

# CRIME SURVIVORS

**SPEAK**

TEXAS VICTIMS'  
EXPERIENCES  
WITH **RECOVERY**  
AND VIEWS ON  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**ALLIANCE FOR**  
**SAFETY AND JUSTICE**



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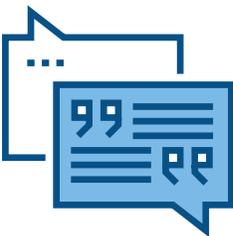
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# INTRODUCTION

Protecting victims of crime and promoting public safety is the most important function of Texas' criminal justice system. It is therefore essential to consider the experiences and perspectives of crime survivors when determining safety and justice policy.

Because comprehensive data hasn't been available, the public safety debate in Texas has had to rely on anecdote rather than data when it comes to the views and needs of those most negatively impacted by crime and violence: victims.

To fill this gap, the Alliance for Safety and Justice commissioned a survey of Texas crime survivors. Conducted in February 2019, this groundbreaking study by David Binder Research<sup>1</sup> highlights the myriad ways in which Texas crime survivors are impacted by crime, what they need from the criminal justice system to recover and heal, and how state policy can better align with their safety priorities.

The results provide surprising insight regarding victims' views on safety and justice policy. Contrary to what many expect to be the position of victims of crime, the vast majority of crime survivors in Texas support changes to the justice system that would increase rehabilitation.

Crime victims want accountability, but they also believe current justice system policies make it more likely someone will commit crimes in the future. They would prefer that the criminal justice system do more to stop crime before it happens. In a national survey, the Alliance for Safety and Justice found:

- **By a 2 to 1 margin**, victims prefer that the criminal justice system focus more on rehabilitating people who commit crimes than punishing them.
- **6 in 10 victims** prefer shorter prison sentences and more spending on prevention and rehabilitation to prison sentences that keep people in prison for as long as possible.
- **By a margin of 3 to 1**, victims prefer holding people accountable through options beyond just prison, such as rehabilitation, mental health treatment, drug treatment, community supervision, or community service.

In Texas, the largest number of people sentenced for crimes who could benefit from rehabilitation are under community supervision in the probation system. Victims in Texas prefer options, such as changes to the probation system, that would incentivize people to rehabilitate themselves and break the cycle of crime. Victims advocates also want to ensure more survivors are accessing healing and support services through victim compensation.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## HOW DOES CRIME IMPACT TEXAS VICTIMS?



- ✓ **4 in 10 Texans (41 percent)** have been a victim of a crime in the past ten years.
- ✓ Victims of violent crime are more likely to be **low-income, young, and people of color.**
- ✓ **7 in 10 violent crime victims** have been victims more than once.

### Crime is a traumatic experience for most victims.

- ✓ **7 out of 10** victims of crime describe the experience as traumatic, and majorities of victims experienced stress (more than 8 in 10), anxiety (7 in 10), fear (6 in 10), and had trouble sleeping (6 in 10) after the incident.



- ✓ **More than a third (36 to 38 percent)** of victims had trouble with school or work or physical and medical issues after the incident.

### Victims face challenges accessing compensation.

- ✓ **6 in 10** violent crime victims were unaware that the state of Texas offers victims compensation, and less than **1 out of 10** (9 percent) ever received it.



## WHAT ARE VICTIMS' PERSPECTIVES ON SAFETY AND JUSTICE ISSUES?

### Victims support increasing incentives for, and reducing barriers to, rehabilitation.



- ✓ Crime victims support various approaches that would ensure people sentenced to probation have the tools and incentives to rehabilitate themselves and that would reduce recidivism.

- ✓ About **7 out of 10** crime survivors support strengthening incentives for those sentenced to probation to complete rehabilitative programs (**69%**), and ensuring that someone's inability to pay probation fees and fines does not interfere with rehabilitative efforts (**74%**).

- ✓ About **8 out of 10** of victims support increasing the use of punishments other than jail time for probation violations. More than **8 out of 10** victims support changing the way probation is funded so more attention and treatment can be directed to those on probation early on.





