



# Research on Male Victims in Underserved Communities

*The Center for Victim Research (CVR) Library's annotated bibliographies collect and summarize research about difficult-to-search topics in victim research.*

Considering multiple aspects of individuals' identities and lived experiences allows for a clearer picture of crime victims' unique needs and potential barriers to help-seeking. In this annotated bibliography, the [Center for Victim Research Library](#) has collected research about male victims\*, with sections on men from rural communities, Indigenous men, men and boys in criminal and juvenile justice systems, and undocumented immigrant men. While most articles below focus on heterosexual, cis, adult men, a few articles discuss emerging adults and youth.

Searches were conducted in English in the CVR Library collection and Google Scholar. Results were limited to research in the United States and the resources included below are not comprehensive. This bibliography contains systematic literature reviews, surveys, and program evaluations, with most documents published between 2014-2020. Topics include intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and violent victimization such as robbery, aggravated assault, and assault with a weapon. Resources are grouped by sections about male victims in general and for populations covered. Articles are organized by the lead author's last name. Contact the CVR Research Librarian for assistance locating full-text or additional articles.

*\*Barriers to service for men can include gendered stigmatization about who experiences violence and crime and who needs help. The language describing victimization can discourage help-seeking, especially for people who may not see themselves as victims. This bibliography uses the terms male victims or male survivor, following the language used by each research article.*

## MALE VICTIMS

[Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Becoming Gender-Responsive and Trauma-Informed](#) by J. Elkins, K. Crawford, and H. E. Briggs (*Advances in Social Work*, 2017, vol. 18 no. 1, 116-130)

This study emphasizes the importance of gender-aware victim services and the lack of research on male populations. It addresses men's experiences of sexual abuse, discussing its nature and impact, as well as factors which can lead to resilient outcomes for male survivors.

[Help-Seeking by Male Victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse \(DVA\): A Systematic Review and Qualitative Evidence Synthesis](#) by A. L. Huntley et. al. (*BMJ Open*, 2019, vol. 9 no. 6, 13 pgs.)

This systematic review of 12 studies discusses why male victims of domestic violence and abuse are less likely to seek help and which factors can create a positive or negative

experience with victim services. The authors identified nine themes in the literature: “(a) barriers to help-seeking: fear of disclosure, challenge to masculinity, commitment to relationship, diminished confidence/despondency and invisibility/perception of services; and (b) experiences of interventions and support: initial contact, confidentiality, appropriate professional approaches and inappropriate professional approaches.”

**[Serving Male-Identified Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence](#)** by E. Stiles, I. Ortiz, and C. Keene (National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, 2017, 13 pgs.)

See also: **[Male-Identified Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: Annotated Bibliography](#)** by National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (2017, 5 pgs.)

These two sources connect practice and research knowledge about male survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). The first document describes men’s experiences of IPV and the challenges of serving male survivors and defining male identities. The authors also suggest ways to reach out to male survivors, enhance organizational policies, promote gender-inclusive service provision, and build collaborations to improve services for men. The annotated bibliography features articles and reports about male survivors of intimate partner violence, including research about help-seeking and consequences of abuse.

#### Search Tips

Below are similar or related keywords for:

- **Male:** men, boys, masculinity
- **Crime:** victimization, harm, violence, abuse, trauma, assault

View an [example search](#) in the CVR Library.

**[Who Experiences Violent Victimization and Who Accesses Services?: Findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey for Expanding Our Reach](#)** by H. Warnken and J. L. Lauritsen (Center for Victim Research, 2019, 25 pgs.)

This source discusses violent victimization rates by race/ethnicity, gender, age, income, and geography. Particularly notable is the finding that in the last half-decade, the gender gap in serious violent victimization has closed due to a greater overall decline in male victimization. Furthermore, the study finds that male victims are less likely to receive assistance from victim services than female victims.

## MEN FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES

**[Underserved Populations: A Gap Analysis of Victims of Crime in Maine](#)** by C. Benner and G. Shaler (Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maine Statistical Analysis Center at the University of Southern Maine, and Victims of Crime Administering Agency at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 2017, 44 pgs.)

