



# **NJ VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION OFFICE**

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## **2016 ANNUAL REPORT**



## New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

# Victims of Crime Compensation Office



**CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO**  
*Attorney General*

### Executive Director's Message

This year's message for the Annual Report was difficult to pen because it is being written as I say farewell to colleagues and friends in the Department of Law & Public Safety. After 28 years of service, I am transitioning to another journey. As I reflect on my career, the joy and rewards far exceed the challenges encountered over the decades. I have met incredible, selfless state employees in every department of government who are committed to providing quality service to the citizens of New Jersey. Indeed, the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) is comprised of such employees. I have learned from them, shared ideas with them, and worked with them to accomplish great things. Our success in the last eight years established a solid foundation for the VCCO to excel to new heights in providing services to victims in an efficient, effective and compassionate manner.

To the VCCO staff, it has been an honor and a privilege to work with you. My expectations were high because I believed that each of you could grow and excel in your respective roles. I also believed that the Agency exists to provide quality service to the most vulnerable citizens, and they deserve our best. As I embark on a new chapter in my life, I take comfort in knowing there will be a seamless transition because the VCCO staff is well equipped to serve victims in every aspect of the agency. Finally, I will always remember your ability to maintain hope and your humanity when confronted daily with the most heinous acts of inhumanity. I will never forget you, and I pray that each of your careers advances, your families remain healthy and your compassion and light continue to shine in times of darkness for victims of crime.

*Peace & Blessing to You All, Marsetta*



**MARSETTA LEE**  
*Victims of Crime  
Compensation Office  
Executive Director*



# About Us

## Mission

Our mission is to provide compensation to innocent victims of violent crime for some expenses they suffer as a result of the crime. In carrying out its mission, the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) is mindful of the special needs of those victimized by crime and their right to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect.

## Historical Snap Shot

The Violent Crime Compensation Board (VCCB) was established in **1971** by the Criminal Injury Compensation Act to help victims recover from the effects of violent crimes by providing financial assistance to victims, their families, and victim service providers to help alleviate the economic and emotional burdens of victimization. VCCB was set up as a quasi-judicial three commissioner board, originally part of the Executive Branch.

**In 1981**, the number of Commissioners was increased to five, with three of the five required to be attorneys licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey.

**In 1995**, the name was changed to Victims of Crime Compensation Board; the Board was deemed to be a criminal justice agency for purposes of obtaining criminal history records and penalties.

**In 2007**, the name changed again to Victims of Crime Compensation Agency (VCCA); the Commissioners were eliminated, and the agency was placed in the Department of Treasury.

**In 2008**, by Executive Order, the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency was relocated to the Office of the Attorney General and renamed the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO), as it remains today.

**In 2013**, the VCCO implemented electronic filing. This innovation allowed victims to file applications from their homes and upload the necessary documents. Governmental and nonprofit agencies representing victims can also utilize this convenient process.

**In 2014**, the agency deployed online tracking for providers. This measure reduces the volume of telephone calls to staff and allows more time to be spent processing open claims.

**In 2015**, as a result of technological enhancements including online filing, online tracking and electronic signatures, the agency's turn-around-time for processing claims was reduced from 4.5 months to about 2.5 months.

**In 2016**, the office implemented a major outreach initiative. Outreach events increased over 70%, and included events reaching out to Domestic Violence victim advocacy programs and to the Latino/Latina community.

## Funding/Revenue Resource

The VCCO is funded by penalties assessed in both Municipal and Superior Court. Additional funding comes from the Federal VOCA compensation grant, State appropriation and the Commissary Surcharge on all items purchased in the Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities.



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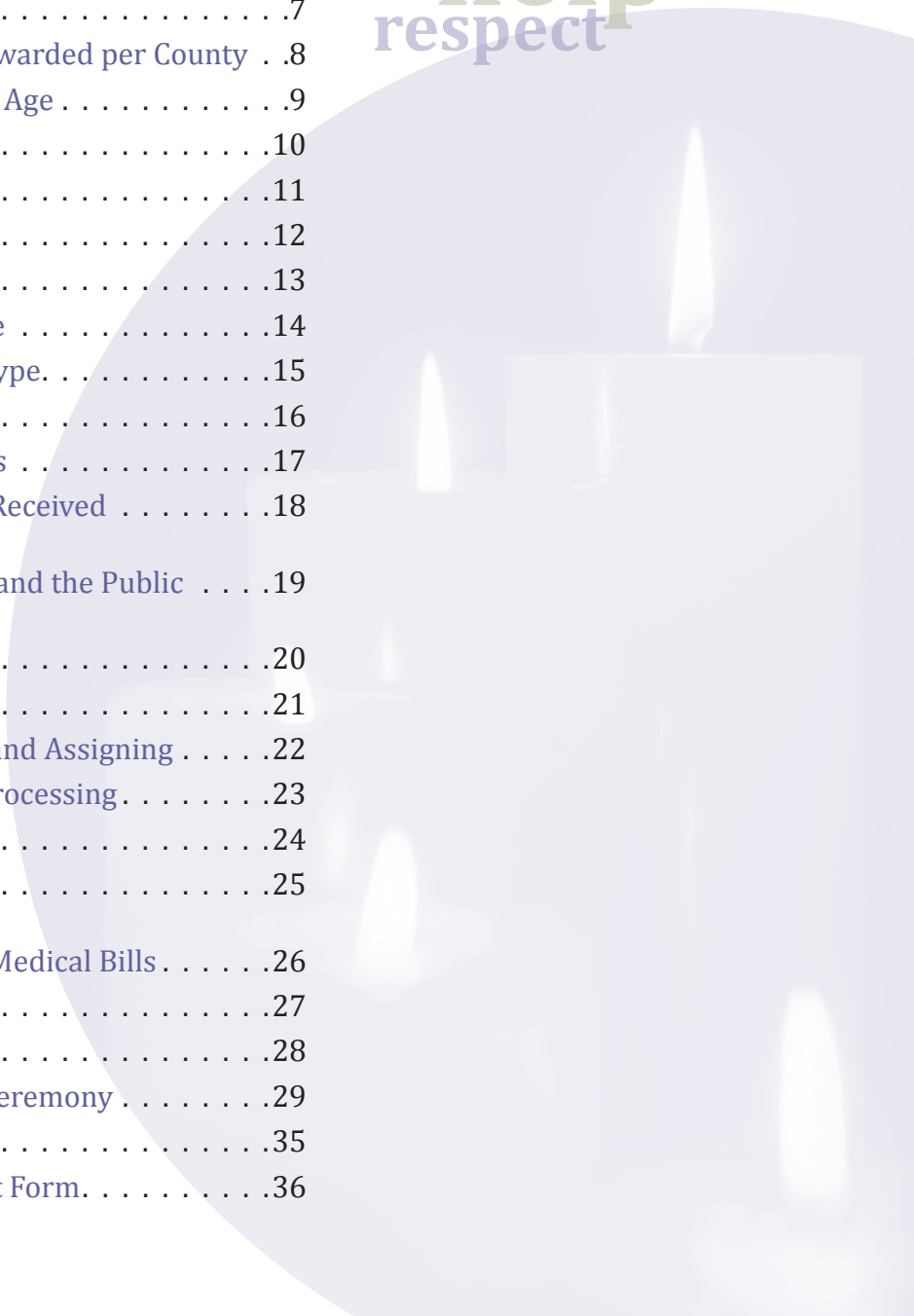
## Program Overview

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caring  
support  
dignity  
help  
respect



# Application

Claim applications are available in English and Spanish and can be obtained directly from this office. Claim applications can also be obtained from County Prosecutor's Victim Witness Advocates, hospitals, police stations and some nonprofit agencies that work with victims of crime.

An application for compensation may be filed by (1) the victim, (2) a dependent of deceased victim, (3) an authorized person acting on behalf of a victim, or (4) any other person who has demonstrated an eligible expense for which they have become responsible due to the victimization.

Applications can be submitted online, in person, by mail or fax. VCCO staff is available to assist victims/claimants and their families during the application process. Walk-ins are welcome at our Newark and Trenton offices on the scheduled days and also by appointment. Please see the information below.



## **The Victims of Crime Compensation Office**

Phone: 973-648-2107/1-877-658-2221

Fax: 973-648-3937

E-mail: [njvictims@njvictims.org](mailto:njvictims@njvictims.org)

Web: [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

### **Newark Office**

50 Park Place 5th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

#### **Walk-in Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

### **Trenton Office**

Justice Complex, 7th Floor, West Wing  
Trenton, NJ 08625

#### **Walk-in Hours:**

Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

# Claims Processing

## **Intake Phase:**

Upon receipt of an application, the claim is opened and given a claim number. An acknowledgment of receipt is sent to the applicant; if needed, additional information is requested. Requests for emergency assistance are reviewed immediately. All applications are screened for denial on a procedural basis, including expiration of time for filing, noncompensable crimes or outstanding warrants.

## **Bill Review:**

Bills are screened for the proper name and address, federal tax ID number, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes and date of service. Any missing information and collection notices are returned to the provider with a letter stating the need for an itemized bill, where applicable. Once all the information is gathered, bills are entered into the VCCO's Claims Processing System.

## **Eligibility Phase:**

Upon receipt of the police report, bills and supporting records, the claim is assigned to an investigator for eligibility determination. The assigned investigator will review all the circumstances surrounding the incident including communicating with police and prosecutorial personnel and securing related information from the courts. The investigator will make a recommendation either that the claim is eligible for compensation or to deny pursuant to statutory and/or regulatory mandates. His/her superior will review the recommendation and either approve it, reject it or ask for additional information.

## **Compensation Phase:**

Once a claim is deemed eligible for compensation, the investigator will verify losses by: 1) communicating directly with providers of medical services, securing insurance benefit statements and 2) gathering loss of earnings and disability payment information to determine compensation.

## **Payment Processing:**

After the Order of Payment is written and approved, the case is transferred to the Accounting Unit. The voucher is reconciled to the order and mailed to the provider. Upon receipt of a signed voucher, the Accounting Unit processes the payment and submits it to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) administrative unit for approval in New Jersey Comprehensive Financial System (Treasury System).

