

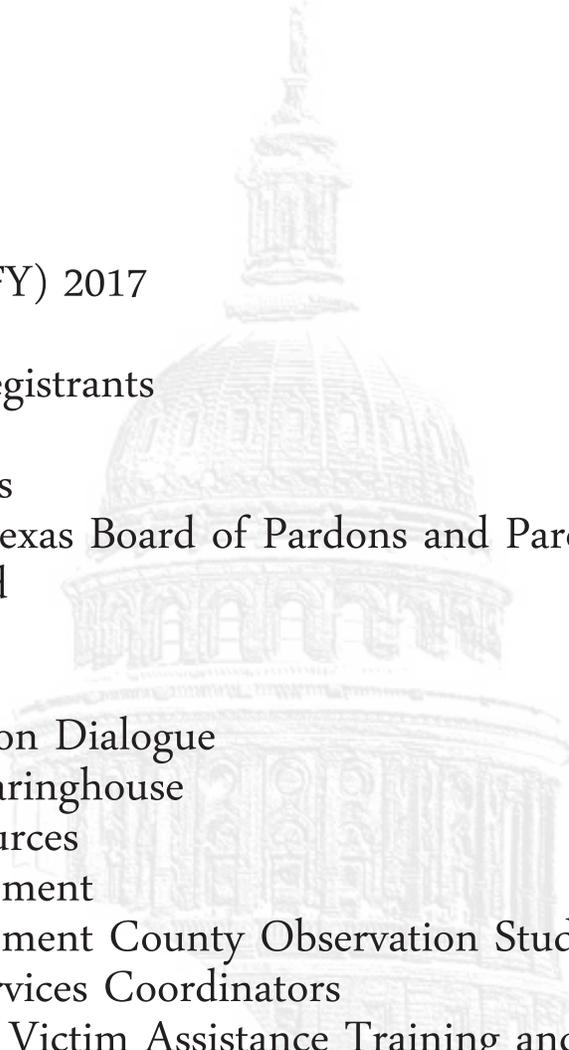


VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION



FISCAL YEAR 2017 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.

Victim Services 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.

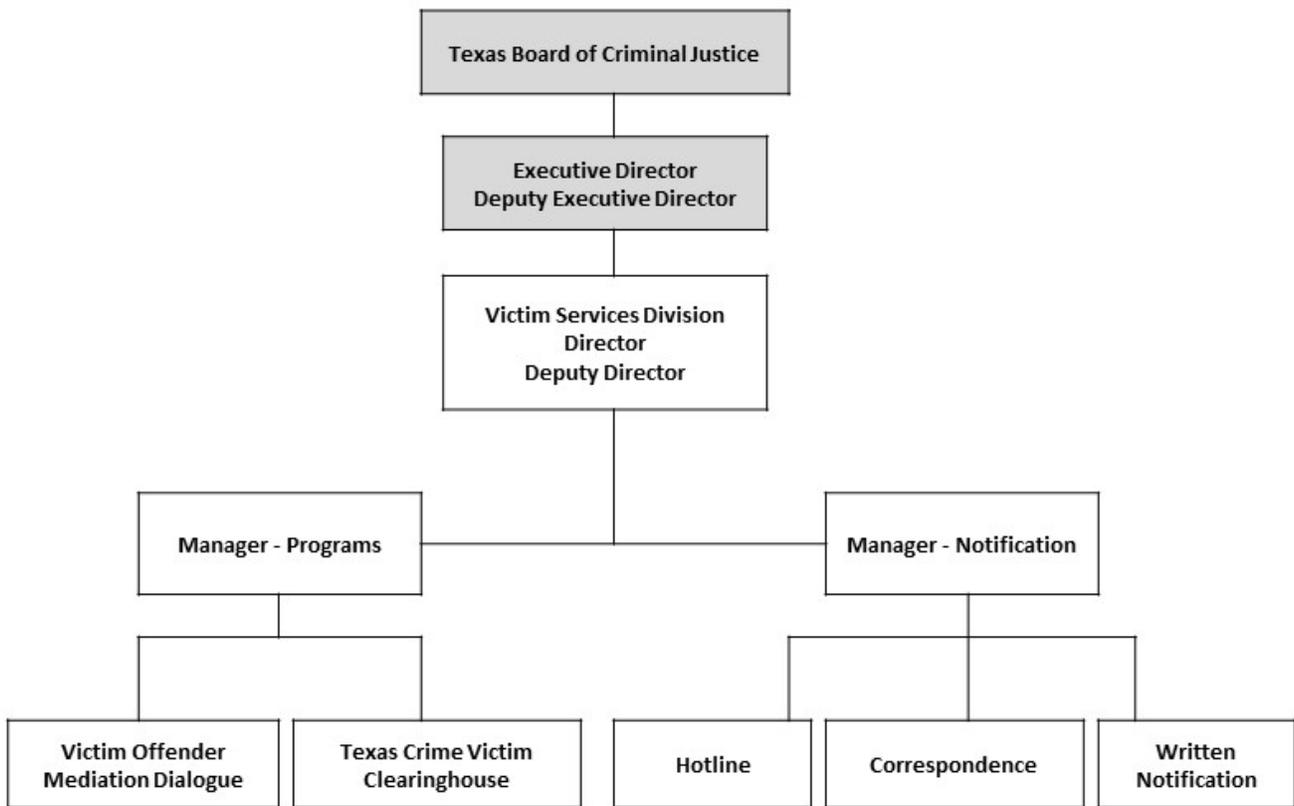
As of August 31, 2017, the VSD consisted of 43 full-time positions.

