

PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF VICTIMIZATION IN ALBERTA: FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY OF ALBERTA ADULTS, 2000-2001

Prepared by:

Jeanette T. Gomes, M.A.
Erika L. Ringseis, Ph.D., LL.B. (Candidate)
Philip J. Boyle, B.A.
Lorne D. Bertrand, Ph.D.
Joanne J. Paetsch, B.A.
David C. Day, Q.C.

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c/o Faculty of Law
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive, N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2N 1N4

Telephone: (403) 220-6653
Fax: (403) 289-4887
E-mail: crilf@ucalgary.ca

This report is also available at:

www.ucalgary.ca/~crilf

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights of Findings from the Legislative Review

- Monetary compensation for victims
 - Canada
 - No monetary compensation is available for victims in Newfoundland, the Yukon, Nunavut or the Northwest Territories, except through civil court.
 - The process available under Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* is similar to the process of other jurisdictions, although the maximum compensation available is higher than in many other jurisdictions.
 - Other Countries
 - The United Kingdom recently completed an overhaul of the victim compensation process, including creating on-line compensation applications.
 - Although Australia has broader definitions of injury, the requirement to return interim payments is stricter than Canadian policies.
- Funding for victimization research and programs
 - Canada
 - As in Alberta, Canadian legislation designates funds for the purpose of research, victim programs and, to varying degrees, dissemination of information to victims.
 - Other Countries
 - Australian legislation is similar to that found in Canada; however, the United Kingdom legislation does not focus on funding for research and programs.
 - The United States victim funding system is highly centralized. Unlike in other jurisdictions, the funds remaining after direct compensation may only be used for direct victim assistance programs instead of research.
- Victim inclusion legislation
 - Canada
 - Through victim impact statements, a victim may be included in the criminal process.
 - Few jurisdictions in Canada focus on restorative justice within victim compensation legislation, although Manitoba is a notable exception. Some have expressed concern that restorative justice programs are offender-centred rather than victim-centred.
 - Other Countries
 - Most federal governments include some form of victim impact statements within the criminal process.
 - The United Kingdom has recently moved to broader “victim personal statements.”
- Three main legislative ideas found in the international legislation, but not extensively in Canada or Alberta:
 - Expanding the definition of the victim
 - Examining psychological compensation availability
 - Focusing on restorative justice

Highlights of Findings from the Victimization Survey

Methodology and Survey Participants

- A three-phased victimization survey was conducted between October 2000 and June 2001 involving a screening questionnaire, a follow-up questionnaire, and a telephone interview. Screening questionnaires were mailed out to a random selection of households in Alberta. Only adults 18 years and older participated in the survey.
- The initial screening questionnaire was completed by 1,432 respondents, and 209 individuals completed the follow-up questionnaire. Telephone interviews were conducted with 56 individuals.
- The survey was designed to collect data on peoples' perceptions and experiences of a range of victimization incidents in order to provide information about the nature and scope of victimization, its impact on victims, and needs of victims in dealing with their incidents.

Perceptions of Victimization

Opinions about Victimization as a Social Problem and Responsibility for Public Safety

- Two-thirds of 1,432 respondents rated victimization as a very important social problem. Females were more likely to feel this way than males.
- Respondents in the follow-up survey were asked who should be responsible for looking after public safety for the following types of incidents: property-related offences; vandalism; physical and nonphysical contact; forced sexual contact; and incidents involving weapons or objects intended as weapons. Out of four groups – “the police,” “the individual,” “the community,” and “the government” – the most often selected as being responsible, across all of the incidents, was “the police” and secondly, “the individual” (with the exception of vandalism where more respondents selected “the community” as being responsible).

Opinions about Crime Levels and Feelings of Safety

- The majority of the 1,432 respondents (84%) felt that the level of crime in their community was comparable to or lower than other communities. The age group least likely to have this view was the youngest group of respondents (aged 18 to 30) where 77% responded this way.
- Over half (55%) felt community crime had gone up in the last five years. Those who lived in smaller cities were more likely to believe that crime had risen as compared to respondents in larger cities and in towns/rural areas.
- The vast majority of the 1,432 respondents (92%) felt safe being at home alone after dark. The oldest respondents (61 and older), however, had the lowest percentage (89%) of all age groups reporting this way.
- Almost two-thirds (65%) felt safe walking alone in their community after dark. Respondents in towns/rural areas were more likely to report feeling safe as compared to respondents living in cities.
- Less than half (48%) indicated they would feel very or somewhat safe using or waiting for public transportation after dark.
- Females were consistently more conservative in their ratings on how safe they felt as compared to males.

- About 83% of the 209 follow-up survey respondents were concerned they would be burgled/robbed, or vandalized in the next year.
- About 58% were concerned they would be assaulted in the next year. Females as compared to males, and respondents in the cities as compared to towns/rural areas had relatively higher ratings of being concerned.
- For the 1,432 screening survey participants, the most common property-related security precautions that were taken involved: having someone check on their place when they were away; having special locks such as dead bolts installed; having high fences around their property; and having special grilles/bars installed on windows/doors.
- The most common measures taken to increase personal safety were: acquiring a cellular telephone; attending a safety awareness program; and keeping items (not weapons) for personal safety. Except for keeping weapons, females were more likely than males to report on personal safety measures they had carried out.
- 16% of respondents indicated they possessed one or more weapons or objects used as weapons for safety (gun/rifle, clubs/baseball bats and knives). Males and respondents living in towns/rural areas had the highest proportions reporting on weapons.

Victimization Experiences

Prevalence of Victimization

- Of the three general categories of victimization incidents (property-related incidents such as theft from home, vandalism, and personal contact such as a threats or assault), respondents reported on property-related victimization most often.
- The highest lifetime and three-year prevalence rates were obtained for the following property-related incidents that occurred one or more times:
 - something had been stolen from their home: reported by 48% of respondents, based on their lifetime; and 19% of respondents, based on the last three years
 - something stolen from their yard: reported by 43% of respondents, based on their lifetime, and 17% of respondents, based on the last three years
 - something stolen from their car: reported by 41% of respondents, based on their lifetime; and 19% of respondents, based on the last three years.
- For vandalism, the highest prevalence rate occurred for car/motorcycle vandalism one or more times: 33% based on lifetime; and 19% based on the last three years.
- For personal contact: 45% reported someone had threatened to harm or hurt them at least once in their lifetime (22% based on the last three years); and 30% indicated someone made a sexual comment that offended or scared them on at least once occasion in their lifetime (22% based on the last three years).
- No gender difference was found for total victimization; however, some types of incidents were more prevalent for females, while males appeared to be at higher risk for other types of incidents. Females were more likely to report on the following: being slapped; having offensive or threatening sexual comments made to them; and experiencing unwanted sexual touching. Males were more likely to report they had been victimized by being threatened with harm, being punched, and being kicked.
- The youngest group of respondents (18 to 30 years) was the most likely to report being victimized by personal contact incidents and for being threatened with a weapon or object used as a weapon.

- Middle-aged respondents (41 to 60 years) generally had the highest report rates for property-related victimization as compared to the other age groups. There were two exceptions where the youngest respondents (18 to 30 years) had higher report rates for theft of money and purse/wallet, and for theft of clothing or shoes.
- Frequency of victimization (the number of times an incident occurred) over the last three years was reported by 134 respondents. Over half (51%) stated the incident happened once, twice or three times. For instance, with regard to vandalism, 59% of respondents stated the incident happened only once. In contrast, 16% of respondents reported personal contact incidents that had 10 or more episodes.

The Most Serious Victimization Incident in the Last Three Years (Reported by 114 Respondents):

- Over half (60%) of the respondents indicated the incident occurred in their home, and over half of these respondents were home at the time it happened.
- 57% of the respondents stated that the incident occurred on a weekday.
- Over one-quarter (29%) reported the incident occurred in the late evening to early morning hours (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.). The second time period most often reported was the afternoon between noon and 5 p.m.
- One-third of the respondents indicated they knew their offender(s). When asked to specify who the offender was, respondents most often described an acquaintance (e.g., neighbour), a family member, or a spouse/partner.

Seriousness and Impact of the Incident

- Almost two-thirds (62%) of the respondents indicated the police were notified of the incident and 21% of the respondents stated that the police charged someone.
- A higher percentage reported suffering psychological or emotional distress (81%) as compared to those who reported being physically injured (11%).
- Respondents most often identified the following kinds of services or support that they needed: professional counselling; time off work; and medical attention.
- Out-of-pocket expenses incurred were most often related to the following: insurance deductibles; replacing uninsured and/or stolen items; repairing property damage; and transportation costs.
- In measuring the overall impact of the incident, over one-quarter (27%) of respondents indicated that it greatly affected their life, and 14% rated that it greatly affected their family. Females were twice as likely as males to report that the incident had an impact.
- Respondents said they felt more vulnerable after the incident happened. Many felt a loss, or a violation, of their privacy. Individuals were fearful of the offender returning, or of being harmed by strangers, and were cautious and watchful in public and at home. Additional security measures were often taken such as rechecking locked doors or installing more locks. Parents often talked about being overly protective of their children.
- Impact of crimes was also described in victim impact statements.
 - Victims mostly described injuries related to financial, psychological or emotional, and physical factors.
 - Victims of property-related crimes wrote about expenses associated with replacing or repairing property.

- Men tended to focus on the financial impact of the crime and often described their frustration with being unemployed and, therefore, unable to support their families. Women tended to focus on the emotional and psychological impact of the crime.
- Females were especially concerned about the direct and indirect effects of the incident on their children and on their family relationships. Female victims of domestic violence also often had to deal with financial burdens associated with single parenthood and debts incurred by the partner/ex-partner. A number of these women, as well, described the partner's control over the couples' finances as a means of maintaining control over the relationship.
- Victims of assault often described feelings of vulnerability, fearfulness, and anxiety. Many were concerned about possible future encounters with the offender. Most changed their daily routines and adopted extra security measures.
- Physical impact was often related to the inability to carry out other responsibilities (such as returning to work). As well, victims described suffering from stress, insomnia, nightmares, and lack of appetite.

Dealing with Victimization

The Most Recent Victimization Incident Reported to the Police

- Property-related incidents had the highest proportion of respondents reporting to the police.
- The lowest proportion reporting to the police occurred for personal contact victimization, with the exception of incidents involving weapons or objects used as weapons.
- For property and vandalism incidents, a considerably higher percentage of respondents indicated they did not know the offender(s) as compared to respondents who did know who carried out the incident.
- In contrast, personal contact incidents had higher percentages of respondents who reported that they knew who the offender(s) was. An exception occurred in weapons-related incidents where there was less discrepancy in percentages of incidents where the victim knew the offender as compared to where the offender was a stranger.

The Most Serious Victimization Incident in the Last Three Years (Reported by 114 Respondents):

Telling Others about the Incident

- The majority of respondents told family members, including spouse/partner (69%) and friends (64%) about their victimization. The next most often selected groups were the police, a co-worker, an insurance agent, and an employer.

Decisions about Reporting to the Police

- 49 respondents gave reasons why they reported their incident to the police. The most common reason was to stop it from happening again, as given by 80% the respondents. Over half of the individuals indicated it was a serious enough event, and that they wanted the offender(s) caught.
- 41 respondents gave reasons why they decided not to report to the police. The most common reason was that someone else had notified the police, as indicated by 24% of respondents. The second most common reason, given by four respondents, was fear that the offender(s) would retaliate.

Support in Dealing with Victimization

- When asked to identify who assisted in dealing with the incident, the two responses most often made were that no one helped (26%) and that a friend helped (26%). Respondents who felt that they either did not require any assistance, or that the service they received was not helpful to them, often indicated in the questionnaire that “no one helped them.”
- Family members (25%) and spouse or common-law partner (24%) were the next groups most often identified as providing help.
- Females were more likely than males to indicate that someone assisted them. As well, women identified a larger network of assistance than did men.
- Overall, respondents were positive about police attitude. Almost three-quarters of the 72 individuals who responded agreed that the police were polite. Over half (53%) agreed that the police were interested in their situation.
- Respondents were less positive about other areas of police service.
 - 39% agreed that, as the victim, they were not provided with enough information by the police about the kinds of assistance available to them (as compared to 22% who did not agree with this view).
 - While 25% agreed that the police provided enough information about their case, 29% did not agree.
 - 29% agreed that the police did not do enough to investigate; 25% did not agree.
- Respondents placed a great deal of importance on communication (especially to be kept current on the status of their case) with the police and on the ability of the police to conduct as full an investigation of their case as possible (as perceived by the respondent).
- Only a few respondents had contact with other professionals in the criminal justice system. Generally, their experiences with Crown prosecutors, lawyers, and judges were not very positive. Respondents expressed frustration with the lack of assistance, lack of attention paid to them, and lack of respect they felt they received.
- 15 respondents utilized victim assistance agencies. Most of the individuals indicated that they needed someone to talk to about their incident and its impact. Other reasons given about why they used a victim service organization was the need to obtain information or referrals to other agencies, and to receive professional counselling.

Opinions about How Services Could be Improved or Enhanced

- Recommendations relating to victim assistance services centered on the need for faster follow-up. As well, respondents noted that it would be helpful if victim assistance workers were better informed about various victim services available, and to have more skills regarding how to respond to victims. Respondents felt that, ideally, victim assistance workers would know about the victim’s case before talking with them and already have anticipated, and have available, information that the victim would need.
- Respondents identified a need for:
 - increased accessibility to counselling services;
 - increased services in rural areas; and
 - more support from insurance companies and workplaces.
- Respondents felt that the criminal justice system needs to provide for more recognition of victims, to provide more support for victims, and to be less lenient with offenders.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose of the Project

In January 1999 discussions held at the Alberta Summit on Justice resulted in a list of 25 core recommendations.³ Several of the recommendations were related to issues concerning victimization. A major concern was that the justice system needs to be more effective in providing and supporting active and meaningful roles for victims within the justice process. Another concern was that victims be given appropriate and adequate support in terms of, for example, education and counselling. Recommendations also called for more and better use of victim impact statements. Additionally, the need was expressed for members of the justice system to be more sensitive to and aware of the issues and experiences surrounding victimization.

Discussions from the Summit provided the rationale and focus for conducting this research project. The purpose of this project was primarily to examine the extent to which Albertans experience victimization and the nature and consequences of that experience. Traditional conceptualizations of victimization have adopted a legal definition of victimization. There has been increasing recognition, however, of a need for a broader approach by recognizing that victimization is also experienced outside of the legal realm. This research addressed this issue by providing survey-based data on victimization experiences. As well, this research offers an alternative measure of victimization than what is reported in official police statistics such as the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

1.2 Objectives of the Project

This research project has the following main objectives:

1. To collect data in order to:
 - (a) examine the nature of victimization;
 - (b) measure the scope of victimization;
 - (c) identify the needs of victims; and
 - (d) examine the impact of victimization on different groups.
2. To review current provincial and federal legislation, as well as selected legislation in other countries, in the area of victimization.
3. To compare the context of victimization experiences that are reported as part of an official process as compared to experiences not officially reported.
4. To identify ways in which the needs of victims could be more effectively met.

³ See Alberta Justice (1999). *Final Report – Alberta Summit on Justice*. Retrieved September 7, 2001, from <http://www.gov.ab.ca/justicesummit/rec/final.html>.

1.3 Components of the Project

In order to address the objectives listed above, this project included four main components: a review of Canadian and selected victim legislation from other countries (namely, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States); a survey of peoples' perceptions and experiences of victimization; educational workshops that were conducted in several cities in the province; and a content analysis of a sample of victim impact statements filed with the Calgary Police Service.

1.4 Literature Review

1.4.1 Defining Victimization

There is no single accepted definition of victimization. Rather, because it is such a complex concept, researchers have called for the need to provide for a fuller description of victimization – one which acknowledges that victimization happens even if the incident is not a crime (for example, violence in sports; see Elias, 1986; and Fattah, 1991). As well, it must be recognized that the consequences of an incident can be experienced by others and not solely the person to whom it happened. Indirect victims, for example, can include families,⁴ the victim's community, witnesses, people dealing with incidents such as the police or medical personnel, and jury members. While controversial, there is, as well, a need to recognize that many offenders are themselves victims because offenders often have backgrounds of family violence and abuse (Elias, 2000).

In an effort to address the need expressed in the victimology research literature, this research project adopts a broader definition of victimization in the survey and allows victims to be self-defined. These two factors provide for a fuller and accurate description of peoples' experiences. The following definition of victimization was presented to participants:

Victimization occurs when something happens to people that they find harmful or that causes them loss. There are different kinds of victimization and the incidents may or may not be crimes. Victimization can be experienced physically, such as being attacked by another person. Victimization can be experienced psychologically and emotionally, such as being threatened by someone. Victimization can also be property-related, such as when something belonging to a person is stolen or damaged.

1.4.2 Brief Review of Selected Victimization Surveys

Victimology, as a specialized field of interest, developed from criminology in the 1970s. Victimization surveys were initially conducted in an effort to accurately measure crime rates. Concerns with the limitations of officially-reported crime statistics led

⁴ It should be noted that legislative changes have been made in an effort to recognize that others can be victimized. For example, a victim's parents, spouse and other family members may be eligible to apply to victims' compensation programs and to file victim impact statements.

researchers to look to other methods such as surveys in order to obtain alternative measures of crime. The majority of victimization surveys continue to focus on criminal victimization; however, it is important to note that these surveys also measure different kinds of incidents, as reported by the respondent, that may not have been reported to police or other authorities. Thus, data from victimization surveys provide for a broader description of victimization than would be possible if one were to use data from officially published crime reports.

The first victimization surveys were conducted in the United States in the 1960s, and became more widely used as interest in measuring victimization and developing theoretical approaches that could identify risk factors associated with victimization rose (Fattah, 1991; Jensen & Brownfield, 1986).

The following briefly describes a few of the major victimizations surveys that were relevant for this research project in construction of the survey instruments. Canadian victimization surveys began in the late 1960s. In Canada, Statistics Canada's *General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization* represents the first and continues to be the most extensive national victimization survey conducted. First implemented in 1988 (Cycle 3) as the *GSS on Personal Risk*, the survey collected data on certain criminal victimization incidents and accidents from 9,870 respondents reporting on experiences over the last year. Data were collected in telephone interviews and respondents had to be aged 18 and over, and residing in one of the 10 provinces (territories were not included in the survey). The second survey, the *GSS on Victimization* (Cycle 8), collected 1993 data. The latest *GSS on Victimization* (Cycle 13) was conducted in 1999 and involved telephone interviews with 26,000 Canadians aged 15 and older, living in the provinces and territories (Besserer & Trainor, 2000; and Tufts, 2000). The *GSS* measures eight types of criminal offences: (1) sexual assault; (2) robbery; (3) assault; (4) theft of personal property; (5) vandalism; (6) theft of household property; (7) motor vehicle/parts theft; and (8) breaking and entering.

The *International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)* is the only major crime victimization survey conducted internationally; however, the majority of participants have been from western European countries. The *ICVS* involves the use of a common survey methodology and questionnaire implemented in each participating country (or city) in order to maximize comparability of data. The survey is conducted with a randomly selected household member over the age of 16. Interviews are conducted by researchers within each country using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) method. The survey was first held in 1989 with 15 participating countries (see van Dijk, Mayhew, & Killias, 1990). The second was conducted in 1992 with 11 countries, and the third and most recent survey was conducted in 1996 with 11 countries (see Mayhew & van Dijk, 1997). Canada has participated in all three of the *ICVS*. *ICVS* respondents are asked to report on a number of different kinds of crime victimizations. Household property crimes include: (1) theft of car; (2) theft from cars; (3) vandalism to cars; (4) theft of motorcycles; (5) theft of bicycles; (6) burglary with entry; (7) attempted burglary; and (8) robbery. Personal crimes include: (1) theft of personal property (pickpocketing, and noncontact personal thefts); (2) sexual incidents (sexual assaults, and offensive behaviour); and (3) assaults/threats (with and without force).

The United States' *National Crime Victimization Survey*, which started in 1972, is conducted annually with household members who are least 12 years old. This survey represents the major source of survey-based statistics on criminal victimization in the United States.⁵

The *British Crime Survey* was first conducted in 1982. The most recent survey, carried out in 1999, was a large household survey conducted in England and Wales (Kershaw, Budd, Kinshott, Mattinson, Mayhew, & Myhill, 2000). Face-to-face interviews took place in participants' homes and were conducted using a computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) method. Participants were aged 16 and older. The following criminal incidents were measured: (1) burglary; (2) vehicle thefts; (3) vehicle vandalism; (4) home vandalism; (5) common assaults; (6) wounding; (7) mugging; and (8) other thefts (e.g., bicycle theft).

The *New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims* was carried out in 1996. This represents the first national large-scale survey of crime victimization in the country (Young, Morris, Cameron, & Haslett, 1997). Face-to-face interviews were conducted with one household member. Participants were aged 15 and older. The survey instrument utilized is similar to the *British Crime Survey* questionnaire.

1.4.3 Police-Reported and Victim-Reported Incidents

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) was created in 1962 and offers extensive coverage in reporting a wide range of crimes (about 100 types) over time and by location (geographic municipalities). As mentioned above, one of the reasons for conducting this research project was to offer another measure of victimization besides the UCR.

As discussed by Ogrodnik and Trainor (1997), the UCR contains data about criminal offences as reported by the police. Notably, a significant number of criminal incidents never make it into the UCR. There are a number of reasons for this such as the police may not have been notified of these incidents, or the incidents may have been reported to the police, but the police did not enter the information into police records. For these reasons, the UCR tends to underestimate criminal incidents and therefore underestimates the incidence of victimization.

Victimization surveys offer another approach to capturing criminal incidents. Since victimization surveys rely on the respondent to report rather than the police, the surveys include incidents and personal experiences that may not get recorded in the UCR. As well, it is possible that there are incidents individuals perceive as criminal, regardless of whether they are identified in the *Criminal Code*. Victimization surveys, therefore, tend to overestimate criminal incidents. Whether they overestimate victimization, however, depends on how it is defined. Additionally, victimization surveys typically do not cover all possibilities. For example, they do not capture organizations that are victimized, nor certain groups such as the mentally ill who likely would not be included in surveys.

⁵ Information obtained online from U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.

What is counted, and what is meant by “incident” also differs between the two approaches to identifying victimization. While the UCR count includes number of “incidents,” victimization surveys count the number of “victimizations.” In the UCR count of violent crimes (except robbery), the number of victims determines the number of incidents. In the UCR count of nonviolent crimes, a single occurrence (such as vandalizing a house) is counted as one incident regardless of the number of victims.

The Most Serious Offence rule determines what is recorded when an incident is being reported and entered in the UCR system. Any criminal incident is recorded by the most serious offence (as determined by, for example, length of sentence time) from that incident. Therefore, the UCR tends to under-represent the less serious criminal offences that occur in a population.

Keeping in mind the differences and limitations of the UCR and victimization surveys briefly outlined above, it is important to recognize advantages offered by each approach. Rather than trying to replicate the other approach’s results, it is suggested that it would be more productive to combine the information from each and recognize that both contribute to developing a fuller description of victimization.

1.5 Organization of the Report

The results of the main components of this research project are presented in this report. Chapter 2.0 provides a description of the various methods used to collect data and identifies the research objectives of each component. Chapter 3.0 presents a review of victim legislation, including victim compensation, assistance and inclusion. The review covers selected victim legislation in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and includes detailed tables listing monetary compensation, victim assistance and inclusion legislation across the jurisdictions. These countries were selected for comparison with Canadian jurisdictions because of the priority they have placed on development of victim legislation and victim treatment. Chapter 4.0 presents findings from the victimization survey. Respondents’ perceptions and experiences of victimization are presented, as well as participants’ reports of assistance received from the police and various other groups. Chapter 5.0 presents a summary of group discussions that took place in workshops that were conducted in order to present and discuss findings from the research project. Participants’ comments have been organized around three major topics: victim services; the criminal justice system; and cultural and ethnic diversity. Chapter 6.0 provides a summary of the findings and discussion of results, with comparisons made to other researchers’ findings where appropriate.

This report also includes four appendices. Appendix A contains additional demographic characteristics of the survey participants. A summary of victim legislation is included in Appendix B, and Appendix C contains detailed data tables for Chapter 4.0. An analysis of a sample of victim impact statements was also conducted for this project, and the results are presented in Appendix D.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The objectives of this study, which were identified in Chapter 1.0, required a multi-component research strategy which facilitated the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data. The first component of the study was a review of Canadian and selected victim legislation from other countries. The second component was a victimization survey that was conducted in three phases from the Fall of 2000 to the Spring of 2001. In the third component, preliminary findings from the survey were presented and discussed in the Fall of 2001 in 13 workshops held in various cities in Alberta. Feedback from workshop participants, representing a number of different areas of victim assistance, supplemented and provided additional context for some of the survey findings. A fourth component contributed important information from a content analysis of a sample of victim impact statements filed with the Calgary Police Service. The components are described below in the order of their presentation in this report.

2.1 Victim Compensation and Assistance Legislation Review

A review of selected federal, provincial and territorial victim legislation in Canada was conducted. As well, selected victim legislation from other countries was included, namely, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland), and the United States. The purpose of the legislative review was to examine legislative efforts in various jurisdictions in order to identify legal approaches that have been developed to address victim compensation, assistance and inclusion. It was beyond the scope of this research project to conduct an examination of current victim programs and policies; however, findings from the legislative review highlight the priorities of government in regards to treatment of victims. Discussion of the review is presented in Chapter 3.0, and detailed tables comparing relevant pieces of legislation by region are provided in Appendix B.

As noted in Chapter 1.0, one of the objectives of the research project was to provide a review of Canadian victim legislation as well as selected legislation from other countries. Findings from the review also reflect on a number of other objectives in the project. Examination of victim compensation, access and inclusion provide information on the impact of victimization on different groups, and identify funding and other resources allocated toward the implementation and maintenance of victim programs. Additionally, the review has developed an inventory of current Canadian legislation as well as legislation from other countries.

2.2 Victimization Survey

The victimization survey was used to collect primary data on perceptions and experiences of victimization from a sample of Albertans. The following describes the methodology used in administration of the survey and in sampling. A brief profile of the

survey participants is also given, with more detailed demographic data on the respondents provided in Appendix A. Response rates, design of the research instruments and major concepts and variables of interest, and the data analysis strategy are also provided below. Findings from the victimization survey are presented in Chapter 4.0, with additional detailed tables provided in Appendix Tables C-1 to C-16.

2.2.1 Research Design and Procedures

Primary data collection was conducted in three phases involving two self-completion questionnaires and a follow-up telephone interview. Phase One started in October of 2000 when screening questionnaires were mailed to 10,000 randomly selected households in Alberta. Respondents were supplied with business reply envelopes to mail back their completed questionnaires. In order to participate, respondents had to be at least 18 years old. At the end of the questionnaire, respondents who reported that they had been victimized were asked if they would be willing to complete a second, more indepth follow-up questionnaire. Phase Two of the survey began in February of 2001. The follow-up questionnaire was mailed out to 306 individuals along with a business reply envelope. A reminder letter was sent one week later. In the follow-up questionnaire respondents were asked if they would agree to a telephone interview with a researcher from CRILF. In Phase Three, telephone interviews were conducted with 56 respondents (selected from 121 who had consented to being contacted) from May to June 2001.

In all three phases of the survey, respondents were assured that their responses would be confidential and reminded that their participation in the research project was totally voluntary. They were also informed that their responses to all of the questions asked of them in the questionnaires and interview were completely voluntary and that they could skip any questions they preferred not to answer. Individuals were assured that they were free to withdraw from the survey at any time. In order to protect respondent anonymity, the original mailing list of households was discarded after the screening questionnaires were distributed.

Respondents who wished to continue to the second phase of the survey were asked to write down their names and addresses in order that the follow-up questionnaire could be mailed to them. It was stated in the screening questionnaire that this information was necessary for mailing purposes only and that the information would be removed from their questionnaire so that it would not be possible to link their responses with their name and address.

Respondents who completed the follow-up questionnaire and agreed to be contacted for a follow-up telephone interview were asked to provide their name, telephone number and interview time preference. The telephone interviews were conducted by members of the research team. A female researcher conducted the interviews with female respondents, and a male researcher contacted the male participants. Prior to conducting the interview, consent was obtained from the respondent to allow their comments to be quoted or summarized in the report (two interviewees did not want to be quoted). The telephone interviews were not tape-recorded and notes were taken by the interviewer with the consent of the respondent.

2.2.2 Sampling Strategy

The sampling frame utilized for the initial contact of potential participants was the telephone listing. A random sample of 10,000 names and addresses was obtained from the Telus Consumer Listing of Alberta households as of September 2000. The Consumer Listing excludes businesses, children's names, and individuals who decline to be included in the telephone listing (such as unlisted telephone numbers). A brief demographic profile of the mailing list showed that the selected addresses had an 80% urban – 20% rural distribution, which is consistent with provincial population statistics. The sampling unit in the survey was an adult member (at least 18 years old) of the household to which the questionnaire was mailed. As described earlier, survey participants were self-selected and thus, in the survey, victimization is self-identified.

All screening survey respondents who agreed to continue their participation in the research project were mailed a follow-up questionnaire. Selection of participants for the telephone interviews was made based on one or more of the following factors:

- seriousness of the incident;
- experience with the police;
- filing a victim impact statement;
- access of services provided by a victim assistance agency; and/or
- reporting that an incident had an impact on their life or their family.

2.2.3 Description of Survey Respondents

Table 2.1 presents selected demographic profiles of the participants for each of the three phases of the victimization survey. Only gender, age and community size are shown because data analysis focused on these three variables. More detailed demographic information is provided in Appendix A.

The sample comprises a larger proportion of females than exists in the provincial population (50%). Respondents were also on average an older group with higher levels of educational attainment. Whereas the average age of respondents in the screening survey was 50 years, the average age of Alberta adults is approximately 43 years. Almost half (49%) of the respondents indicated they had a college or university level education and 17% had completed technical training. Comparable information for the province was not available at the time of compiling this report; however, Alberta Labour Statistics indicates that for Albertans aged 15 and over, 43% completed a post-secondary diploma or certificate or university degree. Presumably, this rate would be considerably higher if the 15 to 17 year olds were excluded from the statistics. About 70% of the screening survey participants lived in cities as compared to 26% in towns and rural areas. Distribution of participants in the follow-up survey, however, was closer to the 80% urban and 20% rural geographic breakdown for the provincial population.

TABLE 2.1

SUMMARY OF DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

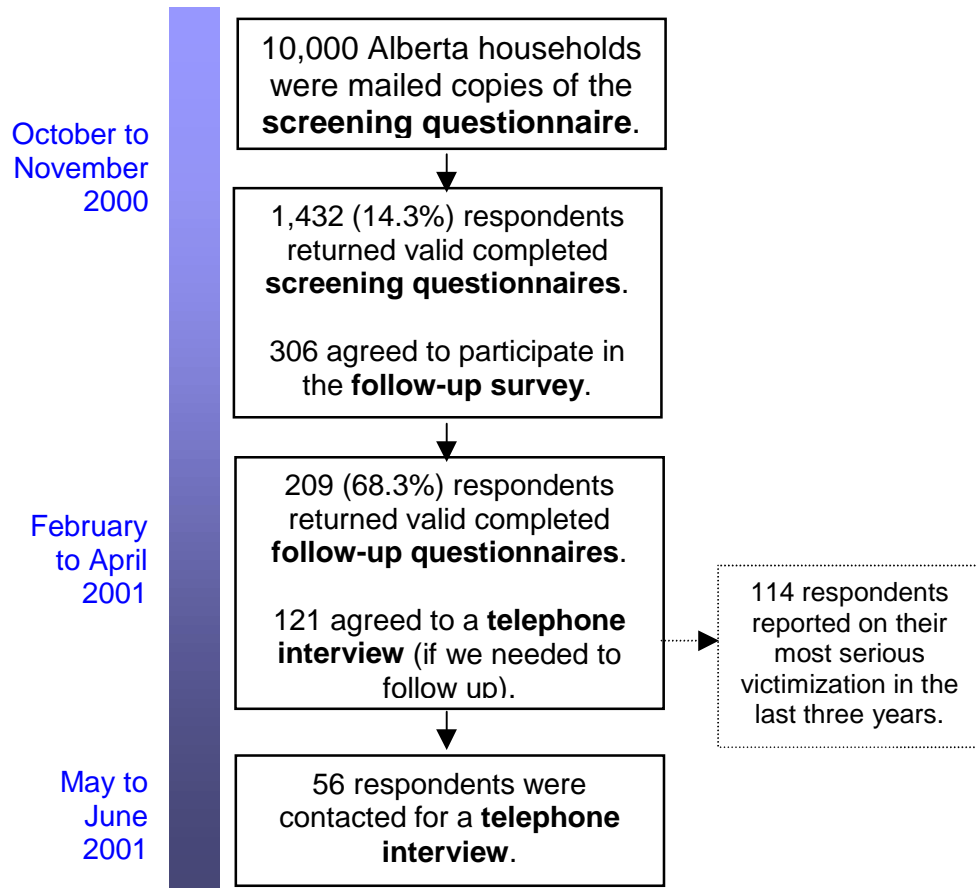
Characteristics	Screening Survey Participants (N=1,432)	Follow-up Survey Participants (n=209)	Telephone Interview Participants (n=56)
Gender			
Female	889 (62.1%)	136 (65.1%)	38 (67.9%)
Male	531 (37.1%)	73 (34.9%)	18 (32%)
missing cases	12 (0.8%)	-	-
Average Age			
Mean	50.1 years	51.8 years	46.1 years
Median	48 years	50 years	43 years
Range	18 to 94 years	18 to 90 years	26 to 75 years
missing cases	30 (2.1%)	1 (0.5%)	-
Age Groups (years)			
18 to 30	132 (9.2%)	21 (10%)	2 (3.6%)
31 to 40	247 (17.2%)	34 (16.3%)	20 (35.7%)
41 to 50	407 (28.4%)	51 (24.4%)	18 (32.1%)
51 to 60	265 (18.5%)	38 (18.2%)	5 (8.9%)
61 & older	351 (24.5%)	64 (30.6%)	11 (19.6%)
missing cases	30 (2.1%)	1 (0.5%)	-
Community Size			
Larger City (Popn. > 100,000)	800 (55.9%)	132 (63.2%)	41 (73.2%)
Smaller City (Popn. 10k to 100k)	200 (14.0%)	32 (15.3%)	6 (10.7%)
Town/Rural Area (Popn. < 10,000)	378 (26.4%)	44 (21.1%)	9 (16.1%)
missing cases	54 (3.8%)	1 (0.5%)	-

2.2.4 Response Rates

Of the initial 10,000 screening questionnaires mailed out, 1,432 (14.3%) individuals returned a valid questionnaire and 306 of the respondents consented to receiving a follow-up questionnaire. Of this group, 209 (68.3%) completed and returned the follow-up questionnaire and 121 agreed to being contacted for a telephone interview. Telephone interviews were conducted with individuals who had reported the most severe victimization incidents, had some contact with the police, had utilized some form of victim assistance, and/or indicated the incident had an impact on their life or their family. Of the 59 respondents originally selected, interviews were completed with 56 individuals: 38 women and 18 men. Three women could not be reached by telephone as they had either moved away or the telephone numbers they provided had been changed and it was not possible to contact them. Figure 2.1 summarizes the response data for each phase of the survey.

FIGURE 2.1

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE RATES IN THE VICTIMIZATION SURVEY



2.2.5 Research Instruments

Primary data were collected using three instruments: a self-completion screening questionnaire; a considerably longer follow-up self-completion questionnaire; and a telephone interview schedule. Construction of the survey instruments was informed by a number of other victimization surveys, in particular, Statistics Canada's *General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization*. As already noted in Chapter 1.0, the majority of victimization surveys focus on criminal incidents. These surveys are conducted primarily through face-to-face and telephone interviews. In Canada, the *GSS on Victimization* represents one, if not the only, primary source of large-scale survey-based data about victimization in Canada.⁶ The *International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)* (Mayhew & van Dijk, 1996), the *British Crime Survey (BCS)*,⁷ and the *Survey of Criminal Victimization, Perceptions of Crime and Attitudes to Criminal Justice*

⁶ The latest cycle, conducted in 1999, was a telephone survey on victimization. The Alberta sample included 1,395 respondents aged 15 and older.

⁷ Survey participants are victims of crimes. The *BCS* surveys private households in England and Wales, and has been conducted eight times by the Home Office since 1982. See Kershaw, Budd, Kinshott, Mattinson, Mayhew, & Myhill (2000).

(Cambridge-London) (Sparks, Genn, & Dodd, 1977) were also used in the construction of the current victimization survey.⁸

Each of the three survey instruments was finalized after pilot testing and consultation with Advisory Group members. As discussed earlier, the approach taken in this study adopted a more general conceptualization of victimization than has been used in traditional victimization research. In all phases of the survey, the following description of victimization was given to the respondent:

Victimization occurs when something happens to you that you find harmful or that causes you loss. There are different kinds of victimization and the incidents may or may not be crimes. Victimization can be experienced physically, such as being attacked by another person. Victimization can be experienced psychologically and emotionally, such as being threatened by someone. Victimization can also be property-related, such as when something belonging to a person is stolen or damaged.

The three survey instruments were designed to collect data related to the following research objectives:

- to examine the nature of victimization;
- to measure the scope of victimization;
- to identify the needs of victims; and
- to examine the impact of victimization on different groups.

As well, data from the survey provide information related to three other objectives in the project. A comparison of victims' needs with availability of resources (that is, as perceived by the victim), and identifying some of the ways in which victims' needs might be more effectively met, are based largely on victims' own perceptions. The data also provide an unofficial measure of victimization.

Self-Administered Screening Questionnaire

Two major purposes of the screening questionnaire were to identify participants for the follow-up survey and to obtain data on the following three content areas:

- general perceptions and opinions about victimization and community crime;
- kinds of security measures people take in order to feel safer; and
- lifetime prevalence of victimization, based on whether the respondent had ever been victimized in their lifetime.

Attitudes about Victimization and Community Crime. The first part of the screening questionnaire included questions about perceptions of the level of community crime, feelings of security, and concerns about being the victim of a crime. Comparable

⁸ The survey instruments for the United States' *National Crime Victimization Survey* and the New Zealand *National Survey of Crime Victims* were unavailable at the time that the victimization questionnaire was being developed in this research project. A comparison of the three instruments was possible later on and it was determined that all of the surveys were generally comparable in terms of content.

questions are included in most other victimization surveys, including the *GSS on Victimization* and the *New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims* (Young, Morris, Cameron, & Haslett, 1997). Utilizing both Likert-type scales and “yes/no” responses, respondents were asked what proportion of the Alberta population they thought had ever been victimized, and whether sufficient help was given to people who are victimized. Respondents were also asked if they viewed victimization as a social problem. Attitudes about community crime levels (compared to other communities) were obtained, and respondents were asked if they perceived the level of crime in their community had changed in the past five years.

