

The victimisation of people with disability in NSW: Results from the National Disability Data Asset pilot

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SUMMARY

CRIME AND JUSTICE BULLETIN
NUMBER 252 | SEPTEMBER 2022

BACKGROUND

This report presents findings from the NSW Justice Test Case that was part of the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA) pilot. The Test Case was led by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, and used linked State and Commonwealth data collections to examine the intersection of disability and the criminal justice system in NSW. Results reported in this bulletin relate specifically to victims of crime reported to, or detected by, the NSW Police Force. Specifically, for people with disability we examine the following:

1. factors associated with being a victim of crime, with particular focus on violent and domestic violence (DV) related crime;
2. characteristics of incidents, compared with incidents involving victims not identified as having a disability;
3. factors associated with whether a person of interest was proceeded against in relation to a violent and/or DV-related incident, including comparisons with incidents involving victims with no disability identified;
4. factors associated with whether repeat victimisation is experienced within 12 months of a violent and/or DV-related incident, including comparisons with people with no disability identified.

KEYWORDS

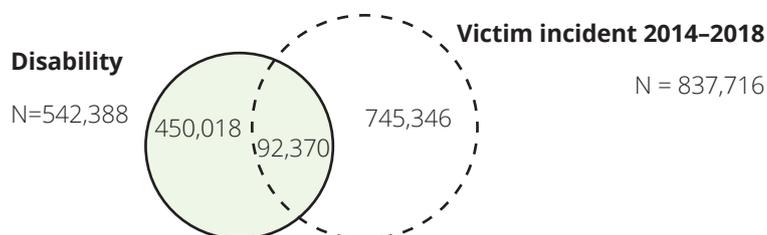
Disability Victimization Aboriginality

Linked datasets Domestic violence

KEY FINDINGS

Over the 5-year period from 2014 to 2018, 17.0 per cent of people with disability were recorded as a victim of one or more criminal incidents, 6.5 per cent experienced a violent incident and 4.4 per cent experienced a DV-related incident. The proportion of people who experienced a criminal incident ranged from 10.8 per cent of those with unspecified disability only to 23.7 per cent of those with both cognitive and psychosocial disabilities. Similarly, between 2.4 per cent and 12.7 per cent of the disability cohort were victims of a violent incident, and between 1.8 and 7.3 per cent were victims of a DV-related incident (for those with unspecified disability through to those with both cognitive and psychosocial disabilities). Being younger, female, and/or Aboriginal, were associated with a greater risk of people with disability being victims of violent and DV-related crimes.

Overlap between disability cohort and victim cohort



Note. The disability cohort consists of individuals who received the disability support pension and/or disability services and supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), or through state-based agencies pre-NDIS.

Persons of interest (POIs) were less likely to be proceeded against when incidents involved people with disability, especially in relation to violent incidents (OR=0.83 for disability cohort). Differences in police action rates were particularly pronounced for those with both cognitive and physical disabilities (with or without psychosocial disabilities).

People with disabilities were more likely to experience violent and DV-related revictimisation within 12 months compared with those with no disability identified. Generally, those with cognitive and/or psychosocial disabilities were at greater risk of revictimisation than those with other or no known disabilities.

CONCLUSION

This is the first study using linked administrative data to examine factors associated with the victimisation of people with disability in New South Wales. Particular groups of people with disability were especially vulnerable to experiencing crime. This study highlights the importance of an enduring linked dataset to ensure that service delivery and outcomes can be effectively monitored and evaluated.