

# Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program<sup>i</sup>

The Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (ICJR 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 ICJR 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.**

## 198 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 198 unique grantees reported activities funded by the ICJR Program.

## 39,632 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 39,632 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 119,198 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 119,198 cases.

*Research shows that a more negative response from police can increase the likelihood of victims experiencing greater PTSD symptom severity (Srinivas & DePrince, 2015).*

*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 (Broidy, Albright, & Denman, 2016).*

<sup>i</sup> Formerly the Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, this program was renamed beginning in FY 2016 to more accurately reflect the scope of the program. Throughout this report, the program will be referred to as ICJR.



### MT • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program Funding has allowed the Lake County Attorney's Office to prosecute domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault cases in a focused, systematic, equitable, and thorough manner which never existed before. Having an attorney and staff member solely devoted to these cases has lessened the burden of the other over-worked Deputy County Attorneys and their staff. It has allowed us to develop a comprehensive approach to victim outreach and a positive working relationship with the non-governmental victim's rights advocates. This ensures that victims who wish to play an active role in bringing their abuser to justice have a voice throughout the process.

LAKE COUNTY, MONTANA



### WV • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program has allowed West Virginia to fill a training void that had been present for several years. The ICJR Program is basically the only funding available to conduct domestic violence training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial personnel, and victim advocates.

DIVISION OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES,  
WEST VIRGINIA

### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program has allowed the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to systematically address the issues of sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence within our community. Through the monthly Coordinated Community Response meetings, individuals from law enforcement, the prosecuting attorney's office, the probation department, the Women's Resource Center, and many more come together to address the community's needs. Additionally, the purchase of software and a cell phone for the project director of the Coordinated Community Response team makes services accessible 24/7. With specific software, the CCR project director can assist in holding offenders accountable in a more timely and accurate manner. Lastly, these funds have allowed the CCR project director to attend educational conferences and trainings that lead to better services for victims.

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA  
INDIANS

The scope of the ICJR 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).

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 **198** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **9** (5%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Strengthen legal advocacy service programs;
  - Centralize and coordinate police enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility; and
  - Develop and implement policies and training directed at the criminal justice response to sexual assault.

## 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.**

- **194** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **400** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with ICJR grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>400</b>	
Victim advocates	<b>151</b>	<b>38%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>57</b>	<b>14%</b>
Law enforcement officers	<b>28</b>	<b>7%</b>
Prosecutors	<b>27</b>	<b>7%</b>
Victim assistants	<b>23</b>	<b>6%</b>
Administrators	<b>20</b>	<b>5%</b>

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



### IL • Grantee Perspective

ICJR program funding has allowed for the grant-funded staff to interface directly with campus officials responsible for providing federally mandated remedies for student survivors as well as those responsible for prevention, awareness, and response programming for sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking on campus and in surrounding communities. This collaboration requires travel across Cook County and time to meet one-on-one, and ensures schools have a direct contact when referring student victims to VOICES (Violence on Illinois Campuses Elimination Strategies). This networking has created a direct line of communication when students report to Title IX who need, or request support outside of their institutions administration process. In addition, this funding has provided time for the specialized Assistant State Attorney to effectively respond, investigate, and prosecute these cases. The grant-funded ASA is able to engage the victim early in the legal process and offer comprehensive “wrap-around” services throughout.

#### COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Funding has enabled Safe Horizon to assign a case manager to the 46th Precinct and a court-based senior case manager to the Bronx Criminal Court. They provide victims of domestic violence with comprehensive, client-centered services at the earliest stages, throughout the life of the court case, and even after interaction with the criminal justice system has ended. Staff help victims of domestic violence manage their risk and make informed decisions about ongoing safety. They conduct safety assessments, assist with safety planning, provide options and support decisions. Clients in need of additional services will often return to the precinct-based case manager and court-based senior case manager. As a result of this funding, we enhanced our outreach to victims and survivors of domestic violence and crime. We provided clients with assistance to address risks to safety, connected clients to resources that aim to improve safety and self-sufficiency, and assisted with navigating the criminal justice process.

#### OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT, NEW YORK



### OK • Grantee Perspective

ICJR Program funding has provided a Coordinated Community Response Specialist who trains and assists all 77 counties. Addressing domestic and sexual violence is carried out in a coordinated manner with victim safety and offender accountability as the main focus. The CCRS has helped four teams build a CCRT or SART and three teams re-build CCRTs that had fallen apart or lost focus. Funding has allowed for 9 training events to address multiple issues including protective order enforcement, trauma-informed responses, team building and planning, and use of expert witnesses to over 200 professionals who work with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL, OKLAHOMA

*An additional impact of the VAWA 2013 reauthorization emphasis on enhanced services for victims of sexual assault was a 45% increase in the number of SAFE/SANE providers trained by ICJR grantees. These ICJR grantees reported training 466 SAFE/SANE professionals during the January to June 2013 reporting period and 675 in the July to December 2016 reporting period.*



### KY • Grantee Perspective

The grant-funded victim advocate received 337 referrals and provided services to 261 victims during this period. Without the funding for this position, the Division of Police would not be able to serve the number of DV and crime victims it currently does. The work performed by the advocate is without reservation, the most beneficial element provided by this grant. They provide advocacy for victims from the onset of their experience. Standing alongside victims at Protective Order hearings; guiding them through the often alarming court processes associated with protecting themselves and their families while prosecuting a perpetrator; helping victims when perpetrators violate protective orders; safety planning and assistance with shelter placement; referrals for partner agencies to assist the survivors to get their lives back to normal. Their services only end when the victims no longer feel a need for their assistance

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT, KENTUCKY

## 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.**

- **137** (69%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **4,861** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **99,000** people.
- Most often these trainings reached law enforcement officers (**33%**), victim advocates (**11%**), health professionals (**8%**), and multidisciplinary groups (**7%**).

## 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.**

- **158** (80%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **39,632** 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 **22,093** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **19,906** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment services to **11,034** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment services to **10,950** victims; and
- Support group/counseling services to **8,713** victims.

### Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **116,406** times;
- Grantees received a total of **303,049** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**53%**) came from victims.

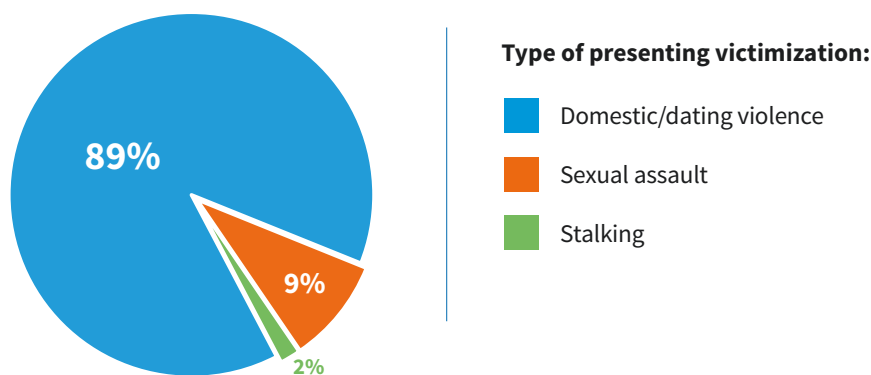
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (89%).

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

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



**Table 2** | Victims seeking services with ICJR grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>39,914</b>	
Victims served	38,949	98%
Victims partially served	683	2%
Victims not served	282	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 ICJR 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 ICJR Program grant.

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (68%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (18%) or by another **family or household member** (9%).



### PA • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program funding has provided A Woman's Place with the ability to offer 24/7 crisis intervention for victims of domestic violence across the entire county. In addition to the crisis response, the First Response team provides court accompaniment and advocacy that results in better outcomes for clients and increases offender accountability. In one case, the First Response advocate was working with a woman whose abuser had a warrant out for his arrest for stalking her, was violating the PFA on a regular basis, and was evading police by hiding in a different county. After some advocacy with the Sergeant Detective, the department reported his whereabouts to the local jurisdiction where he was hiding and they were able to pick him up within three days. He was recently given a two year state sentence and the victim is finally able to move on with her life.

**BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Without this funding, the YWCA of Central Massachusetts would not be able to respond with on-site, prolonged support and advocacy, especially in high risk cases where the inability to respond in person immediately would negatively impact a survivor's initial outcome. Also, the Advocate provides on-going services and advocacy in pre-existing gaps in services at the courthouse. The Advocate (Court-based Interventionist) was able to improve the cross referral system between the YWCA and other agencies connected to survivors such as district and superior courts and personnel in the District Attorney's (DA's) office. For example, the Advocate met with a participant in crisis at District Court who was in the process of obtaining a 209A protective order. The Advocate connected the victim with the DA's office and assisted the victim in successfully advocating her needs to ensure her safety. Further, the Advocate provided court accompaniment for the subsequent criminal court proceedings.

