

# Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Program

The Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Grant Program (Youth Services Program) funds projects that provide direct intervention and related assistance services for youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking that are designed to meet the specific needs of youth and young adults (ages 13-24).

**THE CONSOLIDATED GRANT PROGRAM TO ADDRESS CHILDREN AND Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies (Consolidated Youth or CY Program)** has received appropriations in FYs 2013 through 2016. This program, which consolidated four programs previously authorized under earlier iterations of VAWA, including the Youth Services Program, funds projects that support child, youth, and young adult victims through direct services, training, coordination and collaboration, effective intervention, treatment, response, and prevention strategies. The last grants made under the Youth Services Program were awarded in FY 2011.

## 32 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015, 32 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Youth Services Program.

## 912 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 912 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 6,189 Hotline Calls

Grantees received a total of 6,189 hotline calls; 76% of which came from victims.

*The 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that, among high school students who have had a dating relationship, 20.9% of female students and 10.4% of male students experienced some form of dating violence, whether physical or sexual, with all health-risk behaviors being most prevalent among students who experienced both physical and sexual abuse.<sup>420</sup>*



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving Youth Services grant funding, the Union of Pan Asian Communities was unable to address the specific needs of youth and young adults impacted by teen dating violence. Funding has allowed for the allocation of space specifically designated to those who are negatively impacted by dating violence. Hiring a Program Manager/Therapist and a part-time Youth Mentor has assisted in providing targeted services in San Diego's City Heights, Southeast San Diego, and area communities. Because the Helping Empower Authentic Relationships for Teens program is unique to the community, funding has assisted in bringing this needed service to those in San Diego who were previously underserved.

UNION OF PAN ASIAN COMMUNITIES, CALIFORNIA

The primary purpose of the Youth Services Program was to provide direct counseling and advocacy for youth and young adults who have experienced domestic/sexual violence. Grantees provided culturally, linguistically, and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations, or provided referrals to existing services in the community.

### Grantees also engaged in the following purpose areas:

- Provide mental health services, legal advocacy, and other services such as child care, transportation, educational support, and respite care for youth and young adults who have experienced domestic/sexual violence; and
- Work with public officials and agencies to develop and implement policies, rules, and procedures in order to reduce or eliminate domestic/sexual violence.

### General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **32** individual grantees for the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 progress reporting period.

- **3** (9%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Provided direct counseling and advocacy for youth and young adults;
  - Provided linguistically, culturally, and community relevant services for underserved populations; and
  - Provided mental health services for youth and young adults.



### TRIBAL • Grantee Perspective

Access to this grant has allowed the Menominee Crime Victims Program to maintain a full-time staff member who is dedicated to providing services to our youth. The Youth Victim Witness Specialist position is fully funded through this grant funding. This staff member plays an important role in services and outreach to our youth victims of sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. Through these funds, the Youth Victim Witness Specialist has been able to focus on the immediate services that have not been provided to our youth, existing services to youth and young adults on the Menominee Indian Reservation, as well as the initial crisis response.

MENOMINEE CRIME VICTIMS PROGRAM-  
MAEHNOWESEKIYAH WELLNESS CENTER

### Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, outreach, counseling, and advocacy to increase youth victim safety. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **32** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **29** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates, program coordinators, and counselors.

Table 1   Staff supported with Youth Services grant funds, July 2013 - June 2015: Selected groups	
Staff funded	6-month average
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>29</b>
Victim advocates	8 29%
Counselors	8 28%
Program coordinators	7 23%
Outreach workers	3 10%
Administrators	2 6%

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

## Victims Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims of domestic/sexual violence, including counseling, victim advocacy, crisis intervention, and legal advocacy. Victims also receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed.

**These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help youth become and remain safe from violence.**

- **32** (100%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **912** 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:

- Counseling/support group services to **576** victims;
- Victim advocacy services to **445** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **368** victims;
- Transportation services to **152** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **135** victims;
- Housing advocacy to **107** victims;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **106** victims; and
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment services to **70** victims.

### Other services:

- Grantees received a total of **6,189** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**76%**) came from victims.

Grantees also provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.



### FL • Grantee Perspective

The Youth Services grant has connected vulnerable populations, specifically migrant, human trafficking, and LGBT youth to Sexual Assault Services and Corbett Trauma Center, who would not have had access to medical exams, crisis intervention, advocacy, and counseling. The relationships and collaborations that developed between community members and CCTB has resulted in wrap-around services for those most vulnerable to violence. These collaborations mean improved sexual assault services; access to HIV/AIDS prophylaxis; and mental health, substance abuse, and other services that are often a result of victimization. In addition, cross-training between agencies and service providers ensure a continued holistic response for youth who experience sexual violence.

