



Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program

FISCAL YEAR 2017 DATA ANALYSIS REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program provides supplemental funding to state compensation programs within the United States and its territories. State compensation programs offer financial assistance and reimbursement to individuals who incurred out-of-pocket expenses as a direct result of a crime. Compensation funding may support a wide range of expenses including counseling, funeral or burial costs, lost income, or medical care.¹ Funding may also cover additional expenses, such as child care, crime scene cleanup, or travel.

Data presented in this report include all state compensation claims, regardless of their funding source. The percentage of funding provided to the states is set by statute. The annual grant amount is based on 60 percent of each state’s compensation payments from 2 years prior. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, 53 states and territories received VOCA Victim Compensation grants.² 52 grantees received funding and provided data on compensation claims to OVC.³ Together, these grantees provided \$367,525,175 in compensation funding to 250,583 claims.⁴

In FY 2017, over 258,000 individuals applied for victim compensation. Of the victims who self-reported their demographic information, the most prevalent demographic groups for gender, age, and race were as follows: 60 percent were female, 49 percent were between 25–49 years old, and 40 percent self-reported as White Non-Latino/Caucasians. Thirty-six percent of the applications paid went to victims of assault, followed by child sexual abuse (24 percent), sexual assault (19 percent), and homicide (8 percent). Thirty-seven percent of compensation funds were used for medical/dental expenses, followed by funeral/burial expenses (16 percent), and economic support (13 percent).⁵

APPLICANT POPULATION

There were 258,848 people included in applications for compensation benefits in FY 2017. Of those, 82 percent were primary victims whose direct victimization was the basis for the application, and 18 percent were secondary victims. A primary victim is the individual who suffered direct harm as a result of the crime and a secondary victim is an individual who experienced an indirect consequence of the crime. Secondary victims may include relatives of the primary victims or individuals who witnessed the crime.



¹ Compensation is only provided when other financial resources, such as insurance, do not cover the cost. Some expenses, including theft and property damage or loss, are not covered by state compensation programs.

² The 53 states and territories are the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa did not receive Victim Compensation grants in FY 17 and therefore did not report data to OVC on compensation activities.

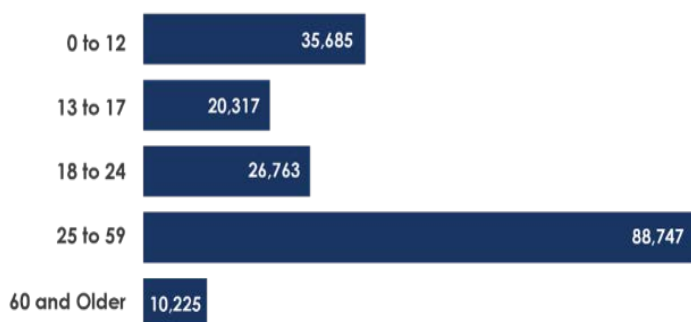
³ One grantee did not report data into the Performance Management Tool (PMT) and is excluded from the data analysis.

⁴ In addition to the VOCA victim compensation award, MA was awarded an additional compensation award in FY 2016 for the New England Compounding Center (NECC) victims. Funds were administered in accordance with VOCA program guidelines and metrics were captured in the PMT on a quarterly basis. Data reported in the PMT from this grant is included in the information presented in this report.

⁵ See appendix A for details on the categorizations of these crime types.

Compensation grantees make concerted efforts to coordinate with allied professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers, tribal organizations, and others to provide victims with information about applying for compensation benefits and to facilitate the application and review process. In FY 2017, 24 grantees specifically mentioned providing training to allied professionals on victim compensation and state processes.⁶ Many conducted targeted outreach to providers, particularly those working with underserved ethnic groups. Many grantees work with allied professionals to share information about applications to either verify data provided or to fill in data gaps without needing to burden the victim with requests for additional information.