# VICTIMS' EXPERIENCES



**4 in 10 Texans (41%)** have been a victim of a crime in the past 10 years.

## WHO ARE TEXAS CRIME VICTIMS?

Crime impacts people across the state of Texas. According to survey results, four in ten adults (41 percent) report being a victim of crime in the past ten years. Nearly everyone who reported being a crime victim in some way also experienced property crime (92 percent of victims). Among those who reported being a victim of any crime, six in ten also reported they were victims of a violent crime.

While crime victims are as diverse as the state itself, research has repeatedly shown that certain demographic groups experience crime more than others. Survey responses demonstrate that violent crime disproportionately impacts people who are black or Latino, young, and low-income. This finding is supported by data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which shows that these groups experience crime and violence at higher rates.<sup>2</sup>

Differences in victimization are most pronounced among those who have experienced violent crime. In fact, the groups at highest risk of being a victim experience even higher rates of violent crime—people of color are 29 percent more likely to be a victim of violent crime, and 36 percent more likely to report being a victim of a serious violent crime.

### PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE

**29%**

more likely to be a victim of violent crime

**36%**

more likely to report being a victim of a serious violent crime



Millennials are more than twice as likely as older respondents, and people with an annual income of between \$25,000 and \$50,000 are 1.4 times as likely as someone with an income of between \$75,000 and \$100,000 to have been a victim of a violent crime.

Survey results also demonstrate that victims of violence are more likely to suffer from repeat victimization. Seven in ten violent crime victims have been victims more than once.

**6 IN 10**



Among those who reported being a victim of any crime, six in ten (**59%**) also reported they were victims of a violent crime.”

# HOW DOES CRIME IMPACT TEXAS CRIME VICTIMS?

## Crime is a traumatic experience for most victims.

Victimization has a negative impact on crime survivors and can lead to a wide range of problems associated with trauma. The effects of trauma can be devastating, and research shows that unaddressed trauma increases the risk for mental health issues, substance abuse, and other challenges that ultimately lead to employment, housing, and income insecurity.

Trauma is compounded for people who experience repeat victimization, and can even contribute to the cycle of crime by increasing the likelihood that victims engage in risky behaviors, including becoming perpetrators of violence themselves.

In Texas, 74 percent of victims describe their experience as traumatic. When asked about the specific ways in which victimization has impacted them, crime survivors report being deeply impacted by crime and experiencing numerous symptoms of trauma.

Among the negative impacts affecting the physical and mental health of crime survivors:

- **8 in 10 (84 percent)** experienced stress
- **7 in 10 (77 percent)** experienced anxiety
- **8 in 10 (87 percent)** experienced anger
- **6 in 10 (63 percent)** experienced fear
- **6 in 10 (61 percent)** had trouble sleeping
- **38 percent** had trouble with work or school
- **36 percent** had physical or medical issues

There is no more important role of our justice system than protecting victims of crime and facilitating their medical, emotional, and financial recovery. Yet despite this critical function, most victims do not feel supported by the criminal justice system or receive the help they need to recover and heal.

According to the survey, 47 percent of crime survivors felt either “not at all supported” by the criminal justice system, or only slightly supported. Only 18 percent of victims felt “very supported” by the criminal justice system.

## Victims face challenges accessing compensation.

Nationally, only 8 percent of victims of violent crime report receiving help from a victims’ service agency.<sup>3</sup> Consistent with Texas’ leadership on criminal justice reform, this state is providing more support to crime victims than many other states, and has one of the highest application rates for victim compensation in the country.<sup>4</sup>



Still, most Texas victims are not aware of and not receiving compensation: Texas crime victims experience stress and trauma after the crime—and endure a long period of recovery—but many do not pursue or receive support from state- and community-based victims’ services programs.

The services offered and the capacity of service providers vary by county, but across the state, survivors can access counseling, referrals, orientation to the justice system, and financial assistance with costs stemming from the crime, among other services.