Claimants do not receive a payment voucher; their payments are processed the next business day after the Order is signed.

# Eligibility

VCCO

The preconditions for eligibility are as follows:

- The claim must be filed within three years from the date of the personal injury or death, or after three years if the VCCO determines that “good cause” existed for the delayed filing.
- The crime must be reported to the police within nine months after it occurs, or within nine months from the time it was known, but may be considered when reported to the police after nine months if the VCCO determines that “good cause” existed for the delay.
- The crime must occur in New Jersey (residency not required) or you must be a New Jersey resident who became a victim in another state or jurisdiction that does not have a crime victim compensation program or has a program which has not provided full compensation for your crime-related losses.
- The victim must cooperate with the police and the prosecutor’s office; however, eligibility is not dependent upon conviction or prosecution of the offender.
- The claimant was not the offender or an accomplice of the offender.
- The victim must be an “innocent victim” of the crime, which means that the VCCO must consider whether the victim’s conduct contributed to the injuries.
- Victim or claimant must not have open warrants or active criminal charges.

# Compensation

## Compensable Benefits

Compensation payable to a victim, providers and to all other claimants sustaining economic loss because of injury to or death of that victim, may not exceed \$25,000 in the aggregate, and may include:

- Medically related expenses not covered by other insurance or benefits programs.
- Mental health counseling up to \$12,500 for a direct victim and up to \$7,000 for immediate family members.
- Loss of support for dependents in homicide cases and from offender in domestic violence/sexual assault cases. Maximum of \$600 per week not to exceed 48 months.
- Temporary loss of earnings for direct victims up to \$600 per week not to exceed 24 months; permanent loss of earnings is not to exceed five years.
- Funeral expenses of up to \$5,000.
- Limited transportation costs for funerals and medical treatment.
- Limited domestic service up to \$6,500 for non-medically related service expenses that provide day-to-day living support for victim or claimant.
- Child care, day care and after school care costs up to \$6,500.
- Crime scene cleanup expenses up to \$4,000.
- Relocation expenses up to \$2,500 when necessary as a result of the crime, where the health and safety of the victim are jeopardized.
- Reimbursement for up to \$200 in stolen cash resulting from assault and robbery, if you are at least 60 years old or determined to be disabled and meet financial guidelines.

- Attorneys are limited to receiving fees that are set by statute.
- Catastrophic Benefits – Supplemental \$35,000 for home/vehicle modification and rehabilitative services only.

## Compensable Crimes\*

The VCCO may order the payment of compensation for personal injury or death that resulted from the commission or attempt to commit any of the following offenses:

- Aggravated assault
- Aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual contact
- Any other crime involving violence including domestic violence
- Bias crimes
- Burglary\*\* (personal property loss or damage will not be compensated)
- Commission of a crime with an automobile where injury occurred
- Human trafficking
- Indecent acts with children
- Kidnapping
- Lewd, indecent or obscene acts
- Manslaughter
- Murder
- Tampering with a cosmetic, drug or food product
- Threats to do bodily harm
- Stalking

\* *It should be noted that simple assault is not a compensable crime.*

\*\* *Must be present in the structure when the crime occurred.*

# Common Reasons for Denial

There are many reasons that the Victims of Crime Compensation Office may deem a claim ineligible. Listed below are some of the most common reasons a claim may be denied.

- Open warrants/pending criminal charges/victim is incarcerated.  
N.J.A.C. 13:75-2.1 (i)
- Outstanding VCCO penalties.  
N.J.A.C. 13:75-2.1 (h)
- Failure to cooperate with law enforcement.  
N.J.A.C. 13:75-2.1 (l) (4)
- Contributory conduct.  
N.J.A.C. 13:75-2.1 (l) (3)
- Non-compliance with VCCO statute of limitations.  
N.J.A.C. 13:75-3.1 (a)
- Non-compensable crime.  
N.J.S.A. 52:4B-11

# Appeals Process

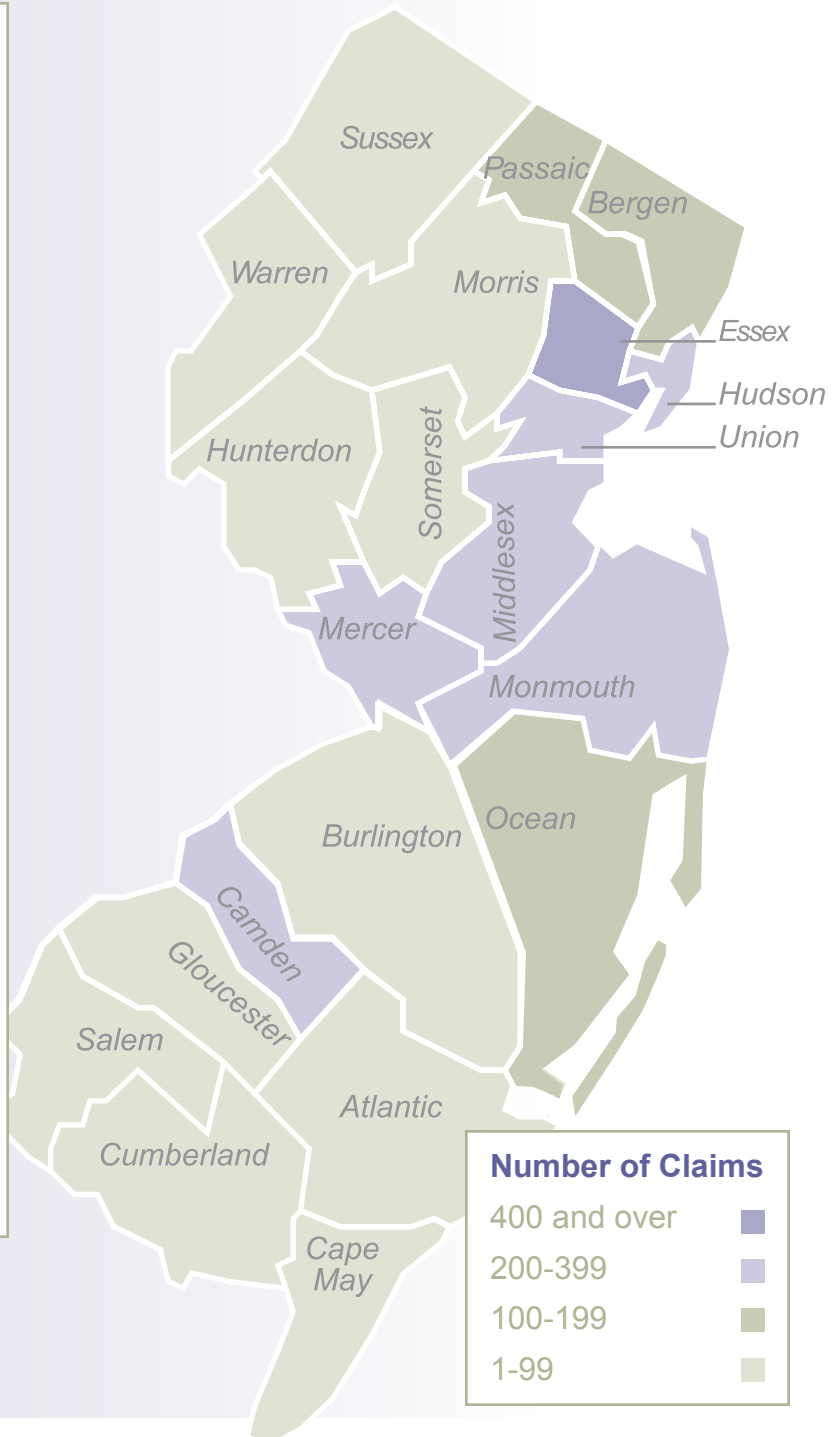
- When the Claim is denied, determined eligible with no compensation or limited pay, the claimant has the right to an appeal.
- Appeal request is made by the claimant or his/her attorney upon receipt of the VCCO written determination. In some cases the claimant provides new information enabling the VCCO to reverse the denial without the need of an appeal.
- Hearings are held four times a year and hearing dates are listed on the VCCO's website.
- Appeal is scheduled and notification of appeal date is made at least 15 days prior to the appeal.
- Hearing is held before the Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board; the claimant and the Office present their respective positions.
- The Review Board is made up of five members appointed by the Governor's Office; all are volunteers and are not paid for their services.
- The Review Board considers all of the relevant evidence along with any applicable statutes or regulations and either affirms the denial, overturns the denial, or remands the file to obtain additional information necessary to render a decision.
- The Review Board issues a Final Order and Decision on the appeal within 3 months of the hearing date.
- If the VCCO's decision is overturned by the Review Board, the Office processes the claim accordingly.
- Appeal of the Review Board's Final Order and Decision must be made to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey within 45 days of receiving the Review Board's Final Order and Decision.

## Most Common Issues Raised on Appeals

The most common issues raised on appeals are:  
Contribution and late filings.

