

Seventh Edition

UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE AND VICTIMIZATION

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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- The art program has been streamlined, with outdated content deleted.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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