RACE AND VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION

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## Victimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Victims</th>
<th>Indirect Victims</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- A person who suffers physical injury, extreme mental distress, or death as a result of having experienced a violent crime.</td>
<td>- A member of the direct victims’ family* who witnessed the crime and/or is a person whose mental health counseling and care is required for the successful treatment of the victim.</td>
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Race and Victimization

- Teens (ages 12-19) and young adults (ages 20-24) are the most likely to be victims of violent crime.
- Blacks and Latinos are more likely to be victims of violent crime than Whites.
- Rates of rape and sexual assault are highest among Native American women more so than either White or African American women.
- Those with household incomes below $7,500 are more than three times more likely to be robbed than those with incomes above $75,000.
- Black and Latino males are over represented among homicide victims.
  - * Family members and friends of victims of violent crime are disproportionately people of color
Violent Crime Categories

- **Simple Assault** - An attack without a weapon resulting either in no injury, minor injury (e.g., bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches or swelling).

- **Aggravated Assault** - When a person purposely attacks or attempts to cause bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon or An attack without a weapon where serious injury results.

- **Violent Victimization** - Serious physical violence resulting in a knife or gun being pulled on someone wherein the victim was jumped, shot, cut or stabbed resulting in life-threatening injury or death.
Race and Crime Categories

- Blacks (ages 15-24) are violently victimized and robbed at rates higher than Whites and persons of “other races”.
- Blacks (ages 15-24) are victims of simple assault at rates higher than the rates of persons of “other races.”
- Black men (ages 15-24) are victims of aggravated assault at rates greater than those of White men and women.
In Summary….

- Great racial disparities and overrepresentation of people of color exist at all decision points in criminal justice processing, and have significant social consequences.
- We have yet to examine the sociocultural context, cause and consequences of race based structural inequality and its impact on race and victimization for the individual perpetrator/victim, community based outcomes, and criminal justice system.
RACE MATTERS!
Research on Race and Victimization

### Current Research
- Predominately conducted in urban areas
- Examines mental health outcomes (e.g., PTSD, depression, substance abuse) for victims of violent crime
- Focused on risk and protective factors (e.g., social support, prevention education)
- Focused on coping (e.g., emotion/problem focused, service utilization)

### Gaps in Research
- Comparison between urban, suburban and rural victims
- Mental, physical, criminal justice outcomes of individual as both victim and perpetrator
- Small (if any) samples of Black and/or Latino participants despite being overrepresented as direct/indirect victims and perpetrators of violent crime.
- Perspectives of victims of color in the literature
- Research relevant to victim typology (e.g., homicide, sexual assault/abuse, crime)
- Survivors of homicide victims research
Implications for Future Research

- National Studies on Populations of Color
- Development and Implementation of culturally appropriate tools of measurement (e.g., race, ethnicity, victim typology)
- Participatory Action Research Methods, Mixed Methods, and Longitudinal Studies.
- Variable Focus – mental, physical, educational, cost, community engagement and criminal justice outcomes
References


Thank You

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