This researcher-practitioner partnership examined gaps in service for underserved communities in Maine, including rural residents, which made up 18.6% of the clients surveyed. Rural Maine residents reported significantly lower rates of receiving a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam than clients not living in rural areas. The study acknowledges “there are not clear parameters defining rural.”

**Supporting Rural, Remote, and Underserved Survivors: The Need for Mobile Victim Advocacy Units** by B. de Heer, L. Jones, J. Runge, and S.Y. Patton (Northern Arizona University and Victim Witness Services of Coconino County for the Center for Victim Research, 2019, 15 pgs.)

This researcher-practitioner study addresses the challenges that rural victim services providers face. The needs assessment identified the need for Native American-specific services and practitioners, a lack of awareness of existing services, services located far from victims’ homes. The authors discussed developing culturally relevant services and outreach programs, addressing transportation gaps creatively, and customizing surveys for future rural studies.

**Provision of Evidence-Based Therapies to Rural Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault via Telehealth: Treatment Outcomes and Clinical Training Benefits** by M. Jaconis et al. (*Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 2015, vol. 9, no. 3, 235–241)

This article reviews mental health care needs and treatment barriers experienced by rural populations. It suggests that partnerships between university-based mental health care clinics and rural domestic violence/rape crisis centers could be leveraged to provide videoconferencing-based therapy “to effectively meet the needs of rural survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.” Though men are not explicitly discussed, the findings on teletherapy could apply to reaching rural male victims.

**Challenges of Victim Advocates in Rural Communities: Males the Forgotten Gender** by J. Powell-Keith (Ph.D. Dissertation, Capella University, 2017, 117 pgs.)

This Ph.D. dissertation utilizes qualitative interviews with ten victim advocates employed at victim assistance agencies in rural communities. Findings indicate that male victims face gendered stigmatization and that admitting they have been victimized clashes with their understanding of their own masculinity. Furthermore, it notes the need for increased funding and resource access for rural victim advocates, additional domestic violence awareness campaigns for rural communities, and sensitivity training for law enforcement agencies serving male victims.

**Situational Contexts of Rural Violence: A Comparison of Male and Female Perpetration** by C. M. Rennison and W. S. DeKeseredy (*Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 2017, vol. 33, no. 2, 189-206)

This article uses National Crime Victimization Survey data to study rural violence and to compare male-perpetrated and female-perpetrated violence. The analysis found that men more frequently perpetrated against other men and perpetrated violence against friends and strangers at similar rates. Findings demonstrate “that male-perpetrated rural violence is far more varied in nature than those committed by females...these situational contexts show that adult and juvenile males perpetrated against both males and females, adults and juveniles, with and without using drugs/alcohol, with and without bystanders, weapons, injuries, and reporting.”

## INDIGENOUS MEN

**Historical Oppression, Resilience, and Transcendence: Can a Holistic Framework Help Explain Violence Experienced by Indigenous People?** by C.E. Burnette and C.R. Figley (*Social Work*, 2017, vol. 62, no. 1, 37- 44)

This article includes an overview of violence faced by indigenous peoples in the United States, divided by gender. It applies the concepts of historical oppression, historical trauma, resilience, and transcendence to provide “a culturally relevant framework, which can be used to explain, predict, and prevent violence.” The authors suggest that indigenous men may internalize colonial ideals such as “patriarchal, hegemonic, and sexist gender norms,” leading to an increase in IPV in indigenous communities.

**Victimization and Substance Use Among Native American College Students** by J. Fish et al. (*Journal of College Student Development*, 2017, vol. 58, no. 3, 413-431)

This study uses Tribal Critical Race Theory to examine rates of victimization and substance use among Native American students and students’ perceived impact of these experiences on their academic performance. Native American college students overall experienced disproportionate rates of victimization. Native American men only had one significant variable for predicting GPA: the perception that drug use had affected their academics. The authors note that “these findings suggest that there are many unknown variables that influence the academic performance of Native American males beyond victimization and substance use.”

