

Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations

The Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations (Underserved Program) funds projects to develop and implement outreach strategies and enhanced services to adult and youth victims of domestic/sexual violence in underserved populations.

GRANTEES DO THIS BY BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF BOTH MAINSTREAM organizations and organizations specifically serving underserved populations to provide culturally appropriate and inclusive services; and increasing training and outreach activities of organizations providing services to underserved populations.

9 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, 9 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Underserved Program.

207 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 207 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

78% Served LGBT Victims

The majority (78%) of grantees served victims who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersex.

The Underserved Program responds to the needs of some underserved populations (i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBT) victims, the Deaf or hard of hearing community, and certain religious/ethnic minorities) that, prior to VAWA 2013, were included under the Culturally Specific Services Program (CSSP) and the Sexual Assault Services Program – Culturally Specific (SASP-CS).

The term “underserved populations” means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate.⁴

Service providers may be unprepared to offer sensitive and appropriate advocacy and shelter to LGBT victims of violence for a variety of reasons, such as limited capacity, fear of backlash, homophobia, and transphobia.³⁹⁴



NY • Grantee Perspective

As a result of the grant funding, we have been able to put together a dynamic team to serve the Deaf community. Our Underserved grant allows us to outreach to, connect with, educate, advocate for, and support our Deaf community on issues of violence and violence prevention. Our team is able to help address the domestic violence (which Deaf people experience 1.5 times more than hearing people) and sexual assault (which Deaf people experience 3.8 times more than hearing people) issues which our victims face. We have seen a remarkable increase in the number of victims in their late teens and early twenties coming to us, who are struggling to heal from sexual abuse they experienced as children. Most of these young Deaf adults' perpetrators were family members, both hearing and Deaf. Without these grant funds, we would not be able to provide the critical services Deaf victims need to begin or continue their respective healing journeys.

ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR ABUSED DEAF VICTIMS,
NEW YORK



NY • Grantee Perspective

This funding has helped us to expand our services to include prevention. In addition, it has helped us to continue providing trauma-informed and culturally, as well as linguistically, competent services to victims from the Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian communities, and many others in New York City.

ARAB AMERICAN FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER,
NEW YORK

VAWA 2013 narrowed the scope of the CSSP and SASP-CS Programs to focus only on certain ethnic and racial minorities. To ensure continued support for underserved populations, Congress authorized the Underserved Program. Competitive awards will be made for the first time in FY 2016, and former Abuse in Later Life Program grantees, former Disability Program grantees, and culturally specific organizations focusing on sexual assault will be eligible to apply.

The Underserved Program enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting community-based culturally specific projects to address and prevent domestic/sexual violence. Purpose areas include:

- Work with federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, agencies, and organizations to develop or enhance population specific services;
- Strengthen the capacity of underserved populations to provide population specific services;
- Strengthen the capacity of traditional victim service providers to provide population specific services;
- Strengthen the effectiveness of criminal and civil justice interventions by providing training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other court personnel on domestic/sexual violence in underserved populations; and
- Work in cooperation with underserved populations to develop and implement outreach, education, prevention, and intervention strategies that highlight available resources and the specific issues faced by victims of domestic/sexual violence from these populations.

The Attorney General may use up to 25% of funds available under the Underserved Program to make one-time planning grants to eligible entities to support the planning and development of specially designed and targeted programs for adult and youth victims of domestic/sexual violence in one or more underserved populations.

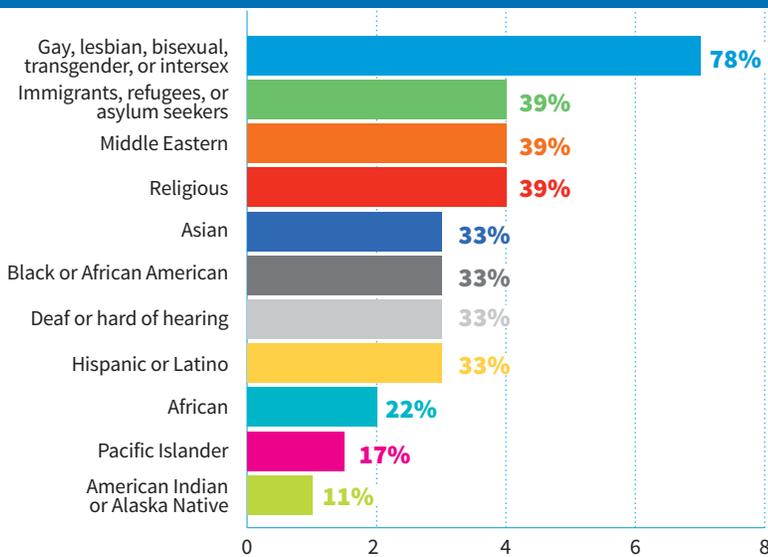
VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

General Grant Information

The Underserved Program was authorized by VAWA 2013. Information for this report was submitted by **9** individual grantees for the July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 progress reporting period.

