

New Grantee Orientation: Performance Reporting

Performance, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation (PARE) Unit
2024/2025



U.S. Department of Justice
OVW
Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence

Agenda

- Describe the purposes of performance reporting
- Clarify OVW's approach to performance reporting
- Explore guiding principles of performance reporting
- Review what we have learned about performance reporting
- Introduction to the VAWA IMPACT Tool



Performance, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation Unit

The PARE Unit works to build the evidence base for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)-funded programs, provide research and data to inform program and policy decisions, and equip people in the field with information and tools to help them align their work with effective strategies for serving survivors and holding offenders accountable.

Become an OVW peer reviewer:

www.justice.gov/ovw/peer-review

Learn more about our grants at:

www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs

Contact Information:

R&E email inbox: OVW.Research@usdoj.gov

OVW Uses Performance Reporting Data to

- Fulfill Congressional reporting requirements
- Monitor awards
- Testify before Congress
- Respond to data requests
- Evaluate and justify funding needs
- Identify areas of remaining need
- Identify trends and promising practices
- Answer policy questions
- **Listen to our grantees and be responsive to the field**



**Thank you for all you do to
coordinate quality data collection
and share your work with OVW.**



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Guiding Principles of OVW Performance Reporting



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Performance Reporting

OVW grant recipients should collect and must report complete performance data on their OVW-funded projects. In addition, recipients must maintain victim privacy and confidentiality and comply with civil rights regulations when they are collecting and reporting performance data. Recipients should ensure that victims and all participants in OVW-funded programming understand how the data they share will be used and who will have access to it. Data should be collected only to the extent that it does not compromise the program's ability to provide victim-centered, appropriate, equitable, and accessible services.



Guiding Principles

- Victim-Centered and Trauma-informed
- Informed, Confidential, and Secure
- Meaningful and Useful
- Appropriate, Accessible, and Equitable



Victim Centered and Trauma Informed

Recipients should collect data about victims served, services provided, and other activities completed with OVW funds to the extent that it **does not interfere with providing victim-centered, trauma-informed services.**



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Informed, Confidential, and Secure

When victims or participants share their data or participate in services, they should be **informed about how, when, and by whom their data will be used and how their data will be stored.**

The participant should also understand the **nature of data privacy, confidentiality, or privilege responsibilities vested in the recipient** and how information could be accessed or disclosed.



Meaningful and Useful

While aligning data collection with OVW reporting requirements, **recipients should consider which data are meaningful, useful, and appropriate for the communities served.**

Balanced alongside meeting OVW requirements, recipients should avoid asking additional questions of victims and participants that do not directly relate to service provision and safety.

Fulfilling OVW reporting requirements should not mean placing an undue burden on participants.



Appropriate, Accessible, and Equitable

Victims should never be required to share demographic information as a condition for receiving OVW-funded services

Screening tools, intake forms, and other data collection mechanisms must follow civil rights requirements and available in languages and formats to ensure meaningful access in communities served.



What have we learned from performance reporting?



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“

Based on our experience, having an attorney at their hearing leads to better outcomes for the client. Judges tend to take those cases more seriously. Judges continue to say that our representation aids the court system because unrepresented litigants tend to bog down the system.

”

*-Appalachian Research and Defense Fund
of Kentucky, Inc.*



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What we learned: RTC

- Civil legal assistance provided by attorneys funded through VAWA's Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Program increases the quality, quantity, and efficiency of legal services for domestic violence victims. Legal aid attorneys who are trained on domestic violence may attain the most favorable outcomes for their clients on custody matters when compared with victims who represent themselves and victims with privately retained attorneys. Victims who obtain civil legal services may suffer less subsequent physical violence and stalking and achieve more economic self-sufficiency. Victims who get help from attorneys and community-based advocates may be more likely than victims without that assistance to perceive themselves as having a voice in the justice process.
- Many victims continue to share custody with their abuser even after leaving an abusive relationship. Abusers often use children and custody arrangements to control, harm, or monitor the victim. Supervised visitation and safe exchange programs offer a safe place for the exchange of a child and a secure and nurturing environment for children to interact with non-custodial parents.