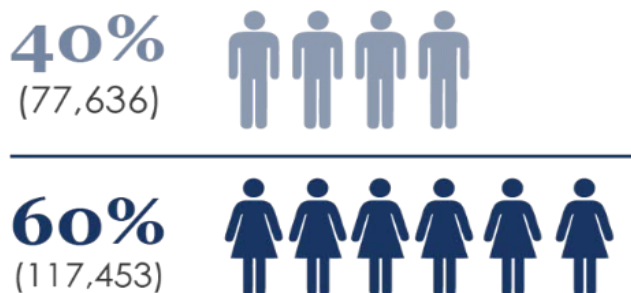
Age



Victims who chose to self-report their age represented 86 percent of victims who applied for compensation.⁷ In FY 2017, 49 percent of individuals receiving compensation benefits were 25–59 years old at the time of victimization. Given the wide range of years within this age category, it is expected that it would include the most individuals. However, this finding also overlaps with the data reported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). In FY 2016, BJS reported that the majority of victims of violent crime (66 percent) were between the ages of 25–64.^{8,9}

Gender

In FY 2017, 92 percent of victims self-reported their gender. Of the victims who self-reported their gender, females represented 60 percent of victims applying for compensation claims and males represented 40 percent. This gender distribution contrasts somewhat from the data submitted by VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program grantees. In FY 2016, females constituted 72 percent, and males made up 28 percent of individuals who received assistance



⁶ Grantee responses to this question do not encompass all grantee coordination activities; the information included reflects what grantees chose to highlight in their responses.

⁷ Although grantees are required to report on demographics, victims choose whether to provide their demographic information, and some organizations are unable to track this data. Demographic information is collected only for primary victims; secondary victims are not included.

⁸ Truman, Jennifer L. and Rachel E. Morgan. December 2017. *Criminal Victimization, 2016*. Table 11. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6166>.

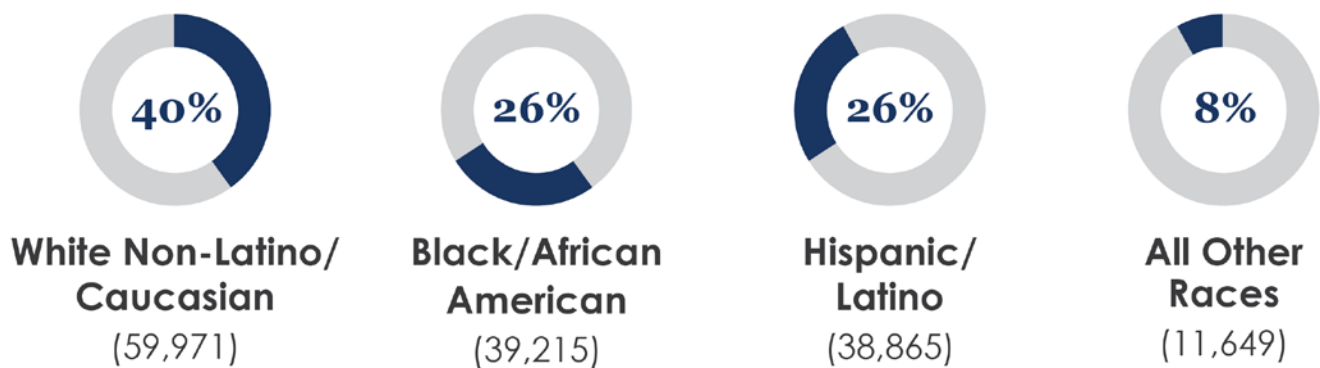
⁹ BJS data are collected annually on nonfatal crimes (both reported and not reported to law enforcement) against individuals ages 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. Victim Compensation data are collected quarterly from grantees as the state administering agency for the Victim Compensation Program. Crime types collected in BJS and Victim Compensation data do not match exactly, and readers should bear this in mind when comparing Victim Compensation data to any external data source.

¹⁰ VOCA Victim Assistance performance measures capture data on individuals who select “other” when self-reporting their gender identity, which may explain some of the differences in the gender of individuals served when compared to the Victim Compensation Program.

from VOCA-funded victim service providers.¹⁰ A reason for this difference may be that victims applying for compensation are required (with very limited exception) to have filed a police report within a specified time frame to be eligible for benefits. For example, 51 percent of domestic violence victims and 58 percent of violent crime victims did not report crimes to the police.¹¹ These victims may not be eligible for compensation, but may still receive assistance services, which do not stipulate that a police report be filed.