# FY 16 Claims Received by County

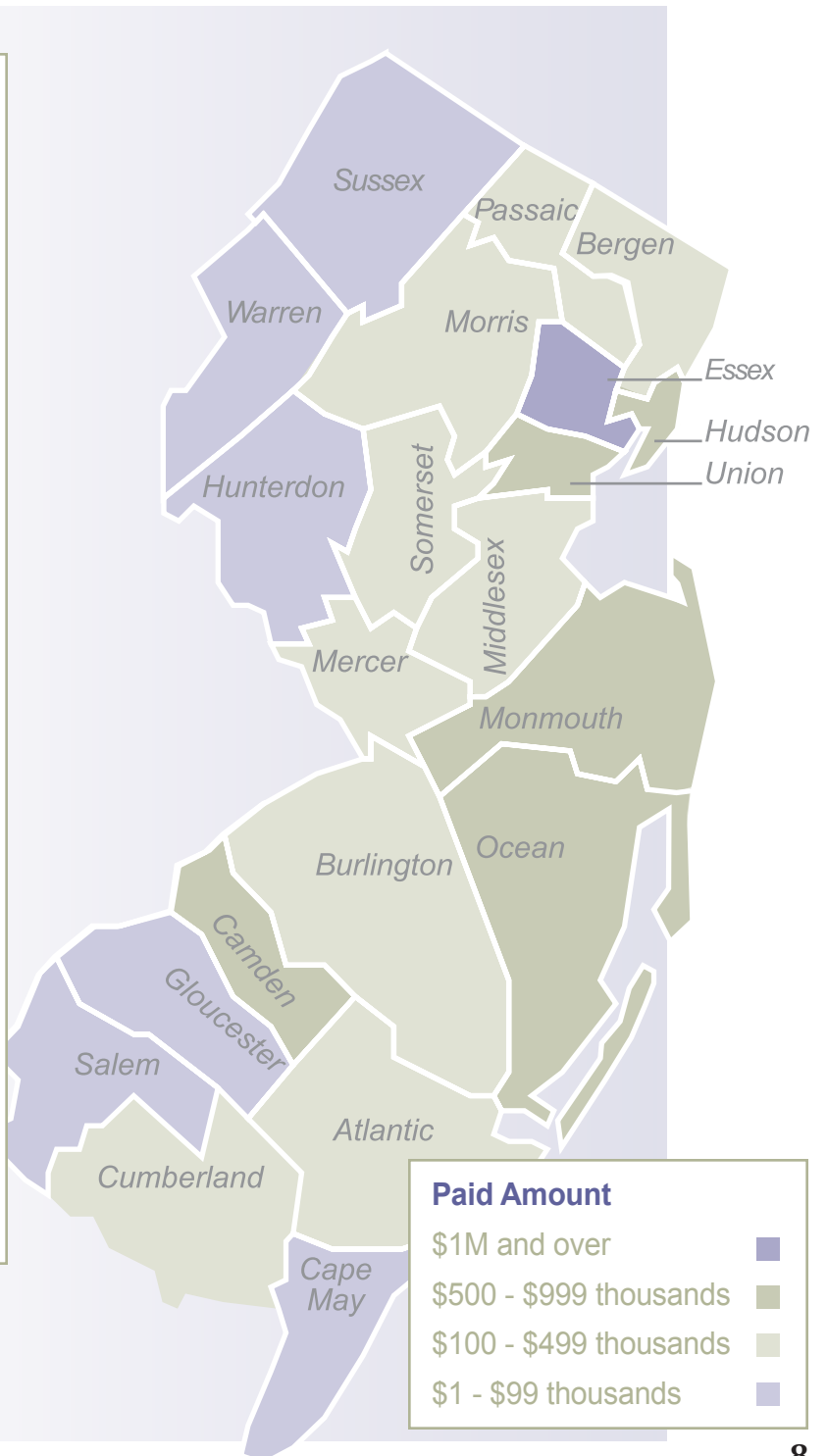
County	Claims	Percentage
Essex	1,175	32.0%
Camden	365	9.9%
Union	263	7.2%
Hudson	258	7.0%
Monmouth	241	6.6%
Mercer	220	6.0%
Middlesex	204	5.6%
Passaic	166	4.5%
Ocean	138	3.8%
Bergen	107	2.9%
Atlantic	93	2.5%
Cumberland	77	2.1%
Burlington	71	1.9%
Morris	58	1.6%
Somerset	53	1.4%
Gloucester	45	1.2%
Sussex	27	0.7%
Cape May	24	0.7%
Salem	23	0.6%
Warren	20	0.5%
Hunterdon	12	0.3%
Out-of-State	35	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,675</b>	



# FY 16 Claims & Dollar Amounts

awarded per county

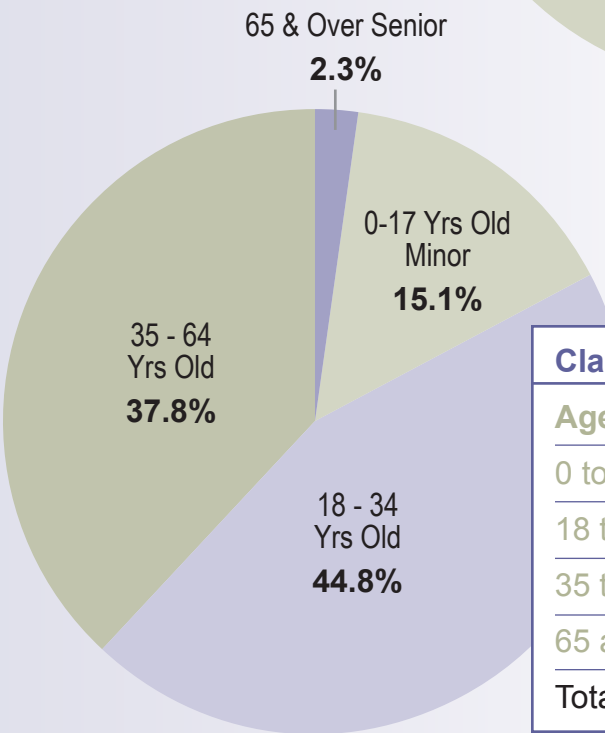
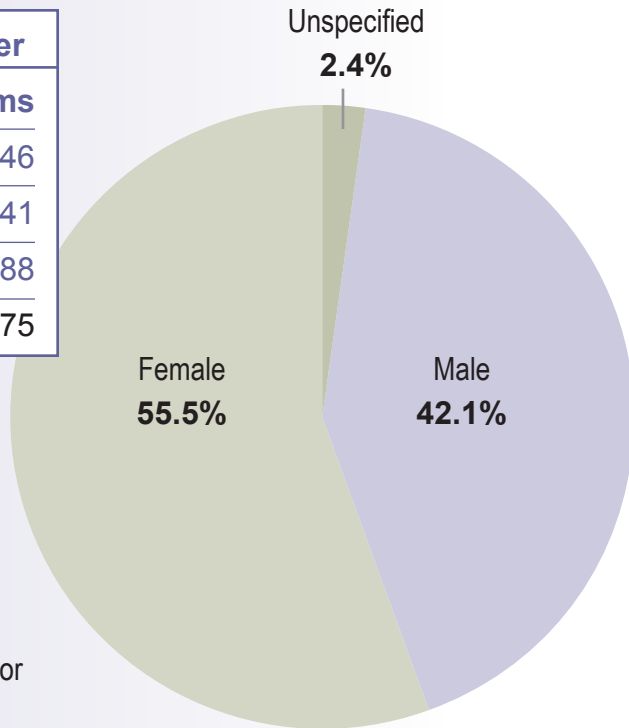
County	Claims	Paid
Essex	655	2,311,502.97
Camden	197	684,460.88
Union	181	650,825.50
Hudson	159	646,104.68
Monmouth	154	592,843.90
Ocean	98	502,528.54
Passaic	125	487,973.52
Middlesex	141	485,682.52
Bergen	113	410,775.34
Mercer	107	338,097.24
Morris	53	202,224.84
Atlantic	64	192,580.50
Somerset	37	167,642.26
Cumberland	46	128,897.84
Burlington	36	109,540.87
Salem	24	81,453.97
Gloucester	23	59,405.74
Cape May	20	56,461.47
Hunterdon	11	49,930.57
Sussex	25	45,973.09
Warren	14	31,568.24
Out-of-State	1	194.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>\$8,236,669.14</b>



# FY 16 Demographics

VCCO

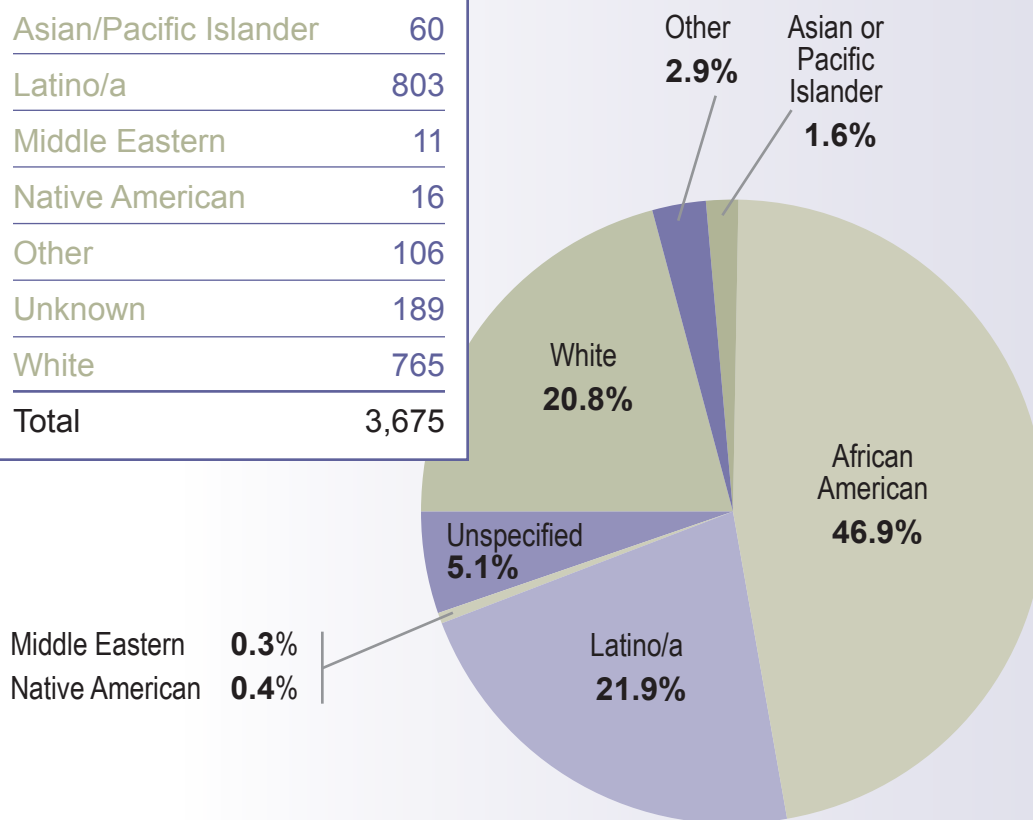
Claims Received by Gender	
Gender	Claims
Male	1,546
Female	2,041
Unspecified	88
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,675</b>