What we learned: RTC Citations

- Cattaneo, L. B., Goodman, L. A., Epstein, D., Kohn, L. S., & Zanville, H. A. (2009). The victim-informed prosecution project: A quasi-experimental test of a collaborative model for cases of intimate partner violence. *Violence Against Women*, 15(10), 1227-1247. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801209345148>; Hartley, C. C., & Renner, L. M. (2016). The longer-term influence of civil legal services on battered women. (NCJ 249879). <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249879.pdf>; Hartley, C. C., & Renner, L. M. (2018). Economic self-sufficiency among women who experienced intimate partner violence and received civil legal services. *Journal of Family Violence*, 33(7), 435-445. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-018-9977-0>; Institute for Law and Justice. (2005). National evaluation of the Legal Assistance for Victims Program. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/208612.pdf>; KKernic, M. A. (2015). Final report of the impact of legal representation on child custody decisions among families with a history of intimate partner violence study. (NCJ 248886). National Institute of Justice. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/248886.pdf>; and Renner, L. M., & Hartley, C. C. (2021). Psychological well-being among women who experienced intimate partner violence and received civil legal services. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(7-8), 3688-3709. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518777552>.
- Parker, T., Rogers, K., Collins, M., & Edleson, J. L. (2008). Danger zone: Battered mothers and their families in supervised visitation. *Violence Against Women*, 14(11), 1313-1325. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801208324531>; Saini, M., Van Wert, M., & Gofman, J. (2012). Parent-child supervised visitation within child welfare and custody dispute contexts: An exploratory comparison of two distinct models of practice. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34(1), 163-168. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2011.09.011>; and Shepard, M. F., & Hagemeister, A. K. (2013). Perspectives of rural women: Custody and visitation with abusive ex-partners. *Journal of Women & Social Work*, 28(2), 165-176. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886109913490469>



Victims Served

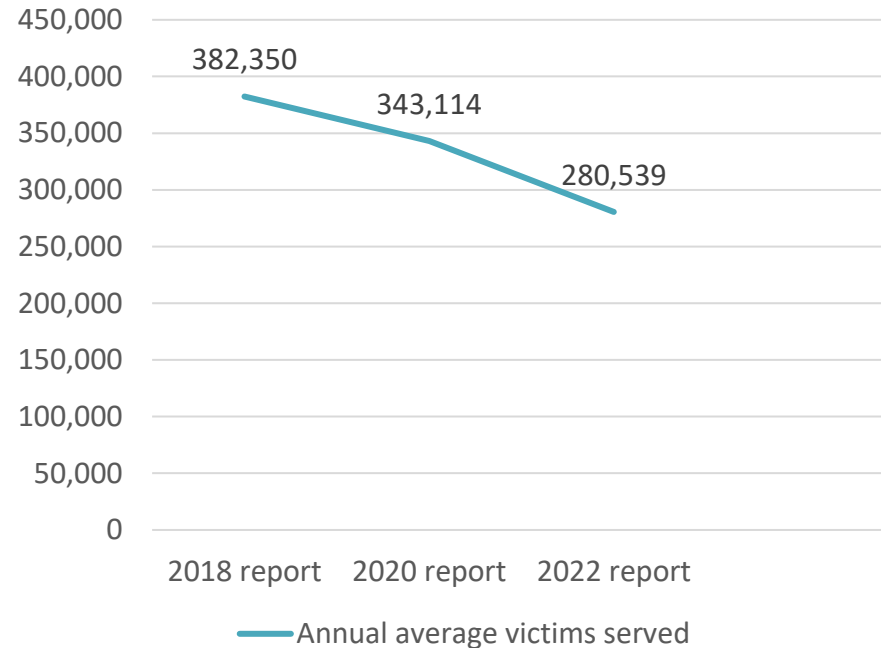
Between July 2019 - June 2021, in each 6-month reporting period, an average of **188** LAV Program grantees reported data.

On average, **179** grantees (95%) used funds to provide services to victims and:

- served **21,775** victims
- assisted victims with **31,757** legal

The most frequently addressed legal issues were protection orders, divorce, and custody/visitation.

Annual average victims served



Areas of Remaining Need

- Material assistance, childcare, legal help and transportation.
- STOP and SASP subgrantees specifically highlighted the need to improve the quality of training for SANEs/SAFEs, and to provide training on best practices in sexual assault response, prosecution, and investigation.
- Identified increased access to free or low-cost civil legal assistance as a specific need in underserved and historically marginalized communities, particularly regarding custody, divorce, and eviction issues.



VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN ACT

MEASURING
EFFECTIVENESS
INITIATIVE

Questions?



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VAWA IMPACT Tool

Logistics of Performance Reporting



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VAWA IMPACT Tool +MEI Slides

