

Make Time to Report Crime

Young People as Victims of Crime in South Australia

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youth affairs council
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Introduction

The background to this project arose out of a strong belief that, as a community, we hear a lot about young people as offenders in crime situations but very little about young people as victims of crime. The fact that young people are, in fact, overrepresented as victims of crime is often not well recognised. This document seeks to redress the balance and give both practitioners and young people the tools and assistance to seek to prevent young people's victimisation. This is not to say that South Australia represents a particular crime threat for young people; far from it, South Australia remains a comparatively safe place in which to live.

This resource is designed to help practitioners and young people in South Australia to more fully understand the picture of crime and the experiences of young people as victims of crime in this state. It is intended to assist all parties to reduce the chance of victimisation occurring, reduce the harm that can result from victimisation, increase the likelihood of reporting of crimes and improve young people's knowledge of available avenues of support.

How can this resource help young people?

In order to help reduce the incidence of young people being victims of crime this resource can help young people to build on their existing strategies and strengths in protecting themselves from victimisation to:

- Better understand the picture of crime in South Australia
- Learn how best to try to keep themselves safe
- Understand the value to themselves and their community of reporting crime
- Know how and where to report crime
- Understand the process of reporting a crime and feel more confident about reporting a crime
- Know about appropriate support agencies where young people can feel safe, respected and listened to
- Learn to protect themselves from re-victimisation

It is anticipated then that this resource, together with the activities and exercises contained within it, will go some way to aid workers and young people in South Australia to become more well-informed about crime and the availability of support agencies.

Section 1 analyses the drivers underlying the victimisation of young people in South Australia. Crime data for young people in South Australia is presented and consideration is given to the reasons why young people may be overrepresented as victims of crime. Cohen and Felson's Routine Activity Theory and Brantingham and Brantingham's Crime Pattern Theory seek to explain why this overrepresentation may occur. The experiences of young people who have become victims of crime are then acknowledged and issues of repeat victimisation explored.

Section 2 considers support services that are available to young people in South Australia who have become victims of crime. This section identifies available support services, shows how the services may be contacted and briefly describes what each service can be expected to provide.

Section 3 looks at the reporting of crime by young people. It identifies why young people do and do not report crime and what concerns they have when thinking about reporting a crime. The positives of a young victim reporting crime are highlighted and the possible negative impacts of crime remaining unreported are explored.

Section 4 considers help seeking and crime prevention behaviours for young people. It consists of activities that could be used with a peer educator to assist young people to identify who they could go to for help in the event of a crime and consider the available support services that could assist them. Exercises are then presented which could help a young person to understand the real picture of crime and young people in South Australia, think about the safety of their own neighbourhood, consider what can be done to help victims of crime and debate the positives and possible negatives of reporting crime through a series of quizzes, scenarios and activities.

Section 1

Young People as Victims of Crime

Young People as Victims of Crime

We know that young people know about the problems of crime that might affect them. They are generally very good at dealing with many difficult situations on a regular basis. They are also careful about the way they move around in order to stay unaffected by crime. Even in a safe place like South Australia, regrettably, sometimes a crime happens to a young person and unfortunately we know that:

Statistically young people have greater exposure to victimisation than any other age group in society

How do we define a young person?

The United Nations (UN) defines a 'youth' as a person between the ages of 15 and 24 with children are seen as persons 14 years of age and under. It should be noted the UN has identified over 24 declarations, conventions and covenants concerning youth with the authoritative 'Convention of the Rights of the Child' chosen to represent children up to the age of 18 years. The efforts of the UN represent world wide recognition of the need for respect and protection of young people's human rights. Although various different definitions of a young person abound, the ages 15-24 years will be the focus of this document because they are the most overrepresented group in crime statistics in South Australia.

The population of young people in South Australia

Young people in South Australia make up approximately 17% of the total Australian population and South Australian young people make up 7.5% of all Australian young people¹ with 5.6% of all young people in South Australia being of indigenous background. The spread of young people across South Australia mirrors that of the total population however the 2003 Health and Welfare Report found the very remote areas of South Australia have a higher proportion of their population aged 15 - 24 years of age than less remote areas.

South Australia's population in general is highly concentrated in urban areas, with approximately 73% of the 1.5 million residents living in the Adelaide Statistical Division. The remaining 27% of residents are spread across the state with 8% of the total population living in the Outer Adelaide Statistical division, particularly in Mount Barker with 5% living in the Northern Statistical Division. There is also a significant population in the South East Statistical Division with Mount Gambier as the 2nd most populous town in South Australia behind Adelaide. Whyalla is the 3rd most populous town in South Australia and the towns of Ceduna and Port Augusta are also highly populated due to their proximity to the outback and the coast.

In essence then, the population spread of South Australia is concentrated in urban areas with the bulk of the remainder living in satellite towns positioned throughout the state. This has particular ramifications to the delivery of information and protection of young people who may be vulnerable to victimisation from crime.

The Picture of Crime and Young People in South Australia

Crimes that affect young people - young people's opinions

Many young people themselves believe things are, 'different for boys and for girls in difficult situations'. It is perceived that 'girls are more vulnerable to crime' and 'receive more sexual attention' so they 'have to be more careful' whereas 'boys get rolled or others pick fights with them' so they 'should be more scared because they can get badly injured in fights'².

When we talked to young people in South Australia between December 2008 and March 2009 they supported these beliefs with respect to young men and young women's chances of becoming victims of crime. The young people in the focus groups held a strong belief that certain crimes are more likely to happen to girls and that girls are more vulnerable to crime in general. The groups also believed that young men tend to get into fights and that gangs pick on young males.

What does data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show?

It must be recognised that, even though young people appear to be overrepresented in the crime data, South Australia still remains a comparatively very safe place in which to live. However to illustrate the extent of young people's victimisation the following figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS] give some indication of the degree of young people's representation as victims of crime in South Australia as well as clearly illustrating the overrepresentation of males in the crime profile. It must be stated that although the ABS figures are relatively reliable, the underreporting and under recording of crime data can mean that the available data may not represent the total picture of crime events.

Data from the ABS 2007 shows that:

- Males accounted for 72% of all victims of robbery [756 people] with half of all male victims being aged between 15-24 years
- Of all victims of sexual assault aged 15-19, 91% were female
- Of all victims of robbery aged 15-19 years 84% were male
- 84% of victims of sexual assault [1,279 people] were female with 45% of these being in the 10-19 year age group
- Males constitute 78% [50 people] of the total of victims of homicide and related offences in South Australia and of these 36% [18 people] were aged 15-24 years

So a clear picture emerges of young people being overrepresented as victims of crime with young males showing a particular vulnerability to being victims with:

- Robbery, assault and sexual assault being the crime categories where young people are most notably represented

It is thought that young people could, unfortunately, be a greater risk of some crime types, like robbery, through no fault of their own, but simply because they are at a time in their lives when they are gaining their first employment when they may have to work at odd hours, may work with highly desirable goods in their workplaces, may need to travel by public transport because they are unable to afford private transport and often like to carry highly desirable items such as iPods and mobile phones.

The type of employment which is most readily available, and quite desirable, to young people as a first work opportunity can often be retail work. This is because positions are often easy to obtain and they allow flexible hours that can fit around young people's schedules. Unfortunately working odd hours or late at night when not many other people are around or by handling a lot of cash or desirable³ items, such as iPods and mobile phones, young people could be put at higher risk of robbery.

In addition, young people have to travel frequently on public transport because they do not have sufficient income to travel independently. In addition, sometimes they need to travel at odd hours when there are few people around, which could increase young people's exposure to possible crimes that can occur both on public transport and around public transport hubs.

Young people characteristically like to use the income they have earned in their newly acquired jobs to buy valuable and desirable items. Often these items, such as mobile phones and iPods, are highly desirable by would-be robbers because of their value, their ease of resale and their ease of concealment. So it is easy to see that a combination of these factors could work together to increase young people's chance of being more vulnerable to crimes such as robbery merely through force of circumstances occurring in their lives.

