

The logo for the Center for Victim Research features the text "CENTER for VICTIM RESEARCH" in a blue, sans-serif font. The word "for" is smaller and positioned between "CENTER" and "VICTIM". The text is enclosed within a stylized, curved graphic element that resembles a protective shield or a supportive arch, with a dark blue outer curve and a lighter blue inner curve. A thin horizontal line is positioned below the text.

**CENTER** for  
**VICTIM RESEARCH**

*Building an evidence base for victim services*

# From Anecdote to Evidence: Prioritizing Research and Data Collection

## 2019 VOCA National Training Conference

### August 14, 2019

# Session Goals

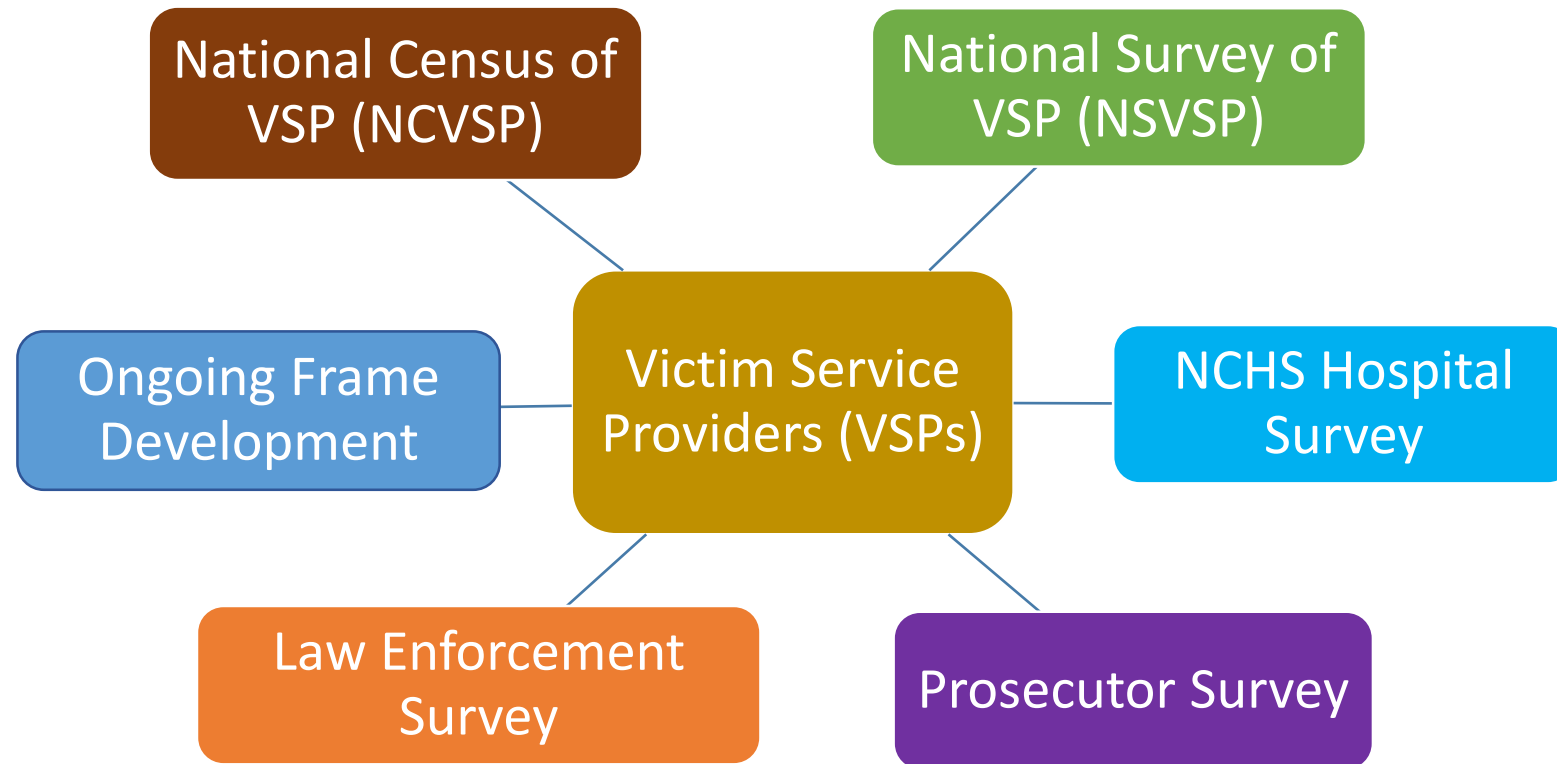
- Get excited about progress and potential for building the evidence base for victim services
- National vision for victim data - update on the VSSRP
- State data innovations: VOCA/SAC partnerships
- Uses of VOCA funds for data collection and analysis and evaluation
- CVR tools and resources to help your staff and sub-awardees

# OVC's Vision and Commitment

- Importance of ROI and filling long-standing gaps in the field
- Building the Evidence Base
  - Quantitative and qualitative information
  - Formula and discretionary grant programs
  - Critical projects and partnerships, e.g. CVR
- Acknowledging tensions surrounding data, and supporting translation for meaningful application in the field

# BJS Victim Services Statistical Research Program

Efforts To Gather Data on VSP



# VSSRP

- How many providers exist and what does the field look like: organizational structure, types of services offered, crime types served, staffing considerations, funding sources, VSP concerns
- Victim services in hospitals
- Services in homeless shelters; victims with disability status
- Combining these sources with victimization data to for the first time ever address key questions such as, *How does the geographic distribution of VSP staff in a state/city compare to crime distributions and other indications of need?*

# NCVS Redesign and Subnational Program

- New demographic variables added in July 2016
- Expanded current household income response categories
- Ability to fill gaps in knowledge about service use; satisfaction with police; enhanced understanding of consequences of victimization
- Increased capacity to measure other crime types
- More complete picture of crime and safety at the local level



