Dissecting the Dark Figure of Dis/ablist Violence: An Intersectional Examination of Reporting Behavior

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Background

- 27% of adults in the United States have a dis/ability.¹
- Individuals with dis/abilities are 4x more likely to be violently victimized and are less likely to report these incidents to the police (38%) compared to non-dis/abled individuals (45%).
- Deeper examinations reveal people with dis/abilities experience unique circumstances that increase opportunities for victimization and make reporting incidents more difficult.²
- Similarly, ample literature demonstrates racial/ethnic minorities and females are at heightened risk of violent victimization and underreporting.
- An intersectional framework shows these circumstances may overlap depending on dis/ability type, race/ethnicity, and gender.

Data and Methods

- Data analyzed draws from the National Crime Victimization Survey from 2017 to 2020 (N=8,117).
- Logistic regressions were employed to understand reporting behavior across intersections of dis/ability, race/ethnicity, and gender.
- Supplemental analyses were examined to understand the reasons for not reporting.

Conclusions & Future Research

- Black individuals with cognitive dis/abilities cited issues with police legitimacy as their most salient reason for not reporting.
- Other or mixed females with cognitive dis/abilities noted administrative and structural barriers as a more important reason for not reporting among those with cognitive dis/abilities.
- This analysis demonstrates dis/abled individuals with intersecting identities have differential experiences with victimization and utilizing the criminal justice system across types.
- Future criminal justice and criminology research should continue to develop more comprehensive measures of dis/ability and recognize its heterogeneity and intersectionality.

Results

- **H1 Supported**: Black individuals with cognitive dis/abilities were 0.24 times as likely to report their violent victimization to the police as compared to White individuals with physical dis/abilities (p=0.001).
- **H2 Supported**: Other or mixed racial/ethnic females with cognitive dis/abilities were 0.04 times as likely to report their violent victimization to the police as compared to White males with physical dis/abilities (p=0.001).

### References