



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT





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## VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION MISSION AND HISTORY

The mission of the Victim Services Division (VSD) is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the Criminal Justice System.

The VSD was first established as a section in the Parole Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in 1993. The creation of the Victim Services Section was a result of crime victims requesting services, the foresight of staff and the passage of crime victims' rights by the Texas Legislature.

The initial responsibility of the section was to notify crime victims, whose offenders were incarcerated within the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division (CID), of the offender's status. The number and types of notifications, some of which are legislatively mandated, have grown throughout the

years to over 80 notifications for crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens. In addition to the written notification services, a toll-free hotline and automated telephone services are also provided by the VSD.

The Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD) program was formed within the section in 1993 after a crime victim requested this service. In 2001, the 77th Legislature passed legislation providing victims of violent crime the right to request victim-offender mediation through this program.

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) was transferred from the Office of the Governor to the Victim Services Section in 1996. The TxCVC serves as a central source of information for crime

victims, victim advocates and criminal justice professionals and is tasked by legislative mandates regarding the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) and other services. The TxCVC also provides execution accompaniment, victim impact panel and training services.

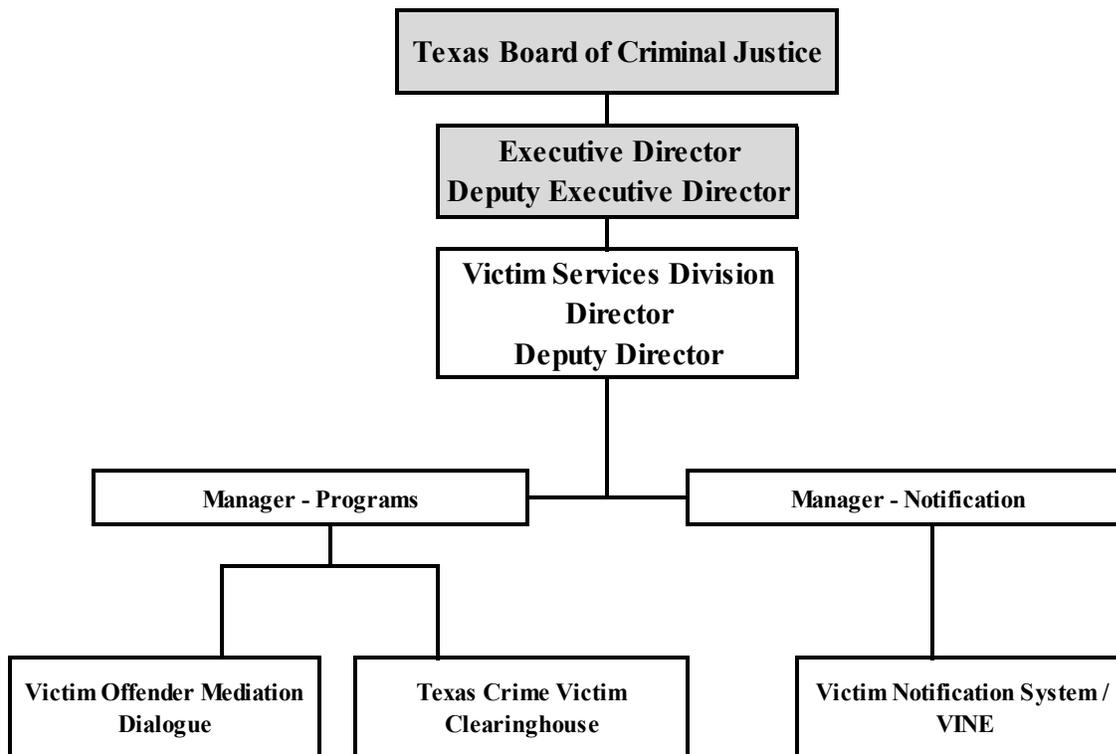
In November 1997, the Victim Services Section was elevated to division status, allowing the new division to more efficiently provide services.

As of August 31, 2015, the VSD consisted of 35 full-time positions.

The VSD continues to support the mission of the TDCJ to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





## VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION SUMMARY OF SERVICES

- Confidential Victim Notification System (VNS) that allows the VSD to communicate information to VNS registrants, including automated and manually generated notifications by letter, email or both
- Automated text notifications to statutory victims, registered on the VNS, regarding warrant actions for offenders on parole supervision
- Toll-free hotline (800-848-4284) - notification staff are available Monday through Friday to provide offender information and referrals
- Automated toll-free telephone number (877-894-8463) that allows VNS registrants to obtain limited offender information in English and Spanish 24 hours a day
- Automated telephone call notifying a VNS registrant, upon their request, that the offender is being processed for release from incarceration
- Assistance with processing Victim Impact Statements (VIS), protest letters and other information submitted by crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens for review by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP)
- Assistance for crime victims who request a meeting with the BPP regarding an offender's parole review
- Provide the BPP with new information from crime victims requesting that the BPP reconsider their favorable vote to release an offender or consider imposing special conditions on an offender's supervision
- Explanation of offender's status to include parole and mandatory supervision procedures
- Assistance for crime victims who request a current photo of the offender responsible for their victimization
- Assistance for crime victims who request that the offender be prohibited from contacting them
- Assistance for crime victims who report unauthorized or prohibited contact by the offender responsible for their victimization
- Assistance for crime victims who report an offender may have violated TDCJ policy or state law
- Facilitation of the mediation/dialogue process for crime victims who request a mediation/dialogue with the offender(s) responsible for their victimization
- Revision and distribution of the VIS form after each legislative session
- Collection and reporting of VIS statistics from Texas counties
- Development of recommended VIS processing procedures
- Development of Crime Victim Assistance Standards for law enforcement and prosecutors
- Training provided in workshops, webinars and online for criminal justice professionals and victim advocates regarding crime victims' rights, victim sensitivity and the VIS
- Assistance in preparing crime victims witnessing an execution, along with support during and after the execution for the witnesses and their support persons
- Online Victim Assistance Resource Directory that provides resources in each Texas county
- Production and distribution of quarterly online newsletter regarding new and innovative victim services
- Production and distribution of publications regarding crime victims' rights and TDCJ VSD services
- Information and referral for restitution inquiries



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION STATUTORY MANDATES

## **The Texas Constitution**

Art. 1. Section 30

## **Texas Code of Criminal Procedure**

Art. 56.01

Art. 56.02(a)(6)

Art. 56.02(a)(7)

Art. 56.02(a)(11)

Art. 56.02 (a)(12)

Art. 7A.07(c)

Art. 42.09(8)(a)(4)

Art. 42.21

Art. 42.24

Art. 56.03

Art. 56.04 (d-1)

Art. 56.05

Art. 56.08(c)(2)

Art. 56.11

## **Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (continued)**

Art. 56.12

Art. 56.13

Art. 56.14

Art. 56.15

Art. 56.32(a)(9)(J)

