

nstructor's Manual

with Test Items and suggested sources and videos

Understanding Violence and Victimization

7th edition

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Chapter One:

Measuring and Understanding Violence

This chapter discusses the many reasons for interpersonal violence. The risk factors such as family backgrounds, personal characteristics, and socioeconomic status are also explored. Students should conduct research on a convicted criminal (serial killer, rapist, mass murderer, etc.) and identify what influences (individual, familial, and community) contributed to his/her offenses. Sources of data on victimization are also provided. It is recommended that the instructor introduce students to the various sources of crime data (Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC), National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), etc.). What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of each source?

I. Student Learning Objectives:

- Be able to explain the meaning of violent crime
- Learn about reported and unreported crime
- Learn about the fear of crime
- Become familiar with some general reasons for violent behavior
- Understand the dynamics of violence

II. Sample Multiple-Choice Questions:

- 1. Americans' fear of crime victimization relates strongly to two distinct factors:**
 - a. Socioeconomic status and level of education
 - b. Income and level of education
 - c. Income and sex*
 - d. Socioeconomic status and gender
- 2. One limitation of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is:**
 - a. It details only reported crime*
 - b. Universities/colleges are not required to report offenses
 - c. Indexed crimes are not categorized by type of crime
 - d. The UCR does not provide data on the nature and extent of reported crime rates in a given community
- 3. The dark figure of crime refers to:**
 - a. All reported crimes to the police
 - b. Crimes committed by juveniles
 - c. Unreported crimes*
 - d. Both a and b

4. **According to information provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, which of the following is not true?**
 - a. Males are most often the victims and perpetrators of homicides
 - b. Blacks are more likely than whites to be homicide victims and homicide perpetrators
 - c. Most murders were interracial*
 - d. Blacks are more likely than whites to commit homicide
5. **Which of the following is a nationwide data center designed to collect, collate, and analyze information about crimes of violence—specifically murder?**
 - a. National Crime Victimization Survey
 - b. Uniform Crime Reports
 - c. Violent Criminal Apprehension Program*
 - d. Violence Center
6. **The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) chronicles all of the following information except:**
 - a. The amount of crime that occurs in school
 - b. So-called victimless crimes*
 - c. The relationship between the victim and the offender
 - d. Profiles of crime victims
7. **Which of the following is not one of the stages of violentization?**
 - a. Brutalization
 - b. Premeditation*
 - c. Belligerency
 - d. Violent coaching
8. **Which of the following is not part of the three-level social-ecological model?**
 - a. Individual
 - b. Familial
 - c. Psychological*
 - d. Community
9. **Among females, what disorder has been reported as one of the top disorders prison inmates (between 25% and 50%) are diagnosed with linking the disorder with their criminal behavior?**
 - a. Depression
 - b. Borderline personality disorder*
 - c. Post-traumatic stress disorder
 - d. Schizophrenia
10. **People with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) have lower levels of dopamine in the brain, which influences all the following except:**
 - a. Risk-taking behavior
 - b. Unacceptable social behavior and crime

- c. Poor academic achievement
- d. Higher self-esteem and acceptance*

11. Data on twin and adoptee studies found that:

- a. There was no association between adopted children's criminal behavior and their birth parents criminal behavior
- b. Almost 50% of the adoptees whose mother had a criminal record also had a record of criminal behavior themselves by age 18*
- c. About 80% of males with a criminal record had an adopted mother with a criminal record
- d. Both b and c

12. Research on the monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) gene found all of the following except:

- a. Those with low expression of MAOA were more impulsive
- b. People with low expression of MAOA had different brain size and activity
- c. Activity of those parts of the brain in males with low expression of MAOA differed more than their female counterparts
- d. Those with low expression of MAOA are born to commit violence*

13. Injury to the brain may contribute to aggressive behavior, especially if this region is affected because it harms the ability to plan and reason:

- a. Prefrontal cortex*
- b. Auditory cortex
- c. Occipital lobe
- d. Parietal lobe

14. Which of the following facts about familial influences is not true?

- a. The rise in violent crime parallels the rise in families abandoned by fathers
- b. The type of aggression and hostility demonstrated by a future criminal is often foreshadowed in unusual aggressiveness as early as age five or six
- c. High-crime neighborhoods are characterized by high concentrations of families abandoned by mothers*
- d. The future criminal tends to be an individual rejected by other children as early as the first grade

15. Social disorganization theory states the following except:

- a. Delinquency rates are higher in lower class neighborhoods
- b. Delinquency rates are higher in areas with the highest rates of prostitution
- c. Delinquency rates are higher in suburban communities*
- d. Delinquency rates are higher in communities with a large percent of minority families receiving public assistance

III. Sample Essay and Discussion Questions:

1. Explain why only some violent crimes are reported to police. What factors determine whether a crime is reported? Are reporting rates different for personal and property crimes? If so, why?

2. Why are some people more fearful of crime than others? Do you believe that the media promotes fear? Explain.
3. Develop an argument that genetics is a powerful factor in predicting behavior.
4. Discuss why some individuals raised in violent dysfunctional families or communities do not become violent.
5. Research a case study of a violent offender and determine the effect of individual, familial, and community levels in his or her violent behavior.
6. Is there a relationship between the social media and violence?
7. Are certain mental conditions attributed to violence more prevalent in men or women?
8. Are the reported police shootings of blacks due to racism or other factors?
9. Do a search of violent crime rates in America. Is violent crime increasing or decreasing?
10. Discuss the relationship between post-traumatic stress disorder and victimization.
11. How does violence and crime affect a community, and how does a community promote violence?

