OHIO FAMILY VIOLENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT: SURVEY OF DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS
FEBRUARY 2008 – APRIL 2008

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I. Introduction

This report presents survey data on three offenses identified by the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council: domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The two goals of the survey were to: (1) learn of any gaps in services and (2) gain knowledge of any populations service providers and agencies have difficulty serving. The survey asks service providers and other relevant professionals to identify immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs for each of the three types of offenses. Survey results will provide the basis for questions to be asked in the victims' focus groups that will be conducted. The survey and focus group results together will assist the Council in providing information and priorities useful in lobbying state and local officials for funding.

II. Gaps in Service

Gaps in Service, the main priority of this assessment, was approached in two ways: (1) gaps in the types of services offered, and (2) gaps in services for underserved populations. The survey included a list of services for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims. Respondents were asked to choose if the service was:

- Available in their community and sufficient to meet the needs of victims

- Available in their community but not sufficient to meet the needs of victims

- Not available in their community

- Not sure if the service is available in their community

In addition to these choices, the survey included open-ended questions that allowed participants to elaborate on services they felt were lacking and/or on populations they experienced difficulties serving.

Below are results from the closed-ended questions as well as a summary of the open-ended responses. Both types of answers help identify what services are sufficient and pinpoint services that are top needs for the state of Ohio. Overall, immediate services provided to victims such as hotlines, shelter facilities, and safety planning are in place. Regardless of type of offense, agency, or county size, respondents identified housing, financial assistance, child care, employment, and transportation as great needs for their communities.

Gaps in Service by Type of Offense

Each section of the survey was preceded by a question asking respondents if they provide services to victims of a particular offense, e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This study utilizes the following definitions based on the Ohio Revised Code for:

(1) **Domestic Violence**: Knowingly causing or attempting to cause physical harm to a family or household member; recklessly causing serious physical harm to a family or household member; by threat of force, knowingly causing a family or household member to believe that the offender will cause imminent physical harm to the family or household member. (See ORC § 2919.25)

(2) **Sexual Assault**: Any sexual activity where consent is not obtained or freely given. Sex offenses include rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, and gross sexual imposition. (See ORC §2907.01)

(3) **Stalking**: Knowingly engaging in a pattern of conduct, closely related in time, which causes one to believe that the offender may cause physical harm or mental distress to the victim. (See ORC § 2903.211)

Services are then divided into immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs of victims. Prior to distributing the final version of the survey, a pre-test was sent electronically to a selected number of respondents to help develop a consensus regarding time frames for each stage. Based on responses received from the pre-test, the following time frames were used in the final version of the survey:

(1) **Immediate**: Services provided within *48 hours* to meet the immediate needs of victims

(2) **Intermediate**: Services provided between *60 – 180 days* to meet the intermediate needs of victims

(3) **Long-term**: Services provided between *18 – 24 months* to meet the long-term needs of victims

The following tables represent the results from these sections.

Table 1
Immediate **Needs of Domestic Violence Victims** (N=136)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
24-Hour crisis hotline	86.4	7.6	3.5	2.5
Toll-free crisis hotline	71.9	7.0	8.8	12.3
Help line	66.4	6.5	8.4	18.7
Housing	57.3	34.2	6.8	1.7
Accessible housing for elderly victims	28.1	20.2	14.0	37.7
Public transportation	28.0	40.7	25.4	5.9
Medical care	53.0	35.9	0.0	11.1
Hospital accompaniment	46.2	23.9	7.7	22.2
Wheelchair accessible	56.5	18.3	4.3	20.9
Access to interpreters	44.9	35.3	6.0	13.8
Safety planning	89.0	9.3	0.0	1.7
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	29.0	12.0	9.4	49.6
Financial assistance	18.1	56.0	7.8	18.1
Child care	23.3	54.3	9.5	12.9
Pet care	12.2	20.9	33.0	33.9

Public transportation, child care, and financial assistance represent the greatest needs for agencies across the state when providing services to meet the immediate needs of domestic violence victims. Although housing is available to meet the immediate needs of victims, approximately 34 percent of respondents believe that the housing available is not sufficient to meet victims' needs. While services such as 24-hour crisis hotline and safety planning are available and sufficient, services that provide special dietary needs based on religion/culture and accessible housing for elderly victims seems to be lacking. The aforementioned categories have the highest percentages of "Not sure" responses. This can be cautiously interpreted to mean one of two things: (1) the services are being offered, yet not many people are aware of their existence, or (2) the services are not being provided. Throughout the survey, respondents were less likely to acknowledge they were not able to provide a certain service; more were inclined to say the service was not sufficient or were not sure.

Respondents were also given the choice of adding comments regarding the immediate services for domestic violence victims. Many respondents reiterated that child care and financial assistance are available in their communities; however both services are extremely limited. Others added services such as immediate food supply and legal assistance to obtain emergency protection orders to the list of services that are limited in their communities.

Table 2
Intermediate **Needs of Domestic Violence Victims** (N=136)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
Housing	19.0	55.2	19.8	6.0
Accessible housing for elderly victims	13.8	36.2	13.8	36.2
Public transportation	27.8	37.4	29.6	5.2
Legal and/or court advocacy	70.7	29.3	0.0	0.0
Legal counsel/legal representation	39.7	50.0	7.8	2.5
General advocacy	75.7	20.9	1.7	1.7
Notification of hearings	59.5	30.2	1.7	8.6
Notification of defendant's release from jail	47.0	39.1	2.6	11.3
Individual counseling	60.3	34.5	0.0	5.2
Group counseling	52.6	34.5	2.6	10.3
Support group	64.7	26.7	1.7	6.9
Access to interpreters	44.8	35.4	3.4	16.4
Wheelchair accessible	57.9	19.3	2.6	20.2
Safety planning	84.3	13.1	0.0	2.6
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	30.2	11.2	10.3	48.3
Financial assistance	16.4	59.5	8.6	15.5
Child care	17.4	64.3	5.3	13.0
Education	30.4	54.8	5.2	9.6
Life skills	37.9	45.7	7.8	8.6
Job training	27.8	58.3	6.1	7.8
Job placement	21.7	61.7	7.0	9.6
Information and referral	76.1	21.2	0.0	2.7
Substance abuse/treatment services	41.8	46.1	4.3	7.8
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	17.6	39.8	13.0	29.6

Respondents indicated that for the intermediate needs of domestic violence victims; housing, child care, and job placement services are the greatest needs. Seventy-five percent of respondents believed that housing is either insufficient to meet the needs of victims or not available in their communities. Respondents also noted that child care and job placement services are available in their communities; however they are both severely limited. It is also important to note the high "Not sure" responses regarding dietary needs based on victims' religion or culture.

