



Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

Needs Assessment and Funding Allocation Report 2017

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Marjorie Stanek, Research Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Analysis Center located within the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet assisted in the survey design and administration. Also, Marjorie provided a point of contact for Dr. Stromberg and his team throughout the project for inquires and general questions along the way.

the current funding levels for 23 different victim service programs, identifying those types of victims whom they believed would benefit most from additional funding, and classifying various service barriers currently existing within the Commonwealth.

Open ended questions were also asked in which stakeholders identified major barriers to effective victim service delivery in Kentucky. Respondents were also given the opportunity to describe a sustainable, one-time project which would utilize federal victim service funds, and to describe the particular needs for victim service funding of the stakeholder's agency and/or community.

Survey Design and Data Protocol

KJPSC Metrics and Procedures

The survey will be used by Kentucky's Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to identify and assess needs throughout the state, and to strategize funding priorities for the Commonwealth's federal victim service grant programs. Although recipients did not receive any personal benefit from participating in this survey, their responses helped the KJPSC to better understand the opinions of Kentucky's stakeholders and to strategically allocate resources in a manner that is consistent with this information. DATAQeST was granted an Exemption Status through the University of Kentucky's Institutional Review Board, located within the Office of Research Integrity.

Recruitment, Retention, and Outreach

Given the fact that no identifiable information was collected as a result of this survey, participants were recruited to participate in the KJPSC needs assessment survey through one primary method: emailing stakeholders. The initial list included agencies and individuals located within the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's electronic grants management information system, Intelligrants. After the initial mailing, a list of additional emails were provided by a number of sources: Silverleaf (sexual trauma recovery services program), KY-ASAP (Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy), Nicolas County Sherriff, Department of Criminal Justice Training, Christian County Attorney's Office, Bourbon County Attorney's Office, Adanta (behavioral health services), and DOVES (Domestic Violence Emergency Services). Other emails were identified by the KJPSC as important stakeholders and were also included in our final list of 2,258 emails. Stakeholders were sent a link to the online survey via an email from dataquest@uky.edu. Responses were collected during a one month period from May 1st, 2016 through May 31st, 2016.

Recipients received four reminders throughout the survey collection period. Only the data from those individuals who completed the entire survey were utilized for analysis and results. All questions were voluntary.

Data Storage and Linkage

Each survey was stored in REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture), which is a secure, web-based application designed exclusively to support data capture for research studies. The tool was used for all data and was securely kept on Biomedical Informatics servers, in

the secure data center run by the Institute for Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy (IPOP) physically located in the new Biological and Pharmaceutical Complex building at the University of Kentucky. Within REDCap, each survey was given a unique identifier and stored in the online system. After the time collection period, completed survey information was downloaded on the DATAQeST computers for statistical analysis. Data is protected from internet intrusion primarily by the University of Kentucky Medical Center Firewall and a general campus firewall. The data was transferred into R and SAS, statistics software, for cleaning, coding, and preliminary analysis. Maps and other figures were produced using R. This involved removing those surveys in which the data was not complete, recoding any items in which a value was missing or required reverse-coding, and conducting basic analyses (e.g. frequencies, distributions).

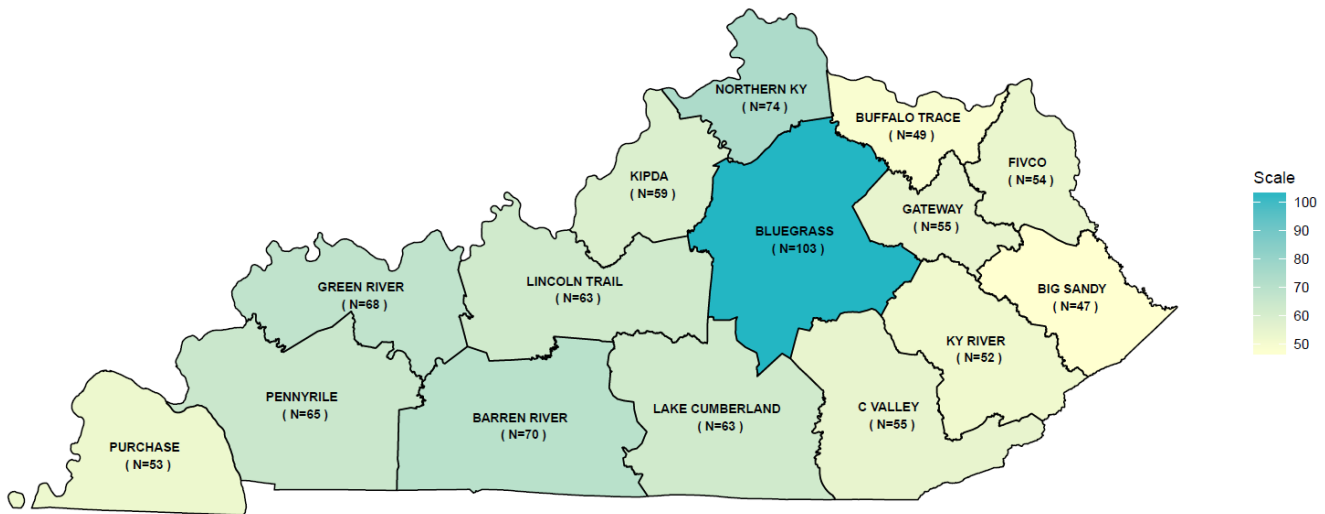
Metrics

The initial goal provided to DATAQeST by the KJPSC was to achieve 500 fully completed survey responses. Out of the 2,258 individuals who were initially contacted to participate, 596, or 26%, completed the survey. While 596 completed the survey, only 492 of the responses were valid in completion and the timeline under consideration.