Assault which occurs in a non domestic setting is one of the most frequently experienced crimes by young people. Sometimes assault can occur as part of the commission of another crime; it can sometimes be linked with alcohol consumption or other activities, alternatively it can be the result of bullying or disagreements between groups or individuals.

Although young males are more heavily represented in the crimes of robbery and assault the data also leads us to conclude that young females show a particular vulnerability to being victims in certain crime types with:

- Young women aged 15-19 being a particularly vulnerable group to the crime of sexual assault

The offence of sexual assault, as seen above, is particularly high in the 15-19 year old cohort of young women. We know that young women at the younger end of the age bracket are more likely to be sexually assaulted by relatives or close family friends than a stranger. In contrast though, young women at the older end of the age bracket are more likely to be sexually assaulted by partners or acquaintances than parents, relatives or close family friends⁴. Regrettably it is difficult to be certain of the extent of sexual assault incidents as it is thought that sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes in our community.

Domestic violence is thought to be a greatly underreported crime and represents an area where young people can become either primary or secondary victims. Young people victimised by domestic violence are sometimes at risk of being primary victims through direct abuse or neglect of a parent/guardian or they can become secondary victims through witnessing abuse between their parents⁵/guardians.

A young person who has either been a direct victim or has grown up with domestic violence around them can thereafter continue to experience the effects in their own lives and in their own intimate relationships⁶. Having grown up in a violent environment, a young person may internally normalise this behaviour and therefore develop the expectation of this crime perpetuating itself without feeling the necessity to either retreat from it or report it.

Is victimisation evenly spread across the community?

Within a community, most individuals do not experience any victimisation at all. However, amongst those individuals and communities who become victims some experience a disproportionate share of victimisation⁷ or re-victimisation. We know that re-victimisation is most likely to occur in the period shortly after the first victimisation particularly in the crimes of domestic violence, burglary, motor vehicle crimes and retail crimes.⁸

In particular, some noted examples of the concentration of re-victimisation are that:

- Those people who have been victims of robbery have a nine times greater chance of repeat victimisation
- Sexual assault victims have a 35% greater chance of being re-victimised

Interestingly those aged 15 - 19 years statistically are more likely than those aged 20 - 24 years to be both repeat and single incident victims;⁹ so that the likelihood of becoming a victim is lower for 10-14 year olds, then peaks at 15-19 years and then appears to decline as young people approach adulthood. This could be due to their lifestyle and routine activity patterns generally involving activities outside the home, thereby increasing their visibility and accessibility as potential victims.¹⁰ Paradoxically this is in contrast to some other young victims who may, in fact, become victimised within their own homes. However as a young person gets older, they are more likely to have access to private transport and their activities will change, thereby changing the relationship of young people to public space so the chance of victimisation outside the home may in turn be reduced.

Young people seeking to end long term victimisation

There are some situations where a young person suffers long term abuse of a domestic or sexual nature. In such a situation a young person may feel quite powerless to remove himself/herself from the perpetrator to end this type of victimisation where the power balance is clearly unequal.

However, it has been found that some long term abuse can reach an end point and that it is most likely to end when:

- The offender loses interest in wanting to abuse the young person either because the young person has become older or the offender's interest has moved elsewhere
- The young person becomes better able to overcome obstacles which had previously prevented them reporting the crime
- The young person becomes able to find some way to change their circumstances
- The young person is able to move away from the offender
- The offender can be exposed and prosecuted and their offence becomes publicly disclosed

In a situation where the victim and perpetrator are known to each other and the relationship between the two people remains constant (e.g. parent/step parent/guardian living in the same residence) the closeness of the two people clearly can contribute to the chance of repeat victimisation. In such a situation the young person may feel powerless to end such abuse except by leaving home but it must be acknowledged that leaving home can also present dangers for a young person living on their own, so that such a situation can indeed have complex outcomes and finding some kind of help for the young victim is imperative.

In such a situation sometimes as a young person becomes older a perpetrator may lose interest in them. This allows the victim to have an opportunity to change the circumstance of their abuse. Sometimes due to these changed circumstances a young person becomes able to report their abuse. This can result in the offender becoming prosecuted and their crime publicly disclosed.

Hence, once the relationship has changed and there is cessation of the abuse the young victim has a chance to consider the option to remove himself/herself from the abusive situation, conceivably gain some support, and finally progress through the stages of overcoming their victimisation. Some young victims regrettably live with the distress of their victimisation for a long time but fortunately some young victims are able to reach a stage of acceptance and can allow time for wounds to heal and begin the process of recovering and rebuilding their lives.¹¹

Why Are Young People Vulnerable to Crime?

Social and biological influences

Young people generally are well aware of the dangers that crime may represent and many young people very capably handle a myriad of difficult situations on a daily basis. But we also know that adolescence is a time of complex changes and a time when young people are learning about adult life.

Neville¹² states that the young person's world can be:

'very complex with adult difficulties having to be negotiated with adolescent skills and little experience'

Young people are at a time in life when social influences on them are complex and sometimes contradictory. Young people are often living in a world where the influences of their peers and their adult guardians may be at odds; where their peers may be enticing them to act in certain ways which those adults in their lives may decry.

Alternatively adult requests for certain types of social engagement may, at times, be contrary to the desired result. Adults may request, for example, that young people travel in groups for added safety. However, young people moving in groups could be misunderstood by others and could, in fact, have a negative effect by attracting the attention of other groups who may wish to create trouble, or indeed, the attention of police or security personnel who may misunderstand the motive of the young group. So that the simple act of travelling in a group could have contradicting effects of eliciting safety or inviting danger.

This complexity of competing challenges in a young person's life can sometimes leave a young person confused and feel less able to manage everything that is happening even with the absence of crime in their environment. Such feelings of loss of control are also some of the feelings expressed by victims of crime so that it is easy to imagine that if a young person is victimised by a crime, this compounds the myriad of challenges they face in their lives. Consequently, crime victimisation can impact particularly significantly during adolescent development¹³.

Aside from these social challenges in a young person's life, visible physical changes that are also taking place. In addition, some researchers are also of the opinion that additional physiological changes are also continuing to take place within the young person's brain, in particular, the development of the prefrontal cortex¹⁴. This part of the brain is thought to be responsible for impulse control and strategic planning and it is now thought by some researchers that this process can continue up until the young person is around thirty years of age. Whilst it must be acknowledged that, regardless of age, everyone takes risks, this could help us understand why some young people may sometimes be more inclined to take risks with less foresight or ability to consider the consequences.

Some researchers think that there could be physiological reasons for the perception that some young people may sometimes be ill equipped to show foresight and consider the consequences of their actions.

Environmental influences on crime and young people

As young people are becoming more independent, getting out and about more without adult supervision, through no fault of their own this could in some ways make them become more exposed to the possibility of crime situations.

When the routine activities of young people are analysed, it shows they are more likely to frequent areas away from the home for education, employment and entertainment with decreased parental monitoring¹⁵. These aspects of young peoples' lives expose them to areas including transport interchanges, shopping centres, entertainment venues and other public spaces. Consequently, the more exposure a young person has in these environments the greater the young person's chance of being victimised.

Statistics tell us that young people tend to be victimised most often by others who are about the same age as themselves and who are known to them¹⁶. Even though many young people are quite savvy in the ways they protect themselves from harm there could be some instances where young people are sometimes facing complex difficulties with less experienced skills¹⁷. This could lead them to becoming more vulnerable to being victimised because they have not as yet developed the experience that comes with maturity to effectively protect them from harm.¹⁸

How Does Crime Happen?

Crime researchers, Cohen and Felson,¹⁹ believe that for a crime to occur, three elements (a motivated offender, a suitable target or victim and the absence of a capable guardian) must come together in time and space.