Based on numbers from Table 2, it seems that immigrant and refugee victims are less likely to receive legal services when compared to other victims. Approximately 71 percent of respondents acknowledged that legal and/or

court advocacy was available and sufficient in their communities. However, only 17.6 percent stated legal services specifically for immigrant and refugee victims were available and sufficient in their communities.

Table 3
Long-term **Needs of Domestic Violence Victims** (N=136)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
Housing	13.0	67.0	8.7	11.3
Accessible housing for elderly victims	12.3	44.7	9.6	33.3
Public transportation	22.8	43.0	25.4	8.8
Legal and/or court advocacy	63.2	30.7	0.9	5.3
Legal counsel/legal representation	36.5	51.3	7.0	5.2
General advocacy	65.8	27.2	0.9	6.1
Help with victim impact statement	71.3	15.7	1.7	11.3
Notification of defendant's release from jail	53.0	31.3	3.5	12.2
Individual counseling	54.8	39.1	0.0	6.1
Group counseling	50.0	37.7	3.5	8.8
Support group	61.4	28.1	2.6	7.9
Access to interpreters	44.7	38.6	5.3	11.4
Wheelchair accessible	55.7	20.9	2.6	20.9
Safety planning	76.3	17.5	0.0	6.1
Financial assistance	18.4	58.8	7.0	15.8
Child care	20.2	57.9	7.0	14.9
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	28.7	18.3	8.7	44.3
Education	29.6	51.3	7.0	12.2
Life skills	34.8	47.0	6.1	12.2
Job training	28.7	56.5	5.2	9.6
Job placement	25.7	60.2	6.2	8.0
Substance abuse/treatment services	40.4	45.6	2.6	11.4
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	23.9	35.4	15.9	24.8

When examining the long-term needs of domestic violence victims, housing, public transportation, job placement, and financial assistance all emerged as the greatest needs identified by respondents. All of these services are vital in helping the victim create a fresh start and become successfully established in his/her community. In the section set aside for more extensive answers, respondents noted that victims in need of mental health services experience long waiting lists.

Table 4
Immediate **Needs of Sexual Assault Victims** (N=100)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
24-Hour crisis hotline	82.2	10.0	6.7	1.1
Toll-free crisis hotline	69.7	9.0	15.7	5.6
Help line	66.3	12.8	9.3	11.6
Housing	54.9	27.5	11.0	6.6
Accessible housing for elderly victims	23.1	27.5	13.2	36.2
Public transportation	21.4	41.6	30.3	6.7
Rape crisis counseling	60.7	30.3	4.5	4.5
Medical care	71.4	25.3	1.1	2.2
Hospital accompaniment	65.9	25.3	3.3	5.5
Access to interpreters	36.3	46.2	5.5	12.0
Wheelchair accessible	59.3	15.4	4.4	20.9
Safety planning	74.7	18.7	2.2	4.4
Financial assistance	28.6	35.2	13.1	23.1
Child care	16.7	48.9	12.2	22.2
Pet care	11.2	27.0	24.7	37.1

A fair number of services offered to meet the needs of sexual assault victims are sufficiently available. This includes safety planning, medical care, and 24-hour crisis hotlines. Those services that are inadequate include public transportation, access to interpreters, and child care. Respondents were unsure if accessible housing for elderly victims and pet care were services available in their communities.

Table 5
Intermediate **Needs of Sexual Assault Victims** (N=100)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
Housing	20.0	47.8	23.3	8.9
Accessible housing for elderly victims	14.4	36.7	16.7	32.2
Public transportation	20.9	40.7	31.9	6.5
Legal and/or court advocacy	67.8	28.9	1.1	2.2
Legal counsel/legal representation	41.1	45.6	7.7	5.6
General advocacy	70.0	23.4	3.3	3.3
Notification of hearings	61.1	28.9	3.3	6.7
Notification of defendant's release from jail	51.7	38.2	2.2	7.9
Individual counseling	56.2	38.2	2.2	3.4
Group counseling	42.0	39.8	10.2	8.0
Support group	50.0	34.1	9.1	6.8
Access to interpreters	36.0	40.4	5.6	18.0
Wheelchair accessible	50.6	23.0	8.0	18.4
Safety planning	72.0	19.1	2.2	6.7
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	21.3	18.0	9.0	51.7
Financial assistance	25.0	43.2	14.8	17.0
Child care	16.7	54.4	13.3	15.6
Education	25.8	51.7	9.0	13.5
Life skills	29.2	49.5	11.2	10.1
Job training	28.1	56.2	6.7	9.0
Job placement	21.8	59.8	8.1	10.3
Information and referral	71.9	20.2	3.4	4.5
Substance abuse/treatment services	45.5	40.9	5.7	7.9
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	15.7	37.1	16.9	30.3

Housing, child care, and job placement assistance are the most inadequately provided services for meeting the intermediate needs of sexual assault victims. Approximately 71 percent of respondents acknowledged that housing is not available or sufficient in their communities. Some respondents also noted in the "other" section that emergency residential supports and day support services are deficient. It is also important to note that dietary needs based on religion or culture and legal services for immigrant and refugee victims both had high "Not sure" percentages. If these services are being provided, increasing awareness about them would be beneficial for agencies and sexual assault victims.