## **Texas Government Code**

Section 498.0042

Section 508.117

Section 508.153

Section 508.1531

Section 508.190

Section 508.191

Section 508.313

Section 508.324

Section 552.1325

## **Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code**

Section 154.023 (c)

## **Texas Family Code**

Section 85.025 (c)

## **Texas Penal Code**

Section 38.111

## **Texas Health and Safety Code**

Section 841.002(a)(2)

## **Texas Administrative Code**

Rule 152.51



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION FY 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## **Revision of the Victim Impact Statement form**

The VIS is designed to collect information from victims who wish to be notified by criminal justice professionals throughout the process, including court proceedings, community supervision (probation), parole, release and/or discharge. Crime victims may also complete the VIS to provide a detailed account of the emotional/psychological, physical, and financial impact of the crime on the victim and family members. Attorneys representing the state and judges are required to consider the VIS before sentencing or before a plea bargain agreement is accepted. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles is also required to consider the VIS before an inmate is released on parole. If the offender is sentenced to TDCJ, the VIS is required to be included in the offender's penitentiary packet. If received, the VIS is forwarded to the TDCJ VSD to process and add the victim to the TDCJ VSD VNS, if requested.

Pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.03, the TDCJ VSD TxCVC, in collaboration with the TDCJ Community Justice Assistance Division (CJAD) and the BPP, revised the VIS form and related materials. In addition, the VIS Revision Committee is comprised of representatives from law enforcement agencies, district and county attorney's offices, community supervision and correction departments, the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, and the Office of the Attorney General. While revising the VIS form, the committee considered legislation passed during the 84th Legislative Session that relates to the VIS and crime victims' rights, the format of the document, and proposed changes from committee members based on their daily interactions with victims and the criminal justice system. Thanks to the committee's hard work, the updated VIS form and support materials have been enhanced to continue to meet the needs of victims and criminal justice professionals.

## **Increasing Awareness of Services**

The TDCJ VSD TxCVC staff developed two new brochures detailing the services offered by the TDCJ VSD TxCVC and the TDCJ VSD VOMD programs. These brochures allow crime victims, victim services professionals, and criminal justice professionals to easily access information regarding crime victims' rights applicable to and available services offered within these programs. The TDCJ VSD TxCVC staff distribute these publications at trainings, informational booths and upon request through the publication order form. These brochures are available in-print and on-line.

## **Training Opportunities**

The TDCJ VSD TxCVC staff continue to host trainings for criminal justice professionals via live trainings, webinars and the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online. Training topics offered include the VIS form, crime victims' rights, and victim sensitivity. During FY 2015, the TxCVC staff collaborated with the Office of the Inspector General and the Parole Division to provide training to their staff.

There was also a significant increase in those accessing and completing the TVAT Online. The web-based course can be accessed at any internet-accessible location and is designed to be taken as the student's schedule permits. Students may log into and out of the training to review the modules at their convenience.

## **Enhancing Direct Services to Crime Victims**

The TDCJ VSD VOMD program was enhanced in FY 2013 with the addition of two grant-funded mediator positions, increasing the number of full time mediators to five. In 2015, the VOMD program received the grant award to continue funding the two additional mediators. This grant has enabled the VOMD program to reduce the average amount of time a crime victim waits for case assignment.



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION COLLABORATION

The VSD maintains a collaborative working relationship with many state agencies, non-profit organizations, associations, county or region-based organizations, TDCJ divisions, the BPP and other entities when providing services to crime victims. Below is a brief description of the TDCJ divisions, the BPP and other entities the VSD collaborates with on a routine basis.

The TDCJ CID is responsible for managing and operating the state's prison system for the confinement of adult felony offenders.

The TDCJ CID Classification and Records Office (CRO) schedules, receives and processes offenders for intake, release and internal transfers. The CRO maintains offender records and serves as the principal storehouse for incarcerated and prison-sentenced offender records for the TDCJ.

The TDCJ Parole Division is responsible for the supervision of adult felony offenders released from prison on parole/mandatory supervision to complete their sentences in Texas communities.

The TDCJ Interstate Compact Office facilitates the transfer of adult offenders placed on probation and parole whose supervision needs to be transferred to a state or territory other than the state or territory of conviction, based on public safety concerns and Interstate Compact Rules.

The TDCJ CJAD administers community supervision (adult probation) in Texas. The CJAD does not work directly with offenders, but with the Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs) that supervise the offenders.

The TDCJ Reentry and Integration Division combines the TDCJ Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), and an expanded reentry initiative, to better focus state resources to reduce recidivism and address the needs of juvenile and adult offenders.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reports directly to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and oversees the agency's Investigations Department, and the OIG Administrative Support and Programs Department. This includes investigating a variety of allegations of criminal violations occurring on TDCJ property or authorized interests, including prohibited contact with victims.

The BPP is a seven-member board with constitutional and statutory authority to approve or deny a parole release, to determine the rules and conditions of release, to revoke an offender's parole or mandatory supervision and to make executive clemency recommendations.

The Special Prosecution Unit (SPU) - Criminal Division works in coordination with the OIG in presenting and prosecuting investigations conducted by the OIG.

The Special Prosecution Unit (SPU) - Civil Division handles the civil commitment proceedings for offenders. Civil commitment laws, provided under Title 11, Chapter 841 of the Health and Safety Code, allow a judge or jury to determine if a sex offender meets the definition of a sexually violent predator and if so, to place the sex offender in a residential facility for control, care and treatment after being released from prison. The intent of the law is to provide intensive outpatient rehabilitation and treatment to a sexually violent predator.



## VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION

The TDCJ VSD VNS utilizes a confidential database to provide individuals registered on the VNS with notifications regarding the status of an offender. The VNS registrants can elect to receive notifications by letter, email or both. Statutory victims, who are registered on the VNS, may also elect to receive text notifications regarding warrant actions for the offender responsible for their victimization who is on parole supervision.

The system provides over 80 types of notifications regarding several phases of an offender's incarceration and supervision, including the parole review process. Most notifications are automatically generated; however some are manually created by VSD staff. Since each case is unique and the types of notifications are typically driven by the status of the offender, it may not be necessary for VNS registrants to receive each type of notification.

Crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens are eligible to register on the VNS. Registrants are added to the system upon their request. This request is either indicated by: a victim's completed VIS; the registrant contacting the VSD directly; or a weekly Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

transfer report, which includes a list of offenders who have been transferred from Texas county custody to TDCJ CID along with requests from individuals to be registered on the VNS.

In addition, the VSD provides an automated telephone service through the VINE system. Upon request, a VNS registrant can elect to receive a telephone notification when an offender is being processed for release from TDCJ custody, either by direct discharge or to supervision.

VNS registrants are also provided an automated telephone service through the VINE System, which they can call to receive limited offender status information 24-hours a day, seven days a week, in English or Spanish. This information includes the offender's current unit of assignment and parole eligibility date.

