Criminal Justice and the Elderly
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE ELDERLY

A Selected Bibliography

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INTRODUCTION

The criminal victimization of our elderly citizens has attracted considerable attention in recent years. Contrary to common perception, the actual incidence of crime against persons over 65 is not higher than other age groups. However, the impact of crime against the elderly is far greater than these victimization studies reveal. Because of their physical frailties and limited incomes, crime against the elderly and fear of such crime can have a devastating effect.

This bibliography has been developed as a revised version of an earlier NCJRS Selected Bibliography, Crime Against the Elderly. The current volume has a broader scope than documenting the crimes experienced by senior citizens and community crime prevention techniques. In this bibliography, the elderly are portrayed both as vulnerable to crime and as active participants in the criminal justice system.

The citations are presented in seven sections:

Overview. The documents in this section describe the vulnerability of the elderly to crime and social problems and the general nature of crimes against the elderly.

Impact of Crime on the Elderly. Studies of the fear of crime and resultant psychological damage and changes in the living patterns of many senior citizens are presented in this section.

Victimization of the Elderly. These documents describe the patterns and rates of crimes against the elderly in many areas of the United States.

Consumer Fraud. Although most of the documents in this bibliography concern robbery, theft, and violent crime, the elderly are also victims of consumer fraud schemes, many of which have been designed to prey upon the elderly.

Victim Assistance and Restitution. Elderly victims are often reluctant to report crimes or testify against their assailants. A number of programs have been designed to provide emotional and financial assistance to elderly victims.

Community Programs for the Elderly. The special needs of the elderly have been recognized by the criminal justice system in many communities. The programs described in this section are primarily crime prevention programs, but several social service programs are also included.
Involvement of the Elderly. The image of the elderly is changing. The materials in this section describe how the elderly can deter crime as well as serve the criminal justice system in a variety of ways.

This bibliography has been compiled as a reference for criminal justice professionals, community service agencies, and all who are concerned about criminal justice and the elderly. The program descriptions may provide models for comparable efforts in additional locales, and the examples of the changing role of the elderly can inspire even greater efforts to help this group help itself. As active participants in the criminal justice system, the elderly are an important resource.

All of the materials cited in this bibliography are selected from the data base of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Information about how to obtain the documents may be found on page ix.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Several individuals of the Crime Prevention Section of the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons have made significant contributions to this bibliography. We would especially like to thank Mr. Charles Schafer, Mrs. Lee Pearson, and Mr. George Sunderland for their time and advice.
HOW TO OBTAIN THESE DOCUMENTS

All of the documents in this bibliography are included in the collection of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. The NCJRS Reading Room (Suite 211, 1015 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All of the documents cited are also available in at least one of the following three ways:

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OVERVIEW

A review is presented of the most common types of crimes committed against the elderly, including purse-snatching, robbery, burglary, and confidence games which defraud the elderly of their life savings. The author calls for a concerted effort on the part of community organizations and law enforcement agencies to educate the elderly population on methods of crime prevention.


The causes, incidence, and effects of crimes committed against the elderly are examined and suggestions for decreasing the frequency of victimization are set forth. The chapter is divided into two sections—violent crimes and fraud. Each section contains case studies illustrating points in the accompanying narratives which describe existing social conditions, attitudes, and laws which often lead to victimization of the elderly. Among the suggested reforms are emergency shelter for elderly crime victims, 24-hour social services, victim compensation, improved street lighting, self-defense training, expansion of direct banking of pension and social security checks, home security improvement, community escort service, and consumer law reforms. Recommendations for police include training in the sociology of law, liaison between police and social services, training of youth "courtesy" patrols and use of reserves in high crime areas, special policing in areas with large elderly populations, and special police emergency numbers.


Federal efforts on behalf of the elderly are discussed, with attention to crime prevention and fear of crime reduction programs at the neighborhood level and a coordinated national program and research effort. The National Program on Criminal Justice and the Elderly (PCJE), part of the National Council of Senior Citizens in Washington, D.C., is designed to test ways to curtail the victimization of the elderly and to improve society's response after a crime has occurred. At the local level PCJE coordinates seven demonstration projects in six major cities—Chicago, New York, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, and Washington, D.C.—all of which are implementing strategies to reduce the rate and impact of crimes against the elderly. Six of the projects center around neighborhoods which have high crime rates and high concentrations of senior citizens,
while the Chicago program is citywide. The projects in New York, New Orleans, and Milwaukee are sponsored by local community action agencies with Federal funding from the Community Services Administration. The other four projects are supported by the Administration on Aging. The projects have four common objectives: (1) to reduce crime opportunities and the fear of crime among the elderly; (2) to provide immediate postcrime assistance for elderly victims; (3) to strengthen neighborhood capacity to protect its older citizens; and (4) to help develop public and private resources to serve the elderly and prevent victimization. All the programs provide victim assistance services and offer crime prevention education, and most have also been sponsoring residential security surveys and providing advocacy for public policy changes which will reflect the seriousness of the problem of crime against the elderly. At the national level, the neighborhood programs are coordinated and assisted by the PCJE, whose evaluation, research, and information dissemination efforts are supported by the LEAA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Community Services Administration, and the Administration on Aging. The evaluation effort is intended to measure the impact of the programs with respect to each of the four common goals, while national research is attempting to fill existing information gaps with a multijurisdictional assessment of the treatment of elderly victims. The Information Resource Center is intended to provide data on programs and research, as well as training materials, lists of resource persons, project directories, and bibliographies. Photos illustrate the text.


This collection of articles reviews theoretical and empirical work on the victim and his role, the criminal-victim relationship, and the concepts of provocative behaviors, crime motives, and responsibility for criminal actions. Part 1 consists of four articles which examine the origin and scope of victimology as a specialized concern within criminology. This material provides a review and summary of the works of pioneers in the field and a discussion of the dissemination of the concept of victimology in various countries. The six articles in Part 2 discuss the relationship between the offender and the victim, including victim typologies. Part 3 calls attention to the fact that the concept of victimization should not be limited to select types of interpersonal relationships. A broader definition of who the oppressors are and who the victims are may be necessary. The five articles in Part 4 comment on several problems facing society and the parties involved in victimization from the point of view of the criminal justice system. The legal requirement of corroboration in sexual assault and jury reaction to victim and offender personality are considered. The final part con-
sists of five readings dealing with the theme of victim compensation and treatment by the state. Each section is followed by an international bibliography.


The definition, extent, and causes of vulnerability of the elderly to crime are discussed, and literature and studies considering elderly victimization are reviewed. Vulnerability refers to the state or property of being open to attack or damage and suggests three types of targets: personal, financial, and material. It can exist in a passive mode, whereby a victim's status (e.g., age, sex, or income) is recognized as exploitable, or an active mode, whereby a victim's behavior, (e.g., demure, seductive, aggressive, antagonistic) contributes to a crime. A 1971 study on the socioenvironmental theory of aging suggested that the aged person who is healthy, wealthy, and mobile blends in with society, whereas the aged person who is poor and unhealthy will be more visible and therefore more vulnerable. However, the assumption that visibility contributes to victimization is unsubstantiated. The lifestyle of most elderly persons is usually unobtrusive and therefore reduces the chance of victimization. Their actual vulnerability becomes apparent only when the elderly leave their isolation and personal encounters take place.

The 1970 District of Columbia demonstration study, Project Assist, examined the extent of victimization among the aged and developed a model for a program of police-community relations to benefit the elderly. The project served 220 clients. It was found that victims were most often female, black, poor, and widowed or single. Many had multiple social problems including physical or mental impairment. More research needs to be done in the area of differential vulnerability of the aged. This report originally was presented to the National Conference on Crime Against the Elderly in Washington, D.C. A list of references is provided.


Characteristics of crimes against the elderly, the patterns of such criminal victimization, programs to assist elderly victims of crime, and specific public policy questions are discussed. Low resistance to victimization, better opportunity for escape, and accessibility to older people using public transportation and living in low-income neighborhoods are some of the physical and social characteristics of the elderly that make them attractive targets for certain crimes. Consciousness of this vulnerability causes many older persons to
restrict their activities and thus limit their participation in the community activities they might otherwise enjoy. Information on the rate of criminal victimization of older persons is insufficient, with existing data being partial and often not comparable. While current literature in the field reflects a clear consensus that, with the exception of certain types of robbery and fraud, older persons are less likely to be victims of crime than younger persons, a comprehensive research study of crime against the elderly in Multnomah County, Oregon, in 1975-1976, showed that in certain crime categories older persons were disproportionately victimized. Among 500 respondents over 60 years of age, there was a victimization rate of 58 percent, and more than one-third of the sample had been victimized more than once. The greatest percentage (63 percent) of reported victimizations were property crimes. Emphasis on the plight of the elderly has led to the establishment of a number of programs designed to reduce their victimization. These programs include crime prevention education, utilization of older volunteers to assist police in helping prevent crimes, target hardening, security strategies, community support, victim services, delivery of non-crime-related services, specialized police training, and research. Program evaluations, more effective gathering of victimization data, and priorities regarding the funneling of resources to the elderly are cited as future policy considerations. Footnotes are included.


Jack Goldsmith, chairman of the 1976 Conference on Crime Against the Elderly, discusses elderly victimization and police and community responses. A question-answer format is used to discuss the causes and extent of elderly victimization, types of crimes committed against the elderly, and police and community efforts to control such crime. Since elderly people are physically and economically vulnerable and often live alone in high-crime neighborhoods, they are likely crime victims. Burglary is the most prevalent crime encountered by the elderly, followed by robbery, grand larceny, auto theft, and non-violent purse-snatching. Separate data on crimes against the elderly have only recently begun to be collected. A 3-year study of robbery in Oakland, California, for instance, reported that the probability of any individual in the city being victimized within a year was 1 in 146 for the general population, but 1 in 24 for women over 65. These findings are in line with results of five urban victimization studies by LEAA. Experimental programs to control crime against the elderly are underway in many parts of the country. In Hartford, Connecticut, a teenage escort service was developed in cooperation with the police department, and the New York City Housing Authority has initiated a tenant patrol. The 1971 White House Conference on Aging recommended that police protection of the elderly
be given top priority and that standards for physical and environmental security be developed for housing projects serving the elderly.


This collection is composed of 16 selected papers presented at the National Conference on Crime Against the Elderly, held June 5-7, 1975, in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the American University College of Public Affairs under a grant from the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the conference was the first national forum to address the problem of criminal victimization of older persons. It was designed to bring together concerned practitioners and scholars in the areas of aging services and criminal justice to share information and discuss the problem of crime against the aging and approaches to reduce the criminal victimization of the aging. The selections illustrate several dimensions of the problem—patterns of victimization, the plight of the older victim, and the response to the problem. Although the various authors have differing approaches and major concerns, the underlying theme remains consistent: that crime and fear of crime dramatically and often tragically affect the quality of life for millions of older Americans. An index is included.


Crime problems which are particular to the elderly are outlined, highlighting the need for greater public and private efforts to reduce victimization of the aging and to restore justice to aged victims of crime. Progress in dealing successfully with the problem of crime against the aged generally has been slow and sporadic. Difficulties have been encountered in defining the extent of the crime problem for the elderly due to inadequate statistics and victim underreporting. However, a LEAA victimization study showed that the rate of personal larceny with contact (including purse-snatching) was higher for victims over 50 in 10 of the 13 cities studied. Such specific problems of the elderly as increased susceptibility to crime, risks of physical injury from crime, and the tremendous impact of crime in terms of financial loss and fear of crime are outlined. The authors discuss the need for greater law enforcement sensitivity to the crime-related problems of older Americans. Various programs which have proven effective in aiding the elderly are noted. The authors conclude that the highest priority should be given at all levels to encourage programs to reduce the elderly's burden of crime.
An overview of the extent and character of crime against the elderly and the effectiveness of various private agency programs to reduce such crime is given; data were collected in high-crime areas of New York City. In 1975, when the New York City police began to keep figures on crime against the elderly, persons over age 60 comprised 17.6 percent of the total population and constituted 8 percent of all crime victims, but accounted for 19 percent of victims of robbery and grand larceny in which force was used. Crimes against the elderly most frequently occur on the street or in public areas of buildings, but the most serious crimes take place within an apartment. Most common serious crimes were pocketbook robberies, purse-snatchings, open-area robberies, residential robberies, and dwelling robberies. In New York, crimes against the elderly reported to the police average 1,000-1,200 a month; however, a study by the Bureau of the Census indicates that only about 40 percent of crimes in New York are reported. The average criminal who preys on the elderly is 18.5 years of age, with the modal age about 16 and an upper age in the 20's. Suspects who victimize women are somewhat younger than those who victimize men. Crime prevention programs surveyed included personal escort and transportation services, crime security systems for the home, "buddy buzzer" systems, CB radios, telephone alerts, mail deposit of funds, education programs, tenant and home owner patrols, relocation programs, and victim assistance programs. The most cost-effective programs seem to be the experimental "buddy buzzer" system, which links elderly persons to their neighbors; a telephone for each elderly person; and home-security devices. Education programs also seem to be quite effective. Relocation assistance from high-crime areas has potential. Even greater potential is seen for relocating within the neighborhood, out of buildings with vacant apartments and poor lighting into well-lit, more heavily traveled areas. Victim assistance should include not only financial aid but also aid in replacing lost documents. The first step should be a booklet listing names and addresses of agencies to contact for new Medicaid cards. Direct assistance in replacing lost documents would be a valid project for a community service agency. Witness assistance programs aid the elderly as well as other victims of crime. Transportation programs and escort services have many other values in addition to reducing vulnerability, but it is unlikely that these services can be offered widely enough to have an impact on crime against the elderly.
(NCJ 35118)

The impact, the causes of victimization, and possible methods of preventing crimes against the elderly are reviewed. The impact of fear of crime and actual victimizations are discussed with respect to the lifestyle, health, self-concept, and mental stability of the elderly. The elderly, who are prone to victimization because of their limited mobility, decreasing physical ability, and loneliness, have a high risk of victimization for such crimes as robbery, purse-snatching, and fraud. While the aging are often victims of street crime, they may also be victimized by family, friends, health care personnel, or unscrupulous attorneys. The author urges that crime against the elderly be given special attention, and describes the response of several agencies to this problem. Finally, possible crime prevention methods are outlined, including provision of social services to the elderly, public education on crime prevention for the elderly, improvement of public transportation, and special treatment of the elderly by the criminal justice system.

(NCJ 40072)

This book presents an overview of the crisis situation involving crime against the elderly and discusses the implications of this special type of victimization for the criminal justice system. Four major elements of crime against the aging are discussed—the widespread, intense fear of being criminally victimized; the physical, emotional, and financial effects of crime against the elderly; the special vulnerability to criminal victimization of our elderly citizens; and the high incidence of certain types of crime, such as "con games" and consumer fraud, especially in certain geographical areas and under specific circumstances. It is suggested that the criminal justice system recognize crime committed against elderly victims as a "special category" and address it with the intensity and specialized methodologies that crime in other special categories receives. Proposals for effectively dealing with crime against the elderly include the use of senior citizen volunteers in the criminal justice system, compensation for senior citizen crime victims, and mandatory minimum sentences for those committing offenses against the elderly. A 4-page bibliography and an index are provided.
The executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) discusses crime and the elderly, including how the police and the elderly can work together to combat crime. The IACP director, Glen King, says that the elderly call on the police more frequently than other groups and that they are vulnerable to almost all crime, but especially to swindle and fraud. Fear of crime causes them to become prisoners in their own homes. Most modern police training includes attention to the problems of the elderly, and most police departments have special programs to combat crimes against the elderly. Senior citizens can be educated to identify dangers and take precautionary measures; they themselves can give direct assistance to the police. The most effective programs are those that are part of normal, routine police activities. By joining with the rest of the voting public in demanding vigorous law enforcement and prosecution of criminals, the elderly can help themselves. Direct mail deposit of social security checks has reduced the incidence of mailbox theft. Information on other such successful programs is being disseminated through IACP. Although the incidence of crime against the elderly is greatest in urban areas where the young and old live in proximity, segregation of the old is not a realistic or desired solution. The enactment of State and Federal legislation to compensate crime victims is advocated.

The debate concerning the categorical versus the generic approach to the development, delivery, and evaluation of services and programs is examined in the context of the needs of older Americans. The issue, raised in legislatures and in government agencies, is whether the aged should be singled out for special attention or regarded only as a segment of a larger group and thus forced to compete for attention, programs, and funds. This conflict is at the heart of the policy initiation process. Under the generic approach, policymakers can refer to general data. Under the categorical approach, whereby legislation and programs are tailored exclusively for older adults, the data base must be absolutely accurate and focused. Otherwise the well-being of the user population may be adversely affected. Legislation affecting the elderly has been neither wholly categorical nor wholly generic in approach. The continual shifting between the two approaches has resulted in chaos within the public policy process. The generic approach assumes the power equality of competing forces, an equality that does not in fact exist. Hence the continuation of categorical programs is advocated. Specific age-related programs
that have failed or are failing to address the needs of older Americans in the areas of health care, housing, and income maintenance are cited, and reasons behind the failures are noted. The failures exemplify the problems that result from using inaccurate data in the initial stages of the policy process. The field of crime and the elderly is in danger of encountering such problems if it continues to promote protective programs emphasizing locks, bars, isolation, and loneliness. The view that the elderly are the group most victimized by crime is not supported by statistics.


