

Victimization 101

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The Potential Range of the Impact of Crime on Victims

Emotional/Psychological Impact	Financial Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shock• Terror• Feelings of unreality• Feelings of numbness• Confusion• Helplessness• Fear• Anger or rage• Grief or intense sorrow• Enhancement of particular senses, e.g., hearing, smell, sight, etc.• Anxiety (including terror, helplessness, and feeling out of control)• Depression• Panic symptoms• Anxiety disorders, e.g., panic disorder, agoraphobia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder• Inability to concentrate• Guilt and self-blame• Shame• Pre-occupation with the crime• Concerns about personal safety• Social withdrawal• Concerns about being believed• Concerns about being blamed• Negative changes in belief system• Increased feelings of vulnerability• Increased risk of alcohol or other drug abuse• Persistent avoidance of things associated with the traumatic event• Suicide ideation• Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical bills, e.g., emergency transportation, hospital stays, inpatient and outpatient physical care, medical supplies, etc.• Medication and prescription drugs• Replacement of eyeglasses hearing aids, or other sensory aid items damaged, destroyed, or stolen• Rental and related costs for physical mobility restoration equipment, e.g., wheelchairs and ramps, crutches, etc.• Physical therapy• Occupational therapy.• Job retraining• Mental health counseling and therapy• Loss of wages due to incapacitation, rehabilitation, and taking time off from work to repair damages due to property crimes; participate in criminal or juvenile justice proceedings; and seek medical or mental health treatment• Crime scene cleanup• Loss of or damage to personal property• Costs of replacing locks and changing security devices• Child and elder care• Fees incurred in changing banking or credit card accounts• Higher insurance premiums• Relocation expenses• For homicide victims: funeral and burial expenses and loss of income

Physical Impact	Social Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiological anxiety (including rapid heart rate, hyperventilation and stomach distress) • Physical injuries (such as gunshot wounds, lacerations, broken bones, sprains, burns, etc.) • Physical injuries that lead to other health conditions (such as heart attack, stroke, fractures from falling, loss of dexterity, etc.) • Increased risk of cardiac distress, irritable bowel syndrome, chronic pain, and sexual dysfunction • Permanent disability • Disfigurement • Immune disorders that increase the potential for infectious diseases • Substantial lifestyle changes, including restriction of activities once enjoyed • Lethargy and body fatigue • Sleep disorders • Loss of appetite, excessive appetite, or eating disorders. • Decreased libido and sexual dysfunction • Inability to work • Increased risk of future victimization • For sexual assault victims: possible exposure to sexually transmitted diseases; exposure to HIV; and unwanted pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detrimental effect on overall quality of life • Acute and chronic disruptions to family life • Disruptions to and negative changes in important relationships • Changes in lifestyle • Isolation • Restrictions on personal behaviors • Negative impact on overall productivity • Increased fear of crime • Increased risk of future victimization • Changes in pre-crime beliefs about the world • Changing view of the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a “safe place” ○ Difficulty in trusting self ○ Difficulty in trusting others ○ Seeking a personal sense of “justice” • “Ripple effect” on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighborhoods ○ Schools ○ Workplaces ○ Communities

Spiritual Impact	It's IMPORTANT to Remember!....
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an attempt to understand events that make no sense, people who do and do not engage in religious practice often turn to the spiritual beliefs with which they were raised. These spiritual insights are sometimes helpful but, more often than not, victims express disappointment in their faith communities' reactions. • All religions accept human suffering as a component of the human experience, but understand its role differently. Hindus and Buddhists understand the role of karma in tragic events and seek to accept what has happened rather than seek justice. Jews believe that God expects human beings to act in kindness to one another, and when they do not, justice is sought and forgiveness must be earned. The wide gamut of Christianity practiced in the United States includes all perspectives from acceptance as "God's will" and forgiveness of offenders to strong drives for justice in the secular arena. Muslims believe they have a special mission from God/Allah to create a just society. Other than the radical fringe, they condemn violence and willingly participate in the justice system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every <i>victim</i> is unique! • Every case is unique! • Every victim should receive a personal needs assessment, with case planning to address individual needs • Each victim's reaction to crime and ability to cope are affected by a variety of factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prior victimization history ○ Prior mental health or substance abuse problems ○ Degree of social support in the aftermath of crime ○ Degree of exposure to the criminal justice system, and the victim's perception of this experience • A victim advocate may be the <i>first</i> person from whom a victim seeks help, or the <i>only</i> person.....

Anne Seymour and Janice Harris Lord. 2010. Washington, DC.

