

Victims of Violent Crime

July 2009 FAQ

Presentation to the Resource Council

September 11, 2009

Priority Issues

- 5 out of 6 people will become victims of attempted or completed crime at least once in their lives
- Violent crimes are underreported.
- Victims are often victimized by someone that they know.



Victimization in Travis County

RECENTLY REPORTED CASES OF VICTIMIZATION IN TRAVIS COUNTY		
Case Type	# of Reported Cases	Trend
Family Violence*	9,176	Increasing
Aggravated Assault*	2,277	Increasing
Child Abuse & Neglect**	1,960	Holding
Abuse & Neglect of the Elderly and People with Disabilities**	1,403	Increasing
Rape*	372	Increasing
Human Trafficking**	44	Increasing
Murder*	35	Decreasing
Hate Crimes*	9	Increasing

Many of these cases are underreported. See reference #s 5-7 on page four.
 *Data from 2007 **Data from 2008

Populations at Highest Risk for Victimization

- Children
- Elderly & Adults with Disabilities
- Immigrants & English Language Learners
- Low-Income Populations



How Can We Improve the Victim's Experience in Getting Help in Our Community?

- Increase and improve victim advocacy in the system and in our community
- Raise community awareness about the importance of reporting crime and of the services that are available for victims
- Establish victim assistance as a top priority in all criminal and juvenile justice agencies

How Can We Improve the Victim's Experience in Getting Help in Our Community?

- Refer victims to crisis and support services as soon as possible after victimization
- Provide a “seamless” continuum of services and support for victims of crime
- Increase services for vulnerable populations
- Engage victims in developing policy, protocol, and statute of law

Recommendations for Action

- Improve coordination among various public safety organizations through CAN Partners
- Improve coordination with CAN Issue Area Groups working with vulnerable populations
- Obtain administrative staff assistance to help coordinate ongoing efforts

Recommendations for Action

- Assist with community outreach – encouraging victims of crime to report crime
- Improve law enforcement training around victims' issues