

# Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program

The Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program (Rural Program) recognizes that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse who live in rural communities face unique challenges and barriers to receiving assistance rarely encountered in urban areas, including:

- Geographic isolation;
- Poor economic structure;
- Strong social and cultural pressures;
- Lack of available services in rural jurisdictions; and
- Lack of anonymity and security when seeking shelter services.

**THESE CHALLENGES SIGNIFICANTLY COMPOUND PROBLEMS FACING** those seeking support to end violence in their lives. They also complicate the criminal justice system's ability to investigate and prosecute cases, and create difficulties for victim service providers to identify and assist victims.

## 169 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 169 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Rural Program.

## 13,832 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 13,832 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 2,080 Calls for Assistance

Grantees fielded a total of 2,080 calls to law enforcement for assistance.

*Rural victims of domestic/sexual violence who seek to become and remain safe from violence face geographic challenges in reaching service providers. They may need to travel great distances, and there may be limited public transportation services in their communities. In one study, over 25% of women in small rural and isolated areas lived more than 40 miles from the closest service provider, compared to less than 1% of women in urban settings (Adi, 2017; Peek-Asa et al., 2011).*



### NE • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed project staff to provide life-changing legal assistance for the victims served by this project, resulting in victims achieving financial security, increased safety for themselves and their families, and autonomy. Funding has also allowed staff to create professional relationships with law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges, which will increase the opportunities for other victims not served through this funding to achieve the same results.

**NEBRASKA COALITION TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Rural Program enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting projects uniquely designed to identify, address, respond to, and prevent these crimes in rural America. Purpose areas include:

- Implement, expand, and establish collaborative initiatives among law enforcement officers; prosecutors; victim advocates; healthcare providers, including sexual assault forensic examiners; and related parties to investigate and prosecute these crimes;
- Provide treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance to adult and minor victims; and
- Work cooperatively with rural communities to develop education and prevention strategies that address their unique social, economic, and geographic conditions.

In addition to these purpose areas, as of VAWA 2013, Rural grantees must implement one or more of the following strategies:

- Develop multidisciplinary teams focusing on high risk cases with the goal of preventing domestic and dating violence homicides;
- Increase treatment, counseling, advocacy, and legal assistance;
- Develop education and prevention strategies;
- Develop, enlarge, or strengthen programs addressing sexual assault; and
- Focus on the needs of victims residing in remote rural and geographically isolated areas.

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 them. If an activity falling under one of the added 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 **169** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **35** (21%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
  - Provide treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance to adult and minor victims.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, law enforcement, prosecution, and probation, among other services, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **165** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **384** 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 Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>384</b>	
Victim advocates	<b>140</b>	<b>36%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>66</b>	<b>17%</b>
Trainers	<b>31</b>	<b>8%</b>
Administrators	<b>27</b>	<b>7%</b>
Support staff	<b>18</b>	<b>5%</b>

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



### OR • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed the agency to continue providing trauma-informed services in the rural areas of Clackamas County to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and elder abuse. The Rural Advocate is primarily stationed between the two satellite offices in Estacada and Sandy and provides case management in home when appropriate. Presence in the rural communities expanded services to participants who were otherwise geographically isolated, lacking transportation, or were generally unaware of supports in their own communities.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY HEALTH, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, OREGON



### NE • Grantee Perspective

Grant funds have allowed us to take advantage of the passage of the Lindsay Ann Burke law in Nebraska requiring education about dating violence in schools. As a result, we have spoken to thousands of students about violence against women. Ultimately, the impact of this outreach may be the most significant accomplishment of this project. If even a percentage of these students are able to use this education and awareness to lead healthier, violence-free lives or be better prepared to respond to people experiencing violence, the impact can be great.

FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL, NEBRASKA



### MT • Grantee Perspective

As a result of Rural Grant funding for outreach and education, The Friendship Center (TFC) has developed great relationships with the two local middle schools. Both schools welcome TFC into their Health class to discuss healthy relationships and red flags of dating violence. This relationship has also benefited TFC through the school's Day of Service event. A large group of students chaperoned by teachers, typically those that have not previously visited TFC, come to tour TFC, learn about services, and provide volunteer assistance with community donations or creating victim information packets. These events have brought better awareness of domestic and sexual violence dynamics, healthy relationships, and TFC services to students, teachers, and parents in the Helena community.

THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER, MONTANA

## Training

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

- **131** (78%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **3,236** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **45,162** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**17%**), law enforcement officers (**12%**), educators (**11%**), and health professionals (**8%**).

## Community Education

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

- **135** (80%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **10,696** education events.
- Grantees educated a total of **334,195** people.

**Table 2** | People educated with Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:  
**Selected groups**

People members educated	2-year total	
<b>Total people educated</b>	<b>334,195</b>	
Community members	97,210	29%
Middle and high school students	94,009	28%
Elementary school students	51,966	16%
University or college students	30,838	9%
Parents or guardians	18,055	5%
Community groups	17,366	5%

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

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

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. All 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.**

- **150** (89%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **13,832** 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 **9,275** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **7,614** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **3,667** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **3,391** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **2,847** victims;
- Transportation services to **1,575** victims; and
- Civil legal assistance services to **928** victims.

### Other Services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **20,307** times;
- Grantees received a total of **165,678** hotline calls.
  - The majority of these calls (**52%**) came from victims.

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

**Table 3** | Victims sheltered with Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	<b>1,263</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>145,158</b>
Transitional housing	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>37,693</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>182,851</b>

## Victims Seeking Services

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

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



### KS • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed us to provide intensive technical assistance and training opportunities specifically for rural and western Kansas SA/DV programs and their communities. It has allowed us to focus on programs and communities in western Kansas to help them create and maintain community partnerships which help provide comprehensive services and better responses to survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

**KANSAS COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



### OR • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed the agency to assess services for rural survivors and make adjustments to meet the ongoing needs of the communities. In the past year and a half we have learned that many survivors from the rural community prefer to access services at A Safe Place Family Justice Center for Clackamas County due to the multiple partners and video court access. Accessing services all in one place has reduced the amount of times a survivor has had to share their story and reduced the frequency of travel.

**CLACKAMAS WOMEN'S SERVICES, OREGON**



**CO • Grantee Perspective**

Prior to this funding we were always trying to figure out ways to get victims to us; now we can go to them. When partnering agencies call to set up an interview with our organization, we set the appointment immediately. In the past we were reliant on agency assists, which meant a time delay. We are now also able to offer on-site therapy and trauma assessments at our main facility in Montrose. This is something we were never able to do.

**THE DOLPHIN HOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, COLORADO**



**OR • Grantee Perspective**

The Rural Program revived what were nearly non-existent services for survivors. Oregon Law Center (OLC), Victim Services Providers (VSPs), and community partners, as a result of funding, were able to significantly increase victim advocate services and provide (for the first time in many years in one county) civil legal assistance. In sum, Rural Program funds effectively resurrected legal services to survivors, enhanced the capacity of victim advocates to serve survivors, and resulted in more safety and protection in our service area.

**OREGON LAW CENTER**



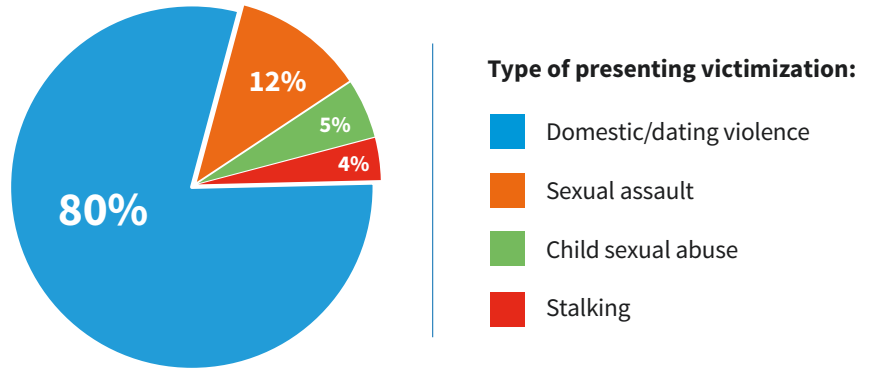
**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

Rural funding is the foundation of all victim services programming in St. Paul, Alaska. It was used to start the program in 2003 and continues to be the bedrock of services in this very remote community. Most recently Rural funding allowed us to begin providing holistic healing services to the community, including art as therapy activities, sensory room for relaxation and stress/anxiety reduction, and weekly “self-care” learning activity classes.

**TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OF ST. PAUL ISLAND**

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

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



**Table 4** | Victims seeking services with Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>13,926</b>	
Victims served	13,614	98%
Victims partially served	218	2%
Victims not served	95	1%

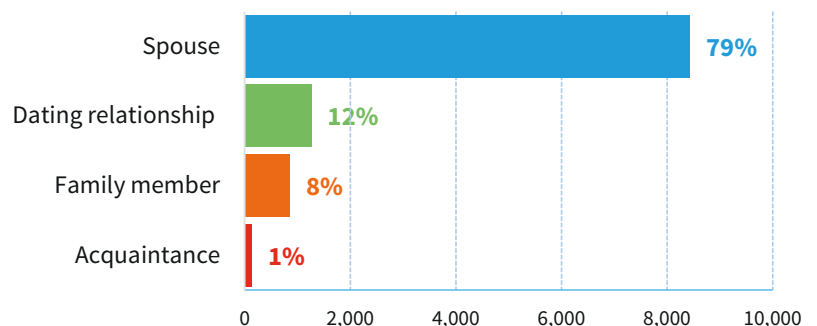
**NOTE:** “Partially Served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Rural Program grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services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

**Victims’ Relationship to Offender**

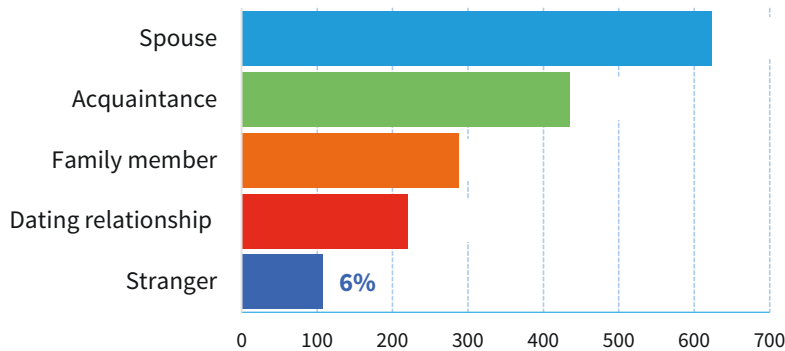
Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (69%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (12%) or by another **family or household member** (12%).

**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)

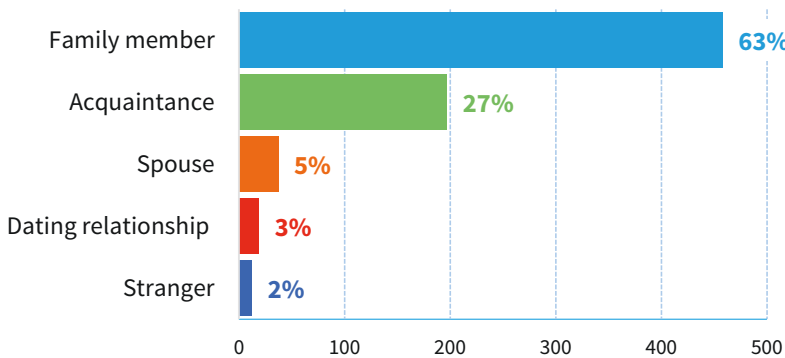


**WV • Grantee Perspective**

Rural Program funding has enabled sexual assault victims in our community to receive specialized forensic medical exams which, without this funding, they would not have received. These specialized exams enabled the collection of evidence that benefited the criminal investigations that ultimately led to charges and convictions in these cases. There is no doubt that this streamlined process for sexual assaults is a direct result of our Rural Program project.

