
PREFACE

Degree programs in criminal justice and criminology have proliferated in the past few decades. Most of these programs offer a broad education in crime, criminological theory, offenders, and the criminal justice system. However, only a handful offer, let alone require, courses on those individuals primarily affected by crime: crime victims. For someone like me, coming into academics after years of working in victim services, this was shocking. My shock was met with explanations that victimization and crime victims were best served by social workers, counselors, and psychologists. Yet, criminal justice professionals have contact with crime victims every day, and my seven years of working in police departments and prosecutors' offices were good examples of the extensive contact between crime victims and actors in the criminal justice system. Research has demonstrated that interactions between criminal justice professionals and crime victims can impact the willingness of individuals harmed by crime to remain active in the processing of associated cases. In addition, more recent research indicates that trauma may have significant effects, both short and possibly long term, on victims' cognitive abilities in terms of relating the events involved in the crime. Furthermore, research on offenders highlights a not-so-small overlap between early life victimization and later offending. Thus, the lack of education on the effects of crime on victims seems glaring.

Therein lies the reason for this text. If one of the goals of higher education is to prepare students for working in our communities, then neglecting to offer education on a substantial population with whom criminal justice professionals have contact is not adequately preparing students to work in, or with, the criminal justice system. The time has come for crime victims and victimization to take their place (metaphorically) in criminal justice education. Five years ago, one or two victimology texts were available. In the past year alone, three have come across my desk as we have been working on ours. So, we venture into the fray with a multidisciplinary approach to crime victimization, crime victims, and victim services. Chapter authors in this text come from a variety of disciplines: criminal justice and criminology, counseling, nursing, social work, nonprofit organizations, law, student affairs, and public policy. This mix of disciplines was purposeful as crime victims do not only interact with police officers, prosecutors, and the criminal justice system. They also come into contact with professionals in advocates, health and welfare, counseling and mental health, addiction services, nurses and doctors, and educators, to name a few. To that end, no one discipline can lay claim to all

knowledge about the effects of victimization on individuals or communities. We sought to provide a text with a more holistic perspective that was grounded in how victimological theories appear as day-to-day effects of victimization. In addition, many of the excellent texts that are currently on the market appear geared toward lower division courses (freshman/sophomore level). Our textbook is research heavy and directed more at upper division (junior/senior level) and graduate students.

Section 1 covers foundational topics in understanding victimization in general: the generation and analysis of data on victimization, theories of victimization, crime victims' rights, the role of crime victims in the criminal justice system, the mental health needs of crime victims, and how cultural differences can impact the effects of victimization on individuals.

Section 2 provides an overview of the more broad-based forms of victimization that can affect any demographic group: intimate partner violence, sexual violence, homicide, and information and financial crimes.

Section 3 addresses victimization that affects particular populations based on demographic groups and/or location: child victimization, adolescent relationship violence, victimization of the elderly, hate and bias crimes, campus crime, and violence in the workplace.

Section 4 introduces information on victim assistance as a profession and some aspects of the work that directly affect victim service providers: professionalization of the discipline, ethics, secondary victimization and vicarious trauma, and resolving conflicts across criminal justice system roles.

Each of these sections begins with a chapter outline and statistical overview of the topic at hand. Inside each chapter you will find chapter highlights that provide more in-depth information on a central concept, spotlights on pioneers in the field, and real-world applications that demonstrate how that topic is currently being addressed in communities across the country. Chapters end with keywords, review questions, real-world dilemmas that ask you to apply what you learned to common situations, references, and online resources.

We hope that you find this text informative, interesting, and eye-opening to the experiences of victims and survivors of crime.

–Lisa Growette Bostaph and Danielle Swerin