.
- The National Crime Victim Bar Association is formed by the National Center for Victims of Crime to promote civil justice for victims of crime.

2000

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$777 million.
- Congress passes a new national drunk driving limit of 0.08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) with the strong support of MADD and other victim advocacy organizations,

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as well as leading highway safety, health, medical, law enforcement, and insurance groups. The new law, passed with strong bipartisan support, requires states to pass 0.08 “per se intoxication” laws or lose a portion of their annual federal highway funding.

- Congress reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, extending VAWA through 2005 and authorizing funding at \$3.3 billion over the five-year period. In addition to expanding federal stalking statutes to include stalking on the Internet, the Act authorizes:
 - > \$80 million a year for rape prevention and education grants.
 - > \$875 million over five years for battered women’s shelters.
 - > \$25 million in 2001 for transitional housing program.
 - > \$25 million to address violence against older women and women with disabilities.
- The Internet Crime Complaint Center Web site, www.ic3.gov, is created by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National White Collar Crime Center to combat Internet fraud by giving consumers a convenient way to report violations and by centralizing information about fraud crimes for law enforcement.
- Attorney General Janet Reno revises and reissues the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, which mandates that every Department of Justice employee who comes into contact with crime victims receives at minimum one hour of training about victim rights laws and the guidelines.
- Victimization rates as reported in the National Crime Victimization

Survey are the lowest recorded since the survey’s creation in 1973.

- The Treasury Department conducts the National Summit on Identity Theft, which addresses prevention techniques, victims’ experiences, and remediation in the government and private sector. The summit is the first national-level conference involving law enforcement, victims, industry representatives, and nonprofit organizations interested in the issue. At the summit, Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers unveils four new initiatives to address identity theft.
- A federal victims’ rights constitutional amendment is addressed for the first time by the full U.S. Senate. Following two-and-a-half days of debate, the measure (SJR 3) is withdrawn for further consideration by its cosponsors, Senators Kyl (R-AZ) and Feinstein (D-CA), when it becomes apparent that the measure will not receive the two-thirds majority vote necessary for approval.
- Congress passes and the President signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. This new law significantly strengthens criminal enforcement, prosecution, and penalties against traffickers; provides new protections to victims; and enables victims of severe forms of trafficking to seek benefits and services available to other crime victims.

2001

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$544 million.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey results for 2000 are released, showing that victimization rates continue to drop, reaching a new low of 26 million victims.
- On September 11, 2001, two hijacked planes crash into the

World Trade Center, another into the Pentagon, and a fourth into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, killing 2,974 victims and injuring countless others in the worst terrorist attacks on American soil.

- Congress and President George W. Bush respond to the terrorist acts of September 11 with a raft of new laws providing funding for victim assistance, tax relief for victims, and other accommodations and protections for victims. As part of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, a new federal victim compensation program is created specifically for the victims of September 11. The program includes many types of damages normally available only through civil actions, such as payment for pain and suffering, lifetime lost earnings, and loss of enjoyment of life. To receive compensation, claimants are required to waive their right to bring civil action for damages suffered as a result of the terrorist acts.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, a package of antiterrorism legislation that includes changes to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), including increasing the percentage of state compensation payments reimbursable by the federal government and allowing OVC to fund compliance and evaluation projects.
- OVC augments state victim compensation funding to aid victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania; offers assistance to victims of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon through the Pentagon Family Assistance Center; and establishes a toll-free telephone number and secure Web site for victims and their immediate family members.

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- The Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act and Jennifer's Law increase the annual Crime Victims Fund set-aside for child abuse victims from \$10 million to a maximum of \$20 million, and allow the use of Byrne grant funds for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Jennifer's Law authorizes \$2 million per year through Fiscal Year 2002 for states to apply for grants to cover costs associated with entering complete files of unidentified crime victims into the FBI's NCIC database.
- New regulations, policies, and procedures for victims of trafficking dramatically change the response to this class of crime victims by agencies throughout the federal government, including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and several U.S. Department of Justice agencies (the FBI, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and U.S. Attorneys' Offices).

2002

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$519 million.
- OVC releases final program guidelines and an accompanying application kit for the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program for Terrorism and Mass Violence Crimes, which provides funding to compensate and assist victims of terrorism and mass violence that occur within and outside the United States.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey continues to show a decline in crime victimization. Violent crime victimization dropped 10 percent from the previous year, and property crime dropped 6 percent.
- President Bush attends the presentation of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week awards and announces the Administration's support for the proposed Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) is established. With OVC support, NAVAA provides technical assistance and training to state VOCA assistance administrators.
- OVC makes available the first Helping Outreach Programs to Expand grants to grassroots, nonprofit, community-based victim organizations and coalitions to improve outreach and services to victims of crime through the support of program development, networking, coalition building, and service delivery.
- Congress appropriates approximately \$20 million to fund services for trafficking victims, including shelter, medical and mental health care, legal assistance, interpretation, and advocacy.
- President Bush hosts the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children and announces his strong support for the Hutchison-Feinstein National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002, which would help develop, enhance, and coordinate AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response). The Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs is designated as the National AMBER Alert Coordinator at the Department of Justice.
- By the end of 2002, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam have established crime victim compensation programs.
- *Our Vulnerable Teenagers: Their Victimization, Its Consequences, and Directions for Prevention and Inter-*

vention is released by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the National Center for Victims of Crime. This landmark report documents the disproportionate representation of teenagers, ages 12 to 19, as victims of crime, and discusses promising prevention and intervention strategies.

2003

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$361 million.
- The Senate Judiciary Committee passes the federal victims' rights constitutional amendment to ensure basic rights to victims nationwide.
- Congress makes the Office on Violence Against Women (formerly the Violence Against Women Office within the Office of Justice Programs) a permanent, independent office within the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the PROTECT Act of 2003—also known as the “Amber Alert” law—which creates a national AMBER network to facilitate rapid law enforcement and community response to kidnapped or abducted children.
- The American Society of Victimology (ASV) is established at the first American Symposium on Victimology held in Kansas City, Kansas. The ASV serves as a forum for academicians and practitioners on all topics related to victimology in partnership with the World Society of Victimology.
- The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is enacted to track and address the issue of rape in correctional institutions and develop national standards aimed at reducing prison rape.

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- Congress establishes January as National Stalking Awareness Month.
 - The National Domestic Violence Hotline, operated by the Texas Council on Family Violence, receives its one millionth call.
 - The U.S. Postal Service releases the Stop Family Violence postage stamp to raise money for domestic violence prevention programs.
 - Congress appropriates \$22 million for the U.S. Department of Defense's Family Advocacy Program, \$900,000 of which is for the National Domestic Violence Hotline Awareness, Intervention, and Prevention Campaign in the military services.
 - The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 is enacted to provide new protections against identity theft and help victims of identity theft recover their financial losses.
 - Congress passes and President Bush signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Along with reauthorizing programs created under the first TVPA, this legislation strengthens prevention efforts, supports prosecution of offenders, simplifies the process by which victims are certified eligible for benefits, and allows benefits and services to be available for victims' family members who are legally allowed to come to the United States. The legislation also creates a civil cause of action for victims of forced labor or forced prostitution.
- and recommendations for preventing sexual assault in the military and providing a sensitive response to victims. The recommendations include establishing a single office within the U.S. Department of Defense to handle sexual assault matters, launching an information campaign to inform personnel about services available to victims, and convening a summit to update the definition of sexual assault and address victim privacy concerns within the military context.
- The Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act is enacted, defining aggravated identity theft as stealing another person's identity in connection with the commission of other specified felonies. The legislation also prohibits the court from ordering an offender's sentence for identity theft to run concurrently with a sentence imposed on the same offender for any other crime.
 - Congress passes and President Bush signs the Justice for All Act of 2004, which includes the Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act, providing substantive rights for crime victims. For the first time, the law provides mechanisms at the federal level to enforce the rights of crime victims, giving victims and prosecutors legal standing to assert victims' rights, authorizing the filing of writs of mandamus to assert a victim's right, and requiring the Attorney General to establish a victims' rights compliance program within the Department of Justice. The legislation authorizes \$155 million in funding over the next five years for victim assistance programs at the federal and state level. This omnibus crime legislation also provides funding for DNA testing, crime labs, sexual assault forensic examiners, and programs for post-conviction DNA testing.
- President Bush hosts the first national training conference on human trafficking, which brings together trafficking response teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and victim service providers from at least 21 cities with a known concentration of trafficking victims. The conference emphasizes the importance of combating trafficking using a victim-centered approach.
 - The National Center for Victims of Crime releases *Repairing the Harm: A New Vision for Crime Victim Compensation in America*, which examines compensation data from all 50 states, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, and compensation programs in other countries. The report also provides a framework for strengthening victim compensation in the United States.

2005

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$668 million.
- The U.S. Department of Justice establishes an online national sex offender registry that provides real-time access to public sex offender data nationwide with a single Internet search.
- OVC and the Bureau of Justice Assistance initiate a program to establish teams of law enforcement task forces and victim services to respond to human trafficking. The primary goals of this program are to develop sustainable programs to combat human trafficking through proactive law enforcement and prosecution at all levels of government, to coordinate U.S. Attorneys' Offices' efforts, to collaborate with victim service providers, and to increase the identification and rescue of trafficking victims.

2004

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$834 million, the third highest level in the history of the Fund.
- The U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault releases its report

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- The U.S. House of Representatives establishes the first congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, co-chaired by Representatives Ted Poe (R-TX) and Jim Costa (D-CA). The mission of the Caucus is to elevate crime victim issues in Congress in a bipartisan manner, without infringing on the rights of the accused, and advocate for crime victims' interests before the Administration and within Congress.
- The Department of Justice announces more than \$84 million in DNA grants nationwide as part of President Bush's Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology initiative. The initiative is designed to improve the nation's capacity to use DNA evidence by eliminating casework and convicted offender backlogs, funding research and development, improving crime lab capacity, providing training for all stakeholders in the criminal justice system, and conducting testing to identify missing persons.
- Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez issues updated *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*. The guidelines incorporate provisions for crime victims' rights and remedies, including those in the Justice for All Act, which had been enacted since the publication of the last edition. The guidelines also address victim and witness assistance in human trafficking and identity theft cases.
- The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators releases the *Crime Victims Fund Report*, which highlights the Crime Victims Fund's contribution to the federal government's efforts to assist victims, analyzes the sources of deposits into the Fund, examines the issues involved in administering the Fund, and explores future challenges to the Fund's capacity to meet victims' needs.
- The American Bar Association releases *Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams: A Replication Manual*, developed by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging and funded by OVC. This groundbreaking manual provides guidance to communities on establishing elder abuse fatality review teams that review deaths caused by or related to elder abuse.
- The U.S. Department of Justice issues its Final Rule implementing the victims' rights compliance provisions of the Crime Victims Rights' Act portion of the Justice for All Act. The rule establishes the office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman within the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) to receive and investigate complaints relating to the provision or violation of the rights of crime victims. The rule establishes procedures for filing complaints, investigating complaints, and imposing disciplinary sanctions against employees when warranted.
- The U.S. Department of Defense announces a new sexual assault policy. The policy creates a military-wide definition of sexual assault, sets a baseline standard for prevention and response training for the armed services, and requires all military installations to have a sexual assault response coordinator with a staff of victim advocates. The policy also requires the establishment of a senior level of command to handle sexual assault cases and review any administrative discharges of sexual assault victims.
- extension of the Violence Against Women Act includes provisions for early intervention, prevention, and health care, and promotes a national commitment to keep women and children safe from fear and abuse.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. This law expands the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by enhancing efforts to fight domestic trafficking in persons.
- During the National Crime Victims' Rights Week ceremony, OVC awards the first Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Awards to honor outstanding individuals whose leadership, vision, and innovation have led to significant changes in public policy and practice that benefit crime victims.
- President Bush signs the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Along with increasing supervision of sex offenders, this wide-ranging legislation also extends the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act to federal habeas corpus proceedings arising out of state convictions, eliminates the statute of limitations for federal prosecution of certain sexual offenses and child abduction, and extends the civil remedy for child sex crime victims to persons victimized as children, even if their injuries did not surface until the person became an adult.
- Attorney General Alberto Gonzales launches Project Safe Childhood, aimed at ending Internet-based child sexual exploitation. This nationwide project creates locally designed partnerships of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies together with community leaders to develop a coordinated strategy to prevent, investigate, and prosecute sexual

2006

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$650 million.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. This

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predators, abusers, and pornographers who target children. All U.S. Attorneys are charged with taking the lead in designing a strategic plan for their community.

- The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decides *Kenna v. U.S. District Court for the Central District of California*, in which the court considered whether the Crime Victims' Rights Act portion of the Justice for All Act gave victims the right to speak at sentencing hearings. The case involved a father and son who swindled dozens of victims. The defendants pled guilty to wire fraud and money laundering. More than 60 victims submitted victim impact statements. At the father's sentencing hearing, several victims spoke about the effects of the crimes, but at the son's sentencing the judge refused to allow the victims to speak. The court held that the district judge had made a mistake, and made three important points: (1) in passing the Crime Victims' Rights Act, it was the intent of Congress to allow victims to speak at sentencing hearings, not just to submit victim impact statements; (2) victims have a right to speak even if there is more than one criminal sentencing; and (3) the remedy for a crime victim denied the right to speak at a sentencing hearing is to have the sentence vacated and a new sentencing hearing held in which the victims are allowed to speak.
- The Department of Justice issues its final rule implementing the new International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP). This new federally administered program extends crime victim compensation to American victims of terrorism abroad, reimbursing them for direct, out-of-pocket expenses resulting from an act of terror.

- President Bush signs the Older Americans Act Reauthorization (OAA), which includes a number of victim-related provisions. It requires the Assistant Secretary on Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to designate an individual to develop a long-term plan for a national response to elder abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment activities. The new law improves access to programs and services under OAA by addressing the needs of older individuals with limited English proficiency; promotes multidisciplinary responses to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation by states and Indian tribes; and preserves the long-term care ombudsman program.

2007

- For the first time ever, the Crime Victims Fund deposits surpass a billion dollars, totaling \$1.02 billion.
- Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Federal Trade Commission Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras release the President's Identity Theft Task Force strategic plan to combat identity theft. Task Force recommendations include reducing the unnecessary use of Social Security numbers by federal agencies; establishing national standards requiring private entities to safeguard the personal data they compile and to notify consumers of any breach that poses a significant risk of identity theft; implementing a consumer awareness campaign; and creating a National Identity Theft Law Enforcement Center to coordinate law enforcement efforts and information to improve the investigation and prosecution of identity thieves.

- OVC makes the first payments of the ITVERP program to U.S. victims of international acts of terrorism, including the victims of the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings, in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; the October 2002 Bali, Indonesia, nightclub bombing; the May 2003 bombing of expatriate housing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and the 2003 airport bombing in Davao City, Philippines.
- House and Senate Resolutions establishing September 25 as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims coincide with the first annual national event held on Capitol Hill.

2008

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$896 million.
- The President signs into law the Identity Theft Enhancement and Restitution Act as part of the Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008. This legislation permits courts to order restitution to cybercrime victims for the costs associated with identity theft, including the loss of time and money spent restoring their credit record.
- OVC releases two guides on the rights of victims of perpetrators with mental illness, a long-under-served victim population. *Responding to People Who Have Been Victimized by Individuals with Mental Illnesses* sets out the steps policymakers, advocates, mental health professionals, and others can take to understand and protect the rights and safety of these crime victims. *A Guide to the Role of Crime Victims in Mental Health Courts* offers practical recommendations to mental health court practitioners about how to engage crime victims in case proceedings. Both publications were developed by the Council of State Governments' Justice Center.

AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

- Congress passes the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008, which amends the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. This legislation extends funding for various programs to serve homeless youth, including programs to prevent the sexual abuse of youth. It includes a requirement for regular statistical reports on the problem.
- OVC releases the *Resource Guide for Serving U.S. Citizens Victimized Abroad*, an online guide to help U.S.-based victim service providers prepare to deliver comprehensive and effective services to victims of overseas crime. The guide helps service providers access resources abroad and in the United States. 5

25



Celebrating the
Victims of Crime Act

The 2009 NCVRW *Resource Guide* offers an impressive collection of resources designed specifically to support public awareness efforts during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year. Take full advantage of these resources as you educate public officials, media representatives, business leaders, victims of crime, and others about the realities of crime victimization.

- **NEW! Poster Gallery**

Each year, the *NCVRW Resource Guide* features public awareness posters to help victim service providers educate their communities about important victim-related issues. Now, this collection, which includes posters from the 2003 to 2009 Resource Guides, is available anytime for download at the online OVC Poster Gallery. See next page for more information.

- **Crime Victimization in the United States: Statistical Overviews**

A comprehensive collection of current data on different types of crime victimization, special populations of crime victims, and the financial and mental health consequences of crime.

