A mosaic sculpture of a woman, likely a deity or historical figure, standing in front of a house and trees. The sculpture is made of small tiles and depicts a woman with long hair, wearing a long, flowing robe. She holds a staff in her right hand, topped with a globe. Her left hand is tucked into her robe. Behind her head is a large, ornate, circular halo or crown. The background shows a house with a gabled roof and dense foliage.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

- Coretta Scott King

## Community Description

**A** subjective view on an objective scale portrays Oklahoma with many opportunities for growth. Oklahoma is often known as one of the lowest ranked states in the United States in lists where the desire is to be high and fairly highly ranked when the desire is to be low.



**COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**  
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# THE STATE OF THE STATE . . . . .

Recognizing that interpersonal violence (IPV) is a factor in the social determinates of health, the needs assessment contains a snapshot of the state's health.

## HEALTH

Contributing to our high mortality rates are behavioral risk factors that disproportionately overburden Oklahomans. Areas of concern include the following:



Oklahoma has the next to lowest rate of fruit consumption in the nation.



Oklahoma has the 44th lowest rate of vegetable consumption in the nation.



Oklahoma is the 44th least physically active state in the nation.

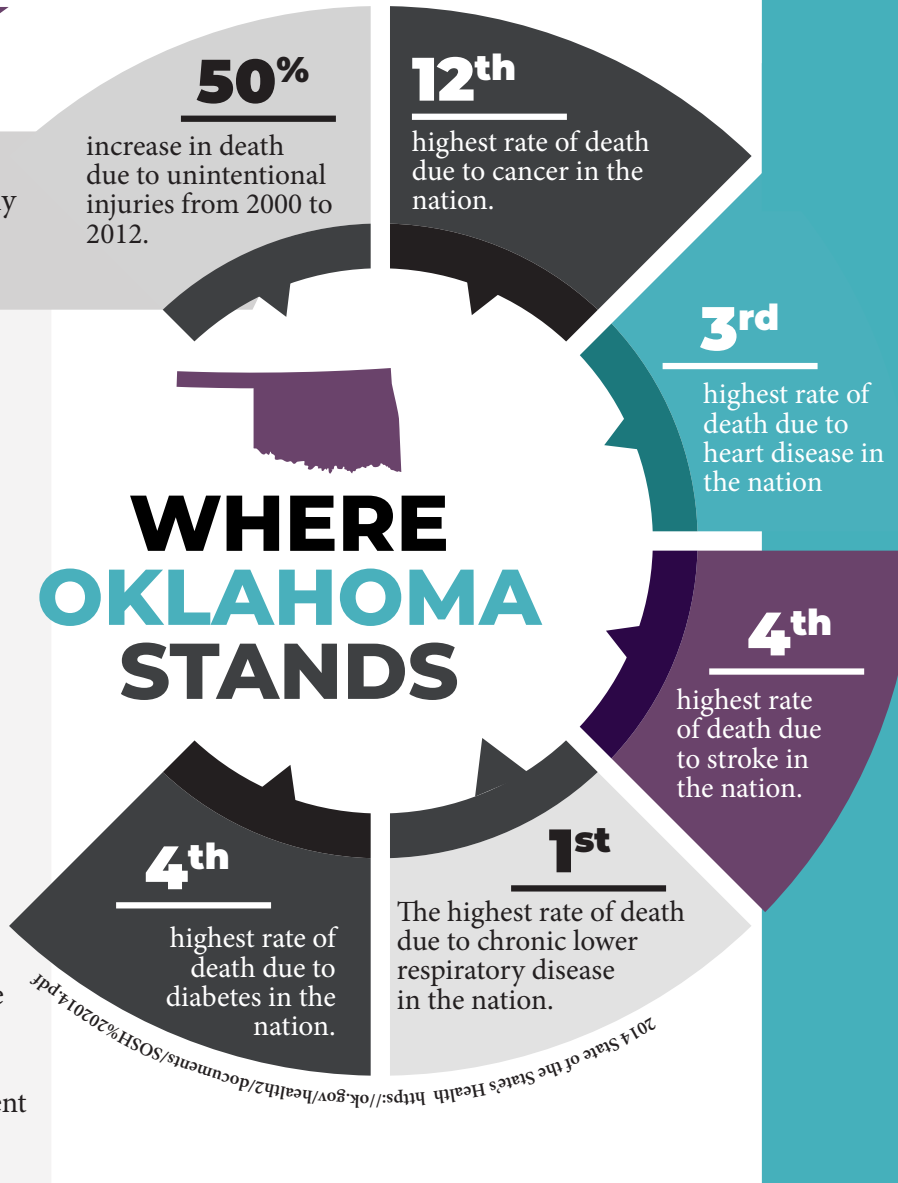


Oklahoma has the sixth highest rate of obesity in the nation.



Oklahoma's adult smoking rate in 2012, while better than the 26.1 percent in 2011, was 23.3 percent compared to 19.6 percent nationally.

## WHERE OKLAHOMA STANDS



In addition to these health rankings, data must also be included regarding substance use disorders.

According to Intimate Partner Violence and Co-Occurring Substance Abuse/Addiction by Richard G. Soper, MD, JD, MS, FASAM, DABAM, Editor-in-Chief | October 6, 2014,

"Substance abuse has been found to co-occur in 40-60% of IPV incidents across various studies. Several lines of evidence suggest that substance use/abuse plays a facilitative role in IPV by precipitating or exacerbating violence. Some studies also suggest the benefit of interventions that focus on substance abuse/addiction in men who have histories of IPV."

<https://www.asam.org/resources/publications/magazine/read/article/2014/10/06/intimate-partner-violence-and-co-occurring-substance-abuse-addiction>

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE DATA

- Opioids were involved in 33,091 deaths in 2015, and opioid overdoses have quadrupled since 1999 in the United States
- Oklahoma has the 18th Highest Death Rate due to Unintentional Poisoning Deaths involving Opioids
- Over the past decade, unintentional poisonings increased 370% primarily due to prescription drugs
- Adults aged 35-54 accounted for more than 50% of these deaths
- 81% of unintentional poisoning deaths involved at least one prescription drug
- Of the 81% of unintentional poisoning deaths, nearly 90% were related to prescription painkillers

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>)

2. 2014 State of the State's Health <https://ok.gov/health2/documents/SOSH%202014.pdf>

## BUSINESS & COMMERCE

Despite incredible people and resources, Oklahoma ranks near the middle or bottom of many national ratings of education, economic, infrastructure, and health indicators. These ratings negatively affect our ability to attract new businesses to the state and provide the quality of life that Oklahomans deserve.

The State Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma Research Foundation has launched a three-year initiative to position Oklahoma for long-term success. OK2030 is a strategic vision and action plan to put Oklahoma at the top of national rankings by the year 2030. The initiative is informed by a strong statewide coalition of visionary leaders, job creators, local chambers, economic developers, and others dedicated to moving the state forward.

The following information is reported in the State Chamber of Oklahoma Research Foundation in the OK2030 strategic vision and action plan. The Vision for Victim Safety advisors intend to engage the OK2030 leadership team as part of the Oklahoma Coordinated Community Response Team activities.

## BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

The Tax Foundation rated Oklahoma's state business tax climate as the 31st best in the country

Oklahoma ranks 10th in the Cato Institute's regulatory policy category of their 2014 Freedom in the 50 States report

## GOVERNMENT & FISCAL STABILITY

Oklahoma has the 16th highest proportion of full-time state government to state population

Oklahoma's average public school district enrollment is the 6th lowest in the nation

## QUALITY OF LIFE

Oklahoma had the 3rd highest rate of uninsured individuals in the country in 2015

Oklahoma has the 13th highest property crime rate and 14th highest violent crime rate in the nation

Oklahoma has the 5th highest age-adjusted mortality rate, per 100,000 people

Oklahoma has the 13th highest poverty rate in the nation

Oklahoma incarcerates more women than any other state, and we have the 2nd highest overall incarceration rate in the nation

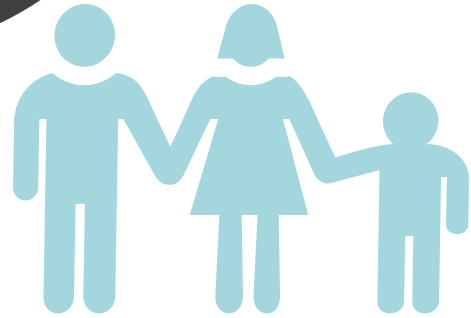


# WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Oklahoma's average annual growth rate of young population (25-29) is 25th highest in the nation and below the national average

The percentage of residents 16 and older who participated in the labor force, including all people classified as employed or unemployed, was the 12th lowest in the nation in 2015

Oklahoma is 46th in the nation in the number of employed science and engineering doctorates per 1,000 workers



In Oklahoma, 23% of bridges are considered structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, the 25th highest percentage in the nation

Thirty percent of Oklahoma's major roads are in poor condition, which is the 11th highest percentage in the nation

## INNOVATION & GROWTH

Oklahoma's average unemployment rate in 2016 was 4.9%, which was the 20th highest in the nation

Rural pavement conditions in Oklahoma are the 7th worst in the nation

Per driver, Oklahoma citizens pay more than those in any other state in extra annual vehicle operation and maintenance costs due to bad road conditions

## CRIME STATISTICS

"According to the FBI's Annual report, Crime in the United States, 2016, there were 95,730 rapes reported to law enforcement in the US, based on the Uniform Crime Reporting's legacy definition of rape. . ."

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2016-crime-statistics-released>

### OSBI DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS

Crime Type	2014	2015	2016
Homicide	47	49	54
Sex Crime	795	873	983
Assault	2,749	2,268	2,264
Assault and Battery	20,635	20,993	20,635

### OSBI INCIDENTS OF RAPE

Incidents of Rape	2014	2015	2016
For purposes of Uniform Crime Reporting, rape is divided into two categories: (1) rape by force; (2) attempted rape. Assaults to commit forcible rape are included in the index offenses category of rape.	1,877	1,948	2,134

### CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES, FBI TABLE 3 BY STATE, 2016, OKLAHOMA

Area	Population	Violent crime	Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	Rape (revised definition)	Rape (legacy definition)	Robbery	Aggravated assault
Metropolitan Statistical Area	2,640,800						
Area actually reporting	99.9%	13,864	196	1,577	1,179	2,824	9,267
Estimated total	100.0%	13,866	196	1,577	1,179	2,824	9,269
Cities outside metropolitan areas	682,233						
Area actually reporting	99.9%	2,714	28	324	238	311	2,051
Estimated total	100.0%	2,716	28	324	238	311	2,053
Non-metro Counties	600,528						
Area actually reporting	91.3%	974	19	126	84	25	804
Estimated total	100.0%	1,066	21	138	92	27	880
<b>State Total</b>	<b>3,923,561</b>	<b>17,648</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>2,039</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>12,202</b>
Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		449.8	6.2	52.0	38.5	80.6	311.0

1 The violent crime figures include the offenses of murder, rape (revised definition), robbery, and aggravated assault.

2 The figures shown in the rape (revised definition) column were estimated using the revised Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) definition of rape. See data declaration for further explanation.

3 The figures shown in the rape (legacy definition) column were estimated using the legacy UCR definition of rape. See data declaration for further explanation.

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/violent-crime/tables/table-3>

# OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW

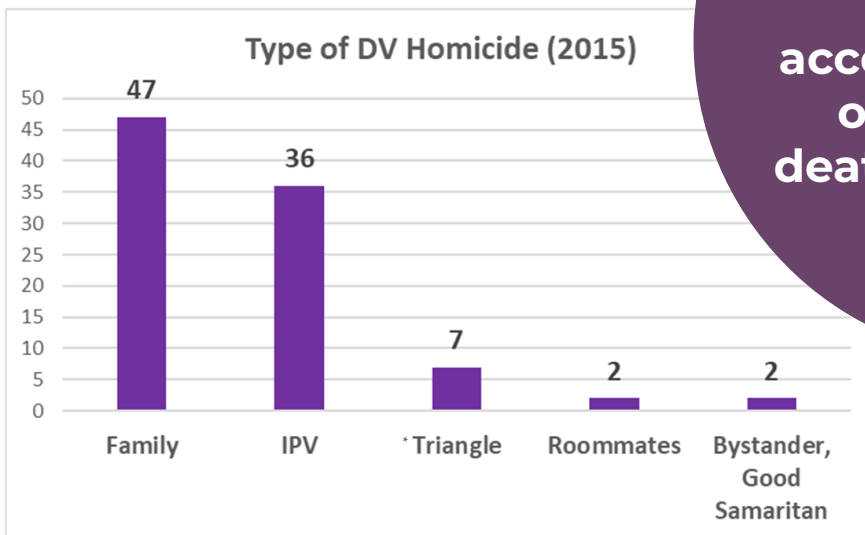
## Mission Statement

The mission of the Review Board is to reduce the number of domestic violence-related deaths in Oklahoma. The Review Board will perform multi-disciplinary review of statistical data obtained from sources within the jurisdiction and/or having direct involvement with the homicide. Using the information derived, the Review Board will identify common characteristics, and develop recommendations to improve the systems of agencies and organizations involved to better protect and serve victims of domestic abuse.

In addition to the FBI crime statistics, the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board produces an annual report regarding domestic violence homicides. The most recent report is an analysis of 2015 Domestic Violence Homicides. The report includes information learned from domestic violence homicides, as well as recommendations for systems to strategically address domestic violence in Oklahoma.

In 2015 alone, 111 people lost their lives. These deaths included domestic violence victims killed by intimate partners and ex-intimate partners, family members killed by family members, children killed by family members, roommates killed by roommates, and suicide deaths of perpetrators. Of the 111 people who died, 94 were identified as domestic violence homicide victims, and 17 were identified as homicide perpetrators who died as a result of suicide, law enforcement intervention, or bystander intervention.

**Domestic Violence homicides accounted for 19.5% of all homicide deaths in Oklahoma**



\* A triangular homicide involves situations in which former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend kills a new spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend, or vice versa.



**In 2015, Tulsa County had sixteen (16) cases with twenty-two (22) victim deaths. Oklahoma County had one less victim death.**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
HOMICIDES IN  
OKLAHOMA

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Domestic violence cases	89	86	86	85	92
Domestic violence homicide victims (intimate partner violence [IPV] and non-IPV)	94	93	90	88	96
<i>IPV homicide victims only</i>	36	39	43	40	46
<i>Children under the age of 18</i>	24	18	14	14	18
Domestic violence perpetrators	100	91	89	91	93
Domestic violence perpetrators who died (suicide, law enforcement/bystander intervention)	17	14	10	21	18

2015  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
RELATED  
DEATHS  
BY  
COUNTY

Number Victims who Died	County	Number Perpetrators who Committed Suicide <i>Suicide/Law Enforcement Intervention/Other</i>	Number Victims who Died	County	Number Perpetrators who Committed Suicide <i>Suicide/Law Enforcement Intervention/Other</i>
1	Adair		1	Leflore	
3	Atoka	2	2	Logan	
2	Caddo		2	McClain	
1	Canadian		1	Murray	
1	Carter		2	Muskogee	1
1	Cherokee		1	Okfuskee	
7	Cleveland	4	21	Oklahoma	4
1	Coal	1	1	Okmulgee	
3	Comanche		2	Osage	
1	Cotton		1	Pontotoc	
1	Creek		2	Rogers	
1	Custer		2	Sequoyah	
2	Garvin		2	Tillman	
1	Grady	1	22	Tulsa	2
1	Greer		1	Wagoner	
1	Jackson	1	1	Washington	
1	Kingfisher	1	1	Washita	
		Domestic Violence Homicide Cases		89	
		Domestic Violence Homicide Victims		94	
		Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrators		100	
		Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrators Who Died		17	

"I finally sought help three days ago . . . after fifteen years of abuse."

- Abuse Survivor

## KEY 2015 REVIEW BOARD FINDINGS

	Domestic Violence Homicide Victims (N=94)	%	Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrators (N=100)	%
<b>Gender</b>				
Female	40	42.5	20	20.0
Male	54	57.5	80	80.0
<b>Race</b>				
Caucasian	57	60.6	61	61.0
African American	16	17.0	19	19.0
Hispanic/Latino	9	9.6	5	5.0
Native American	5	5.3	10	10.0
Asian	4	4.3	4	4.0
Other	3	3.2	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	1	1.0
<b>Age</b>				
Under 21	26	27.7	13	13.0
21 to 40	34	36.2	54	54.0
41 to 60	28	29.8	26	26.0
Over 60	6	6.3	7	7.0
<b>Average Age</b>	31.98		35.91	

"I received more help from a stranger in the store than I did from my family and friends."

- Assault Survivor

# OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW

According to the review board, Oklahoma has implemented many proactive initiatives to reduce the number of women killed by men. Unfortunately, we continue to rank in the top 10 nationally for women killed by men in single victim, single offender incidents.

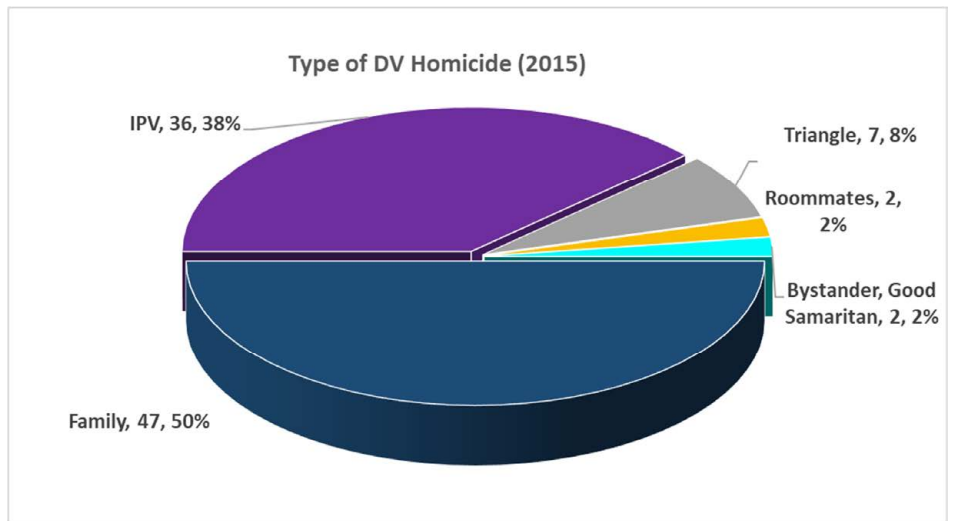
18  
years

For the past eighteen years, firearms were the most frequently used method of death in DV homicides.



This pie chart shows the "relationship" between victim and perpetrator.

A triangle homicide includes situations in which a former spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend kills the new spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, or vice versa.



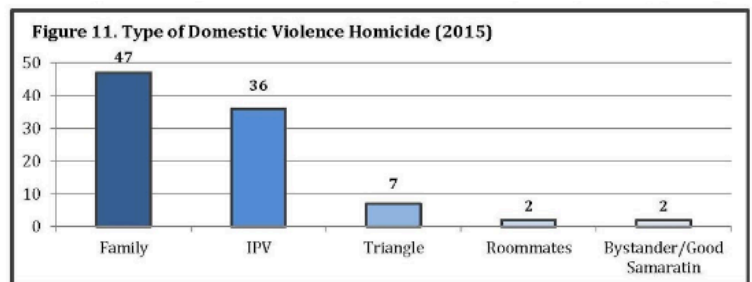
Unlike similar initiatives in other states, the Review Board identifies and reports on a wider array of domestic violence cases that include intimate partner homicides and family homicides committed by family members, who are not intimate partners, and roommates. Family members include, but are not limited to, parents, foster parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The Review Board's use of such a wide definition is consistent with the Oklahoma statutory definition of domestic abuse (22 O.S. § 60.1). [SEE 2017 Report, Page 4]



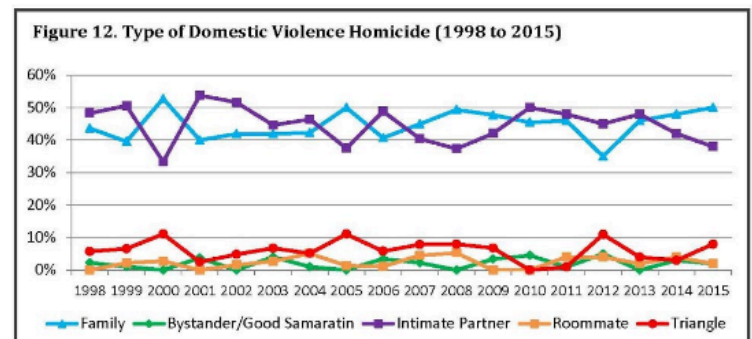
Two (2) of the 2015 homicides were a result of teen dating violence.