Stakeholder Affiliation and Demographics

The KJPSC stakeholders included a total of 596 participants who filled out the online survey. These participants provide services for every Area District Development (ADD) in Kentucky with the largest portion reporting from the Bluegrass ADD. The map below is a summary of the ADDs that stakeholders provide services for.

Figure 1a: Distribution of Service Providers by Area Development District



Stakeholder Employment Status

The stakeholders who participated in this survey were employed in the following roles: Victim Service Providers (n=161), Government employees (n=115), Law Enforcement Personnel (n=106), Other (n=76), Concerned Citizens (n=34), or Legislators or Policy Makers (n=7). Those stakeholders who selected “other” were given the opportunity to further describe their position. See Figure 1b aside.

Respondents tended to be white (66%), female (45%), ages 45-54 years old (21%) and reported 0-5 years of experience in their current position (23%). Respondents reported a broad range of years in their position, with 23% having less than 5 years of experience and 22% reporting 10 to 19 years of experience in their current role. See Table 1 below.

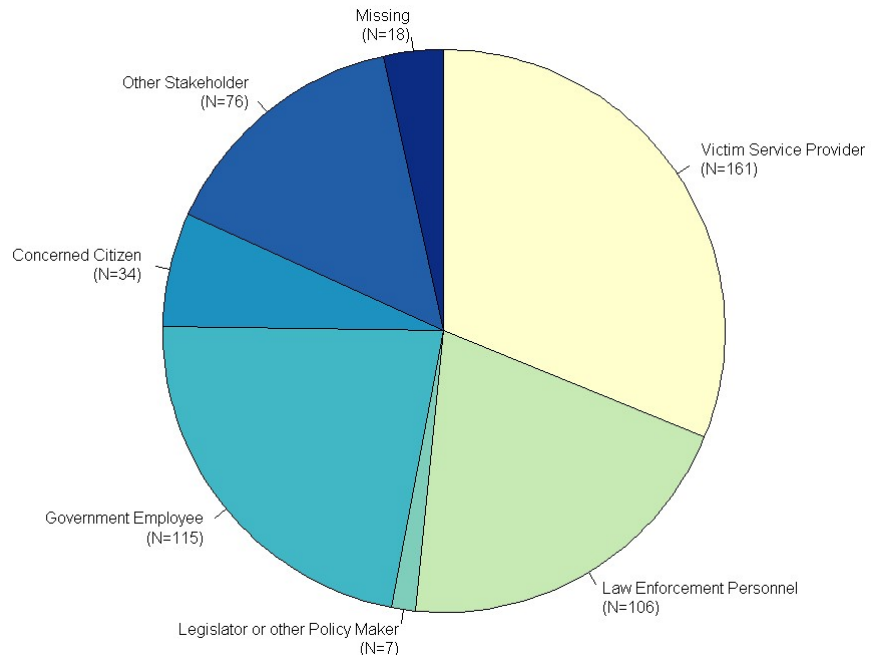


Figure 1b: Pie Chart of the employment status of the stakeholders who participated.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of KJPSC Survey Stakeholders

	N	% of Total
AGE		
<i>Missing</i>	176	35.8%
<34	26	5.3%
35-44	89	18.1%
45-54	104	21.1%
55-64	83	16.9%
65 or Older	14	2.8%
GENDER		
<i>Missing</i>	151	30.7%
Female	222	45.1%
Male	118	24.0%
Transgender	1	0.2%
RACE		
<i>Missing</i>	151	30.7%
Other	16	3.3%
White	325	66.1%
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
<i>Missing</i>	18	3.7%
Concerned Citizen	28	5.7%
Government Employee	107	21.7%
Law Enforcement Personnel	103	20.9%
Legislator or Other Policy Maker	7	1.4%
Other Stakeholder	68	13.8%
Victim Service Provider	161	32.7%
YEARS OF SERVICE		
<i>Missing</i>	152	30.9%
<5	112	22.8%
5-9	85	17.3%
10-19	109	22.1%
20-29	29	5.9%
>29	5	1%

Needs Assessment and Funding Allocation Questions

The major goal of this survey was to identify and assess needs throughout the Commonwealth, and to strategize funding priorities for Kentucky's federally funded victim service grant programs. To that end, many questions throughout the survey asked stakeholders to rate current funding levels, as well as to identify victims who should be prioritized to receive additional funding, should it be made available. The following pages highlight the questions asked to the stakeholders, as well as summarizing the results via maps, descriptive summaries, tables, and graphs.

