

able to monitor their rehabilitation process, but at the same time, try to remove the stigma against former addicts and to create favourable conditions for them to fully rejoin society through good and honest labour that can ensure their livelihood.

Lieutenant General Tuyển believed that with current policies regarding detoxification methods and post-detoxification management, the negative trend could be reversed and this would help a great deal in combatting crime in general.

The Government has tasked the Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security, and other concerned agencies to work on a drug detoxification scheme.

See <http://vietnamnews.vn/opinion/378592/police-to-focus-on-synthetic-drugs-smuggling.html>

THEORIES AND RISK OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION



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A summary by Tiffany Kappen, B.A. M.Crim, Criminologist of Arthur J Lurigio's (2018) article *Theories and Risk of Criminal Victimization*.

In *Theories and Risk of Criminal Victimization*, Arthur J Lurigio discusses numerous factors connected to criminal and violent victimisation. These factors are demographic characteristics such as age, gender, race and ethnicity, income and residence. These aspects are important in the analysis of victimisation because they affect an individual's vulnerability to violent crime. In Lurigio's article he discusses theories of victimisation and outlines that many have been criticised for victim blaming due to the focus on victim participation.

Demographic characteristics play an important role in how we conduct ourselves in our daily lives. They influence the way we look at the world and how we react in different situations. Some demographics we can control however many we cannot, such as age, gender and ethnicity. Demographics are essential when analysing victimisation because they can impact the risk of victimisation.

Lurigio uses the Bureau of Justice Statistics to state that age and criminal victimisation have a strong inverse relationship. Young people aged between 16 and 24 are outlined to be most at risk of violent crime victimisation, such as robbery and aggravated assault. Age also plays a role in homicide statistics where "more than one-third of homicide victim and nearly one-half of homicide perpetrators are younger than age 25" (Lurigio 2018, p1). Even though homicide rates have declined this age group is still at the highest risk.

As many will know race and ethnicity play a huge role in crime and victimisation, especially in America where the black community are widely over-represented in the justice system. Lurigio uses a number of statistics to represent the difference in representation of Black, White and Hispanic people in America. "Blacks have been consistently over-represented as both homicide victims and homicide offenders, with victimization rates six times higher and offending rates eight times higher than those of whites" (Lurigio 2018, p2). An uncomfortable statistic

Lurigio highlights is that Black men are more likely to die as a result of homicide than from America's leading cause of death, heart disease.

Another demographic characteristics we do not have control over is our gender. If you are born a man you are at a higher risk of becoming both an offender and a victim. Lurigio states that men are responsible for more than seventy per cent of crimes and the rate of men involved in homicide is much higher than women. Lurigio however briefly highlights the impact of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sex-related murder where women disproportionately fall victim.

On the other hand income is a demographic characteristic that can be changed however it can be harder for some to make changes to impact their income. Poverty is a large risk factor when it comes to victimisation and offending. Poverty creates a lot of stress, particularly on families trying to provide for their children, this stress Lurigio states increases the risk of intimate partner violence. Lurigio uses statistics from a number of resources to highlight the risks of victimisation depending on levels of income. "People living at or below the federal poverty level for households were more than twice as likely to be a victim of violent crime as those living in the highest-income-bracket households" (Lurigio 2018, p3). Location is also an important factor Lurigio discusses, studies show that violent crimes are more likely to occur in metropolitan areas, and in the south of the USA rather than the north-eastern regions. Location and income are strongly connected aspects, which impact someone's risk of victimisation. For example a person living on or below the poverty line is more likely to be living in a less desirable location, which can further increase their risk of victimisation or offending.

