



ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.



CANADIAN URBAN VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

Multiple Victimization

Bulletin

10

Final Issue

Copyright of this document does not belong to the Crown. Proper authorization must be obtained from the author for any intended use.

Les droits d'auteur du présent document n'appartiennent pas à l'État. Toute utilisation du contenu du présent document doit être approuvée préalablement par l'auteur.

MULTIPLE VICTIMIZATION

This is the tenth and final issue in a series of Bulletins based on the findings of the 1982 Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (see Appendix 1 for details of the survey). This Bulletin addresses cases in which respondents to the survey recalled more than one event causing criminal victimization.

Crime is, in fact, a relatively rare event among the Canadian population. Citizens who experience multiple incidents of victimization are those for whom victimization is least likely to be explained by random chance. The experience of these victims suggests

that some households and individuals possess certain characteristics which increase risk of victimization. More so than one-time victims, multiple victimization cases demonstrate the key characteristics, circumstances and situations which relate to increased risk of victimization. As well, the consequences of multiple victimization may be serious indeed. The lives of those frequently or chronically affected by crime may be fundamentally different from those of the one-time or non-victim.

Multiple victimization presents a range of complex problems for the accurate measurement of the volume, risk and distribution of criminal victimization. Special attention to the multiple victimization phenomenon, in addition to addressing these issues, may yield potentially important findings for those involved in victim service delivery. A more thorough understanding of the complexity of the multiple victimization experience will contribute significantly to the development of effective crime prevention policies and programs.

Measuring Risk of Victimization

Victimization surveys gather information about the personal characteristics of victims and non-victims of crime as well as other information about victimization incidents. The responses of the sample population interviewed for the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey are used as the basis of estimates for the general urban population. The data from survey respondents in each of the seven urban areas were weighted to represent households in relation to their experience with selected forms of household property crime, and to represent individuals in relation to their experience with selected forms of personal crime.

The victimization experience recounted by a respondent in the CUVS is recorded in terms of one or more discrete incidents classified according to eight selected categories of crime: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of

household property, theft of personal property and vandalism (see Appendix 2 for definitions of offences). An event involving the commission of several different criminal acts is classified according to the most serious component of the event. If a respondent had been the victim of five or more very similar incidents, but is unable to recall the details of each, a "series" incident is counted and the respondent reports on the most recent incident in the series.

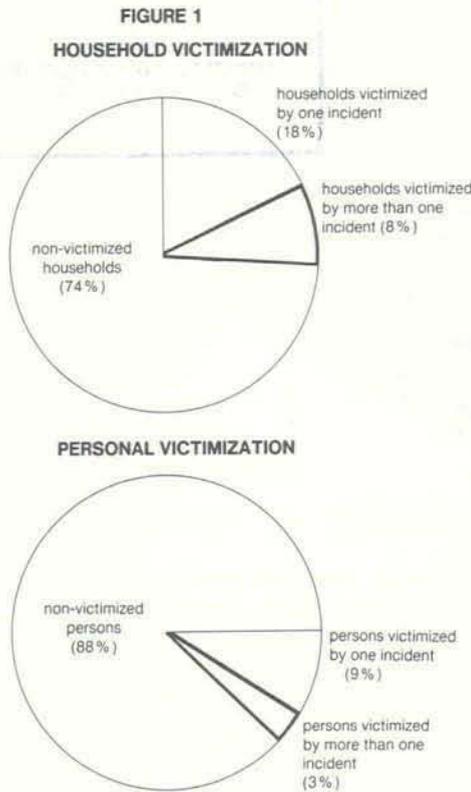
The measurement of victimization levels in the population can be expressed as a rate of the number of incidents per thousand population. The first column in Table 1 shows the results of this calculation for personal crime incidents per thousand persons aged 16 and older and for household crime incidents per thousand households. This statistic may be very

useful in assessing the volume of selected crime victimization in urban Canadian society, but it does not accurately describe the prevalence of victimized persons or households in the population.

The risk of being a victim of crime is the result of the computation shown in the second column in Table 1 where the number of victimized persons per thousand and the number of victimized households per thousand are shown. This "victimization rate" presents quite a different picture of the extent of criminal victimization. While there were 141 incidents of personal crime victimization per thousand persons in 1981, there were only 115 victims of personal crime per thousand persons.

