

# Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program<sup>i</sup>

The Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (Arrest Program) is designed to treat domestic/sexual violence as serious violations of criminal law by encouraging collaborative partnerships among state, local, and tribal governments and courts.

**THROUGH A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR), THE ARREST PROGRAM** challenges entire communities to communicate, identify problems, and share ideas for responding to victims of domestic/sexual violence. This results in new responses and the application of best practices to enhance victim safety and ensure offender accountability at each juncture in the criminal justice system through investigation, arrest, prosecution, and close judicial oversight.

## 204 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015, 204 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Arrest Program.

## 46,941 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 46,941 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 169,546 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 169,546 cases.

*Research shows that a more negative response from police can increase the likelihood of victims experiencing greater PTSD symptom severity.<sup>415</sup>*

*Of incidents known to police, roughly 32% result in the arrest or detention of the offender, and an estimated 7% of incidents result in criminal prosecution.<sup>416</sup>*

<sup>i</sup> Beginning in FY 2016, this program has been renamed the Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program to more accurately reflect the program's scope. For the purposes of this report, the program will be referred to as the Arrest Program.

The scope of the Arrest Program is vast, as required to accomplish these goals. Purpose areas include:

- Develop or strengthen policies and training that assist in the recognition, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against older individuals and individuals with disabilities;
- Implement pro-arrest programs, policies, and training in police departments (for example, policies improving responses to protection order violations), and improve tracking of criminal cases;
- Develop state, tribal, territorial, or local policies, procedures, and protocols for preventing dual arrests and prosecutions;
- Coordinate computer tracking systems to ensure communication;
- Provide technical assistance and equipment to facilitate the enforcement of protection orders, including the development of protection order registries, across departments, agencies, states, and tribal jurisdictions;
- Centralize and coordinate police enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility;
- Strengthen legal advocacy service programs;
- Develop and establish comprehensive victim service and support centers, such as family justice centers; and
- Educate judges and court-based personnel (including juvenile courts).

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VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose areas to this program:

- Improve the response of the criminal justice system to immigrant victims;
- Develop and promote legislation and policies to enhance best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence;
- Develop Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner programs;
- Develop multidisciplinary high-risk teams for reducing domestic violence and dating violence homicides;
- Train prosecutors;
- Develop Sexual Assault Response Teams or similar CCRs to sexual assault;
- Improve investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and treatment of victims;
- Provide HIV testing, counseling, and prophylaxis for victims; and
- Address sexual assault evidence backlogs, including notifying and involving victims, and develop protocols for addressing backlogs.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address these purpose areas. If an activity falling under one of the added purpose areas could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **204** individual grantees for the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 progress reporting period.

- **15** (7%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Strengthened legal advocacy service programs;
  - Centralized and coordinated police enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility; and
  - Implemented pro-arrest programs, policies, and training in police departments.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, victim services, law enforcement activities, prosecution, court services, supervision of offenders, and batterer intervention programs to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **199** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **486** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>486</b>	
Victim advocates	<b>164</b>	<b>34%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>64</b>	<b>13%</b>
Victim assistants	<b>38</b>	<b>8%</b>
Law enforcement officers	<b>37</b>	<b>8%</b>
Prosecutors	<b>33</b>	<b>7%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



### WV • Grantee Perspective

The lack of connectivity within and across disciplines created a training gap that made it a challenge to expeditiously reach out to the “masses.” The tendency for first responders to work in “silos” is slowly changing through collaborations. But it truly is a process. The importance of this project is evidenced in the connections on the state level. With a single email or phone call an identified issue can be added to the annual training for the magistrates and prosecutors. This level of collaboration and shared concern for improving the criminal justice system did not exist prior to Arrest Program funding.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES,  
WEST VIRGINIA**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Arrest grant funding enabled the Program to hire one Victim Assistant who specializes in working with the LGBT community. The Program Coordinator flags DV cases for the Victim Assistant, when victims report being from the LGBT community, to provide an immediate outreach. This governmental social worker supports victims in navigating the criminal justice system while also working with non-governmental community partners to refer LGBT victims back to the community for further support. This holistic approach, along with linguistic and cultural competency proves to be effective in promoting criminal justice engagement among DV victims.

**KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,  
NEW YORK**



### AK • Grantee Perspective

Between January 1 and June 30, 2014 the Alaska Institute for Justice trained approximately 225 law enforcement officers and 50 prosecutors through three trainings, located in Anchorage and Juneau, with participants from Kodiak traveling to Anchorage for the training. The training provided a valuable forum for prosecutors and law enforcement to discuss gaps in existing services for limited English proficient crime victims, and how to best utilize existing resources to increase access to the criminal justice system for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

ALASKA COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT



### KS • Grantee Perspective

Project staff have received and continue to receive inspiring accounts on how the grant-funded trainings have already begun to impact communities across Kansas to better identify and respond to domestic and sexual violence. For instance, one trainer has begun utilizing the Domestic Violence curricula as part of an on-going, in-house training for every 911 call-taker and dispatcher in the department. In addition, multiple law enforcement agencies have requested specific department trainings utilizing the Domestic Violence curricula.

KANSAS GOVERNOR'S GRANTS PROGRAM



### CO • Grantee Perspective

The Arrest grant funding allows for a specialized, non-systems based advocate to respond to and act as a liaison for victims involved in civil or criminal justice court systems. A non-system based advocate provides individualized support on behalf of the victim, solely for the victim, whereas system advocates ultimately work for the prosecution and justice of offenders. At times these system responses are in conflict with a victim's wishes. Non-systems advocates can avoid that conflict, since services do not depend on cooperation with judicial systems.

COLORADO 6<sup>TH</sup> COMBINED JUDICIAL COURTS

## Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation and correction officers, child protection staff, sexual assault forensic and nurse examiners, and mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective CCR to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **154** (75%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **5,526** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **98,720** people.
- Most often these trainings reached law enforcement officers (**34%**), multidisciplinary groups (**11%**), victim advocates (**10%**), and health professionals (**6%**).

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. Victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **169** (83%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **46,941** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **28,130** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **21,187** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment services to **14,947** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment services to **13,858** victims; and
- Support group/counseling services to **10,342** victims.

### Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **153,859** times;
- Grantees received a total of **309,100** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**51%**) came from victims.

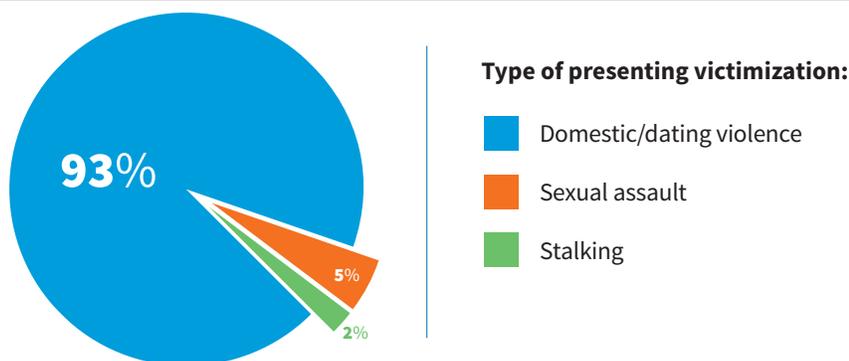
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (93%).

**Figure 1** Provision of victim services by Arrest Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served by type of victimization (6-month average)



**Table 2** Victims seeking services with Arrest grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>47,419</b>	
Victims served	<b>46,183</b>	<b>97%</b>
Victims partially served	<b>758</b>	<b>2%</b>
Victims not served	<b>478</b>	<b>1%</b>

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Arrest Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Arrest Program grant.

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (63%);
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (24%) or by another **family or household member** (9%).



### NE • Grantee Perspective

There was a situation when a Spanish-speaking victim walked in and wanted to find out how to drop a No Contact order. The grant-funded DV Liaison was able to explain to her what needed to be done in order to request the order to be lifted. The same victim returned wanting to file a protection order against the defendant. This victim not only is Spanish-speaking but she is also unable to read or write. The DV Liaison explained the process to her, made sure she had the required information to file, and proceeded to help her fill out the forms and write out her affidavit. The protection order was granted and served to the respondent. The above listed situation alleviated undue stress on the victim by having someone there able to answer her questions and take the necessary steps to keep her safe by assisting her with the protection order process..

