

HYPOTHESIS

Hypothesis 1:

Young adults who consume true crime media will report higher levels of fear of victimization than those who do not consume true crime media.

Hypothesis 2:

Participants who frequently engage with true crime content through podcasts, streaming platforms, social media videos, or articles will report greater concerns about personal safety.

Hypothesis 3:

Exposure to true crime media will positively influence perceptions of crime risk and increase feelings of vulnerability among young adults.

PARTICIPANTS

- Total Participants: 49
- Valid Responses: 47
- Missing Cases: 2
- True Crime Viewers: 27 participants (57.4%)
- Non-Viewers: 20 participants (42.6%)

MEASURES

True Crime Media Consumption

Participants were asked how often they consumed true crime content in the past 30 days through:

- Podcasts
- YouTube or TikTok videos
- Books or articles
- Following true crime cases

Responses ranged from:

- 1 = Never
- 5 = 5–7 days per week

Higher scores indicated greater true crime media consumption.

Fear of Victimization

Fear of victimization was measured using six Likert-scale items assessing concerns about crime and personal safety.

Example items included:

- “I worry about becoming a victim of a crime.”
- “I feel unsafe when I am alone in public places.”

Responses ranged from:

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 5 = Strongly Agree

Higher scores reflected greater fear of victimization.

RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics:

- Mean Fear of Victimization Score: $M = 12.33$
- Standard Deviation: $SD = 2.87$
- Minimum Score: 5
- Maximum Score: 19

Group Comparisons:

- Non-Viewers: $M = 11.80$, $SD = 3.22$
- Viewers: $M = 12.73$, $SD = 2.55$

Participants who consumed true crime media reported slightly higher fear of victimization scores than non-viewers.

Inferential Statistics:

An independent samples t-test was conducted to compare fear of victimization between viewers and non-viewers.

- $t(44) = -1.094$
- $p = .280$
- Mean Difference = -0.931
- 95% CI $[-2.646, 0.785]$

The findings were not statistically significant because $p > .05$.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to examine whether true crime media consumption influences fear of victimization among young adults. Although participants who consumed true crime media reported slightly higher fear levels, the results were not statistically significant. Therefore, the hypothesis was not supported. The findings suggest that true crime media may influence perceptions of safety to some extent, but it was not a strong predictor of fear within this sample.

Strengths:

Use of SPSS quantitative analysis
Theory-driven research design
Clear operationalization of variables
Use of inferential statistics

Limitations:

Small sample size
Simplified yes/no measurement of true crime consumption

Cross-sectional design
Possible self-report bias

Future Research:

Future studies should:
Use larger sample sizes
Measure frequency of media exposure more precisely
Examine additional factors such as prior victimization experiences and psychological traits
Explore the long-term effects of true crime media exposure

True Crime Media Consumption and Fear of Victimization Among Young Adults

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