

How does OVW use grantee progress report data?

This document summarizes and provides real examples of how the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) uses grantee-reported data.

MONITORING | Ensuring that grantees are doing what they were funded to do, accomplishing project goals, and not engaging in activities that compromise victim safety or other unallowable activities | Checking for discrepancies between reported activities and drawdown history | Spotting training and technical assistance needs | Reports are also reviewed during DOJ Inspector General audits

- *Grantee financial reports show significant drawdowns over a given project period, but the corresponding progress reports shows that virtually no activities occurred. Grantee is selected for a desk review, and might be referred for further monitoring.*
- *Grantee reports that specific victims receiving OVW-funded services are discussed at multi-agency meetings, without the victims' knowledge or written consent. OVW issues corrective action requirements to the grantee, including a requirement that the grantee obtain technical assistance and training.*

FULFILLING CONGRESSIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS | Reporting biennially on the effectiveness of VAWA programs | Congressionally-mandated reports on STOP, SASP, the Campus Program, and stalking

The 2016 biennial report to Congress on the effectiveness of VAWA grants (<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/933886/download>) reported that OVW grantees served 124,916 victims and paid 3,008 FTE salaries and wages, on average, every six months. Over two years, grantees reported that VAWA-funded law enforcement officers made 66,095 arrests and prosecutors disposed of 125,812 cases. The report included these quotes from a grantee's progress report:

- *“The grant has given us the freedom to focus on our cases, dedicating a significant amount of time to developing relationships with victims and identifying the underlying issues in their cases. This has led to the successful prosecution of several repeat offenders whose victims were previously uncooperative. Once victims understood that we offered judgment-free support and assistance, they were more likely to return for help, and more educated about their options for safety.” (Haywood County, North Carolina 30th Judicial District Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Alliance, Inc.)*
- *“Before OVW grant funding, victims of domestic violence in Steele County were forced to endure a series of intolerable situations. They lived with relatives in crowded and often unsafe housing units...In many cases, they continued to live with their abusers. Funding has allowed us to provide victims and their children with the housing they need.” (Steele County, Minnesota)*

IDENTIFYING TRENDS, PROMISING PRACTICES, AND AREAS OF NEED | Identifying office-wide and program-specific funding priorities | Informing statutory changes to programs | Supporting requests for increased appropriations

- *An analysis of funds allocated and used for sexual assault-focused activities in STOP, Rural, and Arrest influenced VAWA 2013 changes to those programs, i.e., set-asides and new purpose areas, and the inclusion of sexual assault as an office-wide priority in past years' solicitations.*
- *Frequent, cross-program identification of legal services as an unmet need influenced the VAWA 2013 addition of civil legal services to some programs, including Rural.*

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT | Measuring OVW's progress towards strategic objectives | Participating in DOJ strategic objectives review, per the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 | Targeting funding and technical assistance, by program

- *Grantee data on victims served and protection orders issued are reported twice annually and used to gauge OVW's progress towards performance targets.*
- *Beginning in FY 2016, OVW is using grantee-reported data on the percentage of cases accepted for prosecution or referred to a higher or lower court as a performance measure related to DOJ-wide strategic objectives.*
- *Rural Program data on services provided to sexual assault victims and underserved populations are used by OVW staff to justify prioritization of these areas in solicitations.*

RESPONDING TO DATA REQUESTS | Grantee data are supplied in response to audits, assessments, and other inquiries from the White House, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Office of Audit, Assessment, and Management (OAAM), and Congress, as well as FOIA requests from the media and others.

- *Provided GAO with progress report data on Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) staffing and training in response to a 2015 inquiry about the extent to which VAWA funds support these activities.*
- *Used extensive progress report narrative quotes from grantees to answer a recent data request from DOJ leadership about how OVW grantees use their grants funds to address trafficking, such as:*
 - *"An example of increased, effective coordination involved a young lady who was arrested and held in our local jail on assault charges. Through investigation and communication between different agencies, the team uncovered that she was a victim of sex trafficking who had been taken from Washington to Oregon. Through a quick, coordinated community response the team found the appropriate resources and worked together to get her out of the very dangerous situation and to a safe place within a couple of days." (Jefferson County, OR)*
- *A December 2014 Washington Post article, "Colleges often reluctant to expel for sexual violence," reported that "dozens of colleges and universities that receive grants from [OVW] have answered surveys about internal discipline of sexual misconduct...The information indicates that sexual offenders are often allowed to stay in school."*