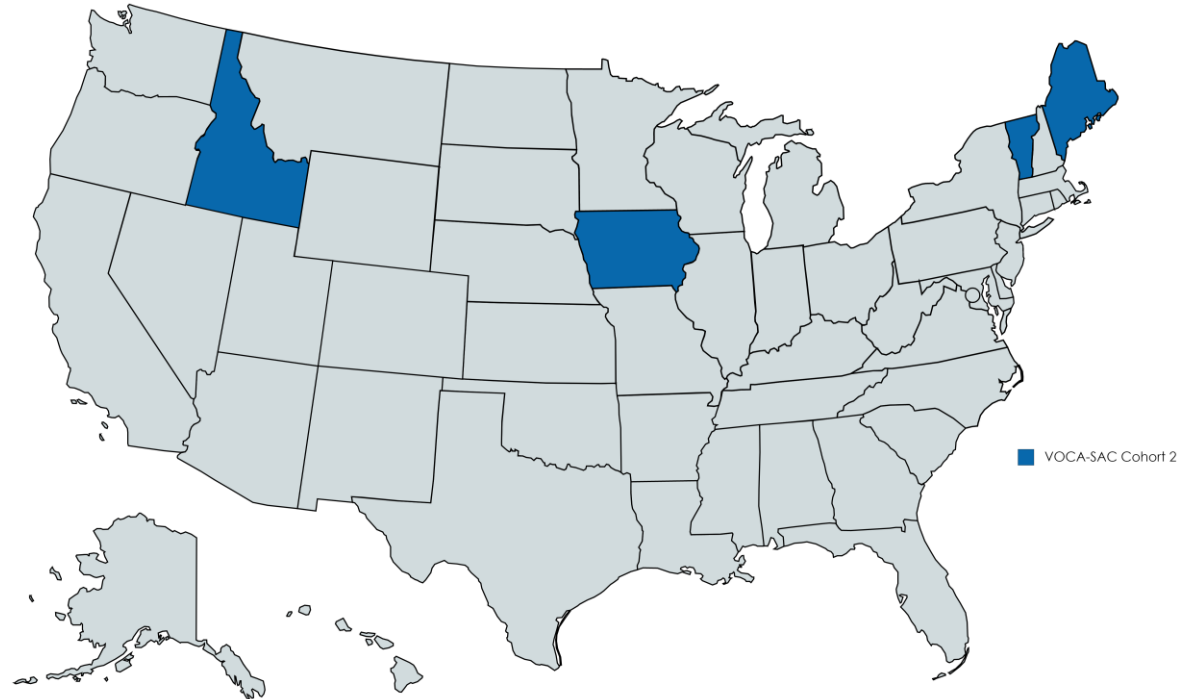
# Who Experiences **Violent Victimization** and Who **Accesses Services?**

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Findings from the  
**National Crime Victimization Survey**  
for Expanding Our Reach

## VOCA-SAC Partnership Projects States

- Idaho
- Iowa
- Maine
- Vermont





# UTILIZING DATA AND PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE DECISION-MAKING

VOCA-ISAC PARTNERSHIP

NICOLE FITZGERALD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AUGUST 14, 2019