It should be noted, on average between 96 - 98 percent of Oklahoma domestic violence victims, who also became homicide victims, never spoke to a trained domestic violence advocate.



Relationship Type has remained fairly consistent over the past eighteen years (1998 to 2015). Family homicides and intimate partner homicides were equally represented with an average frequency of 45% each (Figure 12).







# Collaboration must exist between law enforcement and victim service agencies

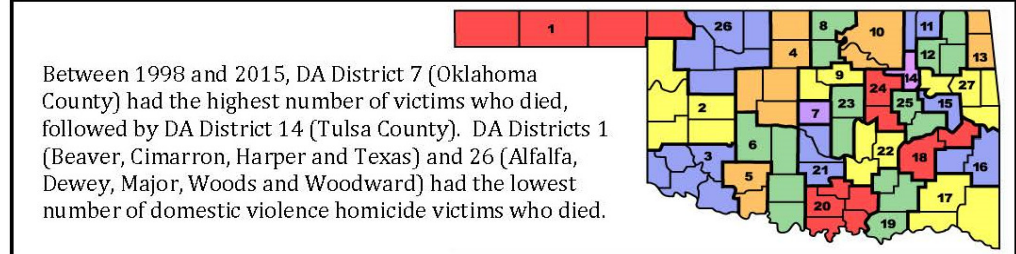
## MURDER-SUICIDE

In Oklahoma during 2015, eighty-six percent (86%) of all murder-suicides involved intimate partners. Ninety-two percent (92%) of all IPV specific murder-suicide and attempted murder-suicide cases were committed by males.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY DA DISTRICT (1998-2015)

DA District	County	Number of DV Homicide Victims
District 1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper and Texas	9
District 2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills and Washita	23
District 3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, and Tillman	16
District 4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant and Kingfisher	40
District 5	Comanche and Cotton	68
District 6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson and Stephens	52
District 7	Oklahoma	338
District 8	Kay and Noble	16
District 9	Logan and Payne	29
District 10	Osage and Pawnee	25
District 11	Nowata and Washington	17
District 12	Craig, Mayes and Rogers	47
District 13	Delaware and Ottawa	38
District 14	Tulsa	300
District 15	Muskogee	29
District 16	Latimer and Leflore	38
District 17	Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha	32
District 18	Haskell and Pittsburg	29
District 19	Atoka, Bryan and Coal	33
District 20	Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall and Murray	58
District 21	Cleveland, Garvin and McClain	67
District 22	Hughes, Pontotoc and Seminole	45
District 23	Lincoln and Pottawatomie	42
District 24	Creek and Okfuskee	27
District 25	Okmulgee and McIntosh	24
District 26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods and Woodward	9
District 27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah and Wagoner	69

NOTE: The Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board only reviews Oklahoma District Court cases. Homicide cases which occur within the geographic boundaries of Oklahoma and are adjudicated in federal or tribal court are not reviewed by the board.



# LETHALITY RISK FACTORS

The Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board reviewed 276 cases from the years 1998 through 2015. The following lethality risk factors were identified for intimate partner homicide victims.

69%	Prior evidence of domestic violence
62%	History of physical violence
7%	History of sexual violence
44%	History of psychological/emotional abuse
45%	Perpetrator made prior death threats against the victim
12%	Perpetrator strangled victim in the past
43%	Perpetrator demonstrated morbid jealousy in the past
28%	Perpetrator threatened or attempted suicide in the past
25%	Perpetrator was unemployed at the time of the death event
42%	Victim was attempting to or in the process of leaving at the time of the death

The 2015 Fatality Review Board Report also described the importance of information dissemination. Residents, immigrants, and victim's families must understand the services available to them. Whether you are a district attorney or a mental health provider, you must be an informed, accurate, and relevant source of resources for people with whom you come in contact.

\*Reviewed cases refer to those cases reviewed in depth by the Review Board during monthly meetings.

Note: Statistics reported on behavior/activities present in the relationship prior to the death are underreported from actual occurrence. The Review Board relies on law enforcement reports, various agency reports, case documentation, and witness statements/interviews for information.

Additional information about the Danger Assessment: <https://www.dangerassessment.org>

## VICTIM PROTECTIVE ORDERS

According to the Oklahoma Supreme Court Annual Report for 2016, five-thousand four-hundred twenty-nine (5,429) protective orders were issued to victims. Excluding Oklahoma County and Tulsa County, the 5th Judicial District (Comanche, Cotton, Jefferson and Stephens counties) granted the most orders. The 8th Judicial District (Kay and Noble counties) granted the fewest orders. Information is not available for the number of protective orders requested.

PROTECTIVE ORDERS GRANTED  
BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT AND BY COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

District	County	Orders	
1	Beaver	11	
	Cimarron	0	
	Harper	0	
	Texas	39	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	
2	Beckham	43	
	Custer	31	
	Ellis	0	
	Roger Mills	2	
	Washita	24	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	
3	Jackson	40	
	Greer	3	
	Harmon	6	
	Kiowa	5	
	Tillman	14	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>
4	Alfalfa	11	
	Blaine	12	
	Dewey	6	
	Garfield	61	
	Grant	0	
	Kingfisher	10	
	Major	10	
	Woods	10	
	Woodward	108	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>
	5	Comanche	347
Cotton		1	
Jefferson		10	
Stephens		50	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>
6	Caddo	0	
	Grady	106	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

District	County	Orders	
7	Oklahoma	845	
8	Kay	15	
	Noble	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	
9	Logan	193	
	Payne	133	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	
10	Osage	57	
	Nowata	13	
11	Washington	123	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>
12	Craig	35	
	Mayes	25	
	Rogers	158	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	
13	Logan	193	
	Payne	133	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	
14	Tulsa	754	
	Pawnee	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>754</b>	
15	Adair	29	
	Cherokee	82	
	Muskogee	12	
	Sequoyah	39	
	Wagoner	0	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>
	16	Haskell	2
Latimer		7	
LeFlore		297	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	
17	Choctaw	20	
	McCurtain	82	
	Pushmataha	34	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	

District	County	Orders
18	McIntosh	7
	Pittsburg	287
	<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>
19	Bryan	80
20	Carter	24
	Johnston	21
	Love	0
	Marshall	9
	Murray	21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>
21	Cleveland	301
	Garvin	45
	McClain	56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>
22	Hughes	21
	Pontotoc	57
	Seminole	41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>
23	Lincoln	52
	Pottawatomie	124
	<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>
24	Creek	44
	Okfuskee	25
	Okmulgee	113
	<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>
25	Atoka	24
	Coal	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>
26	Canadian	50
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>5,429</b>

**Only original proceedings from which an Order was issued are counted.**

See <http://www.oscn.net/static/annual-report-2016.pdf>



## DISTRICT COURT CASE TYPES BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT — FISCAL YEAR 2016 (VPO DATA REPRESENTS ONLY ORDERS GRANTED)

County	Civil	Small Claims	Divorce	Victim Protective Orders	Domestic All Other	Adoptions	Probate
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Beaver	79	11	29	11	16	2	36
Cimarron	19	18	10	0	4	1	13
Harper	42	11	11	0	13	0	34
Texas	291	233	103	39	96	6	76
<b>Total 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>431</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Beckham	424	564	152	43	89	33	78
Custer	564	587	167	31	88	20	84
Ellis	67	22	24	0	13	9	34
Roger Mills	31	11	23	2	2	3	50
Washita	177	38	71	24	31	18	51
<b>Total 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>297</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Jackson	449	561	147	40	106	15	64
Greer	71	29	39	3	30	8	16
Harmon	21	10	16	6	12	8	10
Kiowa	110	51	59	5	52	3	30
Tillman	100	62	27	14	34	1	27
<b>Total 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>751</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Alfalfa	78	24	25	11	4	3	31
Blaine	195	39	54	12	46	13	49
Dewey	89	40	26	6	7	4	46
Garfield	839	1,607	336	61	259	59	182
Grant	61	10	23	0	2	3	25
Kingfisher	300	176	66	10	57	10	114
Major	103	30	68	10	14	7	41
Woods	127	34	43	10	13	8	48
Woodward	677	699	138	108	147	13	74
<b>Total 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>610</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Comanche	2,091	4,310	724	347	409	91	241
Cotton	106	22	23	1	11	9	24

DISTRICT COURT CASE TYPES BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT — FISCAL YEAR 2016 (VPO DATA REPRESENTS ONLY ORDERS GRANTED)

County	Civil	Small Claims	Divorce	Victim Protective Orders	Domestic All Other	Adoptions	Probate
Jefferson	74	24	40	10	33	1	27
Stephens	562	955	237	50	170	25	133
<b>Total 5th</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>5,311</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>425</b>
<b>6th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Caddo	377	310	105	0	137	18	101
Grady	985	1,040	285	106	179	55	201
<b>Total 6th</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>7th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Oklahoma	16,254	25,536	3,785	845	2,072	658	1,531
<b>8th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Kay	1,429	1,141	264	15	361	34	147
Noble	183	40	58	0	45	6	57
<b>Total 8th</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Logan	463	568	217	193	57	48	120
Payne	1,328	1,251	298	133	159	44	139
<b>Total 9th</b>	<b>1,791</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Osage	562	445	185	57	144	16	156
<b>11th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Nowata	189	117	46	13	46	32	2
Washington	962	927	270	123	235	44	3
<b>Total 11th</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>12th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Craig	316	367	80	35	31	13	32
Mayes	827	736	226	25	127	31	73
Rogers	1,160	1,326	487	158	71	68	118
<b>Total 12th</b>	<b>2,303</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Delaware	811	861	269	44	112	32	90
Ottawa	550	592	164	63	189	24	63
<b>Total 13th</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>153</b>

DISTRICT COURT CASE TYPES BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT — FISCAL YEAR 2016 (VPO DATA REPRESENTS ONLY ORDERS GRANTED)

County	Civil	Small Claims	Divorce	Victim Protective Orders	Domestic All Other	Adoptions	Probate
<b>14th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Tulsa	12,869	21,164	3,041	754	660	449	1,007
Pawnee	290	160	128	0	22	13	33
<b>Total 14th</b>	<b>13,159</b>	<b>21,324</b>	<b>3,169</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>1,040</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Adair	288	585	105	29	19	23	38
Cherokee	1,359	820	269	82	119	31	97
Muskogee	1,538	1,248	444	12	256	65	151
Sequoyah	911	1,352	292	39	199	35	66
Wagoner	1,194	718	406	0	150	63	111
<b>Total 15th</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>463</b>
<b>16th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Haskell	229	108	98	2	68	17	28
Latimer	148	108	60	7	72	8	38
LeFlore	889	1,258	335	297	118	44	119
<b>Total 16th</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Choctaw	300	253	109	20	35	14	54
McCurtain	535	492	350	82	19	29	70
Pushmataha	136	76	57	34	51	13	33
<b>Total 17th</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>18th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
McIntosh	307	260	100	7	25	29	48
Pittsburg	815	1,008	293	287	336	51	176
<b>Total 18th</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>224</b>
<b>19th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Bryan	1,027	1,109	237	80	180	37	101
<b>20th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Carter	777	1,435	257	24	229	46	182
Johnston	165	60	54	21	19	18	44
Love	170	78	58	0	28	5	43
Marshall	303	216	45	9	108	8	67
Murray	268	287	76	21	23	10	73
<b>Total 20th</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>2,076</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>409</b>

DISTRICT COURT CASE TYPES BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT — FISCAL YEAR 2016 (VPO DATA REPRESENTS ONLY ORDERS GRANTED)

County	Civil	Small Claims	Divorce	Victim Protective Orders	Domestic All Other	Adoptions	Probate
<b>21st</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Cleveland	4,333	6,421	1,305	301	717	210	386
Garvin	489	442	173	45	125	28	136
McClain	654	470	195	56	84	29	118
<b>Total 21st</b>	<b>5,476</b>	<b>7,333</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>640</b>
<b>22nd</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Hughes	272	207	67	21	11	18	97
Pontotoc	696	1,121	181	57	37	33	112
Seminole	608	480	132	41	165	18	104
<b>Total 22nd</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>313</b>
<b>23rd</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Lincoln	581	178	175	52	267	38	102
Pottawatomie	1,567	1,856	395	124	338	75	150
<b>Total 23rd</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Creek	1,261	1,359	419	44	174	62	158
Okfuskee	177	92	68	25	32	11	56
Okmulgee	756	875	221	113	76	27	96
<b>Total 24th</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>25th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Atoka	254	166	78	24	27	11	43
Coal	87	56	31	5	15	1	32
<b>Total 25th</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>26th</b>	<b>Judicial</b>	<b>District</b>					
Canadian	1,715	2,082	641	50	143	113	266
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>72,111</b>	<b>94,035</b>	<b>20,315</b>	<b>5,429</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>8,906</b>

See <http://www.oscn.net/static/annual-report-2016.pdf>

# VICTIM HOTLINES

Another indication of violence in Oklahoma, is the number of calls made to national victim hotlines.

LoveisRespect provides crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals plus domestic violence and healthy relationship education.



## Oklahoma State Report

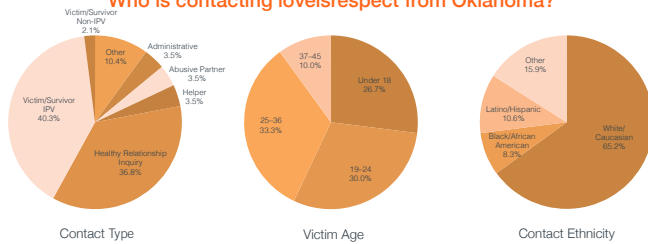
Based on loveisrespect contacts documented Jan.–Dec. 2016

In 2016, loveisrespect documented **144 contacts\*** from Oklahoma. The state ranks 30th in terms of contact volume. Loveisrespect provides crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals and DV and healthy relationship education for these contacts.

\*Contacts documented refers to the calls, online chats or texts where a location was self-disclosed by the contact.

Phone	77
Chat	47
Text	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>

### Who is contacting loveisrespect from Oklahoma?



### Contact Type Definitions:

**Victim/Survivor: IPV (Intimate Partner Violence)** – a victim or survivor of abuse from his/her partner or spouse  
**Victim/Survivor: Non-IPV** – a victim or survivor of abuse by anyone else: parent, sibling, caregiver, etc.  
**Helper** – a caller reaching out to help another including: family/friend, service provider, law enforcement, medical/health, religious leader/program or teacher  
**Healthy Relationship Inquiry** – anyone with questions about healthy relationships, where no abuse is present  
**Administrative** – someone seeking basic information, rather than advocacy  
**Abusive Partner** – a caller who identifies as abusive or who an Advocate believes to be an abusive partner  
**Other** – any caller about whom an Advocate is able to gather info, but who does not fit into an above category; this includes off target callers, non-DV calls, hang-ups, prank calls and feedback

### Top 10 Cities in Contact Volume

1. Oklahoma City	35%
2. Tulsa	30%
3. Norman	7%
4. Broken Arrow	7%
5. Edmond	4%
6. Stillwater	4%
7. Duncan	4%
8. Muskogee	4%
9. Weatherford	3%
10. Moore	2%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>98%</b>

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is a 501(c)3 organization that relies on generous contributions from the public, government and corporations to continue operation.

chat at [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) | text love to 22522 | call 1.866.331.9474

### What are victims experiencing?

**92%**

**Emotional/Verbal Abuse**  
degradation, threats, insults, humiliation, isolation, etc.

**56%**

**Physical Abuse**  
hitting, biting, choking, etc.

**18%**

**Sexual Abuse**  
rape, exploitation, coercion, etc.

**19%**

**Economic/Financial Abuse**  
control finances, ruin credit, etc.

**18%**

**Digital Abuse**  
stole passwords, constant texts, etc.



Referrals to Service Providers

**153**

Offers to Direct Connect

**26**

Referrals to Other Resources

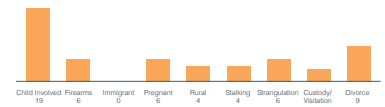
**67**

### Top Resource Referrals

- Scarleteen
- Womenslaw.org
- GoodTherapy.org
- Your Life Your Voice (Boys Town)
- Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN)

This report reflects only data that was self-disclosed by the contact and does not necessarily represent every contact from the state.

### Most Commonly Disclosed Special Factors in Victims' Experiences



### What do victims need?

DV Shelter	5	8%
Legal Advocacy	9	15%
Individual Professional Counseling	25	41%
DV Support Groups	14	23%
Legal Representation	3	5%
Protective Orders	3	5%

### loveisrespect.org

loveisrespect.org is a comprehensive online resource for teens and young adults affected by dating abuse.

Visits Jan.–Dec. 2016:

**16,021**

New Visitors Jan.–Dec. 2016:

**12,606**

(79% of total visits were new)

### Most Viewed Pages on loveisrespect.org in 2016

- Is My Relationship Healthy? Quiz
- Types of Abuse
- Healthy Relationships
- Am I a Good Partner? Quiz
- How Can We Communicate Better?
- Building Trust After Cheating
- When Your Family Doesn't Approve of Your Partner
- Dating Abuse Statistics
- Why Do People Stay in Abusive Relationships?
- What Should I Look For in a Partner?

This publication was made possible by Grant Number 10000426 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.





In 2016, the National Domestic Violence Hotline documented\*

**1,371**

contacts from Oklahoma. The state ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in terms of contact volume to The Hotline

In 2016, the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered **255,053** contacts.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals, and domestic violence education.

The National Domestic Violence **HOTLINE**  
1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

### Oklahoma State Report

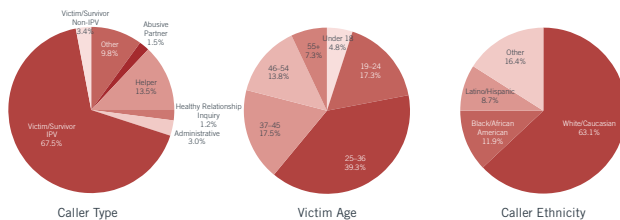
Based on Hotline contacts documented January–December 2016

In 2016, the National Domestic Violence Hotline documented\* **1,371 contacts** from Oklahoma. The state ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in terms of contact volume to The Hotline. The Hotline provides crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals and DV education for these contacts.

\*Contacts documented refers to the calls and online chats where a location was self-disclosed by the caller or chatter.

Phone	1,241
Chat	130
TTY	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,371</b>

#### Who is contacting The Hotline from Oklahoma?



#### Caller Type Definitions:

Victim/Survivor: IPV (Intimate Partner Violence) – a victim or survivor of abuse from his/her partner or spouse  
 Victim/Survivor: Non-IPV – a victim or survivor of abuse by anyone else: parent, sibling, caregiver, etc.  
 Helper – a caller reaching out to help another including: family/friend, service provider, law enforcement, medical/health, religious leader/program or teacher  
 Healthy Relationship Inquiry – anyone with questions about healthy relationships, where no abuse is present  
 Administrative – someone seeking basic information, rather than advocacy  
 Abusive Partner – a caller who identifies as abusive or who an Advocate believes to be an abusive partner  
 Other – any caller about whom an Advocate is able to gather info, but who does not fit into an above category; this includes off target callers, non-DV calls, hang-ups, prank calls and feedback

#### Top 10 Cities in Contact Volume

1. Oklahoma City	25%
2. Tulsa	18%
3. Lawton	5%
4. Norman	4%
5. Edmond	3%
6. Broken Arrow	2%
7. Muskogee	2%
8. Shawnee	2%
9. Ardmore	2%
10. Stillwater	1%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>64%</b>

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is a 501(c)3 organization that relies on generous contributions from the public, government and corporations to continue operation.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE • 1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • WWW.THEHOTLINE.ORG

#### What are victims experiencing?

**91%**

**Emotional/Verbal Abuse**  
degradation, threats, insults, humiliation, isolation, etc.

**69%**

**Physical Abuse**  
hitting, biting, choking, etc.

**21%**

**Economic/Financial Abuse**  
control finances, ruin credit, etc.

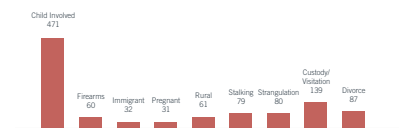
**10%**

**Sexual Abuse**  
rape, exploitation, coercion, etc.

**7%**

**Digital Abuse**  
steal passwords, constant texts, etc.

#### Most Commonly Disclosed Special Factors in Victims' Experiences



#### What do victims need?

##### Commonly Requested Hotline Services:

DV Shelter	368	35%
Legal Advocacy	272	26%
Individual Professional Counseling	215	21%
DV Support Groups	103	10%
Legal Representation	96	9%
Protective/Restraining Order	114	11%



##### Referrals to Service Providers

**1,774**

##### Offers to Direct Connect

**676**

##### Referrals to Other Resources

**372**

##### Most-Referred Resources

Womenslaw.org  
 211 - United Way  
 Custody Prep for Moms  
 LawHelp.org  
 Aunt Bertha

This publication was made possible by Grant Number 90E0426 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This report reflects only data that was self-disclosed by the contact and does not necessarily represent every contact from the state.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE • 1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • WWW.THEHOTLINE.ORG

\* Hotline information was based on National and State Reports available at loveisrespect.org and thehotline.org.

