

Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

FISCAL YEAR 2019 DATA ANALYSIS REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

In fiscal year (FY) 2019, over \$3.3 billion was allocated to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant program. Fifty-six grantees funded 11,303 subawards to 6,837 subgrantee organizations, an increase of 13 percent and 6 percent from FY 2018, respectively. In 2019 there were 13,817,598 total victims (which includes new and returning individuals) who received direct services and 4,496,832 anonymous contacts served through hotline calls or online chats. Of the total, there were 7,029,181 unique individuals identified as new clients served throughout the year, representing an 11.4 percent increase from FY 2018.¹ As the nature of service provision varies, some individuals will receive services one time while others might continue to receive services over many months.

VOCA-FUNDED VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS

In FY 2019, nonprofit organizations were the most common subgrantee organization type, followed by government agencies. Campus organization increased from FY 2018 by 23 percent.



TRAINING AND COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

At the conclusion of each fiscal year, Victim Assistance program grantees answer narrative questions about grant-funded activities that occurred in their state during the year. Of the 49 Victim Assistance program grantees that submitted responses to annual narrative questions, 27 described planning or training events during the reporting period. Training events were wide-ranging and included topics such as vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, safety and resilience, human trafficking, cultural sensitivity and diversity, grant administration, and grant management. Planning events included working groups to develop and implement a grantee’s five-year strategic plan, meetings to develop and release calls for proposals, and meetings to plan annual conferences.

¹ Victim service providers do not share personally identifiable information with other providers to ensure the privacy of victims. As such, this number may include duplicates in cases where victims received services from multiple service providers.

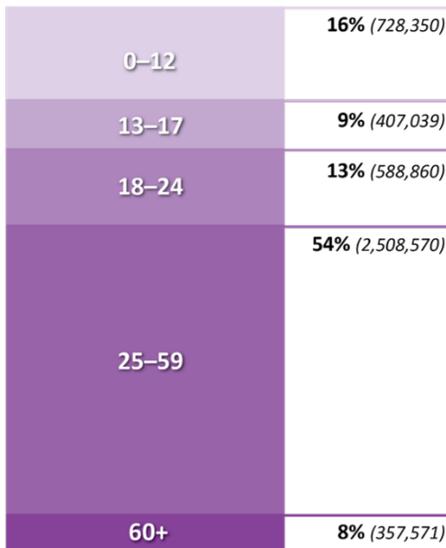
Due to the number of partnerships that each grantee has, Victim Assistance program grantees listed a wide variety of agencies and organizations that they coordinate with to assist crime victims. These responses included (but were not limited to) child advocacy centers, local police departments, counseling service organizations, and sex abuse treatment centers. Of the 49 Victim Assistance program grantees, 46 described coordination services and responses.

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

Individuals who received assistance from VOCA-funded victim service providers had the option to self-report demographic information, including age, gender identity, and race/ethnicity. Although many victims chose to self-report all or some of their age, gender identity, and race/ethnicity, some victims declined to provide this information and some subgrantee organizations were otherwise unable to track some or all demographic data.²

Age

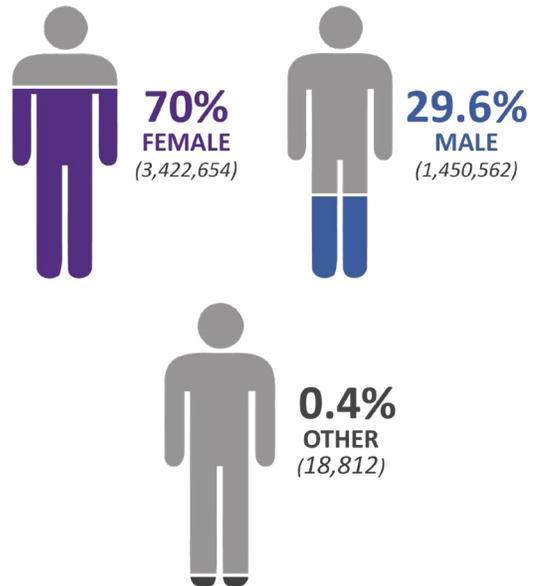
Age was self-reported by 65 percent of victims served.