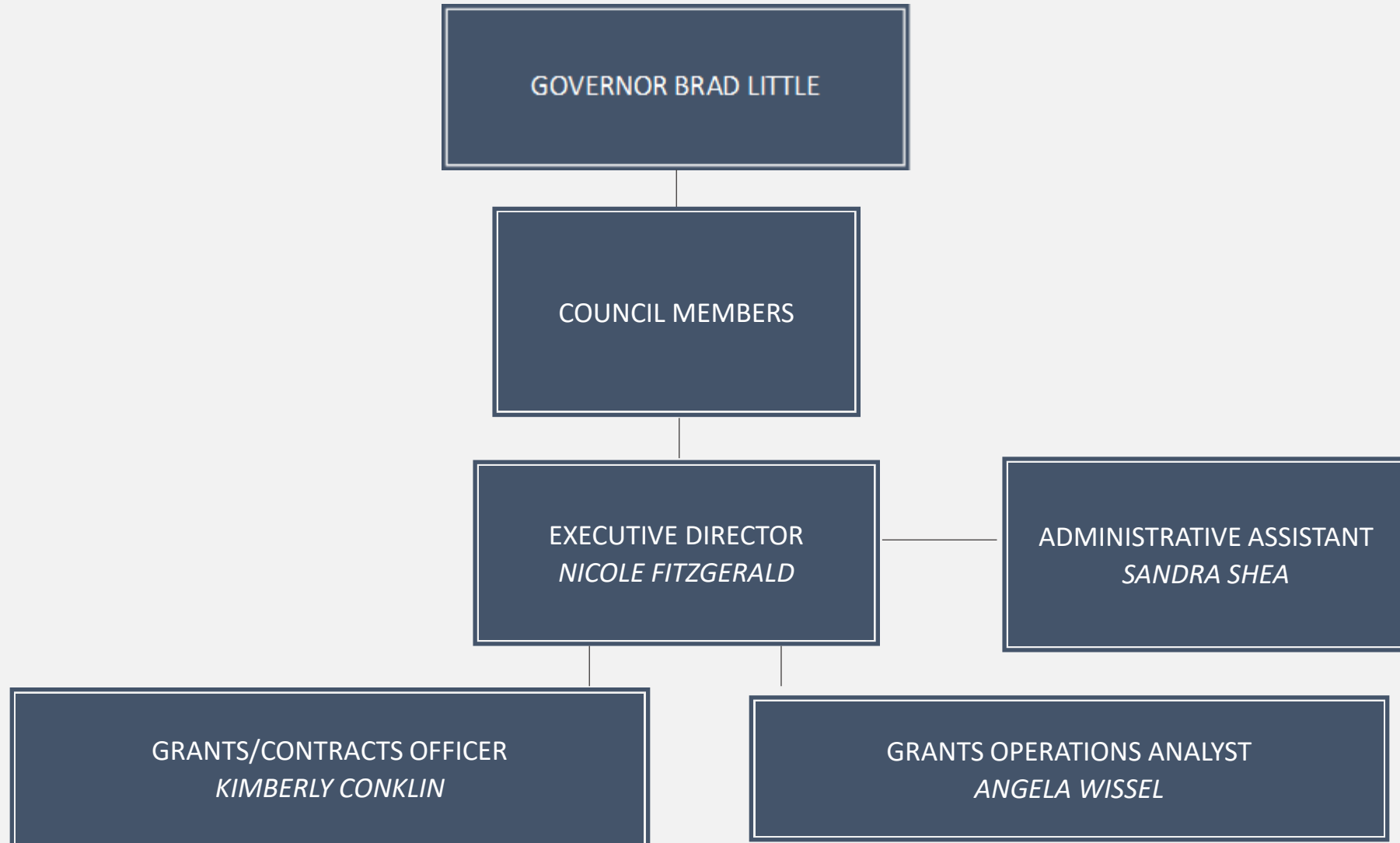




# Presentation Agenda

- Briefly describe the Council
- Describe the VOCA-ISAC Partnership
  - Problem Identification
  - Study Design
  - Preliminary Findings
  - Next Steps
- Victimization and Victim Services Report

# Organization Chart



# Our Work



## GRANTS

- Funding
- Training



## VICTIM SERVICE ENHANCEMENT

- Biannual Victimization & Victim Services Report
- Core Services



## SAFETY & RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

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## OFFENDER INTERVENTION

- Minimum Standards
- Monitoring



## PARTNERSHIP

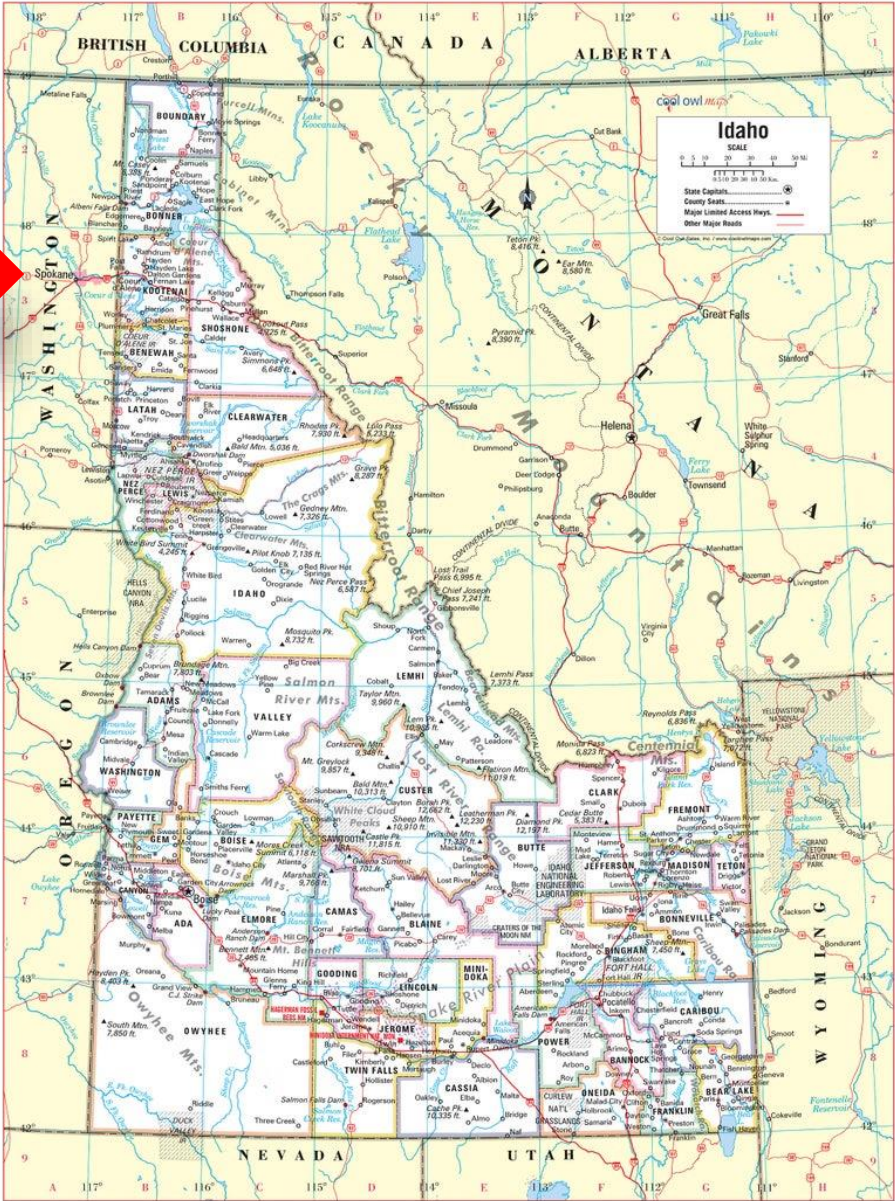
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# VOCA-ISAC PARTNERSHIP

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY LOCATED IN NORTH IDAHO**

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# The Problem

Idaho Crime Victims Compensation Program is overwhelmed with requests for payment of forensic interviews.



Are forensic interviews being used more often?



