

Victimization Surveys 101

Recommendations for Funding and Implementing a Victimization Survey

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Country Department Caribbean
Group

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Abstract¹

While crime and violence are major global concerns, they are notoriously difficult to study, particularly in the developing world. Many crimes are never reported to police, and in many countries certain types of violence are not illegal, in which case there are typically no administrative records to collect. To better estimate this "dark figure" of unreported crime and violence, victimization surveys are a very useful tool. Although all surveys follow some core principles, surveys that measure rare events such as crime involve a host of considerations beyond those on topics most people have experienced or those measuring public sentiment. More effort and expense are therefore required to execute these surveys successfully. Setting reasonable goals, obtaining technical assistance from experts, and knowing how to select a survey firm will help ensure a quality survey is conducted. The author consulted several experts in victimization survey design to develop guidelines for anyone planning to fund or implement this endeavor². Key decisions that should be made at the outset are discussed, and characteristics of national surveys in five countries are compared. While national victimization surveys are typically only possible when financed by their governments, international organizations and NGOs may be able to finance surveys of urban areas when a national survey is not feasible. Detailed guidelines appear in the UN Manual on Victimization Surveys referenced at the end of this document with other key resources.

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Keywords: Crime, violence, victimization, surveys, measurement

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Introduction

The scarcity of available data on crime is a crime itself. Many crimes go unreported to the police. Data that are collected are often not comparable from one locale to the next. What is illegal in one country may not be illegal in another. Developing an evidence-based strategy for reducing crime and violence can be daunting when systematic data collection on the subject is lacking. Victimization surveys can be a great tool for gathering detailed information on certain offenses across numerous locations. However, it is easy to become overly ambitious in such an endeavor, and wind up with a survey that may *look* like a crime survey, but in fact cannot be used to answer the questions one wishes to answer. These guidelines are intended to help those planning to fund or implement a victimization survey identify 1) the key decisions that need to be made before spending funds, and 2) the key questions to ask of those who will work with you along the way.

Before You Begin

1. **Know what you want the data to tell you.** Usually, these surveys are conducted to estimate the prevalence (how many people were victims of a crime) and incidence (how many times the same crime happened to the same person) of various types of property and violent crimes. Because many victims do not report crimes to the police, estimates from these surveys are typically higher than those generated using police records. By asking victims if they reported a given crime, these surveys are critical tools for estimating the “dark figure” of unreported crimes. You might also seek details about certain types of crimes, their effect on victims (e.g., subsequent fear of crime, protection measures taken), and the response of the criminal justice system if the crime was reported. Know your hypotheses so you can be sure the information you collect will meet your needs. Tables 1 and 2 show common topics for inclusion in these surveys.

Table 1. Key Topics for International Comparability

Crimes and victimization	Property crime			Contact crime / violent crime			No crime specified
	Household burglary	Theft of vehicles	Other theft	Robbery	Physical Assault	Sexual offences	
Measure of victimization in the past 12 months	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Measure of repeat victimization in the past 12 months	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Reporting to the police	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Crimes involving weapons				x	x	x	
Victims who suffered physical injury				x	x	x	
Victim-offender relationship				x	x	x	
Public confidence/trust in police							x
Feelings of safety							x
Basic socio-demographic variables							x

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. 2010. Manual on Victimization Surveys, 12.

Table 2: Types of Crime Included in Victim Surveys

	percentage of surveys		percentage of surveys
Assault with force	95	Attempted burglary	62
Threat of using force	83	Non-contact personal thefts	60
Burglary with entry	78	Vandalism	59
Theft of car	76	Theft of bicycles	55
Sexual assault	76	Theft of mopeds/motorcycles	55
Pickpocketing	74	Fraud/cheating	34
Robbery	69	Psychological violence	28
Theft from car	66	Bribery/corruption	21
Rape	64	Exposure to illegal drugs	16

Source: UNODC –UNECE inventory, 2005. IN: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. 2010. Manual on Victimization Surveys, 59.