Race/Ethnicity

In FY 2017, 71 percent of victims who applied for compensation funds reported their race/ethnicity. White Non-Latino/Caucasians constituted 40 percent of victims who applied for compensation funding. Black/African-Americans and Hispanic/Latinos each constituted 26 percent of victims who applied for compensation funding.



For comparison, according to BJS data, 64 percent of individuals who experienced violent crime were White Non-Latino/Caucasian. Black/African-Americans and Hispanics/Latinos made up 13 percent and 15 percent of victims who experienced violent crime in FY 2016, respectively.¹²

APPLICATION INFORMATION

In FY 2017, compensation grantees received 223,948 regular applications, plus 71,042 applications for Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations (SAFE) among grantees who maintain a separate SAFE application process, for a total of 294,990 applications.¹³ Grantees made determinations to approve or deny or close 217,208 applications.¹⁴ Of the applications that had a determination made, 166,909 applications were approved.

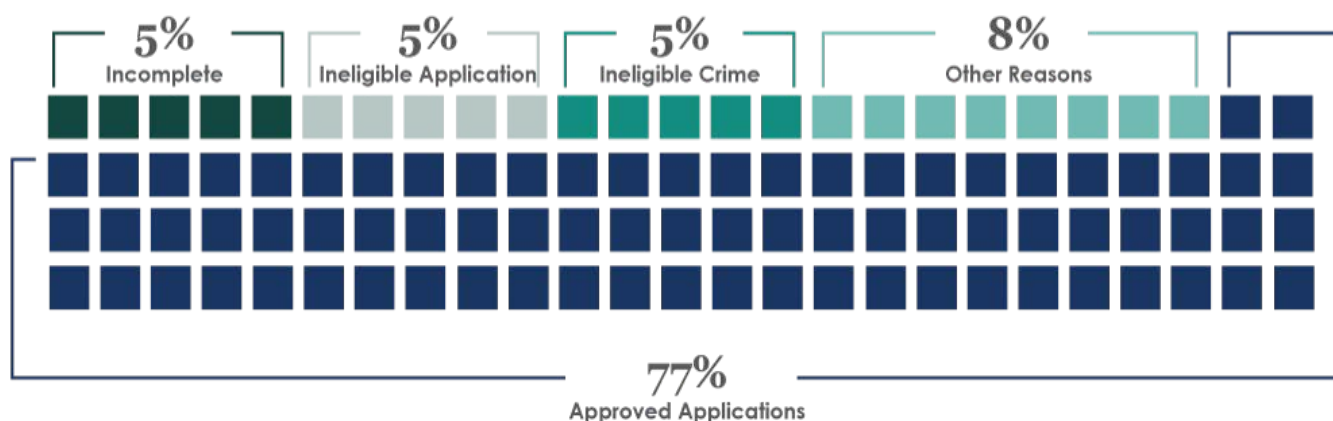
¹¹ Truman and Morgan. *Criminal Victimization, 2016*. Table 5.

¹² Truman and Morgan. *Criminal Victimization, 2016*.

¹³ The process for filing an application for benefits differs among grantees. In FY 2017, 22 grantees indicated that one application is filed per crime, and 30 grantees indicated that separate applications are filed for primary and secondary victims. There were 31 states with a separate SAFE application process.

¹⁴ The number of applications approved in FY 2017 may include applications received during and prior to FY 2017.

There were 50,299 applications denied or closed in FY 2017.¹⁵ If an application is denied or closed, grantees provide the primary reason for the denial or closure. The most common reason identified for denying or closing a compensation application was incomplete information (24 percent), followed closely by ineligible application and ineligible crime, at 22 percent and 20 percent respectively.



In FY 2017, 13 grantees indicated a notable increase in the number of applications from the previous fiscal year, while three grantees indicated a notable decrease.¹⁶ Among those noting an increase in the number of applications, five attributed the increase in part to more applications related to sexual assault and child sexual abuse, including sexual assault forensic examinations. Four grantees attributed the increase in applications to targeted outreach or additional victim service programs that included victim advocates engaging with victims and supporting victims through the benefit application process.