**CHILD PROTECT OF MERCER COUNTY, INC., WEST VIRGINIA**

**Figure 4** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Child sexual abuse** (6-month average)

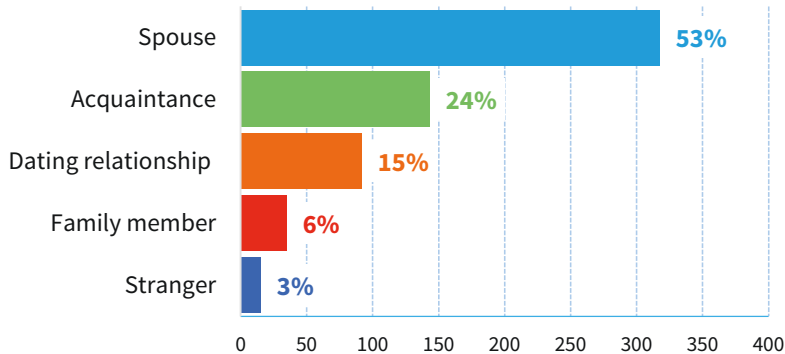


**ND • Grantee Perspective**

This funding has allowed us to provide opportunities for victims to receive legal assistance from qualified attorneys at Legal Services of ND. It has promoted a more holistic approach to victims of domestic and sexual violence allowing not only representation but consultation, referral, and education by attorneys and paralegals. This approach gives survivors a greater opportunity to succeed as they move forward toward a more safe and secure life.

**CAWS NORTH DAKOTA**

**Figure 5** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



**CO • Grantee Perspective**

Rural funding has increased the capacity for legal services for domestic violence victims to include much needed civil legal representation and assistance beyond protection orders. Most often, survivors will need the added assistance of the more complicated processes of filing for custody and divorce, with protection orders being the initial phase of leaving an abusive situation.

**ALTERNATIVE HORIZONS CORPORATION, COLORADO**



**FL • Grantee Perspective**

The Rural Program grant has allowed Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program (GCSAP) the opportunity to service 4 previously unserved counties. As such it can positively impact more victims/survivors than prior to the grant, when these victims weren't able to obtain services at all. Prior to the rural program grant, victims would often have to drive up to two hours to obtain services for sexual assault. The GCSAP now has offices in six counties, providing more accessibility to advocates for victims/survivors. Survivors of sexual assault can now receive crisis counseling, individual counseling, and therapy, and attend support groups in their county of residence.

**FLORIDA COUNCIL AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

### Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

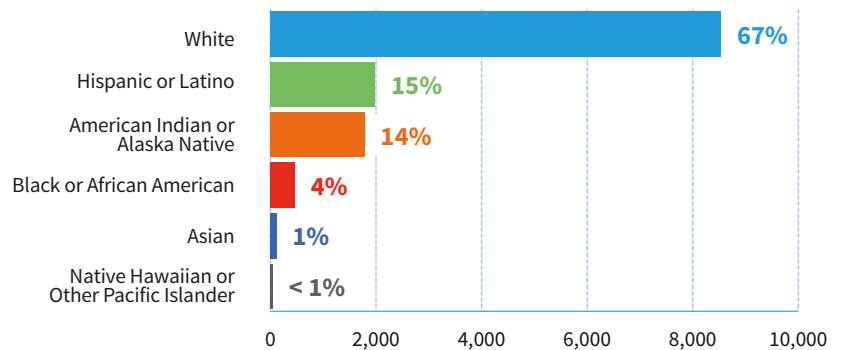
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

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

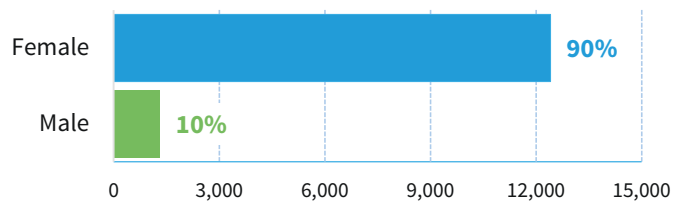
### Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **13,832** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **white** (67%), **female** (90%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (68%).