- **NCVRW Resource Guide Partners and Other Resources**

We thank our organizational partners for supporting 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year, we have provided additional information about each of our partners so you can learn more about the work they do. This section also includes online resources provided by the Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Center for Victims of Crime. 

Also included in this section:

Resource Guide Evaluation—

Help us make the *NCVRW Resource Guide* even better. We are always looking for new ways to improve the usefulness of this guide. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed evaluation. Thank you.

NCVRW Resource Guide Partners and Other Resources

With the seemingly limitless resources accessible online, it can be daunting to locate the quality among the quantity. To help, the Resource Guide includes a list of the 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide Partners, all leaders in the crime victims' rights field, who offer expert advice and assistance. Other valuable sources of online information, such as the Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center (OVCRC), the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), and the OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC), are highlighted here as well.

2009 NCVRW Resource Guide Partners

The 31 NCVRW Resource Guide Partners represent a vast range of institutional expertise in raising the profile of crime victims' rights in legislation, the media, and the general public, and are responsible for many major innovations in responding to victims. Now these organizations are lending their support to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Victims of Crime Act during 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Read more about each of the participating organizations starting on page 4.

Resources in the Virtual Victim Services Community

From dial-up Internet connections to Wi-Fi hotspots at bookstores and coffee shops, victims and victim service providers across the country are using online resources to seek assistance, conduct research, raise awareness, and expand services. Aided by the introduction of new technologies, organizations are posting PSAs and educational videos online and are conducting Web-based trainings with advocates across the United States. But these are only a few ways the Internet can be used to help victims. The following pages offer a wide range of cutting-edge online resources for helping crime victims' and those who serve them. (When available, toll-free phone numbers are also provided.)

OVC Resource Center (OVCRC)

The Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center (OVCRC) at the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is a comprehensive repository of information for crime victims and victim service providers.

With online services accessible 24 hours-a-day, OVCRC is the central clearinghouse for crime victim publications and reports from all OJP agencies: the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Community Capacity Development Office. OVCRC also disseminates information from the Office of Violence Against Women and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

OVCRC Contact Information:

1-800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500/
TTY 1-877-712-9279

You may order publications online at www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/AlphaList.aspx.

You may also submit an inquiry using the "AskOVC" online feature at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/askovc>.

OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC)

The Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center is the nexus of a learning community focused on strengthening the capacity of victim assistance organizations across the country. In addition to providing customized training assistance and consulting services, OVC TTAC develops and produces workshops held across the nation throughout the year as well

NCFRW Resource Guide Partners

as the biannual National Victim Assistance Academy, an intensive one-week curriculum with separate tracks to meet the needs of service providers at all levels.

OVC TTAC draws on the expertise of a network of consultants and seasoned victim service professionals with firsthand experience in designing and delivering customized responses to satisfy a variety of training and technical assistance needs. From its comprehensive database of experts, OVC TTAC provides developmental support, mentoring, and facilitation in such areas as program design and implementation, strategic planning, program management, evaluation, quality improvement, collaboration, and community coordination. OVC TTAC also supports the victim service community providing technical assistance to the State Victim Assistance Academies, professional development and victim/survivor scholarships, and state and national conference support programs.

OVC TTAC Contact Information:
866-OVC-TTAC (866-682-8822)/
TTY 866-682-8880; www.ovcttac.gov
You may also submit an inquiry to ttac@ovcttac.gov.

Sexual Assault Advocate/ Counselor Training (SAACT) (www.ovcttac.gov/saact)

The SAACT is one of OVC's new online, downloadable curricula. SAACT uses case studies, role playing, slides, vignettes, and other interactive exercises to help practitioners increase their understanding of sexual assault and gain the skills needed to assist victims of sexual assault.

Victim Assistance Training Online (VAT Online) (www.ovcttac.gov/vatonline)

The OVC Victim Assistance Training *Online* (VAT *Online*) for victim service providers, is a basic victim advocacy Web-based training program that offers victim service providers and allied professionals the opportunity to acquire the basic skills and knowledge they need to better assist victims of crime. Specific information is also provided to meet the needs of target populations.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) of OJP, DOJ, provides crime, victim assistance, substance abuse, and public safety information to support research, policy, and program development. Trained content specialists are available to respond to e-mail queries and direct individuals to resources, including an online library, abstracts database, funding opportunities, and upcoming events.

NCJRS Contact Information:
877-722-9270; www.ncjrs.gov

NCJRS Information and Help ([www.ncjrs.gov/app/qa/ submitquestion.aspx](http://www.ncjrs.gov/app/qa/submitquestion.aspx))

NCJRS also offers more personalized assistance when needed. Submit your questions about victimization, criminal and juvenile justice, or other topics, including technical assistance, at the link noted above.

Justice Information Electronic Newsletter (JUSTINFO) (www.ncjrs.gov)

This free biweekly electronic newsletter, available through NCJRS, contains information about publications, events, funding and training opportunities, and Web-based resources available from all OJP agencies and NCJRS federal sponsors. Subscribe to this online newsletter at www.ncjrs.gov.subreg.html.

OVC Online Directory of Crime Victim Services ([http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ findvictimservices](http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/findvictimservices))

The OVC Online Directory of Crime Victim Services helps victim service providers and others locate non-emergency services in the United States and abroad. Service providers are invited to post relevant information.

OVC National Calendar of Events (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>)

OVC's online calendar lists upcoming conferences, workshops, and notable victim assistance-related events. A special feature allows service providers and allied professionals to add their organizations' events to the calendar.

OVC HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forum ([http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ ovcproviderforum](http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum))

The OVC Web Forum gives victim service providers and allied professionals a unique opportunity to tap into a national support network, learn about cutting-edge issues and best practices, and gain peer insight through shared challenges and experiences. Through the guest host

series, OVC TTAC makes national experts available twice a month to answer questions on a timely topic.

**National Center for Victims
of Crime Web Site**
(www.ncvc.org)

This highly regarded resource for crime victims and victim service providers offers more than 80 “Get Help” bulletins on a wide range of issues. From the Web site, victims can be connected to e-mail support at gethelp@ncvc.org and a comprehensive referral service database of nearly 16,000 local service agencies in the United States (also accessible by calling the National Crime Victim Helpline at 1-800-FYI-CALL). This Web site also features victim services practice and legislative information for victim service providers, the national Stalking Resource Center, and the Teen Victim Initiative. (This site is not associated with OVC or NCJRS.)

VictimLaw
(www.victimlaw.info)

VictimLaw is a unique and groundbreaking resource offering the first comprehensive, online database of more than 16,000 victims’ rights-related legal provisions, including: federal and state victims’ rights statutes, tribal laws, constitutional amendments, court rules, administrative code provisions, attorney general opinions, and case summaries of related court decisions. This user-friendly tool is available free of charge and provides instant access to a wide range of previously hard-to-find, regularly updated legal information. *VictimLaw* is accessible by visiting www.victimlaw.info. 



NVCRW Resource Guide Partners

**American Correctional Association
Victims Committee**
206 N. Washington Street, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 800-222-5646
Fax: 703-224-0010
Web site: www.aca.org
E-mail: execoffice@aca.org

The American Correctional Association (ACA) is the oldest and largest international correctional association in the world. ACA serves all disciplines within the corrections profession and is dedicated to excellence in every aspect of the field: professional development, certification, standards and accreditation, consulting, publications, and technology.

American Probation and Parole Association
P.O. Box 11910
Lexington, KY 40578

Phone: 859-244-8203
Fax: 859-244-8001
Web site: www.appa-net.org
E-mail: appa@csg.org

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) is an international association of individuals actively involved with probation, parole, and community-based corrections, in both adult and juvenile sectors. APPA members include national, state, and local government officials, probation and parole practitioners, educators, volunteers, and concerned citizens. The association's mission is to serve, challenge, and empower its members and constituents by: educating; communicating and training; advocating and influencing; acting as a resource and conduit for information, ideas, and support; developing standards and models; and collaborating with other disciplines.

Association of State Correctional Administrators
213 Court Street, Suite 606
Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-704-6410
Fax: 860-704-6420
Web site: www.asca.net
E-mail: rmay@asca.net

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) represents the nation's leaders in the field of corrections. The ASCA's major goals are to: influence and shape correctional policy; identify and serve as a clearinghouse in order to share proven correctional practices, standards, and performance measures with members to ensure the furtherance of successful state-of-the-art activities; and support its membership through a regimen of training and professional development programs designed to enhance members' professional skills and awareness on advancements in the profession.

California State University, Fresno
Department of Criminology
2576 E. San Ramon Avenue, MS ST 104
Fresno, CA 93740

Phone: 559-278-1012
Fax: 559-278-7265
Web site: www.csufresno.edu/criminology
E-mail: bmuscat@csufresno.edu

The Department of Criminology at California State University, Fresno, is a leader in victimology. Since the mid-1980s, the university has offered a victim services certificate program for students and practitioners. Students may also earn a B.S. or a minor in victimology, and as part of the M.S. in criminology, students may specialize in victimology. California State University, Fresno, is working with the University of California, Davis, to create a doctoral program in Forensic and Behavioral Sciences with an emphasis in victimology.

NCVRW Resource Guide Partners

Concerns of Police Survivors

P.O. Box 3199
Camdenton, MO 65020

Phone: 573-346-4911
Fax: 573-346-1414
Web site: www.nationalcops.org
E-mail: cops@nationalcops.org

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., (COPS) provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. COPS also provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public about the need to support the law enforcement profession and the survivors of fallen officers.

Justice Solutions

720 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 202-448-1710
Fax: 202-448-1723
Web site: www.justicesolutions.org
E-mail: info@justicesolutions.org

Justice Solutions is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing rights, resources, and respect for victims and communities hurt by crime. This mission is accomplished through the provision of education, training, and technical assistance; promoting research-to-practice as the foundation for public- and justice-related policy development; promoting sound public policy that enhances victims' rights and services, offender accountability, and community protection; and collaborating with others who share the organization's vision and goals.

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750
Upper Marlboro, MD 21206

Phone: 301-952-0063/877-VICTIM-1
Fax: 240-929-0526
Web site: www.mdcrimevictims.org
E-mail: deirdre@mdcrimevictims.org

The mission of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., (MCVRC) is to ensure that victims of crime receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victims' rights and services. MCVRC provides crime victims with information and referrals, court accompaniment and support, legal representation during criminal court proceedings, and a wide range of other services.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

511 E. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Phone: 877-MADD-HELP/877-623-3435
Fax: 972-869-2206
Web site: www.madd.org
E-mail: victims@madd.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Victim Services offers emotional support, information, and referrals to victims of drunk or drugged driving crashes. Services are rendered by trained victim advocates at no cost to victims. Many victim advocates have experienced the tragedy of impaired driving crashes in their own lives. MADD provides victims with information about drunk driving laws and victim rights, and also assists in obtaining crash reports, accompany victims to court (subject to availability), and help victims write victim impact statements.

National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards

P.O. Box 16003
Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: 703-780-3200
Fax: 703-780-3261
Web site: www.nacvcb.org
E-mail: nacvcb@aol.com

The National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards (NACVCB) provides support to its member state crime victim compensation programs through a variety of training and technical assistance activities. NACVCB also provides information to victims, advocates, and allied professionals.

NCVRW Resource Guide Partners

National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections
P.O. Box 3163
Lacey, WA 98509

Phone: 888-842-8464
Web site: www.navspic.org
E-mail: karin.ho@ordc.state.oh.us

The National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections offers vision, leadership, and guidance to thousands of professionals and volunteers working in adult and juvenile corrections across America. With a focus on improving correctional responses to crime, this newly established organization works to address victims' concerns and identify opportunities for offender change and citizen participation.

National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
5702 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53705

Phone: 608-233-2245
Fax: 815-301-8721
Web site: www.navaa.org
E-mail: steve@navaa.org

The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators represents the 56 state agencies designated to administer Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance formula grants and advocates for improvement in the treatment of victims of all types of crimes.

National Center on Elder Abuse Administration on Aging
c/o Center for Community Research and Services
University of Delaware
297 Graham Hall
Newark, DE 19716

Phone: 302-831-3525
Fax: 302-831-3300
Web site: www.ncea.aoa.gov
E-mail: ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov

The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), directed by the U.S. Administration on Aging, is a resource for policy makers, social service and healthcare practitioners, the justice system, researchers, advocates, and the public. Current initiatives include: enhancing national public awareness, fostering multidisciplinary networks, and facilitating multidisciplinary training. NCEA maintains a comprehensive Web site with information on state hotlines, downloadable publications, public awareness tools, and other resources. Other services include a monthly e-newsletter, a professional listserv, a training library, quarterly Webcasts, and the Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE) database, which catalogs a wide range of elder abuse literature.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
699 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-837-6304/800-THE-LOST
TTY/TDD: 800-826-7653
Fax: 703-549-4503
Web site: www.missingkids.com

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, established in 1984 as a private, nonprofit organization, serves as a clearinghouse of information about missing and sexually exploited children; provides technical assistance to the public and law enforcement agencies; offers training programs to law enforcement and forensic and social-service professionals; distributes photographs and descriptions of missing children worldwide; creates and coordinates child-protection education and prevention programs and publications; coordinates child-protection efforts with the private sector; networks with nonprofit service providers and missing child clearinghouses regarding missing child cases; and provides information about effective legislation to help ensure the protection of children.

NCVRW Resource Guide Partners

National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Phone: 757-259-1864
Fax: 757-564-2034
Web site: www.ncsconline.org
E-mail: dgager@ncsc.dni.us

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) serves state courts in their efforts to improve judicial administration. NCSC provides research, information, education, and consulting services focused on helping courts plan, make decisions, and implement improvements that save time and money while ensuring judicial administration that supports fair and impartial decision making. NCSC is an independent, nonprofit corporation.

National Center for Victims of Crime
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 480
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 800-FYI-CALL/800-394-2255
Fax: 202-467-8700
Web site: www.ncvc.org
E-mail: gethelp@ncvc.org

The National Center for Victims of Crime is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization dedicated to forging a national commitment to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. Through the National Crime Victim Helpline, 1-800-FYI-CALL, the National Center helps victims learn about their legal rights and options, access victim compensation, develop safety plans, navigate the criminal justice and social service systems, and find the most appropriate local services.

National Children's Alliance
516 C Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Phone: 202-548-0090/800-239-9950
Fax: 202-548-0099
Web site: www.nca-online.org
E-mail: info@nca-online.org

The National Children's Alliance is the accrediting body and membership organization for 700 children's advocacy centers across the United States. Children's advocacy centers provide coordinated investigation and a comprehensive response to child victims of abuse.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1603
Denver, CO 80203

Phone: 303-839-1852
TTY/TDD: 303-839-1681
Fax: 303-831-9251
Web site: www.ncadv.org
E-mail: mainoffice@ncadv.org

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence works to eliminate domestic violence, empower victims, promote and unify direct services, alert and educate the public, and promote partnerships.

National Crime Prevention Council
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 202-466-6272
Fax: 202-296-1356
Web site: www.ncpc.org
E-mail: webmaster@ncpc.org

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime. NCPC's goals are to protect children and youth, partner with government and law enforcement to prevent crime, promote crime prevention and personal safety basics, and respond to emerging crime trends. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, and a national focus for crime prevention; sponsors the Crime Prevention Coalition of America and the National Crime Prevention Association; operates demonstration programs; and leads comprehensive community crime prevention strategies. NCPC manages the nationally recognized McGruff® "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" public service advertising campaign.

NCVRW Resource Guide Partners

National Crime Victim Law Institute
10015 SW Terwilliger Boulevard
Portland, OR 97219

Phone: 503-768-6819
Fax: 503-768-6671
Web site: www.ncvli.org
E-mail: ncvli@lclark.edu

The National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) is committed to promoting balance and fairness in the justice system through victim-centered legal advocacy, education, and resource sharing. NCVLI has established legal clinics in eight states to offer free legal assistance to victims; provides legal technical assistance to victims' attorneys, advocates, and criminal justice professionals; advances victims' rights through amicus curiae, or "friend of the court," briefs for selected court cases; and educates lawyers, law students, victims, victim advocates, and the law enforcement community about crime victims' rights.

National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center

Medical University of South Carolina
165 Cannon Street Msc852
Charleston, SC

Phone: 843-792-2945
Fax: 843-792-3338
Web site: www.musc.edu/ncvc

The National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center (NCVC) is a division of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina. Since 1974, the faculty and staff have been devoted to achieving a better understanding of the impact of criminal victimization on adults, children, and their families. NCVC program activities are focused in four major areas: scientific research, evidence-based treatment, professional education, and consultation.

National Criminal Justice Association

720 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 202-628-8550
Fax: 202-448-1723
Web site: www.ncja.org
E-mail: info@ncja.org

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) represents state, tribal, and local governments on crime prevention and crime control issues. Its members represent all facets of the criminal and juvenile justice community, from law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, defense courts, victim-witness services, and education institutions to federal, state, and local elected officials. Since its founding in 1971, NCJA has worked to promote a balanced approach to complex community public safety and criminal and juvenile justice system problems.

