

Fact Sheet: Physical Assault Victimization



**CRIME VICTIMS'
INSTITUTE**

**COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Physical Assault Victimization: The Facts

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What is Physical Assault Victimization?

Physical assault victimization is considered simple or aggravated assault in which an individual is attacked, or threatened with an attack, with or without a weapon, and results in serious physical injury [1]. This form of victimization can be seen in various types of crimes, such as intimate partner violence, family violence, and general violent crimes.

Have you Heard? [2]

- From 2020 to 2021, simple assault victimization increased from 35% to 42%
- Violent victimization increased for Hispanic (12%) and white (7%) individuals from 2020 to 2021
- Compared to 2020, in 2021, reporting of violent victimization by individuals 50 to 64 increased by 16%
- Approximately 2.7 million individuals 12 or older experienced more than one violent crime in 2021.

What are the Consequences? [3]

The consequences of physical assault victimization, or violent victimization, may include debilitating physical injuries, such as paralysis, traumatic brain injury, and memory issues. Individuals may experience mental health consequences, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Violent victimization extends beyond the individual and can impact nearby communities. Additionally, physical victimization can economically impact an individual through medical costs and loss of work productivity.

Barriers to Help-Seeking

Some barriers that individuals face include the stigmatization that they will not be believed by law enforcement. This is especially seen in stalking crimes, where perpetrators threaten serious injuries against an individual.[4] Additionally, gender roles/identities may impact help-seeking as some males, or individuals part of the LGBTQ+ community, are reluctant to report a physical assault. [5, 6]

How to Help and What to Do If You're a Survivor of Physical Assault [1]

- Encourage survivors to report to law enforcement
- Keep a record of expenses that occur because of the assault
- Seek help from victim assistance programs
- Know your rights as a victim

Resources

9-1-1

Texas

- Office of Attorney General: Crime Victims Compensation--(800)983-9933
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims>
- Office of the Texas Governor: Victims Programs (512)462-2000
<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/victims-programs>

National

- National Center for Victims of Crime--(202)467-8700
<https://www.victimsofcrime.org>
- National Organization for Victim Assistance. (800)879-6682--<https://www.trynova.org>

References

- [1] Office for Victims of Crime. (2010). *Assault*. https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/helpseries/HelpBrochure_Assault.html
- [2] Thompson, A., & Tapp, S. (2022). *Criminal Victimization, 2021*. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv21.pdf>
- [3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). *Fast facts: Firearm violence prevention*. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/fastfact.html>
- [4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). *Fast facts: Preventing stalking*. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/stalking/fastfact.html>
- [5] Lysova, A., Hanson, K., Dixon, L., Douglas, E. M., Hines, D. A., & Celi, E. M. (2022). Internal and external barriers to help-seeking: Voices of men who have experienced abuse in intimate relationships. *Internal Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 66(5), 538-559. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X20919710>
- [6] Calton, J. M., Bennett Cattaneo, L., & Gebhard, K. T. (2016). Barriers to help seeking for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer survivors of intimate partner violence. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 17(5), 585-600. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838015585318>

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Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 + <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>
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
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988