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) - VSD representatives 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
- Processing VISs, 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
- Maintain the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online and host the TVAT Academy foundational victim services trainings
- 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. 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 493.0251

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

37 Texas Administrative
Code § 152.51



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

FY 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Revision of the Victim Impact Statement Form

Pursuant to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.03, the VIS Revision Committee is comprised of representatives from the TDCJ VSD TxCVC, the TDCJ Community Justice Assistance Division (CJAD), and the BPP. 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 also join the committee that is charged with revising the VIS form and related materials. The committee considered legislation passed during the 85th Legislative Session that relates to the VIS and crime victims' rights, 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 VIS form and support materials have been updated to reflect changes in the law and to meet the needs of victims and the professionals who support them.

Victim Impact Statement: County Observation Study

The TxCVC developed the Victim Impact Statement: County Observation Study with the goal of improving the rate of VISs that are received by the TDCJ. The TxCVC identified counties with high rates of success in processing VISs and conducted interviews in those counties to determine the practices that contributed to their success. The published findings in the study indicate that key elements of success include: following a written set of policies and procedures that are kept current, networking and collaboration with other county personnel who handle the VIS form, and participating in training.

New Victim Notification

House Bill 104, passed during the regular session of the 85th Texas Legislature, applies only to a defendant who served prison time for an offense listed in the Code of Criminal Procedure art. 42A.054(a) or for which the judgment contained an affirmative finding of a deadly weapon and who was released from TDCJ (on parole, mandatory supervision or flat discharge). Effective December 1, 2017, the attorney representing the state is required to notify the TDCJ VSD no later than the tenth day after the defendant is again indicted for one of these crimes. The new law amends the Texas Government Code §§ 493.001-.031 and requires the TDCJ VSD to provide notification of a subsequent indictment to each victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim of the previous offense. Materials and procedures to implement the new notification are located on the TDCJ website at <https://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/hb104.html>.

New Case Management System

The TDCJ VSD acquired a web-based case management system to automate its workflow and reporting for grant-funded activities. Data entry is consolidated in the new system which assists staff with accuracy and avoids duplication of efforts. With this program, VSD management can measure staff's performance and analyze data in ways it has not been able to achieve in the past.

Texas Victim Assistance Training Academy

The TxCVC hosted its first grant-funded, three-and-a-half day, in-person Texas Victim Assistance Training Academy in March 2017. The curriculum followed the victims' experience through the criminal justice system. The focus of the training was on foundational skills such as knowledge of the victims' experience, needs, and rights from the moment of victimization through the investigation and pre-indictment, prosecution and trial, and the post-conviction phases. Additional topics included ethics, crime victims' rights, influence of cultural factors, and resiliency.

Upgraded Phone System

The Notification section received grant funding to upgrade the existing hotline phone system. This system has enhanced hotline operations by routing calls more efficiently and providing data on call volume and wait time. Supervisory staff are now able to view peak call times and adjust staff resources as needed to ensure the division's response to hotline callers is as quick and effective as possible.



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 submitted 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 the 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 an automated 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, which is also available on the TDCJ website at <https://offender.tdcj.texas.gov/OffenderSearch/index.jsp>.

The VSD notification staff process VISs received. If requested on the VIS, the victim is registered on the VNS. 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 victim to the offender's negative mailing list. A victim may also contact

the VSD to request to be placed on an offender's negative mailing list. All VISs received are processed for review by the BPP.

The VSD notification dedicated hotline staff are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 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), victims' rights, referrals and other services offered by the VSD.

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

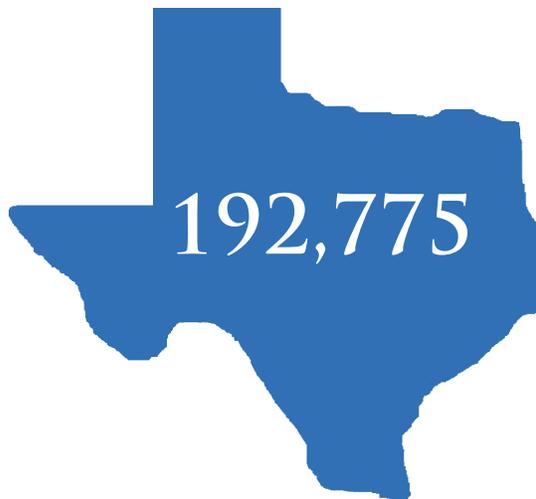
The VSD provides victims with death notifications when an offender dies while in TDCJ custody or under supervision. The VSD also provides photos of offenders who are incarcerated or under supervision, upon request from the victim, along with a variety of other notifications and services.



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

NOTIFICATION SECTION

VNS REGISTRANTS



VNS registrants as of August 31, 2017



VNS registrants added in FY 2017



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

NOTIFICATION SECTION

WRITTEN NOTIFICATIONS

 **132,965**

*Correspondence sent in FY 2017.

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:

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

- an offender escapes from TDCJ CID custody;
- an escapee is captured;
- 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;
- 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
- 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

 **8,536**

Release notifications were sent in FY 2017

VNS registrants 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 receive notice of the imposition and withdrawal of the condition.

 **896**

Release notifications included a notice of the electronic monitoring condition

 **1,137**

Text notifications were sent in FY 2017

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

 **726**

Released on bench warrant* notifications were sent in FY 2017

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

 **615**

Returned from bench warrant* notifications were sent in FY 2017

VNS registrants 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.

 **585**

Same day bench warrant notifications were sent in FY 2017

VNS registrants 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 TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

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;
- notifying crime victims of the BPP's decision regarding their requests for special conditions; and
- working closely with the BPP's first Victim Liaison to assist crime victims and provide direct services including assistance with interviews with the BPP and board meeting accompaniment during the parole review process.

