

Follow-Up Q&A

Losing a Loved One to Homicide Webinar

July 25, 2018

By Topic:

| | |
|--|---|
| Research on Special Populations and Cases..... | 1 |
| Policy, Practice, and Treatment..... | 2 |
| Relevant Conferences..... | 3 |

RESEARCH ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS AND CASES

1. Do you know what the research says about outcomes for children who witness the death of a parent to homicide?

This recently published article addresses emotional and behavioral outcomes for child co-victims of homicide, using a nationally representative sample of youth:

- Turner, Heather A., David Finkelhor, and Megan Henly. "Exposure to Family and Friend Homicide in a Nationally Representative Sample of Youth." *Journal of interpersonal violence* (2018): 0886260518787200.

Additionally, the following brief -though not specific to co-victims - discusses the use of CBT for children affected by trauma, including traumatic loss.

- Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2012). [Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy for children affected by sexual abuse or trauma](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau.

2. Does the data you used mention homicide co-victims who experience post-conviction exonerations?

There is limited research on this topic. In our review, we did not find specific *data* on post-conviction exonerations. However, in reviewing practice evidence, we became familiar with [Healing Justice](#) organization that works with people who are directly impacted by exonerations.

3. Does your research include any specific data on co-victims in cold case homicides and their unique needs?

There is limited work on this topic, and, unfortunately, as is the case for much of this field, more research is needed. The following articles by Paul Stretesky and colleagues address this topic directly and are available open-access (we've included the hyperlinks below).

- [Stretesky, Paul B., Tara O'Connor Shelley, Michael J. Hogan, and N. Prabha Unnithan. "Sense-making and secondary victimization among unsolved homicide co-victims." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 38, no. 5 \(2010\): 880-888.](#)
- [Stretesky, Paul, Kathryn Cope, Tara O'Connor Shelley, Michael Hogan, and N. Prabha Unnithan. "'The police have given up': An empirical examination of covictims' beliefs about cold case homicide investigations." *Violence and victims* 31, no. 1 \(2016\): 135-154.](#)

POLICY, PRACTICE, AND TREATMENT

1. What is the timeline for a co victim to apply for victims of crime benefits?

Generally, co-victims can apply within 1 year from the date of crime, however there are exceptions and timeline varies state by state. Detailed information by state is available at: <http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=5>

2. Has there been any research on Victim Offender Dialogues (VOD) as it related to Co-Victims of Homicide?

To the best of our knowledge, research literature on this specific topic is also scarce and includes a limited number of case studies and qualitative work. Work by Mark Umbreit (a researcher at the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work) and colleagues does address the use of VOD (sometimes called Victim Offender Mediation or VOM) for cases involving violent crime more generally, and points to the need for additional research on this topic. Note that Umbreit considers VOD/VOM a restorative justice approach. We've listed several resources by Umbreit and colleagues on this topic below. Work by Marilyn Amour (University of Texas at Austin) may also be worth reviewing for those interested in this topic.

- This article addresses the question above generally and is available open-access: [Umbreit, Mark S., Robert B. Coates, and Betty Vos. "The impact of victim-offender mediation: Two decades of research." *Fed. Probation* 65 \(2000\): 29.](#)
 - This article addresses the question above more specifically: Umbreit, Mark S., and Betty Vos. "Homicide survivors meet the offender prior to execution: Restorative justice through dialogue." *Homicide Studies* 4, no. 1 (2000): 63-87.
 - Additionally, a webinar participant offered the following resource, stating "the non-profit organization: www.healingjusticeproject.org offers support for people who are directly impacted by exonerations and wrongful convictions.
- 3. Was there a particular place (agency or organization) that conducted restorative retelling & criminal death support group?**

[Violent Death Bereavement Society](#) is a great resource for service providers that support loved ones after violent death. More specifically, Ryneerson and colleagues discuss the intervention here:

- Ryneerson, E.K, Correa F., Takacs, L. "[Accommodation to Violent Dying: A Guide to Restorative Retelling and Support.](#)" (2015).
- For a quick overview, follow this link: <http://www.svlp.org/frontlinereports.html>

RELEVANT CONFERENCES

- 1. Are you aware of trainings/conferences for preparing advocates to respond to homicide survivors?**

There are two upcoming conferences that might be of interest to advocates and practitioners:

1. Restorative Support for Families After Traumatic Death: Building a Bereavement-Informed Community. Details about the event can be found at [Eventbrite](#). This conference will be held on Friday, September 21 and Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Texas Children's Hospital Pavilion for Women in Houston, TX.
2. Second Biannual Victimology Research Symposium, to be held October 25-26 in San Marcos, TX. While NOT focused specifically to homicide co-victims, the symposium will bring researchers together with practitioners, to share current research and promising practices trends in serving crime victims, to help inform better direct service delivery to victims. Details about the event can be found at: <http://www.txvsa.org/TVSA.academy.2018>.