National District Attorneys Association

44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 110
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-549-9222/703-549-4253
Fax: 703-836-3195
Web site: www.ndaa.org
E-mail: webmaster@ndaa.org

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) is the largest and primary professional association of prosecuting attorneys in the United States. NDAA provides professional guidance and support to its members, serves as a resource and education center, follows public policy issues involving criminal justice and law enforcement, and produces a number of publications including *The Prosecutor* bi-monthly magazine, *Trial Techniques and Predicate Questions*, and the *National Prosecution Standards*. NDAA's government affairs office tracks legislative and regulatory criminal justice issues in Congress and the administration and provides information on these and related issues to prosecutors.

NCVRW Resource Guide Partners

National Organization for Victim Assistance
Courthouse Square
510 King Street, Suite 424
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-535-6682/800-TRY-NOVA
Fax: 703-535-5500
Web site: www.trynova.org
E-mail: nova@trynova.org

Founded in 1975, the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) is a 501(c)(3) membership organization comprising victim/witness assistance programs and practitioners, crisis responders, criminal justice agencies and professionals, mental health professionals, researchers, former victims and survivors, and others committed to the recognition and implementation of victim rights and services. NOVA's mission is to promote rights and services for victims of crime and crisis. NOVA is the oldest national group of its kind in the victims' rights movement.

**National Organization of
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.**
100 E. Eighth Street, Suite 202
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Phone: 888-818-POMC/888-818-7662
Fax: 513-345-4489
Web site: www.pomc.org
E-mail: natlpomc@aol.com

The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., (POMC) provides support and assistance to survivors of homicide victims and works to create a world free of murder. POMC also works to keep murderers in prison, assists on unsolved cases, and provides prevention and awareness education.

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
123 N. Enola Drive
Enola, PA 17025

Phone: 877-739-3895
Fax: 717-909-0714
TTY/TDD: 717-909-0715
Web site: www.nsvrc.org
E-mail: resources@nsvrc.org

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) serves as the nation's principle information and resource center regarding all aspects of sexual violence. It provides national leadership, consultation, and technical assistance by generating and facilitating the development and flow of information on sexual violence intervention and prevention strategies, and coordinates the national sexual assault awareness month campaign each April. The NSVRC works to address the causes and impact of sexual violence through collaboration, prevention efforts, and the distribution of resources.

National Sheriffs' Association
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-836-7827
Fax: 703-683-6541
Web site: www.sheriffs.org
E-mail: nsamail@sheriffs.org

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is a nonprofit organization with more than 20,000 members from the 3,087 sheriffs' departments across the United States, and also represents the interests of other law enforcement and public safety professionals. NSA has been providing law enforcement training and technical assistance for over 67 years in fulfillment of its mission to support and enhance the professionalism of those whose job it is to serve and protect.

NVCRW Resource Guide Partners

National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network
2460 W. 26th Avenue, Suite 255-C
Denver, CO 80211

Phone: 303-861-1160
Fax: 303-861-1265
Web site: www.coloradocrimevictims.org
E-mail: cova789@aol.com

The National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network is a volunteer effort to assist states to pass a Victims' Constitutional Amendment with the goal of having a National Constitutional Amendment for Crime Victims.

Police Executive Research Forum
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 930
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-466-7820
Fax: 202-466-7826
Web site: www.policeforum.org
E-mail: aluna@policeforum.org

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) is a national membership organization of police executives from the largest city, county, and state law enforcement agencies. PERF is dedicated to: improving police practices by conducting research on the issues that chiefs care about most; providing consulting services to individual agencies; educating up-and-coming police officials at the Senior Management Institute for Police; and stimulating debate about policing issues within the profession, in the news media, and among policy makers and the general public.

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network
National Sexual Assault Hotline
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 406
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-544-1034/800-656-HOPE
Fax: 202-544-3556
Web site: www.rainn.org
E-mail: info@rainn.org

The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline in partnership with over 1,100 local rape crisis centers across the country. This service has helped more than 1.2 million people since 1994. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual assault, help victims, and ensure that rapists are brought to justice.

Security On Campus, Inc.
133 Ivy Lane, Suite 200
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Phone: 610-768-9330
Fax: 610-768-0646
Web site: www.securityoncampus.org
E-mail: akiss@securityoncampus.org

Security On Campus, Inc., is the nation's leading voice and advocate for student safety and crime prevention on college and university campuses. Its mission is to prevent violence, substance abuse, and other crimes in college and university campus communities across the United States and to compassionately assist the victims of these crimes.

Witness Justice
P.O. Box 475
Frederick, MD 21705

Phone: 301-898-1009/800-4WJ-HELP
Fax: 301-846-9113
Web site: www.witnessjustice.org
E-mail: info@witnessjustice.org

Founded in 2002, Witness Justice is a national, grassroots, non-denominational 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower and assist victims of violence and their loved ones in healing from trauma and in navigating the criminal justice process. Witness Justice provides information and support, connection through its Virtual Community, and direct assistance to any survivor who may have questions in the aftermath of violence. 🤝

Crime Victimization in the United States Statistical Overviews

National crime statistics provide crucial data for identifying and analyzing crime trends. The *2009 NCVRW Resource Guide* includes 21 overviews of recently updated statistics on different types of crime victimization, crimes against populations with specific needs, and the financial and mental health consequences of crime in the United States.

As you plan your community awareness projects, presentations to elected officials and policymakers, and media outreach for National Crime Victims' Rights Week and other campaigns, you can use these statistics to show the prevalence and impact of crime.

Interpreting Crime Statistics

Most of these statistics are drawn from two U.S. government sources: the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) of the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The UCR and NCVS, which were designed to complement one another—use different methodologies and focus on somewhat different aspects of crime. Both federal research programs cover a similar subset of serious crimes, however, and use similar definitions for some of these crimes.

The **National Crime Victimization Survey**, the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization, is a yearly study based on interviews of all individuals age 12 or older residing in randomly selected households throughout the nation. In 2006, the NCVS interviewed roughly 135,000 individuals age 12 or older in about

76,000 households. BJS uses the survey results to estimate the likelihood of victimization by rape or sexual assault, robbery, assault, theft, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft for the population as a whole as well as for segments of the population such as women, the elderly, members of various racial groups, city dwellers, or other groups. The NCVS also includes detailed information about the characteristics of the victims, the crime incidents, whether the crime was reported to police, why the crime was or was not reported, the impact of crimes, and the characteristics of violent offenders. The NCVS does not break down results to the state or local level.

The **Uniform Crime Reports** are based upon local police statistics collected annually by the FBI. This survey covers murder, which is not measured by the NCVS, as well as commercial crimes such as robberies and burglaries, which cannot be measured in a household survey. The UCR reports crimes under two categories: Part I (murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) and Part II (simple assault, curfew offenses, embezzlement, forgery and counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, and a number of other crimes). Because the UCR is compiled from local police data, it provides information on crime rates at the city, county, and state level. The UCR covers only crimes reported to police—less than one-half of all crimes. Also, if multiple crimes are reported in one criminal incident, the UCR counts only the most serious crime (as defined by criteria set by the UCR program). 🔄

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Overview of Crime and Victimization in the United States

In 2006, 25 million crimes were committed in the United States; of these, 6 million were violent and 19 million were property crimes.¹

Forty-nine percent of violent crime and 38 percent of property crime were reported to the police.²

An estimated 16,929 persons were murdered nationwide in 2007, a 0.6 percent decline from 2006.³

Child protective services nationwide found an estimated 905,000 children to be victims of neglect or abuse in 2006.⁴

In 2006, 606,350 women and 148,460 men were victimized by an intimate partner.⁵

In 2006, victims experienced 272,350 incidents of rape and sexual assault.⁶

More than one million women and almost 400,000 men are stalked annually in the United States.⁷

In 2006, teens ages 12 to 19 and young adults ages 20 to 24 experienced the highest rates of violent crime.⁸

In 2006, teens ages 12 to 19 experienced 1.7 million violent crimes.⁹

More than a quarter of people with severe mental illness had been victims of a violent crime in the past year, a rate more than 11 times higher than that of the general population, even after controlling for demographic differences.¹⁰

Of the 41,059 deaths in motor vehicle crashes in 2007, 31 percent, or 12,998, were attributed to alcohol.¹¹

In 2006, 117,760 persons over the age of 65 were victims of non-fatal violent crime.¹²

In 2006, 7,722 hate crimes were reported to law enforcement.¹³

Between 2003 and 2007, the number of adult victims of identity fraud in the United States declined from 10 million to 8.4 million people.¹⁴

In 2006, 25 percent of all violent crime incidents were committed by an armed offender, and 9 percent by an offender with a firearm.¹⁵

Each year, an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States.¹⁶

In 2006, 773,244 persons were victims of violent crime while working or on duty. Of these incidents, 589,763 (76 percent) were simple assaults while an additional 17 percent were aggravated assaults.¹⁷

Sixteen percent of violent crime and 94 percent of property crime resulted in economic losses in 2006.¹⁸

In 2007, 88,040 crimes were reported on college and university campuses; of these, 97 percent were property crimes, and 3 percent were violent crimes.¹⁹

In 2005, students ages 12 to 18 were victims of 136,500 serious violent crimes at school.²⁰

¹ Shannan M. Catalano and Michael Rand, "Criminal Victimization, 2006," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007), 1, 3 <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv06.pdf> (accessed August 14, 2008).

² *Ibid.*, 5.

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2007: Murder," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/violent_crime/murder_homicide.html (accessed August 14, 2008).

⁴ Children's Bureau, "Child Maltreatment, 2006," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007), 26, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm06/cm06.pdf> (accessed August 14, 2008).

⁵ *Data extrapolated from* Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), Table 37, Table 43a, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> (accessed September 11, 2008).

⁶ Catalano, "Criminal Victimization, 2006," 3.

⁷ Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, "Stalking in America: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 1998), 2, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/169592.pdf> (accessed August 8, 2007).

⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," Table 3.

⁹ *Data extrapolated from* Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," Table 3.

¹⁰ Linda Teplin et al., "Crime Victimization in Adults with Severe Mental Illness: Comparison with the National Crime Victimization Survey," *Archives of General Psychiatry* 62 (2005): 911-21.

¹¹ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "2007 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment - Highlights," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2008), http://www.nhtda.dot.gov/portal/nhtsa_static_file_downloader.jsp?file=/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/NCSA/Content/RNotes/2008/811017.pdf (accessed August 14, 2008).

¹² *Data extrapolated from* Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," Table 4.

¹³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Hate Crime Statistics 2005," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2006), <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2005/table1.htm> (accessed August 20, 2007).

¹⁴ Mary T. Monahan, "2007 Identity Fraud Survey Report," (Pleasanton, CA: Javelin Study and Research Survey, 2007), <http://www.privacyrights.org/ar/idtheftsveys.htm> (accessed August 14, 2008).

¹⁵ Catalano, "Criminal Victimization, 2006," 5.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, "Report to Congress from Attorney General John Ashcroft on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Fiscal Year 2003," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2004), 3, http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/07/ashcroft_report.pdf (accessed August 14, 2008).

¹⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," Table 64.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Table 81.

¹⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2006, Table 9," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2006), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table_09.html (accessed August 14, 2008).

²⁰ National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2007," (Washington, DC: U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, 2008), http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crimeindicators/crime_indicators2007/tables/table_02_1.asp (accessed August 14, 2008).

Campus Crime

In 2007, 88,040 crimes were reported to police on college and university campuses; 97 percent were property crimes and 3 percent violent crimes.¹

Of the violent crimes reported on college campuses, 1,394 (52 percent) were aggravated assaults, 830 (31 percent) were robberies, 485 (18 percent) were forcible rapes, and 12 (0.4 percent) were murders.²

Theft was the most prevalent form of property crime, with 70,619 incidents (accounting for 83 percent of property crime), followed by 12,128 burglaries (14 percent), 2,611 motor vehicle thefts (3 percent), and 405 incidents of arson (0.5 percent).³

In 2001, more than 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 were victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape, and more than 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 were physically assaulted by another student who had been drinking.⁴

An estimated 12 percent of women currently attending American colleges have been raped, and 12 percent of rapes of college women were reported to law enforcement.⁵

Fourteen percent of undergraduate women were victims of at least one completed sexual assault since entering college; 5 percent were victims of forced sexual assault and 8 percent were sexually assaulted while they were incapacitated due to voluntary use of alcohol or drugs.⁶

Sixteen percent of victims of forcible assaults and 8 percent of incapacitated victims sought help from a crisis, health, or victims' center after they were sexually assaulted.⁷

Thirteen percent of victims of forcible assaults and 2 percent of victims of assaults while incapacitated reported their assault to a law enforcement agency (municipal, local, or city police or 911; campus police or security; county sheriff; state police; or other police).⁸

From 1995 to 2002, college students ages 18 to 24 experienced violence at average annual rates lower than those for non-students in the same age group.⁹

About 4 in 10 violent crimes against college students were committed by offenders who were perceived by victims to be using drugs or alcohol.¹⁰

Male college students were twice as likely to be victims of overall violence than female students.¹¹

White college students had somewhat higher rates of violent victimization than black students and higher rates than students of other races.¹²

Victims of rape or sexual assault were about four times more likely to be victimized by someone they knew than by a stranger.¹³

Eight of 10 robberies of college students were committed by strangers, compared to about 6 of 10 assaults and 2 of 10 rapes or sexual assaults.¹⁴

Nine percent of violent victimizations against college students involved offenders armed with firearms; 7 percent were committed with knives; and 10 percent were committed with other types of weapons, such as a blunt object.¹⁵

About 35 percent of violent victimizations against college students were reported to the police.¹⁶

Most crimes against students (93 percent) occurred off campus; of those, 72 percent occurred at night.¹⁷

In 2006, reported crimes occurring in on-campus residence halls included 1,923 forcible sex offenses, 975 aggravated assaults, and 22 non-forcible sex offenses.¹⁸

Hate and bias crimes reported on school and college campuses made up 12 percent of all hate and bias crimes reported in the United States in 2006.¹⁹

¹ Data calculated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2007, Table 9," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_09.html (accessed August 19, 2008).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ralph W. Hingson et al., "Magnitude of Alcohol-Related Mortality and Morbidity among U.S. College Students Ages 18-24: Changes from 1998 to 2001," *Annual Review of Public Health* 26 (2005): 267, http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/media/Mag_and_Prev_ARPH_April_2005.pdf (accessed August 19, 2008).

⁵ Dean G. Kilpatrick et al., "Drug-facilitated, Incapacitated, and Forcible Rape: A National Study," (Washington, DC: NIJ, 2007), 3, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/219181.pdf> (accessed August 19, 2008).

⁶ Christopher P. Krebs et al., "The Campus Sexual Assault Study," (Washington, DC: NIJ, 2007), vii, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221153.pdf> (accessed August 19, 2008).

⁷ Ibid., 5-21.

⁸ Ibid., 5-25.

⁹ Katrina Baum and Patsy Klaus, "Violent Victimization of College Students, 1995-2002," (Washington, DC: BJS, 2005), 1, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/vvcs02.pdf> (accessed August 19, 2008).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid., 4.

¹⁴ Ibid., 1.

¹⁵ Ibid., 5.

¹⁶ Ibid., 6.

¹⁷ Ibid., 1.

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Education, "Summary, Campus Crime and Security Statistics 2004-2006: Criminal Offenses," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2006), 7, 9, 13, <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/criminal-04-06.pdf> (accessed August 19, 2008).

¹⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Hate Crime Statistics 2006, Table 10," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2006/table10.html> (accessed August 19, 2008).

Child Victimization

In 2006, child protective services found approximately 905,000 children to be victims of child abuse or neglect.¹

During 2006, approximately 1,530 children died due to child abuse or neglect. More than three-quarters (78 percent) of children who were killed were younger than 4 years of age.²

During 2006, 64 percent of child victims experienced neglect, 16 percent were physically abused, 9 percent were sexually abused, 7 percent were psychologically maltreated, and 2 percent were medically neglected. In addition, 15 percent of child victims experienced other types of maltreatment such as abandonment, threats of harm, or congenital drug addiction.³

Fifty-two percent of child abuse or neglect victims were girls, and 48 percent were boys.⁴

The youngest children had the highest rate of victimization and accounted for the largest percentage of victims: children from birth to 3 years of age accounted for 30 percent of child victims.⁵

One-half (49 percent) of all child victims were white, about one-quarter (23 percent) were African American, and 18 percent were Hispanic. African American children, American Indian or Alaska Native children, and children of multiple races had the highest rates of victimization.⁶

Mothers were the sole abuser in 40 percent of substantiated cases, fathers in 18 percent. In 18 percent, both parents were perpetrators of child maltreatment, and child victims maltreated by a non-parental perpetrator accounted for 10 percent of the total.⁷

Eight percent of child victims had a reported disability.⁸

Thirty-four children were killed by their babysitter in 2007, representing 2 percent of child murder victims.⁹

Five percent of child molesters released from prison commit a new sex offense within three years of their release.¹⁰

¹ *Child Maltreatment*, 2006, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, 2008), 26, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm06/index.htm> (accessed August 20, 2008).