Feelings of security were measured by asking respondents to rate how safe they felt while engaged in certain kinds of activities. Individuals were asked: how safe they would feel waiting for or using public transportation alone after dark; how safe they felt walking alone in the community after dark; and how safe they felt being home alone after dark. Another measure of security was obtained from questions about one’s concern that a crime will happen. Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were that the following would happen to them in the next year: burglary/theft; vandalism (something being damaged or ruined); and assault (being physically attacked).

Precautionary Behaviour. In addition to attitudinal measures related to feelings of security and concern about being victimized, the questionnaire also collected behavioural measures related to security based on self-reported precautionary behaviour. A list of security measures describing different kinds of activities people carry out in order to feel safer (such as installing a security system or taking a self-defence course) was provided. Respondents were asked if they had ever carried out or acquired the particular measure. The items listed are comparable to items included in a number of other surveys such as Statistics Canada’s *GSS on Victimization*.

Lifetime Prevalence of Victimization. A considerable number of questions were asked regarding whether respondents had ever experienced particular victimization incidents in their lifetime. The list of incidents was largely developed from other victimization surveys. Open-ended questions, however, were included in order that respondents had an opportunity to describe any other experiences they may have had. The following victimization incidents were listed in the questionnaire:

- property-related incidents:
 - stolen something from your home
 - stolen something from your yard or lawn
 - stolen something from your garage or parkade
 - stolen something from your car
 - stolen your car or motorcycle
 - stolen your bicycle
 - stolen your jewellery or watch
 - stolen your money, wallet or purse
 - stolen your clothing or shoes
 - stolen any other items belonging to you

- vandalism incidents:
 - vandalized your house or apartment
 - vandalized your yard or lawn
 - vandalized your garage or parkade
 - vandalized your car or motorcycle
 - vandalized your bicycle
 - vandalized something else of yours

- personal contact incidents:
 - threatened to harm or hurt you
 - slapped you
 - punched you
 - kicked you
 - thrown something at you to hurt you
 - made a sexual comment that offended or scared you
 - touched you in a sexual way against your will
 - done something else you did not want them to

- incidents involving weapons or objects purposely used as weapons
 - threatened with a weapon/object
 - had a weapon/object used against you

Knowing the Offender and Reporting the Incident. Two additional questions were asked if the respondent reported a particular incident had happened to them at least once in their lifetime. For the most recent occurrence, respondents were required to indicate whether they knew the offender(s) and if they reported the incident to police.

Demographic Characteristics. A number of demographic characteristics were collected in the screening questionnaire in order to assess representativeness of the respondents to the general Alberta adult population and to identify demographic differences in victimization experiences. These characteristics included the following: age, gender, education level, relationship status, mobility (length of time at current address; number of times moved in the last 10 years), employment status, and the first three characters of the postal code.

Self-Administered Follow-Up Questionnaire

The purpose of the indepth follow-up questionnaire was to collect considerably more detailed data about respondents' victimization experiences. The time frame was shortened from lifetime experience to the last three years, and then further restricted to the most serious victimization incident in the last three years. It was felt that a three-year time frame would be long enough to include experiences of respondents who were involved in court proceedings. It was felt that respondents' ability to recall experiences in detail in the last three years would be more accurate than for incidents occurring more than three years earlier.

Victimization Incidents in the Last Three Years: Prevalence, Frequency, and Reporting to the Police. The first part of the follow-up questionnaire asked respondents about all victimization incidents that happened in the last three years. The list of incidents included in the survey was slightly revised from the screening questionnaire after a review of responses. The item, “stolen clothing or shoes,” was dropped. The items, “slapped,” “punched” and “kicked” were combined, and, “sexual comment that offended or scared” was separated into two items: “sexual comment that offended,” and “sexual comment that scared.” For each incident that had happened at least once in the last three years, the respondent was asked to write the number of times the incident happened to them in the last three years, and whether the police were notified. If the incident occurred more than once, the answer was based on the most serious event.

Throughout the questionnaire, respondents were given opportunities to record any other victimization experiences that were not related to any of the incidents listed in the survey. It was also possible that an individual could have been more seriously victimized prior to the last three years. In such cases, respondents were provided with additional space in the questionnaire to write about the earlier victimization.

The Most Serious Victimization: Context, Experience, Assistance, and Impact. The next section of the follow-up questionnaire focused on a single event in more depth. For the most serious victimization incident that happened in the last three years, as defined by the respondent, he or she was asked a number of different questions aimed at obtaining more specific information regarding the context of the victimization. The questions were related to the following topics:

- where the incident occurred;
- when the incident occurred;
- whether the respondent knew the offender;
- who was told about the incident;
- whether or not (and why not) the police were notified;
- whether the police laid charges;
- the respondent’s experience with the police and victim assistance agencies;
- whether the victim felt there was any kind of discrimination in how they were treated by those who provided victim assistance;
- who assisted the respondent in dealing with their victimization; and
- impact (physical, psychological, financial and other) of the incident on the victim and on the victim’s family.

Respondents were also asked to identify factors (services, people, etc.) that they felt were especially helpful in dealing with their victimization, and to suggest other kinds of services that would have been helpful.

Responsibility for Safety. This short section was included in the follow-up questionnaire in order to measure peoples’ opinions about attribution of responsibility for public safety. Respondents were presented with four categories: the individual; the community or neighbourhood; the police; and the government. Space was also provided for the respondent to write in other groups. Five types of incidents were listed: property

(robbery, burglary, theft); vandalism; physical and nonphysical contact; sexual contact forced on a person; and weapons or objects used as weapons. For each incident, respondents were asked to indicate who should be responsible for looking after safety. They could check as many of the four groups as they wanted.

General Activities. This section of the survey asked about the amount of time respondents spent on recreational activities and the kinds of leisure activities they engaged in. Respondents were also asked about their major means of transportation.

Basic Demographic Characteristics. Data on the following basic demographic characteristics were collected from respondents: age; gender; education; relationship status; employment status; job title; weekly work hours; whether they were required to do shift work; income level; satisfaction with household income level; and the first three characters of their postal code. Questions related to the household included: type of dwelling; whether the respondent was renting; number of people; and presence of children (under 18 years). Two questions related to mobility were asked: length of time at current address, and number of times the respondent moved in the last 10 years.

Telephone Interviews

The telephone interviews were designed to take 15 to 20 minutes to conduct. The purpose of the interview was to obtain more indepth information related to the responses made in the follow-up questionnaire. The interviewer had the respondent's completed follow-up questionnaire and the respondent was notified of this prior to the actual interview. For certain questions, the interviewer read or summarized the follow-up questionnaire response and then asked additional questions or probed for the respondent to elaborate. Respondents could discuss other topics related to their experience if they felt that it was important to do so. Accommodation was made in all cases where respondents wanted to continue the interviews past the allotted time.

2.2.6 Data Analysis Strategy

Data collected from each of the three phases of the survey were summarized and analysed separately. The chi-square test of association was used in all appropriate analyses in order to assess statistically significant relationships. All significant findings are denoted in the data tables. In this report, discussion of the survey results refer to statistically significant results unless otherwise noted. SPSS was the primary statistical software utilized for quantitative analysis.

The relatively small sample size of 209 in the follow-up survey limited the level of detailed analysis that could be conducted with the data. In these cases, descriptive analysis was used in discussing the results.

Qualitative data collected from the self-completion questionnaires and telephone interviews were analysed using QSR N5 NUD*IST (Non-numerical Unstructured Data – Indexing, Searching and Theorizing), a well-recognized qualitative data analysis software package.

2.3 Workshops

A total of 13 workshops were conducted in the following cities in Alberta, from October to December of 2001: Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and St. Albert. Agencies and organizations that assist victims including the police and members of the legal community were invited to attend. One of the workshops was held in order to focus on cultural and ethnic diversity in victimization.⁹ Invitations for this meeting were primarily extended to organizations involved in assisting First Nations and cultural or ethnic minority groups.

The purpose of the workshops was to present highlights of preliminary findings from the victimization survey and the review of victim legislation, and to obtain feedback from experts in the field of victim assistance. The feedback included their views on the topics and themes that arose from the survey findings, other related victimization issues, and any comments about the legislative review and survey. Prior to holding the workshops, brief key informant interviews were conducted over the telephone with six individuals who were selected because of their knowledge of and involvement in various areas related to victim assistance and victims' issues. The interviews focused on the major topics and themes from the victimization survey. Information from these key informant interviews was used to organize the presentations and discussions in the workshops.

Feedback from the workshops was relevant to the following research objectives:

- to identify needs of victims;
- to examine the impact of victimization on different groups; and
- to identify ways to meet victims' needs more effectively.

As well, discussions in the workshops contributed to addressing other objectives related to victim legislation and resources available to victims as compared to victims' needs.

Each workshop was scheduled for three hours with presentations occurring in the first part and group discussion in the second part. The format of the discussion period in the workshops was intentionally kept fairly unstructured in order to encourage participants to introduce other topics or issues they felt were important. With the consent of participants, hand-written notes were made of the discussions that took place. Participants were told that feedback from all of the workshops would be summarized and presented in the final report. Participants were assured that the report would not identify individual names, agencies and organizations, or the city that the workshop was held in. A summary of workshop feedback is included in this report in Chapter 5.0.

⁹ A request was made by The Calgary Foundation to conduct this workshop. Appreciation is extended to the Foundation for providing a grant for this workshop.

2.4 Victim Impact Statements

Data collected from victim impact statements (VIS) provided additional information about the impact of criminal incidents on victims. Content analysis was conducted on a sample of 100 VIS obtained from the Calgary Police Service (CPS). The sample was selected from all VIS filed with the CPS between January 1999 and August 2000. The sample included only cases for which criminal proceedings had been completed. As well, both the offender and victim had to be at least 18 years old at the time of the offence. Appendix D includes further details on the methodology and presentation of findings. A summary of the results is included in Chapter 4.0.

Findings from the analysis of VIS were relevant to the following research objectives:

- to examine the nature of victimization;
- to examine the impact of victimization on different groups; and
- to compare the context of victimization experiences that are reported as part of an official process (VIS) to experiences not officially reported.

Analysis was carried out using QSR N5 NUD*IST. It should be noted that the statements were submitted by victims of crimes that were reported to the Calgary Police Service.

2.5 Limitations of the Research Project

2.5.1 Limitations of the Legislative Review

As described earlier in this chapter, the victim legislation review was based on selected legislation in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The review provided in this report is not exhaustive. It was beyond the scope of this project to include all victim-related legislation; and it was not possible to address current programs and processes related to victimization. It is recognized that there are numerous and considerable efforts being made within government and non-government organizations to address victims' issues and to provide assistance to victims – and possibly, these efforts are directed toward some of the same issues that were raised by the survey respondents and workshop participants in this study.

2.5.2 Limitations of the Survey

There are limitations associated with survey methodologies in general, as well as more specific limitations related to the methodological approach that was taken in conducting this research project. Both need to be taken into account when interpreting the results presented in this report. In particular, readers are cautioned that the results have limited generalizability and do not necessarily reflect the opinions and experiences of all adults in Alberta. It should be noted that while households were randomly selected (from the telephone listing) to receive the screening survey questionnaire, participants in the survey were self-selected.

The sampling frame excludes individuals whose telephone numbers were not listed in the Telus telephone listing, as well as individuals with no fixed addresses. There are important implications to these limitations because they result in low or no participation of certain groups in the population who, in this kind of research, would be recognized to be at higher risk for victimization. In particular, it should be noted that the current study does not adequately include members of First Nations reserves. As well, the survey methodology was restrictive for any individuals who do not understand English since the introductory letters and questionnaires were available only in English and all correspondence was conducted in English. The sampling frame also excludes shelters and any other types of protective housing (where addresses are necessarily not widely published). Thus, for example, the mail-out survey would not reach female victims of domestic violence who are staying in shelters.

The data collected represent a cross-section of the population; that is, a snapshot of a selection of adults residing in households in the province. Cross-sectional data is limited in being unable to provide information about change over time. Rather, researchers analyse different age groups and describe whether the nature of victimization is different between different age cohorts. They cannot track experiences over the lifespan, which considerably more costly techniques such as longitudinal methodologies can provide. Furthermore, statements concerning cause and effect relationships cannot be made with confidence using a cross-sectional methodology.

Additionally, the survey used in this research project shares a number of limitations with more general victimization surveys (see for example, Fattah, 1991). In particular, the following limitations should be noted.

- There is under-representation of certain groups known to be more vulnerable or at higher risk for victimization. For example, disadvantaged groups who may be harmed by crimes or other incidents do not participate.
- Victimization of organizations or businesses is not assessed.
- “Victimless crimes” are not included (e.g., drug users and sex trade workers).
- Certain kinds of incidents are underestimated, particularly those involving deception and multiple victims such as market fraud or industrial pollution (Bonta & Hanson, 1994).
- “Unknowing victims” or individuals who are unaware that any wrongdoing or crime has been committed against them are not included.
- Victimization counts typically underestimate or exclude incidents that individuals feel are too sensitive to describe (e.g., domestic abuse or sexual assault). The victim may, for example, be too embarrassed or afraid to discuss the incident with anyone or to report it to authorities.

Recall or retrospective surveys rely on the ability of the respondent to remember past events. Having to remember all events over a lifetime as asked of respondents in the screening questionnaire would be considerably more difficult than over the last three years as was the case in the follow-up questionnaire. Details about less significant

events are more difficult to recall than events that have a more significant impact on a person's life. Accuracy of the information provided by the respondent can also be affected by telescoping, that is, when the respondent cannot exactly recall the date of a particular event and believes (and reports) that it occurred earlier or later than it actually did.

The three-year window used in the follow-up questionnaire focused on fairly recent events. Memory failure and telescoping do not occur the same way for all incidents, however. Sparks, Genn, & Dodd (1977) reviewed a number of studies on respondent recall and noted that more significant events are less likely to be forgotten but more likely to be telescoped while the reverse is true for less significant events. Additionally, the authors noted that there is, thus, a potential bias towards over-reporting more serious incidents and under-reporting more minor incidents.

Survey Participants

The findings presented in this report reflect the views and experiences as reported in the surveys by the participants. Readers are cautioned that generalizability of the results is limited. Again, it is noted that the methodology utilized in this research project did not include adequate representation of First Nations communities or of ethnic or culturally diverse groups. As well, findings from small sample sizes in some of the analyses are descriptive and should not be interpreted as being representative of views held by, or experiences of, all survey participants.

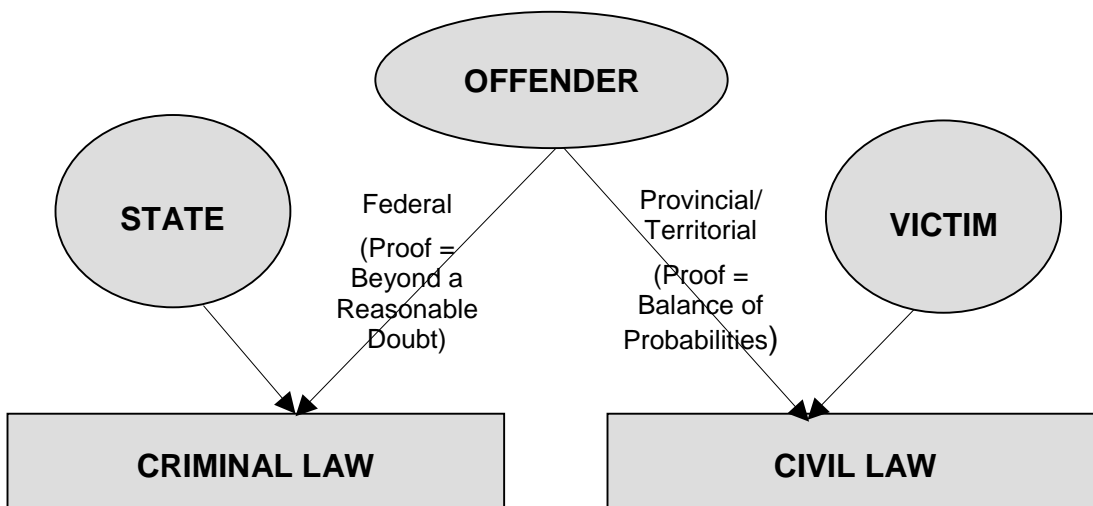
3.0 VICTIMIZATION LEGISLATION: VICTIM COMPENSATION, ASSISTANCE AND INCLUSION

Victimization is a concept that is self-defined as well as a legal concept. In this chapter, we present a review of selected victim legislation. Our purpose is not to provide a comprehensive analysis of victim-related legislation, globally, but rather to examine legislative efforts in selected domains in order to determine the legal bases underlying victim compensation, assistance and inclusion. In this chapter, victimization legislation in all Canadian provinces and territories is examined, and compared with legislation from Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

3.1 Canadian Legislation

An entire criminal trial can occur in Canada without involvement of the alleged victim. Because crimes are against the state and not against the person, victims are not parties to the criminal proceeding. They may, however, proceed with civil claims against offenders (see Figure 3.1). Moreover, both provincial/territorial and the federal governments in Canada have introduced legislation aimed toward victim compensation, assistance and inclusion (see Figure 3.2). Victimization legislation can be enacted in Canada by either of the two levels of government. Under Canada's constitution, the federal government has the power to make laws in relation to criminal matters, and the provincial/territorial governments have the power to make laws in relation to property and civil rights within the province.

FIGURE 3.1
COMPENSATION OPTIONS FOR VICTIMS

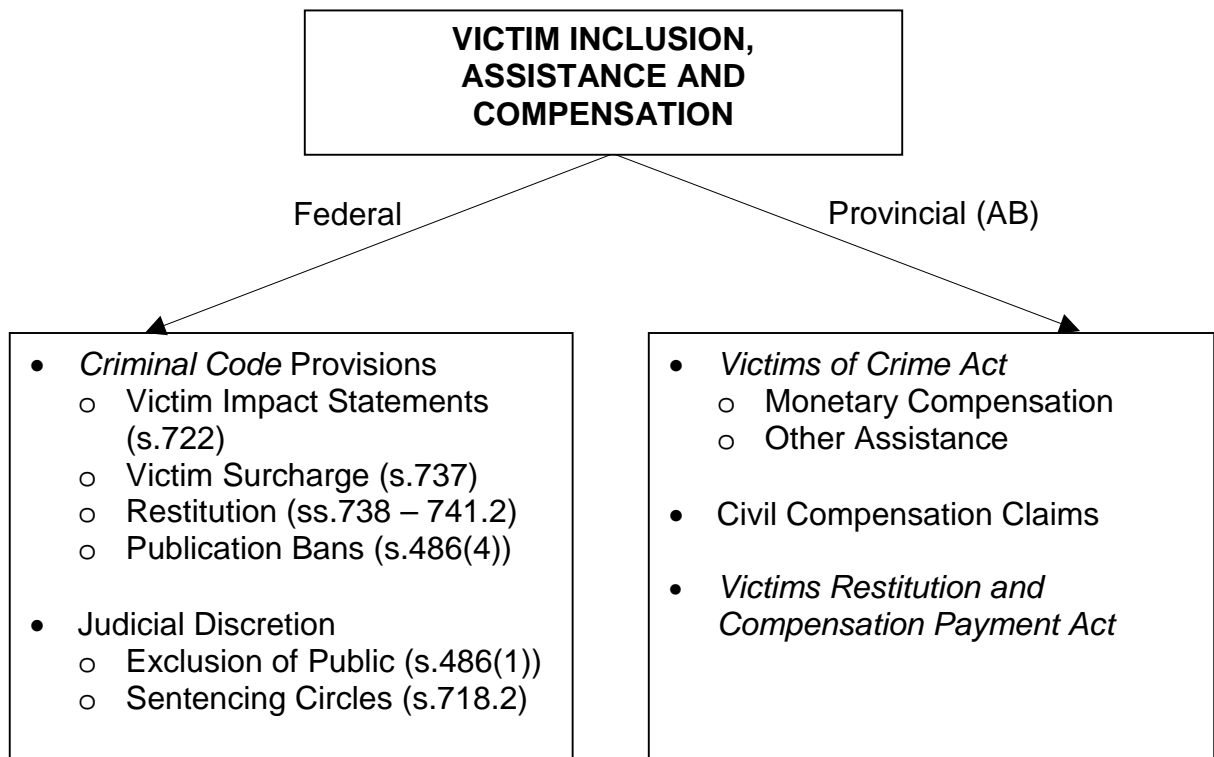


Although a full discussion of all existing legislative provisions relating to victims is beyond the scope of this chapter, we will address legislative aspects of victim compensation, assistance and inclusion at both the federal and provincial/territorial levels. Provincial and territorial legislation concerning victims and their rights is either concerned with direct monetary compensation or research and program funding, while federal legislation contains additional provisions: principally victim restitution provisions of the *Criminal Code*. Each of these will be discussed in more detail in this chapter. Additional legislation makes reference to victims' interests, such as in provincial or territorial domestic violence legislation and federal *Criminal Code* offences, which is beyond the scope of this chapter's introduction to Canadian victim legislation.

Provincial/territorial victim laws are often general in nature, allowing the government of the enacting legislature some latitude to introduce more specific provisions through regulations in the future to guide the day-to-day operation of the victim laws. Most provinces in Canada have regulations enacted under their victim compensation legislation. Some provisions of Alberta's regulations will be discussed throughout the summary below.

FIGURE 3.2

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FOR VICTIM PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



3.1.1 Purposes of Victimization Legislation

Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* begins with a statement of principles underlying the purpose of the Act, as does the victim legislation in most provinces. Ontario goes one step further with a separate piece of legislation that is a Bill of Rights for victims. Although the wording differs in the principles provision of legislation of the provinces and territories, the general sentiment is similar because most have adopted the United Nations' *Declaration on the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*. According to section 2(1) of the *Victims of Crime Act* of Alberta, seven principles should apply to the treatment of victims:

- a) victims should be treated with courtesy and compassion and with respect for their dignity and privacy and should suffer the minimum of necessary inconvenience from their involvement in the criminal justice system;
- b) victims should promptly receive, in accordance with this Act and the regulations, financial benefits for the injuries that they have suffered;
- c) information should be made available to victims about their participation in criminal proceedings and scheduling, progress and ultimate disposition of the proceedings;
- d) where appropriate, the views and concerns of victims should be considered and appropriate assistance provided throughout the criminal process;
- e) if the personal interests of victims are affected, the views or concerns of the victims should be brought to the attention of the court, where appropriate and consistent with criminal law and procedure;
- f) measures should be taken when necessary to ensure the safety of victims and their families and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation; and
- g) victims should be informed of the availability of relevant services.

3.1.2 Monetary Compensation for Victims in Canada

Prior to the enactment of victim compensation laws in Canada, if a victim suffered personal injury or damage to property as a result of a crime and wished to receive compensation, the victim had to sue the offender in civil court. Not only does the court process itself take time, but often offenders do not have the means to pay for the injury or damage. Victims who did successfully sue in civil court were often left with a court judgement in their favour that was unenforceable because the offender had no money or evaded judgement enforcement.

To ensure that victims receive money to repair or replace damaged or stolen property, or to receive medical or psychological attention for the personal trauma they have suffered, the federal and most provincial governments passed legislation allowing for alternative means to compensate victims.

Federal Victim Compensation Legislation

The Canadian *Criminal Code* (s.738 – s.741.2) now includes restitution to the victim as a potential aspect of an offender's sentence. Once an offender is found guilty or found guilty and convicted, the Attorney General may make an application to Court for an order, in addition to any other sentence, that the offender pay restitution to the victim. Alternatively, the criminal court may impose restitution on its own initiative. The offender may be ordered to pay to the victim a sum equivalent to the cost of property lost or damaged as a result of the crime, or a sum representing all pecuniary damages deriving from bodily harm. Restitution is also available for reasonable expenses incurred by a victim if that victim has to move out of the offender's household. All amounts must be readily ascertainable. The criminal court judge will not act as a civil court judge in determining quantum for mental anguish, but restricts restitution to readily ascertainable amounts. Ultimately, it is the criminal court's decision whether or not to order restitution. A victim cannot control whether or not a restitution order is made.

Once a court orders restitution, the victim may be responsible for enforcing the court order through the civil court system, although some provinces have enacted regulations to include the restitution payment as part of the probation order pursuant to s.738(2) of the *Criminal Code*. Thus, although criminal court restitution is an alternative to seeking compensation in a civil court, the victim must actively seek to enforce the order, and satisfaction is dependent on the offender having sufficient means. As with compensation alternatives to civil court at the provincial level, a *Criminal Code* restitution order does not affect a victim's right to pursue compensation in civil court, although a civil court judgement will likely be reduced by the amount that the victim has already been granted.

Provincial and Territorial Victim Compensation Legislation

In addition to restitution orders and civil court proceedings, victims in all provinces except Newfoundland have legislation that allows for direct compensation for victims out of an existing fund. Instead of pursuing the offender in court, victims can apply to their province for compensation. Payments made under the legislation are generally lower than civil court judgements, but the process is faster and more user-friendly (Cook, David, & Grant, 1999). In Newfoundland, as well as the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon, no victim compensation legislation exists. Victims in these jurisdictions who feel they have suffered personal injury or property damage must pursue action in civil court.

Under the *Criminal Code*, when an offender is sentenced the Court must order the offender to pay a victim fine surcharge, unless the offender establishes that undue hardship would result to the offender or his (her) dependents (s.737). The Lieutenant Governor in Council for each province may then decide how to use these funds to best assist victims. These funds are generally used for victim-related research and

programs as well as for direct financial compensation for victims and their families. Additional funds are obtained through provincial crime surcharges (such as traffic offences), donations, or monies designated in government budgets.

Some provinces specify that only victims of certain crimes will be eligible for compensation. Forty-eight crimes are listed in Schedule 1 of Alberta's Regulation 201/97 (Victims' Benefits Regulation), ranging from taking part in a riot to hijacking an aircraft to attempted murder. Most crimes that are likely to cause injury or death are listed as eligible crimes. Thus, a victim who sustains injury because someone engages in one of these activities will be eligible to receive a financial benefit in Alberta. Some provinces contain similar provisions, either in the Act or in Regulations made under the Act. It is worth noting that under Alberta's Financial Benefits Program there is no requirement for the victim to prove financial loss, and that the benefit is a one-time award with no "claw back."

Who May Apply. As summarized in Appendix B, Table B-1, most jurisdictions in Canada have legislation to allow for financial compensation for victims who have suffered as a result of some unlawful activity. Most of the provincial compensation laws begin with an explanation of who may apply for direct compensation, which usually includes a definition of the term "victim." Usually a victim is defined as an individual who is injured or killed by an act or omission of someone committing an offence, or from preventing a crime or attempting to arrest an offender. A victim who participated in the crime, however, is not usually eligible to apply for compensation, or may have the amount of compensation reduced. In New Brunswick's *Victims Services Act*, there is no definition of victim. Instead, a committee decides whether or not someone is a victim for the purpose of receiving compensation.

In addition to victims, under most provincial legislation an immediate family member of the victim may also apply for compensation. Most definitions of "immediate family member" include spouse, cohabitant, parent, child or sibling. In Saskatchewan, compensation is limited to the victim and anyone who was in whole or in part dependant on the victim's income at the time of death. Similar wording is found in Prince Edward Island's *Victims of Crime Act*.

Manitoba broadens the scope of compensation eligibility to include any person who was responsible for the victim and who incurs funeral expenses or other pecuniary loss as a result of a victim's injury. Nova Scotia's *Victims' Rights and Services Act* goes even further to allow anyone who has incurred expenses on behalf of a deceased victim to make a claim. In Alberta, if the victim is deceased, the Director of Victim Services has discretion to approve applications for compensation from individuals who are not relatives of the deceased.

British Columbia is the only province to include same-sex partners explicitly in the definition of immediate family members, thus making them eligible for victim compensation. While some provincial legislation does not define dependants or family members, Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* expressly states that cohabitants must be cohabitants of the opposite sex, and this definition has not been challenged. Thus, in Alberta, the victim and his or her spouse, cohabitant (opposite sex), parents, children, or siblings may apply for compensation under the *Victims of Crime Act*.

The Process. The various provincial laws establish similar processes for victims and eligible family members who wish to obtain compensation. Alberta has adopted an administrative process. A written request is filed with the Director of Victim Services, who is appointed by the Minister. The Director, together with his delegated personnel, examines the situation, determines the details of the case, and obtains and examines whatever documents are deemed necessary. The Director has a wide range of investigative powers and is not bound by the strict rules of evidence found in provincial courts. In Alberta, the Director of Victim Services can collect and examine information directly from other agencies, medical services and public bodies. Because of the legislative permission to access the information directly, the burden of having to provide information or re-live their victimization is reduced for victims. Decisions regarding each application are reached collaboratively (between the Director and delegated personnel), and the Director then writes a formal decision concerning entitlement and quantum.

Overall, other provincial legislation establishes similar routines although Alberta's approach was developed in order minimize the burden on the victim to provide documents and records to prove they were injured. Some jurisdictions do not require a written response. Additionally, the structure of the compensation request process differs slightly between provinces. For example, the Worker's Compensation Board acts as the administrator of the funds in British Columbia. In New Brunswick, a committee, not just one individual, makes the compensation decision. However, the committee's decision is just a recommendation given to the Minister, who has final say. Ontario has the only provincial legislation which specifies that a formal hearing must occur, for which the victim must be made aware of the date and time of the hearing so as to have the opportunity to attend and present information.

One important feature of the various compensation statutes is that the offender does not need to be prosecuted before compensation is given to the victim. As in civil court, a conviction may be evidence of an offence against a victim, but it is not required because the burden of proof is lower in civil court than in criminal court.¹⁰ Interim payments are available in some jurisdictions for victims who can show they need immediate assistance. Ontario and British Columbia both contain interim provisions in their legislation. Even if the offender is not convicted of a crime, the victim does not need to return compensation money already received (for example, an interim payment).

Another feature that appears in some legislation, although not in the Alberta Act, is the concept of subrogation. The victim compensation legislation of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and British Columbia clearly states that if the victim receives compensation, the agency granting compensation or the Director personally acquire the right to pursue legal action in the name of the victim. Thus, if a victim obtains a monetary award and the offender is found guilty, the Director may sue the offender in civil court to recover the money paid to the victim.

Some provincial legislation allows the Minister leeway in making compensation payments, or is general in order to permit later regulations to establish the

¹⁰ An individual will not be convicted of a crime until there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt. However, a Judge in civil court will find for the plaintiff or defendant on a balance of probabilities, which is a lower standard to meet.

compensation process. A number of provinces specify that payments can be made in lump sum or in periodic payments. Legislation in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia allows the Minister to impose any terms on the compensation payment that he or she feels is appropriate in the circumstances. In Alberta, Regulation 201/97 (Victims' Benefits Regulation) specifies that the quantum of damages awarded may be reduced by 25%, 50%, 75% or more if the Director considers it reasonable. This reduction will occur if the Director believes the victim's conduct directly or indirectly contributed to the victim's injury or death. As well, an application may be denied if the victim was involved in the crime, such as taking part in a drug deal.

Restrictions. A claim for victim compensation must be made within a certain time period from the date of injury or death, or from when the victim ought to have reasonably been aware of the alleged crime-related injury. In most provinces, a claim must be made within one year of the date of injury or death. In Alberta, a recent amendment extended the limitation period to two years.¹¹

Similar to Alberta, Saskatchewan's *Victims of Crime Act, 1995* allows the time limitation, which is only one year in Saskatchewan, to begin from when the victim understands the nature of the injuries if they are a result of a criminal act. Presumably this allows for potential compensation to be sought for physical or psychological damage that arises after the criminal act is more than one year old. Nova Scotia's Act contains a separate provision for victims of sexual assault. If the offender was in a position of trust or authority to the victim, then the victim may make a compensation request at any time. Thus, victims of sexual assault by people such as teachers, parents, relatives or coaches are not required to come forward and claim compensation within the usual one-year time frame in Nova Scotia's statute.

The *Compensation for Victims of Crime Act* in Ontario allows the Board to extend the one-year time limit if, in its discretion, it is appropriate to do so. No guidelines are given to the Board within the Act for making this decision. The Workers' Compensation Board in British Columbia has a similar discretion. Alberta also contains a clause permitting the Director to extend the time limit if it is appropriate, without specifying what factors the Director should consider. Similarly, in Prince Edward Island the Minister may choose to extend the time at his or her discretion.

Both British Columbia and Nova Scotia have financial limits on the amount of compensation awarded. In British Columbia's *Criminal Injury Compensation Act*, limits may be established within the regulations, although they are not clearly stated in the Act. In Nova Scotia, however, financial limits are set at \$100,000 as a lump sum, or \$3,500 per month. Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* does not establish financial limits on the amount of compensation that may be awarded to any one victim or applicant. However, Schedule 2 of Regulation 201/97 (Victims' Benefits Regulation) sets out a detailed table of the maximum amount that may be paid for any particular injury. For example, a chipped front tooth is worth \$1,000, moderate whiplash injury is worth \$4,500 and loss of one eye is worth \$40,000. In addition, the maximum number of

¹¹ See s.12(2) of Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act*, as amended on November 1, 2001.

injuries for which a victim may receive financial benefits in Alberta is three, and the maximum financial benefits payable is \$110,000.¹²

Appealing the Result. Most provincial legislation allows for the appeal of a compensation decision. In Alberta, a victim has 30 days to appeal the Director's decision to a Review Board, which is established by the legislation. Alberta's Regulation 201/97 (Victims' Benefits Regulation) states that the Review Board must examine the appeal and either confirm the decision of the Director, or hold a hearing.¹³ The hearing may be held in public and may proceed even if the victim is not present, although the victim must be informed of the date, time and location of the review hearing. The Review Board may review all of the evidence and may also request additional expert advice or medical examinations. The Review Board may confirm the decision of the Director, or it may rescind the decision and substitute its own. Alternatively, the Board may choose to vary a portion of the decision. If the victim is dissatisfied with the Review Board's decision there is no additional appeal. The legislative privative clause prevents the victim from pursuing the matter further, within the courts, unless there is a question of law to be decided.¹⁴

Manitoba's legislation is similar to Alberta's, although there is an intermediate appeal stage prior to the 30-day time limit. In Manitoba, the victim can appeal to the Director of the Victim's Assistance Fund first, within 90 days of the initial decision, and the Director will reconsider the decision. If the victim is not satisfied, then the 30-day time limit for appeal to a Compensation Appeal Board begins.

In British Columbia the appeal period is longer – 90 days – than Alberta's 30-day period. In Ontario, an appeal is available only if a single Board member rather than the entire Board made the initial decision. If so, the victim has 15 days to appeal the decision to the entire Board. Any full Board decision is deemed final. In Ontario, as in Alberta and most other provinces, there is a strong privative clause preventing appeals to the Courts.

Saskatchewan's legislation makes no reference to the appeal process. Legislation in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia leave the issue to be resolved at a later date by regulations. Some legislation allows for reconsideration of the decision if new evidence emerges.¹⁵

¹² It is worth noting that most Canadian legislation does not make reference to any compensation for loss or damage of property (a worthwhile exception is Québec; see Table B-1 in Appendix B). The new legislation passed in Alberta late in 2001 represents an initial attempt to address compensation for property damage. At the time of publication, the law was not yet proclaimed.

¹³ Information from the Director of Victims, Regulatory and Support Services, Alberta Solicitor General, indicates that in current practice, it is not a necessary requirement that a hearing be held (see s.7 of Regulations, AR 201/97 Victims' Benefits). The Board Chair can deny an application (*prima facie*) and advise the victim of the decision.

¹⁴ A recent Alberta case did overturn a decision by the Review Board (formerly the Appeal Board), because the injury was continuing and very severe and the Appeal Board was therefore wrong in deciding to the contrary; see *S. M. v. Alberta (Criminal Injuries Appeal Board)* [2001] A. J. No. 1613 (C.A.). Online: QL (AJ).

¹⁵ See, for example, British Columbia's *Criminal Injury Compensation Act* and Nova Scotia's *Victims' Rights and Services Act*.

Victim's Duties. Some provincial legislation imposes duties on the victims of crime. As victims often have information that will be of great assistance to law enforcement authorities, several provinces restrict compensation to those individuals who have cooperated. In Alberta, the legislation requires that a victim report the incident in a timely manner as a prerequisite for being considered for compensation. The victim should also cooperate with the authorities. Québec and Nova Scotia have also included such provisions in their legislation.

British Columbia's *Criminal Injury Compensation Act* allows for compensation payments to be reduced or suspended if the victim refuses to submit to medical or surgical treatment, or if the victim continues to engage in activities that may slow or prevent recovery. In Manitoba the victim has one legislated duty: to notify the director if there is any money received from the offender, or any civil action taken against the offender. The notification must be made immediately.

Several of the provinces mention, in addition to the victims' duties, specific rights that ought to be considered when an order of compensation is made. Manitoba's *Victims' Rights Act* mentions the victim's right to monetary compensation or return of property at the earliest possible date. Québec's *An Act Respecting Assistance for Victims of Crime* also states that the return of seized property is a right of the victim.

3.1.3 Funding for Victimization Research and Programs in Canada

As summarized in Table B-2 (see Appendix B), most jurisdictions in Canada have enacted legislation to allow for research on matters concerning victims of crime. Funding is also available in most provinces/territories for programs designed to assist victims and to disseminate information about availability of programs and funds. The funding comes from the same source as the monetary compensation listed above: victim fine surcharges on crimes as well as designated provincial funds and donations.

Funding for Research

Victim legislation in many provinces and territories specifies that funds should be used to conduct research into victims' services, needs and concerns. Research is specifically mentioned in the Acts of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, which essentially incorporates the crime victims' law of the Northwest Territories into its jurisdiction. Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* does not specify that funds are to be allocated for research; however, in practice research funding is considered and granted.

The topics of research interest include: what programs are effective for victims; what services victims need; and what victim concerns are not being met. Most jurisdictions have a committee to receive applications for research funds and make recommendations to the Minister. For example, in Prince Edward Island the *Victims of Crime Act* establishes a Victim Services Advisory Committee to: review existing laws and policies to recommend changes; assist with research; provide opportunities for research, discussion, and resolution of issues; and make recommendations to the Minister relating to development of legislation and provision of services.

Funding for Programs

In Alberta, the same Act that describes the availability of victim compensation, the *Victims of Crime Act*, allows funds to be used for victim programs. A Committee appointed by the Minister evaluates grant applications for programs to benefit victims. Similar statements allowing funds to be used for services or projects that benefit victims appear in the legislation of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. In Québec's *An Act Respecting Assistance for Victims of Crime*, assistance centres are given as a specific example of an appropriate funding recipient. Thus, most of the Canadian jurisdictions appear dedicated to providing some level of funding for the creation of programs to benefit victims.

Dissemination of Information

Most provinces and territories in Canada have provisions concerning the dissemination of information to victims. Generally the victim's right for information must be balanced against the accused's right or desire for privacy, as well as the potential need for secrecy for an effective investigation. Several provinces have included within their legislation a statement reiterating that the dissemination of information must be given in accordance with other laws (see, e.g., Manitoba's *Victims' Rights Act* and Nova Scotia's *Victims' Rights and Services Act*). With the increasing use of privacy legislation in the public sector, provisions of victim legislation may be found to be inadequate in the level of disclosure required by privacy laws.