CITY OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



### FL • Grantee Perspective

Our therapist works to enhance therapy services to victims of crime. She recognized a gap in group counseling services for men and started up a male support group for victims of domestic and sexual violence. The male victims are both heterosexual and from the LGBT community. She reports that the men attending the group share their stories, have let down emotional guards, and have made strides at changing their own stigmas about what it means to be a male victim in society.

PALM BEACH COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES & CERTIFIED RAPE CRISIS CENTER, FLORIDA

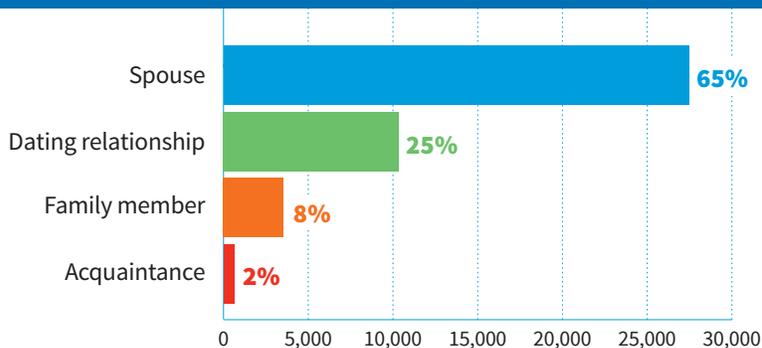


### PA • Grantee Perspective

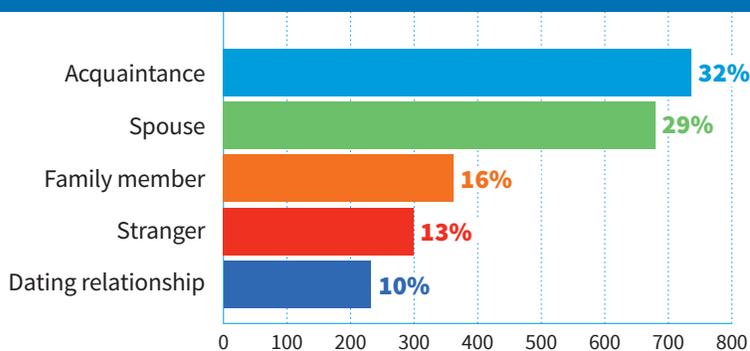
Through this funding, we have been able to develop and implement the Telephone Outreach Project (TOP), which started out as a pilot project in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) in just a few key police districts, and has since grown to reach victims in every police district in the city. To better serve victims, the PPD implemented a specific incident response form (75.48D) for domestic violence incidents. This new form, which allows responding officers to collect a callback number for advocates to reach out to victims who are particularly vulnerable, has allowed Telephone Outreach Counselors to make 1,260 contacts to victims in FY 2014 alone. Outreach Counselors provide safe and supportive outreach to victims, informing them about helpful resources that they may not have otherwise been aware of.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

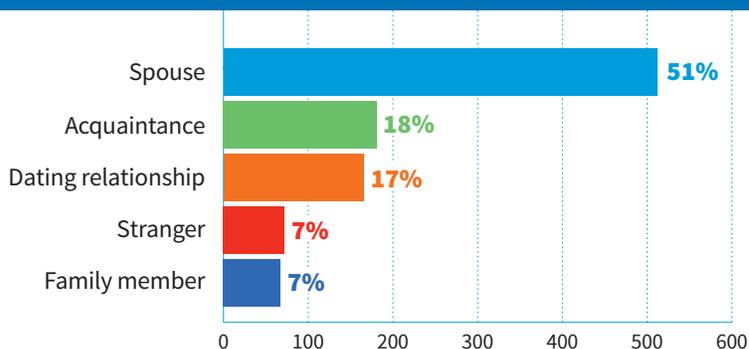
**Figure 2** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence**



