

Fact Sheet: Murder Victimization



**CRIME VICTIMS'
INSTITUTE**

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

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Murder Victimization: The Facts

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What is Murder Victimization

Murder victimization is defined as the intentional taking of the life of one person by another. [1]

Have you Heard?

- Murder is considered a first-degree felony in Texas. [2]
- Capital murder is considered a capital felony in Texas. [2]
- The most common murder victims in the U.S. in 2019 were Black/African Americans, accounting for 53.7% of all murder victims. [3]
- The most common murder victims in the U.S. in 2019 were in their 20s. [3]
- The most common weapon used in murder commissions was a firearm. [3]

Risk Factors

Risk factors contributing to murder offending and victimization include gang activity, gun accessibility, and drug trading. Additional risk factors that may play a role in murder offending and murder victimization include drug and alcohol use and unemployment. At times, multiple risk factors will play a role in murder victimization. [4]

What are the Consequences?

Several consequences result from the trauma of murder victimization, especially for secondary victims. These consequences include, but are not limited to, PTSD, anxiety, depression, or other negative mental health effects. Other consequences that may result from the trauma of having lost a loved one to murder may include experiencing feelings of shock or turmoil and possibly feelings of guilt or anger. [5]

How to Help Families of Murder Victims

Family members grieving should talk with a trusted individual in a judgement-free zone. [5] Additionally, seeking counseling or mental health services can assist in the healing/grieving process. It is also important to allow yourself to grieve. Your feelings are valid.

Resources

9-1-1

Texas

Tri-County Services: 800-659-6994

Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD:
866-970-4770

North Texas Behavioral Health Authority:
866-260-8000

National

Parents of Murdered Children: 513-721-5683

Survivors of Homicide, Inc.: 860-257-7388

Aftermath Victims' Assistance: 877-697-0348

Victim Connect Resource Center: 855-484-2846

References

[1] *Murder*. (2019). FBI. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/murder>

[2] *PENAL CODE TITLE 5. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON*. (n.d.). <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/pdf/PE.19.pdf>

[3] *Expanded Homicide Data Table 2*. (n.d.). FBI. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-2.xls>

[4] Drucker, J. (2011). *Risk Factors of Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter*.

<http://www.rutgerscps.org/uploads/2/7/3/7/27370595/murderrisks.pdf>

[5] *A GUIDE TO SURVIVAL FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS*. (n.d.). <https://dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/guidesurvival.pdf>

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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>
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