Sociological profiles of elderly persons in eight urban high-crime neighborhoods are presented, and crime conditions, crime protection measures, and awareness of crime prevention and assistance programs are examined. The study population consisted of persons, aged 60 and over, living in high-crime neighborhoods of New York, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Los Angeles. Questionnaire and telephone interviews were conducted with the population, and results are used to describe the sociological characteristics of the neighborhoods, compare the neighborhoods with each other on various dimensions of the crime experience, contrast the residents in terms of household and personal protection, and assess use of crime prevention and assistance programs in the areas. Findings indicated a great variety of measures taken for household and personal protection. A large majority of the respondents did not recognize acronyms of local crime prevention and assistance programs, but were more responsive when the specific service was described. A list of references and an appendix containing the interviewing materials in English and Spanish are included. Tabular data are provided.


A sample of 115 elderly, immigrant Jews living in an urban low-income high-crime area of Philadelphia was surveyed concerning their lifestyles and perceptions of their neighborhood. This study was presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society in Toronto in October 1970. Although the Strawberry Mansion area of Philadelphia was once a Jewish middle class neighborhood, by 1960 the population of about 45,000 was 93 percent black. To assess the impact of this transformation on the remaining Jewish residents, 77 percent of the Jewish households containing people 60 years or older
were interviewed regarding housing, use of time, health, need for services, finances, social relationships, and their perceptions of the neighborhood. By almost every index of well-being, the elderly respondents were markedly deprived when compared to the aged population of the United States or to comparison groups of elderly people in other contexts. The relationship of environmental factors to well-being was explored in terms of health and demographic factors. Six environmental variables emerged: central location (near transportation, parks, amenities), distance to shopping facilities, independent household (own television, stove, toilet, refrigerator), busy block (traffic and people), well-kept block and building, and nonresidential block (commercial, vacant houses, or lots). The environmental, demographic, and health variables served as predictors for seven measures of the subjects' well-being: leisure time activity, motility in the neighborhood, morale, housing satisfactions, social interaction with friends, social interaction with family, and ratings on scales measuring vigor, interaction, and response. Multiple regression analysis was used to determine how much of the total variation was explainable in terms of environmental, demographic, and health characteristics. The environmental variables were found to have a substantial association with neighborhood motility.


A magazine report is presented on the National Conference on Crime Against the Elderly, held June 5-7, 1975, in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the American University. Nearly 200 participants from 25 States, a mix of public and private agency representatives, academicians, criminologists and sociologists, law enforcement officials and police officers, attended the symposium that focused on legislative action to reduce victimization. Speakers for the conference emphasized prevention, compensation for victims, further awareness of crime against the elderly, harsher penalties, further research, and more respect for the elderly in the criminal justice system. The fact that the elderly are more likely to be victims of burglary and multiple attacks was underscored. A research project on the elderly's fear of crime was also presented.


Crime prevention, public education, victimization studies, and special training for police are discussed as examples of the criminal justice system's response to the crime-related problems of the elderly.
Approximately 2,500 police officers from throughout the nation have graduated from the National Crime Prevention Institute's 1-month training course since the program began in 1971. The crime prevention methods taught in the program have proved particularly relevant for older persons. One of the earliest organizations to recognize and begin to deal with the problem of crime against older persons was the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons, whose 1972 survey revealed a lack of crime prevention programs specially tailored to older Americans. The organization undertook programs to promote interest in crime prevention for the elderly among police agencies. Federal agencies, local governments, and private organizations have become increasingly involved in crime prevention efforts to benefit the elderly. At least three national conferences have focused on crime and the elderly. Public education efforts have provided the elderly with information on bunco, consumer fraud, medical quackery, purse-snatching, mail fraud, and other crimes to which they are particularly vulnerable. Police agencies have carried out programs to improve the ability of officers to communicate with elderly persons. Victimization research has focused on the nature of crime against the elderly, on ways of preventing such crime, and on the attitudes of the elderly toward police. Further research is needed to determine the long-range effects of the criminal justice system's response to the needs of the elderly as actual and potential victims of crime.


Nineteen papers prepared for the National Bicentennial Conference on Justice and Older Americans, held in Portland, Oregon, in September 1976, are presented. The conference was a national forum at which practitioners and academicians from the fields of law, gerontology, and law enforcement presented information and discussed methods and programs for dealing with the criminal and social victimization of older adults. Following an introductory discussion of perspectives on justice and older Americans, eight articles discuss the victimization of the elderly. Included are papers on crimes against the elderly, the fear of crime among urban elderly, consequences of crime for minority elderly, victimization on Portland's skid row, social victimization of the elderly, social victimization in nursing homes, drug problems of the elderly, and the legal profession and the elderly. Papers on society's response to the victimization of older Americans discuss legal services, person-centered service delivery, nonlawyer delivery of legal services, criminal justice responses to the problems of old age, victim services programs, residential security techniques, and evaluation of victim assistance programs. Other presentations discuss age and the future of American politics; the microsociology of politics and aging; and law, justice, and public
policy. Subject and author indexes are included. For individual articles, See NCJ 38978 and 44337-44354.


This article discusses the debilitating effect of crime on the elderly and how to cope with it. The cost of crime for the victimized senior citizen often takes a higher toll than would first be apparent. The article explores some of the factors that contribute to making the senior citizen the easiest of prey for the criminal. The need for effective communications between victimized senior citizens and the agencies that deal with them is also discussed. Senior citizens can sometimes be "invisible cops," and play a role in crime alertness.


The elderly are examined as a category requiring special consideration by the criminal justice system, and the nature and extent of victimization of this group is discussed along with policy implications. Recognition of a special "category" of persons creates a problem within public service agencies, since it implies allocation of special resources, designation of personnel to administer programs directed at this group, and planning and budgeting for special activities. The elderly have become recognized within the criminal justice system as a special group that is particularly vulnerable to crime, suffers greater trauma from crimes committed against it, and is less economically able to absorb crime effects than the rest of society. Statistics cited from several studies show that the elderly are more often hospitalized after victimization (about 12 percent are hospitalized after violent crime), that street crime often involves elderly victims (the median age for victims of street crimes is 67.8 years), and that the elderly are more often the target of crimes of bunco and confidence. The San Francisco and Los Angeles police departments report that more than 90 percent of bunco victims are 65 years of age and older. A Kansas City study found that the elderly living in high-crime areas were victimized by burglary and robbery at a rate 3 to 4 times that of the general population. Concise policies need to be established to insure the minimum resources necessary for dealing with problems of the elderly for promoting substantive research in this area.

This thesis explores the elderly as victims of crime and generates a theoretical perspective for understanding their victimization. Subjects reviewed include types of crimes committed against the elderly, the offender who commits them, why the elderly are selected as victims, and the consequences of their victimization. As a result of research findings, the study concludes that the elderly's victimization may or may not increase in comparison to other age groups because of various factors. These factors suggest a general hypothesis on environmental, economic, physical, and psychological vulnerability. Similarly, suggestions are made for reducing the elderly's vulnerability and thus minimizing the effect of crime.


Statistics on police contacts with the public are examined to determine characteristics of victimizations and calls for service by the elderly; based on this data, crime prevention methods aimed at the elderly are given. Observers rode with the police in two cities, systematically coding the reason for each encounter and its location, classifying the content and emotion, and observing basic characteristics of the encounter. From this data, it was determined that patterns of police contact with the elderly were not significantly different from patterns of police contact with the general public. However, it was noted that the elderly did constitute an unusually high percentage of the cases of personal larceny with contact, and that the elderly sought non-crime-related service from police about twice as often as was expected. The author stresses that community crime prevention efforts may be the most effective approach in preventing crimes against the elderly. The author also proposes that police devote fewer resources to patrol and control of victimless crimes, so that greater energy could be spent on serious crime. Finally, a standard process whereby police could refer elderly citizens to social agencies is suggested.
Research conducted on crimes against the elderly is discussed in relation to its effectiveness in identifying causes of such crime, indicating solutions, and producing viable policy implications. Four witnesses testified in these hearings including scholars in the fields of criminal justice, sociology, and gerontology. Opening statements discuss the fear of crime among the elderly that forces them to become recluses, the relationship of juvenile delinquency and crime against the elderly, and several bills in formation aimed at compensating elderly crime victims and increasing research into the problem. Influences on the outcome of research findings, difficulties in interpretation of statistics on elderly crime victims, and the impact of social conditions among the elderly in relation to victimization are subjects considered by the witnesses. It is proposed that many of the programs and research being done to deal with crime against the elderly are not effective because the broad social and economic issues are not being considered and sporadic local programs are not coordinated on a larger basis. The definition of victimology is presented by one witness along with discussion of the different uses that can be made of statistics, the inadequacy of much survey data, and varying methods of research. One finding common to various surveys is that many elderly crime victims do not report crimes, either because of fear of reprisal or because the bureaucracy involved in litigation is too complicated. Appendixes contain copies of the prepared statements.
prevention programs; types of offenses and elderly vulnerability; public education and security; and the economic and physical consequences of criminal victimization of the elderly. Prepared testimony is appended regarding the pattern and effect of crime against the elderly; the history, background, motivation, projects, and contribution of the National Committee on Crime and the Elderly; regional crime prevention and control projects sponsored by the National Council of Senior Citizens; the aftermath of elderly victimization; and the fear of crime among the elderly. A bibliography citing books, project reports, and journal articles relating to crime and the elderly is also appended. Graphic and tabular data are provided.


This transcript of a factfinding hearing held in New York City, December 13, 1976, includes formal testimony from State and local officials, submitted statistics, and personal stories told by elderly persons who had been victimized. In an opening statement, the acting chairman announced several pieces of legislation to be introduced to deal with the problem of crime against the elderly. These include mandatory sentencing for those convicted of violent crimes against the elderly, a lower age at which juveniles can be prosecuted as adults, restoration of the death penalty, funds to cities to rehire laid-off police officers, and greater Federal assistance for elderly crime victims. Several speakers pointed out that in New York two opposing trends are apparent: (1) an increase in the number of poor elderly people living in slums, and (2) a rising number of unsupervised, unemployed juveniles with working parent(s). Most crime against the elderly is committed by the poor against the poor in dark hallways or streets. Since many of these crimes are not reported, exact figures are impossible to obtain, but it is estimated that in New York robberies of senior citizens now number more than 18,000 per year. Of these, about one-fourth are reported. During 1975, 201 senior citizens were murdered in New York State; 11 percent in New York City. More than half were killed in the course of robberies, sex crimes, arson, and other felonies. A majority of these crimes were committed by juveniles. The figures show that only 2 percent of these juveniles are ever convicted and sentenced to a juvenile facility. Interviews with the offenders themselves reveal that young people feel they have little to fear when they attack an elderly person. Several speakers called for mandatory sentencing of those who attack a person over 60 years of age and for legislation lowering to 13 the age at which an offender can be prosecuted as an adult.
Testimony and other materials are presented which were given to the House Select Committee on Aging, dealing with crime prevention programs for the elderly. These programs have been instituted by national organizations serving the elderly. Witnesses included the project director of the crime prevention project of the National Center on the Black Aged, and the coordinator of the crime prevention program of the National Retired Teachers Association and American Association of Retired Persons. Witnesses discussed their perceptions of the elderly crime victimization program, the programs they have instituted to fight this problem, and recommendations for dealing with elderly crime victimization.

Testimony and other materials on LEAA's programs dealing with crimes against the elderly and on the FBI's estimate of the nature and extent of elderly crime victimization are given. Witnesses offering testimony are Henry F. McQuade, Deputy Administrator for Policy Development, LEAA, and Clarence M. Kelley, Director, FBI. Appended are responses (with attachments) by McQuade to subcommittee questions concerning the National Crime Panel victimization surveys, legislative recommendations to reduce the crime problems of the elderly, and the funding of projects for the elderly.

This report draws on some of the highlights of a congressional hearing on crime victimization and crime fear problems of the elderly. The report contains statistics and charts on the extent of criminal victimization of the elderly, as well as the variables that affect their fear—sex, economics, race, and community. Profiles of victims and offenders in various cities are included. Conditions
increasing the elderly's vulnerability, such as economic, physical, environmental, social, and psychological factors are described. The subcommittee's report contains several recommendations which include urging Congress to enact legislation providing assistance to States that operate programs to compensate crime victims, and creating a central office of Criminal Justice Statistics within the Department of Justice.


Testimony and other materials are presented concerning the criminal threat confronting senior citizens in our society, the need for legislation to ease the problem of crime against the elderly, and crime prevention efforts in these areas. Witnesses included the Deputy Administrator of LEAA, Charles R. Work, and a series of panels comprising a mixture of police officials and representatives of senior citizen organizations.


This annotated bibliography outlines literature in the field of prevention and deterrence of crime against the elderly. The materials have been separated into five major prevention strategies. After an overview of the problem, the first section concerns victimization and the fear of crime, and the second presents specific prevention or deterrence strategies. The next category deals with defensible space and architectural design and is of particular interest to housing administrators and city planners. The fourth category covers the older citizen as a volunteer court watcher, counselor, and volunteer law enforcement officer. The last category presents crime prevention materials that can teach older citizens how to protect themselves, their property, and their neighbors. The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author within each section. The appendix contains a list of publisher names and addresses, as well as a resource list of agencies and organizations researching or undertaking projects in the area of crime against the elderly.
The proceedings of a seminar sponsored by the FBI National Academy and the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons focusing on rural crime and the elderly are reported. The conference was held September 1, 1976, at the FBI National Academy. Conference subjects included the identification of problems with presentations on crime statistics, special problems of rural investigations, and the roles of selected national organizations in fighting rural crime. The technical assistance consultant served three basic functions: (1) he served as a resource specialist on rural law enforcement; (2) he made a formal presentation concerning rural law enforcement problems, needs, and alternatives; and (3) he identified issues and problems that will enhance the value of LEAA's discretionary program concerning rural law enforcement. In addition, seminar findings on the utilization of elderly citizens in rural law enforcement are presented.

This collection includes 46 papers on the victim, the dynamics of victimization (including its aftermath and society's reaction to it), and rehabilitative, preventive, and legislative measures. The volume is divided into five major parts: conceptual issues, research methodology and findings, the victim and the justice system, treatment and prevention, and institutional victimization. The papers are either "knowledge-oriented" (such as reports of empirical investigations, studies of methodological problems, theoretical analyses of basic concepts and/or principles) or "policy and practice-oriented" (such as prescriptions and policy recommendations, descriptive and evaluative reports on prevention, treatment, compensation, and restitution programs, and analyses of legislative innovations). Most of the papers were originally prepared for presentation at the International Study Institute on Victimology held in Bellagio, Italy, July 1-12, 1975. Subject and name indexes are provided.

The application and impact of Federal and State laws, codes, and statutes dealing with income, health, fraud, and housing of the elderly
are discussed. An overview of major income and health issues affecting the elderly is followed by a discussion of case law and Federal and State codes and regulations. Topics covered include supplemental security income, double and earned income tax deduction, social security hearing procedures, age discrimination in employment, nursing home law, protective services and the limits of parens patriae, the Tax Reform Act of 1976, consumer fraud, condominium conversion, and the application and eligibility for Medicaid in New York, California, and Florida. An advocate's guide to the Medicare program and an analysis of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 are provided along with discussions of how to handle a disability insurance case and what elderly persons with small incomes need to know about money management. Appended materials deal with organ donations, filling the gaps in Medicare, complaints against doctors, individual retirement accounts for homemakers, and an appellate court decision on the unconstitutionality of a mandatory retirement age for police officers. References are footnoted. No index is provided. See also NCJ 50584, 50585, and 51376.
IMPACT OF CRIME ON THE ELDERLY

Fear of crime among older people was systematically researched to provide an empirical background for practitioners to control it. National survey data were used to compare the patterns of fear of crime among the aged and the nonaged. Four key specifying variables were used in the analysis—sex, race, socioeconomic status, and size of community. Findings indicated that elderly respondents who were female, black, or metropolitan residents possessed extremely high fear rates. The authors interpret this as a demonstration that the aged are not a homogenous group: some segments of the older population are fearful while others are relatively free of anxiety.


This paper examines the crime of robbery among the elderly and explores the reactions of elderly victims as well as the consequences of those reactions. Suggestions are made for minimizing the risk of robbery among the elderly and for breaking the self-reinforcing cycle of crime and fear.