The VSD notification staff process received VISs. If requested on the VIS, the victim is registered on the VNS. Crime victims may also request on the VIS if they want the offender to be prohibited from contacting them while the offender is incarcerated. If indicated on the VIS, the VSD notification staff will forward this request to TDCJ CID, who will add the crime victim to the offender's negative mailing list. All VISs received are processed for

review by the BPP. A victim may also contact the VSD notification staff directly to register on the VNS and request to be placed on an offender's negative mailing list.

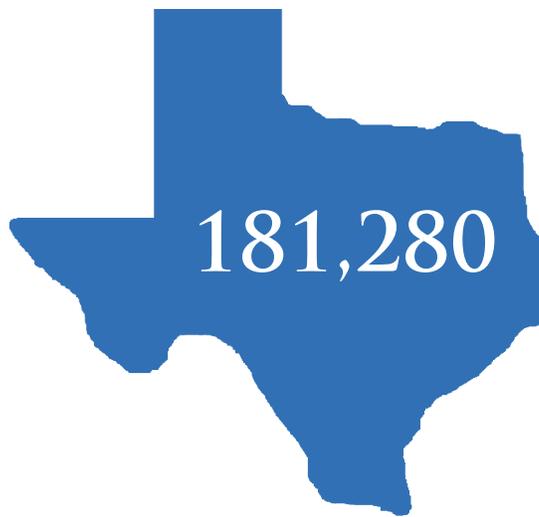
The VSD notification staff are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on the toll-free hotline (800-848-4284) to assist with inquiries regarding an offender's status (location, parole eligibility, the parole review process), crime victims' rights, referrals and other services offered by the VSD.

The VSD notification analysts assist crime victims during the parole review process and provide certain notifications. This includes notifying and assisting crime victims who wish to submit protest information when an offender is being reviewed for Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) or if the BPP will be considering withdrawing parole conditions, such as the Super Intensive Supervision Program (SISP).

The VSD also provides crime victims with: death notifications - when an offender dies while in TDCJ custody; photos of offenders incarcerated, upon request from the crime victim; along with a variety of other notifications and services.



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION VNS REGISTRANTS



VNS registrants as of August 31, 2015



VNS registrants added in FY 2015



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION WRITTEN NOTIFICATIONS

 **117,777** Correspondence\* sent in FY 2015.

The confidential VNS provides automated notifications to VNS registrants. These notifications are automatically generated after an action for an offender has been recorded on the TDCJ offender system. For example:

- when an offender is placed in the parole review process;
- when a registrant has been scheduled for a meeting with the BPP;
- after an offender's parole review process is complete and he/she has received a tentative favorable action (vote) for release;
- after an offender's parole review process is complete and release to parole/mandatory supervision was denied;
- when an offender's release certificate is issued for release to parole/mandatory supervision;
- when the offender is released to the custody of a law enforcement agency on bench warrant; and
- when an offender has returned to TDCJ custody from bench warrant.

Notifications are manually generated by VSD staff either because the notification cannot be linked to an action recorded on the TDCJ mainframe server or the notification is deemed urgent. When they are deemed urgent, telephone and email notifications precede the manually created notification. For example:

- when an offender escapes from TDCJ CID custody;
- when an escapee is captured;
- after the VSD staff has forwarded new information from crime victims requesting that the BPP reconsider their favorable vote to release an offender to supervision, and a decision has been made
- after the VSD staff has forwarded new information from crime victims requesting that the BPP consider imposing special conditions on an offender's supervision, and a decision has been made; and
- when an offender dies while incarcerated or on parole/mandatory supervision.

*\*This reflects correspondence sent, including emails sent by the VSD for notification and program sections. Since VNS registrants can elect to receive notifications by letter, email, and text - for statutory victims, all three methods of notification are included in the total figure.*



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION NOTIFICATION SPOTLIGHT

 **6,626**

Release notifications  
were sent in FY 2015

VNS registrants will receive notification when an offender is released from TDCJ custody, either to parole/mandatory supervision or when an offender directly discharges his/her sentence.

The BPP can impose an electronic monitoring condition as part of an offender's parole/mandatory supervision. If this condition is imposed, VNS registrants will receive notice of the imposition and withdrawal of the condition.

 **1,108**

Release notifications  
included a notice of the  
electronic monitoring  
condition

 **517**

Text notifications  
were sent in FY 2015

Statutory victims have the option to register to receive text notifications if there is a warrant issued, warrant withdrawn or arrest made on an offender while on parole supervision.



## VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION NOTIFICATION SPOTLIGHT

 **703**

Released on bench warrant\* notifications were sent in FY 2015

When an offender is released to the custody of a peace officer under a writ of attachment or on bench warrant, VNS registrants will receive a notification including the name, address and telephone number of the peace officer receiving the defendant into custody. This also includes federal and out-of-state bench warrants.

 **635**

Returned from bench warrant\* notifications were sent in FY 2015

The VNS registrants will receive a notification when an offender is returned from bench warrant to the custody of TDCJ. This also includes federal and out-of-state bench warrants.

 **478**

Same day bench warrant notifications were sent in FY 2015

The VNS registrants will receive a same day bench warrant notification when an offender is released to the custody of a peace officer under a writ of attachment or a bench warrant and returned to the custody of the TDCJ the same day. This also includes federal bench warrants.

*\* An offender may be released to the custody of a peace officer one fiscal year, but not returned to TDCJ until a later fiscal year.*



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION COLLABORATION WITH THE BPP

The VSD collaborates with the BPP by:

- processing VISs, protest letters and other information submitted on behalf of crime victims to the BPP;
- notifying the BPP of crime victims who are requesting a meeting with a board member or parole commissioner;
- providing information and explanation of parole and mandatory supervision procedures to crime victims;
- providing accompaniment services, upon request, to crime victims meeting in-person with the BPP;
- providing the BPP with new information from crime victims requesting that the BPP reconsider their favorable vote to release an offender or consider imposing special conditions on an offender's supervision; and
- notifying crime victims of the BPP's decision regarding their requests for special conditions.

 **1,021** Confirmations were sent to VNS registrants upon their request to meet with the BPP in FY 2015

 **4,185** Board meeting notifications were sent to VNS registrants in FY 2015

 **184** Transmittals were processed for the BPP's review in FY 2015



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION COLLABORATION WITH THE BOARD

 212  
MRIS notifications  
were made in  
FY 2015

Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) allows for the early parole review and release of certain categories of offenders. All MRIS applicants are carefully screened by the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) and, prior to MRIS approval, the parole panel must determine that the offender is no longer a threat to public safety and poses no risk of committing future offenses due to his or her medical and/or psychiatric condition.

The VSD staff assist crime victims in submitting information for the BPP to consider during the offender's review.

The Super Intensive Supervision Program (SISP) is the highest level of supervision provided by TDCJ - Parole Division. The SISP offender is monitored with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, which allows for the tracking of the offender's movement throughout the community. The offender is required to comply with 24 hour-a-day schedules, which must be pre-approved in writing by their parole officer. In the event the Parole Division determines the offender is suitable for withdrawal of the condition, the information is forwarded to the BPP for consideration. The offender remains on SISP until the BPP withdraws the condition or the offender discharges the sentence.