Table 6
Long-term **Needs of Sexual Assault Victims** (N=100)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
Housing	19.5	54.0	12.7	13.8
Accessible housing for elderly victims	14.8	42.0	12.5	30.7
Public transportation	20.5	42.0	31.8	5.7
Legal and/or court advocacy	65.9	29.5	1.2	3.4
Legal counsel/legal representation	43.2	43.2	8.0	5.6
General advocacy	67.4	25.9	2.2	4.5
Help with victim impact statement	69.3	21.6	2.3	6.8
Notification of defendant's release from jail	56.3	33.4	3.4	6.9
Individual counseling	52.3	40.9	2.3	4.5
Group counseling	36.4	42.0	10.2	11.4
Support group	43.2	38.6	10.2	8.0
Access to interpreters	36.4	38.6	6.8	18.2
Wheelchair accessible	53.4	21.6	3.4	21.6
Safety planning	69.0	19.6	3.4	8.0
Financial assistance	26.4	43.7	15.0	14.9
Child care	17.2	51.7	16.1	15.0
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	19.5	18.4	11.5	50.6
Education	30.2	47.7	9.3	12.8
Life skills	34.9	45.3	10.5	9.3
Job training	34.8	50.6	5.6	9.0
Job placement	27.6	56.4	5.7	10.3
Substance abuse/treatment services	42.0	45.5	4.5	8.0
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	18.2	36.4	17.0	28.4

Services especially essential in meeting the long-term needs of sexual assault victims are housing, public transportation, child care, and financial assistance. All of these services play a large part in helping sexual assault victims get back on their feet. These are also the services selected by respondents as significantly lacking in their communities. Housing topped the list of greatest needs with almost 74 percent of respondents acknowledging that it is unavailable or insufficient to meet the needs of victims. As seen with previous tables, many respondents were unsure if accessible housing for elderly victims or special dietary needs based on victims' religion or culture were available in their communities.

Table 7
Immediate **Needs of Stalking Victims** (N=96)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
24-Hour crisis hotline	75.3	11.1	9.9	3.7
Toll-free crisis hotline	60.3	10.3	20.5	9.0
Help line	66.7	15.4	11.5	6.4
Housing	53.1	32.1	7.4	7.4
Accessible housing for elderly victims	37.5	23.8	12.5	26.3
Public transportation	23.8	43.8	28.8	3.8
Medical care	61.7	33.3	0.0	4.9
Hospital accompaniment	54.3	23.5	11.1	11.1
Access to interpreters	44.4	38.3	7.4	9.9
Wheelchair accessible	56.8	22.2	4.9	16.0
Safety planning	75.3	19.8	0.0	4.9
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	30.9	12.3	9.9	46.9
Financial assistance	19.8	51.9	13.6	14.8
Child care	23.5	50.6	12.3	13.6
Pet care	20.0	26.3	30.0	23.8

When examining services provided to meet the immediate needs of stalking victims, public transportation and financial assistance are identified as gaps in services by respondents. Approximately 73 percent of survey participants believe transportation in their communities is not available or not able to meet the needs of their clients. Almost half of respondents were unsure if special dietary needs based on religion or cultures were taken into account.

Table 8
Intermediate **Needs of Stalking Victims** (N=96)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
Housing	25.0	47.5	17.5	10.0
Accessible housing for elderly victims	21.3	41.3	11.3	26.3
Public transportation	24.1	41.8	30.4	3.8
Legal and/or court advocacy	68.8	28.8	0.0	2.5
Legal counsel/legal representation	47.5	48.8	1.3	2.5
General advocacy	70.0	25.0	1.3	3.8
Notification of hearings	62.5	28.8	2.5	6.3
Notification of defendant's release from jail	57.5	33.8	2.5	6.3
Individual counseling	56.3	37.5	3.8	2.5
Group counseling	40.5	32.9	13.9	12.7
Support group	47.4	29.5	10.3	12.8
Access to interpreters	40.0	40.0	6.3	13.8
Wheelchair accessible	57.7	21.8	3.8	16.7
Safety planning	75.9	16.5	1.3	6.3
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	31.6	13.9	10.1	44.3
Financial assistance	15.0	58.8	13.8	12.5
Child care	17.5	57.5	8.8	16.3
Education	27.8	51.9	7.6	12.7
Life skills	32.5	46.3	8.8	12.5
Job training	27.5	53.8	8.8	10.0
Job placement	20.3	60.8	6.3	12.7
Information and referral	70.0	23.8	2.5	3.8
Substance abuse/treatment services	46.3	43.8	1.3	8.8
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	20.5	44.9	12.8	21.8

Financial assistance and public transportation represent the greatest need for approximately 72 percent of respondents when addressing the intermediate needs of stalking victims. Job placement and housing also have high percentages for being insufficient or unavailable.

Table 9
Long-term **Needs of Stalking Victims** (N=96)

SERVICE	Available in our community and sufficient (%)	Available in our community but not sufficient (%)	Not available in our community (%)	Not sure (%)
Housing	21.3	53.8	12.5	12.5
Accessible housing for elderly victims	16.3	41.3	11.3	31.3
Public transportation	24.1	43.0	27.8	5.1
Legal and/or court advocacy	67.5	28.8	0.0	3.8
Legal counsel/legal representation	52.5	41.3	1.3	5.0
General advocacy	66.3	26.3	1.3	6.3
Help with victim impact statement	70.0	21.3	1.3	7.5
Notification of defendant's release from jail	56.3	33.8	2.5	7.5
Individual counseling	56.3	40.0	1.3	2.5
Group counseling	37.5	35.0	13.8	13.8
Support group	46.3	27.5	12.5	13.8
Access to interpreters	38.8	42.5	7.5	11.3
Wheelchair accessible	57.5	18.8	5.0	18.8
Safety planning	75.9	19.0	0.0	5.1
Financial assistance	20.0	48.8	17.5	13.8
Child care	22.5	53.8	10.0	13.8
Dietary needs based on religion or culture	26.6	20.3	11.4	41.8
Education	31.3	50.0	7.5	11.3
Life skills	32.5	46.3	8.8	12.5
Job training	28.8	51.3	10.0	10.0
Job placement	23.8	56.3	8.8	11.3
Substance abuse/treatment services	48.8	38.8	5.0	7.5
Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims	23.8	38.8	13.8	23.8

As was the case with previous long-term service needs, housing, public transportation, financial assistance, and job placement all prove to be lacking in communities across Ohio for stalking victims. Job training and education are both generally available, but also insufficient to meet the long-term needs of stalking victims.