**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault**



**Figure 4** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**



## Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

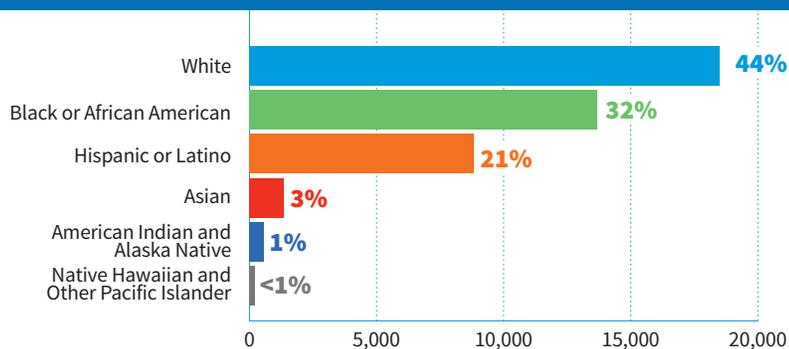
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

- Conflict of interest;
- Program unable to provide services due to limited resources;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements;
- Program rules not acceptable to victim; or
- Hours of operation.

## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **46,941** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **white** (44%), **female** (89%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (74%).

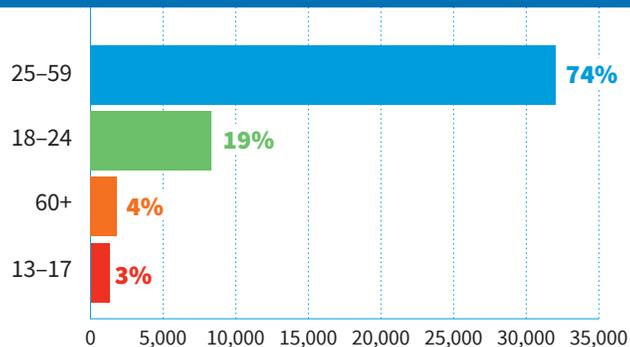
**Figure 5** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

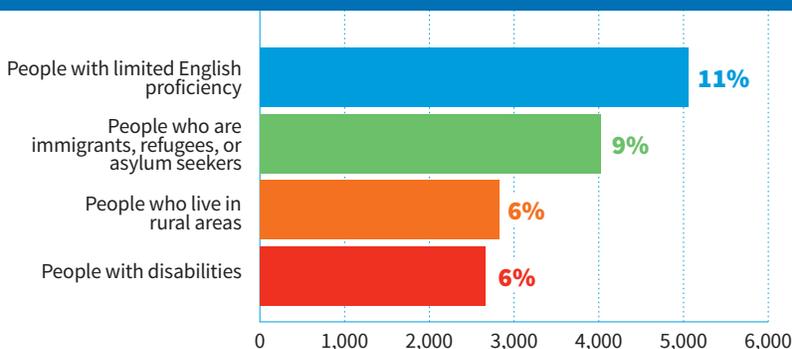


**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)

### NC • Grantee Perspective

Sustaining the funding for a specialized prosecution team has created local experts in the fields of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and homicide prevention. Other DA staff, as well as personnel at other organizations, have come to regularly rely on the grant-funded prosecution team for complex legal or ethical issues related to intimate partner violence. Victims and witnesses of these cases have been supported and had their concerns and questions addressed. Several victims have shared their stories with their friends, family, or the new partners of their exes in order to encourage them to come forward and report violence or seek help.

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLIANCE, INC., NORTH CAROLINA**

*Without proper training, an officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor, may unknowingly minimize a victim's trauma, may fail to collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. Moreover, if an officer sides with an abuser, a victim may not report future assaults. Research shows that law enforcement were most likely to arrest perpetrators when they received training on and followed these best practices: in-person investigating, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to the violence, providing victims with 911 telephones, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe.<sup>125</sup>*

## Criminal Justice

The Arrest Program supports the efforts of local jurisdictions to develop or enhance a CCR that brings together law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. It is expected that grantees' criminal justice activities will reach beyond the individual unit or grant-funded staff person, and, as a result, grantees report criminal justice data for the entire agency within the jurisdiction.