The current consensus that the physical and economic consequences of crime are more severe for the elderly is examined, and the relationship between this group's fear of crime and their lower victimization rate is discussed. A congressional report on elderly crime victimization concluded that the elderly suffer disproportionately in qualitative measures from crime victimization, and that physical, economic, and environmental factors associated with aging increase vulnerability to attack and magnify the impact of victimization. This current consensus about crime and elderly Americans is examined using national survey data gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau in 1973 and 1974. Ten thousand households were visited each month and their members were interviewed on crime occurrence. Relative and absolute measures of economic and physical consequences of crime were used as dependent variables. Findings on financial losses show that the elderly are less likely than others to be involved in crime, lose the same or less than other adults when absolute loss measures are employed, and lose less than young people, but the same or more
than other adults. The evidence suggests that the elderly are attacked less often than others, are more likely to be injured when attacked, suffer wounds and broken bones and teeth less than others, and suffer internal injuries and cuts and bruises more than others. They are no more likely than others to require medical care, or more costly care, after an attack. However, the costs of care constitute a considerably larger proportion of their income than other groups. The current consensus on crime and the elderly is inappropriate and not correct for most crime, and it is incomplete since it fails to differentiate between age trends for different types of consequences. Reasons for the existence of the incorrect consensus are discussed. The explanation for the high fear rate among the elderly perhaps reflects their condition of low income since they have the highest incidence of poverty. Policy suggestions include compensation for lost property for the elderly or for all persons suffering from physical or property crimes. Tables illustrate the survey data and a bibliography is provided.

38. FLETCHER, P. Criminal Victimization of Elderly Women: A Look at Sexual Assault. New York, Syracuse Rape Crisis Center, 1977. 7 p. MICROFICHE (NCJ 42843)

Statistics on crimes against the elderly are given with particular attention to rape, and principles for counseling elderly rape victims are offered. Fear of other people finding out about the rape, major alteration of lifestyle, increased feelings of helplessness, feelings of confusion, feelings about their sexual identity, and a greater chance of physical traumatization as a result of the assault are listed as factors to be considered in counseling elderly rape victims.


Crime and the elderly is examined with respect to a victim-centered approach to criminal justice, increased lifespans, the severe handling of offenders, inner-city crime, victim vulnerability, and offender liability. Six short articles discuss the problems of elderly victimization. Viewed from a victim-centered perspective, several dimensions of the distinctive nature of crime against the elderly become apparent, including the differential physical impact, the differential economic impact, the differential vulnerability and ability to resist, and the psychological impact of fear of crime. Furthermore, there is a growing consensus that the older victim is part of a special victim subgroup which requires special attention and a
different kind of response. Some form of victim advocacy for older victims of crime is needed within the local criminal justice community. In contrast, it is argued that the crisis mentality that has developed concerning elderly victimization, coupled with increased elderly populations, presents invalid challenges for the criminal justice community. Available data do not support common assumptions about elderly vulnerability, at least with respect to intellectual and social competence, social isolation, and crisis response. Headlining elderly victimization may serve to obscure less obvious though equally severe problems, and affixing the crisis label on the criminal victimization of the elderly makes discussion and evaluation of appropriate intervention policies and practices difficult. In contrast to this, because older people are less strong and less able to resist, very often receive social security or pension checks on widely known dates, and are often isolated and concentrated in urban high-crime areas, they are necessarily more susceptible to victimization and fear of crime than other groups and deserve special consideration with respect to both services and the punishment of the offenders. A new sentencing procedure for offenders in California would allow for the special handling of designated types of offenders, including those victimizing the elderly. Other efforts on both the State and Federal levels have sought to impose stricter terms for elderly victimization and the automatic waiver to adult court of 16- and 17-year-olds charged with a crime against elderly persons known to be 65 or older. Legislation and court decisions are cited and discussed. References are footnoted and tabular data are provided.


Expressions of fear in old age are described on the basis of data from a sample of 210 persons, aged 60 to 94, interviewed in Detroit, Michigan. For the purpose of the study, fear was defined as a state of mind characterized by desperation and anxiety stemming from personal incompetence in coping with everyday life. To maximize the variability of circumstances of the elderly people selected for interviewing, the sample was stratified by residential environment: approximately one-third of the sample was selected from single home neighborhoods, one-third from multiunit buildings housing only the aged, and one-third from apartment buildings housing several age groups. The elderly were asked about their satisfaction with the situation in their immediate social environment (whether or not they feared anything about it) and about apprehensions in general. Respondents were also probed on the personal meaning of fears, e.g., why he or she was afraid, and how this apprehension affected their day-to-day living. The sources of fear most frequently mentioned fell into two categories: sources located in the social environment and sources located within the individual. Social environment sources
mentioned typically were having no future, political fear for the country, fear of crime/riots, and fear of the neighborhood, while those relating to the individual included being a burden, fear of nursing homes, fear of dying, poor health, and financial worries. Responses to fears, such as not going out and keeping the door locked, are discussed. Persons who expressed no fears attributed their feelings to being prepared for death, feeling healthy and/or solvent, and believing in God. Strategies for reducing fear in old age are suggested. Methodological limitations of the study are noted, along with suggestions for handling validity problems. Early research studies are reviewed and their findings are compared with the Detroit study data. References are provided.


The psychological aspect of crime victimization among older people is examined within the context of their total biological, psychological, and social functioning. Losses in these three areas not only limit the effectiveness of the older person's behavior, but also affect the individual's conceptions of self and environment, making him feel more vulnerable. The relationship between the actual victimization, exposure to crime, and the perceived threat of crime among the elderly is then explored. The clearest effect of this threat is reflected in the coping behavior of the older person—his attempts to control exposure to potential victimization. While all older people are not passive, helpless, and paralyzed by fear, potential elderly crime victims risk greater psychological harm. A perceived threat, in the absence of really effective coping behavior, may well be the deciding factor in their ability to live satisfying lives. References are included.


Factors associated with fear of walking around one's neighborhood were assessed in a secondary analysis using data from a 1973 national survey of 1,504 noninstitutionalized adults. The relationship between age and reports of fear was analyzed for various conditions of sex, income, living arrangement, and size of place of residence. The sample was a multistage area probability sample to the block or segment level with quota sampling based on sex, age, and employment status. Responses to a question relating to fear of walking alone at night within a mile of the respondent's home were used as the dependent variable in the study. It was found that there was no general age differential in reported fear of walking around one's
neighborhood; females, those living alone, the poor, and those residing in large urban areas are more likely to be afraid; and some of these effects are magnified for the aged, especially for those who are poor, living alone, or in large cities. Suggestions for future research are provided, along with tabular data and references.


This monograph discusses the implications of age-segregated housing with respect to incidence of crime and fears about crime among the elderly. It is based on a survey of elderly residents in three types of public housing arrangements in the Albany-Troy, New York area: age-integrated, age-segregated, and age-segregated units within an age-integrated project. The purpose of the study was to explore the effects of these three different living arrangements on the number and kind of crimes involving elderly victims, to determine the fears and attitudes of the residents concerning their personal safety, and to assess past and present attempts to ensure their safety. The findings of the study supported the value of a policy encouraging age-segregated public housing for the aged as a means of reducing the incidence and fear of crime among this vulnerable age group. Based on the implications of the findings and discussion of these findings with a panel of public leaders and experts in the fields of agings, public housing, crime victimization, and legislative policy, the authors conclude with a series of policy recommendations pertaining to age-segregated arrangements, improvement in security personnel, instruction in safety and security for tenants, and increased usage of electronic safety devices. A copy of the survey questionnaire is appended. A summary of this study is included in Crime and the Elderly—Challenge and Response (NCJ 39177) by Goldsmith and Goldsmith.


A sample of 157 homeowners, aged 65 or older, were interviewed and observed to determine the relationship between visible territorial markers posted by the homeowners and their fear of property loss and assault. The research sought to determine whether one type of territorial behavior in the elderly (the posting of visible territorial markers) was related to reduced fear of crime. Data were collected by four interviewers in the spring of 1976. Each interviewer first collected data on the visible territorial markers before approaching the home. These markers included signs, such as "No Trespassing" and "Keep Out"; barriers, such as fences; personalizations, such as
welcome mats or initials on chimneys; and external surveillance devices, such as viewing devices to observe visitors. After gathering these data, the interviewer approached the homeowner and orally administered a questionnaire. The questionnaire contained three scales: fear of property loss, fear of personal assault, and perception of territoriality. The attitudinal measures of their fear of crime indicated that high territorial elderly were less fearful of being victimized than low territorial elderly. Strong sex differences in amount of fear were also found, as were interactions of territoriality with the sex and with the living arrangement (alone or not alone) of the homeowner. The results are discussed in the context of mastery of the environment by the elderly.


A summary of several national surveys on the effects of crime on the elderly is reported. Response statistics of the elderly are given for the following topic areas: fear of crime, victimization experiences, and attitudes toward criminal justice issues. Fear of crime was reported as the major social problem affecting those 65 and over, followed closely by poor health. Further, many elderly citizens report their concerns with being robbed or attacked when on the streets. Similarly, the elderly fail to report many of the personal victimizations which they experience and are also likely to be differentially affected by certain criminal acts such as personal larceny with contact.


The relationship between the justice system and the elderly is examined in terms of the process of social exchange. Social victimization occurs when individuals are adversely affected by some aspect of society over which they have little or no control. The social exchange model views individuals as interacting with each other in order to fulfill needs. These exchanges involve efforts to maximize rewards and minimize costs. Individuals expect their rewards to be proportional to their costs and equivalent to rewards received by others. However, individuals may differ in how they value and rank rewards. When this imbalance occurs, greater power accrues to individuals who hold the superior benefits and are less dependent on the exchange to meet their own needs. There are several strategies for gaining the upper hand in social exchanges and for avoiding dependency and compliance: gaining status by supplying a valued resource, extending one's power network by obtaining resources elsewhere, engaging in physical or psychological coercion, and deciding
to do without the resource. All of these strategies are more successful when pursued collectively. The relationship between the legal system and older people is one point of imbalance in social interaction. Laws related to economics (housing, age discrimination, income, consumer problems) and to health (Medicare/Medicaid, protective services, nursing homes) offer evidence of the social victimization of older people. The justice system's failure to meet the needs of the elderly stems from the fact that the laws themselves are problematic and/or not enforced, and that older people lack legal representation and therefore access to the courts. The social exchange model provides a framework for explaining these inequities and for developing strategies to rectify them.


The findings are reported of an exploratory study of fear of crime and its consequences among older persons in southern California. This paper was presented at the National Bicentennial Conference on Justice and Older Americans, September 27, 1976, in Portland, Oregon. The study focused on the fear or anxiety about criminal victimization rather than the actual victimization of the elderly. The relationships between characteristics and circumstances of urban older people and the fear of specific kinds of crime and their feelings of safety in their immediate neighborhoods during the day and evening were examined. A difference between the means test was used, and the results showed statistically significant relationships in the four communities studied. Findings indicated that high levels of fear of robbery and burglary are related to nonparticipation in community affairs, prior victimization, self-perceived ill health, and the unlikelihood of neighbors calling the police after witnessing a crime in the neighborhood. In contrast to prior studies cited in the text, findings from this study indicate that sex, age, and income do not play a substantial explanatory role but prior victimization does in terms of the levels of fear of specific kinds of crime. Tables document the text.


This study compares the attitudinal differences between two groups of elderly—one relatively poor and living in urban, high-crime threat areas, the other more affluent and living in a suburban, low-crime threat area. This paper was presented at the annual meeting
of the American Society of Criminology, Tucson, Arizona, November 4-6, 1976. A total of 134 persons from four southern California communities were interviewed. Respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of police, courts, prisons, and parole in carrying out their respective duties; to state the purpose of prisons; and to provide their preferred length of sentence for six criminal offenses. The suburban retirement sample rated the police, prisons, and parole higher than the urban sample, while the rating of the courts was virtually the same. The greatest differences in effectiveness scores were for prisons. Suburban residents were more satisfied than urban residents with their effectiveness. Apparently, lower status groups, facing a higher crime threat and being more critical of criminal justice agencies, especially correctional programs, were more punitive and less rehabilitative in their perception of what prisons should be doing. The urban group also had higher severity of sentence scores for four offenses--rape, armed robbery, auto theft, and drug possession. The mean scores for murder were virtually the same between the two groups, as were the scores for prostitution.


This report includes testimony and other materials concerning elderly crime victims. Witnesses include California senior citizen programers and law enforcement officials, and elderly crime victims.


This report presents the results of a 2-year effort to study criminal victimization and its effects on older people in an urban county setting (Silver Spring, Maryland) by means of personal interviews with 178 elderly citizens. Topics discussed during the interviews included individual and family characteristics, attitudes about crime and about police protection, the effects of this fear of crime on their lives, and experiences (if any) as victims of crime. Interviewees were selected by a telephone random digit-dialing technique, and were interrogated in their homes by means of a questionnaire given in an appendix. Demographic data on age, years in neighborhood, and the number of people recognized in the target area are discussed. Twenty-four percent of the elderly persons interviewed had been victimized within the past 5 years, mostly in the crimes of larceny and
vandalism. Thus, the typical victim suffers monetary loss, not physical injury. There was no such thing as a "typical" victim except that victims are more likely to reside in the older, more urbanized portion of the target area. This lack of a victimization pattern supports the contention that "anyone could be a victim" and underscores the necessity of precautionary measures for the elderly. The elderly person in Silver Spring fears crime only one-sixth as much as the average. Women, nonwhites, the least educated, those living alone, and those who live in apartments are more fearful of crime than their counterparts. Most of the elderly who fear going out specifically fear doing so at night, and consequently stay indoors and forego normal social lives. Daytime travel is apparently restricted by this fear of crime. The elderly look to social solutions, instead of their own efforts, to deter crimes against them. They favor more police protection and stricter punishment for criminals more than twice as often as other solutions. It is recommended that reliable, personalized transportation be provided for elderly without cars. Since older persons do not take preventive measures until after they have been victimized and consider themselves safer than they really are, it is suggested that educational programs be aimed specifically at the elderly in order to decrease victimization. If assistance is to be provided, it should focus on both the reduction of fear and the prevention of crime. The survey methodology is explained in an appendix. Tabular data illustrate the report.


The results are reported of a 1976 Omaha Police Department survey on senior citizen victimization, fears about crime, crime prevention habits, and how crime has affected their mobility. The 561 respondents were also given an opportunity to suggest what type of crime prevention programs they would be most interested in. Two separate groups of senior citizens were surveyed--residents of city operated, senior citizen high-rise apartments and those living in private residences. Seventy-eight percent of those residing in high rises felt that their neighborhood was average or above in safety, as compared to 89 percent of those residing in private residences. Eighty-five percent of all respondents felt that police protection was average or above. Seventy-four percent indicated that their personal feelings about crime have, to some degree, hampered their freedom of movement and activity. A total of 15 percent had been the victim of crime since age 60. Burglary was the most frequently committed crime, followed by larceny, robbery, and purse-snatching. The residents of high-rise apartments showed concern over the violent crimes of robbery and assault, while residents of private homes showed a significant interest in burglary and vandalism.
VICTIMIZATION OF THE ELDERLY

These data are based on a detailed study of over 1,800 serious crimes committed against persons over 60 years of age in Kansas City, Missouri. Primary data were developed through interviews with victims, next of kin, police, witnesses, and a number of volunteer ex-felons known to have accumulated experience in the types of crimes that affected the elderly most seriously (residential burglary, armed and strong-arm robbery, and larceny). Narrative and tabular data indicate that 56 percent of the crimes against the elderly were burglaries. The median age of victims was 68.8 years, although 12 percent were over 80 years of age. Seventy-four percent of the victims were whites who had been victimized by black males under 30. Over 58 percent of the robbery victims had incomes under $5,000 a year, and over 26 percent of all elderly victims of robbery, burglary, and larceny were multiple victims. The implications of the data for personal and residential security, target hardening, and citizen involvement are considered. An interim report of this research, sponsored by the Administration on Aging, is available as NCJ 29535.

53. ELDERLY AS VICTIMS OF STREET CRIMES IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE: A STUDY AND PROPOSAL. 1975. 91 p. (NCJ 50767)

This discussion of the Crime Resistance Program includes a description of the research methodology and findings identifying the problem of street crime against the elderly and programs developed to counteract it. To examine the nature of the problem, the Wilmington, Delaware, Crime Resistance Task Force studied police reports for the years 1974-1975 involving street crimes against persons 60 and older. A victim survey was also conducted by mail. Findings revealed that the typical victim is a white female, usually alone and carrying a purse, the attacker is a black youth, and the crime takes place during the day close to the victim’s residence. To address the problem, several specific programs were designed. These include a program recommending the use of an inside pocket to eliminate the need for a purse, several approaches to an escort and companion program, Operation Tic-Toc (developed to remove truants from the streets), and Operation MAJIC (monitors aiding justice in court). The objectives of the programs are presented along with steps for implementation. The appendixes include the research plan, study data, the survey questionnaire, victim survey results, and a summary of interviews with students at a youth correctional facility concerning attacks on the elderly.
The common belief that the aged as a group are disproportionately victimized is discussed, and three hypotheses on the relationship of housing types to victimization, concern about crime, and fear of crime are set forth. Available evidence on victimization and its relationship to age does not support the popular belief that the aged are most frequently victimized. However, the evidence does support the hypotheses that older people have a greater chance than others of becoming victims of various kinds of fraud and malice. The author defines two types of environments for the elderly—"unprotected" single-family homes and "protected" multiunit apartment buildings. Three hypotheses are proposed: (1) that the extent of victimization of the elderly is greater in nonprotective environments; (2) that concern about the extent of crime is greater among aged persons residing in protective, age-homogeneous housing; and (3) that among the aged, fear of crime is likely to be greater in nonprotective, age-heterogeneous housing.