Gaps in Service by Type of County

The following tables list the top five needs per type of county for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Top needs for each county category were determined by adding the valid percentages from the following two groups: (1) Service is available in our community but not sufficient and (2) Service is not available in our community. The total number of responses for each county category was determined by sorting respondents who were from a particular county group and indicated that they provided services for the crime victim in question. (Example: In Table 10, 16 respondents indicated they provided services for domestic violence victims in rural Appalachia.) Some county categories had a low total number of responses; however

percentages were still presented for these cases. County categories with low response numbers tended to have a greater number of ties for each place. (Ties refer to a service having the same total percentage of need as another service.) Some county types' "top needs" varied slightly from the above tables. However, for the most part, regardless of county size, some services remained as constant needs.

Table 10
Immediate Needs of Domestic Violence Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 16)*	Financial assistance (76.9%)	Pet care (71.5%)	Public transportation (71.4%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Child care (61.5%)	*Tie* Housing, Accessible housing for elderly (50.0%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 9)*	*Tie* Child care, Financial assistance (66.7%)	Public transportation (66.6%)	Access to interpreters (55.2%)	*Tie* Housing, Accessible housing for elderly, Wheelchair accessible facilities (33.3%)	*Tie* Dietary needs based on culture/religion, Hospital accompaniment (22.2%)
Medium *(Total: 30)*	Financial assistance (59.3%)	Public transportation (59.2%)	Child care (48.1%)	Pet care (40.0%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Housing (33.3%)
Large *(Total: 24)*	Child care (62.5%)	Housing (60.0%)	Financial assistance (56.3%)	Public transportation (50.0%)	*Tie* Hospital accompaniment, Pet care (31.3%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 49)*	Public transportation (71.1%)	Child care (70.4%)	Pet care (63.6%)	Financial assistance (61.4%)	Medical care (45.5%)

Financial assistance is the top immediate need for all county categories excluding large counties and multi-county service agencies where it places third and fourth, respectively. It is no surprise that public transportation ranks higher for rural counties than for the large counties in Ohio. However, for medium-sized counties public transportation is also one of the top two needs. Child care is also a need that ranks high in all categories. A notable difference from other categories in Table 10, in addition to overall needs expressed in previous tables, is rural Appalachian's need for increased access to interpreters.

Table 11
Intermediate Needs of Domestic Violence Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 16)*	Housing (84.6%)	Public transportation (77.0%)	Financial assistance (76.9%)	*Tie* Child care, Legal counsel (69.2%)	*Tie* Education, Job training, Job placement (69.0%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 9)*	Education (87.5%)	Financial assistance (77.8%)	*Tie* Job training, Job placement, Life skills (75.0%)	*Tie* Housing, Child care, Notification of defendant's release from jail (66.7%)	Public transportation (66.6%)
Medium *(Total: 30)*	*Tie* Housing, Financial assistance, Legal counsel (61.5%)	*Tie* Job training, Job placement (61.0%)	Child care (60.0%)	Public transportation (53.8%)	*Tie* Education, Substance abuse treatment (50.0%)
Large *(Total: 24)*	*Tie* Housing, Job placement (68.8%)	*Tie* Public transportation, Job training (56.3%)	*Tie* Legal counsel, Child care (56.0%)	Education (50.1%)	Financial assistance (50.0%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 49)*	Housing (80.0%)	Child care (77.8%)	Public transportation (72.7%)	Financial assistance (71.1%)	Job placement (66.7%)

Housing is the top intermediate need for all county categories excluding rural Appalachia. For rural Appalachian counties, education is the top need followed by financial assistance. For all county categories, job placement and/or job training ranks in the top five needs. Financial assistance also ranks relatively high for all county types except for large counties.

Table 12
Long-term Needs of Domestic Violence Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 16)*	Public transportation (92.3%)	Housing (84.6%)	*Tie* Job placement, Job training, Legal counsel, Child care (76.9%)	Financial assistance (75.0%)	Accessible housing for elderly (61.5%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 9)*	Child care (75.0%)	*Tie* Financial assistance, Public transportation (62.5%)	*Tie* Housing, Access to interpreters, Legal counsel, General advocacy, Education, Life skills (50.0%)	*Tie* Job training, Dietary needs based on religion/culture (37.5%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Wheelchair accessible facilities, Access to interpreters, Notification of defendant's release from jail, Group counseling, Support groups (25.0%)
Medium *(Total: 30)*	Housing (73.1%)	Job placement (68.0%)	*Tie* Financial assistance, Education, Job training (61.5%)	*Tie* Child care, Life skills (53.8%)	Accessible housing for elderly (52.0%)
Large *(Total: 24)*	Housing (62.6%)	*Tie* Legal counsel, Financial assistance (56.3%)	Child care (56.1%)	Job placement (53.4%)	Job training (50.1%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 49)*	Public transportation (82.2%)	Housing (80.0%)	Child care (68.2%)	Job placement (66.7%)	Financial assistance (66.6%)

When serving the long-term needs of domestic violence victims, child care and financial assistance lands in the top five of every category. The need for housing is in the top two needs for every county category exclusive of rural Appalachia. Access to public transportation is less of a need for large counties, but proves to be vital for all rural counties regardless of Appalachian designation and agencies who served multiple counties.

Table 13
Immediate Needs of Sexual Assault Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 12)*	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Public transportation (72.8%)	Pet care (72.7%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Child care (63.6%)	Financial assistance (27.3%)	Housing (18.2%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 8)*	Housing (75.0%)	*Tie* Public transportation, Child care (71.5%)	Pet care (62.5%)	Financial assistance (50.0%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Access to interpreters (37.5%)
Medium *(Total: 24)*	Public transportation (66.7%)	Child care (47.7%)	Access to interpreters (47.6%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Financial assistance (42.9%)	Pet care (42.8%)
Large *(Total: 11)*	Public transportation (75.0%)	Pet care (62.5%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Hospital accompaniment (55.6%)	Child care (55.5%)	Safety planning (33.3%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 39)*	Public transportation (72.2%)	Child care (69.5%)	Financial assistance (55.2%)	Pet care (50.0%)	Access to interpreters (47.2%)

Public transportation is the top immediate need for sexual assault victims in every category except for rural Appalachia, where 75 percent of respondents from this segment cite housing as their greatest need when providing immediate services to sexual assault victims. Access to interpreters and pet care emerges as top needs for all categories.

