

## **CRIME VICTIMIZATION**



# **CRIME VICTIMIZATION**

*A Comprehensive Overview*

**THIRD EDITION**

**Elizabeth Quinn Wright  
Sara Brightman**



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*To my loved ones—thank you for your unending support and encouragement.*

**EQW**

*To my family and friends who have always supported me.*

**SWB**

*To the victims and survivors who inspire us and  
the professionals who work with crime victims—you are valued.*

**EQW & SWB**



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# Preface

Welcome to *Crime Victimization: A Comprehensive Overview, 3rd edition*! This book was created to provide students with a general background of victimology, an understanding of the amount and major types of criminal victimizations and who they affect, a solid introduction to the Victims' Rights Movement and victims' rights legislation, and what victims need to recover from crime. This book also pays particular attention to the strengths and weaknesses that exist in the interactions between criminal justice and non-criminal justice personnel who provide assistance to crime victims in numerous capacities. Throughout this text, students will find profiles of victimologists, victim activists, and victim advocates. The authors are particularly proud of these Professional Profiles, as we believe they provide the reader with an idea about different opportunities for working with crime victims across a wide spectrum of vocations. Within each chapter we have placed profiles of individuals who have contributed to our understanding of crime victims in a way that is consistent with the chapter. Additionally, in almost every chapter we have included news snippets to illustrate important concepts and real-world issues related to the topic of the chapter. These news segments, titled "In the News," provide students with a clear illustration of particular concepts in the real world and help to identify challenges and progress evident in the treatment of crime victims.

This book is divided into four different sections with a total of 12 chapters overall. Section I, "History and Measurement of Victimization," introduces readers to the definitions of victim and victimization, covers the history of victimology, provides the history of addressing crime victimization and the inclusion and exclusion of crime victims overall, and finishes up with a discussion on the continuum of victims' contribution to the crime event and a discussion of victim blaming. Chapter 2 focuses on how we measure victimization, both in the United States and abroad. It is important to view victimization from a global perspective to both identify prevention strategies that eliminate/decrease opportunities for crime but also to understand common patterns of victimization and cultural nuances surrounding what acts are deemed "crimes" and how important they are to different societies.

Section II, "Victimization—Consequences, Forms, and Underrepresented Populations," is the largest section in this book and delves deep into understanding the effects of crime victimization while also providing a comparison for the student on the similarities and differences in victims' responses to specific types of crimes. Chapter 3 focuses on identifying the spectrum of individuals who are affected by a crime and identifies the major categories of harm from which victims try to recover. The chapter discusses long- and short-term effects and opens up a dialogue about what it is that victims need to start

healing and moving on from the crime. Chapter 4 focuses attention on UCR Part I offenses specifically and identifies characteristics of “common” victims and “common” offenders, as well as addressing “victimless” crimes and repeat victimization. Chapter 5 shines a spotlight on vulnerable populations and interpersonal violence, as these are the areas in which we see the majority of victim services being implemented. This chapter helps us to see the impact of crime that is perpetrated by those within our closest circles—our families and partnerships. Chapter 6 provides a focus on two types of crime that have been receiving greater attention in the last decade—white-collar crime and workplace violence—and Chapter 7 provides readers with two additional areas receiving more attention as of late—hate crimes and cybercrimes. Students typically read about victimization as a result of street-level crime, but less often do we see a discussion of cybercrime and white-collar crime victims. Because students of criminal justice, sociology, psychology, social work, and other fields will likely engage with crime victims at some point in their careers, it is important to identify all different types of crime victims so we can begin to examine nuances to appropriately aid these individuals.

Section III, “Victims’ Rights,” provides an in-depth review of the history of the Victims’ Rights Movement starting with a discussion in Chapter 8 of important legislation that has come from the efforts of victim activists, victimologists, and victim advocates. Chapter 9 provides students with a description of some of the most important pieces of victims’ rights legislation that have been implemented in the United States and traces victimology history through the decades, identifying important events and organizational creations across time.