 **1,426** Confirmations were sent to VNS registrants upon their request to meet with the BPP in FY 2017

 **3,887** Board meeting notifications were sent to VNS registrants in FY 2017

 **155** Transmittals were processed for the BPP's review in FY 2017

 **104** Crime victims/concerned citizens were provided support and accompaniment during meetings with the BPP



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

NOTIFICATION SECTION

COLLABORATION WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

 78

MRIS notifications
were made in
FY 2017

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 TDCJ Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments 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 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 is considering the withdrawal of the SISP condition imposed on the parolee's supervision. During FY2017, the VSD also began notifying of the SISP condition when the BPP withdraws it and when it is continued.

 1,780

SISP Withdrawal
Consideration
notifications were made
in FY 2017

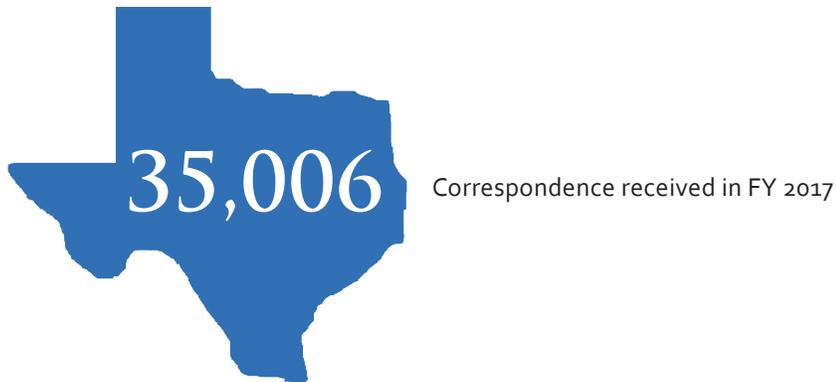


VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

NOTIFICATION SECTION

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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, VSD staff receives other inquiries regarding the VSD programs and services.



 15,052 Protest or other information submitted for the BPP to consider during an offender's parole review was received and processed

 3,170 VISs were received and processed for the BPP to consider during an offender's parole review

 16,742 Correspondence relating to VSD services was received and processed



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

NOTIFICATION SECTION

TELEPHONE SERVICES

 29,210

Telephone calls* were made
or received in FY 2017

VINE/Call-In Feature:

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.

 5,342

Telephone calls were received
by the automated telephone
service in FY 2017

VINE/Call-Out Feature:

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.

 1,809

Call-out notifications
were sent in FY 2017

Toll-free Hotline:

The VSD notification dedicated hotline 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.

 11,259

Total hotline calls
were received in
FY 2017

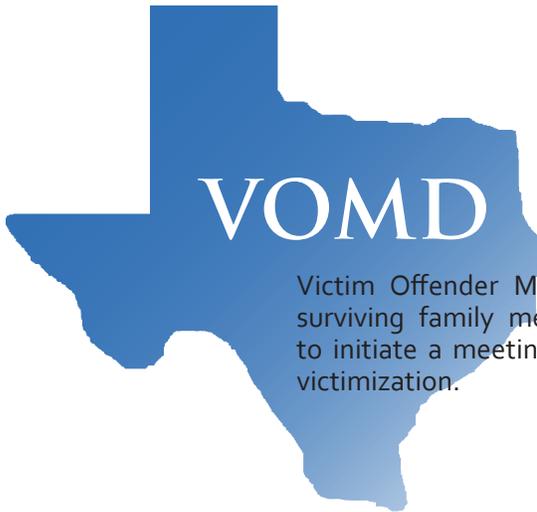
The VSD strives to respond to callers quickly and efficiently. In FY2017, the new VSD Hotline System allowed us to maintain a grade-of-service rate of 98 percent, which means that 98 percent of calls were answered by Hotline representatives within one minute. Only one percent of calls were abandoned by the caller.

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

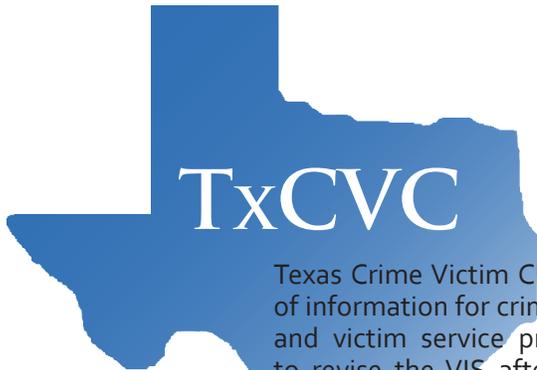


VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

PROGRAMS SECTION



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



Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse serves as a central source of information for crime victims, criminal justice professionals and victim service professionals. The TxCVC is mandated to revise the VIS after every legislative session, collect VIS statistics from each district and county attorney's office, and develop VIS recommended processing procedures and 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 support and accompaniment.



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

PROGRAMS SECTION

VICTIM OFFENDER MEDIATION DIALOGUE

The VOMD 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.



83

VOMD cases were initiated* in FY 2017

VOMD cases can only be initiated by crime victims or surviving family members of violent crime. The offender must be incarcerated or on parole/mandatory supervision. The process is voluntary for both crime victims and offenders.



67

VOMD cases were assigned in FY 2017

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 VOMD 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.



31

VOMD mediations were conducted** in FY 2017

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

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

** This includes 15 person-to-person mediations and 16 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 in-person 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.

