

At the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault- New Statistics Just Out!

I thought it would be informative to share some of the *highlights* from the latest report on persons with disabilities and crime. This report comes out every few years and unfortunately victims with disabilities, have not made any strides forward. While crime is down for persons without disabilities, that rate remained the same, no improvement, for persons with disabilities. The citation for this is below.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has released its annual report, "Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009-2015." *From 2009 to 2015, the rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was at least twice the rate for persons without disabilities. From 2012 to 2015, the rate of victimization stayed the same for persons with disabilities, **but decreased** for persons without disabilities. (This and other information are available on the [BJS website](#).)*

Here are some highlights from the Report that are of note:

- The rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was 2.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities.
- The rate of violent victimization increased from 2011 to 2012 for both persons with and without disabilities but from 2012 to 2015, the rate remained steady for persons with disabilities and decreased for persons without disabilities.
- The rate of serious violent crime (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) for persons with disabilities was more than three times the rate for persons without disabilities.
- One in 5 violent crime victims with disabilities believed they were targeted due to their disability.
- Among persons with disabilities, no statistically significant difference by sex was found in the rate of violent victimization.

- During 2011-15, persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rates of total violent crime, serious violent crime, and simple assault among the disability types measured.

Is there anything we can do? I suggest insuring all crime victims with disabilities receive equal access to all services and protections. We must be aware of their vulnerability and look out for our fellow citizens, they need our support. We must encourage inclusion rather than isolation for persons that are vulnerable. Finally, we must advocate for strong education that emphasizes prevention. Your thoughts??