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Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to:

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization.
- Improve services to victims.
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice.
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.

Inaugural CVI Conference

The Inaugural Crime Victims' Institute Conference, *Championing Advocacy, Policy, and Research for Victims and Survivors through a Broader Lens*, was held at Sam Houston State University on October 16-18, 2024. Over 50 victim advocates and victim service professionals, law enforcement professionals, legal professionals, government officials, and academics/researchers from various district attorney's offices, police departments, sheriff's offices, juvenile justice departments, TDCJ, non-profits, and universities all across the state were in attendance. Four CVI advisory board members were in attendance as well: Hillary England (Deputy Director of Victim Services and Prevention Programs, Office of the Governor), Elizabeth Hamilton (Crime Victim Liaison, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles), Heather Ayala (National Director of Victim Services, Mothers Against Drunk Driving), and Forrest Mitchell (Retired Director of Operations, Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office). There was even international presence, with 10 police officers from the Korean National Police Agency who attended as part of their visit and training with the SHSU College of Criminal Justice's Office of Comparative and International Education and Leadership, directed by Mr. Doug Dretke.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of Restorative Justice, Mass Violence Incidents, and Victimization-Related Policies and Procedures, as well as network with one another. Upon the completion of all conference workshops and the keynote address, attendees received a physical certificate of attendance to commemorate this special event. All attendees who completed an overall conference evaluation agreed that the conference was well organized, they plan on attending the next CVI conference, and would recommend it to others in their field. In fact, one victim advocate shared that "the conference was great! Fantastic job with coordination, excellent training, and opportunities."

Inaugural CVI Conference Photos



TVSA Biennial Training Conference



The 2025 TVSA Biennial Training Conference is being held May 6-9, 2025 at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort on South Padre Island. Current CVI Director, Dr. Mary Breaux, will be sworn in as the incoming TVSA President during this conference.

The Call for Workshop Proposals is still open through the end of the day **Friday, January 31, 2025** (11:59 p.m. CST). More details, including the full conference proposal submission form, are available by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions, please email tvfi@txvsa.org.

Conference on Crimes Against Women

The 20th Annual CCAW is being held May 19-22, 2025 in Dallas, Texas. CCAW is an annual in-person conference that convenes the leading experts from across the country to educate and train first responders and community stakeholders on best practices regarding the identification, investigation and prosecution of crimes against women.

Additionally, the CVI is excited to announce its collaboration with CCAW for the first academic poster presentation event at this year's Conference. The event answers attendees' requests for additional evidence-based and data-driven content to complement the expertise shared by workshop facilitators.

The overarching themes for the CCAW-CVI Poster Presentation are: Victimization Prevention and Investigative Intervention—with healthcare, legal, and law enforcement focuses. Stay tuned for more details, including the official Call for Posters. We look forward to seeing your research!



Look for upcoming publications, CVI Talks episodes, webinars, and fact sheets from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Disabilities and Human Trafficking Fact Sheet
- Vicarious Trauma in Jurors of Criminal Trials
- Intimate Partner Stalking Fact Sheet
- An Overview of Violence Interrupter Programs
- Femicide Fact Sheet
- Understanding the Link Between Domestic Violence and Natural Disasters



Other commemorative events/upcoming activities:

January

National Stalking Awareness Month
National Human Trafficking Prevention Month
Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
National Blood Donor Month

February

Black History Month
National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
American Heart Month
Ethnic Equality Month

March

Women's History Month
National Sleep Awareness Month
Gender Equality Month
National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board

Heather F. Ayala Grand Prairie National Director of Victim Services, MADD	Hon. Lee Ann Breading Denton District Judge, 462nd Judicial District Court	Abigail “Abby” Brookshire Arlington Student, The University of Texas at Arlington	Melissa Carter Bryan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Brazos County District Attorney’s Office
Hillary A. England, MSW Pflugerville Deputy Director of Victim Services and Prevention Programs, Office of the Governor	Matthew L. Ferrara, Ph.D. Austin Forensic Psychologist	Elizabeth “Libby” Hamilton Austin Crime Victim Liaison, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles	Hon. Joan Huffman Houston State Senator for District 17 & Chair of the Committee on Finance
Chief Emmitt R. Jackson, Jr. Argyle Chief of Police Argyle Police Department	Lindsay M. Kinzie, Esq. Keller General Counsel, The Gatehouse at Grapevine	Forrest A. Mitchell Corpus Christi Retired Director of Operations, Nueces County Medical Examiner’s Office	Hon. Andrew Murr Junction Texas State Representative District 53 & Chair of the Texas House General Investigating Committee
Brandi L. Reed Amarillo Director of Education, Family Support Services of Amarillo, Inc.	Jeffery “JD” Robertson Wimberley Independent Consultant & Retired Major, Texas Rangers	David E. Schwartz Bellaire Retired Pharmacist	Hon. Erleigh N. Wiley Forney Criminal District Attorney, Kaufman County

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Resources

- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative 844-878-2274
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving 877-623-3435
- National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988
- Texas Abuse Hotline 800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846



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