



# NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS AGENDA

## A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF DIVERSE VICTIMS OF CRIME

More research and data are critically needed to identify the policies and practices that best protect victims, stop the cycle of crime and help victims recover. While there are gaps in the available data, there are some key findings from surveys, research and information that document, who is at the biggest risk of being a victim, and how little help victims receive.

### *Crime has a devastating impact.*

- More than 3 million people were victims of *violent crime in one year*.<sup>1</sup>
- Seventy-three percent of victims of a violent crime have been repeatedly victimized.<sup>2</sup>
- Seventy-eight percent of survivors said their life had been affected by the crime.<sup>3</sup>
- Half of crime victims will suffer post-traumatic stress without treatment.<sup>4</sup>
- Seventy-eight percent of survivors said their life had been affected by the crime.<sup>5</sup>
- Violent crime costs the economy \$400 billion a year.<sup>6</sup>

### *Underserved crime survivors are more like to be victims and feel less safe.*

- A four-decade review showed that Blacks are at greater risk of serious violence by roughly 1.5–2 times that of whites, while the risk for Latinos is roughly 1.2–1.5 times greater than that of whites.<sup>7</sup>
- People who report multiple race backgrounds are about 4.1 times more at risk of serious violence.<sup>8</sup>
- Black males under 35 in urban households earning under \$25,000 have the highest risk of serious violent victimization.<sup>9</sup>
- Black and Latino people are less likely than white people to feel very safe (38 percent and 40 percent, respectively, compared to 50 percent).<sup>10</sup>
- Young people are a third more likely to be a victim of violent crime.<sup>11</sup>
- People who have the lowest incomes are twice as likely to be a victim of a violent crime.<sup>12</sup>
- People who are disabled are twice as likely to be victims of crime than people who are not disabled.<sup>13</sup>
- One in eight (13 percent) transgendered adults reported being physically attacked in the previous year.<sup>14</sup>

*How little help is available?*

- Fewer than 1 in 3 survivors received help during their recovery, such as financial, medical, mental health, or civil legal assistance.<sup>15</sup>
- More than half of victims never report the crime to law enforcement—a critical part of whether the survivor can access aid.<sup>16</sup>
- One in 100 robbery victims received compensation in the last year.<sup>17</sup>
- About 90 percent of victims of violent crime do not receive any direct assistance from a victim service agency.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Morgan, R. E., & Oudekerk, B. A. (2019). Criminal victimization, 2018. Retrieved from: U.S. Justice Department, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Alliance for Safety and Justice. (2020, September). *Toward shared safety: The first-ever national survey of America's safety gaps*. Retrieved from: [www.wesharesafety.us](http://www.wesharesafety.us)

<sup>3</sup> Alliance for Safety and Justice. (2020, September). *Toward shared safety: The first-ever national survey of America's safety gaps*. Retrieved from: [www.wesharesafety.us](http://www.wesharesafety.us)

<sup>4</sup> Wiggall, S., & Boccellari, A. (Eds.). (2017). The UC San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center manual: A model for removing barriers to care and transforming services for survivors of violent crime (p. 2). Promise of the Sun Press. Available online at: <http://traumarecoverycenter.org/trc-manual/>

<sup>5</sup> Alliance for Safety and Justice. (2020, September). *Toward shared safety: The first-ever national survey of America's safety gaps*. Retrieved from: [www.wesharesafety.us](http://www.wesharesafety.us)

<sup>6</sup> Miller, T. R., Cohen, M. A., & Wiersema, B. (1996). Victim costs and consequences: A new look. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/victcost.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> The four decades were between 1973 to 2015. Warnken, H. & Lauritsen, J. L. (2019, April). *Who experiences violent victimization and who accesses services? Findings from the National Victim Survey for Expanding Our Reach*. Retrieved from:

[https://ncvc.dspace.org/bitstream/item/1270/CVR%20Article\\_Who%20Experiences%20Violent%20Victimization%20and%20Who%20Accesses%20Services.pdf?sequence=1](https://ncvc.dspace.org/bitstream/item/1270/CVR%20Article_Who%20Experiences%20Violent%20Victimization%20and%20Who%20Accesses%20Services.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>8</sup> The data were for the years 2010 to 2015. Warnken, H. & Lauritsen, J. L. (2019, April). *Who experiences violent victimization and who accesses services? Findings from the National Victim Survey for Expanding Our Reach*. Retrieved from:

[https://ncvc.dspace.org/bitstream/item/1270/CVR%20Article\\_Who%20Experiences%20Violent%20Victimization%20and%20Who%20Accesses%20Services.pdf?sequence=1](https://ncvc.dspace.org/bitstream/item/1270/CVR%20Article_Who%20Experiences%20Violent%20Victimization%20and%20Who%20Accesses%20Services.pdf?sequence=1).

<sup>9</sup> Warnken, H. & Lauritsen, J. L. (2019, April). *Who experiences violent victimization and who accesses services? Findings from the National Victim Survey for Expanding Our Reach*. Retrieved from:

[https://ncvc.dspace.org/bitstream/item/1270/CVR%20Article\\_Who%20Experiences%20Violent%20Victimization%20and%20Who%20Accesses%20Services.pdf?sequence=1](https://ncvc.dspace.org/bitstream/item/1270/CVR%20Article_Who%20Experiences%20Violent%20Victimization%20and%20Who%20Accesses%20Services.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>10</sup> Alliance for Safety and Justice. (2017). Crime survivors speak: The first-ever national survey on victims' views on safety and justice. Retrieved from: <https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/crimesurvivorsspeak/>

<sup>11</sup> Morgan, R. E., & Oudekerk, B. A. (2019). Criminal victimization, 2018. Retrieved from U.S. Justice Department, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Morgan, R. E., & Oudekerk, B. A. (2019). Criminal victimization, 2018. Retrieved from U.S. Justice Department, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Data on disparities by disability are from Bureau of Justice Statistics (2016). Crimes against persons with disabilities, 2009–2014, Statistical Tables. Washington, DC: Department of Justice, BJS. Retrieved from:

[https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0914st\\_sum.pdf](https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0914st_sum.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> National Center for Transgender Equality (2017). The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey.

<sup>15</sup> Alliance for Safety and Justice. (2020, September). *Toward shared safety: The first-ever national survey of America's safety gaps*. Retrieved from: [www.wesharesafety.us](http://www.wesharesafety.us)

<sup>16</sup> Morgan, R., E., & Oudekerk, B. A. (2019). Criminal victimization, 2018 (p. 10). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> National Criminal Victimization Survey (2019): 534,420 robberies. Morgan, R. E., & Truman, J. L. (2020). Criminal victimization, 2019. Washington DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. There were 6,460 total approved applications for compensation with a crime category of robbery totaling the annual reports from the 50 states, DC, PR, and USVI. These are approximate as some states' most recent report was from a prior year. State-by-state data was retrieved from: Office for Victims of Crime (February 2021). State Support: Support for the states. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/states#support-for-the-states>

<sup>18</sup> Morgan, R., E., & Oudekerk, B. A. (2019). Criminal victimization, 2018 (p. 10). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from:

<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>