## Law Enforcement

Grantees address the role of law enforcement in responding to domestic/sexual violence.

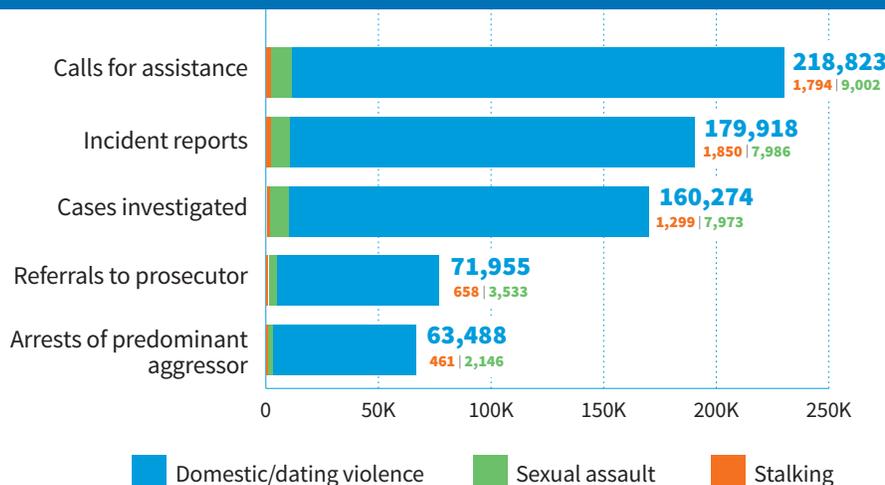
- **62** (30%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **102,283** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

**A proactive response and victim-centered attitude influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.**

A meaningful and serious response by law enforcement agencies includes:

- Documenting all calls for services;
- Actively investigating all sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents;
- Referring cases to prosecutors (as appropriate);
- Seeking warrants and statements of charges (as appropriate);
- Arresting the perpetrator;
- Helping victims secure protection orders;
- Accompanying the victim to the home to retrieve their immediate belongings (as appropriate);
- Making referrals (as appropriate); and
- Providing victims with information about available services.

**Figure 9** Law enforcement activities in Arrest Program criminal cases, July 2013–June 2015



### ND • Grantee Perspective

Arrest grant funds have allowed us to continue to review and analyze how each layer of our system is responding to domestic and sexual violence and stalking. In 2013, 979 law enforcement reports, 208 cases with charges filed, and 218 sentencing hearings were collected and entered into the Domestic Abuse Information Network computerized tracking system. The data analysis allows project partners to openly communicate on trends and brainstorm ways to improve our systems' response. For example, we saw a spike in the number of dual arrests from four in 2011 to 10 in 2012. Because of the tracking system, we were aware of this situation and addressed it with law enforcement. It was determined that additional training was needed, and after the training, we saw the number of dual arrests decrease to two in 2013.

**CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER**

## Prosecution

Jurisdictions with specialized prosecution programs often boast high prosecution and conviction rates. These programs may include specialized prosecution units, specialized prosecutorial training, and vertical prosecution procedures.

- **53** (26%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecutors received a total of **160,091** case referrals pertaining to domestic/sexual violence, and accepted a total of **119,118<sup>ii</sup>** (74%) cases for prosecution across the 2-year period.
- Prosecution staff made a total of **96,165** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

### SD • Grantee Perspective

Due to funding provided, this Arrest grant has continued to give my department the ability to have a dedicated detective. The detective conducts all of the investigations of domestic violence related incidents and holding those who commit these acts of violence accountable through arrests and successful prosecutions. This in itself, has provided the victims with a single point of reference; providing them a familiar law enforcement contact that they feel comfortable with, and with whom they can address possible future incidents or concerns. The added benefit is the dedicated domestic guidance to the field division, while providing expert counsel to the State Attorney's Office for the successful prosecution of these oftentimes delicate and problematic cases.