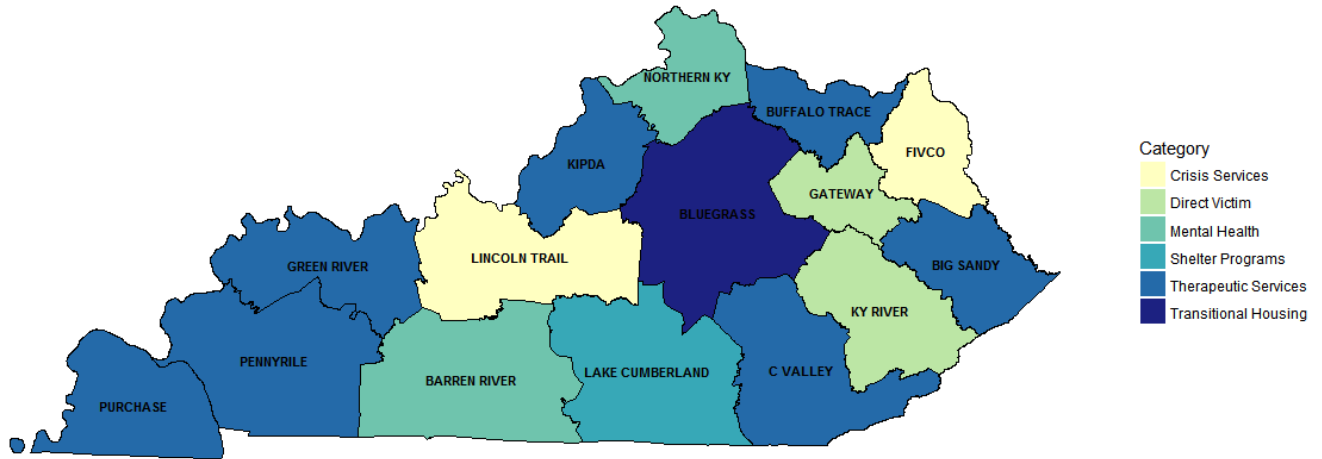
Rating Victim Service Programs

Stakeholders were asked to rate the 23 different victim services captured in the list below. This question was broken up into four different pages with four to six services on each page. The Victim Service Programs could be rated as underfunded (1), adequately funded (2), or overfunded (3).

- mental health services
- direct victim services
- shelter programs
- transitional housing programs
- permanent housing programs
- training/public education efforts
- legal services
- crime victim assistance programs
- legal advocacy programs
- emergency financial assistance programs
- transportation programs
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs (SANE)
- crime victim assistance Programs
- hospital accompaniment
- court accompaniment
- language interpretation services
- crisis intervention services
- therapeutic services for victims
- support groups
- human trafficking prevention services
- child maltreatment advocacy and prevention programs
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs
- law enforcement related efforts.

The victim service rated with the lowest funding (on a scale of 0-3) was mapped for each Area Development District (ADD). While mapping the information contained in Figure 1a, all stakeholders that indicated that they provided services for each ADD were considered to calculate the funding average for all the victim service programs by ADD. The average was calculated with the following scale: underfunded (1), adequately funded (2), and overfunded (3). The lowest rated program (lowest funding average) was then mapped for that ADD in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Lowest Rated Program by Area Development District



Of the 15 ADDs within Kentucky, therapeutic services for victims was ranked as the lowest funded service program in 7 different ADDs, mental health services, direct victim services, and crisis intervention services were all ranked as the lowest funded victim service program in 2 different ADDs, and transitional housing and shelter programs were ranked as the lowest funded victim service program in 1 ADD.

To further categorize funding needs by Area Development District, the 5 lowest rated funding victim service programs were listed in Table 2, as well as the calculated funding average for each ADD for those categories.

Table 2: Rated Funded Victim Service Programs by ADD

	Total Number of Respondents (N)	Therapeutic Services for Victims		Direct Victim Services		Crisis Intervention Services		Shelter Programs		Mental Health Service Provision	
		N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Barren River	70	55	1.16	57	1.18	56	1.23	57	1.19	57	1.14
Big Sandy	47	33	1.06	35	1.11	35	1.11	35	1.14	36	1.25
Bluegrass*	103	81	1.16	84	1.13	83	1.17	82	1.26	85	1.21
Buffalo Trace	49	37	1.08	38	1.16	38	1.21	38	1.24	39	1.21
Cumberland Valley	55	36	1.11	40	1.12	40	1.12	38	1.16	41	1.29
FIVCO	54	41	1.12	43	1.14	43	1.12	41	1.22	42	1.24
Gateway	55	40	1.15	40	1.1	42	1.21	41	1.17	42	1.24
Green River	68	51	1.14	54	1.19	52	1.23	53	1.15	55	1.2
Kentucky River	52	39	1.15	40	1.12	41	1.15	41	1.15	42	1.21
KIPDA	59	43	1.12	46	1.17	44	1.2	46	1.22	47	1.17
Lake Cumberland	63	47	1.19	50	1.18	49	1.18	49	1.16	51	1.22
Lincoln Trail	63	46	1.13	50	1.14	47	1.13	50	1.28	50	1.2
Northern Kentucky	74	55	1.18	56	1.21	55	1.2	56	1.25	57	1.18
Purchase	53	40	1.05	41	1.12	41	1.22	41	1.17	42	1.19
Pennyrile	65	49	1.14	50	1.18	50	1.16	51	1.22	52	1.25

Table 2: The victim service program with the lowest (or tied for lowest) rated funding average from the survey participants is highlighted for each ADD in Table 2. *The lowest rated program was Transitional Housing

Contact with Victims and Funding Suggestions

As another major priority of this project, the KJPSC wanted to assess how to better meet the needs of those victims identified as underserved. As such, the survey contained two questions. The first asked respondents about the type(s) of victims their agency had been in contact with on regular basis, while the second question asked about funding allocation for those victims.