Chapter Two:

Victimization Theory

Chapter two addresses the theory and psychological effects of violent crime. The types and costs of victimization are also discussed. It is recommended that the instructor introduce the student to the topic by having the class list the reasons why people become victims of various crimes (murder, robbery, rape, etc.). Are certain people more often victimized than others? Why? What factors may play a role in their victimization? Students should research reasons of how and why victimization occurs. In other words, why are crimes more common in urban communities? Both early and modern theories are examined to help explain the relationship between crime and victimization.

I. Student Learning Objectives:

- Understand the difference between criminology and victimology
- Understand the financial and psychological impacts of victimization
- Understand the culture of victimization
- Become familiar with the early theorists on victimology
- Understand recent theories on victimization
- Understand why some crimes are not officially reported
- Determine the relationship between social media and victimization

II. Sample Multiple-Choice Questions:

- 1. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD):**
 - a. Is a common psychological reaction to violent encounters*
 - b. Is a disorder restricted to war veterans
 - c. Always surfaces immediately following a traumatic experience
 - d. Requires treatment, symptoms will soon disappear
- 2. During which phase of rape trauma syndrome does the survivor experience a complete disruption of her life in response to the violence experienced:**
 - a. Acute phase*
 - b. Organization phase
 - c. Obtuse phase
 - d. Reorganization phase
- 3. Micro aggressions are:**
 - a. When an individual casts himself or herself as a victim to control others
 - b. When criminals sue their victims for injuries committed during the crime

- c. Acts or words perceived to be insulting to another regardless of the intent of the transgressor*
 - d. When an individual develops a mental illness after being victimized
4. Which of the following is an underlying motivation for perpetrators of false allegation crimes?
- a. Mental illness/depression
 - b. Attention/sympathy
 - c. Alibi
 - d. All of the above*
5. Mendelsohn explains victimization through _____ whereas Hentig describes _____.
- a. community factors; situational factors
 - b. situational factors; personal factors*
 - c. family factors; situational factors
 - d. family factors; personal factors
6. Which of the following is not one of Hentig's categories of victims?
- a. The young
 - b. The elderly
 - c. Immigrants
 - d. Males*
7. Which of the following is not an example Mendelsohn's typology *victim with minor guilt*?
- a. A man is robbed after receiving services from a prostitute
 - b. A man is shot in self-defense when he breaks into a house*
 - c. A non-gang member is shot in a drive-by while associating himself with known gang members
 - d. Both a and b
8. Primary victimization refers to:
- a. Personalized or individual victimization, such as a hate crime*
 - b. Impersonal victimization, such as selling faulty products to the public
 - c. Involves the public or society as a victim, such as crimes committed by the government
 - d. When an offender becomes a victim, as when two people engage in a criminal activity and then one becomes the victim of the other
9. Active precipitation theory refers to:
- a. Victims using words to cause a physical confrontation
 - b. Situations where victims provoke violent encounters
 - c. Victims assaulted because of their active religious beliefs
 - d. Both a and b*
10. An example of passive victimization is:
- a. Lovers who are assaulted by their partner's estranged spouse*
 - b. An unsuspecting individual is attacked because of his gang affiliation

- c. An individual is stabbed in a barroom brawl
- d. Both a and c

11. Proximity hypothesis DOES NOT propose:

- a. Both criminals and victims often live in physical proximity to one another
- b. Criminals and victims coexist in socially disorganized, high-crime communities
- c. Victims encourage crime*
- d. Victims are in the wrong place at the wrong time

12. As Newman proposed with his defensible space theory, people are more likely to defend themselves from crime if:

- a. They live in fear
- b. They live in conditions conducive to reporting*
- c. They live in run-down areas
- d. Both a and c

13. Research has shown that decaying neighborhoods with physical disorder have all of the following except:

- a. More social interaction*
- b. Increased crime
- c. Higher levels of fear
- d. More physical and mental health problems

14. Routine activities theory is:

- a. Motivation to commit crime is constant
- b. Number of offenders is constant
- c. Any routine activity makes crime predictable
- d. Both a and b*

15. According to a research survey of Internet victimization of youth, all of the following are true except:

- a. One in five youth received a sexual approach or solicitation over the Internet in the last year
- b. More than half of all episodes were reported to authorities*
- c. One in four youth had an unwanted exposure in the last year to pictures of naked people or people have sex
- d. One in seventeen youth was threatened or harassed in the last year

III. Sample Essay and Discussion Questions:

1. Compare, contrast, and critique the routine activities theory.
2. Write a paper taking the position that some crime victims are responsible for their victimization. What theories or examples would you provide to support this position?
3. Identify and explain the five victim categories offered by Sellin and Wolfgang.

4. Consult local newspapers or other news sources and find examples of the routine activities, lifestyle, proximity, and victim precipitation theories. Report your findings to the class.
5. Visit a police department and interview officers who patrol high-crime areas. Ask them to relate, from their experiences, how some people become crime victims.
6. Do a content analysis of victimization in the media. That is, watch a film or television show about crime and violence, and list the extent and type of victimizations depicted. How often are women victimized? Children? Are any of the victimization theories presented in the film or television program?
7. Research court decisions from your jurisdiction or interview a defense attorney and find out how often the defense of battered women's syndrome is used. Has PTSD been used successfully in any cases?
8. Do you agree that technology is becoming a medium of victimization? How?
9. Which victimization theories would you apply in the Holloway case (Focus 2–2)? Can you find other examples in which someone disappeared and was never found? Discuss the events of the case. That is, which theories would you apply?
10. Explain the culture of victimization. Do you feel that victimization in some instances is misrepresented or overstated? Why?
11. Discuss the difference between criminology and victimology.
12. Why do you think depressed people are likely victims?
13. Watch a crime television show (Law and Order: SVU, Criminal Minds, etc.), summarize the episode, and identify and describe which of Mendelsohn's typologies the victim falls into.