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Table 3** Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the Arrest Program by type of victimization, July 2013–June 2015

Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
<b>All cases</b>	<b>160,091</b>	<b>119,118</b>	<b>74%</b>
Domestic/dating violence	151,480	112,323	74%
Sexual assault	4,132	2,676	65%
Stalking	4,479	4,119	92%

<sup>ii</sup> Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period.



### PA • Grantee Perspective

This funding has enabled us to retain and hire Domestic Violence Investigators (DVI) whose wealth of experience and knowledge guarantee that the Pre-Trial DVI reports contain detailed information that will assist prosecutors in obtaining exceptional sentences. Pre-Trial DVIs are invaluable to prosecutors faced with the obstacles involved in litigating a domestic violence case, providing them with a detailed history of prior criminal acts of an offender, whether or not those crimes were successfully prosecuted. A prosecutor may file pre-trial motions seeking to admit the prior history between the offender and the victim. If admitted, this evidence greatly strengthens the Commonwealth's case. The DVIs contain summaries of prison calls, which often contain valuable information, such as whether a defendant has violated his bail provisions by contacting a victim in violation of a "no contact" provision of bail, or in violation of an active PFA Order. Prosecutors can use this information to revoke or increase a defendant's bail or file for a PFA violation. The DVIs also provide prosecutors with PFA orders and petitions, 911 calls, and witness statements, which can further bolster the Commonwealth's case. Since implementing the program, our Office has received just sentences for these offenders.

BUCKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,  
PENNSYLVANIA



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Arrest grant funding has enabled QDA to establish a Domestic Violence Bureau -- fully staffed with 16 ADAs and three paralegals -- that is dedicated solely to the prosecution of domestic violence cases, with nine ADAs devoted to the handling of misdemeanor domestic violence matters. Cases within the bureau are vertically prosecuted, with one ADA handling a case from case inception through disposition. Vertical prosecution has reduced the need for multiple interviews of victims and the reassignment of cases from one ADA to another. As a result, we have high conviction rates and have reduced dismissal rates.

OFFICE OF THE QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY,  
NEW YORK

**Table 4** Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the Arrest Program by type of victimization, July 2013–June 2015

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
<b>All cases</b>	<b>125,812</b>	<b>69,438</b>	<b>55%</b>
Domestic/dating violence	112,639	60,038	53%
Sexual assault	3,019	2,135	71%
Stalking	849	561	66%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.

## Courts

Specialized domestic violence courts improve offender compliance with court-ordered conditions and impose enhanced penalties for non-compliance.

- **12 (6%)** grantees used funds for court activities.
- Court staff made a total of **6,378** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

Courts funded by the Arrest Program conduct a range of activities, including:

- Coordinating with criminal justice and social service agencies to identify resources to address gaps in the system of services;
- Providing extensive and ongoing training on domestic/sexual violence issues;
- Implementing practices to ensure consistency in case handling;
- Enhancing case information flow between partner agencies;
- Emphasizing defendant monitoring and accountability; and
- Enhancing protection for, and services to, victims.

## Judicial Monitoring

Judicial monitoring improves the justice system's ability to ensure offender accountability. Convicted offenders are required to make regular court appearances to determine whether they are complying with the conditions of their sentences.

- An average of **1,824** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.
- A total of **13,345** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.

The data reported below (Table 5) reflect the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **2%** of the cases and issued fines in **11%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**15%**) or partially (**9%**) or fully (**58%**) revoking probation. The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **4%** of the cases.

**Table 5** Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by Arrest Program-funded courts, July 2013–June 2015

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial revocation of probation		Probation revoked/incarcerated	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 267)	3	1%	85	32%	13	5%	62	23%	78	29%	26	10%
New criminal behavior (N = 634)	14	2%	31	5%	57	9%	100	16%	93	15%	339	53%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 1,603)	31	2%	64	4%	216	13%	295	18%	332	21%	665	41%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 1,069)	20	2%	32	3%	148	14%	140	13%	157	15%	572	54%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 4,221)	87	2%	138	3%	403	10%	561	13%	75	2%	2,957	70%

**NOTE:** Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.



## OH • Grantee Perspective

Since being awarded funding, Domestic Relations Court and the Battered Women's Shelter have been able to develop procedures for the County Clerk of Court staff members to access an advocate for all persons requesting a civil protection order (CPO), to provide victims with immediate access to an advocate when they present at Court for a CPO, and to provide a dedicated magistrate and case docket to hear all requests for domestic violence CPOs and motions to show cause for contempt regarding violations of CPOs. In the past, deputy clerks only contacted the Battered Women's Shelter when a person specifically requested an advocate, who were not always available to come to the Courthouse.

