



NEWS

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL OUTREACH CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS TEEN VICTIMS OF CRIME

National Crime Victim Group Calls on Adults to Help Neglected Victim Population

Washington, DC—The National Center for Victims of Crime today launched its *You(th) Have the Right* outreach campaign aimed at helping teenage crime victims come forward to get the help they need to be safe and free from fear.

Young people ages 12 to 24 suffer more violent crime than any other age group in the United States, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.¹ In fact, teens are twice as likely as adults to be victims of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and other violent crimes—yet most crimes against teens are not reported to the police, and most victims do not receive any other kind of professional help.²

In initiating this outreach effort, the National Center for Victims of Crime seeks to teach adults about the realities of youth victimization and how to help youth disclose crimes that may have traumatized them.

“Teens are a particularly vulnerable and overlooked group when it comes to crime victimization,” said Mitru Ciarlante, director of the National Center’s Youth Initiative. “We are giving adults practical tools to reach out to young people and to think about ways they can make it safer for youth to disclose their victimization and connect them to help.”

The *You(th) Have the Right* outreach campaign features a unique set of resources to help adults reach out and respond to youth victims of crime:

- **Youth Outreach Palm Card:** This youth-friendly mini-brochure stresses that youth victims are not alone and that there is help.

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- **Youth Outreach Poster:** This visually compelling, reproducible poster encourages youth crime victims to take the first step to get help. A downloadable PDF includes space for local agencies to add contact information.
- **“Getting Help” Teen Tools:** This two-page tip sheet walks youth through some of the common concerns of youth victims in coming forward for help.
- **“When a Youth Is Victimized” Get Help Bulletin:** This four-page bulletin offers practical guidance and support for teachers, youth workers, counselors, healthcare providers, and other adults who are in a position to help youth victims.

The National Center for Victims of Crime is promoting the availability of these online materials to local schools, youth organizations, and other community groups in a position to support the millions of young people who are victimized by crime each year.

“I applaud the National Center for its leadership in creating this outreach initiative,” said Joye Frost, acting director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, the funder of a grant that supports the outreach campaign. “With so many of our youth harmed by crime and exposed to violence, it is crucial that we make it safe for them to come forward and get help.”

For more information about the *You(th) Have the Right* campaign and to view and download the outreach campaign materials, visit www.ncvc.org/youth. Hard copies of the youth outreach palm card are also available free-of-charge from the Web site. (A small postage and handling fee is requested.)

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The National Center for Victims of Crime, the nation’s leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims, is dedicated to forging a national commitment to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The National Center’s National Crime Victim Helpline, 1-800-FYI-CALL, helps victims understand the impact of crime, access victim compensation, develop safety plans, navigate the criminal justice and social service systems, learn about their legal rights and options, and find the most appropriate local services. The Youth Initiative, a National Center for Victims of Crime program, builds the nation’s capacity to support youth victims while working to advance their rights and ensuring youth leadership on issues that affect youth.

¹ Shannan M. Catalano, “Criminal Victimization, 2006,” (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007), 4, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv06.pdf> (accessed August 18, 2009).

² David Finkelhor, *Childhood Victimization: Violence, Crime, and Abuse in the Lives of Young People*, (New York: Oxford, 2008), 3, 102.