

OVS/VOCA Victimization Categories Guide

OVS Victimization Categories

- Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse – As defined as a person – an adult – who is seeking service for a crime that was committed against them or was witnessed by them during their childhood or adolescence.
- Arson – As defined as any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling, house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or personal property of another.
- Assault/Attempted Homicide – As defined as an unlawful attack by one person on another, with or without a weapon that inflicts, or attempts or threatens to inflict, personal injury or death.
- Bullying – As defined as unwanted aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.
- Child Physical Abuse – As defined as a non-accidental injury to a child by a parent or other adult that may include severe beatings, burns, strangulation, or human bites.
- Child Sexual Abuse – As defined as sexual offense, i.e. forcible rape, attempted rape, statutory rape, sexual harassment, prostitution, or other unlawful sexual contact and other unlawful behavior intended to result in sexual gratification or profit from sexual activity, against a child by a parent or other adult.
- Child Exposed to Violence – As defined as a form of child maltreatment in which the child is exposed as an eyewitness to violence, crime, or abuse in their homes or communities.
- DUI/DWI – As defined as an accident involving one or more motor vehicles in which at least one driver was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs or was legally intoxicated at the time of the crash.
- Elder Abuse – As defined as abuse perpetrated by a caretaker on an elderly individual who depends on others for support and assistance.
- Family violence or abuse – As defined as crime or abuse committed within a family structure that is not intimate partner violence or abuse
- Hate/Bias Crime – As defined as a crime, violent or property, which is motivated by the perpetrator's bias towards the victim's perceived identity and/or the victim's association with others of a perceived identity.
- Homicide – As defined as the death of a person caused by criminal activity committed by another human being.
- Human Trafficking – As defined as sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- Identity Theft/Fraud – As defined by a crime in which an impostor obtains key pieces of personal information to impersonate someone else; or a crime in which a person uses deliberate deception for unlawful or unfair gain.
- Intimate Partner Violence – As defined as violent or abuse acts which involve a current or former spouse, domestic partner, or dating partner.
- Kidnapping – As defined as the unlawful or holding of another person by force or threat of force.
- Robbery – As defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence.
- Sexual Assault – As defined as forcible rape, attempted rape, statutory rape, sexual harassment, prostitution, or other unlawful sexual contact and other unlawful behavior intended to result in sexual gratification or profit from sexual from sexual activity.
- Stalking – As defined as any pattern of unwanted contact between two people that directly or indirectly communicates a threat or places the victim in fear.

- Terrorism – As defined as the use of violence or intimidation to coerce a government or civilian population to further political or social objectives.
- Other – As defined as other crimes not listed.
- Unknown

VOCA Victimization Categories

- Adult Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children – Adult survivors of sexual abuse and/or assault suffered while they were children.
- Adult Physical Assault (Includes Aggravated and Simple Assault)
 - Aggravated Assault: An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.
 - Simple Assaults: Attempted assaults where no weapon was used or no serious or aggravated injury resulted to the victim. Intimidation, coercion, and hazing are included.
- Adult Sexual Assault – Includes a wide range of victimizations; crimes that include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing, fondling, and verbal threats. Also included is rape, which is defined as penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration of a sex organ by another person, without the consent of the victim; may also include penetration of the mouth by a sex organ by another person.
- Arson – Any willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, and so on.
- Bullying (Verbal, Cyber, or Physical) – Repeated, negative acts committed by one or more children against another. These negative acts may be physical or verbal in nature – for example, hitting or kicking, teasing or taunting – or they may involve indirect actions such as manipulating friendships or purposely excluding other children from activities. Implicit in this definition is an imbalance in real or perceived power between the bully and victim. Examples of cyber bullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.
- Burglary – The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program includes three sub classifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry. The UCR definition of “structure” includes apartment, barn, house trailer or houseboat when used as a permanent dwelling, office, railroad car (but not automobile), stable, and vessel (i.e., ship).
- Child Physical Abuse or Neglect – This may include physical abuse that is non-accidental physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), burning, or otherwise harming a child, that is inflicted by a parent, caregiver, or other person. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caregiver intended to hurt the child. Physical discipline, such as spanking or paddling, is not considered abuse as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child.
- Child Pornography – Any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, drawing, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, which is produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where: (1) its production involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (2) such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (3) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (4) it is advertised, distributed, promoted, or presented in such a manner as to convey the impression that it is a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