**Prevalence and Correlates of Physical Dating Violence among North American Indigenous Adolescents** by D. Hautala et al. (*Youth & Society*, 2017, vol. 49 no. 3, 295-317)

In a survey of Native American teens, female participants were more likely to report being perpetrators only and male participants were more likely to report being victims only of dating violence. This study also added to research about the victim-offender overlap: participants who reported problem behaviors, anger, and perceived discrimination were more likely to be victimized by a partner and perpetuate violence against a partner.

**Relative Influence of Various Forms of Partner Violence on the Health of Male Victims: Study of a Help Seeking Sample** by D. A. Hines and E. M. Douglas (*Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 2016, vol. 17, no. 1, 3-16)

This study, which includes a small sample of Native American men, examines the how partner violence contributes to men's mental and physical health including variance in men's experience with depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, physical health, and poor health symptoms. "The types of PV that contributed the most unique variance were controlling behaviors, [legal/administrative] aggression, sexual aggression, and injury."

**Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men** by A.B. Rosay (*NIJ Journal*, 2016, vol. 277, 38-45)

See also: **Violence against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men: 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey** by A.B. Rosay (National Institute of Justice, 2010, 83 pgs.)

The 2016 article updates findings from the 2010 survey concerning violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men. The study finds that "more than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native men (81.6%) have experienced violence in their lifetime." Of these men, 73% have experienced psychological aggression from an intimate partner, 43.2% have experienced physical intimate partner violence, 27.5% have experienced sexual abuse, and 18.6% have been stalked.

**Consequences of Violent Victimization for Native American Youth in Early Adulthood** by J. J. Turanovic and T. C. Pratt (*Journal of Youth and Adolescence* (2017, vol. 46, no. 6, 1333-1350)

This study used a subsample of 558 Native American youth and two waves of data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health. Results indicated that while "adolescent violent victimization was associated with poor health and violent offending in early adulthood [among both females and males] ...violent victimization was linked to depressive symptoms among females but not males." For Native American

male participants, there was also significant interaction between violent victimization and family attachments on poor health and marijuana use.

## **MEN IN JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS**

**Hopelessness and Delinquent Behavior as Predictors of Community Violence Exposure in Ethnic Minority Male Adolescent Offenders** by A. N. Burnside and N. K. Gaylord-Harden (*Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 2019, vol. 47, no. 5, 801-810)

This article examines factors that may predict future violence exposure specifically in justice-involved boys from urban environments: “Results revealed a significant direct effect of low hope for the future on future violence victimization, as well as an indirect effect on low hope for the future on both victimization and witnessing of community violence exposure 1 year later through engagement in delinquent behavior.” The study suggests that because individuals’ beliefs about the future are related to their future behavior, services that work to instill hope about their prospects may have a favorable effect in reducing future reoffending, violent victimization, and witnessing violence.

**Opening the Door to Healing: Reaching and Serving Crime Victims Who Have a History of Incarceration** by A. Hastings and K. Kall (The National Resource Center for Reaching Victims, 2020, 62 pgs.)

This report summarizes research on the overlap between incarcerated men and those who have been victims of traumatic childhood events such as sexual abuse, emotional abuse, abandonment, or exposure to community violence. It also discusses barriers that formerly incarcerated men face in seeking help for this trauma, such as believing victim service providers won’t help them because they are perceived as offenders and underserving of assistance. The authors suggest that adopting broader terms for victimization such as “‘people harmed by violence,’ ‘anyone affected by violence,’ or ‘survivors of trauma or harm’ may resonate more with people who have been incarcerated, especially with men.”

**Violent reinjury risk assessment instrument (VRRAI) for hospital-based violence intervention programs** by E.J. Kramer et al. (2017, *The Journal of Surgical Research*, 217, 177-186.e2)

To create a risk assessment tool for hospital-based violence intervention programs, researchers held focus groups with staff of the Wraparound Project. The resulting Violent Re-injury Risk Assessment Instrument categorizes indicators as elevated risk, behavioral factors, severe conditional factors, and moderate conditional factors. Incarceration history is one elevated-risk indicator and being an undocumented youth with low social support is one severe conditional factor for violent revictimization.