² *Ibid.*, 65.

³ *Ibid.*, 27.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 27.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 47.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 28.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 30.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 29.

⁹ *Data extrapolated from Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2007: Expanded Homicide Data, Table 12," and "Crime in the United States, 2007:*

Expanded Homicide Data, Table 2," (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrttable_12.html and http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrttable_02.html (accessed September 24, 2008).

¹⁰ Patrick A. Langan et al., "Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 1994," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003), 7, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/rsorp94.pdf> (accessed August 20, 2008).

¹¹ Carol Coohy, "Battered Mothers Who Physically Abuse Their Children," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 19, no. 8, (August 2004): 943-52.

The most significant predictor of whether a battered woman will physically abuse her child is having been physically abused by her own mother, not whether she has been battered by her partner.¹¹

The direct cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States totals more than \$33 billion annually. (This figure includes law enforcement, judicial system, child welfare, and health care costs.) When factoring in indirect costs (special education, mental health care, juvenile delinquency, lost productivity, and adult criminality), the figure rises to more than \$103 billion annually.¹²

Victims of child abuse constituted 19 percent of the recipients of crime victim compensation in 2006.¹³

Approximately 2,900 criminal incidents of pornography with juvenile involvement were known to state and local police in 2000.¹⁴

In a 2005 study of victimization of children ages 2 to 17, more than one-half of the children experienced a physical assault in the study year. More than 1 in 4 experienced a property offense, more than 1 in 8 a form of child maltreatment, 1 in 12 a sexual victimization, and more than 1 in 3 had been a witness to violence or experienced another form of indirect victimization. Only 29 percent of the children had no direct or indirect victimization.¹⁵

American Indian/Alaska Native children known to child protective services from 1995 to 1999 were more likely to be victims of neglect and less likely to be victims of physical or sexual abuse than white children.¹⁶

American Indian/Alaska Native children and their caretakers were more likely to have a problem with alcohol abuse than white children and their caretakers.¹⁷

¹² Ching-Tung Wang and John Holton, "Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States," (Washington, DC: Prevent Child Abuse America, 2007), 4, 5, http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about_us/media_releases/pcaa_pew_economic_impact_study_final.pdf (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹³ National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, "FY 2005: Compensation to Victims Continues to Increase," (Alexandria, VA: National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, 2006), <http://nacvcb.org> (accessed September 24, 2008).

¹⁴ David Finkelhor and Richard Ormrod, "Child Pornography: Patterns from NIBRS," (Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Prevention, 2004), 2, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/204911.pdf> (accessed August 20, 2008).

¹⁵ David Finkelhor et al., "The Victimization of Children and Youth: A Comprehensive National Survey," *Child Maltreatment* 10, no. 1 (2005): 1, <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV74.pdf> (accessed August 20, 2008).

¹⁶ Kathleen A. Earle and Amanda Cross, "Child Abuse and Neglect among American Indian/Alaska Native Children: An Analysis of Existing Data," (Seattle: Casey Family Programs and the National Indian Child Welfare Association, 2001), 54, <http://www.nicwa.org/research/04.Child%20Abuse01.Rpt.pdf> (accessed August 21, 2008).

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

Cost of Crime and Victimization

In 2006, 16 percent of violent crimes and 94 percent of property crimes resulted in economic losses involving theft or damage loss.¹

In 2006, the total economic loss to victims was \$1.8 billion for violent crime and \$16.5 billion for property crime.²

In 2007, the top two types of telemarketing fraud were fake check scams (average loss of \$3,855) and false prizes or sweepstakes (average loss of \$6,601), together accounting for 72 percent of telemarketing fraud complaints.³

Fake check scams were also the number one type of Internet fraud in 2007, constituting 29 percent of complaints, with an average loss of \$3,311. The second most common type of Internet fraud was non-auction general merchandise sales (goods never delivered or misrepresented), tallying 23 percent of complaints, with an average loss of \$1,137.⁴

In 2005, the United States (at federal, state, and local levels) spent \$204 billion for police protection, corrections, and judicial and legal activities. Since 1982, police expenditures increased 396 percent, judicial expenditures increased 474 percent, and expenditures for corrections increased 619 percent.⁵

In 2007, an estimated \$588 million worth of property was stolen during robberies. The average dollar value of property stolen per robbery offense was \$1,321.⁶

Two-thirds of property crimes reported in 2007 were larceny-thefts, with the value of stolen property averaging \$886 per offense. The total value of stolen property was an estimated \$5.8 billion.⁷

In 2007, the average dollar loss due to arson was \$17,289.⁸

An estimated 32,500 fires were intentionally set to structures in 2007, an increase of 5 percent from 2006. These

fires resulted in 295 civilian deaths and \$733 million in property loss (a decrease of 3 percent from 2006).⁹

Approximately 20,500 fires were intentionally set to vehicles in 2007, as in 2006, but they resulted in \$145 million in property damage, an 8 percent increase from 2006.¹⁰

In 2007, the average dollar loss per burglary offense was \$1,991. The total amount lost to burglaries was an estimated \$4.3 billion.¹¹

Victim compensation programs distributed \$453 million in 2007. This amount is an increase over the \$444 million paid in 2006 and \$427 million paid in 2005.¹²

Victim compensation programs paid \$22.9 million for forensic sexual assault exams in 2007, a 10 percent increase from 2006.¹³

Victims of child abuse constituted 19 percent of the recipients of crime victim compensation in 2007.¹⁴

In 2007, domestic violence victims made up 25 percent of all adult victims compensated by victim compensation programs; 34 percent of all assault claims were paid to domestic violence victims.¹⁵

In 2007, medical expenses constituted 51 percent of all victim compensation payments; economic support for lost wages for injured victims and for lost support in homicides made up 17 percent of the total; 11 percent of total payments were for funeral bills; and 8 percent went toward mental health counseling for crime victims.¹⁶

The direct cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States totals more than \$33 billion annually. When factoring in indirect costs, the figure rises to more than \$103 billion annually.¹⁷

In 2007, consumers reporting fraud to the Federal Trade Commission lost a total of more than \$1.2 billion.¹⁸

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2008), Table 81, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> (accessed September 10, 2008).

² Ibid., Table 82.

³ National Fraud Information Center, "2007 Top Ten Telemarketing Scams," (Washington, DC: National Consumers League, 2008), <http://www.fraud.org/telemarketing/2007telemarketing.pdf> (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁴ National Fraud Information Center, "2007 Top Ten Internet Scams," (Washington, DC: National Consumers League, 2008), <http://www.fraud.org/internet/2007internet.pdf> (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Justice Expenditure and Employment Extracts," (Washington, DC: GPO),

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/exptyp.htm> (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2007: Robbery," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/violent_crime/robbery.html (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2007: Larceny-Theft," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/property_crime/larceny-theft.html (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2007: Arson," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/property_crime/arson.html (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁹ Michael J. Karter, Jr., "Fire Loss in

the United States during 2007: Full Report," (Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association, 2008), iii, <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/OS.fireloss.pdf> (accessed September 10, 2008).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2007: Burglary," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/property_crime/burglary.html (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹² National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, "Crime Victim Compensation Helps Victims," (Alexandria, VA: NACVCB, 2008), <http://www.nacvcb.org> (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ching-Tung Wang and John Holton, "Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States," (Washington, DC: Prevent Child Abuse America, 2007), 4, 5, http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about_us/media_releases/pcaa_pew_economic_impact_study_final.pdf (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹⁸ Federal Trade Commission, "Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data January – December 2007," (Washington, DC: Federal Trade Commission, 2008), 2, <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/02/fraud.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

Disabilities and Victimization

Note: Given the small size or scope of some of these studies, not all results can be extrapolated to the nation as a whole. Further research is needed to assess more fully the prevalence of crimes against people with disabilities in the United States.

More than 25 percent of persons with severe mental illness had been victims of a violent crime during a single year, a rate more than 11 times that of the general population, even after controlling for demographic differences.¹

Depending on the type of violent crime (rape, robbery, assault, and their subcategories), prevalence was 6 to 23 times greater among persons with severe mental illness than among the general population.²

In 2006, 8 percent of child victims of abuse and neglect had a reported disability. Disabilities considered risk factors included mental retardation, emotional disturbance, visual impairment, learning disability, physical disability, behavioral problems, or another medical problem.³

A study of North Carolina women found that women with disabilities were four times more likely to have experienced sexual assault in the past year than women without disabilities.⁴

The same study found that the variables of age, education, mobility, social isolation, and depression can be used to identify with 84 percent accuracy whether a woman with a disability may have experienced physical, sexual, or disability-related violence or abuse during the past year.⁵

In response to a survey of women with physical disabilities, 56 percent reported abuse, a number consistent with similar studies. Of this group, 87 percent reported physical abuse, 66 percent reported sexual abuse, 35 percent were refused help with a personal need, and 19 percent were prevented from using an assistive device.⁶

In this same survey of adult women, 74 percent reported abuse lasting at least three months, 55 percent reported they had been abused multiple times as an adult, and 80 percent reported being abused by a male partner.⁷

Only 33 percent of the abused women with physical disabilities who were surveyed sought assistance to address the abuse. Only about half of those women viewed the assistance in a positive light.⁸

In a study of 946 women with and without disabilities, 62 percent of women reported that they had experienced emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. Women with disabilities reported abusive incidents similar to those reported by women without disabilities. They also reported other abuses including withholding the use of wheelchairs, the use of braces, medication, transportation, or essential assistance with personal tasks such as dressing or getting out of bed.⁹

More than half of all abuse of people with disabilities is estimated to be perpetrated by family members and peers with disabilities. Disability professionals (i.e., paid or unpaid caregivers, doctors, and nurses) are generally believed responsible for the other half. In addition, approximately 67 percent of perpetrators who abused individuals with severe cognitive disabilities accessed them through their work in disability services.¹⁰

In a national survey of domestic violence and rape-crisis agencies, 67 percent of the survey participants reported that their center had served people with mental illness over the past year. Despite the high incidence of violence against people with disabilities, few participants reported that their center served people with cognitive disabilities (7 percent), with physical disabilities (6 percent), or who are blind, deaf, or have hearing loss (1 percent).¹¹

A study of sexual assault of adult males found that more than 10 percent of male victims had cognitive disabilities.¹²

¹ Linda Teplin et al., "Crime Victimization in Adults with Severe Mental Illness: Comparison with the National Crime Victimization Survey," *Archives of General Psychiatry* 62 (2005): 911-21, <http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/62/8/911> (accessed September 10, 2008).

² Ibid.

³ *Child Maltreatment*, 2006, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, 2008), 29, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm06/index.htm> (accessed August 20, 2008).

⁴ Sandra Martin et al., "Physical and Sexual Assault of Women with Disabilities," *Violence Against Women* 12 (2006): 823.

⁵ Margaret A. Nosek et al., "Disability, Psychosocial, and Demographic Characteristics of Abused Women with Physical Disabilities," *Violence Against Women* 12 (2006): 846.

⁶ Sharon Milberger et al., "Michigan Study on Women with Physical Disabilities," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 2002), <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/193769.pdf> (accessed September 23, 2008).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ M.A. Nosek et al., "National Study of Women with Physical Disabilities," (Houston, TX: Center for Research on Women with Disabilities, 1997), Chapter VII, http://www.bcm.edu/crowd/national_study/national_study.html (accessed September 23, 2008).

¹⁰ Dick Sobsey and Tanis Doe, "Patterns of Sexual Abuse and Assault," *Journal of Sexuality and Disability* 9 (1991): 243-59.

¹¹ Michelle Schwartz, Wendie H. Abramson, and Heather A. Kamper, "A National Survey of the Accessibility of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services to Women with Disabilities," (Austin, TX: Working Paper, SafePlace, 2004).

¹² Stermac et al., "Stranger and Acquaintance Sexual Assault of Adult Males," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 19 (2004): 8.

Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence

In 2006, crimes by intimate partners accounted for 12 percent of all violent crime.¹

Of female murder victims in 2007, 33 percent were killed by their husbands or boyfriends; 3 percent of male murder victims were killed by their wives or girlfriends.²

Three percent of all murders committed in the workplace were committed by the victim's intimate partner (either husband, wife, or boyfriend).³

A 2004 study found that women living in disadvantaged neighborhoods were more than twice as likely to be victims of intimate partner violence compared with women in more advantaged neighborhoods.⁴

In 2005, about 15 percent of state and local firearms application rejections (10,000 applications) were due to a domestic violence misdemeanor conviction or restraining order.⁵

One study found that in states with laws restraining abusers from possessing firearms, intimate partner homicide rates decreased by as much as 12 percent. These laws were most effective when states cross-checked restraining orders with firearm purchases.⁶

Of the 757 suspects referred to U.S. Attorneys for a domestic violence offense between 2000 and 2002, 83 percent were suspected of violating laws that prohibit firearm possession by someone with a prior misdemeanor domestic violence conviction or by someone subject to a protection order. The remaining 17 percent were investigated for interstate domestic violence or stalking. Violation of a protective order across state lines was suspected in 28 incidents.⁷

Domestic violence victims constituted 25 percent of all adult victims compensated by victim compensation programs in 2007. They received compensation for 34 percent of all assault claims.⁸

One study found that women who had experienced any type of personal violence (even when the last episode was 14 to 30 years ago) reported a greater number of chronic physical symptoms than those who had not been abused. The risk of suffering from six or more chronic physical symptoms increased with the number of forms of violence experienced.⁹

Approximately 1 in 5 high school girls has reported being abused by a boyfriend.¹⁰

For 5 percent of adults on probation, domestic violence was the most serious offense of which they had been convicted.¹¹

Although 96 percent of patients believe physicians should inquire about family conflict, two-thirds report that their physician has never asked them about intimate partner violence. Sixty-seven percent of those whose physician has inquired about family conflict reported that the same physician helped them receive assistance.¹²

A study of Native American women in Oklahoma found that 83 percent had experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetimes, and 68 percent had experienced severe forms of violence.¹³

Eighty-nine percent of Native American women who reported partner violence had suffered injuries from the violence, and 73 percent reported moderate or severe injuries, with nearly 1 in 4 (22 percent) reporting more than 20 different injury incidents.¹⁴

In 2005, Native American/Alaska Native women had the highest rate of intimate partner victimization (18.2 per 1,000), compared to African American women (8.2), white women (6.3), and Asian American women (1.5).¹⁵

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¹ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007), Table 43a, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> (accessed September 11, 2008).

² Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2007: Expanded Homicide Data," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/homicide.html (accessed August 27, 2008).

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Workplace Violence: Issues in Response," (Washington, DC: FBI, 2003), 42, <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/violence.pdf> (accessed September 23, 2008).

⁴ Michael Benson and Greer Fox, "When Violence Hits Home: How Economics and Neighborhood Play a Role," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 2004), 1, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/205004.pdf> (accessed September 23, 2008).

⁵ Bowling et al., "Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2005," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006), 5, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/bcft05.pdf> (accessed September 23, 2008).

⁶ Elizabeth R. Vigdor and James A. Mercy, "Disarming Batterers," in *Evaluating Gun Policy*, eds. Jens O. Ludwig and Philip J. Cook (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2003).

⁷ Matthew Durose et al., "Family Violence Statistics," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005), 51, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/fvs.pdf> (accessed September 23, 2008).

⁸ National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, "Crime Victim Compensation Helps Victims," (Alexandria, VA: NACVCB, 2008), <http://www.nacvcb.org> (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁹ Christina Nicolaidis et al., "Violence, Mental Health, and Physical Symptoms in an Academic Internal Medicine Practice," *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 19 (2004): 815-23.

¹⁰ Jay Silverman et al., "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," *JAMA* (2001): 572-79.

¹¹ Lauren Glaze, "Probation and Parole in the United States, 2006," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2007), 4, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus06.pdf> (accessed November 5, 2008).

¹² Sandra K. Burge et al., "Patients' Advice to Physicians about Intervening in Family Court," *Annals of Family Medicine* 3 (2005): 3.

¹³ Lorraine Halinka Malcoe and Bonnie M. Duran, "Intimate Partner Violence and Injury in the Lives of Low-Income Native American Women," 1-2-9, in *Family Violence and Violence Against Women: Developments in Research, Practice, and Policy*, ed. Bonnie Fisher (Washington, DC: NIJ, 2004), <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/199703.pdf> (accessed August 27, 2008).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 1-2-10.

Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence

(continued from the front)

Same-Sex Domestic Violence

In 2006, lesbians, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) people experienced 3,534 incidents of domestic violence. Four of these incidents resulted in murder.¹⁶

In 2003, 44 percent of LGBT domestic violence victims were men, 36 percent women, and 2 percent transgender. Gender identity was not recorded for 9 percent of the victims.¹⁷

In cases where the age of the victim was recorded, 58 percent of LGBT domestic violence victims were over the age of 30, while 42 percent were under 30.¹⁸

¹⁵ Ronet Bachman et al, "Violence Against Native American and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response: What Is Known," (Washington, DC: NIJ, 2008), 47, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf> (accessed August 27, 2008).

¹⁶ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Domestic Violence," (New York: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2007), 5, 18, <http://www.avp.org> (accessed September 23, 2008).

¹⁷ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Domestic Violence: 2003 Supplement," (New York: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2004), 7, <http://www.avp.org> (accessed September 23, 2008).

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 9.

Drunk and Drugged Driving

There were 12,998 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2007, a decline of 4 percent from 2006.¹

Nearly 1.4 million driving-while-impaired (DWI) arrests occur in the United States each year.²

In 2006, an estimated 278,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes where police reported that alcohol was present, a 9 percent increase over 2005.³

In 2006, there were 17,602 alcohol-related crash fatalities (41 percent of all crash fatalities), and 13,470 (32 percent) involved a driver with a blood-alcohol content (BAC) level of .08 or greater.⁴

The median BAC level for alcohol-impaired drivers and motorcyclists in 2006 was .16, more than twice the legal limit in all states and the District of Columbia.⁵

In 2006, 17 percent of children 14 and younger who were killed in crashes were killed in alcohol-related crashes. Half of these were passengers in the vehicle of an alcohol-impaired driver.⁶

In 2007, 9.9 million persons ages 12 or older (or 4 percent of this age group) reported driving under the influence of an illicit drug in the past year. Among young adults ages 18 to 25, the rate was 13 percent.⁷

In 2007, 31.4 million persons ages 12 or older, or 13 percent, reported driving under the influence of alcohol at least once in the past year. This percentage has dropped slightly since 2002, when the rate was 14 percent.⁸

Driving under the influence of alcohol was related to age, with the rate increasing from 8 percent for 16- and 17-year-

olds to a peak of 26 percent for 21- to 25-year-olds, then steadily declining for older ages to a low of 2 percent for persons ages 65 and higher.⁹

Juvenile arrests for driving under the influence increased by 33 percent from 1994 to 2003. The increase for female juveniles was 83 percent, and the increase for male juveniles was 25 percent. During the same period, arrests of adults for driving under the influence decreased by six percent.¹⁰

In 2006, more than 13 percent of high school seniors admitted to driving under the influence of marijuana in the two weeks prior to the survey.¹¹

In 2007, there were 421 boating accidents and 157 deaths in which alcohol was a contributing factor. Alcohol use was the leading factor contributing to boating deaths.¹²

Operating a boat with a BAC level greater than .1 increases the risk of death during a boating accident more than ten times compared to a BAC of zero.¹³

During the Christmas and New Year holiday time, about 40 percent of all fatalities occur in crashes where at least one of the drivers has a BAC level of .08 or more. During the remainder of December, the figure is 28 percent.¹⁴

In a 2007 survey, 29 percent of high school students said that within the past 30 days they had ridden in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking. In the same survey, 11 percent of high school students reported having driven a vehicle when they had been drinking within the past 30 days.¹⁵

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¹ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "2007 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment—Highlights," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2008), Table 3, http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/nhtsa/_static_file_downloader.jsp?file=/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/NCSA/Content/RNotes/2008/811017.pdf (accessed August 28, 2008).

² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Traffic Safety Facts: Blood Alcohol Concentration Test Refusal Laws," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2008), 1, <http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles//DOT/NHTSA/Communication%20&%20Consumer%20Information/Articles/Associated%20Files/810884.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

³ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatality Counts and Estimates of People Injured for

2006," 79, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2007), <http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/810837.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

⁴ *Ibid.*, 66, 69.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 86.

⁶ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Traffic Safety Facts: Alcohol Impaired Driving," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2008), 2, <http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/810801.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

⁷ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, "Results from the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings," (Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, September 2007), 29, <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/latest.htm> (accessed September 10, 2008).

⁸ *Ibid.*, 36.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Howard N. Snyder, "Juvenile Arrests 2003," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, August 2005), 10, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/209735.pdf> (accessed August 15, 2008).

¹¹ Patrick M. O'Malley and Lloyd D. Johnston, "Drugs and Driving by American High School Seniors, 2001-2006" *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 68, no. 6 (2007): 834-42.

¹² U.S. Coast Guard, "2007 Boating Statistics," (Washington, DC: U.S. Coast Guard, 2008), 22, 19 http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/Boating_Statistics_2007.pdf (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹³ U.S. Coast Guard, "Boating Under the Influence, Alcohol Effects," (Washington, DC: U.S. Coast Guard, 2005), <http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/bui/effects.htm> (accessed September 23, 2008).

¹⁴ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats: Fatalities Related to Impaired Driving during the Christmas and New Year's Day Holiday Periods," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2007), <http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/810870.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," (Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008), 7, http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/pdf/yrbs07_mmwr.pdf (accessed August 28, 2008).

Drunk and Drugged Driving

(continued from the front)

In 2000, each alcohol-related crash cost the American public \$1.1 million. The total cost of all alcohol-related crashes was \$51 billion.¹⁶

A study of repeat impaired-driving offenders found that the majority of respondents (54 percent) were alcohol-dependent. In addition, many of the respondents had at least one lifetime disorder in addition to alcohol abuse or dependence. Among those, the most prevalent was major depressive or dysthymic disorder (31 percent), followed by posttraumatic stress disorder (15 percent).¹⁷

From 1982 to 2002, an estimated 65 percent of fatal crashes on Indian reservations were alcohol-related, compared to 47 percent nationally for the same period.¹⁸

¹⁶ Lawrence J. Blincoe et al., "The Economic Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes 2000," Table 11, Table 12, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2002), <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/Communication%20&%20Consumer%20Information/Articles/Associated%20Files/EconomicImpact2000.pdf> (accessed September 23, 2008).

¹⁷ Janet Lapham, Garnett McMillan, and Jodi Lapidus, "Psychiatric Disorders in a Sample of Repeat Impaired-Driving Offenders," *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 67 (2006): 707.

¹⁸ National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, "Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes on Indian Reservations," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2004), 17, <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/809727.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

Elder Victimization

In 2006, 117,760 persons over the age of 65 were victims of violent crime.¹

In 2004, more than 65 percent of elder maltreatment victims were women.²

In 2004, African Americans constituted 21 percent of elder maltreatment victims, despite representing 8 percent of all Americans age 65 or older.³

In 2006, crime victims age 65 or older reported 63 percent of personal crimes to the police, the highest reporting rate of any age group.⁴

In 2007, 572 people age 65 or older were murdered.⁵

The most recent survey of adult protective services found that 191,908 reports of elder abuse and neglect of people age 60 or older were substantiated in 2004.⁶

Of those reports, 20 percent involved caregiver neglect; 15 percent involved emotional, psychological, or verbal abuse; 15 percent involved financial exploitation; 11 percent involved physical abuse; and 1 percent involved sexual abuse.⁷

In 2004, more than half of alleged perpetrators of elder abuse were women.⁸

In 2004, domestic settings were the most common locations of abuse in substantiated reports.⁹

Of the alleged perpetrators of elder abuse in 2004, 33 percent were adult children; 22 percent were other family members; 16 percent had an unknown relationship to the victim; and 11 percent were spouses or intimate partners.¹⁰

The largest segment of alleged perpetrators of elder abuse in 2004 were between 30 and 50 years of age.¹¹

Crime victims age 65 or older lost a total of \$1.8 billion due to personal and property crimes in 2006.¹²

Of those who reported crimes to the Federal Trade Commission in 2007, people over the age of 60 made up 18 percent of fraud victims, 12 percent of Internet-related fraud victims, and 10 percent of identity theft victims.¹³

In 2006, the average loss per Internet fraud complaint was \$866 for people age 60 or older. This amount is higher than that of any other age group.¹⁴

People age 65 or older are equally as likely to face an offender with a weapon as younger people.¹⁵

¹ Data extrapolated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008), Table 4, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> (accessed September 12, 2008).

² Pamela B. Teaster et al., "The 2004 Survey of State Adult Protective Services: Abuse of Adults 60 Years of Age and Older," (Washington, DC: National Center on Elder Abuse, 2006), 22, http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEARoot/Main_Site/pdf/2-14-06%20FINAL%2060+REPORT.pdf (accessed September 24, 2008).

³ Ibid., 19.

⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006, Statistical Tables," Table 96. Personal crimes are defined as all violent crimes, purse-snatching, and picking pockets.

⁵ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2007: Expanded Homicide Data, Table 2," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrttable_02.html (accessed August 28, 2008).

⁶ Pamela B. Teaster et al., "The 2004 Survey of State Adult Protective Services," 5.

⁷ Ibid., 18.

⁸ Ibid., 22.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid., 20.

¹¹ Ibid., 22.

¹² Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006, Statistics Tables," Table 82.

¹³ Federal Trade Commission, "Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data January – December 2007," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008), 9, 12, 15, <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/02/fraud.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹⁴ National White Collar Crime Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "IC3 Internet Crime Report: January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), 12, http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2006_IC3_Report.pdf (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹⁵ Patsy Klaus, "Crimes Against Persons Age 65 and Older, 1993-2002," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2005), 3, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cpa6502.pdf> (accessed September 24, 2008).

Hate and Bias Crime Victimization

In 2006, 7,722 hate crime incidents were reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by local law enforcement agencies.¹

In 2006, 5,449 hate crime offenses were committed against persons (as opposed to property). Of these, 46 percent were intimidation, 32 percent were simple assault, and 22 percent were aggravated assault. Three murders and six forcible rapes were reported as hate crimes.²

In 2006, racial bias motivated 52 percent of single-bias hate crime incidents; bias based on religious beliefs motivated 19 percent; bias based on sexual orientation motivated 16 percent; bias based on ethnicity or nationality motivated 13 percent; and bias based on disability motivated 1 percent.³

Of the 4,737 victims of single-bias incidents that were motivated by race, 66 percent were victims of an anti-black bias; an anti-white bias motivated crimes against 21 percent; an anti-Asian/Pacific Islander bias motivated crimes against 5 percent; and 2 percent were victims of an anti-American Indian/Alaskan Native bias.⁴

Single-bias anti-Hispanic incidents accounted for 62 percent of 1,233 reported victims of ethnicity-based bias.⁵

Of the 1,597 victims of religious bias-related offenses, 64 percent were victims of an anti-Jewish bias; anti-Islamic bias motivated crimes against 12 percent.⁶

Of the 1,415 reported victims of sexual-orientation bias, 62 percent were targeted because of a bias against gay males.⁷

In 2006, 94 people were victims of incidents involving bias against persons with disability; 74 were victims of an anti-mental disability bias and 20 of an anti-physical disability bias.⁸

In 2006, 7,330 known offenders committed crimes motivated by their perceived biases. The majority of these offenders (59 percent) were white and 21 percent were black.⁹

According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2007, anti-Semitic incidents in the United States fell 6 percent to 1,460 from their 2006 level of 1,554. That year was the third year

in a row that anti-Semitic incidents decreased.¹⁰

Among the anti-Semitic incidents reported in 2007, there were 699 incidents of vandalism and 761 incidents of harassment.¹¹

On college campuses in 2007, there were 94 anti-Semitic incidents nationwide compared to the 2006 level of 88.¹²

A total of 227 anti-Semitic acts were reported at middle and high schools in 2007, compared to 193 in 2006.¹³

In 2007, 1,833 hate and bias incidents against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) victims were reported to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. These incidents were committed by 2,556 offenders and affected 2,430 victims—24 percent more victims than in 2006.¹⁴

In 2007, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs recorded 21 homicides against LGBT individuals, double the number recorded in 2006. Victims reported 113 sexual assaults, and 333 incidents involving a weapon.¹⁵

Twenty-one percent of hate and bias incidents against LGBTQ people involved multiple offenders targeting an individual.¹⁶

In 2005, 38 percent of students ages 12 to 18 had been exposed to hate-related graffiti at school, and 11 percent reported someone directing hate-related words at them.¹⁷

Female students were more likely to report gender-related hate words than were males (3 percent versus 1 percent). White students were less likely to report race-related hate words than students of other races or ethnicities (3 percent of white students compared to 7 percent of black students, 6 percent of Hispanics, and 9 percent of students of other races).¹⁸

In 2007, the National Coalition for the Homeless documented 28 lethal attacks against homeless individuals by housed persons and 132 non-lethal attacks, including 110 beatings, 9 firesettings, 2 rapes or sexual assaults, and 11 incidents of police brutality.¹⁹

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Hate Crime Statistics, 2006," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), Table 1, <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2006/incidents.html> (accessed August 29, 2008).

² Ibid., Table 2.

³ Ibid., Table 1.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., Table 1, Table 9.

¹⁰ Anti-Defamation League, "2007 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents," (New York: Anti-Defamation League, 2008), http://www.adl.org/main_Anti_Semitism_Domestic/Audit_2007.htm (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹¹ Ibid., "Vandalism," "Harassment."

¹² Ibid., "Anti-Jewish Incidents on Campus."

¹³ Ibid., "Anti-Jewish Acts in Schools."

¹⁴ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, "Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Violence in 2007," (New York: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2008), 1-2,

<http://www.coavp.org/documents/2007NationalHVRReport.pdf> (accessed August 29, 2008).

¹⁵ Ibid., 2, 8.

¹⁶ Ibid., 4.

¹⁷ National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006," (Washington, DC: U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, December 2006), vi, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007003.pdf> (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹⁸ Ibid., 34.

¹⁹ National Coalition for the Homeless, "Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2007," (Washington, DC: National Coalition for the Homeless, April 2008), 19, <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/hatecrimes/hatecrimes2007.pdf> (accessed August 29, 2008).

Homicide

An estimated 16,929 persons were murdered nationwide in 2007, a 0.6 percent decline from 2006.¹

In 2007, for homicides in which the age of the victim was known, 11 percent of murder victims were under 18; 33 percent were between the ages of 20 and 29; 20 percent were between the ages of 30 and 39; 14 percent were between 40 and 49; 10 percent were between 50 and 64; and 4 percent were over the age of 65.²

Teenagers (ages 13 to 19) accounted for 13 percent of murder victims in 2007.³

Thirty-four children were killed by their babysitter in 2007.⁴

In 2007, 79 percent of murder victims were male and 21 percent female.⁵

Where the age and sex of the offender was known, homicide offenders in 2007 were most often males (90 percent) and adults (94 percent).⁶

In 2007, 47 percent of homicide victims were white and 49 percent were black. For 4 percent of victims, race was classified as “other” or “unknown.”⁷

In 2007, homicide was generally intraracial: white offenders murdered 83 percent of white victims, and black offenders murdered 92 percent of black victims.⁸

In 2007, for homicides in which the type of weapon was specified, 73 percent of the offenses involved firearms.⁹

Knives were used in 12 percent of murders, and personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet) were used in approximately 6 percent of murders.¹⁰

In 2007, where the victim-offender relationship was known, 22 percent of victims were killed by family members and 24 percent were killed by strangers.¹¹

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Crime in the United States, 2007: Murder,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/violent_crime/murder_homicide.html (accessed August 14, 2008).

² Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Crime in the United States, 2007: Expanded Homicide Data,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), calculated from Table 2, http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_02.html (accessed August 14, 2008).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., Table 12, http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_12.html (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁵ Ibid., Table 1, <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/>

offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_01.html (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁶ Ibid., calculated from Table 3, http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_03.html (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁷ Ibid., calculated from Table 1.

⁸ Ibid., Table 5, http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_05.html (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁹ Ibid., calculated from Table 7, http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_07.html (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid., calculated from Table 9, http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/

shrtable_09.html (accessed September 12, 2008).

Of female murder victims in 2007, 33 percent were killed by their husbands or boyfriends. In contrast, 3 percent of male victims were murdered by their wives or girlfriends.¹²

In 2007, homicides occurred in connection with another felony (such as rape, robbery, or arson) in 23 percent of incidents.¹³

Six percent of murder victims in 2007 were robbed prior to being killed. Of female murder victims, 2 percent were raped prior to being killed.¹⁴

In 2007, arguments constituted 42 percent of reported circumstances surrounding murders. For 37 percent of reported homicides, circumstances were unknown.¹⁵

During 2006, 1,530 children died due to child abuse or neglect. More than three-quarters (78 percent) of these children were younger than 4 years of age.¹⁶

Law enforcement cleared (by arrest or exceptional means) 61 percent of the murders that occurred nationwide.¹⁷

In 2006, 48 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in 47 separate incidents; these incidents occurred in 25 states, in the District of Columbia, and in Puerto Rico.¹⁸

Twenty-two of the slain officers were employees of city police departments; 18 were part of county law enforcement agencies; four were employed by state agencies; and one was employed by a federal agency. Two of the officers killed were employed in U.S. territories.¹⁹

In 2007, 57 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in 51 separate incidents.²⁰

shrtable_09.html (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹² Ibid., calculated from Table 2 and Table 9.