PAYMENT STATISTICS

Total Number of Applications Paid

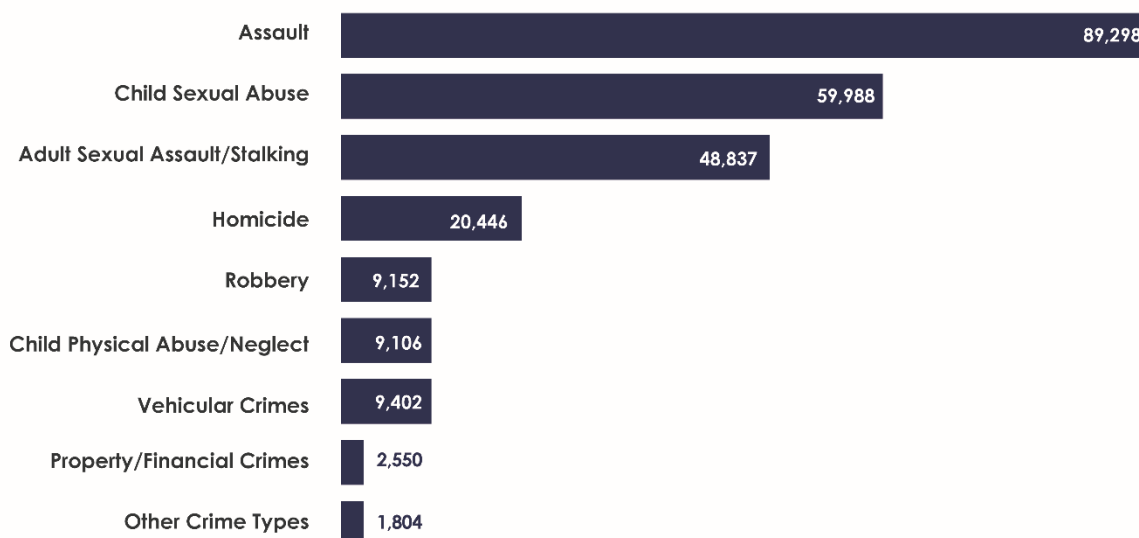
There were 250,583 applications paid in FY 2017. Thirty-six percent of the applications paid were due to assault, followed by child sexual abuse (24 percent), sexual assault (19 percent), and homicide (8 percent).¹⁷ This finding parallels data reported by BJS in FY 2016, as the prevalence rate for assault (simple and aggregated) was greater than other types of violent crime.¹⁸ There were a relatively small number of compensation claims for child pornography (193 applications), arson (293), terrorism (327), and human trafficking (338).

¹⁵ The number of applications denied or closed in FY 2017 may include applications received during and prior to FY 2017.

¹⁶ Grantees self-identify what they consider to be a notable change.

¹⁷ See appendix A for details on the categorizations of these crime types.

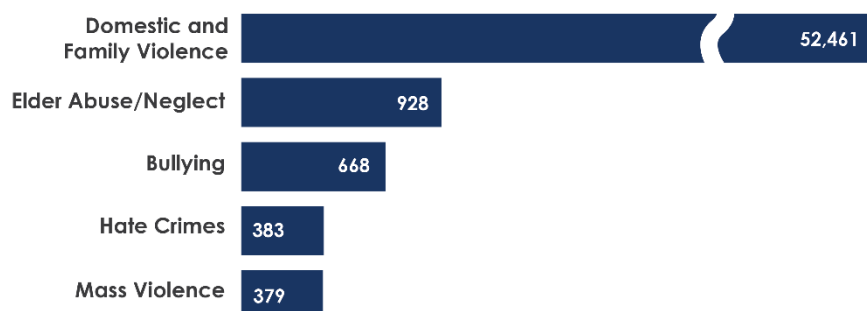
¹⁸ Truman and Morgan. *Criminal Victimization, 2016*.



Types of Victimizations Related to Crime Type

Compensation grantees were able to indicate whether a crime experienced by an applicant was related to a type of victimization, when applicable. The victimization types include bullying, domestic and family violence, elder abuse/neglect, hate crimes, and mass violence. There were 54,819 applications paid which indicated that a victimization type was related to a crime, out of 250,583 total applications paid.

