



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20531

Message from the survey sponsor:

I am pleased to announce that with support from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is implementing the National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP). The NCVSP is a first-of-its-kind attempt to collect and disseminate reliable statistical information about victim service providers, such as their type of organization, staffing, funding, and types of services provided to victims. The NCVSP will standardize measures of victim services to enable comparisons among types of organizations to learn about capabilities and constraints these organizations face in delivering services.

The NCVSP fits within OVC's Vision 21 effort to transform the victim services field by using research to identify challenges, best practices to improve services, and evaluation to determine what works. Vision 21 reflects OVC's understanding of the needs of the victim services field and lays out a strategic vision for the field to enhance our nation's capacity to assist crime victims and promote justice through the delivery of support services to victims of crime.

The NCVSP also complements BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which tells us quite a bit about criminal victimization, victim injury and loss, crimes reported and not-reported to the police, reasons for not reporting to the police, and follow up by the police or with other criminal justice agencies. In addition, the NCVS currently provides limited information about whether or not victims obtained services from a public or private victim serving agency. Since the NCVS focuses on victims of crime, it is unable to fully address the provider side. The NCVSP will address this gap in our understanding of victim services, and will contribute to the describing needs for services and the capacities of the field to meet these needs.

By participating in the NCVSP, your organization will help provide more comprehensive data on the current state of the victim services field, the field's changing needs, and gaps in the provision of services. The NCVSP will serve to a measure the efforts to provide comprehensive and effective services to victims and of the relative health of victim service providers.

As one of the 13 principal statistical agencies in the decentralized federal statistical system, BJS collects, analyzes, and reports statistics on criminal victimization, criminal offenders, and the operations of the criminal justice system at all levels of government for purposes related to improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice systems. The data that BJS collects through the NCVSP will be disseminated publicly through BJS statistical reports that describe the characteristics of organizations and the services they provide at www.bjs.gov.

I encourage you to participate in the NCVSP, and I thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me at www.askbjs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mulrow".

Jeri M. Mulrow
Acting Director