Claims Received by Age Group	
Age	Claims
0 to 17	554
18 to 34	1,648
35 to 64	1,388
65 and over	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,675</b>

# FY 16 Demographics (continued)

Claims Received by Race	
Race	Claims
African American	1,725
Asian/Pacific Islander	60
Latino/a	803
Middle Eastern	11
Native American	16
Other	106
Unknown	189
White	765
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,675</b>

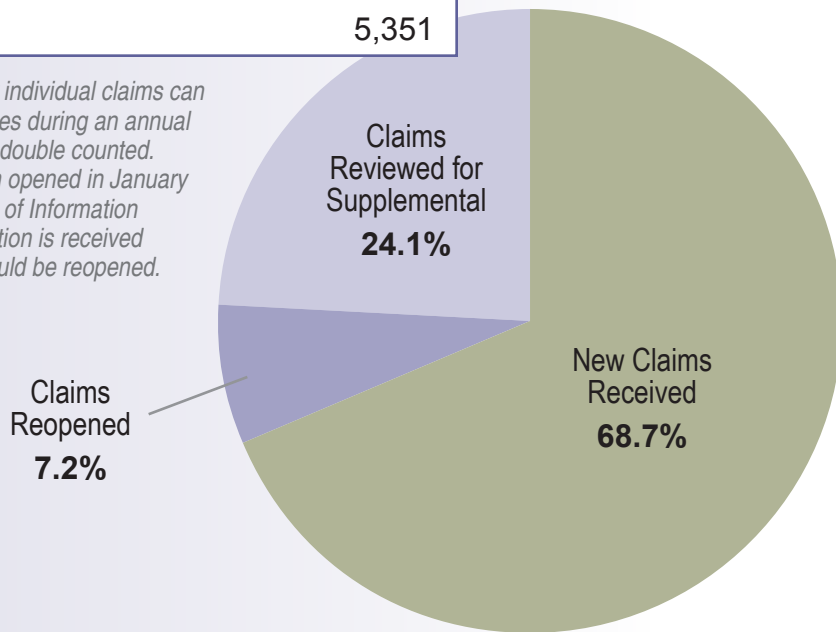


# FY 16 Total Annual Activity

VCCO

Total Annual Activity	
New Claims Received	3,675
Claims Reopened	384
Claims Reviewed for Supplemental	1,291
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,351</b>

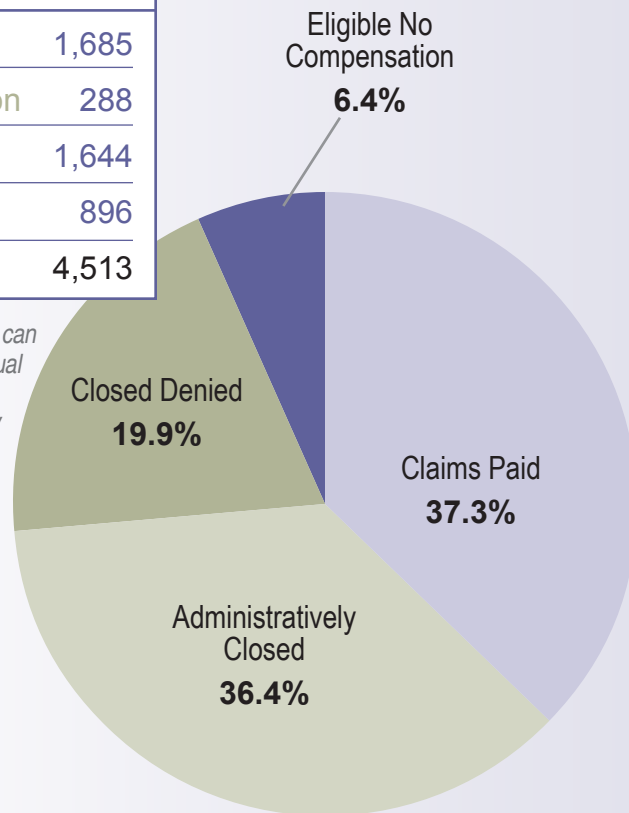
*Caveat - Because our individual claims can fall in various categories during an annual period, claims can be double counted. Example: A new claim opened in January can be closed for lack of Information in April; when information is received in June, the claim would be reopened.*



# FY 16 Claims Disposition

Claims Disposition	
Original Claims Paid	1,685
Eligible No Compensation	288
Administratively Closed	1,644
Closed Denied	896
<b>Total Claims Concluded</b>	<b>4,513</b>

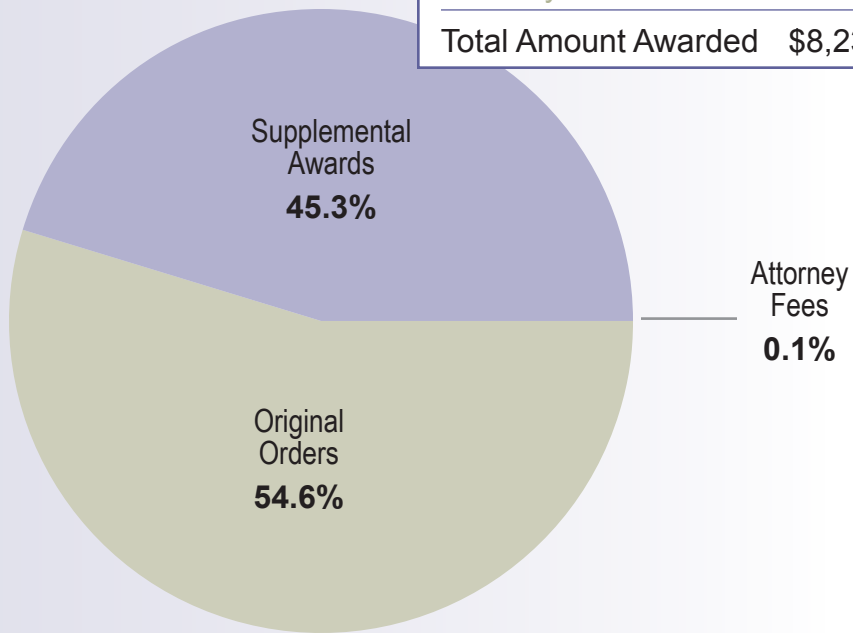
*Caveat - Because our individual claims can fall in various categories during an annual period, claims can be double counted. Example: A new claim opened in January can be closed for lack of information in April; when information is received in June, the claim would be reopened.*



# FY 16 Awards Analysis

VCCO

Type of Award	Amount
Original orders	\$4,494,902.55
Supplemental Awards	3,731,644.85
Attorney Fees	10,121.74
<b>Total Amount Awarded</b>	<b>\$8,236,669.14</b>

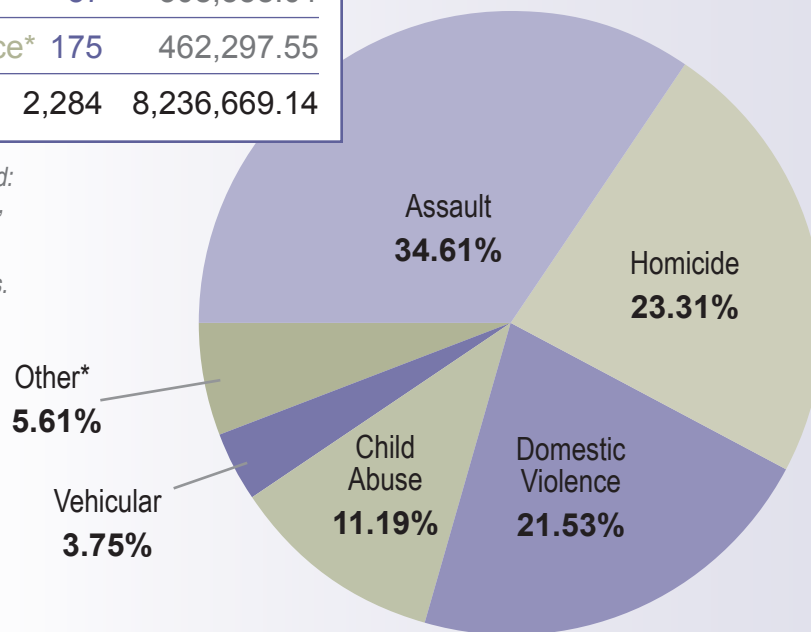


# FY 16 Analysis of Crime Types

## by Number of Claims & Awards

Crime Type	Claims	Amount
Assault	868	2,850,708.91
Homicide	392	1,919,819.88
Domestic Violence	505	1,773,270.20
Child Abuse	287	922,014.59
Vehicular	57	308,558.01
Other crime of violence*	175	462,297.55
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>8,236,669.14</b>

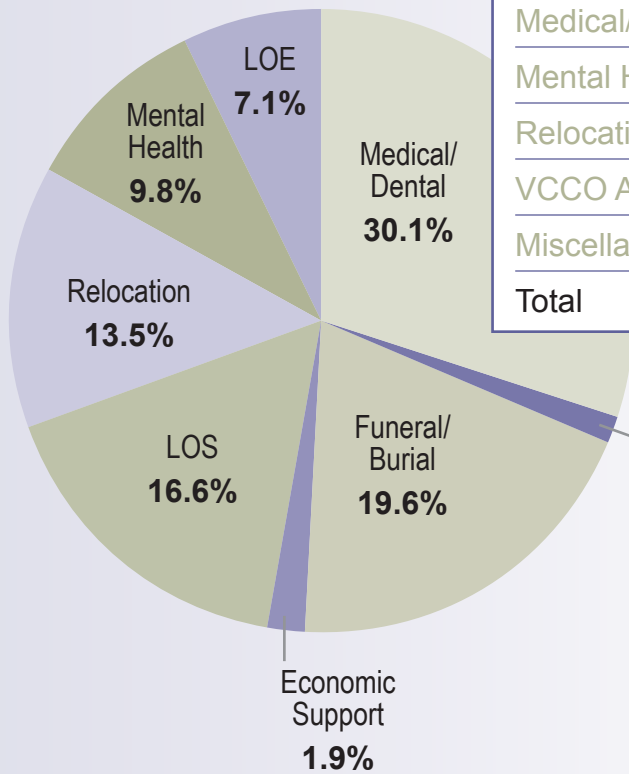
\*Other crime of violence - Included:  
 Arson, Bias, Burglary, Kidnapping,  
 Lewd, Indecent or Obscene Act,  
 Robbery, Tampering, Threats to  
 do bodily harm and Miscellaneous.