The three-and-a-half day, in-person, foundational TVAT Academy curriculum follows the victims' experience through the criminal justice system which provides for accurate assessment of victims' needs, victim service provider awareness of multidisciplinary issues, and seamless delivery from all victim service providers.

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 Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.01 and crime victims' rights as provided by the Texas 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 VIS and how it is used in the criminal justice system

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

Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue Program: 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:

TVAT Online: a web-based foundational victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development

TVAT Academy: an in-person, foundational level victim assistance training for new victim services advocates, victim assistance providers, volunteers, criminal justice professionals, and allied professionals with less than three years' experience who routinely work with victims of crime

TVAT Calendar: provides additional information and opportunities for training and events held in Texas

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

In-Person Trainings: provided by VSD staff on a range of current topics that are tailored to the needs of the audience



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

PROGRAMS SECTION

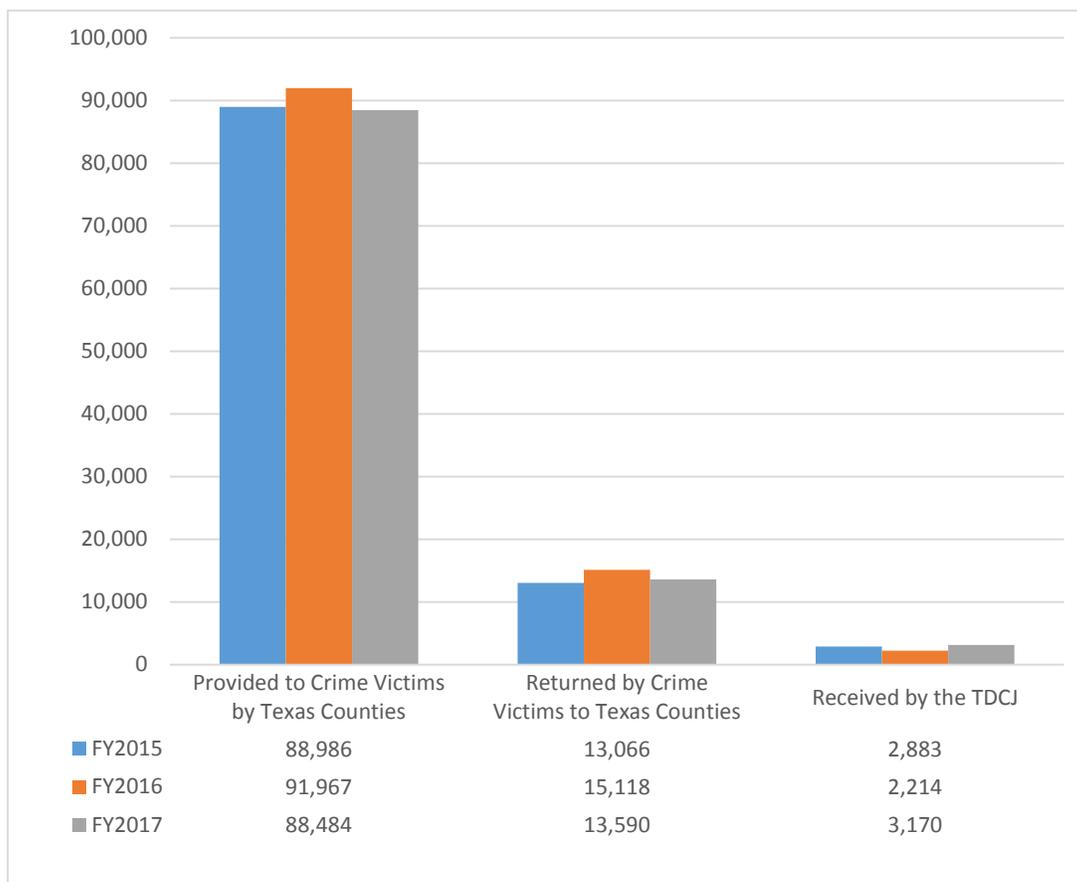
TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS

The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.03 mandates that the TxCVC, in collaboration with the TDCJ CJAD and BPP, develop the VIS form and a survey plan to maintain statistics on the numbers and types of persons who are provided VISs each year. The VIS form is completed by a crime victim to indicate their request for notification regarding the offender and to 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.

All district and county attorneys who represent the 254 counties in Texas are required to submit quarterly VIS reports. The following chart (first two columns) reflects the statistics reported on the VIS Activity Report for all reporting Texas counties. The VSD receives reports from the district or county attorney's office 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 pages 29 through 37 for a breakdown of each Texas county.

The last column reflects the number of VISs received by the TDCJ during FY 2017. This includes VISs forwarded from the TDCJ CID or received directly into the VSD office from a district or county attorney's office.



