

Learn More about the NCVS (Adult Participants, English)

[MUSIC PLAYING] PRESENTER: We hear a lot about crime and safety in the news every day, but many crimes are never reported to police. So how do we get a full picture of what kinds of crimes are happening in communities across the country and to what kinds of people? To produce our country's official statistics on criminal victimization, the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics sponsors the National Crime Victimization Survey, or NCVS. The NCVS has been collecting data from people across the nation since 1973. The NCVS is unique. It is the nation's only source of detailed information on victims and crimes they experience, including the crimes that police don't learn about.

Why is this important? The NCVS relies on participation from people like you, who provide a complete picture of the types and amount of crime happening in the United States. Participation from everyone helps create an accurate portrait of who does and does not experience crime. This information is used to inform policies, programs, and practices to help reduce crime and support people who have experienced crimes.

How does the NCVS work? The US Census Bureau conducts the survey on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Each year, households are picked randomly from a list of addresses to participate. If a household is chosen, then every person age 12 or older who lives there is asked to participate in an interview for the survey. The information collected is only used for research purposes and is kept private and confidential.

Why should you take part? Participation in the NCVS makes a difference to researchers and decision makers, who use the information collected from the survey to help reduce crime and improve public safety. And remember, the NCVS is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. Even if you've never been a victim of crime, your answers can help us make sure we know what is and isn't happening across the country.

For more information about the NCVS, visit bjs.ojp.gov/ncvs-participant or scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone. You can also email us at askbjs@usdoj.gov.

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