

# ***Through Our Eyes: Children, Violence, and Trauma***

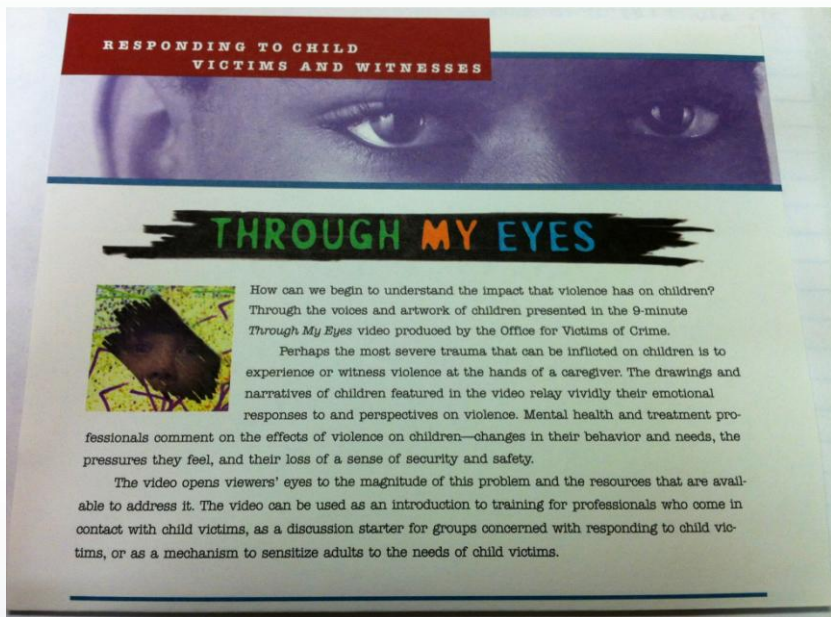
## **Children Exposed to Violence Public Awareness Campaign**

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Office for Victims of Crime

# U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime

- Mission:
  - To enhance the Nation’s capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices in ways that promote justice and healing for all victims.
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
  - Established the Crime Victims Fund
  - Est. OVC to administer funds through:
    - State Compensation and Assistance Programs
    - Federal, International, Tribal Programs
    - Program Development and Dissemination
      - National scope training, public awareness
    - Training and Technical Assistance– OVC TTAC\*
- Learn more at [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov)

# Background of Project



- Late 1990s
- Children Exposed to Violence Initiative (CEVI)
  - Sponsored by DOJ, then Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder
- OVC products developed:
  - Video Series—
    - Through My Eyes (9-minute public awareness)
    - Responding to Child Victims and Witnesses (Discipline specific)
      - Innovative Practices for Law Enforcement
      - Innovative Practices for Prosecutors
      - Innovative Practices in the Courtroom
      - Promising Partnerships to Improve Case Outcomes
  - Resource Guide
- Key Messages
  - Partner with multidisciplinary team members
  - Innovative practices (e.g., Forensic Interviewing)



# Current Project

- 2011
- Reemergence of CEVI– rebranded *Defending Childhood*
- What’s changed?
  - Some practices that were innovative then are now “standard operating procedures”
  - Emphasis on evidence-based practices
  - Research
    - Children’s Exposure to Violence/Victimization (NatSCEV)
    - Polyvictimization /ACES
      - Exposure to substance abuse in the home is 1 of the 10 ACES
  - Technology

**DEFENDING  
CHILDHOOD**  
**PROTECT HEAL THRIVE**

# Current Project

- OVC's Approach:
  - National in scope—something for everyone
  - Blend of updated video and online “guide”
  - Approx. 6-minute video chapters
- Key Messages:
  - Children's exposure to violence/victimization is significant
  - These experiences can leave lasting impacts, sometimes lifelong
  - There are ways to address these experiences and trauma
    - Multidisciplinary teams
    - Evidence based practices
    - Community specific interventions and programs
  - Everyone has a role
    - Professionals, communities, etc.





# Through Our Eyes: Children, Violence, and Trauma

## Videos and Resources

February 2013 / NCJ #241394

### Overview

Too many children have been exposed to crime, abuse, and violence in their homes, schools, and communities. These experiences can lead to serious, long-term problems.

Early identification, intervention, and treatment are key. The Federal Government has a responsibility to act, but our efforts cannot succeed without local law enforcement, child and family services, community leaders, educators, coaches, and—above all—parents. Everyone plays a role in identifying, protecting, and treating children exposed to violence.

The videos in this series compel all of us to join our neighbors and the growing ranks of professionals who have made it their life's work to help traumatized children heal and thrive.

[Message From the Director](#)

[Related Resources](#)



### Introduction

This video discusses how violence and trauma affect children, including the serious and long-lasting consequences for their physical and mental health; signs that a child may be exposed to violence or trauma; and the staggering cost of child maltreatment to families, communities, and the Nation. Victims lend their voices to this video to provide first-hand accounts of how their exposure to violence as children affected them.

Watch on

View Resource Guide

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Introduction



Treatments That Work



The Child Advocacy Center Model



Community-Based Approaches

[Web Site Links Disclaimer](#) | [Multimedia User Tips](#)



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The Office for Victims of Crime is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



# How can you use these resources?

- Use them to complement your work, take the pieces you like/resonate with you
- Social networking
  - Like OVC on Facebook, re-post videos on your FB page
  - Follow OVC on Twitter, re-tweet or post your own tweets
  - Subscribe to OVC on YouTube, share/recommend videos
- Training
  - Department
  - MDTs
  - Community
- Public Awareness, PSAs
- Other ?



# *Through Our Eyes: Children, Violence, and Trauma*

- Introduction to the video series
- Public Awareness video, intended to compel audience to take action
- Violence and trauma are significant occurrences in children's lives, may have serious and long-lasting consequences for their physical and mental health
- Everyone plays a role—we must come together and do something



Video1\_CVT\_Through\_Eyes.asx

# *Children, Violence, and Trauma: Treatments That Work*

- Serious consequences to CEV, including substance abuse and mental health and behavioral problems
- Increased severity of symptoms by children who have suffered multiple forms of victimization—polyvictimization
- There are treatments that work!
- Evidence-based treatment strategies have been found to be effective.



Video2\_CVT\_Treatments\_Work.asx

# ***Children, Violence, and Trauma: The Child Advocacy Center Model***

- Shows the CAC Model
- Team approach applies for all types of violence, children and youth of all ages
- Brings together multiple disciplines to provide comprehensive services to child victims of abuse, neglect, and trauma



Video3\_CVT\_Child\_Advocacy.asx

# ***Children, Violence, and Trauma: Community-Based Approaches***

- Community and faith-based programs, services, and agencies play critical roles in protecting and responding to children
- Three programs show unique community-based approaches to children affected by violence and trauma
- Every community is different!
- Tailor responses to most effectively meet your community's needs



Video4\_CVT\_Community\_Based.asx

# Phase II

- 4 more videos and resource guides
- Posters for every video
- Release date—April 2014
- **SNEAK PREVIEW!!!**



# ***Children, Violence, and Trauma: Addressing Violence in the Home***

- Exposure to violence in the home can have serious impacts on children and youth
- Impacts can be internal (anxiety, depression) or external (acting out)
- Early identification and intervention with children and families are critical
- Partnerships are effective ways to protect children and non-offending parents

# ***Children, Violence, and Trauma: Interventions in Schools***

- Schools are a part of nearly every child's life
- “Survival trumps learning”
- Everyone plays a role
  - e.g., teachers, janitors, administration, food services, bus drivers
- Identification and reporting of suspected abuse and neglect
- Safe havens and sources of healing
- Schools can also be a source of violence and victimization

# ***Children, Violence, and Trauma: Innovations in Juvenile Justice***

- Past trauma and victimization can manifest in delinquency and offending—*They're all the same kids!*
- Juvenile justice programs can help youth identify past victimization experiences and connect these experiences to youth's current behaviors.
- Juvenile justice programs can be a safe haven and connect youth and families to resources
- Every adult in a juvenile justice program can be a positive resource for youth
- A trauma-informed system of care provides better outcomes

# *Children, Violence, and Trauma: A Call to Action*

- Children can and do thrive with appropriate support and services
- Children are resilient
- Adults/professionals who intervene early have a positive impact on the outcome of children who are exposed to violence

# Comments? Questions?

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