Contact with Victims

Stakeholders were asked to mark whether they had been in contact with any of the following 13 underserved populations during the past 12 months. These included victims who:

- Are on campuses
- Have been trafficked
- Are male
- Identify as LGBTQI
- Identify as native or tribal peoples
- Have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood
- Are refugees or immigrants
- Are children or spouses of combat veterans
- Are incarcerated
- Have disabilities
- Reside in rural areas
- Are non-white
- Are elderly

Figure 3: Highest Proportion of Victim Contact Type by Area Development District

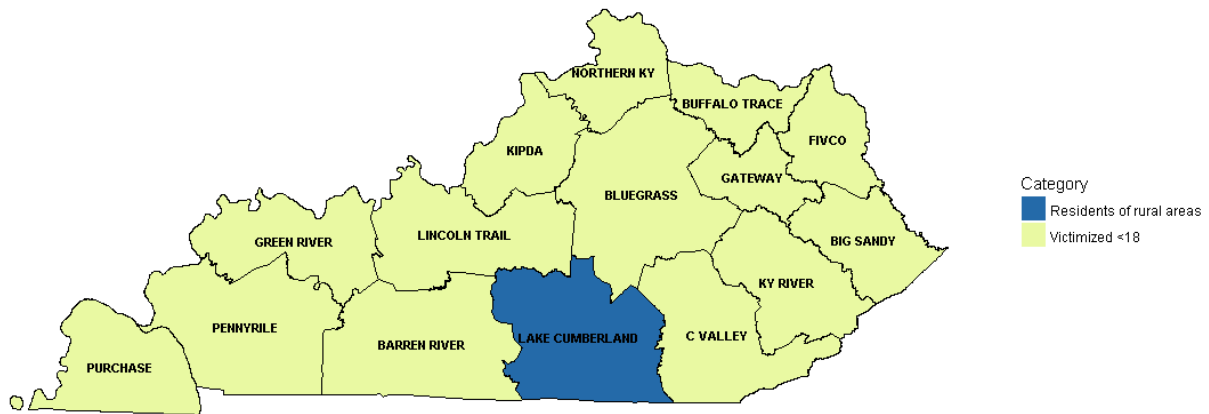


Figure 3 was created to represent the most common type of underserved population within each ADD.

As evident from Figure 3, stakeholders were in contact with “those who had been victimized prior to childhood” most often. In Figure 3, “those who had been victimized prior to reaching adulthood” was short-handed to “victimized <18.” In one ADD,

stakeholders were in contact with “those who reside in rural areas” most often.

Since the victim type was so uniform across all ADDs, another map was created to visualize the second highest proportion victim types that stakeholders were in contact with (Figure 4 below).

Figure 4: Second Highest Proportion of Victim Contact Type by Area Development District

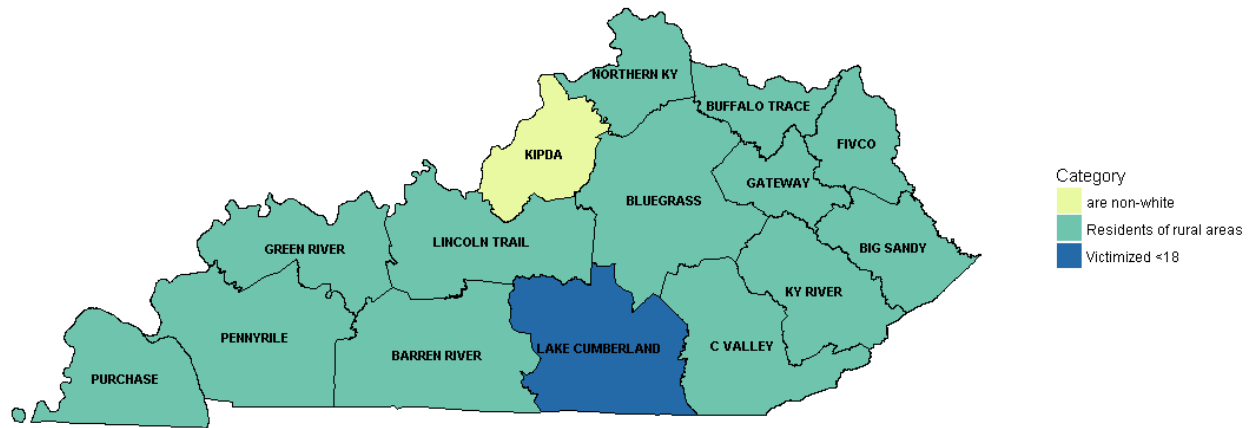


Figure 4 represents the second most common type of underserved population within each ADD.

Of the all the ADDs, stakeholders within 13 ADD marked “victims who reside in rural areas” as the second highest proportion. The remaining ADDs reported victims who “are non-white” and “those who had been victimized prior to childhood” as the 2nd most common type of underserved population. The three victim types were shortened to “Residents of rural areas”, “are non-white” and “Victimized <18” in Figure 4.

To further summarize the underserved victims that stakeholders regularly served, the proportion for each of the top 5 victim types was calculated by each ADD. This information is included in Table 3.

