A nationwide survey of organizations serving immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking was completed electronically by 722 non-governmental and governmental service providers from across the United States January 2013 and March 2013. Survey participants provided their experiences from working on over 22,000 cases of immigrant crime victims who were survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other crimes covered by the U visa. The survey reported on over 13,500 cases of immigrant and Limited English Proficient (LEP) victims who called police for help. Most frequently, immigrant clients were Spanish speakers, followed by Filipino, Arabic, Russian and Mandarin speaking clients.

**Language Access to the Justice System**
Department of Justice has urged law enforcement should not rely on friends and family members to interpret for LEP crime victims. These individuals may be untrained, biased, interpret incorrectly and/or can pose confidentiality and safety risks.

**Reported cases in which justice system personnel used unqualified interpreter**
- Law enforcement - 30%
- Court officials - 29.7%
- Prosecutors - 25.1%

When responding to a call from an immigrant or LEP victim of violence, officers:
- Spoke victim’s language - 12%
- Identified the language the victim spoke - 42.6%
- Used a language line - 7%
- Used a qualified interpreter - 10.4%
- Used an unqualified interpreter - 30%

When an unqualified interpreter who was:
- A child of the victim or perpetrator = 24.3%
- A friend or neighbor = 22.9%
- An adult relative = 17.8%

Police spoke only with the perpetrator in:
- 10.7% of sexual assault cases
- 8.1% of domestic violence cases
- 4.8% of human trafficking cases

Victim informed of her legal rights in:
- 23% of sexual assault cases
- 38.9% of domestic violence cases
- 13.4% of human trafficking cases

Law Enforcement’s treatment of LEP victims tends to be more favorable in larger population centers:

- 9.6% of sexual assault cases (60.8% of victims had visible injuries)
- 10.4% of domestic violence cases (83.4% of victims had visible injuries)
- 11.8% of human trafficking cases (91.5% of victims had visible injuries)
Collaboration fosters both language access and U visa certification:
Police were more likely to use a qualified interpreter and/or a language line when they had collaborated with another service provider on outreach to immigrant and LEP communities.

Types of collaboration
Advocates and law enforcement collaborate most on:
- 81.3% on cases of individual victims
- 71.9% collaborate on trainings
- 69.2% on community education
- 58.8% SART teams
- 57.9% CCR teams
- 51.5% on outreach to immigrant communities

Collaboration and U visa certification
- 79.2% of agencies certifying U visas had ongoing collaborations with victim advocacy programs.

3 These findings are similar to OVW grantee reports. See, Giselle Hass, Karen Monahan, Edna Yang and Leslye E. Orloff, U-Visa Legal Advocacy: Overview of Effective Policies and Practices (November 14, 2012)
4 "Id."