- 2. If you don't have the budget, wait until you do.** Even in areas with high crime rates, crime is still a relatively rare event. This means that in order to find a representative sample of crime victims and develop a detailed understanding of crime in your chosen population, you need to

survey many more people than you would for a survey of more common experiences such as shopping or working. This makes victimization surveys significantly more expensive than the average survey—national surveys typically cost several million US dollars (see Table 3). A victimization survey that is conducted on a more typical survey budget will adversely affect the outcome. Money is wasted if low-quality data are collected. Your survey methodology should be strong enough for your findings to be accepted by peer-reviewed journals. This is not for the goal of achieving prestige but rather for having a solid evidence base for policymaking. The internet is rife with self-published reports of dubious quality, most of which would never be accepted into a peer-reviewed journal. How does a policymaker determine what is and isn't a sound basis for creating public policy? If your findings may generate controversy, this external validation may be even more critical.

3. **Budget for technical assistance from experts.** Identify a handful of experts (the references for this document will provide a useful start) willing to provide their advice as needed and work out a plan for compensating them for their time. This is your project coordinator's first step. You may even decide to organize a 1–2-day group meeting to collaborate on key issues. These key participants will be critical in helping to manage budgetary constraints and make informed decisions that maintain the integrity of collected data. This group should comprise individuals (a) who have experience in designing and implementing victimization surveys in a context similar to yours and (b) who can guide you in developing the questionnaire and determining the sample design.
4. **Careful planning takes time.** Not only are these surveys more costly, but they also require more time to design and implement properly. When contracting a firm, it will still be necessary to research what you can expect to buy with your budget. This will allow you to align your request for proposal with your goals on survey content, sample design (the way people will be chosen to complete the survey), how big a population you can sample (e.g., a country, a city), sample size, the types of crime you can afford to estimate, geographic subgroups you can afford to estimate, response rate (the percentage of people contacted to complete a survey who agree to participate in the survey), pretesting and piloting (see #27 and #28), and any other area your experts recommend. If your request for proposal is too vague, firms may propose what is easier for them rather than what is better for you. It is important to be able to spot the difference. Unless you hire a project coordinator with experience in this type of survey, give him or her ample time to research how these surveys are performed, consult with a variety of experts, suggest a few proposals for yourself given your budget, write a good

request for proposals, and be an informed negotiator with potential firms. The more time allocated for this, the higher the quality of data in the end.

5. **Know what to look for in contracting a firm.** The majority of victimization surveys are funded and carried out by governments, most often carried out by national statistics offices. If they are new to this type of survey, you will need to hire an expert or experts to work with them on design and implementation. Some of this expertise (e.g., on designing the sampling frame³) may be available from a local university, whereas for other aspects (e.g., questionnaire design) international experts may be needed. Private firms are eager for your business and will work hard to sell themselves as experts on surveying crime. However, including a few questions about crime on a survey dedicated mostly to another topic is not equivalent to having expertise in victimization surveys—the author is unaware of private firms or academic institutions who have conducted a genuine stand-alone victimization survey.⁴ This is why you need independent experts to advise you, even if you wish to contract to another entity much of the sample and instrument design. Have your experts give you feedback on the contract with your selected firm before signing. Be particularly wary of adding your questions as a module onto someone else’s survey—the sample design may not work for your module and your module will take a back seat to the larger endeavor. Ensure your firm budgets for the various issues outlined here and in the recommended resources at the end of this document. Review promising proposals with your experts.
6. **Consider the limits of this tool.** Not every type of crime can be adequately measured by a victimization survey. A prime example is violence against women. Although this type of crime is very important to document and has often been surveyed in past victimization surveys, the World Health Organization does not recommend asking, in a standard survey on crime, questions about sexual violence or violence by current or former intimate partners. Many women do not consider physical abuse by their husbands a crime, and local laws may not either. Disclosure may also pose a threat to a woman’s safety. This does not mean victimization surveys should survey men only. They are useful for generating rates of property crime, robbery, and so forth, for both sexes.⁵
7. **Do not confuse a victimization survey with an opinion survey on crime.** Certainly one can ask about both experiences and opinions in the same instrument. However, a standard

³ This refers to the selection of specific households or individuals to interview.

⁴ There are firms (e.g., Abt Associates) that have conducted surveys on exposure to violence, and others (e.g., ICF International, Vanderbilt University, and American Institutes for Research) that have conducted surveys including questions or modules on victimization. If a firm claims this expertise, seek references, examine the survey instrument and reports generated, and review with them the issues in these guidelines.

⁵ To learn more about surveying violence against women, please visit:
http://www.who.int/gender/documents/violence/who_fch_gwh_01.1/en

opinion survey does not have a sample size that is large enough to generate reliable estimates of the prevalence of different types of crime. It is easier to include in a victimization survey questions on participants' opinions, but given that these surveys are much more expensive because of the larger sample needed and keeping in mind that your response rate will decrease if your survey is too long, you should avoid taking on too much in terms of content.