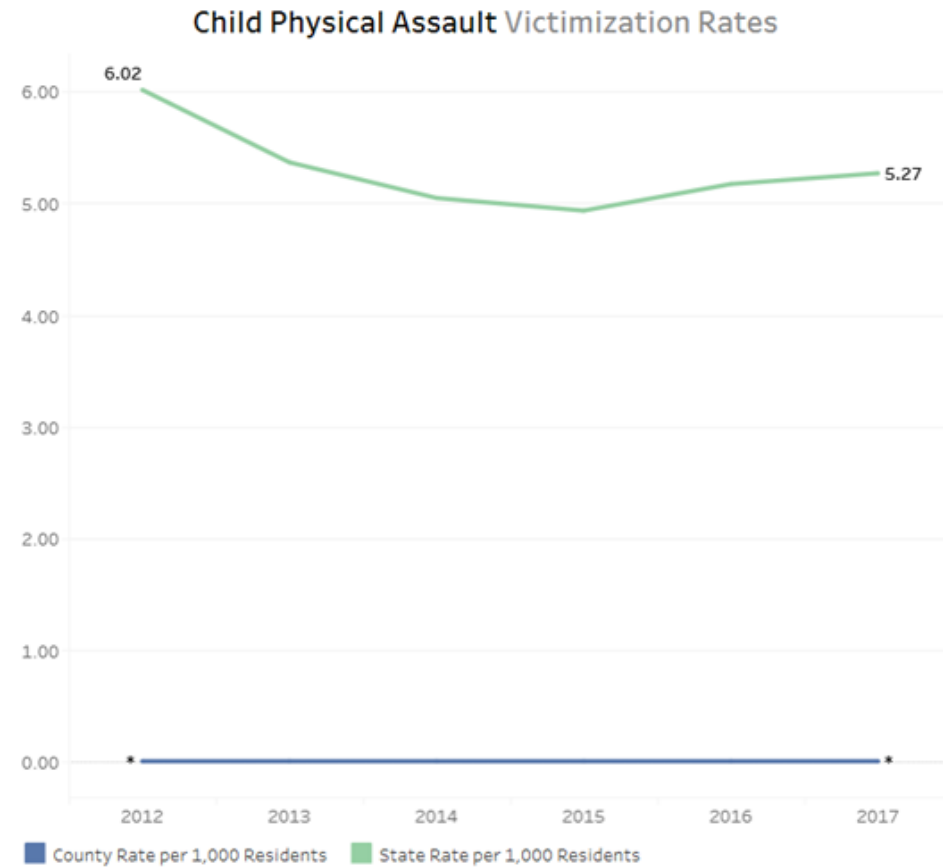
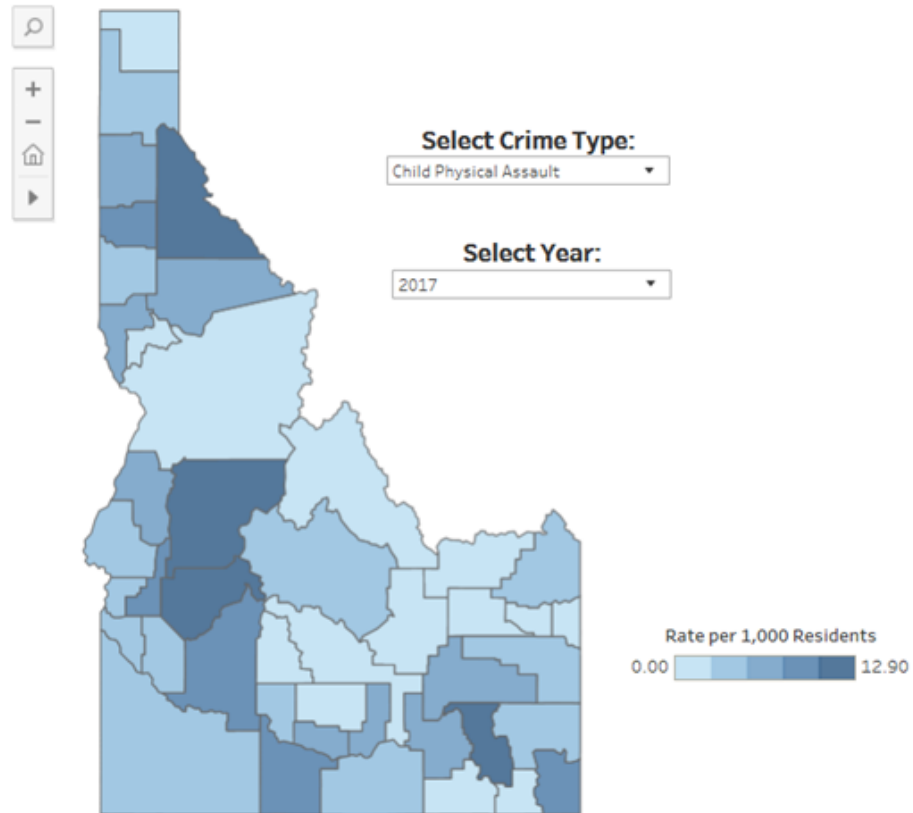
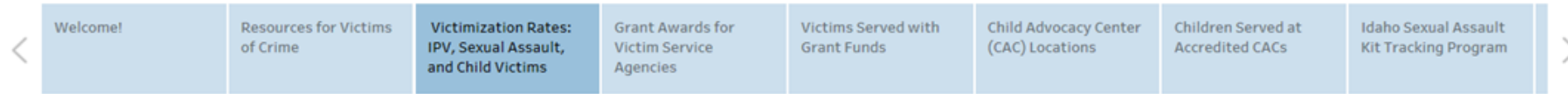
How, Why, Where, and By Whom are forensic interviews being performed?



What is the average cost?

# Tableau Dashboard

## Crime Victim Services in Idaho An Overview of State and Non-Profit Assistance Programs



Sources: Federal Bureau of Investigation; United States Census Bureau



# Preliminary Findings

Children under the age of 18 accounted for 71% of the sexual assault victims known to law enforcement in Idaho between 2012-2017.