The Texas Crime Victims Survey indicates that the majority of crime victims are unaware of the available



services.

In the survey, crime victims were told that the state of Texas offers victims compensation to reimburse victims of violent crimes or their family members for funeral and burial costs, medical expenses, lost wages, counseling, relocation, and other costs for victimization if the costs aren't covered by insurance.

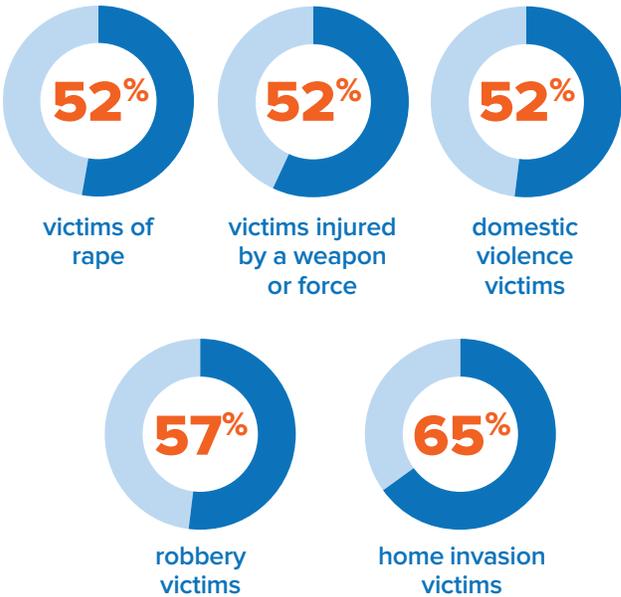
Six out of ten victims of violent crimes were unaware they could get victims compensation. The findings held true for 55 percent of victims of serious violence (such as rape or the murder of a family member). These results held across gender, race, age, and political party affiliation.

Significant proportions of people who experienced a violent crime were unaware of the availability of victims compensation, including:

- **More than 5 out of 10** victims of rape (52 percent);
- **More than 5 out of 10** victims injured by a weapon or force (52 percent);
- **More than 5 out of 10** domestic violence victims (52 percent); and
- **Nearly 6 out of 10** robbery victims (57 percent), and nearly **7 out of 10** home invasion victims (65 percent).

Among those victims who had heard of victims compensation, an even smaller group applied to receive it. Only 35 percent of victims of violent crime who were aware of victims compensation applied. Of those who applied, 71 percent said they received victims compensation.

**VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS UNAWARE OF COMPENSATION**



While it is important that a relatively high proportion of people who applied did receive compensation, among the significant pool of people in Texas who are victims of violence, very, very few people actually received support through the system: Fewer than one in ten victims of violent crime (9 percent) actually received victims compensation.

Nationally, there is an emerging body of information that helps paint a picture of why many survivors of crime do not receive victims services

Some victims may never receive information about the victims compensation program.

Some victims may face challenges with the application. The kinds of challenges a victim might have with an

application can include everything from submitting an incomplete application because certain information is not known or there is nobody helping the victim complete the application during a time of trauma, to time limits around submitting information. Some victims may not be eligible for compensation. Eligibility limits, including application time limits and exclusions from eligibility if the victim does not adequately help the police in the investigation, also create barriers to receiving compensation even for victims who are aware of the program. Federal data show that less than half of violent crimes are reported to police. In fiscal year 2017, Texas denied 1,700 victims of violent crime compensation because the state found that the victim did not adequately cooperate with law enforcement. And, the state denied help to more than 3,700 victims who did not fill out the application correctly or supplied incomplete information.<sup>5</sup>

WHEN ASKED:

## ***What is the main reason you did not apply for victim compensation?*** SOME VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS SAID:

**I didn't know if I would actually receive the funds.**

BLACK MALE, AGE 45-54, DEMOCRAT, DALLAS/WICHITA

**I didn't know it existed.**

LATINO MALE, AGE 45-54, DEMOCRAT, HOUSTON/GULF

**I didn't think I would be believed.**

WHITE FEMALE, UNDER 35, DEMOCRAT, DALLAS/WICHITA

**I did not know the process.**

WHITE MALE, AGE 35-44, DEMOCRAT, SAN ANTONIO

**I just was mentally not in the right state of mind after the incident happened.**

WHITE FEMALE, UNDER 35, REPUBLICAN, AUSTIN

When victims of violent crime who knew about compensation at the time of the survey responded to the question, “What is the main reason you did not apply for victims compensation,” **nearly a third said** that they either did not know about the process, thought the process was too complicated, did not understand the process, or gave an indication that they were still navigating trauma from the crime. Reasons victims gave for not applying included: “[it was] complicated,” “because I didn’t know about it,” and it was “too much stress.”<sup>6</sup>

Leaders in Texas victims services are aware of these pervasive challenges, and are working to increase access to victims compensation. Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ) is working with the administration to further probe ways to improve the victims’ compensation system.

CSSJ is working with victims’ services stakeholders to:

- **Ensure survivors know they are eligible for help** through stepped up public awareness efforts about the victims compensation system;
- **Raise awareness** that exceptions may still allow survivors to access help after deadlines have passed; and
- **Support organizations that help victims** who are the most harmed, and least helped.

With less than one out of ten victims of violence reporting ever receiving compensation, all stakeholders should be working to eliminate any barriers a survivor might face in accessing the support to heal.

In addition to surveying crime victims about their



### KEITH DAVIS, HOUSTON

My mother, my two girls (5 and 6), my 16 year old sister, my niece (9), and nephew (4) were killed in my mother’s home in Somerville by my surviving sister’s boyfriend and then set on fire.

My mother’s home was our safe place, where we all gathered for birthdays and holidays. The family was always together there. To have everything taken from me overnight in such a gruesome way, I struggled with layers and layer of emotions. The remaining siblings, my sister, brother, and I were scared for our lives. At that point, we were surviving each day with emotions ranging from anger to fear to deep sadness, and wanting to protect our remaining family.

As we were grieving and trying to navigate the system, we were not offered any resources or protection in our interactions with the justice system. Never once did anyone mention that there was a victims compensation program. For years we’d had almost weekly interactions with the state and local criminal justice system, and no one ever told us there were resources available that could assist us with counseling, trauma recovery, and financial assistance for burial expenses.

To help other crime survivors deal with the pain of loss and navigate the healing process, I founded an organization to serve as that resource I never got. I still deal with the pain and loss every day, but I find healing in helping to heal others.

Texas needs to do a much better job of letting victims know about victim compensation and other services, especially in black and brown communities, and helping people break the cycle of recidivism.

*As we were grieving and trying to navigate the system, we were not offered any resources in our interactions with the justice system. They never mentioned once that there was a victims compensation program.*



WHAT ARE

# VICTIMS' PERSPECTIVES

ON SAFETY AND JUSTICE POLICY

experiences with crime, this study also examined victims' views on criminal justice and public safety policy. Crime victims want accountability, but they also believe prison makes people more likely to commit crimes in the future. They would prefer that the criminal justice system do more to stop crime before it happens. In a national survey, the Alliance for Safety and Justice found:

- **By a 2 to 1 margin**, victims prefer that the criminal justice system focus more on rehabilitating people who commit crimes than punishing them.
- **6 in 10** victims prefer shorter prison sentences and more spending on prevention and rehabilitation to prison sentences that keep people in prison for as long as possible.
- **By a margin of 3 to 1**, victims prefer holding people accountable through options beyond just prison, such as rehabilitation, mental health treatment, drug treatment, community supervision, or community service.<sup>7</sup>

Texas has the largest state prison population in the U.S., with more than five times as many imprisoned in 2016 than there were in 1980. Corrections spending increased 323 percent from 1986 to 2016, nearly three times the rate of growth in education spending over the same time period.<sup>8</sup>

Faced with a large prison system and very large corrections budget, Texas policymakers across party lines have enacted improved approaches to public safety that will deliver better results at a lower cost to taxpayers. In recent years, Texas has received national media attention for successfully slowing its prison

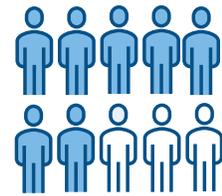
population growth.