Assault was the most common crime type related to victimizations, as 39,873 assault applications included a related type of victimization. Domestic and Family Violence (38,521 applications), bullying (581), and hate crimes (331) were most commonly related to assault. However, elder abuse/neglect was most frequently related to fraud/financial crimes (340 applications), followed by assault (318 applications). Mass violence was most commonly related to terrorism (174 applications), with assault following at 122 applications.¹⁹



The vast majority of applications related to a victimization (52,461 or 96 percent) were related to domestic and family violence. As noted above, among these applications, assault was the most frequently related crime type. Domestic and family violence was also associated with child sexual abuse (5,334 applications), sexual assault (2,461 applications), homicide (2,200 applications), and child physical abuse/neglect (2,059 applications). Of the

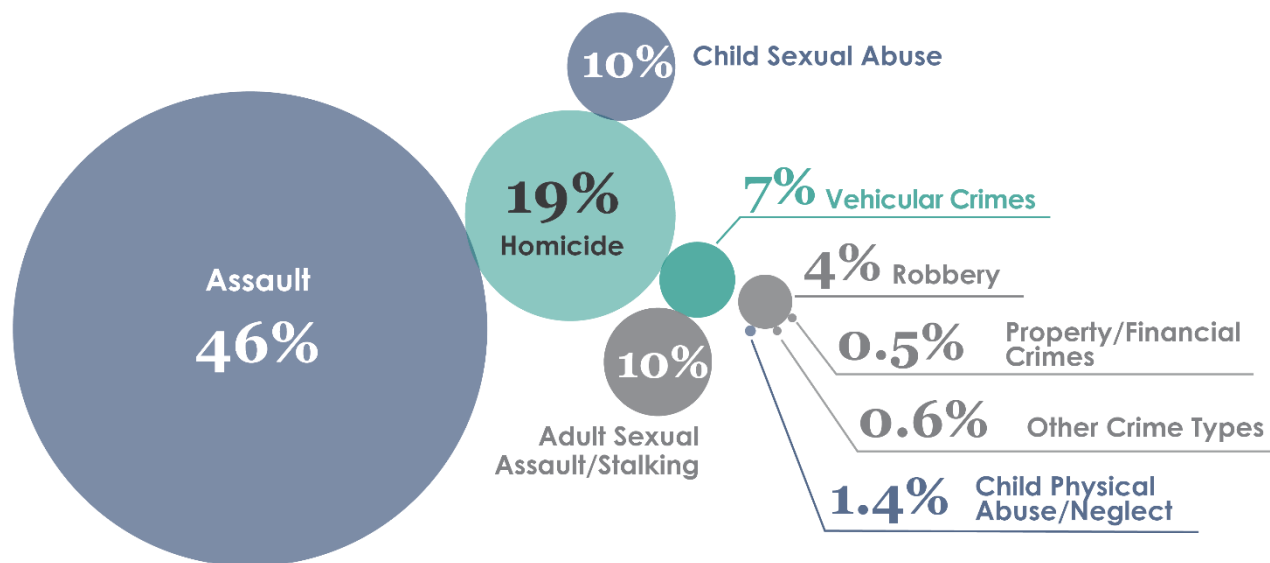
¹⁹ Compensation applications for victims of terrorism, or crime types related to mass violence, may be lower due to OVC's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program. This grant program provides funding and resources to support jurisdictions that have experienced incidents of mass violence and terrorism, which significantly increased the burden of victim assistance and compensation for the responding jurisdiction.

total number of homicide compensation claims reported in FY 2017, 11 percent were related to domestic and family violence.

Total Amount Paid by Crime Type

Of total amount of victim compensation funds paid in FY 2017, just under half was due to assault (46 percent), followed by homicide (19 percent), child sexual abuse (10 percent), and sexual assault (10 percent).²⁰ The amount of funding paid due to homicide was greater than child sexual abuse and sexual assault, even though the number of applications paid related to child sexual abuse and sexual assault was greater than the number for homicide. This finding may be due to the additional expenses associated with homicide crimes, such as funeral and burial costs and economic support for family members, financially supported by the victim.²¹

If an individual received funding due to a crime type not listed, grantees listed those crimes separately. There were 27 grantees who reported compensation for other crime types, which included violation of court protective order, threatening/intimidation, endangerment, and false imprisonment.