The lower values for victimization rates as compared to incident rates reflect multiple counting of survey respondents who were victims of a

criminal incident on more than one occasion. However, the victimization rates distinguish between victims and non-victims in the population only and do not show the differential frequency of victimization among victims. Figure 1 presents a breakdown of households and persons aged 16 and older, showing the proportion of those who had not been victimized during the survey year, those who were victimized once, and victims of more than one non-series incident or at least one series incident. More than one-quarter of all households were victimized by household property crime, and, of these, one-third experienced more than one incident of victimization during the survey reference year. Of all individuals aged 16 and older, 12% were victims of personal crime, and one-quarter of these victims experienced more than one incident.



Multiple Household Victimization

Households which experienced more than one incident of household crime may have been subject to several events of the same type of criminal victimization, or a number of events characterized by quite different types of crime. Multiple victimization may thus be described as "repeat victimization", "cross-crime victimization", or a combination of both.

Repeat Victimization: Table 2 compares household victimization rates with rates of multiple victimization. These figures reveal that in all cases, the risk of at least one repeat victimization was considerably higher among victimized households than was the overall risk of victimization among all households. For example, while 14% of all households experienced at least one incident of household theft, nearly 19% of all households theft victims experienced at least one other incident of household theft. This suggests that some households have particular characteristics that increase their vulnerability to certain types of victimization. No doubt the rate of repeat victimization would be higher if the survey reference period were longer than twelve months.

This risk of repeat victimization increases as the probability of victimization in general decreases. For example, the rate of repeat victimization was 40% higher than the general victimization rate for the relatively common crime of household theft; the repeat rate for the much less frequent offence of motor vehicle theft, on the other hand, was five times greater than the rate experienced by the overall population.

Cross-Crime Victimization: Households experiencing multiple victimization may be subject to more than one type of property crime. Table 3 presents the likelihood of having been victimized at least once by other types of household crime for the victim groups of each of the household offences.¹

¹ These statistics do not imply a sequence of victimization: the incidents involving different types of offences may have occurred in the household at any time during the twelve month reference period separated by varying time intervals. These incidents are based on separate and discrete events and do not include component elements of any one incident.

Table 1

Alternative Measures of Crime Victimization

Seven Cities

Type of Personal Incident	Incidents ¹ per 1,000 Persons 16 and Older	Victimized Persons per 1,000 Persons 16 and Older
Theft of Personal Property	70	63
Assault	57	53
Robbery	10	10
Sexual Assault	4	3
Total Personal Offences	141	115

Type of Household Incident	Incidents ¹ per 1,000 Households	Victimized Households per 1,000 Households
Theft of Household Property	172	140
Break and Enter	94	80
Vandalism	88	75
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	15
Total Household Offences	369	256

¹ Series incident is counted as one.

Table 2

Likelihood of Repeat Victimization of Household Offences

Seven Cities

Type of Household Incident	Victimization Rate Per 1,000 Households	Rate Per 1,000 Households Victimized More Than Once by This Offence
Theft of Household Property	140	189
Break and Enter	80	146
Vandalism	75	144
Motor Vehicle Theft	15	75

Table 3

Likelihood of Cross-Crime Victimization of Household Offences

Rates per 1,000 Households

Type of Household Incident	All Households	Households Also Victimized by:			
		Theft of Household Property	Break and Enter	Vandalism	Motor Vehicle Theft
Theft of Household Property	140	—	241	286	296
Break and Enter	80	137	—	138	174
Vandalism	75	154	131	—	159
Motor Vehicle Theft	15	33	34	33	—

In every case, households victimized by a particular crime were more likely than were households in general to have also experienced victimization of other types of crime. Among the most marked examples in particular is the greater likelihood of all household crimes among households which also experienced motor vehicle theft. For motor vehicle theft victims, the likelihood of a second household victimization of any type was approximately double the likelihood of victimization among all households in the population.

As might be expected, the most frequent "also occurring" crime type among victims of break and enter, vandalism or motor vehicle theft was household theft, just as it was found to be most common among all households. Conversely, among all cross-crime combinations, motor vehicle theft was the least frequent.

