

When to Create a New Incident

- The first time the survivor receives services from your agency
- When an ongoing survivor seeks services, and any of the following are different from the previous incident in Vela:
 - Presenting issue is a different type of abuse
 - The offender is not the same person as in a previous incident
 - The survivor's abuse status (primary or secondary) has changed from the previous incident

Ultimately, you should create a new incident for an ongoing client when the settings in the client's previous incident(s) don't categorize the reason they are currently seeking services. This should not be every time they seek services.

Vela Victimization Settings for CDVSA Programs

Victimization settings are the information that categorizes the survivor's experience of abuse.

- Each combination of settings identifies a specific crime experienced by an adult or child.
- These settings need to be entered consistently at all AK crisis centers for accurate data.
- Although Vela allows you to "mix and match" different combinations of settings, only the settings below enable victimizations to be reported correctly and consistently.
- Survivors can experience multiple crimes. Consider what victimization(s) the survivor is presenting with, i.e. why they are actively seeking services. It may be appropriate to add multiple incidents and connect different services with different experiences of the survivor.

Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Teen Dating Violence

Field Name	Adult DV	Child DV/abuse	Teen (13-17) Dating Violence
Primary/Secondary	[either]	Primary if survivor is child, secondary if survivor is adult witness	[either]
Victimization	Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence	Teen Dating Violence
DV/SV?	—	—	Domestic Violence
VOCA Victimization	Domestic and/or Family Violence	Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	Teen Dating Victimization

Child exposed to DV

Field Name	Child exposed to DV: add two incidents Note: Try to make sure a service is connected to each incident. You can do this by prorating the first service the survivor receives (e.g. if they receive 1hr of advocacy, add 2 services with 30 min for each incident) or, if they receive more than one service, attach at least one to each incident.	
Primary/Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Victimization	Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence
DV/SV?	—	—
VOCA Victimization	Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	Domestic and/or Family Violence

Human Trafficking: Sex Trafficking, Labor Trafficking

Field Name	Adult or Child Sex Trafficking	Adult or Child Labor Trafficking
Primary/Secondary	[either]	[either]
Victimization	Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking
DV/SV?	—	—
VOCA Victimization	Human Trafficking — Sex	Human Trafficking — Labor

Sexual Assault, Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Field Name	Adult Sexual Assault	Child Sexual Assault	Adult Survivor of Childhood Sexual Assault
Primary/Secondary	[either]	[either]	Primary
Victimization	Sexual Assault	Sexual Assault	Sexual Assault
DV/SV?	—	—	—
VOCA Victimization	Adult Sexual Assault	Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	Adults Sexual Abused/Assaulted as Children

Strangulation

Strangulation usually occurs in the context of DV or SA. Therefore, you should create 2 incidents for survivors who have experienced strangulation: one for the DV or SA abuse associated with it, and one for the strangulation. When providing services, select the incident most closely associated with those services. Strangulation is mapped to Adult Physical Assault in Vela for reports.

Field Name	Adult Victim	Child Victim
Primary/Secondary	[either]	[either]
Victimization	Other	Other
DV/SV?	—	—
VOCA Victimization	Strangulation	Strangulation

Stalking

Field Name	Adult/Child Stalking Non-Intimate	Adult/Child Stalking w/ Domestic Violence	Adult/Child Stalking w/ Sexual Violence
Primary/Secondary	[either]	[either]	Primary
Victimization	Stalking	Stalking	Stalking
DV/SV?	Not Applicable	Domestic Violence	Sexual Violence
VOCA Victimization	Stalking/Harassment	Stalking/Harassment	Stalking/Harassment

Bullying

Note: VOCA defines bullying as between a child or a group of children and another child. “Bullying” associated with an adult (primary) victim should usually be categorized as stalking/harassment, or might be considered domestic violence if within a DV context. Adults can be secondary victims of bullying if they are seeking services due to a child’s experience of bullying.

Field Name	Adult Victim	Child Victim
Primary/Secondary	[either]	[either]
Victimization	Stalking	Other
DV/SV?	Not Applicable	—
VOCA Victimization	Stalking/Harassment	Bullying (verbal, cyber, or physical)

Additional victimization types

For survivor experiences not included in the above tables, you should generally classify survivors with a **main victimization of “Other”** and a **VOCA victimization that describes the specific crime**. If the crime occurred in a DV context, consider why the survivor is seeking services and determine whether you need to add an incident for the other crime experienced *in addition to* the main victimization of DV (see number 3 under “tricky examples,” below).

We are required to submit explanations for VOCA victimization types of “other.” Therefore, we ask that check if a survivor’s experience fits into one of the 25+ VOCA victimization categories. If you have examples of crimes that are common among survivors at your organization but that you do not feel fit into a VOCA victimization definition, please contact the research analyst to discuss.

Victimizations in the context of DV:

Generally, abuse that occurs in an intimate partner relationship with DV should be considered part of the DV incident, with the exception of strangulation, which should get its own incident.

If a client is receiving services for DV more broadly, and another victimization they experienced in a DV context, it would be appropriate to add two incidents and choose the most relevant one for each service, or to split services and tag a portion of each service to each incident. For instance, someone who comes in having experienced physical assault in a DV context may get one incident with Domestic Violence: domestic and/or family violence, and one with Domestic Violence: Adult physical assault if they receive services specific to each. If they discuss both incidents during advocacy sessions, it would be appropriate to add two separate advocacy sessions (one for each incident) with the time recorded for each session reflecting the approximate amount of time spent on that specific incident.