The VSD notifies VNS registrants if the BPP will be considering the withdrawal of the SISP condition imposed on the parolee's supervision.

 942

SISP Withdrawal  
Consideration  
notifications were made  
in FY 2015



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The VSD staff receives and processes VISs, protest letters and other information submitted by crime victims and concerned citizens for the BPP to consider during an offender's parole review. In addition, the VSD staff receives other inquiries regarding the VSD programs and services.



 15,700 Protest or other information submitted for the BPP to consider during an offender's parole review was received and processed

 2,883 VISs were received and processed for the BPP to consider during an offender's parole review

 14,416 Correspondence relating to VSD services was received and processed



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION NOTIFICATION SECTION TELEPHONE CALLS RECEIVED

 **20,090**  
Telephone calls\* were made  
or received in FY 2015

**The VINE/Call-In Feature:**

The VNS registrants can obtain limited offender information in English and Spanish 24-hours a day, seven days a week with the VINE/Call-In service. Limited information includes the offender's location and parole eligibility date.

 **5,992**

Telephone calls were received  
by the automated telephone  
service in FY 2015

**The VINE/Call-Out Feature:**

The VNS registrants can register to receive the Call-Out feature, which places a call to the VNS registrant when the offender is being processed for release from TDCJ custody, either on parole/mandatory supervision or direct discharge.

 **1,796**

Call-out notifications  
were sent in FY 2015

**Toll-free Hotline:**

The VSD notification staff are available Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM through the toll-free hotline to provide offender status information and to assist crime victims, surviving family members, and concerned citizens. VSD staff can add registrants to the VNS for notifications, provide public information, explain parole/mandatory supervision procedures and provide appropriate referrals.

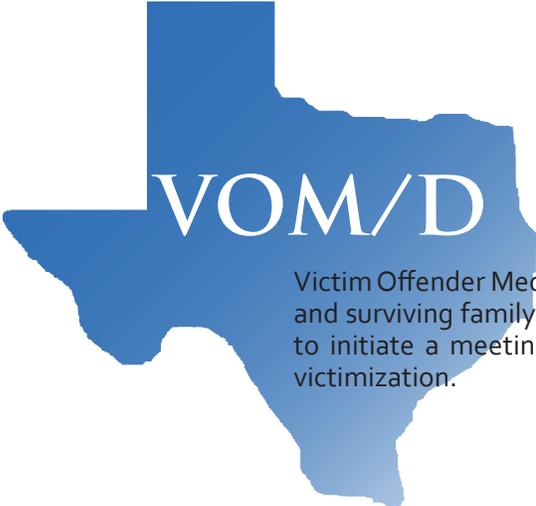
 **12,759**

Total hotline calls  
were received in  
FY 2015

\* This reflects all telephone calls, including hotline calls, made or received by the VSD for notification and program staff.

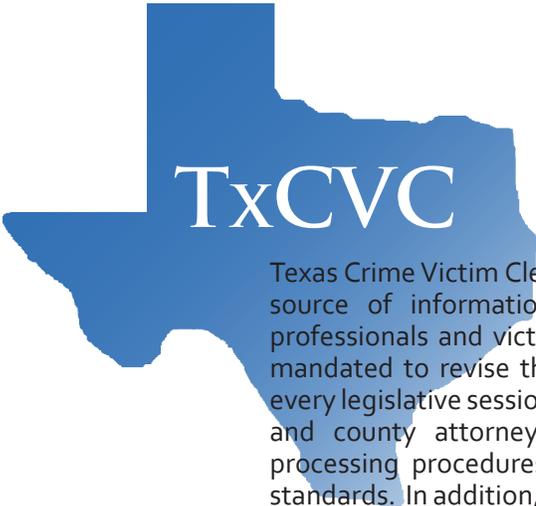


## VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION



### VOM/D

Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD): provides victims and surviving family members of violent crime an opportunity to initiate a meeting with the offender responsible for their victimization.



### TxCVC

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC): serves as a central source of information for crime victims, criminal justice professionals and victim service professionals. The TxCVC is mandated to revise the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) after every legislative session, collect VIS statistics from each district and county attorney's office, develop VIS recommended processing procedures and develop crime victim assistance standards. In addition, the TxCVC provides training for criminal justice and victim service professionals as well as direct services to crime victims, including execution accompaniment.



## VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION

# VICTIM OFFENDER MEDIATION DIALOGUE

The VOM/D program provides an opportunity for victims or surviving family members of violent crime to initiate an in-person meeting with the offender responsible for their victimization. Crime victims have expressed a sense of taking back control once they meet directly with the offender to describe the impact of their victimization and to receive answers to questions regarding the offense.

 **106** VOM/D cases were initiated\* in FY 2015

VOM/D cases can only be initiated by crime victims. The offender must be incarcerated or on parole/mandatory supervision. The process is voluntary for both crime victims and offenders.

 **109** VOM/D cases were assigned in FY 2015

This program is not intended to have any bearing on the participating offender's status in the judicial, appellate or corrections systems. The mediator assigned the VOM/D case will meet with the crime victim and offender separately during the preparation phase. The mediation is scheduled when both participants and the mediator agree that they are ready to meet in-person.

 **54** VOM/D mediations were conducted\*\* in FY 2015

Mediations are typically conducted at the facility where the offender is incarcerated or at the offender's parole office. Creative alternatives to mediation are also an option, and typically include a letter written by the victim.

\* Victims of violent crime can initiate a VOM/D case by contacting the VSD. Some VOM/D cases are initiated in one fiscal year, but are not conducted until a later fiscal year due to the waiting list for assignment and VOM/D's preparation phase.

\*\* This includes 31 person-to-person mediations and 23 creative alternative mediations.



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

The TxCVC serves as a central source of information for crime victims, criminal justice professionals and victim service professionals.

The TxCVC provides informational brochures, publications and a quarterly e-newsletter - *The Victim's Informer*, all of which are available online.

In addition, the TxCVC provides the online Victim Assistance Resource Directory that categorizes resources by Texas county.

The TxCVC is mandated to revise the VIS after every legislative session, collect VIS statistics from each district

and county attorney's office, develop VIS recommended processing procedures and develop crime victim assistance standards.

The TxCVC provides live trainings and webinars to victims, victim services professionals and criminal justice professionals.

The TxCVC also maintains the TVAT Online, a web-based state-wide foundational victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development a foundational web-based training.

In addition, the TxCVC staff provides direct services to crime victims. The TxCVC Regional Victim Services Coordinators are strategically placed in regions throughout Texas and assist crime victims with VISs, crime victims' compensation and notification services.

The TxCVC staff also provides accompaniment services to crime victims participating in the criminal justice system. This includes assistance and support to crime victims during the execution process.