Additional opportunities remain to reform Texas' safety and justice policies in a way consistent with what crime victims want: ways to hold people accountable through options beyond just prison.

## Victims support increasing incentives for, and reducing barriers to, rehabilitation.

**7 IN 10**

victims want incentives for people sentenced to probation to complete rehabilitative programs.



One of the most pressing criminal justice reform issues in Texas is to better incentivize people sentenced to probation for crimes to rehabilitate themselves, and make the system more efficient and effective in providing rehabilitation.

Texas lawmakers have long recognized the need to have a criminal justice system that has more options than simply sending people convicted of crimes to prison. The largest number of people sentenced for crimes are the 200,000 plus people in Texas who are on probation—the biggest group of people in the justice system that can be held accountable and rehabilitated through options beyond prisons. The purpose of a probation sentence is to grant conditional freedom, contingent on the seriousness of the offense and the benefits of community-based rehabilitation.

Today, the data show that a significant number of people convicted of low-level felonies who were offered probation sentencing options do not successfully complete their probation. One analysis found that nearly half of felony probation terms end unsuccessfully, with the person going to jail or prison.<sup>9</sup>

When an individual's supervision is revoked, the court ends their probation and institutes a prison, state jail, or local jail term to serve out their sentence. The majority of probationers who end up incarcerated are imprisoned for failing to keep up with the conditions or rules of their probation sentence. This is known as a "technical violation." The largest number of people sentenced to probation who fail end up revoked for a technical violation of their supervision.

In February 2019, the state of Texas reported that Over half (51%) of people who saw their felony probation

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**MORE THAN**  
**7 IN 10**  
**VICTIMS DO NOT WANT**  
**PROBATION FEES AND**  
**FINES TO INTERFERE**  
**WITH REHABILITATION**



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revoked in FY 2017 were revoked on a technical violation (e.g. missing a meeting, or failing a drug test), not a new offense.<sup>10</sup>

The states' own data—a deeper dive where Texas studied a sample of those being revoked for a technical violation—underlines the need to change the system to incentivize success:

- **A majority of people failing on probation** and revoked had been on probation before;
- **More than half (55 %) of probationers** in the study were unemployed at the time of revocation; and
- **More than half (55 percent) of probationers** in this

study pled true to not paying court-ordered fees in their revocation hearing.

This data echoes numerous reports to lawmakers<sup>11</sup> by legislative committees and researchers that have called for more ways to incentivize people on probation to work towards their rehabilitation, make the system more efficient and effective, and reduce the number of people on supervision who fail.

Crime survivors support key changes to the justice system that will incentivize people sentenced to probation to succeed, resulting in fewer victims.

When someone completes treatment, work, or a faith-based program, it can reduce the likelihood they will recidivate and commit a new crime.<sup>12</sup> Victims support giving people sentenced to probation more accesses to community-based and faith-based programs that will reduce recidivism, and support tying program completion to early discharge from probation. **Nearly seven in ten victims (69 percent)** support increasing opportunities for people to earn credits towards an early termination of probation through participation in faith-based or community programs.<sup>13</sup>

When fees and fines are collected as part of someone's probation sentence, it has to happen in a fashion that does not compromise someone's rehabilitation. With so many probationers reporting they are unemployed, current practice may make it harder for the system to balance rehabilitation and accountability.

Crime victims support ensuring that someone's inability to pay probation fees and fines does not interfere with rehabilitative efforts. More than seven out of ten victims (74 percent) support policies that would strengthen the process where a judge can determine someone's ability to pay fines, fees, or court costs.<sup>14</sup>

Crime victims support other changes to the probation system. Key findings from the survey show that:

- **Nearly 8 out of 10 (79 percent)** of victims support

increasing the use of punishments other than jail time for probation violations, like increased meetings with probation officers, and mandatory treatment or attendance at classes.