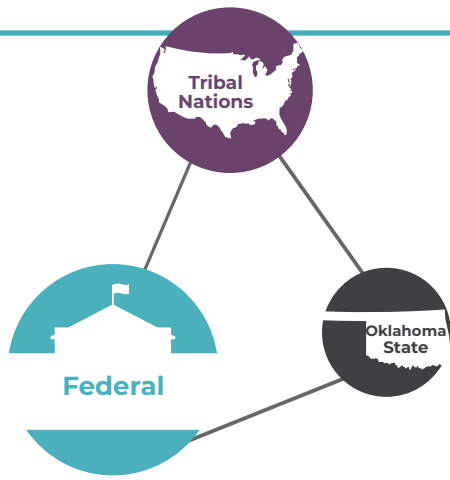
## THE THREE GOVERNMENTS: FEDERAL, TRIBAL, & STATE

A state needs assessment for Oklahoma is incomplete without an analysis and overview of tribal history within the current geographic boundaries of the United States and the State of Oklahoma. This history continues to impact perceptions and reality for victims, providers, legislators, and members of the justice system.

As stated in the National Congress of American Indians' January 2015 publication: Tribal Nations and the United States: An Introduction:

"As sovereign nations, federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes have a government-to-government relationship with the other two sovereign governing bodies of the United States: the federal and state governments. Through these modern and historic relationships, tribes, the federal government, and state governments are linked together in a unique relationship outlined in the U.S. Constitution. Together, they form an American family of governments—interrelated yet uniquely distinct from each other.

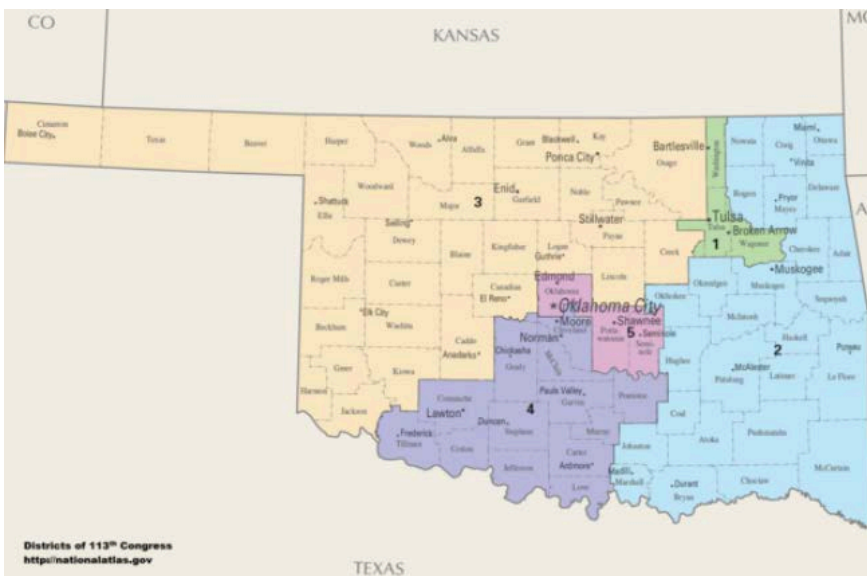
It is the obligation of the federal government to protect tribal self-governance, tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights, and to carry out the directions of federal statutes and court cases. Tribal law, federal law, and state laws define the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations between these sovereigns. Tribal governments and state governments have a great deal in common, and established best practices in tribal–state relationships have resulted in continuing cooperative efforts that produce benefits throughout communities and regions of the United States." Retrieved on 8 Nov 2017 from [http://www.ncai.org/tribalnations/introduction/Tribal\\_Nations\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_An\\_Introduction-web-.pdf](http://www.ncai.org/tribalnations/introduction/Tribal_Nations_and_the_United_States_An_Introduction-web-.pdf)



## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Oklahoma is represented in the federal government by two senators and five representatives. The senior senator from Oklahoma is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and chairman of its Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support. The junior senator from Oklahoma is a member of United States Senate Committees on Appropriations, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Intelligence, and Indian Affairs. Currently, Oklahoma Representatives serve on the following committees: Armed Services; Science, Space, and Technology; Energy and Commerce; Agriculture; Financial Services; Appropriations; Rules; Budget; and Oversight and Government.

The history of Federal District Courts of Oklahoma provides a backdrop for many of the issues impacting victim services throughout the state even today.



**1889** - Indian Territory was set aside for the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole tribes

**2 May 1890** - Territory of Oklahoma Created

**1 March 1895** - Indian Territory divided into Central, Northern, and Southern districts

**16 June 1906** - Act merged the Oklahoma and Indian Territories, thereby forming the State of Oklahoma

**16 June 1906** - Congress organized Oklahoma as two judicial districts, the Eastern and the Western, with one judgeship each, and assigned the districts to the Eighth Circuit

**16 Nov 1907** - Oklahoma admitted as a state

**16 Feb 1925** - Northern District of Oklahoma was established. It transferred the temporary judgeship in the Eastern District to the Northern District and made that position permanent.

**28 Feb 1929** - Congress assigned the District of Oklahoma to the newly-organized Tenth Circuit

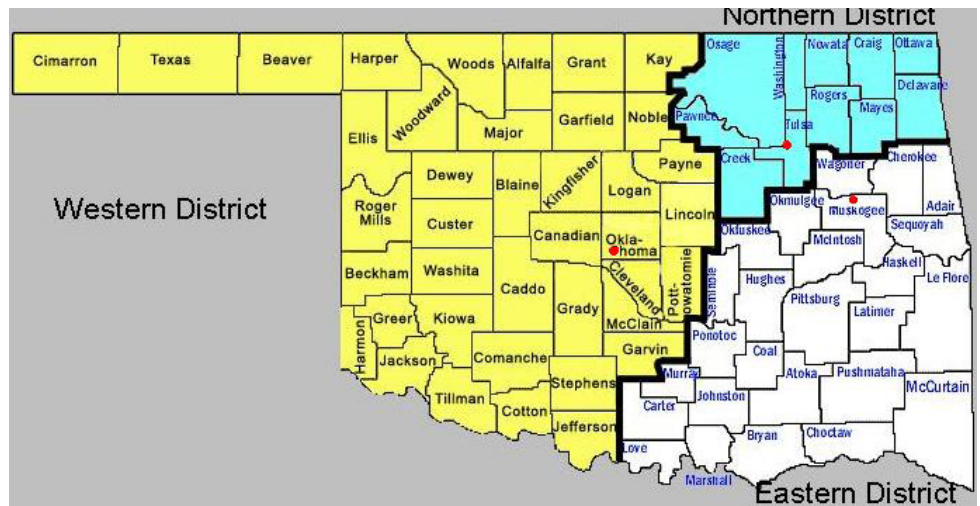
**22 June 1936** - One judgeship authorized to serve all three districts

**19 May 1961** - One additional judgeship authorized to serve all three districts

**20 Oct 1978** - One additional judgeship authorized for the Northern District

**1 Dec 1990** - One additional judgeship authorized for the Northern District and one of the two judgeships previously authorized to serve all three districts was assigned exclusively to the Western District

NORTHERN DISTRICT (TULSA)	WESTERN DISTRICT (OKC)
Craig (Vinita)	Alfalfa (Cherokee)
Creek (Sapulpa)	Beaver (Beaver)
Delaware (Jay)	Beckham (Sayre)
Mayes (Pryor)	Blaine (Watonga)
Nowata (Nowata)	Caddo (Anadarko)
Osage (Pawhuska)	Canadian (El Reno)
Ottawa (Miami)	Cimarron (Boise)
Pawnee (Pawnee)	Cleveland (Norman)
Rogers (Claremore)	Comanche (Lawton)
Tulsa (Tulsa)	Cotton (Walters)
Washington (Bartlesville)	Custer (Arapaho)
EASTERN DISTRICT (MUSKOGEE)	Dewey (Taloga)
Adair (Stilwell)	Ellis (Arnett)
Atoka (Atoka)	Garfield (Enid)
Bryan (Durant)	Garvin (P's Valley)
Carter (Ardmore)	Grady (Chickasha)
Cherokee (Tahlequah)	Grant (Medford)
Choctaw (Hugo)	Greer (Mangum)
Coal (Coalgate)	Harmon (Hollis)
Haskell (Stigler)	Harper (Buffalo)
Hughes (Holdenville)	Jackson (Altus)
Johnston (Tishomingo)	Jefferson (Waurika)
Latimer (Wilburton)	Kay (Newkirk)
Le Flore (Poteau)	Kingfisher (Kingfisher)
Love (Marietta)	Kiowa (Hobart)
McCurain (Idabel)	Lincoln (Chandler)
McIntosh (Eufaula)	Logan (Guthrie)
Marshall (Madill)	McClain (Purcell)
Murray (Sulphur)	Major (Fairview)
Muskogee (Muskogee)	Noble (Perry)
Okfuskee (Okemah)	Oklahoma (Oklahoma City)
Okmulgee (Okmulgee)	Payne (Stillwater)
Pittsburg (McAlester)	Pottawatomie (Shawnee)
Pontotoc (Ada)	Roger Mills (Cheyenne)
Pushmataha (Antlers)	Stephens (Duncan)
Seminole (Wewoka)	Texas (Guyman)
Sequoyah (Sallisaw)	Tillman (Frederick)
Wagoner (Wagoner)	Washita (Cordell)
	Woods (Alva)
	Woodward (Woodward)



Victim Specialists are provided through the three Oklahoma Districts of the United States Attorney’s Offices, the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices throughout Oklahoma, and the three U.S. Indian Affairs Bureau offices. These services are described in the CURRENT VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS of this report.

The United States Attorney’s Office is charged with prosecuting certain crimes that occur in Indian Country. Unlike many states which have traditional reservations, Oklahoma Indian Country consists of trust and restricted land owned by tribal nations and its members. Tribal Police and federal law enforcement investigate a variety of crimes occurring in Indian Country including theft, embezzlement, murder, assaults, firearm, and drug crimes. Due to Oklahoma’s unique “checkerboard jurisdiction,” many tribes rely on cross-commission agreements to effectively combat crimes occurring in their jurisdictions. The cross-commission agreements aid law enforcement in addressing the complexities which arise from crimes which cross jurisdictional lines, i.e. state counties, tribal trust or restricted land, federal lands, i.e. national parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer land.

Per information on their website, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma recognizes a significant need for effective communication between the various components of the Department of Justice and Indian tribes, and regards its responsibility to the tribes as a significant priority. The United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Oklahoma has an Assistant United States Attorney who serves as liaison to the federally recognized tribes in the Northern District of Oklahoma. The Northern District of Oklahoma has dedicated two Assistant United States Attorneys and two tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys to the prosecution of federal crimes in Indian Country. Adapted from information accessed from <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndok/indian-country> on 4 November 2017

In spite of these efforts, the rate of prosecution in federal court for crimes

“I WAS DRUGGED AND CAN’T TELL THEM EXACTLY WHERE IT HAPPENED. WHY IS THAT MY PROBLEM?”

- A SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR



Dave Johnson, Special Agent in Charge for District, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Law Enforcement Services, Testimony before the Indian Law and Order Commission, Hearing in Oklahoma City, OK June 14, 2012

**[GETTING NUMBERS] IS STILL AN ISSUE. THE DATA COLLECTION, FOR INSTANCE, HERE IN OKLAHOMA, AND I'M SURE IT'S THE SAME EVERYWHERE, BIA DOESN'T HAVE A DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM. WE'RE WORKING ON GETTING ONE . . . A LOT OF THOSE FOLKS . . . HAVE THE SOPHISTICATED SYSTEMS THAT YOU PUNCH A BUTTON AND IT WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW. HOW DID WE GET THE NUMBERS TO SEND IN? ON A PIECE OF PAPER.**

involving interpersonal violence remains very low. Native Americans and Alaska Natives on tribal lands today suffer disproportionately high rates of violent crime—2.5 times the national average or higher. This inequity stems in part from case law and various other federal restrictions on tribal self-governance—government that is closer to the people it is supposed to serve and that has the transparency and accountability needed to be held accountable. The implications for this and future generations are ominous. Average life expectancies for Native people are among the lowest in the Western Hemisphere—less than 50 years old on some reservations. Native women confront domestic violence rates that exceed those for all other racial and ethnic groups: **One out of three Native American women and two out of three Alaska Native women will be raped in their lifetimes.**

Native juveniles are likewise at extreme risk due to failed federal laws and policies. The Indian Law and Order Commission, an independent, bipartisan advisory board to the president and Congress established by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA), found that one in four Native American and Alaska Native young people suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) because they are so routinely exposed to violence. **This is the same**

**PTSD rate as returning U.S. combat veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq.** [See Making Native America Safer and More Just for All Americans, Vol. 40 No. 4, Troy A. Eid, retrieved on 10 Nov 2017 from [https://www.americanbar.org/publications/human\\_rights\\_magazine\\_home/2014\\_vol\\_40/vol--40--no--1--tribal-sovereignty/making\\_native\\_america\\_safer.html](https://www.americanbar.org/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/2014_vol_40/vol--40--no--1--tribal-sovereignty/making_native_america_safer.html)]

To address these issues two recently enacted federal criminal justice reforms, the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA) and the Violence Against Women Act Amendments of 2013 (VAWA Amendments) are intended to make federal officials more accountable to Native American and Alaska Native communities, ease congressionally imposed restrictions on tribal governments' ability to protect people on Indian lands, and enhance civil rights protections for Natives and non-Natives alike. The American Bar Association, which strongly supported TLOA and the VAWA Amendments, led the way toward enforcement of these two reforms. On February 10, 2015, the ABA House of Delegates endorsed the comprehensive recommendations of an independent, bipartisan national advisory commission for additional legal and policy reforms to make Native America safer and more just for all Americans. [See A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer: A Report to the President & Congress of the United States, Indian L. & Order Comm'n (Nov. 2013), [www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc/](http://www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc/)]

“The unfortunate and often forgotten reality is that there is an epidemic of violence and harm directed toward this very vulnerable population... American Indian/Alaska Native children and youth experience an increased risk of multiple victimizations,” she said. “Their capacity to function and to regroup before the next emotional or physical assault diminished with each missed opportunity to intervene. These youths often make the decision to take their own lives because they feel a lack of safety in their environment. Our youth are in desperate need of safe homes, safe families and safe communities.”

Indian Youth Suicide Prevention Act of 2009: Hearing Before the S. Comm. On Indian Affairs (2009) (Testimony of Dolores Subia BigFoot, Director of Indian Country Trauma Center, University of Oklahoma).



## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Within the State of Oklahoma's geographic boundaries are thirty-eight (38) federally recognized tribes. The legal status of American Indians and Alaska Native Tribes is addressed in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States which vests the U.S. Congress with the authority to engage in relations with the Tribes. When the governmental authority of tribes was first challenged in the 1830's, Chief Justice John Marshall articulated a fundamental principle that has guided the evolution of federal Indian law. **"Tribes retain certain inherent powers of self-government as 'domestic dependent nations.'"**



In 1942 Supreme Court Justice Felix Cohen wrote, **"Indian sovereignty is the principle that those powers which are lawfully vested in an Indian tribe, are not delegated powers granted by express acts of Congress, but rather inherent powers of a limited sovereignty which can never be extinguished."** Today, tribal governments still exist for the same reasons they were originally founded: To provide for the welfare of the Indian people. [See <http://www.nativeamericancaucus.org/content/tribal-sovereignty-history-and-law>]

**The relationship between the tribes and the United States is one of government to government.** This principle has shaped the history of dealings between the federal government and the tribes. The term "Federally-Recognized Tribe" is a legal term meaning the United States recognizes a government-to-government relationship with a tribe and that a tribe exists politically in a "domestic dependent nation" status. The thirty-eight (38) federally-recognized Tribes in Oklahoma possess certain inherent powers of self-government and entitlement to certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of the special trust relationship.

To provide a brief historical account of the Oklahoma tribes and nations, the following chart provides the official tribe/nation name, the last location of the tribe/nation before their "permanent" relocation to Indian Territory, the date of "permanent" relocation, the location of the current tribal headquarters, the people(s) who comprise the tribes, the total tribe/nation population, the total tribe/nation in-state population, and the county jurisdictions which are within the tribal boundaries.

# OKLAHOMA AMERICAN INDIAN NATIONS

Tribe/ Nation	Last Location Before Permanent Relocation to Indian Territory	Date of Permanent Relocation	Current Tribal Headquarters	People(s)	Total Pop. (2010) <sup>[1]</sup>	In-State Pop. (2010) <sup>[1]</sup>	County Jurisdiction <sup>[1]</sup>
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas	1854, 1859	Shawnee	Shawnee	3,050	2,315	Cleveland, Pottawatomie
Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town	Georgia	1836	Wetumka	Alabama, Coushatta	380	324	Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa, Wagoner
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Oklahoma, Texas	1867	Anadarko	Plains Apache	2,263	1,814	Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, Kiowa, Stephens
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	Oklahoma, Texas	1872	Binger	Caddo	5,757	3,044	n/a
Cherokee Nation	Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama	1835	Tahlequah	Cherokee, Cherokee Freedmen, Natchez	299,862	189,228	Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, Washington
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma	Nebraska, Kansas	1869	Concho	Arapaho, Cheyenne	12,185	8,664	Blaine, Canadian, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Kingfisher, Roger Mills, Washita
The Chickasaw Nation	Mississippi, Alabama	1837	Ada	Chickasaw	49,000	29,000	Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Grady, Jefferson, Johnston, Love, McClain, Marshall, Murray, Pontotoc, Stephens
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Mississippi	1830	Durant	Choctaw, Choctaw Freedmen	223,279	84,670	Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha
Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma	Kansas	1867	Shawnee	Potawatomi	29,155	10,312	Cleveland, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie
Comanche Nation, Oklahoma	Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma	1867	Lawton	Comanche	14,700	n/a	Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, Kiowa, Stephens, Tillman
Delaware Nation	Texas	1859	Anadarko	Lenape	1,440	859	Caddo
Delaware Tribe of Indians	Kansas	1867	Bartlesville	Lenape	10,500	3,360	n/a
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	Ohio	1831	Seneca, Missouri	Shawnee	2,801	904	Ottawa
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Arizona, New Mexico	1892	Apache	Apache	650	n/a	Caddo, Comanche, Grady
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Kansas	1883	Perkins	Iowa	607	517	Lincoln, Logan <sup>[nb 1]</sup> , Oklahoma, Payne
Kaw Nation, Oklahoma	Kansas	1872	Kaw City	Kaw	3,126	1,428	Kay

<b>Kialegee Tribal Town</b>	Alabama	1832	Wetumka	Muscogee Creek	439	429	Hughes, McIntosh, Okfuskee
<b>Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	Kansas, Texas	1883	McLoud	Kickapoo	2,630	1,856	Oklahoma, Pottawatomie, Lincoln
<b>Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	Texas, Oklahoma	1867	Carnegie	Kiowa	12,000	8,000	Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Kiowa, Tillman, Washita
<b>Miami Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	Kansas	1867	Miami	Miami	3,908	7,775	n/a
<b>The Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	California, Oregon	1874	Miami	Modoc	200	120	Ottawa
<b>The Muscogee (Creek) Nation</b>	Georgia, Alabama	1832	Okmulgee	Muscogee Creek, Muscogee Freedmen	69, 162	55, 591	Creek, Hughes, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Tulsa, Wagoner, part of Rogers, part of Maves
<b>The Osage Nation</b> <small>[nb 2]</small>	Kansas	1870	Pawhuska	Osage	13,307	6,747	Osage
<b>Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma</b>	Kansas, Nebraska	1881	Red Rock	Missouria, Otoe	2,554	1,732	Noble
<b>Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	Kansas	1862	Miami	Odawa	2,500	737	Ottawa
<b>Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma</b>	Nebraska	1876	Pawnee	Pawnee	3,240	1,791	Noble <sup>[nb 1]</sup> , Payne <sup>[nb 1]</sup> , Pawnee
<b>Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma</b>	Kansas	1857	Miami	Peoria	2,925	777	Ottawa
<b>Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma</b>	Nebraska	1877	White Eagle	Ponca	3,581	3,000	Kay, Noble[nb 1]
<b>The Quapaw Tribe of Indians</b>	Arkansas	1833	Quapaw	Quapaw	3,240	892	Ottawa
<b>Sac &amp; Fox Nation, Oklahoma</b>	Kansas	1867	Stroud	Meskwaki, Sauk	3,794	2,557	Lincoln, Payne, Pottawatomie
<b>The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma</b>	Florida	1832	Wewoka	Seminole, Seminole Freedmen	16,338	13,533	Seminole
<b>Seneca-Cayuga Nation</b>	Ohio	1831-1832	Miami	Cayuga, Seneca	5,059	1,174	Delaware <sup>[nb 1]</sup> , Ottawa <sup>[nb 1]</sup>
<b>Shawnee Tribe</b>	Kansas	1869	Miami	Shawnee	2,226	1,070	n/a
<b>Thlopthlocco Tribal Town</b>	Alabama	1832	Okemah	Muscogee Creek	845	728	Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa, Wagoner

<b>Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma</b>	Texas	1859	Tonkawa	Tonkawa	611	476	Kay
<b>United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma</b>	North Carolina	1835	Park Hill	Cherokee, Natchez	14,300	13,300	Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, Washington
<b>Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco &amp; Tawakonie), Oklahoma</b>	Oklahoma, Texas	1859	Anadarko	Kichai, Tawakoni, Waco, Wichita	2,564	1,884	Caddo, Grady <sup>[nb 1]</sup>
<b>Wyandotte Nation</b>	Kansas	1867	Wyandotte	Wyandot	4,957	1,218	Ottawa
<b>Yuchi (Euchee) Tribe of Indians</b>	Georgia	1832	Sapulpa				NOTE: The Yuchi (Euchee) Tribe of Indians are recognized by the State of Oklahoma; however, the tribe is not currently federally recognized.

