

OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME GRANT PROGRAMS

Victim Services for Older Adults

Each year, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), through its Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance and victim compensation grant programs and its discretionary grant programs, awards funding to states and victim service organizations to address the emotional, advocacy, and financial needs of victims of crime. This topical snapshot details the services provided to older victims¹ by the 6,837 organizations that received VOCA victim assistance funds and the 53 agencies that administered VOCA victim compensation during fiscal year (FY) 2019.

It is vital for victim service providers to reach underserved populations such as older victims.² Older individuals may be especially vulnerable to victimization because of real or perceived changes in physical and mental health, isolation, memory loss, or diminished cognitive ability. Therefore, victim service providers are working to address these victimizations to ensure that older victims continue to receive the services they need.

Organizations Serving Older Victims

In FY 2019, VOCA victim assistance subgrantees allocated a total of \$67 million specifically for serving victims of elder abuse. Victim service providers used those funds to provide appropriate services to older victims of abuse or neglect; identity theft, fraud, or financial exploitation; and other crimes.



of VOCA-funded organizations served older victims.

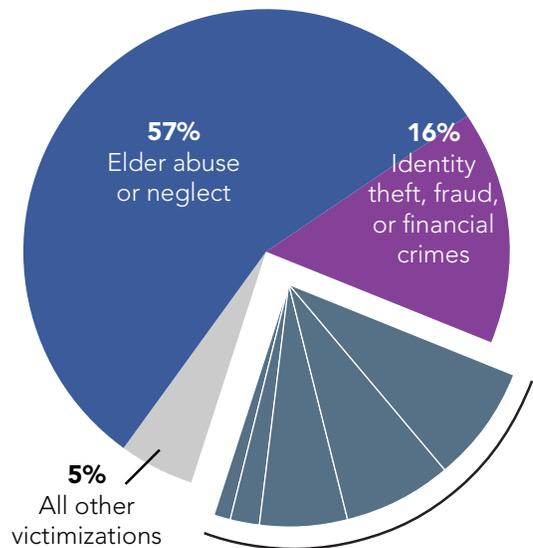


of subawards allocated funds to serve victims of elder abuse.

Victimizations of Older Adults

Victim service providers receiving VOCA subgrants served a total of 357,571 older victims in FY 2019, representing 5 percent of the 7 million total victims served by all VOCA-funded victim service providers. In each quarter of FY 2019, an average of 27,958 victims sought services for elder abuse or neglect.

Most-Common Types of Victimization of Older Adults^{3,4}



¹ OVC also funds several other non-formula national-scope projects and federal victim service programs to address elder abuse and financial exploitation.

² The term "older victims" refers to individuals aged 60 or older.

³ Among VOCA-funded organizations for which older victims accounted for 75 percent or more of the new victims served.

⁴ Based on the average number of individuals experiencing the victimization during each quarter.

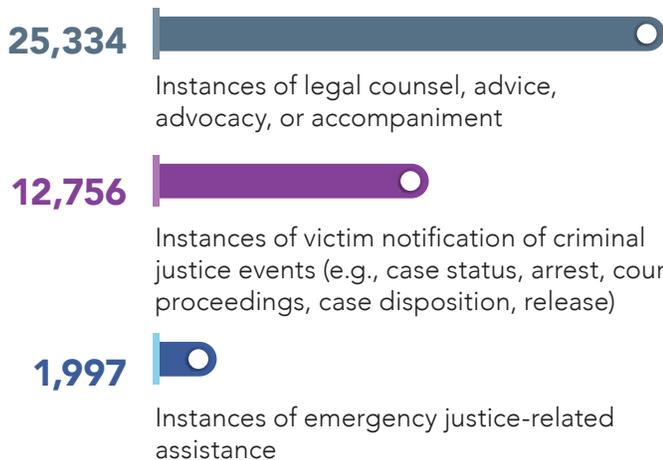


Criminal and Civil Justice System Assistance for Older Victims

In FY 2019, older victims accounted for 75 percent or more of the new victims served by 105 VOCA-funded organizations. After general information and referral services, these organizations most commonly provided criminal and civil justice system assistance to the victims they served. This included supporting older victims with their victim impact statements, offering legal counsel and advice, and obtaining protection and restraining orders.

Criminal and Civil Justice System Assistance Services for Older Victims⁵

In FY 2019, a total of 19,136 individuals received criminal and civil justice system assistance services from VOCA-funded organizations. Victims may have received one or more services multiple times. Each instance reflects a single time that a victim service was provided.



Victim Compensation Claims Paid Related to Elder Abuse or Neglect

In FY 2019, VOCA-administering agencies paid 1,430 compensation claims related to elder abuse or neglect, an 11-percent increase from FY 2018. Assault was the most common crime type associated with elder abuse or neglect, followed closely by fraud and financial crimes.

Victim Compensation Claims Related to Elder Abuse or Neglect, by Crime Type



39.44%
Assault



35.31%
Fraud/
financial crimes



6.08%
Burglary



8.11%
Robbery



5.31%
Homicide



5.73%
All other crime
types

⁵ Among VOCA-funded organizations for which older victims accounted for at least 75 percent or more of the new victims served.