Theories of victimisation explore the idea that individuals' characteristics and motivations can impact their risk of becoming a victim to violent crime. Lurigio emphasises that these theories suggest that the victim has a shared responsibility with the offender and hence they have been heavily criticised. Early foundation theories of victimisation "identified victim characteristics that might increase a person's risk of victimisation... or even contribute to or precipitate the victimisation" (Tobolowsky 2000 cited by Lurigio 2018, p4). Mendelsohn, an early theorist, created three classes of victimisation, the innocent victim, the victim who is as guilty as the offender and the victim who is guiltier than the offender. Lurigio discusses how Mendelsohn's theories resulted in subsequent studies by other theorists such as Wolfgang who found that patterns in criminal homicide matched Mendelsohn's classes of victimisation. Lurigio (2018, p4) highlights that Wolfgang went so far as to say "some homicide victims were actually suicidal and provoked their killers in order to fulfil a death wish". Although Lurigio does not delve any further into Wolfgang's rather confronting theory, he analyses other research, which shows an individuals behaviour is more likely to result in victimisation. This behaviour could include being the first to exert physical force or using insulting language to provoke the potential offender.

Lurigio goes on to explain the lifestyle exposure theory, which ultimately states that a persons' lifestyle will affect their vulnerability. For example you enjoy going out to bars at night, but you drink to much and become intoxicated and you end up going home alone, this results in higher risk of assault, armed robbery or other violent crimes. Another example is a young male who frequents bars and nightclubs is more likely to become a victim to assault than a young dad, who spends his evenings with his family in their suburban home. Other lifestyle choices, that increase risk of victimisation, are having a relationship with drugs, alcohol, or criminal groups.

Closely linked to the lifestyle exposure theory is routine activities theory here Lurigio illustrates three components, which increase the likelihood of victimisation. 1) Having a motivated offender 2) having a suitable/attractive target and 3) the absence of a guardian or having the opportunity present itself. These three components Lurigio states make a “perfect storm for victimization”. Furthermore Lurigio discusses Fattah’s theory of victimisation, which assimilates with both lifestyle exposure theory and the routine activities theory. Additional theories examined in Lurigio’s article look at victim accountability, such as blameworthiness and shared responsibility. Social disorganisation theory also suggests the victim has part responsibility due to their surroundings. For example someone living in a disorganised neighbourhood or a neighbourhood where social control has failed is at higher risk of becoming a victim but also more likely to participate in illegal activities in order to get by or fit in. Lurigio links this theory to the social network theory, which stresses that relationships play an integral role in the risk of victimisation. “Victims of violent crime and violent offenders often live in the same social and physical environments and have similar backgrounds and proclivities” (Lurigio 2018, p,8). Lurigio uses the example that the majority of homicide cases are committed by someone the victim knew. Lurigio concludes his article by analysing the criticisms that surround many of these victimisation theories. Victim participation theories, such as the early theories and lifestyle exposure theory but specifically routine activities theory assume that the victim is responsible for their victimisation due to their behaviours. Critics have argued that these theories are a form of radical victim blaming, which serve no purpose other than to cause further suffering for the victim and moves the attention off the real issues of crime and violence. Victim blaming can rationalise the criminal act and therefore make the crime less severe. Overall Lurigio’s article examines a number of important aspects contributing to victimisation, and the theories that exist to understand victimisation.

To read Arthur Lurigio’s full article please visit the Australian Crime Prevention Council Website:
http://acpc.org.au/images/articles/Risk_of_Criminal_Victimization.pdf

Arthur J. Lurigio, a psychologist, is Senior Associate Dean for Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, and a Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology and of Psychology at Loyola University Chicago. He is also a member of the Graduate Faculty and Director of the Center for the Advancement of Research, Training, and Education (CARTE) at Loyola University Chicago. In 2003, Dr. Lurigio was named a faculty scholar, the highest honor bestowed on senior faculty at Loyola. In 2013, he was named a Master Researcher by the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola in recognition of continued scholarly productivity. In praise of the overall outstanding contributions of his research to practices in the fields of psychology and criminal justice, Dr. Lurigio was conferred with the University of Cincinnati Award in 1996; the Hans W. Mattick Award in 2003; the Champion for Recovery Award: Excellence in Research Award in 2009; the University of Illinois: Distinguished Contributions to Criminal Justice Research and Practice Award in 2010; and the American Psychological Association Distinguished Career Award in 2010. He is the immediate past president of the Illinois Academy of Criminology. Dr. Lurigio's research is focused primarily in the areas of offender substance use and other psychiatric disorders and their co-occurrence; drug treatment services; mental disorders, violence, and crime; community corrections; police community relations; criminal victimization; and victim services