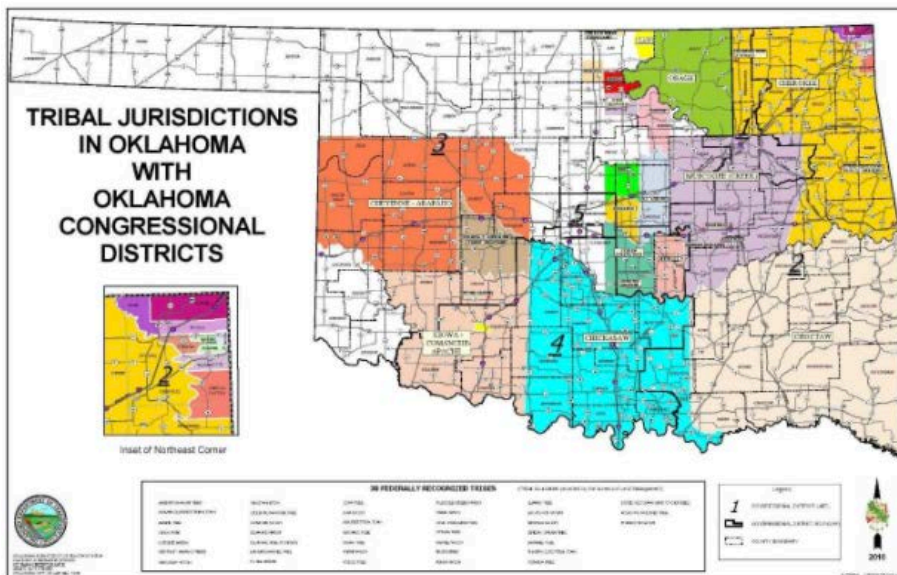
Oklahoma's Indian Nations as of August 2002\* Information source for tribes and locations: Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission website. Historic information supplied by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Downloaded from <http://www.okhistory.org/research/oktribes> on 29 October 2017

Notes: 1. a b c d e f g Tribe only has jurisdiction over a portion of the county. 2. The Osage Nation maintains the only federally recognized Indian reservation in the State of Oklahoma.

References: 1. a b c d "2011 Oklahoma Indian Nations Pocket Pictorial Directory" (PDF). Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. March 2014. Retrieved August 31, 2015. Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Native\\_American\\_tribes\\_in\\_Oklahoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Native_American_tribes_in_Oklahoma) 29 October 2017

The essence of tribal sovereignty is the ability to govern and to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of tribal citizens within tribal territory. Rooted in deep traditions and distinct ways of life, tribal nations are defined by indigenous peoples, places, cultures, and governance.

Each tribe has the inherent right to operate under its own governmental systems. Many of our Oklahoma tribes have adopted Constitutions, while others operate under Articles of Association or other bodies of law, and some still have traditional systems of government. The chief executive of a tribe is generally called tribal chairperson, principal chief, governor, or president. A tribal council or legislature often performs the legislative function for a Tribe, although some Tribes require a referendum of the membership to enact laws. Additionally, a significant number of Tribes have created tribal court systems. Adapted from information retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/otj/about-native-americans> on 4 Nov 2017



## TRIBAL JURISDICTION: CIVIL/CRIMINAL

**NOTE: THE AUTHORS OF THIS REPORT RECOMMEND ALL INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN VICTIM SERVICES WITHIN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA READ THE NCAI PUBLICATION AND INCORPORATE THE MATERIALS INTO NEW HIRE TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS.**

The National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) published Tribal Nations and the United States: An Introduction to provide a basic overview of the history and underlying principles of tribal governance and introductory information about tribal governments and American Indian and Alaska Native people today. The NCAI publication states:

"Tribal lands are set aside under federal law as territories for the exercise of tribal self-government and the preservation of Native cultures. In general, tribal governments have jurisdiction over civil matters that arise within Indian country and are subject to numerous federal laws that define the contours of tribal authority. Tribal governments also have criminal jurisdiction, although it is more limited. Tribes prosecute criminal offenses committed by Indians on tribal lands with sentences of up to three years. Throughout the United States, one-hundred-and-eight tribes have some form of judicial system and 175 tribes have a formal tribal court. [See Appendices for a list of Oklahoma Tribal Courts and tribal Constitutions, Articles, and Codes available online.] The federal government also has criminal jurisdiction, specifically over most major crimes committed in Indian country. Tribal courts do not generally have criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians, although Congress recently restored tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians who have committed acts of domestic violence against Indians within Indian country."

The NCAI publication notes that states do not have civil or criminal jurisdiction within Indian country except jurisdiction which the Congress may delegate or the federal courts determine exists. States have criminal jurisdiction over criminal matters involving only non-Indians. State jurisdiction over federal Indian territory does not extend to any matter which is not consistent with tribal self-government and the authority of the United States to protect tribal governmental authority and lands.

Jason O'Neal, Chief of Police, Chickasaw Nation  
Lighthorse Police Department Testimony  
before the Indian Law and Order Commission,  
Oklahoma City, OK June 14, 2012

Most of our Indian lands are not identifiable by signs, particularly the allotted areas. Generally, people know if they see a casino that it's Indian country, (whether they're) the public or law enforcement. I can tell you that with many of our casinos, it does become confusing at times. We have casinos that have adjoining motels. The motel is not Indian country, yet it's all one building. And so, you can move into and out of Indian country without even leaving a building. Obviously, our parking lots are very similar. And we work in partnership with our local law enforcement to address a lot of these crimes.



As Troy A. Eid states in his American Bar Association's Human Rights magazine article:

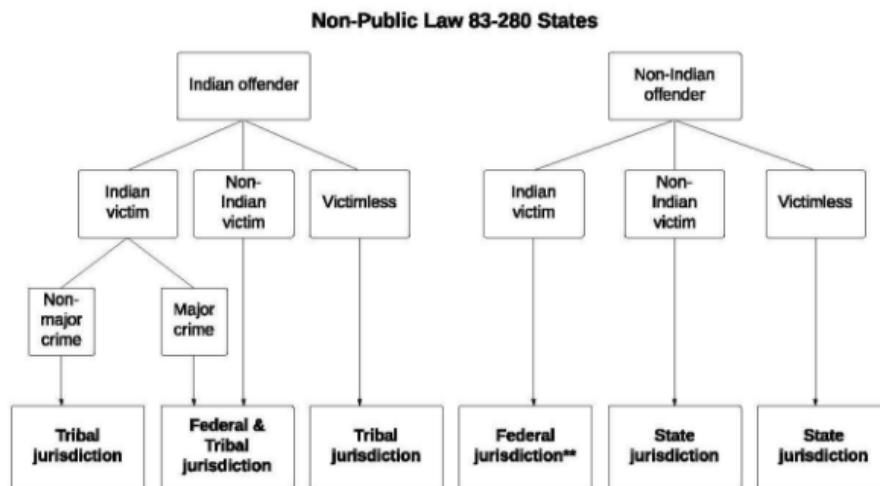
"The passage of TLOA and the VAWA Amendments, and the ABA's support of the reforms proposed by the Indian Law and Order Commission in its bipartisan Roadmap, suggest that the era when federal officials could dictate criminal justice priorities to Native communities is over. Instead of governing from afar, through federal officials and institutions with little or no direct accountability to tribal leaders and their constituents, Washington, D.C., may finally be seeing the wisdom of encouraging tribal capacity—building on public safety and criminal justice issues so that Native citizens can better protect life, liberty, and property for all citizens—Native and non-Native—just as we rightly expect state and local governments to do."

Montie Deer, Vice Chief Judge, Muscogee Creek Nation Testimony before the Indian Law and Order Commission, Hearing in Oklahoma City, OK, June 14, 2012

Most of the wheels of justice actually occur outside of the courtroom. A sovereign must bear the burden of ensuring that all of these various systems are operational. For many Tribal governments tremendous financial barriers stand in the way of implementing justice.

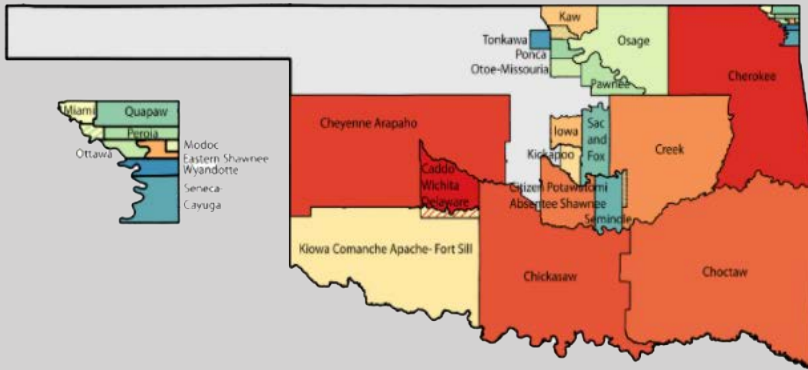
## GENERAL SUMMARY OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION ON INDIAN LANDS

(DETAILS VARY BY TRIBE AND STATE)



\*\*Under the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013 (VAWA Amendment) after 2015, Tribe may exercise Special Domestic Violence Jurisdiction with the Federal government and with States for certain domestic violence crimes. (Diagram from Page 7 of A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer: A Report to the President & Congress of the United States [www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc](http://www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc).)

## Tribal Statistical Area Map



The Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP), a decennial program of the U.S. Census Bureau, was part of an ongoing effort to enhance the reporting of meaningful statistical data for American Indian and Alaska Native areas. Through the program, tribes had the opportunity to identify and delineate the geographic statistical areas and block boundaries for which the Census Bureau tabulated data for the 2010 Census and the ongoing American Community Survey (ACS) after 2010. Statistical data from the 2010 Census and the ACS post-2010 can provide tribes with a meaningful tool to help

make informed decisions, and plan for services such as education, health, and housing. The program specifically provides for the review and delineation of the Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area. Following Census Bureau guidelines, the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allows participants to review and suggest modifications. The Census Bureau contacts participants from the 2010 PSAP and invites tribal, state, county, or local governments, and planning agencies to the 2020 PSAP. The statistical boundaries delineated in PSAP reflect localized knowledge, meet Census Bureau-established criteria and guidelines, and are intended to better meet data user needs. These standard or tribal statistical geographies are reviewed and refined once every ten years in advance of each decennial census. The most recent opportunity for comments closed on 13 Oct 2017.

## PROMISE ZONE-COLLABORATION

An example of federal, tribal, state, and local collaboration can be found in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, one of twenty-two areas throughout the United States designated as a Promise Zone. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, a Federally-recognized non-reservation-based American Indian Tribe, was the first Tribal Promise Zone. The boundary includes 10 counties (11,734 square miles) over an extremely rural continuous region within the Nation's Tribal territory in Southeast Oklahoma. This is the second largest tribal service area (TSA) in the lower 48 states. The effects of poverty, crime, unemployment, high housing costs, and low academic achievement have taken their toll on this region. Many families live in homes without running water or telephone service. 32.3% of children in the TSA live in poverty. This is 9.8% higher than the National rate and 8.4% higher than the rate for the state of Oklahoma. [See <https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/Promise-Zone-Designee-Choctaw-Nation.pdf> retrieved 15 Nov 2017]

Designation as a Promise Zone offers preference points on many federal grant applications which give the applications a "leg up" as they head to federal agencies for review. The Promise Zone is a place-based initiative, and is confined to a set of Census tracts in southeastern Oklahoma within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. These areas were chosen because of their high need and opportunity for grants and programs to positively impact communities. [See <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/choctaw-nation-promise-zone-update-and-resources-april-2015/> retrieved 15 Nov 2017] As a result of the Promise Zone designation, the Choctaw Nation Promise Zone Initiative works collaboratively with community partners at the local, state, and national level to eradicate poverty, increase educational attainment, reduce criminal activity, and pursue economic development in southeastern Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation works with community partners like Community Development Financial Institutions, banks, Oklahoma State University, Eastern Oklahoma State College, the Kiamichi Technology Center, and others to spur private investment and educational opportunities within the Promise Zone. Partners like Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. (REI) help train new business leaders, and also help to bring private investment into the Promise Zone via New Market Tax Credits. [See <https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/Promise-Zone-Designee-Choctaw-Nation.pdf> retrieved on 15 Nov 2017]

## STATE GOVERNMENT

As noted by The National Conference of State Legislatures, "state-tribal relations have primarily focused on executive branches in the states, but state legislatures can be a powerful forum in which to address state-tribal issues. If legislators are uninformed or misinformed about the unique circumstances and needs of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities, those citizens will not be adequately served. If tribal governments do not understand state governance concerns and positions, or do not believe that working with states can be beneficial, then opportunities for cooperation will not be realized." [See <http://www.ncsl.org/research/state-tribal-institute/a-legislators-guide-to-state-tribal-relations.aspx>]



The State of Oklahoma has a long and tenuous relationship with the tribal governments which exist within its borders. The professionals involved in federal, tribal, and state victim services are leading the way in forming respectful, collaborative relationships to better protect and serve all residents. Below are brief descriptions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, as well as, an overview of counties and municipalities within the state. The intent of this section is to provide an overview of the governmental landscape in which victim service organizations, tribal and state, perform their duties.

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Executive Branch of Oklahoma's governmental structure includes the following:

The Governor's Office consists of the Governor, the Lt. Governor, and the Governor's cabinet. Current cabinet positions include: Secretary of State, Secretary of Finance, Administration and Information Technology, Secretary of the Military, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Secretary of Safety and Security, Secretary of Science and Technology, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Commerce and Tourism, Secretary of Energy and Environment, and Secretary of Education and Workforce Development.

In February, 2015 Chris Bengé was appointed Native American Liaison for Governor Fallin. In January, 2017, the governor's office created the position of State Secretary of Native American Affairs and Mr. Bengé, who also now serves as the Governor's Chief of Staff and is a Cherokee Nation citizen, was appointed to that position. In the 2015 Native American Affairs Annual Report, Secretary Bengé stated: "A spirit of partnership exists in different forms between the

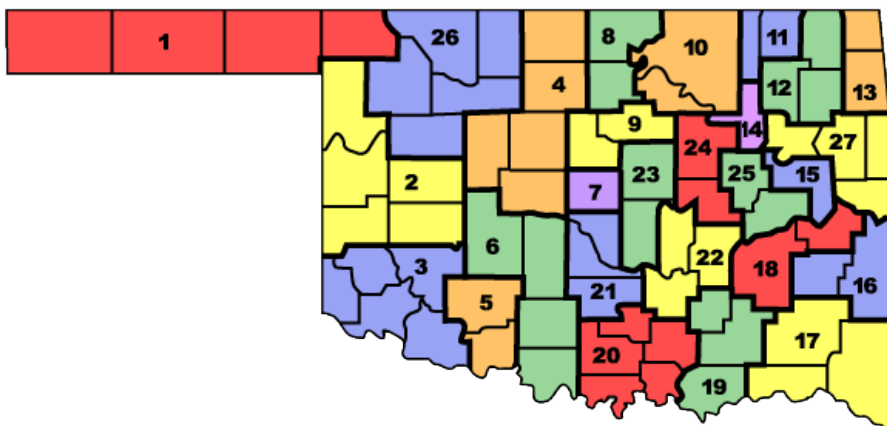
State of Oklahoma and tribal governments. As we meet together and discuss our common challenges that we see throughout the state, more opportunities will arise that will allow our governments to work together for the good of all of our citizens."

In June 2015, Secretary Bengé appointed Mr. Brian Hendrix, BA, Muscogee (Creek), as his Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs. Mr. Hendrix has a great deal of experience in working with Oklahoma tribes and federal grants as he previously served as the State Tribal Crime Victim Liaison for the District Attorney Council, Executive Director for the Payne County Drug Court Program, and a member on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. The two guiding principles for the Native American Affairs office are respect and collaboration. During 2015-2016 the common themes of interest to Oklahoma Tribal Nations which emerged were: Economic Development; Education; Health Systems; Indian Child Welfare Act implementation; and Criminal Justice System issues including victim assistance, cross-deputization, domestic violence awareness, and treatment services.

The Attorney General's office has multiple units dedicated to carrying out the mission and duties of the office. The Victim Services Unit, oversees funding and certification for domestic violence, sexual assault, batterers intervention, and adult victims of sex trafficking programs across the state. The unit also provides training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and shelter workers. Other units include: Civil Rights Enforcement; Criminal Appeals; Solicitor General; Legal Counsel; Litigation; Medicaid Fraud Control; Multicounty Grand Jury; Public Protection; Public Utilities; Tobacco Enforcement; and the Workers' Compensation, Insurance and Social Security Fraud.

The District Attorneys Council (DAC) is the state agency that provides support to Oklahoma's 27 elected District Attorneys and their staff. The DAC's primary function is to strengthen the criminal justice system by providing professional training, technical support, administering federal grant programs, paying claims to victims of crimes, and overseeing financial and personnel duties for the District Attorney offices. By offering these vital services, the DAC is fulfilling its mission to provide the necessary tools for Oklahoma's prosecutors to be successful in serving the citizens of Oklahoma.

## OKLAHOMA'S DISTRICT ATTORNEYS DISTRICTS



Within the DAC, services are provided through the Executive Division, Training and Outreach, Finance Division, Federal Grants, Victim Services Division, and Information and Technology. Current grants overseen by the Federal Grants Division include: Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Act (Coverdell), Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), Recovery Act: Justice Assistance Grant (JAG),

Recovery Act: Justice Assistance Grant (JAG-LLE), Recovery Act: S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Grant (VAWA), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant (RSAT), Sexual Assault Services Program Grant (SASP), and S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Grant (VAWA). The DAC also supports local CCRT, DVRT, and SART organizations.

In Oklahoma, a nine-member Victims of Crime Act Board makes the funding decisions for VOCA funds which are awarded yearly on a competitive basis. Pursuant to the Victims of Crime Act, the VOCA Board sets aside a minimum of 10% of the total VOCA grant funds and gives priority for this set aside to applicants serving victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and unserved/underserved victims. VOCA fund eligibility requires the applicant be a non-profit agency with 501(c)(3) status, a local government, a state government, or an American Indian Tribe. Additionally, the applicant must certify funds will only be used for direct victim services; and, provide a 25% cash or in-kind match. American Indian Tribes have a 5% match requirement.

Further, the Victims Services Division administers and enhances public awareness of the Crime Victims Compensation and administers the Sexual Assault Examination Funds. The Crime Victims Compensation Board has the legal right to seek judgment against the offender in order to recover funds paid on behalf of a crime victim. The Victims Services Division is responsible for the recovery of restitution owed to the Crime Victims Compensation Board. The staff actively seeks restitution from criminals and tracks the progress of the restitution recovery program. Finally, staff members in this division assist in planning statewide training for Victim Witness Coordinators within district attorney offices and maintains close contact with victim groups around the state to solicit ideas on how better to serve victims, elicit concerns of victims about the criminal justice system, and advise victims about proposed reforms and changes.

