

Seventh Edition

UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE AND VICTIMIZATION

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CONTENTS

Preface ix

Chapter 1 MEASURING AND UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE 1

Learning Objectives 1

Introduction 2

The Fear of Violent Crime 2

Fear and Effect of Violent Crime 3

Crime Data 4

Sources of Data on Victimization 4

Violent Crime Reporting and Statistics 5

National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC) 7

Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) 7

Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted on Duty 8

Understanding Violence 9

Influences of Violence 9

Individual Influences 11

Familial Influences 16

Community Influences 18

Summary 19 • Key Terms and Concepts 20 •

Discussion Questions and Learning Activities 20 •

Web Sources 20 • Recommended Readings 21 •

References 21

Chapter 2 VICTIMIZATION THEORY 24

Learning Objectives 24

Introduction 24

Impact of Victimization 25

Culture of Victimization 29

Review of Early Victimization Theory 32

Hentig's Victim Classification 32

Mendelsohn's Typology 34

Sellin and Wolfgang's Typology of Victimization 35

Modern Victimization Theories 35

Cultural Trappings 35

Victim Precipitation Theory 36

Spatial Relations 38

New Technology 40
 Summary 42 • *Key Terms and Concepts* 42 •
 Discussion Questions and Learning Activities 43 •
 Web Sources 43 • *Recommended Readings* 43 •
 References 44

Chapter 3 VICTIMS OF FAMILIAR VIOLENCE 47

Learning Objectives 47
Introduction 47
The Stalking Problem 47
 Antistalking Legislation 51
 Federal Law on Stalking 54
 The Psychological and Social Consequences of Stalking 55
Intimate Partner Violence 55
 Extended Victims of Partner Violence 58
 Explaining Partner Violence 59
 Recognizing a Potentially Abusive Partner 61
The Law and Domestic Violence 63
 Developments in the States 63
 The Federal Crime Control Act and Domestic Violence 69
Elder Abuse and Neglect 70
 Nursing Home Negligence 71
Child Abuse and Neglect 73
Victims of Rape and Sexual Violence 75
 Statutory Rape 76
 Marital Rape 76
 Date Rape and Dating Violence 77
 Summary 80 • *Key Terms and Concepts* 80 •
 Discussion Questions and Learning Activities 81 •
 Web Sources 81 • *Recommended Readings* 81 •
 References 82

Chapter 4 NONFAMILIAR VIOLENCE AND VICTIMIZATION 85

Learning Objectives 85
Introduction 85
Robbery 86
 Home Invasion Robbery 87
 Carjacking 89
Murders and Assaults by Strangers 91
 Spontaneous Murders 91
 Directed Targets 94

<i>Bias and Hate-Motivated Crimes</i>	96
Hate and Bias Crime Legislation	98
<i>Terrorism</i>	99
Domestic and International Terrorism	100
Victims of Terrorism	104
Motives of Violence	105
Violence Dissemination	106
Summary	107 •
Key Terms and Concepts	108 •
Discussion Questions and Learning Activities	108 •
Web Sources	109 •
Recommended Readings	109 •
References	109
Chapter 5 INSTITUTIONAL AND WORKPLACE VIOLENCE	112
<i>Learning Objectives</i>	112
<i>Introduction</i>	112
<i>Overview of Institutional and Workplace Violence</i>	114
<i>Institutional Homicides</i>	116
<i>Categorization of Institutional and Workplace Violence</i>	117
<i>Sources of Workplace Violence</i>	118
<i>Warning Signs of Violence</i>	120
<i>Bullying in the Workplace</i>	127
<i>Employer Liability for Institutional Victimization</i>	128
<i>Sexual Harassment and Legal Liability</i>	131
<i>Reducing the Violence Threat: The Targeted Human Resource Approach</i>	133
Summary	136 •
Key Terms and Concepts	136 •
Discussion Questions and Learning Activities	137 •
Web Sources	137 •
Recommended Readings	137 •
References	138
Chapter 6 SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND VICTIMIZATION	140
<i>Learning Objectives</i>	140
<i>Introduction</i>	140
<i>Research on School Crime and Violence</i>	142
<i>Teachers at Risk</i>	143
<i>Explaining School Violence</i>	144
<i>Early Warning Signs of Violent Behavior</i>	148
Bullying	148
Gangs and Schools	149
Other Behavioral Warning Signs	150

