



Walking Alongside Victims and Survivors of Crime

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Agenda

- Impact of Victimization
- Secondary Victimization
- Needs of Victims
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Creating Victim Centredness
- Victims' Rights

Impact of Victimization

Physical

- Scratches and bruises
- Life threatening/altering, death
- Physiological: sleep disturbances, confusion, nausea, headaches

Psychological

- Intrusive memories / flashbacks, fear
- Disassociation, depression, anxiety
- Acute stress, PTSD

Emotional

- Anger, resentment, frustration
- Guilt, shame, humiliation
- Insecurity, disbelief

Social

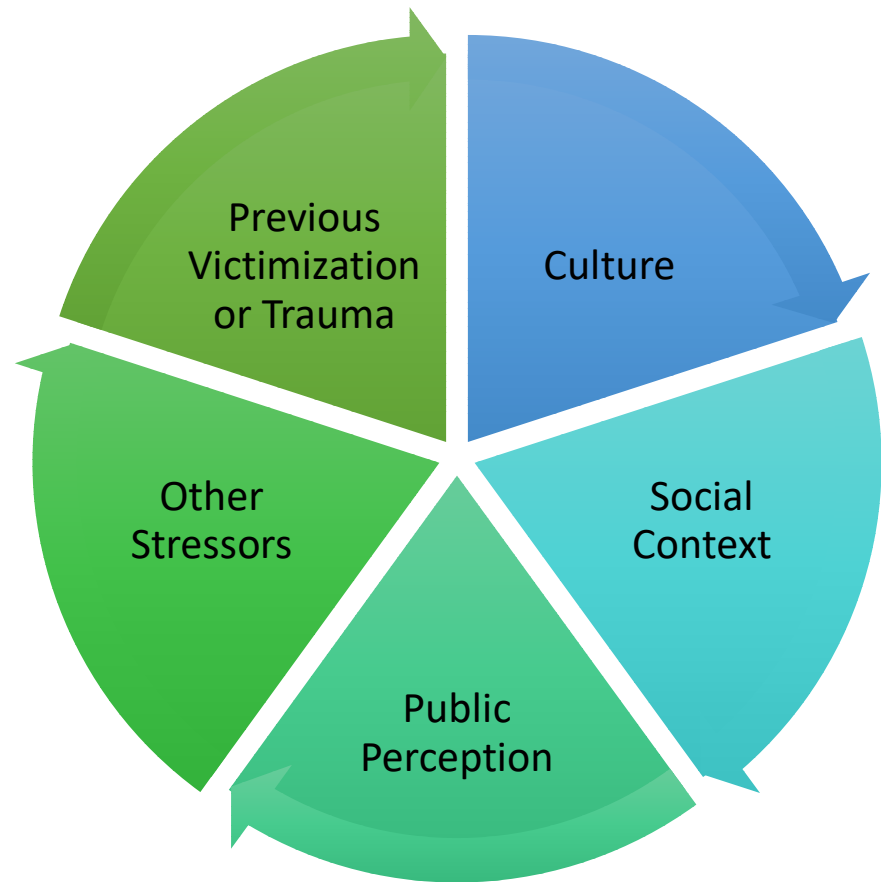
- Stigma of victimization
- Social isolation
- Difficulty performing one's social roles

Financial

- Property damage or loss, expenses incurred
- Lost income
- Medical/recovery related expenses