Table 3: Top 5 Victim Types with the Highest Proportion by Area Development District

	Total Number of Respondents (N)	have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood?		reside in rural areas?		have disabilities?		are non-white?		are male?	
		N	p	N	p	N	p	N	p	N	p
Barren River	70	70	0.51	70	0.49	70	0.34	70	0.39	70	0.33
Big Sandy	47	47	0.43	47	0.4	47	0.32	47	0.32	47	0.3
Bluegrass	103	103	0.61	103	0.52	103	0.49	103	0.48	103	0.37
Buffalo Trace	49	49	0.49	49	0.45	49	0.39	49	0.35	49	0.31
Cumberland Valley	55	55	0.47	55	0.45	55	0.35	55	0.33	55	0.31
FIVCO	54	54	0.52	54	0.46	54	0.37	54	0.35	54	0.28
Gateway	55	55	0.49	55	0.45	55	0.4	55	0.35	55	0.35
Green River	68	68	0.54	68	0.49	68	0.41	68	0.41	68	0.4
Kentucky River	52	52	0.48	52	0.46	52	0.38	52	0.31	52	0.33
KIPDA	59	59	0.51	59	0.32	59	0.32	59	0.39	59	0.31
Lake Cumberland	63	63	0.43	63	0.44	63	0.33	63	0.35	63	0.27
Lincoln Trail	63	63	0.48	63	0.41	63	0.35	63	0.32	63	0.33
Northern Kentucky	74	74	0.5	74	0.45	74	0.36	74	0.38	74	0.34
Purchase	53	53	0.53	53	0.49	53	0.42	53	0.42	53	0.4
Pennyrile	65	65	0.43	65	0.38	65	0.34	65	0.32	65	0.32

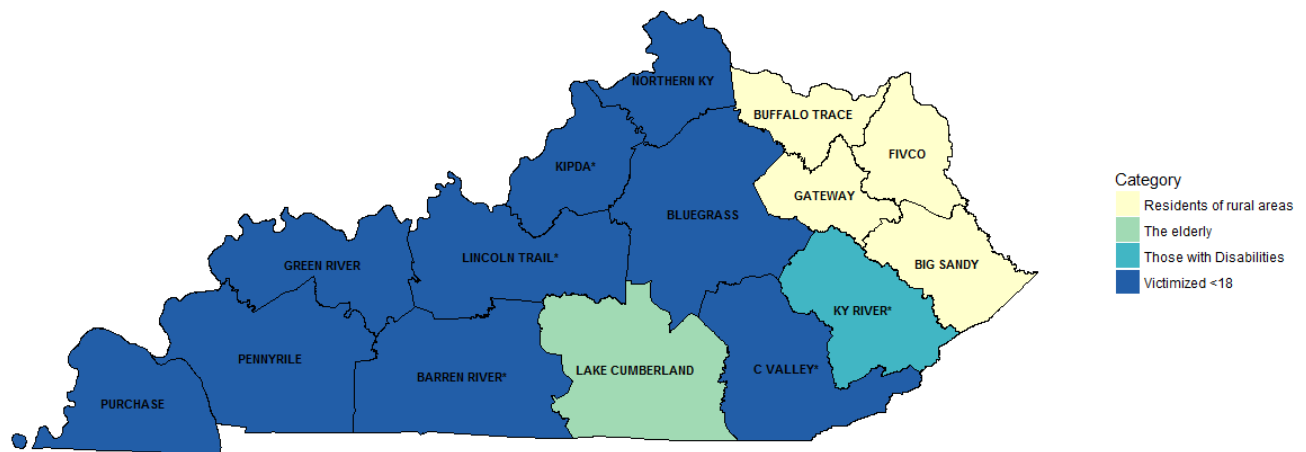
Table 3: The victim type with the highest (or tied for highest) proportion of respondents for each ADD is highlighted above.

The top 5 victim types for all Stakeholders were those who (1) “have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood”, those who (2) “reside in rural areas”, those who (3) “have disabilities”, those who (4) “are non-white”, and those who (5) “are elderly.”

Funding Suggestions

Stakeholders were prompted to suggest if “more funding is needed for victims who...”. Respondents were provided with the same list of 13 underserved victim types and were given the opportunity to check all that apply.

Figure 5: Highest Proportion or Tied for Highest (*) of Suggested Funding by Area Development District