There was a 17 percent increase in the number of individuals served who self-reported their age as 60+ years at the time of the victimization, representing the largest increase among age groups.

Gender

Gender was self-reported by 70 percent of victims served.

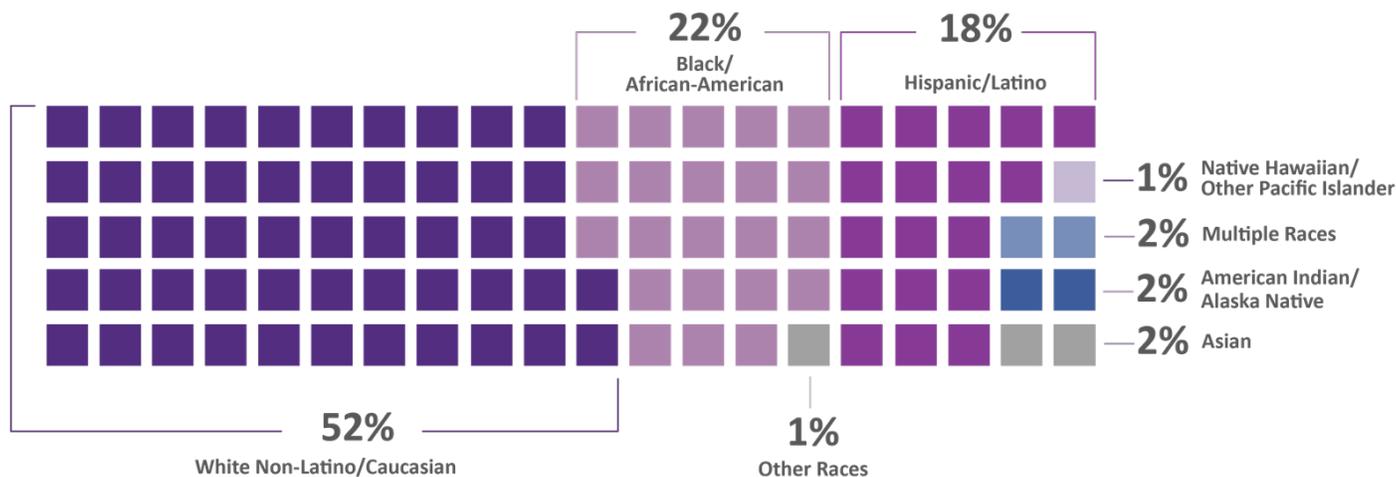


Individuals who reported other gender had the option to further describe their gender identity. Transgender was the most common response, and other responses included but were not limited to non-binary, non-conforming, gender fluid, and intersex.

² In FY 2019, there were 1,187 organizations that did not track age, 906 organizations that did not track gender identity, and 1,320 organizations that did not track race/ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity

Race/ethnicity was self-reported by 63 percent of victims served.



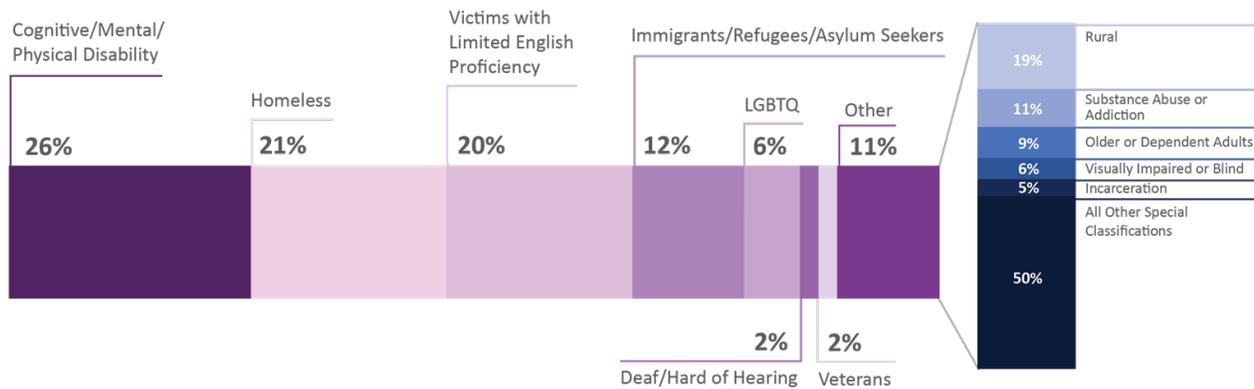
Special Classifications

Some victims self-report a special classification they experience to service organizations, as defined by the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT).³ This information helps providers increase their knowledge about the various conditions and needs facing victims, how these experiences, identities and unique needs may alter or affect the healing process, as well as the best ways to address them when providing services. As these classifications are self-reported, the percentage reflected among all victims served with these qualities is unknown.