Consistent with the patterns shown for repeat victimization, the smaller victim groups representing the less

common crimes tend to include greater proportions of multiple victims. Among motor vehicle theft victims, the likelihood of cross-crime victimization was higher than for any of the other victim groups. This suggests that the incidence of less common crimes are not uniquely targeted, isolated experiences of otherwise victimization-free households as much as they may be less frequent experiences of generally more highly victimized households.

Multiple Personal Crime Victimization

The occurrence of multiple victimization with respect to personal crimes can be illustrated in a similar fashion. Many patterns of multiple victimization shown to occur among households are reflected in the experience of individuals who were victims of personal crimes.

Repeat Victimization: Although personal crimes were far less prevalent

than household crimes, like the pattern shown for household offences, repeat victimization for victims of personal offences was higher than was victimization in the population in general. Table 4 compares the likelihood of having been the victim of a personal crime to the likelihood of having been victimized more than once among victims of each type of personal crime.

As with household victimization, the less frequent the particular crime type, the greater the factor by which repeat victimization exceeded the general victimization rate. While victims of personal theft were nearly twice as likely to be victimized at least once more by personal theft than was the total population, the occurrence of repeat victimization was more dramatic for the personal violent offences of assault, robbery and sexual assault. The increased likelihood of repeat victimization was four times greater for victims of assault, nine times greater for robbery victims, and perhaps as high as thirty-five times higher for sexual assault victims than was the overall likelihood of being a victim in the general population.

The fact that rates of repeat victimization were so much higher than the general probabilities for these violent offences implies that there are significant factors at play which put certain individuals at risk for repeat victimization. Despite the relative rarity of violent crime in society at large, such relatively high levels of multiple victimization deserve special attention by practitioners and policy makers concerned with crime prevention and victims of violent crime.

Cross-Crime Victimization: As with household crime, many victims of personal crime were also victims of at least one incident of a different type of personal crime during the twelve month reference period. Table 5 presents the likelihood of each victim group also being the victim of other personal crimes. Rates for the overall population are given for comparison.

This table shows that victims of personal crimes were more likely to have been victims of at least one other personal offence than was the general population. For example, while only 5% of all persons were victims of assault, over 30% of robbery victims were also victims of assault.

Generally speaking, the increased likelihood of cross-crime victimization

Table 4

Likelihood of Repeat Victimization of Personal Offences

Seven Cities

Type of Personal Incident	Victimization Rate per 1,000 Persons 16 and Older	Rate per 1,000 Persons Victimized More Than Once by This Offence
Theft of Personal Property	63	115
Assault	53	212
Robbery	10	90
Sexual Assault	3	105*

* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this rate.

Table 5

Likelihood of Cross-Crime Victimization of Personal Offences

Rates per 1,000 Population 16 and Older

Type of Personal Incident	All Persons 16 and Older	Persons Also Victimized by:			
		Theft of Personal Property	Assault	Robbery	Sexual Assault
Theft of Personal Property	63	—	167	194	231
Assault	53	140	—	307	234
Robbery	10	31	58	—	77*
Sexual Assault	3	13	15	30*	—

* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this rate.

Multiple Assault Victimization

Assault is one offence for which the CUVS has captured adequate numbers of multiple victimization cases to explore the distinguishing characteristics of persons who experience repeated victimizations and the victimization incidents they experience. Over 5% of all individuals were victims of assault, and 21% of these victims experienced more than one such incident. These multiple assault victims accounted for 60% of all assault victimizations when each incident in a series is counted separately. Series incidents alone, experienced by 6% of all assault victims, accounted for 39% of all assault incidents when each incident is counted separately.

Commonly held beliefs about assault victimization are confirmed by the CUVS data, particularly with respect to victim occupation. Law enforcement officers and others protecting public order and safety may face assault as a component of their job responsibilities. Although less than 1% of all respondents were employed (or looking for work and most recently employed) in protective services, persons in these occupations accounted for 2% of all single assault victims and 7% of all multiple assault victims. Eighteen percent of these individuals had been victimized by assault during the twelve month reference period (more than 3 times the rate of assault for the general population) and 10% reported more than one victimization incident.