# FY 16 Award Amount by Provider Type

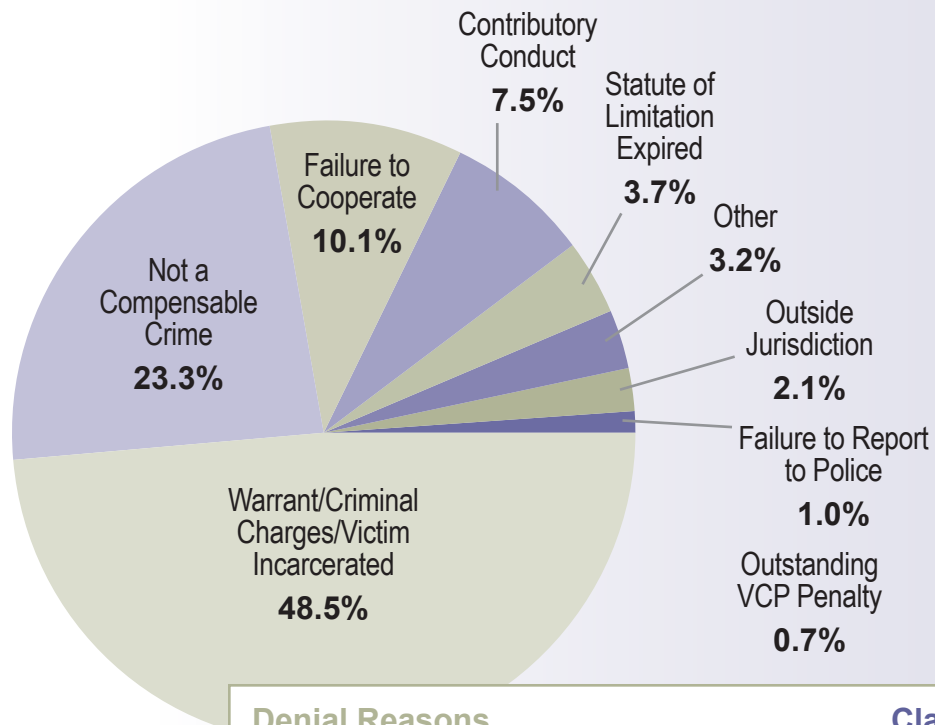
VCCO

Award Amount by Provider Type	
Attorney Criminal Rights	28,171.65
Attorney Private	10,117.19
Crime Scene Cleanup	32,699.12
Economic Support	157,163.57
Emergency	46,432.14
Funeral/Burial	1,613,212.67
Loss of Earning	581,926.57
Loss of Support	1,367,632.60
Medical/Dental	2,479,709.05
Mental Health	804,767.86
Relocation	1,113,861.68
VCCO Assessments	825.00
Miscellaneous	150.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,236,669.14</b>



Attorney Criminal Rights	0.3%
Attorney Private	0.1%
Crime Scene Cleanup	0.4%
Emergency	0.6%
VCCO Assessments	>0.0%
Miscellaneous	>0.0%

# FY 16 Commons Reasons for Denial



Denial Reasons	Claims
Warrant/Criminal Charges/Victim Incarcerated	422
Outstanding VCP Penalty	6
Failure to Cooperate	88
Contributory Conduct	65
Not a Compensable Crime	203
Statute of Limitation Expired	32
Failure to Report to Police	9
Outside Jurisdiction	18
Other	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>871</b>

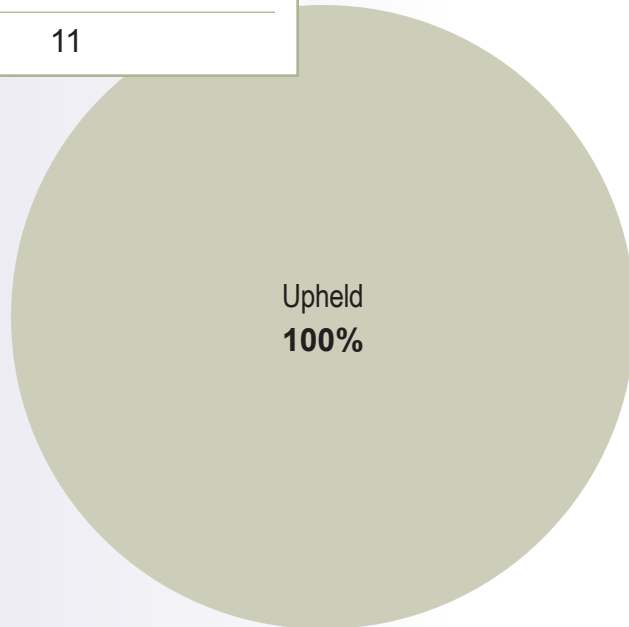
# FY 16 Hearing Results

## Statistics

VCCO

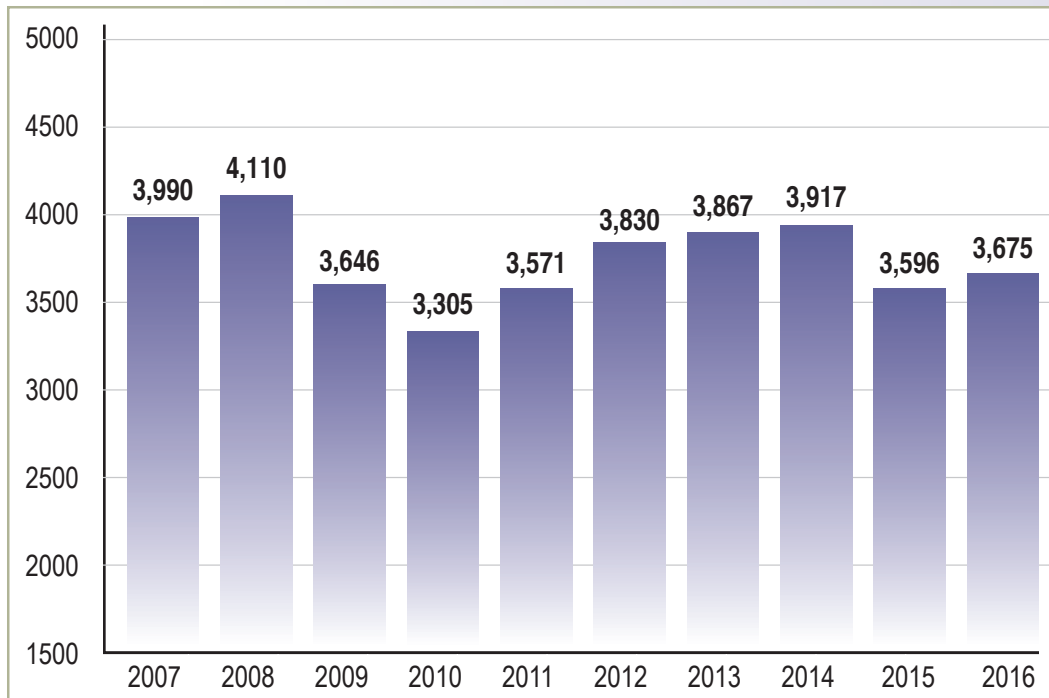
	Claims	Percentage
Reversed or Remanded	0	0.0%
Upheld	11	100.0%
Total	11	

