

## **Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2007**

*(National Crime Victimization Survey)*

Michael R. Rand and Erika Harrell, Ph.D.

Persons age 12 or older with disabilities experienced approximately 716,000 nonfatal violent crimes and 2.3 million property crimes in 2007 as measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Nonfatal violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and property theft.\*

\*Estimates of property crimes against households with persons with disabilities may be an undercount due to the survey methodology.)

About one third (34%) of crimes against people with or without a disability in 2007 were serious violent crimes (rape/sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault). Persons with disabilities were victims of about 47,000 rapes, 79,000 robberies, 114,000 aggravated assaults, and 476,000 simple assaults.

Findings in this report are the first estimates of crime against people with disabilities measured by the NCVS, administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS adopted questions from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to identify respondents who had a disability. Disability is defined as a long-lasting (six months or more) sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition that makes it difficult for a person to perform daily living activities. The NCVS questions identified six types of disability: sensory, physical, cognitive functioning, self-care, go-outside-the-home, and employment.

This report focuses on the victimization experiences of persons with disabilities, including comparisons to persons without disabilities, disability types, victim characteristics, and crime characteristics, such as reporting crime to the police and the presence of weapons during the crime.

### ***Findings from the NCVS include:***

- Age-adjusted rate of nonfatal violent crime against persons with disabilities was 1.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities.
- Youth ages 12 to 19 with a disability experienced violence at nearly twice the rate as those without a disability.
- Females with a disability had a higher victimization rate than males with a disability.
- More than half of violent crimes against people with a disability were against those with multiple disabilities.
- Persons with a cognitive disability experienced violent crime at a rate higher than persons with other types of disabilities.
- Among victims of violent crime, females were more likely than males to have been victimized by an intimate partner, regardless of disability status.
- Victims with a disability perceived offenders to be under the influence of either alcohol or drugs in about a third of all violent crimes against them.
- About a quarter of all victims of violent crimes with disabilities were injured.
- Violent crimes against people with or without disabilities were equally likely to be reported to police.
- Police responded to about three-quarters of reported violence against victims with a disability.
- Equal percentages of violent crime victims with and without disabilities made use of victim assistance agencies.

**2012 Membership Renewal Reminders in the Mail Soon!**

## **Livability in Small Towns and Rural Areas**

(Excerpt from Livability Case Studies –  
Transportation for America)

What does “livability” mean in a smaller town or city? Some would have us believe that livability is a foreign concept for our small towns and rural areas. The reality couldn’t be farther from the truth.

The exact definition may differ place to place... It is about providing people, including seniors and those who cannot afford to drive everywhere, better choices about how to travel throughout their regions. It is about encouraging growth in historic small town Main Streets across America and a high quality of life with ample green space, biking or walking paths, and shopping, restaurants or health care located nearby and easily accessible.

Policymakers have taken significant steps to support coordination among transportation, housing, environmental and agricultural planning... In his 2011 budget, President Obama proposed \$830 million for collaborative projects between key agencies to improve quality of life in our communities and increase transportation options, affordable housing and economic opportunity – together.

Similarly, the Livable Communities Act, sponsored by Senator Chris Dodd, would build upon this concept by authorizing \$4 billion in competitive grants for communities with promising plans and projects. Without this kind of funding assistance, many small towns and rural areas lack the financial resources, planning capacity, or authority to implement forward-looking solutions.

The intention of this partnership is to support investments in one area that promote goals in others. For example, highway investments in a small town should strengthen the existing Main Street rather than undermine it – and we believe it takes a whole lot more than a highway to keep our economies sustainable and our communities livable. Whether that highway

helps or hurts is very much determined by where it goes, whether it is safe for older residents and children, whether it brings jobs or pushes them away, whether it protects or destroys agricultural land and whether it increases or denies access for those who cannot drive.

If any part of the country is in need of a comprehensive, cross-departmental approach, it is America’s small towns and rural areas. Many communities have already adopted these principles and seen great success...

(See Page 8 to read about a case study of Huron, South Dakota, which was a part of this larger report.)

### **South Dakota Congressional Delegation Members Contact Information**

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Washington, DC 20510  
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Senator John Thune  
United States Senate SD-511  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2321  
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Representative Kristi Noem  
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### **President’s Contact Information**

President Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Phone Numbers:  
Comments: (202) 456-1111  
Switchboard: (202) 456-1414  
TTY/TDD Comments: (202) 456-6213

## **Livability Case Study Huron, South Dakota**

In Huron, many older residents are able to access groceries and services because of People's Transit, and the town today is home to its first-ever transit center.

Huron is the county seat of Beadle County, at the midpoint of eastern South Dakota. The city, whose motto is "it's a brand new day," was named after the Huron Native American tribe and is home to the South Dakota State Fair, held annually five days before Labor Day. Its population was about 12,000 according to the 2000 Census.