- **7 out of 10 victims (70 percent)** support developing a list of low-level technical probation violations, like missing an appointment, or spending time in a bar, that would not result in an individual on probation being sent to jail.
- **8 out of 10 victims (81 percent)** support changing the way probation is funded so more attention and treatment can be directed to those on probation early on, when they benefit most from rehabilitation programs.

- **7 out of 10 victims (72 percent)** support providing additional funding for local probation departments that increase the number of people that complete the terms of their probation early.

Crime survivors' support for these changes to the probation system reflects a common sense belief that policies more likely to rehabilitate people involved in crimes will mean the community will be more safe, and fewer people will be victims.



### CATHY FELTS-TAYLOR, FT. WORTH

In 2013, my son, Corey (age 27), was shot and killed in Houston, leaving behind his 8 year old son.

Corey left Ft. Worth for Houston to look for work. He was staying with a friend when a stranger knocked on the door, forced his way into the apartment and shot Corey in the head as he sat on the couch. No one in the apartment knew the man that shot Corey and no motive was ever identified. This was a random and horrific act of violence against my son.

Although my family and I received financial assistance for traveling back and forth from Ft. Worth to Houston for court dates, we were offered no other trauma resources or counseling services. While enduring one of the worst things that can ever happen to a mother, trying to work through the system to submit and receive my travel reimbursements were difficult and further adding to a laundry list of burdens on my plate.

After failing to find a support organization that I really connected with, I decided to create my own. I want to provide others with what I needed most during the worst time in my life. My organization focuses on assisting victims with their compensation paperwork and helping with counseling and other services to focus on healing and emotional support. This organization is truly survivor led and gives victims a voice.

The justice system needs work, there needs to be more focus on prevention so we ultimately have less victims. There also needs to be more programs focused on helping people sentenced to probation to succeed to reduce recidivism.

I want to provide others with what I needed most during the worst time in my life. We need to assist victims with their compensation paperwork and helping with counseling and other services to focus on healing and emotional support. The probation system needs to be more focus on reducing recidivism so we ultimately have less victims.

*I want to provide others with what I needed most during the worst time in my life. We need to assist victims with their compensation paperwork and helping with counseling and other services to focus on healing and emotional support. The probation system needs to be more focused on reducing recidivism so we ultimately have less victims.*



# RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this first-of-its-kind study of Texas crime victims point to several key recommendations for lawmakers and stakeholders on how the justice system can be changed so that there are fewer victims, and safer communities.

Key recommendations include:

1

## **INCREASE AWARENESS AND ACCESS, AND REDUCE BARRIERS TO COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS.**

Stakeholders should work with crime survivors to ensure victims know they are eligible for help through stepped up public awareness efforts. Stakeholders should also support organizations that help victims successfully complete and file applications, and increase awareness that exceptions may still allow survivors to access help after deadlines have passed.

2

## **MAKE CHANGES TO THE PROBATION SYSTEM TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM.**

Lawmakers should strengthen incentives for people sentenced to probation for crimes to complete rehabilitative programs. Lawmakers should also strengthen the process where a judge can determine someone's ability to pay fines, fees, or court costs to help reduce recidivism, reduce crime, and reduce the number of victims overall.

3

## **CONDUCT REGULAR VICTIMIZATION STUDIES IN TEXAS.**

More data and research is needed to advance policies that are responsive to and effectively meet victims' needs. By regularly surveying victims, the state can best identify the policies and practices that will best protect victims, stop the cycle of crime, and help survivors recover from victimization.

4

## **INVEST IN EVIDENCED-BASED SERVICES THAT PROTECT VICTIMS AND STOP THE CYCLE OF CRIME.**

A growing body of research demonstrates that untreated trauma, especially among those who experience repeat victimization, can contribute to substance abuse, mental health issues, housing instability, and other problems that increase risky behaviors and lead to further victimization or crime itself. Trauma recovery centers, and other programs that provide wraparound services, can stop this cycle by providing access to treatment, referrals, and other forms of assistance.