In FY 2019, the number of individuals that self-reported per category ranged from 27,395 to 425,353.⁴

³ There are eight special classifications in the Performance Measurement Tool: Deaf/hard of hearing, homeless, immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers, LGBTQ, veterans, victims with disabilities (cognitive, physical mental), victims with limited English proficiency, and other.

⁴ Individuals can self-report in one or more special classification.



While the LGBTQ and Veteran classifications are among the smallest in comparison to the others, they had the largest increase in individuals self-identifying, with a 33 percent and 26 percent increase, respectively. Homeless continues to be the second leading self-reported special classification in from FY 2018, representing 22 percent in FY 2019. Lack of affordable housing and homelessness is identified as a longstanding high need, or an emerging issue reported among many grantees.

Of the individuals who disclosed a special classification, 11 percent self-reported as “other”, a 27 percent decrease from FY 2018.⁵ Within the classification of “other,” the most commonly reported explanations included rural (19 percent), substance abuse or addiction (11 percent), and older or dependent adults (9 percent).

TYPES OF VICTIMIZATION

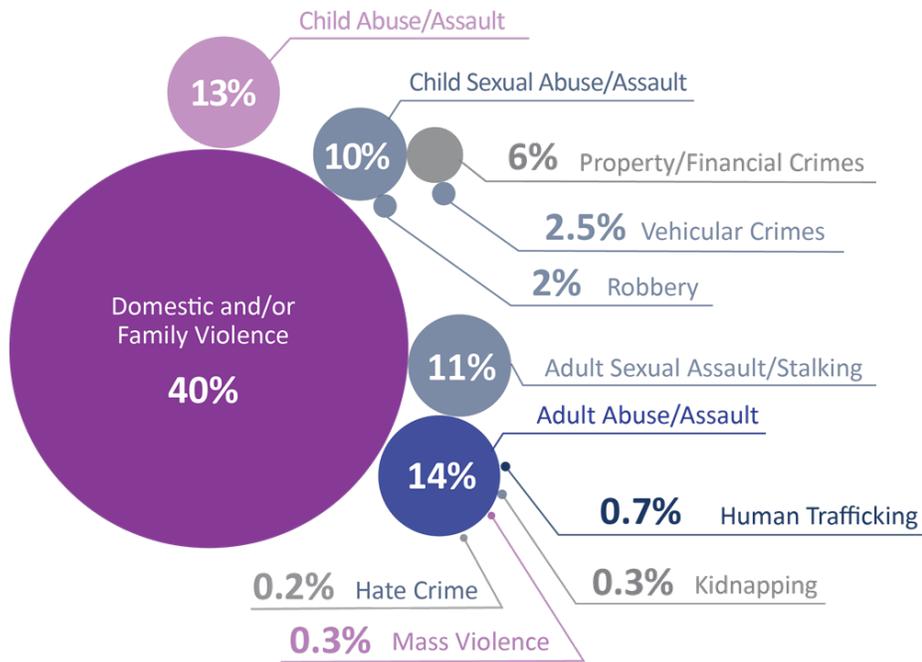
VOCA-funded service providers reported the types of victimization experienced by the individuals served, including both primary and secondary victims of crime.^{6,7} There were 1,408,628 individuals who reported experiencing multiple victimization types, representing a 24 percent decrease from FY 2018.

⁵ If individuals self-report a special classification under “other,” they are asked to provide further explanation detailing the classification.

⁶ See appendix A for the categorizations of victimization types.

⁷ A primary victim is an individual who suffered direct harm because of a crime. A secondary victim is an individual who experienced indirect consequences because of a crime.

