



Bureau of Justice Statistics

National Census of Victim Service Providers: Data, Resources, and Implications for Practitioners

Rachel E. Morgan, PhD | BJS Project Manager

Ashley Russell, PhD | OVC Performance Management Coordinator

March 8, 2023



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors Find Their Justice

Opening Remarks

Kristina Rose
Director
Office for Victims of Crime



Alex Piquero, PhD
Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Webinar Agenda

- Presentation
 - BJS and OVC Partnership
 - Goals and importance of BJS' Victim Services Statistical Research Program (VSSRP)
 - National *Census* of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP)
 - 2017 NCVSP interactive maps demonstration
 - Update on 2023 NCVSP
 - Implications and uses for victim service providers (VSP) field and practitioners
- Q&A



Bureau of Justice Statistics



BJS & OVC Partnership

The Bureau of Justice Statistics

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is one of 13 principal statistical agencies housed in the U.S. government. Each of these 13 agencies has statistical activities as their core mission.
- BJS's mission is to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.
- BJS also provides financial and technical support to state, local, and tribal governments to improve both their statistical capabilities and the quality and utility of their criminal history records.

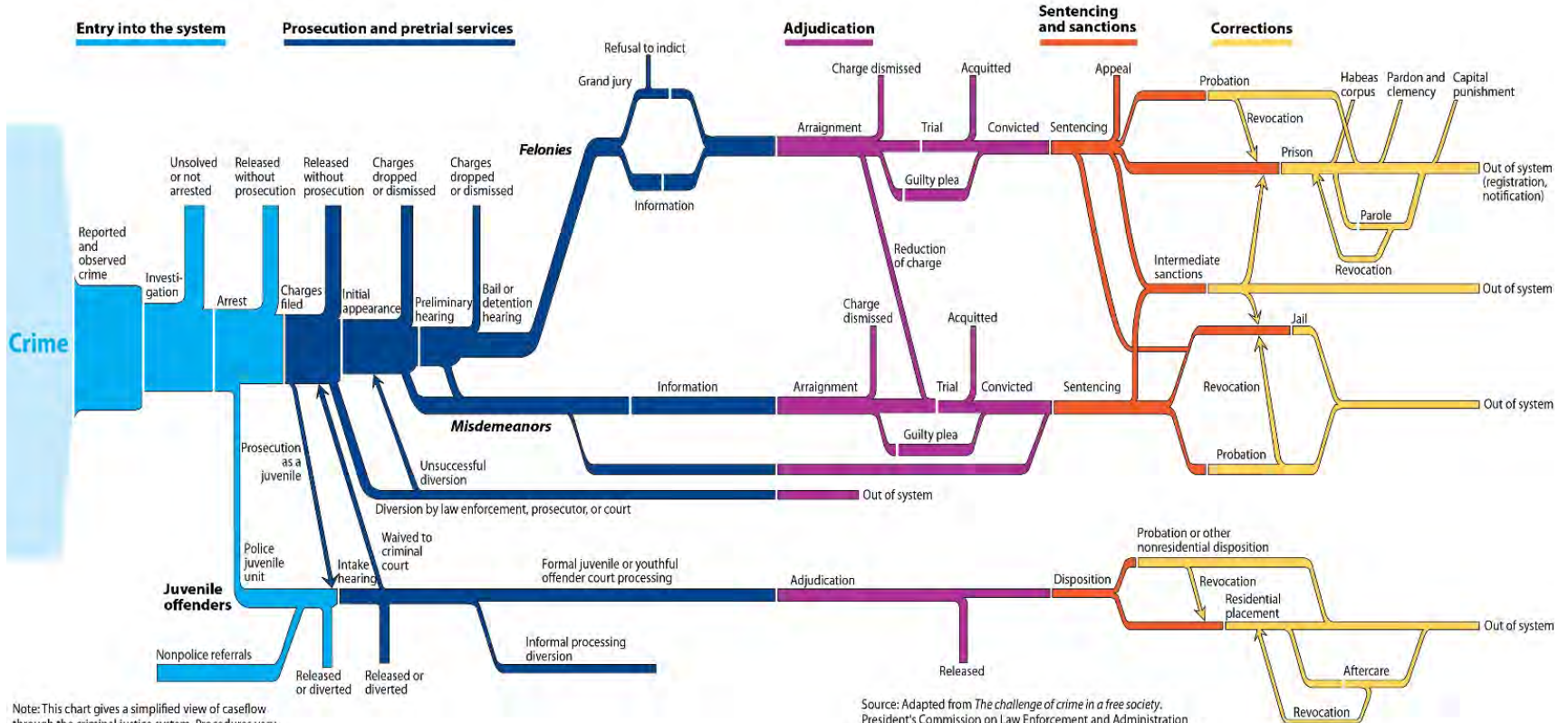


Bureau of Justice Statistics



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

BJS and the Criminal Justice System



Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseload through the criminal justice system. Procedures vary among jurisdictions. The weights of the lines are not intended to show actual size of caseloads.

Source: Adapted from *The challenge of crime in a free society*. President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967. This revision, a result of the Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of the President's Commission, was prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1997.

The Office for Victims of Crime

- **The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)** – created by Congress in 1984 to provide federal support to state and local programs that assist victims of crime. VOCA uses non -taxpayer money from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) for programs that serve victims of crime, including state -formula victim assistance and compensation grants.
- **VOCA created the Crime Victims Fund** – a special fund within the Treasury consisting of non -tax revenue (mostly fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures from convicted federal criminals).
(See: https://ovc.ojp.gov/about/crime_victims_fund.)