While the number of child sex assault victims known to LE decreased by 11%, other sectors have experienced substantial increases:

CACs saw 29% increase

Court system saw a 19% increase of child sexual abuse cases filed in criminal court since FY2012

Between FY2012 and FY2018, DHW saw a 26% increase in the number of child sexual abuse cases where the Department's services were required

## Preliminary Findings

### The Suspected Driver

- Medicaid policy change in 2015

Large increase in child forensic interviews/exams claims did not occur until 2017

- 96% of claims were from one of the four accredited Child Advocacy Centers (2015-2018)

## Preliminary Findings

17% of responding agencies reported trouble accessing at least once within the last year

- Driving distance to the nearest site
- Backlog

Main source of funding for forensic interviews

- Crime Victims Comp – 39%
- Agency operating budget– 36%
- Grant funding, usually VOCA – 25%

## Preliminary Findings

Despite agencies allocating operating budgets or grant funds:

- More than 25% did not know the cost of an average forensic interview
- Only 42% supplied the number of forensic interviews the agency performed

More Research

- Victim Service Gaps



### Track and Compile Data

Cost and frequency of  
providing forensic  
interviews.



### Coordinate Funding Streams

State-level agency  
leadership should  
coordinate and target  
funding efforts.



### Increase Rural Access

Explore options  
statewide to alleviate  
the travel distance,  
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related time in  
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# Solutions

# VICTIMIZATION AND VICTIM SERVICES REPORT

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- data that identifies high need locations, crime types, specific services, and barriers to direct ICDVVA funding priorities
- data that identifies what types of assistance is needed for victims to access and receive services
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# THANK YOU

Nicole Fitzgerald 

208-332-1540 

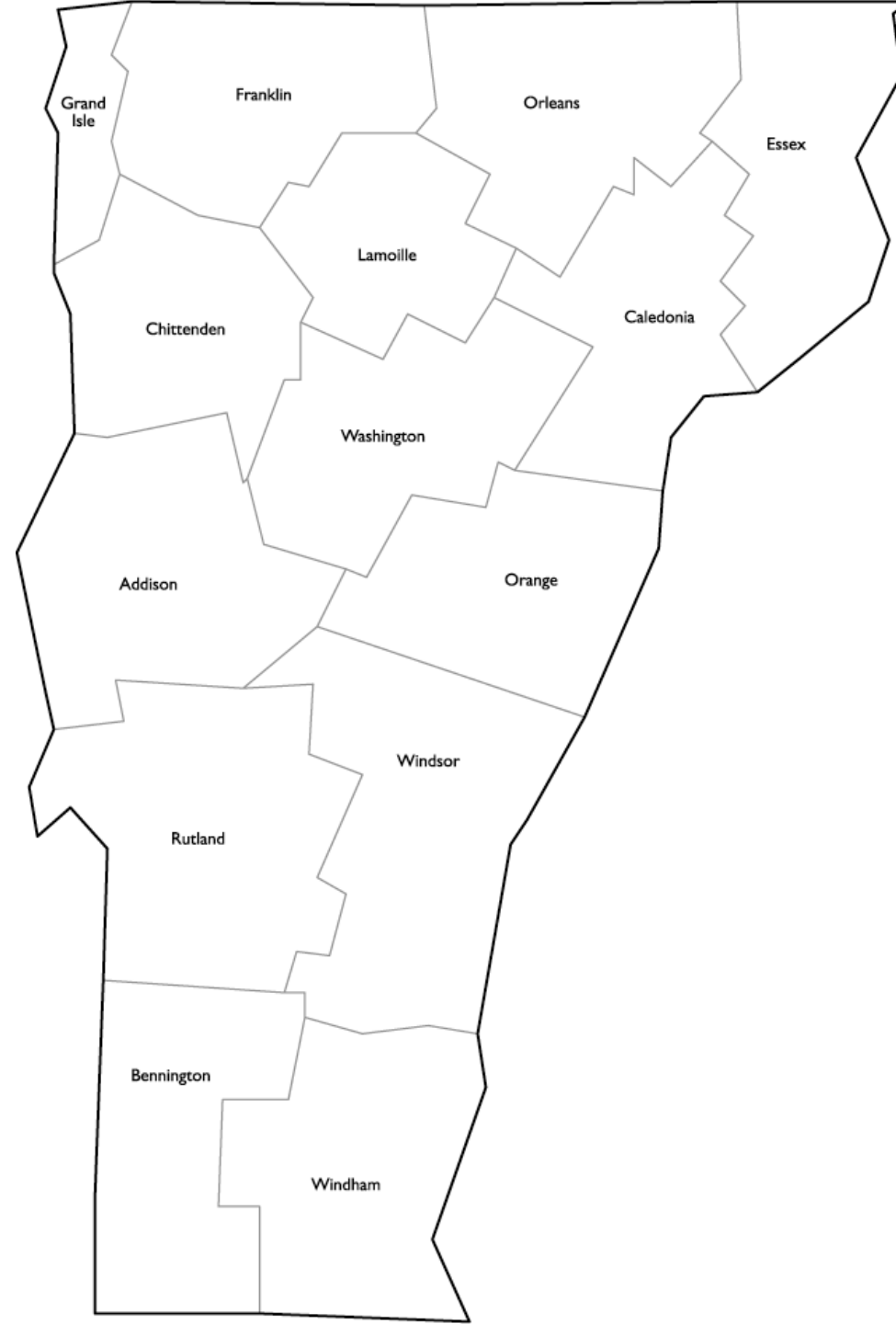
[nicole.fitzgerald@icdv.idaho.gov](mailto:nicole.fitzgerald@icdv.idaho.gov) 

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# Improving Victim Service Planning and Implementation of Legal Services in VT

## VOCA-SCA PARTNERSHIP



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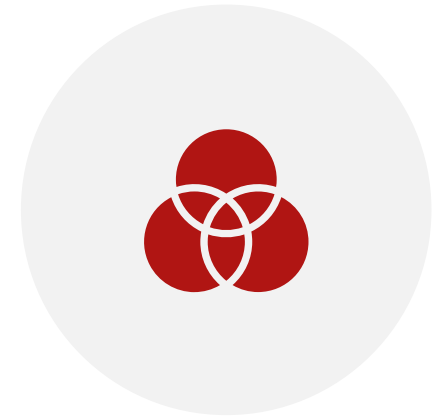
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IDENTIFY TRENDS AND GAPS IN THE USE OF LEGAL SERVICES TO ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS ARE MET, AND OUTCOMES ARE IMPROVED.

