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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STUDY REVEALS SCHOOL OFFICIALS MORE LIKELY TO LEARN OF CHILD VICTIMIZATION THAN POLICE OR MEDICAL AUTHORITIES

WASHINGTON –Acting Associate Attorney General Tony West today announced the release of Justice Department research examining how authorities learn about child victimization. Acting Associate Attorney General West discussed the findings today in Detroit at the final hearing of the National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence. The task force, a key part of the Attorney General’s Defending Childhood Initiative, will present policy recommendations to address children’s exposure to violence in a report to the Attorney General in late 2012.

According to the research, school officials knew about victimization episodes more often (42 percent) than police (13 percent) or medical personnel (2 percent). Police were the most likely to know about kidnapping, neglect and sexual abuse by an adult. School, police and medical authorities knew about a majority of serious victimizations, including incidents of sexual abuse by an adult, gang assaults and kidnappings, but were mostly unaware of other kinds of serious victimizations, such as dating violence, rape and attempted rape.

The findings draw from the *National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence* sponsored by Office of Justice Programs’ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

TITLE: *Child and Youth Victimization Known to Police, School, and Medical Authorities*

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