- **Creation of the Office for Victims of Crime** – the passage of VOCA also created the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), which are charged with administering the Crime Victims Fund.



Bureau of Justice Statistics



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors Find Their Justice

What does OVC do?

- With CVF funding, OVC manages—
 - State formula grants to victim assistance and compensation programs.
 - Discretionary grant programs that provide direct services, training and technical assistance, and implement national -scope demonstration projects.
 - The largest anti-trafficking portfolio across the federal government.
 - A dedicated Tribal Set-Aside funding stream to enhance victim services for AI/AN communities.
 - Partnerships with dozens of federal agencies to support their crime victim service efforts.
 - Training and technical assistance to build the capacity of the victim services field.



Bureau of Justice Statistics



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

BJS & OVC Partnership Goals

1. Establish and strengthen data collections on VSPs
2. Expand knowledge of VSPs across the criminal justice system
3. Collect data on victimization and the use of VSPs through the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Overarching goals and importance of
BJS' Victim Services Statistical
Research Program

Victim Services Statistical Research Program (VSSRP)

- Build knowledge about victim service provisions across the criminal justice system
- Improve understanding of help-seeking and access to services among victims of crime and abuse
- To date, the VSSRP includes 2 data collections specifically focused on gathering information directly from VSPs
 - 2017 National *Census* of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP)
 - 2019 National *Survey* of Victim Service Providers (NSVSP)



Bureau of Justice Statistics



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Value of collecting data from VSPs

- Multiple perspectives on victim service provision are critical to understanding whether the field can meet victims' needs.

Victims can tell us if they needed, accessed, or received services.

Victim service providers can provide information about who they serve, who they weren't able to serve, and whether VSPs are sufficiently staffed, funded, trained, and resourced to meet victims' needs.

The Census and Survey of VSPs provide the first ever national data on the VSP field!



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Victim Perspective

National Crime Victimization Survey



Current Items

- Did you (or someone in your household) receive any help or advice from any office or agency—other than the police—that deals with victims of crime?
- Was that a government or private agency?