Section IV, “Working with Victims and Next Steps,” introduces the reader to how victims are treated by the various professions that provide services to them after the crime has occurred. In Chapter 10, the focus is on the interaction between criminal justice personnel and victims—identifying the strengths and challenges within these relationships. In Chapter 11 the text focuses on individuals who work with crime victims in a victim advocacy-type capacity and in other areas that victims commonly seek assistance, including medical services, psychological/counseling services, and faith-based assistance. This chapter also addresses common challenges to assisting crime victims faced by victim advocates and discusses both the positive and negative aspects the media brings to crime incidents and their treatment of crime victims. The final chapter, Chapter 12, highlights burgeoning issues for victim advocates and victimologists identified by the Office for Victims of Crime and the National Center for Victims of Crime. Challenges experienced by special groups of victims, such as victims with disabilities, rural victims, human trafficking victims and immigrant victims (legal and illegal), and victims of mass casualty incidents are discussed, as is the focus on cultural competency for victim advocates. New developments in victim services are highlighted to keep the student abreast of progress in the field, including restorative justice initiatives and the importance of collaborative efforts in victim response, such as Sexual Assault Response Teams and Family Justice Centers. The chapter ends with an introduction of hot topics, such as victimization during disasters and the use of social media to prevent crime and reach out to the public, and a

discussion of future considerations such as remaining gaps in service to victims and glimpses into areas upon which victim advocacy and victimology fields are focusing.

The authors are particularly proud of presenting you the third edition of *Crime Victimization*. In this new version, students will find updated crime victimization statistics throughout this textbook (to reflect the most recent year available to us—2023–24 when available) and added information on areas not previously addressed, such as sibling on sibling violence, the It's On Us movement, crime against transgender individuals, and victimization by the criminal justice system. This book would have been incomplete without addressing the additional strain that was created during the 2020 pandemic, so students will be able to see that information throughout the textbook. Additionally, we've highlighted the topic of mass casualties of violent crime and the efforts of the National Center for Victims of Crime to provide financial assistance to the victims of those crimes and their families. Finally, a groundbreaking research effort was undertaken to examine the work of victim service providers—that information is examined in this text as well and helps us to truly understand how best to serve crime victims.

The overall goal of this book is to provide a history of victimology, victimization, and victims' rights, while also highlighting the needs of victims and illustrating what those who work with crime victims in any capacity can do to positively impact the lives of those victims with whom they come into contact.



# Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Carolina Academic Press, specifically Beth Hall, who believed in this project from the start and supported our vision for a textbook on crime victimization wholeheartedly. Photographer Kaitlyn Barlow supplied the cover photograph for the first and second editions of this text, and Faith Grim, Criminal Justice graduate from Middle Tennessee State University, supplied the cover photograph for the current edition. Both photographers have done an amazing job of capturing the tone of the book and the need to acknowledge all types of crime victimization so survivors receive the support they deserve to recover. In the first two editions the candle flames were “live,” but in the third edition, flameless candles were chosen to represent the significant shifts that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the variety of social movements that occurred that required or forced us to distance ourselves from each other. The idea of lighting every candle from a single primary candle changed because we’ve been forced to distance ourselves from each other, but the light of understanding and the desire to help victims/survivors in their recovery remains. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge Jennifer Hill and Steve Oliva for creating a book cover that exceeded our expectations and truly brought forward the vision we were hoping to capture. Thank you to Ryland Bowman and Steve Oliva for having so much patience with us as we brought this edition to life. Truly—there isn’t a word for the amount of patience and grace you provided to get us across the finish line.

We would like to thank our family and friends for providing us with the support needed to continue our efforts to add to the conversation on victimology.