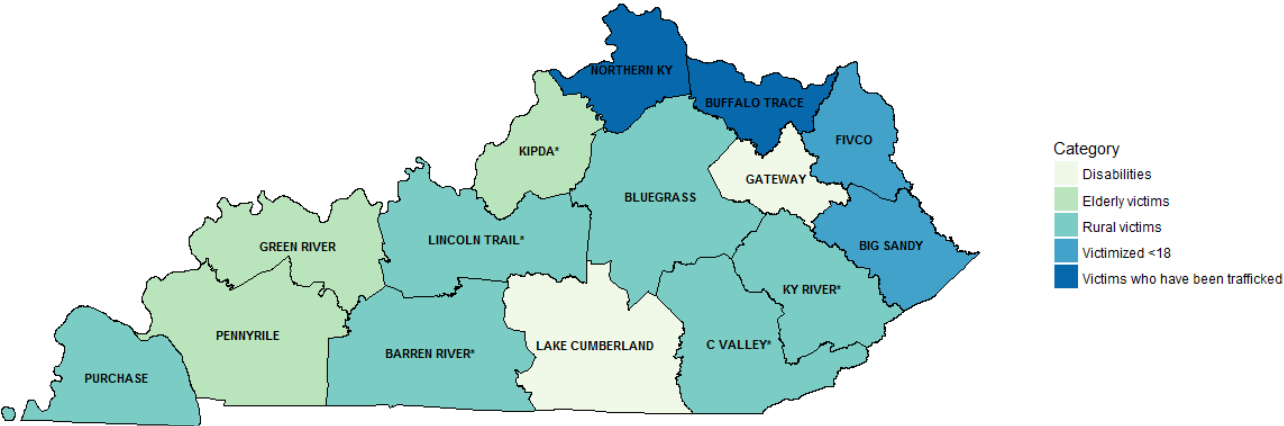


Of the 13 types of underserved victims listed, those who had the highest proportion of responses for each ADD was “mapped.” To create this map, only stakeholders who provided services to that ADD were considered. By separating survey responses by ADD, the proportion of responses for each of the 13 types of underserved victims was then analyzed. The response that had the highest proportion for suggested funding was mapped. Some ADD’s had ties for the highest proportion for suggested funding. These ADD’s have * next to their names in Figure 5 and 6. Further details can about these ADD’s can be seen in Table 4.

Of the 15 ADDs, 9 reported “those who had been victimized prior to reaching adulthood” as the underserved victim type most in need of additional funding. In 8 of the ADDs respondents suggested that those “victims who reside in rural areas” were in need of additional funding, while respondents of Lake Cumberland suggested those victims who “are elderly” need additional funding. KY River respondents suggested equally that both those victims who “have disabilities” and who “reside in rural areas” need additional funding. As before, victims were shortened to “Victimized <18”, “The elderly”, “Residents of rural areas”, and “Disabilities and rural residents” in Figure 5.

Another map was created to investigate the type of underserved victims with the second greatest need or tied for highest for additional funding.

Figure 6: Second Highest or Tied for Highest (*) Proportion of Suggested Funding by Area Development District



Besides the tied for highest ADD's which were previously mentioned, the remaining ADDs reported "victims who are elderly" (3 ADDs), "victims who have disabilities" (2 ADDs), "those who have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood" (2 ADDs), and "those victims who have been trafficked" (2 ADDs) as the second most underserved victim type in need of additional funding. These five victim types were shortened to the following: "Elderly Victims," "Disabilities," "Rural Victims," "Victimized >18," and "Victims who have been trafficked" in Figure 6.

Table 4, on the next page, was created to view the top 5 highest suggested funding categories by ADD.

Table 4: Top 5 Highest Suggested Funding Categories

	Total Number of Respondents (N)	have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood?		reside in rural areas?		Are elderly?		have disabilities?		have been trafficked?	
		N	p	N	p	N	p	N	p	N	p
Barren River	70	70	0.59	70	0.59	70	0.56	70	0.5	70	0.49
Big Sandy	47	47	0.6	47	0.62	47	0.57	47	0.6	47	0.53
Bluegrass	103	103	0.59	103	0.58	103	0.57	103	0.54	103	0.53
Buffalo Trace	49	49	0.57	49	0.63	49	0.57	49	0.57	49	0.59
Cumberland Valley	55	55	0.62	55	0.62	55	0.56	55	0.55	55	0.53
FIVCO	54	54	0.59	54	0.61	54	0.56	54	0.54	54	0.57
Gateway	55	55	0.56	55	0.62	55	0.56	55	0.58	55	0.55
Green River	68	68	0.6	68	0.54	68	0.56	68	0.46	68	0.53
Kentucky River	52	52	0.6	52	0.65	52	0.63	52	0.65	52	0.5
KIPDA	59	59	0.59	59	0.46	59	0.59	59	0.58	59	0.58
Lake Cumberland	63	63	0.54	63	0.57	63	0.62	63	0.57	63	0.49
Lincoln Trail	63	63	0.57	63	0.57	63	0.56	63	0.51	63	0.56
Northern Kentucky	74	74	0.59	74	0.49	74	0.49	74	0.51	74	0.51
Purchase	53	53	0.64	53	0.62	53	0.57	53	0.55	53	0.53
Pennyrile	65	65	0.57	65	0.49	65	0.52	65	0.51	65	0.49

Table 4: The highest (or tied for highest) suggested funding category as calculated by the highest proportion of respondents (p) is highlighted above for each ADD.

The top 5 victim suggested funding victim types for all Stakeholders were those who (1) “have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood”, those who (2) “reside in rural areas, those who (3) “are elderly”, those who (4) “have disabilities”, and those who (5) “have been trafficked.”