They devised the Routine Activity Theory [RAT] which states that when a crime occurs, three things happen at the same time and in the same space:

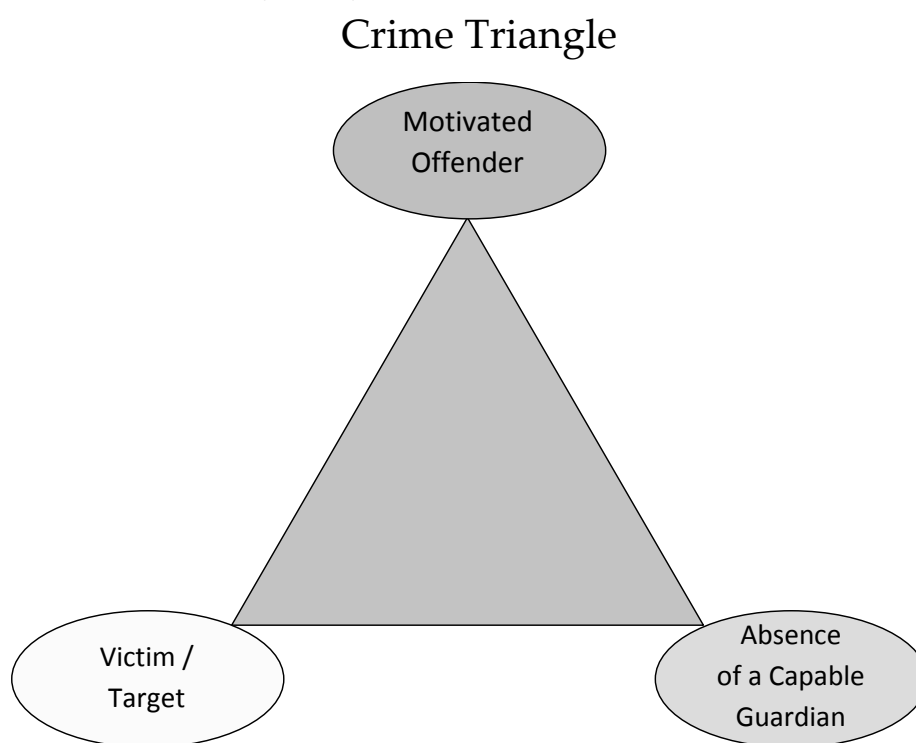
- A 'Suitable Target' is available
- There is the lack of a 'Capable Guardian' to prevent the crime from happening
- A 'Motivated Offender' is present

A Suitable Target - The first condition for crime is that a suitable target must be available. A target or victim can be a person or an object or place. But no matter how suitable a target is, an offence will not occur unless a motivated offender is present and a capable guardian is absent.

Motivated Offenders - When a suitable target is unprotected by a capable guardian there is a chance that a crime will take place. The second element in this picture is that a motivated offender has to be present at the scene at that time. The motivations of an offender can be varied and can extend from such things as need for money for drugs or other purposes, thrill seeking, attaining kudos from peers or gaining excitement.

Absence of a Capable Guardian - The final condition for a crime to take place is that a capable guardian, whose presence would discourage a crime from taking place, must be absent from the scene. A capable guardian is usually a person that would deter potential offenders from committing a crime. A capable guardian could be police patrols, security guards, parents, neighbours, friends or even CCTV.

A pictorial representation of Routine Activity Theory is presented below.



Source: Clarke, R. V. and Eck, J. (2005) **Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps**, Washington

Cohen and Felson also proposed that crimes have increased of recent times because of various social and economic changes in society which have caused changes to people's routine activities. Some of the modern lifestyle changes in routines that were identified by these researchers were the dual income households where both parents are out at work resulting in less guardianship of the family home.

Also the decreased size of modern consumer items meant that they became easier to steal and transport. Thus, with homes and cars empty during the day time and increasingly valuable items left unattended, opportunities for crime increased. Coupled with this, the researchers argued that because of changing social circumstances there could be less supervision of children and young people after school which could also provide opportunities for crime to occur.

In essence then, Cohen and Felson maintain:

If both parents are having to work away from home
▼
Less ability to protect belongings

Consumer items now small and easy to conceal
▼
Easier to steal and transport

Social change has resulted in less supervision of young people after school
▼
More opportunities for crime to occur

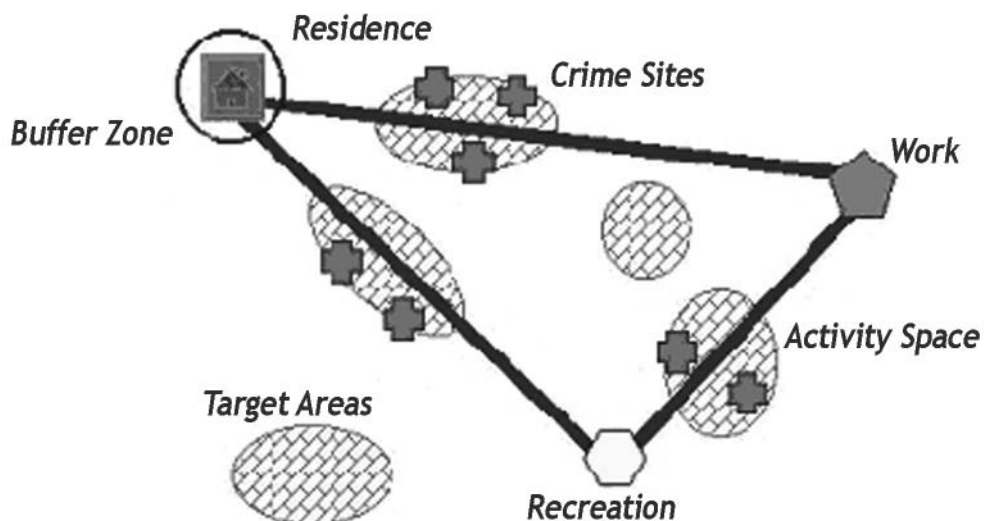
Crime Pattern Theory and Young People

In addition to Cohen and Felson's ideas Brantingham and Brantingham's Crime Pattern Theory completes the picture further by describing how offenders find targets in the course of their daily routines. They use a triangle to represent offenders travel from home to work to recreation. Around each of these three *nodes* and along each of these three *paths* they believe offenders look around for crime opportunities.

Offenders may find these opportunities a little way off the path, but they usually do not go far beyond the area they know. This is because it is easier to commit crimes in the course of their daily routine than by making a special journey.

Many studies have shown that the journey to crime is typically very short - offenders generally commit crimes within 1 or 2 kilometres of their homes.

Brantingham and Brantingham's Crime Pattern Theory



This diagram illustrates the Brantinghams' theory. It shows an offender's activity space (residence, work, recreation, and the travel routes between them), the buffer zone close to the home in which offenders do not usually commit crimes, and five potential target areas (for example, parking lots). Where an offender's activity space intersects a target area, these are the crime sites.²⁰

In essence young people can be more at risk of victimisation because:

- Their daily activities could take them into areas that may have a higher crime risk
- Young people, because of their financial situation, need to use less safe modes of transport
- The types of available employment for young people tend to make them more vulnerable to the risk of victimisation
- Young people are at a time in their lives where they are still learning about independent adult life
- Young people may have less experience in dealing with life's difficult situations than older people

The Impact of a Crime on a Young Person

The consultations with young people in South Australia between December 2008 and March 2009 revealed that some young people had friends who had been victims of crime. They reported that these victims had felt traumatized and upset over a period of time and that some had felt depressed following their experience.

We know that over a million people are victimised by crime each year [Cook et al 1999]. The impact of crime victimisation is different for each person and it can be short or long lasting.