**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**



**CA • Grantee Perspective**

The ICJR Program funding allows the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) to provide enhanced services to clients. In March, after a 911 call to the Elk Grove Police Department (EGPD) dispatch, a 50 year old woman was transported to the emergency room. She sustained injuries from an abusive incident. The DVRT advocate was dispatched to respond to the client and offer her services. At first, the client did not want to speak to the advocate. She said “I just want to go home.” The hospital social worker did not want to release her without a safety plan in place. The DVRT advocate discussed options with the client. A week after the incident, the client reached out to the DVRT advocate and said that she was in a safe place. The ICJR Program funding allows the DVRT to address each clients’ needs as they arise. If not for the ICJR Program funding, it is possible that this client would have left the hospital against medical advice and returned to her abusive husband.

**CITY OF ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA**

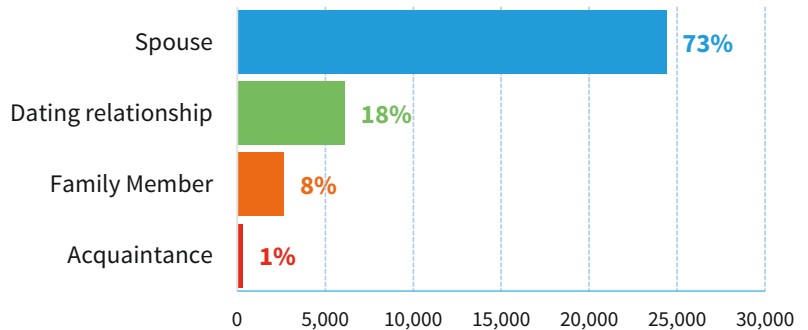


**ME • Grantee Perspective**

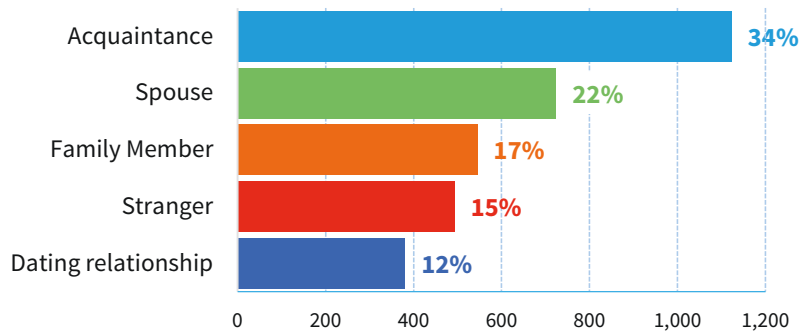
Without the ICJR Program funding, the Violence Intervention Partnership would not be able to provide services and outreach to populations identified as underserved and at risk, or specialized community supervision, both pre- and post- trial. The project would not be able to provide education/support groups, case management, and transition services for incarcerated victims of domestic violence, a population that is often overlooked. Ninety-four victims (187 total) incarcerated at the Cumberland County Jail, and Maine Correctional Center, have received these services from the Incarcerated Victim Advocate in the last six months. She has also been an active participant in the referral process for the County’s new Second Chance Act Project Re-entry, which has a special focus on women with co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance abuse).

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

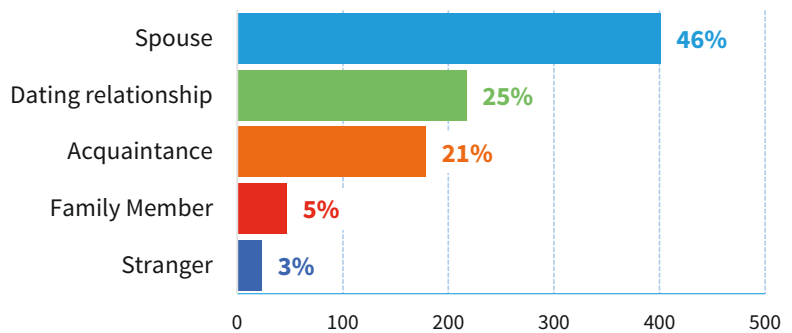
**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual Assault** (6-month average)