8. **Know whose buy-in is needed.** Before any contract is signed, be sure you have the requisite support to complete your endeavor. Think about who can facilitate or impede your progress. Do you have the support of local agencies or universities (see #29) that can find interviewers and gatekeepers? Local experts to help you or your firm with constructing the sampling frame? The government, to not refute your findings, and provide administrative data for comparison?
9. **Panel surveys.** Panel surveys on victimization are rarely conducted. Other considerations are necessary if following your respondents over time: securely recording identifiable information, vastly increasing your sample size to take attrition into account, and the added budget for both. Be sure to consult with those who have done panel surveys (e.g., US National Crime Victimization Survey⁶), to make an informed decision about whether this is the best use of your resources. You may find it more feasible to track a certain subset of respondents (e.g., adolescents) over time.
10. **Data analysis.** Will you need to contract someone to analyze your data and produce a report? Be sure to budget for data analysis software (e.g., SAS, STATA). Be sure that between this person and whomever collected the data, you are provided with a response rate (if applicable), completion rate, sample size for each question, and for any analyses not only the mean but also the variance, significance level, margin of error, and confidence interval.
11. **Data-sharing plan.** Your survey should ultimately be considered a public good. To promote the application of your data to the formation of evidence-based policies and interventions, you should have a plan for sharing your dataset publicly within 1–2 years at most from your first public release of its findings.
12. **Dissemination.** Be sure to allocate enough resources to share your findings with all relevant stakeholders in a wide variety of formats.

Choosing the Sample Size and Design

⁶ They do this as a means of reducing telescoping (see #20), not for the purpose of generating trend data.

13. **Select the sample size and design before designing the instrument.** Your remaining budget after technical assistance, results dissemination, and so forth—in other words, the money you give to whomever will design your sampling frame and conduct the survey—will quickly translate into the approximate number of people you can survey. The more detail you seek, beyond prevalence, on a given crime (e.g., weapon used, number of perpetrators per incident), the bigger the sample you will need in order to get enough cases to be able to use those follow-up questions for analyses. You may quickly find your budget will not finance a large enough sample to ask for such detail. Should this occur, you will need to readjust your survey goals in terms of the number of questions you can ask and/or in terms of the population you want the sample to represent (see #17).
14. **Sample size is not a function of population size.** It is a function of the estimated prevalence (frequency) of the event you are trying to measure in that population. This task can be difficult when no prior victimization survey has been conducted of your population. Even if it has, find out the sample size used for several victimization surveys conducted in comparable contexts to help you determine a number. If you have police data on crime, you might compare estimates from police data where a victimization survey has been conducted in a similar context and determine a sample size using the same ratio of police crime rate to survey crime rate.
15. **Probability (random) versus quota sampling (or other types).** A truly representative survey requires a sample design in which any one person's chance of being selected for the survey is the same as anyone else's. This is called probability sampling. It is the gold standard in survey research, and it is strongly recommended that you budget for this type of sampling. However, it requires making multiple attempts to reach a given individual once selected in order to keep your response rate high. Each attempt requires time and therefore money, but it improves the quality of your data. Proposals you receive from firms should delineate the added cost of a given number of repeated attempts to reach a respondent. If probability-based sampling is not possible given your budget, and you can neither postpone until you have more funds nor sample a smaller geographic area to adopt this method, you may need to use quota sampling. In quota sampling, interviewers select respondents in certain areas on the basis of certain characteristics (e.g., age, sex)—typically in proportion to their presence in the total population. It is cheaper in that reaching the quota does not require return visits, but because of the potential impact on quality it is not common for victimization surveys. To document the potential magnitude of the effect on your sample, a pilot (mini survey) comparing the results of the two methods should be completed before opting for quotas. Ask your experts about the

tradeoffs and impact on your ability to publish in your desired publications. A convenience sample, in which anyone who volunteers to take the survey is surveyed, only provides a description of people who volunteer to take surveys and must be avoided.