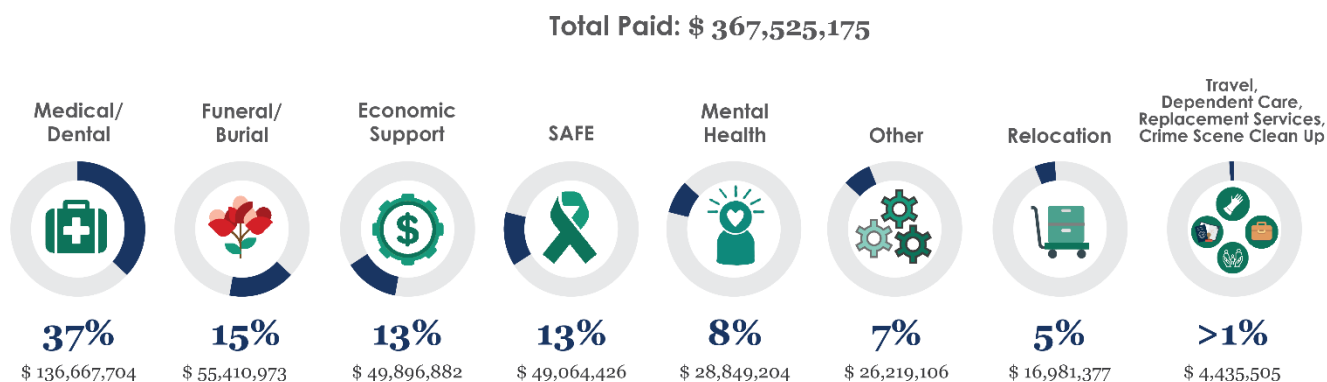


²⁰ See appendix A.

²¹ National Center for Victims of Crime. 2003. *Crime Victim Compensation*. Retrieved from <http://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/crime-victim-compensation>.

Total Amount Paid by Expense Type

In FY 2017, 37 percent of compensation funds were used for medical/dental expenses, followed by funeral/burial expenses (16 percent), economic support (13 percent), and SAFEs (13 percent). These findings differ somewhat from the data reported by grantees in FY 2016. The current data show a 5 percent decrease from FY 2016 in the amount of funding provided for economic support and increases in the funding for medical/dental expenses (1 percent), funeral/burial expenses (15 percent), and SAFEs (12 percent).²²



Medical/dental expenses

Medical/dental expenses was the largest category paid across all crime types (\$136,667,704). Medical/dental expenses were the most common expense type for victims of assault, robbery, other vehicular crimes, and DUI/DWI.



Funeral/burial expenses

Funeral/burial expenses accounted for \$55,410,972.79 of compensation funds, making it the second highest expense type that compensatory funding went to overall. Homicide claims accounted for 92 percent of the total amount of compensation paid for funeral/burial expenses, while other vehicular crime and DUI/DWI constituted an additional 7 percent.



Economic support

Economic support provides victims with subsistence payments, covering education benefits, lost wages, and other related financial losses. This was the third largest expense type paid at \$49,896,882. While this expense type was paid across all crime types, fraud/financial crimes was the only crime type for which economic support was the most common expense.



Mental health

In FY 2017, \$28,849,204 in compensatory funds were used for mental health expenses. Although this was the fifth greatest amount paid across expense types, it was reported as the most common expense for five crime types, including child physical abuse, kidnapping, human trafficking, terrorism, and child pornography. Additionally, it was the second most common expense for child sexual abuse and sexual assault.

²² Among grantees that reported as requested into the PMT in FY 16, 18 states reported a decrease in economic support in FY 17. Grantees reported an increase in medical/dental expenses (24 grantees), funeral/burial expenses (32 grantees), and SAFE expenses (22 grantees).



SPOTLIGHT: TRENDS AND CHANGES NOTED BY GRANTEES IN FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

In FY 17, grantees reported changes in their states regarding new expense types that were eligible to receive compensation funds and requests for expenses that were deemed ineligible. As grantees report on changes within their individual states, these changes do not necessarily apply to everyone. Tracking new and ineligible expenses at the state level can provide insight into emerging trends in crime victim compensation.