**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



**Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served**

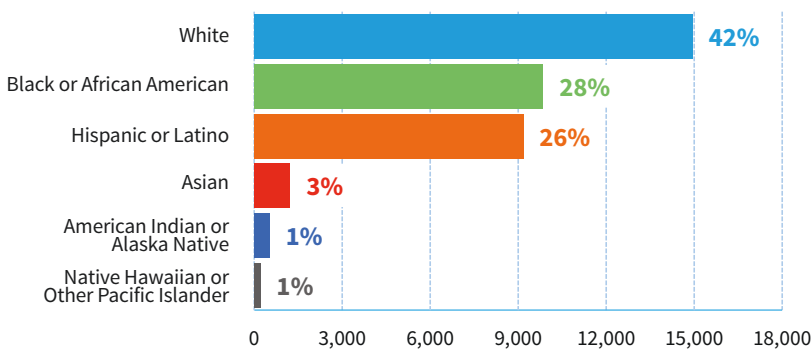
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

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

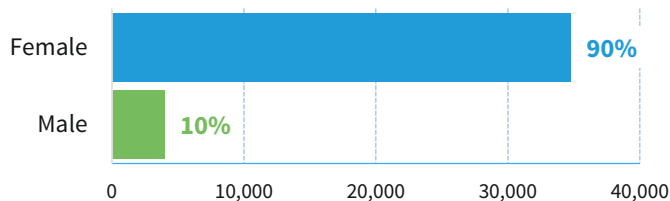
## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **39,632** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (42%), **female** (90%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (75%).

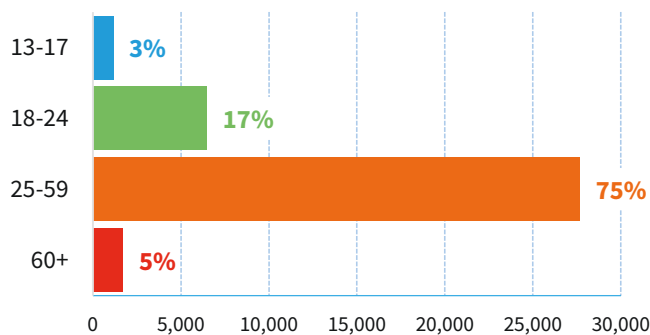
**Figure 5** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



**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)



### CO • Grantee Perspective

The Arrest Grant has allowed Alternative Horizons (AH) to continue its collaborative relationship with the 6th Judicial District Attorney's Office. The AH Legal Advocate is a welcomed non-systems addition to the victim services provided to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking during domestic violence court proceedings. The AH Legal Advocate is able to provide support, counseling, and important referrals to victims at the time of court hearings and proceedings and beyond. The AH Legal Advocate has continued contact with victims outside of the courtroom setting and is able to provide holistic services to help establish safety.

COLORADO JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT



### CA • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed SAVE to leverage the success of its advocate stationed at the Fremont Police Department and garner a small amount of additional funding from that department to offer after hours "on call" services. Officers now call a SAVE advocate during the evening and overnight hours to get immediate assistance when they are on scene at a domestic violence call. The advocate is placed on the phone with the victim and offers immediate crisis counseling and access to emergency shelter and transportation. In particularly severe cases, the advocate will meet the officers and screen the victim at the hospital, providing in person services. This grant allows Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), through coordination with other funded agencies, to provide in-depth case management assuring that all needs of the survivor are addressed. Because of this funding, Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) continues to be the only agency in Eastern Alameda County that provides free restraining order assistance. TVH offers two weekly legal clinics, one in Livermore and one in Pleasanton, and TVH's Legal Services Advocate is available to meet with clients by appointment if they are unable to attend either of the scheduled clinics.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

A recent study examining ten years of National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data found that while mandatory arrest statutes have resulted in higher arrest rates, the impacts of primary aggressor laws have been mixed. The findings indicate that primary aggressor laws effectively decrease the number of dual arrests as a percentage of overall arrests; however the overall percentage of police interventions in intimate partner violence that result in arrest appears to decline in jurisdictions implementing these laws. Further, there is significant variation in rates of arrest based on the race and sexual orientations of the victim and offender. These findings point to a need for further research into the effectiveness and impact of arrest laws (Hirschel et al., 2017).



