

VICTIMS OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE IN ALBERTA

A Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Purpose of the Study:

In the last few decades, most law enforcement agencies have witnessed a steady increase in the general crime rate. Included in this increase, but a small fraction of the total offences, are crimes of violence against the person. In the face of this increase and not necessarily because of it, a new area of criminal study is evolving called victimology, although research work in this field is embryonic and experimental.

Until recently there has been a complete preoccupation with the welfare of the criminal. The state provides lawyers for his legal needs and rights, doctors and medication during confinement, teachers for vocational training and advisors during probation. At the same time the grievously assaulted victim requiring expensive medical attention and suffering the loss of employment during his recovery period is overlooked. In some countries this imbalance between the state-victim and the state-criminal has been adjusted by legislation providing financial compensation to victims of crime. The purpose of this study is to examine the need for such legislation in Alberta.

2. The Problems of the Study:

There are many problems in conducting a social study of this nature. Without any similar study available as a model, it was necessary to undertake it on an experimental basis. The first problem was to define precisely 'injury' and 'crime of violence'. The sheer bulk of crimes of violence presented the next problem - how to find a significant population for study that would provide accurate overall conclusions. For a general background, annual municipal Police Reports and Crime Statistics published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics were the first step. However, in such reports, there is no general classification of crimes of violence, and the definition of crimes of violence had to be adapted according to their classification of offences. As a new and more complete method of reporting police statistics known as the Uniform Crime Reporting System commenced on January 1, 1962, 1962 had to be the earliest year for our study. Because of the vague nature of statistics the danger of false conclusions is always present and at the most, statistics can only serve to indicate trends. For more specific information, extensive use was made of police files. By their nature these are orientated to the criminal and his offence, and frequently injuries have not been medically diagnosed at the date of the police reports. Little or no attention is directed to following up the fate of the victim and, in particular, the long range consequence of a serious injury or disability. As a result, often the information sought was just not available and has been classified for the purposes of this study as 'unknown'. Unfortunately, in many cases, this is a significant percentage. Then there are the many crimes that are never reported, especially domestic disputes where physical injuries are frequent. After selecting a population for a follow-up survey, it appeared that many of the victims were in a low social position, and were transients and unable to be contacted. Again the percentage is fairly significant.

Now the use of microfilm for old and current police files will present a further problem for future research, since files are being recorded for reference not by classification of offence, but by date of occurrence.

3. Methodology

This study was undertaken with three specific objectives:

1. To determine the number of crimes of violence against the person in Alberta. The Crime Statistics and Police Reports were used to give a general picture of the statistical trends in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and in Alberta as a whole.

2. To determine the extent of injury to victims of crimes of violence. The research was based upon a file by file perusal of approximately 3,500 crimes of violence recorded by the police in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and the R.C.M.P. "K" Division. Police classification was followed closely. From these files an effort was made to learn at least the degree of injury, whether nil, minor, fairly serious, serious, or unknown. The specific period selected was the year 1967, because of the availability of the more recent files and the facility of following them up. For the other years, the memory and experience of the police personnel was heavily relied upon to recall outstanding examples of brutal violence.

3. To determine the financial loss and consequence to the victims of crime. Persons with injuries classified as 'serious' were chosen for a follow-up survey in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. One hundred and sixty-two questionnaires were mailed out to determine their 'out-of-pocket' losses; in addition file

studies and personal interviews were conducted on a small number of victims in Edmonton where the injury had resulted in a disability and many months of medical treatment.

CHAPTER II

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE IN ALBERTA

1. The Violence Spectrum

There are many shades of violence in human relations. For the purpose of this study, a crime of violence is defined as any act contrary to the Criminal Code which unlawfully causes or attempts to cause bodily harm to another. The classification of offences adopted consists of eight general categories used in the Uniform Crime Reporting System: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, other sexual offences, wounding, assaults and robbery. At one extreme are the offences of murder, including brutal sexual assaults on children resulting in death; in the middle is a vast range of offences of wounding which vary in degree from fractures to abrasions; and at the end of the scale are assaults where no personal injury results.

While it was necessary to follow this classification, it is not entirely satisfactory because it includes some occasions where no physical injury or personal contact resulted. For example, by s. 230(b) of the Criminal Code, a person commits an assault when

- (a) he applies force intentionally to the person or,
- (b) he attempts or threatens by an act or gesture to apply force ...

That is to say, a mere threat or gesture of violence constitutes an assault. Similarly there are attempted murder offences where no bodily harm occurs. These occasions are the exception rather than the rule, but the question does arise whether it is desirable to include in a definition of crimes of violence attempts to cause bodily harm: our definition was broadened to include them.

There are also a few infrequent offences that could not be included because they are reported collectively with other non-violent offences and classified as "other criminal code" offences. Among these are kidnapping, arson, and criminal negligence. However, the great mass of crimes against the person are not mere threats or gestures of violence, and are significant enough to be reported individually.

This study only presents a picture of crimes of violence actually reported to the police. It is not possible to estimate how many acts of violence occur daily that are never reported for one reason or another. The police files record all complaints registered in person at the station, phoned in anonymously by a third party, or made to the investigating officers at the scene. Such complaints may or may not result in charges being laid against the offenders. Sometimes, after making the complaint, the subject refuses to lay a charge, but is satisfied with the action of the police. Frequently, it is impossible to lay any charge because there is insufficient evidence to prosecute, or the offender is never found. Occasions arise where the relation between the parties prevents one from complaining to the police, as between married couples or persons engaged in a felonious act. Similarly, some complaints are made because one party seeks to use police intervention in a neighbourhood or domestic quarrel as a means of revenge. Therefore, a 'crime of violence' reported to the police could be anything from a mere complaint of violence to an actual conviction for a crime.

During the study, it became necessary to exclude the whole gamut of traffic offences. Because of the number and nature of injuries resulting from traffic accidents, traffic offences as

crimes of violence against the person would require extensive research in themselves. In Calgary in 1967 such accidents resulted in 1,242 reported injuries and 20 deaths, while in Edmonton alone there were 2,058 persons injured and 26 killed. This is nearly as large as the spectrum of criminal offences under present investigation.

