

Implementation of the Revised UCR Rape Definition and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Funds

In January of 2012, the Attorney General announced a revised definition of rape for the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Summary Reporting System (SRS). This change signifies a major step in ensuring that rape incidence is more accurately reflected in crime statistics. The new definition accounts for all forms of rape, regardless of the victim's gender, relationship to the offender, or the mode of penetration. It also includes instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity or because of age. The FBI began collecting data using the new definition in January of 2013. With this change comes the need for public information to explain an anticipated uptick in rape statistics, training for law enforcement agencies on implementing the change, and technological solutions to ensure that data are accurately collected and reported using the new definition.

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) awards funds to state and local government and nongovernmental agencies through its 22 grant programs addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Each program has specific requirements and purpose areas, and each grant award is subject to distinct terms and conditions. Those parameters withstanding, the implementation and enhancement of systems for collecting and reporting law enforcement data on sexual assault, and providing related training, are within the scope of some OVW grant programs.

OVW is committed to supporting jurisdictions in updating their reporting systems and improving their overall response to sexual assault.

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP Formula)

The STOP Formula Program promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. **STOP formula funds may be used to develop, install, or expand data collection systems.**

To learn about how STOP funds are used in your state

How OVW prioritizes the collection and reporting of accurate rape statistics

- × Participated in efforts leading up to the FBI's December 2011 decision to update the UCR definition of rape;
- × Funded the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) in 2012 to provide technical assistance to states and law enforcement agencies to implement the new definition;
- × Issued an office-wide funding priority in FY 2013 to increase support for sexual assault programming, including investigation and prosecution of rape and implementation of the new UCR definition in local and state reporting systems;
- × Routine contact with the FBI to address barriers to implementation; and
- × Communication with STOP administrators, law enforcement, and other stakeholders about how the UCR change affects their work.

and how funds could be used to help implement the updated UCR rape definition, [contact your state STOP administrator](#).

Note that each state follows its own STOP implementation plan and makes STOP subawards according to its own procedures. OVW is providing ongoing information and technical assistance to STOP administrators regarding the UCR change. Ways that STOP funds could be used to support implementation of the UCR change include but are not limited to:

- Fund technology that facilitates rape investigations;
- Support the creation and sustainment of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs);
- Provide training for law enforcement and prosecutors, including connecting police with OVW technical assistance providers who provide training; and
- Develop and disseminate publications or other resources.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Program

Recipients of funds under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Program can use funds to implement data collection systems and training in police departments to improve tracking of cases and classification of complaints. The Arrest Program is a discretionary grant program designed to encourage state, local, and tribal governments and courts to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system. Applications for funding are generally available at the end of the calendar year. For more information visit OVW's web site at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/>.

More Information

For more information on OVW's grant programs, special initiatives, publications, and other resources, visit OVW's web site at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/>. To identify your state's STOP administrator, refer to the list: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/stop-contactlist.htm>.

For information about the FBI's UCR program, visit:

FBI's UCR web site: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr>; and

FBI's UCR Redevelopment Project web site: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr-redevelopment-project>.

For other information and resources for law enforcement, visit:

Law Enforcement Online: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/leo>; and

Police Executive Research Forum: <http://www.policeforum.org/>, and see PERF's report on their March 2012 forum on *Improving the Police Response to Sexual Assault*: http://policeforum.org/library/critical-issues-in-policing-series/SexualAssaulttext_web.pdf.