In Alberta, on request, a victim must receive information regarding the status of the criminal investigation, the role of the victim in the legal process, the criminal court procedures, and the opportunity to make presentations before the Court. Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* also indicates that victims must be provided with information regarding what steps can be taken if they are not treated according to the principles of the Act (see Section 3.1.1, for a description of the principles of the Act).

Most of the other provinces and territories have, in their legislation, a provision concerning the dissemination of information to victims, with the exception of the Yukon. Some jurisdictions, such as Newfoundland and New Brunswick, couch the provision in terms of "should," which implies something that ought to be done but does not necessarily have to be done. In Alberta, the Director is required to give the information once the victim requests it. Some provincial legislation states that certain information must be provided regardless of whether or not the victim makes a request for it. Thus, for example, in British Columbia the justice system personnel must offer information about the structure and operation of the system, available victim services, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the *Victims of Crime Act*.

Statutes of several provinces and territories contain dissemination of information provisions that are similar in wording to Alberta's, including Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. However, each province or territory contains some unique provisions (see Table B-2 in Appendix B). A general statement concerning dissemination of information is found in Saskatchewan, Québec and New Brunswick legislation. British Columbia's *Victims of Crime Act* contains an

exhaustive list of information that the justice system must arrange for the victim to receive on request. This includes: the status of the police investigation; the specific counts for charge or conviction; the reason why any changes are made; the name of the accused; the date, location and reasons for each court appearance; the length of any sentence given; how a victim can report breaches of any terms of supervision; what agencies can be contacted and how; and eligibility and review dates for an offender's incarceration status change or release conditions. Nova Scotia's and Manitoba's legislation contain similar comprehensive lists, as does the legislation in Ontario.

Although provincial legislation addresses the availability of funds to promote the dissemination of information as well as what information ought to be provided to victims, criminal law falls under federal legislative responsibility in Canada. Indeed, Canada's *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* states that victims, including specified dependents or cohabitants if the victim is deceased or incapacitated, can request certain information from the Commissioner of Corrections. This legislation is of importance once an accused has been convicted of a criminal offence. The Commissioner must disclose the name of the offender, the offence of which the offender was convicted and the court that convicted the offender, the length of the sentence and the date that the sentence began, and all eligibility and review dates concerning temporary absences or parole. Additional information may be requested by the victim and may be released by the offender provided that the Commissioner concludes that the offender's right to privacy is outweighed by the interest of the victim. This information includes items such as the offender's age, the date of any temporary absences or releases as well as the destination of the offender on any absences or releases. If persons other than the victim or an appropriate other satisfy the Commissioner that they should receive the same information, the Commissioner will provide it.

Additional Legislative Provisions for the Use of Victim Funding

Jurisdictions other than Alberta provide for some additional provisions for uses of funding for victims. In British Columbia, funds are to be used for legal representation for the victim if it is required and the victim cannot afford it. Saskatchewan's *Victims of Crime Act, 1995* states that money from the victim fine surcharges on criminal sentences may also be used for crime prevention measures.

Other Acts specify some rules of conduct in relation to victims. For example, the Ontario *Victims' Bill of Rights* specifies that officials of the same gender as the victim should interview victims of sexual assault, if requested by the victim. Additionally, stolen property should be returned to the victim promptly. Nova Scotia's *Victims' Rights and Services Act* also recognizes the right of the victim to have stolen property returned.

3.1.4 Victim Inclusion Legislation

Most of the provincial/territorial legislation dealing with victimization is concerned with monetary compensation for victims of crime, as well as research and programs to assist victims. In addition to compensation and assistance, however, victimology research suggests that involving the victim in the process (if they choose to be involved)

can better enable the victim to heal and deal with the victimization psychologically.¹⁶ “Restorative justice approaches crime as an injury or wrong done to another person rather than solely as a matter of breaking the law or offending against the state.”¹⁷ Essentially, the victim is made a part of the criminal law process, rather than simply an observer of the operation of the strict criminal court conception of state against offender (see Figure 3.1 earlier in this chapter). Some provincial and federal legislation does attempt to incorporate aspects of restorative justice within its victim legislation, usually allowing for the victim to choose whether he or she wishes to be involved in restorative justice initiatives. Alberta’s legislation is silent on this subject, in large part because some victims’ groups have expressed concerns that restorative justice programs are largely, in their view, offender-centred and insufficiently victim-centred. As well, it remains, as yet, unclear that adopting a restorative justice approach would serve the best interests of all victims. Restorative justice initiatives may also be more appropriate for certain types of victims (of for example, property-related incidents) than other type of victims (in particular, victims of sexual offences).

Newfoundland’s *Victims of Crime Services Act* provides that victims should be encouraged to participate in mediation and conciliation procedures to resolve disputes. Similarly, Manitoba’s Act contains elements of restorative justice. For example, in Manitoba a victim has the right to meet with a convicted offender to explain the impact the crime has had on the victim. In typical restorative justice terminology, the Act specifies that this meeting is available to “[a] victim who believes it would be of assistance in going forward with his or her life to meet with the offender.”¹⁸

The *Criminal Code* also encourages victim participation. Section 722 of the *Code* states that the Court must consider any statements prepared by the victim in accordance with the *Code*, describing the harm done to or loss suffered by the victim. These victim impact statements are to be used in deciding what sentence should be imposed on an offender, including whether the offender should be eligible for a discharge. A recent addition to the *Criminal Code* provides that the Court shall permit a victim to read the statement in court if he or she chooses. Although victim impact statements are discussed in further detail elsewhere in this report (see Appendix D) it is worth noting that one reason to include victim impact statements in the court system is to allow victims an opportunity to have a voice in the criminal court process.¹⁹

3.2 Legislation from Other Countries

3.2.1 Monetary Compensation for Victims – Comparison with Other Countries

Victim compensation legislation has been passed in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Although a complete review of the legislative initiatives

¹⁶ See for example, Canada Justice, *Restorative Justice in Canada: A Consultation Paper*. Retrieved September 2, 2001, from <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/rjap.html#Part1>.

¹⁷ Again, see *Restorative Justice in Canada: A Consultation Paper*.

¹⁸ *The Victims’ Rights Act* S. M. 1998, c.V55, s.11(1).

¹⁹ Although several authors and judges discuss the use of victim impact statements and their pros and cons, a succinct description and analysis is given by Judge Fradsham of the Provincial Court of Alberta in *R. v. Abraham* [1998]. A. J. 1380 (Prov. Ct.). Online: QL (AJ).

of these countries is beyond the scope of this chapter, in the following sections we highlight provisions in international legislation from those jurisdictions that differ from Alberta's legislation.

Australia and New Zealand

Victim compensation legislation is found in all eight Australian states and territories: New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia, Australia Capital Territory, and Victoria. No similar legislation was found for New Zealand. As in Canada, levies on criminal fines and other designated funds form victim assistance funds in Australia, which are applied toward direct financial compensation as well as other victim assistance and inclusion programs.

In most Australian states and territories, the definition of who may apply for compensation is similar to that found in Canadian jurisdictions. Like in British Columbia, some states specify that family members include same-sex partners (e.g., New South Wales) whereas other states and territories explicitly refer to opposite-sex partners only (see, e.g., Northern Territory), as does Alberta's legislation.

Many of the states and territories define a victim as someone suffering an injury as a result of the commission of an offence. Eligibility varies from requiring an act of violence in Victoria to the broad definition in Queensland of suffering as a result of an indictable offence. "Injury" in Australian legislation is commonly defined to include not only physical impairments and damage to mental health, but pregnancy. Indeed, victims of sexual assault in most states and territories in Australia may apply for victim compensation to assist them in raising children born as a result of sexual assault. Queensland's *Criminal Offence Victims Act* broadens the definition of injury for sexual assault victims, allowing compensation for negative effects including a sense of violation, feelings of insecurity, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and an adverse impact on lawful sexual relations.

The legislation in New South Wales and Victoria specifies that, in addition to the primary victim and that victim's family members, secondary victims who suffer harm as a result of witnessing the criminal act may apply for compensation. The amount available for compensation is lower for secondary victims than for primary victims. Australia Capital Territory includes a unique provision allowing property owners to apply for compensation if their property is damaged because of acts taken to assist a police officer or a victim.

The time limit for making an application in Australia is similar to the time limits found in Canadian jurisdictions, ranging between one and two years. Most Australian legislation does not require a criminal conviction before compensation will be granted, but rather requires proof on a balance of probabilities as in Canada. Queensland, however, focuses on the fundamental principle of the offender paying for his or her crimes. Thus, the victim must apply to court for a compensation order payable by the offender. The order may not exceed the amounts tabled in the Act. If the offender does not satisfy the order, then the victim may apply to the state to pay part or all of the unsatisfied order.

With a few minor exceptions, the processes for compensation applications in the Australian states and territories do not appear to be very different from those found in Canada. Some processes are more formal, but most specify that the burden of proof should be on a balance of probabilities, and most allow consideration of evidence that may not be admissible in a standard civil proceeding.

The maximum compensation available varies among the states of Australia, much like the variance seen across Canada. The lowest maximum of \$10,000 is found in Tasmania, unless the victim was helping the police, in which case there is no maximum. The highest maximum appears in Queensland, where the regulations specify a maximum amount of \$75,000. Some of the states and territories allow different maximum compensation amounts depending on the type of victim (e.g., primary as opposed to secondary). In New South Wales, the amount of compensation may be reduced if the injury exasperated an existing condition, rather than caused a new injury.

Although interim awards are available throughout most of Australia, some legislation requires that an interim award be recovered from a recipient victim by victim services if the end result of the investigatory process is that the victim is not entitled to full compensation (see, e.g., South Australia). Conversely, no jurisdictions in Canada that provide for interim awards require the victim to reimburse the fund if the final decision is disentitlement to compensation.

Much of the Australian legislation specifies that victims of domestic violence may receive compensation for their injuries. However, the victim will not receive any funds if that victim is still living with the offender. Although this may at first glance appear to be an overly strict rule, it avoids the undesirable prospect of an offender actually receiving a monetary benefit from his or her acts of domestic violence.²⁰

Lawyers in Australia may assist victims with the compensation application process although, as in Alberta, the system appears to be designed to minimize the need for professional assistance. Unlike Alberta,²¹ the legislation in New South Wales and Australia Capital Territory establishes that lawyers cannot charge for their assistance.

United Kingdom

The year 2001 marked a milestone in the development of United Kingdom victim legislation. In 1995, the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act* repealed the 1988 compensation legislation and set out powers for the Secretary of State to develop a Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. In 2001, the draft scheme was adopted. This legislation represents the most comprehensive treatment of the process for victim compensation found to date.

²⁰ In the workshops conducted by the authors, victim services workers indicated that, on more than one occasion, victims of domestic violence in Alberta received compensation only to deposit it into the bank account that the offender controlled.

²¹ In the workshops conducted by the authors, victim services workers indicated that, on more than one occasion, victims were encouraged by lawyers to hire their services in exchange for up to one-third of the monetary compensation amount they received.

Efforts have been made in the United Kingdom to enhance simplicity in the compensation process. Indeed, victims can access a United Kingdom Web site which provides clear guides to the compensation scheme, full information including the text of the compensation scheme as well as summaries, and all application forms. Thus, victims can receive, on-line, all the information and forms they need to apply for compensation.

The United Kingdom compensation scheme includes a detailed schedule of the amount of compensation available for each type of personal injury. Not only do the injury types and degree enjoy greater specificity, but also many more injuries are included than found in schemes from a number of other jurisdictions. For example, compared to Alberta,²² United Kingdom's compensation is available for HIV/AIDS infection received as a result of a crime, or for the loss of a fetus as a result of a crime. No compensation for mental injury is available if there is no corresponding physical injury, except in certain circumstances (such as non-consensual sex, or if someone was in reasonable fear of immediate physical harm to oneself). Additionally, a multiple injury formula exists to assist in calculating compensation amounts if a victim suffers from more than one injury.

The new compensation scheme applies to England, Wales and Scotland. Scotland's *Statutory Instruments 1999* Order No. 1747 makes some minor wording revisions to the 1995 United Kingdom legislation, such as including "Scottish Ministers" as an alternative to "Secretary of State." Section 13(2) of the United Kingdom *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995* specifically states that the Act does not apply to Northern Ireland. Neither is the resulting compensation scheme applicable to Northern Ireland.

Since a 1997 conference in Northern Ireland, researchers, committees and focus groups have examined the situation for victims in Northern Ireland and made suggestions. A draft order with an associated compensation scheme, similar to that found in the United Kingdom, is under review and expected to be law in 2002. The main difference between the Northern Ireland suggested legislation and the scheme in the United Kingdom is that the compensation will be greater in Northern Ireland.

United States

In the United States,²³ as in Canada, restitution may be ordered in a criminal court, thereby requiring the offender to pay the victim as a component of the offender's sentence.²⁴ In Canada, the federal Parliament is responsible for criminal law. As described above, provinces and territories receive victim fine surcharges from criminal offence fines and other federal monies, which are designated for victim compensation

²² It should be noted, however, that Alberta is currently re-writing the Alberta Regulations in order to include more types of medical injuries, and to base the types of injuries on medical injury codes. The new scheme should increase specificity and inclusion.

²³ Much of the United States data comes from the U. S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. Retrieved September 24, 2001, from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/factshts/cvfvca.htm>.

²⁴ Retrieved October 13, 2001, from <http://incestabuse.about.com/library/weekly/aa092297.htm>.

and victim services. Newfoundland and the territories do not have victim compensation legislation, but nonetheless use the money for other victim programs.

The United States' victim compensation system is simultaneously more and less centralized than Canada's compensation scheme. In the United States, there are both federal and state crimes. The Crime Victims Fund is a federal fund composed of money from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees and other such financial penalties imposed on offenders. The first \$10 million of this fund is used by certain federal services to deal exclusively with the investigation and prosecution of child abuse. The remaining funds are divided with 48.5% used for state compensation programs, 48.5% for state assistance programs, and 3% for federal crime victims' projects (see Section 3.2.2 below).

States will not receive the victim compensation funds from the federal government unless they meet certain criteria. The criteria include providing services for federal crime victims and assisting victims who are victimized within the state although they may reside in another state. A third requirement is that the states must provide compensation to residents who are victims of terrorist acts within or outside of the United States. Currently all states have such programs and therefore receive compensation grants. The programs have similar eligibility requirements and benefits available, with maximum awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. States can also develop their own levies on state crime offenders and either compose separate state legislation or include state victim compensation within the federal framework.

3.2.2 Funding for Victimization Research and Programs – Comparison with Other Countries

Australia and New Zealand

The dissemination of information to victims is a key component of much of the Australian legislation, as is the case in Canada. The language used in Australian legislation is often the hedging language used in Canada; victims "should" receive information is the common phrase used, as opposed to victims "must" receive the information. Similarly, the word "should" appears before the extensive list of principles or guidelines for the treatment of victims in almost all victim legislation in Australia.

One major difference between the legislation found in Australia and Canada is the intense focus in Australia on protecting the identity of the victim. Victim legislation in most of the territories and states creates a duty on the victim services coordinator or employees to protect a victim's identity by not releasing the victim's name or address.

Queensland's *Criminal Offence Victims Act* contains an interesting diversity provision that has not yet appeared in Canadian legislation, even though Canada has a multi-cultural landscape. Indeed, Queensland's legislation specifies that there is a duty for Victim Services to be responsive to issues of diversity.

New Zealand's *Victims of Offences Act* stresses the importance of notifying victims of parole hearings, releases, and escapes or discharges, especially in the case of sexual offenders. However, the "should" language prevails in this legislation as well. Victims in New Zealand, Australia and Canada should be treated with respect and

should receive information, but there is no cause of action for a victim if the system fails to meet the objectives of the legislation.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, victim personal statements, which appear on the court file in a criminal proceeding as official documents, may contain a victim's request to be kept informed of developments in the case. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme itself does not specify that funds should be used for disseminating information to victims or for victims programs. Currently, the government of the United Kingdom provides funding to certain victim organizations, including Victim Support, which is a voluntary organization dedicated to supporting victims of crime or their families. Other organizations presently receiving government funding include the Rape Crisis Federation and Support After Murder and Manslaughter.

United States

In the United States, in addition to the victim compensation funds distributed by the federal government to states, the states receive a victim assistance grant, which is then competitively awarded by the state to community organizations. The funds may only be used for direct victim assistance programs, including counselling, emergency shelter, emergency transportation and criminal justice advocacy. Although all states receive a base amount, if additional federal money is available, it is distributed in proportion with state populations. The federal government retains discretionary funds (3% of the Crime Victims Fund), which are used for victim service employees, raising awareness and developing information materials for victims.

3.2.3 Victim Inclusion Legislation – Comparison with Other Countries

Australia and New Zealand

The *Federal Crimes Act* of the Commonwealth of Australia requires that courts consider the personal circumstances of the victim when passing sentence on an offender. This has translated into legislation in each of the Australian states that allows for the use of victim impact statements in sentencing. The specific requirements range from South Australia where the victim impact statements must be read in court to Tasmania, where the court has a high degree of discretion to decide how to use statements.

The *Victim of Offences Act* in New Zealand states that victim impact statements should be incorporated into criminal sentencing. New Zealand's legislation also specifically mentions that the victim ought to have his or her fears considered on a sex offender's application for bail.²⁵

²⁵ Further victims' rights and victim inclusion are contained in the Act that will repeal the current New Zealand legislation, (i.e., *The Victim's Rights Bill*) but it is not yet in force at the time of this publication.

United Kingdom

In late December 2000, the government suggested in the United Kingdom House of Commons that victim personal statements would be introduced in 2001.²⁶ Rather than introducing victim impact statements, which deal with the effects of the crime on the victim, the Home Secretary suggested that victim personal statements would also enable victims to discuss other fears and concerns related to the crime. Since October 2001, victims may make personal statements, which become part of the court file to be used at the discretion of the court. The intent is for the personal impact statements to be considered at every stage of the criminal justice process. A review of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland was conducted in March 2000, and did not recommend the use of victim personal statements in the court process.

United States

Like in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, victim impact statements are the primary inclusion tools used in the United States. All of the states provide for an opportunity for victims to make a statement in court, whether through an oral victim impact statement, a written impact statement, or both.²⁷ In some jurisdictions the Court has the final discretion to determine whether or not particular victim impact statements may be used in court whereas in other jurisdictions, such as Canada, the use of submitted victim impact statements is mandated. Although many states in the United States permit impact statements to be used again at parole hearings, some states permit victims to submit updated impact statements for those hearings.

3.2.4 Additional Issues

The *Victim Rights Act, 1996* in New South Wales, Australia, contains an interesting provision. A Victims Advisory Board, composed of community, police and other judicial officers, has the duty of advising the Minister on policies and administration of programs for victims. The legislation mandates that this Advisory Board must consult with victims and victim groups. Thus, victims have a legislated opportunity to affect what programs and services are developed for victims.

Following New York's footsteps in 1977,²⁸ more than forty of the other states and the federal government in the United States have enacted "Son of Sam" laws. Under these laws, the government intervenes to claim any money contracted to offenders in exchange for such activities as public accounts of their crimes. For example, an offender may be offered a large sum of money by the media for an interview or a talk show appearance. This money is then confiscated by the state and is used to settle any civil claims brought against offenders by victims. The remaining money may be used

²⁶ UK House of Commons Hansard Written Answers December 21, 2000. Retrieved January 23, 2002, from <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200001/cmhansrd/vo001221/text/01221w24.htm>.

²⁷ National Center for Victims of Crime, *FYI: Victim Impact Statements*. Retrieved January 23, 2002, from http://www.ncvc.org/Infolink/Infolink_frames2.htm.

²⁸ National Center for Victims of Crime, *FYI: Notoriety for Profit/Son of Sam Legislation*. Retrieved October 13, 2001 from <http://www.ncvc.org/Infolink/Info65.htm>.

for state costs incurred to prosecute the offender, or for victim compensation funds. If funds still remain, they may be paid back to the offender.

No Alberta legislation is similar in scope to the American “Son of Sam” laws. Elsewhere in Canada, such a law does exist in one jurisdiction. The *Victims’ Right to Proceeds of Crime Act* in Ontario requires that any contract agreed to by an accused or convicted person for money in exchange for a recounting of the crime, such as through an interview, public appearance, or a movie, must be turned over to the Public Guardian and Trustee. Victims must obtain a civil judgement against the accused or convicted offender within five years of when the Public Guardian and Trustee first receive the money. The confiscated money is then used to satisfy the judgement.

3.3 Conclusion

Alberta’s *Victims of Crime Act* shares many similarities with the legislation of the other Canadian jurisdictions, as well as the legislation found in other countries. The detailed compensation scheme shares a number of factors with the United Kingdom concept, which is one of the jurisdictions to most recently conduct an overhaul of its the victim compensation legislation. The majority of legislation reviewed in this chapter addresses monetary compensation for victims of crime, as well as victim research and assistance programs. However, most countries have legislation that attempts to include victims within the criminal justice system, such as through the use of victim impact statements.

This brief comparative law review suggests some creative provisions in the victim legislation of jurisdictions outside Canada. There are three main legislative ideas that are found in those jurisdictions, but not extensively in Canada: expanding the definition of victim; examining psychological compensation availability; and focusing on restorative justice.

The definition of “victim” in Alberta, as in most of Canada, focuses on the primary victim and specific family members. In Australia, however, secondary victims are defined as not only family members, but witnesses, close friends, and people who intervene. Although the availability of resources must be considered, it may be worthwhile to also examine whether a class of suffering victims is unrecognized in the current structure. Where subrogation is possible, Victim Services may recover from the offender in civil court, thus addressing financial concerns associated with expanding the definition. The implications of recognizing non-primary victims, however, would need to be carefully considered, as inclusion should not be made at the expense of assistance provided to primary victims.

The United Kingdom’s legislation clearly states that compensation for psychological suffering is not available unless physical harm is also present, except in certain circumstances. Alberta’s legislation includes the provision of compensation for

“shock,” which is defined to include mental anguish.²⁹ In parts of Australia, where the definition of injury includes nervous shock or mental illness, much like Alberta’s “shock,” the result is an incentive to frame victim injuries in terms of mental illness in order to entitle the victims to compensation (Cook, David, & Grant, 1999). This may have a counter-therapeutic effect when we consider that the overall goal of victim legislation is to make the victim whole again and to help the victim move ahead (Cook, David, & Grant, 1999). The role of psychological assistance in Alberta may have a similar effect with the present legislative wording.

To a certain extent, victims may be included in Canada’s criminal process. Victims may choose to make victim impact statements at the trial, which will be used by the judge at the time of sentencing if the accused is convicted.³⁰ However, the trial process often occurs up to two years after the initial incident. Perhaps involving the victim earlier in the process, or in a less formal setting than a stressful trial, may assist with the victim’s healing process.³¹ For example, Newfoundland includes victims in mediation and conciliation procedures and in Manitoba victims have the right to meet personally with convicted offenders. Although involving victims in conciliation or personal meetings with offenders may not be appropriate for all victims, or indeed, all crimes, having the option available in Newfoundland and Manitoba provides an alternative procedure victims may choose to pursue.

The origins of criminal law are rooted in retribution: a person wronged would seek justice from the offender. In modern society, the person wronged is removed from the equation, as offences are committed against the State, not against the victim. The legislation of Alberta and other jurisdictions recognizes, however, that it is the victim and not the state who suffers the physical and psychological pain of injury and loss. Through victim compensation, assistance and inclusion legislation, the ultimate victim is not forgotten.

²⁹ In the workshops conducted by the authors, victim services workers indicated that it is not likely, in their experience, that compensation will be awarded without physical injury in Alberta. In fact, Alberta’s Financial Benefits Program does provide benefits to victims suffering from psychological or emotional injury.

³⁰ Victim impact statements may also be used by correctional authorities and the National Parole Board.

³¹ Canada Justice, *Restorative Justice in Canada: A Consultation Paper*. Retrieved September 2, 2001, from <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/rjap.html#Part1>.

4.0 FINDINGS FROM THE VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

This chapter presents findings from the three phases of the victimization survey: a screening questionnaire, a follow-up questionnaire and a telephone interview. As well, the discussion in this chapter about the impact of victimization is supplemented by findings from a content analysis of a sample of 100 victim impact statements obtained from the Calgary Police Service. The presentation of findings from the survey is organized in four general sections: (1) perceptions about victimization; (2) experience of victimization; (3) how individuals deal with victimization; (4) and general comments from respondents. The numbers of participants are different for each of the three phases; therefore, discussion of the findings will identify whether the respondents were from the screening survey (N=1,432), the follow-up survey (n=209) or the telephone interviews (n=56). In this report, detailed analysis of the response data is limited to three major demographic characteristics: gender, age, and community size.

4.1 Perceptions of Victimization

4.1.1 Opinions about Victimization as a Social Problem and Responsibility for Public Safety

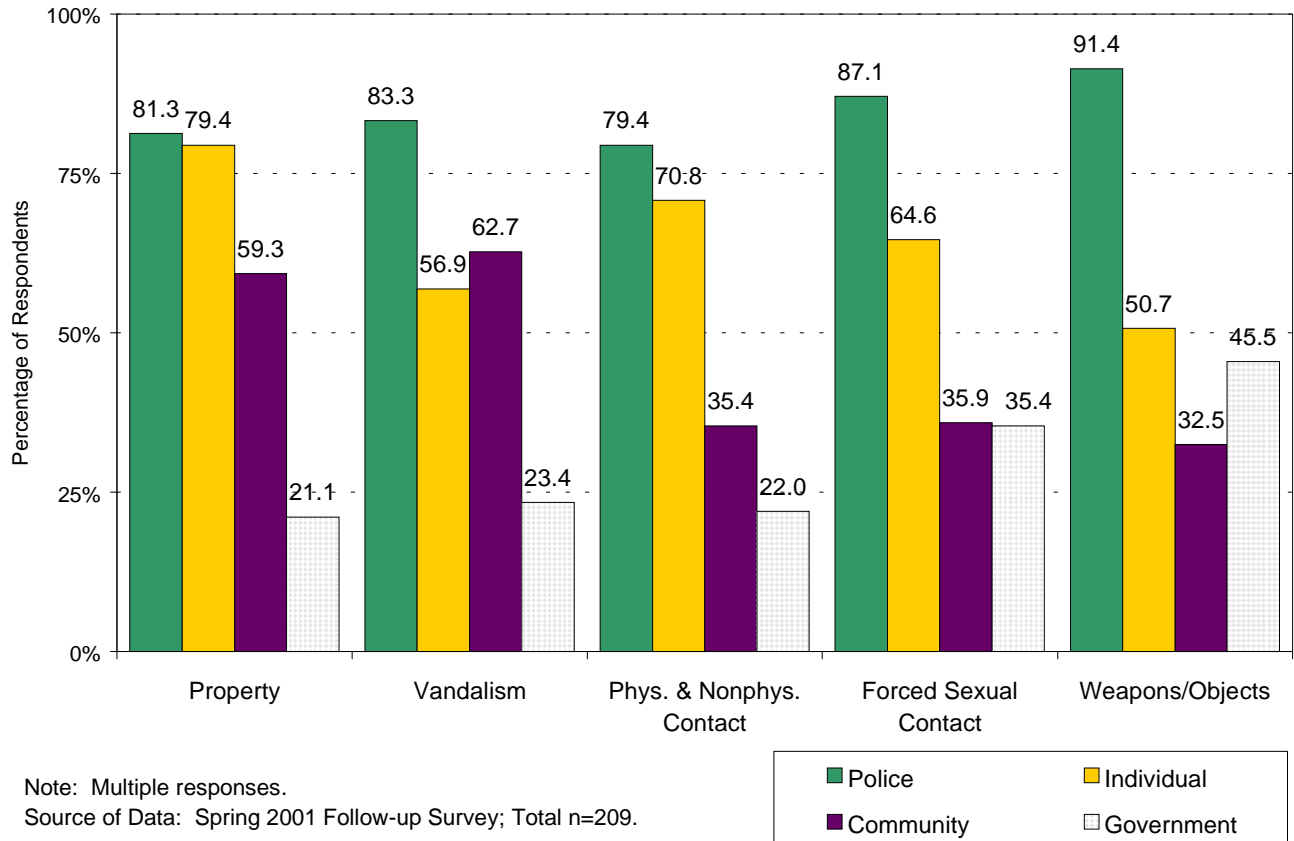
All 1,432 respondents in the screening survey were asked a few initial general questions about victimization. Two-thirds (66.3%) rated victimization as a very important social problem and over one-quarter (26.9%) felt it was somewhat important. In comparison, 5.1% indicated that they felt victimization was only slightly or not important as a social problem and 0.6% felt it was not important at all. A statistically significant gender difference was found which indicated that 96% of the 877 females who responded felt that victimization was a somewhat or very important social problem as compared to 91.5% of the 527 male respondents.

When asked whether or not they felt that Albertans who have been victimized get enough assistance from victims' services and agencies, almost half (48%) of the screening survey participants indicated that they did not know; however, 37.2% did not believe enough help is provided while 14% believed that victims do receive enough help from these groups.

Respondents to the follow-up survey were asked who they thought should have responsibility for looking after a person's safety in order to prevent certain incidents from happening. Five types of incidents were presented: property (e.g., robbery, burglary and theft); vandalism; physical and nonphysical contact; sexual contact forced on a person; and incidents involving weapons or objects intentionally used as weapons. Respondents could designate that responsibility should be held by any or all of the following groups: the individual; community; police; and government. As well, respondents could write in any other groups they felt should be responsible for safety. Results are shown in Figure 4.1, with more detailed breakdowns for each incident type by gender, age, and community size provided in Appendix Tables C-1 to C-5.

FIGURE 4.1

WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING AFTER AN INDIVIDUAL'S SAFETY?



Interestingly, the police were the most often selected group across all incident types. The vast majority of the 209 respondents indicated that the police were responsible for safety from incidents involving weapons/objects (chosen by 91.4% of the respondents). Similarly, a large percentage (87.1%) of respondents chose the police as being responsible for protection against forced sexual contact. The second most often selected alternative was the individual with, for example, 79.4% of respondents indicating that individuals are responsible for protecting their property. However, there was an exception with respect to vandalism, where 62.7% chose the community as being responsible as compared to 56.9% who felt that the individual was responsible. Only a few respondents identified other groups as being responsible for public safety, with the majority of comments referring to legislation and the court system.

Further analysis of the responses by demographic factors (gender, age, and community size) was carried out. Results are presented in Appendix Tables C-1 to C-5. With regards to perceptions that the police are responsible for property-related incidents (Table C-1), statistically significant differences were found on community size where larger proportions of respondents from larger (85.6%) and smaller (84.4%) cities chose the police as compared to respondents from towns and rural areas (65.9%). The responsibility of the police for protection against contact incidents (Table C-3) was found

to differ significantly between age groups where respondents aged 41 to 50 were the most likely to select the police (90.2%) and the oldest respondents aged 61 and above were the least likely to do so (67.2%).

The general results discussed above also point to the perception of the individual as being responsible for safety. Younger respondents as compared to older ones were more likely to select the individual when it came to vandalism (Table C-2) and weapons-related incidents (Table C-5). For example, 79.4% of participants 31 to 40 years selected the individual as responsible for safety from vandalism as compared to 42.2% of those 61 years and older. Similarly, 67.6% of respondents 31 to 40 years felt that the individual was responsible for safety from weapons-related incidents as compared to 34.4% of those aged 61 and older.

Notable statistically significant differences were also found between age and selection of the community as the group responsible for safety. A larger proportion of the youngest respondents (18 to 30 years) as compared to the older age groups chose the community as being responsible for looking after safety with regards to incidents related to property (Table C-1) and vandalism (Table C-2). When it came to personal contact incidents (physical and nonphysical contact, and forced sexual contact), however, the middle-aged groups of respondents (that is, 41 to 60 years) were more likely than the other groups to identify the community. Notably, the oldest group of respondents (61 years and older) was the least likely to select community across all of the five types of incidents.

4.1.2 Feelings of Safety

In the screening survey, most questions about feelings of safety were asked in relation to the community, with one question about how safe the respondent felt at home. Respondents were also asked for their opinions regarding the crime level in their community as compared to other areas, and whether or not they felt that the level of crime in their community had changed over the last five years. As well, individuals were asked to rate how safe they felt being at home alone after dark, walking alone in the community after dark, and waiting for or using public transportation alone after dark.

The majority of the 1,432 screening survey participants felt their community was safer than or as safe as other communities: 38.2% felt that their community had a lower level of crime as compared to other communities in their city or town, and 46.1% believed that the level of crime in their community was comparable to that of other communities. In contrast, 9.6% of respondents believed that their community had a higher crime level than other communities. Of the remaining respondents, 5.3% indicated that they did not know. Findings from more detailed analysis indicated that the youngest group of respondents (aged 18 to 30) had the highest rate of reporting that they felt their community had a higher level of crime than in other communities. Compared to 18.3% of the youngest group who felt this way, rates for the other respondents were lower (8.6% of those 31 to 40 years; 8.9% of those 41 to 50 years; 11.1% of those 51 to 60 years old; and 6.9% of those 61 years and older). Results are presented in Appendix Table C-6.

When asked whether they felt that community crime had risen in the past five years, 54.6% of the 1,432 individuals felt that crime had gone up while 24.9% thought that crime had not increased, and 19.7% indicated they did not know. There were statistically significant findings for gender, age and community size. Details are provided in Appendix Table C-7. A greater proportion of females (57.3%) than males (51.2%) felt that crime had risen. In comparing age groups, those 31 to 50 years old were the most likely to believe that crime had risen (58.8% of those aged 31 to 40, and 57.1% of those aged 41 to 50). The youngest group, aged 18 to 30, was the least likely to believe that the level of crime had gone up (50% answered “yes”); however, this group also had the highest proportion indicating they did not know whether the crime rate had changed (34.1%). Respondents from smaller cities were the most likely to report that community crime had risen: compared to 71% of individuals living in smaller cities, 48.9% from larger cities and 59.2% from rural areas felt that the level of crime in their community had gone up in the past five years.

Respondents were asked to rate on a four-point Likert scale how safe they felt being home alone after dark, how safe they felt walking alone in the community after dark, and how safe they would feel using or waiting for public transportation alone after dark. Results are shown below in Table 4.1. Consistent with most other Canadian findings, a high percentage (91.6%) of the respondents indicated they felt safe at home alone after dark. Fewer respondents felt as safe walking in their community or using public transportation. When asked about walking alone in the community after dark, less than two-thirds (64.6%) of the individuals reported they felt safe or very safe. Less than half of the survey participants (48.4%) indicated they would feel safe using or waiting for public transportation alone after dark.

TABLE 4.1
RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS REGARDING THEIR FEELINGS OF SAFETY
WHILE ENGAGING IN SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Feelings of Safety	Type of Activity ¹					
	Being Home Alone After Dark		Walking Alone in the Community After Dark		Using/Waiting for Public Transportation Alone After Dark	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Very Safe	786	55.0	345	24.2	133	11.9
Somewhat Safe	522	36.6	575	40.4	407	36.5
Somewhat Unsafe	102	7.1	375	26.4	394	35.3
Very Unsafe	18	1.3	128	9.0	182	16.3
Subtotal	1,428	100.0	1,423	100.0	1,116	100.0
Not Applicable ²	-		-		290	
Total	1,428		1,423		1,406	

¹ Missing cases on "Being Home Alone After Dark" = 4.
Missing cases on "Walking Alone in the Community After Dark" = 9.
Missing cases on "Using/Waiting for Public Transportation Alone After Dark" = 26.

² In the question about using or waiting for public transportation alone after dark, 290 respondents indicated "No public transportation in my city/town."

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

Statistically significant relationships were found when gender, age, and community size were compared to each of the three activities (with the exception of community size and being home alone). Results are shown in Appendix Tables C-8 to C-10. Females were consistently more conservative than males in rating their level of safety across all three situations. That is, females were more likely to report that they felt “somewhat safe” while males were more likely to select “very safe.” When asked about how they felt being home alone after dark, 43.8% of females as compared to 24.5% of males reported feeling somewhat safe; however, compared to 69.9% of males who reported feeling very safe, 46.3% of females made the same response. Even greater gender differences were obtained for both walking alone in the community after dark, and using or waiting for public transportation alone after dark. As compared to females, males were more than twice as likely to report that they felt very safe walking in the community (39.4% as compared to 15.2%). Similarly, for using public transportation alone at night, 21.6% of males reported that they would feel very safe while only 5.9% of females felt the same way.

When feelings of safety were examined in relation to respondents’ age, the oldest group of respondents, aged 61 and older, had the highest percentage who reported they felt very or somewhat unsafe being at home alone after dark (10.8%), and using public transportation alone after dark (53.5%). Interestingly, it was the youngest (40.9%) and oldest (39.9%) age groups who were most likely to report feeling very or somewhat unsafe walking alone in their community after dark.

Individuals residing in towns and rural areas were considerably more likely to indicate that they felt very safe (31.8%) walking alone in the community at night as compared to those living in the cities (21.7% for larger cities and 20.1% for smaller cities). When asked about using public transportation, however, town and rural area residents had the lowest proportion of respondents who indicated they would feel very safe. Compared to 7% of town and rural area respondents who selected very safe, 11.6% of those in larger cities and 14.9% in smaller cities reported feeling very safe.

4.1.3 Concern about Being Victimized

Related to questions about how safe people felt, the screening survey included a question asking respondents how concerned they were that something would happen to them in the next year. Respondents were asked about three kinds of incidents: burglary or theft; vandalism; and physical assault. Results are shown below in Table 4.2. Individuals were considerably more concerned about being burgled or vandalized than they were about being physically attacked. Over 82% of respondents indicated they were very or somewhat concerned about being burgled or vandalized. In comparison, 57.5% reported they were very or somewhat concerned that they would be assaulted.

When further analysed by gender, age and community size, statistically significant results were found only for the following: gender and concern about being burgled; gender and concern about being physically assaulted; and community size and

TABLE 4.2

RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS REGARDING THEIR CONCERN ABOUT BEING BURGLED, VANDALIZED OR ASSAULTED IN THE NEXT YEAR

Level of Concern	Type of Incident ¹					
	Burglary or Theft		Vandalism		Physical Assault	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Very Concerned	263	18.7	297	21.1	132	9.5
Somewhat Concerned	905	64.2	872	62.0	667	48.0
Not Concerned At All	242	17.2	237	16.9	591	42.5
Total	1,410	100.0	1,406	100.0	1,390	100.0

¹ Missing cases on "Burglary or Theft" = 22.
 Missing cases on "Vandalism" = 26.
 Missing cases on "Physical Assault" = 42.