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

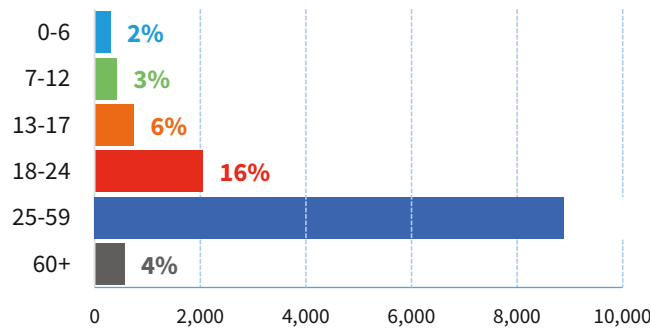


**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)





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

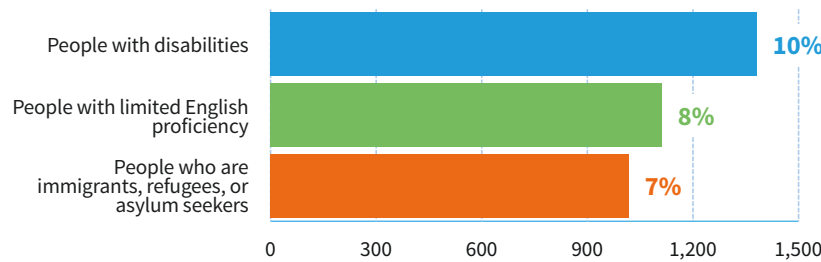


**NC • Grantee Perspective**

Rural Program funding has provided us the opportunity to establish strong, deep roots in our Hispanic community over the years. In the past year, our Hispanic outreach workers and bilingual victim advocates have reported that the community is more open to talking about sexual violence. We have seen a significant increase in the number of Hispanic survivors who seek services.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS SERVICES, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Figure 9** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



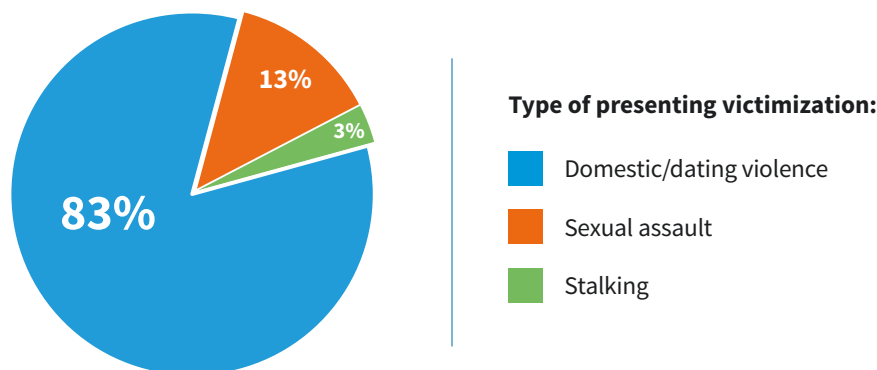
## Secondary Victims

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

- Grantees provided services to an average of **5,959** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

**Figure 10** Provision of services to secondary victims by Rural Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

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





### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to employ a full time investigator solely dedicated to work on cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. There is a significant need of law enforcement response to these crimes the amount of cases is overwhelming.

**WHITE EARTH RESERVATION TRIBAL COUNCIL**

*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).*



### MT • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program-funded investigator/detective has had a major and decisive impact in the investigation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child sexual abuse cases. The experience of interacting with a well-trained and dedicated law enforcement officer supports the victims' sense of being heard and believed. If this officer is on the case, calls will be returned and follow-up will be completed to the best of his ability. Additionally, the grant-funded officer has the time and resources to follow-up on in these criminal cases as well as investigate the TOP/OOP violations. Previous to this funding, LE could not respond to all the reported violations for lack of officers and time.

**SANDERS COUNTY COALITION FOR FAMILIES,  
MONTANA**

## Criminal Justice

The Rural Program promotes a coordinated community response that includes representatives from victim service agencies, child welfare agencies, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, healthcare providers, and public and private community resources.

## Law Enforcement

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

- **25** (15%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **2,879** 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.

**Table 5** Law enforcement activities in Rural Program criminal cases, July 2015–June 2017

Law enforcement activities	Sexual assault	Domestic/ dating violence	Stalking	Child sexual abuse	Total
Calls for assistance	214	1,642	70	154	2,080
Incident reports	350	3,204	77	627	4,258
Cases investigated	431	4,047	114	829	5,421
Referrals to prosecutor	254	1,359	50	440	2,103
Arrests of predominant aggressor	133	931	49	303	1,416