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

## List of Brochures and Informational Material Provided by the TxCVC:

*Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Participation:* provides information on TDCJVSD programs and services

*Texas Crime Victims' Rights:* lists the definition of a crime victim as defined by the Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.01 and crime victims' rights as provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure arts. 56.02 -.021

*Do You Know Your Additional Rights?:* provides a summary of additional crime victims' rights

*It's Your Voice:* provides information on the Victim Impact Statement and how it is used in the criminal justice system

*Texas Crime Victims Clearinghouse:* provides information about the TxCVC and its services

*Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD):* provides information about the VOMD program and its services

*VIS Recommended Processing Procedures:* provides recommended processing procedures to ensure the VIS is forwarded to the supervising entity that will be supervising the offender

*Crime Victim Assistance Standards:* a publication developed to aid law enforcement officers and attorneys representing the State of Texas in performing duties imposed by the Code of Criminal Procedure Title 1. Chapter 56. Rights of Crime Victims (available online only)

*Victims' Rights and Services for TDCJ Staff:* provides information on crime victims' rights and services available to TDCJ staff members who have been victimized while on duty

*The Victim's Informer:* a quarterly newsletter aimed at providing information on new and innovative services for victims and victim services professionals (available online only)

## Victim Assistance Resource Directory:

An online resource directory that provides national, state and local resources (categorized by Texas county) for crime victims, victim service professionals and criminal justice professionals

## Training:

Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online: is a web-based state-wide foundational victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development

Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Calendar: provides additional information and opportunities for training and events held in Texas

Webinar Series: is a series of webinars that are provided monthly and presented by VSD staff or TDCJ or external agency experts on a range of current victim-related topics

Live Trainings: are provided by VSD staff on a range of current and innovative topics that are tailored to the needs of the audience

# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS

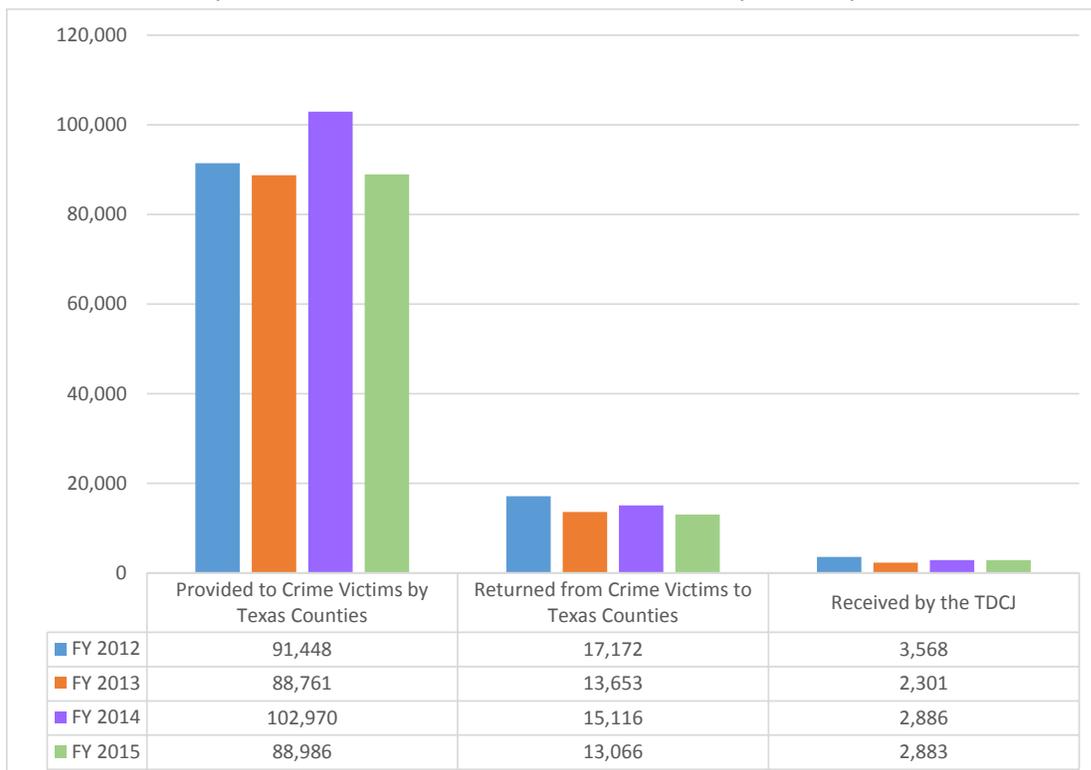


The Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.03 mandates the TxCVC, in collaboration with the TDCJ CJAD and BPP, develop the VIS form. This form is completed by a crime victim to indicate their request for notification regarding the offender and record the emotional and psychological impact, physical injury and economic loss a crime has on a victim and his or her family members. The VIS form provides information to personnel in many stages of the criminal justice system, including the court system and the parole review process.

The TxCVC, in collaboration with the TDCJ CJAD and BPP, is mandated by the Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.05 to develop a survey plan to maintain statistics on the numbers and types of persons who are provided VISs each year. A report is required from all district and county attorneys who represent the 254 counties in Texas and is submitted by the respective office's Victim Assistance Coordinator or the person assigned to those duties.

The following chart (first two columns) reflects the statistics reported on the VIS Activity Report for all reporting Texas counties. The VSD may have received a report from the district or county attorney's office or both referencing how many VISs were provided to a crime victim by the district or county attorney's office and how many VISs were completed and returned to the district or county attorney's office. Refer to Appendix A for a breakdown of each Texas county.

The last column reflects the number of VISs received by the TDCJ during FY 2015. This includes VISs forwarded from the TDCJ CID or received directly into the VSD office from a district or county attorney's office or both.





# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE REGIONAL VICTIM SERVICE COORDINATORS