The plight of elderly male victims of crime in the skid row section of Portland, Oregon, is described through case studies and statistics. The residents of skid row typically are elderly, frail, malnourished, and alcoholic. Often they are the victims of violent assaults by young "jackrollers." Skid row victims who report crimes risk their lives by doing so, since filing a complaint often means retaliation on the streets. Two case studies illustrate how the criminal justice system fails to recognize skid row victims as deserving of justice. A study of 200 victims of crime in the Portland skid row section found that 67 percent of crimes involved both robbery and assault. The incidence of crime on skid row is highest in April, when many farm workers come into the area; on the first day of the month, when Government checks arrive; and during daylight hours, when more older people are outside. In 46 percent of the victimizations, three assailants were involved. Twenty-two percent of the assaults occurred on the streets, and 63 percent on the premises of a single social service agency. Taverns apparently are the safest places on skid row. In 95 percent of all cases, the assailants were under age 35. The tendency of cities to try to deal with their skid row problems by dispersing the residents is criticized. Recognition of the rights of skid row victims and provision of needed services to victims are urged. A bibliography is included.
Criminal victimization of the elderly is discussed, with attention to the oversights of such crime surveys as the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports and the advantages of LEAA's survey method. Confusion and doubt about the extent of the national problem of crimes against the elderly stem largely from three factors: (1) elderly victims often do not report crimes, (2) law enforcement officials are not aware of the special needs of elderly crime victims, and (3) the subject of elderly crime victimization has been approached in a "bandwagon" fashion, rather than in an orderly, interdisciplinary manner. With the exception of LEAA's victimization surveys, existing data collection efforts disregard the age of victims: the Uniform Crime Reports and local survey and reporting initiatives concentrate on environmental, demographic, and offender related factors while ignoring the victim—especially the elderly victim. The LEAA surveys have two main elements: a continuous national survey and periodic surveys of selected central city areas. These surveys have revealed that only one-third of crimes against the elderly are reported to police. Whereas the surveys have found that older persons are victims of violent crime at a rate of 8 per 1,000 population, compared to a rate of 32 per 1,000 for the general population, other data show that the elderly have the highest victimization rate for such crimes as larceny involving bodily contact. According to the LEAA survey figures for 1973 and 1974, the increase in crimes of violence against persons over 65 (46 percent) was second only to the increase against 16- to 19-year-old males. However, a major drawback of the LEAA surveys is their failure to include certain crimes to which the elderly are more susceptible by virtue of their age, health, and economic status, including fraud, confidence games, medical quackery, and harassment by youth. Data from a United States Senate survey of major urban areas have also shown that the poor, inner-city elderly experience more crime than their non-inner-city counterparts; elderly vulnerability is increased by economic, physical, environmental, and social factors; and older persons are more likely to be multiple victims of the same crimes. Another survey of 80,000 people conducted in 1972 and 1973 indicated that, for most, fear of crime ranked second in their lives, following concern about adequate food and shelter. Tabular data are provided. References are footnoted.
serious victim of crime stems from data derived from the National Panel Surveys conducted under LEAA. According to these surveys, the elderly population (65 years or older) was found to have the lowest victimization rate of all age groups. However, the following limitations are inherent in these surveys: (1) the general figures tend to mask certain crimes which affect the elderly and fail to indicate increases in elderly victimization; (2) the generality of the sample and data presented do not allow for the exploration of differences occurring within particular geographic areas or cities; (3) the methodology of the Panel Surveys, while basically sound, fails to include crimes which especially victimize the elderly and to deal with the problem of underreporting; (4) the elderly, especially the elderly poor, are particularly vulnerable to crime and the suffering that results from victimization; and (5) in addition to actual victimization, fear of victimization is more prevalent among older adults. The closer one moves toward the inner city, the higher the prevalence of fear, a factor which lowers both the morale and physical mobility of elderly persons. Tabular data and a bibliography are provided.


This survey of a sample of elderly persons in Boston revealed that reported victimization varied with the type of housing environment (elderly housing projects, family housing projects, private housing). The highest rate of victimization (56 percent) was found in family housing projects, followed by private housing (30 percent), and elderly housing projects (20 percent). The study suggests that residential crimes and street crimes can be reduced by building age-homogeneous housing environments for the elderly. For an expanded treatment of this subject, see NCJ 40009.

59. __________. Elderly Victims in Boston. Unpublished, undated. 51 p. (NCJ 40009)

Demographic and attitudinal data are reported in this survey of a sample of elderly Boston, Massachusetts, residents living in elderly housing units, family housing units, and private homes. The survey revealed that crimes against property and not crimes against the person were the most frequently committed crimes against the elderly. Purse-snatching and pocket-picking were the crimes most often committed on the streets, and break-ins or burglaries were the crimes most frequently committed in the home. Elderly people living in family housing projects were the most frequently victimized of the three residential groups. The typical single offender was a nonwhite male, 21 to 30, who victimized an elderly member of his own race.
Multiple offenders were young males who tended to victimize females. The elderly population surveyed did not generally know the extent of crime in the neighborhood. Fear of crime kept 6 percent of them at home all the time and significantly restricted the activities of an additional 21 percent. Sixty percent of elderly crime victims did not notify the police, although 93 percent held positive or neutral attitudes toward them. Recommendations are made to include programs to reduce the fear of crime among the elderly in the broader programs that educate them about the risk of victimization. See also NCJ 40010.


Data are reported from research, begun in July 1975, on victimization and fear of victimization among persons over age 60 to provide a basis for program implementation in crime prevention and victim assistance for older persons. Purposes of this Multnomah County, Oregon, study included assessing the rate of victimization among persons over 60, determining the types of crime most prevalent among such victims, and projecting characteristics which distinguish older victims from nonvictims. Other objectives of the research can be summarized to include determining the attitude of older persons to the criminal justice system and discerning the cognitive understanding of the legal system by the older adult. In order to achieve project goals, the research staff employed the method of random sampling, reviewed police records of victims, observed high crime areas, and studied environmental factors of the areas. Tables containing statistical data and reproductions of questionnaires used in the study appear in the text. Though it was concluded that persons over 60 are not necessarily victimized by crime in general more than other age groups, they are often more prone to victimization of certain types of crime (burglary, purse-snatching, and consumer fraud). The research also revealed that older persons often have extremely high levels of fear of victimization, which, when combined with problems inherent to the aging process, may cause significant behavioral changes. It was finally concluded that victims of crime over the age of 60 often suffer more severely than other age groups, due to economic, psychological, and physical vulnerabilities.


Data from a 1974 survey of 1,269 blacks, Mexican Americans, and whites in Los Angeles, from other surveys, and from published crime statistics are examined in a study of the nature of crimes against the elderly.
The study explores three hypotheses concerning crime against the elderly: Crime is one of the very serious problems faced by older people, crime affects the elderly much more than other groups, and the typical victim is an elderly white woman. The Los Angeles survey sample included persons aged 45 to 74. Respondents were questioned about their perceptions of crime as a problem. The findings suggest that most older people do not perceive crime as one of their most serious problems. Considerably fewer than half of the persons in any race, age, sex, or social class named crime as one of their three most serious problems. The finding that middle-aged subjects experienced crime as a problem in numbers similar to the older population suggests that crime is more of a community problem than a problem of the aged. Overall, blacks reported greater problems with crime than did Mexican Americans and whites. However, among older respondents, differences by race are not as great. Overall, older women do not bear as disproportionate a share of the problems of crime as is imagined. However, differences between older men and women are much more striking among blacks and Mexican Americans, with women reporting crime problems much more often than men. Lower socioeconomic status is not consistently related to perception of crime as a problem. A brief review of national statistics on victimization and of survey findings from Nevada, Detroit, and Chicago suggests that, in general, the elderly are not disproportionately victimized by crime. However, crime statistics, consisting of counts of incidents, cannot take into account the relative impact of crimes on victims. Both the advantages and disadvantages associated with focusing attention on the problem of crime against the elderly are pointed out. Supporting data are included.


This report illustrates the extent of criminal victimization of older people in several cities. Statistics from approximately a dozen cities include such crimes as purse-snatching, pocket-picking, robbery, breaking and entering, homicide, bunco, battery, and rape. New York City has a senior citizens robbery unit in the Bronx that furnishes a crime alert bulletin, a suspect photo file, a court standby, and crime prevention lectures. A 1973 Detroit study showed that persons 55 years of age and older, who comprise 22 percent of the city's population, were victims in 27 percent of unarmed robberies, 27 percent of breaking and entering cases, and 17 percent of armed robberies.
This paper examines the involvement of the elderly with the criminal justice system. It specifically focuses on the number and nature of police contacts with persons over age 60 in Tucson, Arizona. The data discussed come from reports filed by Tucson police officers during March and April, 1976, and from the files of the Victim Witness Advocate Program, a part of the Pima County Attorney's Office. The police report used by the Tucson Police Department contains information which allows one to determine the geographical location of the contact, the nature of the incident according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report classification system, the age, sex, ethnic background of the victim, and information on the defendant. These data are analyzed and compared with LEAA-U.S. Bureau of the Census data concerning victimization in other cities. Demographic analysis charts are appended.

The incidence of personal, property, and street crimes both against and by the elderly residents of St. Petersburg, Florida, was analyzed for 1974 to 1977. A correlation of the data accumulated over the 4-year period accompanies a comprehensive review of crime perpetrated against and by the elderly by category (i.e., homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, residential breaking and entering, auto breaking and entering, and larceny). Tabular data describe victimization and suspect information. Numerical tables provide an overview of total crime occurrence by type and the percentage of victims 60 years of age or older, followed by discussion of the distribution of crime and the patterns of change from year to year. A victim/suspect typology is included to depict the sex/race relationship between offenders and elderly victims by crime type. Crime statistics by month of occurrence are provided to note any seasonal variations. A statistical overview is also provided regarding elderly suspects by crime type, and a victim/suspect typology by crime type is presented for elderly suspects of crime, along with a discussion of trends in elderly participation in shoplifting, assaults, and other crimes. Crime figures by the month are also provided for elderly suspects. A section highlighting the statistics for 1977 is included, with attention to both elderly victims and elderly suspects by crime type and month of occurrence. An earlier report with data from 1974-75 is available (NCJ 37812).
The elderly in Chattanooga, Tennessee, constitute 10.6 percent of the population. A sample of this group was studied to determine the extent and impact of victimization and to develop prevention programs. The questionnaire selected for this survey is entitled "Crime and the Senior Citizen" and was developed by the Technical Research Services Division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. A total of 1,003 usable replies was received from the target group during the survey period, May 1977 through March 1978. Of this number, 120 respondents (about 12 percent) indicated that they had been victims of crime. Respondents were divided into two age categories, 60 through 69 and over 70. The 60-69 age group (42 percent) reported being more active and self-sufficient than the persons over 70, which concurs with other research findings. Both groups reported experiencing strong feelings of insecurity regarding their personal safety at night. A higher proportion of those over 70 reported that they never felt safe. Crime also hampered freedom of movement more for those over 70. Theft of property was the most frequently reported crime for both groups. Purse-snatching was the second most common crime among victims 60-69, while assault was the second most common crime among those over 70. Female respondents outnumbered males, reflecting their larger numbers in this age group. Females reported much higher rates of breaking and entering, a higher dollar loss, and a higher incidence of offenses in the afternoon. Both sexes reported that most offenses occurred in the home. The racial characteristics of the sample resembled those of the city as a whole: 63 percent white, 36 percent black, and 1 percent other races. Fear of crime was equal among blacks and whites, even though twice as many whites were victimized as blacks. Black victims reported personal crimes as the most serious offense whereas white victims reported property losses. The survey found that most elderly persons took many precautions when they went out on the street; however, special locks and other home security devices often were not used. More whites than blacks had their social security checks mailed directly to the bank. The following recommendations were made: (1) that the police offer home security inspections and conduct educational programs in crime prevention for the elderly; (2) that security items be offered at lower cost to senior citizens; (3) that the improvement of home security be publicly funded; and (4) that banks continue to advertise their direct deposit services. An extensive bibliography and survey data tables are included. The survey instrument is appended.
This research report summarizes the results of a study made between February 1 and September 30, 1974, of 3,681 aged victims of crimes that occurred in Texas during 1973. The study was designed to determine the incidence of homicide, rape, assault, robbery, burglary, felony, theft, purse-snatching, auto theft, and swindling committed against persons 60 years of age and older; to analyze the victims and offenders by race, age, and sex; and to determine when, where, and under what circumstances crimes were committed. In this statewide study, more than 1 out of 13 elderly Texans reported being victimized. Differences by ethnic groups were small, and it was found that women were slightly more likely to be victimized than men. Sixty-five percent of the victims said they reported the crime to the police. Study results also indicated that crimes were predominantly intraracial and that most offenders were young, male, and unknown to the victim. A relationship between personal mobility and the location of crimes was also indicated. Tabulated survey findings appear in the appendix along with copies of both the Spanish and English versions of the survey questionnaire.

Victim and offender statistics obtained from interviews in the Houston Model Neighborhood area are analyzed and recommendations for reducing victimization of the aged are made. Results indicate that people over 65 are less frequently victimized than those under 65. The most prevalent crimes against the aged are robbery, swindling, and purse-snatching. Females and blacks are more likely to be victims than males, Mexican Americans, and whites. The recommendations include an educational program for the aged and simplified crime reporting and trial procedures. Less than 50 percent of crimes reported to interviewers were reported to police. Community services can be restructured to help reduce victimization of the aged. Also, the aged must be kept informed on home improvements and protective devices. Appendixes contain data that were not fully exploited in the report as well as the interview questionnaire in both English and Spanish.

A summary is provided of major findings and conclusions of a general police survey of the conditions and circumstances affecting elderly
victimization in Miami Beach, Florida. It was found that 59 percent of the city's permanent residents were over 60 years of age, that robberies and burglaries constituted the largest number of Part 1 offenses committed against the elderly, and that over 90 percent of all purse-snatchers were white males over 18. Only 15 percent of crime victims or elderly citizens as a whole changed their lifestyles as a result of real or feared crime. Department recommendations, based on survey results, include increased public education and crime prevention information efforts such as printed materials, onsite security investigations, and a victim followup program.
CONSUMER FRAUD AND THE ELDERLY

It is estimated that billions of dollars are spent by America's senior citizens each year for disease cures, land plots, preburial contracts, and other questionable products and services. The post-retirement age group has become the chief target of such frauds and rackets. This book exposes these schemes and advises on how to spot them. In addition, a dictionary of major areas, from alcoholism to vitamins, in which swindlers operate is presented, and advice is given by specialists on how to recognize them. Illustrations feature some of the fraudulent devices which have brought fortunes to their "inventors." Many of the swindles described have been substantiated by U. S. Senate hearings, the American Medical Association, and other medical and consumer organizations. Appendixes contain a summary of the major provisions of the Social Security amendments of 1967 dealing with old age, survivors' disability, and health insurance; a list of State offices established for consumer protection is provided.


The findings reported in this study were made during field work by a researcher serving as a janitor in a convalescent center in southern California. Generally, the quality of convalescent centers varies inversely with their proximity to large cities: the greater the distance from government inspectors, the less likely an exemplary convalescent center. The center under study was a locked-door facility in which a number of patients were officially diagnosed as suffering from mental illness; the others were old, frail, and unloved by relatives. Inappropriate or illegal actions by staff or management went beyond financial misappropriations. The center exhibited many forms of deviance which were normalized and done for the sake of organization. The goal of the center was a smoothly operating work flow, thus minimizing disturbances. Many deviant acts perpetrated by patients on other patients or by staff members on patients were handled in ways that minimized their disruption of routine, or were even normalized. Rule-keeping was a formal ritual, but all rules could be informally broken to maintain order. Drugs were the main tools for enforcing control; medications were prescribed on an "as needed" basis, which left their administration to the nurses who in turn relied on aides' suggestions about patients' behavior. Sexual and violent misbehavior was either ignored or normalized in such ways as to preclude interference with routine. To maintain order, the staff allowed patients to be teased by other patients and condoned behavior which brutalized the weak. Patients who are victims of this system are considered deviants. For the center's purposes, deviant behavior includes
senility (a definition that allows the home to obtain extra money from Medicaid); restlessness (agitated behavior); moodiness (manic-depressive behavior); and anger (hostile behavior). Ironically, the patients come to accept the staff's view and begin to view other patients as deviant, a condition which leads to their isolation from fellow patients and from a staff that has no time for them. References are provided.


This article discusses the particular vulnerability of the elderly to consumer and other types of fraud, the types of fraud perpetrated against them, and the problems elderly victims experience in dealing with the criminal justice system. The author concludes that there is a special need for stronger laws against criminal exploitation of the elderly. Such laws would provide harsher penalties and more intensive enforcement against crimes that particularly affect the elderly.