Table 14
Intermediate Needs of Sexual Assault Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 12)*	*Tie* Housing, Child care, Life skills, Job training, Job placement (81.8%)	Public transportation (72.8%)	Education (72.7%)	Legal services for immigrants and refugee victims (63.7%)	Legal counsel (63.6%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 8)*	*Tie* Housing, Life skills, Job training, Job placement, Child care (87.5%)	*Tie* Public transportation, Financial assistance, Education (75.0%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Legal counsel, Support group (50.0%)	*Tie* Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims, Substance abuse treatment, Group counseling, Notification of defendant's release from jail, Access to interpreters (37.5%)	*Tie* Wheelchair accessible facilities, Safety planning, Individual counseling (25.0%)
Medium *(Total: 24)*	Public transportation (61.9%)	*Tie* Child care, Education (52.4%)	*Tie* Housing, Accessible housing for elderly, Group counseling, Life skills (47.6%)	*Tie* Notification of defendant's release from jail, Job training, Job placement, Legal services for immigrants and refugees (42.9%)	Financial assistance (42.8%)
Large *(Total: 11)*	Job placement (83.4%)	Notification of defendant's release from jail (75.0%)	Housing (66.6%)	*Tie* Individual counseling, Group counseling, Support group (62.5%)	Life skills (62.0%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 39)*	Public transportation (77.8%)	Housing (74.3%)	Child care (72.2%)	Job placement (65.7%)	Financial assistance (64.7%)

All county categories list transitional housing as one of the top intermediate needs for sexual assault victims. Not including large counties in the survey, all county categories also list child care as a top need. Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims emerge in the top five needs for rural Appalachian, rural non-Appalachian, and medium counties. The pattern of public transportation being a top need noted by respondents

continues with all categories, excluding large counties. All other county types selected public transportation as one of their top two needs.

Table 15
Long-term Needs of Sexual Assault Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 12)*	Public transportation (81.9%)	*Tie* Housing, Accessible housing for elderly, Child care, Job placement (72.7%)	Legal services for immigrants and refugee victims (63.7%)	*Tie* Job training, Life skills, Education, Group counseling (63.6%)	Dietary needs based on religion or culture (60.0%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 8)*	*Tie* Public transportation, Child care (87.5%)	Life skills (75.0%)	*Tie* Housing, Financial assistance, Support group, Education, Job training, Job placement (62.5%)	*Tie* Substance abuse treatment, Group counseling, Legal counsel, Access to interpreters (50.0%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Legal/court advocacy, General advocacy, Notification of defendant's release from jail, Individual counseling, Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims (37.5%)
Medium *(Total: 24)*	Public transportation (61.9%)	Education (55.0%)	Housing (52.4%)	Life skills (50.0%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Child care, Group counseling (47.6%)
Large *(Total: 11)*	*Tie* Substance abuse treatment services, Job placement, Job training (62.5%)	Life skills (61.0%)	Notification of defendant's release from jail (60.0%)	Housing (50.0%)	*Tie* Public transportation, Legal counsel, Education (49.2%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 39)*	Public transportation (76.5%)	Child care (75.7%)	Housing (72.8%)	Financial assistance (67.6%)	Job placement (66.7%)

Breaking the trend, respondents from large counties report substance abuse, job placement, and job training services as top long-term needs for victims of sexual assault. For all other county types, public transportation is the top need. Providing life skills for victims appears in the top five needs for all county types excluding agencies who serve multiple counties.

Table 16
Immediate Needs of Stalking Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 11)*	Pet care (87.5%)	*Tie* Public transportation, Financial assistance, Child care (75.0%)	Accessible housing for elderly (71.4%)	*Tie* Toll free crisis hotline, Access to interpreters, Dietary needs based on religion or culture (50.0%)	Housing (37.5%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 8)*	*Tie* Public transportation, Child care (75.0%)	*Tie* Financial assistance, Pet care (62.5%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Hospital accompaniment, Medical care, Housing, Accessible housing for elderly (37.5%)	*Tie* Help line, Safety planning (25.0%)	Toll free crisis hotline (14.3%)
Medium *(Total: 26)*	Public transportation (60.0%)	Financial assistance (52.4%)	Child care (42.9%)	Pet care (35.0%)	Housing (28.7%)
Large *(Total: 10)*	Financial assistance (70.0%)	Housing (60.0%)	*Tie* Hospital accompaniment, Child care (59.0%)	Toll free crisis hotline (50.0%)	Help line (40.0%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 35)*	Public transportation (75.8%)	*Tie* Financial assistance, Child care (72.4%)	Pet care (65.5%)	Access to interpreters (51.7%)	Housing (41.3%)

Tables 16-18 present the top five needs for stalking victims. The total numbers of responses to items in this section are the lowest among the three offenses. Due to the low number of responses, there are several ties between each place.

In this table a few services make the top five immediate needs that were only sporadically located in previous tables. In attempting to meet the immediate needs of stalking victims, respondents from rural Appalachia state that taking into consideration special dietary needs based on a victim's culture or religion is among victims' top immediate needs. Hospital accompaniment and available toll free crisis hotlines are services that also make several county categories top five needs. Finally, pet care appears as a top immediate need for all county types with the exception of large counties. Across all categories, financial assistance ranks first or second among immediate needs for stalking victims. Public transportation is among the top two needs of every county type excluding large county respondents. Child care appears in every county type's top needs.

