REPEAT VICTIMIZATION

- **High crime areas are largely due to high rates of repeat victimization—not elevated rates of individual offenses.**
  - Repeat burglaries tend to occur soon after the last incident, usually within a period of six weeks.\(^1\) This pattern has been observed in various types of criminal offenses.
  - Almost two-thirds of thieves interviewed returned to a property they had previously burgled and took more goods—it is likely that knowledge of what they would find there played a part.\(^2\)
  - The increase in risk that follows an initial victimization (that is, the tendency towards repeat victimization) is apparent for a variety of crimes, including racial attack, domestic violence, and business crime.\(^3\)

- **One of the best predictors of future victimization is past victimization.**\(^4\)
  - Research indicates that 4% of victims suffer about 44% of the offenses.\(^5\)
  - Compared to women who have not been assaulted, the odds of experiencing a new assault over a 2-year period were doubled for women with one assault, quadrupled for women with two assaults, and elevated ten-fold for women with three or more prior victimizations.\(^6\)
  - Women who experienced sexual abuse as a child are 2 to 3 times more likely to be sexually assaulted later in life.\(^7\)
  - 43% of domestic violence incidents occurring over a 25-month period involved only about 7% of 1,450 households.\(^8\)
  - Child sexual abuse victims have been found to be 3-5 times more likely to experience subsequent adult victimization than respondents who had not experienced any type of child abuse.\(^9\)

- **Repeat victims suffer higher rates of mental health problems.**
  - Sexual revictimization is positively correlated with posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms (PTSD), peritraumatic dissociation, and sexual preoccupation.\(^10\)
  - Revictimized women report higher levels of depression, anxiety, hostility, PTSD-related symptomatology, and more somatic complaints than women with adult abuse only.\(^11\)