In the 2015 Native American Affairs Annual Report, the DAC noted the following highlights:

1. The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison reported 12,885 contacts: 9,496 face-to-face; 2,554 e-mails; and 835 by phone
2. The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison presented at 65 outreach activities, both in-state and national
3. The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison co-facilitated 42 roundtables across Oklahoma which included participation from 740 attendees
4. The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison hosted two grant writing workshops which were attended by a total of seventy-five providers
5. In 2015, fifteen tribes applied for Victim of Crime Act assistance

The State of Oklahoma operates three correctional regions which consist of an assessment and reception center, one reformatory, one penitentiary, and twenty-one (21) corrections centers. Additionally, the State of Oklahoma Department of Corrections oversees eight half-way houses and contracts with private prison and county jail contractors as a means to provide bed space and constitutionally required services for inmates. State statutes deem the Director of the Department of Corrections responsible for the monitoring of private



prisons in Oklahoma. The Department of Corrections also employs a Victim Services Coordinator and the services she provides are described in the CURRENT VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS of this report.

Within the executive branch, the Pardon and Parole Board serves citizens of Oklahoma by ensuring public safety, protecting victims' rights, and providing offenders with the opportunity for positive change through careful and informed decisions on the parole for non-violent offenders and recommendations to the Governor regarding the parole of violent offenders, as well as for pardons, commutations, and clemency requests.

The final program administered by the Executive Branch is the Indigent Defense System which implements the Indigent Defense Act, 22 O.S. Section 1355 et seq., by providing trial, appellate, and post-conviction criminal defense services to persons who have been judicially determined to be entitled to legal counsel at State expense. The mission of the System is to provide indigents with legal representation comparable to that obtainable by those who can afford counsel and to do so in the most cost-effective manner possible.

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislative Branch of Oklahoma consists of House of Representatives, comprised of 101 members who are elected to a concurrent two-year term. The House is the larger chamber of the bicameral Oklahoma Legislature and conducts its business through committees and subcommittees. The Oklahoma Senate is the upper house of the two houses and is comprised of senators from forty-eight districts. The total number of senators is set at 48 by the Oklahoma Constitution. Senators approve or reject gubernatorial appointments, and contribute to the creation of both state law and an annual state budget. Every ten years, they aid in drawing new boundaries for Oklahoma's electoral districts which was last completed in 2011. The Oklahoma Senate also serves as a court of impeachment. The presiding officer of the Senate is the Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma, who is the President of the Senate.

### OKLAHOMA SENATE DISTRICTS



The Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, which directs the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), will not accept any federal funds. This information has been verified through phone calls and in-person meetings. Therefore, while the state judiciary has indicated interest in utilizing these funds for training, the state court system will not be able to participate in the use of the S.T.O.P. VAWA funds. To mitigate this considerable issue, the DAC has been conducting outreach to the tribal courts about the use of these funds for programs, such as judicial training.

- State of Oklahoma S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Grant Implementation Plan 2017-2020



## District Court Judicial Districts

### JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Oklahoma Court System is made up of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Court of Civil Appeals, and seventy-seven (77) District Courts. Administrative services for the Court System are provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Unlike most states, Oklahoma has two courts of last resort. The Supreme Court determines all issues of a civil nature, and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals decides all criminal matters. Members of these courts, and of the Court of Civil Appeals, are appointed by the governor from a list of three names submitted by the Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission.

Deciding cases is only one of the Supreme Court's functions, the Court is also responsible for administering the state's entire judicial system by establishing rules of operation for all other courts in the state. The Supreme Court formulates the rules for practice of law, which govern the conduct of all attorneys, and it administers discipline in appropriate cases. Pursuant to the Okla. Const., art. 7, §1, 2, the Court selects from its members a Chief Justice and a Vice Chief Justice. The Court selects new Chief Justices every two years and the Chief Justice presides at all court sessions and chairs the state judicial conference. Together with the other members of the Court, the Chief Justice administers the judicial branch of state government and represents the Court and the judicial system in public appearances. The Vice Chief Justice's term of office is coextensive with that of the Chief Justice.

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest court in the State of Oklahoma with appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases. It is the state court of last resort in criminal matters. The Court derives its origin and jurisdiction from the state constitution, which was formulated by the constitutional



convention and submitted to and adopted by the people of Oklahoma at the first election, held on 17 September 1907. The Court of Criminal Appeals consists of five sitting judges with one serving as Presiding Judge and one serving as Vice-Presiding Judge.

The Oklahoma District Courts are the trial courts of general jurisdiction in Oklahoma. Each of the state's 77 counties contain a District Court and these counties are organized into 26 judicial districts. The District Courts have original jurisdiction over all matters and District Court appeals of civil matters go to the Oklahoma Supreme Court and appeals of criminal matters go to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals.

The Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims applies the law as set out in the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Code. Its responsibility is to provide fair and timely procedures for the resolution of disputes and identification of issues involving on-the-job injuries.

## COUNTY & MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

As noted above, Oklahoma has seventy-seven (77) counties which range in population from Oklahoma County at 718,633 to Harmon County at 2,922. [See Appendices] Per the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Oklahoma had 590 municipalities ranging in population from two in the town of Lotsee to 579,999 in the state capital of Oklahoma City. See Listing of all towns and cities in Appendices. To assist all counties and municipalities better serve their residents, Oklahoma has created eleven (11) designated planning regions.

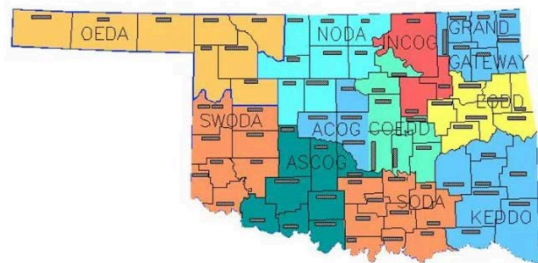
- Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
- Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments
- Central Oklahoma Economic Development District
- Eastern Oklahoma Development District
- Grand Gateway Economic Development Association
- Indian Nations Council of Governments
- Kiamichi Economic Development District
- Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
- Oklahoma Economic Development Authority
- Southern Oklahoma Development Association
- South Western Oklahoma Development Authority

The members of the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils are voluntary associations of local governments formed under Oklahoma law. These associations deal with the problems and planning needs that cross the boundaries of individual local governments or that require regional attention. These regional councils coordinate planning and provide a regional approach to problem solving through cooperative action. Regional councils are defined by law as political subdivisions of the

state, but they have no regulatory power or other authority possessed by cities, counties, or other local governments. Decisions by regional councils are not binding on member governments, but are considered and adopted as members' needs require. As political subdivisions, regional councils are subject to state laws governing open meetings, access to public records, and conduct of public officials.

The geographic boundaries of regional councils in Oklahoma must coincide with the eleven (11) designated planning regions. Membership of the regional councils includes local governments as well as cities, counties, conservation districts, and Indian nations. The Councils of Governments (COG) include all seventy-seven (77) counties. Counties and cities comprise the majority of regional council membership.

Federal law provided the initial impetus for creating regional councils. The national legislation authorized organizations directed by local elected officials to prepare a variety of regional plans at the sub state level. In their early years, regional councils were heavily involved in comprehensive planning, with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, these funds were significantly reduced in 1982. Regional councils continue to do comprehensive planning, however, with funding provided from local funds, state assistance, U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and special contributions; projects now include regional data collection and analysis, mapping, and coordination of environmental, economic, social program plans, Rural Fire Defense, Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grant programs, and Hazard Mitigation Planning. These regional councils can serve as wonderful collaborative partners for coordinated community response teams throughout the state.



## CHARACTERISTICS DESCRIBING OKLAHOMA'S QUALITY OF LIFE IMPACTING IPV VICTIM SERVICES

To demonstrate the power of words, images, and art, we will utilize the Oklahoma state motto, slogans, and marketing/branding campaigns to highlight some of the unique characteristics describing Oklahoma's quality of life impacting IPV Victim Services. The reader is invited to engage in a technique used during the needs assessment focus groups which is described in more detail in the Needs Assessment Methodology section. While reading this section, ask yourself if your reaction to the description provided in each area is coming from a place of love and wisdom or a place of fear and ignorance. Each area provides thoughts and ideas, "seeds" which can be inspiration for nurturing a victim service system which is trauma-informed and rooted in best-practices. Each area provides thoughts and ideas, "seeds" which must be closely examined and transformed if we are to serve all victims with the respect they deserve. Each area provides thoughts and ideas, "seeds" which could be used to better serve or could be used to further harm depending on how we utilize them. How will we move forward?

**"Labor Omnia Vincit"** - The Oklahoma state motto is a Latin motto and common expression which in English means "Labour Conquers All Things". The Oklahoma motto was adopted in 1907 but the inspiration for the Latin motto itself dates back 2000 years to Virgil, a Roman poet. In his book "Georgics" Virgil wrote "Labor omnia uicit improbus" (Uphill work overcomes all things). In his work Virgil was describing how to make agriculture grow in a "Back to the land" policy introduced by Augustus Caesar. The goal was to inspire more Romans to engage in farming and agriculture.

- **Seeds to Nourish:** Looking to the Earth, the arts, and history for guidance
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Influence by governmental agents
- **Seeds to Transform:** The idea that everyone should "pull themselves up from their bootstraps;" many of our residents do not have "boots"



## SOONERS AND THE LAND GRAB

The official state nickname of Oklahoma is The Sooner State.

In 1889, people poured into central Oklahoma to stake their claims to nearly 2 million acres opened for settlement by the U.S. government. Those who entered the region before the land run's designated starting time, at noon on April 22, 1889, were dubbed "sooners." The area to which the settlers flocked was known as the Unassigned Lands. Although situated in Indian Territory, where the federal government had relocated many Native American tribes during the 19th century, the Unassigned Lands were no longer attached to a specific tribe in the years following the American Civil War. In the late 1870s, an effort referred to as the "boomer" movement sprung up to promote white settlement in the area. Initially, the boomers who attempted to inhabit the Unassigned Lands were booted out by federal authorities. However, the boomers' lobbying campaign eventually gained traction in Congress (helped in part by officials from the Santa Fe Railway Company, which laid tracks in the region in 1886), and on March 23, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation that the lands would open for settlement on a first-arrival basis.

A month later, on April 22, starting pistols sounded and an estimated 50,000 land seekers dashed into the Unassigned Lands to make their claims. (Thanks to the 1862 Homestead Act, a settler could claim up to 160 acres of unappropriated public land and receive title to it if he lived on it for five years and made improvements.) No one was supposed to set foot in the area and occupy land before the appointed time, but some people snuck across the borders early and hid so they could more easily snag a tract once the land run officially kicked off. Sooners also included

people such as railroad workers who had a legitimate reason to be in the Unassigned Lands before the designated start of the land run and used this as an unfair advantage to grab desirable parcels. (A number of sooner claims later were contested.)

In 1907, Oklahoma became America's 46th state, and the next year the University of Oklahoma's football team took "Sooners" as its nickname. The expression, which had taken on a positive connotation and came to symbolize an energetic, can-do spirit, soon was embraced as a nickname for the entire state. Adapted from material retrieved on 7 Nov 2017 from <http://www.history.com/news/ask-history/why-is-oklahoma-nicknamed-the-sooner-state>

- **Seeds to Nourish:** Energetic, can-do spirit
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Influence of lobbyist and corporations on public welfare
- **Seeds to Transform:** Profiting from unfair advantage - Taking what one wants when one wants it with no regard to rules or the rights of others; Tenuous relationships between federal, tribal, state, and local governments

## PISTOL PETE AND U.S. MARSHALS

Cowboy, U.S. Marshal, gun-slinger, and blacksmith, Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton served as the inspiration for Oklahoma State University's Pistol Pete mascot. Approached in 1923 by a group of Oklahoma A&M students after leading Stillwater's Armistice Day Parade, Eaton, a rugged cowboy serving at the time as sheriff in the nearby town of Perkins, Oklahoma, agreed to be represented as the mascot. It was not until 1958, however, that the mascot was made official and not until 1984 that the Pistol Pete caricature became a licensed symbol of OSU. In 1958 an OSU student was chosen to don the head created in Eaton's image and dress in traditional cowboy gear. Beginning in 1967 there were generally two students chosen to share the task of transforming themselves into Pistol Pete





at sporting events and university gatherings, which can total more than 400 appearances a year. In 2008 those who have worn the Pistol Pete head gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the mascot. At that time, a number of these men were interviewed by the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the

OSU Library about their experiences “being Pete.” Adapted from materials retrieved from <https://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital/pistol-pete-collection/about-pistol-pete> on 7 Nov 2017

U.S. Marshal's have a long history of law enforcement within the geographic boundaries now known as Oklahoma and have dealt with jurisdictional issues from the time the agency was created.

The U.S. Marshal's historical account states throughout the American frontier in the late 1800's, U.S. marshals and their deputies served as authorities between the native Indian population and white settlers who were moving westward. The marshals generally enjoyed peaceful relations with the Indians. However, on April 15, 1872, eight deputy marshals were shot and killed in what came to be known as the Goingsnake Massacre, which occurred in Tahlequah, Indian Territory. **The incident is particularly relevant to our discussion of victim services in the state today as it involves family disputes and jurisdictional challenges.**

“The Cherokee Nation has a deep and colorful history with the U.S. Marshal Service,” said Catherine Foreman-Gray, Cherokee Nation history and preservation officer. “Many of the men serving

as U.S. deputy marshals out of Fort Smith federal court during the frontier-era were Cherokee. The Goingsnake Massacre is the largest single casualty for the U.S. Marshal Service, with 11 dying in that gunfight.”

**FACTS:** Ezekial “Zeke” Proctor, a full-blood Cherokee and member of the Keetoowah Nighthawk Society, was being tried for killing Polly Beck and wounding Jim Kesterson in a shooting incident. Proctor's home was in the Goingsnake District, now Adair County. Proctor allegedly went to the Sequoyah District to visit his sister, Susan, and he discovered her husband had left her and her children and they were hungry. He made arrangements for them to stay with another relative, then set out to find Kesterson, Susan's husband.

**THE SCENE:** According to historical information, it has been said Kesterson was living with Polly Beck Hilderbrand in the Goingsnake District. Kesterson had been working at the Hilderbrand family mill on Flint Creek near Siloam Springs. When Proctor arrived, he found Kesterson and Hilderbrand together. He was angry, pulled his gun intending to shoot his brother-in-law, but Hilderbrand jumped in the way and was killed by Proctor.

**TRIAL:** Reports indicated the ensuing trial was highly charged due to the strong family ties of the accused victims and the jurisdictional dispute between the Cherokee and U.S. courts. A federal posse of ten (10) U.S. marshals was sent to attend the trial and arrest Proctor on federal charges if he was acquitted in Cherokee court. During the proceedings, shooting broke out in the crowded courtroom. “Eight of the casualties were deputy marshals or their posse, and eight of those casualties were Cherokees,” said Foreman-Gray.

**CASUALTIES:** Polly Beck, plus U.S. marshal casualties included: deputy marshals Jacob G. Owens, Black Sut Beck, Sam Beck, William Hicks, Jim Ward and Riley Woods; and posse members, William Beck and George Seldridge. Cherokee casualties included

Johnson Proctor, brother of Zeke; William Alberty, Proctor's attorney; and Andrew Palone, Cherokee and Civil War veteran.

**RULING:** Proctor was acquitted in Cherokee court the day after the massacre, and the ruling was accepted by the U.S. courts, as the tribe had jurisdiction at the time and federal laws against double jeopardy applied. A second posse, made up of 21 deputy marshals, was dispatched and arrested several men believed to be involved in the killing of the marshals. The suspects were taken to Fort Smith, Arkansas, for trial, and eventually were released due to lack of evidence.

The above account depicted the costliest encounter for deputies and specially deputized posse members. But there have been others throughout the agency's history which involved notorious gangs and escaped prisoners. On May 1, 1885, Deputy Marshal Jim Guy, and possemen Bill Kirksey, Andy Roff and James Roff, were killed in Delaware Bend, Indian Territory, in a shoot-out with the Pink-Lee Gang; in Eufaula, Indian Territory, Deputy Marshal William Kelly and possemen Mark Kuykendall and Henry Smith were shot and killed during a prisoner escape January 17, 1887; and in Ingalls, Oklahoma Territory, a shoot-out with the famed Doolin-Dalton Gang on September 1, 1893, left Deputy Marshals Ham Hueston and Lafe Shadley, as well as posse member Dick Speed, dead.

Adapted from materials retrieved from <https://www.usmarshals.gov/district/ok-n/general/history.htm>, <https://www.usmarshals.gov/history/line-of-duty-old-west.htm>, on 7 Nov 2017 and [http://www.tahlequahdailypress.com/news/local\\_news/goingsnake-massacre-topic-of-event/article\\_e69f8a19-4d9b-5e0e-a27b-9487f1488425.html](http://www.tahlequahdailypress.com/news/local_news/goingsnake-massacre-topic-of-event/article_e69f8a19-4d9b-5e0e-a27b-9487f1488425.html) on 11 Nov 2017

- **Seeds to Nourish:** Willingness to serve demonstrated by Native and non-Native marshals alike
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Jurisdictional disputes – do we honor and respect the powers and limitations imposed on each sovereign and act for the greater good of all people
- **Seeds to Transform:** "Cowboy vs. Indian" mentality

## OKLAHOMA STATE SLOGANS

Whereas the Oklahoma motto intends to describe the patriotic values and virtues of labor important to Oklahoma, Oklahoma state slogans focus especially on attracting tourists and are utilized on our license plates and by the Oklahoma Tourism Department.



### OKLAHOMA IS OK - COME SEE FOR YOURSELF

"Oklahoma is OK" - This Oklahoma state slogan first appeared on license plates back in 1967 and still surfaces on occasion. The current slogan is "Oklahoma: Come See for Yourself" the Land of No Boundaries. As described throughout this report, Oklahoma is dissected by federally imposed, tribally imposed, state imposed, and municipally imposed boundaries which impact residents on a daily basis. On some levels, we are learning to operate effectively and efficiently within these boundaries and creating a culturally diverse and respectful environment. For example, as reported in the Oklahoma Secretary of State's 2015 Native Affairs Annual Report, the Pawnee Nation received a Federal Highway Administration Tribal Transportation Program Safety grant through which the Nation provided 320 digital radios in support of 24 different law enforcement, fire and emergency management departments: tribal,



state, county, and municipal. The report also notes, Oklahoma's Indian Nations are leading the way with innovative solutions easing the non-violent offender prison population through nationally recognized offender reintegration programs. Chickasaw Nation developed a unique approach to put former offenders back to work with an "On the Job Training Program" (OTJT program) made possible through partnerships with local employers. The Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Comanche Nations are also engaged in reentry programs. In an effort to manage repressive criminal debt and seek the avoidance of or the recall of failure-to-pay costs/fines bench warrants, and for counsel on all civil matters, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. entered into an innovative compact to provide embedded attorneys who advocate exclusively on behalf of the reentry clients.

## JURISDICTIONAL MAZE

On the other end of the spectrum, failure to respect and abide by the governing laws and rules within each boundary continues to place victims in harm's way, results in a lack of justice for victims and their families, and leads to long legal battles over jurisdictional disputes. For example, on 8 August 2017 the United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit remanded the case of Patrick Dwayne Murphy, Petitioner - Appellant, v. Terry Royal, Warden, Oklahoma State Penitentiary, Respondent - Appellee. Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Amici Curiae back to the district court to issue a writ of habeas corpus vacating his conviction and sentence due to lack of jurisdiction. This 1999 murder, resulting from a dispute between Mr. Murphy and the father of Mr. Murphy's girlfriend's child, is now, almost twenty years later, continuing the long dispute over criminal jurisdiction and highlighting the complexities of offender accountability in Oklahoma. [See <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-10th-circuit/1870133.html>]

Another example of jurisdictional woes is provided in a dispute about who can prosecute two brothers

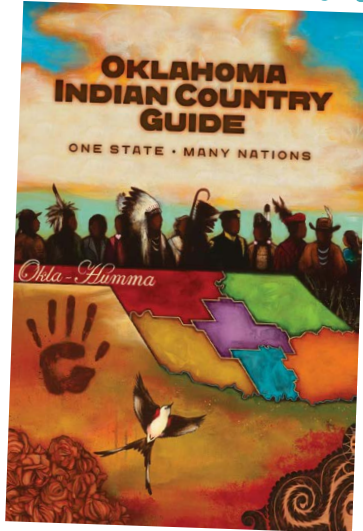
accused of killing an Oklahoma rancher. Two brothers, Jeremy and Tyler Reece were charged in the 2015 kidnapping and fatal shooting of 46-year-old Rick Holt. Jurisdiction is in dispute because Mr. Holt's body was discovered buried on Osage Tribal land and the brothers are members of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation.