**CRISIS CENTER OF TAMPA BAY, INC., FLORIDA**

**Table 2** | Victims sheltered with Youth Services grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	7	3	919
Transitional housing	2	3	691
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,610</b>

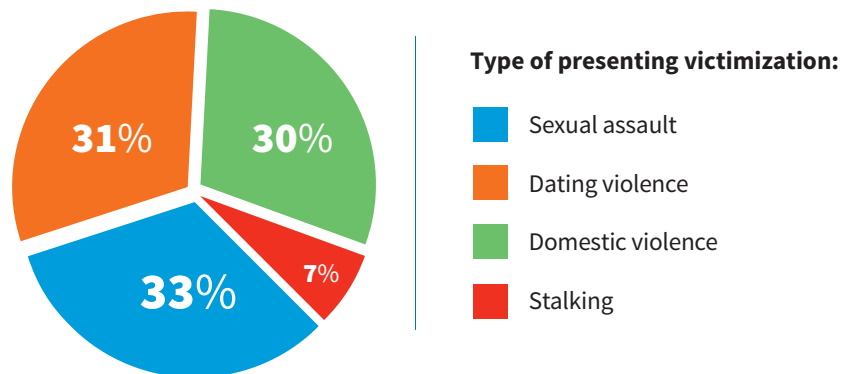
## Victims Seeking Services

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 **sexual assault** (33%).

**Figure 1** | Provision of victim services by Youth Services Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

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

**Table 3** | Victims seeking services with Youth Services grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>924</b>	
Victims served	901	98%
Victims partially served	11	1%
Victims not served	11	1%

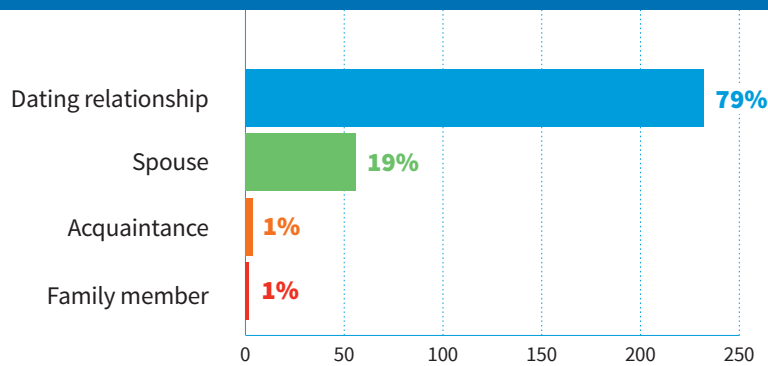
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Youth Services Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided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

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

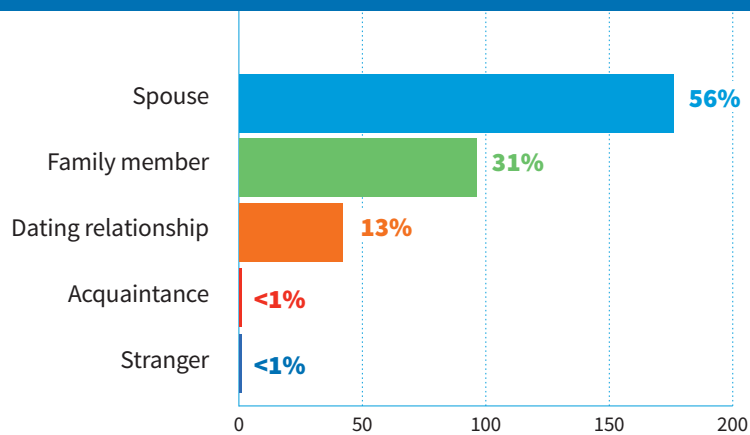
Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (34%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (27%) or a **family or household member** (19%).

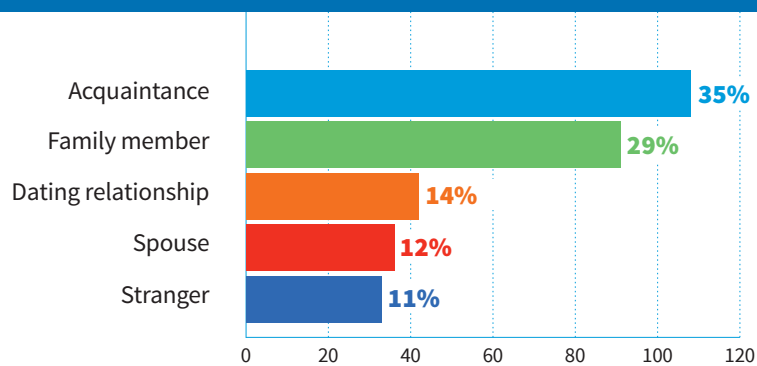
**Figure 2** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Dating violence**