NEWLY ELIGIBLE EXPENSES



- Mental health counseling for minors who witnessed domestic violence or homicide
- HIV medications in instances of sexual assault
- Bereavement leave for immediate family of homicide victims
- Service dogs for victims
- Relocation services
- Security measures
- Legal/attorney fees
- Personal property replacement/repairs
- Forensic interviews



Increased time to file for compensation



Eligibility for victims of sex trafficking

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES



Stolen property in connection to opioid drug use



Expenses when online donations were used to raise money for victims



Deaths with contributory conduct

Expenses by Crime Type

Assault, homicide, child sexual abuse, and sexual assault received the greatest amount of compensation funds in FY 2017, which parallels the data reported in FY 2016.

Assault

In FY 2017, medical/dental expenses received the greatest amount of funding for victims of assault (62 percent), followed by economic support (15 percent), other expenses (9 percent), and relocation (7 percent). Mental health, travel, funeral/burial, dependent care, replacement services, and crime scene cleanup constitute the remaining 7 percent of expenses associated with assault. Claims for assault consistently received the highest number of applications and funding over the past 3 years.



Homicide

Homicide claims received the second greatest amount of compensation funding in FY 2017, even though this crime type received fewer applications than assault, child sexual abuse, and sexual assault. The majority of the funds paid for funeral/burial expenses (71 percent), followed distantly by economic support (17 percent), and then other expenses (3 percent).²³ Compensation funding for victims of homicide increased by 7 percent from FY 2016.

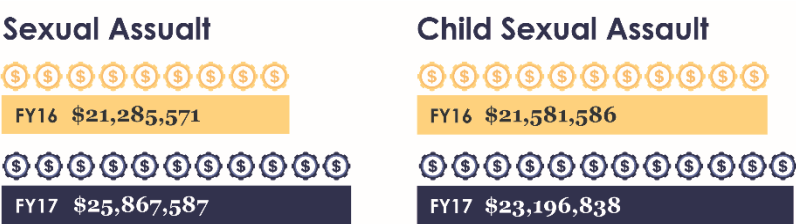
Sexual Assault and Child Sexual Abuse

In FY 2017, victim compensation programs provided \$74,675,451 in compensation to victims of sexual assault and child sexual abuse (SA/CSA). Of the total, \$36,902,814 was provided to victims of sexual assault and \$37,772,637 to victims of child sexual abuse. These funds were expended across 107,077 SA/CSA applications (47,282 and 59,795, respectively). The most common expense type for SA/CSA were SAFEs, receiving \$49,064,425 (66 percent), followed by mental health (15 percent), other expenses (6 percent), and medical/dental (6 percent).²⁴

²³ The remaining 8 percent spanned the following expense types: Medical/dental, mental health, travel, dependent care, relocation, crime scene cleanup, and replacement services

²⁴ The remaining 7 percent spanned the following expense types: Relocation, economic support, travel, replacement services, dependent care, crime scene cleanup, and funeral/burial.

Regarding compensation funds provided to victims for SAFE, the data reported in FY 2017 represent an increase of over \$5 million from FY 2016. Several grantees noted an increase in compensation applications for SAFE, which contributed to statewide increases in the number of applications received.



CONCLUSION

The consequences of crime often have a wide-reaching effect on victims, their family and friends, the community, and even throughout society. The financial costs associated with these consequences of crime have the potential to cause further damage to those affected. VOCA-supported compensation programs provide financial assistance to primary and secondary victims of crime to help alleviate some of the fiscal and often emotional burden experienced as a direct result of the crime. The data reported by compensation programs across the country in FY 2017 demonstrate the valuable assistance the program provides victims of crime.

APPENDIX A: CRIME TYPE CATEGORIZATIONS

For this report, there were 16 crimes in which grantees provided funding to claimants for every expense type. These 16 crime types were grouped into nine larger categories, presented in figures on the Number of Applications Paid by Crime Type and the Total Amount Paid by Crime Type. The following list outlines the categorizations of the crime types.