It is an important policy consideration whether the state would want to compensate victims of traffic crimes. It is customary for most drivers to obtain personal and property insurance coverage, and for claims to be settled by civil court actions. Two weighty arguments for including such injuries in a compensation scheme lose their validity under 'the unsatisfied judgment fund' arrangement. This fund operates as an insurer of uninsured drivers. At one time, when a driver lacked money to pay a judgment against him, the victim had no further recourse; now, such a victim on application to the fund can receive up to \$35,000 damages. In addition, the victim of a hit and run driver too can apply to the fund for damages. As a result, there would appear to be adequate coverage of victims of automobile accidents. While the automobile insurance scheme in Saskatchewan is even broader than in Alberta, based on compensation regardless of fault, their schedule of offences in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act (1967) includes criminal negligence in the operation of vehicles, dangerous driving, drunken driving, and impaired driving. Most compensation schemes, however, specifically exclude traffic injuries - New Zealand, Great Britain, New York and Massachusetts - unless the injury has been intentionally inflicted through the use of a vehicle.

2. Statistical Trends

Crimes of violence are a small fraction of the total number of criminal offences. With a rise in the crime rate, the increase in crimes of violence against the person is somewhat higher, but still fairly proportionate to the general framework. In the five-year period from 1962-1966, crimes of violence have increased by 2.6% of the total number of criminal offences. As a result, in 1966, crimes against the person constituted about 10% of all offences, while crimes against property were the bulk with 90%. In five years, the actual number of criminal offences rose 28%, compared to a 72% increase in the number of crimes of violence. This rise must be related to the population increase of 6.8% as well: in 1962 crimes of violence numbered 303 per 100,000 persons and in 1966, 488 per 100,000 persons.

Table I

The Changes in Crime Rate and Population in Alberta From 1962-66

Subject	1962	1966	Increase	
			No.	%
Criminal Offences	52,843	67,659	14,816	28.0%
Crimes of Violence	4,144	7,141	3,027	72.0%
Population of Alberta	1,369,000	1,463,203	93,603	6.8%

Although it is difficult to judge accurately in a five-year period, there is an indication from these criminal statistics that the general increase in crime has been accompanied by a significant increase in crimes of a violent nature, but while there has been a larger increase in the crimes of violence, it still remains a small fraction of the overall criminal picture.

The annual increase in crimes of violence against the person is approximately 15% per year. There is no one type of violent crimes to which this rise can be attributed. In most cases the proportion of each offence to the yearly total has remained constant, but the actual number has multiplied. For example, in the five-year period since 1962, the number of wounding offences has increased by 42 - an increase of 79%, but it still remains approximately 1% of each year's total crimes of violence. Similarly, rape offences fluctuated from 1.2% to 1.8% and robbery with violence between 5% to 6% per year. The one possible exception to this trend is assaults which in the same period have accelerated 4.2% from 79.8% to 84% per year.

Table 2

Number and Proportion of Crimes of Violence Reported
By the Police in Alberta During the Years 1962 to 1966*

OFFENCES	1962		1963		1964		1965		1966	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
er	16	.4	25	.5	18	.4	16	.3	21	.3
ompter Murder	6	.1	8	.2	6	.1	12	.2	9	.1
slaughter	3	.1	2	.1	7	.1	4	.1	3	.0
	63	1.5	62	1.2	83	1.6	101	1.8	89	1.2
er Sexual ffences	444	10.7	448	8.9	411	8.	465	8.3	566	8.
nding	53	1.3	52	1.	48	.9	54	1.	95	1.3
aults	3,306	79.8	4,158	82.7	4,302	83.2	4,561	81.6	5,997	84.
robbery With olence	253	6.1	273	5.4	295	5.7	376	6.7	361	5.0
TOTAL	4,144	100.0	5,028	100.0	5,170	100.0	5,589	100.0	7,141	100.0

The figures in this table are taken from DBS and represent the total number of crimes of violence reported by the municipal police and the RCMP in Alberta per year. The 1967 figures were not available at the time of this study.

In the larger cities of Alberta, this same trend is present. In Edmonton, the average annual increase in the total number has been 13%. The only crime that shows a substantial increase is assault which rose from 79.5% of the total to 84%. This can be primarily attributed to the increase in common assaults from 61% to 68.8% per year. Calgary reflects a similar development where average increases have been 16% per year. While assaults in general have risen by 4.1%, the rate of common assaults has declined 2.9% and assaults occasioning bodily harm have shown a marked increase of 7.2%. This last category is more important for our purposes than any increases in common assaults because of its more violent nature. The City of Lethbridge reveals an 8% annual increase in crimes of violence, but because of the small numbers per offence, it is difficult to detect any accurate trend, other than the fact that the majority are assault offences.

In 1966, 488 per 100,000 persons were victims of crime in Alberta. While Edmonton and Calgary contain 49% of the population, in that year they accounted for 66% of all crimes of violence. Crimes of violence seem to be reported less frequently in rural areas. Comparing the rate per 100,000 persons in Edmonton and Calgary in 1966, Calgary was not far above the provincial mean with 512, but Edmonton was 788. That is to say, 42% of all crimes of violence occurred in Edmonton. It is difficult to explain this discrepancy, as the two cities are parallel in size and police force.

Not all crimes of violence occur with the same degree of frequency. 82% are personal assaults of one kind or another. Assaults are composed of 3 major offences - assaults occasioning bodily harm, assaulting a police officer and common assaults. Common assault is the largest category not only of assaults in particular, but all crimes of violence in general, and in Edmonton in 1967 comprised two-thirds of all offences recorded as crimes against the person. Fortunately, these are usually the most slight in degree

of injury, and while they can vary from a threat to a grievous wound, generally a common assault consists of a mere slap or personal insult. Assaults occasioning bodily harm occur more frequently than most other crimes of violence - approximately 15%. These are of a more serious nature and one of the important categories in our study. Assaults against a police officer are generally minor in nature and fluctuate between 1-2%. "Other sexual offences" and robbery are classified next with 7% to 8% each of the total number of violent crimes. Wounding is one of the most important but smaller offences with 1-1.5%, and rape offences are similar in number. Representing less than 1.5% are the major crimes of violence - murder, attempted murder, and manslaughter. In the violence spectrum, reported offences of a serious nature can be said to comprise approximately 25% of all crimes of violence against the person.

In the next decade, one can foresee a continued increase in the crime rate, especially crimes of violence. There is no reason to speculate that this growth should be any less than its present rate of 15% per year, if not higher. Added to this, is the expanding population factor in Alberta. The use of data computers, telex communications and scientific developments in the detection and prevention of crime offers some hope that this trend can at least be held in check.

3. The Substance of Crimes of Violence

The range of crimes of violence varies not only in the number and gravity of the offences, but also in the quality of violence. An important factor to consider then, is the circumstances in which offences occur. This involves a discussion of the relation between the victim and offender, the immediate and real causes of the

crime, the motivation of the offender, and provocation by the victim, if any. Such details are seldom available from police reports, but the major violence crimes have been examined in an effort to assess a trend in crimes of violence against the person according to their factual substance.