The total number of victims served increased from FY 2018, and the number of victimizations within each category increased proportionally. Similarly, violent crime victimization reported by VOCA-funded service providers increased 13.6 percent from FY 2018 to FY 2019. This increase in victimizations may suggest that a higher number of individuals are seeking victim services from VOCA-funded organizations after being victimized, or that more victims sought services across several months for their victimization.



Mass violence represented the largest increase in victimizations between FY 2018 and FY 2019, with an increase of 39 percent, followed by child abuse/assault (32 percent), human trafficking (27 percent), adult sexual assault (24 percent), and kidnapping (24 percent). Despite the percent increase in kidnapping, mass violence, and human trafficking, the number of individuals experiencing these types of victimization remains low compared to other types of victimization. Domestic and family violence had the largest number of victimizations (3,691,192) but a smaller increase of 11 percent over FY 2018.

GREATEST VICTIMIZATION TYPE INCREASES

Victimization Type	Victims Served in FY2019	Victims Served in FY 2018	Increase in Victims Served
Kidnapping	31,835	25,692	6,143
Mass violence	32,400	23,296	9,104
Human trafficking	66,661	52,459	14,202
Adult Sexual Assault	1,057,097	854,365	202,732
Child abuse	1,247,349	942,767	304,582

Victim service providers indicated that victims experienced other victimization types as well, including violation of a court protective order, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, and false imprisonment. States often reported individuals who receive notification services under “other victimization.” VNSs provide individuals with information pertaining to an offender or court case. As VNSs are typically automated, state agencies administering those services with VOCA funds may not know the victimization type for the individuals receiving notifications.

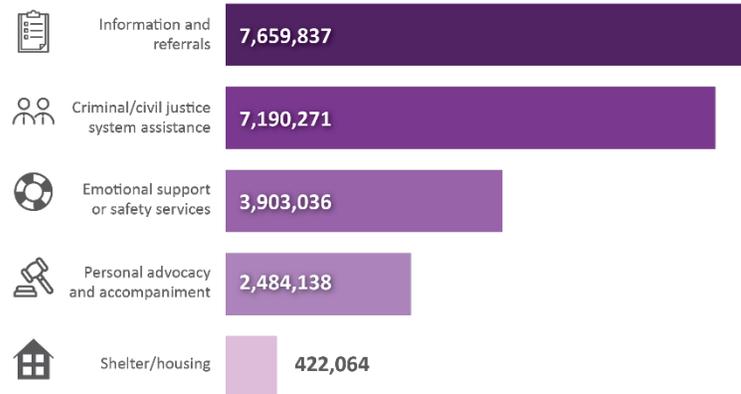
DIRECT SERVICES

Individuals may experience a range of negative outcomes because of their victimization. They may also experience setbacks, sometimes due to the exacerbation of existing challenges or instabilities in their lives. As such, it is vital for victims and their families to receive trauma-informed, culturally and developmentally appropriate services to help them work through the effects they are facing. Victims and their families often have various needs that span across multiple types of services. Victim experiences are never the same, so organizations strive to tailor the services provided on an individual basis.

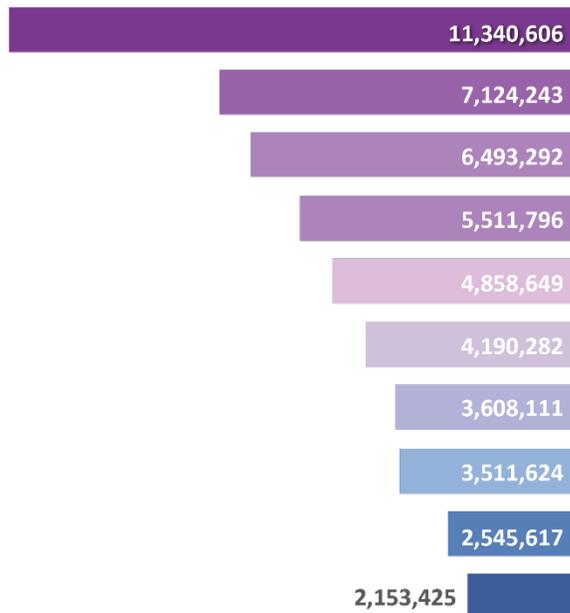
Services include, but are not limited to, physical, emotional, and psychological assistance. VOCA-funded services are reported in five main direct service categories, through a detailed list of categorized service types.