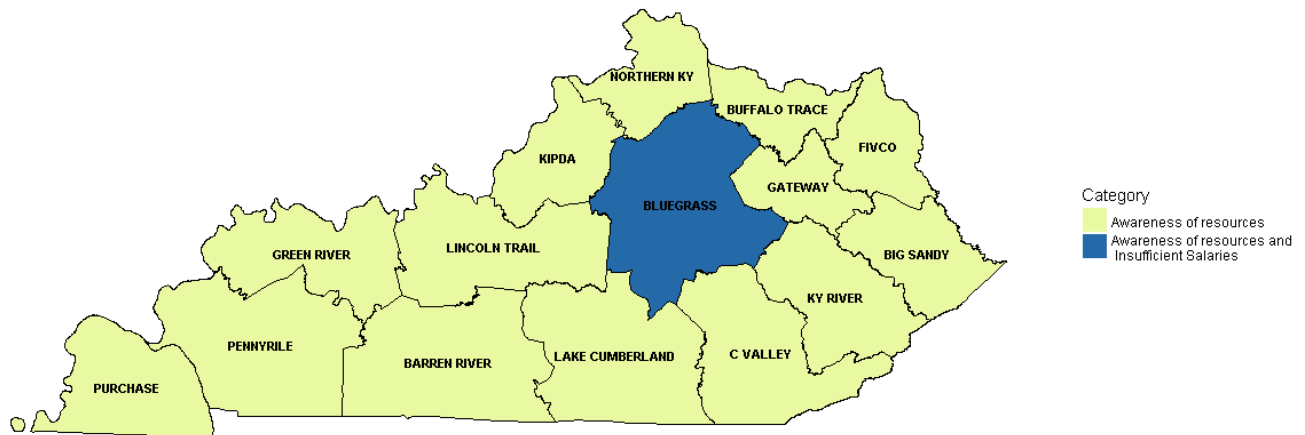
Service Barriers to the Commonwealth

To discover which service barriers were most problematic for the Commonwealth, stakeholders were asked to rate how much they agreed that a particular service barrier is as an issue with our state. Stakeholders were asked to select from the following list:

- Too few interpretation or translational services
- A lack of awareness about resources for victims
- A lack of training among service providers
- A problem getting to the service providers' location
- Insufficient salaries for professionals
- A lack of outreach services
- A lack of cooperation among victim service programs
- Insufficient amounts of staff
- A lack of technology

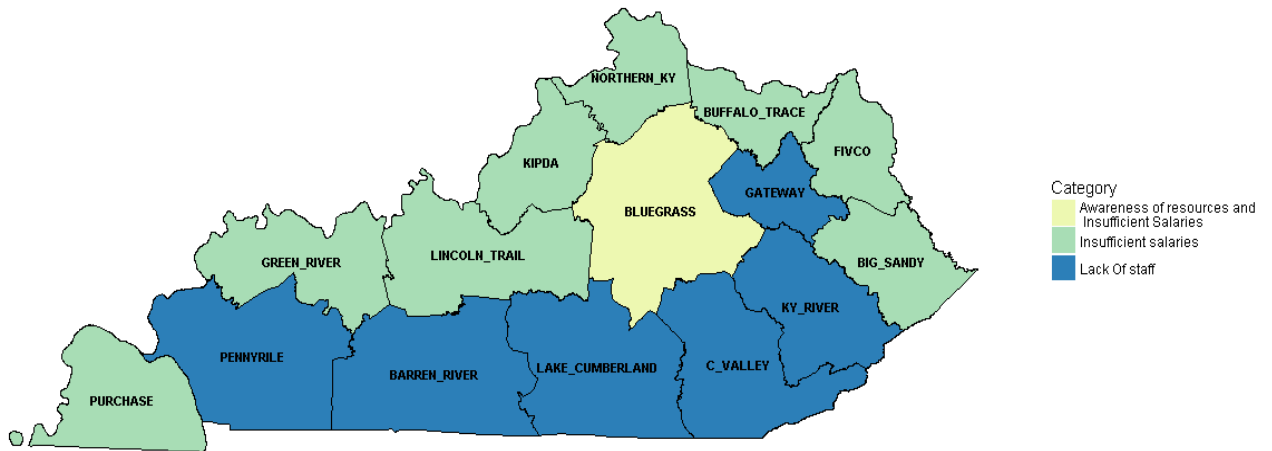
Respondents could choose one of the five options: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Neutral (3), Agree (4), or Strongly Agree (4). The responses were then divided by ADD, and the service barrier with the highest rating (e.g. the value closest to strongly agree) was mapped.

Figure 7: Greatest Barrier of Service Delivery by Area Development District



As evidenced by Figure 7, Stakeholders from almost every ADD, identified “a lack of awareness about resources for victims” which is shortened to “Awareness about resources,” as the greatest service barrier. The Bluegrass ADD identified equally “a lack of awareness about resources for victims” and “insufficient salaries for professionals” as the greatest service barrier. These barriers were shortened to “Awareness about resources and insufficient salaries.” The second greatest barrier to service delivery was also mapped below.

Figure 8: Second Greatest Barrier to Service Delivery by Area Development District



Stakeholder mainly identified 2 barriers to service delivery as the second greatest barrier to service delivery: “insufficient salaries for professionals” and “insufficient amount of staff.” These barriers were shortened to “Insufficient salaries” and “Lack of staff.”

Table 5, on the next page, was created to view the top 5 barriers to service delivery by ADD.

Table 5: Top 5 Barriers to Service Delivery

	Total Number of Respondents (N)	A lack of awareness about available resources for victims		Insufficient salaries for professionals		Insufficient amounts of staff		A lack of outreach services		A problem getting to the service providers'	
		N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Barren River	70	54	4.15	55	3.84	57	3.86	56	3.84	56	3.75
Big Sandy	47	36	4.03	36	3.86	37	3.81	37	3.73	36	3.67
Bluegrass	103	85	4.19	85	4.19	87	4.15	87	3.86	84	3.83
Buffalo Trace	49	39	4.08	39	3.9	40	3.8	40	3.7	39	3.72
Cumberland Valley	55	41	3.98	41	3.85	42	3.88	42	3.69	41	3.71
FIVCO	54	44	4.14	44	4.05	45	3.96	44	3.91	43	3.95
Gateway	55	43	4.16	43	3.91	44	3.95	44	3.82	43	3.81
Green River	68	57	4.14	56	3.98	57	3.96	57	3.77	56	3.89
Kentucky River	52	42	4.14	42	3.95	43	3.95	43	3.81	42	3.74
KIPDA	59	47	4.15	47	4.02	47	3.94	48	3.88	47	3.74
Lake Cumberland	63	47	4.09	47	3.87	49	3.96	48	3.81	48	3.77
Lincoln Trail	63	45	4.36	45	4.07	48	4.06	46	3.96	46	3.91
Northern Kentucky	74	55	4.05	55	4.02	56	3.89	56	3.73	55	3.78
Purchase	53	42	4.17	42	4.05	43	3.93	43	3.81	42	3.81
Pennyrile	65	49	4.1	49	3.9	50	3.9	50	3.76	49	3.78