# METHODOLOGY

Alliance for Safety and Justice commissioned this survey to fill in gaps in the knowledge about who crime victims are, what their experiences are with the criminal justice system, and their views on public policy.

Some of the questions were informed by the largest and most comprehensive source of data on victimization—the annual National Crime Victimization Survey, administered by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics. This survey expands on questions related to the prevalence of victimization by deeply exploring victims’ experience with the victims’ compensation system, and their views on criminal justice policy issues in Texas, such as changes to Texas’ probation system.

David Binder Research conducted the survey in English and Spanish in February 2019. The survey was conducted online, among a sample whose demographics were aligned with Texas population figures from the U.S. Census, using sample quotas and post-stratification weights. This methodology allowed us to reach a large

number of Texas adults who are often difficult to reach with telephone surveys, and helped us to collect data among a robust sample of crime victims. David Binder Research surveyed 2,000 Texas adults from February 13-21, 2019. Those who identified themselves as registered voters were asked additional questions, as were adults who identified themselves as victims of crime during the past ten years.

The overall margin of error for the Texas survey of all registered voters is +/-2.5 percent, while the margin of error for crime victims is +/- 3.4%.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> David Binder Research is a public opinion research firm with more than 20 years of experience in all types of research, from focus groups to surveys to online research, on behalf of clients ranging from businesses to government agencies to nonprofit organizations.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization Series*.

<sup>3</sup> Morgan, R.E. and Truman, J.L. (2018). *Criminal Victimization, 2017*. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>4</sup> Author's comparative analysis of data from FBI Crime in the United States, 2017; Office for Victims of Crime (2017). *Statewide Compensation Reports*. In Texas, victim compensation awards in FY 2017 represented 17 percent of violent crimes reported in that year. Given that most crime goes unreported, a much smaller share of victims are actually applying for and receiving compensation—as the results of this poll demonstrate. Nationally, awards for compensation in FY 2017 represented about 13 percent of all reports of violent crime in the same year.

<sup>5</sup> Office for Victims of Crime (2017). *Texas Office of the Attorney General, Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program, Annual Performance Measures Report: October 01, 2016 - September 30, 2017*.

<sup>6</sup> Select findings among 164 violent crime victims who provided an answer to the question, “What is the main reason you did not apply for victim compensation?” About one out of three said that they either did not know about the process, thought the process was too complicated, did not understand the process, or gave an indication that they were still navigating trauma from the crime.

<sup>7</sup> Alliance for Safety and Justice (2016). *Crime Survivors Speak: The First-Ever National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice*.

<sup>8</sup> The data for prison growth used was from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics: 157,903 in 2016 and 29,892 in 1980. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics' Prisoner Series (Data last accessed 6/4/18 from Correctional Statistical Analysis Tool), National Association of State Budget Officers' State Expenditure Report, and The Sentencing Project. *The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons*.

<sup>9</sup> Based on analysis of data by the Alliance for Safety and Justice from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TCDJ), Community Justice Assistance Division, on key trends and issues as they relate to the state's probation system. ASJ analyzed data on all probation placements and releases between Sept. 1, 2016 and Aug. 31, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> See, Robina Institute (2016). *Exploring Supervision Fees in Four Probation Jurisdictions in Texas*, and Texas House Committee on Corrections (2016). *Interim Report to the 85th Legislature*.

<sup>12</sup> The White House Council of Economic Advisors (2018). *Return on Investments in Recidivism Reducing Programs*. on Investments in Recidivism Reducing Programs.

<sup>13</sup> The survey question was, “Indicate if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the proposal. Increase opportunities for people to earn shorter probation terms through participation in faith-based or community-based programs.”

<sup>14</sup> The survey question was, “Indicate if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the proposal. Give courts more options to lower the fees and fines charged to a person on probation, if the court decides the fees and fines are interfering with rehabilitation.”

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