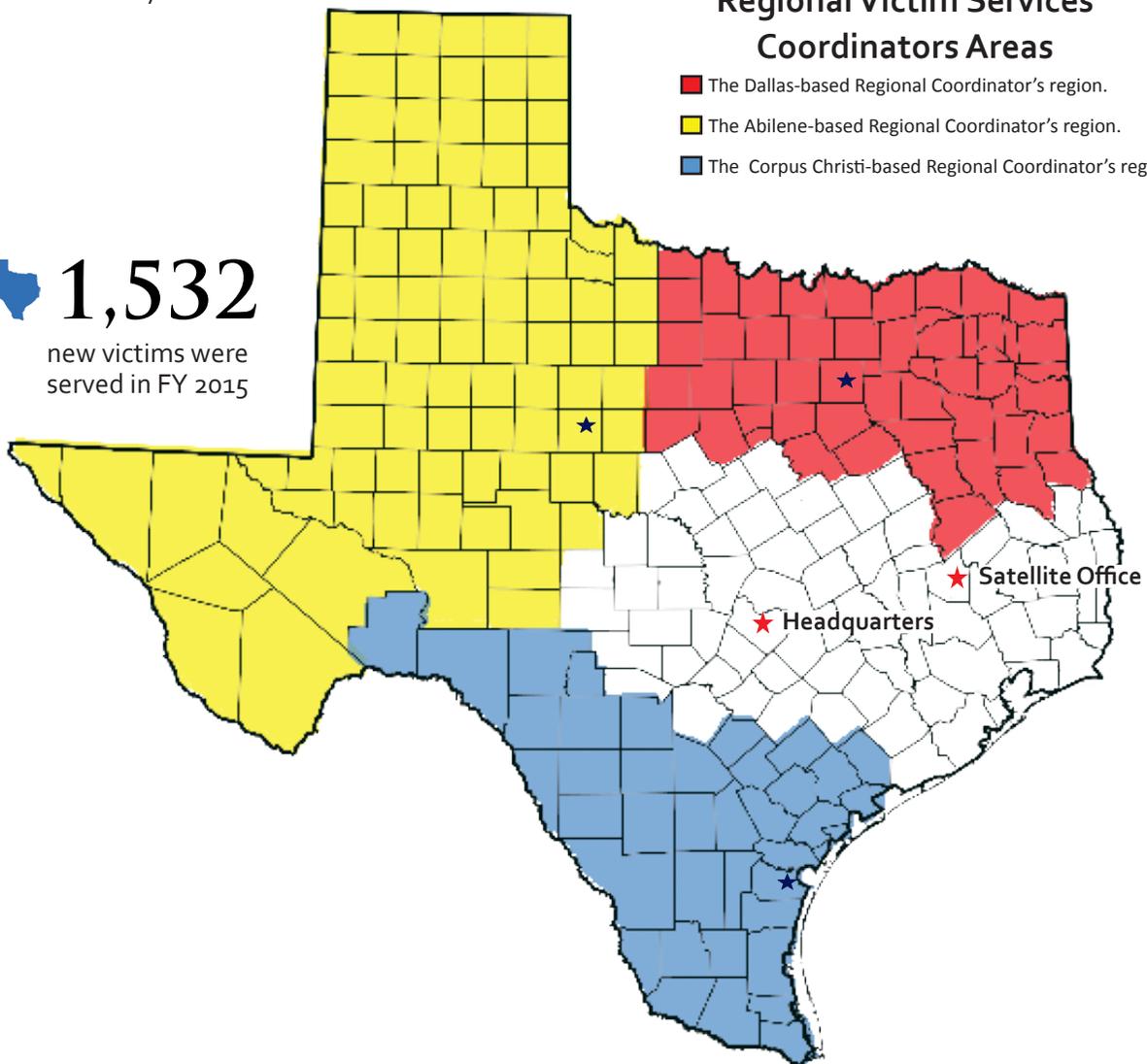
The TxCVC strategically-placed Regional Victim Service Coordinators provide direct services to crime victims and training to criminal justice and victim services professionals within their respective region. Training topics include the VIS, services offered by the Victim Services Division, and post-conviction crime victims' rights. The services provided to victims include, but not limited to:

- assistance with crime victims' compensation;
- criminal justice and law enforcement accompaniment;
- assistance with Statewide Automated Victim Notification System/Victim Information and Notification Everyday (SAVNS/VINE);
- assistance with victim impact statements; and
- victim advocacy.

 **1,532**  
new victims were served in FY 2015

## Regional Victim Services Coordinators Areas

- The Dallas-based Regional Coordinator's region.
- The Abilene-based Regional Coordinator's region.
- The Corpus Christi-based Regional Coordinator's region.

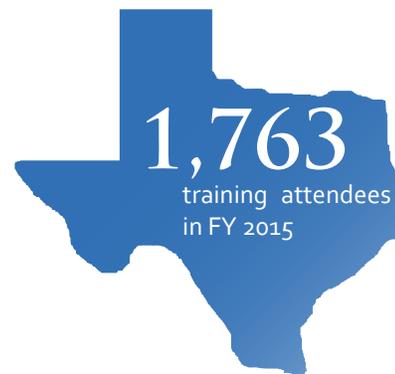


# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE TRAINING



The TxCVC provides training to victims and victim service and criminal justice professionals through live trainings and webinars. Training topics include:

- Crime Victims' Rights;
- Victim Sensitivity;
- VIS and VIS Recommended Processing Procedures;
- VIS Quarterly Activity Report;
- Victim Services from the Victim's Perspective;
- Compassion Fatigue and Vicarious Trauma; and
- VSD services.



## Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online

The TVAT Online is a web-based state-wide foundational victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development that complements other victim services initiatives and enables new advocates to acquire baseline professional skills and competence.

The training is broken down into four distinct modules :

- Ethics
- Role of the Victim Services Professional, and
- Crime Victims' Rights
- Safety Planning

The training is available free of charge and students can access TVAT Online at any internet-accessible location. The TVAT Online is designed to be taken as the student's schedule permits. Students may log into and out of the training to review the modules at their convenience.

The TVAT Online provides access to a comprehensive training to individuals who may not have been able to attend training due to lack of funding or time constraints.