1. Assault
2. Adult sexual assault/stalking
 - Sexual assault
 - Stalking
3. Child sexual abuse
 - Child sexual abuse
 - Child pornography
4. Homicide
5. Child physical abuse/neglect
6. Vehicular crimes
 - DUI/DWI
 - Other vehicular crimes
7. Property/financial crimes
 - Arson
 - Burglary
 - Fraud/financial crimes
8. Robbery
9. Other crime types
 - Human trafficking
 - Kidnapping
 - Terrorism

APPENDIX B: EXPENSES PAID BY CRIME TYPE

Crime Type	Total Applications Paid	Crime Scene Clean Up	Other	Travel	SAFE	Replacement Services	Medical/Dental	Dependent Care	Funeral/Burial	Mental Health	Economic Support	Relocation	Total Amount Paid
Arson	293	\$9,200	\$42,400	\$7,212	\$0	\$27,755	\$96,086	\$0	\$82,662	\$46,805	\$88,891	\$100,223	\$501,234
Assault	89298	\$93,435	\$14,477,766	\$962,130	\$0	\$228,061	\$105,924,390	\$294,416	\$616,521	\$9,498,956	\$25,383,905	\$12,478,025	\$169,957,605
Burglary	1693	\$1,165	\$282,238	\$9,574	\$0	\$4,282	\$193,338	\$0	\$1,666	\$96,420	\$166,431	\$167,460	\$922,575
Child Physical Abuse/Neglect	9106	\$2,430	\$728,896	\$57,676	\$0	\$10,134	\$820,080	\$38,084	\$72,456	\$3,212,997	\$245,762	\$223,957	\$5,412,473
Child Pornography	193	\$865	\$7,169	\$3,294	\$0	\$770	\$2,329	\$6,500	\$0	\$82,913	\$6,774	\$4,680	\$115,294
Child Sexual Abuse	59795	\$5,254	\$2,740,526	\$439,159	\$23,196,838	\$53,032	\$1,486,116	\$106,544	\$5,423	\$7,557,335	\$970,704	\$1,211,707	\$37,772,637
DUI/DWI	3654	\$350	\$854,291	\$96,635	\$0	\$12,877	\$5,048,384	\$17,222	\$1,528,196	\$128,410	\$2,916,332	\$13,298	\$10,615,995
Fraud/Financial Crimes	564	\$0	\$16,768	\$1,469	\$0	\$664	\$8,620	\$0	\$0	\$974	\$539,445	\$2,000	\$569,939
Homicide	20446	\$130,679	\$2,474,398	\$695,472	\$0	\$15,263	\$2,263,406	\$402,610	\$50,667,616	\$2,037,746	\$12,175,749	\$286,294	\$71,149,233
Human Trafficking	338	\$0	\$44,971	\$1,369	\$0	\$3,032	\$81,569	\$0	\$6,000	\$315,287	\$47,465	\$93,582	\$593,274
Kidnapping	1139	\$0	\$90,523	\$10,066	\$0	\$863	\$351,089	\$7,800	\$24,024	\$374,981	\$133,541	\$150,360	\$1,143,248
Other Vehicular Crimes	5748	\$398	\$1,324,463	\$71,526	\$0	\$48,383	\$7,238,597	\$10,400	\$2,324,246	\$220,706	\$3,471,668	\$52,931	\$14,763,318
Robbery	9152	\$18,996	\$780,598	\$45,089	\$0	\$241,920	\$10,115,376	\$0	\$73,407	\$1,223,340	\$1,899,502	\$433,911	\$14,832,140
Sexual Assault	47282	\$9,804	\$1,813,908	\$125,297	\$25,867,587	\$75,718	\$2,846,237	\$1,100	\$2,361	\$3,508,948	\$1,403,159	\$1,248,695	\$36,902,814
Stalking	1555	\$1,850	\$379,006	\$9,884	\$0	\$9,254	\$58,785	\$7,988	\$0	\$307,216	\$341,171	\$514,253	\$1,629,407
Terrorism	327	\$0	\$161,185	\$554	\$0	\$0	\$133,303	\$0	\$6,395	\$236,169	\$106,381	\$0	\$643,987
Grand Total	250583	\$274,425	\$26,219,106	\$2,536,408	\$49,064,426	\$732,008	\$136,667,704	\$892,664	\$55,410,973	\$28,849,204	\$49,896,882	\$16,981,377	\$367,525,175