

Victimology

By Patrick Nelson PhD

Victimology is a part of criminology that looks at people who have been hurt by crime, focusing on what they've gone through, what they need, and their rights. (Smith, 2025). It's not just about naming who the victims are, but also about how crime changes them mentally and socially, and what the law does to keep them safe. Victimology covers all kinds of victims, from people hurt by violent crimes to people facing unfair systems. It looks at how these experiences change their lives and how society reacts. This field came about because early criminology only looked at criminals. It brings together ideas from psychology, sociology, and the law. To really help victims, we have to understand where they come from and what they're facing. Studying how victims and criminals interact helps us understand crime and how to control it. Victims often have mental health problems because of what they've been through, so we need to have good support systems as part of the justice system. Over the years, victims have gained more rights in court, and there's a move toward fixing the harm done, not just punishing people. Today, researchers are using tech to gather info and studying how crime affects people who are already struggling (Gopalan 2021). Victimology keeps changing, so future studies will probably help us get a better grip on all of this and push for solutions that are both fair and caring for victims.

Victimology is the study of victims. It looks at the harm they suffer because of crime and other things. Criminology mostly studies criminals and why they do what they do, but victimology focuses on what victims experience, what they need, and their rights (Gopalan 2021). This includes looking at the immediate effects of crime and the long-term social and mental results that mess up victims' lives. Victimology isn't just about individual crimes; it also looks at bigger patterns and who is getting hurt in different situations.

This field looks at why some people become victims, why certain people are more at risk, and how society plays a role in all of this. Experts look at things like who the victims are, where they live, and their relationships to figure out what makes them targets. Victimology looks at how victims are treated by law enforcement, courts, and other support services, and whether the rules actually protect them.

Research also looks at how victims are hurt again by how people and groups react to them. It also tries to find ways to step in and stop this from happening. Victimology pulls from psychology, sociology, law enforcement, and social work to get a full view of what victims are going through (Smith, 2025). A lot of this research comes from surveys like the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which gives real numbers about crime experiences.

Victimology is a really important part of criminal justice because it shines a light on the victims' side of things, which often gets missed. The goal is to keep track of the harm being done and come up with ways to support victims and stop crime by understanding what puts people at risk (Gopalan, 2021). Basically, it's about studying victims carefully and finding ways to make their lives better.

Victimology became its own thing in the mid-20th century. It grew out of criminology and sociology, which studied crime and what it did to people. Early on, criminology didn't pay much attention to victims, focusing mainly on the criminals and the legal side. But then people started to realize that understanding the victims' experiences was key to understanding crime. Hans von Hentig started this in the 1940s by pointing out that some people are more likely to become victims because of who they are. He grouped victims by age, gender, and social standing to show how these things made them targets (Gopalan, 2021). Also, in the 1940s, Benjamin Mendelsohn came up with the word victimology and pushed for victims to be treated with care in the justice system.

Victimology really took off in the 1960s and 70s when people started pushing for human rights and fairness. People started seeing that victims needed help, not just punishment for criminals. This change led to programs that paid victims back for their losses. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) started giving hard numbers about who was being victimized (Gopalan, 2021). Victimology grew as it borrowed ideas from psychology, sociology, law, and public policy.

Over the years, victimology has looked at different types of victimization like domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes, and cybercrime. It has also focused on groups that were ignored before. Now, victimology is about spotting risks, stopping crime, and protecting victims (Smith 2025). Today, victimology is a deep study of what victims go through and how crime affects society.

Victims can be grouped in a bunch of ways, depending on the type of harm they suffered, who they are, and what the situation was. One basic way to group them is into primary and secondary victims. Primary victims are the people who were directly hurt by the crime, like in an assault or robbery. Secondary victims are the friends and family who are emotionally affected (Gopalan 2021). This is important because it shows that crime hurts more than just the person who was directly targeted.

Another way to group victims is by looking at who is more likely to be victimized because of social, money, or cultural issues. This includes kids, older people, women, and minorities. Kids might be abused at home, while older people could be taken advantage of financially. Women are hurt by domestic violence and sexual assault more often than men (Smith, 2025). Knowing who these vulnerable groups are helps us take steps to protect them.

We can also group victims by where the crime took place, like workplace violence or cybercrime. Tech has created new ways to victimize people, so we need to understand these new situations and deal with them.

Some theories try to group victims by how much they played a role in the crime. There are innocent victims who did nothing to cause the crime and provocative victims who might have accidentally led to the crime. This is controversial because it sounds like blaming the victim, but it's still used to help prevent crime (Smith, 2025).

Looking at all these different types of victims makes victimology stronger because it shows us the different problems people are facing. Grouping victims helps researchers and guides the creation of policies that support all victims.

To understand crime, we have to look at victimization because it shows us how criminals and victims connect. Victimization is not just about the physical or financial harm from crime; it also includes the mental and social effects on victims and society. Victimology says that victimization helps shape criminal behavior and how the justice system responds. Looking at victimization helps us see why some people are more likely to be victims because of social, money, and where they live. Things like money, their neighborhood, and past violence make people more likely to become victims (Gopalan, 2021). This goes against old ideas that only focused on the criminals, by pointing out the importance of the situation and unfair systems.

