



Repeat
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Victimization

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What is a 'Victim'?

- A victim is a person who has suffered direct, indirect or threatened physical, emotional or pecuniary harm as a result of the commission of a crime.
- A victim is also anyone who identifies as a victim or survivor.

What is Repeat Victimization?

Repeat victimization is the reoccurrence of crime in the same place or to the same person.

Repeat Victimization:

- Patterns
- Predictable
- Rapid
- Higher in high-crime areas
- Perpetrated by the same offenders
- Costly

Patterns

There are patterns in the behaviour of the victim and/or the offender:

- Location
- Associations
- Travel Routes
- Habits

Predictable

An individual's past crime victimization is a good predictor of subsequent victimization. In fact, it is the best predictor of future victimization.

– Outlaw & Ruback, 2002

Victimization is the best single predictor of victimization.

- Pease, 1998

Repeat Victimization is Rapid

For many crimes the risk of repeat victimization is greatest in a period soon after the previous victimization.

Research shows repeat victimization typically occurs within 11 days.

– Farrell, Souza & Weisel, 2002

Repeat Victimization is NOT:

Related to a variety of personality traits, including assertiveness, dependency and self-esteem.

– Mandoki & Burkhart, 1989

- As service providers, a victims circumstances and behaviour tell us more about their vulnerability than their personality and characteristics.

The Impact of Repeat Victimization on Victims

- Increased risk of future victimization
- Victims don't "get used to it".
- Anger
- Feeling Unsafe
- Disillusionment
- Social exclusion
- Poor health
- Lifestyle changes
- Low expectations for legal help
- Low expectations for escape

Distribution of Victimization

British Crime Survey (1992)

# of Times Victimized	Respondent %	Incidents %
0	59.5	0.0
1	20.3	18.7
2	9.0	16.5
3	4.5	12.4
4	2.4	8.8
5+	4.3	43.5

Distribution of Victimization

British Crime Survey (1992)

- 20.2 % of respondents were repeat victims.
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th incidents of crime accounts for 81.2% of incidents reported.

Repeat Victimization

33% of victims said their attacker had previously committed a crime against them.

– USJD & CDC, 2001

Repeat Victimization

Studies consistently report a strong relationship between adult victimization, adolescent victimization and child abuse.

– Whitbeck et al, 1999

Repeat Victimization of Adolescents

Youth victimization increases the risk of involvement with delinquent peers and subsequent delinquent behaviour.

– Widom, 1992

Involvement with delinquents or deviant peers increases the risk of victimization.

– Ageton, 1983

Repeat Victimization of Adolescents

Repeat victimization of adolescents
is the norm, not the exception.

– Menard, 1998

80% of youths reporting violent
victimization were either chronic,
multiple or chronic and multiple
victims of violent crime.

– Menard, 1998

Repeat Victimization of Residential B&E's

Homes broken into are 4 times more likely to be broken into as homes not previously B&E'd.

– Palmer, Holmes & Hollin, 2002

40% of repeat residential B&E's happen within 1 month of the previous B&E.

– Anderson et al, 1995

Repeat Victimization & Sexual Assault

Women who reported being sexually assaulted before the age of 18 were significantly more likely to be sexually assaulted as adults.

- NVAW, 2001

- Sexual assault survivors are 35 times more likely to be repeat victims than non-victims.

- Messman-Moore & Long, 2000

Violence in Relationships

10% of all acts of domestic violence against women are isolated events, 90% involve systematic, escalating violence.

- Hanmer and Stanko, 1985

Violence in Relationships

57% of domestic violence victims experience more than one incident within a year.

- British Crime Survey, 2000

After the first police response to a domestic violence incident, 35% of households experience another incident within 5 weeks.

- Farral et al, 1993

Pathways to Repeat Victimization

- Numbing responsiveness to the environment
- Reduced energy levels
- Downward social mobility (family)
- Anger and hostility
- Damage to self-perception

Pathways to Repeat Victimization

- Disruptions in the ability to develop healthy emotional attachments and boundaries
- Violence stabilization
- Stereotypical gender-role socialization
- Experience of no one being available, able or willing to protect the victim

- Dutton, 1996

Behavioural Risk Factors

- Away from home
- Alcohol and/or drugs
- Unstructured activities
- Type of employment
- Association with delinquents or criminals

Behavioural Risk Factors

- Exposure to single males
- Risk behaviours
- First aggressive act
- Unfamiliarity with surroundings
- Lack of reasonable precautions.

Risk

Can't Control

- Age
- Race
- Gender
- Family
- History

Can Control

- Environment
- Situation
- Associations
- Exposure
- Precautions
- Knowledge

Working with our Clients

- Awareness & Education
- Needs/Options
- Risk Assessment
- Safety Planning
- Enforcement

Awareness

Victims with crime prevention training were 33% less likely to be re-victimized over the following 12 months.

- Pease, 1992

How We Can Help

- Immediacy
 - Crisis Intervention
 - IMPACTFUL vs. PASSIVE Intervention
- Follow-Up
- Consistency
- Non-Judgmental Attitudes
- Promise and Follow Through of Future Support

Interacting with Clients

- If you don't, who will?
- Rescuing/setting boundaries
- Knowledge transfer
- Telling the truth
- Wrap-Around
- Empowerment = Control

Risk Assessment & Safety Planning

- Identify the risk & patterns
- What increases the risk?
- What will help?
- Who else do they interact with?
- Who can help?
- How can they help?
- Review and re-visit
- Handout



You can affect
change!

Thank you!

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