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 1993-2009, as well as an updated report on the numbers of serious crimes covering the years 2015-2018. The earlier study looked 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.”¹

Key Findings from Criminal Victimization, 2020 include:²

• Less than half (40%) of violent victimizations were reported to police.
• The percentage of violent victimizations for which victims received assistance from a victim-service agency for violent crime (including rape or sexual assault) decreased from 12.8% in 2018 to 10.8% in 2019.
• The rate of violent victimizations not reported to police declined, while the rate of violent victimizations reported to police had no statistically significant change.
• Sexual assault victimizations declined from 1.7 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2019, to 1.2 per 1,000 in 2020.
• The percentage of rape/sexual assault victimizations reported to police decreased from 33.9% in 2019 to 22.9% in 2020.

Key Findings from Use of Victim Service Agencies by Victims of Serious Violent Crime: 1993-2009 include:¹

• From 2000 to 2009, a greater percentage of female (15%) than male (6%) 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%).
• 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%).