

Reviewer comment-2

1. I felt the introduction is somewhat rough. I am not sure it makes a convincing case for why the study needs to be done. I am not convinced by their exploration of the specific links between disability, victimization, and fear of crime. There exists a large body of studies that consistently demonstrated the adverse effects of disability status on victimization and fear of crime. It is not clear what this research adds to this body of knowledge. This issue is also apparent in the literature review section.

2. In the second paragraph of the introduction section, the authors mentioned that “Fear of crime and criminal victimization are related but not interchangeable.” Then they listed several studies as backup evidence to support this argument. I’m not following the point of this discussion and how it relates to their study on fear of crime and victimization among students with a disability.

3. There is notable missing literature. The literature review heavily focuses on the victimization experiences of persons with a disability. Although the relationship between disability and fear of crime aligns with their main research question, I noted the absence of citations from relevant literature (e.g., Daigle et al., 2022; Pyo & Haeyms 2023). Daigle, L. E., Hancock, K., Chafin, T. C., & Azimi, A. (2022). US and Canadian college students’ fear of crime: A comparative investigation of fear of crime and its correlates. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 37(15-16), NP12901-NP12932. Pyo, J., & Hayes, B. E. (2023). Assessment of functional and dysfunctional perceived threat of hate crimes among persons with and without disability. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 38(23- 24), 12135-12160. 2

4. Relatedly, I would have liked to see greater effort made to explore the links between disability, fear of crime, and victimization among college students. Surprisingly, the authors did not formulate any hypotheses, despite abundant evidence suggesting meaningful relationships between these variables. The authors should provide both theoretical and empirical rationales their investigations. Without robust foundations, I don’t have a strong sense of where their research questions were coming from. In the literature review section, I would trimming content on non-main variables and instead focus more on discussing the underlying mechanism that contributes to increased of crime and victimization experiences among individuals with disabilities.

5. The construction of the fear of crime measure is overall thoughtful and interesting, addressing important aspects in assessing fear of crime. However, a more thorough development and validation process needs to be undertaken before the scale can be utilized. Given that items assess distinctively different aspects of fear of crime, it is likely that the factor structure of the scale is not unidimensional. Using the entire items, the authors may want to conduct (at least) an exploratory factor analysis to explore the factor structure of items.

6. I appreciate the authors acknowledging the limitations of their disability measure. It would be helpful to provide, perhaps in supplementary tables, frequency distributions of victimization, disability type, and degree of functional limitation, in which the percentages are calculated among participants with each type of disability and the degree of functional limitation (e.g., % of respondents with a physical disability who report victimization experiences).

7. Within the results section, only bivariate analysis tables are presented. Without full models, it is not possible to contextualize the findings or to evaluate the validity of the associated interpretations. How are the excluded variables impacting the broader relationships between constructs of interest? In other words, I suggest the authors present full multivariate regression models that predict victimization and fear

of crime for each type of crime using disability and other individual characteristics such as gender, as listed in the intro and literature review sections as important factors contributing to experiences of crime.