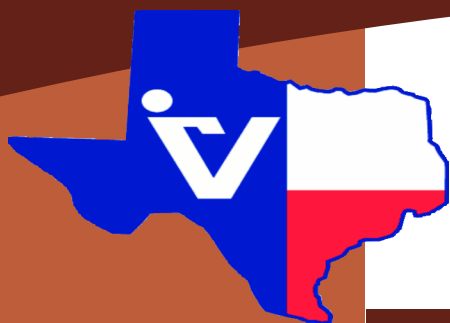


Crime Victims' Institute

Executive Director: Mary Breaux, Ph.D.

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The New CVI Team

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 policymaking at the state and local levels.

Director: Dr. Mary Breaux is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in victimology. Her research has focused on child abuse and neglect, and elder maltreatment. Her scholarly work has been published in the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect. Prior to becoming a faculty member, she worked for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for both child and adult protective services. While under the child protective services program she served as sexual abuse investigator, protective services institute trainer, and human resources specialist. She spent the last ten years of her tenure with the adult protective services program as a community relations specialist educating the community and organizations about adult protective services and fostering community and agency partnerships.

Dr. Breaux assisted in pioneering the new Department of Victim Studies for the College of Criminal Justice and Criminology. She served on the planning committee for the new Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusion Minor offered in The College of Criminal Justice. She is an At-Large Board Member for the Texas Victim's Service Association (TVSA). She also serves as member of the Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute (TEAM) and the UTHealth Consortium on Aging.

Dr. Breaux was recently awarded the 2020 College of Criminal Justice and Criminology Faculty Community Engagement Award for excellence in community engagement.

Graduate Research Assistant: Taylor Robinson began the Ph.D. program in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University in the Fall of 2019. She received a B.S. in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensic Science (2017) and a M.S. in Victim Services Management (2019) at SHSU. Her research interests include child abuse or maltreatment, intimate partner or family violence among minority populations, specifically, African Americans, as well as sexual assault victimization, and hate crime victimization.

Graduate Research Assistant: Alyssa Linares began the master's program in the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University in the Fall of 2020. She received a B.S. in Victim Studies with a minor in Accounting in May of 2020 at SHSU. She plans to become a Crisis Intervention Counselor, specializing in domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Her research interests are in these areas. After gaining experience, she hopes to advance to become a program director then to join the United Nation's anti- human trafficking unit.

CVI is pleased to welcome Dr. Mary Breaux as the new Director. She will lead the team in raising awareness about the different types of victimization. We welcome her contribution and expertise.



Published by
The Crime Victims' Institute
College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University

The First Department of Victim Studies in the Country

The College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University is proud to introduce its newest department, The Department of Victim Studies. The department houses faculty whose research, training, and expertise focus on the specific issues addressed in the degree programs related to victims. SHSU is the only institution to offer an undergraduate major in victim studies and the only master's degree in the field.

“One of the driving reasons behind the college re-organization that started in 2011 was to allow for distinct academic and research programs to develop their own identities and be afforded the opportunity to grow and reach their full potential,” said Phillip Lyons, Dean of the College of Criminal Justice.

“It is a very exciting opportunity for the department. We are at the forefront of victimology and victim studies,” said Janet Mullings, Victim Studies Program Director. “We will concentrate our efforts on cutting-edge research, teaching, and service that will benefit victims and victim services.”

Graduates of these programs are prepared to work in a wide array of areas including victim service agencies, police departments, correctional facilities, child protective services, programs serving at-risk youth, and legal advocacy for victims.¹

The department proud to announce its founding department chair, Dr. Shelly Clevenger from Illinois State University. Clevenger has been in Illinois for eight years, focusing her research on topics of sexual assault, intimate partner abuse, and cyber victimization. “We're starting to see victims differently. I think in the past they were often seen by law enforcement and courts as kind of a means to an end or part of the case,” Clevenger said. “I've seen over the years from my own research they [victims] have an impact in the criminal justice system and they have their own needs that need to be met. I think the victim studies department can help prepare students to meet that need.” Clevenger grew up in Pennsylvania and received her Ph.D. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). She considers herself an activist through her research and community work of different forms of raising awareness.²



CVI is excited to work with the new Department of Victim Studies in raising awareness and disseminating information about victimization!

1 Hoff, V. (2019). *Today @ Sam; SHSU Establishes First Department Of Victim Studies In The US*. <https://www.shsu.edu/today@sam/T@S/article/2019/victim-studies-department>
2 Hoff, V. (2020). *Today @ Sam; Victim Studies Names First Department Chair*. <https://www.shsu.edu/today@sam/T@S/article/2020/victim-studies-chair>

Look for upcoming publications, podcasts, pre-recorded webinars, and fact sheets from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Domestic Violence and Cybervictimizaion Pre- Recorded Webinar and Facts
- Procedural Justice and Sexual Assault Reporting
- Native American Victimization Facts
- Drunk Driving Facts
- COVID- 19 and Elder Abuse Podcast

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Upcoming Events



Domestic Violence Awareness Month	October
32nd Annual Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance Virtual Conference Online	October 19-28, 2020
20th Annual Partners in Prevention Conference- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Online	October 21-22, 2020
19th Annual National Conference on Domestic Violence St. Louis, MO	October 25-28, 2020
2020 National Safe Housing Virtual Conference: Addressing the Housing Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Online	October 28-30, 2020

Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older) 1-800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888
- National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving 877-623-3435
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (revenge/ nonconsensual porn) 844-878-2274

