

# CRIME SCENE CRIMES



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SCHIZOPHRENIA LIBRARY

## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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### How is criminal victimisation related to schizophrenia?

Criminal victimisation refers to a person being the victim of a violent crime (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated or simple assault) or a property crime (burglary and theft). People with a severe mental illness may be at higher risk of criminal victimisation. This may be a result of possible cognitive impairment (e.g. poor reality testing, judgment, social skills, planning, and problem solving), and sometimes compromised social situations (e.g. poverty, unemployment, homelessness, and social isolation).

### What is the evidence for criminal victimisation?

Moderate quality evidence found increased rates of criminal victimisation in people with schizophrenia compared to general population rates. Between 43% and 83% of women with schizophrenia reported partner domestic violence.

In people with any psychotic disorder, rates of victimisation were around 20%. Criminal activity showed a medium to large association with increased victimisation. Small associations were found with having delusions, hallucinations, or mania symptoms. Being unemployed, homeless, or using drugs or alcohol also increased the risk of victimisation.

For more information see the technical table



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*NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.*

*Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.*

*Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.*

*While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.*

### HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at [neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia](http://neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia).

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