Temperatures in Huron can drop as low as 25 degrees below zero, and with a large senior population, many residents were worried about how their older neighbors in this rural community could access life's essentials without transportation options. This led, thirty years ago, to the Huron Area Senior Center's purchase of a cargo van from a federal surplus warehouse. The board had to round up passenger seats from a car dealer in Aberdeen just to ensure older residents could actually ride it.

People's Transit, as the system is called, started as a pilot program for the state of South Dakota in the mid-1970s, receiving most of its funding from the Older Americans Act, until 1981 saw the beginning of federal dollars for rural transportation. The service quickly expanded, bringing seniors to meals, recreational activities and health services. In 1975, Huron officials added the first wheelchair accessible van to the fleet.

In the late 1990s, a building committee was established. Then City Commissioner and current Mayor David McGirr worked with community members to locate a site for today's transit center, called Huron's Great Station. Given South Dakota's frigid winters, the center had to be energy efficient just to

pay the bills. It takes a lot of work to shovel through the parking lot and thaw buses before they go out on the road, but the community has come to heavily rely on the system.

"Transit service is a critical element in our infrastructure," McGirr said. "Without People's Transit, there would be a lot of people here living a lower standard of life. If ever they went away, I don't know how we'd replace them."

To learn more about People's Transit and other public transit services available throughout South Dakota, go to:  
<http://www.sddot.com/fpa/transit/network.asp>

### **SD Department of Social Services Constituent Liaison**

The Constituent Liaison serves as an independent source of information and explanation for the public about services provided by the Department.

**The Constituent Liaison can** answer questions about services provided by the Department; receive complaints from the public about services provided by the Department, and refer the complaints to relevant management for response or conduct an independent investigation, as it applies to the situation; and monitors complaints to ensure responses are comprehensive and timely.

**The Constituent Liaison cannot** provide information about other state agencies, although a referral will be made to the relevant state agency if possible; resolve complaints about other state agencies, federal agencies, the judicial system, or private sectors, but can refer the individual to the appropriate resource; review issues already in the appeals process; and provide legal advice.

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## Telling Your Story to Policymakers

With the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session soon upon us, we thought it would be good to again run some information we've shared in the past about citizen involvement in policymaking processes. Whether you participate in a legislative cracker barrel/coffee in your home community, city council or county commission meetings, an administrative rules hearing, a listening session or any of the multitude of opportunities for citizen involvement, we believe this information will be helpful to all in preparing to share their stories.

**Experts can be hired. Real people, with real stories, cannot.** If you can tell your story, in a short and compelling way, that may prove critical. Someone who speaks from the heart, with a real story to tell, is often far more compelling than even the most polished "expert."

- Tell them who you are and where you live (I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_, South Dakota).
- Tell them who you are connected to... If you are a part of a group, mention it (I'm a member of the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, and there are \_\_\_\_\_ members in our group).
- If you are receiving supports/services from an agency, mention it (I live in my own apartment, but I have someone who helps me to get ready for work or drives me to my job).
- For a statewide impact, name others who also rely on services to live independently (I have friends in Pierre, Spearfish, Milbank who also have persons who help them get ready for work; go out; go to church).
- Tell them why you came... I'm here because if I didn't have the supports through \_\_\_\_\_ i.e., vocational rehabilitation, center for independent living, community support provider, mental health center; I wouldn't be living independently; I

wouldn't be working in the community; and relate it to the work that the policymakers are presently doing.

- Tell policymakers what you want them to do so that you and other people with disabilities can live their dreams and live in the communities of their choice.

There are many disability related organizations in South Dakota who can help you prepare to talk with policymakers. They can also provide you with current information on issues of importance to you. We encourage you to contact them with your questions.

## SD Department of Social Services Constituent Liaison

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The Constituent Liaison will have access to confidential information in the Department's possession and will maintain the confidentiality of the information as required by state and federal laws.

However, it may be necessary for individuals to sign a release of information to provide assistance in particular situations. Refusal to sign a release of information may limit the assistance that can be provided.

The Constituent Liaison is located within the Department of Social Services, Office of the Secretary, and is independent of individual divisions within the Department.

The Constituent Liaison reports results of key responsibilities to the Secretary of the Department.

### Contact Information

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## **2012 Dare to Dream Conference Call for Presentations**

The 2012 Dare to Dream Conference is coming June 10 – 12, 2012 at the Spearfish Holiday Inn and Convention Center. This biennial conference for persons with disabilities and family members seeks to provide participants of all ages and their families with an opportunity to gain knowledge, enhance skills, develop friendships and have fun.

The Dare to Dream Planning Committee has issued a call for presentations for this upcoming event. They are seeking presentations on a wide variety of subjects. They are seeking proposals from individuals and organizations.

To access more information about this "Call for Presentations" go to: [www.sd-ccd.org](http://www.sd-ccd.org) and click on "Services". Next click on "Dare to Dream" and you will find a link to the "Call for Presentations" as well as the Presentation Proposal form.

