

Accessing Victim Services

Introduction

The following data is taken from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and offers information on the percentage of serious violent crime victims who accessed services from a victim service agency from 1993 to 2009.

The study looks at “the relationship between a victim receiving assistance and criminal justice system actions pertaining to the crime, such as reporting the crime to the police, the police making an arrest or a judge or prosecutor contacting the victim. It also examines the percentage of serious violent crime victims who received assistance by the characteristics of the victim and the victimization, including the victim's age, gender, race, the type of crime, the extent of the victim's injury and victim-offender relationships. *U.S. bureau of Justice Statistics: Use of Victim Service Agencies by Victims of Serious Crime, 1993-2009, 2011*

Key findings include:

- While the rate of serious violent crime in the United States declined overall from 22 victimizations per 1,000 persons (age 12 or older) in 1993 to 6 per 1,000 in 2009, the percentage of victims receiving assistance from victim service agencies remained relatively stable. About 9% of serious violent crime victims received direct assistance from a victim service agency from 1993 to 2009.
- From 2000 to 2009, a greater percentage of female (15 percent) than male (six percent) victims of serious violent crime received assistance from a victim services agency.
- Victims age 35 or older (12%) were more likely to receive assistance than younger victims age 18 to 24 (9%).
- Victims living in rural areas (12%) were also more likely to receive assistance than those living in urban areas (9%).
- From 2000 to 2009, 14% of violent crime victims who reported the crime to the police received direct assistance from a victim service agency, compared to 4% when the crime was not reported.
- Victims who received direct assistance from a victim service agency were more likely to see an arrest made in the case and have contact with a non-law enforcement criminal justice official, such as a judge or prosecutor, than victims who did not receive direct assistance.
- About 1 in 5 victims of rape or other sexual assault received assistance from a victim service agency.
- A greater percentage of serious intimate partner violence victims (23%) received assistance from a victim service agency than other serious violent crime victims (8%).