

# CONNECTION

For Crime Victims, Survivors, Advocates and Friends

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Letters, comments, victim memorials or dedications, questions, poems and/or articles are always welcome and encouraged. We must reserve the right to edit for space considerations and/or for other reasons as deemed appropriate. Please send your submissions to:

Oklahoma Department of Corrections  
Victim Services Unit  
Ilinda Jackson, Victim Services  
2901 N. Classen Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106  
Phone: (405) 962-6142  
Fax: (405) 962-6102  
linda.jackson@doc.state.ok.us  
www.doc.state.ok.us

Courtney Hunnicutt, Graphic Designer  
Executive Communications



## Mothers against Drunk Driving

- This year, 10, 839 people will die in drunk-driving crashes—one every 50 minutes.
- High School students who use alcohol or other substances are five times more likely to drop out of school or believe good grades are not important.
- MADD serves a victim or survivor of drunk driving every 10 minutes.
- An average drunk driver has driven drunk 87 times before first arrest.
- Drunk driving cost each adult in this country almost \$500 per year.
- One in three people will be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lifetime.
- One in three 8th graders drinks alcohol.
- MADD has saved 27,000 young lives through passage of groundbreaking public health laws.
- Every minute, one person is injured from an alcohol-related crash.
- 50-75% of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.
- One in five teens binge drink. Only 1 in 100 parents believes his or her teen binge drinks.
- Teen alcohol use kills about 6,000 people each year, more than all illegal drugs combined.
- Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens and one out of those is alcohol related.
- Kids who start drinking young are seven times more likely to be in an alcohol-related crash.
- Since 1980 MADD has nearly saved 300,000 lives...and counting.

# National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

Every day, 36 people in the United States die, and approximately 700 more are injured, in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver.

## *The Problem*

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

In one year, over 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This accounts for less than 1 % of the 159 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year.

Alcohol-related crashes in the United States cost about \$51 billion a year.

## *Protect Yourself, Your Family and Friends*

- Plan ahead. Always designate a non-drinking driver before any holiday party or celebration begins.
- Take the keys. Do not let a friend drive if they are impaired.
- Be a helpful host. ...remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver, always offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.

## *Know How Communities Can Help*

- Implement Sobriety checkpoints.
- Change the laws and raise the minimum legal drinking age to 21.
- Establish “Zero tolerance” laws for young drivers.



**Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse™**

Phone: (403) 289-8385 | Email: [csica@shaw.ca](mailto:csica@shaw.ca) | [www.csicainfo.com](http://www.csicainfo.com)



**CHILD WITNESS COURT PREPARATION**  
**TAKING ACTION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE**

Thank you for visiting the Child Witness Court Prep website. If you're a child, teen, parent, or facilitator and you want to learn more about the court prep process this is the place to look.



## Top Winter Safety Tips



- \* Always wear sport-specific, properly fitting safety gear when participating in winter sports.
- \* Kids should always wear helmets when they ski, sled, snowboard and play ice hockey. There are different helmets for different activities.
- \* Parents should wear helmets too. Remember, your children learn safety habits by watching you.
- \* Dress in layers and wear warm, close-fitting clothes. Make sure that long scarves are tucked in so they don't get entangled in lifts, ski poles or other equipment.
- \* Stay hydrated. Drink fluids before, during and after winter play.
- \* Kids — or caregivers — who become distracted or irritable, or begin to hyperventilate, may be suffering from hypothermia or altitude sickness, or they may be too tired to participate safely in winter sports. They need to go indoors to warm up and rest.
- \* Children under 6 should not ride a snowmobile, and nobody under 16 should drive one. All snowmobile drivers and passengers should wear helmets designed for high-speed motor sports. A bike helmet isn't sufficient for a four-wheeled motorcycle that can go up to 90 miles per hour.

## VICTIMS' IMPACT PANEL OF OKLAHOMA, INC. *A POSITIVE SOLUTION*



[www.vipofok.com](http://www.vipofok.com)

The goal of Victims' Impact Panel (VIP) is to reform offenders through awareness, prevent young people from making dangerous choices, and to promote healing in the panelists who participate...

...drunk driving awareness, prevention and healing...

How is this accomplished? Audiences experience the impact of drunk driving through the eyes of:

- \* **a victim:** someone who has lost a loved one because of an alcohol or drug-related crash
- \* **a rescue professional:** the one who has to deal with the horror at the scenes of these crashes
- \* **an offender:** someone who killed or injured another while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Alcohol-related fatalities and injuries are happening in epidemic proportions, statewide and nationwide. It is the number one killer of our young people. But unlike other fatal epidemics, drinking and driving has a cure. We don't need research to find the answer. The answer is found in those who are forever changed because of someone's decision to drive after drinking.

VIP was started over 20 years ago and serves the entire state of Oklahoma. To send offenders to the program nearest to them or if you know someone with a story to share as a VIP speaker, call the main office at (405) 216-9556.

*Janella Tears*  
Executive Director  
Victims' Impact Panel of Oklahoma, Inc.