Testing New Items

- Informal help seeking
- Whether victims do or do not receive formal services
- Types of services received (e.g., hotline, legal services, or housing)
- How satisfied victims were with services received
- Why services were not received for those who sought but did not receive services
- Reasons for not seeking services when the victim wanted services

Victim Service Provider Perspective

National Census of Victim Service Providers



Brief Survey for All VSPs

- Type of VSP
- Services provided
- Funding of VSPs

National Survey of Victim Service Providers



Detailed Survey for a Sample of VSPs

- Victims served and victim characteristics
- Services provided by VSPs
- Referrals to VSPs
- Staffing at VSPs

Items on Other BJS Surveys

- Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA)
- National Survey of Prosecutors (NSP)
- National Survey of Tribal Court Systems (NSTCS)
- Census of Medical Examiners and Coroners (ME/C) Offices
- Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities (CCF)

2017 National *Census* of
Victim Service Providers

2017 NCVSP

- Developed a roster of all VSPs across the country
- Conducted a pilot test to determine the quality of the roster and test survey instrument
- From October 2016 – July 2017, conducted a census of the field to examine basic characteristics of VSPs
- Cleaned the roster (*deleted duplicate organizations, organizations not providing services, missing data on key census items*)
- **Final product was a comprehensive, up-to-date, and descriptive roster of VSPs that could serve as a sampling frame for future VSP surveys**



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

2017 NCVSP

- BJS published *Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017* analyzing the census data, which includes
 - Number of VSPs by type of organization
 - Map of VSPs by location
 - Map of VSPs per 100,000 residents
- Data file and codebook archived through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data for public download (study # 37518)
 - <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD>

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

November 2019 Statistical Brief NCJ 252648

Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017

Barbara A. Oudekerk, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*, and Heather Warnken, I.D., LL.M., *BJS and OVC Visiting Fellow*
Lynn Langton, Ph.D., *former BJS Statistician*


TABLE 1
Victim service providers, by type of organization, 2017

Type of organization	Number	Percent
Total	12,196	100%
Non-profit/faith-based	5,505	45.1%
Governmental	5,297	43.4%
Prosecutor's office	2,220	18.2%
Law enforcement agency	1,886	15.5%
Other ^a	1,191	9.8%
Hospital/medical/emergency	358	2.9%
Tribal ^b	262	2.1%
University or college campus/educational	245	2.0%
Informal ^c	179	1.5%
For-profit ^d	138	1.1%
Unknown ^e	212	1.7%

Note: Includes victim service providers (VSPs) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Excludes VSPs within the U.S. military.
^aIncludes juvenile justice facilities, offender custody and supervision organizations, social services, and other governmental agencies.
^bIncludes tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, courts, juvenile justice facilities, offender custody and supervision organizations, advocacy programs, coalitions, social services, and other tribal organizations.
^cIncludes independent support groups; volunteer, grassroots, or survivor networks; or other programs not formally part of a governmental agency, registered non-profit, or business.
^dIncludes private counseling/other mental health care providers, private legal offices/law firms, and other businesses.
^eIncludes non-responding VSPs that could not be categorized based on public information.
 Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Census of Victim Service Providers, 2017.

Selected findings

- Almost 90% of VSPs were non-profit or faith-based organizations (45%) or governmental agencies with staff or programs to serve crime victims (43%).
- Most governmental VSPs operated in prosecutors' offices (18% of all VSPs) or law enforcement agencies (15%).
- Hospital, medical, or emergency facilities with dedicated victim programs made up 3% of VSPs.
- About 2% of VSPs were located in tribal organizations.
- About 2% of VSPs were located on university or college campuses or in other educational institutions.





