The Michigan ADVOCATE

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THE MICHIGAN ADVOCATE was created in 2000 to provide information and resources to VOCA Grantee-agencies, other crime victim programs, and advocates in Michigan and throughout the country. This publication strives to help professionals maintain comprehensive and quality services to victims of crime and to inform advocates of broader issues affecting crime victim services.

THE MICHIGAN ADVOCATE is published twice yearly and has recently evolved into an electronic format allowing for broader distribution of news relevant to crime victim services.

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The Michigan ADVOCATE

In the Spotlight: The Impact of Domestic Abuse Victim Services on Survivors' Safety and Wellbeing: Research Findings to Date

By Cris M. Sullivan, Ph.D.

More and more, funders and others are asking if victim service programs are engaging in "evidence-based practice." To help domestic violence programs answer that question, I have reviewed the current research and summarized what we know about the evidence that our services make a difference for survivors. It can also be helpful to programs to know what research studies have found about the effectiveness of our efforts, so that we can feel confident we are measuring the appropriate *short-term outcomes* that will lead to desired *long-term outcomes* for survivors. It is not realistic for non-profit programs, with little money devoted to evaluation, to measure the long-term impact of their work – that's what research is for. We can, however, examine the short-term changes that have been found to lead to long-term success.

Shelter programs have been found to be one of the most supportive, effective resources for women with abusive partners, according to the residents themselves (Bennett et al., 2004; Gordon, 1996; Sullivan et al., 2008; Tutty, Weaver, & Rothery, 1999). For example, Berk, Newton, and Berk (1986) reported that, for women who were actively attempting other strategies at the same time, a stay at a shelter dramatically reduced the likelihood they would be abused again.

One research study used a true experimental design and followed women for two years in order to examine the effectiveness of a community-based **advocacy** program for domestic abuse survivors. Advocates worked with women 4-6 hours a week over 10 weeks, in the women's homes and communities. Advocates were highly trained volunteers who could help women across a variety of areas: education, employment, housing, legal assistance, issues for children, transportation, and other issues. Women who worked with the advocates experienced less violence over time, reported higher quality of life and social support, and had less difficulty obtaining community resources over time. One out of four (24%) of the women who worked with advocates experienced <u>no</u> physical abuse, by the original assailant or by any new partners, across the two years of post-intervention follow-up. Only 1 out of 10 (11%) women in the control group remained completely free of violence during the same period. This low-cost, short-term intervention using unpaid advocates appears to have been effective not only in reducing women's risk of re-abuse, but in improving their overall quality of life (Sullivan, 2000; Sullivan & Bybee, 1999).

Close examination of which short-term outcomes led to the desired long-term outcome of safety found that *women who had more social support and who reported fewer difficulties obtaining community resources reported higher quality of life and less abuse over time* (Bybee & Sullivan, 2002). In short, then, there is evidence that if programs improve survivors' social support and access to resources, these serve as protective factors that enhance their safety over

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time. While local programs are not in the position to follow women over years to assess their safety, they *can* measure whether they have increased women's support networks and their knowledge about available community resources.

The only evaluation of a ***legal* advocacy** program to date is Bell and Goodman's (2001) quasi-experimental study conducted in Washington, DC. Their research found that women who had worked with advocates reported decreased abuse six weeks later, as well as marginally higher emotional well-being compared to women who did not work with advocates. Their qualitative findings also supported the use of paraprofessional legal advocates. All of the women who had worked with advocates talked about them as being very supportive and knowledgeable, while the women who did not work with advocates mentioned wishing they had had that kind of support while they were going through this difficult process. These findings are promising but given the lack of a control group they should be interpreted with extreme caution.

Another research study examined domestic abuse survivors' safety planning efforts (Goodkind, Sullivan, & Bybee, 2004). Survivors were asked what strategies they had used to stop or prevent the abuser's violence. For every strategy mentioned, women were asked if it made the abuse better, worse, or had no effect. Not surprisingly, for every strategy that made the situation better for one woman, the same strategy made the situation worse for another. However, the two strategies that were *most likely to make the situation better* were contacting a domestic violence program, and staying at a domestic violence shelter. These results provide strong support for the importance of domestic violence programs.

It is also important, though, that women who were experiencing the most violence and whose assailants had engaged in the most behaviors considered to be indicators of potential lethality were the most actively engaged in safety planning activities, but remained in serious danger, despite trying everything they could. These findings highlight the importance of remembering that survivors are not responsible for whether or not they are abused again in the future. For some women, despite any safety strategies they employ, the abuser will still choose to be violent.

Evaluations of **support groups** have unfortunately been quite limited. One notable exception is Tutty, Bidgood, and Rothery's (1993) evaluation of 12 "closed" support groups (i.e., not open to new members once begun) for survivors. The 10-12 week, closed support group is a common type of group offered to survivors, and typically focuses on safety planning, offering mutual support and understanding, and discussion of dynamics of abuse. Tutty et al.'s (1993) evaluation involved surveying 76 women before, immediately after, and 6 months following the group. Significant improvements were found in women's self-esteem, sense of belonging, locus of control, and overall stress over time; however, fewer than half of the original 76 women completed the 6-month follow-up assessment (n = 32), and there was no control or comparison group for this study. Hence, these findings, too, should be interpreted with extreme caution.