Domestic violence is an area of particular concern to the criminal justice community and the public. It is commonly characterized by repeated victimization, or by a continuing condition of victimization eventually classified as a series incident. For this analysis, domestic assault is defined as those cases where the victim's assailant was a spouse, ex-spouse or other relative. Less than 4% of single non-series assault victims described the assailant as a spouse, ex-spouse or other relative; among victims of multiple assault, 10% were victims of assault by a relative.

The frequency distributions of multiple assault incidents among victims of domestic assault and victims of non-domestic assault are shown in Table 6, counting series incidents separately. One-third of domestic assault victims compared to one in five victims of other assaults experienced multiple incidents.

for personal crime victims over the general population are many times greater than was the case for household cross-crime victimization. While no household crime victim group experienced a cross-crime rate greater than two and one-half times the general victimization rate, every personal crime victim group exceeds two and one-half the general victimization rate for each of the other personal crime types.

The proportion of the victim group which experienced more than one type of personal crime victimization tends to increase with the seriousness of the offence. Sexual assault is considered to be the most serious, and is the least common, of the personal offences included in the survey. Among the relatively small number of sexual

assault victims, 23% were also victims of personal theft (almost four times the general probability) and 23% were also victims of non-sexual assault (almost five times the general probability). Rates of robbery victimization among sexual assault victims may be greater than seven times the rate of robbery among the overall population.

This pattern of cross-crime victimization among victims of personal crimes supports the observations made about cross-crime victimization among household crime victims. The incidence of certain crimes, particularly the more serious violent crimes, may not be isolated experiences of otherwise victimization-free individuals so much as less frequent experiences of a few, highly victimized persons.

Table 6

Frequency of Assault Victimization

Seven Cities

Number of Assaults ¹	Non-Domestic Assault Victims	Domestic Assault Victims	
		Domestic Assault Only	Additional Non-Domestic Assault
		Percent	
1	80	66	10
2-5	16	20	6
6 or more	4	15	
Total	100	100	16 ²

¹ Each incident within a series is counted separately.² Proportion of all domestic assault victims who also reported incidents of non-domestic assault.

Table 7

Age and Marital Status of Assault Victims

Seven Cities

Age of Victim	Non-Domestic Assault Victims				Domestic Assault Victims		Total
	Males		Females		Single	Multiple ¹	
	Single	Multiple	Single	Multiple			
	Percent						
16-17	11	8	10	11	**	**	**
18-20	18	23	25	22	**	**	13*
21-24	22	26	19	24	8*	13*	10
25-29	20	19	15	16	25	16*	22
30-39	16	18	17	14	35	33	35
40-49	7	4	7	9*	10*	**	10*
50 and older	7	2*	7	**	**	**	**
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Marital Status							
Single	62	66	55	55	27	19*	24
Married	32	28	32	26	29	34*	31
Separated	3	3*	4	5*	30	32	30
Divorced	2	3	7	13	13	16*	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ At least one multiple victimization incident involved domestic assault.

* The actual count was low (11-20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

** The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable estimates.

CUVS data support the popular concept of domestic violence which casts women as the target of repeated assault by a family member. Thirty-seven percent of all assault victims and 35% of multiple assault victims were women. However, in assaults involving family members, the proportion who were women jumps to 77% of the total: 90% of assaults between spouses, 80% of assaults between ex-spouses and 55% of assaults involving other relatives. Women accounted for virtually all victims who experienced multiple incidents of domestic assault.

Victims of domestic violence are often portrayed as housewives with little contact outside the home. According to the CUVS, however, homemakers do not, in fact, make up the largest portion of domestic assault victims. Only one-fifth of female victims of single incidents of domestic assault and one-quarter of female victims of multiple domestic assault were homemakers. Nearly 60% of the single and one-half of the multiple female domestic assault victims were employed outside the home. The remainder were students, unemployed or retired.