Victimization is also important for stopping crime. By spotting the things that make people targets, we can come up with ways to lower the chances of crime. Investigations show that some people are victimized over and over, so stepping in early can stop these cycles. Knowing how victims are treated helps us understand why crimes are not reported, because victims are scared or feel ashamed.

Seeing victimization as a big deal has led to changes in how we support victims, giving them more legal rights and services that meet their needs. To really manage crime, we have to hold criminals responsible and take care of the harm done to victims (Smith, 2025). Looking at victimization helps us understand crime better and create better ways.

Being victimized has big mental effects that last longer than the initial injuries or losses. People often have anxiety, depression, and PTSD, and feel helpless and ashamed. These mental effects can mess up their daily lives, relationships, work, and health. Traumatic experiences can make victims feel unsafe and distrustful, leading them to withdraw or become overly cautious.

The mental impact varies. Some people can handle the initial shock, while others never completely recover. One's personal life is completely altered in one devastating instant. The severity depends on things like the type of crime, their past mental health, and their support system. People who have been hurt by violent crimes often have more mental distress than those who have had property stolen.

Following the moment, the victim may have traumatic flashbacks and can't stop thinking about that event, which is normal for PTSD. Victims might feel guilt and blame, which makes it hard to recover. Having these emotions makes them less likely to get help or report crimes because they are scared of being judged or not believed.

The shame tied to specific victimization makes emotional pain become more intense because it separates victims from assistance. This situation creates barriers that prevent individuals from obtaining therapeutic interventions that help the body repair. Research shows that it's important to have early programs that deal with how to plan for immediate safety after recovering from emotional damage.

The mental effects that victims go through need careful attention so that we can create support systems in the justice system. We need to use trauma-considered methods that see victims' difficulties and encourage them by teaching them that they have capacity to make decisions in legal court (Semprevivo 2025). An all-embracing methodology can cause positive differences to specific issues and communities.

The laws about victim rights have changed a lot to fix the old habit of the justice system that pushed victims to the side. The best laws look at the needs of victims so that they can't get hurt more through the current legal processes.

Today's laws protect victims from being victimized again and make sure they can be part of court cases. Laws allow them to talk at hearings and get money to cover their harm through compensation programs (Smith 2025).. This makes the justice system fair for both criminals and victims.

The United Nations says there needs to be global fairness for how victims are treated. Fair treatments call for each person to have their privacy and what is beneficial for each of the needs while it's taking place. It pushes countries to create programs that includes counseling and measure that will cause protective action

Even with these actions on hand, there are numerous difficulties that victims feel from the constant force from the system. Populations such as violence, older adults, and kids need care because they face difficult problems from judgment from any organized institution. The unfulfilled actions are planned to shut doors of unfairness.

The parts inside victimology creates a sense that allows society to accept the needs through justice treatments. A continued belief of coming up with methods to cause each victim to know they are a valuable asset so that they are confident through that entire time period (Gopalan's 2021 study).

Right now, victimology research is using different ways with tech to improve how we know reasons that cause patterns of harm to a crime victim which causes the support to be less than excellent. A rising pattern may include algorithms that include extensive amounts of information

with online and survey records of crimes and their victims.. What has been learned is that those that study victimization can know to be concerned about the danger parts and local locations. The precision that can be known through old methods (Smith, 2025). The data information will cause the best interventions to be useful to individuals.

An emerging pattern of harm increases that may affect states where there may cause harm. The advancement of digital has shown harm that has caused problems for support because studies of harassment are needed. The bigger plan accepts harms that affect humans even when plans accept them.

Victimology can improve now by having actions that rebuild fairness through studies that are ethical because there are ways to encourage dialogue between victims (Semprevivo, 2025).

The study of psychological recovery now has a focus point for research during an extended period and may reduce problems. Research methods over periods are now being planned out to keep up on what kind of therapy helps victims who are suffering.

The impact on criminals may cause partnerships to increase among victims. Examines can tell how the law gives the same results as the ways of different cultures and how they are treated so that knowledge gives all kinds of knowledge (Munro 2025). Patterns will occur as victimology will cause outcomes that support those who need assistance.

Victimology provides useful understanding throughout each experience in a justice environment that effects victim. The vision of the scope includes what causes negative harm and relationships that victims have with criminals. The study shows actions of focus and changes while knowing who gets hurt from events. The consideration of categories shows groups need protection and customized needs. Investigation is shows components in crime and stress the significance to prevent social situations. Psychological trauma that gets in the of recovering needs to be woven through justice systems. Legal rights have changed because victim is included. An evaluation of victimology research shows cybercrime, restorative justice, and investigation of what makes victim go through what they experience. Examination needs interdisciplinary studies that need mechanisms that promote victims while building community force from the harm.

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