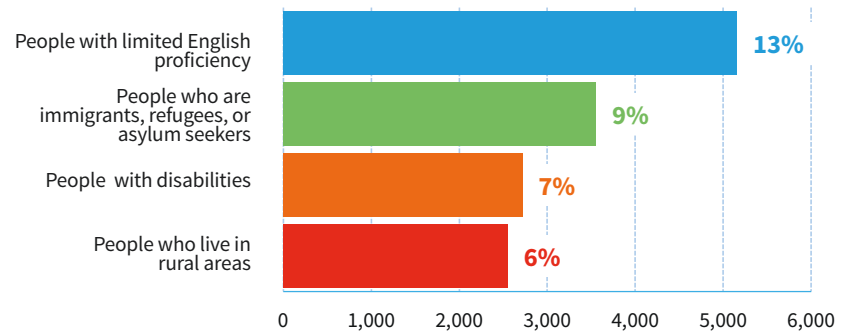
#### AL • Grantee Perspective

The One Place Family Justice Center is the first center in the state to have an on-site magistrate. This is essential in the timeliness of serving our victims. The victims do not have to come to the Justice Center, then go to another location to sign a warrant. The last reporting period the magistrate issued 95 misdemeanor domestic violence warrants and 19 felony domestic violence warrants.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION, ALABAMA

*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 (Hamby et al., 2015).<sup>225</sup>*

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



## Criminal Justice

The ICJR 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.

- **57** (29%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **85,314** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

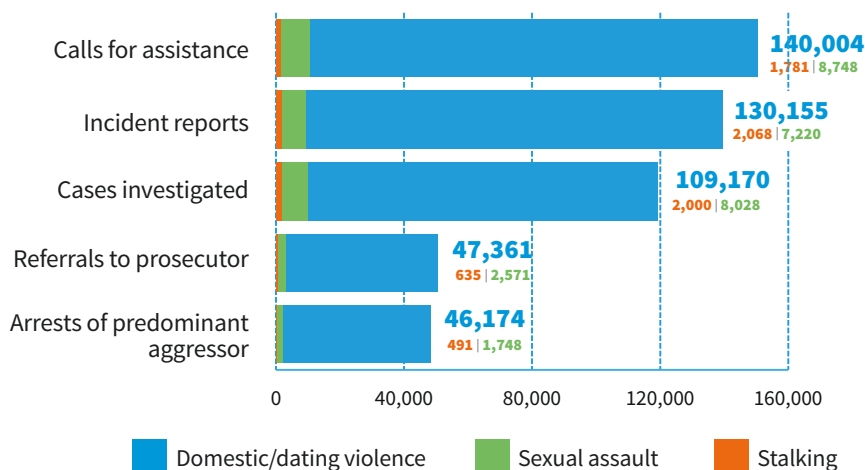
**A proactive response and victim-centered attitude influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.**

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 ICJR Program criminal cases, July 2015–June 2017



**TX • Grantee Perspective**

This grant allows the Webb County Sheriff’s Office to dedicate the time and efforts of a full-time investigator to work only on cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Webb County. The progress on these cases is much faster and more efficient due to the investigator concentrating on these often time consuming, difficult, and complex cases. It also helps the victim get the services much faster. Once the suspects are arrested, the victims will get their emergency protective orders put in place very quickly and the victim will feel safer. As the investigator works these cases exclusively, he is better able to keep track of reports, arrests, cases, and work much more closely with other agencies to help expedite the process to help victims gain assistance and help prevent the perpetrator from re-committing these types of crimes.

**WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS**

*The VAWA 2013 emphasis on improving responses to victims of sexual assault may be evident in the criminal justice outcomes reported by ICJR grantees before and after its implementation. During the January to June 2013 reporting period, ICJR-funded prosecution offices reported that 69% of their felony sexual assault cases resulted in convictions. By the July to December 2016 reporting period, this rose to 80%. Specifically, 464 of the 672 felony sexual assault cases disposed of during the January to June 2013 reporting period resulted in conviction, while 602 of the 752 felony sexual assault cases disposed of during the July to December 2016 period resulted in convictions.*

**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.

- **40** (20%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecutors received a total of **126,337** case referrals pertaining to domestic/sexual violence, and accepted a total of **92,248**<sup>ii</sup> (73%) cases for prosecution across the 2-year period.
- Prosecution staff made a total of **79,157** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

**Table 3** Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the ICJR Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
<b>All cases</b>	<b>126,337</b>	<b>92,248</b>	<b>73%</b>
Domestic/dating violence	117,433	85,287	73%
Sexual assault	5,923	4,192	71%
Stalking	2,981	2,769	93%



**TX • Grantee Perspective**

The ICJR Program funding allows the DA’s Office to create the Intimate Partner Sexual Assault Unit that is leading to a number of enhancements in the way we serve victims and prosecute cases. The DA’s Office streamlined the case assignment system, leading to quicker connections with victims within the continuum, and has implemented a new policy that allows the IPSA prosecutor to handle all co-occurring domestic violence-related offenses within the same incident. They have developed a robust dashboard around case and victim information that allows us to learn more about the cases assigned to the IPSA Unit.

**TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

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



**AZ • Grantee Perspective**

ICJR Grant Funding allows the Pima County Attorney’s Office (PCAO) to operate with a fully staffed centralized DV Prosecution Unit. DV cases are issued by a very experienced prosecutor. If cases proceed to a preliminary hearing, we attempt to keep those cases with that attorney who handled the preliminary hearing for the duration of the case. This allows our felony prosecutors to be familiar with their cases early on in the process and work with their victims from the very beginning of their cases. Arrest Grant funding has also allowed and ensured that our prosecutors receive appropriate Domestic Violence training, including training on intimate partner sexual assaults and strangulation. Many of the victims in our cases are also involved in concurrent litigation related to family law and immigration issues. Our referral program to Southern Arizona Legal Aid had helped support victims through that process, allowing them to successfully participate in the criminal case. It also ensures that victims receive the proper assistance through Emerge and the PCAO victim advocates.

**PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA**



**ID • Grantee Perspective**

Without ICJR Program funding, in-court advocacy for victims would not be a reality in Bannock County. The resources of the local advocacy program providing the advocates were stretched thin, but with the funding, they were able to hire more advocates to provide court advocacy. In the past six months, Bannock County has seen an increase in the number of requests for criminal court advocacy and requests for assistance in completing civil protection order petitions.

**BANNOCK COUNTY, IDAHO**

**Table 4** | Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the ICJR Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
<b>All cases</b>	<b>90,734</b>	<b>44,713</b>	<b>49%</b>
Domestic/dating violence	81,760	38,860	48%
Sexual assault	3,426	2,448	71%
Stalking	466	320	69%

**NOTE:** Convictions include deferred adjudications.

### Courts

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

- **9** (5%) grantees used funds for court activities.
- Court staff made a total of **8,067** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

Courts funded by the ICJR 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 **960** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.
- A total of **9,462** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.

The data reported in Table 5 reflect the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **1%** of the cases and issued fines in **4%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**16%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**39%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **8%** of the cases.

**Table 5** Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by ICJR Program-funded courts, July 2015–June 2017

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of parole	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 63)	0	0%	11	17%	12	19%	17	27%	17	27%
New criminal behavior (N = 90)	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%	10	11%	34	38%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 57)	2	4%	6	11%	0	0%	12	21%	22	39%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 69)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	9	13%	18	26%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 54)	0	0%	10	5%	0	0%	6	11%	16	30%

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

## 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.

- **20** (10%) grantees used funds for probation activities.
- Probation staff made a total of **5,089** 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 **4,684** 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 **102,465** face-to-face contacts with an average of **3,744** offenders;
  - A total of **84,927** telephone contacts with an average of **3,334** offenders; and
  - A total of **39,431** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **2,104** offenders.



### GA • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program continues to allow judges not only to order respondents to a Family Violence Intervention Program but to have a Compliance Officer monitor their status. The Compliance Officer meets with respondents immediately after a 12-month order has been granted. Respondents are provided a list of classes and must choose a program before they leave court. During the compliance hearing, the Compliance Officer provides the judge with a status report. The status report will include but is not limited to, if there has been contact with the petitioner/victim, class attendance, if they are paying class fees, and checking in with the Compliance Officer twice a month by phone or email. The check-ins by phone or email give the respondents an opportunity to address any concerns or issues that might arise, ask any questions, and/or give feedback on progress they are making while attending classes. Since our Compliance Project began, we have been able to monitor respondents who moved out of state. These individuals must provide documentation of their residence, and report by phone or email. The respondents who reside out of state are not required to return to court as often as those that reside in Georgia. We've had respondents complete their programs in Alabama, Florida, Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland.