The demographic characteristics of age and marital status shown in Table 7 illustrate further differences between domestic and non-domestic assault victims. Although analysis is restricted somewhat by the small numbers of domestic violence cases even if male and female victims are combined, some patterns are apparent. There is far more distinction between domestic and non-domestic assault victims than between single and multiple assault victims. Non-domestic assault victims largely range in age from eighteen through thirty-nine years, whether male or female, single or multiple victims. Domestic assault victims tended to be older: 35% were in their thirties, 22% were between 25 and 29, and relatively few victims were under the age of twenty-five.

Over 60% of male and 55% of female victims of non-domestic assault were single. In marked contrast, six in ten domestic assault victims were either married or separated in equal proportions, and one-quarter were single. Victims of one-time domestic assault were more likely than victims of multiple domestic assault to describe their marital status as single.

Characteristics of assault incidents, such as location, percent reported to the police and injury to the victim, fur-

they demonstrate the differences between domestic and non-domestic assault. Table 8 shows the location in which assault incidents occurred. A majority of non-domestic assault incidents committed by strangers to the victim occurred in a public place; few occurred in a residence. The largest proportion of non-domestic assaults involving acquaintances also occurred in public places but were more likely than assaults involving strangers to occur in a residence.

Domestic assault was far more likely than either assault by a stranger or an acquaintance to have occurred in a private residence. Over one-half (56%) of the single incidents of domestic assault were committed in the victim's residence, and 23% were committed in another private residence. Fully 86% of victims of multiple domestic assault were assaulted in their own residence and a further 7% were assaulted in the residence of someone else.

Assault incidents which occurred in the victim's residence were more likely than assaults occurring in other locations to be reported to the police (Table 9). Single domestic assault incidents were also more likely to be reported to police than were multiple domestic assaults.

Table 8

Location of Assault Incidents

Seven Cities

Location	Non-Domestic Assault Victims		Domestic Assault Victims	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Single	Multiple ¹
Percent				
Own Residence	4	17	56	86
Other Residence	6	19	23	7*
Bar / Pub	11	8	—	—
Work	11	15	6	—
Other Public Place	54	28	11	**
Total	100	100	100	100

A series incident is counted once but is listed as a multiple assault incident.

¹ Only domestic assault incidents are included. A victim of multiple domestic assault must have experienced at least one series incident or more than one non-series incident committed by a relative or marital partner of the victim.

* The actual count was low (11-20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

** The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable estimates.

Approximately one-half (48%) of non-domestic assault incidents resulted in physical injury to the victim (Table 10). In the case of domestic assault,

65% of one-time victims and 83% of victims who experienced multiple assault victimizations during the year were injured. Medical treatment was required as a result of only one in seven non-domestic assaults, while victims received medical treatment for one in four one-time domestic assaults and more than one in three incidents of multiple domestic assault.

Despite the greater danger to victims of domestic assault, these incidents were not more likely to be reported to the police. Moreover, the reasons given by victims for failing to report the incident to the police were quite different for domestic and non-domestic assault incidents (Table 11). While one-quarter of non-domestic assault incidents were considered by the victim to be a personal matter, this reason was given by 54% of single domestic assault victims and 59% of multiple domestic assault victims. While victims of non-domestic assault most often claimed that the incident was too minor to be reported to the police (64%), domestic assault victims cited this reason with less than half that frequency.

Fear of revenge by the offender was cited as a reason for failing to report the incident to police in 10% of non-domestic assaults, 22% of single domestic assault incidents and 52% of

Table 9

Proportion of Assault Incidents Reported to Police by Location

Seven Cities

Location	Non-Domestic Assault Victims		Domestic Assault Victims	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Single	Multiple ¹
Percent				
Own Residence	74	45	51	38
Other Residence	54	43	21	**
Bar / Pub	20	20	**	**
Work	57	33	**	**
Other Public Place	32	35	**	**
Total	37	37	40	34

A series incident is counted once but is listed as a multiple assault incident.

¹ Only domestic assault incidents are included. A victim of multiple domestic assault must have experienced at least one series incident or more than one non-series incident committed by a relative or marital partner of the victim.

* The actual count was low (11-20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

** The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable estimates.

Table 10

Injury Sustained in Assault Incidents

Seven Cities

Injury	Non-Domestic Assault Assault Victims	Domestic Assault Victims	
		Single	Multiple ¹
		Percent	
No injury	52	34	17*
Injury, no medical treatment	34	42	48
Injury, medical treatment	14	23	35

A series incident is counted once but is listed as a multiple assault incident.