This book examines nursing home fraud, which ranges from stealing money from patients to corruption of social workers who collect kickbacks for committing patients who often have no need for nursing care. The author cites incidents where government aid, together with lack of government control, has made the nursing industry a giant profit machine which has attracted thousands of smalltime hustlers as well as big-money manipulators. While many of the data presented are from a study of nursing homes in Cleveland, Ohio, the author also cites incidents occurring in other States.


Selected areas of elderly consumer fraud—mail orders, land sales, health products, hearing aids, utilities, and funeral services—are examined. Federal, State, and case laws are cited. The most common complaints against mail order firms are failure to deliver, late delivery, and refusal to resolve or even to acknowledge consumer
problems. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has promulgated a trade regulation that requires mail order sellers to fill orders within 30 days or refund the consumer's money. The rule does not preempt stricter State laws such as those in New York and California. The U.S. Postal Service also maintains a measure of control over the use of the mails through a special unit which investigates fraudulent mail order schemes. Older Americans looking toward retirement are often the target of land sales schemes, and a number of States have information disclosure laws for land sales. Various State statutes require sellers to file detailed property reports, which are made available to prospective buyers. Some States go beyond disclosure and give the consumer signing a contract a specified period for cancellation. State laws can also interfere with the elderly consumer's ability to secure a necessary commodity at a competitive price, as is the case with various State laws that prohibit the advertising of drug prices and the substitution of less expensive generic prescriptions. Also, the Food and Drug Administration has found that over-the-counter sleep aids, sedatives, and stimulants commonly used by the public, particularly the elderly, are of little or no value. Dealers in hearing aids are also potential sources of fraud. Hearing aids are often prescribed without need, and elderly consumers are sometimes urged to replace units frequently, or to purchase a second unit for the other ear. A possible source of nonfraudulent financial trouble can be found in public utility rate structures that put the elderly, and other low-volume users living on fixed incomes, at a disadvantage, and utility deposit requirements that force them to pay several months in advance. The Supreme Court has refused to extend due process considerations to the actions of public utilities. Because the elderly are particularly susceptible to unfair and deceptive practices of funeral homes, the FTC is initiating a trade regulation designed to protect them against such practices. References are provided.


A glossary of terms, defining many forms and variations of consumer fraud and abuses as they relate to the elderly, is presented. The glossary items are arranged in alphabetical order, and many are cross-referenced. Most items are also indexed to the accompanying bibliography. The numerical citations following each glossary reference refer to the numbered bibliographic items. Each bibliographic listing is annotated, and, in appropriate instances, specific chapters and page numbers are noted. At the end of the glossary there are additional items which address issues of "susceptibility," service delivery, consumer education, and general materials relevant to fraud against the elderly. Each is prefaced with a brief explanatory note, and the numbered items following are also keyed to the bibliography.
The Postal Inspection Service's emphasis on consumer fraud, particularly crimes committed against the elderly, medical fraud, and false billing schemes, is highlighted. The Postal Inspection Service has set up a special consumer protection program to speak to golden age clubs, civic organizations, and other gatherings to educate people to recognize consumer frauds and, in particular, crimes perpetrated against the elderly. Senior citizens are often targets of elaborate schemes involving the mails, including fraudulent medical remedies, land sales, investments, insurance, home repair schemes, and work-at-home schemes which require a registration fee to learn the details. Debt consolidation schemes in which a person offers to pay all of the senior citizen's bills for a small fee often leave bills unpaid and the victim without insurance coverage, public utility services, and with mortgage foreclosure imminent. Nursing home frauds, money management schemes, and medical frauds are high on the list of crimes being investigated. Medical frauds are often uncovered through consumer complaints. However, the Service also subscribes to numerous magazines and scans them for claims which appear "too good to be true." False billing schemes generally fall into three categories: solicitations for nonexistent minority causes or organizations, solicitations of payments on previously mailed bills for imaginary or useless "business directories," and attempts to enforce payment for previously mailed invoices for fictitious supplies or services that were never ordered. In recent years mail fraud has been accompanied by an "advance phone call" technique, with the result that payments are often received for 18 to 25 percent of these false bills. Some mail fraud operators employ people to search trash baskets for paid invoices, from which they copy control numbers or other auditing authorizations. There have even been instances of office burglaries to obtain this information. Careful verification and accounting procedures are the best defense against such schemes. This report also contains State reports representative of a variety of criminal investigations carried out by the Postal Inspection Service and a list of recent civil administrative orders.
VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND RESTITUTION

A study of victimization and the provision of police services to the elderly in Washington, D.C., is presented. The survey also dealt with the social or health problems resulting from victimizations and the methods by which they were handled. Circumstances were examined under which older persons came to the attention of the police when no crime had been committed but police aid was sought because other community resources were unknown or not available. Methods and techniques were explored for quick and appropriate referral for service by police in disposing of problems older persons encountered as victims of crime or as persons needing or seeking help.


The training and qualifications of paralegal personnel and the law-related services that paralegals and other nonlawyers can provide for elderly persons are discussed. Paralegals are not entitled to practice law but can assist attorneys by doing research, drafting documents, gathering facts, investigating, assisting in preparation for litigation, and performing other tasks formerly done by attorneys. They are active in legal services aiding the poor and in special programs for senior citizens. Paralegals often interview clients, take preliminary steps to help resolve law-related problems, and, in consultation with attorneys, assist in the assertion of legal rights. Federal regulations allow paralegals and other nonlawyers to handle a client's case through the hearing stage when the client is seeking public benefits. Paralegal programs for the elderly offer employment opportunities to older persons and extend services to elderly people who cannot afford to retain an attorney. The Oregon State Bar is the only Bar to have established a certification process for legal assistants. The National Paralegal Institute (NPI) is concerned about developments in paralegal certification and in accreditation of paralegal training programs. In addition to paralegals, community service advisors (e.g., caseworkers, information and referral specialists, and outreach workers employed by social services agencies) assist clients with law-related problems. NPI is involved in training community service advisors employed by area agencies on aging in such matters as public benefits, income maintenance, preventive law, community education, protective services, Medicare and Medicaid, and nursing home advocacy.

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The elements of an effective program of victim services are identified and related to the specific needs of elderly victims of crime. Victim services programs can be guided by two distinct goals: the provision of direct assistance to victims of crime regardless of whether a suspect is involved, and improvement of the treatment of victims and witnesses by the criminal justice system. To pursue these goals, victim services programs can provide case progress information, victim advocacy and crisis intervention services, community resource identification and referral, property release assistance, financial restitution, and counseling. Many victim services programs find that a disproportionate number of their clients are over age 60. Victim services programs can provide greater support to this age group by working closely with police departments, perhaps by receiving all reports of purse-snatchings, and pocket-pickings, assaults involving serious physical injury, and other crimes against elderly persons. Program staff members can then contact the elderly victim and offer assistance. Immediate contact, constant reassurance, and full recognition of physical limitations are vital components of a victim services program for the elderly. Elderly victim assistance programs in Kansas City, Missouri, and Alameda County, California, offer two models for providing services to elderly victims. The Kansas City program focuses on locating elderly victims of unreported crime and on providing emergency financial assistance. The California program emphasizes reinforcement of the victim's own support system through peer counseling by elderly persons who themselves have been victimized.

Several local programs directed at the elderly are highlighted, including a victim volunteer program, blockwatch efforts, a summer youth patrol, and crime education and home security initiatives. In addition to helping crime victims obtain emergency financial assistance, file insurance and Medicare claims, and notifying companies of lost credit cards, volunteers from St. Paul, Minnesota's Elderly Victims of Crime program help the elderly secure legal counseling and apply for compensation from the Minnesota Crime Victims Reparations Board. In Cleveland, Ohio, a citywide blockwatch program is being implemented by recruiting and training senior citizens to watch for suspected criminal activity. Professional guidance is provided at training sessions where the older residents learn how to call the police, collect and relay information, and properly identify suspects. A summer patrol program, initiated in Nashville, Tennessee, is designed to use the talents of unemployed youth in housing projects and to help
victims of assault, robbery, and burglary. The Community Assistance for Senior Safety and Security system, an electronic device developed to alert neighbors of the sudden needs of elderly residents, has been developed, tested, and approved by the Nassau County (New York) Department of Senior Citizens Affairs, and will be installed in high-priority residences in predominantly elderly neighborhoods. A statewide program in Ohio has distributed some 2,100 whistles to the elderly in an effort to test the effectiveness of such inexpensive crime alert techniques. Montgomery County, Maryland, has mounted a crime education effort designed to help the elderly protect themselves from the physical, financial, and emotional traumas of victimization. A special police unit responds to cases of elderly victimizations, outlines specific crime prevention measures that can be taken to avoid future victimizations, and also addresses local gatherings concerning crime and prevention tactics. A home security program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is working to develop inhome security systems for 500 homes of elderly citizens targeted as high risks of residential victimization. Finally, senior citizens in San Diego, California, have organized citizens band radio patrols that travel through local neighborhoods in an effort to detect and deter such crimes as residential burglary. Names of the individual projects are provided, along with their mailing addresses.


It is important for police to realize that crime impacts more seriously on older people, that old people are a valuable resource and have a vested interest in crime prevention programs, and that they are influential. Six keys to the changing police perspective on the elderly are discussed: the differential impact and distinctive aspects of crime against the elderly; full-service policing; general victim orientation in criminal justice; the systems approach in criminal justice; community-based crime control and "segmentalism"; and political activism and the prioritization and legitimation of older persons' needs.


This article explores the link between fear of crime and the high rate of nonreporting among the elderly and advocates a system of support for the victim as a means of increasing confidence in law enforcement. The support system described includes crime prevention education and victim services components.
A description is given of the Pasadena, California, Police Department's victim assistance teams, which provide community services, referral services, and followup assistance to elderly crime victims and nonvictims. The Victim Assistance Team (VAT) project is an outgrowth of the Pasadena Police/Community Resource Involvement Council effort to familiarize elderly crime victims with the criminal justice system and teach them crime prevention techniques. The VAT, which originally assisted only crime victims, was expanded to include all senior citizens. Police officers serve as the central source of referral to the VAT program. Among the services provided are financial assistance, arrangements for medical care, followup contacts for crime victims, and home care.

Sources of funding for legal services programs, the activities of the National Senior Citizens Law Center, and the types of services that can be provided to the elderly by lawyers are discussed. The federally funded Legal Services Corporation operates 800 offices in about 300 district programs throughout the United States. Approximately 100 specialized legal services programs for the elderly are funded through Title III of the Older Americans Act. Other sources of funding for legal services projects include revenue-sharing moneys, Title XX of the Social Security Act, and the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. The National Senior Citizens Law Center provides expertise on legal issues confronting the elderly. Funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation, the Center acts as a support and information center for legal aid programs and has been involved in such areas as involuntary commitment, guardianship, nursing home problems, Medicare and Medicaid, public and private pension problems, Social Security, food stamps, and special housing questions. The Center also has task forces on older veterans and older women. Private attorneys can serve the legal needs of the elderly best by focusing on individual cases. The Center urges private attorneys to become involved with group legal insurance programs or legal clinics. Lawyers can help elderly clients in their dealings with Government benefit and public and private pension programs by providing information on eligibility and interpreting regulations.
Activities that have been initiated by agencies and community-based groups in urban, suburban, and rural communities to reduce the incidence of crime against the elderly are described. During the last 25 years, the number of Americans over 65 has increased dramatically. Between 1950 and 1970, the number of elderly in New York State alone rose by 56 percent. Until recently, most crime surveys revealed that those over 65 were less likely to be victimized than other age groups. However, statistics for 1974-1977 indicate that there has been an increase in elderly victimization. This report describes efforts initiated in New York State to stem this tide of crime and to assist elderly victims. Recommended initiatives for State and local governments are outlined. The report is organized into four sections which provide a statistical overview of the problem and reasons why the elderly are likely victims of crime; review the statewide programs which the Governor, legislature, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Office for the Aging, Crime Victims Compensation Board, and other State agencies have developed to assist the elderly; examine the prevention and assistance initiatives of various localities throughout the State; and outline the types of programs and associated costs which the New York Crime Control Planning Board intended to consider during 1978. Nine appendixes— one reviewing projects funded by the Crime Control Board to assist the elderly and eight containing legislation regarding criminal victimization of the elderly—are included.


The relationship between lawyers and elderly clients is examined from the perspective of each party, and a simulation exercise aimed at sensitizing lawyers to the problems of the elderly is suggested. The expansion of government programs for the elderly and the increasing number of age-related laws indicate that lawyers, agency personnel, and other legal professionals will find increasing numbers of elderly persons among their clientele. Because legal professionals are likely to have contact with elderly persons in times of crisis, it is important that the professional understand the needs, concerns, and problems of
this age group. However, research data suggest that many professionals have attitudinal problems regarding the elderly which often add to the numerous other difficulties older people encounter. Ill health, lack of money to pay legal fees, fear of the legal system, lack of knowledge about available services, and reluctance to ask for assistance are among the factors limiting access to the legal system by the elderly. Lawyers report that elderly clients tend to require lengthier consultations. Limited experience with the elderly and inadequate education concerning the legal problems of the elderly often leave young lawyers out of touch with older clients. Some lawyers note that age-related physical problems make it difficult to communicate with elderly clients. Lawyers who are genuinely concerned for the well-being of older clients need to gain insight into what it means to be old. A simulation exercise designed to acquaint people with the frustrations of vision, hearing, dental, and arthritis impairment is described.


Types of program evaluation available to victim services projects are identified, and guidelines for choosing an evaluation design and for using evaluation information are offered. An evaluator usually is interested in three dimensions of program activities and outcomes: quantity, timeliness, and cost. An effective outcome evaluation focuses on a meaningful measure of program effectiveness and links that measure to the program or to various types of strategies used by the program. The process evaluation measures project performance by focusing on the project's activities. Evaluation is a tool to be used by project directors in improving the operation of the program, in determining whether an expanded program is called for, in justifying continued funding of activities, and in making other decisions. The type of evaluation used by a program depends on the developmental phase of the program and how the information is to be used. The project director should insure that the project is operated in a way that can be evaluated. Social science research standards should be used to judge the quality of the evidence in an evaluation and the accuracy of evaluation conclusions. Methods and measurement tools in an evaluation should be appropriate for the situation and conditions in which they will be used. Evaluation designs should avoid technical and methodological weaknesses as well as oversophistication. Project directors should solicit an evaluation design or proposal from prospective evaluators that includes the questions to be answered, the types of information to be provided, the methodology, the data elements to be collected, and cost and time factors.
Testimony is reported and other materials are given on the experiences, findings, and recommendations of the Alexandria, Virginia, and Montgomery County, Maryland, Police Departments relating to crime problems of senior citizens. The operation of the Montgomery County Criminal Victimization of the Elderly Response Team, an LEAA-funded pilot project, is highlighted. Formed in November 1975, this unit is made up of a police officer, a social worker, and an administrative aide. It provides three major program components: an educational effort designed to reduce the level of fear of crime and increase reporting of crime among the "60 plus" age group; a capacity to respond to elderly crime victims with the goal of restoring the victim to a level of functioning approximating that prior to victimization; and research and analysis of team and program effectiveness in achieving the above goals. The program proposal submitted to LEAA is appended.

A program proposal to aid elderly victims of crime in a five-county area in Missouri is outlined. The proposal was made by the Personal Security and Public Safety Committee of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Commission on Aging, directing attention to what could be done with MARC resources to address the crime-related concerns of older persons. The proposal was made in response to the findings of a Midwest Research Institute study on the effects of crime on the elderly in the five counties. The program's goals included relieving the circumstances contributing to the isolation of the area's elderly, developing programs and activities to prevent crimes against the elderly through citizen and community involvement, and developing model programs and activities which could be used in other communities to assist in establishing similar crime prevention programs. The program provides for public education, community crime prevention activities, elderly victim assistance services, and continuing information and information support systems. Factors affecting elderly crime concerns are reviewed in the appendix.
This booklet lists State and privately operated victim-witness assistance programs. It includes their addresses, sponsoring agencies, program directors, and types of services provided.

An attempt to develop preliminary estimates of the dollar costs and the number of crimes which would be covered by a standardized national program to compensate victims of violent crime is described. Figures are developed on the assumption that such a national victim compensation program would be similar to the ones now existing in several States. The report uses National Crime Survey (NCS) victimization data from 1974 to illustrate the effects of various statutory eligibility criteria on the number of crime victims in the nation who would be eligible to receive reimbursement for medical expenses and loss of earnings. These eligibility criteria are then varied to determine number of victims covered and costs of the program under several conditions. In a final analysis, estimated program administrative costs and the costs of providing benefits to survivors of homicide victims are added to the cost estimates derived from the NCS. Estimates generated are somewhat limited in scope: the NCS excludes persons under 12 from the sample, earnings actually lost must be inferred from time lost from work and family income, and homicide-related claims must be estimated from separate sources. When such problems are encountered, attempts are made to overestimate rather than underestimate program costs. This analysis projects maximum costs of a national compensation program at $145 million to $260 million, depending on eligibility criteria chosen. In 1974, net medical expenses for 76,696 victimizations totaled $22.5 million, borne largely by public or private insurance plans. Information was not available on net earning losses due to victimization, but they were estimated at about $56 million. Workmen's compensation and other sources would probably pay an additional $56 million. Benefits to survivors of homicide victims are estimated to be in the neighborhood of $80 million nationally. For both net medical expenses and loss of earnings, it is clear that the preponderance of dollar losses is borne by comparatively few victims. Therefore, it appears that a minimum loss requirement would be effective in weeding out the majority of potential claims, a disallowance generally justified in terms of the disproportionate
administrative expense such small claims would entail. The philosophy behind various criteria and cost factors to be considered are discussed. Tabular data and references are provided.