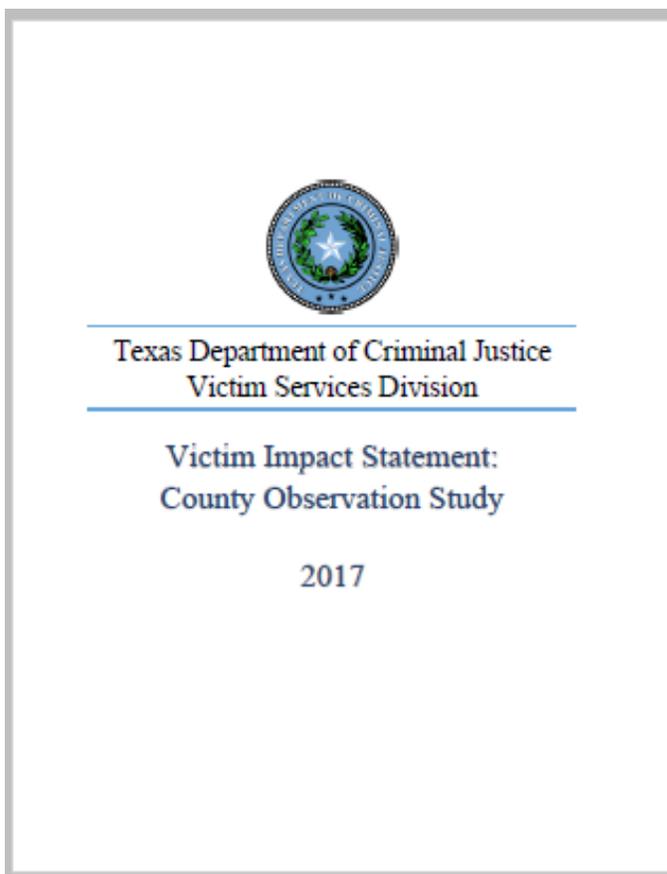


VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

PROGRAMS SECTION

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT COUNTY OBSERVATION STUDY



The report is available on the TDCJ website at http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/VIS_County_Observation_Study.pdf.

Texas counties possess insight in ensuring crime victims are informed of their right to complete a VIS, the purpose and utilization of the VIS, and processing the VIS to ensure that the victim's voice is heard throughout the criminal justice system. The TxCVC coordinated with identified counties to facilitate a VIS County Observation Study. The study allowed the TxCVC staff to meet with county personnel that routinely handle the processing of the VISs in order to observe their day-to-day activities, and to discuss and document effective policies and procedures. The study is a compilation of the information and analysis of these findings to share with criminal justice professionals.

The Observation Study concludes that the successful counties follow a written set of policies and procedures that are kept current, network and collaborate with other county personnel who handle the VIS form, and participate in training.



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

PROGRAMS SECTION

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

REGIONAL VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATORS

The TxCVC strategically-placed Regional Victim Services 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 VSD, and post-conviction crime victims' rights. The services provided to victims include, but are 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.

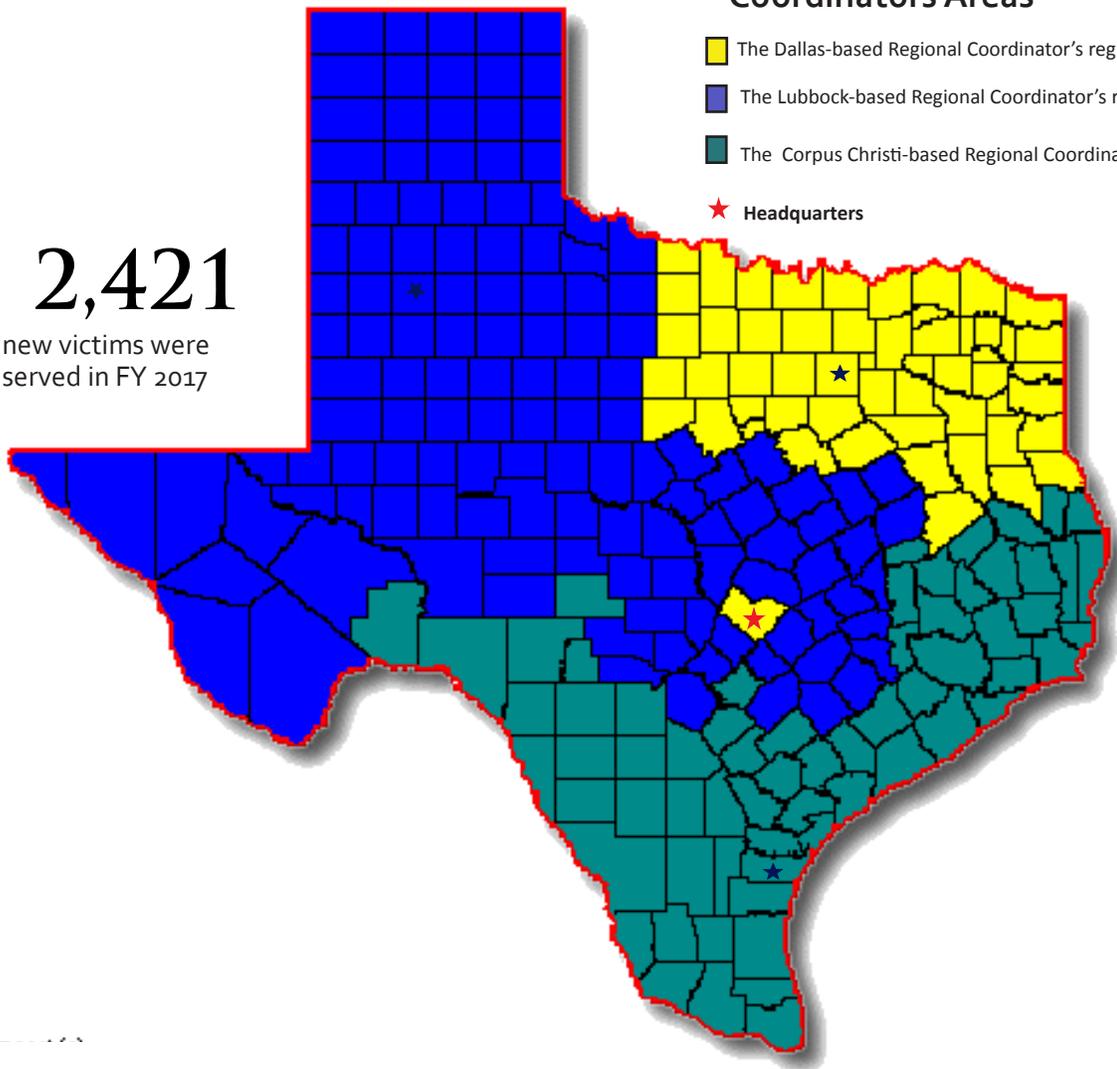
Regional Victim Services Coordinators Areas

