

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™

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
EMPOWERING VICTIMS

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

Each April starts the beginning of a busy month for awareness efforts and prevention of victimization. The National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, and National Child Abuse Prevention Month all fall within the month.

The National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) will be held April 19-25. This year's theme is "Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims," which emphasizes the role of the entire community, individually and collectively, to support victims of crime and empower them to direct their own recovery. More information about the national theme can be found at: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/>.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of crime victims' rights in Texas. The statewide celebration will be occurring in Austin on April 21, beginning at 6:30 at the Central Christian Church. In recognition of NCVRW, there will also be a training on mass casualty on April 23 in Austin.

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault will hold their annual campaign in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. This year's theme "In Your

Own Backyard," highlights the pervasiveness of sexual assault in our communities. The theme was inspired by survivors of sexual assault from around the state of Texas. More information about this year's campaign can be found at <http://taasa.org/resources-2/sexual-assault-awareness-month/>.

Child Abuse Prevention Month also falls in April. The national theme "Making Meaningful Connections," focuses on protective factors that reduce the risk of child abuse and maltreatment. Within the state, Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates are also hosting a campaign for the month. As a part of their efforts they are organizing Blue Sunday on April 26. More information on their campaign can be found at <http://texascasa.org/learning-center/resources/2015-child-abuse-prevention-month-toolkit/>.



Focus on:

Brittany E. Hayes, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Dr. Brittany E. Hayes holds a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. Her recent research has focused on the types of violence intimate partner violence victims experience post-separation and the timing of violent events between intimate partners. Her teaching interests focus on victimology, criminological theory, and research methods. Dr. Hayes is actively M.S. Program for Victim Services and the M.A. and Ph.D. Programs in Criminal Justice. Her research includes the *American Sociological Review* and the *Journal of Family Violence*.



Adverse Childhood Experience Study: Applying the Findings

In the late 1990s the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study began, surveying more than 17,000 adults. This longitudinal research study was the first to look at the long-term correlations between child abuse and household dysfunction with adult medical problems. The findings of this study have resulted in changes across disciplines in the way society views the impact of trauma.

The ACE Study looked at the prevalence of child abuse and neglect, which found physical abuse (28.3%) to be the most common type of childhood abuse and neglect, followed by sexual abuse (20.7%), emotional neglect (14.8%), emotional abuse (10.6%), and physical neglect (9.9%). The study found that individuals who experienced more types of adverse childhood experiences had higher rates of health problems, including alcoholism, liver disease, heart disease, depression, and sexually transmitted diseases. Researchers believe traumatic experiences modify the structure and function of the children's brain, which oftentimes continues into adulthood.

The findings from the ACE Study have had significant impact within child abuse prevention over the past several years. More recently the application of the information from the ACE Study has been spilling over into other areas, and sometimes coupled with trauma-informed care. For example, judges who oversee cases of family violence, dependency, and juvenile and family courts in Florida have recently begun receiving training on the science of trauma, including the long-term effects to aid in considering the impact of traumatic events on the case. Also, some medical professionals are screening both children and adults for adverse childhood experiences to more effectively meet the needs of their patients.

A school system in Spokane, Washington has adopted a trauma-informed approach in their elementary schools. Over the past five years the schools' approach has involved training of school personnel on the impact of trauma, trauma-informed approaches to discipline, and using creative methods to meet the students' needs. Since beginning this program schools have seen significant declines in aggressive behaviors, suspensions, and expulsions.





In the Works....

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

- Human Trafficking
- Evaluation of an Expedited Domestic Violence Court
- Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence Cases
- PTSD Research

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Let's discuss it

The Adverse Childhood Experience Study indicates child abuse and maltreatment, as well as other household dysfunctions, have long-term effects. What efforts are being done in your community to meet the needs of individuals who have adverse experiences during childhood?

Contact the Crime Victims' Institute at:

crimevictims@shsu.edu





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



National Crime Victims' Rights Week Austin Event	04/19-25/15 04/21/15
Texas Victim Services Association Fort Worth, TX	05/13-16/14
Texas Victim Services Association South Padre Island, TX	05/05-08/15
National Crime Victims Law Institute Annual Conference Portland, OR	5/28-29/15
Crime Against Children Conference Dallas, TX	08/10-13/15
National Sexual Assault Conference Los Angeles, CA	09/02-04/15



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