# Method



CRG partners met with all members of the VLP Network and CCVS



Identified the data currently being collected by the PMT



Identified additional data and performance measures needed for measuring impact and efficiency



Developed an agreement for ongoing data collection and analysis for legal services for victims

**LOGIC MODEL**

**Vermont Legal Partnership**

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Proximal Outcomes	Distal Outcomes
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<b>VOCA Assistance Formula Funds Vision 21 Goals</b>	Advocacy/Accompaniment			
<b>Grant to Law Line of VT for hotline &amp; referrals</b>	Victim impact statement assistance			
	Prosecution interview advocacy			
	Immigration assistance			
	Restitution assistance			
	Law enforcement interview advocacy			

# Preliminary findings: Number of Victims Served Since 2016









# Preliminary Findings

- ▶ Partners have diverse funding streams and thus required to collect data for their reports.
- ▶ Partners expressed dissatisfaction with the PMT as it lacks several key elements needed in order to represent a summary of the work of the VT Legal Partnership.
- ▶ PMT accurately collects advocacy services, but not legal services (ie. data point whether the attorney accompanied the victim to court).



# Preliminary Findings



The VLP partners are capturing legal services data in each of their databases and spreadsheets.



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A client satisfaction survey with the Likert Scale is the simplest and most effective strategy for measuring performance and outcomes.

## Recommendations

1. Update the PMT (the powers that be!) or find a way for the VLP to share legal services performance measures and outcomes with federal funders so the depth and breadth of services are acknowledged and collected. As an alternative, create a data dictionary so that lawyers understand where to put the legal services data.
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# Policy Implications

The data collected can only be used in a limited capacity.

Additional victim-related research needed.

# What have we learned about the partnership

- ▶ Identified areas of improvement in the data collection and analysis process
- ▶ Additional research is needed
- ▶ Opportunities to collaborate and analyze how improved data can help decision making



# VOCA Funding support for RDE

## Administrative funds:

Needs assessments and surveys

Program assessments and evaluations

Grant management/data systems

Other data analysis and information gathering



## *Let's discuss!*

When have questions or obstacles kept your state from conducting needs assessments, program evaluations, data analysis, etc?



# Building evidence: Fundable sub-awardees activities

- **Technology:** collect good data while enhancing direct services;
- **Administrative time:** improve statistics, conduct needs assessments, etc.
- **Program evaluation**

# Building evidence: Crafting RFPs

- Language that **encourages applicants** to
  - **Use applicable data** in outlining the problem
  - **Think about the evidence** supporting their proposal

## Sub-awardees

What have you done, or what ideas have you had, to encourage sub-awardees to think about using data or other evidence?



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[www.victimresearch.org](http://www.victimresearch.org)

Thank You

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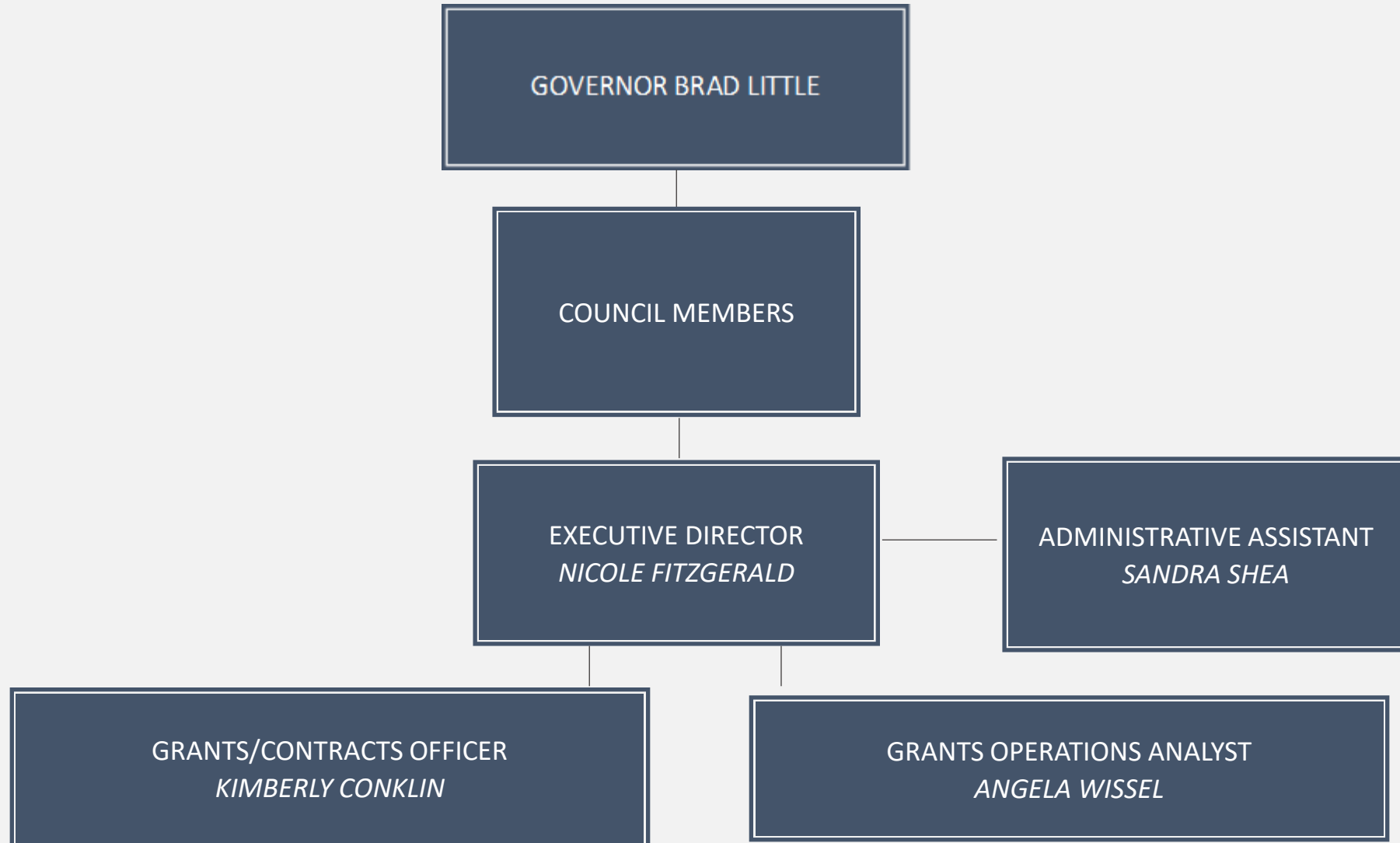




