HEALTHCARE COSTS OF CRIME

- The health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide committed by intimate partners exceed $5.8 billion each year.\(^1\)
  
  - Of that amount, nearly $4.1 billion are for direct medical and mental health care services.\(^2\)
  
  - The indirect costs of lost productivity or wages amount to a further $1.8 billion.\(^3\)

- **Victimization in childhood often leads to health problems in adulthood.**
  
  - The direct cost of hospitalization for child abuse victims is estimated at $6.2 billion a year, with an additional $425 million per year going towards mental health treatment.\(^4\)
  
  - Women who experienced childhood maltreatment (sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, emotional neglect, or physical neglect) have significantly higher median annual healthcare costs, lower perceptions of their overall health, greater physical and emotional functional disability, a greater number of physical health symptoms, and a greater number of health risk behaviors than women with no history of maltreatment.\(^5\)

- **Crime victims often have physical symptoms that remain long after the crime was committed.**
  
  - Women who have experienced any type of personal violence complained of a greater number of chronic physical symptoms than those who were not abused, even though the last episode of violence occurred an average of 14 to 30 years earlier.\(^6\)
  
  - Physical symptoms indirectly associated with abuse can include headaches, reproductive health problems, chronic pain, digestive problems, and sleep disturbances.\(^7\)

- **Women are especially likely to enter the medical arena as victims of crime.**
  
  - Women victims of intimate partner violence are significantly more likely than men to sustain an injury, receive medical care, be hospitalized, receive counseling, and lose time from work.\(^8\)
  
  - The direct costs of medical treatment for battered women annually are estimated at $1.8 billion.\(^9\)

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\(^2\) Ibid.

\(^3\) Ibid.


