



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

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Joint Statement from OVC Director Joye Frost and OVW Principal Deputy Director Bea Hanson on the Importance of the NSVSO

Federal agencies recognize the importance of prioritizing data collection to better understand the scope of violence and crime in America. And in recent years, we have seen an expansion in the release of data and statistics, establishing a vital body of knowledge - that is both credible and reliable - about the prevalence and incidence rates of crime. These reports provide more detailed information about the scope of crime and violence in America and its impact on communities. However, existing data does not adequately address the needs of crime victims or capacity of organizations that serve victims. In order to increase the data and our knowledge of crime victim needs and resources, the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics is conducting the first-ever National Survey of Victim Service Organizations (NSVSO).

The Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) consistently hear from our grantees and stakeholders about the need for better and more reliable data to support what we know to be true – victim service organizations are being asked to provide lifesaving services with limited resources. To build the necessary capacity to better serve victims, their families, and communities, we need your input. As victim service providers, you have a unique perspective on how federal resources can best assist crime victims, victim service providers, advocates, and the criminal justice response to crime and abuse.

The results should present a national profile of how services are being provided, the types of services available, areas of need, and emerging trends. This information can be used to gain a deeper understanding of gaps in services and service delivery methods, provide us with vital data to better demonstrate the need for adequate resource allocation, and enhance victim service organizations' ability to focus requests for funding.

The NSVSO will be of great benefit to OVC, OVW, and our grantees and stakeholders, including state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, victim service providers, and criminal justice entities. Our goal is that the NSVSO provide a comprehensive picture of the vitally important work of victim service providers and the challenges they face. OVC and OVW join together in our commitment to ensure that victims of crime can continue to access the lifesaving services they desperately need. And we call on all of our partners –and especially OVC and OVW grantees – to take the time to participate in this critical survey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joye E. Frost".

Joye E. Frost
Director
Office for Victims of Crime

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bea Hanson".

Bea Hanson
Principal Deputy Director
Office on Violence Against Women