Conducting a Basic Victim Needs Assessment

Culture/language/gender/geographic/age/dis-ability competence in *all* areas!

Really Basic Issues

- Medical and/or mental health services.
- Housing (both emergency/temporary and long-term, and possible re-location).
- Transportation (personal automobile or access to and payment for public transportation)
- Food for self and family.
- Clothing.
- Employment and/or job training.
- Education (such as school attendance).
- Assistance with basic issues relevant to their children (i.e., school, child care, medical, etc.)

Assistance and Services

- Crisis intervention.
- Crisis counseling.
- Emergency financial assistance.
- Services to enhance protection.
- Home safety check with physical reinforcements (such as locks).
- Safety planning.
- Advocacy or intervention with employers.
- Development or enhancement of social support system.
- Physical health and medical issues.
- Mental health counseling (for self and family).
- Support group participation.
- Legal advocacy.
- Referrals for social services.
- Assistance needed with immigration status.
- Possibly alcohol or other drug counseling.
- Information regarding what to do in cases of emergencies.
- Translation or interpreter services.
- Follow-up contact (as needed and/or upon request).

Implementation of Rights

- Provision of information about victims= rights.
- Information about and assistance with filing a victim compensation claim.
- Information about protection rights.
- Notification of the status and location of the offender.
- Information about participation in key justice proceedings.
- Accompaniment to court-related and other hearings involved in the case.
- Information about and assistance with completing a pre-sentence investigation (PSI) interview and/or victim impact statement.
- Information about and assistance with documenting restitution.
- Notification of the outcome criminal or juvenile justice proceedings.
- Information about compliance initiatives to help enforce rights.
 - *For cases involving incarceration or detention:* Notification of the location of the offender and any movement (including release or escape)
 - *For cases involving community supervision:* Input into conditions of community supervision; the right to protection (including assistance with obtaining protective orders); the right to financial/legal obligations owed by the offender (such as child support, restitution, payment of house payments or rent, etc.); the right to be notified of any violations, be given input into any violation hearings; to be notified of the outcome of any violation hearings; and to be provided with contact information for the agency/professional who will be supervising the offender.

21 National Toll-free Information and Referral Resources for Crime Victim/Survivor Assistance

AGENCY	TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND TTY	HOURS OF OPERATION	WEBSITE URL
American Domestic Violence Crisis Line (for American citizens victimized abroad)	866-USWOMEN 866-879-6636	24/7/365	www.866uswomen.org
Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline	800-4-A-CHILD 800-422-4453	24/7/365	www.childhelp.org
Department of Defense SAFE Helpline	877-995-5247	24/7/365	www.safehelpline.org
Disaster Distress Helpline/ HHS	800-985-5990	24/7/365	www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline
Identity Theft Hotline, Federal Trade Commission	877-ID-THEFT 877-438-4338	24/7/365	www.identitytheft.gov
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	877-MADD-HELP 877-623-3435	24/7/365	www.madd.org
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	800-843-5678	24/7/365	www.missingkids.com
National Center for Victims of Crime, VictimConnect	855-4VICTIM 855-484-2846	Monday – Friday 9 am to 7 pm EST	www.victimsofcrime.org
NCVC National Crime Victim Bar Association (civil justice referrals)	844-LAW-HELP 844-529-4357		www.victimsofcrime.org
National Children’s Alliance	800-239-9950	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST	www.nationalchildrensalliance.org
National Dating Abuse Helpline	866-331-9474 TTY 866-331-8453	24/7/365	www.loveisrespect.org
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233 TTY Hotline 800-787-3224	24/7/365	http://www.thehotline.org/

National Human Trafficking Resource Center	888-373-7888	24/7/365	www.traffickingresourcecenter.org
National Organization for Victim Assistance	800-879-6682	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST	www.trynova.org
National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.	888-818-POMC	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST	www.pomc.com
National Runaway Safeline	800-RUNAWAY 800-786-2929	24/7/365	www.1800runaway.org
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network	800-656-HOPE 800-656-4673	24/7/365	www.rainn.org
State Elder Abuse Hotlines			http://www.nccafv.org/state_elder_abuse_hotlines.htm
StrongHearts Native Helpline (domestic violence & dating violence support)	844-7NATIVE 844-762-8483	Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 6:30 pm EST	www.strongheartshelpline.org
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration/HHS	Treatment Referral Routing Service: 800-662-4357 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255	24/7/365	www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org www.veteranscrisisline.net
The Trevor Project (crisis intervention/suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth)	Trevor Lifeline 866-488-7386	24/7/365	http://www.thetrevorproject.org/

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