

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

¹ Polvi, N. et al. (1990). Repeat Break and Enter Victimization: Time Course and Crime Prevention Opportunity. *Journal of Police Science and Administration*, **17**: 8-11.

² Hearnden, I. and C. Magill. (2004). Decision-making by house burglars: Offender's perspectives. Research, Development, and Statistics Directorate Findings 249, London: Home Office, 1-6.

³ Johnson, S.D. and K.J. Bowers. (2004). The burglary as clue to the future: The beginnings of prospective hot-spotting. *European Journal of Criminology*, **1**(2): 237-255.

⁴ Kilpatrick, D. and R. Acierno. (2003). Mental health needs of crime victims: Epidemiology and outcomes. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, **16**(2): 119-132.

⁵ Farrell, G. and K. Pease. (1993). *Once Bitten, Twice Bitten: Repeat Victimization and its Implications for Crime Prevention*. Police Research Group, Crime Prevention Unit Paper 46, London: Home Office, 6-7.

⁶ Kilpatrick, D. and B.E. Saunders. (1997). *Prevalence and consequences of child victimization: Results from the national survey of adolescents*. Final Report submitted November 1997 to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

⁷ Arata, C. (2002) Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Revictimization. *Clinical Psychology*, **9**: 135-164.

⁸ Lloyd, S., Farrell, G., & Pease, K. (1994). *Preventing Repeated Domestic Violence: a Demonstration Project on Merseyside*. Police Research Group, Crime Prevention Unit Paper 49, London: Home Office, 2.

⁹ Maker, A.H., Kimmelmeier, M., & Peterson, C. (2001). Child sexual abuse, peer sexual abuse, and sexual assault in adulthood: A multi-risk model of revictimization. *Journal of Trauma and Stress*, **14**: 351-368.

¹⁰ Noll, J., et al. (2003). Revictimization and Self-Harm in Females Who Experienced Childhood Sexual Abuse: Results from a Prospective Study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, **18** (12): 1452-1471.

¹¹ Messman-Moore, T.L., Long, P.J., & Siegfried, N.J. (2000). The revictimization of child sexual abuse victims: An examination of the adjustment of college women with child sexual abuse, adult sexual assault, and adult physical abuse. *Child Maltreatment*, **5**(1): 18-27.