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

concern about being physically assaulted. Women were generally more concerned than men for both types of incidents. With regards to the possibility of being burgled, 66.9% of females (n=873) were somewhat concerned and 18.2% were very concerned; however, 60.2% of males (n=525) were somewhat concerned and 19% were very concerned. Similarly, women (n=860) were more likely than men (n=518) to feel very concerned (11.6% as compared to 5.6% for men) or somewhat concerned (53.6% as compared to 39%) about being assaulted in the next year. Community size was also statistically related to concern about being assaulted. Generally, individuals living in the cities were more worried than those in towns and rural areas. In larger cities (n=782), 49.2% were somewhat concerned and 10.6% were very concerned; and in smaller cities (n=192), 52.1% were somewhat concerned and 7.3% were very concerned. In towns and rural areas (n=366), however, 49.2% were somewhat concerned and 7.9% were very concerned.

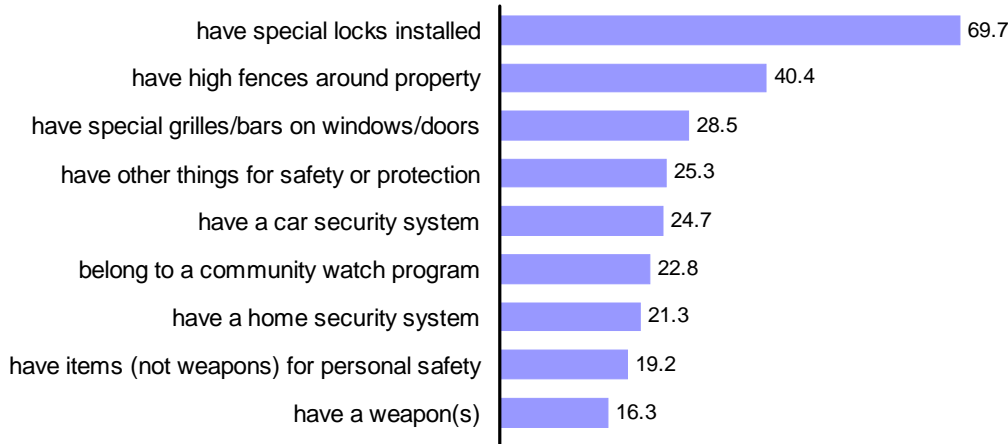
4.1.4 Protective Measures Taken Related to Security

A range of items was listed in the screening questionnaire describing various precautions or strategies people undertake in order to increase security of their property (e.g., installing a home security system) or to increase their ability to protect themselves (e.g., taking a self-defence course). The 1,432 survey participants were asked if they presently had a certain item or had ever carried out a certain activity in order to feel safer or for protection. Almost all of the respondents (98.5%) had taken some kind of precaution for reasons of safety. Only 21 (1.5%) of the survey participants indicated they had never taken any of the precautions or possessed any of the items listed in the questionnaire. Figure 4.2 shows the percentages of respondents who indicated having utilized one or more of the precautionary measures (including any other strategies as described in the write-in comments). Results from more detailed analysis by gender, age, and community size are shown in Appendix Table C-11.

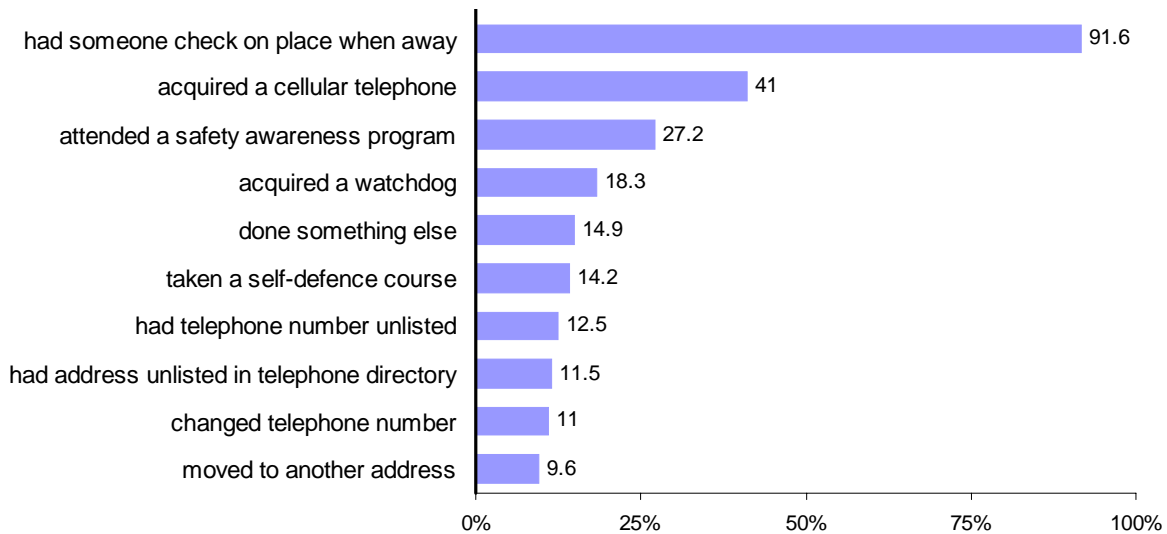
FIGURE 4.2

ACTIVITIES RESPONDENTS CARRIED OUT FOR REASONS OF SAFETY OR PROTECTION

% of 1,432 Respondents Who Reported They Presently ...



% of 1,432 Respondents Who Reported They Have Ever ...



Note: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

Generally, higher report rates were found for precautionary measures that are intended to make property more secure. Gender differences tended to occur more for personal safety measures, such as taking a self-defence course, where females (18.1%) were more likely to indicate that they had carried out the activity as compared to males (7.7%). The vast majority of respondents (91.6%) indicated they had someone check on their place when they were away, and this measure was carried out regardless of whether respondents lived in urban or rural areas. Females (93.8%) as compared to males (88.1%) were more likely to report they arranged for someone to check on their place. As well, the more middle-aged respondents, 51 to 60 years, were the most likely to indicate they utilized this strategy (94.3%).

Over two-thirds (69.7%) of respondents reported that they presently had special locks (e.g., deadbolts or special window latches) installed. Younger respondents were more likely to indicate they had done this as compared to older ones. For example, 80.2% of those individuals aged 31 to 40 reported they had special locks installed while 65% of those 61 years and older selected this security measure. Respondents in the cities were also more likely to have installed special locks (79.3% in larger cities and 73.5% in smaller cities) than those living in towns and rural areas (48.4%).

Having high fences around the property was also one of the more common items as selected by 40.4% of respondents. Over half of the respondents from smaller cities (52.5%) indicated they had high fences as compared to 47.6% from larger cities and 19.3% from towns and rural areas.

With respect to strategies related to personal safety, 41% of respondents indicated they acquired a cellular telephone for protection, with females more likely than males to do so (45% females as compared to 34.3% males). The younger respondents (aged 18 to 40) were also more likely than the older ones to indicate they acquired cell phones. Respondents living in towns and rural areas were more likely than those in the cities (46% as compared to 39% in cities) to obtain a cell phone.

Respondents who reported they had weapons (16.3%) were also asked what types of weapons they owned and where the weapons were kept or stored. The majority of the 261 comments written by respondents identified firearms (e.g., guns and rifles), blunt objects, baseball bats, and knives. Most of the 189 descriptions about storage places indicated that the weapons were kept locked up in a case or cabinet. More general descriptions stated that the weapons were “kept in the bedroom,” or stored “at home.” Males (27.5%) were considerably more likely than females (9.6%) to report possession of one or more weapons. As well, respondents from towns and rural areas had the highest proportion reporting they had weapons: compared to 24.9% of those living in towns and rural areas, 17.5% from smaller cities and 11.8% from larger cities indicated they owned weapons for the purpose of security.

About one-quarter (25.3%) of respondents reported they presently had other items for safety or protection, and 14.9% indicated they had done something else in order to feel safer. These other strategies most often included installing motion detector lights or installing additional lighting in and around the house. More personal strategies included possessing specialized skills such as military defence training or just being more aware of one’s surroundings. As well, a number of the 413 comments mentioned that having pets (e.g., cats or dogs) provided a feeling of security.

4.2 Victimization Experiences

4.2.1 Prevalence of Victimization

Prevalence rates are meant to provide information on whether or not individuals have been victimized. There are certain limitations that must be taken into consideration when interpreting prevalence rates, however (Young, Morris, Cameron & Haslett, 2001). Measures of prevalence typically under-report actual experience since it

is very difficult to account for every instance of victimization. In particular, prevalence rates are limited by not being able to account for multiple victimization where an overall group rate masks the fact that it is actually only a few individuals who have been victimized many times. Moreover, prevalence rates do not measure serial victimization where a single reported event may actually involve a number of different activities, each contributing to that victimization. The advantage of prevalence rates, however, is that they do provide a measure of the range of different kinds of victimization incidents that have happened.

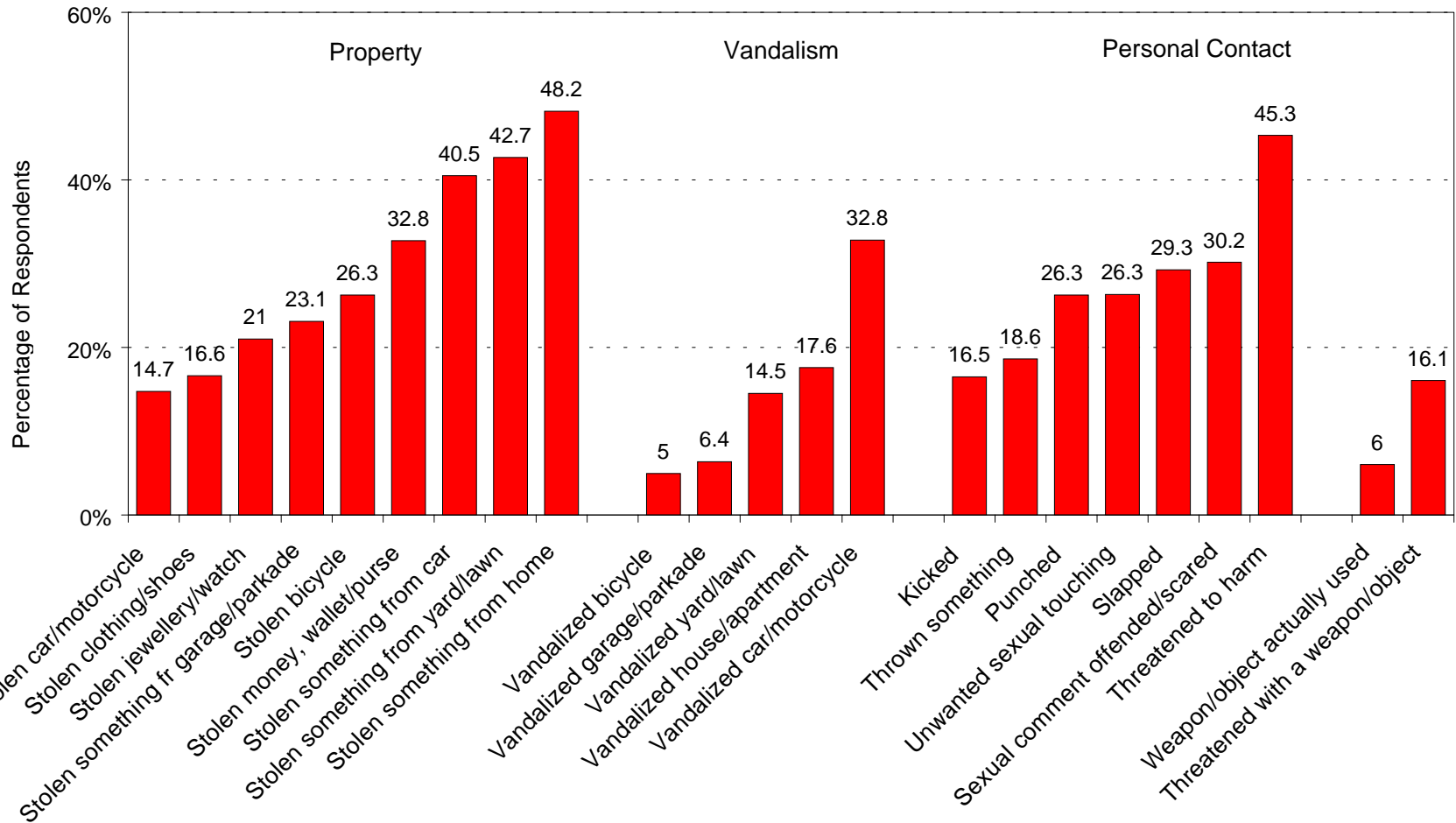
The victimization incidents that were reported by the survey participants can be grouped into three general categories: property, vandalism, and personal contact (including physical and nonphysical contact). Among the screening (N=1,432) and follow-up (n=209) survey participants, property-related incidents were most often identified as having happened to the respondent one or more times. The following three types of property incidents had the highest prevalence rates in both surveys: having something stolen from home; having something stolen from the yard or lawn; and having something stolen from the car. For vandalism, having the car vandalized was the incident most often identified. With respect to personal contact, being threatened with harm or to be hurt had the highest prevalence rates. In the follow-up survey, 114 of the 209 respondents reported on their most serious victimization over the last three years, and personal contact and property incidents were the most often described.

A distribution of the lifetime prevalence rates is shown in Figure 4.3, where the percentage of respondents who reported being victimized one or more times in their lifetime is presented by type of incident. More detailed analysis of the incidents by gender and age is shown in Appendix Tables C-12 to C-15. Of the 1,432 participants in the screening survey, 93.9% indicated in the questionnaire they had been victimized at least once in their lifetime. Since respondents were asked to report on lifetime experience, time is an important factor. One would expect that the chances of something having happened would be greater for older than younger respondents. One way to control for this is to compare victimization experience by age group. Interestingly, the findings do not show that the older the respondents the more likely they are to have been victimized. The overall findings do indicate, however, that victimization experiences differ across gender and age groups. Whether victimization changes with age cannot be accurately determined using the current cross-sectional data, rather, it would require a longitudinal comparison.

Younger respondents tended to have higher report rates for personal contact incidents and for being threatened with a weapon or object while the oldest group (aged 61 and older) had the lowest proportion reporting on the same type of incidents. For example, compared to 62.1% of respondents aged 18 to 30, a considerably lower 27.6% of individuals 61 years and older reported they had been threatened with harm by someone on at least one occasion. Compared to the oldest respondents, the youngest individuals were twice as likely to report they had been threatened with a

FIGURE 4.3

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED BEING VICTIMIZED ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THEIR LIFETIME



50

Note: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

weapon or object intended as a weapon at least once (22% of individuals 18 to 30 years as compared to 10.3% of those at least 61 years).

The more middle-aged respondents tended to have the highest report rates for property-related victimization. For instance, 54.3% of individuals 41 to 50 years old reported having experienced something stolen from their home one or more times as compared to 40.9% of the youngest group of respondents aged 18 to 30. Notably, exceptions occurred for having money, wallet or a purse stolen, and for having clothing or shoes stolen where respondents 18 to 30 years had the highest victimization rates (40.2% and 24.2% respectively) as compared to other individuals.

Overall, there was no large gender difference in the total victimization rates.³² There was, however, a difference in personal contact victimization where females as compared to males had a higher rate of reporting on the following: being slapped; hearing offensive sexual comments; and experiencing unwanted sexual touching. Males were more likely to report on: being threatened with harm; being punched; being kicked; and having weapons or objects used against them. Gender differences were also found for other types of incidents. For property-related victimization, a greater proportion of females reported having money, wallet or a purse stolen. Males, however, had higher report rates for having a vehicle vandalized than did females.

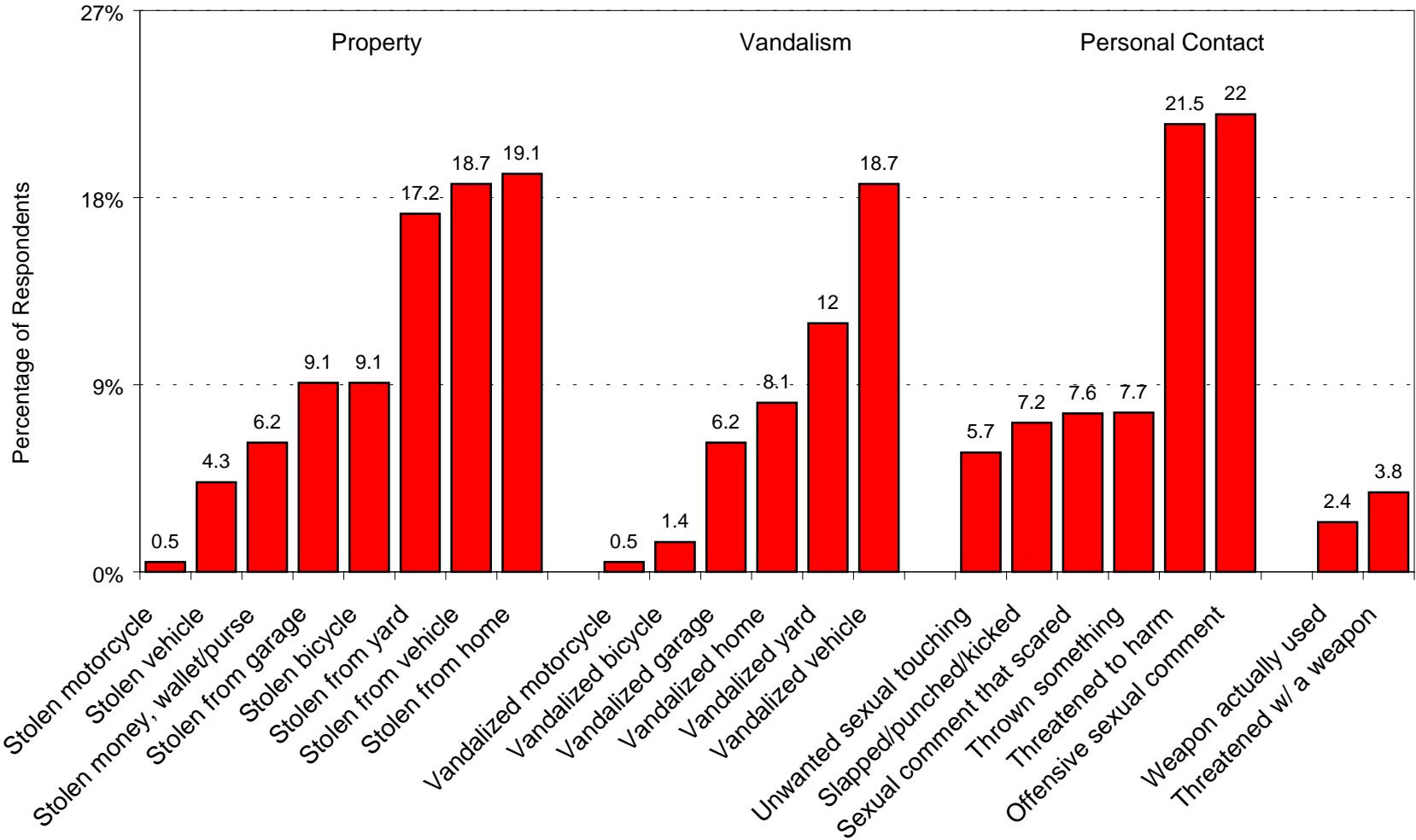
Figure 4.4 shows the distribution of victimization prevalence rates for the 209 respondents who participated in the follow-up survey. The rates represent a narrower window of experience since participants were asked to report on whether or not they had been victimized (one or more times) in the last three years as opposed to their lifetime. In this second survey, 71.8% (150) of the respondents reported that one or more types of incidents had happened to them within the past three years. That is, these 209 respondents had reported on lifetime victimization in the screening survey and 71.8% of them further reported that they were victimized at least once in the last three years.

As would be expected, prevalence rates declined quite dramatically when counting only the last three years. A comparison of Figures 4.3 and 4.4 shows that the overall distribution pattern of victimization incidents was comparable between lifetime prevalence and that of the last three years. Interestingly, however, being a victim of offensive sexual comments was one of the most often reported incidents (22%) for the respondents reporting on the last three years (see Figure 4.4) while for lifetime prevalence rates several other kinds of incidents were more prevalent (see Figure 4.3).

³² Supplementary analysis was conducted to look at interaction effects between age and gender. While there is a statistically significant gender difference for age, results from the more detailed analysis were generally consistent with the overall results (which are shown in Appendix Tables C-12 to C-15). Due to space limitations, results from the supplementary analysis are not shown in this report.

FIGURE 4.4

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED BEING VICTIMIZED ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS



Note: Multiple responses. Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey; Total n=209.

More detailed analysis of the prevalence rates was restricted by the relatively small sample size; therefore, the demographic breakdown of the three-year prevalence rates across incident types is not presented in this report. The results, however, indicated that the overall experience of the follow-up respondents was comparable to the larger initial screening survey group of 1,432 individuals.

A number of demographic differences were found in the follow-up survey results.³³ The youngest respondents aged 18 to 30, as compared to the older groups, had higher rates of reporting personal contact victimization such as being slapped, punched or kicked, and having something thrown at them. Further analysis also revealed that of respondents who had been victims of offensive sexual comments, females were much more likely to report as compared to males (30.1% of 136 females as compared to 6.8% of 73 males reported this happened at least once). Respondents 31 to 50 years were more likely to report this type of incident than was the case for other age groups (about 35% of 85 individuals aged 31 to 50 reported on this incident). Community size was significant for having something stolen from a vehicle and for vandalism of a garage. Compared to 22.7% of 132 respondents from larger cities, only 3.1% of 32 individuals from smaller cities and 18.2% of 44 individuals from towns and rural areas were victimized by theft from a vehicle. Respondents in the larger cities were the only ones to report vandalism of a garage (9.8% of 132 respondents).

TABLE 4.3
FREQUENCY OF VICTIMIZATION FOR INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED
IN THE LAST THREE YEARS

No. of Times Victimized in the Last 3 Years	Property		Vandalism		Personal Contact		Total Incidents	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1	34	38.2	41	58.6	15	21.4	29	21.6
2	23	25.8	14	20.0	16	22.9	28	20.9
3	15	16.9	7	10.0	6	8.6	12	9.0
4	5	5.6	6	8.6	8	11.4	11	8.2
5	4	4.5	1	1.4	4	5.7	9	6.7
6	3	3.4	0	0.0	4	5.7	7	5.2
7	2	2.2	1	1.4	1	1.4	10	7.5
8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	3.0
9	1	1.1	0	0.0	2	2.9	2	1.5
10	1	1.1	0	0.0	3	4.3	4	3.0
More than 10	1	1.1	0	0.0	11	15.7	18	13.4
Total	89	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	134	100.0

Note: Frequency counts include only the 22 victimization incidents that were listed in the survey questionnaire: 8 property-related, 6 vandalism, and 8 personal contact. Frequency counts could not be obtained for other kinds of victimizations described by respondents as they were not asked to specify the number of times each incident occurred.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey; Total n=209.

³³ In supplementary analysis, a significant interaction between gender and age was found. Small subtotals restricted statistical comparisons of males and females by age group; however, patterns of gender differences in responses were largely consistent with overall results.

Table 4.3 (above) shows the number of times, or the frequency, of victimization for the three categories of incidents asked about in the follow-up questionnaire. Of the 209 follow-up respondents, 134 provided information on the number of times an incident had happened to them in the last three years. The frequencies shown in Table 4.3 are based only on the 23 victimization incidents listed in the questionnaire since respondents were not asked to write the number of occurrences when they described other kinds of victimizations. Over half of the individuals were victimized three times or less. When looking at total incidents in Table 4.3, 69 of the 134 respondents (51.5%) reported that they were victimized once (n=29), twice (n=28) or three (n=12) times. Notably, 58.6% of vandalisms only happened once. Victimization from personal contact, however, tended to occur more frequently as compared to property-related victimization or vandalism. In particular, 15.7% of personal contact incidents represented 10 or more episodes.

4.2.2 When and Where Victimization Occurs

As discussed earlier in the methodology chapter, respondents were asked in the follow-up survey to briefly describe the most serious time they were victimized. Of the 209 participants in the survey, 114 completed this part of the questionnaire. These individuals mostly wrote about property-related incidents (40.4%) and personal contact (40.4%); relatively fewer respondents reported on vandalism (12.3%). The remaining respondents (7%) described a fairly wide range of incidents, the majority of which included being falsely accused of something, receiving poor service from a business establishment, and road rage or road-related incidents.

The majority of the most serious victimization incidents as reported by the 114 respondents took place some time within the last two years from the survey period: six incidents took place in 2001; 36 occurred in 2000; 49 in 1999; and 14 in 1998 (nine respondents did not report when the incident took place). The large majority of individuals (93.9%) reported that their incidents had occurred in Alberta.

Information about the context of the most serious victimization incident focused on where and when it happened. For almost two-thirds (59.6%) of the 114 respondents, the most serious victimization in the last three years occurred in their home. The second location most often identified was the workplace, as reported by 12 individuals (10.5%). The public street was the third most often listed location, as reported by 11 individuals (9.6%). Respondents who indicated that the incident happened at home were also asked if they were home at the time, and 39 of the 68 individuals (57.4%) replied that they were.

When asked at about what time of day the incident happened, the two most prevalent times were in the late evening or early morning hours between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. (as reported by 28.9% of the 114 individuals), and in the afternoon between noon and 5 p.m. (21.9% of the individuals). A number of respondents indicated that they did not know or did not remember the time (16.7%). As well, over half of the respondents (57%) reported that the incident occurred on a weekday, while 17.5% indicated the weekend.

4.2.3 Relationship Between the Victim and the Offender

Almost one-third (32.5%) of the 114 respondents, in referring to their most serious victimization in the last three years, stated that they knew who their offender was. In order for respondents to specify the type of relationship they had with the offender, a list of different kinds of relationships was provided and respondents could check one or more of the items. As well, respondents were able to list any other types of relationships not specified in the list. The relationships that were most often indicated included: an acquaintance (e.g., neighbour), a family member, a spouse/partner, a co-worker, an ex-spouse/ex-partner, and a friend. Similarly, about one-third of the respondents (35.3% or 24 of the 68 individuals) who had indicated that the incident occurred in their home also reported that they knew the offender; however, over half (52.9%) stated they did not know who the offender was.

The screening questionnaire also asked about the victim-offender relationship. Respondents who indicated they had been victimized one or more times in their lifetime by a particular type of incident were also asked if, for the most recent occurrence, they knew the offender and if they reported the occurrence to the police. The results are presented in a later section in this chapter (Section 4.3.2) where the discussion of findings focuses on the relationship between reporting incidents to the police and whether victims knew the offender.

4.2.4 Seriousness and Impact of the Incident

It should be noted that since respondents were asked to report on their single most serious victimization, the findings for the 114 individuals likely reflect a somewhat higher level of seriousness than would be the case if all incidents over the last three years were to be included. A number of different types of variables were measured in analysing the seriousness of victimization in order to collect data that would assist in identifying the effect of the incident on the victim's quality of life. Respondents were asked about consequences of the act, the impact of the incident on their life, and the impact of the incident on their family. Consequences of the act covered a variety of areas including medical, psychological, physical, and financial. As well, consequences of the act included whether or not the police were involved.

Seriousness of an incident may also be related to whether or not it is a crime. Data on reporting to the police and whether the police charged someone were also collected. Of the 114 respondents, 62.3% indicated that the police were notified of the incident. The police charged someone in 20.8% of the incidents and did not charge anyone in 66.7% of the incidents. For the remaining nine incidents, seven respondents did not know if charges were laid and no response was given in two cases.

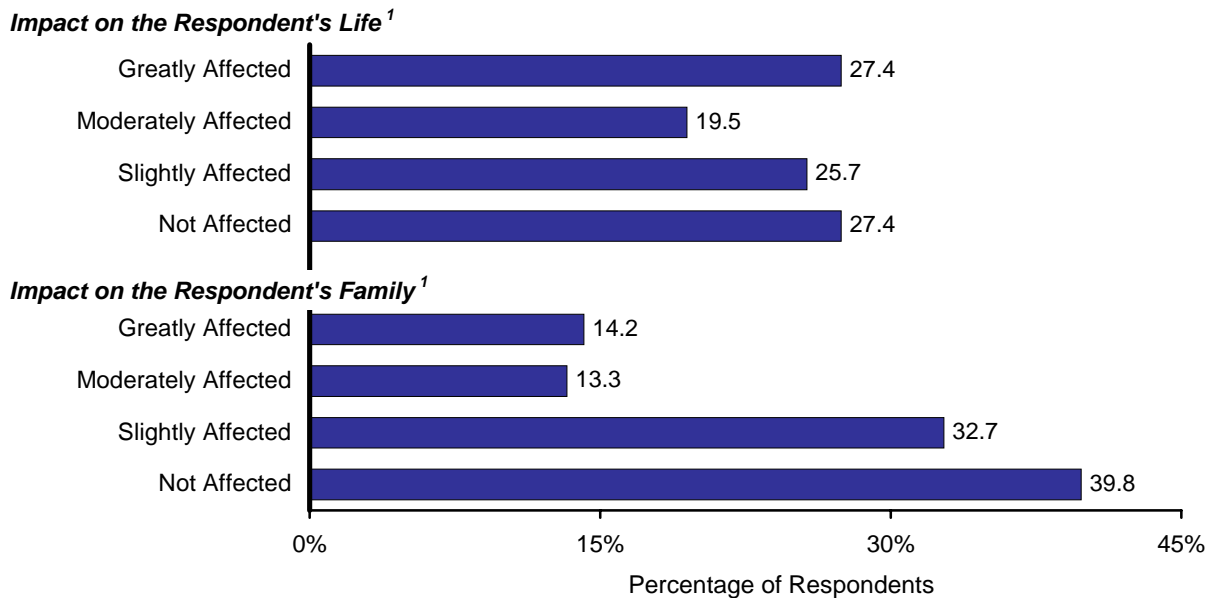
Respondents were asked about physical injury, emotional or psychological distress, the need for special services (e.g., medical attention), and financial burden. Of the 114 respondents, 10.5% indicated that the incident caused them some level of physical injury; however, a considerably higher 81.4% of individuals reported that they suffered psychological or emotional distress. With regards to requiring specialized services, the most often identified needs were related to professional counselling (14%), time off work (10.5%), and medical attention (8.8%).

When asked if they had incurred any out-of-pocket expenses as a result of the incident, the following types of expenses were the most often cited by respondents: insurance deductibles (14.9%); the cost of replacing uninsured items (14.9%); the cost of replacing stolen items (7%); property damage (5.3%); and costs related to transportation (e.g., gasoline or taxi fare; 8.8%). The amount of the expenses varied widely. A number of respondents stated they had expenses in the thousands of dollars.

The majority of the 114 respondents reported that they did not receive any kind of financial compensation or reimbursement. Of these 87 individuals (79.8%), 16 reported they did not apply because they were not eligible and 16 reported that they did not know about any compensation. Another eight individuals indicated they did not have enough information in order to file an application. Two respondents had their applications turned down. A fairly wide range of other reasons for not applying was given by 22 respondents (e.g., missed the deadline), and a considerable number of individuals (23 respondents) did not explain why they did not receive compensation.

The overall levels of impact of the incident on the respondent's life and on the respondent's family are shown below in Figure 4.5. Respondents were asked to rate, using a four-point Likert scale, the degree to which the most serious victimization incident affected their life. Using the same scale, respondents were also asked to rate the level of impact the incident had on their family. Less than half (46.9%) of the 113 who responded indicated their lives were greatly or moderately impacted while over half (53.1%) felt they were slightly or not affected at all. Over one-quarter of the respondents (27.5%) stated their family was greatly or moderately affected.

FIGURE 4.5
RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS ON THE IMPACT OF THE MOST SERIOUS VICTIMIZATION INCIDENT ON THEIR LIFE AND ON THEIR FAMILY



¹ Missing cases = 1.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey. Respondents reporting on the most serious victimization, n=114.

When the results were compared on demographic factors, a significant gender difference was found in respondent ratings of the impact on their lives. Females were more likely than males to indicate that the incident had a moderate or great impact on their lives. Compared to 55.8% of the 77 female respondents, 27.8% of the 36 male respondents rated the impact of their incident as moderate or great. Overall, incidents that were rated as having a moderate or great impact tended to be related to personal contact. For women in particular, these incidents often involved partner-related violence, sexual offences, and other physical assaults.

In telephone interviews with 56 individuals, all talked about feeling more vulnerable. For some of the respondents this feeling lasted only a short time, but for others the impact had ramifications that lasted years. At the time of the interview, nine respondents described how they were still living in fear of being victimized again either by the offender returning or by strangers doing something to them. In particular, victims who had been assaulted were now more watchful regardless of whether they were at home or out in public. As well, the individuals were more sensitive to who was around them and what they were doing. Individuals who were victimized in the workplace or in their businesses described seeing all customers as potential “attackers” or “robbers.” Related to this perceived need to be prepared for the possibility of being attacked or robbed again, three respondents who were parents talked about being overly worried or overly protective of their children. The desire to regain some sense of security was often related to a feeling of loss or sorrow that one’s privacy had been violated or “stolen.” Seven respondents talked about installing additional security devices (in the home, on their property, and in their car), and one respondent acquired a watchdog.

The impact of the victimization incident was also felt in other ways. Five respondents continued to suffer poor health, and had physical and emotional problems (e.g., depression and panic attacks). Three individuals talked about losing their jobs and having a difficult time looking for employment because their professional reputation had been damaged. Six of the respondents expressed feelings of betrayal or disillusionment with the kind of service or assistance they received from a victim assistance agency, counselling service or legal office.

Four of the respondents, however, described positive changes in their lives as a result of their experience. Two women had been victims of domestic abuse and had ended the relationship. They talked about their lives being “reclaimed” and “renewed” and how they now had control over their life situations. A third interviewee who had participated in a victim-offender reconciliation program and another who was an outreach worker both talked about how their personal and professional views had changed for the better.

When respondents were asked to rate the level of impact of the victimization incident on their family, a greater proportion of respondents believed that family members were not affected (39.8%) or were only slightly affected (32.7%) than those who felt that their family was greatly (14.2%) or moderately (13.3%) impacted (see Figure 4.5). No statistically significant gender difference was found; however, there was a larger proportion of females as compared to males who rated the impact as moderate or great and a larger proportion of males who felt that their family was not affected at all or only slightly affected.

In the interviews, 20 individuals felt there was a significant impact on their family; another two said their families would not be supportive or would “over-react” and so they were not told about the assault or threat. The most common finding from the interviews came from seven respondents who had suffered an assault or a property-related incident. They described how the whole family became more protective or more watchful in case the offender returned. Incidents that occurred in the home such as a break and enter directly affected all family members. Everyone became more security conscious and engaged in behaviours such as double-checking locked doors. In two cases, however, respondents admitted they were being over-protective of their children and too controlling and restrictive of their activities. Also related to the impact of theft was sorrow over the loss of items that had sentimental value.

Respondents were also concerned about the impact on children who were scared or suffered emotional and physical effects (e.g., insomnia) as a result of the incident. Women in particular were more likely to talk about the longer term impact on their children, wondering if this experience was going to have a negative effect on the child’s future development.

4.2.5 Impact of Crime Victimization as Reported in Victim Impact Statements

Findings from the analysis of the victim impact statements (VIS) are discussed in more detail in Appendix D. A summary of the findings is presented in this section. These findings are similar to the previous section’s discussion about the impact on survey respondents in that financial, emotional or psychological, and physical injuries are the major areas identified by victims.

Of the 100 VIS analysed, 69% were completed by females and 31% were completed by males. The male victims tended to focus on financial impact and their frustration about being unemployed and not being able to support their families. Female victims tended to focus more on the emotional impact of the incident, and in particular, the affect on family members and family relationships. Over two-thirds (68%) of the VIS were related to assault (including domestic and sexual assault), with threats/harassment and property-related incidents representing most of the other incidents.

The financial impact of assaults included loss of wages and in some cases loss of employment because the victim was unable to work due to physical injuries and emotional stress. Female victims of domestic assault often had to deal with financial burdens associated with single parenthood and debts that the offender incurred. Notably, a number of females wrote about their partner’s control over the couples’ finances as a means of maintaining power in the relationship. Other victims of property-related incidents wrote about having to cover expenses associated with replacing or repairing property.

The emotional impact of assaults was often described as fearfulness and anxiety. Victims were concerned about future encounters with the offender. Many described changing their daily routines and behaviours in an effort to feel safer. Victims of property incidents often acquired additional security measures such as installing extra locks. All individuals (especially victims of sexual assault) felt more vulnerable and less able to trust others. Many of the victims (especially female victims of domestic assault)

also worried about the safety of their children and the effect of the violence on their children’s development.

Physical impact was largely described in relation to the inability to carry out other responsibilities such as injuries that prevented the victim from going back to work. All victims wrote about suffering from stress. In almost all cases, victims as well as other family members suffered insomnia, nightmares, and lack of appetite.

4.3 Dealing with Victimization

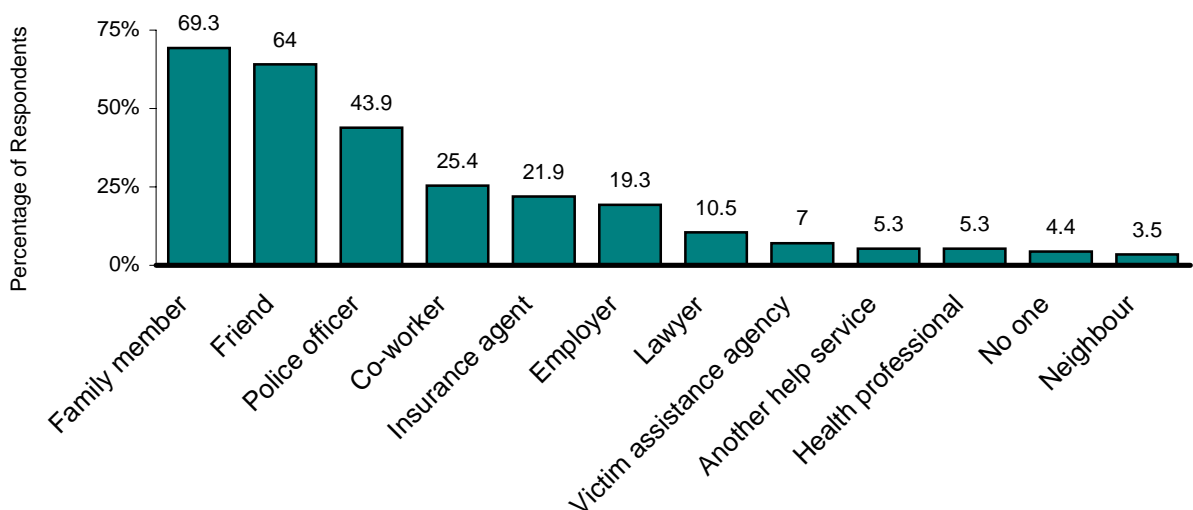
In order to obtain information about how victims deal with their victimization, the 114 respondents in the follow-up survey who reported on their most serious victimization experience also responded to a variety of questions aimed at identifying factors that they felt were important in contributing to how successfully they were able to understand and overcome their experience, and in some cases, to even find something positive from it. The survey included the following types of questions about the most serious victimization incident in the last three years: who was told about the incident; whether the incident was reported to the police; and various kinds of assistance and support victims received.