The deadline for submission of presentation proposals is **January 31, 2012**. If you have any questions, please contact Arlene Poncelet, Dare to Dream Planning Committee Chairperson, at 605.773.6769 or [Arlene.Poncelet@state.sd.us](mailto:Arlene.Poncelet@state.sd.us).

## **AAPD Praises President Obama and U.S. Labor Department... Promote Opportunity for Job Seekers with Disabilities**

WASHINGTON, DC – December 8, 2011 – The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the nation's largest cross-disability membership organization, today praised President Obama and the U.S. Labor Department for issuing a proposed rule that would require federal contractors to set goals that 7% of their work forces would be individuals with disabilities.

The Proposed rules would implement Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires federal contractors to promote employment opportunity for people with disabilities. Although Section 503 was enacted almost 40 years ago, it has never been enforced or clarified to the extent necessary, requiring employers only to make a "good faith" effort to hire people with disabilities. This rule establishes an explicit benchmark of 7%

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This publication is the official publication of the COALITION (South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities) and is published bi-monthly. We welcome letters, manuscripts, news items and other items of interest, which will be considered for possible publication within a future edition. This publication is mailed out to all COALITION members and other interested parties. Many of the articles in this publication are reprinted from other sources, as a means of giving our readers access to examples of information being presented to the general public locally and throughout the country. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily represent the opinion of the COALITION, its membership or staff.

The COALITION is a strong supporter of using "People First" language and encourages its use in written and spoken communications. Some articles used in this publication may contain terminology that is not consistent with the "People First" concept. The language used by authors of articles that are not consistent with "People First" is not a reflection of the COALITION's preference.

Please notify us of any change of address by writing: The COALITION; 221 South Central Avenue; Pierre, SD 57501; by phoning 605.945.2207 or 1.800.210.0143; or by emailing [faithe@sd-ccd.org](mailto:faithe@sd-ccd.org).

## Welcome New Members

The following individuals and organizations became new members during our two-month membership drive. Thanks to each of you!

Paul Bly	Celeste Gageby
Vicki Nelson	Jerry Raabe
Kathie Tupper	Eileen Van Soest
SDNAFVSA	Hoby Abernathy
Ken Laughlin	Jo Marie Laughlin
Bob Sutton	Mary Livermont
Sue Birrenkott	Patricia Reiter
Sarah Jo Jorgensen	Jim & Sheena Drey
Sandra Magnavito	Mary Ohman
Bjo Schreir	Steve Kelsey
Constance Lane	Jennifer Scott
Parent Informer	James King
Cassie Stoesser	Kristina Allen
Colleen Moran	Ann Fortin
Alicia Nelson	Dave Halverson

Human Relations Department  
City of Sioux Falls

## Thank You, New Member Recruiters

For many of us it is difficult to “ask” people for something – help, a donation, to become a member of an organization. Yet, if we don’t ask, often times people wonder why we don’t...

For each of you who did something that maybe wasn’t totally comfortable, asked another to join the Coalition, THANK YOU! As Margot, our Board President said, “it gave each of us a chance to remember why we are members and share that knowledge with others.”

Soon two of you will be receiving a “thank you” gift for your member recruitment efforts. It is a small token of our appreciation for all you did and continue to do.

For those of you who recruited and are not receiving these gifts – we sincerely hope you know how very much we appreciate your efforts and commitment to the Coalition. THANK YOU!

## AAPD Praises President Obama and U.S. Labor Department...

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and includes data collection and record keeping requirements that will improve employer accountability.

“Unemployment and poverty rates among people with disabilities far exceed the rates in the general population,” said AAPD President and CEO Mark Perriello. “People with disabilities and employers alike will benefit from this rule. Job seekers with disabilities will have access to more opportunities. Federal contractors will experience greater diversity in their workforces and benefit from the contributions that people with disabilities are qualified and eager to make,” he added.

The notice of proposed rulemaking is posted at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Members of the public can submit comments through this website. (The closing date for comments is February 7, 2012.)

“I encourage people with disabilities, civil rights advocates, employers, and others to show our support for this groundbreaking proposal. Americans believe in opportunity for all, and our work to establish equal opportunity for people with disabilities is far from complete,” said Perriello. “This is a step in the right direction. We must all work together to ensure that Section 503 is finally enforced,” he added.

**The Coalition Office  
will be closed:**

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**  
*Martin Luther King Day*

**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
*Presidents' Day*

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**“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.” (Henry Ford)**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

I/We wish to become members of The COALITION (South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities)

**Name/Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

_____ New	Annual Individual Dues:	\$20.00 _____
_____ Renewal	Annual Organizational Dues:	\$35.00 _____

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our membership year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> of one year through September 30<sup>th</sup> of the next year. Current members receive renewal notices in September of each year.

**New memberships are welcomed at any time!**

Mail to: The COALITION, 221 S. Central Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-2479