16. **Response rate (for probability-based sampling).** Aim for what has been achieved in comparable contexts. Developed nations typically obtain a response rate of at least 70 percent, although telephone interviewing has become very problematic given the decline of landlines. The response rate is much higher in developing countries where surveys are typically conducted face to face. Seek a minimum bar to include in your contract with the firm. If the response rate is too low, your sample may be biased and therefore may not accurately represent the study population.
17. **Digging deeper versus subnational representativeness.** Assuming your resources are finite, you will quickly face a tradeoff between getting more details on an incident versus the number of areas for which the sample will be representative at the subnational level (e.g., 4 provinces vs. 14 states). There is an inverse relation between the two. One solution is to conduct a nationally representative survey to generate national prevalence estimates for different types of crimes, which can be broken down into several major characteristics but not into smaller geographic regions (e.g., sex, age group, urban vs. rural), and also conduct an oversample of urban areas, where crime is higher, to ask follow up questions about these incidents (confining generalizations about incident details to urban areas only). Also, if you are interested in details on a particular type of crime (e.g., gang violence), that mostly affects a certain subpopulation (e.g., young men in urban areas), you will need to conduct an oversample of that population to learn about that particular crime in such detail. Some follow-up questions may be common enough (as a percentage of incidents of a given type of crime) not to require an increase in sample size (e.g., frequency of occurrence, reporting to the police). If you are able to collect data that will be representative at the subnational level, look at the administrative data you are able to obtain on crime and match your divisions to relevant administrative boundaries such as police districts. This is especially useful for the questions on reporting crimes to the police.
18. **National Crime Victimization Survey versus the International Crime Victims Survey.** Similar to the previous point about depth versus breadth, when you research other surveys, note that a National Crime Victimization Survey will refer to a country's own survey, typically with a large sample (>30,000) that can be analyzed at the subnational level. Meanwhile, the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS) is run by researchers affiliated with the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and collects small samples (1000–2000) from countries around

the world, typically using a less detailed set of questions. It is useful for making international comparisons of national crime rates (total crime, property crime, and possibly but questionably violent crime). The ICVS serves a very narrow (but important) purpose, as many details of national surveys make them very difficult to compare with each other. Although more expensive, the National Crime Victimization Survey provides more useful information for a national or subnational government. In the developing world, it is more common to find an ICVS rather than a full National Crime Victimization Survey. You will also often find an ICVS based only on a capital city sample, which obviously cannot be used as a national crime estimate. You will find examples of both surveys in the references for this document.

19. **There is no agreed-upon ideal number in the field.** It is difficult to generate a recommended sample size given variations by country, survey goals, available budget, and so forth. Table 3 shows basic information on national victimization surveys conducted in recent years in several countries.

Table 3. Selection of Recent National Crime Victimization Surveys

Survey Characteristic ⁷	England/Wales	Colombia	Jamaica	Mexico	South Africa	United States
Year	2011/2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2012
Sample size	46,000	172,275	3,556	95,810	31,000	162,940
Sampling method	Partially clustered and stratified	Two-stage probability sampling	Multistage probability sampling	Three-stage probability sampling	Two-stage probability sampling	Stratified multistage cluster
A priori estimated prevalence rate (per 100 people) of property crime ⁸	9.2	12.9	24	14.7	12.5	14.3
A priori estimated prevalence rate (per 100 people) of violent crime ⁶	4.8	0.6	10	5.8	3.8	7.1
Method of data capture	Laptop	Electronic (PDA)	Paper and pencil	iPad mini	Paper and pencil	Laptop
Budget (US\$ million) ⁹	6.2	1.41	0.378	4.75	4.5	26
Response rate (%)	75	86	75	85	95	87
Number of repeat attempts	6	Unavailable	3	Unavailable	4	5
Data are representative at what geographic level?	43 police force areas	20 cities	Urban/rural	32 states	9 provinces	4 regions
Can be used to estimate rates of various property crimes at subnational level?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can be used to estimate rates of various violent crimes at subnational level? ¹⁰	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Reliable estimates of incident characteristics (e.g., weapon, perpetrator) at subnational level? ⁸	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

⁷ See Appendix D of the UN Manual on Victimization Surveys for results of a 2005 inventory of 56 victimization surveys. Most use past 12 months for the reference period. All surveys displayed here were funded by their governments (Jamaica received assistance from the UK Department for International Development) and executed by the national statistics offices.

⁸ This is needed to determine an appropriate sample size to reliably estimate property or violent crime (and their subtypes). Robbery is included in violent crime. If no prior estimate is available from an earlier survey or from police data, an estimate from a similar country (e.g., in terms of demographics on poverty, employment, police data on crime) may be used. The numbers shown may be from the same year as the survey described for the purposes of this exercise. Prevalence estimates for Colombia, Jamaica, and South Africa come from their national surveys; the other estimates are from the International Crime Victim Surveys 2005 and 2010. Colombia only asks about violence during the commission of a property crime, so this may explain the lower violent crime rate in this country.