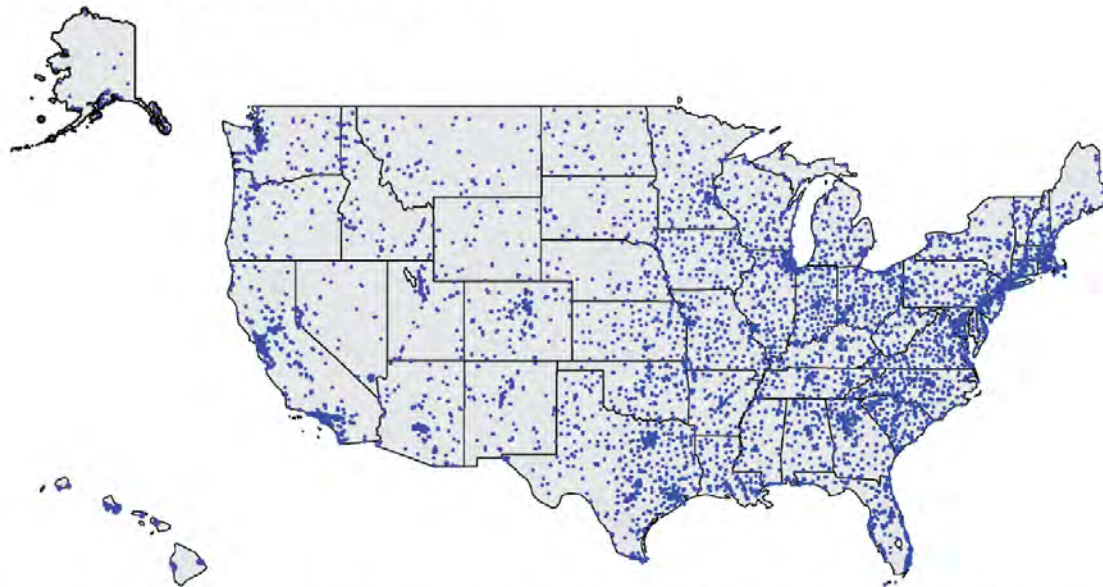
Bureau of Justice Statistics



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Nearly a quarter (23%) of VSPs were in the four largest states (California, Texas, Florida, and New York)

Victim service providers, by location, 2017



Note: Includes victim service providers (VSPs) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Excludes VSPs within the U.S. military. See appendix table 1 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Census of Victim Service Providers, 2017.



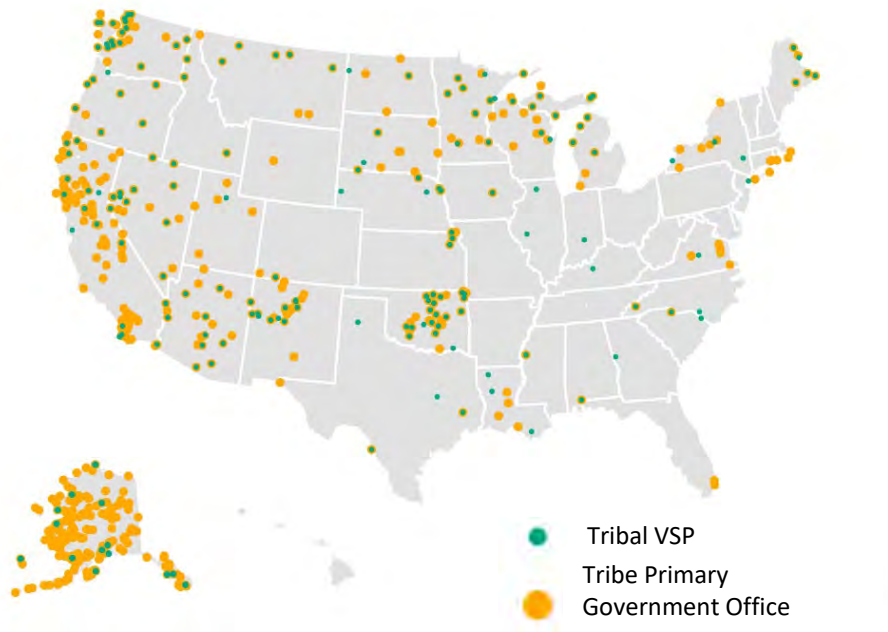
Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

VSP collections offer new perspectives on services for hard-to-reach victim populations

- This example shows **tribal VSPs** mapped with **federally recognized tribes** at the county level.