**DEKALB COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT, GEORGIA**



### TN • Grantee Perspective

This funding has expanded Metro's Office of Family Safety work on high risk cases of domestic violence. The implementation of the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) throughout Metro Nashville–Davidson County has significantly changed the way that intimate partner cases are responded to by all partners. The formalization of the High Risk Intervention Panel and the creation of the Weekly Advisory Committee case review has increased the number of cases provided a review exponentially. In 2016, an average of 3 cases were reviewed per monthly meeting and in 2017, that average increased to 6 cases reviewed per monthly meeting. In addition, the 184 weekly reviews were added to the high risk review process where there was previously no weekly review. This funding will continue to provide Nashville with the tools needed to make sure the high risk cases receive the wrap-around services and offender accountability they require.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



### LA • Grantee Perspective

While our area still has a much higher rate of domestic violence than the nation, the rate of domestic violence in Ouachita Parish has dropped 35% since the opening of the Family Justice Center in 2005. Because of the ICJR funds, our area has seen a reduction in homicides. The FJC, SAFE Task Force and The Wellspring were recognized by the LA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) in October 2015 with a report that Northeast Louisiana recent data shows that there has been a drop of roughly 70% in domestic homicides since 2011. This is the first time that any area in the state of Louisiana has seen a reduction in homicides. This proves that collaboration of the FJC, Coordinated Community Response and community is saving lives while being firm about holding batterers accountable for their actions.

#### OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA



### MA • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program funding allows our small non-profit to provide a cost-effective service to victims of domestic violence by training and supervising volunteer advocates to work in partnership with police departments to provide a coordinated community response. This funding supports the recruitment, training, supervision, and continued professional development of volunteer advocates, broadening the response to crisis intervention in our communities. It also allows us to train police about the complex issues surrounding victims who live with abuse. Police in our departments learn to approach these situations with greater understanding, compassion, and skills that allow more humane and appropriate outcomes for the victims. To date, 90 police officers have participated in our 40-hour advocate training with volunteer civilians.

#### TOWN OF BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

- A total of **5,762** 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 **2,272** (39%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**1,619** or 71%);
  - Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (BIP) represented **1,201** (21%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**705** or 59%); and
  - New criminal behavior accounted for **938** (16%) of violations and was the violation most likely to result in partial or full revocation of probation (**708** or 75%).

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 **3%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**12%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**64%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **12%** of the cases.

**Table 6** Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by ICJR Program-funded probation and parole agencies, July 2015–June 2017

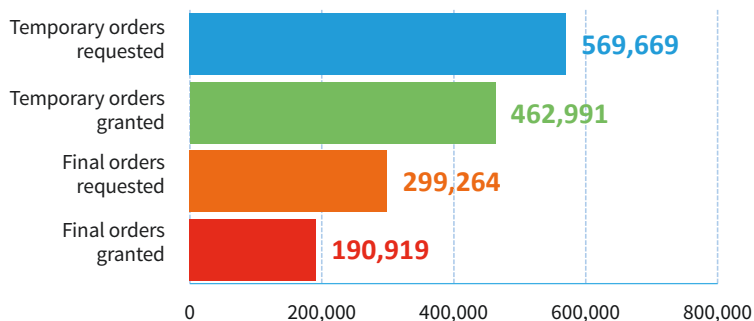
Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of probation	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 795)	19	2%	113	14%	18	2%	83	10%	263	33%
New criminal behavior (N = 938)	57	6%	32	3%	22	2%	119	13%	299	32%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 1,201)	37	3%	186	15%	48	4%	225	19%	278	23%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 556)	29	5%	102	18%	27	5%	62	11%	168	30%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 2,272)	100	4%	278	12%	52	2%	223	10%	956	42%

**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 ICJR Program, July 2015–June 2017



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **access to affordable emergency and long-term housing** for victims and families as the most significant remaining area of need.

Along with affordable long and short-term housing, grantees also cited a number of **unmet needs within victim services**, including:

- Employment;
- Child care;
- Job training;
- Short-term financial assistance;
- Mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling; and
- Transportation.

In particular, grantees pointed to the need for **low cost and pro bono civil legal assistance** to help victims with divorce, child custody matters, and the collateral consequences of victimization, including matters relating to housing and personal property.

<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

Safe, affordable housing also continues to be an unmet need for many victims of domestic violence throughout New York City, and Staten Island is no exception. For victims with limited financial resources, there are a few options for renting apartments. With long wait lists for public housing and fewer beds in domestic violence shelters than can meet the demand, many victims must turn to the city's homeless shelter system for housing or else continue to live with an abusive partner. For victims in Staten Island, seeking safe housing often means having to leave the borough, which may in turn require changing employment, schools, medical providers, and being separated from a support system.

