

Mental Illnesses and/or Developmental Disabilities

Training & Technical Assistance Outline



Abstract

While exact numbers may be hard to authenticate, many research studies over the years have concluded that individuals with mental illnesses and/or disabilities experience crime victimization at much higher rates than the general population. A 2011 Bureau of Justice Statistics study showed that violent victimization among individuals with disabilities aged 16-19 was nearly four times higher than their counterparts without disabilities. Even so, little research and literature exists on what considerations need to be taken into account when assisting victims of crime with disabilities and/or mental illnesses. This training will cover many aspects of victimization against individuals with mental illnesses and/or disabilities, including the prevalence of victimization, barriers to receiving services, and crisis intervention teams among other topics.





Learning Objectives

- Understanding the definition of mental illness, including serious mental illness, and disability, as well as various mental illness and disability diagnoses
- Recognizing the prevalence of crime victimization against individuals who have mental illnesses and/or disabilities as opposed to the general population, and the reasoning behind the disparity
- Identifying barriers that victims of crime with disabilities may face in attempting to receive services, and the reasoning behind why these barriers tend to exist.
- Analyzing different methods and considerations that should be taken into account when assisting and interacting with victims of crime who have a disability, including what to do in the first response and follow-up services
- Distinguishing the benefits of crisis intervention teams (CITs), when they should be used, and what their drawbacks can be
- Recognizing the relationship between crime victimization and post-traumatic stress disorder and considerations to take into account when working with crime victims.

Methodology

The principles on which this training is centered on were developed by assessing various training tools and resources that focus on various aspects of victimization of individuals with mental illnesses and/or disabilities, including research conducted by the Office for Victims of Crime and the Vera Institute of Justice. This training will cover these principles using topics and videos to present the material in an engaging format. This training is designed to be presented as a whole or in parts as deemed most relevant to the site it is being provided to, and can be presented in person or in an electronic format via webinar or other available methods.

Agenda

- Defining Mental Illness (MI) and Disability
 - Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Victimization Risk for Individuals with Disabilities
 - Crime Victimization and Mental Illnesses
 - Barriers to Receiving Services
 - Responding to Victims with Serious Mental Illness (SMIs) and/or a Disability
 - Crisis Intervention Teams
 - Resources
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