Table 17
Intermediate Needs of Stalking Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 11)*	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Job training, Job placement (87.5%)	*Tie* Housing, Public transportation, Financial Assistance, Child care, Education, Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims (75.0%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Dietary needs based on religion/culture, Legal counsel, Notification of defendant's release from jail, Individual/Group counseling, Support group (50.0%)	*Tie* Notification of hearings, Substance abuse treatment (37.5%)	*Tie* Legal/Court advocacy, Wheelchair accessible facilities (25.0%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 8)*	*Tie* Housing, Public transportation, Child care, Education (75.0%)	*Tie* Financial assistance, Life skills, Job training (62.5%)	Job placement (57.2%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Access to interpreters, Legal counsel (50.0%)	*Tie* Individual Counseling, Group counseling, Support groups (37.5%)
Medium *(Total: 26)*	Public transportation (65.0%)	Financial assistance (61.9%)	Job placement (57.1%)	Education (55.0%)	*Tie* Housing, Child care, Job training (52.4%)
Large *(Total: 10)*	*Tie* Public transportation, Financial assistance (66.7%)	Job training (66.0%)	*Tie* Life skills, Job placement (55.6%)	*Tie* Substance abuse treatment, Legal Counsel (54.0%)	Child care (53.5%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 35)*	Financial assistance (82.7%)	Public transportation (79.3%)	Child care (75.9%)	Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims (74.1%)	*Tie* Housing, Job placement (72.4%)

For all rural counties, regardless of Appalachian designation, several ties are noted between each service. For all county types, public transportation, financial assistance, and job training are top intermediate needs of stalking victims.

Table 18
Long-term Needs of Stalking Victims

Type of County	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Rural Non-Appalachian *(Total: 11)*	Public transportation (87.5%)	*Tie* Housing, Accessible housing for elderly, Job training, Job placement, Safety planning (75.0%)	*Tie* Child care, Life skills, Group counseling, Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims (62.5%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Education, Individual counseling, Notification of defendant's release from jail (50.0%)	Financial assistance (49.5%)
Rural Appalachian *(Total: 8)*	Public transportation (75.0%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Child care, Job placement (62.5%)	*Tie* Housing, Financial assistance, Education, Life skills, Job training (50.0%)	*Tie* Accessible housing for elderly, Legal counsel, Notification of defendant's release from jail, Group counseling, Support group (37.5%)	*Tie* Substance abuse treatment, Individual counseling, General advocacy, Legal/court advocacy (25.0%)
Medium *(Total: 26)*	Financial assistance (66.6%)	Job training (57.3%)	Housing (57.2%)	Job placement (57.1%)	Public transportation (55.0%)
Large *(Total: 10)*	*Tie* Public transportation, Education (66.7%)	*Tie* Life skills, Job training (66.0%)	*Tie* Access to interpreters, Legal counsel (55.6%)	Substance abuse treatment (55.5%)	*Tie* Child care, Financial assistance (55.0%)
Multiple counties *(Total: 35)*	*Tie* Housing, Public transportation (79.3%)	Financial assistance (75.8%)	Child care (72.4%)	Job placement (68.9%)	Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims (65.5%)

The need for more access to public transportation and financial assistance to meet the long-term needs of stalking victims is present in every county type. Child care lands in the top five for all county types except for respondents from medium-size counties. Services that help victims in preparing for and securing job opportunities are top needs for all county types as well.

Open-ended Responses

Respondents were provided space on the survey to offer additional comments pertaining to populations they had difficulty serving and basic services they could no longer provide due to funding issues. The purpose of these questions was to identify recurring themes of specific services that may be lacking in Ohio communities. Regardless of county size, the following responses were repeatedly stated as concerns:

People in the community for whom providing services is especially difficult

(1)   **Non-English or Limited English Proficient Populations**: Respondents state they have extreme difficulty serving clients who are limited-English proficient or do not speak English at all. These include Spanish speaking populations as well as Somali, Somali Bantu, Russian, Chinese, and other Asian speaking victims. Some state it is difficult to reach these populations because of the victims' fear of deportation while others acknowledge it is difficult to arrange meetings with victims, interpreters, and prosecutors. Agencies have trouble when receiving calls on various hotlines from members of these populations due to the lack of bilingual staff. Some are also unable to make brochures available in languages other than English for their clients.

(2)   **Deaf or Hard of Hearing Community**: According to respondents, providing services to victims whose main mode of communication is sign language is quite challenging. One respondent makes the point that deaf victims have linguistic and cultural differences and should be recognized as a cultural minority since they are overlooked by dominant society. As with the limited-English proficient population, interpreter services for deaf victims are especially sparse.

(3)   **Child/Adolescent Populations**: The largest problem providers face when serving adolescents is providing services to unaccompanied minors. Respondents acknowledge the difficulty of helping teens who do not want their parents to be aware of their situation. Helping adolescents with social service issues is also trying because children service agencies are unable to provide acute intervention at the hospital level. There is a lack of services for children who are victims of sexual assault. Survey respondents report that this population needs to have long-term services that are currently unavailable. Victims of teen dating violence also present a challenge to service agencies.

(4)   **Victims with Criminal Backgrounds/No Work History/Substance Abuse/Mentally Ill**: Respondents report that this population is difficult to place in housing and obtain adequate employment due to their past records. Survey respondents state it is difficult to place and keep victims from these populations in shelters, transitional, and more permanent housing. It is also difficult for these victims to locate jobs that pay enough to support themselves as well as their families. Respondents also acknowledge that some professionals do not believe mentally ill victims or do not consider them good witnesses in court.

(5)   **Elderly and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Victims**: With the elderly and Lesbian/Gay/Bi-Sexual/Transgendered populations, housing is the biggest hurdle facing service providers. Some survey respondents believe that domestic violence shelters are rarely available for gay and bi-sexual men. Respondents also state that shelters for lesbian victims are inadequate. Respondents also note that it is difficult to have housing that meets the needs of elderly victims. Shelters and transitional housing locations that lack resources for these populations are less likely to accept them. According to survey respondents, resources to serve these populations are lacking in mainstream programs.

Basic services which are no longer provided due to funding issues

(1)   **Transportation**: Making transportation available for victims to hospitals, housing, counseling, and court appointments is difficult or impossible for many survey respondents due to lack of resources. Without having the means to provide transportation, agencies are unable to fully meet the needs of their clients.

(2)   **Housing**: Providing housing for victims is especially trying when resources are limited. Results show service providers are having difficulty placing their clients in shelters, transitional housing, in addition to more permanent locations. This is especially true for low-income families. According to one survey respondent, an average client waits four months to be placed in subsidized housing. Some domestic violence shelters are only able to provide very limited stay in shelters due to lack of staff.