The jurisdictional issue was first addressed in March 2016, when an Osage County District Judge ruled exclusive federal jurisdiction in the murder, based on the Major Crimes Act and Indian Crimes Assimilation Act. However, prosecutors appealed and a Mayes County Judge sustained the ruling, adding "[i]f the State wants to ask for a bind over on felony murder, the Court finds there's sufficient evidence to sustain that." The U.S. Attorney's office reviewed the case in 2016; however, they chose not to try the case stating they found no indicator of federal jurisdiction, "based upon what we know to be federal law." At that time, the Osage Nation Assistant Attorney General filed charges to ensure the two men stayed in jail after the state's murder charge against them was first dismissed in March 2016.

On 6 June 2017, the Tulsa World reported the Osage County prosecutors' case against the brothers was dismissed again because the U.S. Attorney still has jurisdiction in the case. The accused brothers have been housed in the Osage County Jail as the case has made its way through federal, tribal, and state court review over the past two years. At this point, the state courts have ruled the states have no jurisdiction, the federal courts decline to prosecute or assume jurisdiction, and the tribal court is hamstrung by sentencing restrictions imposed by federal law. However, if the pair were tried in tribal court, they would be unlikely to receive additional jail time because the maximum sentence for the murder charge in tribal court is one year, and they would likely receive credit for the two years they've already served. Additionally, tribal court is not a court of record, meaning the convictions would not appear on background checks.

Throughout the history of our state, navigating the maze of jurisdictional boundaries prevalent within

the geographic boundaries of Oklahoma is a task which has proven difficult for some of the keenest legal minds and as yet is unresolved. Oklahoma's law schools are producing and have produced many Native and non-Native attorneys whose careers are devoted to educating others on Federal Indian Law and its impact on life within the United States. These attorneys, along with law enforcement, victim service providers, and government officials are actively engaging in discussions, compacts, and agreements designed to lessen the harmful impacts of these jurisdictional boundaries and strengthen the respectful adherence to sovereignty on the federal, tribal, and state levels.



"red." A total of sixty-seven (67) tribes have called Oklahoma home, and we are one state comprised of many nations. This Oklahoma Indian Country Guide is a valuable resource about the who, what, where, and when of the state's Indian nations. Things to see and do are included to help in planning your visits."

[See <https://www.travelok.com/brochures>]

A former Oklahoma Tourism campaign, "Oklahoma: Native America," blatantly capitalized on the passing of time and the continual removal and relocation of Native American tribes which "created" the Indian Territory which was reduced to what is now Oklahoma. When Oklahoma gained statehood in 1907, the Indian Territory was extinguished; however, today Oklahoma is still home to many Native American sovereign nations and peoples. Oftentimes, the genocide and oppression tied to these historic events is overlooked in its impact on interpersonal violence prevalent within our state today.

- **Seeds to Nourish:** Respectful collaboration in providing services within and between jurisdictional boundaries
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Interpretation of "Land with No Boundaries"

Is Oklahoma a No-Man's Land with no easily enforceable rule of law —OR—Are Oklahomans ready to transcend boundaries in ways that protect and serve all residents?

- **Seeds to Transform:** Tendency to be "OK" with the way things are

## KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON

David Grann's book, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, meticulously describes an appalling widespread conspiracy against the Osage which reached from the Osage Hills to the Beltway of Washington, D.C. It should be noted, Grann is non-Osage and the research for the book was primarily FBI and private investigator notes. Since the release of the book, much discussion has centered on how few Osage individuals were interviewed for the book. Additionally, efforts are underway to create an Osage-centered account of this period in history.

Grann's story centers on an Osage family who died, in ones and twos from 1918 through 1925, of causes ranging from the odd and ambiguous such as a "peculiar wasting illness" to the obviously violent bomb which killed two family members. During this same time period, other Osage were dying under similarly disturbing circumstances, such as being shot, poisoned, and drugged then thrown down a flight of stairs. When a white oilman was recruited

## OKLAHOMA: NATIVE AMERICA

NOTE: This section provides citations to enable the reader to further study the subject matter. The authors of this document are not historians; they are advocates of justice for all.

As stated on the TravelOK.com site, "Our state is deeply rooted in American Indian history, culture and heritage. Even the name Oklahoma means "Red People" and comes from two Choctaw words--okla meaning "people" and humma or humma meaning

by the Osage to seek assistance from federal officials to investigate these deaths, he was also killed: stabbed and beaten, then stripped naked. By 1925, none of the murders had been solved, and the death toll was climbing high enough that the rest of America started taking notice. National papers reported on what was termed the “Reign of Terror”, the Osage “Black Curse.”

Another aspect of Osage life had recently made national news. The Osage had become the wealthiest people per capita in the world. The federal government had driven the Osage from their ancestral lands in the 1870's to their current reservation in Oklahoma. At the time, the land was judged to be “broken, rocky, sterile, and utterly unfit for cultivation;” however, decades later, the Osage learned the reservation contained some of the largest oil deposits in the U.S. By the 1920s, the Osage reservation was said to have yielded more oil money than the combined value of all the Old West gold rushes. Journalists of the time reported on what they called “plutocratic Osage” and “red millionaires.” Newspapers reportedly published exaggerated stories of “Osage arriving at a ceremony for their dances in a private airplane”, grand pianos tossed out on lawns, and “even whites” performing “all the menial tasks about the house to which no Osage will stoop.”

As during the Land Run, the Osage wealth attracted a new host of outlaws – gang members, fugitives, and bank robbers. However, the most insidious thefts were facilitated by the federal government, which claimed many Osage were incapable of handling their own money and thereby forced to have “guardians.” These guardians were “usually drawn from the ranks of the most prominent white citizens in Osage County” to supervise and authorize spending by the individual Osage people. Guardians often grossly swindled their Osage wards by purchasing items from their own stores at inflated prices, directing business to associates for kickbacks, and outright stealing.

The taking of the headrights, or mineral rights to the oil-rich land, required the use of the ultimate power and control over the Osage people, especially Osage

women. The headrights couldn't be bought, only inherited, thus, headrights remained in the tribe – unless, someone who wasn't Osage happened to be next in line to inherit. The theft of the headrights is where this 20th century story demonstrates how the “original sin” of our nation, the systematic oppression and killing of our first people, was still rearing its ugly head. The story also demonstrates how power and control through interpersonal violence was inflicted upon the Osage women.

If white people hoped to inherit the headrights, they had to marry into the tribe. These marriages were often entered into with a wish their rich spouse would die, at the least, or a plan to cause them to die. Some of these plans came to fruition often after the white spouse lived for years with the Osage husband or wife. Just within the cases documented in the Killers of the Flower Moon, headright inheritance helped explain the deaths of five Osage: four women and one man.

The fledgling Federal Bureau of Investigation eventually proved three of the white men were behind the family murders, apprehended them, found them guilty, and put them in prison. Ironically, the investigation of the mass murders of Native Americans was touted as “a showcase for the modern bureau” and allowed the FBI's director, J. Edgar Hoover, to demonstrate to the rest of the country the need for a national police force. Further, “Grann carefully shows, the FBI's victory declaration obscured the scope of headright-related killings.” The official death count for the Reign of Terror acknowledged by federal officials topped out at 24; however, scholars and surviving family members who have delved into the historical evidence believe the real death toll to be in the hundreds.

Most of the murders weren't solved. Many of the victims' descendants have engaged in their own private investigations, which are never ending. Native and non-Native residents of the Osage reservation live with doubts, suspecting dead relatives or old family friends or guardians. Descendants of those convicted and those murdered still reside in Oklahoma and

encounter one another on a regular basis. As one great-grandson of an Osage victim stated: “You just have it in the back of your head that you don’t trust anybody.”

Grann’s book which has been applauded as an “accomplished and necessary account of injustice, avarice, and racist violence,” has opened the door for meaningful discussion, some healing, and an opportunity to examine the true cost of oil and racism within our state. [See review retrieved on 11 Nov 2017 from <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/aug/03/killers-of-the-flower-moon-by-david-grann-review>]

## **BARRIERS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VICTIMS**

Unfortunately, the Killers of the Flower Moon tells a story both old and new and sets a backdrop of power, control, and distrust which exists today. While commonalities exist for many survivors experiencing interpersonal violence (such as types and patterns of abuse, challenges, and barriers to safety), there are unique experiences across Native communities. Some barriers include:

- culturally specific forms of abuse,
- historical and intergenerational trauma of the colonization of tribes,
- jurisdictional barriers of revoked tribal jurisdiction of non-Natives perpetrators on tribal lands,
- infrastructure limitations to implement restored jurisdiction (tribal police, court systems, prisons),
- available resources and funding for all tribal programs and shelters,
- availability and/or enforcement of protection orders,
- availability and/or processing of sexual assault forensic examination kits,
- community confidentiality conflicts,
- accessibility of medical treatment,
- locality, and

- extremely long investigation processes that often involve the FBI and the United States government that have significantly low investigation statistics and far less prosecution numbers.

These barriers can be so significant that often times survivors do not seek help at all. During Listening Meetings facilitated in 2016-2017 by the District Attorney’s Council and through data collection utilized for the Needs Assessment for this project, the following barriers for Native American victims were repeatedly identified.

### **Workforce**

- Limited, educated workforce within victim services which in conjunction with lack of funding to provide adequate program staffing, leads to high turnover rates and poor continuity of care for the victim
- Few employment opportunities for victims which pay a living wage, especially if the victim has children
- Most childcare facilities close at 6 PM or earlier which makes finding a job difficult for victims with children

### **Transportation**

- As most of Oklahoma is very rural with many areas extremely isolated, supporting victims may require several days of transporting them to court, doctors’ appointments, etc. Even though advocates are often working in excess of 40 hours per week and often covering numerous counties just to serve one victim and because grant funding is often based upon the number of victims served, programs find it difficult to justify grant funds when consideration for funding is based on a “numbers served” analysis
- The majority of Oklahoma has no transit service; if service is available, it often caters to employees, elderly, or persons with disabilities
- Native Americans are nearly twice as likely as Whites to have no vehicle (8.5 percent) and African Americans are over three times as likely to be without a car (14.1 percent). Consequently,



more African-Americans in Oklahoma report walking or using public transportation to get to work (5.2 percent), followed by Hispanics/Latinos (2.9 percent), American Indians (2.3 percent), and Whites (2.0 percent). [See CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP: BUILDING EQUITY IN OKLAHOMA retrieved on 15 Nov 2017 from <https://okpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Closing-the-Opportunity-Gap.pdf?x43134>]

## Isolation

- Many victims who are isolated, don't want to leave the area where they may have some family support
- Few Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners are available in rural areas

## Outreach

- Although many tribal and non-tribal programs serve both tribal members and non-tribal members, many individuals within the community do not realize this even though programs engage in extensive outreach
- Outreach takes a lot of time due to the large rural area covered

## Housing

- Victims may be on a waiting list for two years or longer to receive affordable housing

## Law Enforcement

- Still the "good ole boy" system
- Dual arrests are often made
- Jurisdictional disputes
- Delayed response times due to vastness of area served by tribal law enforcement
- Victim distrust of law enforcement and judicial system
- Lack of enforcement for protective order violations

## EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE - CONTINUUM OF CRIME

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice System encourages a review of the impact of crimes within Indian Country, as crime is not committed within a vacuum. Crimes result in loss to the victim, loss to the community, a loss to the general wellness of the tribe, the general wellness of the state, and the general wellness of the nation.

Numerous accounts exist of the disparity in the rates of exposure to violence affecting American Indians which occurs across age groups, housing locations, and by gender. For years, findings have revealed disturbing pictures of the victimization of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The rate of violent crime estimated from self-reported victimizations for American Indians is well above that of other U.S. racial or ethnic groups. American Indians are more likely than people of other races to experience violence at the hands of someone of a different race, and the criminal victimizer is more likely to have consumed alcohol preceding the offense.

Victimization of Native women and children is well documented and is supported by numerous anecdotal accounts provided by victim service providers throughout Oklahoma. The Amnesty International report, *Maze of Injustice: The Failure to Protect Indigenous Women from Sexual Violence in the USA*, was released in 2007 and states, "The report confirmed what Native American and Alaska Native advocates have long known: that sexual violence against women from Indian nations is at epidemic proportions and that survivors are frequently denied justice." [See <https://www.amnestyusa.org/pdfs/mazeofinjustice.pdf>]

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice System states, in looking at this information, it is important to view violence against Native American women as a continuum of crime---crime experienced from birth through death. Babies hear the domestic violence in the home, and are assaulted or abused; children are molested, beaten, neglected and abused; teens suffer date rape or dating violence; young women and men are raped, abused, or assaulted; married women suffer



all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault; and seniors face elder abuse and financial fraud. [See <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/victim-assistance>, retrieved 7 Nov 2017]

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - MAZE OF INJUSTICE

As summarized in the 2008 Update for the Maze of Injustice report:

"More than one in three Native American or Alaska Native women will be raped at some point in their lives. Most do not seek justice because they know they will be met with inaction or indifference. The report Maze of Injustice, released in 2007 unraveled some of the reasons why Indigenous women in the USA are at such risk of sexual violence and why survivors are so frequently denied justice.

Chronic under-resourcing of law enforcement and health services, confusion over jurisdiction, erosion of tribal authority, discrimination in law and practice, and indifference – all these factors play a part. None of this is inevitable or irreversible. The voices of Indigenous women who have come forward to speak about these issues send a message of courage and hope that change can and will happen. At the one-year mark of the release of Maze of Injustice, there is significant, even historical, opportunity for change but there is also real danger that the follow through that is so desperately needed will not happen. It will require working together on all levels to fulfill the promises made." [See MAZE OF INJUSTICE: The failure to protect Indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA, One Year Update, Spring 2008 retrieved on 11 Nov 2017 from [https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/MazeOfInjustice\\_1yr.pdf](https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/MazeOfInjustice_1yr.pdf)]

As we look back over the decade which has passed since the publication of the Amnesty International report, we honor the positive steps which have been made toward a more just system and we strive to

address the remaining barriers to justice which remain within Oklahoma Indian Country.

- **Seeds to Nourish:** The amazing resiliency of Native peoples. The rich and diverse cultures we are honored to embrace within the geographic boundaries of our state. The dedication of those who came before and have formed a foundation on which to build.
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Victim Service System policies specific to this underserved population
- **Seeds to Transform:** The tendency to give "lip service" to being rooted in Native American history, culture, and heritage without honoring, embracing, and acknowledging the living, breathing, sovereign nations and their people who are essential, integral, and equal members of our communities. The use of cultural appropriation to capitalize on the romanticizing of Native culture.

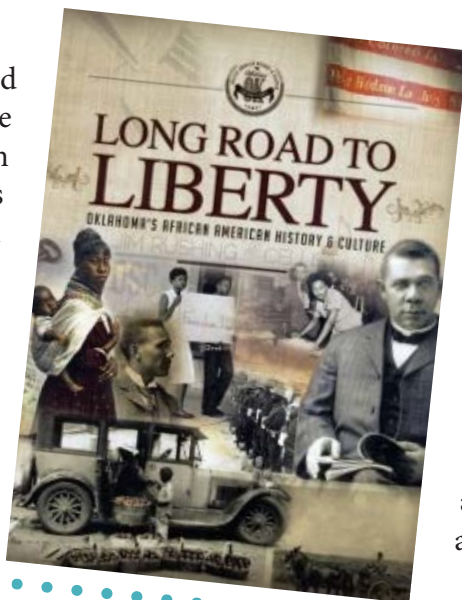
## LONG ROAD TO LIBERTY - AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN OKLAHOMA

Note: This section provides citations to enable the reader to further study the subject matter. The authors of this document are not historians; they are advocates of justice for all.

"Defining the African-American experience in Oklahoma, these pioneers came to settle one of America's last frontiers and create a new state. They became successful businessmen, jazz legends, dedicated educators, sports heroes, and politicians--each leaving a lasting legacy. Explore the African-American history, cultural influences, and contributions made on this long road to liberty." [See <https://www.travelok.com/brochures>]

Similar to the Osage Reign of Terror, ninety-seven years after the Destruction of Black Wall Street, the "demise of the Black Mecca many called 'Little Africa,'" the terrorism, violence, and dispossession of African Americans through the years still impacts the lives of African-American Oklahoma residents. The ties to Oklahoma Native American residents

goes even deeper and is intertwined with the federal removal of Native Americans and slavery. As noted in the Oklahoma Historical Society's account of African American history in Oklahoma, in the 1830's black slaves came with their Indian masters across the Trail of Tears to their new territorial home in the West, to what is now the state of Oklahoma. ". . .slavery became a fixture in Indian Territory." However, historians debate the nature of the institution among the Indians, some say Indian



Territory slavery "hardly resembled the institution established in the Deep South, but was more akin to indentured servitude of early America." Other historians contend "bondage was bondage" and that kind of "brutality made it similar to the chattel slavery of the Old South."

During the Land Run of 1889 a few black settlers descended upon the territory to stake out homesteads and the black populations of both Indian Territory and the newly created Oklahoma Territory grew as boosters described the territories as "land of opportunity and freedom." At the same time, Edward P. McCabe, founder of the town of Langston and an energetic promoter and politician, led a movement for an All-Black state. The black statehood effort never had much chance of success; however, it did lead to the establishment of more All-Black towns in the territories. By some estimates, as many as fifty of these communities may have existed at one time and their significance continues to reside in the determination of black people to escape discrimination, to seek reinforcement for their racial ideas, and to acquire control over their own lives.

White migration from the Deep South, increasing number of blacks, and the growing economic success of blacks, led to restrictive racial laws and customs. The growing economic success of blacks in particular

affected race relations. By the turn of the twentieth century, black workers began to compete for jobs reserved for whites in the territories' cities. "As historian Danney Goble has correctly observed, economic progress and black population growth made physical separation more difficult, if not impossible. Black advances challenged stereotypical attitudes toward race, and as a result, a new social arrangement soon appeared."

Historically, national developments have played important roles in altering race relations between blacks and whites within the state. In 1896 the U.S. Supreme Court issued its "separate but equal" doctrine in the Plessy v. Ferguson case which helped to enshrine Jim Crow into law for more than a half century. In the early stages of Oklahoma Territory, separate schools for blacks and whites were optional, but in the late 1890s the territorial legislature passed statutes effectively institutionalizing an aspect of Jim Crow, keeping black and white children apart. During this time, blacks called for support of black educational institutions for their children, including the establishment of the Colored Agricultural and Normal University at Langston in 1897. Higher education in Oklahoma was separate until the 1940s and public schools were separate until 1955.

## AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

The State of Oklahoma is rooted in segregation, racism, and bigotry, as well as passionate, courageous, determined, and intelligent activists working to uproot these seeds of division and hatred. The historical society reports:

"By the time delegates met in the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention at Guthrie in 1906 to organize a new state, both law and social customs had

created an atmosphere for a completely segregated society. The battle over the place of blacks in the newly proposed state of Oklahoma became a heated issue during the selection of representatives to the convention. The Democratic Party promised to separate the races, and with that as a central part of its platform, it ultimately secured an overwhelming majority of the delegates at Guthrie. Led by the Negro Press Association, blacks waged a determined battle to defeat the forces of segregation but could not overcome the pro-southern sentiment that had taken root in the territories. The politicians at the convention wanted to redeem the commitment to keep the races apart in all areas of social life, but Republican President Theodore Roosevelt had threatened to veto Oklahoma statehood if that took place. The spirit of the constitutional convention echoed in the racial language of its leader, William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, who exclaimed that blacks would always remain bootblacks, barbers, and farmers. The future governor of Oklahoma believed that African Americans would never rise to the equal of whites in the professions or become informed citizens capable of grappling with serious public questions."

