

# Scaring or scarring? Labour market effects of criminal victimization

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Little is known about the costs of crime to victims and their families. In this paper, we use unique and detailed register data on victimisations and monthly labour market outcomes from the Netherlands to overcome previous data restrictions and estimate event-study designs to assess short- and long-term effects of criminal victimisation. For both males and females and across offences, we document significant decreases in earnings (up to -12.9%) as well as increases in benefit receipt (up to +6%). The results for victims of domestic violence show even larger impacts. The negative labour market responses are lasting (up to four years) and are accompanied by shorter-lived responses in health expenditure and by some, albeit weaker effects on the victim's partner. Additional analyses suggest that the victimisation is a life-changing event that may lead to an escalation point triggering subsequent adverse life-events which contribute to its persistent impact.