

Office for Victims of Crime Resources

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) offers numerous valuable resources for advocates, survivors, families, and others interested in helping and supporting victims of crime. The resource summaries and links below outline just some of many useful tools provided by the OVC.

The first section of this article briefly summarizes resources such as trainings, guides, toolkits, brochures, and websites. The second portion of the article looks at publications, including summaries of reports, data, and newsletters. Each section is also broken down by broad topic categories. These categories include (1) Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Legislative Advocacy, (2) Specific Types of Crime, Related Services, and Improvement of Overall Victim Services, and (3) Schools, Children, and Families.

Trainings, Guides, Toolkits, Brochures, and Websites

Law enforcement, Corrections, and Legislative Advocacy

Community Corrections Response to Domestic Violence: Guidelines for Practice (Guidebook)

This 200+- page Guidebook was published by The American Probation and Parole Association and supported by OVW. The Guidebook addresses fundamentals; legal issues; cultural considerations; and guidelines for ethics, case investigation, community supervision and enforcement, victim safety and autonomy, and batterer intervention programs. The Guide can be downloaded at: <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/APPA/pubs/CCRDV.pdf>.

Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims: Strategy Package

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has developed three companion documents to help law enforcement agencies implement its new industry standard: Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims. It is a national strategy designed to seek a cultural change within law enforcement which significantly enhances their response to all victims of all crimes. Referred to as the Strategy Package, it is a three volume resource developed by the IACP with funding from and in collaboration with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) at the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice:

- ***Volume 1 - A 21st Century Strategy***

A 21st Century Strategy introduces state, local, and tribal law enforcement leaders to the benefits, challenges, methods, and responsibilities for enhancing their response to victims of crime. This document discusses the evolution of enhanced victim response, summarizes its four core elements (leadership, partnering, training, and performance monitoring), identifies the seven critical needs of victims, and illustrates the potential of community partnerships. It contains an inspiring message from the chiefs of the three agencies that piloted this strategy, a brief overview of the evolution of law enforcement response to victims, and a summary of the project history and cycle.

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- ***Volume 2 - Implementation Guide***

The Implementation Guide consists of four instructive sections, which outline the steps to implement the strategy. It instructs law enforcement agencies how to identify their goals and measurements of success, gather pertinent information, develop action plans and performance monitoring approaches, and sustain the effort in the long term. This Guide operationally bridges the gap between the concepts outlined in the Strategy and the existing templates in the Resource Toolkit. It is the document to which you will refer most often during the implementation process.

- ***Volume 3 - The Resource Toolkit***

The Resource Toolkit provides templates to aid in the implementation of the steps in the Implementation Guide. Law enforcement agencies will find in the Resource Toolkit sample documents and materials developed by the pilot and validation sites. These sample documents may be adapted for your own use. The Resource Toolkit includes such resources as revised mission statements, schedules and process descriptions, key stakeholder interview questions, sample action plans, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and partnership agreements, policies and procedures relating to victim response, steps toward staff buy-in and performance appraisals, informational brochures provided to crime victims, press releases, Web site samples, and links to numerous victim-related resources.

The entire Strategy Package is available as a download from the IACP Web site: <http://www.theiacp.org/>. For more information about the initiative, you may contact Project Manager Suzanne Jordan @ 1-800-THE-IACP ext 803, or email jordans@theiacp.org.

OVC: Victim Impact Curriculum (Juvenile and Adult Offender Programming)

This project, offers 13 victim awareness modules linked to the OVC DVD "Victim Impact: Listen and Learn" and a Presenter's Toolbox. This is an excellent resource for both juvenile and adult offender programming that seeks to hold them accountable for their actions and improve their awareness about how crime affects victims and communities. You can download the Curriculum at:

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact/>.

Sexual Assault Advocacy Guide

This Guide was published by The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence and features detailed information about legislative advocacy, including how bills become law, and measures that advocates can take to encourage strong policy that benefits victims and survivors. You can download the Guide at:

<http://www.naesv.org/Resources/AdvocacyManual030708.pdf>.

The Law Enforcement Response to People with Mental Illnesses: A Guide to Research-informed Policy and Practice

This guide was recently released by the Council of State Governments. It offers evidence-based practices for safe and effective interventions with people who are mentally ill (including victims and offenders). You can download the Guide at:

<http://consensusproject.org/downloads/le-research.pdf>.

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2009 Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week Resource Kit

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) has launched its resource kit for the 2009 Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week celebration during the week of July 19-25, 2009! The kit includes a new poster with this year's theme as well as numerous ideas on how to commemorate the Week (including victim-specific activities) and new web banners for use on agency websites. The kit can be found here: <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/Resources/PPCSW/index.htm> on the APPA website.