4.3.1 Telling Others about the Incident

As shown in Figure 4.6, respondents most often identified family members (including spouses and common-law partners) and friends as the two groups of people they told about their incident. Family members were chosen by 69.3% of respondents,

FIGURE 4.6

PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO TOLD VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ABOUT THE INCIDENT



Note: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey. Respondents reporting on the most serious victimization, n=114.

and friends were selected by 64%. The police, selected by 43.9% of individuals, represented the third most frequently told group. It is also noteworthy that people in the workplace, co-workers (25.4%) and employers (19.3%), were also among those most often informed of incidents. Given the relatively high prevalence rate of property-related victimization incidents (as discussed earlier in this chapter), it is not surprising that respondents also indicated they reported the incident to their insurance agent (21.9%). Respondents also had the opportunity to write in responses. This list included faith organizations (minister or clergy and people in church), media, the school, and the bank.

More detailed analysis of demographic factors was limited by the relatively small sample size and, therefore, detailed data tables have not been included. Age was statistically related to whether or not respondents told a friend about the incident. Younger respondents were more likely to report doing so than older ones. For example, 82.4% of respondents aged 18 to 30 indicated they told a friend, as compared to 41.2% of respondents aged 61 and older.

4.3.2 Reporting the Incident to the Police

In both the screening and follow-up questionnaires, respondents were asked if the police were notified of the incident. The screening survey referred to the respondent's most recent incident while the follow-up questionnaire focused on the most serious victimization that happened in the last three years. In the screening survey, respondents who indicated they had been victimized by a particular incident were asked two additional questions. Based on the last time the incident occurred, they were asked if they reported it to the police and if they knew the offender.

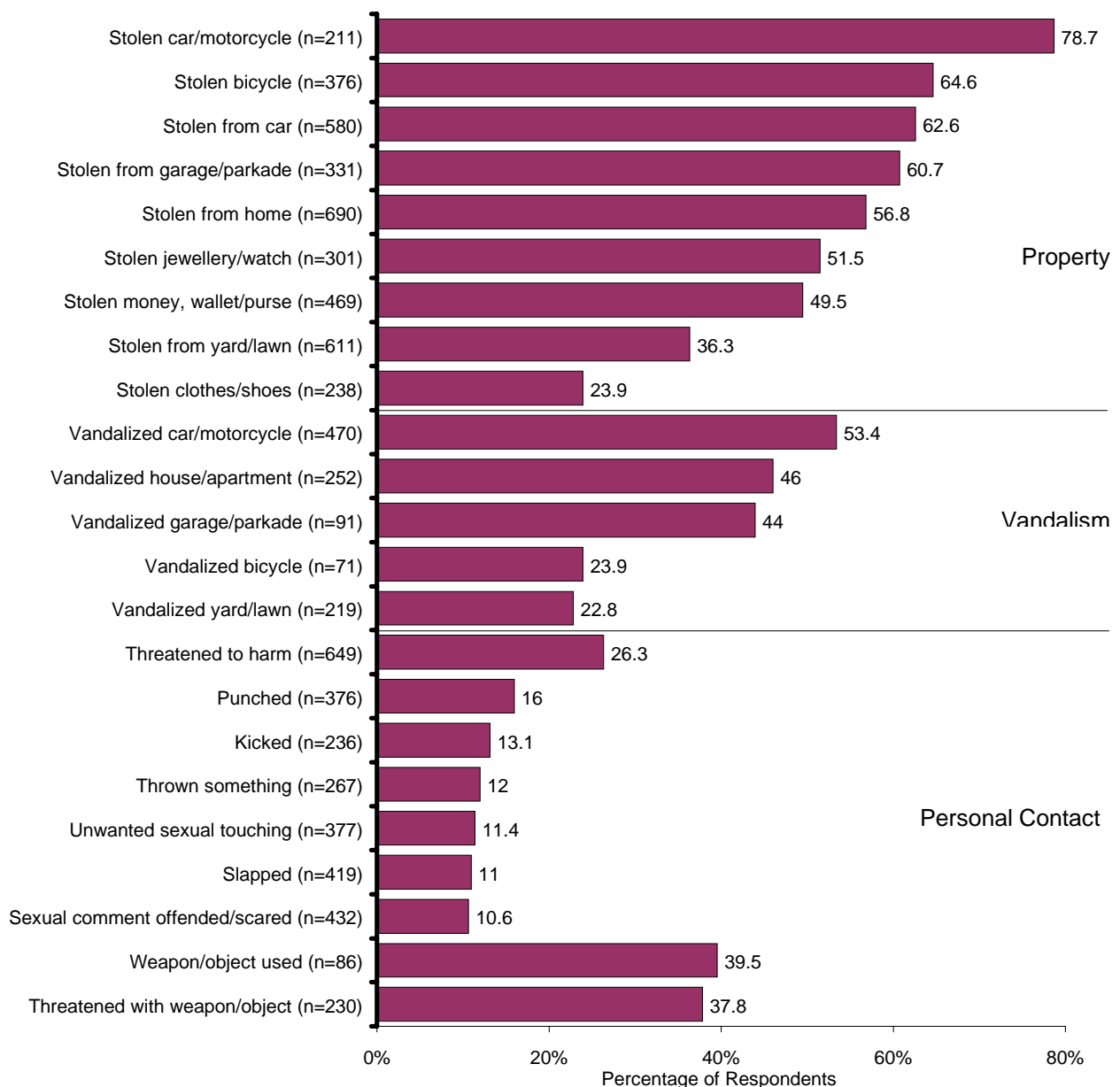
Figure 4.7 shows the percentages, by incident type, of respondents who reported to the police. Overall, property victimizations had the highest proportion of reporting while personal contact victimizations had the lowest proportion. For example, among property incidents, 211 respondents had a car or motorcycle stolen one or more times in their lifetime and 78.7% indicated that the most recent theft was reported to the police. Other property incidents that had a relatively high percentage of reporting included: 64.6% of respondents who had a bicycle stolen; 62.6% of respondents who had something stolen from their car; and 60.7% of respondents who experienced theft from their garage or parkade.

With regards to reporting vandalism to the police, the highest rate was found for reporting car vandalism where 470 respondents were victimized at least once and 53.4% indicated that the police was notified the last time it happened. Vandalism of the respondent's house was second highest where 46% of respondents reported to the police.

Of all the incidents reported to the police, the following types had the lowest rates of reporting: 10.6% of respondents who had offensive sexual comments made to them; 11% of respondents who had been slapped; and 11.4% of respondents who experienced unwanted sexual touching. Having a weapon or object used against them and being threatened with a weapon or object were related to higher percentages of respondents reporting to the police where, respectively, 39.5% and 37.8% of respondents indicated that the most recent occurrence was reported to the police.

FIGURE 4.7

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO INDICATED THAT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE



Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

Figure 4.8 shows a comparison of whether or not the victim knew the offender in the most recent incident that was reported to the police. There is a fairly noticeable pattern in the results indicating a difference in the victim-offender relationship across the three categories of victimization incidents (that is, across property-related, vandalism, and personal contact). For property and vandalism incidents that were reported to the police, a considerably higher percentage of respondents indicated they did not know the offender(s) as compared to respondents who did know who carried out the incident. There were some rather large differences. For example, for bicycle thefts, 92.6% of individuals did not know the offender(s) as compared to 2.9% who reported they did know the offender(s). For car or motorcycle thefts that were reported to the police, 91% of respondents reported that did not know who their offender(s) was whereas 6% indicated that they did. In cases where items were stolen from a car, 90.6% of respondents indicated they did not know the offender(s) while 6.1% of respondents knew who did it.

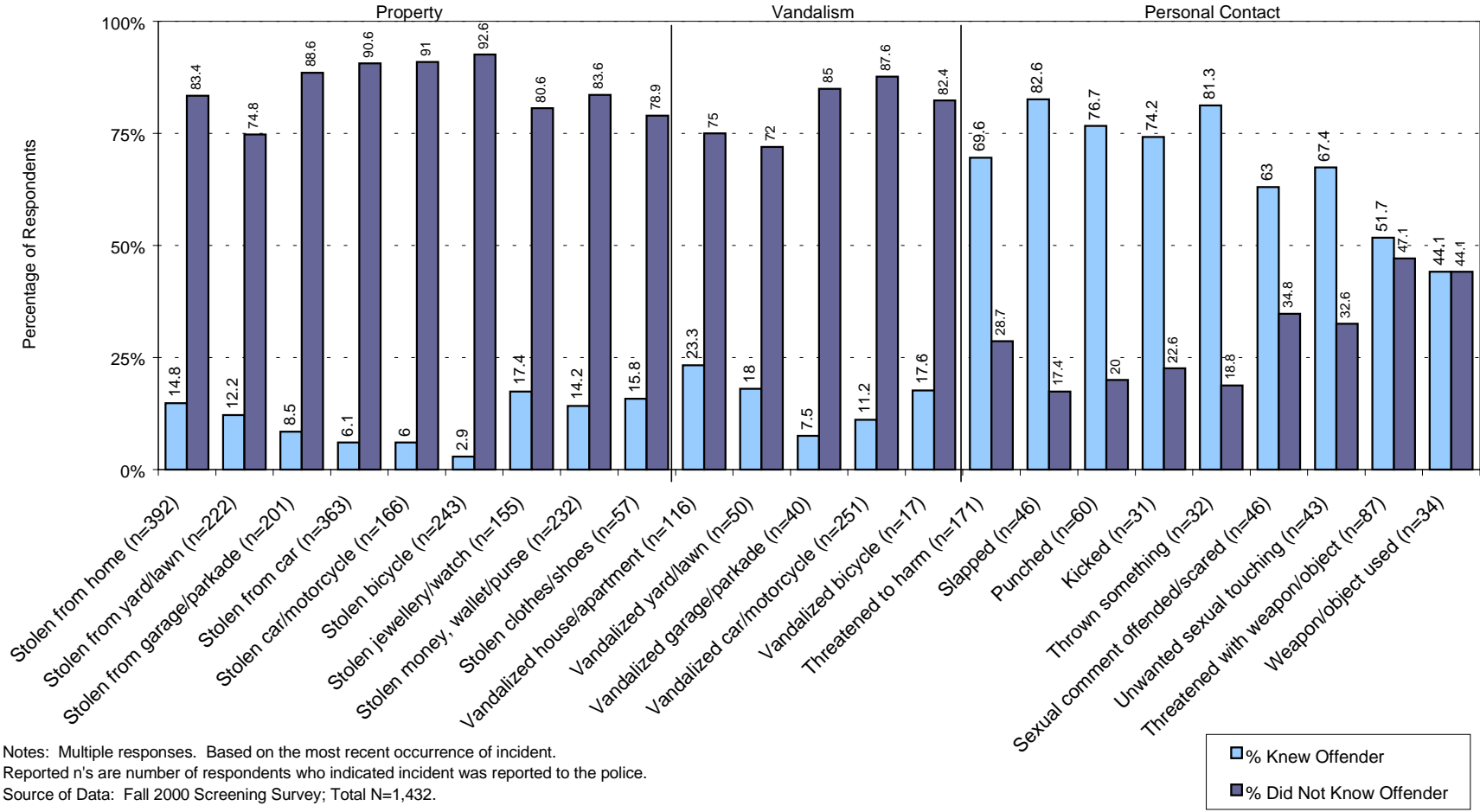
Compared to property-related victimizations, there were slightly higher percentages of respondents who reported they knew the offender(s) who vandalized the respondent's property. Differences between the two groups of respondents (those who knew the offender and those who did not) were still considerable. For example, for damage to a car or motorcycle, 87.6% of respondents reported they did not know who carried out the vandalism as compared to 11.2% of the respondents who did know the offender(s). Of the five different types of vandalism, the highest proportion of respondents indicating they knew the offender occurred for vandalism of the respondent's house where of the 116 respondents who reported to the police, 23.3% of respondents knew the offender(s) as compared to 75% who did not know the offender(s).

In contrast to property and vandalism, the findings indicated that personal contact incidents had higher percentages of respondents who reported that they knew who the offender(s) was. Being slapped had the highest percentage of respondents (82.6%) reporting they knew who assaulted them as compared the 17.4% who did not know their offender(s). Having something thrown with the intention of harm was second highest where 81.3% of respondents knew the offender(s) while 18.8% did not.

There was little or no difference between the two groups of respondents for personal contact incidents involving weapons or objects intended as weapons. With regards to being threatened with a weapon, 51.7% of respondents stated that they knew the offender(s) while 47.1% did not. For incidents where a weapon or object was actually used against them, there was an equal proportion of times (44.1%) when the respondent knew the offender and when they did not know the offender.

FIGURE 4.8

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESPONDENT AND OFFENDER IN THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT REPORTED TO THE POLICE



Notes: Multiple responses. Based on the most recent occurrence of incident.
 Reported n's are number of respondents who indicated incident was reported to the police.
 Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

■ % Knew Offender
■ % Did Not Know Offender

Information on victims' decisions about reporting or not reporting an incident to the police was also collected in the follow-up survey. Of the 114 respondents who reported on their most serious victimization over the last three years, 63.2% indicated the police were notified of the incident and 36% reported that they decided not to contact the police. The respondents themselves reported the incident to the police in 49 of the incidents while in 17 cases, someone other than the victim reported to the police. It was unknown who reported the incident in six cases. Table 4.4 shows the reasons given by the 49 respondents when asked why they decided to report the incident to the police. The most common reason was that the respondent wanted to stop it from happening again, as indicated by 79.6% of respondents. Over half believed that the incident was serious enough to report (53.1%) and over half reported to the police because they wanted the offender(s) caught (51%).

TABLE 4.4

RESPONDENTS' REASONS FOR REPORTING THE INCIDENT TO THE POLICE

Reasons for Reporting	Number of Respondents (n=49)	% of Respondents
To stop it from happening again	39	79.6
Was a serious enough event	26	53.1
To catch the offender(s)	25	51.0
To get help	22	44.9
To recover property	20	40.8
To punish the offender(s)	19	38.8
To claim insurance	17	34.7
Considered it my legal duty to report it	14	28.6
Considered it my moral duty to report it	14	28.6
Was recommended or advised to report it	9	18.4
To get compensation from offender(s)	4	8.2
To receive protection	1	2.0
Other reasons (written comments):		
- To get help for the offender	2	4.1
- Felt violated/upset/stressed	2	4.1
- Offender was making threats	1	2.0

Note: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey. Respondents reporting on the most serious victimization, n=114.

For the 41 respondents who indicated that they did not notify the police, the reasons for not reporting are listed in Table 4.5. The reason most often cited was that someone else (almost always a family member) had reported the incident to the police (24.4%). The second most common reason was that the victim was afraid the offender would retaliate (9.8%). Certain attitudes or beliefs about the police were also prohibitive including, for example, that the police were ineffective because they would not or could not do anything about the incident.

TABLE 4.5

RESPONDENTS' REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING THE INCIDENT TO THE POLICE

Reasons for Not Reporting	Number of Respondents (n=41)	% of Respondents
Someone else told the police	10	24.4
Afraid the offender would retaliate	4	9.8
Reported to another authority	2	4.9
Afraid of negative judgements about me	2	4.9
Police could not do anything about it	2	4.9
Police would not do anything about it	2	4.9
Incident was not serious enough	1	2.4
Did not want to go to court	1	2.4
Disliked the police	1	2.4
Afraid of the police	1	2.4
Did not trust the police	1	2.4
Dealt with it another way	1	2.4
It was a private matter	1	2.4
Other reasons (written comments):		
- Did not know about it	1	2.4
- Respondent was out of the country	1	2.4
- Respondent was too traumatized to report	1	2.4

Note: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey. Respondents reporting on the most serious victimization, n=114.

4.3.3 Support from Outside the Legal Process

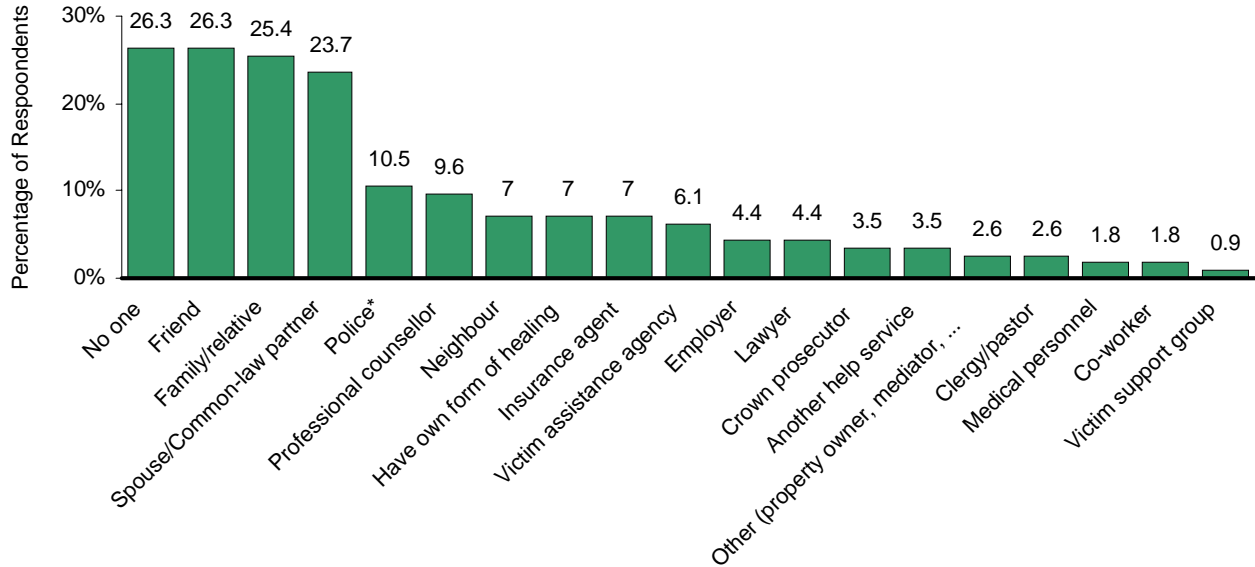
When respondents were asked to identify who provided assistance in dealing with the incident, the two responses most often given by participants were that no one assisted and that a friend helped (each response was equally selected by 26.3% or 30 of 114 respondents). A family member or relative (25.4%), and spouse or common law partner (23.7%) were the individuals next most often identified as providing help to the respondent. Results are shown in Figure 4.9.

Among female respondents (n=74) a greater proportion reported that someone assisted them in dealing with their victimization than was the case for male respondents (n=35). As compared to 78.4% females who stated they received help from someone, 60% of male respondents indicated someone assisted them.

A more detailed analysis was undertaken comparing the 30 individuals who indicated that no one assisted them in dealing with their victimization with the 79 respondents who reported that they received assistance. Overall, it appears that respondents in the first group were more likely to have been victimized in a property-related incident. As well, a larger proportion of this group did not know who the offender

FIGURE 4.9

RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED THAT VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ASSISTED IN DEALING WITH THE INCIDENT



* "Police" may include victim service worker(s) who arrived with police officers in responding to a call, or victim service worker(s) who were also police officers.

Notes: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey. Respondents reporting on the most serious victimization, n=114.

was. The majority of incidents for both groups of individuals were related to property and personal contact, with a higher proportion of the 30 respondents experiencing property victimization (50% as compared to 36.7% of the 79 respondents) and a lower proportion experiencing personal contact victimization (33.3% as compared to 44.3% of the 79 respondents). The kinds of property incidents for both groups mostly involved theft from the respondent's home or yard. Personal contact incidents, however, were mostly specifically related to threats being made against the respondent. Within both groups, statistically significant differences were found for whether or not respondents knew the offender. For the 79 respondents who indicated that someone assisted them in dealing with their victimization, the proportion of those who knew their offender (40.5%) was smaller than those who did not know their offender (44.3%). For the 30 respondents who reported that no one helped them, 16.7% indicated that they knew the offender while almost three-quarters (73.3%) did not know who their offender was. While not statistically significant, it is worth noting that a higher proportion of those who received help from others had also indicated that the police were notified of the incident (68.4% of 79 respondents) as compared to those who did not (50% of 30 respondents).

In the telephone interviews conducted with 56 respondents, individuals were asked to elaborate on the different kinds of assistance they received in dealing with their incident. As previously discussed (refer to Figure 4.9) friends (26.3%), family members

(25.4%), and spouse or a common-law partner (23.7%) were the three most often identified groups of people who provided assistance to respondents in dealing with their most serious victimization over the last three years. These three groups were also frequently mentioned by the respondents interviewed by telephone.

Six individuals initially said that no one assisted, but when asked to elaborate they said that they were offered help or had actually received some kind of assistance; however, they felt that they either did not need any help or the assistance that was offered was not very helpful at all. These individuals indicated they were resigned to having to accept the loss or harm done to them. Indeed, several of the respondents philosophized, "such is life." The perception of whether one has received assistance in dealing with their victimization appears to be a somewhat subjective interpretation. Regardless of whether service was offered or even accessed, for some of the respondents the view that they received any assistance at all depended on whether they felt they needed help in the first place as well as whether they found the service to be helpful.

Generally, women identified a larger network of assistance than did men. Females listed greater numbers of people and agencies as well as a wider variety of groups and organizations. In particular, females much more often mentioned support from friends (almost all of whom were female), while friends were identified by only a few male respondents as providing assistance. Both family members and friends were important sources of emotional support by providing a "listening ear," advice, sympathy, and encouragement. In some cases, they also played a protective role. In eight of the nine interviews where female respondents talked about intimate partner abuse, female friends were not only confidants who offered emotional support, but also provided shelter and protection from the offender. In incidents in which property was damaged, three of the respondents mentioned that family members and relatives, and in one case members of the respondent's church, repaired the damage. At a minimum, respondents described friends as being available to listen to them, but were unable to offer any "real help" or that there was really nothing much that the friends could do. In six cases, respondents noted there was a lack of family support from their own parents or siblings for a number of reasons: the respondent's family members lived too far away; the family was denying that the incident happened; the family was unwilling to talk about the event and its impact on the respondent; or the family was critical of how the respondent was dealing with incident.

Besides family and friends, a number of respondents identified insurance companies and the workplace as being important factors in how they dealt with their victimization. Individuals appreciated it when insurance companies were able to process their claims efficiently. Individuals also commented on the importance of the workplace in providing counselling services (and even security personnel in one case). Co-workers were identified as sources of support in handling stressful job situations since they were usually also dealing with the same kind of stress, or as confidants when an incident outside of the workplace occurred. In some cases, co-workers were even the first to be told about an incident.

Almost all (80.4%) of the 56 respondents interviewed had dealt with the police. Of the 10 who did not, the reasons varied. Some of the respondents were afraid that

the offender would retaliate by becoming more violent towards the respondent. Others thought that there was nothing the police could do because there was no evidence, it was a workplace problem (e.g., sexual harassment, threats from angry clients), or because they were too embarrassed to report the incident (e.g., obscene telephone calls). As well, a number of respondents talked about their experience with people in the criminal justice system, including judges, Crown prosecutors and defence lawyers. Discussion of findings from these interviews about police service and others in the legal system is provided in the next section of this chapter dealing with support from within the legal process.

4.3.4 Support from Within the Legal Process

Information about the kinds of support respondents received from within the legal sector was primarily based on experience with the police. Relatively few respondents had dealings with others (e.g., lawyers and judges) in the legal system. A third kind of support involves victim impact statements (VIS). Crime victims have the legal right to submit a VIS if they desire, and their VIS must be considered by the judge at the time of sentencing. VIS are an opportunity for victims to take a more active role or to become more involved in legal proceedings, and thus, are discussed in this section of the report as a kind of support for victims from within the legal process.

As shown above in Figure 4.9, when asked to identify who provided assistance in dealing with their most serious victimization, nine of the 114 respondents indicated that a lawyer or Crown prosecutor assisted them and 12 respondents identified the police. In the telephone interviews, respondents stressed the important role of the police, more than almost any other group (including spouse and other family members), in affecting how successfully they were able to overcome their victimization.

The follow-up survey asked a number of questions related to police service. As discussed earlier, 62.3% of the 114 respondents indicated that their most serious victimization incident was reported (by themselves or by someone else) to the police. These respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with a number of statements describing police attitude and police service. The more detailed responses are provided in Appendix Table C-16.

Overall, respondents were quite positive about police attitude: 52 of the 72 respondents (72.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that the police were polite, and 38 individuals (52.7%) agreed or strongly agreed that the police were interested in their situation. Only seven respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that the police were polite, and 18 disagreed or strongly disagreed that the police were interested in their situation. In response to the statement that the police did not do enough to assist the victim, respondents were more likely to disagree or strongly disagree (40.2% or 29 respondents) than to agree or strongly agree (29.2% or 21 individuals).

Respondents were less positive about the effectiveness of police service with respect to informing victims about available help services, providing follow-up information about the case, and investigating the case. Of the 72 respondents, 28 (38.9%) felt that, as the victim, the respondent was not provided with enough information by the police about the kinds of assistance available to them, while 16

(22.2%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. Respondents were slightly more inclined to disagree that the police provided enough information about the case (29.2% or 21 respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed while 25% or 18 individuals agreed or strongly agreed). Respondents were also slightly more inclined to agree that the police did not do enough to investigate the case (29.2% or 21 respondents agreed or strongly agreed and 25% or 18 individuals disagreed or strongly disagreed).

In the telephone interviews, individuals were asked to talk about their experience with the police and whether or not the police had any affect on how the respondent dealt with their victimization. Most of the interviewees (80.4% or 45 of 56 individuals interviewed) said that they dealt with the police. About half (22) had a negative experience with the police; 14 had a positive one; and nine individuals talked about both positive and negative experiences almost equally. Tables 4.6 and 4.7 summarize the comments that were made.

The majority of comments were related to the police not being effective or helpful to the respondent in terms of solving the case. A number of respondents felt that they gave important information to the police, but the police failed to investigate to the extent that would have satisfied the respondent. For example, a few of the respondents were frustrated when they told the police where the offender could be found, but the police did not check out the location.

Many of the respondents wanted the investigating officer to keep them up to date with regards to significant news regarding their case. They expressed frustration with the police not returning their telephone calls, and generally not following up with the respondent. In a number of cases, respondents reported that they still did not know what happened to the offender and said that after a certain amount of time their lives had moved on and they no longer really cared or were resigned to the fact that they would never know what happened.

Some felt betrayed by the police. A number of individuals said that prior to the incident, they viewed the police as a group that protected the public and that they could be depended on to help people; however, based on how they were treated, the individuals felt victimized by the police. These respondents said they now held a different, more cynical, view of the police and even of the whole legal system.

A number of individuals were fairly ambivalent about their experience with the police. These respondents described the police as being "polite and interested" but that there was "nothing the police could do." They indicated they were resigned to the fact that the police were, in some cases, powerless. They said that they already knew or were told by the police that the offender(s) would probably never be identified or that their stolen property would never be recovered.

TABLE 4.6

SUMMARY OF DESCRIPTIONS FROM TELEPHONE INTERVIEWEES ABOUT NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES WITH THE POLICE

Descriptions about the Police	Number of Respondents Who Commented (n=31)
Police were “not effective” or “not helpful” in handling the case; did not conduct sufficient investigation.	15
Police did not provide enough information about the case: insufficient or no follow up was made with the respondent regarding the case.	7
Police refused to recognize that the respondent was a victim; trivialized the incident and did not take the respondent seriously; made inappropriate jokes.	5
Police had a negative attitude about the case/respondent: apathetic, not interested, insensitive, overly pessimistic, and “hardened.”	4
Police took a long time to arrive.	4
Police provided inaccurate information about counselling services (such as availability and fees); were not able to provide any information to the respondent regarding counselling services, victim services.	4
Police falsely accused the respondent.	2
Police showed gender discrimination.	2
Police were too punitive; charged the offender when they said they were not going to.	1

Note: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Telephone Interviews, n=56.

Respondents who described positive experiences with the police (see Table 4.7) most often stated that the police were “effective” or “good” in handling the case. When asked to elaborate on what they meant, individuals explained that the police carried out all of the duties they felt the police should; that is, that the police met their expectations. For example, a respondent explained that the police spent a considerable amount of time thoroughly investigating and collecting evidence in a home break-in. As well, respondents mentioned that it was very helpful when investigators explained to them what the police needed to do and their reasons. In particular, respondents appreciated the opportunity to accompany the investigators as they collected evidence from more private spaces in the home such as bedrooms and bathrooms. One of the respondents explained that if the police had not conducted their investigation in this manner, she would have felt violated again because it would have felt as if another “stranger” was going through her home.

TABLE 4.7

SUMMARY OF DESCRIPTIONS FROM TELEPHONE INTERVIEWEES ABOUT POSITIVE EXPERIENCES WITH THE POLICE

Description about the Police	No. of Respondents Who Commented (n=23)
Police were very "effective" or "good" in handling the case.	9
Police had a positive attitude: were kind, sympathetic, sensitive, honest, showed concern, polite, supportive.	6
Police treated respondent respectfully; case was treated seriously.	5
Police did what they could; did what I expected them to do; did what they were supposed to do.	4
Police gave good advice related to the incident (e.g., security, peace bond).	4
Police arrived quickly.	3
Police provided information about investigation; follow up on the case. Gave good advice.	2
Police were helpful in getting other assistance (e.g., counsellor); giving victim information about victim services.	2

Note: Multiple responses.

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Telephone Interviews; Total n=56.

An interesting finding from the telephone interviews came from respondents who felt they had been able to successfully deal with their victimization. All of these individuals underlined the important role that the police played in their ability to handle the crime that had happened to them. The police gave victims "tools" which helped them deal with their victimization and gain back some sense of control over their lives. For some of the respondents, these included: telling victims that the crime was not personal; giving victims helpful advice such as security precautions; informing victims about crime incidents in the surrounding areas; and reassuring victims that some form of immediate response would occur (such as increased patrol in the neighbourhood over the next two evenings). These measures eased the trauma, tension and stress associated with the first response call. In one interview the respondent described how she had been able to find some positive meaning from a break and enter that happened to her. She said that the police provided her with a "healing of the victimization." She went on further to describe how her experience with the police affected her perception of the offender:

The victimization would have been more intense depending on the police treatment of it. The police are seen as protectors. If the police have respect, kindness and heart, it's easier for the victim to forgive the offender; the victim can feel more charitable towards the offender.

Besides assistance from the police, support from within the legal process also included other members of the legal community. As shown in Figure 4.9, relatively few

of the 114 respondents indicated assistance from a lawyer (4.4%) or a Crown prosecutor (3.5%). In the telephone interviews, respondents generally indicated they were dissatisfied with the lack of assistance they received from the Crown prosecutor's office. A number of respondents felt the court was ineffective or too lenient with the offender. One respondent was very frustrated that she was not given as much time as the offender to tell her story to the judge.

Victim impact statements (VIS) have already been discussed in two different ways in this report. The legislation of VIS in Canada and internationally is presented in Chapter 3.0. As well, findings from a sample of impact statements are presented in Appendix D, with a summary presented in this chapter in Section 4.2.5. Participants in the follow-up survey were asked if a VIS had been filed. Of the 14 respondents who reported they did file a statement, one required someone else to write the statement. When asked to rate how helpful they felt it was to file a statement, 12 responded: three felt it was very helpful; two felt it was quite helpful; two felt it was a little helpful; and five felt it was not helpful at all. One respondent reported being cross-examined on the statement in court and questioned by the judge; however, the respondent strongly disagreed they were revictimized and felt that filing the statement was very helpful. Another respondent who had indicated the statement was filed orally reported being cross-examined by the offender's lawyer. Similar to the other respondent, this individual disagreed that they were revictimized and found that filing the victim impact statement was very helpful.

4.3.5 Use of Victim Assistance Services

The percentages of respondents who reported that they received assistance from agencies and organizations that assist victims are shown in Figure 4.9 under professional counsellor (9.6% or 11 individuals), victim assistance agency (6.1% or seven individuals), and another help service (3.5% or four individuals). When asked in the follow-up questionnaire to specify the victim assistance agency, service, or organization, 15 respondents replied: five of the agencies were police-based victim assistance services, six were crisis or counselling centres, two were in hospitals, and two were in the legal community (Crown prosecutor's and lawyer's offices).

It should be noted that questions about eligibility for victim services were not asked in the questionnaire. It is possible that for certain types of incidents, victims did not feel they were eligible (regardless of whether they were, in fact, eligible) for victim services and therefore, did not approach any victim assistance organizations.

When asked how they found out about the service, six respondents identified the police; four responded that a family member or friend had told them about the agency; and two were referred by their employer (that is, workplace counselling was offered). Other responses included: referral from another agency; the respondent had used the agency before; and the agency initiated the contact.

Respondents were also asked what kind of service or assistance they received. The response most often made, as given by eight respondents, was that they needed someone to talk to. Other kinds of services included: to obtain information or referrals (six respondents); to obtain professional counselling (four individuals); and to get

information about legal matters (three respondents wanted court information, and one sought legal advice). Most contact was made in face-to-face meetings or by telephone. When asked to rate how helpful they found the service, 14 of the 15 respondents felt it was fairly helpful or very helpful; one respondent felt the service was not helpful at all (because it was slow to respond).

As discussed earlier in Section 4.3.3 a number of respondents noted that their workplaces had an important role in helping them deal with their victimization. In the telephone interviews, four respondents noted that they were fortunate in having access to counselling services in the workplace, and in one case, security personnel protected the respondent who was being harassed by an ex-common law partner.

4.3.6 Respondents' Opinions about How Services Could Be Improved or Enhanced

In the follow-up questionnaire and telephone interview, individuals were asked for suggestions on how various services could be more effective in assisting victims. The majority of comments from the 209 follow-up questionnaires and the 56 interviews referred to a number of different types of victim assistance groups and counselling services. In many cases, respondents described the skills and qualities of what they felt would be offered by the most effective service providers. Respondents who lived in towns and rural areas commented on the limited access to services. Insurance companies, not surprisingly, had a major role to play for respondents who had been victimized in property-related incidents. Many of the comments also identified the need for groups outside of the help services to become more involved in assisting victims. Another group of comments referred to the criminal justice system: respondents felt that victims need to be more recognized, heard, taken into account, and respected in the courtroom as well as in the wider legal system. Respondents also felt that laws, and particularly laws governing young offenders, are too lenient. A summary of the comments is provided below:

- victim assistance services
 - initial contact should be made soon after the incident; respond quickly
 - victim assistance workers should not be volunteers
 - workers should have more education/training in: communication and listening skills; mental illness; and how to assist without being pushy
 - workers should be sympathetic and good listeners
 - workers should have more background on the case and specific information about the victim before talking to the victim
 - workers should offer more information about resources available to the victim
 - workers should be knowledgeable about what kinds of services the victim may or will need; that is, anticipate victim's needs; be able to get information about things victim asks for
- have a liaison person to assist in dealing with the police; someone to contact for information

- counselling services
 - counsellors are over-loaded
 - waiting period is too long
 - need more funding and more staff
 - need to make long-term counselling more accessible
 - teach more practical skills
- rural areas need more victim assistance services, more law enforcement
- reporting process for the victim is revictimizing; “having to talk about what happened, to tell each group about the victimization, over and over again, is frustrating”
- help lines should not be busy
- insurance companies
 - less stringent rules so victims can claim items even if they cannot prove possession
 - make it easier to file claims and report items; reduce the paperwork
 - processes are unclear; easy to miss deadlines
 - should not penalize you after you have filed a claim by raising rates
 - having to pay the deductible is “revictimizing”
- workplaces should offer support, counselling, information
- business owners should make work and surrounding areas safe
- courthouse services should include an information person in the courthouse to assist victims with schedules and room locations
- criminal justice system
 - courts should provide a way for victims to have their say; victims should have as much right as the offender to speak
 - courts should give more recognition to victims
 - lawyers should provide more assistance and information; have more time to talk to victims
 - system needs to be restructured: problem is that “the law is not there to protect you”
 - judges, courts are too lenient with offenders

- should not allow early parole; offenders should be forced to serve full sentences
 - young offenders should have tougher sentences; *Young Offenders Act* is too lenient
- more public information about victim-offender reconciliation programs

4.4 Summary of Other Comments Made by Survey Participants

A considerable number of respondents provided comments and opinions in the self-completion questionnaires and in the interviews. These largely unsolicited remarks covered a range of issues, not always directly related to victimization, but certainly relevant to this research topic. A summary of these comments is provided below.

Many respondents offered comments that called for changes to the criminal justice system (such as more punitive legislation). Suggestions on how to make society safer included possession of guns for protection, reinstatement of capital punishment, and publication of offenders' (including young offenders) photographs and names in newspapers and other places for the public to see. Criticisms about young offenders mostly referred to the belief that Canada's young offenders laws are too lenient, and that youth should be made more accountable for their actions by more stringent laws. There was a belief among some respondents that young offenders "are getting away with everything."

A few respondents noted that changes to the legal system would not solve violence. Rather, these individuals noted that solutions had to come from outside the legal system, such as directing attention at controlling school violence.

Use of the term "victimization" was criticized by a number of individuals who felt it was a negative label. There were two kinds of comments made: one from respondents who had experienced domestic or partner abuse where they preferred the term "survivor." Another kind of comment came from four respondents (two women whose male partners had been victimized by ex-partners and two men who had been victimized by female ex-partners) who felt that recognition of the victim was gender-biased. They stated that in their experience the legal system and the police only recognize that females and not males can be victims of domestic or sexual abuse.

5.0 SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS

This chapter presents a summary of the discussions that took place in the workshops. The purpose of the workshops was twofold: to highlight major findings from the research project; and to expand on the discussion of the results by linking the experience of victims with the experience of victim service providers. Participants' feedback regarding the survey and research project underlined the complexity of the victimization experience and identified a number of areas in the survey findings that warrant further investigation.

5.1 Workshop Participants

As mentioned in Chapter 2.0, 13 workshops were held in eight cities³⁴ in Alberta from October to December 2001. Letters of invitation were mailed to a number of different organizations involved with victims' issues, including victim service agencies, the police, the legal community (judges, Crown prosecutors and lawyers practicing criminal law), Alberta Solicitor General, and Alberta Justice. In addition, one workshop was held in order to focus discussion on victimization issues and experiences among culturally and ethnically diverse groups. For this workshop, organizations directly involved in addressing cultural and ethnic diversity were invited to attend.

Workshops were intentionally kept small to maximize discussion among participants. In total, the workshops were attended by 109 people. The comments provided in this chapter were given by individuals, and do not necessarily reflect consensus among all workshop participants.

5.2 Comments Regarding Victim Services

5.2.1 Public Education

Workshop participants strongly felt that victim service organizations needed to be more known to each other, to the police, and to the public, and that the organizations should play a broader role in informing everyone about victim services.

- Participants commented that the public needs to be informed about victimization and the different kinds of victimization that exist.³⁵
- Participants also commented that the public needs to be better informed about victims' rights. For example, participants in one workshop noted that if victims knew

³⁴ Workshops were held in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and St. Albert.