- The majority (**78%**) of grantees served victims who identified as LGBT.

Figure 1 Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2014–June 2015 (6-month average)



Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, advocacy, counseling, court and medical accompaniment, and community education to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **8** (89%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **7** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.



CA • Grantee Perspective

We have been able to hire a full-time Domestic Violence Case Manager. She has been able to provide intensive DV case management to an ever-increasing caseload of clients. She has also played a large role in recruitment, interpreting for the women's group and in therapy, and co-facilitating the women's support group. Her presence as a trustworthy DV support resource in the community has established the center as a refuge for DV victims. The full-time DV case manager has also allowed the Wellness Program Coordinator (MSW I) more time for outreach, cultural presentations, trainings, collaborating with agencies, establishing integral programmatic processes, and integrating evaluations into programs.

THE ARAB CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER, CALIFORNIA



OH • Grantee Perspective

The Underserved grant funding has allowed BRAVO to expand and extend our service provider training and technical assistance programing. BRAVO's SafeZone Project represents the largest and most collaborative, comprehensive training and technical assistance program we have undertaken. BRAVO has been able to build capacity and reach places in Ohio that we had yet to provide services by providing the ability and opportunity to travel around Ohio, reaching areas not otherwise reachable with previous funding levels.

BUCKEYE REGION ANTI-VIOLENCE ORGANIZATION, OHIO



NJ • Grantee Perspective

As we have continued to work within the community, thanks to the continued funding stream, we are in a better position to offer a broader prevention and awareness program for the community. The very existence of such a program, led by a board-approved committee, is itself a tremendous step forward by the community in acknowledging the existence of the issue and, more importantly, the community's responsibility to insure the safety of each member of the congregation, which includes religious services, social functions, youth programming, and more. If this program meets its goal, we will be able to help communities statewide, and possibly nationwide, raise awareness within their own congregations of these issues without needing to have us be physically present to provide such programming, while concurrently sending a message that we remain available to offer further prevention services as well.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AND CHILDREN'S CENTER OF CLIFTON-PASSAIC INC., NEW JERSEY

Training

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

- **8** (89%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **45** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **1,414** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**17%**), victim assistants (**10%**), health professionals (**8%**), and government agency staff (**8%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.ⁱ**

- **6** (67%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **66** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **4,065** people.

Table 1 | People educated with Underserved grant funds, July 2014–June 2015: **Selected groups**

Community members educated	1-year total	
Total community members educated	4,065	
Community members	1,674	41%
Child care professionals	771	19%
Middle/high school students	725	18%
University/college students	314	8%
Parents/guardians	210	5%

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

ⁱ Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system

Victim Services

Underserved victims of domestic/sexual violence may face unique barriers to seeking and utilizing assistance. Supporting these victims with a wide range of services may include providing advocacy and support to a victim who is seeking a protection order; accompaniment during medical procedures, such as a sexual assault forensic examination; providing interpretation or translation services; assistance with safety planning; accompaniment to court; shelter and transitional housing assistance; or immigration assistance. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **6** (67%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **207** victims during each 6-month period.
- **100%** 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 **161** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **116** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **107** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **73** victims;
- Transportation services to **67** victims;
- Language services (i.e. interpretation or translation) to **49** victims; and
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **28** victims.

Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **16** times; and
 - Grantees used English, Arabic, and American Sign Language (ASL) for these activities.
- Grantees received a total of **543** hotline calls;
 - The majority of these calls (**66%**) came from victims; and
 - Grantees used English, Arabic, and ASL when responding to these requests for information or assistance.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (80%).



CA • Grantee Perspective

Underserved grant funding has made it possible for NorCal to provide dedicated services to victims. Even though all our Client Advocates are DV-trained, they are overwhelmed with other non-DV/SA clients, so that it is hard for them to focus on services to victims. Our experience working with DV/SA clients is that their service needs are urgent and often labor-intensive.