¹ Only domestic assault incidents are included.

* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

Table 11

Reasons for not Reporting to the Police

Seven Cities

Reason	Non-Domestic Assault Victims	Domestic Assault Victims	
		Single	Multiple ¹
		Percent	
Too minor	64	30	31
Police couldn't do anything about it	52	41	46
Nothing taken	29	10	17*
Personal matter	27	54	59
Inconvenient	26	**	**
Protect offender	14	42	39
Negative attitude of police or courts	12	10*	17
Fear of revenge	10	22	52
Reported to other official	7	**	**

Columns do not add to 100% because more than one reason could be given. A series incident is counted once but is listed as a multiple assault incident.

¹ Only domestic assault incidents are included.

* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

** The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable estimates.

incidents of multiple domestic assault. Victims of domestic violence were also more likely than victims of other assaults to want to protect the offender from the police. This reason was given in 42% of single domestic incidents, 39% of multiple domestic incidents and 14% of other assaults.

Although far less frequently mentioned, incidents of multiple domestic assault were more likely not to have been reported to police because of negative attitudes on the part of the police and the courts than was the case for the other categories of assault. This, along with the common feeling among victims that the police couldn't do anything about the situation, highlights the perceived lack of an effective criminal justice response to the problem of domestic violence.

To summarize the findings on assault victimization:

- Victims of non-domestic assault tended to be young unemployed males who were assaulted or threatened in a public place and who suffered no injury. The incident was not reported to the police because it was felt to be too minor or because the police wouldn't be able to do anything about it.
- Domestic assault victims, particularly victims of multiple incidents, tended to be married or separated women in their thirties who worked outside the home, were assaulted in their own homes and suffered injury. Even so, many incidents were not reported to the police because it was felt to be a personal matter and because victims were sufficiently threatened by the assailant into not reporting.

The differences shown between these victimization experiences underscore the need to consider very different responses to the various groups of assault victims. Further investigation of the distinguishing characteristics of single and multiple victimization for other types of crimes may expose equally important, but less commonly understood, distinctions among victims which will assist in developing programs to prevent crime and assist victims.

Summary and Conclusions

The multiple victimization experience is the result of having been victimized by more than one incident of crime,

whether it be an incident of the same type or another offence type. One-third of all victims of household offences recalled multiple incidents of victimization by household property crime. One-quarter of all individual victims of personal crime experienced more than one such incident during the twelve month reference period.

The Canadian Urban Victimization Survey demonstrates that households and persons victimized by crime have a greater chance of experiencing a repeat of the same type of incident than is the case for the general population. Repeat victimization was the most pronounced among households and persons who experienced the least common and, in the case of personal offences, the most serious type of offence.

Cross-crime victimization was also more likely to occur among victims of crime for every type of household and personal offence than would be expected for the general population. This increased risk of victimization was more prominent among personal crime victim groups than among household crime victim groups.

A comparison between domestic and non-domestic assault victims demonstrates the very different nature of these two types of assault. The dissimilarities apparent with respect to victims and incidents reveal that the circumstances and consequences of domestic and non-domestic assault may often be no more similar than for any other two personal offence types.

The phenomenon of multiple victimization presents a significant challenge to the development of policies and programs to address the prevention of chronic crime victimization and the needs of this victim population. Through repeat and cross-crime victimization, a relatively small number of victims experience a disproportionate level of crime victimization.

This concentration of victimization provides an opportunity for crime prevention strategies to focus limited resources on a relatively small but highly victimized population. A reasonable level of effectiveness of such programs for the few, highly victimized members of the population could have a comparatively large impact on the causes and consequences of crime victimization on some sectors of Canadian society.

The End of a Series

This is the final Bulletin in this series based on the findings of the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey.