Documents on victim/witness services, compensation, and restitution are cited in a two-part annotated bibliography compiled from the collection of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). The section on victim/witness services cites 26 articles, books, and reports on the need for victim/witness services; the functions of such services in providing protective, supportive, and educational assistance; implementation of services to assist rape victims, battered wives, and other vulnerable victims; the elements of effective programs; and the evaluation of specific programs. The section on compensation and restitution lists 32 publications covering the history and function of victim compensation programs in the United States and elsewhere; the role of the State in providing compensation and restitution; the types of services provided; and details of program operation, eligibility, and legal status. The publication dates of most of the entries range from 1972 through spring 1977. Each entry includes a 200- to 300-word abstract. Information on how to obtain the documents from NCJRS is provided, along with a list of document sources and a summary of multistate victim compensation programs.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY
Survey results of a sample of 45 elderly and handicapped persons in Portsmouth, England, who had emergency alarm systems installed in their homes are discussed. The alarms, installed in 447 homes, were battery operated and activated by pulling bellcords. The alarms were installed as a means of getting help to old people in case of emergency and were designed to ring in either a public place or a neighbor's home. The 1975 survey was designed to assess how the elderly and handicapped clients felt about the alarms, whether they thought they were useful, and whether they would use them in an emergency. Findings indicated that a majority of those sampled was pleased to have the alarm system and felt more secure because of it. However, there was a general reluctance to set off the alarm, traceable to the client's difficulty in deciding what constituted a real emergency and uncertainty over who would respond to the alarm.

This video tape presents ways senior citizens can lessen their chances of becoming victims of assault, including advice on how to handle an assault if one occurs. Numerous vignettes depict safety precautions to be taken against assault on the street, in stores, on the bus, and in one's automobile. Both whimsical and practical safety measures are discussed. The planning of trips outside the home is emphasized. Pauses in the presentation allow for viewer discussion. This video tape is intended to be used in conjunction with two similar tapes as part of an integrated program to educate elderly individuals in ways to reduce crime and the fear it produces. For the other video tapes dealing with robbery and burglary, see NCJ 38533 and 38535, respectively.

This video tape presents ways senior citizens can lessen their chances of becoming victims of burglary. Numerous tricks used by thieves to determine if someone is home and whether a place is worth breaking into are depicted in a series of vignettes. It is shown that the typical burglar can look like almost anyone. The right and wrong ways
to leave one's residence are demonstrated. Physical security considerations are discussed including deadbolt locks, window hardware, lighting, alarm systems, and removal of foliage which provides cover for burglars. The importance of neighborhood cooperation is pointed out. Pauses in the presentation allow for viewer discussion. This video tape is intended to be used in conjunction with two similar tapes as part of an integrated program to educate elderly individuals in ways to reduce crime and the fear it produces. For the other video tapes which deal with robbery and assault, see NCJ 38533 and 38534, respectively.


This video tape presents ways senior citizens can lessen their chances of becoming victims of robbery, including advice on how to handle a robbery if one occurs. Numerous vignettes depict examples of techniques used by robbers attempting to gain entrance to a victim's home. The viewer is urged to be suspicious of strangers seeking information and always ask for identification. One scene deals with a break-in while the victim is in bed. The homeowner in this situation should either lock the bedroom door, set off an alarm, quietly call the police, or feign sleep. Confrontation with the intruder should be avoided, but if it occurs, cooperation is the safest course of action. Pauses in the presentation allow for viewer discussion. This video tape is intended to be used in conjunction with two similar tapes as part of an integrated program to educate elderly individuals in ways to reduce crime and the fear it produces. For the other video tapes which deal with assault and burglary, see NCJ 38534 and 38535, respectively.


A project using an audiovisual approach to helping elderly individuals decrease their chances of becoming victims of robbery, burglary, or assault is described and evaluated. Baltimore's Crime Prevention Program for the Elderly was a cooperative effort by the Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice and the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education. It involved the creation of a public education program aimed at senior citizens. Using a video tape presentation accompanied by audience discussion. Pre- and postprogram questionnaires were used to assess the effectiveness of the presentation.
This report begins with a brief sketch of the program's historical development followed by a detailed discussion of its various phases. Points covered include initial meetings, scriptwriting, filming, scheduling of presentations, teaching techniques, presentation summary manual, and video tape equipment. A general discussion of the program and its impact is provided. An appendix includes such items as presentation information, lesson plans, pre- and postprogram evaluative questionnaires, an analysis of questionnaire results, and verbal and written reactions of some program participants. For the three video tapes which deal with robbery, assault, and burglary, see NCJ 38533, 38534, and 38535, respectively.


A Detroit, Michigan, multiphase project designed to provide a safe environment for senior adults within a designated inner-city target area is described. This project involves public education in the areas of safety education, crime prevention, and basic self-defense; transportation services for seniors; a home visit for operation identification; a banking phase which assists clients in setting up checking and savings accounts and includes direct mailing of income checks to banks to avoid large sums of money being carried by seniors; a telephone reassurance program of calls by volunteers to isolated elders; and a recreation phase which will be made possible by the preceding phases. The project is administered by the Detroit Police Department.


The operation of Project Assist, a prototype social services delivery program linking police and the elderly, demonstrated in Washington, D.C., from October 1970 to April 1971, is described. Project Assist was part of a research program conducted by the Washington School of Psychiatry to study the relationship between the elderly and the Washington Metropolitan Police Department. Project Assist was designed to demonstrate the utility of social service personnel to the police department while discovering the dimensions of victimizations of the elderly and their use of the police as a "social service" agency. Three methods of obtaining cases were used in Project Assist: direct referrals from the police station of walk-in clients; referral of cases from police case reports; and requests for help for the elderly by concerned individuals. Project Assist staff used both telephones and home visits to contact potential clients and offer
assistance. The project served 220 clients in its 7 months of direct services. The most common noncrime problem was physical illness. Characteristics of the clients served are reviewed, and implications of this research project are briefly discussed.

Project Assist, the 1970 District of Columbia demonstration study which examined victimization of the elderly is described. The 8-month project studied the extent of victimization of the elderly in the District, the resulting kinds of social and health problems, and the circumstances under which older people come to the attention of the police whether or not a crime has been committed. Project Assist also attempted to facilitate police liaison and referral to social services through coordination with social workers and the development of police training programs in special problems of the elderly. During the project, 220 persons with a mean age of 70 received direct help such as emergency financial and medical assistance. The project report includes extensive statistical analysis on a citywide basis. Major findings indicate that women are more frequently victimized than men, blacks more than whites, and that the very poor, widowed, and single elderly are particularly vulnerable. Robbery is the chief crime plaguing the elderly. Other crimes and consumer frauds perpetrated against senior citizens are discussed, and ways to reduce crime and assist victims are listed. These include 24-hour social services, victim compensation, provision of escort services, and self-defense education programs.

An outline for a crime prevention and consumer fraud protection seminar is presented, including descriptions of program objectives and approaches, seminar topics, planning steps, and a sample agenda. This California program was developed to inform elderly citizens about consumer fraud and crime as it affects their age group and to present methods of protection. It describes their rights and entitlements under law and tells them where and how to complain if victimized. The program organizes and trains senior volunteers throughout the State to act as crime prevention leaders in local senior centers, organizations, and neighborhoods. Program approaches can include 1-day seminars for information dissemination or more general community organization. Among the 30 topics suggested for the seminar approach are burglary prevention, safe practices at night in cars, how to seek legal advice, and warranties. Steps in planning a seminar and
a sample agenda are provided. It is suggested that senior citizens be used to operate the program; that free facilities be located in city buildings or colleges; and that personnel of local law enforcement, legal, and consumer agencies be asked to furnish speakers, films, or other information. The Crime Prevention Unit of the Attorney General's Office offers a model for crime prevention and consumer fraud programs.


Members of the Connecticut criminal justice and social service communities met to discuss possible solutions to the problem of criminal victimization of the elderly. Selected statewide programs dealing with the problem are briefly noted, including economic crime units instituted to help check fraud and other economic crimes and a system designed to identify elderly victims of crime and link them with available social services. Federal problems and initiatives are also discussed, and aspects mentioned include: the lack of coherent and reliable survey data on elderly victimization; a multifaceted study of older Americans to determine what types of urban policies can best help to stabilize urban communities, particularly inner-city neighborhoods inhabited by the elderly; projects directed toward mobilizing existing community resources; the education of older people in crime prevention techniques; strengthening neighborhood crime prevention activities; and improvement of physical security of homes and housing projects. Other Federal efforts include the revision of the criminal code, the establishing a victim compensation program, investigating Medicaid bills, and consumer protection measures regarding electronic funds transfers, condominium sales, and medi-gap insurance policies. The findings of the Midwest Research Institute are reviewed with respect to patterns of elderly victimization, the environment and demographic characteristics of elderly victims, types of offenses, and the economic impact of crime. A demonstration project that resulted from the research is discussed, as is the implementation of a property identification component. The success of the Grey Panthers in their battle over energy costs with state utility suppliers and a Hartford Police Department study of four categories of crime are reviewed. The four crime categories consist of purse-snatching, where no violence was used; robbery purse-snatching; onstreet residential robbery; and residential burglary. It was found that, for 1977, elderly victims were involved in 24 percent of simple purse-snatchings, 29.6 percent of robbery purse-snatchings, 6 percent of street purse-snatchings or residential robberies, and 10.4 percent of residential burglaries. As a result of the findings, certain programs—safety lectures, target hardening, increased patrol, and volunteer crime reduction efforts—were initiated in districts evidencing particular
needs. Notes are provided from three workshops held to identify: (1) what would be happening if everything that could be done for the elderly was being done; (2) what is being done for the elderly; and (3) what could be done for the elderly that is not being done or could be done differently.


This article explains the development of a home security program for senior citizens in St. Louis. The article illustrates the extreme hardships that burglaries can have on senior citizens. It outlines the formation of a program, funded by the National Council on Aging, to help senior citizens take physical steps to secure their homes. Program funding was used to improve and repair senior citizen centers, and to help the elderly in other ways.


Successful police crime prevention efforts aimed at senior citizens depend on communication; not only the correct medium, but the ability to take that medium to older citizens, and knowledge of the subject. Also important is the ability to communicate in an educational and entertaining fashion, the "achievability" and reasonableness of criteria suggested for greater security, and the "time effectiveness" of communications. Other media besides the spoken word can also be utilized in the crime prevention effort, such as senior citizen crime watch organizations.


The skeleton structure of a service model for elderly crime victims is presented based on the Crime Victims Service Center, a pilot program servicing victims of violent crimes in the Bronx, New York. The service model described comprises a human service component with both direct and referral services, a crime prevention component, and advocacy activities. Within the human service component, direct service would utilize trained counselors to provide counseling to reduce the intensity of emotional problems which follow an attack. Possible service needs in this area are explored. Potential advocacy roles
and prevention efforts are also considered. This paper was presented at the meeting of the National Conference on Crime Against the Elderly, June 5-7, 1975, Washington, D.C.


After reviewing the special nature of crimes against the elderly, this paper offers an overview of the use of segmental crime prevention based on the elderly potential victim population. Segmental community crime prevention is functionally specific; that is, there is a direct relationship between the base of the potential victim population and the specific targeted crimes which are of particular concern to the population segment. The older American is an excellent example of one such potential victim population. Crime has a special impact on the elderly person in terms of economic, physical, and psychological factors. This paper examines community crime prevention activities which focus on older persons as the participants and specific crimes against older persons as the target crimes. Segmental community crime prevention models can be differentiated according to the relative balance of public to private involvement. Three such programs are examined in this article. The first program, that of the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons, illustrates a segmental approach in which the private sector is dominant. A program in which the public sector is dominant is illustrated by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse Program. The California Attorney General's Consumer Information and Protection Program for Seniors, a program demonstrating shared public and private involvement, is also described.

107. GROSS, P. J. Crime Prevention Programs for Senior Citizens. Gaithersburg, Maryland, 1976. 100 p. MICROFICHE (NCJ 37444)

This directory contains information on senior citizen crime prevention programs operating as of May 1976. It was compiled as a reference tool for those agencies or organizations considering the establishment of a similarly oriented program. Entries are listed alphabetically by the city in which the program's headquarters is located.


This article presents the results of a survey of law enforcement activities that are staffed by senior volunteers and crime prevention pro-
grams aimed at senior citizens. The survey dealt with volunteer programs in law enforcement agencies, crime prevention programs implemented for senior citizens, senior citizen victimization and its prevention, and problems between the police and the senior citizen. In addition, a model program plan for involving senior citizens in crime prevention programs is presented.


MICROFICHE (NCJ 28006)

This project, directed by the counseling section of the crime prevention unit since 1974, offers a phone-in service to senior citizens so they can be checked on daily by someone. A phone line was installed in the crime prevention unit office for the purpose of Lifeline. Volunteers were recruited to answer calls each morning from 9 to 11 a.m.; weekend and holiday calls were handled by a dispatcher. Senior citizens call Lifeline at assigned times to report on their condition. By 11 a.m., if no call is received, a call is made to them. If there is no answer, an ambulance is dispatched to the residence to investigate. To obtain membership, a senior citizen or handicapped individual need only call the main police number, crime prevention the unit, or the Lifeline number and request to be placed on the list. There are no specific requirements for membership, only that the person be willing to make the phone call every morning to the Lifeline number. Operation Lifeline operates on a budget which consists of the price of the phone line. This cost is covered by the city, and the salary of the coordinator is covered by an LEAA grant. Seventy-six phone calls are taken by volunteers, so the operating costs are minimal.


MICROFICHE (NCJ 49967)

Programs operated by the police and courts of New York City to reduce the impact of crime for the elderly are assessed. Recommendations are made for both criminal justice agencies and social service agencies. The report surveys patterns of crime against the elderly, procedures used to process crimes against the elderly in the criminal justice system, and crime prevention and victim assistance programs operated by the police and courts. These programs include preventive patrols, security surveys, talks before senior citizens' groups, decoy operations with police officers impersonating elderly citizens, patrols within buildings occupied by large numbers of older persons, and escort programs. Postincident victim assistance programs are handled through referrals to social service agencies.
Special teams have been formed to investigate crimes against elderly persons. Special prevention and investigation programs have been formed in cooperation with the New York Housing Authority. Victim and witness assistance projects help elderly citizens follow up a case, get to the court to testify, and recover stolen property. The court also is acting to limit the number of appearances an elderly victim must make to prosecute a case. The Court Monitoring Project of the East Bronx Council on Aging is described. Treatment of crimes against the elderly in family court is surveyed; however, too few are processed to form an opinion on the effectiveness of family court's handling of such cases. The conclusions note that crime against the elderly has decreased in New York City and encourages continuation of the special patrols and other crime prevention efforts. Targeted distribution of security devices to low-income persons in high-crime areas is suggested, as is continued citizen education. It is recommended that police officers work more closely with social service agencies to arrange for emergency aid; that procedures for recovery of stolen property from police and court storerooms be simplified; that efforts to reduce the number of appearances a victim must make in court be intensified; and that a procedure to routinely inform both police investigators and the victim of the outcome of a case be established. A previous study on the role of social service agencies in helping crime victims is appended.


This manual was designed to assist local police and community groups in developing, implementing, and evaluating cooperative crime prevention programs. The methodology a police department or citizens group should use in identifying the extent and nature of their crime/victim problems is discussed. Also included is a collection of some strategies which have been developed by various jurisdictions throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area and the United States to initiate citizen involvement in crime prevention. The report is not an exhaustive listing of all crime prevention programs but a summary of some of the more successful ones. First, a brief background statement familiarizes the reader with each particular program and its objectives. This is followed by a listing of key steps to consider when implementing the program discussed. There is also a description of some of the pamphlets, brochures, forms, and decals which have been used by several jurisdictions in association with the particular programs being considered. Some of the programs discussed are concerned with the prevention of robbery, burglary, rape, auto theft, and larceny. Programs designed to prevent prevalent crimes against women, youth, and senior citizens are also treated. The appendixes include a bibliography, a list of crime prevention films and slides, and a description of Metropolitan Atlanta crime prevention units.
This article describes Haworth (New Jersey) Police Department's program which provides daily telephone contact for elderly citizens who live alone. The first requisite of this program is that the individual must live alone. A citizen participating in the program must call the police department by 10:00 a.m. each day using a special telephone number. If a call is not received by this time, the police officer calls the participant. If there is no answer, a patrol car is dispatched to the home to see if everything is all right.