Reversed or  
Remanded  
**0%**



# Historical Analysis

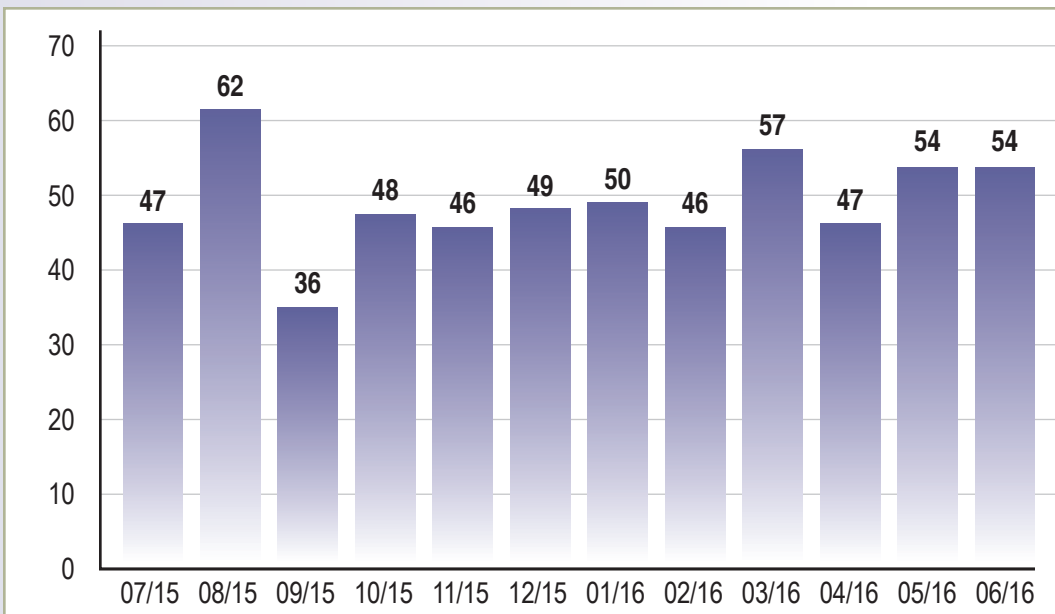
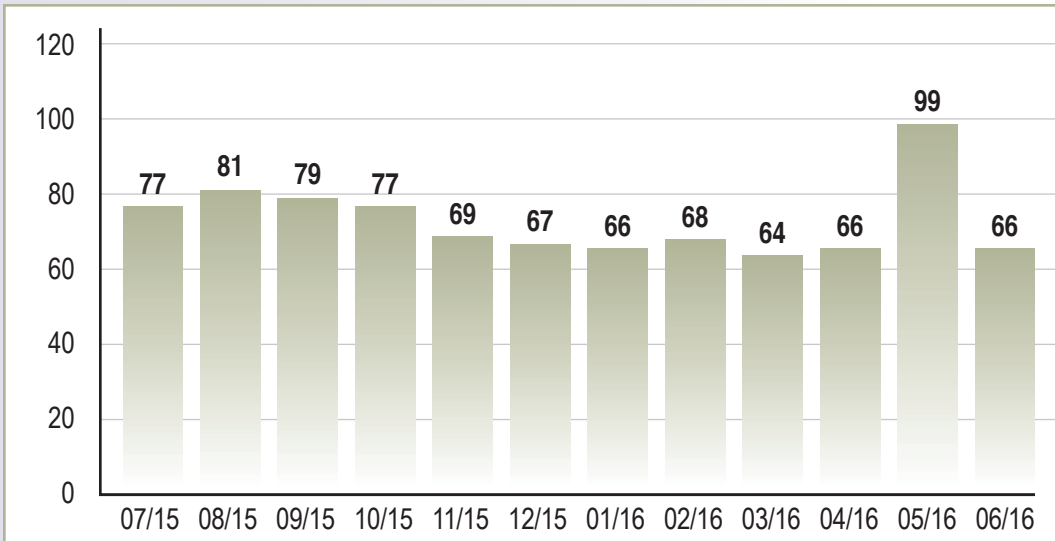
## of Claims Received FY 2007 - 2016



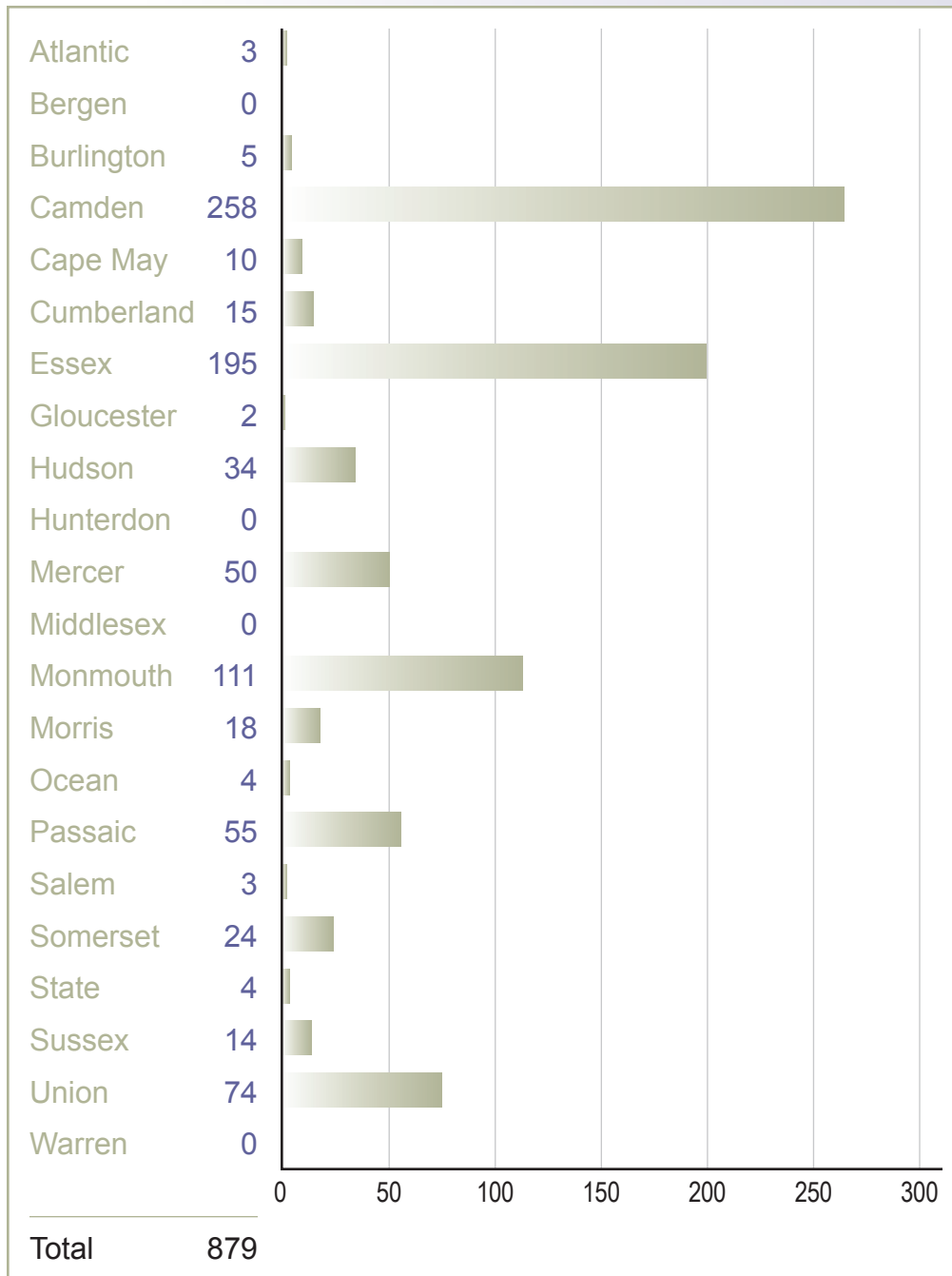
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Claims</b>
2007	3,990
2008	4,110
2009	3,646
2010	3,305
2011	3,571
2012	3,830
2013	3,867
2014	3,917
2015	3,596
2016	3,675

# FY 16 New Claims Submitted Online by Victim Witness Advocates and the Public

FY 16	Jul15	Aug15	Sep15	Oct15	Nov15	Dec15	Jan16	Feb16	Mar16	Apr16	May16	Jun16	Total
<b>VW</b>	77	81	79	77	69	67	66	68	64	66	99	66	879
<b>Public</b>	47	62	36	48	46	49	50	46	57	47	54	54	596



# FY 16 New Claims Submitted Online by County Victim Witness



# FY 16 Walk-In Statistics

## FY 2016 Walk-In Statistics: July 2015 - June 2016

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
New Walk Ins	64	79	66	47	45	63	36	42	53	45	46	56	642
Case Processing Intake Walk-Ins	55	48	70	47	47	47	45	30	40	26	47	39	541
Investigator Assigned Walk-Ins	18	20	28	51	32	43	24	34	35	28	25	28	366
Intake Covering for Investigators	35	22	35	31	18	21	28	20	19	16	29	20	294
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1843</b>

# FY 16 Turn Around Time for Filing and Assigning

## Time Period Between Crime and Victim Filing a Claim

	Claims	Percentage
Less than 1 Month	1,346	36.63%
Between 1 Month and 6 Months	1,478	40.22%
Between 6 Months and 1 Year	382	10.39%
Between 1 Year and 2 Years	217	5.90%
Between 2 Years and 5 Years	163	4.44%
More than 5 Years	89	2.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,675</b>	

## Time Period Between Claim Filed and Assignment to Investigator\*

Less than 1 Month	1,335	54.25%
Less than 2 Months	362	14.71%
Less than 3 Months	181	7.35%
Less than 4 Months	176	7.15%
Less than 5 Months	161	6.54%
Less than 6 Months	122	4.96%
More than 6 Months	124	5.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,461</b>	

## Time Period Between Claim Filed and Assignment to Investigator\*

### Emergency Claims Only

Less than 1 Month	529	61.44%
Less than 2 Months	129	14.98%
Less than 3 Months	59	6.85%
Less than 4 Months	50	5.81%
Less than 5 Months	31	3.60%
Less than 6 Months	19	2.21%
More than 6 Months	44	5.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>861</b>	

\* Most claims are only assigned to Investigators for eligibility determination when sufficient documentation has been received and that includes police reports, medical reports, EOB, etc.

# FY 16 Turn Around Time for Case Processing

VCCO

## Time Period Between Claim First Assigned to Investigator and First Closed by Investigator

Original Closure	Claims	Percentage
Less than 1 Month	779	51.35%
Less than 2 Month	241	15.89%
Less than 3 Month	163	10.74%
Less than 4 Month	143	9.43%
Less than 5 Month	137	9.03%
Less than 6 Month	42	2.77%
More than 6 Month	12	0.79%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,517</b>	

## Time Period Between Claim First Assigned to Investigator and First Closed by Investigator

Less than 1 Month	696	76.32%
Less than 2 Month	105	11.51%
Less than 3 Month	37	4.06%
Less than 4 Month	31	3.40%
Less than 5 Month	28	3.07%
Less than 6 Month	10	1.10%
More than 6 Month	5	0.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>912</b>	

## Time Period Between Claim First Assigned to Investigator and First Closed by Investigator\*

Less than 1 Month	2,161	84.58%
Less than 2 Month	310	12.13%
Less than 3 Month	74	2.90%
Less than 4 Month	8	0.31%
Less than 5 Month	2	0.08%
Less than 6 Month	0	0.00%
More than 6 Month	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,555</b>	

\* One claim will be counted multiple times if closed supplemental multiple times during this fiscal year.