Individuals may receive multiple services, and/or the same service multiple times as they work with a service provider to address their victimization and promote healing and stability in their lives.

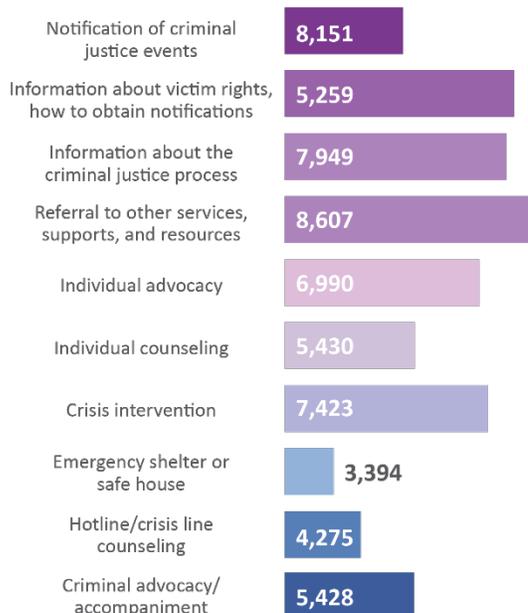
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED



NUMBER OF TIMES SERVICES WERE PROVIDED



NUMBER OF SUBAWARDS SUPPORTING THE SERVICE



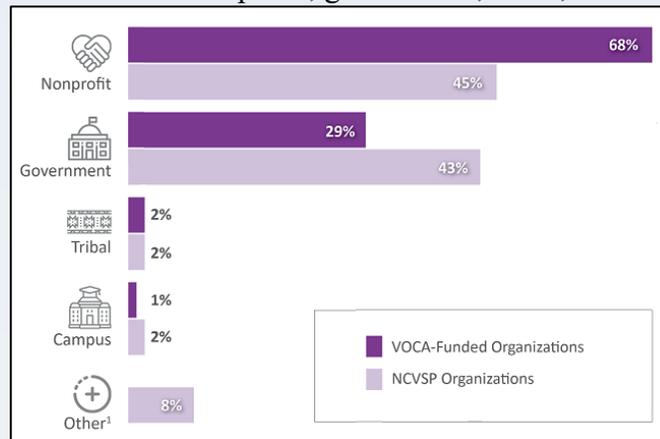


SPOTLIGHT: BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

VICTIM SERVICES STATISTICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

In 2017, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducted the National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP), the first-ever nationwide data collection on all types of victim service providers (VSPs). This included an intentionally expansive approach and definition of providers, including regardless funding sources, with results of the NCVSP released in November 2019. The purpose of the NCVSP and broader Victim Services Statistical Research Program is to define the size and scope of the VSP infrastructure in the United States, providing the first comprehensive quantitative snapshot of the victim services field. This valuable resource addresses and presents findings on the geographic locations, structures, and funding sources of VSPs, as well as the types of victims served, and services provided. The NCVSP also provided the sampling frame for the National Survey of Victim Service Providers (NSVSP) fielded in 2019. The NSVSP is a more detailed survey of VSPs, including expanded categories of service types, human resources, and other key areas, aiming to understand how equipped the victim services field is to meet the needs of diverse victims across the U.S.

The NCVSP determined that there were about 12,200 VSPs operating in the United States in 2017. In FY 2019, there were 6,837 VOCA-funded victim service organizations, which represents 56 percent of the total organizations collected by the NCVSP. Nonprofit and government agencies were the most common organization types for both VOCA-funded and NCVSP victim service providers, although among total organizations included, SAAs funded a larger portion of nonprofit VSPs compared to government VSPs. The National Census of Victim Service Providers collected data on the following additional organization types: hospital/medical/emergency (3 percent), informal (2 percent), unknown (2 percent), and for-profit (1 percent). These types are not separated out in Victim Assistance subgrantee data, and are included in the nonprofit, government, tribal, and campus categories.