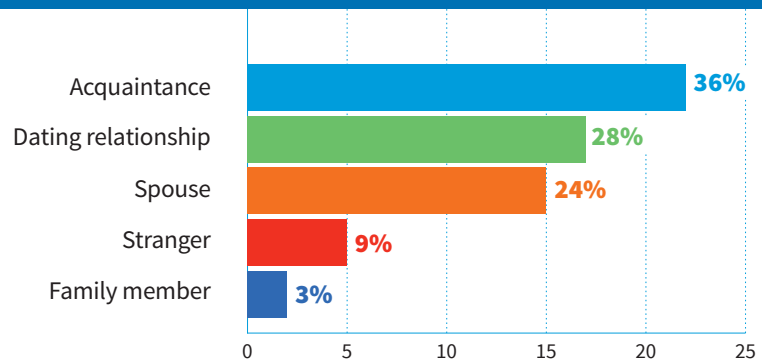


**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic violence**



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



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

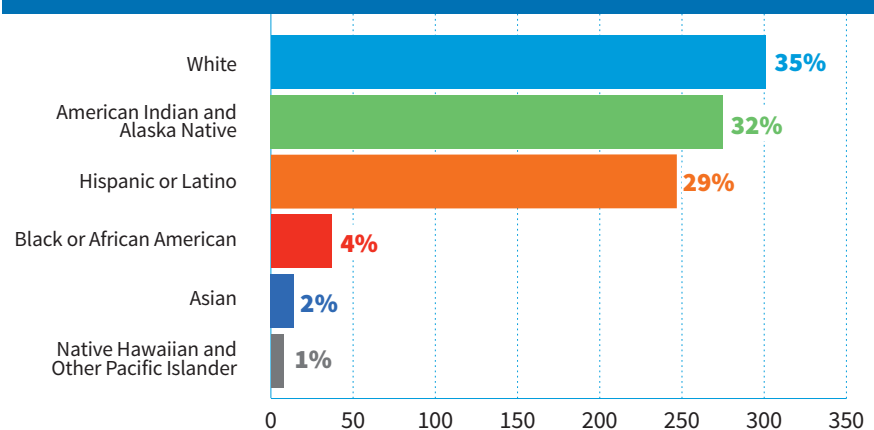
## Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

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

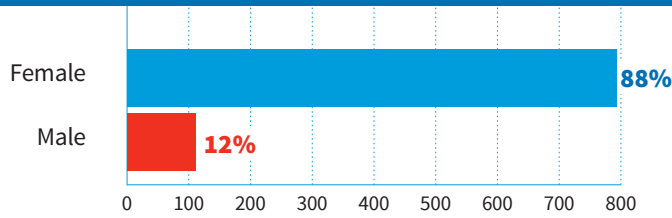
- Program reached capacity;
- Transportation;
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims with mental health issues;
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims with substance abuse issues;
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements; or
- Program unable to provide services due to limited resources.

## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

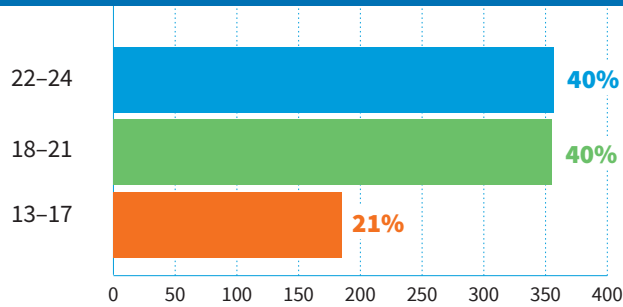
Grantees served or partially served an average of **912** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **white** (35%), **female** (88%), and between the ages of **13 and 17** (40%).

