



FALL 2004

Justice Resource UPDATE

NCJRS: *Connecting You to Justice Information*

OVC Web Forum Links Victim Service Providers



Whether your victim services programs are flourishing or need a jump start, sharing your experiences with colleagues can spark ideas that can help crime victims. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has a new Web forum that brings victim service providers together to share ideas about the best ways to run programs and address victim issues. Connect to colleagues with the click of a mouse. Go to **<http://ovc.ncjrs.org/ovcproviderforum>**.

Connect to peers. Tap into a national network of people who are facing the same challenges and experiences that you are. With OVC, you can connect to colleagues throughout the country without leaving your office.

Share your story. Share victories and discuss obstacles at the Web forum. Hundreds of providers can benefit from your success or offer you a new solution. The forum is the perfect place for providers to give and gain insight and support related to best practices in victim services.

Make a difference. With a diverse community of victim service providers at your fingertips, you can keep pace with the ever-changing issues in the field of crime victim assistance.

The forum is your easy, convenient way to start an exchange of ideas that can help the crime victims you serve.

Start making the connections that can change lives. Visit **<http://ovc.ncjrs.org/ovcproviderforum>** today!



Featured Resources

Combating gun violence with local solutions

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is not a "one size fits all" program. Linking Federal, State, and local law enforcement, prosecutors, and community leaders, each local PSN task force designs its program to fit the unique gun crime problem in that district. Plans focus on prosecuting violent gun offenders; strengthening enforcement of Federal gun laws; providing community outreach and technical training on trafficking and firearms identification and tracing; and crime mapping.

Project Safe Neighborhoods: America's Network Against Gun Violence, 9 pages
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/bja/205263.pdf>

Police agencies can prevent youth gun violence by focusing on identifiable risks. This guide reviews the factors that increase the risk of youth gun violence. The guide helps readers analyze their local problem and presents possible responses to youth gun violence along with what is known about the responses from evaluative research and police practice.

Gun Violence Among Serious Young Offenders, 70 pages
<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=1078>

Making our communities safer ... One volunteer at a time

Citizen Corps provides opportunities for people to participate in activities to make their families, homes, and communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, public health emergencies, and hazards of all types. Citizen Corps programs include the following:

- Volunteers in Police Service
- National Neighborhood Watch
- Community Emergency Response Teams
- Medical Reserve Corps

Find out how these programs are working to prevent crime and respond to emergencies.

Citizen Corps, 6 pages
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/bja/203669.pdf>

Gun safety kits lock up safety in the home

Nearly all firearms accidents in the home can be prevented simply by keeping guns unloaded and locked up, with ammunition secured in a separate location.

Project ChildSafe, a nationwide firearm safety program, teaches firearm owners how to properly store and safely handle their weapons. This BJA-administered program distributes firearm safety kits containing a gunlock and safety information and helps local law enforcement agencies



schedule firearm safety events in their communities.

Project ChildSafe, 4 pages
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/bja/204959.pdf>

Help for families when a child disappears

This guide was written by parents and family members who have experienced the disappearance of a child firsthand. It tells families what they should do in the first 24 hours and in the ensuing weeks after a child has disappeared, and contains expanded information about the AMBER Alert Plan, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Family Advocacy Division, and Team Adam, among other resources.

When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide (Third Edition), 108 pages
<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11627>

What works in delinquency prevention

Research shows that early childhood intervention programs can actually save the government up to three times their cost when delinquency prevention and other benefits are considered. This annual report to Congress highlights how communities use a research base to implement, evaluate, and sustain their programs and current knowledge about what works in delinquency prevention.

Title V Community Prevention Grants Program: 2002 Report to Congress, 48 pages
<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11702>

New Online

State prisons battle hepatitis B and C

Prison census numbers reveal that more than 1,200 prisons tested for hepatitis C in 2000. About one-third of tested inmates were positive and about 6,000 were being treated. More than 400 facilities also vaccinated for hepatitis B, which requires a three-dose series. This report reveals in a state-by-state listing how correctional systems have responded to hepatitis C. It summarizes nationally where the evolving policies of testing and treatment of these chronic viral infections now stand.

Hepatitis Testing and Treatment in State Prisons, 4 pages

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/httsp.htm>

How often does computer crime hit businesses?

No official, national statistics measure the extent and cost of computer crime to American businesses. To fill this void, BJS tested its Computer Security Survey in 2001 and plans to survey a full sample of 36,000 businesses in 2004.

The pilot test found that—

- Nearly three-quarters of the businesses that responded were cybercrime victims in 2001.
- Computer viruses were the most common (64%) computer security issue reported.
- 68% of the affected businesses reported losses, which totaled \$61 million.

Cybercrime against Businesses: Pilot Test Results, 2001 Computer Security Survey, 12 pages

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cb.htm>



DNA information at your fingertips

The President's DNA Initiative, "Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology," seeks to enhance the role of DNA in the criminal justice system by reducing the current backlog of DNA samples, increasing crime lab capacity, and stimulating research and development. Learn more at DNA.gov, a Web site that offers a wealth of information about funding, training, publications, and other resources related to the use of DNA technology in solving crimes, identifying missing persons, and protecting the innocent.

Visit DNA.gov for more about the DNA initiative.

<http://www.dna.gov>

Trends in youth gangs

Approximately 731,500 gang members were active in the United States in 2002. Police and sheriff's departments were surveyed about the presence of youth gangs in their jurisdictions. Nearly 3,000 U.S. jurisdictions noted gang activity in 2002. Thanks largely to a decline in reported gang activities in smaller cities and rural counties, gang membership declined 14 percent; however, 42 percent of survey respondents indicated that their youth gang problem was worsening.

Highlights of the 2002 National Youth Gang Survey, 2 pages

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11612>

Civil litigation in the U.S.: Are we more litigious?

The number of civil cases tried in court declined 47 percent from 1992 to 2001. What types of cases went to trial? Who won? How much was awarded for damages? These and other questions are answered in this report based on civil trial cases in the Nation's 75 largest counties. A companion report adds detail on medical malpractice cases: types of injuries claimed, plaintiff winners, and monetary damages awarded.

Civil Trial Cases and Verdicts in Large Counties, 2001, 12 pages

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ctcvlc01.htm>

Medical Malpractice Trials and Verdicts in Large Counties, 2001, 2 pages

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mmtvlc01.htm>

Large U.S. police agencies profiled

How many people do large local and State police departments employ? What do those employees do? How much are they paid? What policies do they follow? How are they equipped? Find the answers to these questions and many more from the essential reference for modern law enforcement management. This is the fourth edition of a series begun in 1993.

Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 2000: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers, 271 pages

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/lemas00.htm>

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www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo

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www.nicic.org

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www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

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