

*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
<b>Chapter 5 INSTITUTIONAL AND WORKPLACE VIOLENCE</b>	<b>112</b>
<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
<b>Chapter 6 SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND VICTIMIZATION</b>	<b>140</b>
<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

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**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.

Understanding Violence And Victimization book. Read 3 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. This book attempts to address the sources o...Â Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking "Understanding Violence And Victimization" as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€¦| Want to Read. Understanding Violence and Victimization, Sixth Edition, goes beyond simple discussions of violence to explore the social and legal responses to victimization. Meadows focuses on the experience of victims and how the occurrence of violence; whether at home, in the community, or as the result of personal assault or abuse; can have a devastating effect. Drawing on extensive experience in the field, Meadows explores numerous types of violence and examines the offenderâ€”victim relationships, relevant data, and situational factors that influence violent incidents. Both students and those employed in