The NCVSP is an additional resource available to SAAs to better understand the VSPs landscape in their states. It provides insight into the diversity of VSPs that could help identify new organizations eligible to receive VOCA subawards, and how their funding trends compare. Geographic data can point to VSPs located in underserved or rural areas, where it may be more difficult for victims to access to services. The information can also be used to identify VSPs serving specific types of victimization, survivor populations or offering certain services not currently within their existing subgrantees. The NCVSP also presents the level of concern the VSPs have about future finding sources, staff retention, grant reporting, and access to technology, categories not currently reflected within the PMT.

¹ The “other” category only applies to data collected by the National Census of Victim Service Providers. VOCA-funded service providers do not report data on these organization types separately. Instead, they are incorporated under nonprofit, government, tribal, and campus organizations.

NOTABLE TRENDS AND EMERGING ISSUES

Grantees noted several trends and emerging issues during FY 2019.⁸ Due to the wide spectrum of services Victim Assistance program subgrantees offer, grantees provided information on many ongoing trends and emerging issues that their grant is experiencing.

- Limited housing options. Shelters and transitional housing are often at full capacity, and there is a lack of long-term safe and affordable housing for victims.
- Transportation and a lack of culturally-appropriate services as barriers to receiving services. Individuals who live in rural or remote areas often lack access to public transportation, making it difficult for them to reach victim service providers. Culturally-appropriate services are also limited, so victims may not be able to receive culturally-informed services or interpreter services, who individuals with limited English proficiency.
- Individuals presenting with substance abuse or mental health issues. Treatment options for victims of crime who experience substance abuse or mental health issues are often limited or nonexistent. Individuals may be denied services because of their substance abuse, which may result in them returning to a dangerous situation and increasing the likelihood of revictimization. The number of professionals who are qualified to provide sufficient services to victims with substance abuse or mental health issues are scarce, and the professionals available may not be equipped to provide the necessary services on a long-term basis.
- Expanding services for victims of human trafficking and older victims of crime. Services for human trafficking victims and older victims of crime are expanding in several states as the awareness of these victimization types increase.

CONCLUSION

An individual's reaction following a victimization is unique and may include various forms of short- or long-term emotional, physical, or psychological trauma. The data provided by VOCA-funded victim service organizations demonstrates the range of situations and needs presented by the 7 million victims of crime that received services from providers. This information can be used by grantees, service organizations, and other key stakeholders in their jurisdictions, from policymakers to survivor advocacy groups to further understand population demographics and victim needs, help identify gaps in victim services, and how to best allocate future resources. When VOCA-funded victim service providers fill gaps and thoughtfully allocate resources, victims can gain greater access to the tailored services they need to recover from their trauma successfully, however that is defined by each victim.

⁸ Grantees reported on emerging trends and notable issues within their annual narrative responses. The information presented represents some of the most commonly reported trends or issues as stated by grantees but they may not be reflective of trends or issues occurring in every state and territory.

APPENDIX A: TYPES OF VICTIMIATIONS

Subgrantees reported data on individuals who received services based on 26 presenting victimization types. These types, as reported by subgrantees, were compiled into 13 main victimization types. The following list outlines the types of victimizations that make up each category.

1. Adult abuse/assault
 - Adult physical assault (*includes aggravated and simple assault*)
 - Elder abuse or neglect
 - Survivors of homicide victims
2. Adult sexual assault/stalking
 - Adult sexual assault
 - Adults sexually abused as children
 - Stalking/harassment
3. Child abuse/assault
 - Bullying (*e.g., cyber, physical, or verbal*)
 - Child physical abuse
 - Teen dating victimization
4. Child sexual abuse/assault
 - Child pornography
 - Child sexual abuse/assault
5. Domestic and/or family violence
6. Hate Crimes
 - Hate crime: Racial/religious/gender/sexual orientation/other
7. Human Trafficking
 - Human trafficking: Labor
 - Human trafficking: Sex
8. Kidnapping
 - Kidnapping: Custodial
 - Kidnapping: Noncustodial
9. Mass Violence
 - Mass violence (domestic/international)
 - Terrorism (domestic/international)
10. Other
11. Property/financial crimes
 - Arson
 - Burglary
 - Identity theft/fraud/financial crime
12. Robbery
13. Vehicular crimes
 - Driving under the influence/driving while intoxicated incidents
 - Other vehicular victimization (e.g., hit and run)