⁹ If these budgets are much higher than yours as a funder, you may wish to consider doing a survey of a capital city (or cities) instead. This has been done in many developing countries. In 2014, IDB conducted a regional survey of four capital cities in the Caribbean. Contact Inder Ruprah, Regional Economic Advisor, Caribbean Country Department at IDB for more information (inderr@iadb.org).

¹⁰ For some countries, it may be possible to estimate violent crimes or detailed incident characteristics reliably at a smaller geographic unit than national, but not for as many subdivisions as considered representative when examining total crime or property crime.

Table 3. Selection of Recent National Crime Victimization Surveys

Survey Characteristic	England/Wales	Colombia	Jamaica	Mexico	South Africa	United States
Age range of respondents (years)	10+	15+	16+	18+	16+	12+
Interviewed all household members?	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Confidence interval for estimates (%)	95	95	95	90	95	95
More information	http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk	https://www.dane.gov.co/files/investigaciones/fichas/metodologica_enc_conv_06_13.pdf	https://www.mns.gov.jm/document/2012-13-jamaican-national-crime-victimization-survey	http://www.inegi.org.mx/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/metodologias/ENVIPE2013/ENVIPE13_Sintesis/envipe13_sin_met.pdf	http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0341/P03412011.pdf	http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245

Designing the Instrument

20. **Telescoping.** *Telescoping* describes an effect whereby people are more likely to either recall distant events as happening more recently than they did, or recall more recent events as happening longer ago than they did. It is a problem in victimization surveys because you are trying to generate a prevalence estimate of crimes occurring in a set time frame, typically in the past 12 months. If people include events that happened 18 months earlier, you will have a higher prevalence estimate than is accurate. A commonly used technique for reducing this effect is to ask respondents first to recall whether a given incident occurred anytime in the prior 5 years. If the answer is yes, then proceed to ask whether it occurred within the past 12 months. This allows them to disclose the event, should they be eager to do so, without guessing the placement in time. Because the 5-year questions are also subject to telescoping, they are not useful for analyses—they are only useful for increasing the accuracy of your 12-month prevalence estimate. Thus, to determine whether you would like to ask your respondent to answer detailed questions about a crime incident, you need to ask whether that incident occurred in the past 5 years, and if yes, did it occur in the past 12 months? These questions are referred to as *screener questions*.
21. **Placement of screener questions.** Place all your screener questions together, at the start of your survey or of your section on crime and violence (you may wish to start off with some questions on more innocuous topics to ease into more difficult subject matter). After you have figured out which (if any) crimes of interest have occurred in the past 12 months, then return to the first crime that occurred and ask for details on the incident. If you ask for details at the time the incident is disclosed, the respondent might realize that the survey will take longer to complete if he or she says yes to more incidents, and will purposely answer *no* to subsequent incidents to shorten the survey time even if the incident did occur.
22. **Multiple incidents.** In addition to asking whether a given crime has occurred in the past 12 months, it is important to measure incidence—how many times this occurred in that timeframe. Subsequent questions then focus on the last time the incident occurred. You may also want to know how many crime incidents had multiple victims (or multiple perpetrators).¹¹
23. **Reporting to the police.** Victimization surveys are valuable tools because many crimes go unreported to authorities. Thus, one of the most useful benefits of this type of survey is the ability to document the gap between actual prevalence and estimates from police data. The most precise measure of this gap requires asking respondents who were victimized whether

¹¹ Refer to page 49 of the UN Manual on Victimization Surveys for more information on how to count offenses and victims.

they (or someone on their behalf) reported this incident to the police. You may also choose to ask why or why not, and whether they were satisfied with how the police responded.

