



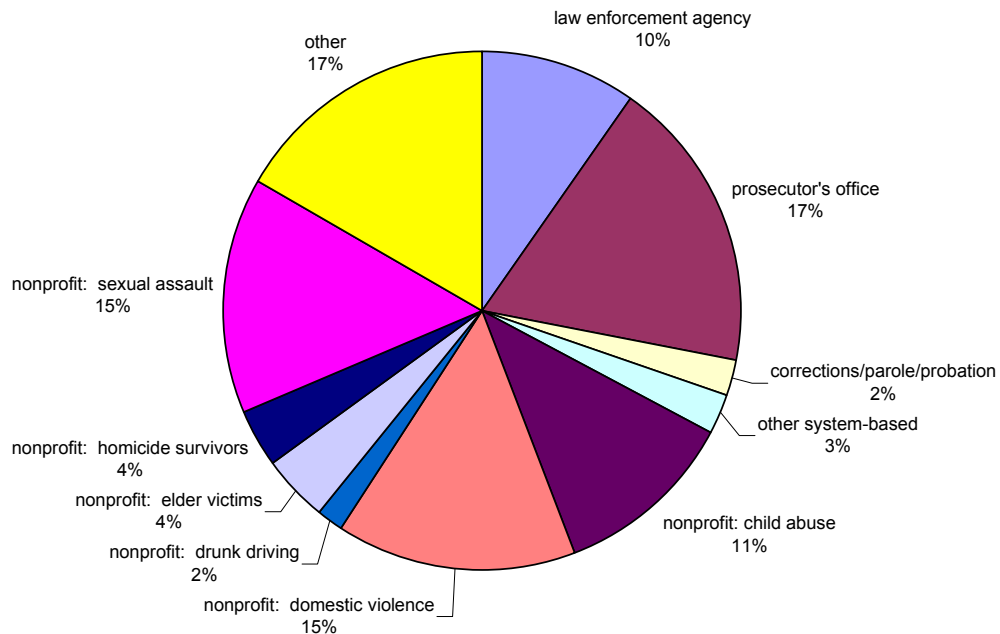
RESULTS FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER'S 2006-2007 PUBLIC POLICY POLL

The results of the National Center for Victims of Crime's 2006-2007 Public Policy Poll have been compiled. With 445 of you responding, the results were informative. You told us about your legislative priorities, underserved victims in your community, your views of the coming legislative sessions, and how we can best help you.

RESPONDENTS

A total of 445 respondents took our poll. Of those, 427 said they worked with or for an agency.

Respondents - by Agency Type



POLICY PRIORITIES

Almost 3 out of 4 of you told us that funding for victim services was a policy priority. You told us you are struggling to survive in the current funding environment, some of you have lost most paid staff and are almost solely volunteer, you can't find funding that covers expenses like rent, you need funds to hire bilingual staff, you need funding for general crime victim response, and threats to VOCA funding are affecting programs in your state. Other priority topics were Internet predators of children and enforcement of protective orders.

The top ten legislative issues among all respondents were:

1. Funding for Victim Services
2. Child luring/Internet predators
3. Enforcement of protective orders
4. Collection of victim restitution
5. Extending protective orders to sexual assault victims
6. Bullying/harassment of teens
7. Background checks of caregivers for elders
8. Financial exploitation of seniors
9. Remedies for violations of victims' rights
10. Reimbursement for counseling expenses of witnesses to violence

Priority issues varied somewhat depending on the respondent, but there were some interesting parallels. Bear in mind that respondents are victim advocates within agencies.