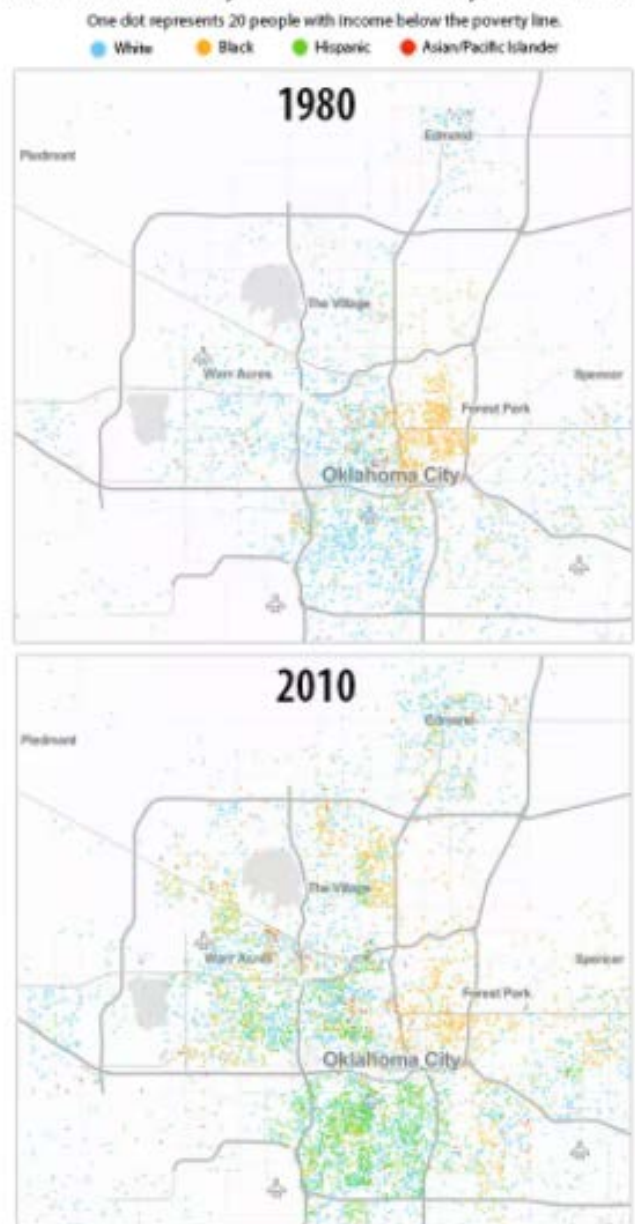
grandfather clause remained virtually intact until the U.S. Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in the 1915 *Guinn v. United States* case. Nevertheless, a subsequent measure passed the legislature and limited black voting; this law would remain on the books until it met with Court disapproval in 1939. The unrestricted right to the ballot, however, did not come to all black Oklahomans until the Civil Rights era of the 1960s."

In fact, the very first bill approved by the Oklahoma Senate in 1907 (Senate Bill 1), also known as the Coach

Systemic disfranchisement of blacks was high on Oklahoma's early legislative agenda. The election of a black man, A. C. Hamlin of Guthrie, to the First Legislature made an impact upon those persons anxious to rid blacks from state politics and was an incentive to remove the ballot from black hands.

In 1910 the so-called "grandfather clause" stipulated "potential voters must take and pass an examination that demonstrated an ability to read and write. However, it exempted descendants of citizens eligible to vote on January 1, 1866, a provision that adversely affected blacks but favored whites as most of them met that requirement. For nearly five years the

### Race and Poverty in Oklahoma City, 1980-2010





Law, codified that “every railway company, urban or suburban car company, street car or interurban car or railway company shall provide separate coaches or compartments as hereinafter provided for the accommodation of the white and negro races, which separate coaches or cars shall be equal in all points of comfort and convenience.” Another section of the legislation similarly spelled out that each railroad depot must have separate adequately signed waiting rooms for each race. And the passenger could incur a fine if they sat in the wrong area or car.

## JIM CROW LAWS

The Jim Crow code and its underlying sentiments touch practically every facet of life involving contact between the races, with some of the worst discrimination in the area of economic opportunity. A noted difference existed between the ways black and white Oklahomans made, and often still make, a living and created a vast chasm between the races in: education, health, housing, recreation, and many other facets of life. Many of these differences still exist today.

For instance, in Oklahoma’s two largest cities, maps are provided where each dot on the map represents 20 Oklahomans living in poverty, color-coded by race. In 1980 poverty could be found across Oklahoma City, but African-Americans were largely segregated on the east side of town. Racial groups other than Whites and African-Americans were present only in small numbers.

By 2010, high-poverty areas had become much more diverse. While the poverty in east Oklahoma City is still predominately African-American, these families can be found much more in other parts of the city as well.

Like Oklahoma City, poverty could be found throughout Tulsa both in 1980 and 2010. Low-income African-Americans remain largely segregated in

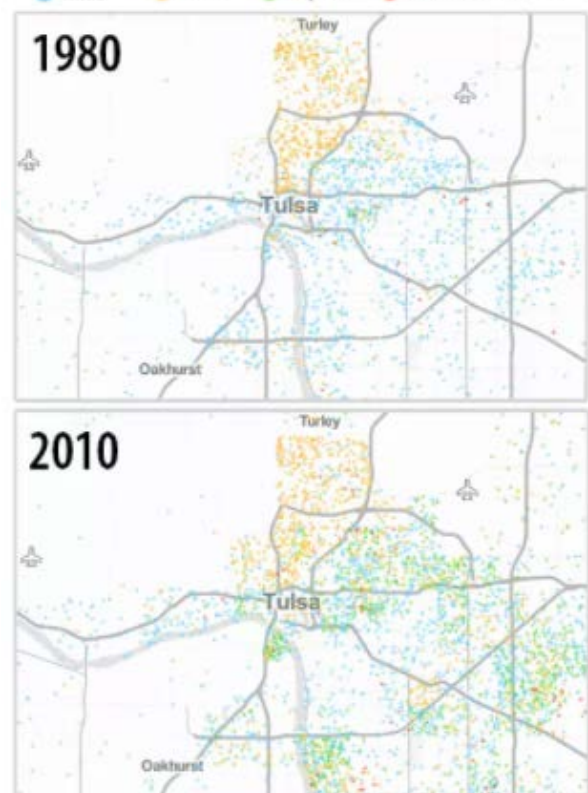
north Tulsa, though by 2010 we can see more of these families in other parts of the city.

These maps depict a racial wealth and opportunity gap of our state, in which people of color as a group lag behind white households in assets crucial for financial security, such as homeownership, education, good health, and savings. These gaps are often reflections of a long history of asset-stripping by violence, fraud, and discrimination, which deprived both the immediate victims and many of their descendants, to whom past generations of wealth were not available. [See <https://okpolicy.org/the-changing-map-of-poverty-and-race-in-oklahoma/> retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]

"Although many white Oklahomans defended segregation as a means of ensuring racial peace, it encouraged random lawlessness and lynching or provided a defense for anti-black actions. During the territorial period racial

### Race and Poverty in Tulsa, 1980-2010

One dot represents 20 people with income below the poverty line.  
● White ● Black ● Hispanic ● Asian/Pacific Islander



intolerance had led to attacks against blacks, and the beginning of the twentieth century saw an increase in the brutality against them. The irrational belief by whites of possible black domination in the state, fear of economic competition, and efforts to silence blacks politically, helped to foster an atmosphere for violence."

## 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE

At the same time the Osage Reign of Terror was occurring 60 miles to the north, another notorious act of racial conflict in Oklahoma history was taking place in Tulsa. The Destruction of Black Wall Street or the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot, as it has historically been known, was part of a broader national domestic terrorism which followed World War I. The violence in Tulsa represented a defining moment in Oklahoma's history, the Historical Society notes it forecast the extent to which some white citizens would go to achieve ultimate subjugation of blacks. The Oklahoma Historical Society further states, "the Tulsa disaster arose from a number of immediate and remote causes, among them irresponsible journalism, rumor, racial fears, tensions related to urban migration, and weak law enforcement. Although historians cannot specifically indict the Ku Klux Klan in starting the riot, the organization created a spirit of lawlessness that made it easier for some citizens to engage in mob activity."

In the Zinn Education Project article, *Burning Tulsa: The Legacy of Black Dispossession*, Linda Christensen writes:

The term "race riot" does not adequately describe the events of May 31—June 1, 1921 in Greenwood, a black neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In fact, the term itself implies that both blacks and whites might be equally to blame for the lawlessness and violence. The historical record documents a sustained and murderous assault on black lives and property. This assault was

met by a brave but unsuccessful armed defense of their community by some black World War I veterans and others.

During the night and day of the riot, deputized whites killed more than 300 African Americans. They looted and burned to the ground 40 square blocks of 1,265 African American homes, including hospitals, schools, and churches, and destroyed 150 businesses. White deputies and members of the National Guard arrested and detained 6,000 black Tulsans who were released only upon being vouched for by a white employer or other white citizen. Nine thousand African Americans were left homeless and lived in tents well into the winter of 1921.

As the story has been recounted, the chance encounter between two people who had never met each other, woman, Page, and a young black man, Rowland, set the stage for the disastrous racial episode which followed. False newspaper reporting of the incident, describing Page as an orphan whose dress had been torn by the black man, inflamed Tulsans and stoked the embers of racial hate. When black men heard of plans to lynch young Rowland, they went to the jail in downtown Tulsa to protect him, but instead they confronted a group of white men determined to drive them back to their section of the city. Governor J. B. A. Robertson called out the National Guard to help Tulsa police; however, by that time many homes and businesses, including the ones along Greenwood Avenue (Black Wall Street) had been destroyed by fire and dozens of lives were lost. As with the Osage Reign of Terror, "scholars may never know how many people perished in the tragic events of 1921, for it was difficult to account for those who were burned to death, buried in secret graves, or dumped in the river. Even a special study of the riot eighty years later could not determine the number of persons who lost their lives."

Some scholars contend the riot has not substantially altered racial policies in Tulsa or the state of Oklahoma



and that Tulsa has not been fully repentant. However, what is clear is that the Tulsa Massacre, as it is has been renamed, altered the social construct of Tulsans, as many black families were fearful to talk about it with their children, for fear the children would be angry, act out, and be hurt by law enforcement or their white peers. Still in the twenty-first century,

the racial views of the white rioters. She included the roles of white and Jewish Tulsans and an immigrant from Mexico who provided refuge in the midst of death and chaos. She wants students to understand that even in moments of violence, people stood up and reached across race and class borders to help. [See <https://zinnedproject.org/2013/05/burning-tulsa-the-legacy-of-black-dispossession/>]



**THE ZARROWS, A JEWISH TULSA FAMILY, HID SOME AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN THEIR STORE DURING THE DESTRUCTION OF BLACK WALL STREET.**

the Tulsa Massacre continues to engender heated discussion. Oklahoma has officially apologized for the tragic event and in 2001 the state legislature established a Tulsa Race Riot Commission which called for reparations for victims of the violence. Yet, echoes of whites laying blame on the aggressiveness of black agitators for social equality or on militant black groups from outside the state have been heard during recent events.

Today teachers like Linda Christiansen, Director of the Oregon Writing Project at Lewis & Clark College and Co-teacher of 11th-grade language arts class at Jefferson High School in Portland, Oregon, are ensuring students realize not all white Tulsans shared

## **BLACK COMMUNITIES & INSTITUTIONS**

Between the 1920s and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, two pervasive themes appear in African American history in Oklahoma: legal action against Jim Crow, especially in education, and black community building. Black newspapers in Oklahoma played a key role in this effort, calling racially conservative politicians who wanted to stifle black progress to task. The most crusading pro-rights journals were found in the larger cities of Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Muskogee.

The Oklahoma Historical Society notes: “The struggle for equality has been a central motif in the history of black Oklahomans, but the experience of African Americans in the state has transcended racial protest. Behind the walls of segregation existed a vigorous social, cultural, and institutional life. Preeminently, the black church stood at the very center of black community life. It represented not only a place to worship, but a valuable social outlet in an era when Oklahoma limited black access to publicly supported facilities. Although Baptists and Methodists accounted for the overwhelming number of black worshipers, a small number of other religious groups appeared in the community. By the mid-twentieth century, roughly eighty thousand blacks had membership in the nearly eight hundred churches that dotted the Oklahoma landscape.”

“Oklahoma blacks established other social outlets and institutions designed to achieve some reasonable control over their own lives. Fraternal groups such as the Prince Hall Masons had come into existence before statehood. Women's clubs also appeared within

the community, sponsored social activities for both young and old, and fought for stronger community institutions. The Oklahoma State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, organized shortly after statehood, worked successfully with other groups for a school for delinquent boys at Boley and for a black girls' facility at Taft. Also forming reading and recreational groups within the larger towns of Oklahoma, women were in the forefront in the battle for library facilities in cities such as Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Black Masons and their women's auxiliary group, the Eastern Star, supported citizenship programs and educational advancement through college scholarships. The black community depended heavily on the church and community groups to provide a kind of safe haven from the harshness of racial discrimination. Through their own individual and collective efforts, blacks achieved agency through the development of their own institutions. Even after the disappearance of segregation, many of these historic groups continued to thrive in the black community."

After the 1954 U. S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* destroyed segregation in education, Oklahoma complied with the decision, and unlike some other places, no major violence took place in the state. In 1955 Oklahoma voters approved a constitutional provision, the Better Schools Amendment which legally ended segregated schools in the state. Although some pockets of re-segregation reappeared in later years after an experiment with busing, a rebirth of the principle of legalized segregation did not seem likely in Oklahoma.

Although outright violence wasn't associated with school desegregation, the emergence of suburban schools and what is now known to be "white flight" did occur as white parents still resisted having their children educated alongside black students. For example, more than 17,000 white students left the Tulsa Public School district between 1965 and 1975.

[See *School Desegregation in Tulsa, Oklahoma* retrieved on 15 Nov 2017 from <https://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/usccr/documents/cr12d4522.pdf>]

Sweeping changes took place in Oklahoma during the period that followed the *Brown* decision. A dynamic

Oklahoma City black woman and her young army achieved some success with a "sit-in" movement that began in 1958, almost two years before the more celebrated one in Greensboro, North Carolina. Their efforts focused sharp attention upon segregation in public businesses and other establishments throughout the state. Oklahoma heard the rhetoric and felt the impact of the so-called "Black Power" movement of the mid-1960s, but in its more militant form Black Power never acquired a firm grip on the state. In Oklahoma the movement revitalized interest in racial pride and a stronger black demand for a truly just and integrated society.

Black people strongly emphasized black cultural achievements during the era of civil rights. Black intellectuals pointed proudly to the accomplishments of a long list of black Oklahomans in important areas of American life, including John Hope Franklin in history, Melvin Tolson in poetry, Ralph Ellison in literature, Earl Grant, Jimmy Rushing, and Charlie Christian in popular music, and Leona Mitchell in opera. The establishment of museums, special exhibits, and archives that emphasized black achievement proliferated as interest grew between both black and white Oklahomans.

The black Oklahoma community and their political representatives have turned their attention in numerous issues which hamper racial progress and continue the gap which still exists between the economic status of black and white Oklahomans. Black legislators and their allies work to support black business, promote affirmative measures which give opportunity to persons once denied economic opportunity, and to address issues such as hate crimes, flying of the Confederate flag at the state capitol, the appointment of judges, better health care, greater access to education, and continued support for Langston University.

Oklahoma's black residents stand on a strong history of internal leadership and through their institutional and community structures are powerful agents for change. Indeed, few states in America made such a

large impact upon the achievement of black freedom as Oklahoma. The black leadership in Oklahoma initiated and won significant civil rights cases in the U.S. Supreme Court. They also successfully employed nonviolent, direct action, the sit-in, to destroy restrictive racial barriers. The changes that took place in this evolving democratic process have not completely erased injustices created by a segregated past, but advances have come. As much as any generation before them, black Oklahomans and their leaders believe there is reason for hope and Oklahoma can overcome the crippling legacies of the past. [See <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=AF003>]

## DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

According to the Oklahoma Policy Institute, “For a state that has always been rich in natural resources and entrepreneurial spirit, the future continues to look bright. Yet we’ve also inherited a legacy of discrimination that historically impeded economic opportunity for people of color and created a wealth deficit that persists today. Left unaddressed, this wealth deficit threatens Oklahoma’s ability to achieve shared prosperity into the future.”

“History is replete with examples of state-sanctioned efforts to appropriate wealth from people of color, the effects of which can still be seen today. When wealth is measured in terms of financial assets, i.e. a home or savings account, White households in the U.S. have nearly twenty times more wealth than Black households and eighteen times more wealth than Hispanic households. These are the largest gaps in racial wealth observed since the government began publishing data on net worth a quarter century ago.” [See CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP: BUILDING EQUITY IN OKLAHOMA retrieved on 15 Nov 2017 from <https://okpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Closing-the-Opportunity-Gap.pdf?x43134>]

The racial wealth disparities in Oklahoma are consistent with the national trend. Two out of every five, or 39.1 percent, of the state’s households of color are asset poor, nearly double the rate for white households. The asset poverty rate measures the percentage of households without sufficient assets to subsist at the poverty level for at least three months

## NOTABLE BLACK OKLAHOMANS

- Early black Oklahoma legislators: Green I. Currin and David J. Wallace during the territorial period, and A. C. Hamlin, shortly after statehood
- Roscoe Dunjee, Oklahoma City Black Dispatch Editor and NAACP Leader
- Ada Lois Sipuel, Chickasaw Native, and 2017 inductee into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, George McLaurin whose cases destroyed the legal foundation for segregation in higher education in the state of Oklahoma
- E. W. Perry, who preached the social gospel and taught Christianity should reject injustice
- B.C. Franklin, an attorney who represented many of the Tulsa Massacre survivors with lost property claims. He was the father of John Hope Franklin
- Clara Luper, led the children of the NAACP Youth Council against segregated eating establishments in Oklahoma City
- Former OU Sooner Football star and first black Oklahoma congressman, Republican J. C. Watts

if their income was disrupted. There is mounting evidence that assets – distinct from income - promote financial security, interrupt intergenerational poverty, and improve household health and quality of life. [See CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP: BUILDING EQUITY IN OKLAHOMA retrieved on 15 Nov 2017 from <https://okpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Closing-the-Opportunity-Gap.pdf?x43134>]



"A persistently wide racial wealth gap across generations cannot be properly understood without acknowledging the opportunity gap that accompanies it. Understanding the roots and effects of this gap help us see more clearly why people of color in Oklahoma today have a comparatively lower net worth on average, i.e. some had ancestors whose wealth was destroyed during the Tulsa Race Riot in the 1920s, and grandparents who were denied a college education or homeownership in the 1940s and 50s, and parents who faced employment discrimination throughout the 1970s and 80s."

This wide racial wealth gap is a prime example of white privilege. "White privilege is an institutional (rather than personal) set of benefits granted to those of us who, by race, resemble the people who dominate the powerful positions in our institutions. One of the primary privileges is that of having greater access to power and resources than people of color do; in other words, purely on the basis of our skin color doors are open to us that are not open to other people. Privilege, particularly white or male privilege, is hard to see for those of us who were born with access to power and resources. It is very visible for those to whom privilege was not granted. Furthermore, the subject is extremely difficult to talk about because many white people don't feel powerful or as if they have privileges others do not. It is sort of like asking fish to notice water or birds to discuss air. For those who have privileges based on race or gender or class or physical ability or sexual orientation, or age, it just is- it's normal." [See <https://www.cpt.org/files/Undoing%20Racism%20-%20Understanding%20White%20Privilege%20-%20Kendall.pdf> retrieved on 16 Nov 2017]

This history and the systems put into place as a result of it, have also led to unintentional injury and homicide being two of the leading causes of death for black women ages 0-34, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The Violence Policy Center (VPC) reports that Oklahoma ranks 12th in the number of black homicide victims with 63

such homicides in 2014, a rate of 21.03 homicides per 100,000. Throughout the United States, VPC found the homicide rate for female black victims to be 4.28 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall rate for female homicide victims was 1.73 per 100,000. For white female homicide victims, it was 1.41 per 100,000. [See <https://www.cdc.gov/women/lcod/2014/black/index.htm> and <http://www.vpc.org/studies/blackhomicide17.pdf>, retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]

## DIVERSITY IN OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma is transforming from a state with a predominately white population, to one that is increasingly diverse. Children of color now comprise a majority of the population of children in 11 of the state's 77 counties, and 44 percent of all children in Oklahoma are racial and ethnic minorities. [See CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP: BUILDING EQUITY IN OKLAHOMA retrieved on 15 Nov 2017 from <https://okpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Closing-the-Opportunity-Gap.pdf?x43134>]

If we are to create an environment of safety, security, and stability for the next generation of Oklahoma residents, we must address the complex issues which are residuary from the legacy of racism.

White privilege, the foundation from which these residuaries spring, is one of the complex issues which must be brought to the light of truth. "It's really quite simple: If a system is established to produce certain outcomes, and then proceeds to regularly and routinely produce them, upon what basis can we rationally suggest that the system is malfunctioning? Quite the opposite: if a system is established on the basis of unfairness and inequity, the only actual malfunction would be if that system suddenly and



inexplicably began to produce justice. It would only be under such an odd and almost incomprehensible scenario that one might inquire as to why the machinery seemed to be breaking down."