**[Reducing Harms to Boys and Young Men of Color from Criminal Justice System Involvement](#)** by A. M. Liberman and J. Fontaine (Urban Institute, 2015, 34 pgs.)

This report discusses the disproportionate representation of boys and young men of color as both crime victims and offenders in juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. The article presents a variety of reasons why boys and young men of color are so overrepresented as victims and offenders, identifying factors such as implicit bias, exposure to violence, and histories of parental arrest and incarceration. Policy and institutional solutions to this problem are also examined, including monitoring race-specific outcomes in justice systems and adopting trauma-informed approaches to working with system-involved youth.

**[Victim Services for Justice-Involved Juveniles](#)** by Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (for the Center for Victim Research, 2019, 42 pgs.)

This researcher-practitioner partnership reviewed data collected from juvenile facilities in Minnesota about available victim services. Notable findings include that for juvenile facilities to adequately serve juvenile victims of violence: 77% reported needing more staff training, 67% reported needing more funding, 63% reported needing more treatment providers and programs in the community. Additionally, most facilities identified a lack of resources “for juvenile victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.”

See also for national background statistics: **[Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities](#)**, 2018, Summary by E. Smith and J. Stroop (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2019, 1 pg.)

**[What Trauma Looks Like for Incarcerated Men: A Study of Men’s Lifetime Trauma Exposure in Two State Prisons](#)** by M. Morrison et al. (Washington University at St. Louis, 2018, 28 pgs.)

This study interviewed 67 men to understand the types of trauma they experienced and their ages at trauma exposure. Most men in the sample experienced traumatic events as children or adolescents. The most frequently reported experiences included a loved one being murdered, witnessing violent acts, or being violently victimized. This report adds more qualitative information about the type of violence incarcerated men have experienced and discusses demographic differences in rates of child maltreatment and community violence in the sample.

**Trauma and Loss During Reentry: Early Findings from a Multi-state Trial** by C. Pettus-Davis, T. Renn, and S. Kennedy (Institute for Justice Research and Development at Florida State University, 2020, 20 pgs.)

See also: **Proposing a Population-Specific Intervention Approach to Treat Trauma Among Men During and After Incarceration** by C. Pettus-Davis et al. (*Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 2019, 20(3), 379-393)

This report is part of a larger longitudinal study about 123 justice-involved men's experiences of their first 8 months of reentry. Forty-seven percent of study participants experiences at least one traumatic event, like losing a loved one to homicide, witnessing violence, or being violently victimized. The researchers also captured men's strategies for coping, like free time, sleep, and time with loved ones, and asked about the positive social interactions and relationships men had after incarceration. The second article proposes a gender-sensitive trauma treatment for reentry.

**Lifetimes of Violence in a Sample of Released Prisoners** by B. Western (*The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 2015, 1(2), 14-30)

This report is a longitudinal survey of formerly incarcerated individuals' experiences of poverty, violence, and trauma. The results are not differentiated by gender, but most of the sample participants are men. Page 10 includes a chart of childhood adversities among the full sample (122 individuals) and the life history sample (40 individuals).

**Trauma Exposure and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder among Incarcerated Men** by N. Wolff et al. (*Journal of Urban Health*, 2014, vol. 91, no. 4, 707-719)

Using a sample of 592 men in a high-security prison, this study finds that rates of PTSD were significantly higher in study participants than rates observed in the general male populations. "This study suggests the need for a gender-sensitive response to trauma among incarcerated men with modification for comorbid mental disorders and type of trauma exposure. The high levels of assaultive violence, both physical and sexual, in combination with lifetime and current PTSD warrant intervention that is trauma-informed and sensitive to male mindsets, particularly regarding what it means to be a man."

## **UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT MEN**

**Undocumented Victims: An Examination of Crimes Against Undocumented Male Migrant Workers.** by M. J. Bucher (*Southwest Journal of Criminal Justice*, 2010, vol. 7, no. 2, 159-137)

Using interview data, this study investigates the victimization of undocumented male migrant workers in a southern metropolitan area. Findings indicate that "while workers



experience a high rate of victimization, they are unlikely to report the crimes or pursue criminal justice aid.” Study findings also suggest workers’ immigrant/undocumented status may make them more susceptible to victimization, while also making them less likely to report victimization out of fear of deportation. However, this “reluctance to involve law enforcement, may ultimately serve to further increase their likelihood of victimization.”

