

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 policymaking at the state and local levels.

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

Summer Research Projects

The CVI is excited to collaborate with a team of scholars to conduct research in various areas of victimization. All of the scholars are Sam Houston State University, College of Criminal Justice professors or students.

Dr. Chelsey Narvey is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. She will conduct research to explore the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders on intimate partner violence rates in two major Texas cities.

Bailey Vautrain is a Master of Science in Victim Services Management student. She will conduct exploratory research into youth camps in regards to their prevention and reporting methodology for child abuse.

Dr. Elisa Toman, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, is working on a project which examines "green" victimization. In particular, her work explores whether confined populations are disproportionately exposed to environmental toxins and pollution across the United States. The project bridges prison literature and environmental justice work and seeks to answer critical questions centered on environmental harm and the understudied effects of mass incarceration.

Dr. John Navarro is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. He partnered with Christina Richardson, a Criminal Justice Master of Arts student, to conduct research over male victimization on college campuses. The aim is to identify a campus climate among Sam Houston State University students of rape myth attitudes, otherwise known as false beliefs of rape, its victims, and perpetrators. While much research has undertaken attitudes toward female-oriented rape myths, male-oriented rape myths remain under-investigated.

Dr. Peter Lehmann, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, will study cybercrimes and their relationship to college students—a particularly vulnerable population given the average amount of time these young adults spend online. His analysis will examine whether (1) impulsivity, risk-seeking behavior, and other related traits are associated with involvement in risky online activities, and (2) whether involvement in those activities, in turn, is associated with an increased likelihood of cybercrime victimization.

Shamika M. Kelley, a Criminal Justice Doctoral Candidate, is working on a project that examines African American women's sexual victimization and help-seeking experiences and the forensic medical response to Black women. Guided by theoretical frameworks and perspectives that center African American women—Black Feminism, Critical Race Theory, and Intersectionality—her project uses forensic medical reports to assess general and culture-specific factors that shape African American women's decision to report to police, the types of forensic medical treatment and examinations African American women receive after experiencing sexual victimization, and intragroup differences in victimization and help-seeking patterns of African American women.

Stay tuned for technical reports regarding the findings of these informative and important projects!

Recap of the 2020– 2021 Events

Though we were challenged by the COVID–19 pandemic, the CVI and the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University found ways to collaborate to host in–person and virtual events and produce publications. To begin with the written works, the CVI produced a fact sheet every month for a total of nine fact sheets. The fact sheets were translated into Spanish to help with community outreach.

Beginning in October 2020, the CVI and the Department of Victim Studies hosted a Coffee Talk with SAAFE House to raise awareness for domestic violence. In the same month, Dr. Tri Keah Henry published her technical report *Facilitating Sexual Assault Reporting Among College Students: Perceptions of Procedural Justice and Bystander Intervention* through the CVI. In November, the CVI partnered with the Department of Victim Studies to host the first Careers in Victim Studies Panel for the students at Sam Houston State University. The panel was centered around raising awareness about different employment opportunities within the victim services field. In December, the CVI released its first episode of CVI Talks with Dr. Jim Fell with NORC at the University of Chicago and Sally Johnson with Mothers Against Drunk Driving about Drunk Driving Victimization. To conclude the year, the CVI published the 2020 Dashboard, outlining a collection of indicators of victimization in Texas.



We started off 2021 with a technical report over Labor Trafficking by Graduate Research Assistants Alyssa Linares and Taylor Robinson. In February, the CVI released our second episode of CVI Talks over Hate Crime Victimization with Dr. Brendan Lantz from Florida State University and Jeanine Bias from Sam Houston State University. In March, our Director, Dr. Mary Breaux, and professors from the Department of Victim Studies presented at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women virtual event. April was a very busy month for the CVI and the Department of Victim Studies. We began the month with our first virtual webinar, Mixing It Up: Exploring Various Victimizations in which we invited speakers to present about Native American Victimization, LGBTQ+ Victimization, and Child Sex Trafficking. The following week we hosted our second

Careers in Victim Studies Panel for Sam Houston students. In recognition of sexual assault awareness month, we partnered with the Department of Victim Studies and various student and community organizations to host events to raise awareness for this type of victimization. These events included a Survivor and Ally Art Event, Denim Day, a Male Sexual Assault Victimization Panel, and a sexual assault survivor care package construction event. May brought another episode of CVI Talks over Elder Abuse with speakers Dr. James Booker, the former regional Adult Protective Services Director, and Jennifer Salazar with the Better Business Bureau. In June we released CVI Talks: Immigrant Victimization with speakers Chris Guerra, a doctoral candidate at Sam Houston State University and Elise Griesemyer with St. Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance. We are excited to see what the future holds for the CVI!



Look for upcoming publications, CVI Talks episodes, and fact sheets from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- COVID-19 and Intimate Partner Violence Rates in Texas Cities by Dr. Chelsey Narvey
- Texas Youth Camps and Reporting Child Abuse by Bailey Vautrain
- Confined Populations and their Exposure to Environmental Toxins and Pollution by Dr. Elisa Toman
- Male Sexual Victimization on College Campuses by Dr. John Navarro and Christina Richardson
- Cybercrimes among College Students by Dr. Peter Lehmann
- Black Women's Sexual Victimization, Help-Seeking Experience, and the Forensic Medical Response by Shamika Kelley

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Upcoming Events



**35th Annual National Parents of
Murdered Children Conference**
Scottsdale, AZ

July 15-18, 2021

**33rd Annual Crimes Against Children
Conference**
Online

August 10–December 17, 2021

**Texas Victims Services Association
Conference**
Online

August 17, 18, 24, & 25, 2021

**National Children's Advocacy Center's
Victim Advocacy Training**
Online

August 24–27, 2021

26th San Diego International Summit
San Diego, CA

August 29–September 1, 2021

**National Organization for Victim
Assistance 47th Annual Training**
Orlando, Florida

September 11–14, 2021

**2021 Domestic Violence Solutions
Conference**
Online

September 15-17, 2021

Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older)

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

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



**GET
HELP**