# National Stalking Awareness Month

*Definition:* Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

The National Stalking Awareness Month is the result of a move launched in 2003 by Debbie Riddle, the sister of Peggy Klinke, who had been murdered by a stalker in California several months earlier. Riddle wanted to transform her family's painful tragedy into a force for good. She particularly wanted to help improve law enforcement's response to stalking and save lives.

## Myths & Facts

Only celebrities are stalked.

*The vast majority of the 1.4 million people who are stalked each year are ordinary citizens.*

If you ignore stalking, it will go away.

*Stalkers seldom "just stop." Victims should seek help from law enforcement to stop the stalking.*

Stalking is annoying but not illegal.

*Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.*

You can't be stalked by someone you're dating.

*If your "friend" stalks your every move in a way that causes you fear, that is stalking.*

Technology is too expensive and confusing for most stalkers to use.

*Stalkers can buy easy-to-use surveillance equipment for as little as \$30.*

If you confront the stalker, he or she will go away.

*Confronting or trying to reason with a stalker can be dangerous. Get help.*

**NATIONAL STALKING  
AWARENESS MONTH  
JANUARY 2011**

**StalkingAwarenessMonth.org**

# Violence shouldn't be child's play.



We may not like to think about it—or even believe it—but children experience violence at alarming rates.

**We can do better to protect our young people.**

To learn more about youth victims of crime or to get involved, visit [www.ncvc.org/youth](http://www.ncvc.org/youth) or [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov).



Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**  
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**Victims of Crime**

[www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org) • 1-800-FYI-CALL

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# Stalking Victimization

- 3.4 million people over the age of 18 are stalked each year in the United States.
- 3 in 4 stalking victims are stalked by someone they know.
- 30% of stalking victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.
- 10% of stalking victims are stalked by a stranger.
- Persons aged 18-24 years experience the highest rate of stalking.
- 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.
- 40% of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.
- 1 in 4 victims report being stalked through the use of some form of technology (such as e-mail or instant messaging).
- 10% of victims report being monitored with global positioning systems (GPS) and 8% report being monitored through video or digital cameras, or listening devices.
- Stalking Impact on Victims
  - 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next.
  - 29% of stalking victims fear the stalking will never stop.
  - 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.
  - 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization.
  - The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially if the stalking involves being followed or having one's property destroyed.

## 2-1-1 Oklahoma



Northwest OK 2-1-1  
**866-927-1185**

OKC HeartLine 2-1-1  
**877-362-1606**

Tulsa Helpline  
**877-836-2111**

Southwest OK 2-1-1  
**888-355-7575**

2-1-1 of Southeastern OK  
**877-212-5526**

[www.211oklahoma.org](http://www.211oklahoma.org)

2401 NW 23rd Street, Suite 40  
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

# *Victim Impact Listen and Learn Program*

Victim Impact Listen and Learn is a national program offered in prisons and juvenile detention facilities around the nation. It was designed to educate offenders of the harm done to victims as a result of crime. The program targets reducing delinquent and criminal behavior once offenders return to society.

The Victim Impact Listen and Learn program redirects the focus from the offenders to the victim, the victim's family, and the community. The program seeks to make offenders aware of the pain, suffering and harm caused to victims and their families. As offenders become conscious of the harm caused to victims as a direct result of their actions, the offender, often for the first time, experiences empathy and remorse for the pain caused to victims; lessening the chance that the offender would repeat the same behavior once back into the community. The Victim Impact Listen and Learn Program is a powerful tool aimed at helping offenders understand the harm caused to victims.

Victims play a critical role in the facilitation of this program by serving as guest presenters who can speak candidly about their lives, sharing their story and the journey they have experienced as a result of the crime committed against them. Offenders cannot deny the harm or the validation of the victim. The program has truly been an eye-opener for the offenders and a huge opportunity for victims who desire to share their story.

## *Enroll Now!!!*

### *2nd Annual Oklahoma Victim Assistance Academy*

## June 5 - 10, 2011

### East Central University in Ada

*Application deadline is February 28th!*

Space is limited, so enroll now! All applicants will be reviewed by a selection committee and those accepted will be required to complete 20-40 hours of online training prior to the academy.

Don't miss this event which provides Victim Service Providers, Law Enforcement & Allied Professionals with a comprehensive, academic & specialized training.

Visit [www.assistvictims.com](http://www.assistvictims.com) to access the applications and learn more about this unique opportunity!

Here are some great comments from the first OVAA Graduating Class!!

*"Thanks for this opportunity. With the materials I now have I will be able to really educate a lot of people. Thank you, thank you!"*

*"Wonderful training. Would attend again! Top notch training and staff!!"*

# Calendar of Events

*National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony*  
*April 7, 2011*  
Washington, DC

*National Crime Victims' Service Awards*  
*April 8, 2011*  
Washington, DC

*2nd Annual Oklahoma Victim Assistance Academy*  
*June 5 - 10, 2011*  
East Central University in Ada



**2011 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**  
**APRIL 10 - 16, 2011**