³⁵ It should be noted that there are a number of initiatives that have been taken by Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General to address the need for more public information, for example, in the form of community consultations and professional workshops in various locations in the province.

that restitution was available, people would be more likely to report vandalism to the police.

- Public awareness campaigns about domestic violence were mentioned by participants as an example of a model for raising public awareness about other forms of victimization.
- Participants felt that the media have a role in providing information to the public regarding victimization. The media can also inform the public about legal issues and the criminal justice system.

5.2.2 Service Delivery by Victim Assistance Agencies

Participants described victim assistance workers as basically having three kinds of responsibilities: providing information; maintaining links between the victim and others; and ensuring continuity of care. All three of these responsibilities were seen to be important factors in the victim's healing process.

- Workshop participants stressed the need to follow up quickly with the victim.
- Participants discussed the importance of talking to the victim, preferably before they receive any information related to victim services in the mail.
- As a liaison for the victim, the victim assistance worker maintains links between the victim and the police, the court system, and other organizations.
- Supporting victims who have to go to court was mentioned as an important responsibility of victim assistance workers. The workers need to provide information about court dates, inform the victim about the court process and, where necessary, accompany the victim to court.
- Victim assistance workers can also provide a link between the victim and the police. Victim assistance units can continue to provide support to the victim when police officers cannot, such as when they have to go out on another call.
- Participants felt strongly about the provision of continuity of care for victims. Because the victim is already feeling vulnerable, it is even more important that the victim have the same person helping them through the process.
- Workshop participants emphasized the need to recognize that the impact and consequences of incidents can differ significantly depending on the kind of victimization that occurred. For example, participants recognized that physical and psychological impacts are very different in terms of the kinds of assistance needed by the victim. Physical impact usually requires more short-term and predictable care, while psychological impact may require longer-term provision of victim assistance and counseling.
- As a specific example of a practical service need, participants mentioned that women who go to shelters with their children usually cannot bring family pets with

them, and in some cases they have refused to go to a shelter because they did not want to leave their pets.

5.2.3 Service Delivery by Other Organizations

Participants noted that organizations other than victim assistance agencies can also provide support to victims.

- Faith organizations were identified by a number of participants as playing an important role in assisting victims. Participants noted that individuals may be more likely to trust their minister or priest than victim assistance workers who may be strangers to them. Faith organizations were also mentioned as being able to provide assistance with language translation.
- Health service providers can also play an important role in victim assistance. Participants felt that medical personnel are in a position to intervene in cases that could go unnoticed by the system. They noted that some people are more willing to trust medical personnel than other groups such as the police.
- It was noted that workplaces could be effective information providers. While participants did not feel that all workplaces could offer counseling services, they did feel that corporations could effectively distribute information about victim services. Some suggested that they could also educate people about workplace victimization, such as sexual harassment.
- While it was acknowledged that insurance agencies are businesses and should not be depended upon as providers of victim assistance, participants thought that they might have a limited role in supporting victims.

5.2.4 Challenges to Service Providers

It was recognized by workshop participants that victim assistance agencies, and indeed individual workers, face many challenges in carrying out their duties.

- Many participants discussed the implications of victim assistance being volunteer-based, resulting in a high job turnover rate. However, participants' views differed on whether the level of commitment would be increased by paying workers. Some participants felt that because victim assistance workers were volunteers, they were even more committed to helping victims.
- Participants expressed a concern regarding the safety of victim assistance workers. Workers face potentially dangerous situations. For example, workers who accompany a victim to court are recognizable to offenders, who may later take revenge on the volunteer.
- While almost all workshop participants agreed that the role of victim assistance workers needs to expand, participants also cautioned that workers should not overstep their mandate. There was considerable discussion about victim assistance workers facing increasing pressure to provide counselling, especially when counselling centres are overloaded and there is nowhere else for the victim to

go. Some of the participants firmly noted that victim assistance workers are not counsellors, and that even if they were able to counsel, there is no support for them to actually provide such a service.

- Another issue raised by participants was the risk of workers experiencing vicarious victimization from having to deal with victims on a continual basis.
- Participants all agreed that victim services would be enhanced through more collaboration by all service providers. It was recognized, however, that such collaboration would need to be mandated with policies guiding partnerships. In addition, some funding would be necessary in order to start up partnerships, and some level of infrastructure would be required.
- Discussion about collaboration also identified the need for clarification of responsibilities by various service providers to avoid duplication of services and ensure continuity of care.

5.2.5 Training of Service Providers

Workshop participants discussed issues regarding training of victim assistance workers.

- There was concern that there is no standardized training for victim assistance volunteer workers. A number of participants discussed how training could be made more standard, such as through a certification program.³⁶
- Given that many victim assistance workers are volunteers and the job turnover rate is high, there is a need for ongoing training.
- Concerns were also raised about the costs associated with training victim assistance workers.

5.2.6 Accessibility of Services

Workshop participants highlighted many problems associated with the accessibility of victim services in rural areas. Victims face, among other things, increased isolation, transportation burdens, lack of anonymity, and lack of confidentiality.

- At the most practical level, individuals living in rural areas may have to travel long distances to obtain victim services.
- Even in communities with victim services, a victim may need to leave the community in order to protect anonymity.
- It was noted by workshop participants that victim assistance workers in rural areas often have to provide a number of different services themselves, because the communities lack specialized agencies that would be found in urban areas.

³⁶ It should be noted that training manuals for victim service workers have recently been published by Alberta Solicitor General.

5.3 Comments Regarding the Criminal Justice System

In addition to discussing issues regarding victim service organizations, workshop participants also commented on legislative issues and roles and responsibilities of players in the criminal justice system.

5.3.1 Legislative Issues

- Participants noted that legislation guides how victim assistance workers approach victims. RCMP-based victim services are governed by federal legislation, and the RCMP officer must obtain the permission of the victim in order to forward any of victim's personal information to the Victim Assistance Unit. Conversely, municipally-based police victim assistance workers operate under provincial legislation, and can initiate contact with victims without the police having to obtain consent beforehand.
- Participants also thought that the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* had a great impact in terms of restricting victim assistance workers from contacting victims and contacting other agencies on victims' behalf.
- The *Health Information Act* was brought up by a number of participants as restricting victims from receiving assistance. It was their opinion that the *Act* prevents medical personnel from notifying the police about incidents.

5.3.2 Service Delivery³⁷

Participants identified several issues related to the delivery of services to victims by other players in the criminal justice system, most notably the police.

- Participants agreed that an important role of the police is to provide timely information to the victim.
- It was also felt that it would be helpful if the victim was given more information about what they could expect from the police in terms of, for example, when or if they would be updated on the status of their case.
- Workshop participants identified a need for police (municipal and RCMP) training to include more information about victimization. However, all acknowledged that victims' expectations of police may exceed their responsibilities. Training should also include more information about victim assistance services and the range of responsibilities that victim assistance workers have.
- Participants stated that the police need to better understand factors regarding victims' reluctance to report, and underlying reasons for why victims might not be entirely truthful in telling their stories to the police. For example, fear of retaliation may cause a victim to lie about an assault.

³⁷ It should be noted that Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General are conducting a number of consultations in the province in order to identify gaps in victim service delivery, with a goal of developing a "10 year vision" of victims' programs and services. Alberta Justice is also reviewing legislative issues related to victims as part of its response to recommendations made in the Alberta Justice Summit.

- It was noted by participants that police officers who voluntarily enroll in programs such as sensitivity training for sexual assault victims are the ones who probably do not need the training as much as those who do not enroll. Participants felt that such programs should be mandatory for all officers. Specialized training is very effective in terms of ensuring that appropriate services for victims are provided.
- Workshop participants also discussed the need for education of lawyers and judges regarding victims' issues. In particular, participants thought that lawyers are largely uninformed about domestic and partner violence, and the cycle of violence. This can result in insensitivity in lawyers' treatment of women as victims of domestic abuse.
- Participants agreed that the length of time it takes to go through the court system is too long. Postponement of court dates was one of the problems identified as being the most frustrating for victims. It was important in such cases that victims be informed about the changed date and the reason for the postponement.
- The use of alternative justice programs was suggested by some participants as a way to address the delays inherent in the formal court system. In addition, participants commented on how victims benefited from being more involved in the justice process. The participants did, however, note that alternative justice programs may not be appropriate for every case, e.g., sexual assault crimes.

5.4 Addressing Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

Workshop participants were asked to discuss some of the major issues and barriers to victim assistance in the area of cultural and ethnic diversity in victimization.

5.4.1 Increasing Awareness of Cultural Differences

- Participants strongly felt that culturally appropriate services are inadequate or that they "simply do not exist."
- Participants agreed that there is a need to provide victim assistance workers and criminal justice system personnel with more training about cultural and ethnic differences. Service providers need to be aware that individuals from some cultures may be suspicious of the justice system and thus may be reluctant to seek assistance.
- Service providers also need to be aware that some ethnic communities may exclude victims rather than provide support to them. In particular, a number of participants discussed the problems faced by women who are victims of domestic and partner violence because they are especially stigmatized in a community that may not even acknowledge that domestic violence is a social issue. There continues to be strong views in some cultures that domestic violence is a private family matter.

5.4.2 Accessibility of Services

Individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds may have difficulties accessing victim assistance services for a number of reasons, such as feelings of alienation, unfamiliarity with the criminal justice system, and language barriers.

- As people who assist victims, translators and interpreters have a very important role. Workshop participants generally felt that current translation services are inadequate in both quantity and quality. Participants noted that there is a high demand for professionally-trained translators. Translators not only provide language interpretation services, but a translator is also an important contact person for victims. Often victims will seek the assistance of the translator in order to help them access other kinds of services. Translators, however, can also prevent or limit the victim's ability to access services. A number of potential problems were discussed in the workshops. It is not uncommon for translators to also be a member of the victim's community (since they probably are also of the same ethnic or cultural background), and this affects anonymity of the victims who may feel uncomfortable that someone else in their community knows about their situation. Translators may also victimize by judging the victim negatively, giving their own advice (which may be prejudicial or racist), or even refusing to communicate something from the victim because they disagree with the victim's view. Essentially, translators control the message because they are free to edit the communication between the victim and the victim assistance worker.

5.5 Concluding Comments

While workshop participants identified a number of perceived problems with the current victim assistance system, they also offered suggestions for improving service delivery. Specific suggestions included: public awareness campaigns regarding victimization issues; education and training of professionals working in the area; timely responses by the police, victim assistance workers, and the courts; increasing awareness of cultural differences; and improving translation and interpretation services.

Further discussion focused on the need for an approach to victim services that integrates the range of services available from difference agencies. A system-based approach ("one-stop" model) to services represents this kind of ideal collaboration. The approach would also include joint interviews or tag team interviews where the advantage is that victims do not have to repeat their stories. Participants acknowledged, however, that such a model would be most appropriate for urban centers where a variety of service agencies are available.

6.0 DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter presents a brief discussion of the legislative review, of the results from the victimization survey in comparison with other research findings, and on feedback from workshop participants. Overall, survey findings from the current research are consistent with those from the provincial, national and international surveys that were reviewed. Caution, however, needs to be taken with respect to directly comparing percentages and other rates since different surveys have utilized different methodological approaches and survey instruments. The following discussion is intended to highlight similarities and differences in patterns of findings.

6.1 Findings from the Victimization Legislation Review

Legislation relating to the compensation, assistance and inclusion of victims was examined in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. All Canadian jurisdictions except Newfoundland, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have enacted crime victim compensation legislation. Without this legislation, if a victim suffers personal injury or damage to property as a result of a crime and wishes to receive compensation, the victim has to pursue a potentially lengthy and costly civil court action against the offender. Funding is also available in most provinces for programs designed to assist victims and is used to disseminate information concerning availability of programs and funds. The funding comes from victim surcharges on crimes as well as designated provincial funds and donations.

Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* shares many similarities with the legislation of the other Canadian provinces, as well as the legislation found in other countries. The detailed compensation scheme shares common roots with the United Kingdom concept, which is one of the jurisdictions to most recently conduct an overhaul of its victim compensation legislation.

The legislative review identified some interesting provisions found in other jurisdictions. There are three main legislative themes that are found elsewhere but not extensively in Canada: expanding the definition of victim; examining psychological compensation availability; and focusing on restorative justice.

6.2 Findings from the Victimization Survey

6.2.1 Perceptions of Crime and Victimization

Generally, survey participants felt their communities were safe places in which to live. A substantial majority (84%) believed that the level of crime in their community was about the same as or even lower than other areas. A high rate was also found in the 1997 *EnviroNics* survey, where 79% of adult Albertans, who were asked how they thought the amount of crime in their community compared with other areas in Alberta,

felt their community had the same or a lower amount of crime. Feelings of the respondents are shared by other Canadians. Statistics Canada's 1999 *General Social Survey (GSS)* findings, as reported in *Juristat*, indicated that 88% of Canadians felt that the level of crime in their community was comparable to or lower than other areas (Besserer & Trainer, 2000; and *The Daily*, November 2, 2000).

Over half (55%) of the respondents in the current survey, however, thought that crime in their neighbourhood had risen in the last five years. Similarly, the *Environics* poll found that 56% of participants felt that crime in their community had increased. The finding from the current survey is also in line with rates reported in a 1997 *Angus Reid* survey of Canadian adults where 64% of Albertans and 59% of Canadians felt that there was an increase of crime in their community. The 55% in the current survey, however, is considerably higher than the 29% reported in the GSS. Possibly the relatively higher rate of victimization in western Canada as compared to the rest of the country (Besserer & Trainor, 2000) contributes to this difference.

The respondents' feelings of safety were also measured with respect to three kinds of activities in the current survey. Almost all (92%) respondents indicated they felt very or somewhat safe being home alone at night; about two-thirds (65%) felt very or somewhat safe walking alone in their community after dark; however, just under half (48%) reported they would feel very or somewhat safe using or waiting for public transportation after dark. These results are generally consistent with results found in other surveys. Almost all (98%) of the Canadians responding to the GSS reported they were not at all worried or somewhat worried about being home alone at night. With regards to walking alone in the community at night, 88% felt very or reasonably safe. A high percentage of respondents in the *Environics* survey reported feeling very or somewhat safe in their own home (97%); however the question did not ask about the evening. With regards to walking alone in the neighbourhood at night, 76% of *Environics* participants felt very or somewhat comfortable. Over half of the GSS respondents (54%) stated they were not at all worried about waiting for or using public transportation after dark, while 46% indicated they were very or somewhat worried.

In the *International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)* of 15 western industrialized countries, Canada ranked tenth in terms of how safe people feel after dark.³⁸ About 73% of Canadians surveyed indicated they felt very or fairly safe. In comparison, Sweden had the highest rate of 87% with Finland (82%) second. The United States was ranked one above Canada with 76%. Ranked below Canada were: Scotland (72%); Australia (69%); England and Wales (66%); Italy (65%); and New Zealand (62%).

The gender differences found in the current victimization survey support other researchers' findings that females tend to report higher levels of fear of crime as compared to men. Whereas the GSS rates were higher for being home alone and lower for walking in the community, the differences in rates between females and males in the

³⁸ See Appendix 4, Table 17: Feelings of Safety After Dark, in Mayhew & van Dijk (1997). Comparisons shown are the latest available data (from 1992 to 1996) collected in the International Crime Victimization Surveys that were conducted in 1989, 1992, and 1996. The following 15 countries are compared in Table 17: England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Austria, USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

current study are comparable. For being home alone at night, 10% of the female respondents in the current survey felt very or somewhat unsafe, as compared to 6% of males who reported feeling this way. The GSS findings revealed that 29% of Canadian females aged 15 and older were very or somewhat worried when home alone at night as compared to 12% of males. In the current survey, 46% of female respondents reported feeling very or somewhat unsafe walking in the community after dark as compared to 18% of males who reported feeling this way. In the GSS findings, 18% of Canadian females felt unsafe as compared to 6% of males. Results regarding personal safety with respect to using public transportation were more similar between the surveys. While 65% of female respondents in the current survey reported they would feel very or somewhat unsafe using or waiting for public transportation after dark, 31% of males felt the same way. Similarly, 64% of Canadian females in the GSS reported feeling somewhat or very worried as compared to 29% of males.

As was also found in the GSS, the oldest respondents (65 years and older in the GSS; 61 years and older in the current survey) were not consistently the most likely to report feeling unsafe. For example, in both surveys, with regards to using or waiting for public transportation alone at night, it was the more middle-aged groups (in their 40s to 60s) who felt unsafe.

The vast majority of respondents in the follow-up survey (n=209) attributed responsibility for public safety to the police with regards to the following: incidents involving weapons or objects intended as weapons (91%), forced sexual contact (87%); vandalism (83%); property-related offences (81%); and other personal contact (79%). The "individual" was the second category most often selected where 79% of respondents felt the individual is responsible for public safety related to property incidents; 71% for personal contact; 65% for forced sexual contact; 57% for vandalism; and 51% for weapons or objects used as weapons. The *Environics* survey similarly found that individual responsibility rated highly. When respondents were asked who they believed should have a role in the justice system (apart from government and the police) 34% chose "individuals" with the next most often selected categories being "no one" (17%), the public (11%), and communities (10%).

In the *Angus Reid* survey of Canadians, when respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they fear being a victim of crime in their community, the rate was 19% for Albertans. Recalling that individuals generally feel fairly safe in their communities, it is not unexpected that only about one in five Albertans are afraid of being victimized in their neighbourhood. In the current survey, respondents were asked more generally, how concerned they were that they would be burgled or robbed, vandalized, or assaulted in the next year. The majority of respondents felt some degree of concern. In particular about 19% were very concerned they would be burgled or robbed (64% were somewhat concerned). With regards to vandalism, 21% were very concerned (62% were somewhat concerned). Respondents were less worried about physical assault, however. About 10% were very concerned they would be assaulted in the next year (48% were somewhat concerned).

Identification of some of the major protective measures that people took in order to feel safer were quite comparable with findings elsewhere. In particular, increasing security of the home and property (such as installing locks) was the one of the most

common measures identified in the current survey and in the GSS. In an international comparison, the *ICVS* found that having special door locks was the most commonly used safety measure as reported by 52% of respondents (having a watchdog was second most common as indicated by 30% of people surveyed).

Interestingly, only a few respondents chose to comment in the current survey that they changed their schedule of activities whereas this was the most common strategy reported among GSS participants (27%). Another notable difference is that a large majority (92%) of the respondents in the current survey indicated they had someone check on their place when they were away. Presumably, the GSS did not include this measure, or write-in comments were not reported in the findings.

6.2.2 Victimization Experiences

Prevalence and Frequency of Victimization

Comparisons of rates of victimization measured in the current survey with victimization surveys are limited by different methodologies. As well, as mentioned throughout this report, effort was made in the current victimization survey to include a broad range of victimization experiences rather than to focus solely on criminal incidents. For example, open-ended questions were added throughout for respondents to write in additional victimization experiences that were not listed in the questionnaire. As noted in Chapter 2.0, the items that were listed in the survey instruments were largely based on *Criminal Code* terms and definitions. There were considerably more types of incidents used in the current survey than is typically used in others (for instance the GSS includes only eight types of crimes³⁹). However, responses to the questionnaires in the current study showed a relatively low percentage of victimizations that did not fit into one of the types of criminal incidents. A considerable number of write-in responses, as well, were very similar to the crime-based incidents listed in the questionnaire.

Nevertheless, it is useful to look at some overall patterns of victimization rates across different surveys. The current victimization survey used a three-year time frame in the follow-up questionnaire, and found that the highest victimization prevalence rates among respondents occurred for the following: property-related incidents involving theft from home (19%); theft from vehicle (19%); vandalism of vehicle (19%); and theft from yard (17%). For personal contact, offensive sexual comments (22%) and being threatened with harm (22%) were relatively high. In the GSS survey, Alberta's victimization rates measuring past year experiences were approximately 21% (205 per 1,000 population aged 15 and older) for "personal" victimization (theft of personal property, sexual assault, robbery, and assault), and a slightly higher 23% (228 per 1,000 population aged 15 and older) for "household" incidents (break and enter, motor vehicle or parts theft, theft of household property, and vandalism). In the *Angus Reid* survey, 29% of Albertans reported being the victim of a crime that involved the police in the last two years (a breakdown by incident type was not available).

³⁹ It is important to note that the report of results from the GSS excludes spousal violence incidents (Besserer & Trainor, 2000).

Overall, as was found in the GSS, there was no large gender difference in the total victimization rates; however, in the lifetime prevalence data for certain personal contact types of victimization, females had a higher rate of reporting than did males on the following: being slapped; receiving offensive sexual comments; and experiencing unwanted sexual touching. Males were more likely to report: being threatened with harm; being punched; being kicked; and having weapons or objects used against them. A greater proportion of females also reported having money, wallet or a purse stolen while males had higher report rates for having a vehicle vandalized. The GSS results more generally indicated that women were more likely to be victims of sexual assaults whereas men were more likely to be victims of assaults and robbery.

The findings from the current survey suggest that victimization within the last three years was less prevalent for the oldest respondents and more prevalent for the younger groups. The GSS found that risk of victimization, as well, was lower for older Canadians for all of the criminal incidents, especially personal crimes (theft of personal property, sexual assault, robbery, and physical and nonphysical assault). The youngest respondents (aged 18 to 30) in the current survey had the highest report rate for personal contact victimization over the last three years. Similarly, GSS results also indicated that the youngest Canadians (aged 15 to 24) had the highest rates of being victimized by personal crimes. The *EnviroNics* survey, as well, indicated that older respondents were less likely to report being victimized in the last year.

Efforts were made in the current survey to estimate a victimization incidence rate for the 209 follow-up respondents. A total of 134 individuals recorded the frequency of occurrences for each incident that happened to them. The majority reported only a few episodes (52% stated that something had happened between one and three times in the last three years; 60% stated something happened between one and four times). Differences were found between the three categories of incidents, however. Generally, vandalism tended to be less frequent with the majority of respondents who reported being vandalized indicating it happened only once (59%). Property-related incidents had slightly more respondents recording higher frequencies; however, almost two-thirds (64%) only had one or two occurrences. Personal contact incidents tended to have the highest proportion of respondents who recorded higher numbers of occurrences. While about two-thirds (64%) had recorded between one to four events, almost 16% had more than 10 episodes. This pattern is somewhat consistent with Canadian findings from the *ICVS* where relatively high incidence rates were found for assaults and threats, as well as for other incidents including theft from the car, car vandalism, and personal theft (e.g., pickpocketing, and noncontact personal thefts).⁴⁰

Context of the Incident and the Victim-Offender Relationship

One-third of the 114 respondents who reported on their most serious victimization in the last three years stated they knew the offender(s). An acquaintance (e.g., neighbour), family member or spouse/partner were most often identified as the offender(s). Based on violent crime data reported in the *Uniform Crime Reporting* survey, in the majority of cases, the offender is known to the victim (Besserer & Trainor, 2000). Furthermore, in about two-thirds of the crimes, the offender is either an

⁴⁰ See Appendix 4, Table 2: Incidence Victimization Rates, in Mayhew & van Dijk (1997).

acquaintance or a family member. The GSS results, as well, showed that the victim knew the offender in most incidents that were carried out by only one offender. The GSS respondents most often identified the offender as a family member or friend/acquaintance/other.

Impact and Seriousness of the Incident

For the most serious victimization incident, a relatively high percentage of respondents indicated they suffered psychological or emotional distress (81%) as compared to physical injury (11%). Similarly, GSS results indicated that physical injury, even in violent incidents, was fairly low (18%). Results from the analysis of victim impact statements further confirmed that victims tend to describe psychological or emotional impact over physical impact. In many cases, physical effects such as insomnia or lack of appetite were the result of the emotional stress. Financial impact, especially of concern to male victims, was also somewhat frequently described.

6.2.3 Dealing with Victimization

Telling Others about the Incident

The majority of the 114 respondents who reported their most serious victimization incident in the last three years indicated they told family members (69%, including a spouse/partner) and friends (64%) about the incident. Respondents also told the police (44%), co-worker (25%), insurance agent (22%), and employer (19%). According to the GSS survey, Canadians who had been victimized by violent crimes most often told friends or neighbours (72%), family members (62%), and co-workers (44%).

Reporting to the Police

In responding to the most recent incident that occurred over the respondent's lifetime, the rates of incidents reported to the police varied widely. Differences between categories of incidents, however, were consistent with other findings, including the *ICVS* data for Canada.⁴¹ Property-related incidents generated the highest rates of reporting to the police (79% of 211 respondents who experienced theft of a vehicle). Personal contact incidents tended to have the lowest rates of being reported to the police. For instance, 11% of 432 respondents who indicated someone made an offensive sexual comment; 11% of 419 who had been slapped; and 11% of 377 who experienced unwanted sexual touching reported the incident to the police. GSS results indicated that on average, 37% of incidents were reported to the police, most of the time by the victim. Break and enter and motor vehicle theft had the highest rates of reporting to the police (respectively, 62% and 60%). Violent incidents (sexual assault, robbery with a weapon, and physical or nonphysical assault) had the lowest report rates (31%).

Furthermore, findings for property-related incidents and vandalism that were reported to the police indicated that a smaller proportion of respondents stated that they knew the offender(s) as compared to those who did not know the offender(s). For personal contact incidents that were reported to the police, on the other hand, a larger

⁴¹ See Appendix 4, Table 9: Percentage of Crimes Reported to the Police, in Mayhew & van Dijk (1997).

proportion of respondents reported that they knew the offender(s). Little to no difference was found for weapons-related incidents.

Deciding to Report to the Police

The most common reason respondents gave for deciding to report to the police was to stop it from happening again (80% of 49 individuals who responded). Over half indicated that it was a serious enough event (53%) and over half (51%) wanted the offender(s) caught. The *ICVS* as well found that the reasons most often given for why the victim decided to notify the police were: that it was a serious enough event (35%); for insurance purposes (25%); and for retribution (22%).⁴² When the 41 respondents who did not report to the police were asked why not, the most common reason was that someone else reported it (24%). The second most selected response was that they were afraid the offender would retaliate (10%). Believing that the incident was not serious enough to report to the police was indicated by one respondent. This reason was, however, the most common reason given in the *GSS* (by 59% of respondents) and in the *ICVS* (38%).

Support in Dealing with Victimization

Over one-quarter (26%) of the 114 respondents indicated that no one assisted them in dealing with their most serious victimization incident. Upon further analysis, it was discovered that a number of these respondents did receive some kind of assistance or service; however, they believed that they really did not need any help, or that the assistance they received was not helpful at all, and therefore they perceived that they did not receive any assistance. Over one-quarter (26%) of the respondents also indicated that a friend helped them, with family members (25%) and spouse or common-law partner (24%) also mentioned. Not unexpectedly, females identified a larger social network of support than did males. Respondents who received support from their workplace underlined the importance of this assistance in helping them deal with their incidents.

In identifying who they had contact with inside the justice or legal system, the majority of respondents had some contact with the police, but relatively few reported any contact with Crown prosecutors, lawyers and judges. Findings related to respondents' attitudes about the service they received from police underline the important role of the police in helping victims cope and even in influencing how victims think about their experience years later. Overall, of the 72 individuals who responded, most gave positive ratings on police attitude, but were less positive about police service. Although they felt that the police were polite and interested in their situation, relatively greater proportions of respondents felt that the police did not provide them with enough information about victim assistance or about their case. As well, respondents tended to agree (29%) more than disagree (25%) that the police did not do enough to investigate their case. Results from the interviews stressed the importance that respondents placed on communication (especially information on the status of their case) and feeling that the police investigated their case as fully as possible. *GSS* and *EnviroNics* results were comparable with regards to favourable ratings on police attitude. Factors related

⁴² See Appendix 4, Table 12: Reasons for Reporting to the Police, in Mayhew & van Dijk (1997).

to police service could not be compared as the GSS did not ask respondents about their views on police efforts in investigating the case, providing information about victim assistance, and providing follow-up information about the case – items that were included in the current survey. With regards to police response time, findings in both the GSS and the current surveys indicated that participants were generally satisfied that police response time was fast enough.

Findings from the current survey are consistent with other research findings regarding views about the criminal justice system. Respondents' views of the criminal justice system were generally negative and a variety of opinions were expressed concerning the relationship between legal professionals and victims, services for victims, court decisions, and legislation. Individuals felt that, as victims, they were not provided with enough assistance when they approached Crown prosecutors for information. As well, for those respondents who were required to attend court, the feeling was that the offender was given more respect and attention than the victim. Respondents were frustrated with what they perceived to be overly lenient sentences and “weak” legislation. In general, respondents perceived the criminal justice system to be too easy on offenders (and especially on young offenders). These views are shared by others. In the *Environics* poll which asked people how satisfied they were that sentences match the crime the majority (73%) were dissatisfied; and when asked what actions they believe will be most effective in lowering crime, the most common response was tougher sentencing (37%). According to the *Angus Reid* survey, Albertans tended to have the least amount of confidence in the court system of all other Canadians surveyed (44% as compared to 52%). Albertans, as well, had lower ratings of confidence in the prison and the parole systems as compared to other Canadians. The *Angus Reid* poll also indicated that the prairie provinces were considerably less confident about the *Young Offenders Act*. Results of the *Environics* survey tended to show higher confidence in the legal system. The finding was that 70% of respondents had a lot or some confidence in the courts and the legal system.

Respondents in the current survey agreed that more public education about the criminal justice system is required. The *Environics* survey participants felt that increasing social programs, including education, job training, drug treatment, recreation and job creation would reduce crime (as indicated by 23% of individuals; this was the second most often selected response after tougher sentencing). One possible result of a more informed public is that attitudes about the leniency of courts in sentencing may change. Evidence from Doob's and Roberts' Canadian research on public opinion and sentencing (Tufts, 2000) suggested that after knowing more about a specific case, peoples' opinions on appropriate sentencing tended to be similar to judges' actual decisions, not more punitive.

6.3 Feedback from Workshop Participants

As described in Chapter 5.0, workshop participants came from a number of different organizations involved with victims' issues, including victims service agencies, the police, the legal community, and government. Group discussion was largely directed towards responding to the major topics and themes arising from the survey

findings. Almost all of the participants acknowledged the frustrations felt by survey respondents and reinforced many of the suggestions for improvement that were made by the respondents, often offering additional suggestions regarding possible ways to address issues that were identified in the survey. Because the majority of workshop participants were victim assistance workers, participants spoke from experience and were able to provide more context around comments from the survey – this kind of feedback provided invaluable information. Factors that were important to respondents as victims trying to deal with their incidents were also important to victim assistance workers trying to provide help. For instance, the vast majority agreed that follow up and timing are key to providing effective assistance to victims. Workshop discussions, however, noted that there are a number of reasons why victims may not be contacted right away and how continuity of care is restricted. Besides a general agreement that there is need for more funding, participants said there is also a need to utilize existing resources more efficiently. For example, suggestions were made that a system-based model which coordinates efforts across agencies and help sectors could be very effective for the urban centres, but more limited for rural areas. The discussions identified some of the major reasons underlying areas where service delivery does not meet service needs.

Almost everyone agreed that more public education must take place, and as people become more informed, they will be in a better position to become more actively involved in seeking the resources they need. More directed education and training needs to be offered to victim assistance workers, to police and to legal professionals as well. Many of the frustrations experienced by victims and those trying to assist victims stems from lack of information regarding the kinds of resources that are available and knowing what kinds of assistance one can expect. For example, many of the survey respondents expressed frustration with the police for not providing the kind of assistance that in many cases, police services are not set up to provide (which, as noted by workshop participants, does not mean that the police should not consider making changes in their service delivery).

Survey respondents and workshop participants identified what could perhaps be called an “attitude shift” in the criminal justice system’s approach to victimization and treatment of victims. Both groups highlighted the need for victims to be treated with more sensitivity and respect, and for criminal justice workers to be more informed and less judgmental about victims.

A final comment on feedback from the workshops concerns remarks regarding participation in the victimization survey. An important limitation in the current survey is that it fails to include First Nations, and members of cultural and ethnic minorities. As acknowledged at the outset, the current research project was not set up to address ethnic and cultural diversity in victimization. In fact, the methodology utilized in this study would not have been appropriate or effective in obtaining representative samples of aboriginal communities or of ethnic minority groups. Limitations around the research project did not allow for use of special sampling techniques, strategies to increase participation from special groups, or for wider media publicity of the survey - methods that have been adopted in other, larger-scale studies. Having stated this, it is acknowledged that cultural and ethnic diversity is a very important factor affecting victimization – not only in terms of how it is perceived and experienced, but also in

terms of how it is identified, and even if it is identified in the first place. Conducting a victimization survey such as this, or for that matter, any victimization survey, presumes, in Elias's words, a certain "social reality" of victimization. "Most of us share a selective perception of victimization, as we react to its symbolic representation through cues provided by our laws, our education, our media, our politics, our political socialization, and our culture" (Elias, 1986, p. 28).

Workshop participants also pointed out that there is a need for all organizations and individuals involved in victim assistance to be more culturally sensitive – that there is a dearth of culturally-appropriate services which adds to the challenge of service workers to provide adequate help for victims. Besides the need to address cultural and ethnic diversity in victimization, participants also identified a need to include other groups who, by their nature, would be the least likely to participate in a research survey. Members of these groups would include, for example, individuals who suffer from mental illness, the homeless, and victims of what have been termed "victimless" crimes, such as drug addicts and sex trade workers. As pointed out by participants, these individuals are probably among the most vulnerable and highly victimized in our society, with the least amount of resources available to them to deal with their situations. All of these comments are valid and the call for further investigation of the diversity in victimization experiences in these groups is warranted.

As has been identified by the comments from survey respondents and workshop participants, there is an underlying focus on self-efficacy. This attitude reflects a departure from the traditional, legal understanding of the victim as being part of the offender-victim relationship, one which has been based on a "taker" versus "taken" conceptualization. The victim, rather than being someone who needs to be "acted upon," is instead seen as an individual who is informed and who is actively involved in overcoming his or her victimization experience, and who is supported by the provision of adequate and appropriate resources.

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APPENDIX A

ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

TABLE A-1

ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

Characteristic	Screening Survey Participants (N=1,432)		Follow-up Survey Participants (n=209)	
	n	%	n	%
Gender				
Female	889	62.1	136	65.1
Male	531	37.1	73	34.9
missing cases	12	0.8	0	0.0
Average Age				
Mean	50.1 years		51.8 years	
Median	48 years		50 years	
Range	18 to 94 years		18 to 90 years	
18 to 30 years	132	9.2	21	10.0
31 to 40 years	247	17.2	34	16.3
41 to 50 years	407	28.4	51	24.4
51 to 60 years	265	18.5	38	18.2
61 & older	351	24.5	64	30.6
missing cases	30	2.1	1	0.5
Community Size				
Larger City (Popn. > 100,000)	800	55.9	132	63.2
Smaller City (Popn. 10,000 to 100,000)	200	14.0	32	15.3
Town/Rural Area (Popn. < 10,000)	378	26.4	44	21.1
missing cases	54	3.8	1	0.5
Education Level				
College or University	707	49.4	101	48.3
Technical or Trade School	239	16.7	39	18.7
High School	368	25.7	56	26.8
Less than High School	98	6.8	12	5.7
missing cases	20	1.4	1	0.5
Relationship Status				
Married/Co-habiting	1,032	72.1	131	62.7
Divorced/Separated	131	9.1	26	12.4
Widowed	98	6.8	23	11.0
Single	161	11.2	29	13.9
missing cases	10	0.7	0	0.0
Household Gross Income Level				
\$20,000 or less per year	n/a		39	18.7
Over \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year	n/a		49	23.4
Over \$40,000 to \$60,000 per year	n/a		43	20.6
Over \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year	n/a		29	13.9
Over \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year	n/a		16	7.7
Over \$100,000 per year	n/a		23	11.0
missing cases	n/a		10	4.8
Satisfaction with current level?				
Very satisfied	n/a		50	23.9
Moderately satisfied	n/a		86	41.1
Slightly satisfied	n/a		41	19.6
Not satisfied at all	n/a		29	13.9
missing cases	n/a		3	1.4

TABLE A-1 (CONTINUED)

ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

Characteristics	Screening Survey Participants (N=1,432)		Follow-up Survey Participants (n=209)	
	n	%	n	%
Mobility				
Length of time at current address				
Mean	13.4 years		n/a	
Median	9 years		n/a	
Range	0 to 82 years		n/a	
Less than 1 year	n/a		11	5.3
1 to 5 years	n/a		73	34.9
6 to 10 years	n/a		39	18.7
More than 10 years	n/a		86	41.1
missing cases	18	1.3	0	0.0
Number of times moved the last 10 years				
Mean	1.5 times			
Range	0 to 20 times			
None	n/a		86	41.1
1 to 3 times	n/a		91	43.5
4 to 6 times	n/a		24	11.5
More than 6 times	n/a		6	2.9
missing cases	44	3.1	2	1.0
Employment Status				
Employed	607	42.4	73	34.9
Self-Employed	231	16.1	39	18.7
Full-time Homemaker	129	9.0	22	10.5
Temporarily Unemployed	26	1.8	3	1.4
Student	25	1.7	4	1.9
Retired	300	20.9	58	27.8
Other	107	7.5	10	4.8
missing cases	7	0.5	0	0.0
Required to do shift work in job?				
Yes	n/a		35	16.7
No	n/a		78	37.3
missing cases	n/a		96	45.9
Household				
Number of members in household (including the respondent):				
1 member	n/a		58	27.8
2 members	n/a		74	35.4
3 members or more	n/a		76	36.4
missing cases	n/a		1	0.5
Living with children under 18 years old?				
Yes	n/a		57	27.3
No	n/a		149	71.3
missing cases	n/a		3	1.4
Style of Residence				
House	n/a		145	69.4
Condominium	n/a		18	8.6
Duplex	n/a		10	4.8
Town house	n/a		4	1.9
Low-rise apartment (< 5 stories)	n/a		14	6.7
High-rise apartment (5 or more stories)	n/a		6	2.9
Other	n/a		9	4.3
missing cases	n/a		3	1.4
Currently renting?				
Yes	n/a		43	20.6
No	n/a		160	76.6
missing cases	n/a		2	1.0

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF VICTIM LEGISLATION

Please note that these charts are meant for reference only. Official statutes and regulations should be consulted for interpretation or application of the law.