- The Dallas-based Regional Coordinator's region.
- The Lubbock-based Regional Coordinator's region.
- The Corpus Christi-based Regional Coordinator's region.
- ★ Headquarters



2,421

new victims were served in FY 2017





VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

PROGRAMS SECTION

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

TRAINING

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

- Crime Victims' Rights and Services
- The Role of a Victim Advocate;
- Sexual Assault Awareness;
- Suicide Awareness;
- Survivor Centered Safety Planning;
- VIS Observation Study;
- Victim Sensitivity;
- Victim Services from the Victim's Perspective; and
- VSD Services and Programs



[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.





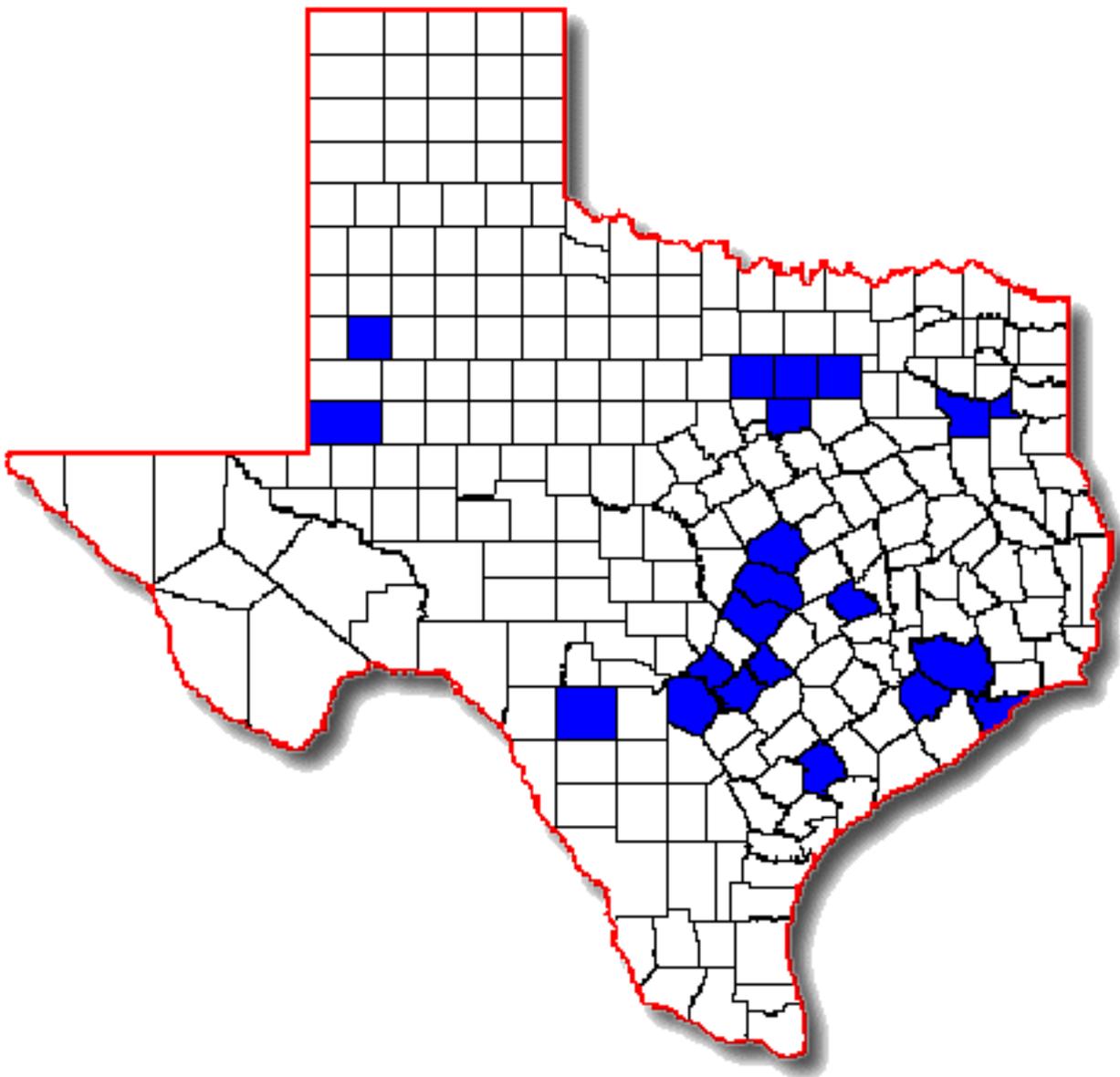
VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

PROGRAMS SECTION

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

TEXAS VICTIM ASSISTANCE TRAINING ACADEMY

***FY 2017 TVAT Academy Attendees**



* In FY 2016, the TxCVC was awarded a grant to develop an in-person TVAT Academy, which was held in FY 2017. Forty-five students from across the state completed the March 2017 Texas Victim Assistance Training Academy. Forty-four students reported an increase in knowledge.



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 of their choice to view the execution. Per 37 Texas Administrative Code § 152.51, 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.