To determine the circumstances in which murder and manslaughter offences occur, a careful study was made of homicides in Alberta during 1964 to 1967. Because of the seriousness of these offences, the police master files were very thorough and usually provided sufficient information to categorize them accurately. Although there is a vast range of situations, six main ones were selected. In this period, nearly 50% of all homicides were the climax of domestic disputes of one kind or another, but primarily marital fights, stimulated by sudden insanity, drinking parties, or the gradual result of frequent husband-wife assaults. This percentage includes mass family murders which would account for part of such a high number. Apart from family relations, drinking arguments and brawls among friends and companions resulted in 19% of the homicides. Violent sexual attacks, including brutal child murders, as well as girl-boy friend incidents, accounted for 8%. Two other situations which are important for their type of violence are unprovoked attacks by unknown persons and attacks on police officers resulting in death. Unprovoked attacks by unknown persons exclude those sexually motivated, but include those motivated by theft or robbery, and total 4% of the homicides. While there are only three recorded murders of police officers on duty in Alberta, two of these have occurred since 1964, and average a high 2% of the homicides. The miscellaneous category is a large 20%, but it could not be significantly broken down. It includes a variety of situations where a jealous husband shoots a suspected paramour, an enraged caretaker beats to death an unruly tenant, a dissatisfied employee stabs his employer, or a Metis woman of questionable reputation is found beaten to death in the bush, cause of attack unknown.

Table 3

The Circumstances in Which Homicides Occurred In
Alberta During 1964 to 1967*

<u>Circumstances of</u> <u>Homicide</u>	<u>1964</u>		<u>1965</u>		<u>1966</u>		<u>1967</u>		<u>Totals &</u> <u>Averages for</u> <u>4 years</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Domestic Disputes	11	55	11	44	11	42	19	53	52	48.6
Linking Arguments & Brawls	4	20	5	20	5	19	6	17	20	18.7
Violent Sexual Offences	2	10			3	12	3	8	8	7.5
Provoked Attack by Unknown	1	5			1	4	2	5	4	3.7
Police Officer on Duty					1	4	1	3	2	1.9
Others	2	10	9	36	5	19	5	14	21	19.6
T O T A L S	20	100	25	100	26	100	36	100	107	100.0

The number per year and circumstances are taken directly from the homicide files of the Chief Coroner in the Attorney-General's Department of Alberta.

The major offence of attempted murder shows a similar high occurrence in domestic situations. In 1967 in Alberta, over 50% of attempted murders occurred between family relations, while 15%, respectively, took place during drinking arguments and a similar percentage was the result of unprovoked attacks by unknown persons. While it is not possible to account for the circumstances of all crimes of violence in the other assault offences less serious in nature, it is amazing to note the frequency of domestic disputes, especially when one realizes that the majority of family assaults are never reported. The other notable situation is drinking arguments and brawls. It is estimated that these two situations would account for at least 2/3's of the major and minor violent assaults on the person. It is not necessarily true that in these circumstances there is some degree of provocation by the victim, or that he is equally to blame for his misfortune, for there are many domestic disputes where the victim is absolutely innocent. From reading these files, it is felt that a de facto refusal to compensate victims of crime because of a close relationship to the offender would operate as an injustice and hardship on victims and their dependents in many cases.

Under most crimes compensation schemes, not every victim of an act of violence against his person is eligible for aid either ex gratia or de jure. Many automatically exclude a victim whose injuries are caused by relatives or persons living with him at the time of the offence. It is felt that these are occasions where it is undesirable and against public policy to award financial assistance because of the many possibilities of fraud and conspiracy. Only New Zealand and New South Wales consider awards to such victims, but at the same time, they have regard to any behavior of the aggrieved person which directly or indirectly contributed to his own injury or death. It is a common law principle that 'no one can benefit from his own wrong', but compensation need not be automatically precluded because of a social or familiar relation between the victim and offender. Just as the common law principles of contributory negligence operate to mitigate, but not necessarily exclude damages

in negligence cases, so provocation in close relationships should reduce but not exclude compensation.

CHAPTER III

THE EXTENT OF INJURY TO VICTIMS

1. The Degree of Injury.

It is a nebulous and difficult task to attempt to classify physical injuries. Most doctors would agree that what is a serious injury to one person would not necessarily be such to another, and that medical injuries escape general classification. For example, while a deep wound leaving a disfiguring scar on a male's face is often a mark of virility, to a young woman such an injury would be quite another matter, requiring a serious psychological adjustment or plastic surgery. The 'egg shell skull' theory would also apply. Some persons display amazing recuperatory abilities from near-fatal wounds, but others from the same injury are permanently disabled, if they survive. In 1958, a young man was savagely beaten over the head with a hammer resulting in severe cranial injury and damage to one eye. The neurosurgeon who performed the craniotomy claimed he had never seen such extensive injuries to a man's head where the patient survived the operation. In 2 1/2 months he made a remarkable recovery and while he did lose one eye, and he still suffers occasional headaches, he works steadily and maintains a normal life for himself and his family. This is an extreme example, but it does illustrate the point.

In spite of this problem, it is necessary for our purposes to have some idea of the extent of injury suffered by victims of crime. As a result, the most time-consuming phase of this study centered around a file-by-file reading of police records of crimes against the person during 1967 in order to discern the extent of injury to the victims. Usually, police files do not contain sufficient information for any medical assessment of the cases and they are incomplete as to the medical treatment where follow-up attention is required. They do, however, contain verbal descriptions of the nature

of the injury, whether a cut is small or deep, or a hand is bruised, swollen, or broken, as well as the immediate medical aid received. From these reports, and in many cases relying heavily on the reader's opinion, injuries were classified into five groups - four degrees of injury and an 'unknown' category. Where injuries were not specified, or when it was impossible to determine their nature, they were classified, as 'unknown'. Generally this was 4 to 5%. Major injuries were put into two main groups: 'fairly serious' or middling injuries that are more than minor, but less than serious, usually extensive bruising, minor wounds and cuts requiring five to fifteen stitches; and 'serious' injuries that include surgery, broken bones, grave wounds and cuts requiring over 15 stitches. The other groups are 'none or negligible' injuries, and, lastly, 'minor' injuries which are no more than abrasions, bruises and cuts requiring less than five stitches. No effort was made to include nervous breakdowns, hysteria, or other mental reactions in this grouping. There is no doubt, especially in sexual assaults, that mental suffering can be serious, necessitating medication and treatment. This frequently occurs when children are sexually molested or raped. In such cases, the long range effects cannot be estimated even by doctors, but the danger is that such an experience would deter the child's normal development at adolescence. For obvious reasons, our classification only considered the immediate and apparent degree of physical injuries. While it would have been desirable to conduct this study over several consecutive or periodic years, it was not possible from both the time-consuming nature of such an undertaking, as well as the practical problems of obtaining older records.