# FY 16 Resources

<b>Revenue</b>	
<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Court Penalties	\$4,451,311
Criminal Disposition Penalties	336,875
Commissary	2,509,322
Sex Crime Treatment	132,269
Restitution	206,246
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,636,023</b>
<b>Federal VOCA Grant</b>	
<b>Federal Fiscal Year</b>	
FY 2012	\$772
FY 2013	\$0
FY 2014	1,372,237
<b>Total Federal VOCA Grant*</b>	<b>\$1,373,009</b>
<b>State Appropriation</b>	
<b>Direct State Services</b>	
Salaries and Wages	\$1,092,000
Material and Supplies	19,534
Services Other Than Personal	30,484
Maintenance and Fixed Charges	14,820
<b>Total State Appropriation</b>	<b>\$1,156,837</b>
<b>Carry Forward</b>	
FY 16 Carry Forward	\$4,230,201
<b>Total Carry Forward</b>	<b>\$4,230,201</b>
<b>Total FY 16 Resources</b>	<b>\$14,396,070</b>

*\*Federal VOCA grants listed are equal to the amount spent in FY 2016. FY 2015 Federal funds were awarded after the start of the State FY 2016 and will be spent in subsequent fiscal years prior to the grant expiration date.*

# FY 16 Expenditures

VCCO

<b>Salaries &amp; Operations</b>	
Salaries and Wages	\$2,207,255
Material and Supplies	65,307
Services Other Than Personal *	704,354
Maintenance and Fixed Charges	14,820
Information Technology	95,201
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Operations</b>	<b>\$3,086,937</b>
<b>State &amp; Federal Claims</b>	
State Claims	\$6,349,148
State Claims (Sex Crimes Treatment Fund)	181,361
Federal Claims - FY12 VOCA Grant	772
Federal Claims - FY13 VOCA Grant	0
Federal Claims - FY14 VOCA Grant	1,366,131
<b>Total State &amp; Federal Claims</b>	<b>\$7,897,412</b>
<b>Total FY16 Expenditures</b>	<b>\$10,984,349</b>

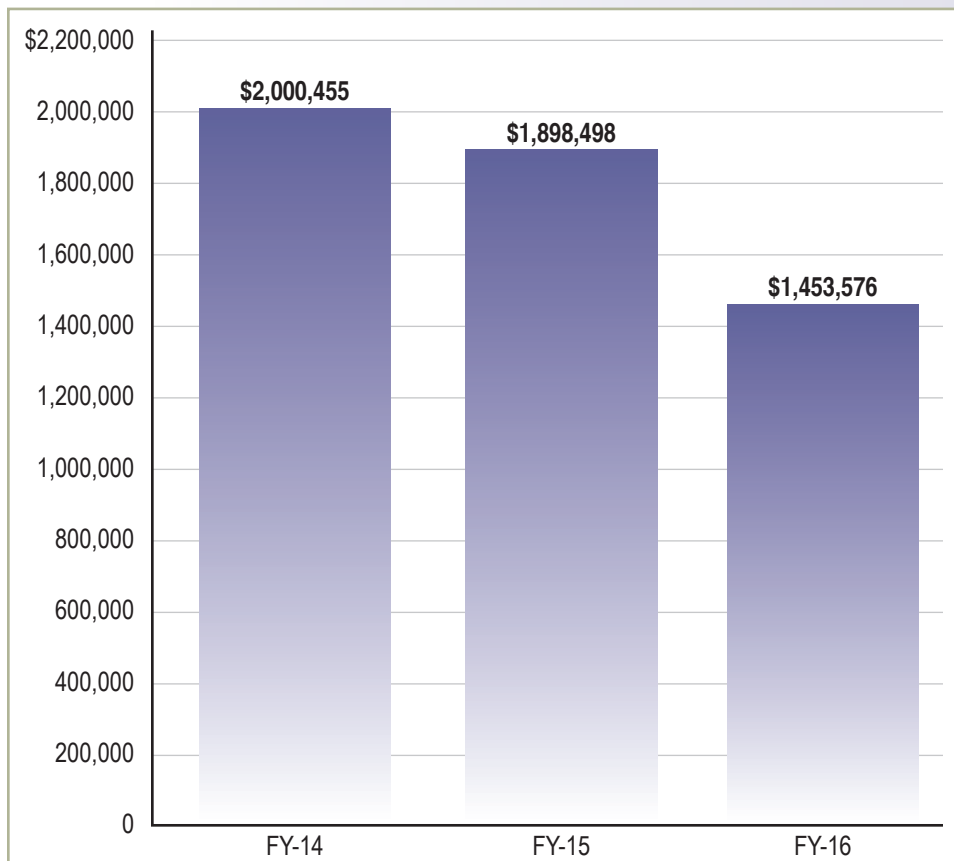
\* Includes FY 2014 VOCA grant funds in the amount of \$6,106.

# Savings Achieved

## Through 3rd Party Review of Medical Bills

Continuing through Fiscal Year 2016, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office contracted with a bill review service to ensure submitted bills were deemed “reasonable and customary” for the services provided. Nearly \$1.5 million saved in Fiscal Year 2016.

Fiscal Year	Review Amount	Review Fee*	Net Savings
FY 14	\$2,029,199	\$28,744	\$2,000,455
FY 15	\$1,921,986	\$23,488	\$1,898,498
FY 16	\$1,468,960	\$15,384	\$1,453,576



# Benefits in a Nutshell

VCCO

## Crimes Covered

- Aggravated Assault
- Bias Crimes
- Burglary
- Carjacking
- Domestic Violence
- Drug and Food Tampering
- Human Trafficking
- Indecent Acts with Children
- Kidnapping
- Lewd, Indecent or Obscene Acts
- Manslaughter
- Motor Vehicle Offenses
- Murder
- Sexually Related Crimes
- Stalking
- Threat to do Bodily Harm

## What You Need to File

- Completed NJ VCCO Application
- Police Report
- Copies of Bills and Receipts of all Related Losses
- Documentation

## Time Requirements

- Report Crime to Police Within 9 Months
- File Claim Application with NJ VCCO within 3 Years

## Benefits Provided

- \$25,000 Maximum

## Mental Health Counseling

- Homicide Survivor- \$12,500
- Injured Victim- \$12,500
- Secondary Victim(s)- \$7,000
- Group Counseling- \$50 per Session per Victim

## Medical Bills

- Medical Bills not Covered by Other Sources
- Chiropractic/ Physical Therapy
- Medical Supplies and/or Other Prescription Drugs
- Medically Related Transportation

## Catastrophic Injuries

- Supplemental \$35,000 for Rehabilitative Services Only

## Loss of Earnings or Financial Support

- Maximum Amount-\$600/Week
- Loss of Support- 48 Months
- Loss of Earnings- Direct Victim-104 Weeks
- Permanent Disability- Direct Victim-60 Months
- Loss of Earnings- Secondary Victim-\$7,000 to Care for Primary Victim

## Others

- Funeral Cost-\$5,000
- Transportation to Funeral-\$200/Person or \$1,000 Total
- Crime Scene Cleanup- \$4,000
- Relocation Expenses- \$2,500
- Domestic Help not to exceed \$6,500 Total
- Child Care/Day Care Services- \$6,500
- Victims' Rights Attorney Fees (Criminal Matter)- \$125/Hr with a \$3,000 Maximum
- Attorney Fees for Representing Victims in VCCO Claim (Up to 15% of the Award)

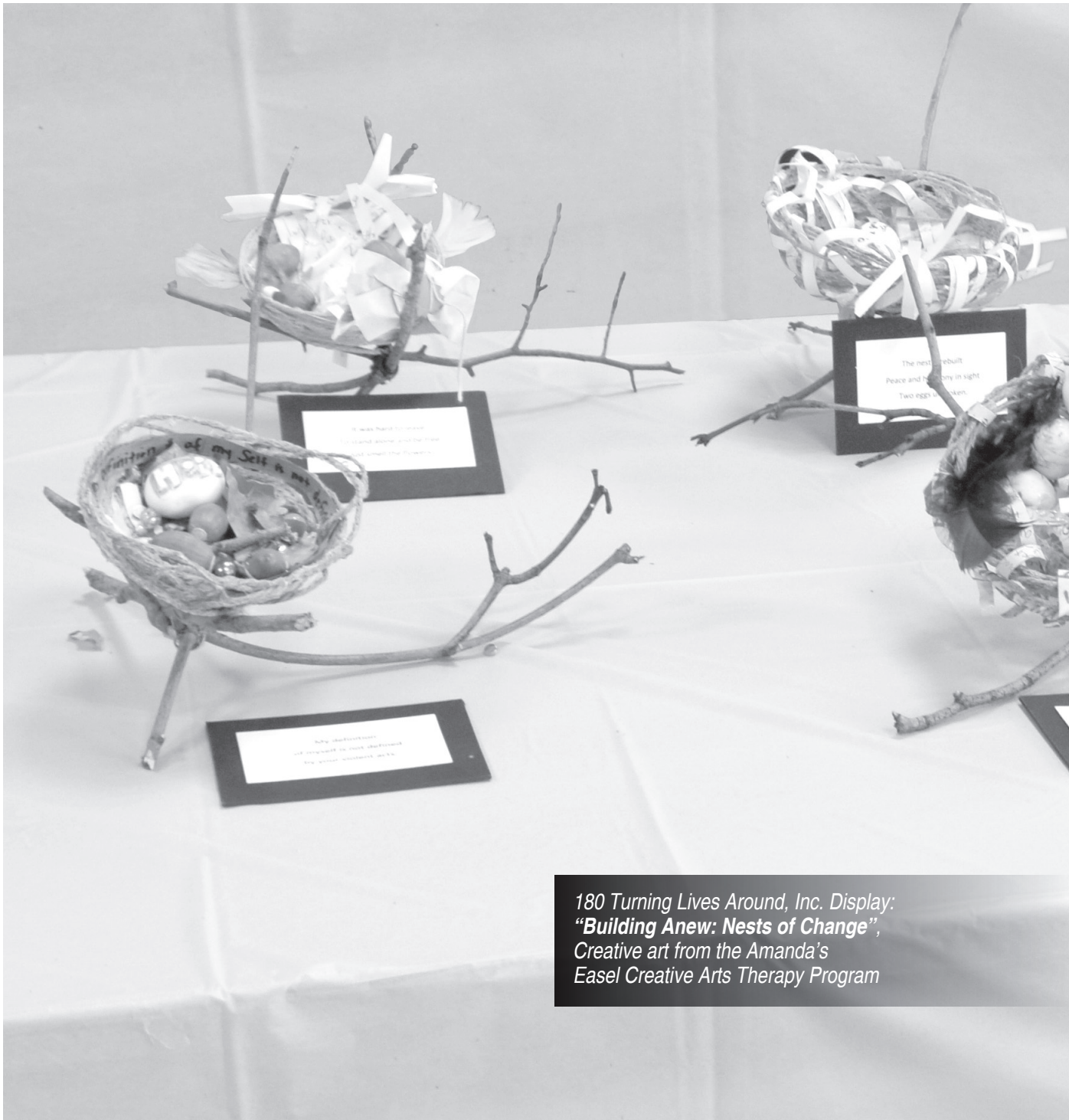
# Outreach and Training

The Outreach and Training Group is comprised of members from the investigative staff, support staff, Marsetta Lee, Executive Director and John Holl, Assistant Attorney General. As committed public servants, we recognize our social responsibility; thus, we are continuously creating new initiatives that stand by our mission to serve crime victims. With the recent expansion of our electronic claims filing process, it has allowed the Agency to increase services offered to victims who reside in underserved communities by giving them the opportunity to file their applications online and obtain immediate assistance from our Intake Staff.