Victimization surveys are designed to complement "official" crime data derived from police and court reports. As such, the CUVS has provided us with a different perspective on the complex nature and consequences of crime than has been possible from more traditional sources. This perspective has helped Canadians to come to a

clearer understanding of the differential risk of crime victimization, the extent to which victims report certain crimes to the police, the physical, emotional and financial impact of victimization, and public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. It is the hope of this Ministry that this new awareness has enhanced, and will continue to enhance, the efforts of police, governments and victim support groups to provide fair and effective treatment to victims of crime.

The Canadian Urban Victimization Survey Bulletin Series:

Bulletin 1	Victims of Crime
Bulletin 2	Reported and Unreported Crimes
Bulletin 3	Crime Prevention: Awareness and Practice
Bulletin 4	Female Victims of Crime
Bulletin 5	Cost of Crime to Victims
Bulletin 6	Criminal Victimization of Elderly Canadians
Bulletin 7	Household Property Crimes
Bulletin 8	Patterns in Violent Crime
Bulletin 9	Patterns in Property Crime
Bulletin 10	Multiple Victimization

Appendix I

About the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey

Early in 1982 the Ministry of the Solicitor General, with the assistance of Statistics Canada, conducted a victimization survey in seven major urban centres: Greater Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax-Dartmouth and St. John's. A random sample of 61,000 residents 16 years of age or older was asked about their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system, their experience with certain crimes, and the impact which criminal victimization may have had upon them.

Because of the relatively low incidence in any one year of some types of crimes included in the survey, very large samples are required to ensure that enough cases are "caught" to be statistically representative of all actual

cases in the community under study. Sample sizes ranged from 6,910 in one city to 9,563 in another, with more than 61,000 telephone interviews completed by Statistics Canada interviewers overall. Telephone interviews were used because the cost of interviewing in person for such a large survey was prohibitive. Careful pretests in Edmonton, Hamilton and Greater Vancouver had proven that reliable data could be obtained through telephone interviews.

To maximize reliability of recall, respondents were asked to report on only those incidents which had occurred between January 1 and December 31, 1981. On the basis of these interviews, statistical estimates were made for the general population 16 and over in the seven cities. These

statistically derived estimates for the population are used throughout this bulletin.

Victimization surveys can provide information about most, but not all types of crimes that are of major concern to the general public. Crimes such as murder or kidnapping cannot be uncovered using survey techniques, and were therefore excluded. "Victimless" crimes and crimes committed against commercial establishments were also excluded from this survey.

The eight categories of crimes included in the survey are: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property, theft of personal property and vandalism.

Appendix II

Definitions and Limitations

The eight categories of crimes included in the survey are: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property, theft of personal property and vandalism. These offences are ranked in descending order of seriousness.

1. Sexual assault includes rape, attempted rape, molesting and attempted molestation, and is considered the most serious crime.
2. Robbery occurs if something is taken and the offender has a weapon or there is a threat or an attack. The presence of a weapon is assumed to imply a threat. Attempted robberies are also included in this offence category.
3. Assault involves the presence of a weapon or an attack or threat. Assault incidents may range from face-to-face verbal threats to an attack resulting in extensive injuries.
4. Break and enter occurs if a dwelling is entered by someone who has no right to be there. "No right to be there" differentiates, for example, between a workman who is in dwelling with the permission of the owner and steals something, and someone illegally entering the dwelling to take property. The latter would be classified as a break and enter as are attempts to enter a dwelling if there is some evidence of force or knowledge of how the person tried to get in.
5. Motor vehicle theft involves the theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle or other motor vehicle.
6. Theft or attempted theft of household property.
7. Theft or attempted theft of money or other personal property (not household property).
8. Vandalism occurs if property is damaged but not taken.

Incidents which involved the commission of several different criminal acts appear in the tables only once, according to the most serious component of the event. Thus for example, if sexual assault, theft of money and vandalism all occurred at the same time, the incident would be classified in these tables as sexual assault. An incident would be classified as vandalism (least serious in the hierarchy) only if no other crime which is higher on the seriousness scale occurred at the same time.

The **Canadian Urban Victimization Survey Bulletin** is produced by the Communications Group, Ministry Secretariat, under the authority of the Solicitor General of Canada. It is available free from the Communications Group, Solicitor General Canada, 340 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P8.

Minister of Supply and Services Canada 1988

Cat. No. JS42-18/10-1988