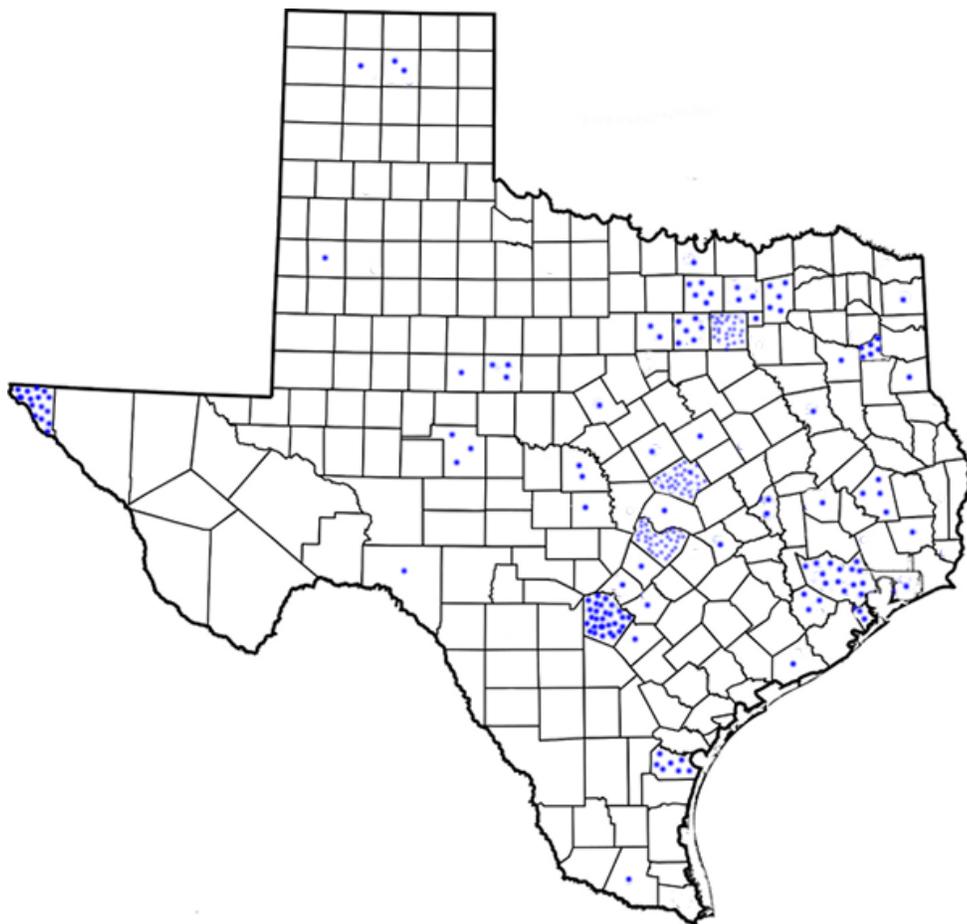
 **719**

students completed the TVAT Online  
coursework in FY 2015



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION  
PROGRAMS SECTION  
TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE  
TEXAS VICTIM ASSISTANCE TRAINING ONLINE

**FY 2015 TVAT Completion\* Map**



*\* Four hundred ninety one students who completed TVAT Online in FY 2015 were from out of state or stationed on a military base. state or stationed on a military base*

# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS SECTION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT DURING EXECUTIONS



The VSD works with the victims' families during the execution process, regardless if they choose to view the execution or not. As many as five relatives, plus a spiritual advisor, can witness the offender's execution. Witnesses may also include law enforcement personnel and trial officials. Victim witnesses are prepared for and accompanied to the execution by VSD staff member(s). Victims may bring support persons who will not view the execution, but will provide support to those victim witnesses. VSD staff also provides follow-up support and referrals as needed.

 53

Victims witnessed the execution of the offender in FY 2015

 15

Support persons accompanied victim witnesses in FY 2015

 13

Executions were attended by victim witnesses, their support persons and VSD staff in FY 2015



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VIS STATISTICS

The TxCVC, in collaboration with the TDCJ CJAD and the BPP, is mandated by the Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.05 to develop a survey plan to maintain statistics on the numbers and types of persons who are provided a VIS during each year.

The following spreadsheet reflects the statistics reported on the VIS Activity Report for each Texas county for the FY 2015. The VSD may have received a report from the district or county attorney's office or both.

### *Definitions for the VIS Activity Report Spreadsheet:*

**Victim Impact Statement (VIS):** is a form used by a crime victim to record the emotional and psychological impact, physical injury and economic loss a crime has had on a victim and his or her family members. The form is also used to collect contact information for crime victims for notification purposes. This form provides information to personnel in many stages of the criminal justice system, including the court system and the parole review process.

The VISs are provided to victims as defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.01.

**Victim Impact Statement Activity Report:** is a statistical report used to collect information on the VIS and is required to be reported by the Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.05. This report is required from all district and county attorneys who represent the 254 counties in Texas and is submitted by the respective office's Victim Assistance Coordinator or the person assigned to those duties. The reports are collected on a quarterly basis to track VIS activity.

### *Explanation of VIS Activity Report Spreadsheet:*

**County:** represents all 254 counties in Texas. The VSD may have received a VIS Activity Report from the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both.

**Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County:** represents the number of VISs provided to crime victims by the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both during the fiscal year as reported on the VIS Activity Report.

**Number of VISs Returned to the County:** represents the number of completed VISs returned by the crime victim to the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both during the FY 2014 as reported on the VIS Activity Report.

**VIS Rate of Return:** represents the rate of return for each county. This rate is calculated by comparing the VISs provided and returned during FY 2015. It is important to note that a VISs may be provided in one fiscal year and returned in another.

**Non-Reported (NR):** is a code used to designate no VIS Activity Reports were received from the county attorney's office or district attorney's office during the fiscal year.

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION  
 TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE  
 VIS STATISTICS  
 ANDERSON - CALDWELL



County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Anderson	38	7	18.42%
Andrews	18	9	50.00%
Angelina	110	11	10.00%
Aransas	19	2	10.53%
Archer	0	0	0.00%
Armstrong	0	0	0.00%
Atascosa	56	8	14.29%
Austin	18	5	27.78%
Bailey	24	3	12.50%
Bandera	36	7	19.44%
Bastrop	54	12	22.22%
Baylor	9	2	22.22%
Bee	NR	NR	NR
Bell	1,266	180	14.22%
Bexar	6,415	678	10.57%
Blanco	22	2	9.09%
Borden	0	0	0.00%
Bosque	27	10	37.04%
Bowie	26	9	34.62%
Brazoria	588	66	11.22%
Brazos	566	197	34.81%
Brewster	19	13	68.42%
Briscoe	0	0	0.00%
Brooks	16	9	56.25%
Brown	102	24	23.53%
Burleson	24	3	12.50%
Burnet	81	20	24.69%
Caldwell	405	90	22.22%



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VIS STATISTICS CALHOUN - DALLAM

County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Calhoun	NR	NR	NR
Callahan	20	2	10.00%
Cameron	766	86	11.23%
Camp	4	3	75.00%
Carson	12	5	41.67%
Cass	52	11	21.15%
Castro	2	2	100.00%
Chambers	40	15	37.50%
Cherokee	6	1	16.67%
Childress	16	1	6.25%
Clay	0	0	0.00%
Cochran	0	0	0.00%
Coke	1	0	0.00%
Coleman	8	2	25.00%
Collin	953	69	7.24%
Collingsworth	7	0	0.00%
Colorado	53	13	24.53%
Comal	123	31	25.20%
Comanche	29	16	55.17%
Concho	4	2	50.00%
Cooke	340	75	22.06%
Coryell	188	6	3.19%
Cottle	0	1	0.00%
Crane	33	8	24.24%
Crockett	19	2	10.53%
Crosby	NR	NR	NR
Culberson *	1	3	--
Dallam	NR	NR	NR

\*Note: A VIS may be provided in one fiscal year and not returned until the following fiscal year.

# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VIS STATISTICS DALLAS - GALVESTON



County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Dallas	6,652	730	10.97%
Dawson	0	0	0.00%
Deaf Smith	152	37	24.34%
Delta	13	1	7.69%
Denton	1,422	270	18.99%
DeWitt	21	2	9.52%
Dickens	0	0	0.00%
Dimmit	34	0	0.00%
Donley	4	0	0.00%
Duval	39	33	84.62%
Eastland	54	17	31.48%
Ector	1,276	145	11.36%
Edwards	9	1	11.11%
El Paso	9,307	633	6.80%
Ellis	251	74	29.48%
Erath	66	17	25.76%
Falls	65	5	7.69%
Fannin	79	22	27.85%
Fayette	7	1	14.29%
Fisher	3	1	33.33%
Floyd	0	0	0.00%
Foard	0	0	0.00%
Fort Bend	2,105	456	21.66%
Franklin	11	3	27.27%
Freestone	22	5	22.73%
Frio	2	0	0.00%
Gaines	NR	NR	NR
Galveston	1,205	185	15.35%



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VIS STATISTICS GARZA - HOUSTON

County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Garza	0	0	0.00%
Gillespie	23	12	52.17%
Glasscock	0	0	0.00%
Goliad	21	6	28.57%
Gonzales	111	26	23.42%
Gray	21	6	28.57%
Grayson	153	33	21.57%
Gregg	174	87	50.00%
Grimes	8	4	50.00%
Guadalupe	556	304	54.68%
Hale	133	24	18.05%
Hall	6	3	50.00%
Hamilton	19	12	63.16%
Hansford	0	0	0.00%
Hardeman	7	1	14.29%
Hardin	4	4	100.00%
Harris	14,465	1,865	12.89%
Harrison	119	22	18.49%
Hartley	0	0	0.00%
Haskell	19	3	15.79%
Hays	649	85	13.10%
Hemphill	1	1	100.00%
Henderson	5	2	40.00%
Hidalgo	514	68	13.23%
Hill	225	38	16.89%
Hockley	18	2	11.11%
Hood	87	18	20.69%
Hopkins	97	21	21.65%
Houston	200	9	4.50%

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION  
 TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE  
 VIS STATISTICS  
 HOWARD - LAMPASAS



County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Howard	13	0	0.00%
Hudspeth	1	0	0.00%
Hunt	203	33	16.26%
Hutchinson	33	5	15.15%
Irion	0	0	0.00%
Jack	23	14	60.87%
Jackson	32	0	0.00%
Jasper	187	79	42.25%
Jeff Davis	7	4	57.14%
Jefferson	NR	NR	NR
Jim Hogg	NR	NR	NR
Jim Wells	40	29	72.50%
Johnson	179	32	17.88%
Jones	46	21	45.65%
Karnes	17	2	11.76%
Kaufman	490	74	15.10%
Kendall	157	61	38.85%
Kenedy	0	0	0.00%
Kent	1	0	0.00%
Kerr	156	113	72.44%
Kimble	21	10	47.62%
King	0	0	0.00%
Kinney	0	0	0.00%
Kleberg	51	0	0.00%
Knox	0	0	0.00%
La Salle	13	3	23.08%
Lamar	36	13	36.11%
Lamb	16	8	50.00%
Lampasas	2	0	0.00%



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VIS STATISTICS LAVACA - MOORE

County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Lavaca	78	7	8.97%
Lee	19	1	5.26%
Leon	46	19	41.30%
Liberty	233	35	15.02%
Limestone	214	30	14.02%
Lipscomb	1	1	100.00%
Live Oak	0	0	0.00%
Llano	140	11	7.86%
Loving	NR	NR	NR
Lubbock	1,503	464	30.87%
Lynn	0	0	0.00%
Madison	NR	NR	NR
Marion	3	0	0.00%
Martin	0	0	0.00%
Mason	9	3	33.33%
Matagorda	240	51	21.25%
Maverick	16	3	18.75%
McCulloch	51	8	15.69%
McLennan	557	55	9.87%
McMullen	0	0	0.00%
Medina	66	12	18.18%
Menard	7	4	57.14%
Midland	2,291	581	25.36%
Milam	228	78	34.21%
Mills	8	4	50.00%
Mitchell	15	5	33.33%
Montague	0	0	0.00%
Montgomery	1,140	118	10.35%
Moore	41	4	9.76%

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION  
 TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE  
 VIS STATISTICS  
 MORRIS - RUNNELS



County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Morris	NR	NR	NR
Motley	0	0	0.00%
Nacogdoches	29	0	0.00%
Navarro	110	52	47.27%
Newton	38	5	13.16%
Nolan	43	18	41.86%
Nueces	2,501	223	8.92%
Ochiltree	0	0	0.00%
Oldham	NR	NR	NR
Orange	38	7	18.42%
Palo Pinto	31	5	16.13%
Panola	113	28	24.78%
Parker	165	7	4.24%
Parmer	20	3	15.00%
Pecos	125	23	18.40%
Polk	83	8	9.64%
Potter	884	278	31.45%
Presidio	0	0	0.00%
Rains	15	1	6.67%
Randall	902	248	27.49%
Reagan	19	3	15.79%
Real	14	4	28.57%
Red River	11	0	0.00%
Reeves	14	1	7.14%
Refugio	9	6	66.67%
Roberts	0	0	0.00%
Robertson	72	24	33.33%
Rockwall	99	22	22.22%
Runnels	13	1	7.69%



# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VIS STATISTICS RUSK - TYLER

County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Rusk	0	0	0.00%
Sabine	1	0	0.00%
San Augustine	8	1	12.50%
San Jacinto	109	11	10.09%
San Patricio	129	16	12.40%
San Saba	10	1	10.00%
Schleicher	4	0	0.00%
Scurry	30	3	10.00%
Shackelford	2	0	0.00%
Shelby	15	1	6.67%
Sherman	0	0	0.00%
Smith	361	83	22.99%
Somervell	6	2	33.33%
Starr	121	13	10.74%
Stephens	11	0	0.00%
Sterling	2	0	0.00%
Stonewall	3	0	0.00%
Sutton	11	4	36.36%
Swisher	3	0	0.00%
Tarrant	7,525	1,553	20.64%
Taylor	684	53	7.75%
Terrell	0	0	0.00%
Terry	14	4	28.57%
Throckmorton	0	0	0.00%
Titus	6	2	33.33%
Tom Green	369	49	13.28%
Travis	9,178	711	7.75%
Trinity	NR	NR	NR
Tyler	8	1	12.50%

# VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VIS STATISTICS UPSHUR - ZAVALA



County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims by the County	Number of VISs Returned to the County	VIS Rate of Return
Upshur	179	34	18.99%
Upton	8	2	25.00%
Uvalde	74	11	14.86%
Val Verde	0	0	0.00%
Van Zandt	72	19	26.39%
Victoria	249	44	17.67%
Walker	NR	NR	NR
Waller	206	14	6.80%
Ward	0	0	0.00%
Washington	27	6	22.22%
Webb	577	46	7.97%
Wharton	7	1	14.29%
Wheeler	6	3	50.00%
Wichita	547	130	23.77%
Wilbarger	13	3	23.08%
Willacy	0	0	0.00%
Williamson	902	179	19.84%
Wilson	196	31	15.82%
Winkler	9	4	44.44%
Wise	188	43	22.87%
Wood	22	7	31.82%
Yoakum	5	0	0.00%
Young	58	4	6.90%
Zapata	NR	NR	NR
Zavala	3	0	0.00%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>88,986</b>	<b>13,066</b>	<b>14.68%</b>

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Victim Services Division**

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**TDCJ website at:  
[www.tdcj.texas.gov](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov)**

The mission of Victim Services Division is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the criminal justice system.