When the Agency receives a request for outreach services, our training is tailored to fit the needs of each stakeholder, including but not limited to the legal communities, advocates, faith based groups, law enforcement, municipal court administrators and non-profit agencies. We offer basic and comprehensive training. This past year, we have distributed over 38,000 pieces of outreach material, nearly forty percent of which was written in Spanish.

<b>Outreach Materials Distributed - FY 2016</b>						
	<b>Claim Application</b>	<b>Informational Brochure</b>	<b>Tri-Fold Card</b>	<b>Miranda Warning Card</b>	<b>Small Poster</b>	<b>Large Poster</b>
English	8,550	8,350	3,950	400	35	10
Spanish	6,850	6,340	3,150	360	26	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>14,690</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>16</b>

# Crime Victims' Rights Week 2016 Ceremony



180 Turning Lives Around, Inc. Display:  
**"Building Anew: Nests of Change"**,  
Creative art from the Amanda's  
Easel Creative Arts Therapy Program



In keeping with tradition, the State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy and the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) hosted the Division of Criminal Justice's Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week Awards Ceremony. The event is held every April at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton. The 2016 theme was "Serving Victims, Building Trust, Restoring Hope." The theme reflected the steadfast commitment by law enforcement, victim advocates and victim service providers to use best practices when administering to victims, while instilling hope and also gaining and maintaining victim trust - not only in New Jersey, but throughout our nation. The event opened with an energetic performance by The Camden Sophisticated Sisters Drill Team (CSS), which is a nationally known drill team based in Camden, New Jersey. The drill team members consist entirely of students, and they captivated the audience with their creative performance.

VCCO Executive Director Marsetta Lee moderated a panel discussion entitled "When Men are Victims of Domestic Violence." The panel was comprised of four members: Danielle S. Buckley, Assistant Prosecutor, Special Victims Unit, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office; Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro, LCSW, Director of Statewide Human Trafficking Services and Dream Catcher Program and The Women's Center; Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director, NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault; and Maria Reynolds, MA, Victim-Witness Coordinator, Union County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, Union County Prosecutor's Office. The panelists and

the audience engaged in an enlightening colloquy about male victimization that covered an array of topics, including, but not limited to: what we know about male victims, how to increase public awareness of this problem, reasons why male victims remain silent about their situation, and the paucity of victim services for men. In addition to revealing important facts about the problem of male victims of domestic violence, the discussion caused all who heard or participated to be sensitized – or further sensitized – to the need for improving and/or further developing resources and services for male domestic violence victims. Our keynote speaker was former Assistant Attorney General Shaver Jeffries. Shavar presented an emotional story of his life experiences and the problems that he endured growing up in a household that involved domestic violence. Shavar described the aftermath of the trauma he experienced, and he explained how he became a victorious survivor in spite of the difficult circumstances that



he suffered. Shavar also spoke about how advocacy and support systems can make a substantial and positive difference for victims during the aftershock of a crime by helping to restore a victim's confidence.

The event also featured our OAG Excellence Awards ceremony, during which four award recipients from across the state were honored. The awards were presented by Acting Attorney General Lougy and Division Director Honig. Joaneileen Coughleen received the Crime Victims' Right Award; Kristie Baker Gardener received the Endurance Award; Ann Luvera received the Gladiator Award; and 180 Turning Lives Around - accepted by Liz Graham - received the Ronald W. Reagan Award. We recognize that our award recipients are in one sense life savers in their communities; they help restore hope and trust to victims with their unswerving passion, dedication,

and a degree of commitment that often extends beyond the call of duty. Acting Attorney General Robert Lougy stated, “Through their tireless efforts, these crime victim advocates change the landscape every day in communities throughout the state.” “Last year, the Division of Criminal Justice helped serve the needs of more than 92,000 individuals of crime,” said Elie Honig, Director. The event reflected the State’s commitment to compassionate and effective service to crime victims.



**Robert Lougy,**  
*New Jersey Acting Attorney General  
(at the time of this event)*



**PANELISTS:** **Patricia Teffenhart**, Executive Director of the NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault; **Maria Reynolds**, MA Victim-Witness Coordinator, Union County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, Union County Prosecutor’s Office; **Danielle S. Buckley**, Assistant Prosecutor, Special Victims Unit, Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office; **Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro**, LCSW Director of Statewide Human Trafficking Services & Dream Catcher Program, The Women’s Center



**Director Elie Honig, DCJ; Kristie Baker Gardener, Victim Witness Advocate, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office; Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro, LCSW, Director of Statewide Human Trafficking Services & Dream Catcher Program; Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Danielle S. Buckley, Assistant Prosecutor, Special Victims Unit, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office; Joaneileen Coughlan, Director of Domestic Violence Services, WomenRising; Ann Luvera, First Deputy Assistant Prosecutor, Union County Prosecutor's Office; Liz Graham, 180 Turning Lives Around; Maria Reynolds, MA Victim-Witness Coordinator, Union County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, Union County; Shavar Jeffries, Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP and former AAG and Counsel to AG Anne Milgram**



**Entertainment: The Almighty Percussion Sound (TAPS) and the Camden Sophisticated Sisters (CSS)**



Endurance Award: **Kristie Baker Gardener**, Victim Witness Advocate, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office; Crime Victims' Rights Award: **Joaneileen Coughlan**, Director of Domestic Violence Services, WomenRising; **Shavar Jeffries**, Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP and former AAG and Counsel to AG Anne Milgram; Ronald W. Reagan Award: **180 Turning Lives Around**, award accepted by Liz Graham; Gladiator Award: **Ann Luvera**, First Deputy Assistant Prosecutor, Union County Prosecutor's Office



Crime Victims' Rights Week Planning Committee: **Tracy Abbate**, SOVWA; **Linda Santiago**, SOVWA; **Gail Stone**, SOVWA; **Marilyn Easley**, SOVWA; **Ramona Peterson**, VCCO; **DAG Kara Webster**, SOVWA; **Dave Sabo**, SOVWA; **Iris Reaves**, SOVWA; **Robert Ash**, SOVWA; **Ricardo Carabelli**, VCCO; **Phoenix Smith**, Chief, SOVWA



## VCCCO Staff

VCCCO

### **Executive Director**

Marsetta Lee, *Deputy Attorney General*

### **Deputy Director**

John Holl, *Assistant Attorney General*

### **Administration**

Michele Maraviglia

Jessica Morejon

Daisy Quiles

Winston Tsang, *IT Staff*

Jeff Zuber, *IT Staff*

### **Intake**

Melissa Verardi, *Manager*

Audeliz Acevedo

Jacqueline Botticello

Gerriann DeCicco

Vanessa Gomez

Elizabeth Lucano

Tabitha Otero

Marjorie Scarder

### **Bill Entry**

Mimi Rosenshein, *Supervisor*

Zuanette Cabrera

Tanny Kyak

### **Investigators**

Mary Ellen Bonsper, *Chief of Investigators*

Craig DiFiore, *Deputy Chief of Investigators*

Richard Gill, *Supervisor*

Ramona Peterson, *Supervisor*

Jacquelin Sierchio, *Supervisor*

Kathy Yuill, *Supervisor*

Tobi Footman, *Sr. Investigator*

Peter Kobylarz, *Sr. Investigator*

Leana Allen

Doug Brooks

Ricardo Carabelli

Dalisha Carmichael

Telisa Chambers

Tom Cicalese

Maggie Miranda

Ken Thomas

Michelle Williams

### **Temporary Staff**

A special thanks to the best temporary staff an office could have:

Marianela Caraballo-Soto

Connie Logan

Kamilah Eden

### **OAG Support Staff**

Joseph Cordoma, *OAG IT*

Maria Lugo, *OAG HR*

# VCCO Information Request

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

E-mail:

Provider, Organization, Association:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Shipping Address:

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## MATERIAL REQUESTED

Application Request:       English       1       5       10       25       50       100

Spanish       1       5       10       25       50       100

Brochure Request:       English       1       5       10       25       50       100

Spanish       1       5       10       25       50       100

Tri-Fold Information Card Request:       English       1       5       10       25       50       100

Spanish       1       5       10       25       50       100

Large (39"X26") Poster Request:       English       1       5       10

Spanish       1       5       10

Small (24"X18") Poster Request:       English       1       5       10

Spanish       1       5       10

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## SPEAKER REQUESTED

Date:

Time:

**Fax to 973-648-3937. Mail to VCCO, 50 Park Place, 5th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102**  
**Or submit your request using our online request form at [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)**



NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION OFFICE**

[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org) • TOLL FREE 877-658-2221