24. **Avoid reinventing the wheel.** Borrow heavily from vetted instruments such as the International Crime Victims Survey, especially if you would like your results to be comparable to a similar locale. Think carefully about making any changes to question wording or sequencing. Researchers manipulate the wording purposefully, and it is best to fully understand the implications of any deviations before making any. You will also lose comparability to other surveys if you change question wording.
25. **Techniques to increase disclosure.** To increase disclosure of more sensitive subjects (e.g., keeping a firearm at home), talk with experts about various options that provide the respondent with anonymity even with the interviewer (e.g., conducting list experiments, using randomized response models, or circling an answer on a card and sealing the card themselves in an envelope).
26. **Length.** To avoid survey fatigue and lower response rates, the survey should take no longer than 30–45 minutes for most respondents to complete.
27. **Pretest the instrument.** This should be done to ensure questions are interpreted as intended and to make any cultural adaptations necessary for clarity. You may have trouble finding respondents who have experienced more infrequent types of crime, making it difficult to examine the validity of your more detailed incident questions. Therefore, you may wish to allow respondents to answer detailed questions for any incident experienced in his or her lifetime. Consult with your experts. This is often done with a small number of respondents (~20).

Survey Administration

28. **Conduct local pilots.** Piloting is different from pretesting, and it refers to testing your method—not simply the questions themselves—and may involve a larger group of respondents (e.g., 50–100). Piloting is important to ensure that your survey protocols work as intended and that the survey does not, on average, take longer than intended to complete.
29. **High-risk areas.** Additional precautions are needed to safely survey highly impoverished neighborhoods. A *gatekeeper*—in this case a well-known and respected neighborhood resident—will likely be needed to accompany the interviewer and facilitate safe access. Interviewers may need to proceed in pairs. If most data collection is electronic, in some areas pencil-and-paper administration may be safer. You may need permission from a local leader to conduct your survey (especially where organized crime is present, in which case electronic encryption of data in real time may afford more safety than paper surveys). Partnering with

local nongovernmental organizations can help with identification of gatekeepers and other safety precautions.

30. **Interviewer selection and training.** Interviewers should be very personable and professional, and match the demographics of the respondents to the extent possible. If your questions allow for assessment of the quality of government services, interviewers should not be affiliated with the government, nor should police accompany the interviewer if it can be safely avoided. Interviewers should be trained to avoid deviating from training protocol in techniques to manage time (they should absolutely not rush the respondent through the survey or rephrase questions in their own words), and in the ethical treatment of survey participants. They should also be able to provide participants with a list of local agencies they can contact for assistance if participants wish to discuss any of these incidents in more detail upon survey completion.
31. **Technology.** Even though devices such as smart phones and tablets are costly, the efficiency in terms of real-time data entry and uploading to a remote database and also GPS monitoring of interviewers (especially when pursuing probability-based sampling) should not be underestimated. Consider options such as renting the equipment or buying local SIM cards for other countries (rather than new hardware for each country). Using this technology will bring added expense in terms of hiring someone to program the survey instrument into the device and training interviewers on using the device.
32. **Timing.** Depending on the size of the population to be surveyed, it would be advisable not to conduct your survey at the same time or soon after another large survey because doing so could negatively impact your response rate. In addition, other events that may alter survey responses (e.g., elections, political scandals) should be taken into consideration.

Conclusion

While there is much to consider in implementing a victimization survey, it is doable. It may need to be refigured to accommodate budget parameters, but if done well, the data collected will be invaluable as a tool for public policy. One good victimization survey is worth ten times its cost if the information is put to use. Conversely, if done poorly, the data will cause more harm than good by perhaps misinforming policy design. Setting reasonable goals, obtaining technical assistance from experts, and knowing how to select a survey firm will help ensure your investment pays dividends.

Recommended Resources

Crime Survey for England and Wales. *British Crime Survey: Methodology*.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-crime-survey-methodology>

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía. *Encuesta Nacional de Victimización y Percepción sobre Seguridad Pública*.
<http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/proyectos/encuestas/hogares/regulares/envipe/default.aspx>

International Crime Victim Survey. *About the ICVS*. <http://www3.unil.ch/wpmu/icvs>

Small Arms Survey. 2012. *Tools for Measurement, Monitoring, and Evaluation: In-Depth Focus on Surveys*. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/M-files/CCRVI/CCVRI-Practice-Product-Surveys.pdf>

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. *ICVS–International Crime Victims Survey. Data*.
http://www.unicri.it/services/library_documentation/publications/icvs/data

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice. *Inventario de Encuestas de Victimización en América Latina y el Caribe*.
http://www.cdeunodc.inegi.org.mx/unodc_en.html#

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. 2010. *Manual on Victimization Surveys*. Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations. http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/Manual_on_Victimization_surveys_2009_web.pdf

US National Crime Victimization Survey. *Data Collection: National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)*.
<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>