Guidelines are given for establishing operational programs concerned with preventing crime against senior citizens. The article includes a list and description of the following steps to follow in organizing a crime prevention program: identification of resources, locating senior citizens, and development of an ongoing program. Projects that have been successful in the Jacksonville, Florida, area are also described. The author concludes with the premise that conferences and studies are essential in defining elderly crime prevention and assessing program needs, but, most importantly, effort should be directed toward actually interfacing with the aged, reducing their fear; and making them less likely to be victimized.

114. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND GOALS. SCAT (Senior Citizens Against Thievery). Undated. 50 p. MICROFICHE (NCJ 29114) 
A Baltimore crime prevention program being developed to educate the city's senior citizens to make them less susceptible as victims is described. The inability of data to accurately reflect the severity of the problem of crime against the aged is discussed. A demographic analysis of Baltimore's low-income elderly and black populations is included with maps indicating areas of heavy concentration. A series of video tape training modules being developed by Antioch College to be used in areas where the SCAT (Senior Citizens Against Thievery) program is to be presented is described. Module content and presentation methods are also described. For additional information on this program, see NCJ 31024.

MICROFICHE (NCJ 37722)

A program of the New York City Police Department to reduce the rate of robbery among senior citizens in the Bronx by concentrating on apprehending perpetrators and coordinating countywide intelligence is described. The Senior Citizens Robbery Unit (SCRU) concept has been adopted citywide after two years of operation in the Bronx.


This article draws attention to the serious nature of the crime of purse-snatching, addresses some of the problems faced by law enforcement in dealing with this crime, and offers suggestions for prevention. Most victims of purse-snatches are elderly women whose place of residence, shopping habits, and reliance on public transportation make them particularly susceptible to this crime. While usually not considered to be a serious crime by the police, purse-snatches often impose serious economic hardships on victims and often result in serious injuries to the victim. The author observes that police response to the crime of purse-snatching is generally not enthusiastic. To counteract the problem of purse-snatches, the author suggests that law enforcement should educate potential victims, be particularly watchful for potential victims, encourage juvenile authorities to actively participate in deterrence, and support arrangements with service organizations to provide transportation and escort services for elderly women.


After a brief review of the special problems of the elderly with respect to crime victimizations, the author describes two Syracuse Police Department programs designed to recognize and aid elderly citizens. The Syracuse Police Department has a police officer whose primary duty is to review all crime reports, determine who the elderly victims are, and pay them a followup visit. The second program, called the Senior Citizen Recognition Program, provides part-time jobs for two senior citizens and provides valid identification cards for all Syracuse senior citizens.

The Louisville, Kentucky, Police Department reduces theft and related injuries with a check cashing program for elderly and infirm residents in their apartment complex. As a public service, the Police Officers' Association is using its bank funds once a month to cash social security and old-age assistance checks for residents.


A crime prevention program in St. Petersburg, Florida, which was jointly sponsored by local government and a volunteer organization to reduce crime and allay unfounded fears of crime in two target areas, is described. The areas chosen included 11 census tracts which were experiencing an increase in crime and a rising fear of crime. Partial statistics for the first year of operation indicate that Project Concern's target hardening and walk-in social service activities may be partially responsible for a decreasing crime rate.


Following some criticism of misconceptions about the criminal victimization of the elderly and validity of crime survey data, crime prevention efforts by two retiree organizations are discussed. It is argued that crime surveys of the type commonly employed by the Federal Government indicate ups and downs in overall victimization rates but provide little information about the victimization of the elderly. Although it is true that the elderly have low victimization rates for such serious crimes as homicide, rape, and aggravated assault, they have high victimization rates for purse-snatching and strong-arm robbery. Further, an examination of police offense reports indicates that most crimes committed against the elderly can be avoided by using simple prevention techniques. In 1972, the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) instituted a crime prevention program to help older persons reduce criminal opportunity and the risk of being victimized, to alert them to the real dangers, and to help dispel imagined threats. As the program developed, it became apparent that law enforcement officers were sympathetic to the problems of the elderly, but lacked specialized training in the area. Reviews by the NRTA-AARP found that little research had been done regarding the role of police in handling this problem and indicated a nearly complete lack of resources in the field. In 1973, the associations be-
gan conducting training seminars for police trainers, administrators, and other high-level professionals in the law enforcement community. In 1976, LEAA awarded the NRTA-AARP a grant to develop a training course based on their experience in conducting over 200 seminars. The course covers fundamental information on the processes of aging and translates certain facts about aging into practical applications for use by law enforcement officers in increasing their efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with the elderly and their unique concerns. One of the principal objectives is to encourage the officer to look beyond statistics to consider the varying impacts of crimes on the elderly. Site visits to areas using the senior citizen as a community crime prevention and support service resource have convinced the NRTA-AARP that the elderly can fulfill valuable services in community patrol, traffic control, search and rescue, water safety, and a variety of educational programs, including making crime prevention presentations to the community. Photos illustrate the text.


Testimony and other materials are presented on the Wilmington, Delaware, Crime Resistance Task Force and the programs it has developed to alleviate crime problems affecting senior citizens. This crime reduction/prevention program involves community involvement and education. Its programs include a "no purse" program which encourages elderly women not to carry a purse with them on the streets unless absolutely necessary; an "escort companion" program; a truancy program designed to remove truants, and therefore potential offenders, from the streets and return them to school; and "Operation MAJIC" (monitors aiding justice in court), a court-watching project in which concerned elderly volunteers from the community monitor court cases where one of their residents is appearing as a victim or a witness for the prosecution. Appended materials include tabular data on juvenile crime and crimes against persons and property and the crime resistance program victimization survey questionnaire.


Police files were audited and 300 senior citizens were surveyed in an effort to document elderly victimization and gauge its effect on the perceptions and lifestyles of senior adults in Erie County, New York. Computer printouts of acts of victimization between 1974 and
1977 were obtained and all crimes against individuals 50 years or older were isolated and categorized by type, location, time of occurrence, and type of victim (i.e., age, sex, and race). Additionally, a random sample of 300 senior citizens was taken and divided into two sections: those who had not heard about Project Awareness lectures and those who had attended Project Awareness lectures delivered at nutrition centers, senior citizens lecture groups, home security seminars, and other events. Project Awareness offers crime prevention techniques to senior citizens through five lectures dealing with home security, street safety, consumer fraud, general crime resistance, and property identification. The survey indicated that 71 percent of the respondents were, to a large extent, self-sufficient; that 31 percent of both groups went out after dark at least four times a week; that only 10 percent never felt safe in their living quarters, neighborhoods, yards, or shopping areas; and that 86 percent of both groups felt safe on public transportation or in automobiles. Responses from both groups about police effectiveness and service were similarly positive. However, the responses from both groups about the effect of crime on their activities and movements were negative: 88 percent were either greatly or somewhat inhibited by a fear of being victimized. Also, only half of those who reported that they had been victimized reported the crime to the police because they were either frightened, did not think the authorities would do anything, did not think the authorities could do anything, did not know what number to call, or could not identify the offenders. Over 52 percent of each group took precautions to avoid or minimize the loss incurred by a victimization, while 43 percent of those who attended Project Awareness lectures and 27 percent of those who did not felt that improved security measures (locks on doors and windows, leaving the lights on) were techniques they felt necessary. The review of police statistics found that senior citizens were seldom the victims of forcible rape, murder, and auto theft and were more vulnerable to robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, and larceny. Tabular data, a bibliography, and the survey instrument are provided.


This final report, dated February 1977, discusses a project which had as its goal the development of model programs or procedures to assist police agencies in meeting the needs of their local senior citizens. To develop a base of information concerning the current practices of law enforcement in the field of crimes against the elderly, a survey was sent to police departments in the nation's 500 largest cities and to a selected group of agencies. A literature search and field visits also were made. Based on the research findings,
a directory of programs for preventing crime against senior citizens was produced. Two entire issues of a national journal also were prepared to supply information on ongoing programs in the field. For related information, see NCJ 37444.


The development and implementation of a program designed to provide elderly residents of Cleveland and the surrounding suburbs with information on crime prevention are described. Cuyahoga County's senior safety and security program uses slide shows, discussions, and demonstrations to teach the elderly how to make themselves less vulnerable to crime and how to help the police apprehend criminals. The program's efforts are concentrated in six urban and suburban areas with large numbers of elderly residents. Program staff members contact all senior citizen clubs and organizations, nutrition centers, and large apartment buildings to arrange for presentations. Each site's presentation usually includes a discussion of crime problems; a demonstration of locks and property marking, slide shows on banking services and on techniques for foiling burglars, street attacks, and confidence artists; and a quiz on crime. The program staff also performs safety inspections of elderly citizens' homes on request and provides consultation services for police. Findings of the program's survey of victimization among elderly Cleveland residents are summarized, as are highlights of the crime prevention information included in the program's presentations.


Priority recommendations for implementation in fiscal year 1978-79 are presented, along with a multiyear, broad-based plan designed to identify problems and effect solutions regarding crimes against the elderly. A profile of Florida's elderly is developed from available data, and an analysis of available crime data related to the elderly is provided. In addition, an analysis of a victimization survey conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance of the Department of Administration and the American Association of Retired Persons/National Retired Teachers Association in November 1977 is presented. A study of these data indicates that while the elderly in Florida are not, overall, the most criminally victimized segment
of the State's population, certain groups of older persons, under certain circumstances, are generally more vulnerable to particular types of crimes by certain types of offenders. Action recommendations for fiscal year 1978-79 consist of the top 20 priority considerations for implementation. The first priority objective is the acquisition of good data on the victims and perpetrators of crime against the elderly. A short statement summarizes the problem for which each recommendation is given. The recommendation is followed by the suggested approach for implementation. The multiyear plan section of the report consists of an analysis of data and information on the following seven issues and problems: service delivery coordination; public information and data development and dissemination; crime prevention; juvenile justice and delinquency prevention; law enforcement; courts; and corrections. The report also contains a section which inventories agency resources and services to the elderly. Volume 2 consists of appendixes of supporting data and information relating to particular portions of the plan. Also included are task force meeting summaries and highlights of presentations given by speakers at meetings held throughout the State. Volume 1 is available as NCJ 50589. Volume 2, an appendix of supporting data, is available as NCJ 50590.


Entries in this annotated bibliography deal specifically with significant and innovative crime prevention projects involving community action and utilizing community resources. The bibliography of documents in the NCJRS data base is divided into four categories. The first deals with general topics such as theory and activities, defines terms of reference, and identifies social environments conducive to effective community crime prevention programs. Several works dealing with the relationship between the criminal justice system and the community in Japan are included. The second category presents materials concerning police/community crime prevention contact such as security, citizen patrols, and citizen crime reporting. The third category describes several innovative programs using community resources, such as drug prevention programs, youth service bureaus, volunteer programs, and community education programs. The final section contains materials dealing with crime prevention through environmental and architectural design. The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author within each category. Most entries are more recent than 1970. The appendix includes a resource list of Federal agencies that have publications in the area of community crime prevention.

The author compares age-integrated and age-segregated housing projects on the basis of such factors as building security and elderly residents' feelings of safety, and concludes that age-segregated housing is safer. The author found that older adults living in age-segregated housing had more contacts with others, had less fear of crime, and used more informal crime prevention methods than elderly residents of age-integrated housing. He claims that the segregated housing projects may be a kind of "defensible space" in which residents develop a strong sense of community and an ability to identify and challenge intruders. The author concludes that age-segregated public housing seems proactively to anticipate the crime problem by constructing a social environment that reduces the probability of the criminal event. Not only does it appear to offer a more secure environment for the elderly but it seems, simultaneously, to reduce some of the social isolation and anonymity often associated with the public housing way of life.


A senior citizen volunteer program in Cottage Grove, Oregon, which attempts to prevent crime against senior citizens by conducting home visits is described. The purposes of these visits are to mark personal property (Operation Identification), inspect door locks, window latches, and other home security devices, and to inform the seniors as to the local, State, and Federal agencies that are available to serve them. The latter purpose was included because it was felt that many senior citizens did not know where to turn in case of an emergency.


Victimization of the elderly and California programs for the prevention of the following crimes--crimes of force, buncos and confidence games, medical quackery, and consumer fraud--are discussed. The impact of these crimes on the elderly is described. Most of the prevention programs rely on the education of the elderly on the methods employed by their criminal victimizers. The California experience indicates that crime prevention efforts directed at the elderly segment of society provide concrete results, prove the effectiveness...
of mobilizing interagency resources in the community, and validate the benefits of partnership between seniors and law enforcement.
INvolvement OF THE ElderLY
The development of the Senior Citizens Anticrime Network (SCAN), a scheme to mobilize the elderly in two neighborhoods of New York City to deter crime against older persons, is described. As part of a multifaceted attack on crime against the elderly in New York City, SCAN is attempting to demonstrate that crime and the fear of crime can be reduced through the concerted efforts of citizens of all ages within urban communities. Two target areas with significantly different characteristics were selected as anticrime demonstration sites. One area, a 160-square block section of Flatbush, has undergone great social change and is populated by men and women with widely divergent incomes and lifestyles. The other area, a 150-square block section of Long Island City, is relatively stable, although its ethnically and racially diverse population is experiencing an increase in victimizations. SCAN's community organizers set up inexpensive street-level offices in both areas and hired a staff of part-time community aides. Utilizing the community development methods of organization, they began the uphill task of mobilizing groups within the target areas in anticrime activities. Under the community development method, the organizers' role involves fostering a good working relationship with the community's unique population. To this end, small, task-oriented groups are created and the organizers supply them with the technical information needed to plan solutions to community problems. The organizers help members to work constructively with one another, make them focus on primary goals, improve their ability to maintain this focus, and teach groups how to implement procedures to attack and solve the community's problems. SCAN's neighborhood activities are rooted in the principle that the elderly are able to carry out neighborhood anti-crime initiatives. In the two target areas, the organizers first identified the major community institutions representing all age groups in the areas, and after meeting with the leaders, marshaled them into task forces designed to deter crime. The task forces use a variety of techniques to combat crime, including resident patrols, property identification systems, and special projects involving younger volunteers working in support of their elderly neighbors.

The development and operation of two training programs designed to increase the reporting of crime by senior citizens are discussed. These programs evolved directly from the findings of previous research into the motivations for reporting or nonreporting by this age group. A 1975 Dallas survey of 466 persons over the age of 55 had revealed crime victims who had not reported the crime were least
likely to feel a part of the police/judicial system. In addition, they generally believed that the police could or would not act on the crime, that the crime was not important enough to bother the police, or that they did not have enough information to give the police. As a result of these responses, a 2-hour inservice or recruit training package was designed which focused on increasing the police officers' awareness of the special needs of older adults. A second program was aimed at increasing the senior citizens' awareness of their part in the criminal justice system and at correcting false perceptions about the role of law enforcement.


A variety of volunteer programs aid the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department. Senior citizen posses are one way that senior citizens can assist crime prevention programs; other ways are described. The 500-officer department utilizes the services of some 3,000 volunteers, many of them senior citizens. Some of the 47 organized posses are comprised entirely of senior citizens. The author believes that volunteer programs can utilize human resources from all segments of the community to provide effective police services.


The Mansfield, Ohio, Police Department program enlisted senior citizen volunteers to aid police in watching neighborhoods for crime and suspicious activity. All senior citizens who signed up to be block-watchers in this Senior Power Neighborhood Watch program received certificates of participation from the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge.

134. ERNST, M. and F. JODRY. Reporting and Nonreporting of Crime by Older Adults. Denton, Texas, North Texas State University, 1976. 113 p. MICROFICHE (NCJ 38138)

This study explores factors influencing the reporting or failure to report crime by older victims and some of the consequences of reporting or not reporting. The report summarizes interview responses of 466 people beyond the age of 55 who live within the geographic boundaries of Dallas, Texas. Social, psychological, and other differences between victim reporters, victim nonreporters, and nonvictims are identified. Circumstances in which the crime occurred and the subsequent action taken on the part of the victim are detailed.
Information about the crime reporting or nonreporting process is provided. The study also presents data on the subject's attitude toward the police and the judicial system. The older adult's previous contact with the police department, the judicial system, and lawyers, and the contact of his relatives and friends with these three groups is described. The study investigates the older adult's attitudes toward the criminal and the extent to which having been a victim of a crime influences this perception. Based on the findings, the report concludes that reporters of crime are people who can exercise control over their life situation and who have a sense of social responsibility. Nonreporters appear to be more withdrawn from the system and more isolated from the society around them. Citizens in this study seem to respect the police department and believe that law enforcement officers are conscientiously performing their jobs, despite the restrictions under which they operate. It is noted that informing the police department of the subjects' feelings about the need for improved police-community communication might result in the more efficient handling of crimes against the elderly. A bibliography, statistical tables, and the survey instrument are appended.