**MEDINA COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT, OHIO**

## Probation and Parole

Following the example of police, prosecutors, and courts, probation departments have adopted specialized methods for managing domestic violence offender cases. These specialized domestic violence units enforce intensive supervision on their probationers and may require attendance at batterer intervention programs.

- **25** (12%) grantees used funds for probation activities.
- Probation staff made a total of **7,266** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

## Offender Monitoring

Probation officers monitor offenders to review progress and compliance with court orders. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- An average of **5,120** offenders were monitored during each 6-month period.
- Across the 2-year period, these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:
  - A total of **114,219** face-to-face contacts with an average of **4,179** offenders;
  - A total of **82,388** telephone contacts with an average of **3,593** offenders; and
  - A total of **53,145** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **2,439** offenders.



### OR • Grantee Perspective

The Arrest grant has enabled Deschutes County to zero-in on high-risk intimate partner cases. High-danger victims are now identified at the time of a domestic assault through the Lethality Assessment Program and are connected with DV program advocates immediately. High-risk offenders on probation now receive heightened supervision which makes victims safer. Prior to the Arrest grant-funded activities, domestic violence offenders were placed randomly on caseloads and there was no domestic violence specific risk assessment being conducted. The Arrest grant provides dedicated time and resources to focus on the highest-risk offenders using evidence-based practices.

#### DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

### Probation officers also contact victims as a strategy to increase victim safety.

- A total of **7,445** violations were reported across the 2-year period.
- The most frequently reported types of violations and responses to those violations were as follows:
  - Failure to comply with other conditions of probation or parole accounted for **3,005** (40%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**1,840** or 61%);
  - Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (BIP) represented **1,511** (20%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**819** or 54%); and
  - New criminal behavior accounted for **1,188** (16%) of violations and was the violation most likely to result in partial or full revocation of probation (**824** or 69%).

The data reported below (Table 6) reflect the consequences imposed for violations of probation. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **4%** of the cases and issued fines in **2%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**19%**) or partially (**34%**) or fully (**27%**) revoking probation. The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **14%** of the cases.



### VT • Grantee Perspective

This grant has made it possible for the legal advocate with Voices Against Violence to connect more victims to probation, allowing them to be more actively involved in sentencing and probation conditions regarding their abuser if they so choose. This project has helped open more communication with probation and an open dialogue regarding victim safety. The co-location has assisted in a smoother community transition with perpetrators while keeping the victim in the loop. We have been able to set up more meetings with probation and victims so their concerns can be heard. The co-location has opened the door to possibly meet with and train other community DV/SA programs and probation offices so communication and victims' concerns will be heard throughout the state.

#### CITY OF ST. ALBANS, VERMONT VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

**Table 6** Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by Arrest Program-funded probation and parole agencies, July 2013–June 2015

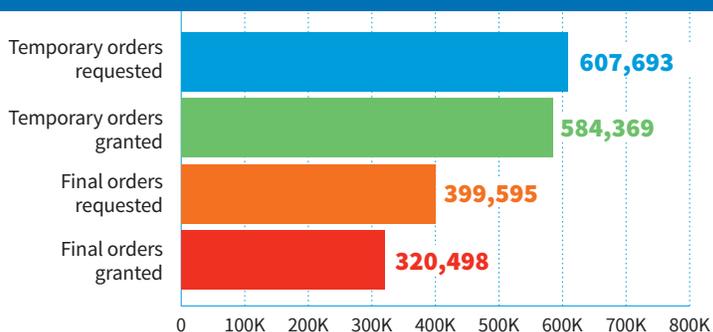
Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial revocation of probation		Probation revoked/incarcerated	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 978)	37	4%	99	10%	25	3%	165	17%	280	29%	372	38%
New criminal behavior (N = 1,188)	35	3%	104	9%	15	1%	210	18%	341	29%	483	41%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 1,511)	87	6%	191	13%	74	5%	340	23%	444	29%	375	25%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 763)	36	5%	147	19%	8	1%	143	19%	293	38%	136	18%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 3,005)	105	3%	466	16%	25	1%	569	19%	1,206	40%	634	21%