Specific Types of Crime, Related Services, and Improvement of Overall Victim Services

Department of Defense: Victim and Witness Assistance Council (Website)

The Department of Defense sponsors a website that details its Victim/Witness programs and includes points of contact for every branch of the military. You can access this information at <http://www.defenselink.mil/vwac/dodprograms.html>. And the widely-lauded "Survival Guide" for service members published by Veterans for America, is a great resource for any of your clients who are active duty or veterans: <http://www.veteransforamerica.org/home/vfa/>.

Ethics in Victim Services (Downloadable Curriculum)

This downloadable curriculum provides information about values and responses to victims, ethics and standards, and ethical decision-making. It is designed for those who want to train others in the subject. The curriculum is available for download at: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/ethics/>.

Good Samaritans: Volunteers Helping Victims (Program Handbook and Training Guide)

This e-guide (NCJ 225703) explains how to train volunteers to provide emergency services to victims, such as home repair, compassionate support, and referrals to other services. The guide is designed for prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and community and faith-based groups. The guide is available at: http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/Good_Samaritans/welcome.html

Initiative to Stop Human Trafficking (Website)

This website is hosted by the Harvard Kennedy School Carr Center on Human Rights Policy. It features a huge news archive, plus events on video and webinars on best practices (which are also archived for review). This website about human trafficking issues is available at: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/cchpr/isht/index.php>.

Terrorism and International Victim Assistance Services (Brochure)

This OVC brochure (BC 000753) was developed for crime victims and service providers as a comprehensive, accessible source of information about specific programs that support victims of domestic and international terrorism and mass violence, as well as victims of global crimes such as child abduction and tourist-targeted victimization. A PDF of this document can be found at: http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/pdf/txt/tivas_brochure.pdf. To request a hard copy of the brochure, please visit the NCJRS Web site at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/shoppingcart/ShopCart.aspx?item=BC000753&repro=0>.

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TrainingForums.org (Web-based Training)

The U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women and Witness Justice have developed TrainingForums.org, an innovative web-based training and education program created to address important issues facing professionals who work with survivors of domestic violence. Free online training is available to our field, with courses available (or soon to be available) in trauma and trauma-informed care; cultural competency; and assisting undocumented survivors. You can obtain more information about this free e-training from Witness Justice at www.TrainingForums.org.

Victims With Disabilities: Collaboration and Multidisciplinary First Response (Guide)

OVC has just released the fabulous "Victims With Disabilities: Collaboration and Multidisciplinary First Response." This 70-page guide is full of practical ideas and tips for how to best respond to victims with disabilities, and is a "must read". You can download this document at:

http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/pdftxt/VwD_FirstResponse.pdf.

Schools, Children, and Families

Toolkit for Court Performance Measures in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

This toolkit, released by OJJDP, provides detailed guidance about court performance measures for child abuse and neglect cases and offers a general approach that can help dependency courts successfully implement a performance measurement process. You can access this great Toolkit at:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/courttoolkit.html>.

www.stopfamilyviolence.org (Website)

There are important issues concerning custody battles in family courts, many of which involve allegations of family violence. This website offers many valuable resources (including some powerful video documentaries) on the subject.

www.stopfamilyviolence.org

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Reports, Data, Publications, and Newsletters

Law enforcement, Corrections, and Legislative Advocacy

Bureau of Justice Statistics: Jail Populations at Mid-year 2008 (Statistical Report)

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has just released its new Report with data about Jail Populations at mid-year 2008. You can download the statistical report at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/jim08st.htm>.

Bureau of Justice Statistics: Prison Populations at Mid-year 2008 (Statistical Report)

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<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pim08st.htm>.

Howard Zehr: Restorative Justice Issues (Blog)

Howard Zehr, the "guru" of restorative justice, recently began a blog. The site may be helpful to those interested in staying on top of restorative justice issues. The blog can be accessed at: <http://emu.edu/blog/restorative-justice/>.

Victim Services in Rural Law Enforcement (E-publication)

This e-publication (NCJ 226275) reviews the difficulties faced by victims in rural areas and how law enforcement officers are often the victims' only contact with the justice system and offers a blueprint for enhancing assistance in rural jurisdictions. The e-publication is designed for law enforcement agencies interested in establishing their own programs and can be accessed at:

<http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/RuralVictimServices/welcome.html>.

1 in 31: The Long Reach of American Corrections (Pew Report)

The new Pew report, "1 in 31: The Long Reach of American Corrections," found that 1 in 31 people in America (or 7.3 million people) are under some form of correctional supervision. This report includes state-specific data about correctional populations and spendings in its appendices and highlights some states' innovative approaches to corrections management. The Report frames the issues and can be downloaded at:

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/report_detail.aspx?id=49382.

