

# **Criminal Justice Review examines special victim populations**

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A special issue of *Criminal Justice Review* focuses on the victimization of specialized populations, including youth involved in prostitution, youth living in foster care, LGBTQ students in middle and high school, female college students, and victims of continuous child sexual abuse, and examines the delivery of services and the development of policy to address these groups. Lisa Muftić, an associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University, served as a guest editor.

"Despite the established importance of identifying and studying special populations as they relate to the criminal justice system, less attention has been directed at crime victims and how diversity potentially impacts the delivery of victim-centered programming and the development of policy," Muftić said.

Muftić and Ph.D. Graduate Sarah Zedaker co-authored "A Safe Place to Go? A Descriptive Study of Safety Strategies Among College Female Students" for the issue. The article explored safety planning among female students and found that while most students surveyed could identify a safe haven if they faced sexual or domestic violence on campus, several factors influenced that decision. In addition, female students with low levels of social support and those exposed to parental violence were less likely to report having a safe place to go.

"Youth Involved in Prostitution (YIP): Exploring Possible Changes in the Interaction with Police and Social Service Agencies," by Jennifer

McMahon-Howard of Kennesaw State University, examines how the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 affects the way police and social service agencies treat youth involved in prostitution. That act, which changed the view of youth involved in prostitution from juvenile delinquents to sex trafficking victims, has done little to change police involvement with these youth or increase services to the population, the study found.

"LGBTQ Student Victimization and Its Relationship to School Discipline and Justice System Involvement," by Neal A. Palmer of CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance and Emily A. Greytak of GLSEN of New York, looks at the relationship among the victimization of the LGBTQ youth in schools, school discipline, and the [criminal justice](#) system. These youth experienced more disciplinary actions, such as detention, suspension and expulsion as well as greater justice involvement, such as arrest, adjudication, and detention at adult and youth facilities, according to the article.

"Polyvictimization Experiences and Depression Among Youth Living in Foster Care," by Aimée X. Delaney of Worcester State University and Melissa Wells of the University of New Hampshire, explored depression in youth who not only experienced child maltreatment, but also other victimization while living in [foster care](#). In a self-reported study of youth living in foster care, depression decreased over time for those who had experienced only the initial child maltreatment, except among white males. For youth who faced continued victimization in foster care, depression levels increased, especially among [youth](#) of color, the study found.

"Continuous Child Sexual Abuse: Balancing Defendant's Rights and Victim's Capabilities to Particularize Individual Acts of Repeated Abuse" by Dayna M. Woiwod and Deborah A. Connolly of Simon Fraser University, compared statutes in the United States and Australia

in cases of repeated abuse. The study examines research on children memory patterns and how it can be used to balance victims' and defendants' rights in these cases.

**More information:** The "Victimization of Special Populations" is available from Criminal Justice Review at [journals.sagepub.com/toc/cjra/42/2](https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/cjra/42/2)

Provided by Sam Houston State University

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