**NOTE:** Grantees report only on law enforcement activities that are funded under the Rural Program and they may receive funds for one or for a number of these activities. Therefore, no relationships can be inferred or comparisons made between activities reported here.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees found it particularly difficult to serve victims in rural areas, where **vast distances, challenging economic conditions, and physical isolation** presented **significant barriers** to helping victims escape violence and achieve self-sufficiency. Of the problems inherent in rural areas, some of the most challenging were a **lack of law enforcement, low availability of SANE services, and jurisdictional issues that presented roadblocks to achieving justice, especially on tribal lands and in border communities.**

Due in part to the paucity of services in rural areas, grantees reported **extreme challenges in helping victims meet basic needs**, particularly:

- Affordable long-term housing and emergency shelter;
- Transportation;
- Mental health care and substance abuse counseling;
- Child care;
- Education and employment;
- Civil legal services; and
- Food security.

Rural grantees reported **significant gaps** in available services, especially for **underserved populations**, including:

- American Indians/Alaska Natives;
- Immigrant and refugee victims;
- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- LGBTQ victims;
- Seniors and persons with one or more disabilities.



### MT • Grantee Perspective

The isolated rural area of Mineral County has high rates of poverty, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and unemployment. Last year the Office of Public Assistance closed and MC residents must now apply via phone or internet. The cheapest internet in the County is \$80 per month. Many residents do not have a computer, much less internet access. One client tried to apply for low income energy assistance on her phone only to be timed out three times. All mental health providers are in Superior (the County seat). Many residents don't have cars or gas money to drive to the town.

MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Many of the families we work with are unable to establish independence and safety for themselves because of financial issues. The lack of affordable housing and the inability to relocate without funds for moving or securing a new home prevent people living in abusive situations from seeking safer alternatives. Even when families are able to stay in their homes, they often need support for rent, mortgage payments, or utilities while they try to stabilize their lives. Establishing an income or transitioning from two incomes to one, affording childcare, overcoming potential damage to credit, finding employment, and accessing education are all significant barriers to obtaining a safe situation in the region. Many of the obstacles faced by survivors are magnified because of disproportionate levels of poverty and related issues. In addition to low wages and limited employment and training opportunities, the lack of available childcare and transportation, inaccessible health care, the lack of anonymity, and increased isolation because of the distance from services, neighbors, and friends (as well as limited cell phone and internet service), all contribute to keeping survivors in dangerous situations.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



### VT • Grantee Perspective

Immigrant services are lacking in our rural white community. We have a farm workforce population of Jamaican and Guatemalan laborers. This population is up against so many barriers. If domestic or sexual violence occurs, unless the police are called by a bystander, these incidents will not be reported. The ever present fear of being deported allows some farm owners to supply housing that is very substandard. Limited transportation, lack of any medical care, and a language barrier further add to isolation and vulnerability.

**PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS, VERMONT**



### NC • Grantee Perspective

Although our community has come a long way in recognizing and responding to the specific needs around sexual violence of all kinds, there is still a significant percentage of survivors who do not report the assault or seek services. There are many reasons why victims do not report; however, we know that the more aware survivors are of easily accessible and available services, the more likely they are to utilize those services. Therefore, we must continue to strive to make our services available to every victim in our community, reaching out to those who are least likely to reach out to us.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS SERVICES, NORTH CAROLINA**



### OR • Grantee Perspective

In regard to enhancing a community response to this personal violence, it is imperative that rural law enforcement become highly skilled in both responding to and investigating abuse. While rural communities are small by population and cover many miles in Clackamas County, that is sometimes what offenders bank on when abusing and as a result are unconcerned about potential consequences. The rural police agencies in Clackamas County respond to the best of their ability and staffing; however, a serious commitment, with funding, to these rural police agencies to support intense training would not only benefit the victim and prosecutor, but also the police agency reputation and success in combating abuse within their communities.

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON**

Grantees cited a number of reasons **service providers, law enforcement, and the court system struggled to fully serve these populations**, including:

- Cultural and linguistic barriers;
- Geographic and physical isolation;
- Victims' fear of discrimination or challenges maintaining anonymity;
- Fear of deportation; and
- Difficulty making the proper accommodations for victims with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Grantees reported ongoing needs for **community education and outreach** in order to:

- Combat stigma and negative stereotypes about victims of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Inform victims and community members of available services; and
- Teach young people about healthy relationships.

Grantees also stressed the need to **expand education and training of law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges** in order to **increase offender accountability**.