 17

Victims witnessed the execution of the offender in FY 2017

 8

Support persons accompanied victim witnesses in FY 2017

 5

Executions were attended by victim witnesses, their support persons and VSD staff in FY 2017



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

VIS STATISTICS

The TxCVC, in collaboration with the TDCJ CJAD and the BPP, is mandated by the Texas 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 table reflects the statistics reported on the VIS Activity Report for each Texas county for FY 2017. The VSD may have received a report from the district or county attorney's office or both.

Victim Impact Statement (VIS): 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 Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.01.

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 2017 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 2017. It is important to note that a VISs may be provided in one fiscal year and returned in another.

Non-Reported (NR): 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	31	1	3%
Andrews	15	5	33%
Angelina	107	2	2%
Aransas	154	42	27%
Archer	6	0	0%
Armstrong	0	0	0%
Atascosa	100	11	11%
Austin	NR	NR	NR
Bailey	16	2	13%
Bandera	40	5	13%
Bastrop	140	19	14%
Baylor	8	2	25%
Bee	NR	NR	NR
Bell	1,669	223	13%
Bexar	8,757	827	9%
Blanco	29	4	14%
Borden	0	0	0%
Bosque	34	15	44%
Bowie	8	0	0%
Brazoria	1,431	83	6%
Brazos	NR	NR	NR
Brewster	15	0	0%
Briscoe	NR	NR	NR
Brooks	22	14	64%
Brown	116	20	17%
Burleson	103	25	24%
Burnet	71	7	10%
Caldwell	371	75	20%



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	4	20%
Cameron	857	48	6%
Camp	0	0	0%
Carson	11	7	64%
Cass	42	9	21%
Castro	0	0	0%
Chambers	92	12	13%
Cherokee	70	8	11%
Childress	25	16	64%
Clay	0	0	0%
Cochran	0	0	0%
Coke	0	0	0%
Coleman	6	3	50%
Collin	1,852	314	17%
Collingsworth	0	0	0%
Colorado	10	2	20%
Comal	291	49	17%
Comanche	34	6	18%
Concho	1	0	0%
Cooke	480	94	20%
Coryell	353	15	4%
Cottle	0	0	0%
Crane	16	11	69%
Crockett	30	7	23%
Crosby	NR	NR	NR
Culberson	0	0	0%
Dallam	0	0	0%



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	2,378	267	11%
Dawson	49	12	24%
Deaf Smith	103	23	22%
Delta	6	2	33%
Denton	1,942	284	15%
DeWitt	6	0	0%
Dickens	0	0	0%
Dimmit	36	3	8%
Donley	0	0	0%
Duval	NR	NR	NR
Eastland	67	18	27%
Ector	1,075	187	17%
Edwards	9	5	56%
El Paso	10,557	621	6%
Ellis	308	113	37%
Erath	43	8	19%
Falls	62	5	8%
Fannin	77	18	23%
Fayette	0	0	0%
Fisher	8	4	50%
Floyd	0	0	0%
Foard	1	0	0%
Fort Bend	2,853	634	22%
Franklin	13	8	62%
Freestone	18	8	44%
Frio	14	1	7%
Gaines	NR	NR	NR
Galveston	1,318	51	4%



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	NR	NR	NR
Gillespie	57	10	18%
Glasscock	1	1	100%
Goliad	29	12	41%
Gonzales	78	7	9%
Gray	11	3	27%
Grayson	278	54	19%
Gregg	247	84	34%
Grimes	3	2	67%
Guadalupe	537	133	25%
Hale	110	16	15%
Hall	0	0	0%
Hamilton	9	4	44%
Hansford	NR	NR	NR
Hardeman	10	2	20%
Hardin	102	40	39%
Harris	18,142	2,417	13%
Harrison	202	37	18%
Hartley	0	0	0%
Haskell	11	6	55%
Hays	628	92	15%
Hemphill	4	0	0%
Henderson	2	0	0%
Hidalgo	903	363	40%
Hill	152	19	13%
Hockley	90	9	10%
Hood	135	15	11%
Hopkins	81	55	68%
Houston	10	1	10%



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	23	2	9%
Hudspeth	0	0	0%
Hunt	134	17	13%
Hutchinson	20	11	55%
Irion	0	0	0%
Jack	4	2	50%
Jackson	NR	NR	NR
Jasper	158	60	38%
Jeff Davis	0	0	0%
Jefferson	NR	NR	NR
Jim Hogg	NR	NR	NR
Jim Wells	207	32	15%
Johnson	289	65	22%
Jones	NR	NR	NR
Karnes	16	6	38%
Kaufman	673	142	21%
Kendall	269	15	6%
Kenedy	0	0	0%
Kent	1	1	100%
Kerr	53	37	70%
Kimble	29	4	14%
King	0	0	0%
Kinney	0	0	0%
Kleberg	30	3	10%
Knox	4	4	100%
La Salle	18	2	11%
Lamar	109	26	24%
Lamb	22	10	45%
Lampasas	22	4	18%



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	28	6	21%
Lee	37	8	22%
Leon	44	22	50%
Liberty	199	52	26%
Limestone	207	19	9%
Lipscomb	0	0	0%
Live Oak	58	0	0%
Llano	46	8	17%
Loving	NR	NR	NR
Lubbock	1,722	212	12%
Lynn	0	0	0%
Madison	2	1	50%
Marion	3	1	33%
Martin	0	0	0%
Mason	25	12	48%
Matagorda	165	32	19%
Maverick	24	1	4%
McCulloch	31	10	32%
McLennan	144	10	7%
McMullen	NR	NR	NR
Medina	103	7	7%
Menard	2	1	50%
Midland	2,278	589	26%
Milam	158	39	25%
Mills	10	5	50%
Mitchell	16	10	63%
Montague	0	0	0%
Montgomery	637	66	10%
Moore	22	0	0%