Responding to School Violence 152

Zero Tolerance 154

- Summary* 156 • *Key Terms and Concepts* 157 •
- Discussion Questions and Learning Activities* 157 •
- Web Sources* 157 • *Recommended Readings* 158 •
- References* 158

Chapter 7 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND INJUSTICE 161

Learning Objectives 161

Introduction 161

Sources of Injustice 162

Is the Justice System Broken? 162

The Police 163

Remedies for Police Injustice 166

Prosecution and the Judicial Process 168

Crime Legislation, Sentencing, and Injustice 173

Three Strikes Law and Mandatory Minimums 174

Enforcing Laws: Sanctuary Cities Crime and Illegal Immigration 175

Felony Murder Rule 177

Sex Registration Laws 178

Corrections 179

Community Corrections 179

Early Release and Realignment 180

Prison Victimization 181

- Summary* 182 • *Key Terms and Concepts* 182 •
- Discussion Questions and Learning Activities* 183 •
- Web Sources* 183 • *Recommended Readings* 183 •
- References* 184

Chapter 8 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND VICTIMIZATION 186

Learning Objectives 186

Introduction 186

Scope of Human Trafficking 187

Victims of Sex Trafficking 189

The Refugee Crisis and Trafficking 191

Sex Trafficking in the United States 192

Other Consequences of Sex Trafficking Victims 194

Labor Trafficking 195

Bonded Labor 196

Debt Bondage Among Migrant Laborers 197

Involuntary Domestic Servitude 197
 Forced Child Labor 198
Child Soldiers 198
Laws Prohibiting Human Trafficking 200
Responding to Human Trafficking 202
 T Nonimmigrant Status (T Visa) 204
 U Nonimmigrant Status (U Visa) 204
 Summary 205 • *Key Terms and Concepts* 206 •
 Discussion Questions and Learning Activities 206 •
 Web Sources 206 • *Recommended Readings* 206 •
 References 207

Chapter 9 FIREARMS AND VICTIMIZATION 209

Learning Objectives 209
Introduction 209
Gun Laws 210
 The States 210
 Federal Laws 212
 The Bad of Guns 215
 Source of Illegal Guns 217
 The Good of Guns 217
 Summary 221 • *Notes* 222 • *Key Terms and*
 Concepts 222 • *Discussion Questions and Learning*
 Activities 222 • *Web Sources* 223 • *Recommended*
 Readings 223 • *References* 223

Chapter 10 RESPONDING TO CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION 226

Learning Objectives 226
Introduction 226
Proactive Responses 227
 Community Violence Prevention Strategies 227
 Security and Protection Measures 230
 Environmental Criminology 234
Reactive Responses to Victimization 240
 Victim Rights and Compensation Programs 240
 Additional Legislation 246
Sexual Offender Notification Laws 249
 Sexually Violent Predator Act 249
 Antigang Legislation 250
 Gang Injunctions 250
 Crime Control Legislation in 2000 and Beyond 251

Victim Advocacy Groups 253

Civil Justice for Victims 255

Summary 257 • *Key Terms and Concepts* 258 •

Discussion Questions and Learning Activities 258 •

Web Sources 259 • *Recommended Readings* 259 •

References 259

Appendix A: Major Sources of Victimization Data and Information 262

Appendix B: Resource Guide 265

Appendix C: Victimization Checklist 267

Index 268

PREFACE

NEW TO THIS EDITION

- A new chapter has been added on firearms and victimization (Chapter 9).
- All chapters are updated.
- A victimization checklist has been added in Appendix C.
- In Chapter 10, a table is presented listing key federal victims' rights legislation from 1974 to 2015.
- All chapters include updated statistics and web sources.
- The art program has been streamlined, with outdated content deleted.
- The text design has been refreshed to make the text more reader-friendly.

Violence and the resulting victimization have a serious impact on individuals and society. It is difficult to predict when or where they will occur. In writing this book, I have been interested in exploring selected types of violence, particularly the types that capture media and public attention because of their seriousness, callousness, and, in some cases, randomness. Therefore, I choose not to write about nonviolent victimization, such as property crimes and frauds. It is not my intention to downplay the importance of these crimes, but to focus more on the crimes of violence that we fear most.