"Or put a bit differently: If you're standing at the end of a conveyor belt in a sausage factory and find yourself perplexed as to why it continually sends sausage in your direction rather than, say, chicken nuggets, it is quite apparent that you neglected to read the sign. It's a sausage factory. Sausage is what it does. Expect sausage. Put still another way: If America were an App, the devaluing of black life would not be a glitch, but a feature, programmed in from the beginning, with no patch or fix coming in a later edition—at least not courtesy of the folks who designed it." [See <http://www.timwise.org/2017/06/injustice-is-not-a-glitch-its-a-feature-reflections-on-philando-castile-and-the-machinery-of-negrophobia/> retrieved 16 Nov 2017]

We must understand the systems through which we attempt to provide victim services to those who have suffered incidents of IPV were, in large part, created in an atmosphere of power and control. This atmosphere continues to cloud the justice we seek to provide.

- **Seeds to Nourish:** The strong and courageous black leadership within our state. The leadership of allies who stand up and reach across race and class borders to support victims. The dedication of those who came before and have formed a foundation on which to build.
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Trust and communication between races
- **Seeds to Transform:** The division of races who do not co-mingle. The silent majority who often do not speak out about racial injustice when confronted with it.



## "WILL ROGERS HIGHWAY", "MAINSTREET OF AMERICA", "MOTHER ROAD" — HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OKLAHOMA

With more drivable miles of Route 66 than any other state, several famous roadside landmarks and two Route 66 museums, Oklahoma is a favorite among travelers of the Mother Road. This brochure will help you get your kicks on Route 66. [See <https://www.travelok.com/brochures>]

While Oklahoma's location at the crossroads of I-35 and I-40 and on a significant portion of the Mother Road, is conducive for commerce and tourism, these benefits come with substantial drawbacks. As reported by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, the Human Trafficking Division was created in 2012 in response to the growing trend of human trafficking in Oklahoma and across the United States. Organizations traditionally responsible for trafficking drugs into and across the nation are frequently involved in human trafficking as another means of generating profits. Because of Oklahoma's interstate highway system and close proximity to the Mexican border, Oklahoma has served as a base of operations for many drug and human trafficking groups tied to Mexican cartels. [See [https://www.ok.gov/obndd/About\\_OBNDD/](https://www.ok.gov/obndd/About_OBNDD/), materials retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]

On 30 September 2017, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center had documented 39 cases of human trafficking in Oklahoma for the year. Two-thirds were cases of sex trafficking, with the others categorized as labor trafficking or some other type. The cases are likely an undercount, because many victims don't report their abuse. Oklahoma healthcare providers state human trafficking victims can be any age, gender, or nationality. Traffickers also don't fit a typical profile and may pass themselves off as a concerned boyfriend, sister, friend or employer. [See <http://newsok.com/oklahoma-nurse-warns-human-trafficking-right-under-our-noses/article/5566157>, materials retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]



In October 2017, a northeastern Oklahoma drug and alcohol rehabilitation program and an Arkansas-based chicken processing corporation were accused of human trafficking and labor law violations in a lawsuit filed in federal court. The lawsuit alleges: "Under the guise of providing alcohol and drug counseling and rehabilitation services," [the rehabilitation program] operated a "work camp program" in Delaware County in which court-referred participants were "required to provide free labor for [the processing corporation] under constant threat of incarceration." [See <http://newsok.com/federal-lawsuit-accuses-oklahoma-drug-recovery-program-of-labor-law-human-trafficking-violations/article/5567543>, materials retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]

This lawsuit also brings to light the undocumented Mexican and South American immigrants work for low wages, no insurance, and no future under the threat of calls to law enforcement. The individuals can be found on the roofs of storm damaged homes of Oklahoma, in the fields, in meat packing plants, and on the lawn maintenance work crews. If they try to leave their jobs before paying off debts to labor contractors, "El Jefe" will withhold their meager paycheck. [See <http://www.okbar.org/members/BarJournal/archive2013/AugArchive13/OBJ8421Gifford.aspx>, materials retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]

The Race & Poverty Maps for Tulsa and Oklahoma City provided herein, show a large increase in the number of Hispanics in south and central Oklahoma City. In Tulsa, the number of Hispanics living in poverty was dramatically higher in 2010. The arrival of low-income Hispanics has also increased the total number living in poverty. [See <https://okpolicy.org/the-changing-map-of-poverty-and-race-in-oklahoma/> retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]

Other instances of human trafficking which have been noted in Oklahoma include young girls "recruited" at malls, nightclubs, schools, group homes, homeless shelters, foster homes, bus stops, parks and even hallways of court buildings. Additionally, women from rural Chinese provinces are brought to the United States and forced through threats of deportation or harm to their families to continue the slave-wage work in restaurants and massage parlors.

State agencies such as the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, as well as sheriffs' departments, tribal

law enforcement, and municipal police vice squads have all joined together to fight human trafficking. Nonprofit organizations, such as the Trinity Legal Clinic of Oklahoma, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, The Dragonfly Home, DaySpring Villa in Sand Springs, and the Native Alliance Against Violence also consistently focus on human trafficking to raise awareness and ensure that victims get the services they need. [See <http://www.okbar.org/members/BarJournal/archive2013/AugArchive13/OBJ8421Gifford.aspx>, materials retrieved on 11 Nov 2017]

- **Seeds to Nourish:** The federal, tribal, state, county, municipality, and non-profit alliances forming to address drug and human trafficking.
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Trust and communication between races, citizens, and non-citizens
- **Seeds to Transform:** The silence which often surrounds suspected human trafficking, both sex and labor, due to the race, ethnicity, religion, or citizenship status of the victim.

## OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA — GUNS, HUNTING, AND PARKS

With stunning state parks and the most diverse terrain mile-for-mile in the nation, Oklahoma is an outdoor lover's paradise. The Oklahoma State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Guide features more than 200 pages of travel ideas that spotlight the state's unexpected adventures and treasures. Whether it's a tucked-away waterfall or a rarely seen wildlife species, Oklahoma has surprises around every corner. The guide also offers directories for outdoor activities,

WHY DO PERPETRATORS IN PO CASES GET TO KEEP THEIR GUNS?

THE REASON CITED BY THE PERPETRATOR, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND THE JUDICIARY IS OFTEN: "HE HAS TO HAVE HIS GUN TO HUNT."

campgrounds, cabins and lodges around the state. [See <https://www.travelok.com/brochures>]

## OKLAHOMA HUNTING

Ready to roam the great state of Oklahoma? This guide will give you valuable information on hunting in Oklahoma, where to look for licensing information and a fold-out map showing the more than 54 ranches and farms offering lodges, cabins or guided hunts. [See <https://www.travelok.com/brochures>]

Oklahoma is truly full of natural beauty, with a geography which encompasses terrain and ecosystems ranging from arid plains to subtropical forests and mountains. By a wide margin, with ten (10) distinct ecological regions Oklahoma has more ecological regions per square mile than any other state. These stunning locations house the 33 diverse Oklahoma State Parks and five (5) national parks. Additionally, Oklahoma has hunting seasons which allow hunting of some type essentially year-round. [See Appendix D for the 2017-2018 General Hunting Seasons]

While these characteristics offer ample opportunities for amazing outdoor experiences, these same characteristics pose oftentimes insurmountable barriers to victim services. **As will be detailed in the findings of this report, guns are often not surrendered when respondents in protective order proceedings are before the court.** The reason cited by the perpetrator, law enforcement, and the judiciary is often: "He has to have his gun to hunt." The rural nature of Oklahoma poses extended delays in response time for first responders, safety concerns for victim advocates who often go to the homes of victims in remote areas, and complete isolation for many victims as no transportation is available in these rural areas. Per OAG-VSU reports, Oklahoma is the 18th largest state with a land area of 68,667

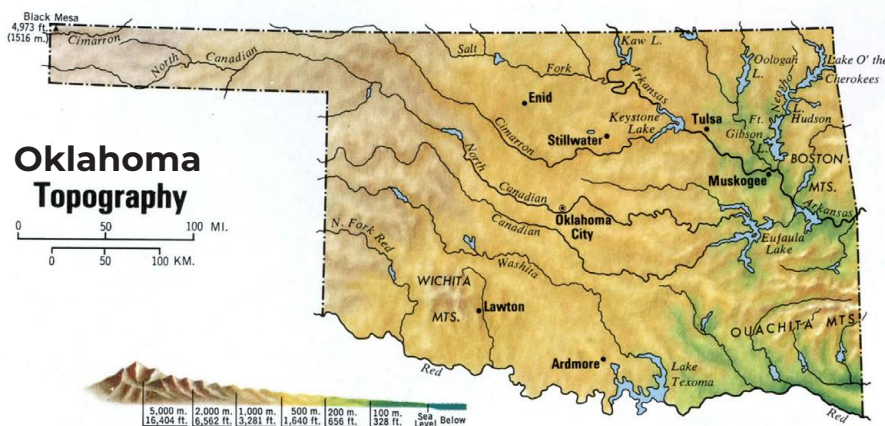


square miles. When comparing the number of persons per square mile to that of the United States, Oklahoma has 54.7 persons per square mile versus an average of 87.4 persons per square mile for the rest of the nation. Approximately 45 percent of the population lives outside the two major metropolitan areas of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, both of which have one OAG certified provider receiving funding from FVPSA. The other 24 funded programs serve rural victims with nineteen of the programs serving communities of 26,000 or fewer residents.

Further, the state and national park lands add another layer of jurisdictional confusion and another branch of law enforcement into the equation of victim safety. The culmination of these circumstances also tends to support the "good 'ole boy" mentality mentioned by numerous victims, law enforcement, and advocates. This mentality seems to permeate victim services and results in less safety for victim and little to no accountability for perpetrators.

## VICTIM SERVICES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION

As victim service providers, it is also important to recognize that victims are an integral part of the criminal justice system---they are witnesses to the crime and therefore possess intimate knowledge needed by law enforcement. If the victim's perception leads her to believe nothing will be done if she reports a crime, she is less likely to assist in the investigation and/or prosecution of the crime.



The International Association of Chiefs of Police reports the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies is increased through positive interaction with victims of crime. Specifically, when giving victims' issues a high priority, law enforcement will see:

- Potential for increased case clearance rates
- Greater willingness by victims to cooperate with law enforcement
- Better perception of community safety and increased confidence and trust in law enforcement
- Potential for improved crime reporting with investigations and
- Improved morale and job satisfaction for law enforcement officers

By addressing the needs of crime victims within the parameters set forth in federal, tribal, and state laws, law enforcement personnel and their agencies, along with other criminal justice system entities, will be more effective. Their organization will likely become better equipped to apprehend and prosecute perpetrators through increased participation by victims and an increased willingness of tribal members to come forth with information.

As noted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Victim Assistance program, there are far too few victim assistance providers in Indian Country, including rural Oklahoma Indian Country. Mainly due to lack of funding, Native American victim assistance programs often operate with little money, few staff, no extra resources, and a large number of victims scattered across a vast geographic location. Due to a lack of victim service programs in Indian Country, there often is little or no response to family members of homicide victims, sexual assault victims, child abuse victims, and others.

Collaboration between law enforcement and victim service providers has proven to be extremely cost effective. For example, law enforcement officers are released from providing victim services to perform their assigned duties:

- Victim assistance providers coordinate and provide a wide variety of victim services that often burden or can assist law enforcement officers; and
- The system becomes more efficient.

Based upon responses from victims, the significance of law enforcement's role in responding to crime victims cannot be overemphasized. If law enforcement responds in a timely manner, treats the victim with respect, and follows the law, victim safety and offender accountability increase. [See <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/victim-assistance>, retrieved 7 Nov 2017]



- **Seeds to Nourish:** Self-sufficiency and the healing power of the outdoors
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** A connection to the land and loyalty to one's sphere of influence
- **Seeds to Transform:** The reluctance of service providers to hold their colleagues accountable for providing trauma-informed services to victims based upon best-practice

## BUCKLE OF THE BIBLE BELT — RELIGION AND IPV

Religion is a personal and institutional reality in the lives of the majority of the population living within the geographical boundaries of Oklahoma. As such, it should be noted that religious teaching and affiliation provide a significant context for many individuals, i.e. women, men, and LGBTQ+ people, as they address experiences of victimization. Religious communities and institutions convey values and belief systems to their members through texts, traditions, teachings, and doctrine. As Oklahoma is often dubbed, “The Buckle of the Bible Belt,” IPV victims often receive direct support or engage in counseling relationships with religious leaders who base their guidance or instruction on their personal interpretation of The Bible. A brief review of the term “Bible Belt” is instrumental in understanding a portion of the religious landscape of Oklahoma.

The term Bible Belt was first used by the American writer and satirist H.L. Mencken in 1925 when he was reporting on the Scopes Monkey Trial which took place in Dayton, Tennessee. Mencken was writing for the Baltimore Sun and referred to the region as the Bible Belt. Mencken used the term in a derogatory way, referring to the region in subsequent pieces with such quotes as "the Bible and Hookworm Belt" and "Jackson, Mississippi in the heart of the Bible and Lynching Belt." Adapted from materials retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-bible-belt-1434529> on 7 Nov 2017

www.thoughtco.com/the-bible-belt-1434529 on 7 Nov 2017

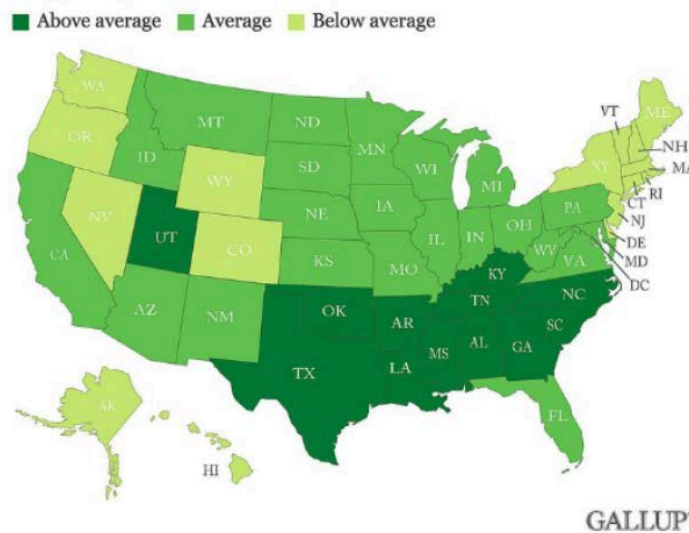
In 1948, the Saturday Evening Post named Oklahoma City the capital of the Bible Belt. In 1961, geographer Wilbur Zelinsky, a student of Carl Sauer, defined the region of the Bible Belt as one in which Southern Baptists, Methodists, and evangelical Christians were the predominant religious group.

In 1978 geographer Stephen Tweedie of Oklahoma State University published the definitive article about the Bible Belt, "Viewing the Bible Belt," in the Journal of Popular Culture. In that article, Tweedie mapped Sunday television watching habits for five leading evangelical religious television programs. His map of the Bible Belt expanded the region defined by Zelinsky also broke the Bible Belt into two core regions, a western region and an eastern region.

Tweedie's western Bible Belt was focused on a core that extended from Little Rock, Arkansas to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tweedie identified secondary core regions surrounding Dallas and Wichita Falls, Kansas to Lawton, Oklahoma. At that time, Tweedie suggested Oklahoma City was the buckle or capital of the Bible Belt but many other commentators and researchers have suggested other locations.



Religiosity, 2011



Studies of religious identity in the United States continually point to the southern states as an enduring Bible Belt. In a 2016 survey by Gallup, the organization found Oklahoma contained the 9th highest percentage of "very religious" Americans. [See [http://news.gallup.com/poll/203747/mississippi-retains-standing-religious-state.aspx?g\\_source=position2&g\\_medium=related&g\\_campaign=tiles](http://news.gallup.com/poll/203747/mississippi-retains-standing-religious-state.aspx?g_source=position2&g_medium=related&g_campaign=tiles)]

As “very religious Americans,” we must acknowledge that religion can be and is misused to excuse or condone abusive behavior. In the context of IPV, religious teachings and communities will play a role; they will never be neutral. Although Oklahoma may be the “Buckle of the Bible Belt,” it is important to acknowledge the tremendous diversity of beliefs, teachings, and traditions which exist among the many religions of the world, most of which are practiced within the geographic boundaries of Oklahoma, i.e. Roman Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Native American or First Nations beliefs and practices, as well as many others. The various religious texts and teachings associated with each of these belief systems can serve as resources to assist those who have experienced abuse in finding safety and in the process of healing.

We must also acknowledge that within any one particular religion, various denominations, movements or traditions exist, each with its own distinct institutions, cultures, and teachings. A comprehensive exploration of the relationship between religion and interpersonal violence is beyond the scope of this report. Yet, there are some basic issues and questions, which confront religiously identified individuals who have experienced abuse. The “reality is that regardless of the particular religious affiliation, alongside the trauma of violence, a majority of women will be

dealing with some aspect of religious beliefs and teachings which will serve either as a resource or a roadblock (Fortune, 1987).”

Our task is to assure no IPV victim is ever forced to choose between safety and their religious community or tradition. The IPV victim should be able to access the resources of both community-based advocacy and shelter and faith-based

support and counsel. These two resources must work collaboratively to provide consistent advocacy and support for victims and survivors and participate in the process of holding perpetrators accountable. Our goal should be to minimize the roadblocks to safety and maximize the resources supporting security and stability. Adapted from [https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/materials/files/2016-09/AR\\_VAWReligion\\_0.pdf](https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/materials/files/2016-09/AR_VAWReligion_0.pdf) accessed on 16 June 2018

- **Seeds to Nourish:** Deep faith in a higher power
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Interpretation and examination of religious dogma recognizing that religious beliefs, texts, and teaching can serve as roadblocks and as resources for IPV victims/survivors
- **Seeds to Transform:** Intolerance of differing belief systems

**FAITH-BASED LEADERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACTS THEY CAN MAKE ON A WOMAN WHO DISCLOSES ABUSE TO THEM. TELLING HER TO MAKE SURE SHE HAS DINNER ON THE TABLE WHEN HE GETS HOME IS NOT HELPFUL.**



## "OKLAHOMA STRONG" & "TRAVEL TIPS" FOR VICTIM SERVICES



The Oklahoma Strong motto utilized on the Emergency Preparedness Section of the official State Website pays

tribute to the resiliency, community, and the strength that results as the people of Oklahoma come together. The slogan usually surfaces after the occurrence of deadly tornados which routinely ravage the state. [See material retrieved from <http://www.oklahomastrongmonument.com/> and <http://okstrong.ok.gov/> on 7 Nov 2017]

The Vision for Victim Safety is intended to serve as a framework for education, self-exploration for all victim service providers, and a tool to bring communities together to address interpersonal violence which has also routinely ravaged our state.

- **Seeds to Nourish:** The ability to come together as community
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Defining "emergency," "disaster," "prevention," and "victim"
- **Seeds to Transform:** The tendency to only come together at times of emergencies and disaster



### OKLAHOMA TRAVEL GUIDE AND MAP KIT

The all-encompassing Oklahoma Travel Guide highlights points of interest in each region of the state. Along with great information and travel tips, you'll find beautiful photography

and a directory of things to do and lodging by city. Along with the official state highway map, this is the perfect traveling companion. [See <https://www.travelok.com/brochures>]

The Vision for Victim Safety is designed to serve as a travel guide for all partners within the victim services system. With the tools provided in this plan and the leadership of the core team, victims and service providers will be better able to traverse the path from victim to survivor to thriver!

- **Seeds to Nourish:** Use the Oklahoma Travel Guide to create a victim services guide to services and maps for victims to navigate the process
- **Indeterminate Seeds:** Opportunity to examine the systemic response to interpersonal violence
- **Seeds to Transform:** Tendency to promote the highlights of our state and ignore or hide the underbelly of our communities

This section was adapted from material retrieved on 7 Nov 2017 from: <http://www.inspirational-quotes-short-funny-stuff.com/oklahoma-state-motto.html> and <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/america/usstates/oktimeln.htm> and <https://statesymbolsusa.org/symbol-official-item/oklahoma/state.../sooner-state>

**"WE CANNOT SEEK ACHIEVEMENT FOR OURSELVES AND FORGET ABOUT PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY. . . OUR AMBITIONS MUST BE BROAD ENOUGH TO INCLUDE THE ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS OF OTHERS, FOR THEIR SAKES AND FOR OUR OWN."  
- CESAR CHAVEZ**