

Crime Victims' Institute



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Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to:

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policy-making at the state and local levels.

CVI's Community Outreach

- Texas Victim Services Association Board Member
- Victim Services Coalition Member

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The Curious Consequences of Trauma

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Trauma can take many forms and can include an *acute* incident, such as a sexual assault, vehicle accident, or police officer-involved critical incident (e.g., discharging a firearm). Trauma can also occur as a result of *chronic*, repeated exposure to adverse experiences including domestically violent relationships, military personnel in combat situations, or childhood maltreatment. Survivors of domestic and sexual violence are among those most at risk for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In their sample of shelter residents, Johnson and Zlotnic (2006) reported 46.8% exhibited PTSD symptoms. Additionally, Robotton, Gordon, Jarvis, and Novaco (2005) found 70% of their shelter sample reported avoidance and intrusion scores indicative of a PTSD diagnosis.

The consequences of trauma are multifaceted and have produced a wide range of emotions and behaviors among survivors that include restricted or flat affect, limited emotionality or emotional numbing, avoidance of eye contact, and PTSD (Campbell, 2002; Campbell, Dworkin & Cabral, 2009; Mason & Lodrick, 2013; Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998; Woods, 2005). A survivor who does report to police and exhibits these types of behaviors may be misperceived as lying, hedging, or filing a false report.

Diagnosable mental health symptomology, such as PTSD, is exhibited through three hallmark characteristics (Asmundson, Stapleton, & Taylor, 2004): 1) re-experiencing the traumatic event through flashbacks or nightmares; 2) avoidance of triggers and emotional numbing; and 3) changes in arousal (American Psychiatric Association, 2013; Yehuda, 2002). Re-experiencing the traumatic event, flashbacks, and nightmares are common among PTSD sufferers and include intrusive thoughts and dreams that impair a survivor's ability to function, interrupt decision-making, and inhibit normal behavior at work or in interpersonal relationships.

Consequences like avoidance and emotional numbing have limited survivors' mobility such that individuals will avoid any event, person, or place that triggers recollection the original trauma. Related to interactions with the criminal justice system, trauma survivors may delay formal reporting to law enforcement or other formal support systems due to maladaptive coping behaviors, such as avoidance of talking about the incident—a consequence of PTSD (Ullman & Filipas, 2001). Thus, it is very normal for trauma survivors to wait to disclose or report their experiences to police. It is also increasingly common that domestic and sexual assault survivors do not disclose or report their traumatic experiences at all.

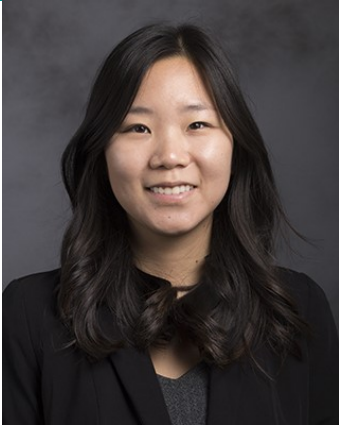
Another very common response to trauma includes disjointed recollection where the memory encoding process is disrupted and can produce amnesia or fragmented memories. This means that unlike the re-telling of a non-traumatic event, a trauma survivor may provide multiple, inconsistent, and non-linear or non-sequential recollection of events that piece together like a puzzle rather than a sequential narrative of what has transpired. These disjointed recollections have encouraged scrutiny, skepticism, disbelief, and stigma by criminal justice practitioners who may expect victims of crime to recall exact details in sequential order.

It is important to normalize the wide range of emotional and behavioral responses that a trauma survivor may exhibit when making an informal disclosure to a friend or family member or when presenting to police to file a formal report.

REFERENCES ON PAGE 2

Where are they now?

Dr. Helen Jin



Helen Jin, Ph.D., graduated in August 2017 from Sam Houston State University's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology doctoral program. As a doctoral research assistant, Dr. Jin worked on research projects funded by CVI that examined intimate partner violence (IPV) experiences among sexual minority populations, assessed barriers to resources experienced by sexual assault victims and IPV survivors, and analyzed college students' intentions to help IPV victims as bystanders. In addition, she directed primary data collection that evaluated a posttraumatic stress disorder and substance abuse program for probationers in Bell County, Texas.

Dr. Jin accepted the position of Assistant Professor with the University of Houston-Clear Lake, joining the Criminology Program in the fall of 2017. Dr. Jin teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the Criminology Program, such as *Introduction to Criminal Justice*, *Criminology*, *Criminal Law*, and *Statistics*. In addition, she offers special topic courses, including *Gender and Crime*, *Victimology*, and *Prison and Society*.

Dr. Jin is currently working on manuscripts from her dissertation that examined bystanders' willingness to help victims of heterosexual and same-sex IPV. Additional research projects focus on the effects of adverse childhood experiences on intentions to help IPV victims and the relationship between bystander intervention programs and intentions to help sexual minority IPV victims. Additionally, Dr. Jin has been invited to work on projects that assess treatments and sanctions delivered by the criminal justice system on the basis of the gender of offenders. Her work has been published in *Women and Criminal Justice* and the *Journal of School Violence*.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Jin is actively involved in student mentorship and researcher-practitioner partnerships. She currently serves as a faculty advisor and a thesis committee member for graduate students in the Criminology Program. Furthermore, Dr. Jin bridges the gap between practitioners and researchers by collaborating with victim advocacy centers in Houston, such as the Bridge Over Troubled Waters, that provide resources to victims of sexual assaults and domestic violence. Finally, her international endeavors include collaborating with scholars and graduate students at the Korean National Police University in South Korea.