¹³ Ibid., Table 9.

¹⁴ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Crime in the United States, 2007: Expanded Homicide Data,” calculated from Table 12.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Children’s Bureau, “Child Maltreatment, 2006,” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007), 65, 66, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm06/cm06.pdf> (accessed August 14, 2008).

¹⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Crime in the United States, 2007: Table 25,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_25.html (accessed August 14, 2008).

¹⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted in 2006: Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/2006/feloniouslykilled.html> (accessed September 24, 2008).

¹⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted in 2006, Table 2,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/2006/table2.html> (accessed September 24, 2008).

²⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “FBI Release Preliminary Statistics for Law Enforcement Officers Killed in 2007,” May 12, 2008, <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel08/leoka051208.htm> (accessed October 28, 2008).

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation. It is done by means of: the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion; abduction; fraud; deception; the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability; or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person. At a minimum, exploitation includes sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or similar practices, servitude, or the removal of organs.¹

Due to the “hidden” nature of trafficking activities, gathering statistics on the magnitude of the problem is a complex and difficult task. Given these complexities, the following statistics are the most accurate available but may represent an underestimation of trafficking on a global and national scale.

An estimated 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year. The majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. These numbers do not, however, include the millions of victims around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders.²

Of the roughly 800,000 people trafficked across international borders each year, 80 percent are female and 50 percent are children.³

Human trafficking is the third most profitable criminal activity, following only drug and arms trafficking. An estimated \$9.5 billion is generated in annual revenue from all trafficking activities.⁴

Each year, an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States.⁵

The United States is primarily a destination country.⁶ The main regions from which trafficking victims originate are reported to be the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.⁷

United States Response to Trafficking

In 2007, the U.S. government spent approximately \$23 million for domestic programs to increase anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts, identify and protect victims of

trafficking, and raise awareness of trafficking to help prevent new incidents.⁸

In 2007, the Department of Justice opened 182 investigations, charged 89 individuals with human trafficking, and obtained 103 convictions. The Innocence Lost National Initiative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice Criminal Division continued to combat child prostitution, which resulted in 308 arrests, 106 convictions, and 181 children recovered.⁹

Through 2007, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had certified or issued eligibility letters to 1,379 victims of human trafficking since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was signed into law in October 2000. In 2007, HHS certified 270 adult victims of human trafficking and issued letters of eligibility to 33 minors. Thirty percent of these victims were male (up from 6 percent in 2006), and at least 63 percent had been trafficked for forced labor.¹⁰

In 2007, the Department of Homeland Security issued 279 T-visas to foreign survivors of human trafficking who were identified in the United States, and another 261 to their immediate family members. T-visas are a special visa category created by the TVPA. The federal government is working toward publishing regulations for the adjustment of status for qualified T-visa holders, creating a pathway to citizenship.¹¹

U.S. Government Trafficking-Related Links

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000
www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2005
www.state.gov/documents/organization/61214.pdf

Office for Victims of Crime Trafficking Efforts
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/help/tip.htm

Office of Refugee Resettlement Trafficking Efforts
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/index.html

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns,” (New York: United Nations, 2006), 50, <http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-globalpatterns-en.pdf> (accessed September 12, 2008).

² U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report: June 2008,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008), 9, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008> (accessed August 29, 2008).

³ Ibid.

⁴ U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report: 2004,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2004), <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/34021.htm> (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, “Report to Congress from Attorney General John Ashcroft on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Fiscal Year 2003,”

(Washington, DC: GPO, 2004), 3, http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/07/ashcroft_report.pdf (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁶ United Nations, “Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns,” 104.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report: June 2008,” 51.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Identity Theft and Financial Crime

In 2005, 6.4 million households in the United States (6 percent) discovered that one household member had been a victim of identity theft.¹

One in ten households that earned \$75,000 or more was victimized, the highest rate of any income group.²

In 2005, 76 percent of identity theft victims reported that the misuse of their identity had stopped by the time of the interview, while 19 percent reported the problems persisted.³

Urban or suburban households were more likely than rural households to have a member experience identity theft (6 percent of urban and suburban households versus 4 percent of rural households).⁴

Seven in ten victimized households experienced an identity theft-related loss, and the median loss was \$1,620.⁵

In 2007, a lost or stolen wallet, checkbook, or credit card was the primary source of personal information theft in the 33 percent of cases where the victim could identify the source of data compromise.⁶

Of identity theft cases where the perpetrator was identified, 17 percent were cases of “friendly theft,” perpetrated by friends, family members, or in-home employees.⁷

In cases where the victim identified the source of data compromise, 79 percent were perpetrated through traditional, offline channels, and not via the Internet.⁸

Forty-five percent of victims discovered the misuse of information less than one month after the first occurrence. Sixty-nine percent of victims discovered it within the first year, and 11 percent of identity theft victims did not discover the crime for two to four years.⁹

Of the 242,341 identity theft victims who made complaints to the Federal Trade Commission in 2007, 65 percent did not notify a police department; 27 percent notified a police

department, and a report was taken; and 8 percent notified a police department, and a report was not taken.¹⁰

The average time to resolve identity fraud cases increased from 33 hours in 2003 to 40 hours in 2006.¹¹

The average loss to Internet fraud victims was \$2,730 in 2007, compared to \$3,332 in 2006.¹²

In 2007, 17 percent of identity theft victims reported that the perpetrator had used their information in non-financial ways such as using the victim’s name when caught committing a crime, using the victim’s name to obtain government documents such as a driver’s license or Social Security card, or using the victim’s name to rent housing, obtain medical care, or to file a fraudulent tax return.¹³

In 2007, fake check scams, in which scammers pay for goods or services with bad checks and then instruct the victim to wire part of the money back to them, were the top Internet-related fraud complaint, constituting 29 percent of all Internet fraud complaints, with an average loss of \$3,310.87.¹⁴

Fake check scams were also the number one telemarketing fraud complaint, constituting 58 percent of all telemarketing fraud complaints, with an average loss of \$3,854.78.¹⁵

In 2007, for all fraud complaints to the FTC that included a loss, 28 percent of victims made payment by wire transfer, up 5 percent from 2006. Thirty-three percent paid by credit card.¹⁶

For all fraud complaints to the FTC in 2007, 64 percent of scammers made initial contact with the victim over the Internet (49 percent by e-mail and 15 percent through a Web site).¹⁷

The largest group of fraud victims were ages 40 to 49 (23 percent). Eighteen percent of victims were age 60 or older.¹⁸

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Identity Theft, 2005,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), 1, <http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/abstract/it05.htm> (accessed August 29, 2008).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid., 5.

⁴ Ibid., 1-2.

⁵ Ibid., 1.

⁶ Javelin Strategy and Research, “2008 Identity Fraud Survey Report: Consumer Version,” (Pleasanton, CA: Javelin, 2008), 6, http://www.idsafety.net/803.R_2008%20Identity%20Fraud%20Survey%20Report_Consumer%20Version.pdf (accessed September 9, 2008).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid., 5.

⁹ Federal Trade Commission, “Identity Theft Victim Complaint Data, January 1 – December 31, 2006,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), 11, http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/downloads/clearinghouse_2006.pdf (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹⁰ Federal Trade Commission, “Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data: January – December 2007,” (Washington, DC: FTC, 2008), 14, <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/02/fraud.pdf> (accessed September 8, 2008).

¹¹ Rubina Johannes, “2006 Identity Fraud Survey Report: Consumer Version,” (Pleasanton, CA: Javelin, 2006), 1, <http://www.javelinstrategy.com/products/99DEBA/27/delivery.pdf> (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹² Federal Trade Commission, “Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data: January – December 2007,” 10.

¹³ Ibid., calculated from 13.

¹⁴ National Fraud Information Center, “2007 Top 10 Internet Scams,” (Washington, DC: National Consumers League, 2008), <http://www.fraud.org/internet/2007internet.pdf> (accessed September 9, 2008).

¹⁵ National Fraud Information Center, “2007 Top 10 Telemarketing Scams,” (Washington, DC: National Consumers League, 2008), <http://www.fraud.org/telemarketing/2007telemarketing.pdf> (accessed September 9, 2008).

¹⁶ Federal Trade Commission, “Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data: January – December 2007,” 7.

¹⁷ Ibid., 8.

¹⁸ Ibid., 9.

Internet Victimization

In 2005, approximately 1 in 7 youth (13 percent) received unwanted sexual solicitations online.¹

In 2005, 4 percent of youth received aggressive sexual solicitations online, in which the solicitor asked to meet the youth in person, called the youth on the telephone, or sent the youth mail, money, or gifts.²

Nine percent of youth Internet users had been exposed to distressing sexual material while online.³

One in 11, or 9 percent, of youth Internet users reported being harassed online.⁴

In 2006, the CyberTipline operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 62,480 reports of child pornography and 6,384 reports of online enticement of children to sexual acts (compared to 2,664 reports of online enticement in 2005).⁵

Thirty-four percent of U.S. Internet users (47 million people) have reported computer infiltration by spyware—self-installing software programs that invade a computer by piggy-backing onto a file, program, or Web site downloaded from the Internet and that allow access to the computer's information by an unauthorized party. High-speed Internet connections increase the risk of spyware because of their permanent, static Internet Protocol (IP) address: 44 percent of home broadband users reported having spyware on their computers, compared to 30 percent of home dial-up users.⁶

In 2007, the Internet Crime Complaint Center processed 206,884 complaints regarding possible online criminal activity, a 0.3 percent decrease from 2006. Of these, 90,008 were referred to federal, state, and local law enforcement for further consideration.⁷

In 2007, the total amount of money lost from all cases of Internet fraud referred to law enforcement for investigation was \$239 million, with a median dollar loss of \$680 per complaint. This amount is up from \$198 million with a median dollar loss of \$724 per complaint in 2006.⁸

A computer security survey of U.S. businesses found that 67 percent of responding companies had detected at least one incident of cybercrime in 2005. Eighty-six percent of the victimized businesses experienced multiple incidents of cybercrime, such as computer viruses, denial of service, and fraud.⁹

In the same survey, 90 percent of the companies reported financial effects due to cybercrime, and 89 percent reported some system downtime due to the crimes. Estimated recovery costs for computer viruses were \$281 million. Cyber theft, although accounting for less than 1 percent of incidents, accounted for more than half the reported losses (\$450 million). Cyber attacks accounted for \$300 million in losses.¹⁰

The most common forms of cybercrime detected by companies in 2005 were computer virus infections (reported by 52 percent of companies), denial of service attacks (16 percent of companies), and cyber theft (11 percent of companies). Hacking and spamming were other common breaches of computer security.¹¹

In 2007, phishing (e-mails from a perpetrator posing as a reputable agent who requests confirmation of personal information for fraudulent purposes) was one of the top 10 scams in Internet fraud.¹²

In 2007, fake check scams were the number one Internet scam accounting for 29 percent of all reported fraud complaints.¹³

¹ Janis Wolak, Kimberly Mitchel, and David Finkelhor, "Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later," (Alexandria, VA: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2006), 7, http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC167.pdf (accessed August 19, 2008).

² *Ibid.*, 8.

³ *Ibid.*, 9.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 10.

⁵ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, "CyberTipline: Annual Report Totals," http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/documents/CyberTiplineReportTotals.pdf (accessed August 19, 2008).

⁶ Pew Internet & American Life Project, "Spyware: The Threat of Unwanted Software Programs Is Changing the Way People Use the Internet," (Washington, DC: Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2005), 3, http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Spyware_Report_July_05.pdf (accessed August 19, 2008).

⁷ National White Collar Crime Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Bureau of Justice Assistance, "IC3 2007 Internet Crime Report: January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008), 1, http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2007_IC3Report.pdf (accessed August 19, 2008).

⁸ *Ibid.*; National White Collar Crime Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Bureau of Justice Assistance, "IC3 2006 Internet Crime Report: January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), 3, http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2006_IC3Report.pdf (accessed September 29, 2008).

⁹ Ramona Rantala, "Cybercrime Against Businesses, 2005" (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2008), 1, 4, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cb05.pdf> (accessed September 22, 2008).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 4-5, Tables 6 and 7.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 3.

¹² National Fraud Information Center, "2007 Top 10 Internet Scam Trends from NCL's Fraud Center, January-December 2007," (Washington, DC: National Fraud Information Center, 2007), 1, <http://www.fraud.org/internet/2007internet.pdf> (accessed August 19, 2008).

¹³ *Ibid.*

Mental Health Consequences of Crime

Crime victims have a much higher lifetime incidence of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than people who have not been victimized (25 percent versus 9 percent).¹

Almost 27 percent of women and 12 percent of men who have been molested develop PTSD later in life.²

Women who experienced a homicide of a family member or close friend have higher levels of PTSD than non-homicide survivors; 22 percent experience lifetime PTSD, and 9 percent currently have PTSD.³

Of crime victims diagnosed with PTSD, 37 percent also suffer from depression.⁴

The most comprehensive comorbidity study to date showed that lifetime prevalence of other psychological disorders in male and female crime victims with PTSD is 88 and 79 percent, respectively. The most common comorbid disorders are depression, substance abuse, and phobia.⁵

The estimated risk of developing posttraumatic stress disorder is 49 percent for survivors of rape, 32 percent for survivors of severe beating or physical assault, 24 percent for survivors of other sexual assault, 15 percent for survivors of a shooting or stabbing, and 7 percent for those who witness a murder or an assault.⁶

Major depressive disorder affects an estimated one-third of all women who are raped, often for an extended period of time. One-third of women who are raped contemplate suicide and 17 percent attempt suicide.⁷

Inner-city homicide survivors experience elevated levels of clinical distress compared to the general population of inner cities.⁸

Intimate partner victimization against American women ages 18 and older results in more than 18.5 million mental health care visits each year.⁹

Physical and mental health effects of stalking are not gender-related. Both male and female victims experience impaired health, depression, and injury, and are more likely to engage in substance abuse than their non-stalked peers.¹⁰

About one-third (30 percent) of female stalking victims and one-fifth (20 percent) of male stalking victims sought psychological counseling as a result of their stalking victimization.¹¹

In 2007, 8 percent of medical expense payments made through victim compensation funds were for mental health counseling for crime victims.¹²

Roughly one-third of mental health care bills for rape, physical assault, and stalking victims were paid for out of pocket.¹³

A 2003 study found that women with high scores on a PTSD screening test had median annual health care costs of \$1,283, while those scoring low on the screening test had median costs of just \$609.¹⁴

¹ Dean G. Kilpatrick and Ron Acerno, "Mental Health Needs of Crime Victims: Epidemiology and Outcomes," *Journal of Traumatic Stress* 16 (2003): 126.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., 127.

⁵ Ibid., 129.

⁶ Sidran Foundation, "Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Fact Sheet," (Towson, MD: Sidran Foundation, 2004), 3-4, <http://www.tema.ca/lib/PTSD%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf> (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁷ National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, "Sexual Assault against Females," (Washington, DC: Department of Veteran Affairs, 2004), http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/ncdocs/fact_shts/fs_female_sex_assault.html (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁸ M. Thompson et al., "Comparative Distress Levels of Inner-City Family Members of Homicide Victims," *Journal of Traumatic Stress* 11 (1998): 223-42.

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States," (Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2003), 18,

http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/ipv_cost/IPVBook-Final-Feb18.pdf (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹⁰ Keith E. Davis, Ann L. Coker, and Maureen Sanderson, "Physical and Mental Health Effects of Being Stalked for Men and Women," *Violence and Victims* 17 (2002): 429-43.

¹¹ Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, "Stalking in America: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 1998), 2, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/169592.pdf> (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹² National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, "Crime Victim Compensation Helps Victims," (Alexandria, VA: NACVCB, 2008), <http://www.nacvcb.org> (accessed September 29, 2008).

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States," 39.

¹⁴ Edward A. Walker et al., "Health Care Costs Associated with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms in Women," *Archives of General Psychiatry* 60 (April 2003): 369, <http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/60/4/369.pdf> (accessed September 25, 2008).