(3)   **Counseling Sessions**: Without funding to pay staff, counseling sessions occur less frequently or are eliminated completely. Some service agencies are unable to provide counseling services to clients who are not capable of paying the full fee. Others are forced to cut their counseling hours from 10 to six hours per week. Satellite counseling offices and support groups are eliminated and needs for stalking-specific groups for victims, in some counties, are left unmet.

(4)   **Lack of Advocacy, Training, Education, and Public Awareness**: Supplying information and referrals to clients is difficult for service providers in Ohio. Due to a lack of funding, there are not enough staff members to offer client advocacy training, education, or public awareness. Some prevention programs, in addition to crime scene advocacy, have been completely cut.

(5)   **Representation in Civil Legal Matters Related to Domestic Violence**: Due to loss of funding, service providers are no longer able to offer civil representation in legal matters such as divorce, civil protection orders, custody/child support issues, or eviction/foreclosures to domestic violence victims.

(6)   **Rape Crisis Services/Sexual Assault Intervention**: Services specific to aiding victims of rape are lacking due to funding issues in Ohio counties. Some respondents acknowledge there is a need for services, including hotlines specifically intended to assist rape and sexual assault victims.

Issues specific to rural communities

(1)   **Amish**: For the agencies who serve counties with large Amish populations, gaining access into these communities is extremely difficult. In general, Amish populations lack trust in mainstream institutions such as courts and service agencies: they prefer to handle all issues within their community. According to survey respondents, the Amish in Holmes County compose over 40 percent of the population, yet Amish crime victims total only two percent. Getting Amish victims to venture outside of their communities to report victimization is challenging for these particular agencies.

(2)   **Transportation**: In communities without public transportation, the burden of transporting victims falls heavily on social service and law enforcement agencies. Some survey respondents representing law enforcement agencies state they serve as court escorts for domestic violence victims who have no other transportation. Rural service agencies offer services for large geographic areas which makes not having transportation even more challenging.

(3)   **Funding**: Funding is a critical issue for all survey respondents regardless of geographic location. This is especially true for survey respondents serving rural communities. As previously noted, agencies in these areas serve a vast area, and for many residents, they are the only agency that provides services in their respective county. Waiting for federal reimbursement can be especially taxing for agencies serving rural areas in Ohio.

III. Added Services

While many agencies have been forced to cut certain programs due to funding constraints, new funding streams have created opportunities for agencies to add new programs to the array of services provided. Some of these programs include visitation centers, life skills classes, advocacy for Spanish-speaking victims, and sexual assault programs. A number of respondents also acknowledge they are able to add prevention and education services in schools and the community for dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, as well as hate crimes, bullying, and help to cope with divorcing/separating parents. Additionally, rental assistance programs for victims, courtroom advocacy, specialized domestic violence prosecutors, and advocates exclusively for stalking victims have been added. Finally, civil legal services for domestic violence families involved with children services and transitional housing for single women are all services offered to victims due to funding granted to agencies.

IV. Comments

Those who responded to the Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment provided valuable information that can lead to improvement in serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking across the state of Ohio. The two goals of the survey were to: (1) learn of any gaps in services and (2) gain knowledge of populations service providers have difficulty serving. Both of these goals were met with the information gleaned from survey results.

Regardless of agency type or county size, services such as financial assistance to victims, housing, public transportation, child care, job training, and job placement are all lacking in communities. Housing, especially shelters, is more likely to be sufficient at the initial stage to meet the immediate needs of victims. However, as victims move through the process, meeting their housing needs becomes more challenging. Housing is deficient at the intermediate and long-term stages for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Throughout the survey, there was a high frequency of "Not sure" responses for three specific services:

(1) Dietary needs based on religion or culture,
(2) Legal services for immigrant and refugee victims, and
(3) Accessible housing for elderly victims.

It is difficult to directly pinpoint why this occurred. Are these services being offered in communities and people are unaware? Or, are they not being offered and respondents were hesitant to admit this? Based on the parameters of this survey, it cannot be determined.

The survey results show that a great need for funding exists across Ohio. Survey responses gave a clear consensus on which populations are most difficult to serve in Ohio communities. Bringing awareness to these difficulties is the first step to making the necessary changes to become more effective in reaching these victims. In addition to funding, training for service providers is needed. For example, is the mainstream system ready to serve Amish victims that have a differing worldview separate from non-Amish service providers? When funding does become available it is important that service providers have the ability to work effectively through interpreters with victims. Respondents confirm that Ohio is composed of diverse communities that have varying needs. Training and funding are vital to meet the needs of our ever-changing communities.

V. Appendix: Methodology

The survey was sent electronically to a variety of individuals via Survey Monkey, an online survey tool. A total of 174 surveys were completed. Staff from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collaborated with members from the Family Violence Prevention Council to collect potential survey participants. To reach a diverse group of people, many list-servs were utilized[1]. Respondents were selected for participation from the following lists:

- **Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) Membership List**: All Ohio shelter and non-shelter domestic violence programs' Executive Directors and Director-level staff

- **ODVN Women of Color Caucus Membership List**: Interested women of color at large as well as those who are service providers in domestic violence, mental health, and sexual assault areas

- **ODVN Justice System Advocacy Membership List**: Ohio legal advocates

- **ODVN Child Advocacy Caucus Membership List**: Ohio child advocates mostly in the domestic violence field

- **Ohio Prevents Family Violence/Intimate Partner Violence/Sexual Violence**: Professionals involved to some degree in activities aimed at preventing child abuse, elder abuse, intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence. Make-up is local, regional, state, and both public and private organizations.