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	0	0	0%
Motley	0	0	0%
Nacogdoches	35	6	17%
Navarro	138	45	32%
Newton	29	6	21%
Nolan	40	21	53%
Nueces	634	89	14%
Ochiltree	NR	NR	NR
Oldham	2	2	100%
Orange	28	21	75%
Palo Pinto	33	10	30%
Panola	30	16	53%
Parker	174	30	17%
Parmer	22	2	9%
Pecos	129	26	20%
Polk	NR	NR	NR
Potter	1,316	489	37%
Presidio	6	0	0%
Rains	0	0	0%
Randall	1,138	282	25%
Reagan	23	7	30%
Real	3	0	0%
Red River	49	16	33%
Reeves	19	2	11%
Refugio	14	3	21%
Roberts	0	0	0%
Robertson	105	51	49%
Rockwall	76	23	30%
Runnels	5	2	40%



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	NR	NR	NR
Sabine	12	2	17%
San Augustine	0	0	0%
San Jacinto	NR	NR	NR
San Patricio	111	9	8%
San Saba	13	6	46%
Schleicher	0	0	0%
Scurry	8	2	25%
Shackelford	NR	NR	NR
Shelby	NR	NR	NR
Sherman	0	0	0%
Smith	486	147	30%
Somervell	4	2	50%
Starr	NR	NR	NR
Stephens	11	0	0%
Sterling	0	0	0%
Stonewall	1	0	0%
Sutton	41	12	29%
Swisher	3	1	33%
Tarrant	5,941	1,126	19%
Taylor	584	107	18%
Terrell	NR	NR	NR
Terry	18	5	28%
Throckmorton	0	0	0%
Titus	NR	NR	NR
Tom Green	237	9	4%
Travis	5,327	1,320	25%
Trinity	5	0	0%
Tyler	NR	NR	NR

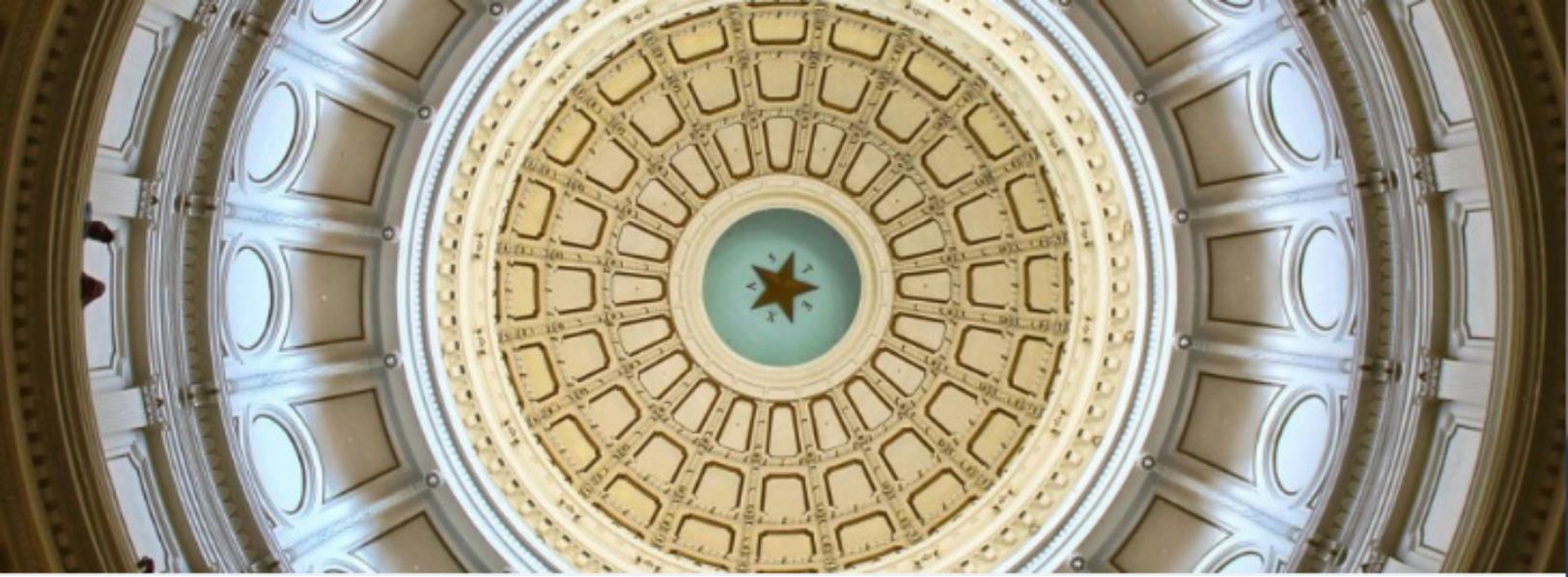


VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

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	118	23	19%
Upton	8	1	13%
Uvalde	135	15	11%
Val Verde	0	0	0%
Van Zandt	36	10	28%
Victoria	244	28	11%
Walker	0	0	0%
Waller	409	9	2%
Ward	NR	NR	NR
Washington	68	13	19%
Webb	366	8	2%
Wharton	24	5	21%
Wheeler	5	2	40%
Wichita	737	128	17%
Wilbarger	20	3	15%
Willacy	95	41	43%
Williamson	655	110	17%
Wilson	94	10	11%
Winkler	11	1	9%
Wise	190	70	37%
Wood	127	16	13%
Yoakum	3	0	0%
Young	18	0	0%
Zapata	NR	NR	NR
Zavala	21	5	24%
TOTALS:	88,484	13,590	15.36%



Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Victim Services Division

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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.