Not every crime of violence culminates in bodily harm. In fact, in one out of every three cases the injury is none or negligible, and the greatest number of actual injuries are minor in nature, frequently the result of neighbourhood fights, domestic quarrels, friendly drinking brawls or attacks in the street. For the year 1967, of the 6670 crimes reported against the person in

in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and the rural districts policed by the R.C.M.P., 35% resulted in no injury, while 51.4% were minor ones. This leaves 5% that were fairly serious, 3.6% or 241 cases of a serious nature, 4.5% unknown and only .5% fatal. For the purposes of compensation, minor and negligible injuries can be disregarded, so at the most, including fatal injuries as well as unknown injuries, we are concerned with less than 14% of the injuries or 907 cases.

Table 4

The Extent of Injury From Crimes of

Violence Reported in Alberta During 1967

Area	Fatal		Serious		Fairly Serious		Minor		None or Negligible		Unknown		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Edmonton	5	.2	97	2.8	112	3.3	1997	59.2	1032	30.6	135	3.9	3378
Calgary	12	.6	65	3.2	128	63.0	1049	52.0	675	33.5	89	4.4	2018
Lethbridge	2	1.1	5	2.7	16	8.6	52	27.8	86	45.9	26	13.9	187
R.C.M.P.	17	1.6	74	6.7	80	7.4	330	30.3	541	49.9	45	4.1	1087
TOTAL	36	.5	241	3.6	336	5.0	3428	51.4	2334	35.0	295	4.5	6670

In major assault offences, there is a higher incidence of injuries of a more serious nature. In Edmonton and Calgary during 1967, over 50% of the wounding offences were more than minor, 30% of the assaults occasioning bodily harm were fairly serious and serious, with such injuries from robberies being about 12%. At the same time, the bulk of assaults occasioning bodily harm, 55-60%, were minor in nature, so were 40-44% of woundings, while in nearly 50% of robbery offences there was no injury at all. Attempted murders numbered too few to be an accurate indication of the type of injury. In the rural areas policed by the R.C.M.P., crimes against the person generally resulted in a higher rate of more serious injuries - 15.7%. This may have been caused by the fact that fewer minor and negligible injuries tend to be reported to the police in rural areas, probably because of the lack of immediate and

convenient access to police stations, so that crimes that are reported are usually more major in degree. As a result, the number of serious and fairly serious injuries caused by the more important assault offences were 10-25% higher than in Calgary and Edmonton.

The incidence of serious injuries from sexual assaults is quite low. Rape offences in the two cities resulted in 50% with no physical injury whatever, but in Edmonton 27% were more than minor, while in Calgary only 7% were serious. In such cases, however, there are frequently mental injuries which we have not tried to consider. In the other sexual offences, which are primarily indecent assaults, only 2% were of a serious nature with approximately 80% no injury. Pregnancies are classified as a serious injury; in Edmonton, there were two reported and one in Calgary; however, many more were suspected. In the R.C.M.P. districts, there was a greater number of more serious injuries including four reported pregnancies.

Well over one-half of all crimes of violence consist of mere common assaults against the person. These are seldom more than a personal insult or superficial slapping. While it was impossible to read all these files, there being 2317 in Edmonton alone in 1967, we had to be satisfied with a random sampling of common assaults in Calgary and Edmonton to indicate the probable extent of injury. From this sampling, between 60-70% of all common assaults resulted in minor bruising or cuts and the balance in no injury whatsoever, except in the rural districts where 2.3% suffered something more than minor injuries. It is partly because of this large number of common assaults that the percentage of serious injuries from crimes of violence is not higher.

2. Serious Injuries.

Few crimes of violence cause serious physical injuries. Out of the 6,670 files examined, 3.6% or 241 were serious. An effort was made to study more carefully the 97 serious injuries reported in Edmonton during 1967. Of these 97 injuries, 55 were broken bones, primarily jaws, noses and arms, 44 being suffered by victims of assaults occasioning bodily harm. From this number, it is estimated that 52 made normal recoveries. More critical injuries were eye injuries of which there were five, including one loss and one impairment with three possible impairments. Of the 15 bullet and stab wounds, at least three resulted in some kind of impairment. The most severe injuries consisted of head wounds and brain damage - 11 altogether, with three permanent impairments. The treatment of all these injuries was varied. While 31 required only medical attention, 38 were hospitalized less than one week, 19 were hospitalized more than one week and at least six suffered permanent paralysis or loss of faculties. Some conclusions can be suggested from these figures. Serious injuries do not generally necessitate long periods of hospitalization; here only 26% required more than one week. Head and eye injuries result in more impairments and permanent disabilities. Most serious injuries are broken bones which create personal suffering, inconvenience and possible delay in returning to work. If compensation were based only on the degree of injury, one could estimate from the above figures the number of cases by including the persons killed, permanently disabled, and detained in the hospital for more than one week. Even making generous allowances for cases where the extent of injury is unknown, this would be less than 3% of all reported crimes of violence. In 1966, this would have meant compensation awards to approximately 200 persons. This number, however, would include all occasions, where the victim is the author of his own misfortune as well as all degrees of provocation by the aggrieved person. It seems clear that had a scheme been in effect in 1966 the actual number of applications would be substantially below 200

CHAPTER 4

THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES

1. Pecuniary Losses.

The climax of this study centered around an effort to determine the extent of financial loss to victims of crime. In the measure of civil damages for injuries to the person, there are two main heads of damages: pecuniary losses which are all out-of-pocket expenses such as medical bills, hospital expenses and the loss of wages, which restore the aggrieved person to the same position he would have been if he had not sustained the wrong; and personal losses which cannot be measured in financial terms, but include mental or physical pain and suffering, the loss of amenities and shortened expectation of life. From losses of life and limb, there can be no real "restitutio in integrum", but a monetary value is generally assessed in an effort to offer some fair and reasonable compensation to the aggrieved person. In studying the extent of financial loss to crime victims, we have made no attempt to measure personal losses of any nature; but only pecuniary losses. As a result, any estimates will be much lower than the measure of damages based on common law principles. In order to determine the "out-of-pocket" expenses, we have also deducted all benefits received by the victims as a result of the injuries from the offenders, from medical health plans, from the Workmen's Compensation Board where the injury occurred because of employment and from public funds of one kind or another.