- **Sub-grantee contacts from OCJS' Grants Database**: Agencies that receive Violence Against Women Act funding from OCJS

- **Domestic Violence and Immigration Task Force Membership List**: Domestic violence programs, attorneys, and community organization representatives who are concerned about domestic violence in immigrant communities

- **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Contacts**

- **Ohio Victim Witness Association Membership List**: Victim service agencies, sexual assault programs/shelters, and domestic violence shelters that provide direct services to victims of crime

A pre-test was sent to a small number of potential respondents on February 1, 2008. This was done to determine how the time frames (immediate, intermediate, and long-term) contained in the survey would be defined. The survey was available February 8 – 22, 2008. Follow-up notifications were sent out on February 15, 2008. Once the survey closed, data were entered into a computer program, Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences (SPSS), which allows data to be analyzed. Variables and values were then created for every question included in the survey. Frequency distributions were subsequently run on variables to observe totals for each county category and agency type.

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[1] To maintain confidentiality of these lists, OCJS was not issued individual email addresses contained on these lists. The exact number of email address overlap between lists used is unknown; though it is suspected to be high.

<u>Respondent Demographics</u>

Counties Included

All 88 Ohio counties[2] are represented in the survey. Some survey respondents provided services for multiple counties, while others acknowledged they offered statewide services. Counties represented by the respondents were grouped by county type for two purposes: (1) to see how well the sample represents the state and (2) to use an analytical tool in assessing survey responses. A category was created to group respondents who stated their agency served more than one county in Ohio. The survey did not require respondents to select the county in which their agency was located; only what counties they served. Counties were classified as follows[3]:

(1) **Rural / Non-Appalachian:** 33 counties with populations under 100,000 without the designation of "Appalachian"

(2) **Rural / Appalachian:** 27 counties with populations under 100,000 designated as "Appalachian"[4]

(3) **Medium:** 23 counties with populations above 100,000 but less than 500,000

(4) **Large:** Five counties with populations above 500,000

(5) **Multiple Counties:** Agencies that serve multiple counties

(6) **Ohio:** Agencies that serve all Ohio counties

Table 19 shows that all counties are somewhat underrepresented when compared to their percent of the state's population. As previously noted, survey participants were asked what counties their agencies served, but were not asked to indicate the county where their agency was located. This accounts for the high frequency of respondents who listed multiple counties of service.

Table 19
Responses by County Type

Type of County	Number of cases	Percentage of Respondents (%)	Percentage of State Population (%)
Multiple Counties	57	32.8	------
Medium	38	21.8	36.2
Large	34	19.5	39.2
Rural Non-Appalachian	19	11.0	14.0
Rural Appalachian	14	8.0	10.6
Ohio	12	6.9	------
Total	174	100.0	100.0

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[2] Fayette County was not included in results as no respondents indicated they provided services for the county.
[3] All county information was obtained from the Ohio Department of Development.
[4] Columbiana and Clermont Counties are two of the 29 counties designated as Appalachian in Ohio. For the purposes of this analysis, with populations exceeding 100,000, they will be classified as "Medium" counties.

Agencies Represented

Table 20 presents the number of respondents from each type of agency based on the agency category selected on the survey. Most of the "other" category responses were from legal services, local system coordination, domestic violence shelters, state agencies, and public/community mental health agencies.

Table 20
Respondents' Type of Agency

Type of Agency	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses (%)
Non-profit	106	60.9
Other	25	14.4
Prosecution-based	19	11.0
Law enforcement	11	6.3
Court-based	4	2.3
SANE program/Health care program	3	1.7
Multiple agencies selected	3	1.7
Law enforcement not related to a victim service agency	2	1.1
Question omitted	1	0.6
Total	174	100.0

Respondents were able to select more than one agency for this survey question. Three respondents did select more than one agency and these are classified as "multiple selections." Of these three respondents, two selected both court-based and prosecution-based, and one respondent selected court-based and non-profit agencies. The majority of respondents indicated they represented a non-profit agency.

Following the completion of frequency distributions for county and agency types, cases were then selected out to observe gaps in service based on the type of offense and county.

Gaps in Service by Type of Offense

To examine gaps in service by each type of offense (domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking), each offense needed to be separated out from all other responses. All respondents were asked if they provided services for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. When sorting domestic violence, all respondents who indicated they provided services for domestic violence victims were moved to a different dataset for analysis. Respondents who indicated they did not provide services for domestic violence victims were not included in the data analysis. (For example: If a respondent answered "yes" they provided services for domestic violence victims, the case was given the value of "1". If they stated "no" they did not provide services for domestic violence victims, the case was assigned a value of "2". All cases designated as "1", or DV=1, were sorted to another dataset for analysis.) This process was replicated for sexual assault as well as stalking. The following numbers represent the total cases once sorting to new datasets was complete.

Type of Offense	Total Number of Cases
Domestic Violence	136
Sexual Assault	100
Stalking	96

Gaps in Service by Type of County

     Once each offense was sorted into an individual dataset, frequency distributions were run for each time period. (For example: immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs of domestic violence victims.) Tables 1 through 9 were completed using this procedure.

     To observe gaps in service by county type, the datasets based on types of offense had to be reduced even further. To facilitate this, values were arbitrarily assigned to each county type. Assigning values allows for cases to be sorted out in order to study gaps in service based on each county type. Continuing with domestic violence as an example, cases were selected out for each county type listed above[5]. Working in the domestic violence dataset, all rural non-Appalachian cases were sorted out. These only included respondents who indicated they provided services for domestic violence victims in rural counties without the Appalachian designation. Repeating this same process with each of the above listed county types allows "Top Needs" to be determined for each county type.

     Tables 10 through 18 lists the top five needs for each county type by level of need (immediate, intermediate, or long-term). Top needs percentages were determined by adding together percentages from the categories: "Service is **available in our community, but not sufficient**" and "Service is **not available in our community**." The total number of cases for each offense and county type are listed below.

Type of County	Domestic Violence	Sexual Assault	Stalking
Rural non-Appalachian	16	12	11
Rural Appalachian	9	8	8
Medium	30	24	26
Large	24	11	10
Multiple counties	49	39	35

Open-ended Responses

     At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to elaborate on their earlier responses and specifically list groups of people they had difficulty serving in addition to services they were forced to cut due to funding shortages[6]. All of the responses received were not included in the survey. Recurring themes emerged and those were the items included in the report.

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[5] Due to the small number of respondents who indicated they served all Ohio counties, these were not included in the Gaps in Service by Type of County analyses.
[6] A copy of the survey instrument utilized is available upon request.