*Crime may have an impact on the victim's psychological state undermining their feeling of well being and making them unsure, apprehensive and afraid.*²¹

A victim of crime may feel numb and shocked that this has happened to them. After becoming a victim of a crime a young person may also feel different from day to day, some days may be OK but other days they may feel upset, worried or frightened. Some people who have been victims of crime have said they felt.²²

Anxious and worried	A loss of control in their lives	Guilty that maybe it was their own fault
Angry	Confused	Depressed

To help a victim cope at this time it is important to help the victim to:

- Accept that this will take time to get over
- Talk about their feelings to someone they can trust
- Remember to eat regularly and well
- Do enough exercise
- Let them know that it may not be useful to consume alcohol or drugs as it may increase or intensify the feelings they are experiencing
- Do nice things for themselves

Victims' experiences of different crimes

No-one ever expects to be a victim of crime or that the actions of another person can change their life and those close to them. But regrettably the impact of crime can be long lasting and have diverse consequences so that each victim of each crime may have different experiences so that the degree and quality of social support a victim receives is of particular importance in order to minimize the level and intensity of trauma and upset.

*'Being a victim of crime is extremely stressful, well beyond the tolerance level of most, if not all, people.'*²³
*Following traumatic crime victims may see themselves as weak, helpless, needy, frightened and out of control.*²⁴

To highlight the extent of experiences felt by victims of various crimes some examples of victims' responses are illustrated following.

Assault

Victims of assault often suffer some trauma following the shock of an assault. Most frequently victims of assault have facial injuries with a range of abrasions, bruises etc. Often some scarring remains.

One victim of assault said,
*'Wherever I go I will always have the face you cannot forget.'*²⁵

Burglary

Even a less traumatic victimisation such as a minor burglary can result in a great deal of suffering and disruption.²⁶ Feelings of fear, nervousness or not wanting to go out, as well as the inconvenience of making an insurance claim, can represent aftermath of any burglary.

Armed robbery

A victim of armed robbery showed the level of their distress clearly when they said:
*During the first weeks I could not understand nor cope with what was happening to me. I truly believed I was going crazy .. I was becoming a completely different person- someone I didn't know.*²⁷

Child abuse

A victim of child abuse spoke of the secret that was kept for so long.
*'I did not speak of my secret for 35 years. I am an adult now but still cannot tell someone.... How many people would say - why didn't you tell someone? How many people would ask - why didn't you stop it?'*²⁸

Domestic violence

Many victims of domestic violence suffer persistent poor health as a result of the abuse. Young people who have been witnesses to domestic violence can go on to suffer domestic violence when they form their own relationships due to an expectation of the normality of this form of abuse.

Sexual assault

Victims of sexual assault are sometimes noted to suffer long term effects and depression, shame and fear are often reported. As well, young victims of sexual assault are noted to sometimes develop difficulties in forming normal relationships as adults.

Young People's Responses Following Victimisation

After a young person becomes a victim of a crime various responses have been noted.

A young person may:

- Develop increased fear of crime
- Not want to report a crime
- Blame themselves or their behaviour for the crime happening to them
- Develop a feeling that on-going crime against them [e.g. domestic violence] is normal

Once a young person has been victimised, the fear of crime might increase more rapidly than it does for older persons²⁹. Fear of crime can cause a person to develop different strategies to protect themselves from further harm including blaming their own behaviour for the incident. By doing this, a victim may convince themselves that because they will not repeat their behaviour they will be less vulnerable to subsequent victimisation.

Victims can also cope by imagining even worse outcomes that they have managed to avoid. Unfortunately, these coping mechanisms can encourage victims to minimise the seriousness of the harm³⁰ as well as allow the chance of on-going victimisation to continue despite the possibility of further physical injuries and psychological harm.

The normalisation of victimisation³¹ is another strategy which occurs particularly if the on-going victimization, such as in instances of sexual abuse, begins at an early age and the young person grows up unaware they are being victimised. Because the victimisation has been normalised, it can become difficult to bring to an end until the circumstances of the victimisation change.

It is easy to see then that the results of a young person becoming a victim of any crime can be very distressing and can have short or long term negative repercussions. Therefore it is essential then that young people are given every opportunity to think about how best to protect themselves from becoming a victim of crime, how to best gain assistance should they unfortunately become a victim of crime and how in such instances to best prevent the possibility of repeat victimisation.

Section 2

Young Victim Support Services

The following section provides a resource which documents the available services that could be used by a young victim of crime to either report crime or to receive support following a crime. Each service has a listed contact number or address, an outline of who the agency is able to assist and the services they can offer. Agencies will respect the anonymity of their client but it needs to be remembered that all agencies are legally required to report certain crimes in order to keep the community safe. As well, some of the services listed below are designed for use by adults and may not cater specifically for young people's needs.

In addition, for victims of crime who would like to access further details the government website of services is available through: <http://www.voc.sa.gov.au/Publications/Map/map.asp>. As well, a website noted in the South Australian Victims of Crime Handbook <http://www.infosearchweb.com> may be able to provide further information for young victims of crime.

The following services are available for young people to report to or receive assistance following a crime.

Interpreting services are also available on 1300 655 082 for anyone who may need them.

Police emergency

Ring 000 and ask for police.

Police Assistance line

Can be contacted on 131 444.

Assists those people who do not want to go to a police station or wish to report a crime anonymously.

Crime Stoppers

Can be contacted on 1800 333 000. Assists those people who want to report a crime. This can be done anonymously.

Kids Helpline

Can be contacted on 1800 551 800

Assists young people 5-25 years with anonymous and confidential counselling

Services

- Telephone counselling on issues including child abuse, family relationships, mental health, eating and body image, suicide, bullying, drug and alcohol
- Web counselling available Mon - Fri 3pm - 9pm, Sat and Sun 10am - 5pm (Queensland time) at www.kidshelp.com.au
- Email counselling - available 24 hours
- Referral to other community and government services
- Research into youth problems and needs throughout Australia

Crisis Care

Can be contacted on 13 16 11 after hours

Assists anyone needing crisis information. Qualified social workers and trained volunteers handle all calls. Crisis care is available 4pm till 9am on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends and public holidays.

Victim Support Service

Can be contacted on the following telephone numbers depending on metropolitan or regional enquires.

Metropolitan Area phone: 8231 5626 during office hours.

After hours: 1800 182 368 - a message may be left

In addition the following telephone numbers may be useful for victims in the country.

Mt Gambier	8723 2968
Murray Bridge	8531 3987
Port Augusta	8641 1115
Port Lincoln	8683 0111
Port Pirie	8633 4888
Riverland	8582 2801
Whyalla	8649 2522

Services

The victim support service can provide information about counselling, victim's rights and victims' compensation court support and victims' support groups.

The following represent available services for young victims of crime in South Australia. For each service an access number as well as a brief explanation of the service they can offer are included.

The Second Story (TSS) Youth Health Centres

The Second Story can be contacted on 1300 131 719 or at any of these addresses.

Central - 57 Hyde Street, Adelaide, North - Gillingham Street, Elizabeth

South - 50A Beach Road, Christies Beach, West - 51 Bower Street, Woodville

Assists young people aged 12 - 25 years. The Children, Youth and Women's Health Service is aware it is often difficult for young people in small, rural and remote communities to feel they can receive confidential health information and support especially considering the lack of youth specific services in these areas so is keen to offer this service to support young people in country areas as well as city areas.

The Youth Health Line provided encourages all young people to call, particularly those who may want to talk to someone about what is going on in their life but feel more at ease with a telephone conversation than with face-to-face contact. This confidential 24-hr, 7-day service is staffed by health professionals who are trained and experienced in working with young people and can put young people in contact with health services in their area if ongoing support is needed.

Child Abuse Report Line

Can be contacted on 13 14 78 at any time.

Assists anyone who wishes to report child abuse.

The Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service

Can be contacted on the following numbers for metropolitan or country areas.

Metropolitan area phone 8226 8777 during office hours

Country area phone 1800 817 421 anytime

Address: Level 2, Norwich Centre, 55 King William Road, North Adelaide

Assists people aged 16 years and over.

Services

- Counselling and medical service for people who have experienced rape or sexual assault, who were aged 16 years or over at the time of the assault
- Follow-up medical care for related health problems
- Collection of forensic evidence
- Information on court procedures and compensation claims
- Information, support and counselling for families and friends of people who have been sexually assaulted
- Public education and awareness
- Support groups for women survivors of adult rape or sexual assault

Yarrow Place provides 24 hour crisis and ongoing medical and counselling services for recent sexual assault. There is no police involvement with the service and clients do not have to report the assault to access the services. However, should clients wish to report the assault, the service can arrange for the collection of forensic samples.