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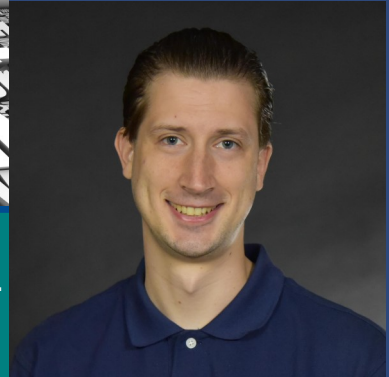
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Preventing IPV	
Strategy	Approach
Teach safe and healthy relationship skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social-emotional learning programs for youth • Healthy relationship programs for couples
Engage influential adults and peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men and boys as allies in prevention • Bystander empowerment and education • Family-based programs
Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood home visitation • Preschool enrichment with family engagement • Parenting skill and family relationship programs • Treatment for at-risk children, youth and families
Create protective environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve school climate and safety • Improve organizational policies and workplace climate • Modify the physical and social environments of neighborhoods
Strengthen economic supports for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen household financial security • Strengthen work-family supports
Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim-centered services • Housing programs • First responder and civil legal protections • Patient-centered approaches • Treatment and support for survivors of IPV, including TDV

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv-technicalpackages.pdf>



Focus On:
Alex Updegrove
 CVI Graduate Research Assistant



Alexander Updegrove, M.A., earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 2012 from Kutztown University and a Master of Arts degree in forensic psychology in 2014 from Marymount University. He is currently a fifth year Ph.D. student in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. His dissertation examines burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and compassion satisfaction among victim assistance coordinators (VACs) throughout the state of Texas. Alexander's research interests include race and crime, immigration, and victim services. His recent scholarly works have appeared in *Justice Quarterly*, *Crime & Delinquency*, and the *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*. Alexander joined the CVI team this summer 2018 and he has coauthored a report for the Human Trafficking Series, is coauthoring a research brief on child maltreatment, and is currently coding redacted police files as part of a federally-funded Office of Violence Against Women grant awarded to evaluate Houston Police Department's mandatory training on sexual and family violence responses.

In the Works...






- Intimate Partner Violence Victims in Developing Nations: Factors that Influence the Decision to Seek Help
- Legislation and Prosecution of Hate Crimes
- Child Maltreatment: An Overview
- Types of Hate Crimes
- Bystander Intervention to Abusive Behavior on Social Networking Sites

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Events to raise awareness of domestic violence and its impact on individuals, families, and communities take place throughout the year. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), victim advocates, allied professionals, survivors of abuse, their loved ones, and the surrounding community come together to mourn the lives lost to domestic violence, celebrate the progress that has been made to end this epidemic, and connect with others working to create change. This year's #1Thing DVAM Campaign is being funded by the Administration for Children and Families.¹ Think of #1Thing you can do to get involved, take action and make a difference for those affected by domestic violence. Access free tools and materials at <https://nrcdv.org/dvam>.



Join federal partners in celebrating DVAM and together each of our #1Thing will add up to big change!

<p>1st Monday of October</p>  <p>National Call of Unity – Join the call on 10/1 at 3PM ET and listen in with others advocating for the protection of victims and their children. http://ow.ly/yUq30ltuzz</p>	<p>1st Saturday of October</p>  <p>National SAF-T Day: Sheltering Animals & Families Together – Raise awareness of pet abuse and domestic violence. https://nrcdv.org/dvam/campaign-ideas</p>
<p>2nd Wednesday of October</p>  <p>National Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day– Promote universal education of domestic violence with healthcare providers. Join a webinar on 10/10 at 1:30PM EST. https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/hcadvday</p>	<p>3rd Thursday of October</p>  <p>Purple Thursday! Wear purple on 10/18 to honor victims and support survivors of domestic violence. Purple symbolizes survival, courage, and peace. #PurpleThursday</p>
<p>Every day – Post, tweet, or share stories of healing and resources for survivors from organizations that help. Use and follow the hashtags #DVAM2018 #1Thing.</p>	
<p>Throughout the Month</p>  <p>Wear the purple ribbon – there are many styles and variations. Purple symbolizes survivors who were hurt by physical and emotional abuse but still go on to thrive and live a life free of violence.</p>	
<p>Anytime</p> <p>Tell a loved one, friend, or co-worker in need about the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Advocates answer the call, text, or chat 24/7. Call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or go online: www.thehotline.org.</p>	

¹ The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence's #1Thing campaign is funded by Grant #90EV042802 from ACYF and FYSB, ACF, HHS.



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau
 Family Violence Prevention & Services Program



Upcoming Events...



Domestic Violence Awareness Month	October
Texas Victim Services Association Research Symposium San Marcos, TX	Oct. 25-26, 2018
35th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference Corpus Christi, Texas	Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2018
American Society of Criminology Atlanta, GA	Nov. 14-17, 2018

Share your ideas:

We welcome your input. Please send issues or topics you would like to see CVI conduct research on to :

crimevictims@shsu.edu

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