Victimology
Understanding Victimization

Lecture Outline
- Costs & Consequences
- Patterns
- Explanations

Alternative CJS Goals
- Punishment (Retribution)
- Rehabilitation
- Incapacitation

Challenges to Victims from CJS
- Financial impacts
  - Costs of the crimes themselves – high, not regained
  - Process slow & costly
  - Cost of process & opportunity costs (inc lost work)
- Psychological Impacts
  - PTSD
  - Secondary trauma of process
  - Risk of negative result
- Stacked deck?
  - Emphasis on defendants’ rights
- But note social effects
  - E.g. neighborhood cohesion

Repayment Perspectives
- For financial losses or physical injuries
- Compensation
  - Not need arrest or conviction
  - Offender need not be solvent
  - State repays
    - To protect welfare of citizenry
    - But did the victim contribute to the crime?
    - To prevent anger at CJS
    - Though frustrating process that increases discontent
- Restitution
  - Offenders pay or provide services
  - To victim, or to community at large
  - Rehabilites by making them take responsibility?
  - Or stop feeling guilty and more likely to commit again?

Styles of Social Control
- Each has five characteristics:
  - Penal
    - Prohibition
  - Compensatory
    - Obligation
  - Therapeutic
    - Normality
  - Conciliatory
    - Harmony

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Temporal Variability

- **Time of Day**
  - Personal theft = 6am to 6pm
  - Household crimes after dark
  - Armed robberies at night
  - Evening = MVT, robbery w/ injury aggravated assault
- **Seasonal**
- **Annual trends**

Spacial Variability

- **Physical Ecology**
  - Geographical
  - Temporal
- **Social Ecology**
  - Demographic
  - Geometric

Geographic Variability

- **Intraarea**
  - **Zones**
    - Shaw & McKay – concentric zone model of the city
    - Alt. models of cities
    - Violent crimes w/i five miles of home
      - Esp. 1 street away; secondarily, @ home
- **Interarea**
  - Urban/rural
  - Regional variation
    - States (south = 41!)”
    - Coasts/midwest, etc.

Geometry

- **Reports (crime in legal sense)**
  - Production of crime rates (Black)
- **Incidence (“actual”/“real” – vs. legal)**
  - Crimes @ periphery?
  - Crimes among lower classes?
  - Crimes by individuals?

Demographic Patterns

- Children?
- Women?
- Whites, by blacks?
- Innocents?

Victimology

- **Estimating victimization**
  - UCR vs. NCVS
  - Trends & Demographics
  - Situational & Interpersonal Dynamics
- **Theoretical Explanations**
  - Victim Precipitation – IPV
  - Victim lifestyle
  - Routine activities
Explanations

- **Lifestyle**
  - Inc outside home, w/ others likely to commit
  - By committing crimes themselves - eg assoc w gangs
- **Routine Activities Theory**
  - Target, offender, lack of guardianship (e.g. empty homes)
- **Physical Proximity**
  - Hot spots & what makes them (bars? Cannabis clubs?)
  - Public vs private social control varies (e.g. low SES areas)
- **Individual Traits**
  - Self control
  - Childhood problems
  - Mental Disorders
- **Repeat Victimization**
- **Explaining variation**
- **Students & homeless**

Victimization as Deviance

- **Donald Black, “Crime as Social Control”**
  - “self-help” —
- **Traditional Self-Help**
  - Esp. violence
- **Modern Self-Help**
  - Now called criminal
  - But still expresses/addressess grievance
- **Deterrence & Self-Help**
  - Harder if morally obligated
- **Processing of Self-Help**
- **Theory of Self-Help**

Changes for Victims

- **Victims’ Rights Movement**
- **Systematic Changes**
  - Every state now has law or amendment
  - Systems of compensation/restitution developed
- **Change in victim status**
  - DAs recognize that need cooperative victims
  - Judges consider impact of crimes for sentencing
  - Parole boards hear victims/families before release
  - Cross-culturally, wide variance
  - E.g. Pakistani rape & zina