**TOP FIVE PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES
BY MAJOR RESPONDENT CATEGORY**

	Government Agencies		Nonprofit Organizations			
	Law Enforcement	Prosecutor’s Office	Sexual Assault	Domestic Violence	Child Abuse	Homicide Survivors
1.	Enforcement of protective orders	Funding for victim services	Child luring, Internet predators	Enforcement of protective orders	Child luring, Internet predators	Funding for victim services
2.	Funding for victim services	Background checks of caregivers of elderly	Protective orders for sexual assault victims	Funding for victim services	Funding for victim services	Collection of victim restitution
3.	Child luring, Internet predators	Collection of victim restitution	Funding for victim services	Extending protective orders to sexual assault victims	Enforcement of protective orders	Enforcement of protective orders
4.	Financial exploitation of seniors	Financial exploitation of seniors	Advocate and client privilege	Child luring, Internet predators	Protective orders for sexual assault victims	Child luring, Internet predators
5.	Collection of victim restitution	Bullying and harassment of teens; and Child luring, Internet predators (tie)	Bullying and harassment of teens	Supervised visitation	Reimbursing for counseling expenses of witnesses; and Supervised visitation (tie)	Remedies for violations of victim rights

Many of the other issues you raised indicate victim advocates still have work ahead of us to ensure that basic victims’ rights and services are available everywhere and for everyone. These issues included: lack of funding for victim services in rural areas, a lack of rights for victims of juvenile offenders, low reimbursement rates from victim compensation, a need for separate waiting areas for victims in the courthouse, a need for consistent enforcement of victims’ rights, and a need for coordination of interviews of child witnesses.

UNDERSERVED VICTIMS

We asked about underserved crime victims that are a priority for your community. The following categories received the most responses (multiple responses were permitted):

Victims with mental illness	47 %
Teen victims	34 %
Immigrant victims	30 %
Victims with disabilities	28 %
Homeless victims	25 %
Racial or ethnic minority victims	24 %
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or intersexed victims	16 %
Incarcerated victims	9 %

Other underserved victim populations you mentioned included: indigent or poor victims, victims who test positive for or are addicted to drugs or alcohol, non-English speaking victims, and Native American victims.

Many of you also mentioned that child victims, elderly victims, victims of domestic violence, and victims of sexual assault remain underserved.

We asked how you felt about prospects for strengthening crime victims' rights and services in 2007. For the most part, you are optimistic. However, we noticed quite a bit of variation when we broke down your responses by the major agencies represented.

PROSPECTS AT THE STATE LEVEL

Respondent	Somewhat or Very Optimistic	Neutral	Somewhat or Very Pessimistic
OVERALL	49 %	24 %	26 %
homicide survivor nonprofit	73 %	20 %	7 %
prosecutor's office	60 %	19 %	22 %
law enforcement agency	56 %	28 %	17 %
sexual assault nonprofit	45 %	15 %	41 %
domestic violence nonprofit	42 %	28 %	30 %
child abuse nonprofit	35 %	27 %	37 %

PROSPECTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

Respondent	Somewhat or Very Optimistic	Neutral	Somewhat or Very Pessimistic
OVERALL	37 %	30 %	34 %
homicide survivor nonprofit	64 %	7 %	28 %
law enforcement agency	48 %	29 %	23 %
prosecutor's office	44 %	28 %	29 %
child abuse nonprofit	27 %	27 %	45 %
domestic violence nonprofit	25 %	35 %	41 %
sexual assault nonprofit	23 %	32 %	43 %

COMMENTS

Finally, we really appreciated your kind comments. This feedback reenergizes us for the coming year.

“Keep up the great job you are doing!”

“I think the National Center has a great challenge facing them and I have been very impressed with the accomplishments so far. Keep up the good work!”

“Thank you so much for your efforts!”

“Your list of topics is excellent and I could have checked virtually all of them. Thanks for all your assistance in the past.”

“There are many concerns but I personally appreciate everything you do. It’s a major help and resource to me.”

“I think the National Center’s policy efforts are great. We need one central location where advocates can keep up-to-date with crime issues and the changing laws in the states. Thank you for all you do in fighting crime and helping victims.”

“Thanks for your efforts and hard work in bringing balance in the system for victims!”

To everyone who participated, thanks so much for your response. Your input will help guide the National Center’s policy activities for the coming year.