NORCAL SERVICES FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, CALIFORNIA



NJ • Grantee Perspective

Underserved grant funding has allowed us to expand our existing services and stretch our staff to continue improving their efficiency during each reporting period. We have offered individual therapy, vocational support, and material support to an increasing number of clients. Utilizing the funding, we updated the camp training that we have been offering for the past several years to include how to create a safe environment free of bullying, abuse, neglect, and assault for campers, but also for staff as well. We have been invited back to present these workshops summer after summer.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AND CHILDREN'S CENTER OF CLIFTON-PASSAIC INC., NEW JERSEY

Figure 2 | Provision of victim services by Underserved Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

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

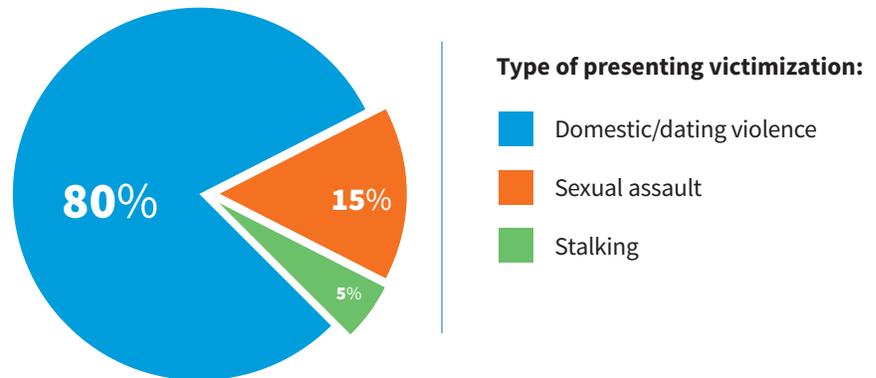


Table 2 | Victims seeking services with Underserved grant funds, July 2014–June 2015

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	207	
Victims served	204	98%
Victims partially served	4	2%
Victims not served	0	0%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Underserved 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 Underserved Program grant.

Victims' Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (83%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (9%) or by an **acquaintance** (4%).

Figure 3 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence**

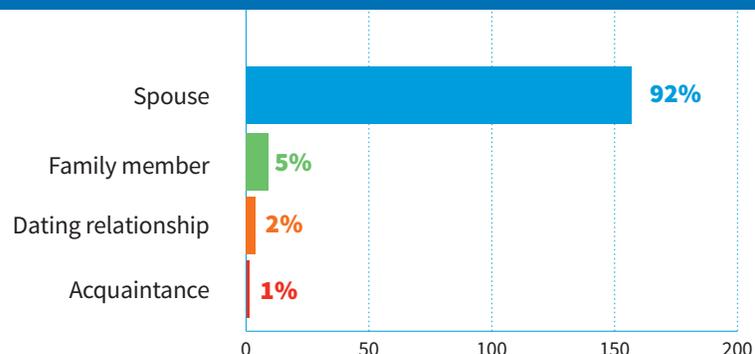


Figure 4 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault**

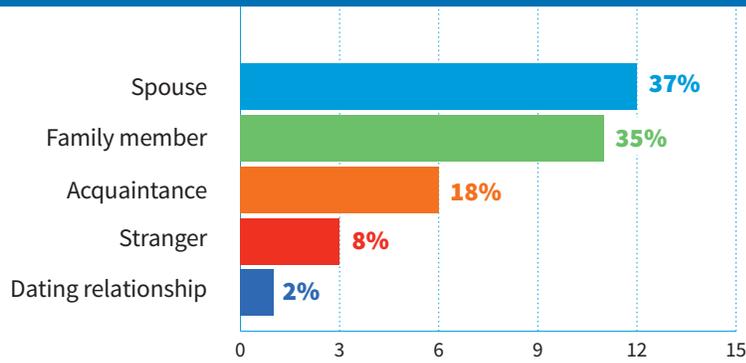
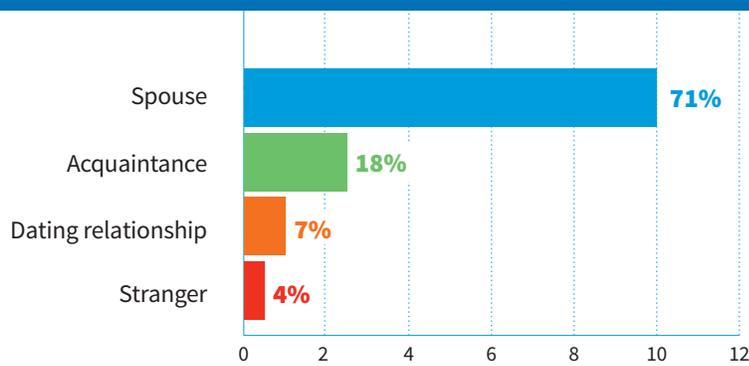


Figure 5 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**



Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **207** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of victims served were **white** (60%), **female** (94%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (81%).