Child Protection Services

At the Women's and Children's' Hospital or Flinders Medical Centre

Assists people aged less than 16 years who have experienced rape or sexual assault.

Services

- 24 hour response for recent rape or sexual assault
- Medical care
- Counseling
- Advocacy

Kumangka Aboriginal Youth Service

Can be contacted on 8340 4499

Address: 6 Mary Street, Hindmarsh

Assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait identified young people 12-25 years

Services

- Advocacy for young people with police, family and legal services
- Case management for young people at risk
- Counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Information and referral - health, counselling, accommodation, education and training services
- Kumangka-Reconnect - early intervention for young indigenous people at risk of homelessness
- Streetwork program - youth workers are available on Friday and Saturday nights in the inner city area

Lifeline

Can be contacted on 13 11 14 at any time.

Assists any person who is in a crisis situation and can provide referrals to other agencies.

Domestic Violence Crisis Service

Can be contacted on 1300 782 200

Assists anyone in need of emergency assistance.

Domestic Violence Helpline

Can be contacted on 1800 800 098 at any time.

Assists anyone who would like to talk to a person who understands domestic [family] violence.

The Commissioner for Victims' Rights

Can be contacted on 8204 9635

Assists all victims to understand what their rights are when they are victims of crime.

Your Local Police Station

Assists all victims in reporting a crime and understanding the legal process. There are now Police Victim Contact Officers available to help victims of crime with any information needed to understand the reporting and investigation of crimes in South Australia. To find information on your local police station go to www.sapolice.sa.gov.au

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Can be contacted on 8207 1687

Assists anyone who wishes to receive compensation following a crime. Many victims are entitled to compensation following a crime. This compensation may help them get back on their feet, support them while they are unable to work, support them in receiving counselling and support them in receiving any medical help that is needed after the crime.

Homicide Victims Support Group South Australia

Can be contacted on 0449 144 935 at any time.

Assists any family or friends whose loved ones have been murdered in a support group situation.

Your Local Hospital

Assists anyone with any medical care they may need and can offer referral advice on where to go for further help.

Law Stuff

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre

Assists any young person with legal advice on www.lawstuff.org.au

Other resources for victims of crime in South Australia

The South Australian Attorney-General's Department has published a Victims of Crime Handbook³² which is a comprehensive resource made available to any victims of crime.

It is written in plain English and outlines the following issues for victims:

- The Treatment of Victims of Crime
- The Impact of Crime
- Particular Circumstances - young children as victims, carers of victims and crime in the workplace.
- Dealing with the media
- The Legal Process
- Assistance (as a witness in court)
- Compensation
- Victim Support Services
- Giving Feedback or Lodging Complaints
- List of Legal Terms

Aside from the various victim support agencies which can cater for young people, the South Australian Police operate the Crime Prevention Education Program³³ and the Blue Light Program³⁴. The Crime Prevention Education Program is aimed at Year 6 and 7 students and involves teachers and police working together and consists of such modules as crime reporting, prevention, acceptable behaviours, harassment and assault.

Section 3

Reporting Crime

As shown in section 1, available data shows that young people are more vulnerable to being victims of crime than other sectors of the community. In addition to the available data, population studies which talk to members of the community about their experiences and personal knowledge of crime show us that a great deal of crime is not reported, and further, that some crimes are more likely to be reported than others as illustrated in the graphs below. If we then consider that young people are even less likely to report crime than older people it seems certain that a good deal of crime that is committed against young people remains unreported.

It is also apparent that the level of reporting is quite different for different crimes. The figures below for South Australia show clearly that the reporting rates for break-in between 1991 and 2000 are quite high but the reporting rates for attempted break-in over the same period are only between 30% and 40%.

Figure 7 Reporting rates for break-in, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2000

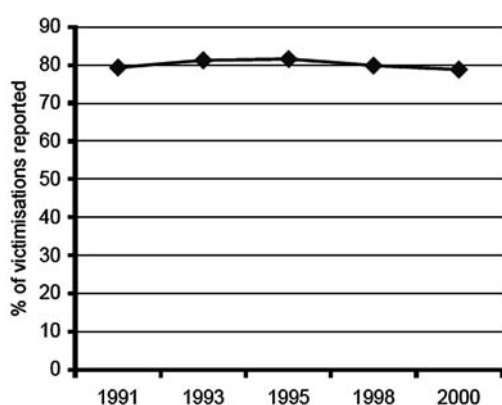
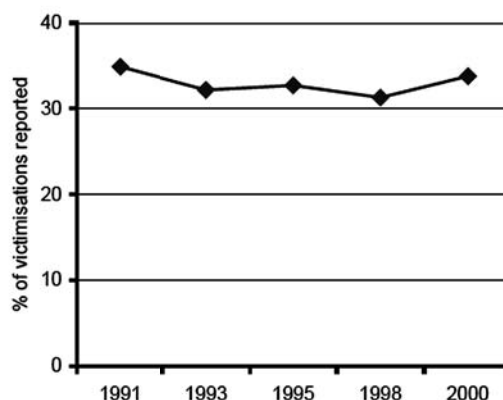


Figure 8 Reporting rates for attempted break-in, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2000



Source: Office of Crime Statistics and Research [OCSAR] Key findings from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2000 Survey

Similarly the rates of reporting robbery have varied between 40% and 68% but the reporting rates for assaults are much less at between 27% and 38%.

Figure 10 Reporting rates for robbery, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2000

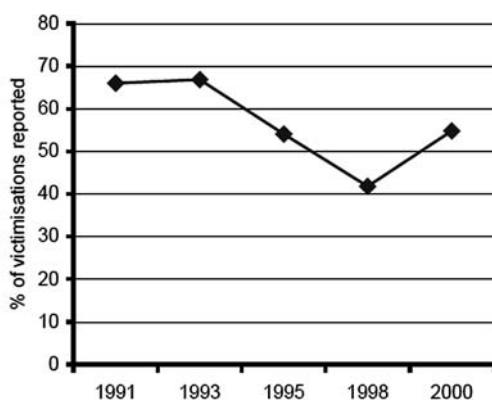
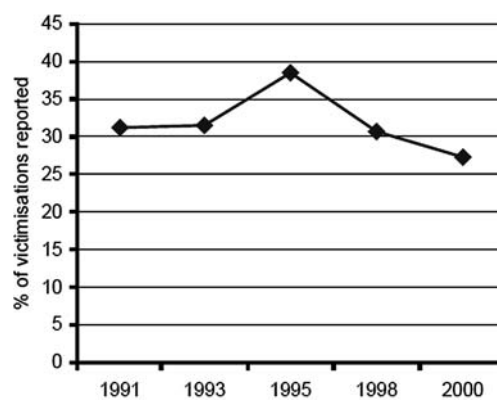


Figure 11 Reporting rates for assault, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2000



Source: OCSAR Key findings from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2000 Survey

Lack of Reporting

As shown on the previous page there is obvious lack of reporting particularly with some crimes. Young people may be particularly reluctant to report a crime that has affected them for a variety of reasons. Some of these reasons stem from some young people's feelings about police, others from a lack of confidence in their own ability to correctly identify a crime, still others from a feeling of wanting to be independent and handle the situation themselves and finally a fear of reprisal drives some young people to remain silent about a crime that has affected them.

Some young people are nervous about going to a police station. They may fear that police will not take their situation seriously or that police may question them excessively. There may also be a fear that reporting a crime to police may mean that they get tied up in a long investigation and court case which they cannot extricate themselves from.

There may also be a feeling that police could be ineffective in solving the crime. This is particularly the case where the crime is of relatively minor nature. In such a case a young person may feel there will be no positive gain from going through the ordeal of reporting. Further there may be a perception that unscrupulous police could act inappropriately or corruptly with any information that a young person may provide.