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Tutty's findings were corroborated by a more recent study that did include an experimental design (Constantino, Kim, & Crane, 2005). This 8-week group was led by a trained nurse and focused on helping women increase their social support networks and access to community resources. At the end of the eight weeks the women who had participated in the group showed greater improvement in psychological distress symptoms and reported higher feelings of social support. They also showed less health care utilization than did the women who did not receive the intervention.

These research studies are presented to provide you with some evidence supporting the long-term effectiveness of the types of services you offer. If programs can show that they have had positive short-term impacts on women's lives that have been shown to lead to longer-term impacts on their safety and well-being, this should help satisfy funders that the services being provided are worthwhile.

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Child, Adolescent and Teen Homicide Survivors: The Forgotten Grievers

By Phyllis Kearney, LaShawn Myers and Erica Thrash-Sall

Imagine having your childhood violently disrupted because someone you love has been killed. Having a loved one die from an act of violence is undoubtedly one of the most traumatic experiences that a person will ever face. Homicide induces complicated grief, as the normal stages of grief are constantly interrupted. Contributing factors of complicated grief are: suddenness of the unexpected death, the fact that the deceased may have suffered, navigating the legal system and the possibility that the perpetrator may not be apprehended or convicted (Children and Homicide, 2009).

Young people often have additional stress as a result of their caregivers withdrawing to deal with their own traumatic grief. Sometimes the lack of emotional support may be more devastating for the children than the homicide itself (Children and Homicide, 2009). Young people's reactions to complicated grief can differ from adults because their coping skills are underdeveloped. Young homicide survivors' reactions to grief may include: suicidal thoughts, self-harm, isolation, violent behaviors, questioning relevance of life, becoming overly compliant, substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, or pressure to take on more of an adult role. They may suffer from nightmares, experience terror rather than sadness and loss, and have feelings of rage or guilt.

Some of the myths associated with young homicide survivors:

Myth:
Children are resilient; they will get over it quickly.

Reality:
Children experience grief at different stages of their lives. A child that loses a loved one at the age of five, may begin acting out as a teenager if his/her grief is unresolved.

Myth:
If a child is not acting out negatively, then they are handling the death well.

Reality:
Overachieving after the violent death of a loved one is a symptom of complicated grief that can cause severe stress and anxiety.

Myth:
Children are too young to understand the circumstances surrounding homicide.

Reality:
Children understand far more than adults give them credit for. Parents have to use their best judgment when deciding how much detail about the death they should disclose, or whether or not a child should attend the funeral or court proceedings. If a parent does decide to allow children to attend a funeral or court proceedings, then they will want to spend a great deal of time preparing them for what will take place. This would include details about what to expect, taking them to the funeral home/church or courthouse before the actual event, and answering any questions they may have.

Myth:
It's okay to help keep a child on track by using the deceased as a bargaining tool.

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Reality:
This causes more stress for the child by making them think that their deceased loved one may be disappointed in them.

Myth:
It's okay not to tell the child how their loved one died because it might scare them.
Reality:
It is better to be honest about the nature of the death so that the child feels that they can trust what they are being told. Describe what happened in a way that they can understand at their level. You don't have to give graphic details.

Activities that help young homicide survivors talk about their feelings:

Ages 3-6 years
- Puppets - helps with expressing feelings, problem solving and developing coping skills
- Doll house - helps with expressing feelings, problem solving and developing coping skills
- Drawing - helps with expressing feelings

Ages 7-11 years
- Drawing - helps with expressing feelings, problem solving and developing coping skills
- Journaling - helps with expressing feelings, problem solving and developing coping skills
- Creating Feelings Chain *(strips of construction paper, with emotions written on them, formed and connected like a chain link using staples or glue)* - helps with expressing feelings
- Creating Feelings Mask *(paper-mâché masks with the feelings that they express to people drawn/painted on the outside. How they really feel is drawn/painted on the inside)* - helps with expressing feelings
- Memory Boxes- *(white cigar shaped box decorated and contains symbols or objects from deceased loved one's life)* - memorial activity
- Collage (*use pictures and words from magazines to create a commemorative tribute to their loved one*) -memorial activity

Ages 12-18 years
- Drawing - helps with expressing feelings, problem solving and developing coping skills
- Journaling - helps with expressing feelings, problem solving and developing coping skills
- Creating song or poem - helps with expressing feelings
- Memory Boxes - *(white cigar shaped box decorated and contains symbols or objects from deceased loved one's life)* - memorial activity
- Collage - (*use pictures and words from magazines to create a commemorative tribute to their loved one*)-memorial activity
- Memory Quilt - (*using loved one's clothing, fabric from furniture, jewelry, etc. to make a quilt)* -memorial activity.
- Talking or facilitated discussion - helps with expressing feelings, problem solving, developing coping skills and memorializing loved one

Playing board games or card games are a great way to help young people relax and open up.

