



New Addition to the CVI Team **P.1**

Upcoming CVI Publications and Events **P.2**

Board of Regents and Advisory Board Directory **P.3**

Resources **P.4**

New Addition to the CVI Team

Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to:

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization.
- Improve services to victims.
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice.
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.



Graduate Research Assistant: Cristal Hernandez (she/her) began the doctoral program in the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology at Sam Houston State University in the Fall of 2021. She also received an M.A. in Criminal Justice & Criminology in December 2020 and a B.S. in Victim Studies with minors in Sociology and Psychology in August 2018, both from SHSU. Her research broadly focuses on victimology and carceral studies. She is the 2019 recipient of the Division of Victimology Graduate Student Paper of the Year Award from the American Society of Criminology, and her recent work has appeared in *Crime & Delinquency* and *Societies*.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University will host two community-engaging events. It is our hope that these events raise awareness for domestic violence victimization and benefit survivors. Please join us if you can.



- **Domestic Violence and Cults Panel**
 - Tuesday, October 17, 2023
 - 2:00pm in the Criminal Justice Courtroom
- **Survivor Card Making Event**
 - Thursday, November 2, 2023
 - 9:00am-12:00pm in the Flag Room

Look for upcoming publications, CVI Talks episodes, webinars, and fact sheets from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- The Media Portrayal of the Disappearance and Death of U.S. Army Soldier Vanessa Guillén: Sexual Harassment, Retaliation, and a Culture of Violence at Fort Hood by Dr. Danielle C. Slakoff
- Victimization of Latinx Populations Fact Sheet
- Robberies, Collisions, and Mass Murders: Understanding Why Parking Lots Are Hot Spots for Crime and Victimizations Webinar
- Bullying Victimization, Gender, and the Adolescent Substance Use: The Paradox of School Connectedness by Dr. Peter S. Lehmann
- Indigenous Peoples' Victimization and Substance Abuse Fact Sheet
- CVI Talks: Highlighting Barriers to Human Trafficking Victim Identification
- Violent Victimization from Late Adolescence to Adulthood: Evidence from a Population-Based Sample of U.S. Youth by Dr. Eric J. Connolly
- Careers in Victim Services Panel

Other commemorative events/activities this month:

- Houston Toy Museum Special Exhibit -- October 6-31, 2023
 - Highlights the positive impact of toys and play on coping with trauma.
- National Bullying Prevention Month
 - A month-long event to prevent childhood bullying and promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.
- Crime Prevention Month
 - During this month, the National Crime Prevention Council encourages regular citizens to share the responsibilities of crime prevention, which otherwise solely rests on the shoulders of law enforcement.
- National Cybersecurity Awareness Month
 - A dedicated month for the public and private sectors, and tribal communities to work together to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity.
- America's Safe Schools Week -- October 15-21, 2023
 - The goal of this campaign is to motivate key education and law enforcement policymakers, as well as students, parents and community residents, to vigorously advocate school safety.

Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board

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Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65+) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988

