

Fact Sheet: Immigrant Victimization

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Immigrant Victimization: The Facts

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Who is Considered an Immigrant?¹

Immigrants are persons living in a country other than where they were born.

What are the Types of Immigration Statuses?²

Categories of immigration status include citizens, residents, non-immigrants, and undocumented. Citizens are those who were born in the U.S. or were 'naturalized' after three or five years as a permanent resident. Permanent residents are individuals who have a 'green card' or who have been granted permission to live and work in the U.S. Non-immigrants are individuals who are in the country legally but temporarily, such as students, tourists, and those granted temporary status. Undocumented immigrants are individuals in the country without permission.

Have you Heard?³

- ◇ Domestic violence is one of the most common crimes experienced by immigrants.
- ◇ Many crimes against immigrants are underreported due to lack of knowledge concerning reporting, lack of trust in law enforcement, language barriers, and fear of deportation.
- ◇ Domestic violence is the least reported crime.

Risk Factors ⁴

There are many risk factors that influence immigrant victimization, such as sex, legal status, and acculturation. Women are more likely to be victims of crimes, specifically interpersonal crimes, such as domestic violence and sexual assault. Immigrants are a vulnerable population due to the varying standing of legal status. Perpetrators will target immigrants because of their legal status and lower likelihood to report.

Consequences ⁵

Immigrant victims experience context specific consequences based on their legal status. This fluctuating legality can impact an individual's mental and physical health as well as cause psychological stress. Additionally, there are financial consequences, such as instable income and remittance.

What Can You Do?

If you are or know someone who is being victimized based on their legal status you can:

- ◇ If an emergency, call 9-1-1
- ◇ Know your rights
- ◇ Contact immigration legal services for assistance with benefits

Additional Resources

- ◇ St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigration Legal Assistance—Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston—(713)-874-6570—<https://www.catholiccharities.org>
- ◇ DAYA—(713) 842-7222—<https://www.dayahouston.org/>
- ◇ Boat People SOS—(281) 530-6888—<https://www.bpsos.org/>

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