Fear of reprisal may be a strong motivator for young people to not report some crimes. As an example, crimes involving well known groups may remain unreported because the young victim is too nervous of any payback from the offender/s. Alternatively a member of a young person's own family or loved one who has committed a crime against them is less likely to be reported against because the young person may feel uncomfortable or threatened by fear of a backlash following their reporting.

Some young people may believe that they should be able to handle situations themselves without the help of other agencies. They may mistakenly believe that they can solve the crime and make amends themselves without the need for involving any authority figure. Alternatively a young person may believe that, with the help of their friends, they can deal with the crime unaided.

Young People Said

During the three consultations with young people held at the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia [YACSA] in South Australia the participants identified the following possible reasons why young people would and would not report crime.

Below are the reasons cited for young people wanting to report a crime.

Reasons for reporting crimes:

- To put in an insurance claim
- To commit insurance fraud
- To see the offender charged
- To stop the offender from committing more crime
- For their own safety
- To educate police in what's going on in the community
- To gain retribution towards offender

During the consultations the young people also openly discussed the possible reasons that young people could be reluctant to report crimes. The following possible reasons were cited for young people feeling unwilling to report crimes.

Reasons for Not Reporting Crimes:

- Fear of pay back from the offender
- Not wanting to report against a loved one
- A feeling that police could be ineffective in catching the offender
- Concern that police may not act properly- i.e. redistribute the reported and seized drugs for their own benefit
- Concern that police would interrogate them or bring up previous problems that they themselves have had
- A belief that their friends would be able to sort it out better
- Concern that police may not take the problem seriously

Many young people cited a fear of retribution if they reported a crime from the offender or gang responsible for the crime saying that reporting may escalate any chance of retribution. Conversely, there was also a feeling that

relationships sometimes played a part so that if the offender was a loved one it could be difficult to report against them.

Peer pressure was felt to also play a role in that peers could think you are weak in not looking after the problem yourself and also that they may not support you long term while a case is being pursued.

The young people also voiced a concern that police may not help them. There was fear of police corruption, so that, for example, in a case of reporting of drug pedaling police may seize the drugs themselves, or sell the drugs themselves and keep the money from the sales.

There was an expressed lack of total faith in police. But it must be noted that there were varied views here with some young people saying they felt generally happy with the police handling of such matters but others were more inclined to be skeptical of police supporting them and acting on their report.

There was a general feeling that some individual police could be seen as extremely trustworthy and helpful but that others may not treat young people well, *'they can treat you badly'* so that it would be *'pot luck'* if you went to report a crime whether the police you dealt with treated you well - *'it may be very positive or it may be the opposite.'*

There was a fear of police being *'good but scary,'* that they, *'scrutinise you, watch you - especially young people'*. There was a perception that police don't always take you seriously - *'they might think what you say is a prank'*.

There were quite strong feelings in the group about the fear of interrogation by police even if you were an innocent victim. Some said that they did not feel comfortable about giving their details to the police. There were some also who said they were afraid of the 'cops'.

Some young people said that in a situation where you were somewhere you shouldn't have been, or doing something you shouldn't have been doing when the crime occurred, you would be much less likely to report it to the police. Or alternatively if you had some sort of a record with police of a prior crime yourself you'd be much less likely to report a crime against you.

In a situation where you'd done something wrong and the offender is 'paying you back' you would also be much less keen to report a crime because then you would have to admit what you had done wrong in the first place. Or if you were responsible for starting some trouble you might fear the 'cops' coming after you.

There was also quite strong voice given to the idea that some young people may prefer personal revenge by friends to reporting to the police. There was a belief that this method may in fact be more effective than involving police who may do nothing as a result of you reporting or alternatively be ineffective in solving the crime. An example was given of the theft of a mobile phone where friends were thought to be possibly more effective at recovering the stolen phone than police may be.

Explaining Why Young People May Not Report Crime

What the literature says

The victim/offender dichotomy where the same young people can become both victim and offender in a crime situation provides a few reasons why young people do not report their victimisation. They may have become a victim in retaliation for a crime they initiated and therefore they would end up being charged for their crime³⁵. The offender/victim overlap may also cause this lack of reporting as the 'victim' has been told by an older offender not to tell anyone about what is happening and commit crimes out of frustration, anger or a basic survival need.

Also, a young person would not report being victimised if they did not see themselves as a victim.³⁶ Young people may not always realise they are a victim due to a lack of knowledge about what is considered to be criminal behaviour. They may also not view what happened to them as a crime because they may not have experienced anything different and therefore could not distinguish between what is and what is not criminal behaviour³⁷.

Some young people may realise that they are a victim but still do not report the crime to police as they feel their own behaviour brought about their attack. Crime victimisation surveys typically show that overall only about 40% of crimes are reported to police³⁸. Young victims may feel they will be blamed and that their behaviour deserves this kind of 'punishment'³⁹. Lack of reporting can also be due to the fear, shock and shame of the crime or because the victim feels disempowered and fears possible retaliation.⁴⁰

The Importance of Reporting Crime

It is easy to understand the myriad of reasons for young people not reporting a crime against them but it is important to remember that if young people can report crime it can help to protect them and others in the community.

Reporting a crime helps protect peoples' rights.

Remember reporting a crime early can:

- Help get valuable support straight away
- Help in applying for any available compensation
- Help protect everyone's future safety
- Help protect the rights of the whole community
- Help the police to investigate before any evidence is lost

If crime remains unreported the negative impact of this could be that

- Young people will be less likely to access available resources and support
- Young people could become even more victimised because offenders are not apprehended
- Police do not receive information they need to know about crime that is happening in the area
- Police are unable to follow up and try to make the community safer
- Offenders committing minor crimes are not apprehended and dealt with in a way that could prevent them from developing a criminal lifestyle

In reporting a crime, you should know that a victim of crime has

- The right to be treated with respect and recognition;
- The right to be referred to support services;
- The right to receive information about the progress of the investigation and prosecution, court outcome and sentence;
- The right to be give input to key decisions that affect you, such as bail, sentencing and parole;
- The right to no unnecessary intrusion into your privacy;
- The right to ask for compensation, from both the offender, if convicted and the State, if eligible.

More information on victims' rights is available, see www.voc.sa.gov.au or ask the police for a copy of *Information for Victims of Crime*.

Section 4

Help Seeking Behaviour and Preventing Young People's Victimisation

Help Seeking Behaviour

This section looks at young people and how they can get help after a crime has occurred. It is envisaged that by helping young people to think about and identify people they could trust and places they could go to this could help ensure that if they become a victim of crime, they would be better equipped to feel more comfortable to report crime and seek appropriate help.

This section seeks to assist young people to:

- Identify their own support network
- Identify support services that are available to young victims of crime
- Identify what a young victim can expect from the available services

Peer Training

This section will provide a variety of interactive exercises which are suitable to be used in a peer training situation to assist young people to identify helpful people that they would feel comfortable talking to in the event of crime happening to them as well as identify suitable places of support that they could access if they had the need.

The variety of interactive resources provided here are suitable to be also used with a peer educator. It is suggested that the peer educator receive some appropriate training in how to facilitate group learning prior to leading a group in the following areas:

- Facilitating group learning effectively
- Encourage full participation of the group they are facilitating
- Understand their responsibilities regarding disclosure and support should reportable crime be disclosed during the discussions [the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People can offer a guide to good practice at www.gcyp.sa.gov.au]
- Using the time available to the fullest advantage
- Re-cap and emphasize important points made by the group

The following activities are designed to be used in a peer training situation for young people of varying ages. It is envisaged that the activities will assist the young people to think about whom they know who could be a valuable support to them in a time following a crime, identify agencies that could help them and think about what these agencies could do to support a young person.

Exercises for Peer Training in Help Seeking Behaviour

Time

60 minutes

Leadership

1 leader for each group of 8-10 young people.

It is important that a peer educator be given training in facilitating small groups prior to leading a group of young people in these exercises.

