

# Part II

## Overview of Criminal Victimization of the Elderly

### Introduction

The chapters in Part II focus on elderly victims of crime. In Chap. 6, the author describes the characteristics of older offenders, the types of offenses they commit, and the relationship of older offenders with the older victims of crime. For violent crimes against the elderly when the offender is known, the relationship is predominately that of the victim and offender being either of the same family, related, or of close acquaintance. This fact is especially true in cases of homicide and nonfatal domestic violence. In cases of hate crimes, the victim-offender relationship is not so well known, since many older people are victimized as a result of being a member of a particular race, religious group, or ethnic group or holding a sexual preference that makes them the target for violence or property destruction because of prejudice or hatred toward that group. For other property crimes, the victim and offender are closely related, acquainted, or at least known to each other. In contrast, the offender-victim relationship is stranger to stranger for most property crimes of fraud or Internet scams.

In Chap. 7, the author analyzes the abuse of elderly people of color. There are a number of factors among the older people of color that make them easy targets for victimization. Many are receiving social security benefits, have limited incomes, and have caretakers who are not members of the immediate family. These factors and others make them vulnerable for abuse and criminal victimization.

In Chap. 8, the author uses several statistical reports to show how the changes in the structure of the family in Japan as well as the gradual aging of the population of Japan have resulted in significantly higher amounts of crime by the older population, as well as significant increases in the numbers of older persons who are victimized by crime. The reasons for crimes committed by the elderly are explored, as well as some measures that have been taken to prevent the victimization of the elderly.

In Chap. 9, the problems related to the victimization of the elderly through abuse and neglect are considered. The author identifies various types of abuse, including physical, psychological, and financial abuse, and describes the typical victim-offender

relationship for each type of abuse of the older victims. Several approaches used to prevent the abuse of the elderly, including the structured violence-focused approach and the victim-focused approach, are described and evaluated in terms of their effectiveness.

In Chap. 10, the authors focus on abuse and neglect of the elderly who are housed in hospitals, nursing homes, or other types of residential facilities used for those older persons who must reside in facilities other than their own homes. The types of abuse that occur, as well as the causes for the abuse, are explored. Several strategies that can be used to reduce the abuse of the elderly, who often are helpless in protecting themselves, are presented.

In Chap. 11, the causes of victimization of elderly women and specifically elderly widows living in various countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa are considered. The author uses United Nations reports, research reports, and case studies to illustrate how elderly women are vulnerable to all forms of physical violence, including torture in some cases, psychological punishment, and loss of property and inheritance rights as a result of adherence to traditions and cultural practices that, while prohibited by law, are nevertheless still adhered to in some sections of the countries included in the author's study.