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

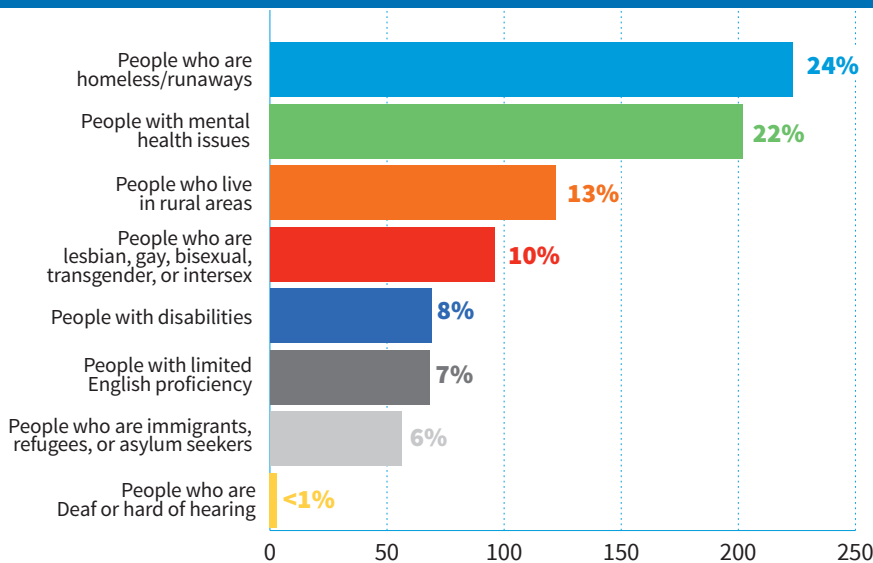
**Figure 7** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**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)



**OH • Grantee Perspective**

Lack of education about the definition of dating violence, how to identify dating violence, and how to assist young victims continue to be themes that we see in our communities throughout Cuyahoga County. The full-time advocate has continued to hear from school personnel that dating violence does not occur in their schools, that law enforcement did not pursue a protection order violation, or that the juvenile detective is not going to pursue the case because of their age. As we have continued to work on this project for the past several years, it is evident that continued education and collaboration around issues of dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault is needed as a means to better connect teens with services.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, OHIO**



### MN • Grantee Perspective

Throughout our grant period we have seen a steady rise in the number of clients who self-identify as having mental health issues. Along with that rise we have observed more clients who would like to build mental health supports as part of their goal plans. With this growing number we see a need for more flexible mental health resources for youth and young adults. Clients who are highly mobile, have limited communication methods (phones or email), or limited transportation access are often unable to continue with certain mental healthcare services due to lack of consistent appointment attendance. More open access, walk-in options, or call-in service options would assist many young people with connecting with mental health resources on a regular basis.

TUBMAN, MINNESOTA



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Because many youth depend on either public or parental transportation, their active and consistent participation in intervention services depends also on these modes of transportation and support. It is believed that groups that focus on dating, and address unhealthy dating practices, are best delivered in the school setting as a part of the teens' daily regime and curriculum. Doing so will eliminate the barrier of transportation, help youth more easily make the transition from prevention to intervention services, and provide a consistent message to all cultures, gender/sexual identifications, and to both victims and potential perpetrators.

UNION OF PAN ASIAN COMMUNITIES, CALIFORNIA



### GA • Grantee Perspective

Another area of significant need is in regards to working with LGBT victims of dating/domestic violence (including stalking and sexual assault). This is a group that has limited access, in some cases, to local resources, depending on where the victim resides. They may feel outside of the "accepted" community as it is, and are grappling with seeking help while in an abusive relationship, which adds another layer of stress to the equation. Victims sometimes experience re-victimization, minimization, or re-traumatization, because social service organizations lack the required skill and training to appropriately address DV in the LGBT community. This again underscores the need for education, not just around DV, but also in addressing DV in the LGBT community and educating organizations that may serve this population.

CHRIS KIDS, INC., GEORGIA

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited a need for **better education and outreach** to youth, parents, and the community at large on **prevention and awareness of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking** among young people, and to **increase visibility of available services**.

Grantees indicated a need for **better training among program staff, law enforcement, and teachers** in order to:

- Combat victim-blaming mentalities;
- Increase awareness of the dynamics of domestic/sexual violence among young people;
- Increase offender accountability; and
- Encourage reporting of domestic/sexual violence.

In addition to providing better training and education, grantees noted that **many young victims lack access to basic necessities**, including:

- Safe shelter and long-term housing options;
- Transportation;
- Child care;
- Education and job training;
- Employment; and
- Mental health services.

Grantees emphasized the need for **services to be easily accessible to young people**, who often lack transportation.

Finally, grantees noted a need to improve services and outreach to **underserved populations**, including:

- LGBT populations;
- Male victims;
- Victims with limited English proficiency; and
- Immigrant victims.



### TN • Grantee Perspective

The most significant area of need in our community for youth and young adults experiencing violence is for safe and affordable housing. We find that a large portion of our clients are homeless coming into the Youth on Living Life without Abuse program, whether they are staying in a shelter, on the streets, or are "couch-homeless," and staying with friends or family. Although we have a local Transitional Housing Program for victims of DV/SA, this program typically has quite a long wait list as well as limited resources to help victims. We have found that a large portion of our time is spent problem-solving with clients around their housing situations and, often, permanent solutions take months to materialize due to limited subsidized housing availability in Knoxville.

HELEN ROSS MCNABB CENTER, TENNESSEE