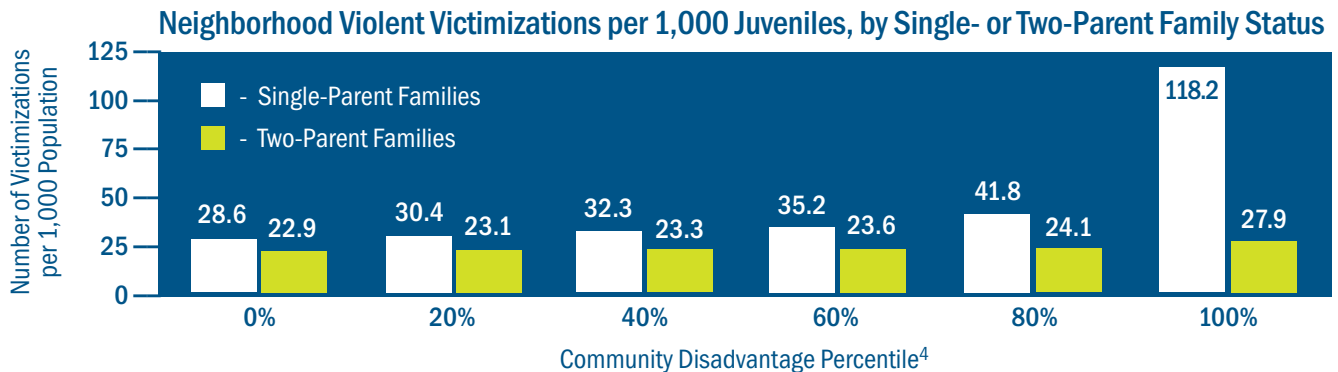




Juvenile Risk of Violent Crime Victimization Related to Community and Family Characteristics

A new report¹ from the National Center for Juvenile Justice indicates that an increased juvenile risk of violent victimization is tied to important community and family characteristics. *Community* characteristics increasing the likelihood that youth will fall victim to violent crime include living in disadvantaged communities² and communities with high concentrations of children.³ *Family* characteristics increasing the likelihood of juvenile violent victimization include living in families that have recently moved into the community and in single-parent families. The study found that juveniles in single-parent families are at a 50% greater risk of violent victimization than those in two-parent families. The protection offered by two-parent households was most evident for juveniles living in the most disadvantaged communities.



Sources: Snyder, H. N., and Sickmund, M. (2006). *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Retrieved October 19, 2006, from <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/nr2006/downloads/chapter2.pdf>.

Lauritsen, J. L. (2003). *How Families and Communities Influence Youth Victimization*. OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Retrieved October 19, 2006, from <http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/201629/contents.html>.

¹ Research conducted with newly expanded access to the 1995 National Crime Victimization Survey data.

² Communities with high rates of poverty, single-parent homes, unemployment, and recipients of public assistance.

³ Race and ethnicity were found to be unrelated to youth victimization risk; racial and ethnic rate differences can be explained by the different types of communities in which youth live. Family income was also found to be unrelated to victimization risk, suggesting that youth in single-parent families were not at greater risk because of their poverty status, but instead because of having less supervision.

⁴ The Community Disadvantage Percentile is an index that captures the relative level of socioeconomic disadvantage in an area by dividing the studied communities into groups (i.e. percentiles) according to their level of disadvantage.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit www.tasc.org.

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