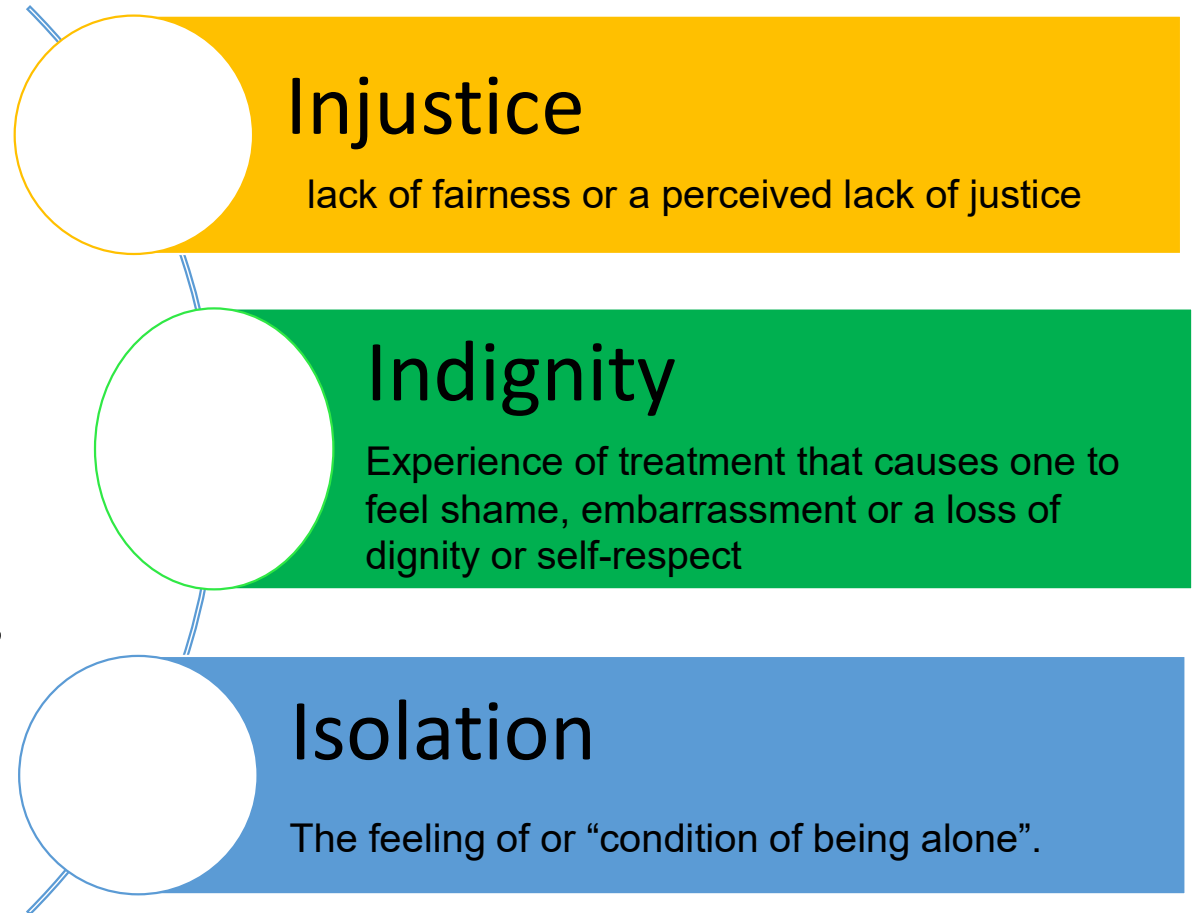
Factors Affecting Victimization

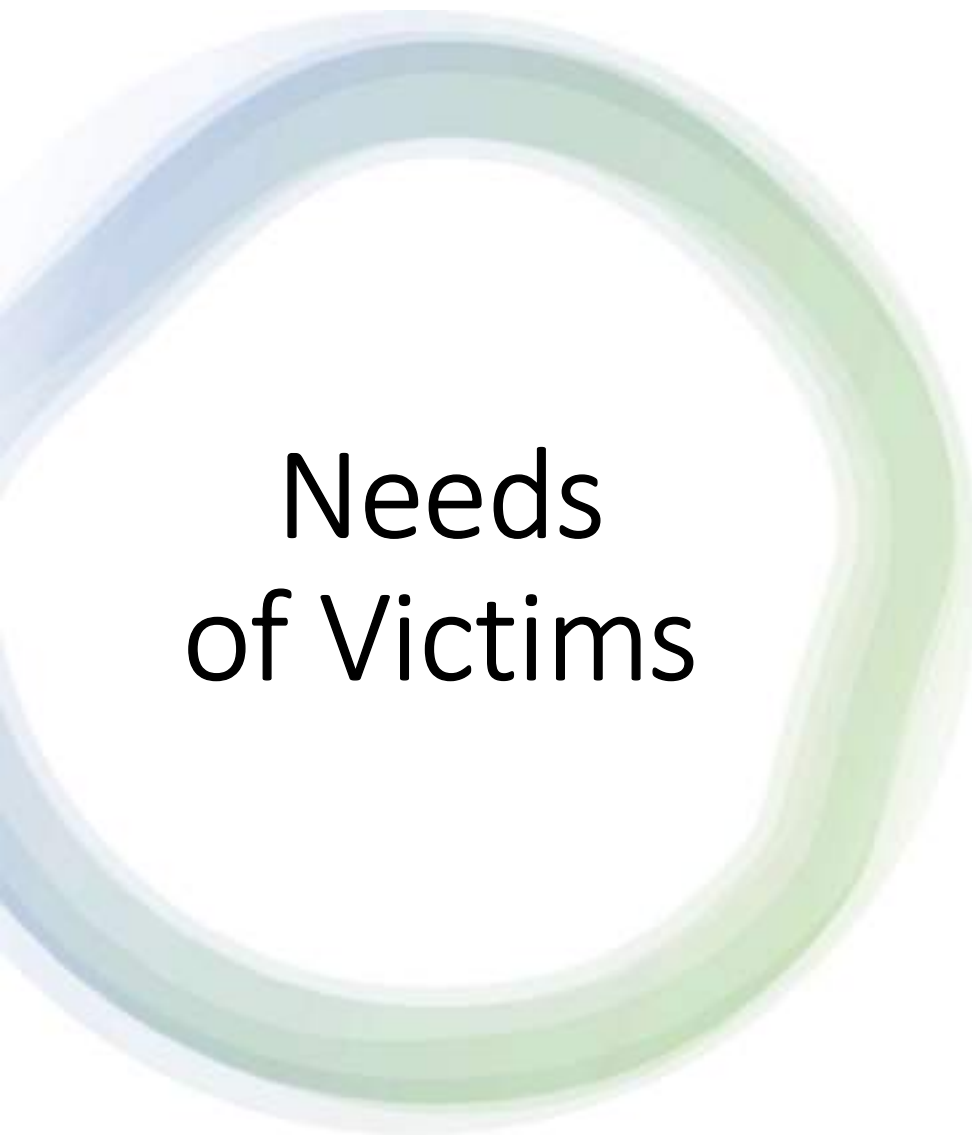


Secondary Victimization

Victimization that occurs not as a direct result of the criminal act but through the response of institutions and individuals to the victim

~ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime





Needs of Victims

A victim-centered approach seeks to minimize re-traumatization associated with the criminal justice process by providing support and empowering victims and survivors as engaged participants in the process.

Needs of Victims

To be listened to, heard and to be believed

Respectful treatment

Timely response and follow-up

Safety

Practical assistance

Support

Information

Access to resources

Choices

“Closure” and follow-up

Trauma Informed Practice

Integrating an understanding of past and current experiences of trauma into the structure and delivery model of an organization

Trauma awareness within your agency

- Training for staff and volunteers

Safety and trustworthiness

- Physical, emotional, and cultural safety for clients
- Informed consent
- Intake procedures, consistency and predictability in service delivery, safety and crisis planning
- Physical space considerations

Opportunity for choice, collaboration, & connection

- Self-efficacy, self-determination, dignity, and personal control
- Equalize power imbalances

Strengths Based and Skill Building

- Assist clients to identify their strengths and to develop resiliency and coping skills

Balancing the Scale

Creating Victim Centredness

- Have strong knowledge of the dynamics of victimization
- Conduct in-depth information gathering
- Work with victim serving agencies
- Inform victims about their rights
- Create and promote an open and welcoming atmosphere
- Respond equally, respectfully, and compassionately to all victims
- Provide a seamless continuum of services and support
- Empower victims to actively take part in decision making
- Schedule meetings and activities to facilitate victim participation
- Ensure communication reflects the needs of the victim
- Focus on harm done by the crime
- Encourage victims to talk about their experiences and listen to them
- Engage victims and victim serving agencies in policy and protocol development

CANADIAN VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS



The rights of victims of crime need to be considered during every stage of the criminal justice process...



... by police, prosecutors, courts, review boards, corrections, and parole boards.



The **CANADIAN VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS** will give victims of crime a:



Right to information

Ask for information about the justice system, victim services, and the progress of their case.



Right to participation

Present a victim impact statement and give views on decisions that affect their rights.



Right to seek restitution

Restitution orders must be considered and can be enforced through civil courts.



Right to protection

Consideration of the security and privacy of victims, and reasonable and necessary protection from intimidation and retaliation.

Victims' Rights



Thank You

“We don’t ‘get over’ or ‘move on’ from our trauma. We are forced to make space for it. We carry it. We learn to live with it. And, sometimes we thrive in spite of it.”

~ Unknown

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