Conclusion

It is important to realize that young people are unique and may express their grief in different ways at different stages

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of their development. Keep in mind that it is important to communicate with caregivers so that they can become better equipped to help the youth cope with their loss. Acknowledging the caregivers' feelings and suggesting tips for self-care can be an important part of their healing process.

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Stalking Resource Center Helps Combat a Dangerous Crime

By Michelle M. Garcia

Stalking is a pervasive, dangerous, and—far too often—lethal crime. Despite the prevalence of this crime, responders and service providers are often ill-equipped to recognize and respond to victims' needs. The Stalking Resource Center (SRC) meets such challenges by working to raise national awareness of stalking and to encourage local communities throughout the country to develop and implement multidisciplinary responses to the crime.

The Stalking Resource Center, launched as a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime in 2000, encourages greater community awareness of the danger and complexity of stalking, enhanced responses to victims, and increased offender accountability. As the only national training and technical assistance center focused solely on stalking, the SRC has provided assistance, training, and resources to tens of thousands of victim service providers and criminal justice practitioners throughout the United States and has fostered innovations in programs for stalking victims and professionals who support them.

The SRC provides direct assistance to criminal justice and victim service organizations to build their capacity to respond effectively to stalking. The program helps communities develop and enhance services for victims of stalking, develop and implement effective stalking protocols and policies, assess civil and criminal remedies for stalking, and develop a coordinated community response to stalking.

Stalking Victimization in the United States, a major national study released by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in January 2009, found that 3.4 million people are stalked every year. This number, based on the largest collection of data on stalking prevalence and behavior to date, is greater than the populations of Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Canton, Dearborn, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Livonia, St. Clair Shores, Sterling Heights, Taylor, Troy, Warren, and Westland combined.

The SRC has provided victim-centered, research-informed, and practice-based training to more than 30,000 individuals through 16 national conferences, dozens of regional trainings co-hosted with local providers, and presentations at hundreds of local, state, and national conferences. The SRC designs curricula to meet communities' specific needs and often partners with local and nationally recognized law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals to provide training. Training topics include stalking prevalence, lethality and impact; stalking and intimate partner violence; stalking and sexual assault; stalking on campus; teens and stalking; investigating and prosecuting stalking; threat assessment and safety planning; working with victims; developing a coordinated community response to stalking; and the use of technology to stalk.

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The SRC meets increasing requests for training, assistance, and resources on how stalkers use technology (e.g., e-mail, instant messaging, cell phones, text messaging, listening devices, video/digital cameras, computer spyware, and global positioning systems). Stalkers also use Internet sites (e.g., online databases, chat rooms, blogs or bulletin boards, and social networking sites) to gather information about their victims or to post information or threats. More than one in four victims of stalking report that stalkers use technology, such as e-mail or instant messaging, to follow and harass them, and one in 13 victims report that electronic devices have been used to intrude on their lives.[1] Such technologies, though largely not problematic in themselves, provide useful tools for stalkers. The SRC helps those who work with stalking victims to keep up with emerging technologies and aims to ensure that local services, practices, and policies effectively address these and other emerging challenges.

The SRC has also produced a range of guides, videos, and other tools to help communities respond to stalking. These resources include:

- *COPS Problem-Oriented Policing Guide*, which provides information to enhance law enforcement responses to stalking.
- "Stalking: Real Fear, Real Crime," an 18-minute training video centered on the Peggy Klinke stalking and murder case and designed to educate a wide variety of audiences about the dangers of stalking.
- "Links in the Chain: Two Communities Respond to Stalking," featuring two jurisdictions that successfully use multidisciplinary, collaborative responses to stalking.

National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM), also launched by the SRC, aims to increase the public's understanding about stalking. Since 2004, the SRC has produced downloadable and replicable artwork, media tools, fact sheets, brochures, activity ideas, and additional resources used by hundreds of communities nationwide to raise awareness about stalking.

For almost ten years, the SRC has enhanced national understanding of stalking dynamics, offender behaviors, and the impact of the crime on victims. The program has increased knowledge about stalkers' varied motivations and the intersection of stalking and other crimes, such as domestic violence and sexual assault. The SRC has provided law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers, and other allied professionals with the skills to respond more effectively to victims. The SRC will continue working to ensure that communities have access to emerging research, data, and information on stalking, and are better equipped to respond to the crime.

For more information on the Stalking Resource Center and for resources for victims and service providers, visit the SRC website at *www.ncvc.org/src*.

Michelle Garcia is the Director for the Stalking Resource Center, a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime.

[1] Katrina Baum, et al., *Stalking Victimization in the United States,* (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).

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.

- ***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.

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/cchrp/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/pdftxt/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.

Office for Victims of Crime Resources continued…

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

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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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.

Office for Victims of Crime Resources continued…

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.

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 MMMers. 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.