There are no records available of any kind that consider the financial consequences of crimes of violence to the victims. To determine the extent of their loss, a questionnaire, designed to calculate out-of-pocket expenses, was directed to victims of crime

who suffered 'serious' injuries. The initial objective of this survey was to provide some reliable basis on which to make an estimate of the financial loss to victims. However, because of the small number involved in the survey, it is not comprehensive or accurately representative of the extent of financial loss to injured crime victims, but it does provide informative and interesting data on actual loss experiences.

The population selected for this detailed study covered only victims who suffered a 'serious' injury as defined in Chapter 3. It was felt that this was the most appropriate unit because financial consequences would generally be more significant where the degree of injury is greater. This is based on the presumption, which is not always true, that the financial consequence is directly proportionate to the degree of injury. It was also hoped that there would be a higher response rate from this category. For the purposes of this study, the population was divided into two groups. The first group was the major one which consisted of persons who suffered serious injuries in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge during 1967. Injuries that occurred in the R.C.M.P. districts were excluded because of the difficulties in contacting these victims, even by mail. From the 1967 police files, there were 177 serious injuries in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, but of these, in only 147 of the cases were the permanent addresses, if any, recorded in the police files - the balance being temporary boarding or hotel accommodations. It was hoped that the addresses obtained from the files would be recent enough that the parties would still be residing there, and that they would be accurate, as the police, themselves, still relied on these addresses for their witnesses in pending criminal actions. However, 40 out of the 147 questionnaires were returned by the Post Office indicating that the parties had moved and their forwarding addresses were unknown. 27% is somewhat higher than expected and it would seem to indicate that many victims are transients. The second population group consisted of 15 select cases where the extent of injury was so severe as to cause permanent disability or impairment.

Such injuries that occurred 5 to 7 years ago were specifically sought so that the long range consequences could be assessed. From the entire population of 162, 33 persons filled out and returned the questionnaires, representing 20%. This is a little lower than the 25% originally anticipated.

A mail questionnaire was the methodology adopted in this final phase of study. While there are advantages and disadvantages in the use of mail questionnaires, social investigators have mainly criticized it because of the difficulty of securing adequate responses. We also encountered this problem with an overall response rate of 20%. The questionnaire had to be designed so that it was simple and reasonably short, therefore limiting the coverage of the survey. Because the Osgoode Hall Study questionnaire was so well drafted, we modelled our questionnaire on their experience. Once the questionnaires were returned, the researcher generally accepted the answers as final, without probing further or clarifying ambiguous replies. However, in spite of these shortcomings, for the purposes of this survey, a mail type questionnaire proved quite satisfactory. The information sought from the victims could be communicated by direct answers after some consideration on the part of the subject. Our time period was also quite short, and this approach offered the fastest means of obtaining the data.

2. Questions Answered

Some interesting results are seen from the 30 questionnaires answered by victims who suffered serious injuries in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge during 1967. The nature of these injuries varied, but among others included paralysis, ruptured bloodvessels, punctured intestines, fractured noses, legs and cheek bones, as well as severe beatings. Two-thirds of these injuries were the result of assaults occasioning bodily harm with a few examples of robberies, woundings, one assaulting a police officer, and one attempted murder; a higher percentage of wounding offences occasioned hospitalization

Table 5

The Effect of Serious Injuries
on 30 Victims of Crime

<u>OFFENCE</u>	No.	Medical Treatment	Hospital- ization	Dis- Abilities	Absence From Work
Attempted Murder	1	1	1	-	-
Wounding	3	3	3	2	2
Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm	21	21	15	6	12
Assaulting Police Officer	1	1	-	-	-
Robbery with Violence	4	3	3	3	2
TOTAL	30	29	22	11	16

Medical Attention to Victims of Crime

<u>OFFENCE</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Complete Recovery</u>	<u>Partial Recovery</u>	<u>No Recovery</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
Attempted Murder	1	1	1		
Wounding	3	1		2	
Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm	21	9	8	2	2
Assaulting Police Officer	1	1			
Robbery with Violence	3		2	1	
T O T A L S	29	11	11	5	2

Of these 30 injuries, 29 required some medical treatment. All probably obtained such attention, but one alleged victim, contrary to the police file, insisted that his injury was not the result of a crime of violence. This attitude was encountered on a few other occasions and may be attributed to a poor memory, a desire not to become involved because of the circumstances of the offence, or a close relation between the victim and the offender. Such an attitude was expected, especially, for example; from a victim who had been assaulted by her husband. Looking more closely at the financial losses due to medical treatment, such as doctor bills, x-ray costs and medication expenses, 11 victims were partially reimbursed, 11 were completely covered, one by Workmen's Compensation, 5 had no medical coverage whatsoever, while two declined to answer. This out-of-pocket loss would seem to be the smallest under consideration.

Hospitalization Expenses to Victims of Crime

<u>OFFENCE</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Complete Recovery</u>	<u>Partial Recovery</u>	<u>No Recovery</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
Attempted Murder	1	1			
Wounding	3			3	
Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm	15	6	5	3	1
Assaulting Police Officer	-				
Robbery with Violence	3		3		
T O T A L S	22	7	8	6	1

More important than medical expenses, are hospitalization losses to victims of crime. Of these 30 victims, over two-thirds required some hospitalization. While one questionnaire was unanswered, seven victims were completely reimbursed on health plans, and 8 partially recovered their loss, but 6 received no recovery at all. Where there was no hospitalization coverage, the expenses incurred were generally a major consideration. In four of these unfortunate cases, the out-of-pocket expenses exceeded \$1,000 - one as high as \$2,000. Even with M.S.I. and private health plans, which are quite universal, there are a small number of persons who are not included and who incur very heavy hospital expenses as a result of crimes of violence. Where there was only partial hospitalization coverage, payment by the victim of the remaining amount also offered difficulties. Unfortunately, it seems that crime victims are often those persons in a low social class who most need complete coverage. With the prospect of Medicare, it is expected that hospitalization expenses will find more universal and complete coverage in these situations.

Disabilities to Victims of Crime

Approximately one-third of these victims suffered a disability of one kind or another as a result of their experience. Some were little more than inconveniences such as a crooked finger, a slight limp or loss of sensation, but others were serious enough to affect the victim's life - partial paralysis, inability to do hard work, impairment of balance, or a disfigured face. In many of these injuries it is impossible to adequately assess the personal loss.