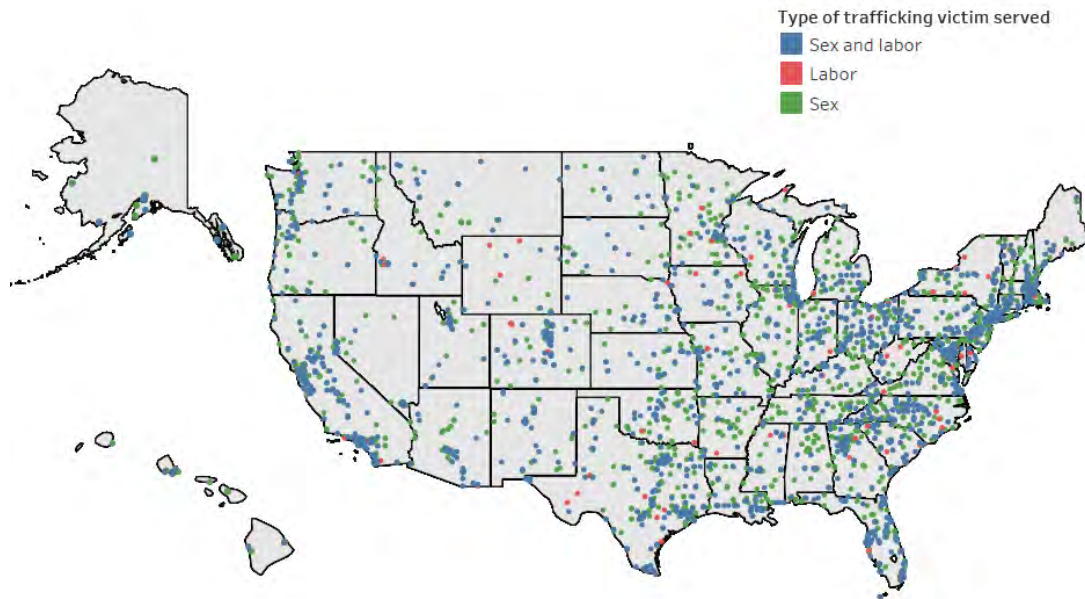
Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

VSP collections offer new perspectives on services for hard-to-reach victim populations

- This example shows VSPs that reported they served at least one victim of **sex and labor**, **labor only**, or **sex only** trafficking.



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Demonstration of 2017 NCVSP interactive maps

2023 NCVSP

2023 NCVSP

- Cooperative agreement with project team consisting of –
 - Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA)
 - Westat
 - National Association for Victim Assistance (NOVA)
- Project kickoff in February 2022



NATIONAL CENSUS OF VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

BJS Goals for the 2023 NCVSP

1. Refresh and build upon the 2017 NCVSP frame
 - We know there have been significant changes in VSP operations during these years
 - We will build on the strong foundation created with the first administration
2. Improve what did not work as intended, while maintaining comparability between 2017 to 2023 Census
 - We will focus on revising the survey items with low quality data and poor item performance
3. Produce a high quality and accurate frame that can be used to sample VSPs in the next NSVSP