School Crime and Victimization

In 2005, students ages 12 to 18 were victims of 136,500 serious violent crimes at school.¹

In the 2005 to 2006 school year, there were 35 student, staff, and non-student school-associated violent deaths.²

Younger students (ages 12-14) were more likely than older students (ages 15-18) to be victims of crime at school.³

In 2005, 8 percent of students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in the preceding 12 months.⁴

In the 2005 to 2006 school year, 17 percent of all public schools experienced one or more serious violent crimes such as rape, sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault.⁵

Middle and high schools were significantly more likely than elementary to experience a violent incident during the 2005 to 2006 school year.⁶

In 2005, 28 percent of all school-age children reported being bullied at school, an increase over the 7 percent reported in 2003. Also in 2005, similar numbers of urban (26 percent), rural (29 percent), and suburban (29 percent) students reported being bullied.⁷

Between 1999 and 2003, teachers were the victims of approximately 183,400 total nonfatal crimes at school on average each year, including 118,800 thefts and 64,600 violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, or simple assault).⁸

In 2005, 24 percent of students ages 12 to 18 reported that street gangs were present at their schools. Students in urban schools were the most likely to report the presence of street

gangs at their schools (36 percent), followed by suburban students (21 percent) and rural students (16 percent).⁹

In 2005, 4 percent of students in grades nine through 12 had at least one drink of alcohol on school property, and 5 percent reported using marijuana on school property during the previous 30 days.¹⁰

In 2005, 25 percent of students in grades nine through 12 reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months.¹¹

In 2005, 18 percent of students in grades nine through 12 had carried a weapon on one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey, including about 5 percent of students who had carried a gun.¹²

In 2007, 12 percent of students in grades nine through 12 had been in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the 12 months preceding the survey.¹³

In 2007, 78 percent of high school students felt safe at school.¹⁴

In 2005, African American students (41 percent) were far less likely than white students (60 percent) to feel safe at school.¹⁵

In 2005, fewer than half (41 percent) of special education students felt safe at school.¹⁶

In 2005, 22 percent of American Indian or Alaskan Native students had engaged in a physical fight on school property in the last 12 months, the second highest percentage for any racial group behind Pacific Islander students (24 percent).¹⁷

¹ National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2007," Table 2.1, (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crimeindicators/crimeindicators2007> (accessed August 25, 2008).

² Ibid., Table 1.2.

³ Ibid., Table 2.2.

⁴ Ibid., Table 4.1.

⁵ Ibid., Table 6.1.

⁶ Ibid., Table 6.3.

⁷ Ibid., Table 11.1.

⁸ National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005," Table 5.1, (Washington, DC: GPO, 2005), <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crimeindicators/crimeindicators2005/index.asp> (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁹ National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2007," Table 8.1.

¹⁰ Ibid., Table 15.1 and Table 16.1.

¹¹ Ibid., Table 9.1.

¹² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," (Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006), Table 7, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5704a1.htm> (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹³ Ibid., Table 15.

¹⁴ Indiana University, "High School Survey of Student Engagement 2006: Voices of Students on Engagement," (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, 2007), 7, http://ceep.indiana.edu/hssse/pdf/HSSSE_2006_Report.pdf (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹⁵ Indiana University, "High School Survey of Student Engagement 2005: What We Can Learn from High School Students," (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, 2005), 10, http://ceep.indiana.edu/hssse/pdf/hssse_2005_report.pdf (accessed August 25, 2008).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Sexual Violence

In 2006, victims age 12 or older experienced 272,350 rapes or sexual assaults.¹

Eighty-nine percent of rape or sexual assault victims in 2006 were female.²

Of female rape or sexual assault victims, 31 percent were assaulted by a stranger. Forty-four percent of offenders were friends or acquaintances of their victims, and 21 percent were intimate partners.³

In 2006, 41 percent of all rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement.⁴

People ages 12 to 15 had a higher rate of sexual victimization than persons age 25 or older.⁵

Divorced or separated people had a higher rate of sexual victimization than those who were married.⁶

In 2005, nearly half of female rape victims experienced either drug-facilitated or incapacitated rape.⁷

Forty-one percent (37,256) of reported forcible rapes were cleared (usually by arrest) by law enforcement.⁸

In 2006, one-third (33 percent) of all sexual assaults occurred at or in the victim's home.⁹

Victim compensation programs paid \$22.9 million for forensic sexual assault exams in 2007, a 10 percent increase from 2006.¹⁰

In 2006, correctional authorities substantiated 17 percent of the estimated 6,528 allegations of sexual violence against inmates.¹¹

Within three years of their release from prison in 1994, 5 percent of sex offenders were rearrested for a sex crime.¹²

A study of sexual assault of adult males found that more than 10 percent of male victims had cognitive disabilities.¹³

Factors associated with a positive legal outcome in sexual assault cases include being examined within 24 hours of the assault, having been assaulted by a partner or spouse, having been orally assaulted, and having anogenital trauma.¹⁴

Rape survivors who had the assistance of an advocate were significantly more likely to have police reports taken and were less likely to be treated negatively by police officers. These women also reported that they experienced less distress after their contact with the legal system.¹⁵

A study of North Carolina women found that women with disabilities were not significantly more likely than women without disabilities to have experienced physical assault alone within the past year. However, women with disabilities were more than four times as likely to have experienced sexual assault in the past year as women without disabilities.¹⁶

During 2007, military criminal investigators received 2,688 allegations of sexual assault involving members of the armed forces worldwide. Of these reports, 2,085 were "unrestricted," thus initiating an investigation process and opening access to support services, and 603 were "restricted," allowing access to care without a formal investigation. (The restricted reporting method was implemented in June 2005.)¹⁷

American Indian and Alaskan Native women are almost 3 times as likely to experience rape or sexual assault as white, African American, or Asian American women.¹⁸

¹ Shannan M. Catalano and Michael Rand, "Criminal Victimization, 2006," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007), 3, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv06.pdf> (accessed August 26, 2008).

² Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008), calculated from Table 2, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> (accessed September 11, 2008).

³ Ibid., Table 43a.

⁴ Catalano, "Criminal Victimization, 2006," 5.

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," Table 3.

⁶ Ibid., Table 11.

⁷ Dean G. Kilpatrick et al., "Drug-facilitated, Incapacitated, and Forcible Rape: A National Study," (Charleston, SC: Medical University of South Carolina, 2007), 23, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/219181.pdf> (accessed August 26, 2008).

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2006, Clearances," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2006), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table_25.html (accessed September 11, 2008).

⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," Table 61.

¹⁰ National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, "FY 2007: Compensation to Victims Continues to Increase," (Alexandria, VA: NACVCB, 2008), <http://www.nacvcb.org> (accessed August 26, 2008).

¹¹ Allen Beck, "Sexual Violence Reported by Correctional Authorities, 2006," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007), 3, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/svrca06.pdf> (accessed August 26, 2008).

¹² Patrick A. Langan et al., "Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 1994," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 2003), 1, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/rsorp94.pdf> (accessed September 25, 2008).

¹³ Lana Stermac et al., "Stranger and Acquaintance Sexual Assault of Adult Males," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 19, no. 8 (2004): 907.

¹⁴ Jennifer Wiley et al., "Legal Outcomes of Sexual Assault," *American Journal of Obstetric Gynecology* 188, no. 6 (2003): 1638.

¹⁵ Rebecca Campbell, "Rape Survivors' Experiences with the Legal and Medical Systems: Do Rape Victim Advocates Make a Difference?" *Violence Against Women* 12 (2006): 30.

¹⁶ Martin et al., "Physical and Sexual Assault of Women with Disabilities," *Violence Against Women* 12 (2006): 823.

¹⁷ "Department of Defense FY07 Report on Sexual Assault in the Military," (Arlington, VA: Department of Defense), 4, <http://www.sapr.mil/contents/references/2007%20Annual%20Report.pdf> (accessed September 25, 2008).

¹⁸ S.W. Perry, "American Indians and Crime: A BJS Statistical Profile, 1992-2002," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics), Table 7, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/aic02.pdf> (accessed September 19, 2008).

Stalking

More than one million women and almost 400,000 men are stalked annually in the United States.¹

Eight percent of women and 2 percent of men in the United States have been stalked in their lifetime.²

Although stalking is a gender-neutral crime, most victims (78 percent) are female and most perpetrators (87 percent) are male.³

Twenty-eight percent of female stalking victims and 10 percent of male victims obtained a protective order. Sixty-nine percent of female victims and 81 percent of male victims had the protection order violated.⁴

Eighty-one percent of women who were stalked by a current or former husband or cohabiting partner were also physically assaulted by that partner, and 31 percent were sexually assaulted as well.⁵

The average duration of stalking is 1.3 years.⁶

Two-thirds of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week.⁷

Seventy-eight percent of stalkers use more than one means of contacting the victim.⁸

Weapons are used to harm or threaten stalking victims in 1 in 5 cases.⁹

One-seventh of stalkers are psychotic at the time of stalking.¹⁰

One-third of stalkers are repeat stalkers.¹¹

More than 50 percent of stalkers have had a previous relationship with the victim (commonly referred to as intimate partner stalking).¹²

Intimate partner stalkers use more insults, interfering, threats, and violence, including with weapons, than other types of stalkers.¹³

Stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide (homicide of women) in abusive relationships.¹⁴

An analysis of 13 published studies of 1,155 stalking cases found that in 39 percent of cases victims experienced violence in connection to the stalking.¹⁵

The same analysis found that a history of substance abuse is one of the strongest predictors of increased rates of violence among stalking offenders.¹⁶

The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population.¹⁷

A survey of university undergraduates revealed that 20 percent had been stalked or harassed by a former dating partner; 8 percent had initiated stalking or harassment; and 1 percent had been both a target and an initiator.¹⁸

Seventeen percent of Native American and Alaskan Native women will be stalked in their lifetime. This amount is twice the percentage of white women, almost three times the percentage of African American women, and more than four times the percentage of Asian American women.¹⁹

¹ Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, "Stalking in America: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 1998), 2, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/169592.pdf> (accessed August 8, 2008).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., 8.

⁶ Kris Mohandie et al., "The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers," *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 51 (2006): 152.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid., 150.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid., 149.

¹¹ Ibid., 152.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid., 153.

¹⁴ Jacquelyn C. Campbell et al., "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multi-site Case Control Study," *American Journal of Public Health* 93 (2003): 7.

¹⁵ Barry Rosenfeld, "Violence Risk Factors in Stalking and Obsessional Harassment," *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 31 (2004): 1.

¹⁶ Ibid., 32.

¹⁷ Eric Blaauw et al., "The Toll of Stalking," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17 (2002): 50-63.

¹⁸ Jeffrey J. Haugaard and Lisa G. Seri, "Stalking and Other Forms of Intrusive Contact after the Dissolution of Adolescent Dating or Romantic Relationships," *Violence and Victims* 18 (2004): 3.

¹⁹ Ronet Bachman et al., "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response: What Is Known," (Washington, DC: National Criminal Justice Research Service, 2008), 60, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf> (accessed September 19, 2008).

Substance Abuse and Crime Victimization

In 2007, 117 people were murdered in brawls due to the influence of alcohol, and 61 people were murdered in brawls due to the influence of narcotics.¹

Seventy percent of intimate partner violence homicide and attempted-homicide offenders used alcohol, drugs, or both during the incident, compared to fewer than one-fourth of the homicide or attempted-homicide victims.²

Victims of rape are 13 times more likely to develop two or more alcohol-related problems and 26 times more likely to have two or more serious drug abuse-related problems than non-crime victims.³

About 1 in 5 victims of violence who perceived the offender to have been using alcohol at the time of the offense (approximately 400,000 victims per year) suffered a financial loss attributable to medical expenses, broken or stolen property, or lost wages—totaling an annual loss of \$400 million.⁴

In 2007, 7 percent of eighth-graders, 17 percent of 10th-graders, and 22 percent of 12th-graders reported illicit drug use in the past 30 days.⁵

According to the results of a 2007 national survey of students in grades nine through 12, 7 percent of students had used a form of cocaine at some point in their lives, and 3 percent of students had used a form of cocaine in the 30 days preceding the survey.⁶

The same study found that 2 percent of students had used heroin, 4 percent had used methamphetamines, and 6 percent had used ecstasy one or more times in their lifetime.⁷

Nationwide, 13 percent of students had sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled paints or sprays to get high one or more times during their lifetime.⁸

Teens who have been both physically and sexually abused are five times more likely than other teens to smoke, three times more likely to drink, and over 10 times more likely to use illicit drugs.⁹

In 2003, nearly nine million youths reported engaging in at least one delinquent behavior during the past year. The percentage of youths who engaged in delinquent behavior increased significantly with the level of reported alcohol use.¹⁰

Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring sites found that between one-fourth and one-half of adult male arrestees were at risk for dependence on drugs.¹¹

Nearly half (47 percent) of all jail inmates convicted of violent offenses were under the influence of alcohol or other drugs at the time of the offense.¹²

Between 1992 and 2001, 62 percent of American Indian victims who experienced violent crime reported the offender was under the influence of alcohol, compared to 42 percent for the national average.¹³

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2007, Expanded Homicide Data Table 9," (Washington, DC: FBI, 2006), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_09.html (accessed August 27, 2008).

² Phyllis Sharps et al., "Risky Mix: Drinking, Drug Use, and Homicide," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 2003), 10, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/jr000250d.pdf> (accessed August 27, 2008).

³ Dean G. Kilpatrick and Roy Acerno, "Mental Health Needs of Crime Victims: Epidemiology and Outcomes," *Journal of Traumatic Stress* 16 (2003): 128.

⁴ Lawrence A. Greenfeld and Maureen A. Henneberg, "Victim and Offender Self-Reports of Alcohol Involvement in Crime," *Alcohol Research and Health* 25 (2001): 1.

⁵ Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, "America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2008," (Washington, DC: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, 2008), <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/beh3.asp> (accessed August 27, 2008).

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," (Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008), 77, http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/pdf/yrbs07_mmwr.pdf (accessed August 27, 2008).

⁷ *Ibid.*, 83, 85.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 79.

⁹ National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, "Family Matters: Substance Abuse and the American Family," (New York: Columbia, 2005), 20, <http://www.casacolumbia.org/absolutenm/articlefiles/380-Family%20Matters.pdf> (accessed September 26, 2008).

¹⁰ Office of Applied Studies, "Alcohol Use and Delinquent Behaviors among Youths," (Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2005), 1, <http://wch.uhs.wisc.edu/13-Eval/Tools/PDF-Documents/Delinquent%20behavior%20and%20Alcohol.pdf> (accessed September 26, 2008).

¹¹ National Institute of Justice, "Annual Report 2000 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2003), 2, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/193013.pdf> (accessed September 26, 2008).

¹² Jennifer Karberg and Doris J. James, "Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005), 1, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/sdatj02.pdf> (accessed September 26, 2008).

¹³ Steven Perry, "American Indians and Crime," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004), 35, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/aic02.pdf> (accessed September 26, 2008).

Teen Victimization

In 2006, teens experienced 1.7 million violent crimes; this figure includes 144,060 robberies and 98,090 sexual assaults and rapes.¹

In 2006, teens ages 16 to 19 had the highest rate of violent victimization.²

In 2007, teens ages 13 to 19 accounted for 13 percent of murder victims whose age was known.³

Teenage victims of violent crime have the lowest rate of reporting to the police of any age group (35 percent).⁴

From 1993 to 2003, older teens (15-17) were about 3 times more likely than younger teens (12-14) to be victims of violent crimes involving firearms.⁵

Among youth ages 17 or younger, black youth were 5 times as likely as white youth to be victims of homicide.⁶

About 3 in 10 violent victimizations against youth ages 12 to 17 resulted in an injury. For both younger and older teens, nearly 25 percent of victimizations resulted in minor injuries, such as bruises and cuts. Older teens were more likely than younger teens to experience serious injuries, such as gunshot or knife wounds, loss of consciousness, or undetermined injuries requiring two or more nights in the hospital. Older teens were also more likely than younger teens to have rape injuries.⁷

In 2007, 36 percent of high school students had been in a physical fight one or more times during the previous 12 months, and about 4 percent had been in a fight in which they were injured and had to be treated by a nurse or doctor.⁸

School was the most common place for violent victimizations against teens to occur. A higher percentage of violent crimes against younger teens than against older teens occurred at or in school (53 percent versus 32 percent). Older teens (17 percent) were somewhat more likely than younger teens (15 percent) to be victimized at home.⁹

Among older teens, the percentage of violent crime involving an intimate partner was 10 times higher for females than males (9 percent versus 0.6 percent). For younger teens, the percentage of females was not statistically different from that of males.¹⁰

Approximately 1 in 7 youth (13 percent) received unwanted sexual solicitations online in the previous year.¹¹

Approximately 1 in 5 high school girls reported being abused by a boyfriend.¹²

American Indian and Alaskan Native teenagers and young adults suffer the highest violent victimization of any age category in any racial group. Victims ages 18 to 24 make up almost one-third of all American Indian and Alaskan Native violent crime victims and have a violent victimization rate of 1 in 4.¹³

Four percent of youth received aggressive solicitations online: the solicitor asked to meet the youth in person, called the youth on the telephone, or sent the youth mail, money, or gifts.¹⁴

Nine percent of youth Internet users had been exposed to distressing sexual material while online.¹⁵

One in 11, or 9 percent, of youth Internet users said they had been harassed online, up from 6 percent in 2000.¹⁶

Almost 40 percent of American adolescents have witnessed violence. Furthermore, 17 percent have been victims of physical assault; 9 percent have been victims of physically abusive punishment; and 8 percent have been victims of sexual assault.¹⁷

Three in 4 American adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well. Thirteen percent of sexual assaults were reported to police, 6 percent to child protective services, 5 percent to school authorities, and 1 percent to other authorities. Eighty-six percent of sexual assaults against adolescents went unreported.¹⁸

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: GPO), Calculated from Table 3, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> (accessed September 26, 2008).