Loss of Wages to Victims of Crime

<u>OFFENCE</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Complete Recovery</u>	<u>Partial Recovery</u>	<u>No Recovery</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
Attempted Murder	-				
Wounding	2		1	1	
Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm	12	1	1	10	
Assaulting Police Officer					
Robbery with Violence	2		1	1	
T O T A L S	16	1	3	12	

Over one-half of these victims were absent from work as a result of their injury. While only one received compensation from the Workmen's Compensation Board, three others obtained partial recovery from other sources, and, 12 lost all wages during their recuperation period. This would appear to be the largest loss category, and unlike medical and hospitalization expenses, there is no prospect of recovery being extended to them in the future, but the victims must continue to bear the full loss. With the added medical expenses of the injury, it often becomes a heavy burden on the victim to forfeit his wages as well. One victim who required seven

days hospitalization without any hospitalization insurance, lost several weeks of work, and as a result of his experience, he was forced to appeal to the Debtors Assistance in payment of his bills; his out-of-pocket expense exceeded \$1,700. Another victim, who was self-employed, because of his injury was unable to attend to his business for the better part of one month; and a teenage victim was forced to give up his paper route as a result of a fractured leg. It would seem that from loss of wages there is often a considerable financial consequence suffered by the victim.

From these 30 examples, the out-of-pocket losses totalled \$11,194.70. Although the individual losses ranged from nil to \$2,000, approximately 80% of the losses were less than \$1,000. The average out-of-pocket loss amounted to \$373.16 and exactly 3/4's of the victims found this a hardship to themselves and their families.

Table 6
Total Out-of-Pocket Losses
To 30 Victims of Crime

<u>Amount of Loss</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
No Answer	3	10
Nil	5	17
\$ 1- 49	4	13
\$ 50- 99	3	10
\$ 100- 299	3	10
\$ 300- 499	4	13
\$ 500- 999	3	10
\$1000- 1999	4	13
\$2000- 4,999	1	4
T O T A L	30	100 %

Few of these victims attempted to bring civil actions against the offenders for damages which on five occasions were substantial. In response to the questionnaire, nine victims indicated that they considered seeing a lawyer to sue the offenders, but the general attitudes were that they were too poor, themselves, to consult a lawyer, that the offenders were recipients of welfare assistance or were never known. One victim did consult a lawyer and only one did collect damages, but usually the victims bore the loss themselves. Many of these victims of crimes of violence were in a low social position to begin with and were unable to afford unexpected expenses of this nature.

3. Three Sample Cases Where Compensation Seems to be Deserved.

Every year there seems to occur at least one or two crimes so violent in nature and the injuries so serious in degree that they completely alter the lives of the victims and their families as well as cause disastrous financial consequences. The answers from the second population group provided data for a few thorough file studies of such situations. In file #16-3498, a man who attempted to rescue a woman being beaten on the sidewalk was savagely attacked by her assailant and suffered injuries that required the amputation of his leg below the knee. According to the police report, this injury was inflicted by twisting the limb around a steel light post. While the offender was convicted of an assault occasioning bodily harm and sentenced to five years in prison, the victim was financially distressed. Not only was he without hospitalization insurance, but he was forced to discontinue his occupation as a truck driver. His loss of wages alone exceeded \$20,000, although he did receive a \$10,000 insurance claim for the loss of the limb. He described his life since his injury as '7 years of living hell'.

The victim in case #72095 suffered extensive damage to his stomach, liver and pancreas when he was shot in the stomach with a 22 calibre rifle by two thieves caught robbing his home. After three years of treatment and operations, he is fully employed again, but will require medical attention for the remainder of his life.

Perhaps the most tragic situation is file #67087 because of its recent occurrence. A young man, while living in a boarding house, became involved in the domestic problems of his landlady, and as a result was shot in the stomach by her husband at point blank range with a 12 gauge shotgun. This near fatal wound caused severe damage to his intestines, muscles and other tissue in the area, so that he will require monthly medication and treatment for the duration of his life. This young victim desperately needs financial assistance. Hospitalized for two months without medical coverage of any kind, and unable to continue working as a labourer because of the abdominal damage, he now depends solely on social welfare. In themselves, these classic examples of brutal violence and permanent disabilities are emotional but convincing arguments for the urgent need of compensation to crime victims.

There is no reason why a compensation scheme in Alberta would be more costly than comparable schemes in other jurisdictions. So far, crimes compensation in England, New Zealand and Saskatchewan has proven amazingly inexpensive, if not alarmingly so. The cost of compensation is directly related to the basis of awards. In England, compensation is assessed on the basis of common law damages, excluding exemplary or punitive damages and limiting loss of wages. According to the 1967 report of the Criminal Injuries Board, since 1964 there have been over 4,000 awards averaging £ 350 per case and totalling £ 1,350,310. With a population of over 60,000,000 persons, this is a modest expense for compensation based on common law damages, although it is estimated that most awards are approximately 50% lower than damages from similar civil actions.

In New Zealand and Saskatchewan, the cost has been almost minimal. Here compensation is assessed on the actual, reasonable expenses incurred as well as an allowance for pain and suffering. As of November 1967, the New Zealand Board made 31 awards totalling approximately \$10,500 - an annual cost of \$2,615. In Saskatchewan, there is a further restriction on common law damages, in that the Board must have regard to the financial need of the victims, but without denying compensation to those who are not in need. In the written decision of the first award, the Chairman of the Board stated that 'the purpose of such legislation is to alleviate distress resulting from cases where an ordinary action or judgment thereon is impractical or ineffective'. After nearly one year of operation, there have been approximately 4 awards totalling \$2,500. It is suspected that part of this low cost may be attributed to the ignorance of eligible victims as well as the awarding of periodic payments rather than lump sums. Relying on the experiences of these jurisdictions, a crimes compensation scheme in Alberta, would not be a costly commitment, and would provide needed assistance for the recovery and rehabilitation of victims of crime.

Eleanor Corlett,

7 September, 1968.

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Scope of Inquiry

The classification of criminal offences followed in this study:

(i) HOMICIDES

1. Murder, s. 201, 202, 202A(2) & (3) C.C.
2. Attempted Murder, s. 210 C.C.
3. Manslaughter, s. 207 C.C.

(ii) SEXUAL OFFENCES

1. Rape, s. 136, 137 C.C.
2. Other Sexual Offences include:
 - Sexual Intercourse
 - (a) female under 14 years of age, s. 138(1) C.C.
 - (b) female 14 to 16 years of age, s. 138(2) C.C.
 - (c) feeble-minded female, s. 140 C.C.