This book combines theories on violence and victimization with applied responses to victimization. It is written for the person studying victimization and violence, as well as for those employed in crime prevention and victim service programs. My purpose is to discuss offender–victim relationships, provide data, and explore situational factors and responses to victims. Also discussed are some precursors of violence such as stalking and harassment. Throughout the book are case studies called *Focuses* that enhance points and can be used to generate discussion. A constant theme in this book is that the experience of violence, whether at home, in the community, or as the result of personal assault or abuse, has a devastating effect. Many criminals who commit violence on others have mental disease or abusive or dysfunctional backgrounds, leading to targeting others for personal gain, thrill, recognition, or hate. Sometimes violence perpetrated by these predators is planned, committed in the course of completing other crimes, or simply a random act. Other forms of violence such as terrorism are the result of political or religious convictions.

In the first chapter, some causes of violence as well as data on violent crime measures and the impact that fear of violence has on others are presented. Chapter 2 addresses theories of victimization. It introduces criminal victimization, discussing how and why some people are victimized. Chapter 3 covers intimate victimizations, such as domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, rape, dating violence, and stalking. My intent in this chapter is to address legal and social issues of intimate violence as well as preventive measures. Chapter 4 addresses nonfamilial violence and victimization. Two of the most prevalent types of this violence are murder and robbery. The chapter focuses on the situations in which people become victims of violence by strangers, including terrorists, and what can be done to prevent these occurrences. There is also a discussion of serial killers, their motives, and their victims. Chapter 5 focuses on workplace violence and victimization, including the problem of harassment. These are important

topics because of the stresses of the work environment and attacks on coworkers by disgruntled employees or by third parties. Research conducted on the sources of and responses to workplace violence is covered. The purpose is to offer suggestions on what can be done to reduce the potential for violence.

Chapter 6 addresses school violence and victimization. Because of recent acts of violence on our nation's campuses, I felt compelled to discuss some possible explanations and responses. After all, schools are microcosms of society, as are some workplaces and communities. Chapter 7 discusses how the criminal justice system, through its decision-making capacities, causes victimization, either intentionally or inadvertently. Why is it that the police overstep their authority, or why are some persons convicted of crimes they never committed? Are laws designed to address violent crime being applied fairly? Chapter 8 addresses human trafficking and victimization. In this chapter, the differences between sex trafficking and labor trafficking are discussed. Various laws and responses on trafficking are also addressed. Chapter 9 addresses firearms and victimization. A discussion of firearm laws of both federal and selected states is presented along with tables and graphs. The use of guns is explored as a means of victimization, and as a measure in preventing victimization. Chapter 10 addresses the selective proactive and reactive crime response measures. The chapter concludes with a presentation of measures to aid victims through victim compensation programs and laws. In some instances, victims seek relief from the courts in the form of personal damages from property owners. Victims criminally assaulted at work or on private property, for instance, may have a civil case against a property owner or manager. Thus litigation has an impact on organizational business policy and operations.

I would like to offer a disclaimer. Throughout the book, I refer to a number of legal cases and crime response procedures. They are offered as a general guide. I recognize that laws, statistics, and procedures may change or may not apply in some situations. By the time this edition is published, new laws or amendments to existing ones may be instituted. To address this problem, I have included in Appendix A information on retrieving current information relative to victimization. Appendix B is a source for workplace and school violence issues. Appendix C is a victimization checklist students may use to survey crime and victimization in their community. The survey provides an opportunity to learn about victimization, and to discuss why some crimes are not reported to law enforcement. Students are advised to consult with local law enforcement or other authorities for information on changes or new programs relevant to victimology.

INSTRUCTOR SUPPLEMENTS

Instructor's Manual with Test Bank. Includes content outlines for classroom discussion, teaching suggestions, and answers to selected end-of-chapter questions from the text. This also contains a Word document version of the test bank.

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Robert J. Meadows is Professor and Chair of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at California Lutheran University. Dr Meadows's research and teaching interests include legal issues in the criminal justice system, and violence and victimization. He authored a book on Saudi Arabian justice and a parents' guide for coping with difficult teenagers. He is also a coauthor of *Evil Minds: Understanding and Responding to Violent Predators*. Dr Meadows is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Defining and Describing School Violence and Teacher Victimization. School violence takes on several forms and can include bullying, intimidation, gang activity, locker theft, weapon use, assault—just about anything that results in a victim (Espelage & Horne, 2008; Volokh & Snell, 1998). In sum, the extant research literature suggests that school violence and student aggression, including violence directed against teachers, are complex problems related to student, teacher, classroom, school, and community-level variables. Understanding violence and victimization. Item Preview. remove-circle. Share or Embed This Item. EMBED. Understanding violence and victimization. by. Meadows, Robert J. Publication date. 2006. Topics. Victims of crimes, Violent crimes, Violence.