**[Understanding and Measuring Bias Victimization Against Latinos](#)** by C. Cuevas et al. (Violence and Justice Research Laboratory at Northeastern University and University of Massachusetts Lowell, 2019, 23 pgs.)

See also related research brief: **[Understanding and Measuring Bias Against Latinos](#)**

This study surveyed Latinos in Metro-Boston, Southern Texas, and Greater San Diego metro area about their lifetime and recent experiences of bias victimization (both hate crimes and non-criminal bias events). The researchers found “the overall past year bias victimization rate was 25.6%, with no significant differences across gender, immigrant status, or documented status.” However, non-immigrant Latinos were more likely to report experiencing bias victimization than immigrants (documented or undocumented).

**[The California Victim Compensation Program Needs Assessment Report: California’s Underserved Crime Victims and their Access to Victim Services and Compensation](#)** by M. Fox, C. Munson, and R. Foemmel Bie (California Victim Compensation Program, 2015, 75 pgs.)

This report discusses why undocumented immigrants do not report crime and crime victimization. Survey respondents echoed previously identified individual-level and system-related reasons for lack of reporting. Individual-level barriers included language differences, embarrassment to families, cultural differences, isolation, and pressure from family members to not report, fear of arrest and deportation, and fear of retribution. System-related barriers included lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system and available resources, unfavorable treatment by officials in the past, and fear of becoming involved with the authorities. This report also discusses Native and rural victims.

**[Surveillance Without Protection: Policing Undocumented Migrant Workers in an American Suburb](#)** by H. E. Sung et al. (*British Journal of Criminology*, 2016, vol. 56, no. 5, 877-897)

This study examines data collected from an all-male sample of 160 undocumented migrant workers in New Jersey. Findings indicate that undocumented migrant workers were “were more likely to suffer violent crime victimization, less likely to report their victimizations to the police and more likely to be stopped and questioned by the police.”

However, the study also notes that undocumented migrant workers were willing to interact with the police and see them as a “dependable source of information and a deserving recipient of respect and confidence.”

**Immigrant Victims, Immigrant Accusers** by M. Kagan (*University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, 2015, vol. 48, no. 4, 915-966)

This law article examines U visas, which grant noncitizen victims of crime with a pathway to legal citizenship. However, these visas are granted by the victim identifying and accusing an offender, who is often also an undocumented immigrant at risk of deportation. “There is a danger that preconceived notions about what a genuine victim looks like, coupled with a desire to rescue female victims, will prejudice the criminal justice system against immigrant men.” The author discusses how “the U visa may increase both the risk of wrongful convictions and courts’ reluctance to believe victims.”

**America ‘s Disposable Youth: Undocumented Delinquent Juveniles** by K. M. McKanders (*Howard Law Journal*, 2015, vol. 59, no.1, 197-219)

This article examines state and local policies towards undocumented immigrant youth, specifically about their experiences and interactions with the immigration and juvenile justice systems. Most undocumented youth that enter the juvenile system are young Latino males, who, because they are “othered,” are more likely to face harsh punishment and even deportation. This “othering” of undocumented Latino male delinquent juveniles “facilitates the denial of legal guarantees of equality and reinforces existing hierarchies and stereotypes.”

## Additional Resources

- The National Resource Center on Reaching Victims' 2020 report, [Helping Those Who Help Others: Needs Assessment](#), summarizes practitioners' expertise about barriers to access victim services and available tools to reach more people, including male victims.
- 1in6 and Peace Over Violence summarized research and practice evidence on child sexual abuse, including male survivors, in [Stories of Strength: Report on Child Sexual Abuse & Community Recommendations for Prevention](#) (2018).
- The Resource Sharing Project's Winter 2014 newsletter focused on [Increasing Our Capacity to Serve Male Survivors](#).

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