Indecent Assaults

- (a) on female, s. 141(1) C.C.
- (b) on male, s. 148 C.C.

Incest, s. 142 C.C.

Seduction, s. 143, 144, 145(1)(b), 146 C.C.

Acts of gross indecency, s. 149 C.C.

Buggery, s. 147 C.C.

(iii) ASSAULTS

1. Wounding with intent and inflicting bodily harm,
s. 216, 217, 218, 219, 220 C.C.
Wounding either with or without a weapon includes:
 - (a) wound, maim, disfigure, s. 216a C.C.
 - (b) endanger the life, s. 216(b) C.C.
 - (c) prevent arrest or detention, s. 216(c) C.C.Administering Noxious Things, s. 217(a)(b) C.C.
Traps likely to cause Bodily Harm, s. 219(1)(2) C.C.
Interfering with Transportation Facilities, s. 220 C.C.

2. Assaults (not indecent), defined in s. 230 C.C.
includes:

Common Assault, s. 231(1)C.C.

Causing Bodily Harm, s. 231(2)C.C.

Assault with Intent, s. 232(1)C.C.

Public or Peace Officer, s. 232(2)(a)C.C.

Assault Bailiff, s. 232(2)(c)C.C.

To Rescue Goods Seized, s. 232(2)(c)C.C.

(iv) ROBBERY

1. Robbery with Violence, s. 288(b)C.C.

2. Robbery Assault with Intent, s. 288(c)C.C.

APPENDIX B

Criminal Statistics Relating to Crimes of Violence in Alberta and the Larger Cities of Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge.

Table I

The Number of Criminal Offences Reported
By the Police in Alberta Compared to
The Number of Crimes Against the Person
Reported During the Years 1962 to 1966.

Year	Total Number of Criminal Offences	No. of crimes Against Person	% Crimes Against Person
1962	52,843	4,144	7.8
1963	57,634	5,028	8.7
1964	60,934	5,170	8.5
1965	57,278	5,589	9.7
1966	67,659	7,141	10.6

Table II

Changes in the Rate of Crimes Against the
Person in Alberta During 1962 to 1966

Subject	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
No. of Criminal Offences	52,843	57,634	60,934	57,278	67,659
Increase or decrease in Crime Rate per year		+10%	+6%	-6%	+18%
No. of Crimes Against the Person	4,144	5,028	5,170	5,589	7,141
Increase or Decrease Rate of Crimes Against person		+21%	+3%	+8%	+27%

Table IIIa

Number and Proportion of Crimes of Violence Reported
By the Police in Edmonton During the Years 1962 to 1967

<u>OFFENCE</u>	<u>1962</u>		<u>1963</u>		<u>1964</u>		<u>1965</u>		<u>1966</u>		<u>1967</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Murder	6	.3	9	.4	4	.2	3	.1	4	.1	4	.1
Attempted Murder	2	.1	5	.2	2	.1	6	.2	-	-	3	.1
Manlaughter	-	-	-	-	2	.1	2	.1	1	.1	1	.1
Rape	36	2.	30	1.3	32	1.4	35	1.3	32	1.1	34	1.
Indecent Assault	200	10.6	220	9.4	129	5.7	167	6.4	192	6.5	213	6.3
Other Sexual Off.					20	1.	20	.8	25	.8	14	.4
Battering	15	.8	24	1.	19	1.	20	.8	29	1.	50	1.5
Assaults												
i) AOBH	1,502	79.4	1,906	81.7	403	18.	362	13.9	351	11.8	413	12.2
ii) Police Off.					71	3.3	106	4.1	110	3.8	89	2.6
iii) Common Assault					1,378	61.1	1,665	63.7	2,042	68.8	2,317	68.6
Robbery With Violence	129	6.8	140	6.	183	8.1	226	8.6	181	6.0	240	7.1
TOTAL	1,890	100.0%	2,334	100.0%	2,238	100.0%	2,612	100.0%	2,967	100.0%	3,378	100.0%

Table IIb

Number and Proportion of Crimes of Violence Reported
By the Police in Calgary During the Years 1962 to 1967

OFFENCE

	<u>1962</u>		<u>1963</u>		<u>1964</u>		<u>1965</u>		<u>1966</u>		<u>1967</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Murder	1	0.1	8	.6	2	.2	-	0	2	.1	7	.3
Attempted Murder	1	0.1	2	.2	3	.2	1	.1	4	.2	3	.2
Manslaughter	2	.2	1	.1	4	.3	-	.0	2	.1	5	.2
Rape	6	.6	11	.9	19	1.5	13	.9	11	.6	15	.7
Other Sexual Offences	120	12.3	99	8.3	105	8.0	139	9.3	175	10.2	183	9.1
Wounding	19	2.0	20	1.7	16	1.2	13	.9	33	2.0	30	1.5
Assaults												
(i) AOBH	141	14.6	339	28.4	246	18.8	279	18.6	373	21.8	470	23.3
(ii) Police Off.	17	1.8	27	2.3	25	1.8	31	2.1	15	.9	35	1.7
(iii) Common Assault	570	58.8	570	47.9	792	60.6	888	59.5	956	56.0	1,093	54.2
Robbery	92	9.5	114	9.6	95	7.3	129	8.6	139	8.1	177	8.8
T O T A L	969	100.0%	1,191	100.0%	1,307	100.0%	1,493	100.0%	1,710	100.0%	2,018	100.0%

Table IIIc

Number and Proportion of Crimes of Violence ReportedBy the Police in Lethbridge During the Years 1962 to 1967CRIME

	<u>1962</u>		<u>1963</u>		<u>1964</u>		<u>1965</u>		<u>1966</u>		<u>1967</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
murder			1	.5			2	1.1			2	1.
attempted murder											1	.5
manslaughter			1	.5								
rape	4	3.	3	1.6	3	1.7	6	3.3	2	1.1		
other sexual offences	7	5.3	13	7.	5	2.8	8	4.4	21	11.3	16	8.6
burglary	2	1.5	1	.5	1	.6	3	1.7	1	.5		
assaults	110	82.7	168	89.4	166	92.7	158	87.3	159	85.5	160	85.6
robbery	10	7.5	1	.5	4	2.2	4	2.2	3	1.6	8	4.3
TOTAL	133	100.0%	188	100.0%	179	100.0%	181	100.0%	186	100.0%	187	100.0

APPENDIX C

The Extent of Injury to Victims of Crime

Table IVa

The Extent of Injury Per Offence from Crimes
of Violence Reported in Edmonton During 1967

<u>EXTENT OF INJURY</u>	Murder or Manslaughter		Att. Murder		Rape		Other Sex. Off.		Wound- ing		Assaults AOBH		PO		CA		Robb. & Violence		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fatal	5	100																	5	.2
Serious			2	67	4	12	2	1	11	22	66	16	3	3	-	-	9	4	97	2.8
Fairly Serious			-	-	5	15	1	1	17	34	61	15	3	3	-	-	25	10	112	3.3
Minor			1	33	3	23	12	5	22	44	229	55	28	32	1622	70	75	31	1997	59.2
None or negligible			-	-	17	50	192	84	-	-	2	1	55	62	649	28	117	49	1032	30.6
Unknown							20	9	-	-	55	13	-	-	46	2	14	6	135	3.9
TOTALS	5	100	3	100	34	100	227	100	50	100	413	100	89	100	2317	100	240	100	3378	100.

