

Department Name	Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center
Account(s)	4610

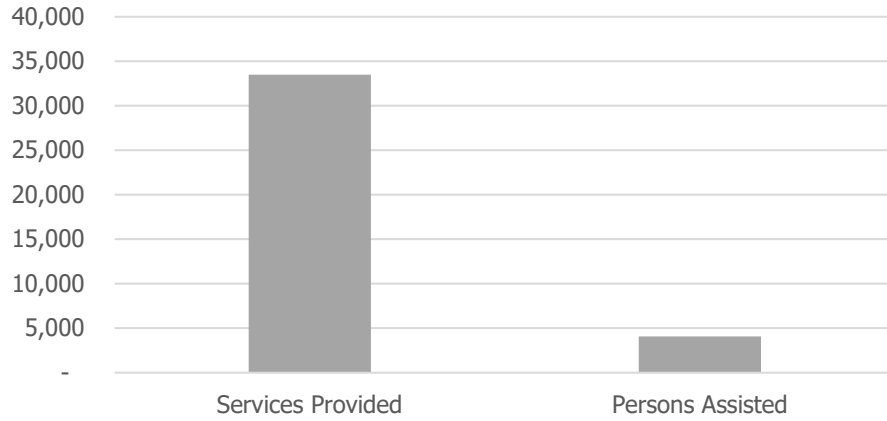
Department Function
<p>CVSVC provides a comprehensive range of services to emotionally and physically injured crime victims in Albany County. Services are available to anyone of any age who has experienced a sexual assault or other violent crime at any time in their life, or who has been affected by someone else's assault. To qualify for CVSVC services, the individual must be a resident of Albany County, OR the crime must have occurred in Albany County.</p> <p>CVSVC staff advocate for individuals utilizing a comprehensive, trauma-informed, client centered, and multi-system approach. We offer a holistic assessment, provide information and referrals, and assist individuals in filing claims for compensation with the NYS Office of Victim Services. CVSVC operates a 24-hour crisis hotline for crisis intervention, supportive counseling, and advocacy at Albany Medical Center (AMC) and police stations. We provide free and confidential therapy for victims of crime, as well as their friends and family, in individual, family, or group settings. We offer court advocacy in all the local criminal courts of Albany County, as well as Family Court. We work with local colleges to provide campus-based services to students, faculty and staff who have been affected by interpersonal violence. We offer specialized case coordination and advocacy for youth who have been the subject of commercial sexual exploitation. We have two case managers who provide comprehensive, coordinated services to vulnerable victims of crime. Finally, CVSVC offers a volunteer program, as well as public education programs and community mobilization projects on interpersonal violence awareness and prevention for adults, youth and children throughout the County.</p>

Current Year Highlights
<p>CVSVC was pleased to be able to expand our community outreach team with the addition of three new Prevention Educators, each focused on a different project: (1) opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention and education, (2) a youth violence initiative focused on justice-system involved youth, and (3) an anti-violence community mobilization program funded through the New York State Department of Health. We engaged MPH students to assist with designing evaluation tools for all aspects of our programming, as well as data analysis, as well as welcomed interns in a variety of disciplines including social work. Evaluation tools are essential for victim services and prevention programming as they help measure effectiveness, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that services are meeting the needs of survivors. We provide support and advocacy to victims of all crimes in the AMC Emergency Department, which has led to an increase in our ED accompaniments. We continue to hold anti-trafficking education classes for at-risk youth at locations such as youth residential facilities, the juvenile detention center, and the Albany Public Library to increase access for youth who may not be affiliated with any of these agencies. We conducted trainings for CDTA personnel on how to spot the signs of human trafficking. We also continue to hold our popular "Breaking Barriers" support groups for individuals affected by trauma at Albany County Correctional Facility. In March 2025, we provided crisis counselors, stationed at youth residential facilities and the AMC emergency department, to assist youth found as part of a multi-County missing child recovery effort in collaboration with law enforcement and state agencies. Collaboration is an essential part of our work as we are also participating in interagency teams, such as the Albany Community Partnership/Inter-Agency Meeting, Albany County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Albany County Shifting Power for Equity and Results (SPEAR) team, Albany County Threat Assessment Coordination Team (AC-TACT), campus coordinating council, Capital Region Anti Trafficking Task Force, and NYS Crime Victims' Assistance Task Force. Finally, working together with other County departments, we collected pet supplies for the Mohawk Hudson Safe Haven Program, as well as 200+ stuffed animals for the Albany Med/UAlbany We Care project.</p>

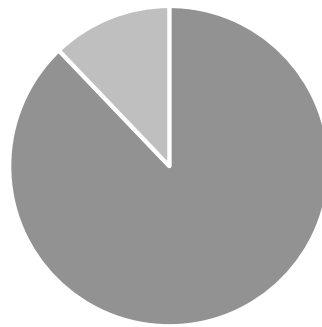
Next Year Projects
<p>As CVSVC looks ahead to next year, we remain focused on providing services to victims of crime. We will investigate new avenues for assisting with housing and transportation, which are often identified by clients as critical needs. We are looking forward to continuing to expand our community programming by collaborating with other agencies and organizations for the Youth Safety and Leadership Pathways Initiative; going into local schools to provide education for students and faculty/staff about opioid use disorder; and conducting needs assessments with the community for our DOH project before beginning implementation. We will continue holding support groups for victims of crime, human trafficking education groups, and prevention activities with the goal of continually expanding into new venues to reach new populations. We are planning to partner with Truckers Against Trafficking to offer trainings to both identify and report human trafficking when they see it.</p>

Link to Website	https://www.albanycountyny.gov/departments/crime-victim-and-sexual-violence-center
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Albany County Department of CVSVC
October 2023-September 2024



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■ ER Accompaniments ■ Court Accompaniment

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