

Summary of Socio-Emotional Impact of Violent Crime, 2014

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Summary

The Bureau of Justice Statistics report of socio-emotional impact of violent crime addresses the correlations between violent crime, victimizations, and the victim's experience. These experiences include socio-emotional health concerns that are characterized by the victim having high levels of emotional distress, increased relationship problems, or significant problems or disruptions at their school or work [See Table 1 for data]. They may include problems with co-workers, bosses, peers, or family members. Frequent arguments and an inability to trust are also common experiences among victims after a serious crime victimization (rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault, and robbery) has occurred.

The data from this report were compiled from the National Crime Victim Survey (NCVS). The NCVS collects data regarding nonfatal crimes that are both reported and not reported to police against persons age 12 and over from a nationally representative sample of US households. Questions pertaining to the socio-emotional impact of victimization were first added to the NCVS in 2008. This report aggregates data from the four year period of 2009-2012. The full report can be found at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/sivc.pdf>.

Report Highlights

- Overall, 68% of victims of serious violence experienced socio-emotional problems as a result of their victimization.
- Regardless of the type of violence experienced, a greater percentage of victims of intimate partner violence than stranger violence experienced socio-emotional problems.
- More than a third of victims reporting severe distress and nearly half of those with moderate distress did not report to the police or receive any assistance from victim services.
- About three-quarters of victims of rape or sexual assault (75%) experienced socio-emotional problems. [See Figure 1 for data].
- A greater percentage of female than male victims experienced socio-emotional problems, regardless of the type of violence or victim-offender relationship.
- The relationship between the victim and offender is related to whether a victim experiences socio-emotional problems. Data from 2009–12 indicated that nearly twice the proportion of victims of serious violence (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) committed by an intimate partner (60%) and a relative (65%) reported that their victimization was severely distressing, compared to victims of serious violence by a stranger (31%).

Figure 1

Level of distress experienced by victims, by type of crime
2009-2012. Data compiled from National Crime Victimization Surveys.

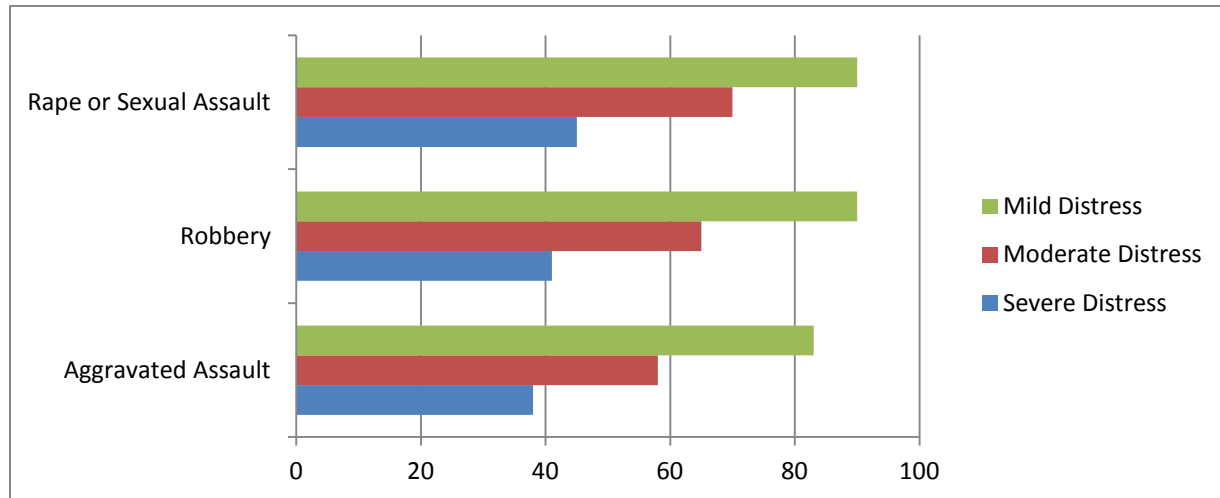


Table 1

Emotional symptoms suffered by violent crime victims who experienced socio-emotional problems as a result of the victimization, by type of crime and victim-offender relationship, 2009-2012. Data compiled from National Crime Victimization Surveys.

Symptom	Total Violence	Serious Violence	Simple Assault
Emotional	91%	96%	87%
Worried or Anxious	72%	78%	67%
Angry	70%	76%	67%
Unsafe	65%	73%	60%
Violated	61%	69%	56%
Vulnerable	60%	64%	58%
Distrustful	56%	66%	50%
Sad or Depressed	53%	58%	50%
Other	12%	13%	12%
Physical	61%	67%	57%
Trouble Sleeping	47%	51%	44%
Fatigue	34%	36%	33%
Upset Stomach	31%	32%	30%
Muscle Tension	31%	34%	28%
Problems with Eating/Drinking	27%	33%	23%