

Crime Victims' Institute



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.

Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

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APRIL: Crime Victims' Rights Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Child Abuse Awareness Month

April is a busy month for awareness and prevention of victimization. The month encompasses National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Child Abuse Awareness Month. Many events will be occurring throughout Texas in order to raise awareness and prevent future victimization.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week was held April 6-11. The theme for this year's week is "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice" (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2014/index.html>). This year is the 30 year anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act, which was instrumental in establishing infrastructure for victim services. Events were held in Austin on Thursday, April 10 to recognize Crime Victims' Rights Week. Verna Lee Carr received the Suzanne McDaniel Award during the statewide event for her dedicated advocacy for crime victims in Texas.

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) is in the midst of a campaign during the month in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's theme is "First Class Male: Cultivating Change through Male Involvement." The theme of the cam-

aign represents the involvement of males in creating awareness of sexual assault and also symbolizes the unity of males involved in preventing sexual violence and assisting victims. More information about their campaign can be found on the TAASA website at <http://taasa.org/>.

To recognize Child Abuse Awareness Month, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas will be taking part in Courage to Report, Courage to Heal. This is a nationwide campaign aimed at increasing the public's understanding of child abuse and assisting children impacted by child abuse. Visit their website for more information <http://www.onewithcourage.org/>.

The many activities in the month of April serve as a reminder of the work that still remains to be accomplished regarding victim services and violence prevention. The Crime Victims' Institute continues its work conducting research on victimization and collaborating with victim service agencies to put research into practice in Texas.

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Focus on:

Cortney Franklin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Dr. Cortney Franklin holds a Ph.D. in criminal justice from Washington State University. She has focused her recent efforts on victim-centered responses to sexual assault and domestic violence survivors, particularly on college campuses. Her teaching interests center on victimology, violence against women, and gender and crime. Dr. Franklin has been instrumental in facilitating the new M.S. online degree program in Victim Services Management and has been asked to speak on multiple occasions to aid in facilitating a campus Sexual Assault Response Team. She also recently received the New Scholar Award by the Victimology Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Her research on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and domestic sex trafficking has appeared in *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Violence Against Women*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, and *Feminist Criminology*.



Examining the Issues

Recently there has been an increase in attention to college sexual assault. Numerous colleges and universities across the country have been under scrutiny and investigation for their response to sexual assault cases and compliance to the Clery Act and Title IX. It is estimated that 20-25% of women experience sexual assault during their college tenure. The Crime Victims' Institute (CVI) has published two reports recently on issues pertaining to college sexual assault. The key findings from each report are described below, as well as a new resource from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA). The full CVI reports can be found at <http://www.crimevictimsinstitute.org/publications/>.

"Sexual Assault on College Campuses: Perceptions and Approaches of Campus Law Enforcement Officers"

A study with 118 campus law enforcement officers in Texas

- The majority of campus law enforcement officers surveyed were interested in improving their campus's response to sexual assault; however, few of their departments are involved in committees with this goal both on campus and in their communities.
- Most officers are receiving some training specific to sexual assault; however, less than half of officers surveyed had received training in identifying drug-facilitated sexual assault and approximately 60% on the role of alcohol or intoxication in sexual assaults and victim sensitivity training. Increased training in these areas has potential to improve investigations and overall response to sexual assault.

"Knowledge of Campus and Community Sexual Assault Resources Among Students"

A study with 503 Sam Houston State University (SHSU) students

- The majority of students were not aware of campus and community resources related to sexual assault. Only 51% of females and 32% of males were aware of the local rape crisis and domestic violence center. Approximately 13% of students were familiar with a location to get a forensic medical exam.
- Approximately two-thirds of students believed they did not know enough about sexual assault resources at SHSU to use them in a sexual assault situation.



There's an "App" for that....

NEW CAMPUS SAFETY MOBILE APP

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) has recently launched Texas Safety University (TX Safety U), a free app available on iOS and Android. Through this app, students, faculty, staff, and other members of campus communities can quickly access customized contact information, including campus and community resources available to those who have experienced sexual assault, dating, violence, domestic violence or stalking. As is apparent from the study reported here, this is a necessary and welcome resource to assist students and others in finding the resources they need. The TX Safety U app is available to download and Google Play and iTunes Store and may be accessed at: www.taasa.org/txsafetynu/





In the Works....

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

- Knowledge of Campus and Community Sexual Assault Resources Among Students
- Stalking Update
- Human Trafficking
- Evaluation of an Expedited Domestic Violence Court

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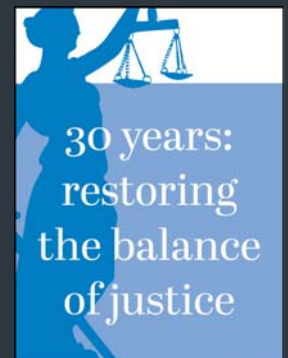
Brian McCall
Chancellor

Let's discuss it:

Only 30 years ago, crime victims had virtually no rights and no assistance. The criminal justice system often seemed indifferent to their needs. Victims were commonly excluded from courtrooms and denied the chance to speak at sentencing. They had no access to victim compensation or services to help rebuild their lives. There were few avenues to deal with their emotional and physical wounds. Victims were on their own to recover their health, security, and dignity.

Victims' rights advocates have scored remarkable victories over the last 30 years. But there is still a lot of work to be done. As we move forward, we are increasingly expanding our reach to previously underserved victim populations, including victims of color, American Indians and Alaska Natives, adults molested as children, victims of elder abuse, and LGBTQ victims.

What do you think could be done to improve victims' rights?



Please contact us at: crimevictims@shsu.edu to share your thoughts about issues and research that you would like to see addressed.



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



Powerful Partnerships Conference Newark, DE	04/24-25/14
Texas Victim Services Association Annual Conference Fort Worth, TX	05/13-16/14
Crime Victim Services Conference San Antonio, TX	5/28-30/14
National Center for Victims of Crime 2014 National Conference Miami, FL	09/17-19/14
April - Sexual Assault Awareness Month	
April - Crime Victims Rights Awareness Week	
April - Child Abuse Awareness Month	



IT'S TIME ... TO TALK ABOUT IT!
Your voice. Our future. Prevent sexual violence.

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