To do

Ensure there is a whiteboard and pens or similar to write on

Photocopy worksheets for young people

Prepare blank sheets of butcher's paper with pens for group exercises

Resources

Whiteboard and pens/ board and chalk

Butchers' paper and pens

Overhead projector, transparency sheet and pens if desired

Young people's worksheets

Main points

Young people will be able to:

- Identify people in their own lives who could support them if they became a victim of crime
- Think about support agencies that are available to them
- Consider what these agencies could do for them

Introduction

The session can begin by talking generally about each of us needing support particularly in times of trouble, then present some scenarios asking the young people to think **who they would go to** if that situation happened to them. The next exercise asks the group to consider **how they could help a friend** who was in a difficult situation. The focus then turns to **support agencies** that would be suitable for a young person to use and **what could be expected** from such agencies.

Introduce the idea that we all need someone to support us especially in times of trouble. Discuss with the whole group who we often turn to when we need help.

Suggestions could be:

- A parent/guardian
- Teacher
- School counsellor
- Friend/mate
- Relative
- Brother /sister etc.

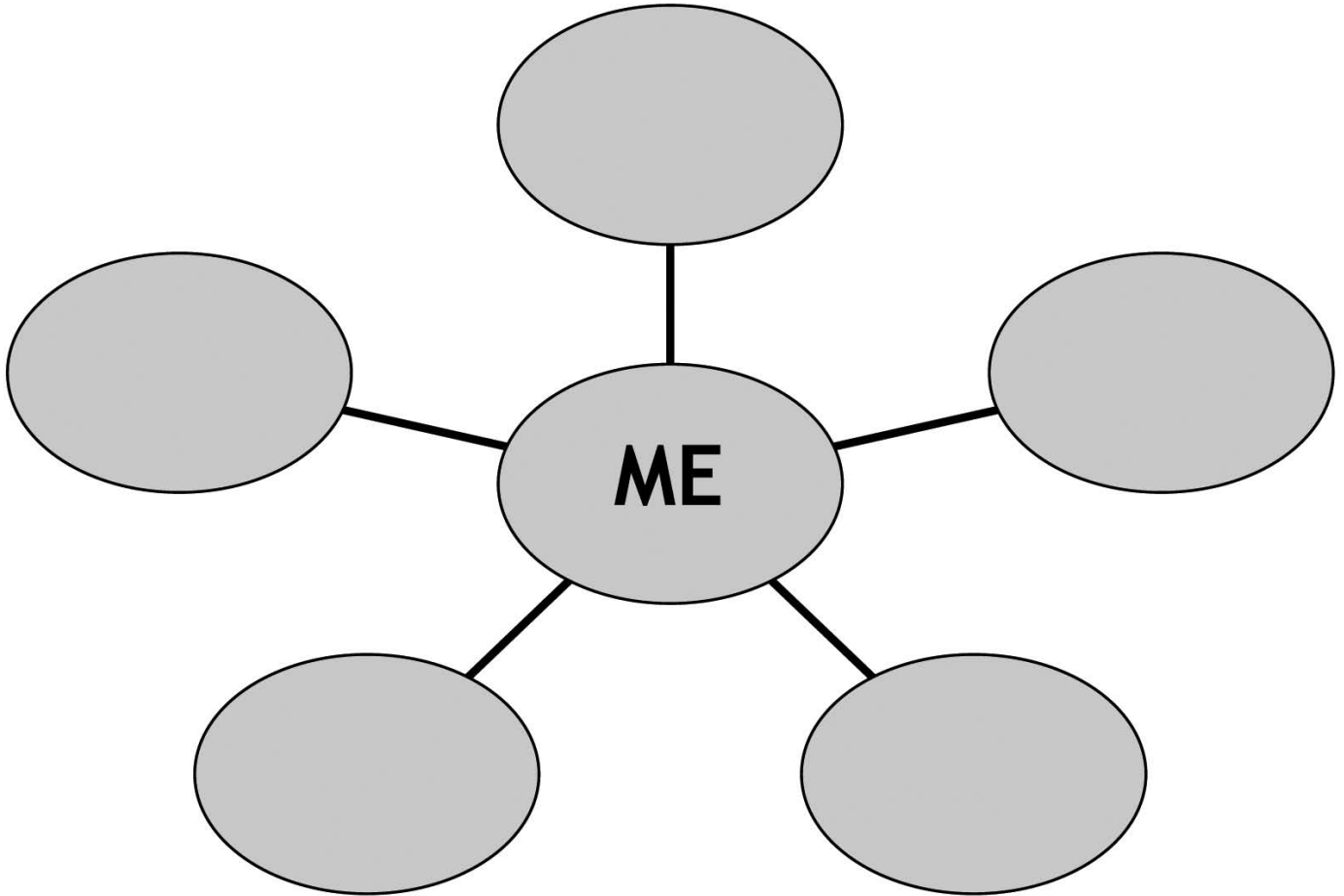
Worksheets

Exercise 1

Ask young people to create their own map of people they trust to help them in a difficult time.

Tell the young people these people need to be people you feel comfortable to talk to, people you trust and people you think will be able and willing to help you in a difficult situation like a crime.

In each circle put the name of someone you think you can trust to help you. [This could be a parent or guardian, a teacher, a neighbour, a relative, a friend, a school counsellor etc.]



At the conclusion the group could talk about whom they nominated on their map and why so that all young people have the opportunity to consider different avenues of support that could be available to them if the need arose.

Exercise 2

In these exercises the young people can work in groups of 4-6 to think about who they could tell and how they could help a friend in these situations.

i. Think about yourself and the people you know who could **help you** if you were in trouble. [do this exercise individually]

Who would you tell if :

Situation	Who I would tell
A: You saw a group of young guys attack another young guy in the mall. The young guy has been badly injured and police are asking for any witnesses to come forward. You think you know who some of the attackers were but you don't really want to get involved.	
B: Some girls snatched your mobile while you were outside a club. You really want your phone back because you need it - and the phone company keeps sending you bills anyway.	

ii. How would you help your mate/friend if:

Situation	How I would help
C: A group of guys on the train to the city beat up your friend and stole his wallet and cards. He doesn't want to tell his parents because he was supposed to be at home.	
D: Your friend started flirting with a guy at a party and he started coming on too strong. She told him to stop but he wouldn't and continued to sexually assault her. Now she's really upset all the time.	

Discuss with participants:

How would you respond to the situation?

How would you help in this situation?

Think about who you would call if you needed help?

Exercise 3

As a group the young people could discuss agencies in South Australia that can help young people if you are the victim of a crime.

Can you think of some names of agencies you could either talk to or go to if a crime happened to you or your friend? As a group discuss the names of agencies known to you. Think about if you or your friend was a victim of a robbery, assault, sexual assault for example. [The names of agencies could be recorded on the whiteboard]

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Can you think who you could ring or go and see in these situations?

Situation	Who to go/talk to
A: You were shopping at the market. Someone brushed up against you. When you went to buy a CD you found your money was missing	
B: Some guys have threatened you to hand over your mobile phone- you've got away from them but are worried they'll come after you	
C: You get home around 4pm to find the front door just a bit open. You peek inside and it looks like someone's turned the place upside down	
D: Your friend has told you she's scared of her stepfather- he's getting increasingly drunk and violent	

The answers can then be discussed with the whole group and any further information added to lists.

Exercise 4

Think about the agencies that you identified above. Write down the agencies in this table and then say what you would expect them to be able to do for you?

In groups of about 4 people write down on a sheet of butcher's paper what you would expect of the support agencies. E.g. understanding, support, privacy, medical help etc.

Agency	What they could do for me

Answers- Possible answers that the group might give

Exercise 3- the groups might mention:

Police, Police Assistance Line, security agency, parents, friends, Kid's Helpline, hospital etc.

Exercise 4- the group might mention:

Referral, financial assistance, advice on options, information, counseling, help, medical help, support, understanding, information on how you might feel as a victim, assistance in writing a statement, referral to a Victim's Liaison Police Officer.