We remain in awe of the victimologists, criminal justice practitioners, victim advocates, and other victim-serving professionals who are out in the world trying to make life better for crime victims. A special thank you must go out to Anne Seymour, a woman whose impact on the field of victim advocacy is immeasurable. Her support and guidance on the first edition of this text meant the world to us and we are so grateful she was willing to provide us with her profile so students across the nation can learn of her great works.

We would also like to recognize the trials and tribulations faced by victims of crime in general, and pay our respects to the people working on the front lines to help victims find justice and heal from the acts perpetrated against them. We hope this text will guide future victimologists, criminal justice agents, victim advocates, and all others who work with victims in any capacity to constantly strive to serve crime victims to the best of their abilities and to know that their efforts are noticed and appreciated.



# About the Authors

**PROFESSOR ELIZABETH QUINN WRIGHT** received bachelor's degrees in psychology and social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned an MA in 2000 and a PhD in 2004 from Sam Houston State University and began her academic career at Fayetteville State University (FSU), which allowed her to pursue her interest in victimology through research, service, and teaching in immeasurable ways. After eleven years in FSU's Department of Criminal Justice she shifted gears and became a faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). At both FSU and MTSU she created victimology courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and is especially proud that as of the date of this writing (April 2024) four of her victimology students are now employed as Victim Witness Coordinators in District Attorney's Offices across the state of Tennessee. Her interests include victimology and victim's studies, police-community relations and the problem-oriented police officer, and stress management, with a particular emphasis on helping students to develop their self-care and wellness practices before they enter the workforce so the impact of "the job" is more manageable and their work, and wellness, are supported. Professor Wright has worked as a corrections liaison with incarcerated boys and girls. Additionally, she worked for a number of years as a rape crisis hotline counselor and support group facilitator and continued her victim advocacy work through the Rape Crisis Volunteers of Cumberland County organization from 2007–2011. In addition to responding to crisis line calls and as an emergency room companion, she served as a member of the board of directors for four years, including appointments as board treasurer and board secretary for three of those years, was a primary grant writer for the organization, and assisted with training and fundraising efforts. In her new state of Tennessee, she has been honored to work with two excellent victim service agencies in the middle Tennessee region and currently serves as Board Chair for an organization working with justice-involved women.

Professor Wright has worked on projects exploring fear of crime and citizen satisfaction with police for the Fayetteville Police Department, exploring availability and utilization of victim services for domestic violence victims in four counties within North Carolina, evaluating a self-defense program for victims of sexual assault, and assessing teaching at the undergraduate level in criminal justice. She has been published in *Women & Criminal Justice*, *Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice*, *Contemporary Justice Review*, *ACJS Assessment Forum*, and *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* and has written seven book chapters exploring different victimological and victims' rights issues, including a problem-oriented policing approach to repeat victimization, and a technical report on the victimization experience presented to the Texas State Legislature.

**PROFESSOR SARA BRIGHTMAN** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University. She earned an undergraduate degree in sociology and women's studies from Central Michigan University and earned her master's degree and PhD in sociology from Western Michigan University. Dr. Brightman's dissertation addressed the systematic nature of sexual violence against women committed by United States actors, focusing on the military, police, corrections officers, and border control agents. Dr. Brightman's areas of interest include state and corporate crime victims, victimology, Queer victimology/criminology and criminological theory. She teaches victimology (at the undergraduate and graduate levels), comparative criminal justice, and race, class, and gender in criminal justice. Other areas of interest include international law, human rights, women's rights, and social movements.

Dr. Brightman has conducted research on state crimes by police and military in Nigeria, state crimes by police and the judicial system in Pakistan, as well as eugenics and state crime restorative justice in North Carolina. Her recent publications have focused on transgender victims of violence and Queer victimology through the formulation and application of the Trifecta of Violence to homicides against transgender individuals. Dr. Brightman's publications can be found in the *British Journal of Criminology*, *Contemporary Justice Review*, *Critical Criminology*, the *Journal of Theoretical & Philosophical Criminology*, and *Homicide Studies*.