The Extent of Injury Per Offence from Crimes of Violence Reported in Calgary During 1967.

EXTENT OF INJURY	Murder or Manslaughter		Att. Murder		Rape		Other Sex. Off.		Wound-ing		AOBH		PO		CA		Robb. & Violence		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fatal	12	100																	12	.6
Serious					1	7	1	1	7	23	50	11	3	9			3	2	65	3.2
Fairly Serious			1	33	-	-	2	1	8	27	100	21	1	3			16	9	128	6.3
Minor			-	-	7	46.5	22	12	12	40	283	60	9	25	656	60	60	34	1049	32.0
None or Negligible			2	67	7	46.5	136	74	2	7	5	1	21	60	415	38	87	49	675	33.5
Unknown							22	12	1	3	32	7	1	3	22	2	11	6	89	4.4
TOTALS	12	100	3	100	15	100.0	183	100.0	30	100	470	100.0	35	100	1093	100	177	100	2018	100.

Table IVc

The Extent of Injury Per Offence from Crimes of Violence Reported in Lethbridge During 1967.

Fatal	2	100																	2	1.
Serious			1	100							3	14					1	12.5	5	2.
Fairly Serious							1	6			10	48	3	2			2	25	16	8.
Minor													51	38			1	12.5	52	27.
None or Negligible							15	94			8	38	60	44	2	67	1	12.5	85	45.
Unknown													22	16	1	33	3	37.5	26	13.
TOTALS	2	100	1	100			16	100			21	100	136	100	3	100	8	100.0	187	100.0

Table IVa

Extent of Injury Per Offence per Crimes of Violence Reported to R.C.M.P. in Alberta During 1967

EXTENT OF INJURY	Murder or Manslaughter		Att. Murder		Rape		Other Sex. Off.		Wounding		AOBH		PO		CA		Robb. & Viol.		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Fatal	17	100																	17	1.6
Serious			2	33.3	3	8.3	6	5.7	3	23.1	53	26.9	-		6	1.0	1	2.8	74	6.7
Fairly Serious			2	33.3	1	2.8	2	1.9	7	53.8	53	26.0	-		8	1.3	7	19.4	80	7.4
Minor			-		16	44.4	14	13.2	3	23.1	78	38.2	20	30.3	183	30.4	16	44.4	330	30.3
None or Negligible			2	33.3	14	38.9	83	78.3	-		3	1.5	44	66.7	384	63.7	11	30.6	541	49.9
Unknown			-		2	5.6	1	.9	-		17	8.3	2	3	22	3.6	1	2.8	45	4.1
TOTALS	17	100	6	100.0	36	100.0	106	100.0	13	100.0	204	100.0	66	100.0	603	100	36	100.0	1087	100

APPENDIX D
Questionnaire



THE INSTITUTE OF LAW RESEARCH AND REFORM
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

W. F. BOWKER
DIRECTOR

July 29, 1968.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Recently, there has been considerable public concern for victims of crime who suffer a serious injury. The Institute of Law Research and Reform is conducting a study on compensation for victims of crime. The Institute is a new body created jointly by the Provincial Government, the Alberta Law Society and the University of Alberta. The purpose of this study is to determine whether a compensation scheme to aid victims of crime is needed in Alberta.

Since you or a member of your family received a serious injury in 1967 as a result of the criminal act of another, we would like your assistance in our study. We wish to know how this injury affected you financially - whether your costs were small or great. It is crucial to the success of this study for you to answer all the questions on the enclosed form and to return it to us immediately. All information you give us will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be combined with the answers of others like you to give an overall statistical picture of the financial effect of this misfortune.

We urge you to give 3 or 4 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire by placing an X in the appropriate boxes and to return it immediately in the stamped self-addressed envelope supplied. If you have any questions or problems with the form, please telephone us at 432-3374.

Yours truly,

E. Corlett.

EC/dc

encl.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

VICTIMS OF CRIME

1. MEDICAL COST

(a) Did you have any medical attention as a result of your experience?

Yes () No ()

(b) If yes, to what extent were the medical expenses covered by M.S.I. or some other type of medical insurance?

None () 1-24% () 25-49% () 50-74% () 75-99% () All ()

(c) Were you hospitalized as a result of your experience?

Yes () No ()

(d) If yes, to what extent were the hospital costs covered by hospital insurance?

None () 1-24% () 25-49% () 50-74% () 75-99% () All ()

(e) Did you suffer any permanent impairment or disability as a result of your experience?

Yes () No ()

(f) If yes, what is the nature of this impairment or disability?

2. LOSS OF WAGES AND PROPERTY

(a) Did you lose any pay or salary because you were absent from work as a result of your experience?

Yes () No ()

(b) If yes, to what extent were these income losses paid by insurance or by employer?

None () 1-24% () 25-49% () 50-74% () 75-99% () All ()

(c) Did you lose any property or valuables as a result of this experience?

Yes () No ()

(d) If yes, to what extent was this property covered by insurance?

None () 1-24% () 25-49% () 50-74% () 75-99% () All ()

3. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

(a) Did you consider trying to collect any money to help pay your expenses by suing the person(s) who injured you? Yes () No ()

(b) if not, why not, _____

(c) if yes, did you in fact get any money from the other person? Yes () No ()

(d) To what extent, were your total expenses covered by this payment from the other person?
None () 1-24% () 25-49% () 50-74% () 75-99% () All ()

(e) After taking into account ALL YOUR RECEIPTS, how much were you OUT-OF-POCKET as a result of this experience? \$ _____

(f) Did you find this financial expense a hardship? Yes () No ()