The whole group could then come together to talk about what agencies could do for a young person. The ability of some agencies to allow anonymous reporting or confidentiality of services could be highlighted.

As well, the rights of victims to be listened to, respected and supported should be acknowledged.

At the conclusion of the exercise the young people could be given a list of support agencies identified in this document, their contact details together with information on what the agencies can do for a young victim of crime.

Exercises for Peer Training in Crime Prevention

Introduction

This section will provide a variety of interactive exercises which are suitable to be used in a peer training situation. These resources will help young people to better understand the picture of crime and young people in South Australia, give consideration to reporting crime and help them to develop some skills in dealing with difficult situations.

It will assist young people to:

- Develop a clearer picture of young people and crime in South Australia
- Develop skills in peer refusal
- Consider what to do in a difficult situation
- Think about how to best protect themselves from victimisation

In this section young people with the help of a peer tutor will consider:

- How to identify a safe place in their neighbourhood
- Think about keeping themselves safe
- What to do in a crime situation
- Reporting a crime

Preventing Crime Exercises

Time

60 minutes

Leadership

1 leader for each group of 8-10 young people.

To do

Ensure there is a whiteboard and pens or similar to write on

Photocopy worksheets for young people

Prepare butcher's paper for groups to use

Resources

Whiteboard and pens/ board and chalk

Butchers' paper and pens

Overhead projector, transparency sheet and pens if desired

Young people's worksheets

Main points

The following main points should be highlighted.

- What is the real picture of crime and young people in South Australia
- Where is my neighbourhood safe
- What can be done to help a victim of crime
- Safe behaviour
- Reporting crime

Worksheets

Exercise 1

It may be useful to begin with a quiz to allow all the participants to get to know each other and relax enough to participate in the activities ahead.

The quiz also serves the purpose of highlighting the real situation for young people and victimisation in South Australia. This in itself may stimulate young people to become more directed to reporting crime.

In pairs see if you think these statements are true or false

QUIZ

1. 56% of all assault victims in 2006 were male	T/F
2. In South Australia you can't report crime anonymously	T/F
3. Victims of robbery have a nine times greater chance of being victims again than someone who has not been the victim of a robbery	T/F
4. 70% of the victims of homicide are female	T/F
5. Of all victims of robbery aged 15-19, 50% were male	T/F
6. One in three people have experienced physical violence in a personal relationship	T/F
7. Young people are 50% less likely to report crime than older people	T/F
8. Of the reported victims of sexual assault 45% were 10-19 years	T/F

Answers

1. 56% of all assault victims in 2006 were male	T
2. In South Australia you can't report crime anonymously	F (You can report crime anonymously)
3. Victims of robbery have a nine times greater chance of being victims again than someone who has not been the victim of a robbery	T
4. 70% of the victims of homicide are female	F (Males are 78% of the victims of homicide)
5. Of all victims of robbery aged 15-19, 50% were male	F (84% were male)
6. One in three young people have experienced physical violence in a personal relationship	T
7. Young people are 50% less likely to report crime than older people	T
8. Of the reported victims of sexual assault 45% were 10-19 years	T

The following scenarios have been developed to help young people to think about possible crime situations and identify what they could/would/should do in such a situation. It is envisaged that the importance of reporting crime and methods of keeping themselves safe are the positive outcomes.

Exercise 2

Activity

Safe public places in your neighbourhood

a. In groups of four think about where you feel safe and unsafe around your neighbourhood.

Write down where you feel safe

Write down where you feel unsafe

Then try to think why it is you feel safe/unsafe in these places

Then consider how to make unsafe places more safe for young people

Safe public places in my neighbourhood	Unsafe public places in my neighbourhood

b. Why do you think you feel safe or unsafe in these places?

Why you feel safe	Why you don't feel safe

c. What are some ways you/ your local council could make places safer??

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Answers- The group might mention
a. Poorly lit parks, outside clubs, dark car parks, alleyways etc
b. No-one around, dark so you can't see, too many intoxicated people, drug dealers hang around there
c. Improve lighting, prevent public access to dark areas, increase patrols etc.

Exercise 3

Reporting crime

The group as a whole can discuss reporting of crime. Does anyone in the group know someone who has reported a crime? Would you report a crime? Why/why not?

Think about reporting -what the benefits or any problems are in reporting for:

- the victim
- the family
- the offender
- the community
- the police
- support agencies

What are the good things about reporting a crime?	What could be some problems in reporting a crime?

Answers- the group might mention-

What are the good things about reporting a crime?	What could be some problems in reporting a crime?
The victim will feel safer The victim can get even with the offender The offender understands their action is unacceptable The offender may get help with their problems The community can become a safer place Police get valuable information on what's going on Support agencies know who needs help	Retribution by the offender Involvement in a court case Lack of on-going support from family/friends after reporting Police not taking you seriously Police not acting correctly Individuals or agencies not acting in the best interests of victims

Activity Scenarios

In groups of 4, young people can have 5 minutes to consider the issue presented on their sheet. There are 4 sheets with different scenarios to be considered. Each group is given one scenario to think about. Then groups can report back to the whole group on what the opinions raised in their groups were.

Each group's task is to consider:

- What the problem is
- The best way to deal with the problem
- Any difficulties that may arise
- Ways this problem could be dealt with
- Benefits for the individual in reporting
- Any problems for the individual in reporting

Sheet 1

You are walking home one afternoon from your friend's place and you witness a car accident in your neighbourhood. It was really frightening and happened really quickly. A kid got hit while crossing the road and the car just sped off but you think you can remember the type of car it was. The kid seems OK but a bit shaken up. The driver of the car looked like a pretty tough character and you're concerned he might have seen you. You feel too scared to report it and just want the whole thing to go away.

What is the problem?	
What's the best way to deal with the problem?	
Any difficulties that could arise	
Benefits of reporting	
Any problems with reporting	

Sheet 2

Tom and Marie are walking home from the movies on Saturday night. Suddenly 3 young guys appear from around the corner. They demand Tom hand over his wallet. They start threatening him. Maria decides she has to help Tom who's now surrounded by the 3 guys. She starts hitting Tom's attackers herself and shouting at them to 'back off'.

What is the problem?	
What's the best way to deal with the problem?	
Any difficulties that could arise	
Benefits of reporting	
Any problems with reporting	

Sheet 3

Em and her friend are going to meet at Jo's place then go into the city to catch a movie. At the last minute, her friend pulls out because her boyfriend wants to come over. Em decides to go it alone to her friend Jo's place but now she's a bit late. The quickest way to Jo's place is across a poorly lit park. She notices some young guys hanging around the car park on the far side of the park. A fight starts between the guys over a small package - the fight looks pretty bad. But Em's in a hurry now so she decides to continue to head off across the park to Jo's place.

What is the problem?	
What's the best way to deal with the problem?	
Any difficulties that could arise	
Benefits of reporting	
Any problems with reporting	

Sheet 4

Vinh and Tony have been friends for years. Both have now left school and Vinh has got a job at the local supermarket stacking shelves but Tony doesn't seem to want to work. Tony invites Vinh over to his place when his parents are out. When Vinh gets there Tony is acting weird and the other blokes that are there don't look too good either. Tony says 'hey man, you should try this stuff' handing Vinh a tablet of some sort. Vinh doesn't want to take the risk of taking whatever the tablet is. He tries to say no, but Tony's harassing him and calling him names so eventually he takes a tablet.

All the guys then decide to go out to the local pub. After a couple of beers a fight starts out between Tony and another guy at the bar. Tony ends up flattening the guy and then walking out of the pub. The guy looks pretty bad and Vinh hears someone saying 'call the cops' as they are leaving.

What is the problem?	
What's the best way to deal with the problem?	
Any difficulties that could arise	
Benefits of reporting	
Any problems with reporting	

At the conclusion each group can present their thoughts to the whole group and the facilitator may highlight the key points.

Endnotes

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Notes



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