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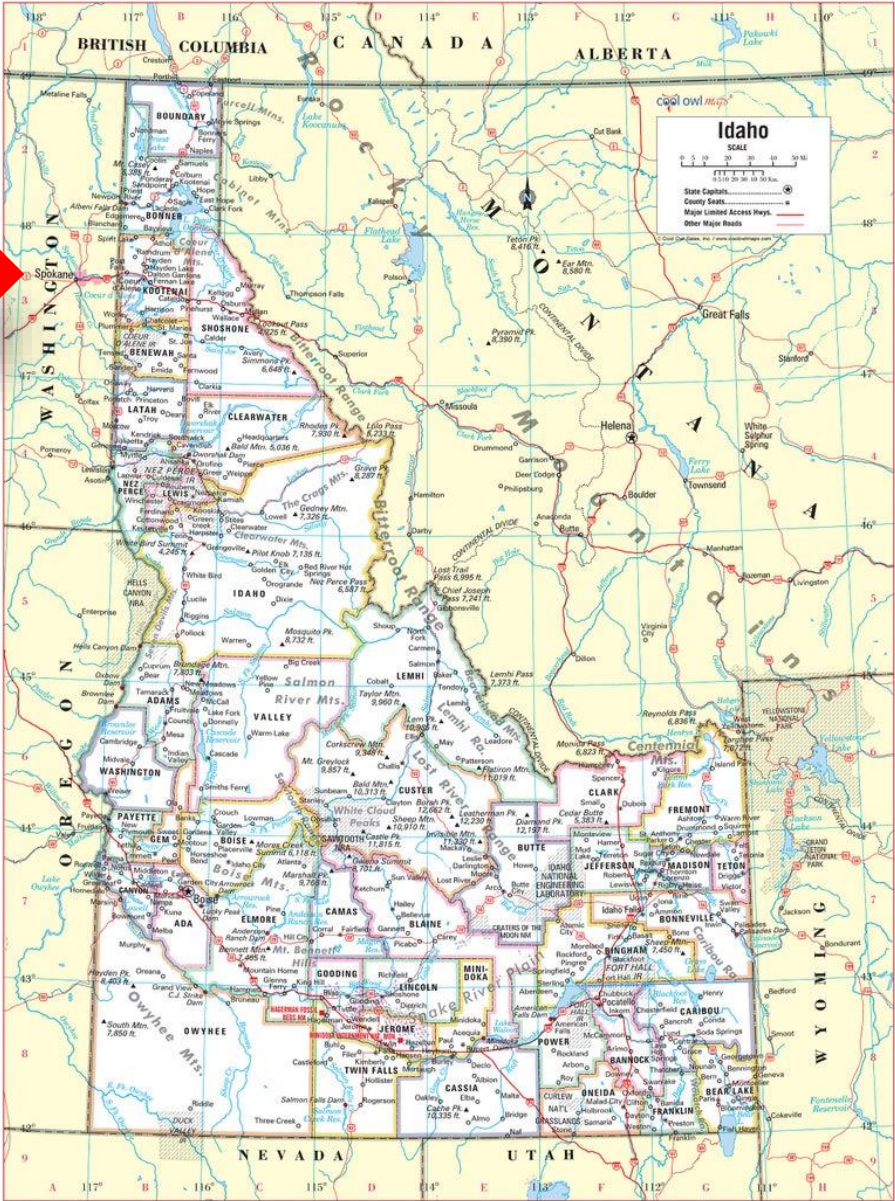
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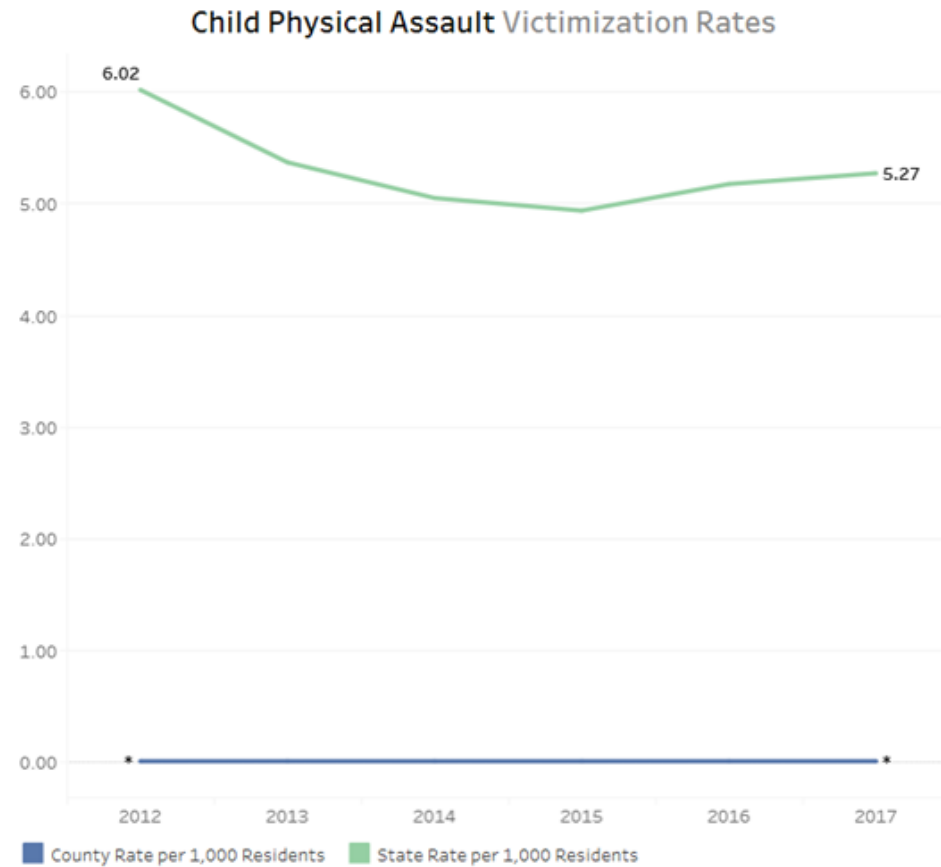
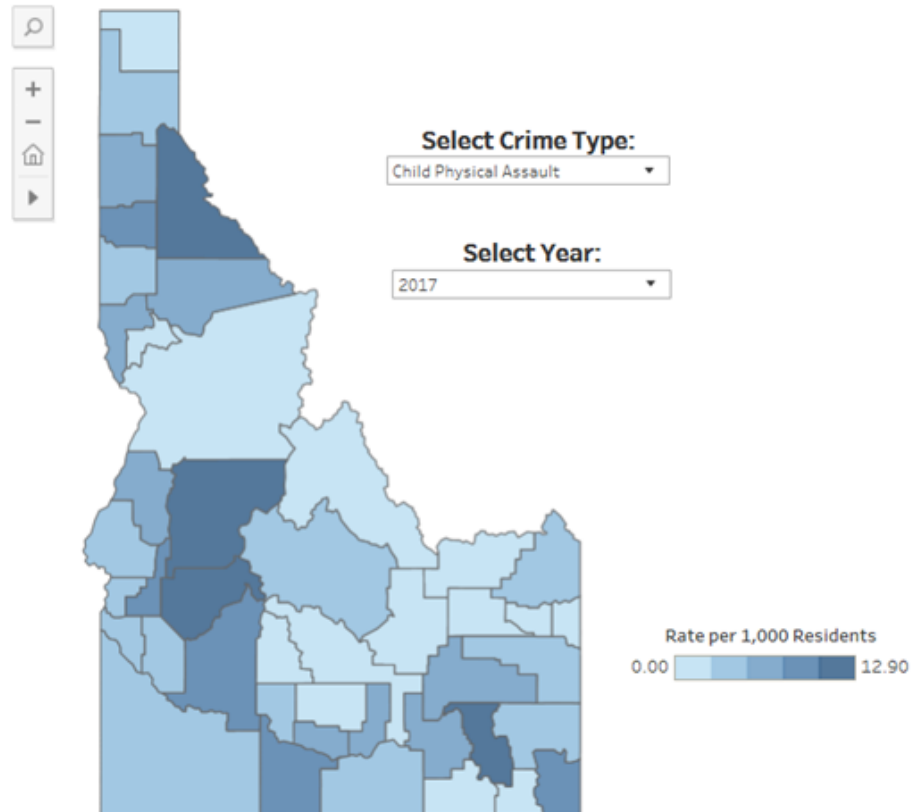
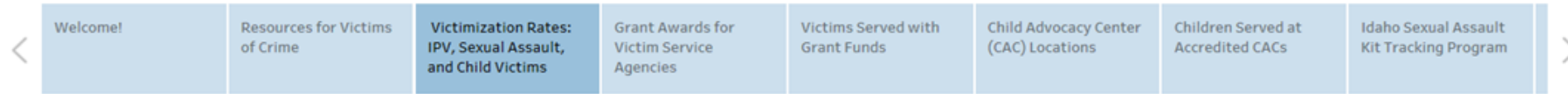
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### Track and Compile Data

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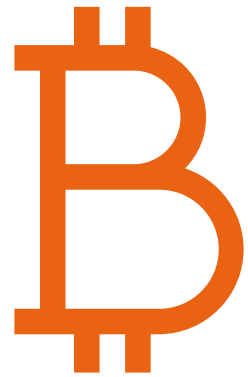
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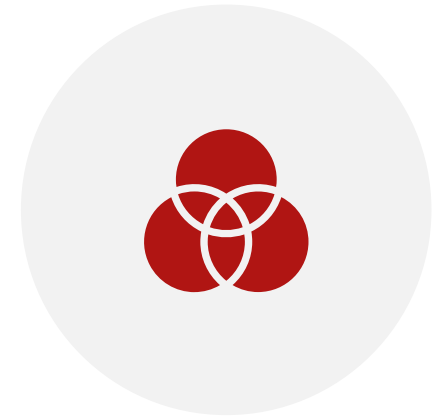
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# Types of Legal Assistance



# Preliminary Findings

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