**SAFE HORIZON, INC., NEW YORK**



### NH • Grantee Perspective

While our legal service partners do a great deal of work for clients in restraining order, parenting, and divorce cases, their funding and resources are so limited that the services provided to clients are thus limited. Not only are resources for these issues limited, but clients are often dealing with issues outside of the scope of these services, such as foreclosure, property disputes, illegal eviction or termination, and the like. There are so few resources available for victims who face these civil issues as a result of their victimization, and with the complexity inherent in many of these cases, it is difficult for services to be provided without the full representation of an attorney. Additionally, for a variety of reasons, offenders are more likely than the victims to be able to have an attorney, and yet there are not enough legal resources to provide victims with representation or assistance in drafting DV petitions, temporary restraining orders, motions, parenting plans, and other court documents to adequately demonstrate the client's abuse or need for items being requested in a motion. Many motions are denied simply because the victim is not aware of how to complete the forms in a way which adequately demonstrates their victimization.

**STRAFFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, NEW HAMPSHIRE**



### IN • Grantee Perspective

First contacts are critical and these initial contacts shape a survivor's decision of whether or not to seek assistance in the future based on their past experiences and faith (or lack thereof) in the system to appropriately respond to and assist them. Law enforcement is often the first contact with survivors and as such, have the unique ability to provide a gateway to supportive resources. Based on feedback from survivors as well as our experiences in the field, it is clear that sensitizing law enforcement to the unique issues facing survivors is critical to providing an appropriate and supportive response, including best practices for enforcement of protective orders. Survivors repeatedly inform us police threaten dual arrest should the survivor need to call back and ask for additional assistance, they provide inaccurate information to survivors about the process of seeking a civil protection order, and misperceive clear signs of trauma as the survivor being combative, difficult or uncooperative. When this is the response we know that survivors are less likely to call law enforcement for subsequent acts of violence or to appropriately and effectively enforce an existing protective order.

COUNTY OF MONROE, INDIANA



### MN • Grantee Perspective

An area of remaining need for victims is a better, streamlined and consistent means to language access. The DV advocate and investigator have this as a top priority when identifying 911 calls to respond to; however, a systemic shift is necessary within 911 and the police department to ensure victims have access to interpreters in their native language. Reliance on family, friends or neighbors to interpret for a victim or an offender creates far too much uncertainty about the accuracy in what either is truly saying. The St. Paul PD is currently looking at updating their policy and researching different language service providers as the current service provider takes far too long to respond to an officer request for an interpreter.

ST. PAUL AND RAMSEY COUNTY DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT, MINNESOTA

Grantees cited difficulty in providing **culturally sensitive victim services, translation, and outreach** to underserved populations, particularly **immigrants, refugees, and those with limited English proficiency (LEP)**. Grantees also emphasized the need to improve services and outreach to:

- People of color;
- LGBTQ populations;
- Victims in rural areas;
- Elderly victims; and
- Persons with one or more disabilities.

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

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

- Standardization and improvement of batterer intervention programs (BIPs);
- Streamlining the process for victims to obtain orders of protection;
- Better enforcement of protection orders;
- Pre-trial supervision of offenders and enhanced offender monitoring in misdemeanor cases;
- Coordination of domestic violence and sexual assault protocol and policy across jurisdictions;
- Information sharing and improved collaboration between courts, probation, and law enforcement; and
- Shortening trial wait times to encourage victim participation.

Finally, grantees called for **greater access to dedicated sexual assault victim services, including SANE services, and more aggressive prosecution of sexual assault**.



### WA • Grantee Perspective

In the criminal justice field there is a need to shorten trial wait times. Many clients wait a range of twelve to eighteen months when an offender takes the case to trial. During that time the defendant is often in the community. These wait times are sometimes due to unforeseeable factors such as rescheduling of trial dates, hiring of private investigators, or agency staff vacations, but also factors that could be improved. In our region these unfavorable factors include high caseloads for judicial officers, prosecuting attorneys, and public defense counsels that don't allow for enough time for trial preparation and evidence discovery. This region also has courts and prosecuting attorneys who will not try cases independently without victim testimony, which can be used as a tactic for the defense to delay the case until the victim no longer feels it's valid to participate, at which time court dismisses the charges.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OF SOUTH SOUND, WASHINGTON