² *Ibid.*, Table 3.

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2007: Expanded Homicide Data Table 2," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2007), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_02.html (accessed August 28, 2008).

⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006 Statistical Tables," Table 96.

⁵ Katrina Baum, "Juvenile Victimization and Offending, 1993-2003," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005), <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/ascii/jvo03.txt> (accessed September 26, 2008).

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," (Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008), Table 9, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5704a1.htm> (accessed August 25, 2008).

⁹ Katrina Baum, "Juvenile Victimization and Offending, 1993-2003."

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Janis Wolak, Kimberly Mitchel, and David Finkelhor, "Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later," (Alexandria, VA: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2006), 7, http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC167.pdf (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹² Jay Silverman et al., "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," *JAMA* (2001): 572-79.

¹³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "American Indians and Crime," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1999), v, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/aic.pdf> (accessed September 22, 2008).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 8.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 9.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 10.

¹⁷ Dean G. Kilpatrick et al., "Youth Victimization: Prevalence and Implications," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 2003), 4, <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/194972.pdf> (accessed September 26, 2008).

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 5, 6.

Terrorism

U.S. law defines terrorism as “premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually to influence an audience.”¹

In 2007, 14,499 terrorist attacks occurred, resulting in 22,685 deaths, 44,310 injuries, and 5,071 abductions.²

Forty-three percent (approximately 6,200) of attacks worldwide occurred in Iraq, accounting for 60 percent of terrorism fatalities (approximately 13,600).³

In 2007, 19 American citizens abroad were killed in acts of terrorism, less than 1 percent (0.08 percent) of the worldwide total.⁴

The leading cause of death in terrorist attacks was armed attack (responsible for 51 percent of deaths) followed by bombing (responsible for 29 percent).⁵

There was one act of terrorism in the United States in 2007. An unknown assailant threw two bombs into the compound of the Mexican Consulate in New York City. No one was injured, and there was only minor damage to property.⁶

There are 44 foreign terrorist organizations officially designated as such by the Secretary of State.⁷

Twenty-three people are wanted by the FBI in connection with international terrorist incidents affecting U.S. citizens or property.⁸

Four eco-terrorists, one animal rights activist, one communist, and four extremists are wanted by the FBI for domestic terrorism.⁹

Major Terrorist Attacks against the United States

1983	U.S. Embassy bombing; Beirut, Lebanon; 63 dead. ¹⁰
1983	U.S. Marine Barracks bombing; Beirut, Lebanon; 241 dead. ¹¹
1985	Achille Lauro hijacking; Mediterranean Sea; 1 dead. ¹²
1988	Pan Am 103 bombing; Lockerbie, Scotland; 270 dead. ¹³
1993	World Trade Center bombing; New York City; 6 dead, more than 1,000 injured. ¹⁴
1995	Oklahoma City bombing; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; 168 dead, 642 injured. ¹⁵
1996	Khobar Towers bombing; Dahrhan, Saudi Arabia; 19 dead, 515 injured. ¹⁶
1996	Centennial Olympic Park bombing; Atlanta, Georgia; 2 dead, 112 injured. ¹⁷
1998	U.S. Embassy bombings; Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; 301 dead, more than 5,000 injured. ¹⁸
2000	The U.S.S. Cole bombing; Port of Aden, Yemen; 17 dead, 40 injured. ¹⁹
2001	September 11 attacks; 2,973 dead, thousands injured. ²⁰

¹ U.S.C. Title 22 Section 2656f(d).

² National Counterterrorism Center, “Reports on Incidents of Terrorism 2007,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008), 9, 35, <http://wits.nctc.gov/reports/crot2007nctcannexfinal.pdf> (accessed September 12, 2008).

³ Ibid., 9.

⁴ Ibid., 27, calculated from 28.

⁵ Ibid., 30.

⁶ National Counterterrorism Center, “World Incidents Tracking System,” <http://wits.nctc.gov/RunSearchCountry.do?countryId=174> (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁷ Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, “Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of State, 2008), <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/fs/08/103392.htm> (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Most Wanted Terrorists,” <http://www.fbi.gov/wanted/terrorists/fugitives.htm> (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Wanted by the FBI: Domestic Terrorism,” http://www.fbi.gov/wanted/fugitives/dt/fug_dt.htm (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Terrorism in the United States, 1999,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2000), 17, <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/terror/terror99.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹¹ Ibid., 18.

¹² BBC, “On This Day, October 7, 1985,” http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/7/newsid_2518000/2518697.stm (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Terrorism in the United States, 1999,” 20, 34.

¹⁴ Ibid., 21.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Bureau of Public Affairs, “Significant Terrorist Incidents, 1961-2003: A Chronology,” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of State, 2004), <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/5902.htm> (accessed August 28, 2008).

¹⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Terrorism in the United States, 1999,” 22.

¹⁸ Bureau of Public Affairs, “Significant Terrorist Incidents, 1961-2003: A Brief Chronology,” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of State, 2004), <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/5902.htm> (accessed December 4, 2008).

¹⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Terrorism 2000/2001,” (Washington, DC: GPO, 2002), 8, http://www.fbi.gov/publications/terror/terror2000_2001.pdf (accessed August 28, 2008).

²⁰ The 9/11 Commission, “The 9/11 Commission Report,” (Washington, DC: National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, 9-11 Commission, 2004), 311, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/911/pdf/fullreport.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2008).

Workplace Violence

Between 1993 and 1999, an average of 1.7 million people were victims of violent crime each year while working or on duty. An estimated 75 percent of these incidents were simple assaults, while an additional 19 percent were aggravated assaults.¹

An average of 1.3 million simple assaults, 325,000 aggravated assaults, 70,100 robberies, 36,500 rapes and sexual assaults, and 900 homicides occur in the United States each year.²

In 2007, 610 workplace homicides occurred in the United States, accounting for 11 percent of all workplace fatalities.³

Of the 610 workplace homicides in 2007, 491 involved a firearm.⁴

Homicide is the third-leading cause of fatal occupational injury.⁵

Nearly 80 percent of workplace homicides are committed by criminals otherwise unconnected to the workplace.⁶

Three percent of all murders committed in the workplace were committed by the victim's intimate partner (husband, wife, or boyfriend).⁷

Men are the majority of victims of nonfatal workplace violence for all crimes except rape or sexual assault.⁸

Women are victims of 80 percent of rapes or sexual assaults in the workplace.⁹

Twelve percent of workplace violence victims sustain injuries. More than half of these victims are not treated or do not receive medical care.¹⁰

Of the occupations measured, police officers are at greatest risk of being victims of workplace violence. Other occupations at risk are private security workers, correctional officers, bartenders, and taxicab drivers.¹¹

Homicide accounts for 40 percent of all workplace deaths among female workers.¹²

Female workers are also at risk for nonfatal violence. Women were the victims in nearly two-thirds of the injuries resulting from workplace assaults. Most of these assaults (70 percent) were directed at women employed in service occupations, such as health care, while an additional 20 percent of these incidents occurred in retail locations, such as restaurants and grocery stores.¹³

¹ Detis Duhart, "Violence in the Workplace, 1993-99," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2001), 1-2, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/vw99.pdf> (accessed September 2, 2008).

² Ibid., 2.

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, "2007 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries: Charts," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008), 6, <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/foi/cfch0006.pdf> (accessed September 2, 2008).

⁴ Ibid., 4, 6.

⁵ Ibid., 6.

⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Workplace Violence: Issues in Response," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2003), 13, <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/violence.pdf> (accessed September 12, 2008).

⁷ Ibid., 42.

⁸ Duhart, "Violence in the Workplace, 1993-99," 3.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid., 6.

¹¹ Ibid., 4.

¹² National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, "Women's Safety and Health Issues at Work," (Washington, DC: NIOSH, 2006), <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/women> (accessed September 12, 2008).

¹³ Ibid.

Poster Gallery

2006

When someone you love tells you that they've become a victim of crime,

will you know what to say?

Statistics indicate that 9 out of 12 Americans will become victims of a crime at least once in their lifetime. It's very likely that, at some point, someone you love will tell you that he or she has been assaulted, raped, robbed, or victimized by some type of violent crime.

When it happens, will you know what to say to help?

Be prepared. Take a few minutes now to learn about crime victims' rights and services, and how you can help. To learn more, visit the Office for Victims of Crime web site at www.crimevictims.gov or call the number below.

Know before you need to know.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
1875 North Lincoln Street
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www.ojcp.gov

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General Public

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
BREAK GLASS**

Victims' Rights

Hopefully, an emergency will never cause you to need your rights as a crime victim.

However, if you or someone you know or love does become a victim of crime, it's good to know that there are laws ready to protect you, and programs available to help you cope with the consequences of the crime.

To learn more about crime victims' rights and services, visit the Office for Victims of Crime web site at www.crimevictims.gov or call the number listed below.

Help is within your reach.

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Crime Victims' Rights

Three Rights To Right a Wrong

Crime Victims Have the Right to Be:

- Informed** ✓
- Present** ✓
- Heard** ✓

Crime victims have rights that allow them to participate in the criminal justice process, to have their voices heard, and to be informed about what is happening with their cases.

The pain and suffering of being victimized can never be erased. But crime victims' rights keep victims present, heard and informed throughout the process.

Know your rights as a crime victim.

For more information, visit the Office for Victims of Crime web site at www.crimevictims.gov or call the number listed below.

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Crime Victims' Rights

2006

In times of distress, crime victim services can answer your SOS.

VICTIM SERVICES

In our community and across the nation, crime victim assistance programs offer help and hope to victims in distress. We provide crime victims and survivors with:

- S**upport to help cope with the emotional, physical, financial and spiritual impact of crime
- O**pportunities and options for involvement, safety and assistance in understanding your rights as a victim of crime.
- S**ervices to help you regain a sense of control in your life

So if crime is causing you distress, remember "S.O.S." - we are your *lifeline* for help!

For information about local victim assistance programs in our community, please contact:

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Victim Service Providers

There Is Strength In Our Number

If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, call our number.

We provide victims with information and assistance regarding their rights, their safety, and resources available to help them cope with the emotional, physical, and financial impact of crime.

We provide strength to victims through ongoing services and support. There is strength in our number, so please call us.

Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity

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Crime Victims' Rights

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Poster Gallery

Each year the *NCVRW Resource Guide* includes public awareness posters on a number of crime victim topics. These posters are designed for use throughout the year to inform crime victims and concerned members of your community that help is available. Posters are 8.5" x 11" and include white space for the addition of local contact information. Download print-quality, black-and-white PDFs from the 2003 to 2009 *NCVRW Resource Guides* at www.ovc.gov/postergallery.

2008

It doesn't matter...



Who it was. What you were wearing. What your sexual orientation is. What you were doing. Whether you were drinking. Whether you are male or female.

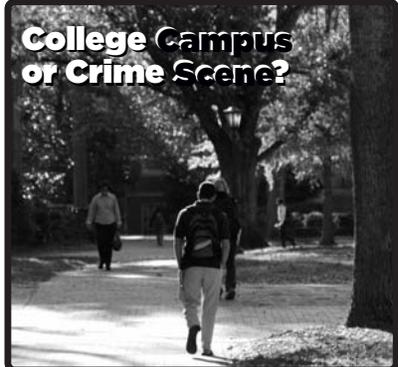
For a sexual assault victim, being believed and supported does matter. Whether you choose to report it or not, we can help.




SPONSORED BY: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS • OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Sexual Assault

College Campus or Crime Scene?



Most campus crime doesn't make the headlines, but every year tens of thousands of college students become victims of stalking, sexual assault, homicide, robbery, and other crimes. If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, there is hope. There is help. Call us.




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Campus Crime

Can you hear what we're not saying?



Child abuse shatters dreams and leaves deep emotional and, sometimes, physical scars—often behind impenetrable walls of silence. Be a voice for these children. Report child abuse.




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Child Abuse

2007

I promise

- to listen.
- to believe you.
- to help you stay safe.
- to not judge you.
- to inform you of your options.
- to help victims of crime rebuild their lives.

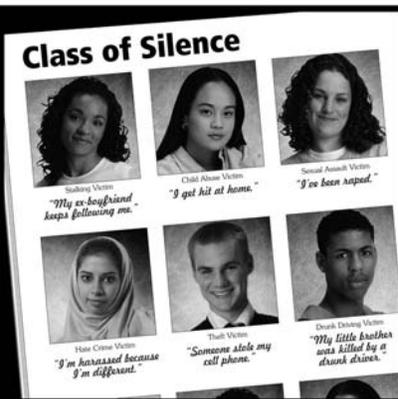
Victim assistance providers help victims understand and cope with the impact of crime. They help victims access victim compensation, develop safety plans, navigate the criminal justice and social service systems, and learn about their legal rights and options. If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, help is available. Call us.




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Victim Service Providers

Class of Silence



Teens who are victims of crime often don't know where to turn. Or they are uncomfortable sharing the experience with anyone. You are not alone. There is help. There is hope. Call us.




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Crimes against Teens

Our door is open to you.

If you are a victim of crime and have a disability, you have a right to accessible services. Call us to learn more about your rights as a crime victim and how we can best accommodate your needs.




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Crime Victims with Disabilities



25
years of
Rebuilding
Lives

Celebrating the
Victims of Crime Act

25

Resource Guide Evaluation



The Office for Victims of Crime and the National Center for Victims of Crime invite comments and suggestions for improving the *National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*. Please take a few moments to complete the following brief survey. Your feedback will be very helpful in developing future resources.

1. Did you use any of the materials provided in this year's Resource Guide? *(Please circle.)*.....[Yes or No]

2. If you answered "NO" to question #1, please briefly explain why.

.....

.....

3. Did you use any materials from the following sections/items? *(Please circle.)*

- Maximizing Communication and Awareness.....[Yes or No]
- Camera-Ready Artwork.....[Yes or No]
- Working with the Media.....[Yes or No]
- Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services.....[Yes or No]
- Statistical Overviews and Resources.....[Yes or No]
- CD-ROM.....[Yes or No]
- Theme DVD.....[Yes or No]
- Broadcast-quality TV PSA.....[Yes or No]

4. Which of the following resources included in the *2009 NCVRW Resource Guide* did you find particularly useful? *(Check all that apply.)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large, color NCVRW theme poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white public awareness posters (on crime affecting families, domestic violence, and elder abuse) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white NCVRW theme poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish public awareness posters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sample speech | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Clock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sample news release | <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sample public service announcements | <input type="checkbox"/> Theme DVD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sample op-ed column | <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast-quality TV PSA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera-ready art (logos, buttons, ribbon cards, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VOCA Chart | |

5. Did you or anyone you know see the 2009 NCVRW theme poster or flyers in your local post office?[Yes or No]

6. Please briefly describe any NCVRW activities (e.g., open houses, candlelight ceremonies, media interviews) in which you used materials, ideas, or suggestions from the *2009 NCVRW Resource Guide*.

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7. If you have any other plans to use the Resource Guide during 2009 (beyond National Crime Victims' Rights Week), please briefly describe below (e.g., using statistics in presentations and community education events, as resource information for victims or allied professionals, for ongoing media outreach).

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Resource Guide Evaluation (continued)

8. On a scale of 1 to 10—with 10 being most useful—please rate the overall usefulness of the 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9. Please circle a response for each of the following questions:

- Did you use the online version of the Resource Guide on OVC's Web site? [Yes or No]
- If so, did you find it easy to move through the pages? [Yes or No]
- Did each page load quickly? [Yes or No]
- Did you download the Theme DVD? [Yes or No]
- Did you download the broadcast-quality TV PSA? [Yes or No]

10. Every year, the NCVRW Resource Guide offers new black-and-white camera-ready posters that can be localized and used throughout the year. Please check topic areas on which you would like future posters to focus. (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Generic crime victim (suitable for all victims) | <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Identity theft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime victims with disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual assault |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Stalking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hate crime | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

11. What additional resources or materials would you find helpful in the NCVRW Resource Guide?

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12. Check the option below that best describes your current victim assistance setting.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. or District Attorney's Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital/medical center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic setting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rape crisis center | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survivor group | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victims' coalition | |

Please return to:



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National Center for Victims of Crime
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 480 • Washington, DC 20036
Fax: 202-467-8701

Thank you for evaluating OVC's 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide