

Crime Victims' Institute



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Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to :

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.

From the Director:

It has been a busy summer and early fall at the Crime Victims' Institute, and October brings us to Domestic Violence Awareness Month. While advocates, policy-makers, and researchers address domestic violence throughout the year, this month gives us a time to highlight the efforts we have all made and where we should go in the future. This month, CVI is partnering with organizations at SHSU and statewide in a variety of activities. We will be co-hosting a film showing, a lecture about the community response to domestic violence with Barbie Brashear, and the Clothesline Project on campus.

Recent research by the Institute has included a study of the resources available for sexual assault victims on college campuses, as well as a consideration of the interrelationships between child abuse, sexual orientation, and adult intimate partner violence victimization. Upcoming reports include a look at intergenerational patterns of domestic violence and a study of the health consequences of domestic violence, especially for non-heterosexual victims.

The October spotlight on domestic violence also provides us at CVI with an opportunity to expand our work in support of efforts to translate research into practice. The "Examining the Issues" section of this newsletter describes a new series of reports that we are working on, called "Research into Practice," with the purpose of highlighting how research can inform the efforts of service providers. CVI is committed to establishing and building strong researcher-practitioner partnerships that can help build the knowledge base about what works in responding to crime victims and preventing victimization. We look forward to continuing these collaborations and developing new ones.

Leana A. Bouffard, Ph.D.
Director, Crime Victims' Institute



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The Crime Victims' Institute
College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University

NO MORE | TOGETHER WE CAN END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

The College of Criminal Justice at SHSU is pleased to welcome two new victimology faculty!

Focus on:

Kathy Latz



Dr. Kathy Latz has previously taught courses at SHSU, and the College of Criminal Justice is very pleased that she has joined us as a full-time Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Latz also has a great deal of experience serving victims of crime as an advocate at the Montgomery County Women's Center and at SAAFE House in Huntsville. Her combination of academic and practical experience will be very beneficial as the MS Victim Services Management gets under way this fall.

Lisa Muftić



Dr. Lisa Muftić studies the overlap between offending and victimization within interpersonal violence, violence against women, human trafficking, and international criminal justice issues, with special expertise regarding the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has conducted field work in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to intimate partner violence, law enforcement responses to human trafficking in the region, and the impact reformation efforts have had on police attitudes and behaviors. She was also appointed as a Fulbright Scholar to Bosnia and Herzegovina where she was a visiting faculty member at the University of Sarajevo.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



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Visit <http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam> for more information!

Examining the Issues

In May, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) released the Vision21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/vision21/>), which lays out a vision for the future of victim services. The title of the first chapter is "Forging a Future Informed by Research," and this section begins by stating:

Victims of crime will be served through a national commitment to support robust, ongoing research and program evaluation that informs the quality and practice of victim services throughout the Nation. Evidence-based, research-informed victim service programs will become the standard of excellence in providing assistance and support to victims of all types of crime.

Research and practice have traditionally been separate, to the detriment of both sides. As advocated by OVC, this vision for the future of victim services depends on stronger researcher-practitioner partnerships and an ability to effectively translate research results into practical applications. The Crime Victims' Institute agrees that these partnerships are crucial to moving forward and will begin producing a new series of "Research into Practice" reports designed to summarize existing research that has implications for working with victims. As it is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the first report in this series will address the issue of Firearms and Intimate Partner Violence.

While translating research into practical applications is important, we at CVI also believe that our research should be informed by practice. We are happy to work with agencies on developing research projects to assess the effectiveness of certain programs, how changing policies have impacted victims, or other questions of interest to the field. As our reports come across your desk, we would love to hear from you.

"If we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence."

- Dr. Lawrence W. Greene



Let's discuss it:

October 11, 2013 is GO
PURPLE Day!



In the Works....

Look for upcoming publications from the Crime Victims' Institute on:

- Firearms and Intimate Partner Violence
- Health Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence Victimization by Sexual Orientation
- Crime Victims' Compensation Fund
- Perceptions of Sexual Assault among Campus Police

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According to the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV), over 100 Texas women are killed by intimate partners each year. On October 11, wear purple to honor the victims and the efforts of advocates and others to reduce domestic violence. Check out their website for more information (www.tcfv.org)

Please contact us at:
crimevictims@shsu.edu
to share your thoughts.



Upcoming Events

Share your ideas:

We welcome your input. Please send issues or topics you would like to see CVI conduct research on to : crimevictims@shsu.edu



American Society of Criminology Atlanta, GA	11/20-23/13
28th Annual San Diego International Conference Child & Family Maltreatment Preconference Institutes/Trainings Conference San Diego, CA	01/26-27/14 01/28-31/14
28th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse San Antonio, TX	03/03-04/14
TAASA 2014 Annual Conference Irving, TX	03/09-13/14
Ninth Annual Conference on Crime Against Women	3/31-4/02/14
15th Annual TVSA Conference	05-13-16/14

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