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

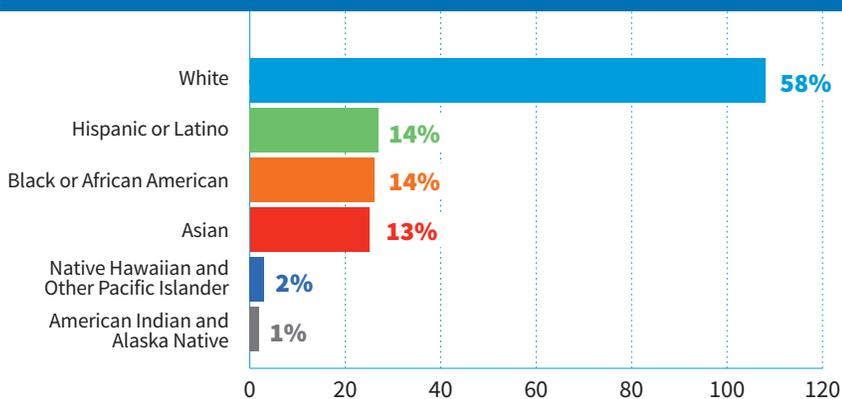
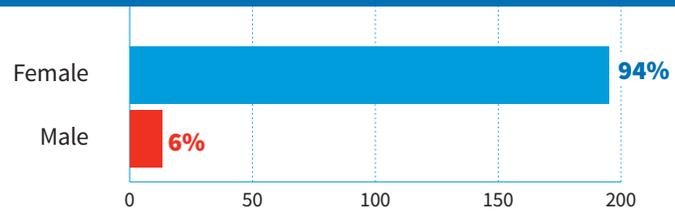
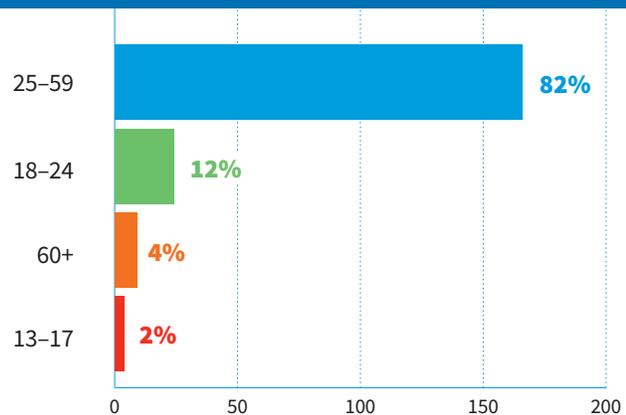
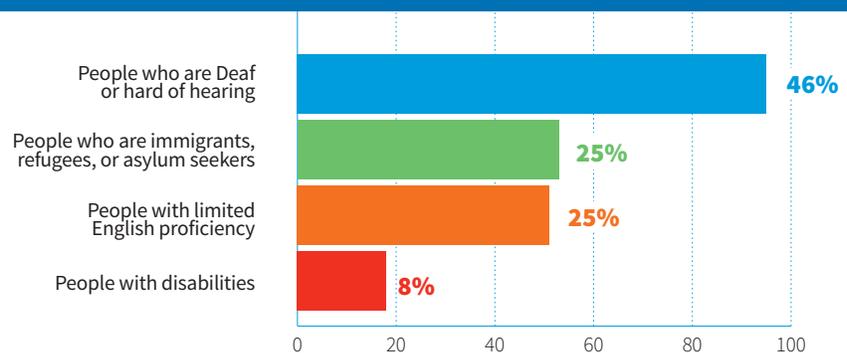


Figure 7 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)**Figure 8** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)**Figure 9** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)

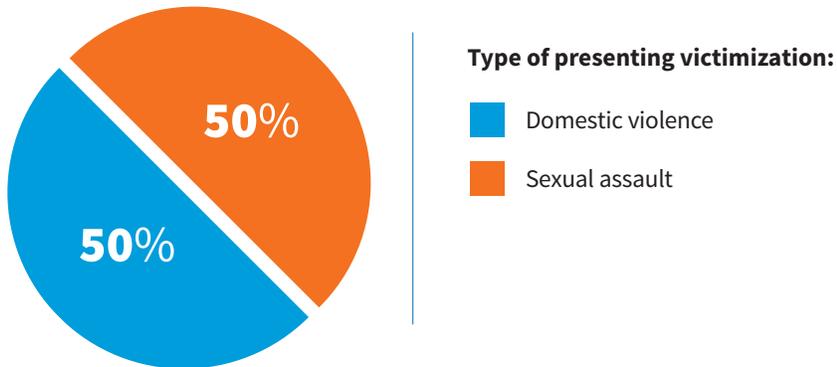
Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic/sexual violence, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **6** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

Figure 10 | Provision of services to secondary victims by Underserved Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Secondary victims served by type of victimization (6-month average)



Remaining Areas of Need

Because only two reporting periods of data are available for the Underserved Program, and the grantee pool is very small, it is not yet feasible to extrapolate trends regarding remaining areas of need reported by grantees. These will appear in future Reports to Congress.