**NOTE:** Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.

## Community Measures

Grant funds are intended to support a CCR that will affect the entire jurisdiction. For this reason, grantees are asked to report on the number of protection orders requested and granted within the jurisdiction.<sup>iii</sup>

**Figure 10** Protection orders requested and granted under the Arrest Program, July 2013–June 2015



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited **access to affordable housing**, including emergency shelter and transitional housing, as their biggest unmet need.

Grantees also found it difficult to provide victims with **basic necessities**, such as:

- Employment;
- Child care;
- Job training;
- Food assistance;
- Mental healthcare; and
- Transportation.

Grantees cited difficulty in providing **culturally sensitive victim services, translation, and outreach** to underserved populations, including:

- American Indians/Alaska Natives;
- Immigrants, especially those with limited English proficiency;
- LGBT populations;
- Elderly adults; and
- Persons with disabilities.



### OR • Grantee Perspective

The lack of affordable housing is a major issue within our community. Many victims have been forced to stay in domestic violence situations because they simply cannot afford to leave. Our domestic violence shelters constantly remain at capacity and over 1,000 requests for shelter go unfulfilled every month in our community. The need for additional housing and transportation assistance remains extremely high and continues to hinder victims' abilities to successfully leave an abusive partner and to establish and maintain a stable life.

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATION OFFICE, OREGON**



### MI • Grantee Perspective

Many police and prosecutors still believe that the perpetrator's assertion of consent is difficult to disprove. Societal myths about sexual assault are also still prevalent in police agencies and those myths may play a role in how those cases are investigated. Our unit is in the unique position to review old cases, many of which were closed by a police department or had charges denied by a prosecutor. We have seen many areas in which victims were not served and in many cases, re-victimized.

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

<sup>iii</sup> Numbers represent cases in which complete data were available for both orders requested and granted. In some jurisdictions grantees report difficulty in obtaining protection order data; for example, if a city is the grant-funded jurisdiction and protection order data are collected at the county level, it is not possible to report precisely on the number of orders requested or granted in the city.



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

We have found that a greater focus is needed on adequate outreach and support services for Queens County's intensely diverse, multicultural, and multilingual populations, including a need for more bilingual case managers and counselors. This diversity presents special challenges as we try to address the cultural and language barriers that often keep victims from seeking assistance in breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

OFFICE OF THE QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY,  
NEW YORK



#### OH • Grantee Perspective

One of the continuing major issues facing Cuyahoga County is a shortage of practicing attorneys that specialize in civil legal assistance for victims of domestic violence. Many victims report to court pro se and are forced to present their cases against their abusers who frequently retain counsel.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO



#### LA • Grantee Perspective

Offender accountability and the opportunity for rehabilitation is also an area of need. We experience pleas to reduced charges that do not result in any jail time or misdemeanors which would not allow for domestic violence enhancements. We also need standardization among our Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs) so that judges know what programs to order offenders into, what the quality of the program is, and what successful completion of the program actually means (other than attendance). We need a system of sharing information between BIPs, judges, and probation.

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Grantees reported difficulty in helping victims obtain **legal services**, especially in **civil cases** involving:

- Child custody and visitation;
- Divorce;
- Property; and
- Protection orders.

Grantees also emphasized the need to **expand victim-centered, trauma-informed training** to judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and first responders.

Grantees cited the need to **improve offender accountability**, through:

- Standardization and improvement of batterer intervention programs (BIPs);
- Better enforcement of protection orders;
- Pre-trial supervision of offenders; and
- Information sharing between courts, probation, and law enforcement.