- Child Sexual Abuse/Assault – This may include activities such as fondling a child’s genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution by a parent, caregiver, or other person. Includes teen sexual assault.
- Domestic and/or Family Violence – A crime in which there is a past or present familial, household, or other intimate relationship between the victim and the offender, including spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends, ex-boyfriends and ex-girlfriends, and any family members or persons residing in the same household as the victim. Involves a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.
- DUI/DWI Incidents – Driving or operating a motor vehicle or common carrier while mentally or physically impaired as the result of consuming an alcoholic beverage or using a drug or narcotic.
- Elder Abuse or Neglect – Also known as elder mistreatment generally refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a family member, caregiver, or other person in a trust relationship that causes harm or creates a serious risk of harm to an older person. Elder abuse may include abuse that is physical, emotional/psychological (including threats), or sexual; neglect (including abandonment); and financial exploitation. This is a general definition; state definitions of elder abuse vary. Some definitions may also include fraud, scams, or financial crimes targeted at older people.
- Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other – A criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.
- Human Trafficking: Labor – Inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or the person induced to perform such act(s) has not attained 18 years of age. It also covers obtaining a person through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such a person by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts).
- Human Trafficking: Sex – Inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or the person induced to perform such act(s) has not attained 18 years of age. It also covers obtaining a person through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such a person by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts).
- Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime – Identity theft occurs when someone wrongfully obtains another’s personal information without their knowledge to commit theft or fraud. Fraud and financial crimes include illegal acts characterized by deceit, concealment, or violation of trust and that are not dependent upon the application or threat of physical force or violence. Individuals and organizations commit these acts to obtain money, property, or services; to avoid the payment or loss of money or services; or to secure personal or business advantage.
- Kidnapping (Non-custodial) – Occurs when someone unlawfully seizes, confines, inveigles, decoys, abducts, or carries away and holds for ransom or reward, by any person, except in the case of a minor by the parent thereof.
- Kidnapping (Custodial) – Occurs when one parent or guardian deprives another of his or her legal right to custody or visitation of a minor by unlawfully taking the child. The definition and penalties of custodial kidnapping vary by state. In some states, kidnapping occurs only if a child is taken outside of the state and/or if an existing custody order is intentionally violated. In all cases, international custodial kidnapping is a federal offense.
- Mass Violence (Domestic/International) – An intentional violent criminal act, for which a formal investigation has been opened by the FBI or other law enforcement agency, that results in physical, emotional, or psychological injury to a sufficiently large number of people to significantly increase the

burden of victim assistance and compensation for the responding jurisdiction as determined by the OVC Director.

- Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run) – May include hit-and-run crimes, carjacking, and other vehicular assault.
- Robbery – Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.
- Stalking/Harassment – Individuals are classified as victims of stalking or harassment if they experienced at least one of the behaviors listed below on at least two separate occasions. In addition, the individuals must have feared for their safety or that of a family member as a result of the course of conduct, or have experienced additional threatening behaviors that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Stalking behaviors include making unwanted phone calls; sending unsolicited or unwanted letters or e-mails; following or spying on the victim; showing up at places without a legitimate reason; waiting at places for the victim; leaving unwanted items, presents, or flowers; and posting information or spreading rumors about the victim on the Internet/social media, in a public place, or by word of mouth.
- Survivors of Homicide Victims – Survivors of victims of murder and voluntary manslaughter, which are the willful (intent is present) killing of one human being by another.
- Teen Dating Victimization – Teen dating violence is defined as the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional violence within a teen dating relationship, including stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and might occur between a current or former dating partner.
- Terrorism (Domestic/International) – For Domestic Terrorism, the term terrorism means an activity that... (1) involves a violent act or an act dangerous to human life that is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or any State; and (2) appears to be intended... (a) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, (b) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion or (c) to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping. For International terrorism, the antiterrorism and Emergency Reserve Fund Guidelines for Terrorism and Mass Violence Crimes refers to the term terrorism, when occurring outside of the United States, as international terrorism to mean an activity that... (1) involves a violent act or an act dangerous to human life that is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State; (2) appears to be intended... (a) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (b) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (c) to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping; and (3) occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum.
- Violation of a Court (Protective) Order – This is defined by state or jurisdiction.
- Other
- Unknown