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Connecting Policymakers to People Involved with the Correctional System

Addressing the Needs of Victims of Crime

Victims of crime often experience related physical, emotional, and financial distress that can be overwhelming without adequate support for recovery.¹ Victims and their families may face significant financial challenges following a crime, such as medical and mental health counseling expenses, costs of fixing or replacing damaged property, and, in many cases, a significant loss of income due to injury.² Although victims of certain crimes are entitled to restitution payments and other assistance programs, research suggests that such assistance is underutilized due to systemic barriers and administrative hurdles that are prevalent in state victims compensation programs.³ And while laws in all 50 states dictate that crime victims have a right to be notified about the status of the person who committed the crime, some states and other jurisdictions still have not established automated victim notification systems to ensure prompt and consistent updates.⁴

People in the U.S. ages 12 and older were victims of an estimated **5 million violent crimes** in 2015.⁵

According to a survey of crime victims⁹ conducted in 2016:



8 in 10 victims of crime experienced at least one symptom of trauma as a result of the incident



2 in 10 victims were injured or experienced medical problems



6 in 10 experienced stress

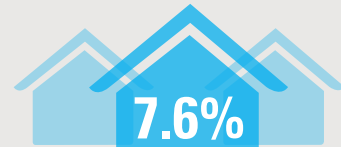


5 in 10 experienced anxiety or feelings of fear



4 in 10 experienced difficulty sleeping

In 2015, **1.1 million** people experienced at least one serious violent crime—rape or sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault.⁶



of households

in the U.S. experienced one or more property crimes in 2015.⁷



In 2015, only **47%** of violent crimes and **55%** of serious violent crimes were reported to police.⁸

9.1%

of violent crime victims received assistance or restitution from a victim service agency in 2015.¹⁰



1. Douglas Evans, *Compensating Victims of Crime* (New York: Research & Evaluation Center, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York., 2014), http://www.njcn.org/uploads/digital-library/jf_johnjay3.pdf.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. American Probation and Parole Association, *Fact Sheet 6: Promising Victim-Related Practices in Probation and Parole* (Lexington, KY: American Probation and Parole Association), <http://victimsofcrime.org/docs/default-source/restitution-toolkit/pvrppp-factsheet-6.pdf?sfvrsn=2>.
5. U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Crime Victimization, 2015 NCJ251080* (Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016), https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv15_sum.pdf.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Alliance for Safety and Justice, *Crime Survivors Speak: The First-ever National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice* (Oakland, CA: Alliance for Safety and Justice, 2016), <https://www.allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/Crime%20Survivors%20Speak%20Report.pdf>
10. U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Crime Victimization*, 2015.

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