

Fact Sheet: Diversity in Victimization

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Diversity in Victimization: The Facts

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What is Diversity?

Diversity refers to the broad variance of people in reference to race, ethnicity, age, (dis)ability, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic level. Though victimization affects all people, regardless of demographics, certain groups have higher rates of victimization.

Have you Heard?

- ◇ Women had a higher rate of violent victimizations reported to police (9.6 per 1,000 individuals) than men (7.5) in 2019.¹
- ◇ Individuals ages 18 to 24 had the highest rate of violent victimization reported to police (14.1 per 1,000 individuals), followed by individuals ages 25 to 34 (11.6), and individuals ages 50 to 64 (8.9) in 2019.¹
- ◇ Rates of violent victimization reported to police was highest for households that made less than \$25,000 (15.8 individuals per 1,000), followed by households that earn between \$25,000 and \$49,999 (8.8), and households that earn between \$50,000 and \$99,999 (7.2).¹
- ◇ In 2019, Hispanics over the age of 12 had a higher rate of violent victimization reported to police (10.4 individuals per 1,000) compared to Blacks (9.2), Whites (7.8), and Asians (3.6).¹
- ◇ Women with physical disabilities and men and women with mental health disabilities are at a greater risk of later intimate partner violence victimization.²
- ◇ During a 12 month period, LGBTQ students reported experiencing more incidents of interpersonal violence than college heterosexual students.³
 - ◇ This study specifically looked at sexual orientation. Therefore, the "T" in the LGBTQ+ acronym was left off, as it refers to transgender, which is a gender category rather than a sexual orientation.
- ◇ College students that identify as bisexual or gay were significantly more likely to report intimate partner violence or sexual assault victimization, compared to heterosexual students.³
- ◇ In 2020, the most often seen motivation for hate crimes were race/ethnicity/ancestry (61.9%), sexual orientation (20.5%), and religion (13.4%).⁴
- ◇ In 2019, religious hate victimization was most often fueled by anti-Jewish bias (63%), followed by anti-Islamic bias (12%).⁵

Barriers to Reporting

With such a diverse population of individuals needing access to resources, victim service practitioners should be aware of possible barriers to reporting. Survivors may have fears of being stereotyped based on their demographic characteristics⁶, fears of police and any affiliated agency, fears of retaliation, or fears of deportation (i.e., immigration status). Cultural differences such as values, views on seeking help outside of the family, language, and communication styles may hinder a survivor from seeking assistance.⁶ Survivors may not have access to transportation or know about the resources that are available to them.

How to Help

To provide victim-centered services, it is necessary for practitioners to treat all survivors with dignity and respect.⁷ The services an agency offers should

be welcoming to all populations. Information materials should be accessible for people with different mental and physical health backgrounds (e.g., pamphlets in braille or other languages). When speaking with a survivor, victim service providers should address the survivor directly, rather than speaking to their translator or interpreter. Practitioners should empower survivors to make decisions and respect the decisions that are made. Victim service providers should have ongoing training to stay current on diversity and cultural competency techniques.⁷ Awareness needs to be raised on the resources and rights available to survivors.



Resources

- ◇ African Law Center (281-624-6421)
<https://africanlawcenter.org/>
- ◇ Catholic Charities USA (703-549-1390)
<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>
- ◇ Casa De Proyecto Libertad (956-425-9552)
- ◇ Casa Marianella (512-385-5571)
<https://www.casamarianella.org/>
- ◇ Daya Houston (713-981-7645)
<https://www.dayahouston.org/>
- ◇ Disability Rights Texas (512-454-4816)
<https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/en/home/>
- ◇ Immigration Advocates Network
<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/>
- ◇ Montrose Center (713-529-3211)
<https://www.montrosecenter.org/>
- ◇ Tahirih Justice Center (713-496-0100)
<https://www.tahirih.org/>
- ◇ Texas Advocacy Project (800-374-4673)
<https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/>
- ◇ Trans Pride Initiative (214-449-1439)
<https://www.tpride.org/>

References

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- 3 Snyder, J. A., Scherer, H. L., & Fisher, B. S. (2018). Interpersonal violence among college students: Does sexual orientation impact risk of victimization? *Journal of School Violence, 17*(1), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15388220.2016.1190934>
- 4 The United States Department of Justice. (n.d.). *FBI releases 2020 hate crime statistics*. <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics#piechart-description>
- 5 Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Incidents, offenses, victims, and known offenders by bias motivation, 2019*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019/topic-pages/tables/table-1.xls>
- 6 Office for Victims of Crime- Training and Technical Center. (n.d.). *Providing culturally competent services to victims of crime*. <https://www.ovctac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspTrainingByRequest.cfm?nm=tra&ns=td&nt=pcscv>
- 7 Office for Victims of Crime. (n.d.). *Competency standards- section V: Administration and evaluation*. https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/model-standards/6/competency_standards_5.html

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Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>
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
- The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) 512-438-3011
- Victim Connect Resource Center 1-855-484-2846