This article urges recognition of social usefulness of senior citizens and their potential in helping to reduce crime against the elderly. The author explains many of the psychological handicaps that senior citizens experience every day. This must be taken into account in devising programs that affect them. The establishment of a Crime Watch by senior citizens will be helpful in involving them in the policing of their neighborhoods. Such a Crime Watch program would also free local police to do other crime-fighting chores.


Suggestions are outlined to limit the opportunity for criminal predators to victimize elderly persons. The following modifications in homes of the elderly are suggested as precautions against criminal intruders: installation of a door chain guard, a double-cylinder lock, and a one-way viewer; safety latches on windows; outside lighting; and timers on lamps and radios when residents are away from their homes. Among other things, it was suggested that elderly persons develop a healthy suspicion of strangers, develop a buddy system with neighbors, and never resist an armed felon.
Vignettes are used to dramatize crime problems and deceptive schemes facing the elderly. Specific recommendations to avoid being victimized are provided with regard to burglary, robbery, assault, and con games. Viewers are urged to avoid providing information to a stranger making inquiries since he may be a potential burglar. Other countermeasures to burglary covered include the use of proper locks on doors and windows, the elimination of hiding places near the house, and measures to give the impression that someone is home when the resident is away on vacation. This last item can be accomplished by arranging to have the yard work done, having the newspaper and mail deliveries suspended, and using timers to turn lights and radios on and off. Thieves are shown attempting to gain entrance to a potential victim's home by means of various ruses. The viewer is told to always use a peephole and talk through the door to identify visitors before admitting them. Always ask for proper identification and place a quick phone call to verify it. In order to avoid being assaulted on the street, senior citizens should travel in groups, use well-lighted streets, and carry purses in such a manner that makes it difficult for purse-snatchers to grab them. It is recommended that only small amounts of cash be carried at any one time. Some of the techniques utilized by bunco artists are demonstrated and the viewer is urged to be highly suspicious of questionable situations. Investigating strangers' backgrounds and stories is relatively easy and well worth the effort.
a membership of 20 persons, Courtwatchers rapidly expanded to over 200 members and is still growing today.

140. NATIONAL RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. Law Enforcement and the Elderly: Information Package. Washington, undated. 250 p. MICROFICHE (NCJ 40211)

This notebook contains instructional and topical material for planning and conducting a seminar on law enforcement and the elderly. The seminar is designed to last an evening and a day and accommodate about 30 participating representatives from relevant professional groups. Topics suggested for the seminar include the aging process, understanding the elderly, elderly crime victims, how the elderly can be assisted, and how the elderly community can support law enforcement. Presentation and lesson plans as well as source materials are included.


Standard tips for preventing crimes against persons are provided, along with information on the criminal court processing system and victim services available in New York City. Details on how to prevent purse-snatching are followed by suggestions to consider when away from home and while at home, especially for those who live alone. Tips on how to avoid becoming the victim of a mugging or rape and procedures to use when discovering an intruder in the home are provided. Umbrellas, rolled newspapers, or a set of keys are recommended over carrying a gun or using one to repel an intruder. The procedures for processing perpetrators of crimes against persons in New York are examined, and offense classification (misdemeanor or felony), station house or central booking, court custody, arraignment, preliminary hearing, and indictment are mentioned. A criminal court processing chart and a diagram of a typical courtroom layout accompany the discussion. The role and function of the family court is reviewed. The addresses, phone numbers, and operating districts and hours are provided for the victim/witness assistance programs available within the various boroughs of the city. The three major functions of Crime Alert committees, small groups of senior citizens working closely with public officials in the areas of crime prevention and victim assistance, are discussed. They are: (1) to keep abreast of the latest crime prevention information being dispensed by public and private agencies and to assist other senior citizens in obtaining such information; (2) to help the members of senior citizens centers and other similar organizations put crime prevention strategies into action; and (3) to assist others in acquiring the services offered to crime victims by public and private groups. Services available for older victims of crime are identified, including senior citizen referral
services, crime victim's compensation, and conflict resolution and mediation. The addresses and phone numbers for these services are provided.


This quick reference booklet is specifically designed for use by retired persons and senior adults in deterring crime and defending themselves against personal and property crimes. Although several chapters deal with personal safety, such as while walking the streets and while driving an automobile, most of the information is on safeguarding personal property from loss through robbery, burglary, and fraud. The emphasis throughout the guide is on informing the person who may be living on a fixed income of the patterns of the most common personal and property crimes, and of the most effective means of personally preventing and deterring those crimes. Separate chapters are devoted to such areas of concern as avoiding purse-snatching and pocket-picking, deterring burglary of the home, choosing locks and alarms, and handling con artists.

143. SUNDERLAND, G. Older American--Police Problem or Police Asset. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, v. 45, n. 8:3-8. August 1976. MICROFICHE (NCJ 35921)

A program being developed to help law enforcement officers to better understand and more effectively deal with elderly persons is described. The program described is the Crime Prevention Program of the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons, which was originally intended for use among elderly persons but which was adapted to a law enforcement instructional effort as well when research revealed a need in this area. The author seeks to dispel myths of aging such as senility and decreased mental abilities. Five situations in which law enforcement officers may have contact with an elderly person during the performance of their duties are identified and described.


This successful juvenile probation program employs senior citizens as voluntary probation officers in a small rural area. The program linked senior citizens and youthful probationers on a one-to-one basis to provide for mutual help. The youth assisted their partners by performing necessary tasks such as shoveling snow and mowing lawns, along with showing a personal interest in the adult. The adults showed similar interest in their youthful charges. The program, for the probationer,
was oriented toward a formal exercise marking the conclusion of the probationary period. Participation of both sides was on a voluntary basis. The author claims a marked decrease in recidivism along with positive attitudinal changes on the part of the youth.


The ways in which older persons living on fixed retirement incomes can become victims of a burglary, robbery, larceny, or fraud are described, and practical crime-specific countermeasures are detailed. The suggestions and recommendations have been compiled from many different sources to assist senior citizens in determining the necessary steps for "minimum security," with special emphasis on techniques which require the least expense and effort. "Minimum security" is defined as the prevention of entry into a residence through any door or window, except by means of destructive force. It also means the "minimum" common sense actions which individuals should form as habits for their personal security. A 44-item list of reference and source documents is provided.


Crime prevention literature, training programs, and films for the elderly are categorized and critiqued to facilitate their use by senior citizens, law enforcement officers, and community groups. For the elderly who suffer intense fear of crime as well as severe consequences as a result of crime, training in crime prevention is tantamount to security and well-being. This guide categorizes and reviews the resources in crime prevention training for the elderly to give guidance to individuals, community groups, or police who want to start or improve programs. In addition to over 170 listings of training programs and literature on criminal justice and the elderly, over 60 films in crime prevention and victim assistance were reviewed using standardized criteria to measure their suitability for the elderly. Cross-references are supplied as needed. The guide includes crime prevention self-instructional materials for the elderly on the topics of consumer fraud, personal protection, and property protection. For the police and group leaders, listings on these same topics are provided as well as on the topics of community organizing, crisis intervention, coping, and self-defense. Training programs in victim assistance for senior
The use of senior citizens as data processors in the San Diego Police Department's crime analysis unit is described and evaluated. Most of the 14 part-time employees are women in their mid to late 60's. Many have had prior employment, usually involving office work. Initially, the senior citizens were hired to gather data from crime incident reports and manually code the data onto other forms. However, it became evident that the employees could handle more difficult tasks. At the time of the evaluation, senior citizens were using computer terminals to make online entry of data, doing quality control checks on data, performing rudimentary analysis tasks, and assuming a number of other responsibilities within the crime analysis unit. The informal training of the elderly employees and procedures for selecting, assigning, and supervising them are described. The department found senior citizens to be competent, willing workers, and other units within the department are finding that there are assignments that can be handled routinely by senior citizens. The use of senior citizen employees also proved to be cost effective. Recommendations for implementing senior citizen employee programs in police departments are offered. Supporting documentation is provided.


Efforts of the crime resistance programs for the elderly in Wilmington (Delaware), the manner in which they are conducted, the problems being encountered, and the effectiveness of the programs are discussed. Program activities implemented in 1976 to counter crime against the elderly in Wilmington are described. They include the use of a hidden pocket sewn inside garments for carrying money and valuables, provision of an escort service on a neighborhood basis, revitalization of block-watch programs, and the operation of an escort system using elderly escorts. Volunteers report reluctance on the part of elderly persons to accept rides and a hesitancy on the part of females to accept the hidden pocket program. A court-monitoring program was also developed using trained volunteers to monitor family court cases. To evaluate the effectiveness of the programs, police reports on street crime and elderly persons were reviewed for the year of program implementation, 1976, and also for the previous year. Data were compared for
the two years, and there was evidence of a 21.5-percent decrease in crimes against the elderly in 1976. The data showed that most crimes are committed away from the elderly victims' residences. The crimes were usually committed during the day and usually involve white, female victims. Community involvement in the crime resistance programs was examined, and it was found that there was a great degree of involvement on the implementation level. Residents of higher crime areas were more likely to show a deeper commitment to the programs. Publicity for the programs included speeches and an extensive distribution of literature. The primary problem encountered was the difficulty in transferring the elderly's deep concern and frustration into practical action because they tend to have a basic distrust for other persons. Appendixes contain crime data and copies of program instructions and instruments.
APPENDIX A—LIST OF SOURCES

1. International Association of Chiefs of Police
   11’Firstfield Road
   Gaithersburg, MD 20760

2. Harper and Row
   10 East 53d Street
   New York, NY 10022

3. U.S. Department of Health,
   Education, and Welfare
   Administration on Aging
   Washington, DC 20203

4. D. C. Heath and Company
   125 Spring Street
   Lexington, MA 02173

5. Available only through NCJRS
   Document Loan Program.

6. University of Connecticut
   Law School
   West Hartford, CT 06107

7. Geriatrics
   4015 West 65th Street
   Minneapolis, MN 55435

8. Same as No. 4.

   1828 L Street, NW.
   Washington, DC 20036

10. Media Five
    1011 North Cole Avenue
    Hollywood, CA 90038

11. Davis Publishing Company
    250 Potrero Street
    Santa Cruz, CA 95060

12. Same as No. 11.

13. Same as No. 3.

14. Same as No. 4.

15. William Klecka
    Behavioral Sciences Laboratory
    University of Cincinnati
    Cincinnati, OH 45221

16. Gerontological Society
    Room 520
    1 Dupont Circle
    Washington, DC 20036

17. Same as No. 9.

18. Same as No. 4.

19. Same as No. 4.

20. Same as No. 1.

21. Same as No. 1.

22. Available only through NCJRS
    Microfiche Program and NCJRS
    Document Loan Program.

23. Same as No. 4.

24. U.S. Congress
    House Select Committee on Aging
    Washington, DC 20515

25. Same as No. 24.

26. Superintendent of Documents
    U.S. Government Printing Office
    Public Documents Distribution
    Center
    5801 Tabor Avenue
    Philadelphia, PA 19120

27. Superintendent of Documents
    U.S. Government Printing Office
    Washington, DC 20402
58. Mr. Richard Moran  
c/o Mt. Holyoke College  
South Hadley, MA 01075  
or  
Mr. Stephen Schafer  
c/o Northeastern University  
360 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  

59. Same as No. 58.  

60. Multnomah County Division of Public Safety  
222 Southwest Pine Street  
Portland, OR 97204  

61. Same as No. 4.  

62. National Retired Teachers Association  
1909 K Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20006  

63. Pima County Office of the County Attorney  
County Government Center  
600 Administration Building  
131 West Congress Street  
Tucson, AZ 85701  

64. St. Petersburg Police Department  
1300-1st Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705  

65. University of Tennessee  
Chattanooga, TN 37401  

66. University Center for Community Services  
Box 5344  
NT Station  
Denton, TX 76203  

67. Same as No. 5.  

68. Same as No. 1.  

69. Same as No. 27.  

70. H.ect Press Corporation  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10010  

71. J.B. Lippincott  
East Washington Square  
Philadelphia, PA 19105  

72. Same as No. 4.  

73. Alfred A. Knopf  
201 East 50th Street  
New York, NY 10022  

74. Same as No. 34.  

75. Same as No. 22.  

76. Same as No. 22.  

77. Washington School of Psychiatry  
1610 New Hampshire Avenue, NW.  
Washington, DC 20009  

78. Same as No. 4.  

79. Same as No. 4.  

80. Same as No. 3.  

81. Same as No. 1.  

82. Same as No. 1.  

83. Same as No. 1.  

84. Same as No. 4.  

85. New York Crime Control Planning Board  
270 Broadway  
New York, NY 10017  

86. Same as No. 4.  

99
87. Same as No. 4.
88. Same as No. 22.
89. Same as No. 22.
90. Same as No. 22.
91. Same as No. 27.
92. NCJRS Document Distribution Services
    Box 6000
    Rockville, MD 20850
93. Social Services Research and Intelligence Unit
    Milldam Barracks
    Burnaby Road
    Portsmouth PO1 3AE
    ENGLAND
94. Dundalk Community College
    c/o Alan Lipton
    7200 Sollers Point Road
    Dundalk, MD 21222
95. Same as No. 94.
96. Same as No. 94.
97. Baltimore Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice
    231 East Baltimore Street
    Baltimore, MD 21202
98. Same as No. 1.
99. Same as No. 4.
100. Same as No. 40.
101. California Office of the Attorney General
    500 Wells Fargo Bank Building
    5th Street and Capitol Mall
    Sacramento, CA 95814
102. Connecticut Department on Aging
    Room 312
    90 Washington Street
    Hartford, CT 06115
103. Same as No. 1.
104. Same as No. 22.
105. David H. Friedman, Associate Director
    Crime Victims Service Center
    Albert Einstein College of Medicine
    1300 Morris Park Avenue
    Bronx, NY 10461
106. California Attorney General's Security Commission
    Wells Fargo Bank Building
    Sacramento, CA 95814
107. Same as No. 22.
108. Same as No. 1.
109. Huntington Police Department
    800 Fifth Avenue
    Huntington, WV 25701
110. Nova Institute
    853 Broadway
    New York, NY 10003
111. Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission
    75 Marietta Street, NW
    Atlanta, GA 30303
112. Law and Order
    37 West 38th Street
    New York, NY 10018
113. Same as No. 1.
114. Same as No. 22.
115. Same as No. 22.
116. Same as No. 4.
117. Same as No. 1.

118. Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20535

119. Same as No. 1.

120. Same as No. 3.

121. Same as No. 22.

330 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20201

123. Same as No. 1.

124. National Association of Counties
Research Foundation
1735 New York Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20006

125. Same as No. 22.

126. Same as No. 22.

127. Same as No. 4.

128. Same as No. 1.

129. Same as No. 1.

130. Same as No. 3.

131. Same as No. 1.

132. Same as No. 1.

133. Same as No. 1.

134. North Texas State University
Denton, TX 76203

135. Same as No. 1.

136. Same as No. 1.

137. Same as No. 92.

138. Same as No. 22.

139. American Association of Retired Persons
1909 K Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20006

140. Same as No. 62.

141. New York City Department for the Aging
Senior Citizen Anticrime Network
150 Nassau Street
New York, NY 10038

142. Same as No. 139.

143. Same as No. 22.

144. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Box 8000
University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89507

145. Same as No. 27.

146. Criminal Justice and the Elderly
National Council of Senior Citizens
Suite 540
1511 K Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20005

147. Same as No. 32.

148. Wilmington Crime Resistance Task Force
P.O. Box 1872
Wilmington, DE 19899
APPENDIX B—RESOURCE AGENCIES

The following organizations, governmental agencies, and congressional committees are concerned with the elderly and their interactions with the criminal justice system.

Organizations

American Association of Retired Persons—National Retired Teachers Association
ATTN: Crime Prevention Section
1901 K Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20049

Grey Panthers
3700 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

International Federation on Aging
1909 K Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20049

National Association of State Units on Aging
1828 L Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20005

National Council of Senior Citizens
1511 K Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20036

National Council on Aging
1828 L Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20036

National Center on the Black Aged
1730 M Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20036

Congressional Committees

House Select Committee on Aging
Subcommittee on Federal, State, and Community Services
2178 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subcommittee on Housing and Consumer Interests
717 House Office Building Annex #1
Washington, DC 20515

Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care
715 House Office Building Annex #1
Washington, DC 20515

Subcommittee on Retirement Income and Employment
714 House Office Building Annex #1
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Special Committee on Aging
G225 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senate Human Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Aging
6222 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Government Agencies

ACTION, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions
806 Connecticut Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20525

Community Services Administration
Office of Community Action Programs
Program Development Division
1200 19th Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20506

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Assistant Secretary for Neighborhoods Voluntary Associations and Consumer Protection
HUD Building
Washington, DC 20410

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Assisted Housing
451 7th Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20410

U.S. Department of Justice
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
Office of Community Anti-Crime Programs
633 Indiana Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20531

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
National Institute of Health
National Institute on Aging
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20014

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Office of Human Development Administration on Aging
Clearinghouse on Aging
330 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20201

Small Business Administration
Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and Active Corps of Executives (ACE)
1441 L Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20416

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