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Table B-2	Canadian Victim Assistance and Inclusion Legislation
Table B-3	Monetary Compensation for Victims - Other Countries
Table B-4	Victim Assistance and Inclusion Legislation - Other Countries

TABLE B-1

MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS IN CANADA

Act	Who May Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
<p><i>Criminal Code</i> (Canada - Federal) ss.738 – 741.2 (restitution)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Attorney General, or the Court of its own accord 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During sentencing phase of criminal proceeding 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After an offender is found guilty or convicted of offence, the Attorney General may request, or the Court may choose on its own to order, the offender to make restitution to victim 2. Restitution is in addition to any other sentence 3. Restitution is available for bodily harm as well as property damage where the amount is readily ascertainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To Court of Appeal of provincial or territorial Superior Court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim must enforce the order as in civil proceeding (see s. 741)
<p><i>Criminal Injury Compensation Act</i> (British Columbia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim, or immediate family members if victim is injured or killed by act or omission, from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) offender committing offence b) lawful (attempted) arrest of offender c) lawful (attempted) prevention of crime - No compensation to victim or family member who contributed to injury or death, or was party to crime - List of offences in schedule to Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 year after the date of injury or death - Board may extend time limit 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply to Worker's Compensation Board 2. Criminal conviction is not necessary. Board may wait, until after criminal trial, to proceed 3. Interim payments may be made, which are not recoverable if no proof of crime is eventually found 4. Compensation can be lump sum or periodic payments 5. Compensation will cover pecuniary damages (such as hospital, funeral or child-rearing) as well as non-pecuniary damages for pain and suffering 6. Board may be subrogated in action for damages against offender 7. Board may require victim to be medically examined 8. Maximum compensation amounts in regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim can file an appeal within 90 days of Board's decision - Appeal committee has same powers as Board - Victim may apply to Chief Appeal Commissioner for reconsideration of application if additional evidence found 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same-sex partners are included in definition of immediate family members - Strong privative clause to keep process out of Court - Victim's payments may be reduced or suspended if victim refuses to submit to medical or surgical treatment or persists in injurious practices that retard recovery
<p><i>Victims of Crime Act</i> (Alberta) (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim may apply - Spouse, cohabitant, parent, child, sister, brother, or other (if Director approves) may apply if the victim deceased - Person cannot apply if convicted in the same act or if person is dependent or relative of accused, unless he is also a dependant or relative of victim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 years from date of injury or death; or - 2 years from when victim reasonably ought to have known of entitlement to claim 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surcharge on crime fines and monies from additional sources deposited in Victims' Fund 2. Victim makes application to Director (who is appointed by the Minister) 3. Director considers the application using whatever information is necessary 4. Director gives written notice of decision 5. Money may be paid from fund (see above item 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appeal allowed within 30 days of decision - Victim may request review involving hearing - Independent Review Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must hear appeals 2. May review all evidence 3. May request expert advice or medical exam 4. May rescind, confirm, or vary decision 5. Has final say 6. Board's decision may only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Duty on victim to report incident to authority within reasonable time - Duty on victim to cooperate with authorities - Director has wide scope to examine evidence even if not consistent with civil rules of evidence (e.g., Director can collect information from medical services, other

TABLE B-1 (CONTINUED)
MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS IN CANADA

Act	Who May Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
				be judicially reviewed (i.e., by court) on appeal on question of law	public bodies, and agencies, etc.)
<p><i>The Victims of Crime Act, 1995</i> (Saskatchewan)</p>	<p>- Victim who sustained injury or death, if result of criminal act or omission, or if victim was assisting peace officer</p> <p>- Dependant who is a child of, or who was in whole or in part dependent on, deceased's victim's income at time of death</p>	<p>- 1 year from date of injury or death; or</p> <p>- 1 year from when victim understands the nature of the injuries if they result from criminal act</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surcharge on crime fines and monies from additional sources deposited in Victims' Fund 2. Application is made by victim, parent or guardian, or dependant for compensation 3. Minister decides whether to grant compensation, in amount Minister considers appropriate 4. Minister may impose any terms and conditions that (s)he feels appropriate 5. Minister has right to bring action in own name or in name of victim to recover funds from accused 	<p>- No formal appeal process is provided for</p>	<p>- Intent, although essential for finding of criminal guilt, is not necessary for compensation from Fund</p>
<p>Victims' Rights Act (Manitoba)</p>	<p>- Victim (person against whom a crime has been committed or is alleged to have been committed)</p> <p>- Immediate family of victim (means spouse, child, parent, grandparent, sister or brother only)</p> <p>- Any person who incurs funeral expenses, or an expense or other pecuniary loss as result of victim's injury if the maintenance of the victim is the responsibility of that person</p>	<p>- 1 year from date of event; or</p> <p>- 1 year from the time when victim becomes aware of, or ought to be aware of, injury</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surcharge on crime fines and monies from additional sources deposited in Victims' Fund 2. Complaint is made to Director (designated by the Minister) 3. Director investigates complaint 4. Criminal conviction not required 5. Director provides victim with written report on outcome of investigation 6. Victim has opportunity to comment on report 7. Money is for expenses, lost wages and compensation for permanent impairments 8. Director may refuse to award compensation or reduce it because of victim's conduct 	<p>- Victim may request reconsideration within 60 days of compensation decision</p> <p>- Director must give written response to reconsideration request</p> <p>- Appeal to Compensation Appeal Board (CAB) within 30 days of written notice of reconsideration request</p> <p>- CAB may confirm, vary or rescind decision</p> <p>- CAB must give written notice of its decision</p> <p>- Victim has 30 days to appeal CAB decision</p> <p>- CAB's decision may only be judicially reviewed on appeal (i.e., by court) on question of law or jurisdiction</p>	<p>- "Spouse" only includes co-inhabitant in cases of dependency or joint child</p> <p>- Duty on victim to notify Director immediately of any other money received or of any civil action taken against offender</p> <p>- Victim may demand to visit offender as part of victim's healing process</p>
<p><i>Compensation for Victims of Crime Act</i> (Ontario) <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>- Victim or dependant if victim injured or killed by act or omission of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) offender committing offence b) lawful (attempted) arrest of 	<p>- 1 year from date of injury or death, although Board may extend time if it deems appropriate</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victim makes application to Criminal Injuries Compensation Board 2. Chair of Board refers application to 1 or more Board members 3. Member(s) of the Board fix time 	<p>- If decision is made by single Board member applicant or Minister may request full hearing within 15 days of decision</p> <p>- Decision of full Board final</p>	<p>- Same-sex partners are not included for compensation under Act</p>

TABLE B-1 (CONTINUED)
MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS IN CANADA

Act	Who May Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) offender lawful (attempted) prevention of crime 		and place for hearing and give notice to victim 4. Member(s) of Board then make compensation order for pecuniary losses 5. Interim order available (not recoverable by Board if a final award not made) 6. Conviction is conclusive evidence of crime being committed, but conviction not required for compensation	- Board's decision may only be judicially reviewed (i.e., by court) on appeal on question of law	
Victims' Right to Proceeds of Crime Act (Ontario)	- Person who obtains civil court judgment against offender may apply	- 5 years after date Public Guardian and Trustee first receives money	1. All money received under any contract with an accused or convicted person for an interview, public appearance, movie making, etc. must be given to Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) 2. PGT posts notice in community informing that money received 3. Victim with civil court judgment against the accused/convicted person may apply to receive amount sufficient to satisfy civil court judgment		- Applicable to same-sex partners
Crime Victims Compensation Act (Québec)	- Victim means person killed or injured in Québec from: a) offender committing offence b) lawful (attempted) arrest of offender c) lawful (attempted) prevention of crime	1 year from date of injury or death	1. Process in Regulations made under Act 2. Funds available from Fonds d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (created from allocated monies, from levies on criminal fines, and from donations) 3. Temporary (interim) payments are available 4. No compensation available if victim contributed to injury, was party to the offence, or if injuries caused by motor vehicle accident		- If court grants less than what is available under Act, victim can apply within 1 year of judgment for additional funds - Compensation for damage to material goods is available in some circumstances - Money also available for maintenance of child of rape victim and for victim's funeral expenses
Victims Services Act (New Brunswick) <i>(continued)</i>	- Victim may apply - Victim not defined in Act; a committee decides whether or not someone is a victim		1. Surcharge on criminal fines and monies from additional sources 2. Potential victim applies 3. Committee decides whether that person is victim 4. Committee makes recommendation to Minister of	- No formal appeal process provided for - Lt. Governor in Council has power to make regulations under Act regards appeal	- Law very broad; dependent on regulations, made under Act, for details

TABLE B-1 (CONTINUED)
MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS IN CANADA

Act	Who May Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
<p>Victims' Rights and Services Act (Nova Scotia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Person injured or killed, or if killed, person's estate - Person responsible for maintenance of victim - Any dependants - Anyone who has incurred expenses on behalf of victim killed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 year from date of injury or death - Director may extend time limit at any point - Application for compensation in respect of sexual assault may be made at any time, if person committing crime was in position of trust or authority to victim 	<p>Public Safety 5. Minister or authorized delegate may authorize use of fund for financial compensation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund consists of surcharges on criminal fines and monies from additional sources 2. Victim or appropriate other person makes application to Director in Department of Attorney General 3. Director also considers behaviour of victim 4. Interim payments may be made at Director's discretion 5. Director determines whether compensation should be paid and how (lump sum or periodic) 6. Director makes deductions, such as other benefits received 7. Compensation cannot exceed limits of \$100,000 (lump sum) or \$3,500 per month 8. Director may impose any terms and conditions 9. Subrogation possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director may vary award if there is new evidence or an appropriate change of circumstances, or any other reason the Director feels is relevant - Appeal process is available employing process as established in regulations under Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director may decline to make award of compensation if victim fails to report offence within reasonable time period or refuses to cooperate with law enforcement agency
<p>Victims of Crime Act (Prince Edward Island)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim or dependant (a spouse or child) of a victim, or any person dependant on income of victim if victim is injured or killed by act or omission from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) offender committing offence b) lawful (attempted) arrest of offender c) lawful (attempted) prevention of a crime - Cannot be victim who is culpable in relation to offence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 year unless Minister chooses to extend time 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victim Assistance Fund from surcharges on criminal fines and monies from additional sources 2. Application made by victim or dependant, and forwarded to designated person (DP) 3. If claim is a small claim DP may determine eligibility 4. Otherwise Minister must receive application in writing and make order 5. If victim engaged in unlawful activity Minister may award lower sum 6. Compensation available for expenses, disability, pain and suffering, other financial loss 7. Minister is subrogated to recover damages in civil court 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lists factors to consider in determining amount of compensation, including awards made previously and awards in other jurisdictions - Also will consider behaviour of victim that contributed to death or injury, past character and lifestyle (if a contributing factor)

TABLE B-2 (CONTINUED)
CANADIAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND INCLUSION LEGISLATION

Act	Research & Program Funding	Dissemination of Information	Other
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) length of any imprisonment or other sentence g) how to report offender's breaches of terms of supervision h) means to contact agencies i) eligibility and review dates for offender status change 	
<i>Victims of Crime Act</i> (Alberta)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fund financed by victim surcharge on criminal fines used for grants for programs to benefit victims - Committee appointed by Minister to evaluate applications for grants for programs to benefit victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On request, victim must be provided information as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) status of investigation b) role of victim c) court procedures d) opportunity to make representations in court - Director must inform victim of how to resolve concerns if (s)he is not treated according to principles of Act 	
<i>The Victims of Crime Act, 1995</i> (Saskatchewan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims' Fund may be used to promote and deliver services and benefits to victims - Funds may also be used for programs to conduct research into victims' services, needs and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money from the Fund may be designated for distribution of information respecting victims' services, needs and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money from the Fund may also be used for crime prevention
The Victims Rights Act (Manitoba)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister may request that payments be made out of Victims' Assistance Fund for promotion, delivery and administration of services, or for research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim entitled to information about available victim services, protective orders, victim impact statements and other restorative justice programs - Victim entitled to information concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) status of investigation b) role of victim c) court procedures d) dates and place of all significant proceedings - and additional information from Manitoba Corrections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) name of offender, offence committed, which court b) significant dates involving offender (e.g., release) c) name and location of the correctional services d) general destination of offender on authorized absences e) notice if offender escapes or is in breach of order f) other information, if disclosure does not violate a law 	
Victims' Bill of Rights (Ontario) (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims' justice fund account shall be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) programs to provide assistance to victims b) grants to community agencies assisting victims c) other uses to assist victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims should have access to information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) services and remedies available to victims b) provisions of Acts that might assist them c) protection available against intimidation d) progress of investigation e) charges laid f) victim's role in prosecution g) dates and places of all significant proceedings h) outcome of all significant proceedings i) any pretrial arrangements j) interim release, and final sentence, of accused k) any disposition concerning being unfit to stand trial l) <i>Criminal Code</i> right to a Victim Impact Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims of sexual assault should be interviewed only by officials of same gender as victim (if requested) - Stolen property of victim should be returned promptly if recovered - Liability toward victim in civil court for any wrongs

TABLE B-2 (CONTINUED)
CANADIAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND INCLUSION LEGISLATION

Act	Research & Program Funding	Dissemination of Information	Other
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upon request, a victim should be notified of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an application for release or a pending release b) any escape from custody 	
An Act Respecting Assistance for Victims of Crime (Québec)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funds may be directed by Minister to promote research and development of informational, educational, training and service programs - Minister may also grant financial assistance to any person or organization to further development of assistance services, especially victims' assistance centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim has right to be informed of progress and outcome of investigations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Declaration of victim's rights to psychological, medical and social care, as well as protection against intimidation and retaliation
Victims Services Act (New Brunswick)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister may authorize that funds be used for promotion and delivery of victims' services as well as research into services, needs and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fund may also be used for distribution of information regarding victims' services, needs and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee receives applications for use of monies - Committee makes recommendation to Minister who authorizes expenses on which expenditures may be made
Victims' Rights and Services Act (Nova Scotia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Victim's Services makes recommendations to Attorney General regards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) policies respecting victim services b) all expenditures from Victim's Fund, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - research - programs for victims - dissemination of information (see next column) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim has right to information regards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) name of accused b) specific offence c) scope, nature, timing and progress of prosecution d) role of victim and opportunity to make representations e) court procedures f) crime prevention measures g) services, remedies and how to obtain them h) right to be kept apart from accused and accused's witnesses when waiting to give evidence - Director has power to grant funds for distribution of information respecting victims' services, needs, concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim has absolute rights to access social, legal, medical and health services - Stolen property of victim should be returned as soon as possible if recovered
Victims of Crime Act (Prince Edward Island)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim Services Advisory Committee established to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review existing laws, policies, procedures, recommend changes b) assist law enforcement agencies with development of guidelines c) assist with complaint procedures d) assist with research, distribution of information e) provide opportunities for issue resolution, research, discussion f) make recommendations to Minister relating to development of legislation and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister shall establish and administer Victim Services program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) assist victims throughout their contact with judicial system b) help victims access other needed services c) assist with preparation and filing of victim impact statements d) assist in providing services to victims 	

TABLE B-2 (CONTINUED)

CANADIAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND INCLUSION LEGISLATION

Act	Research & Program Funding	Dissemination of Information	Other
<p><i>Victims of Crime Services Act</i> (Newfoundland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims should have access to social, legal, medical, mental health services - Measures should be taken to ensure the safety of victims, dependants, spouses, guardians and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information should be made available to victims, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) information about services, remedies and mechanisms to obtain remedies b) scope, nature, timing and progress of prosecution of offence c) role of victim and others in prosecution d) court procedures e) crime prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims should be encouraged to participate in mediation, conciliation and informal reconciliation to resolve disputes and determine redress - Victims should report crimes and co-operate with law enforcement authorities
<p>Victim Services Act (Yukon)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee makes recommendations to Minister about expenditure of the Victim Services Fund, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promoting and providing services for victims of offences; b) conducting research to determine needs of victims of offences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim Services Committee may also recommend use of Victim Services Fund to publish information about needs of victims of offences and about services offered - Minister or delegate makes decision as to use of funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim Services Fund created from victim surcharges on criminal fines as well as monies from additional sources
<p><i>Victims of Crime Act</i> (Northwest Territories)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims Assistance Committee appointed by Minister to promote purposes of Act, including reviewing applications for funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) research concerning needs and concerns of victims and victims' services b) promotion and delivery of services to victims - Committee makes recommendations concerning use of Fund to Minister - Minister must consider recommendations before making any disbursements - Minister decides how to disburse available funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister may authorize disbursements from fund for distribution of information respecting services to victims and needs and concerns of victims - Committee shall promote availability of information to victims about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) scope, nature, timing and progress of prosecution b) role of victim in court proceedings c) remedies and social, legal, medical and mental health services available to victims and mechanisms to obtain access d) responsibility of victims to report crimes and cooperate with law enforcement authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims Assistance fund is created out of victim surcharge on criminal fines and monies from additional sources and used for the purposes outlined in the other two columns
<p>Victims of Crime Act (Nunavut)</p>	<p>See above: The Nunavut Act is, essentially, the Northwest Territories <i>Victims of Crime Act</i> incorporated into Nunavut statute</p>		

**TABLE B-3
MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS – OTHER COUNTRIES**

Act	Who Can Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
<p>Victim Support and Rehabilitation Act, 1996</p> <p>(New South Wales, Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary victim: a person who sustains injury trying to prevent act of violence, trying to rescue someone being harmed by act, or trying to arrest someone doing act - Secondary victim: someone who, as a result of witnessing act, suffers harm - Family victim: immediate family, which includes same-sex partners, if victim dies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application must be made within 2 years of act or death of victim - Director may give leave to extend time - Director should extend time in cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, unless good reason not to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victim's fund consists of fines for offences, proceeds from crimes or drug trafficking law, and other confiscated profits 2. Victim makes application in prescribed form to Director or Clerk of Court 3. Compensation Assessor (CA) examines claim 4. CA determines if applicant is victim 5. CA dismisses or accepts claim 6. CA can reduce amount in part or full depending on victim's behaviour (e.g., criminal act, not providing assistance to police) 7. Interim payment possible 8. Conditions may be imposed 9. Costs of application may be awarded 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victim may appeal to tribunal composed of magistrates within 3 months of decision 2. Director can also recommend to tribunal if Director thinks CA is wrong 3. Tribunal decides if hearing is required 4. Tribunal may affirm, set aside, or rewrite decision 5. Appeal to Courts exists only on a question of law 6. Payments are suspended during appeal time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although victims may seek legal advice in filing compensation claim, lawyers cannot charge - Maximum amount of claim is \$50,000, with additional \$1,000 available for personal effects and up to \$10,000 for loss of earnings - Up to 20 hours of approved counseling may also be awarded - Subrogation of civil right to sue - Provisions for recovery of money from fraudulent claimant - Criminal charge or conviction not required
<p>Crimes (Victims Assistance) Act</p> <p>(Northern Territory, Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim (someone injured or killed when someone else commits offence) - Relative (includes spouse, children, opposite sex partner) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application must be made 12 months from the date of offence or death of victim, although Court may extend time if and as it sees fit 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victim Assistance Fund from levies on crime and other funds 2. Victim applies to Court for assistance certificate 3. Must serve copy on offender and Crown 14 days before hearing 4. Hearing held in court as formal process 5. Court may issue certificate for Territory to pay 6. Victim must report offence within reasonable time and assist police 7. Territory has 28 days to pay victim after certificate issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appeal on question of law only - Supreme Court hears appeals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although victims may seek legal advice in filing compensation claim, lawyers cannot charge for assisting, but lawyers may recover costs of disbursements - Monetary limits of \$25,000 for victim and \$3,000 for family grief
<p>Criminal Offence Victims Act</p> <p>(Queensland, Australia)</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim (someone with injury from a personal offence committed against them or incurred as a result of aiding a police officer) - "Personal offence" is an indictable offence against the person - Applicant cannot be party to an offence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 years from convicted person's trial - If applicant is child at time of offence, the 3 year limitation does not commence until child becomes an adult 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply to court for order for convicted person to pay 2. Court may order compensation, which is not part of sentence of convicted person 3. May apply to Court for State to pay all or part of unsatisfied compensation order 4. Application to State also possible if accused not guilty because of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No appeal available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court may not order payment of more than table in Act indicates is appropriate - Focuses on fundamental principle of offender paying for wrongs committed - State is subrogated to rights and remedies of victim

TABLE B-3 (CONTINUED)

MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS – OTHER COUNTRIES

Act	Who Can Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application can be made by dependent if victim is dead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister can order time extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unsound mind, etc. 5. Application for State to pay is made to Minister 6. Governor in Council, or Minister, may approve payment 		
<p>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, 1976</p> <p>(Tasmania, Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Person killed or suffering injury as result of act or omission of another that constitutes offence (or would constitute offence if not for offender being of unsound mind, or too young); or - Person who suffered injury while assisting a police officer 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levy collected for serious offences under <i>Victim of Crime Compensation Act</i> 2. Application made to Master (oral application possible) 3. Proceedings are in private with publicity ban 4. Master may refuse compensation if adequate remedy is available in civil court 5. Master must be satisfied on balance of probabilities that injury or damage was result of criminal conduct 6. If insufficient information, on application, to determine ultimate sum of compensation, interim award is possible 7. Master may make award subject to conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No appeal available. Decision of the Master is final. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No compensation will be granted if applicant has failed to do anything which should have been done to assist with identification, apprehension, prosecution of offender - No compensation granted for property damage unless incurred while victim helping police - Maximum award of \$10,000 unless victim was helping police (in which event no maximum) - Order can be made by Master for offender, if convicted, to reimburse Crown
<p>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, 1985</p> <p>(Western Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim of offence (even if no one charged or convicted) - Close relative (husband, wife, or non-spouse if they have been living together as husband and wife for 3 years, father, mother, grandparent, step-parent, child) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 years after offence - Time can be extended by Chief Assessor 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chief Assessor (CA) is appointed by Governor 2. Application in writing by victim or representative 3. Oral hearing possible 4. Must satisfy CA on balance of probabilities that claimed injury or loss occurred because of offence 5. If Act prevents CA from paying compensation, Attorney-General can waive requirements that preclude compensation 6. Written reasons required if CA denies compensation 7. No compensation available if offender is likely to benefit, or if victim doesn't assist authorities 8. Deductions possible depending on victim behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appeal to District Court Judge within 21 days of decision - District Court Judge has complete discretion to confirm, quash or vary decision - No additional appeal available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum of \$15,000 unless otherwise indicated in Regulations made under Act - Crown may seek repayment from convicted offender

TABLE B-3 (CONTINUED)
MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS – OTHER COUNTRIES

Act	Who Can Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
<p>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, 1978</p> <p>(South Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim may apply - Person representing interests of dependents may apply. Dependents include spouse, putative spouse, parents, children who are financially dependent on victim - No compensation if victim was engaged in indictable offence unless victim acquitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 years from date on which offence committed - Dependent must apply within 1 year from death of victim - Reimbursement of funeral expenses within 12 months (maximum of \$3,000) - Court may waive time period 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund from levy on criminal fines and other allocated sources 2. Not less than three months before making application, victim must serve written notice containing particulars of application, on Crown Solicitor 3. Victim applies to Court for compensation order 4. Crown and offender are parties to proceedings 5. Court may order compensation it sees fit, subject to maximum of \$4,200 to spouse and \$3,000 to parent 6. Non-financial losses calculated according to formula 7. Court must consider contributory conduct by victim 8. Interim payment possible 9. Court may recover any excess paid in interim payment 10. <i>Ex gratia</i> payment possible even if acquittal because of drunkenness or automatism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appeal available to full court of Supreme Court if filed within 21 days of the decision - Supreme Court may dismiss, quash, vary or remit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation only available if victim reported offence and cooperated with authorities - Right of Attorney General for subrogation to rights of victim against offender; also to rights of offender against insurance company
<p>Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act, 1983</p> <p>(Australia Capital Territory)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim (person injured because of violent crime listed in Act or while assisting a police officer to arrest or to prevent crime, or assisting victim) - Victim cannot be engaged in commission of serious crime - Close family member (someone who had genuine relationship with victim and was husband, wife, parent, child or sibling) may apply - Eligible property owner may apply for compensation if property damaged while assisting police or victim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 months from the day injury sustained - Court may extend time period on request 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensation levy collected from offenders 2. Application made in writing to Magistrates Court 3. Registrar forwards copy to Crown solicitor 4. Court must be satisfied on balance of probabilities that offence occurred 5. Court must consider behaviour and condition of victim and property 6. Court can adjust amount if victim was intoxicated or if there are other monies available 7. Court may impose conditions 8. Interim award possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None is specified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specified maximum amounts are given depending on the crime - Victim must make report to police - Court may restrict media from publishing information about proceeding - Lawyer acting for victim cannot get fees beyond prescribed amount - Victim must repay money if s(he) receives funds from another source or if victim is convicted of similar crime within 2 years

TABLE B-3 (CONTINUED)
MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS – OTHER COUNTRIES

Act	Who Can Apply	Time Limits	Process	Appeal	Other
Victims of Crime Assistance Act (Victoria, Australia)	- Primary, secondary or related victim (same definitions as in New South Wales Act, described above)	- 2 years after occurrence of crime - Tribunal has power to extend time period if appropriate due to circumstances	1. Application to Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal 2. No requirements of formality 3. Not bound by any rules of evidence 4. Award may be made even if no offender is found guilty of crime	- Appeal available to Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	- Applicant may receive costs - No Charter of Rights or guidelines for treatment of victims - Maximum of \$60,000 for primary victim and \$50,000 for other victims
Powers of Criminal Court Act, 1973 (as amended by the Criminal Justice Act, 1988) UK (England, Scotland, Wales)			- Power of criminal court to grant compensation to victim of offence and to apply forfeited property from offender to compensation		- Alternative method of compensation to civil court or administrative board described in <i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act (1995)</i> (UK), below
<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act (1995)</i> and Compensation Scheme (2001) UK (England, Scotland, Wales)	- Victim (someone who experiences personal injury because of crime of violence, offence of trespass or attempted apprehension of suspected offender, attempted prevention of offence, or helping constable) - If victim is deceased, application can be made by partner, parent or child	- 2 years after date of incident	1. Apply in writing to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority 2. Claims Officer (CO) may send victim for medical exam 3. Guide published by authority sets out criteria for decision 4. Evidence examined on balance of probabilities 5. Written decision by CO 6. Amount determined by reference to comprehensive schedule setting out amount according to injury type and degree; also victim may receive compensation for lost wages and special expenses 7. CO may withhold or reduce sum for reasons such as applicant failing to take reasonable steps to notify authorities, not cooperating with authorities, living in same household as offender 8. Deductions also made according to other compensation received by victim (e.g., civil court) 9. Within 2 years, CO may re-open case if there is a change in victim's condition	- May appeal decision in writing within 90 days to Appeal Panel - Decision of Appeal Panel is final	- Maximum amount is £500,000 - "Partner" includes same-sex partners

**TABLE B-4
VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND INCLUSION LEGISLATION – OTHER COUNTRIES**

Act	Research & Program Funding	Dissemination of Information	Other
Victims of Crime Act, 1994 (Australian Capital Territory)	- Coordinator has following functions: a) encourage provision of efficient and effective services b) promote reforms c) develop programs to promote awareness of needs	- Coordinator must maintain register of available victim services, and ensure that victims receive information about: ➤ progress of investigations ➤ decision for a lesser charge or not to proceed - Duty to protect victim's identity	- Lists principles for treating victims - Legal immunity for person who discloses information to Coordinator - Coordinator can investigate violations of any principle and report to Minister, and the public
Victim Rights Act, 1996 (New South Wales, Australia)	- Victims of Crime Bureau coordinates delivery of programs to encourage efficient and effective delivery of services	- Victims of Crime Bureau established to: ➤ provide information to victims about support systems and compensation, including services and remedies ➤ encourage access to services ➤ give information to victim regarding investigation, prosecution, role in trial, bail, release, etc. - Protection of identity of victim	- Victims of Crime Bureau must promote and oversee Charter of Victims Rights - Victims Advisory Board, composed of community, police, etc., consults with victim groups and advises Minister on policies and programs
Criminal Offence Victims Act (Queensland, Australia)		- Protect privacy of victim - Victim should receive information, such as concerning investigation, charges, who is charged, reasons for lesser charge, outcome of any proceedings - Victims should receive information about outcomes, escape, release; also about provisions of this Act, victim's role as witness, compensation, restitution, available services, and crime prevention	- Property of victim, if recovered, should be returned as soon as possible and victims should be protected from further crime - Victim's version of events should be recorded soon after crime - Duty to be responsive to issues of diversity
Victims of Crime Act, 1994 (Western Australia)		- Victims should receive information regarding: ➤ welfare, health, medical and legal assistance ➤ victim compensation legislation ➤ available protection ➤ progress of investigation, charges laid, any bail applications or charge variation, sentence, order, trial outcome, appeals or escapes ➤ role of witness (if victim will be witness) - Must protect victim's privacy, minimize inconvenience	- If not practicable for victim to receive counseling or information, make requests, or express views or concerns, another may do so on victim's behalf - Victim's concerns and views should be considered when decision being made regarding release from custody
Federal Crimes Act (Commonwealth)			- Court must consider personal circumstances of victim when passing sentence on offender
Australia Federal Police Act, 1981			- Victimization is causing detriment (or so threatening) because someone makes complaint or gives information to

VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND INCLUSION LEGISLATION – OTHER COUNTRIES

Act	Research & Program Funding	Dissemination of Information	Other
(Common-wealth)			authorities regarding an offence and is an offence in Australia
<i>Victim of Offences Act</i> (New Zealand)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims should be informed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ available services and remedies ➤ protection against intimidation ➤ progress of investigation, charges, role of victim, date and place of hearing, and outcome ➤ any parole hearings, release, or escape in certain cases, as well as discharge (especially in cases of sexual offences) - Victims' addresses should not be disclosed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims should be treated with dignity and respect - Victims and their families should have access to welfare, health, counseling, medical and legal assistance - Property of victims, if recovered, should be returned to victim as soon as possible - Victim impact statements should be incorporated in sentencing process - On bail application involving sex offences, victim's fears should be considered
Victim Personal Statement Scheme UK (England, Scotland, Wales)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims have opportunity to submit written statement which will become part of court files - Statement may or may not be used in the criminal justice process - Statement may go beyond an impact statement to include what information the victim wishes to obtain about the case, whether or not the victim will apply for compensation, and other personal information

APPENDIX C

SUPPORTING TABLES FOR CHAPTER 4.0 FINDINGS FROM THE VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

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TABLE C-1
RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY
FOR PROPERTY-RELATED INCIDENTS

Demographic Characteristic	Who Should Be Responsible?									
	Individual Person		Community/ Neighbourhood		Police		Government			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender										
Male	73		53	72.6	35	47.9	60	82.2	10	13.7
Female	136		113	83.1	89	65.4	110	80.9	34	25.0
Age Group¹										
18 to 30 yrs.	21		18	85.7	17	81.0	18	85.7	4	19.0
31 to 40 yrs.	34		30	88.2	23	67.6	28	82.4	8	23.5
41 to 50 yrs.	51		41	80.4	36	70.6	47	92.2	16	31.4
51 to 60 yrs.	38		32	84.2	23	60.5	30	78.9	11	28.9
61 yrs. & older	64		44	68.8	24	37.5	46	71.9	5	7.8
Community Size^{1,2}										
Larger City	132		102	77.3	76	57.6	113	85.6	27	20.5
Smaller City	32		23	71.9	20	62.5	27	84.4	8	25.0
Town/Rural Area	44		40	90.9	27	61.4	29	65.9	9	20.5

¹ Missing cases=1.

² "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural Area" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

*** $p < .001$; * $p < .05$

Source of Data: 2001 Follow-up Survey; Total n=209.

TABLE C-2
RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY
FOR VANDALISM

Demographic Characteristic	Who Should Be Responsible?							
	Individual Person		Community/ Neighbourhood		Police		Government	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Gender	*							
Male	73	33 45.2	42	57.5	59	80.8	14	19.2
Female	136	86 63.2	89	65.4	115	84.6	35	25.7
Age Group¹	***							
18 to 30 yrs.	21	13 61.9	17	81.0	19	90.5	5	23.8
31 to 40 yrs.	34	27 79.4	23	67.6	28	82.4	8	23.5
41 to 50 yrs.	51	36 70.6	40	78.4	44	86.3	15	29.4
51 to 60 yrs.	38	16 42.1	24	63.2	31	81.6	13	34.2
61 yrs. & older	64	27 42.2	26	40.6	51	79.7	8	12.5
Community Size^{1,2}	***							
Larger City	132	79 59.8	79	59.8	108	81.8	28	21.2
Smaller City	32	18 56.3	21	65.6	29	90.6	8	25.0
Town/Rural Area	44	21 47.7	30	68.2	36	81.8	12	27.3

¹ Missing cases=1.

² "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

*** $p < .001$; * $p < .05$

Source of Data: 2001 Follow-up Survey; Total n=209.

TABLE C-3

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY
FOR PHYSICAL AND NONPHYSICAL CONTACT INCIDENTS**

Demographic Characteristic	Who Should Be Responsible?									
	Individual Person		Community/ Neighbourhood		Police		Government			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender										
Male	73		50	68.5	19	26.0	54	74.0	10	13.7
Female	136		98	72.1	55	40.4	112	82.4	36	26.5
Age Group¹										
18 to 30 yrs.	21		17	81.0	7	33.3	18	85.7	8	38.1
31 to 40 yrs.	34		28	82.4	12	35.3	27	79.4	11	32.4
41 to 50 yrs.	51		38	74.5	24	47.1	46	90.2	13	25.5
51 to 60 yrs.	38		27	71.1	17	44.7	31	81.6	9	23.7
61 yrs. & older	64		38	59.4	14	21.9	43	67.2	5	7.8
Community Size^{1,2}										
Larger City	132		94	71.2	45	34.1	101	76.5	29	22.0
Smaller City	32		22	68.8	13	40.6	25	78.1	9	28.1
Town/Rural Area	44		31	70.5	15	34.1	39	88.6	7	15.9

¹ Missing cases=1.

² "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

* $p < .05$

Source of Data: 2001 Follow-up Survey; Total n=209.

TABLE C-4
RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY
FOR SEXUAL CONTACT FORCED ON A PERSON

Demographic Characteristic	Who Should Be Responsible?									
	Individual Person		Community/ Neighbourhood		Police		Government			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender			*							
Male	73		43	58.9	18	24.7	61	83.6	27	37.0
Female	136		92	67.6	57	41.9	121	89.0	47	34.6
Age Group¹			**						***	
18 to 30 yrs.	21		16	76.2	8	38.1	21	100.0	15	71.4
31 to 40 yrs.	34		26	76.5	13	38.2	30	88.2	13	38.2
41 to 50 yrs.	51		34	66.7	26	51.0	47	92.2	21	41.2
51 to 60 yrs.	38		25	65.8	17	44.7	32	84.2	15	39.5
61 yrs. & older	64		33	51.6	11	17.2	51	79.7	10	15.6
Community Size^{1,2}										
Larger City	132		80	60.6	47	35.6	116	87.9	48	36.4
Smaller City	32		22	68.8	11	34.4	28	87.5	10	31.3
Town/Rural Area	44		32	72.7	16	36.4	37	84.1	15	34.1

¹ Missing cases=1.

² "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

*** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$; * $p < .05$

Source of Data: 2001 Follow-up Survey; Total n=209.

TABLE C-5

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY
FOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEAPONS OR OBJECTS USED AS WEAPONS**

Demographic Characteristic	Who Should Be Responsible?								
	Individual Person		Community/ Neighbourhood		Police		Government		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Gender	*								
Male	73	30	41.1	18	24.7	63	86.3	31	42.5
Female	136	76	55.9	50	36.8	128	94.1	64	47.1
Age Group¹	*		**				***		
18 to 30 yrs.	21	13	61.9	7	33.3	21	100.0	14	66.7
31 to 40 yrs.	34	23	67.6	13	38.2	31	91.2	17	50.0
41 to 50 yrs.	51	28	54.9	25	49.0	49	96.1	27	52.9
51 to 60 yrs.	38	20	52.6	13	34.2	32	84.2	22	57.9
61 yrs. & older	64	22	34.4	10	15.6	57	89.1	15	23.4
Community Size^{1,2}									
Larger City	132	64	48.5	42	31.8	124	93.9	67	50.8
Smaller City	32	15	46.9	10	31.3	27	84.4	10	31.3
Town/Rural Area	44	26	59.1	15	34.1	39	88.6	17	38.6

¹ Missing cases=1.

² "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

*** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$; * $p < .05$

Source of Data: 2001 Follow-up Survey; Total n=209.

TABLE C-6

**RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS ON HOW THE LEVEL OF CRIME IN THEIR COMMUNITY
COMPARES WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES
BY GENDER, AGE, AND COMMUNITY SIZE**

Demographic Characteristic	n	Crime in My Community Compared to Others ¹							
		Lower Than Others		About the Same		Higher Than Others		Don't Know	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Gender²									
Male	528	201	38.1	247	46.8	53	10.0	27	5.1
Female	881	344	39.0	407	46.2	81	9.2	49	5.6
Age Group^{3 **}									
18 to 30 yrs.	131	56	42.7	45	34.4	24	18.3	6	4.6
31 to 40 yrs.	245	109	44.5	104	42.4	21	8.6	11	4.5
41 to 50 yrs.	406	160	39.4	189	46.6	36	8.9	21	5.2
51 to 60 yrs.	262	97	37.0	125	47.7	29	11.1	11	4.2
61 yrs. & older	346	118	34.1	178	51.4	24	6.9	26	7.5
Community Size^{4, 5}									
Larger City	791	325	41.1	343	43.4	84	10.6	39	4.9
Smaller City	199	76	38.2	95	47.7	14	7.0	14	7.0
Town/Rural Area	376	127	33.8	196	52.1	31	8.2	22	5.9

¹ Missing cases=12.

² 11 cases were missing on "Gender" only, and 1 case was missing on both "Gender" and "Crime in My Community Compared to Others."

³ 30 cases were missing on "Age" only.

⁴ "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

⁵ 54 cases were missing on "Community Size" only.

** $p < .01$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-7

**OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS ON WHETHER CRIME HAS RISEN
IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS
BY GENDER, AGE, AND COMMUNITY SIZE**

Demographic Characteristic	Crime in My Community Rose in the Past Five Years ¹							
	Yes		No		Don't Know			
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender^{2 ***}								
Male	527		270	51.2	166	31.5	91	17.3
Female	881		505	57.3	188	21.3	188	21.3
Age Group^{3 ***}								
18 to 30 yrs.	132		66	50.0	21	15.9	45	34.1
31 to 40 yrs.	245		144	58.8	43	17.6	58	23.7
41 to 50 yrs.	406		232	57.1	110	27.1	64	15.8
51 to 60 yrs.	262		139	53.1	76	29.0	47	17.9
61 yrs. & older	345		182	52.8	101	29.3	62	18.0
Community Size^{4,5 ***}								
Larger City	793		388	48.9	212	26.7	193	24.3
Smaller City	200		142	71.0	30	15.0	28	14.0
Town/Rural Area	373		221	59.2	103	27.6	49	13.1

¹ Missing cases=12.

² 12 cases were missing on "Gender" only.

³ 30 cases were missing on "Age" only.

⁴ "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

⁵ 54 cases were missing on "Community Size" only.