Table 5: Stakeholders could respond with Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Neutral (3), Agree (4), or Strongly Agree (5). The responses were then divided by ADD, and the service barrier with the highest rating (closest to strongly agree) was calculated. The service barrier with the highest rating by each ADD is highlighted above.

Respondents characterized (1) “insufficient salaries to professionals”, (2) “insufficient amounts of staff”, (3) “a lack of awareness about available resources for victims”, (4) “a lack of outreach services,” and (5) “a problem getting to the service providers’ location” as the top 5 barriers to service delivery in the Commonwealth.

Conclusions

Goals

The major goal of this survey was to identify and assess needs throughout the state, and to strategize funding priorities for the Commonwealth's federally funded victim service grant programs. Given that one of the main purposes of the survey was to assess needs throughout the state, DATAQeST personnel decided to "map" the data by which ADDs stakeholders provided services for. This allows the public and the KJPSC to easily view the responses by ADD on a Kentucky map. Figures 1 – 8 help to characterize needs throughout the state and to prioritize those types of victim service programs for funding allocation.

Stakeholder Recruitment and Results

Given that these issues affect all of the state's population in a multitude of ways, KJPSC wanted to make the survey available to a variety of stakeholders; including those with direct and indirect involvement in the Commonwealth's victim service programs. Recruitment was primarily focused on those providers who have regular contact with victims in Kentucky, since these individuals would be equipped to identify and outline those who are currently experiencing adequate services and funding levels, as well as their underserved counter-parts. Of the 2,258 individuals contacted to participate, 596 completed the survey. Due to missingness of responses and the timeline under consideration, only 492 of the responses were able to be utilized for this assessment. The largest portion of stakeholders currently hold positions as victim service providers (32.7%), while a significant number of participants were government employees (21.7%) and law enforcement personnel (20.9%). See Figure 1a and Table 1 for a more complete breakdown. Stakeholders had been in their position from 1-19 years (66.2%), with the largest portion of respondents having less than 5 years of experience (see Table 1). It's evident that the stakeholders who participated did have knowledge and skills that would help ascertain funding needs. Given KJPSC's desire to better understand the type(s) of victims in need of greater resources/programming, it is also important to categorize the types of victims that stakeholders are in contact with on a regular basis. Of the 13 different underserved victim types (Page 11), stakeholders across most ADD's were in contact with "those who had been victimized prior to reaching adulthood" at the highest frequency (Figure 3). Stakeholders were also frequently in contact with those "victims who reside in rural areas" and "victims who are non-white" across all ADDs (Figure 3, 4.)

Funding Assessment

To evaluate current victim services throughout the Commonwealth, stakeholders were asked to rate 23 different types of victim services as underfunded (1), adequately funded (2), or overfunded (3). From these ratings, a map and table were created to represent the lowest funded programs by each ADD (Figure 2 and Table 2).

Respondents were also asked to identify victim types who should have additional funding should it become available. Across 9 of the 15 ADDs, “those who were victimized prior to reaching adulthood” were identified as the primary group needing additional funding (Figure 5). This is important since stakeholders reported being in contact with the same group most often across almost every ADD (Figure 3, 4). This victim group should be prioritized when deciding where to allocate available funds based on these results. Across ADDs, the victim types that was identified second most often were those who “have disabilities”, those who “are elderly”, those who “reside in rural areas”, and those who “have been trafficked” (Figure 5, 6). Table 4 shows the top 5 suggested victim types to whom additional resources should be dedicated by ADD (Table 4).

To identify barriers to providing quality service to victims, stakeholders were asked to respond with how much they agree a listed service barrier was problematic. There were 8 different service barriers which stakeholders were able to rate. The top 3 barriers to providing quality service to victims is illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. The highest rated service barrier is “awareness to resources” for almost every ADD (Figure 7). The second highest rated service barrier was “insufficient salaries for professional staff,” or “lack of staff” for almost every ADD (Figure 8).

What does this mean?

Given the diverse representation of respondents, consistency of responses, and statewide nature of the resulting information, the survey can help KJPSC to better allocate victim service funding. For example, the results can serve as a baseline against which currently funded programs, new applicants, and other violence reductions efforts can be evaluated. Likewise, this information can inform/guide planning efforts, both at the Cabinet level and among the population at large. An assessment of this type also aids administrators and advocacy groups to devise interventions and programs, and those that evaluate policies. By knowing to whom these valuable resources should be directed, the KJPSC can be a good steward supporting vital programs and changing/eliminating those that do not meet the needs identified herein. A document of this type goes beyond this goal, however, as it also helps to ensure that citizens of the Commonwealth have essential resources in place that serve the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our population.