Specific Types of Crime, Related Services, and Improvement of Overall Victim Services

American Religious Identification Survey 2008 (Summary)

This document provides a thorough overview of the religious affiliations of people in America and is a great resource for programs that work with multi-faith communities. A summary of the full study can be accessed at:

<http://www.ask.com/bar?q=2008+American+Religious+Identification+Survey&page=1&qsrc=0&ab=0&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.americanreligionsurvey-ris.org%2F>. This page also contains information about whom to contact to receive a print copy of the complete study.

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Bureau of Justice Statistics: Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Victims of Crime (Special Report)

This Special Report is full of data about crime and victimization affecting the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander populations. You can download the eight-page Report at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/anhpivc.pdf>.

Bureau of Justice Statistics: Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2007-2008 (Report)

This report presents preliminary findings from the Human Trafficking Reporting System on alleged incidents of human trafficking reported by 38 federally funded task forces. The 16-page Report can be downloaded at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cshti08.htm>.

Bureau of Justice Statistics: Stalking Victimization in the United States (Report)

This report is filled with informative data about types of stalking and victim/ offender relationships. The Report can be downloaded at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/svus.htm>.

Meeting Survivors' Needs: A Multistate Study of Domestic Violence Programs (Report and Summary)

This report, published by The National Institute of Justice, found that three-quarters of domestic violence victims rated the assistance they received at a shelter as "very helpful." Eighteen percent said it was "helpful." This information is useful for those who work with victims of interfamilial violence. A summary of this report is available from the Family Violence Prevention Fund at: <http://endabuse.org/content/news/detail/1189/>.

The entire 140+ page report can also be downloaded at:

<http://www.ask.com/bar?q=national+institute+of+justice&page=1&qsrc=0&ab=0&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ojp.usdoj.gov%2Fnij>.

National Elder Mistreatment Study (Abstract and Executive Summary)

This study examined prevalence and risk factors for elder mistreatment in community residing older adults. The Abstract and Executive Summary contain valuable information for victim advocates and can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226456.pdf>.

Strengthening Sexual Assault Victims' Right to Privacy (E-publication)

This e-publication (NCJ 226501) addresses challenges, discusses core concepts, and offers practical tips to maintain victim confidentiality to better serve victims. The publication is geared toward statewide sexual assault coalitions and rape crisis centers. The publication can be accessed at:

<http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/VictimsRightToPrivacy/welcome.html>.

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Schools, Children, and Families

Findings from Schools Implementing Restorative Practices (Booklet)

The International Institute for Restorative Practices recently released this practical booklet, which highlights restorative justice practices that are being used to help resolve problems in schools. This is a helpful resource for those who are interested in restorative justice and can be downloaded at:

<http://www.iirp.org/pdf/IIRP-Improving-School-Climate.pdf>.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2008 (Annual Publication)

This annual publication features data on crime and safety in schools that affect students, teachers and administrators. Both the abstract and/or full publication can be downloaded at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iscs08.htm>.

Lessons Learned: A Victim Assistance Perspective – 2006 Tragedy at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado (Report)

This is an OVC-supported Report on the collaborative response to victims of the mass violence tragedy at Platte Canyon High School in Colorado in 2006. It is a "must read" for MMers. The 52-page Report focuses on "lessons learned" from the response to the shootings, and it is a valuable resource to help communities and states plan in advance to respond to victims of acts of mass violence. The Report can be downloaded at:

http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp/Documents/OVP%20General/Bailey_Project_Lessons_Learned.pdf.

OJJDP: Juvenile Arrests 2007 (Report)

OJJDP recently released this report, which found that in 2007, U.S. law enforcement agencies made an estimated 2.18 million arrests of persons under age 18. There were 2 percent fewer juvenile arrests in 2007 than in 2006, and juvenile violent crime arrests declined 3 percent, reversing the modest upward trend over the previous two years. This 12-page report can be downloaded at:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=247324>.

SAMHSA: Statistics about Children Living with Substance-Abusing Parents (Press Release Overview)

SAMHSA recently issued a press release that found that more than one in ten children lives with a substance-abusing parent. This brief, Press Release Overview offers valuable statistics, as well as links to further information. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0904294333.aspx>.

To obtain additional materials from the OVC please visit the NCJRS Publications/Products page at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/AlphaList.aspx>. You can search for all OVC products by entering the product number into the search field. Visit the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) online at <http://www.ncjrs.gov> to register for services or to find out more.