*** $p < .001$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-8

RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS ON HOW SAFE THEY FEEL BEING HOME ALONE AFTER DARK BY GENDER, AGE, AND COMMUNITY SIZE

Demographic Characteristic	Feelings of Safety ¹									
	Very Unsafe		Somewhat Unsafe		Somewhat Safe		Very Safe			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender^{2***}										
Male	531		4	0.8	26	4.9	130	24.5	371	69.9
Female	886		13	1.5	75	8.5	388	43.8	410	46.3
Age Group^{3*}										
18 to 30 yrs.	132		1	0.8	6	4.5	60	45.5	65	49.2
31 to 40 yrs.	247		5	2.0	17	6.9	102	41.3	123	49.8
41 to 50 yrs.	406		3	0.7	23	5.7	143	35.2	237	58.4
51 to 60 yrs.	264		4	1.5	18	6.8	79	29.9	163	61.7
61 yrs. & older	349		4	1.1	34	9.7	126	36.1	185	53.0
Community Size^{4,5}										
Larger City	798		6	0.8	53	6.6	296	37.1	443	55.5
Smaller City	200		1	0.5	19	9.5	68	34.0	112	56.0
Town/Rural Area	376		10	2.7	26	6.9	138	36.7	202	53.7

¹ Missing cases=4.

² 11 cases were missing on "Gender," and 1 case was missing on both "Gender" and "Feelings of Safety."

³ 30 cases were missing on "Age" only.

⁴ "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

⁵ 54 cases were missing on "Community Size" only.

*** $\rho < .001$; * $\rho < .05$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-9

**RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS ON HOW SAFE THEY FEEL WALKING ALONE IN THE
COMMUNITY AFTER DARK
BY GENDER, AGE, AND COMMUNITY SIZE**

Demographic Characteristic	Feelings of Safety ¹									
	Very Unsafe		Somewhat Unsafe		Somewhat Safe		Very Safe			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender^{2 ***}										
Male	528		14	2.7	80	15.2	226	42.8	208	39.4
Female	883		112	12.7	290	32.8	347	39.3	134	15.2
Age Group^{3 ***}										
18 to 30 yrs.	132		8	6.1	46	34.8	55	41.7	23	17.4
31 to 40 yrs.	247		25	10.1	66	26.7	110	44.5	46	18.6
41 to 50 yrs.	406		24	5.9	103	25.4	165	40.6	114	28.1
51 to 60 yrs.	262		21	8.0	56	21.4	100	38.2	85	32.4
61 yrs. & older	346		44	12.7	94	27.2	136	39.3	72	20.8
Community Size^{4, 5 **}										
Larger City	797		75	9.4	230	28.9	319	40.0	173	21.7
Smaller City	199		17	8.5	54	27.1	88	44.2	40	20.1
Town/Rural Area	374		30	8.0	73	19.5	152	40.6	119	31.8

¹ Missing cases=9.

² 12 cases were missing on "Gender" only.

³ 30 cases were missing on "Age" only.

⁴ "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

⁵ 53 cases were missing on "Community Size" only, and 1 case was missing on both "Community Size" and "Feelings of Safety."

*** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-10

RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS ON HOW SAFE THEY FEEL USING OR WAITING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ALONE AFTER DARK BY GENDER, AGE, AND COMMUNITY SIZE

Demographic Characteristic	Feelings of Safety ^{1,2}									
	Very Unsafe		Somewhat Unsafe		Somewhat Safe		Very Safe			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender^{3 ***}										
Male	426		22	5.2	108	25.4	204	47.9	92	21.6
Female	682		157	23.0	283	41.5	202	29.6	40	5.9
Age Group^{4 *}										
18 to 30 yrs.	111		13	11.7	42	37.8	45	40.5	11	9.9
31 to 40 yrs.	210		36	17.1	71	33.8	81	38.6	22	10.5
41 to 50 yrs.	320		51	15.9	120	37.5	115	35.9	34	10.6
51 to 60 yrs.	191		30	15.7	57	29.8	63	33.0	41	21.5
61 yrs. & older	260		48	18.5	91	35.0	100	38.5	21	8.1
Community Size^{5, 6 ***}										
Larger City	782		119	15.2	286	36.6	286	36.6	91	11.6
Smaller City	174		18	10.3	53	30.5	77	44.3	26	14.9
Town/Rural Area	114		32	28.1	42	36.8	32	28.1	8	7.0

¹ Missing cases=26.

² Excludes 290 respondents who indicated, "There is no public transportation in my city or town."

³ 8 cases were missing on "Gender" only.
1 case was missing on both "Gender" and "Feelings of Safety."
3 cases were missing on "Gender" and had indicated "...no public transportation...."

⁴ 24 cases were missing on "Age" only.
6 cases were missing on "Age" and had indicated "...no public transportation...."

⁵ "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

⁶ 46 cases were missing on "Community Size" only.
8 cases were missing on "Community Size" and had indicated "...no public transportation...."

*** $\rho < .001$; * $\rho < .05$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-11

RESPONDENTS REPORTING SECURITY MEASURES THEY HAVE TAKEN
BY GENDER, AGE, AND COMMUNITY SIZE

Demographic Characteristic	Security Measures																	
	Have Special Locks Installed		Have High Fences Around Property		Have Special Grilles/Bars on Windows/ Doors		Have Other Things		Have a Car Security System		Belong to a Community Watch Program		Have Home Security System		Have Certain Items (Not Weapons)		Have Weapons	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Gender¹								**	**			*						***
Male	531	68.4	224	42.2	164	30.9	111	20.9	155	29.2	127	23.9	129	24.3	93	17.5	146	27.5
Female	889	70.6	350	39.4	240	27.0	248	27.9	197	22.2	197	22.2	173	19.5	177	19.9	85	9.6
Age Group²		**			**		*	**	**	**	*							
18 to 30 yrs.	132	73.5	46	34.8	25	18.9	30	22.7	27	20.5	15	11.4	15	11.4	29	22.0	18	13.6
31 to 40 yrs.	247	80.2	118	47.8	80	32.4	73	29.6	55	22.3	51	20.6	58	23.5	49	19.8	35	14.2
41 to 50 yrs.	407	69.0	157	38.6	116	28.5	122	30.0	84	20.6	99	24.3	79	19.4	80	19.7	69	17.0
51 to 60 yrs.	265	65.7	110	41.5	58	21.9	62	23.4	80	30.2	58	21.9	60	22.6	46	17.4	47	17.7
61 yrs. & older	351	65.0	135	38.5	116	33.0	73	20.8	104	29.6	99	28.2	86	24.5	64	18.2	63	17.9
Community Size^{3, 4}		***		***		***		**	**	**		***		***		***		***
Larger City	800	79.3	381	47.6	312	39.0	202	25.3	221	27.6	192	24.0	234	29.3	164	20.5	94	11.8
Smaller City	200	73.5	105	52.5	49	24.5	50	25.0	47	23.5	45	22.5	36	18.0	37	18.5	35	17.5
Town/Rural Area	378	48.4	73	19.3	28	7.4	99	26.2	74	19.6	80	21.2	26	6.9	65	17.2	94	24.9

¹ Missing cases=12.

² Missing cases=30.

³ Missing cases=54.

⁴ "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

*** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$; * $p < .05$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-11 (CONTINUED)
RESPONDENTS REPORTING SECURITY MEASURES THEY HAVE TAKEN
BY GENDER, AGE, AND COMMUNITY SIZE

Demographic Characteristic	Security Measures (continued)																				
	Someone Checked on Place		Acquired Cell Phone		Attended Safety Awareness Program		Acquired Watch-dog		Done Something Else		Took Self-Defence Course		Had Telephone Number Unlisted		Had Address Unlisted in Telephone Directory		Changed Telephone Number		Moved to Another Address		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Gender¹	***		***		***		***		**		***		***		***		***		***		
Male	531	468	88.1	182	34.3	99	18.6	69	13.0	61	11.5	41	7.7	42	7.9	39	7.3	32	6.0	29	5.5
Female	889	834	93.8	400	45.0	288	32.4	189	21.3	149	16.8	161	18.1	132	14.8	124	13.9	124	13.9	105	11.8
Age Group²	**		***		**		**				***		***		***		***		**		
18 to 30 yrs.	132	110	83.3	59	44.7	27	20.5	19	14.4	13	9.8	32	24.2	28	21.2	27	20.5	24	18.2	13	9.8
31 to 40 yrs.	247	231	93.5	137	55.5	70	28.3	52	21.1	31	12.6	49	19.8	45	18.2	49	19.8	35	14.2	38	15.4
41 to 50 yrs.	407	376	92.4	167	41.0	119	29.2	91	22.4	60	14.7	65	16.0	58	14.3	46	11.3	55	13.5	41	10.1
51 to 60 yrs.	265	250	94.3	112	42.3	90	34.0	52	19.6	45	17.0	38	14.3	29	10.9	25	9.4	25	9.4	24	9.1
61 yrs. & older	351	319	90.9	102	29.1	79	22.5	41	11.7	61	17.4	14	4.0	14	4.0	18	5.1	15	4.3	18	5.1
Community Size^{3,4}							***				***				**		*				
Larger City	800	735	91.9	311	38.9	232	29.0	110	13.8	128	16.0	127	15.9	124	15.5	95	11.9	107	13.4	88	11.0
Smaller City	200	183	91.5	77	38.5	57	28.5	29	14.5	21	10.5	20	10.0	19	9.5	22	11.0	21	10.5	22	11.0
Town/Rural Area	378	346	91.5	174	46.0	90	23.8	104	27.5	61	16.1	48	12.7	27	7.1	40	10.6	22	5.8	23	6.1

¹ Missing cases=12.

² Missing cases=30.

³ Missing cases=54.

⁴ "Larger City" includes cities with a population over 100,000. "Smaller City" includes cities with a population from 10,000 to 100,000. "Town/Rural" includes areas with a population under 10,000.

*** $\rho < .001$; ** $\rho < .01$; * $\rho < .05$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-12

RESPONDENTS REPORTING THEY WERE VICTIMIZED ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THEIR LIFETIME
PROPERTY-RELATED INCIDENTS BY GENDER AND AGE

Demographic Characteristic	Property-Related Incidents																			
	Something Stolen from Home		Something Stolen from Yard/ Lawn		Something Stolen from Garage/ Parkade		Something Stolen from Car		Stolen Car or Motor- cycle		Stolen Bicycle		Stolen Jewellery or Watch		Stolen Money, Wallet, or Purse		Stolen Clothing or Shoes		Stolen Any Other Items	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Gender¹																				
Male	531																			
Female	889																			
Age Group²																				
18 to 30 yrs.	132																			
31 to 40 yrs.	247																			
41 to 50 yrs.	407																			
51 to 60 yrs.	265																			
61 yrs. & older	351																			

¹ Missing cases=12.

² Missing cases=30.

*** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$; * $p < .05$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-13

RESPONDENTS REPORTING THEY WERE VICTIMIZED ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THEIR LIFETIME
VANDALISM-RELATED INCIDENTS BY GENDER AND AGE

Demographic Characteristic	Vandalism													
	Vandalized Home		Vandalized Yard		Vandalized Garage/ Parkade		Vandalized Car or Motorcycle		Vandalized Bicycle		Vandalized Something Else			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender¹	**													
Male	531		92	17.3	85	16.0	39	7.3	195	36.7	29	5.5	54	10.2
Female	889		158	17.8	134	15.1	52	5.8	272	30.6	42	4.7	62	7.0
Age Group²	***													
18 to 30 yrs.	132		28	21.2	25	18.9	9	6.8	47	35.6	7	5.3	6	4.5
31 to 40 yrs.	247		48	19.4	41	16.6	14	5.7	107	43.3	16	6.5	13	5.3
41 to 50 yrs.	407		79	19.4	65	16.0	25	6.1	166	40.8	25	6.1	33	8.1
51 to 60 yrs.	265		39	14.7	41	15.5	19	7.2	75	28.3	12	4.5	30	11.3
61 yrs. & older	351		49	14.0	43	12.3	20	5.7	67	19.1	10	2.8	32	9.1

¹ Missing cases=12.

² Missing cases=30.

*** $\rho < .001$; ** $\rho < .01$; * $\rho < .05$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-14

RESPONDENTS REPORTING THEY WERE VICTIMIZED ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THEIR LIFETIME
PERSONAL CONTACT INCIDENTS BY GENDER AND AGE

Demographic Characteristic	Physical and Nonphysical Contact																	
	Someone Threatened to Harm		Slapped		Punched		Kicked		Something Thrown at Them		Sexual Comment that Offended or Scared		Touched Sexually Against Will		Something Else Done			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender¹	**		**		***		***				***		***		***			
Male	531		269	50.7	135	25.4	225	42.4	119	22.4	105	19.8	43	8.1	47	8.9	44	8.3
Female	889		377	42.4	281	31.6	150	16.9	116	13.0	161	18.1	387	43.5	334	37.6	145	16.3
Age Group²	***		***		***		***		***		***		***		***			
18 to 30 yrs.	132		82	62.1	49	37.1	50	37.9	37	28.0	40	30.3	56	42.4	49	37.1	19	14.4
31 to 40 yrs.	247		135	54.7	91	36.8	77	31.2	48	19.4	53	21.5	110	44.5	85	34.4	39	15.8
41 to 50 yrs.	407		207	50.9	146	35.9	121	29.7	83	20.4	94	23.1	139	34.2	130	31.9	65	16.0
51 to 60 yrs.	265		115	43.4	81	30.6	67	25.3	41	15.5	46	17.4	77	29.1	62	23.4	28	10.6
61 yrs. & older	351		97	27.6	44	12.5	55	15.7	22	6.3	29	8.3	44	12.5	52	14.8	36	10.3

¹ Missing cases=12.

² Missing cases=30.

*** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-15

RESPONDENTS REPORTING THEY WERE VICTIMIZED
ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THEIR LIFETIME
WEAPONS-RELATED INCIDENTS BY GENDER AND AGE

Demographic Characteristic	Weapon-Related Incidents				
	n	Threatened with a Weapon or Object Purposely Used as a Weapon		Weapon or Object Actually Used Against You	
		n	%	n	%
Gender¹				**	
Male	531	95	17.9	44	8.3
Female	889	134	15.1	42	4.7
Age Group²		**			
18 to 30 yrs.	132	29	22.0	10	7.6
31 to 40 yrs.	247	40	16.2	16	6.5
41 to 50 yrs.	407	81	19.9	28	6.9
51 to 60 yrs.	265	39	14.7	19	7.2
61 yrs. & older	351	36	10.3	12	3.4

¹ Missing cases=12.

² Missing cases=30.

** $p < .01$

Source of Data: Fall 2000 Screening Survey; Total N=1,432.

TABLE C-16

RATINGS OF RESPONDENTS ON POLICE SERVICE

Police Service	Level of Agreement															
	Strongly Agree		Agree		No Opinion		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Does Not Apply		Missing Cases		Total Respondents	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
The police did not do enough to assist me.	11	15.3	10	13.9	9	12.5	15	20.8	14	19.4	10	13.9	3	4.2	72	100
The police were interested in my situation.	14	19.4	24	33.3	7	9.7	10	13.9	8	11.1	6	8.3	3	4.2	72	100
The police recovered some or all of my property.	4	5.6	5	6.9	3	4.2	5	6.9	14	19.4	38	52.8	3	4.2	72	100
The police were polite.	21	29.2	31	43.1	3	4.2	4	5.6	3	4.2	6	8.3	4	5.6	72	100
The police took a long time to arrive.	3	4.2	9	12.5	3	4.2	11	15.3	9	12.5	34	47.2	3	4.2	72	100
The police did not do enough to investigate my case.	9	12.5	12	16.7	17	23.6	7	9.7	11	15.3	13	18.1	3	4.2	72	100
The police gave me enough information about the progress of my case.	5	6.9	13	18.1	8	11.1	6	8.3	15	20.8	22	30.6	3	4.2	72	100
The police did not give me enough information about kinds of assistance available to me as a victim.	16	22.2	12	16.7	8	11.1	9	12.5	7	9.7	17	23.6	3	4.2	72	100

Source of Data: Spring 2001 Follow-up Survey. Respondents reporting on the most serious victimization, n=114.

APPENDIX D
VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT (VIS)
CONTENT ANALYSIS

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1.0 Purpose

Victim impact statements (VIS) were analyzed in order to gain a broader understanding of the financial, emotional, and physical impact of victimization. Content analysis was conducted on a sample of VIS that were filed with the Calgary Police Service Victim Assistance Unit (VAU) between January 1999 and August 2000.

The general intent of the victim impact statement is to allow the victim the opportunity to inform the court of the impact that the incident has had on them. Section 722(1) of the *Criminal Code* states that the court shall consider a statement "...describing the harm done to, or loss suffered by, the victim arising from the commission of the offence."

2.0 Methodology

Records kept in the VAU show that 684 VIS (referring to incidents reported to the Calgary Police Service) were filed between January 1999 and August 2000. The criteria for selection in this study required that both the offender and the victim be over the age of 18 and that criminal proceedings against the accused be completed.¹ Based on these criteria, a total of 100 VIS were analyzed using QSR N5 NUD*IST² qualitative data analysis software.

The financial, emotional, and physical impacts of the offences were major themes adopted during the discussion of the findings to broadly categorize the information. The analysis primarily focuses upon age and gender and incorporates other themes and characteristics, such as if the victim knew the offender, as they emerged. Discussion of the findings is organized by incident type and sub-categorized by the financial, emotional, and physical impact of the incident.

For reporting purposes, due to the relatively small number of statements, incidents involving break and enter, trespassing, and mischief have been grouped together, as have incidents of uttering threats and harassment. As well, some incidents where the offender was charged with uttering threats have been re-categorized into the domestic assault category because of the nature of the offence and the relationship between the victim and offender.

Table D-1 shows the number of statements collected by the VAU by incident type during the time period as well as the number of statements that were sampled. The distribution of incidents in the sample was generally comparable to the total number of statements. The sample, however, did include a larger percentage of incidents involving threats or harassment and a smaller percentage of sexual assaults as compared to the total number of VIS. As well, the sample did not contain any statements related to incidents of homicide, abductions, driving offences other than

¹ These criteria were required by the Calgary Police Service as conditions of release of the data.

² Non-numerical Unstructured Data – Indexing, Searching and Theorizing.

impaired driving, or miscellaneous offences,³ which constituted 7.7% of the total number of statements filed to the VAU.

TABLE D-1
NUMBER OF VIS FILED WITH THE CALGARY POLICE SERVICE
COMPARED TO SAMPLE BY INCIDENT TYPE, JANUARY 1999 – AUGUST 2000

Incident Type	CPS	% of CPS Total	Sampled for Analysis	% of Sample
Assault	201	30.9	31	31
Domestic Assault	222	34.2	32	32
Sexual Assault	70	10.8	5	5
Threats and Harassment	19	2.9	13	13
Impaired Driving	5	0.8	3	3
Robbery	39	6.0	7	7
Break and Enter	24	3.7	1	1
Mischief and Trespassing	4	0.6	3	3
Theft	16	2.5	5	5
Other ¹	50	7.7	0	0
Total	650 ²	100.0	100	100

¹ "Other" offences include homicide, abductions, other driving offences, and miscellaneous offences.

² Total excludes 34 statements that were filed in November of 1999. Statistics on a per-incident basis were not available for this month. Percentages shown are based on 650 VIS.

Demographic characteristics collected included gender, age, marital status, and ethnicity. As well, information on the state of the victim (i.e., sober or under the influence of alcohol or drugs), the victim's relationship to the offender, weapons used in the offence, and the date the VIS was filed to the VAU were also collected.⁴ Table D-2 displays the major demographic characteristics of the sample. Over two-thirds of the statements were filed by females (69%), and 39% were filed by those between the ages of 18 and 30. The majority of the victims was married or in common law relationships (44%), although 40% of the sample did not provide information regarding marital status. Approximately three-quarters of the sample were Caucasian (74%).

³ Term used by the Calgary Police Service.

⁴ Counts for these variables not shown due to low frequencies.

Table D-3 displays the incident type by gender. Among males, 61.3% described incidents of assault, compared to 17.4% of females who described such an incident. Females were more likely than males to have described domestic assault (44.9% compared to 3.2%) as well as threats and harassment (18.8% compared to none). Males, however, were more likely than females to have described property-related offences (25.8% compared to 11.6%).

TABLE D-2
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

Characteristic	n	%
Gender		
Female	69	69
Male	31	31
Total	100	100
Age		
18 to 30 years	39	39
31 to 40 years	20	20
41 to 50 years	25	25
51 and older	13	13
missing cases	3	3
Total	100	100
Relationship Status		
Married/Common Law	44	44
Divorced/Separated	6	6
Widowed	1	1
Single	9	9
missing cases	40	40
Total	100	100
Ethnicity¹		
Caucasian	74	74
North American Indian	6	6
Black	6	6
Arabian	2	2
Hispanic	3	3
Oriental	1	1
East Indian	2	2
missing cases	6	6
Total	100	100

¹ Terms used by the Calgary Police Service.

TABLE D-3

TYPE OF INCIDENT BY GENDER

Type of Incident	Males		Females		Total
	n	%	n	%	
Personal Incidents					
Assault	19	61.3	12	17.4	31
Domestic Assault	1	3.2	31	44.9	32
Sexual Assault	1	3.2	4	5.8	5
Threats and Harassment	0	0.0	13	18.8	13
Impaired Driving	2	6.5	1	1.4	3
Sub-total	23	74.2	61	88.4	84
Property Incidents					
Robbery	3	9.7	4	5.8	7
Break and Enter, Mischief, Trespassing	2	6.5	2	2.9	4
Theft	3	9.7	2	2.9	5
Sub-total	8	25.8	8	11.6	16
Total	31	100.0	69	100.0	100

3.0 Findings

3.1 Assault

Comments that described the financial impact of being assaulted were often related to employment. The 19 males who submitted a statement frequently described losing days of work and pay as a result of the assault, or that they were not able to perform their duties to the full extent as expected by their employers. Further consequences of missing work often impacted other financial obligations, such as missing payments on loans and household bills. Many times this financial hardship impacted the family as well in the form of reduced household income for groceries and other expenses. Two individuals lost their jobs as a direct result of the assault and found it difficult to gain new employment. As well, the financial costs of replacing items damaged in the assault were described, such as broken glasses or damaged clothing. One statement did not provide any information other than the victim did not want to pay for the ambulance bill that resulted from the assault and felt that the offender should be forced to pay it. Females did not describe the financial impact of an assault to the extent that males did, although one female felt it necessary to move residences after the assault and thus incurred moving expenses.

The emotional impact of being assaulted constituted the largest portion of most of the statements. Concerns related to the possibility of seeing the offender again were common among the statements provided by both males and females. Such concerns

were expressed in terms of a reluctance to, or a fear of, encountering the offender again, particularly if the offence happened while the victim was working, which resulted in the victim becoming anxious and overly cautious when dealing with customers. One victim was unable to return to his previous place of employment as a result of being assaulted in the course of carrying out job duties because of fear of another assault. Many statements described how the victim generally has a heightened awareness of their surroundings as a result of the incident. Practices such as checking over the shoulder, avoiding dark alleys, grocery shopping during daylight hours, and staying away from certain areas of the city were commonly described. As well, feelings of fear and anxiety when encountering strangers often arose. These general feelings were reflected in statements provided by many victims, regardless of age or gender. As well, many individuals felt as if they had lost their freedom.

Feelings of anxiety and fear also extended to family members. Victims often worried about the safety of their partners and children after the assault. Females, particularly older ones, expressed greater concern about the well-being of their families than males did. In some statements provided by females, the impact of the incident put strain on the marriage, while others expressed concerns that their children were stressed or in shock as a result. In the statements that described these issues, the family's well being seemed to outweigh concerns related to their own well-being.

Comments relating to trust were quite common among the 31 statements describing the impact of an assault, and were usually couched in terms of broken trust or betrayed trust. This was especially true among those who knew the offender, which was approximately half of the 31 statements. In these cases, it was common for the victim to describe how they could not believe that the offender would be capable of doing what had been done or that they felt they lost their ability to accurately judge people. Feelings of humiliation and anger were also quite common.

One statement was filed by a victim who was targeted based on sexual orientation and one was filed by a victim who was targeted based on ethnic background. Both statements expressed the feeling that those who assaulted them were extremely intolerant and that they could not understand the motivation for the attack, especially given that the victims and the offenders were unknown to each other. As well, both incidents resulted in deep feelings of distrust and depression in the victim.

As all the statements referred to incidents where the victim was assaulted, descriptions of being slapped, punched, or kicked were common. Many times these injuries were relatively minor, such as bruising and soreness. However, some of the assaults caused serious injury, such as broken bones and cuts, which resulted in the victim being hospitalized or restricted to recovering at home for an extended time. Stress resulting from the assault was mentioned in almost all of the statements, which was linked to problems with appetite and insomnia.

3.2 Domestic Assault

Descriptions of the financial impact of domestic assault are centered upon two main themes in the VIS: the financial consequences of the relationship breaking up, which included becoming a single parent; and the use of finances as a form of control.

Seven of the 32 statements described having large debts left over from the relationship in the form of credit cards, car payments, and mortgages. Some individuals described the loss of vehicles and houses as a direct result of the relationship ending. As well, drugs, alcohol, and gambling problems were identified as major factors contributing to financial problems encountered. Some victims were not aware of the full extent of the financial problems until charges were laid and they subsequently discovered second mortgages or extra bank loans. Additionally, when the offender and the victim split up, total financial responsibility for the children often went to the victim.

Finances were described by eight of the 32 statements as a method of control used by the offender. Many of these statements described situations where the offender would demand the victim's money to be spent on drugs or alcohol for the offender. In some cases, these expenses were sometimes placed above the needs of a baby. A method of control described in some statements was that the offender would have the victim obtain bank loans that the offender would then take from the victim in the attempt to keep the victim from leaving the relationship. Money was often withheld from the victim as well, with only essential needs being provided by the offender. In one instance, pregnancy was described as a way of ensuring that the victim would be financially dependant upon the offender.

Almost all of the victims of domestic abuse described feelings of fear, depression, anxiety, and overwhelming stress. Feelings of low self-esteem, loss of confidence, lack of security, lack of dignity, lack of trust, and the inability to love were also described in almost all the statements, including the one statement filed by a male. Feelings of isolation and abandonment were also common, as were feelings of confusion and a lack of understanding as to the behavior of the offender.

Control over the victim was expressed in five statements. Besides the use of finances, as discussed above, control over the victim's social network was also described. Isolation from friends and family meant that the victim did not have a support network in the event that she left the relationship. Further, it was expressed in some of the statements that the offender threatened to expose intimate details of the victim's life and history to prevent the victim from leaving the relationship. As well, threats of physical violence were described in numerous statements. Victims who had been physically abused in the past by the offender often described feeling overwhelmingly fearful that the offender would be physically abusive if the victim questioned the offender over financial matters or about other women. Some statements described physical abuse as inevitable, that it was only a question of when and to what degree it would occur, while other statements described threats of physical harm directed towards children, babies, and sometimes unborn babies if the victim attempted to receive help for their situation. The combination of financial control, lack of social support, psychological manipulation, and the threat of physical violence resulted in feelings of dependency and loss of self-confidence, preventing the victim from leaving the relationship.

The threat of physical abuse lasted even after the relationship between the victim and the offender had ended. Many victims described being unable to venture outdoors or attend social events because of a fear of encountering the offender or an acquaintance of the offender, or because of a general fear of strangers. Many victims

expressed a lingering fear that the offender would return to harm the individual, sometimes even to kill the victim, which led to feelings that the victim was never going to be able to regain control of their life and continue on.

Some victims described what appeared to be isolated incidents of domestic assault. Although the majority of statements referred to long-term abusive relationships, there were six statements where the incident was described as an isolated exception. While these statements were similar to other statements with respect to feelings of betrayed trust, they often expressed added elements of anger directed towards the offender that were not as common among victims of long-term abusive relationships. This anger seemed to stem from a belief that the offender did not appreciate the extensive impact that their behavior had on the victim. As well, these statements were more likely to refer to children in the relationship, many times in terms of not wanting to expose the children to this behavior repeatedly, as a reason for calling the police. These statements shared descriptions of a willingness to stay with the offender upon certain conditions, such as requiring that the offender stop drinking, admit to their abusive behavior, or attend anger management counseling. However, this willingness differed from those in long-term abusive relationships in that it flowed from a desire to raise children in a two-parent home rather than for the sole benefit of the couple.

Some of the concerns related to children expressed in those statements where the assault was an isolated incident centered around two main themes: the direct psychological impact that a violent home environment would have; and the effects that it would have upon the parent's ability to be an effective parent. Issues relating directly to the child included concerns that the child would be physically hurt in the next incident, that the child would grow up in an abusive home and continue the cycle when they entered relationships, or that they would harbor bitter attitudes towards men. Many victims expressed the belief that their child would require counseling in the future as a result of being exposed to an abusive relationship. Concerns that centered around the parent's ability to be an effective parent included the belief that the parents were poor role models for the child, or that they were unable to provide the necessary mental and emotional strength required to assist the child as they grew. As well, the absence of the other parent was a concern to some single parents.

Victims describing long-term abusive relationships often expressed their views of the offender in terms of love and emotional attachment despite descriptions of emotional and physical abuse that would also be included in the statements. Belief that the offender was really a good person except for the propensity to be violent while under the influence of alcohol were common, as well as the feeling that the victim would be able to change the offender if the offender would only make a little effort, such as to participate in counseling.

All of the 32 victims of domestic abuse experienced physical abuse in the form of being slapped, punched, and/or kicked. A few of the victims were physically abused while pregnant. Stress and depression described in many of the statements manifested in insomnia and a change of appetite. Some individuals required medical prescriptions in order to sleep or to avoid panic attacks as a result of the incident(s).

3.3 Sexual Assault

Three of the five statements described the financial impact of a sexual assault. Two of the individuals moved to a different residence as a direct result of the sexual assault and suffered the related moving costs. Missed days of work were described in two of the statements, one because the offender was a co-worker and one because of the general stress of the incident. One individual withdrew from higher education as a result of the sexual assault.

The emotional impact of the sexual assault was described by four females and one male. All statements described feelings of violation, lost self-esteem and confidence, and a lack of understanding as to why this had occurred to them. Overwhelming feelings of hopelessness, anxiety and depression that resulted in sudden and intense crying were described in two statements.

The statements also described concerns about immediate and future relationships. Two victims described the impact that the incident had on their current relationships, which included problems with intimacy and trust, while three statements voiced concerns about future relationships and the effect that this incident will have on them. Specific concerns related to inability to trust others again and engage in intimacy.

While trust was an issue for all victims of sexual abuse, it seemed to be particularly important among those who knew the offender. Three individuals stated that they knew the offender and experienced feelings of betrayal and a subsequent suspicion of all members of the opposite sex with whom they were already acquainted.

Two individuals described the impact that the incident had on their families. One victim, a young female, stated that she felt ashamed to the point that she did not want to tell her parents about the incident and burden them. The other individual, an older female, stated that her husband felt as if he had failed in his duties as a husband and thus had suffered a loss of self-esteem. As well, the effect was felt by their children who were confused about their parent's emotional behavior.

A lack of sleep resulting from nightmares and mental images was commonly described in the statements. One victim described feeling sudden anxiety attacks that resulted in vomiting, while another victim wrote about experiencing cold sweats while sleeping.

3.4 Threats and Harassment

Four statements where the victim was threatened and nine statements where the victim was harassed were analyzed. The financial consequences of these types of incidents were described in three statements. Two statements indicated that the victim had missed short periods of work due to stress related to the incident, and one individual incurred medical expenses.

The emotional impact of these incidents was similar in many respects to those who were assaulted. Feelings of self-doubt were often mentioned by those who were previously acquainted with the offender, and sometimes included statements about being a poor judge of character or being unable to trust again. Fear, anxiety, and lost

confidence and security were common among those who were harassed as well as those who experienced sexual, domestic, and common assault. These feelings resulted in the victim taking extra security measures such as purchasing extra locks for doors and windows, screening telephone calls, and not answering the door to unexpected visitors. As well, fear and general anxiety of being watched while at home and while away from home were common, and this resulted in the victim being more aware of their surroundings and being on the watch for suspicious people during their daily activities. While outside of the home, all individuals described being increasingly aware of their surroundings, such as checking over their shoulder and checking the backseat of vehicles. Being escorted to a vehicle after work was described in two statements.

Many of the victims expressed fear that their children would be targeted by the offender. Extra steps to ensure the safety of their children were described by all individuals, such as not letting their children play outside while unsupervised and taking extra efforts to drive the children to and from school. One individual indicated that these extra efforts put strain on the relationship between parent and child as the child did not understand why the parent was being over-protective.

The physical impact of these incidents was similar to other types of personal offences as well. Lack of sleep and changed eating habits were the physical side effects of depression and stress that were often described.

3.5 Impaired Driving

Two of the three statements described the financial impact of these incidents. One statement was filed by a family member of a victim who was seriously injured in the incident and wrote that the victim was in need of extended hospitalization and subsequent care that would pose a large financial burden on the family. The other statement indicated that the victim had missed approximately a week of work and thus had missed payments on loans and bills.

Two victims described the impact of the incident as devastating to their lives. One family experienced uncertainty as to whether a member of their family would live or not; the other described the injuries sustained as overwhelmingly sad. Another victim's emotional stress stemmed from the financial hardship that followed from missing work.

3.6 Robbery

With the exception of one incident, all robbery incidents occurred while the victim was working at a commercial establishment that was robbed. Of these six cases, the financial impact of the incident was restricted to missed days of work due to stress and apprehension about returning to work. One individual was robbed of her purse in her neighborhood and thus suffered the loss of all possessions in the purse, which included prescription glasses that needed to be replaced.

All victims who were robbed at work described similar emotional reactions to their experiences. Reluctance to return to work immediately after the robbery was common, as well as a feeling of fear and suspicion when dealing with customers or not being comfortable with working at night. Two statements were submitted by individuals who were over the age of 30 and both described thinking of their families during the robbery,

particularly of their children. Additionally, the robbery left the parent feeling impatient and irritable at home, which affected the children in a negative way. One victim described how the children were somewhat traumatized at school when questioned by other children about the robbery.

The individual who was robbed of a purse described feeling fearful and anxious in public, particularly while alone. This person had also considered moving residences as the incident occurred close to home.

Many of the statements described minor injuries as a result of the robbery, such as bruises. All of the statements, however, described effects that resulted from the psychological impact of the incident, such as nightmares, insomnia, and a loss of appetite.

3.7 Break and Enter, Mischief, and Trespassing

Similar to other incidents, lost time at work due to the offence was described in one of the statements. Additionally, one individual incurred the considerable cost of replacing many household items as a result of the incident.

Three of the four statements available for analysis described feelings of anger and being violated as a result of the incident. Nervousness and anxiety while at home were also described, as was being scared of noises and unexpected phone calls or visitors. The victim of a break and enter was particularly concerned about the safety and security of the home as a result of the incident and also expressed the greatest feelings of fear and anxiety. Additionally, this individual described purchasing extra home security items after the offence.

Similar to other types of offences, the stress and anxiety produced by the incident manifested in a lack of appetite and insufficient sleep, as well as nightmares related to the incident.

3.8 Theft

Four of the five statements were related to the impact of the theft of a vehicle. Two individuals did not have insurance coverage for the theft of their car and thus lost the full value of the vehicle. A common comment referred to the rise of insurance premiums as a result of the theft, and one individual missed a week of work as the vehicle was used for work purposes.

Most of the victims described feeling that their trust had been betrayed or that their personal space had been violated. One individual was friends with the offender and described feeling particularly betrayed by the incident, but was willing to allow the friend to work off the financial consequences of the incident. One statement, submitted by an individual who had been victimized in the past, took the opportunity of filing a victim impact statement to express frustration with the justice system and to plead to the court to stop being lenient with offenders. It was imperative, in the individual's opinion, that the courts send a strong message to potential offenders by imposing a strict sentence that these kinds of offences will not be tolerated by society.

The physical impact of the offence was described in two statements, both of which described general feelings of anxiety after the incident which resulted in insomnia for a short period.

4.0 Summary of Findings

The sample selected for analysis was largely representative of the total number of victim impact statements filed with the Calgary Police Service between January of 1999 and August of 2000. Common assault and domestic assault each constituted approximately one-third of the sample, which was similar to the proportion of each of these offences to the total number of statements filed. Incidents of sexual assault were slightly under-represented, while incidents of threats and harassment were slightly over-represented.

4.1 Financial Impact

The financial impact of an assault was often related to employment. Victims often described missing days of work either as a direct result of the physical injuries suffered or because of the emotional stress experienced as a result of the incident. These feelings were common to those who were sexually assaulted as well, but among these statements there were people who found it necessary to move to another residence as a result and incurred the related expenses.

Statements that described the impact of domestic assault were similar to those that described common and sexual assault in that they described missing work days and some individuals moved residences. There were additional comments, however, that were unique to those who were the victim of a domestic assault. Those whose relationships ended as a result of the incident described the financial impact of becoming a single parent and bearing sole financial responsibility for raising children, and some individuals suffered the loss of houses or vehicles. Victims of long-term abusive relationships described the use of finances by the offender as a method of control over the victim. In these cases, the offender would often withhold financial support from the victim in order to maintain control over the relationship.

Descriptions of the financial impact of property-related offences, such as break and enter and theft, were largely restricted to the cost of replacing stolen property.

4.2 Emotional Impact

Feelings of fear and anxiety were common among those who described being assaulted. Many comments described a fear of encountering the offender again, particularly among the victims who knew the offender. Many described modifying certain aspects of their routine activities, such as doing grocery shopping during the day as opposed to night and avoiding certain areas of the neighborhood or city. As well, many victims felt that their trust in strangers had been broken. Victims of sexual assault shared feelings of fear and anxiety as a result of their victimization, but seemed to experience these feelings more intensely than others. Trust was a much bigger issue for victims of sexual assault, especially among those who knew the offender.

Additionally, many victims expressed concern about their ability to engage in future relationships as their ability to trust had been damaged.

Victims of domestic assault also expressed experiencing fear, self-doubt, a loss of self-esteem, and depression. A major difference in the content of the statements that described domestic assault arose from those individuals who were victims of long-term abusive relationships and those who were victims of an isolated incident. Of those who were victims of long-term abusive relationships, a fear that the offender would return to hurt the victim was common, as were feelings that the victim would never be able to enter a relationship again as a result of trust issues. Victims of isolated incidents more often voiced concerns relating to children. Many times these were expressed in terms of the direct psychological impact of the incident or the indirect impact of the incident upon the victim's parenting abilities and subsequent impact upon the child.

Victims of threats and harassment described being fearful that the offender would continue the threats or harassment. Some victims took security precautions, such as purchasing extra locks on doors and windows. As well, many victims of these offences expressed concern that their children would be targeted by the offender and became very protective of their children.

Victims of property offences, such as break and enter and theft, shared feelings of fear and anxiety that a similar incident would happen a future point in time. Similar to those who were threatened or harassed, one individual purchased extra security devices for their home or vehicle to prevent it from happening again. Common feelings of violation and broken trust were described in these statements.

4.3 Physical Impact

Many victims of common assault, sexual assault, and domestic assault described the direct physical injuries sustained as a result of the incident. In addition to this, many victims experienced physical side-effects as a result of the emotional stress experienced. Common to a large majority of the statements analyzed was insomnia and a change in appetite. These experiences were not restricted to victims of personal offences; many victims of property offences described such effects as well.