

# Community Profiles: Who Are Our Survivors of Sexual Assault?

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**DEFINITION:** Community Profiles describe the people who live, work or visit a specified area.

When developing a sexual assault response, it is important to consider all three groups as jurisdictions respond to sexual assaults that occur within their parameters. **Victims may live, work or visit the community.**

For all three groups, one should describe communities in a way that reflects the diversity of each group.



**VALUE OF PROFILES:** Community Profiles hold value in many ways. If done well, the process and final product can strengthen sexual assault response and prevention of violence. **The process of completing a profile can increase understanding about how different systems gather data.** This can identify gaps and create an opportunity to align data systems across agencies or programs.

**Having a Community Profile aids in:**

- Identifying served, unserved and underserved communities
- Highlighting the number of persons at higher risk of sexual assault
- Locating service providers within different communities
- Anticipating trends that may impact response or prevention efforts
- Preparing funding requests and grant proposals
- Designing prevention / intervention efforts aligned with the diversity of survivors
- Informing planning and evaluation efforts

**NOTE: To understand what data means to one's community, it is essential to talk about data that is collected and not jump to conclusions.** For more information on this, see the Office for Victims of Crime SART Toolkit at <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/sartkit/>.

## CONTENT OF PROFILES

**Who Lives Here = the diversity of the population who reside in the community.**

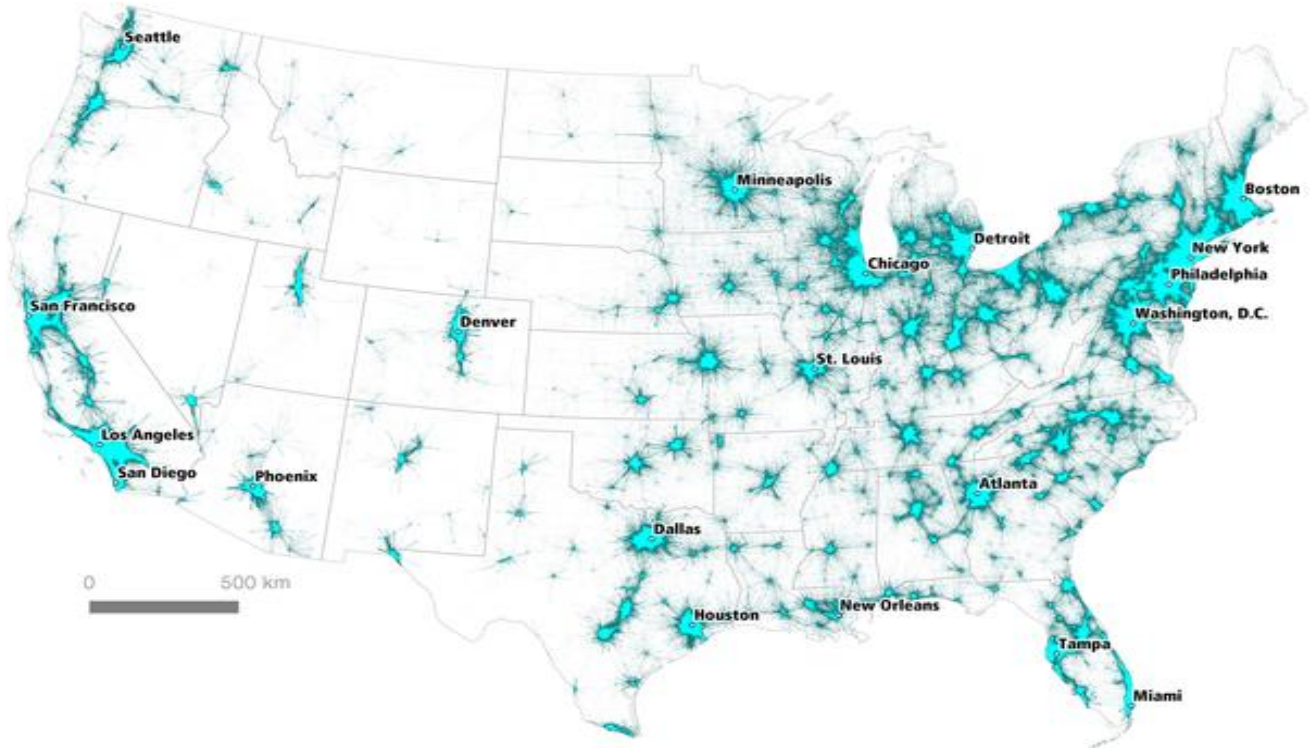
Consider adding people from military installations, detention facilities and campuses. Explore ways to add information on persons who are homeless.

**Who Works Here = persons who work full-time and part-time within one's jurisdiction.**

Identify major employers / industries, especially those who may be struggling to survive or downsizing as the threat of unemployment increases the frequency of domestic violence. Consider adding information on temporary, transient or seasonal workers who may be in one's jurisdiction for seasonal or project-specific work.

**Examine commuting patterns.** Many cities are embedded in megaregions where people commute daily across jurisdictions. Effective response may require regional coordination.

**Who Visits Here = may include** tourists and places they frequent as well as their entry and exit points (airports, cruise ships, mass transit stations), seasonal sports participants, conference attendees or any event that attracts a large number of people. **Consider identifying faith communities** as these often draw members from across several jurisdictions.



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