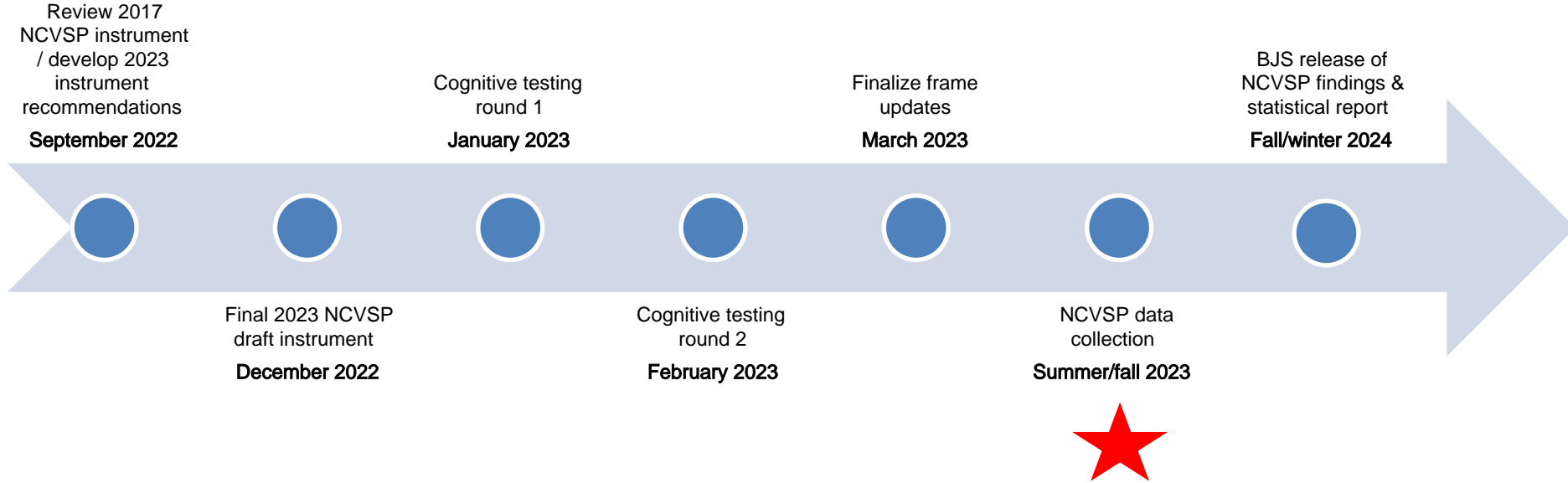


Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

2023 NCVSP Project Timeline



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

For more NCVSP information and updates

- Victim Services Statistical Research Program page
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/vssrp>
- Subscribe to JustStats
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/subscribe>
- 2017 Census Data File and Documentation (study # 37518)
<https://icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD>

**We encourage your organization to complete the 2023 NCVSP when you are contacted by our project team later this year!*

Implications and uses for VSP field and practitioners

Implications for the Field

- [Census Data](#) can be used as a tool by organizations to better understand:
 - Where service providers are located and gaps in service providers within the state, by type of provider
 - Are there areas in the state that lack victim service providers in general or specific types of providers?
 - Distribution of victims seeking services and general information on types of victims served
 - How does this align with other crime and victimization rates in your area?
 - Distribution of services in your local area
 - Potential for partnerships with other organizations to increase referrals to meet the needs of victims.
- Data driven decision making
 - In addition to the census data, there are several publications and resources that BJS provides based off the census and other data that can help support your organization to make data driven decisions in programming and in funding
- OVC Grant Funding Distribution
 - With the updated Census data, OVC can get a better understanding of how much of the VSP field is accessing funding and where there are gaps to be filled.



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Participate in the 2023 Census!

- The Census data is only as good as the information we are able to collect from the field
- Make sure to opt in to the OVC Directory
 - The Directory of Crime Victim Services helps users locate victim services in the United States and other countries



Bureau of Justice Statistics



Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.

Thank you!

Rachel E. Morgan, PhD | BJS Project Manager
Rachel.Morgan@usdoj.gov

Ashley Russell, PhD | OVC Performance Management Coordinator
Ashley.R.Ellis@usdoj.gov



Q&A Session

Please type your questions into Q&A
selecting All Panelists



Bureau of Justice Statistics



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime
Helping Crime Survivors. Rest Their Justice.