

Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign: Results from a National Field Test

Agenda

- Overview of NCVS
- NCVS Instrument Redesign decisions on the new survey
- Findings from the large-scale national field test
- Comparison of current and new NCVS instruments
- Next steps for the NCVS Instrument Redesign

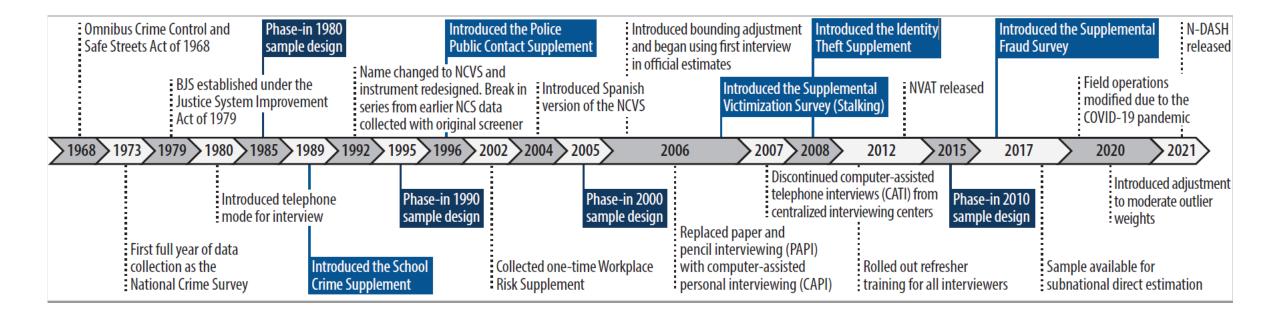
For more information, see the NCVS Instrument Redesign page at https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- Data collected annually since 1973
- The nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization
- NCVS administered to persons age 12 or older from national representative sample of U.S. households
- Respondents are interviewed in-person or by telephone, with new households interviewed in-person
- Selected households remain in sample for 3.5 years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months
- NCVS collects information on nonfatal violent and property crimes reported and not reported to police

For more information, see the NCVS page at https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs.

The NCVS timeline



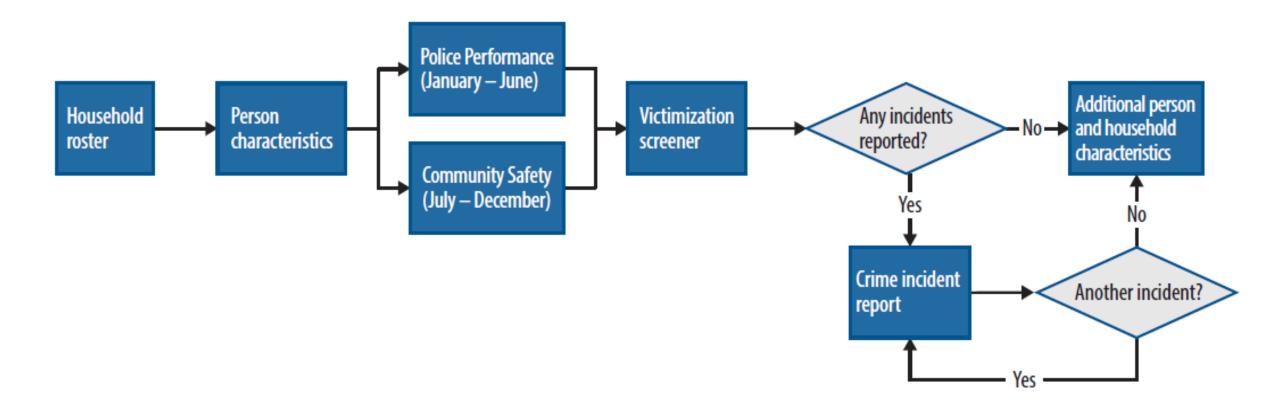
Why redesign the NCVS instrument?

- The NCVS instrument was last redesigned in 1992
- The current instrument flow is not efficient or responsive to respondent answers
- Limitations have been identified in the measurement and classification of certain crimes
- Engage non-victim respondents and collect more contextual information by adding questions on police performance and community safety

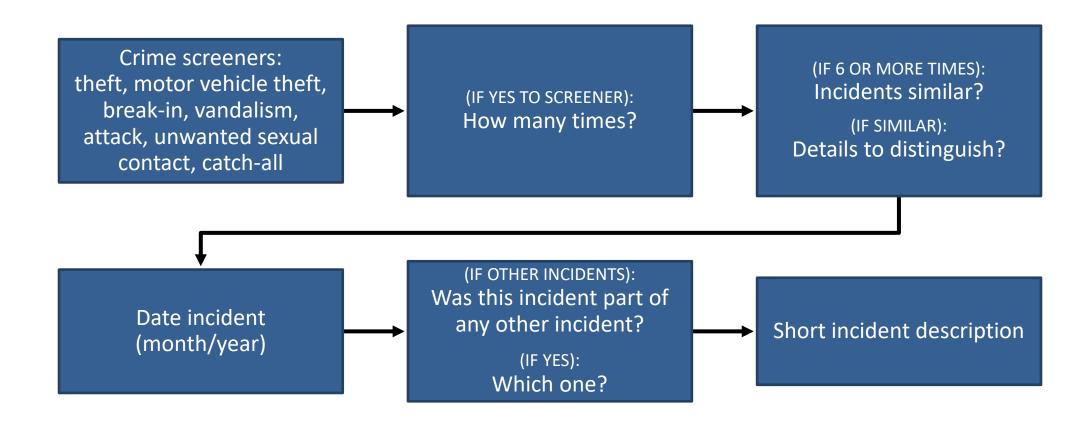
Key updates

- Maintains a two-stage measurement approach in screening and classifying crime
- Features updated crime screening questions
 - Improve quality of information collected
 - Allow for more efficient flow through the crime incident report
- Collects expanded information on victimization incidents and victim helpseeking
- Introduces noncrime questions on police performance and community safety

Flow of the new NCVS instrument



Victimization screener flow



Will employ noninterleaved version

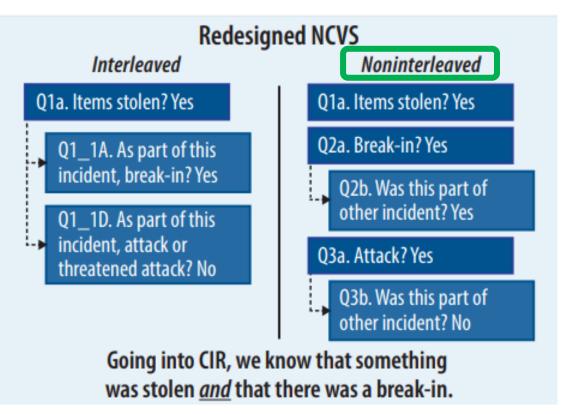
Current NCVS

Q36a. Items stolen? Yes

Q37a. Other than incidents already mentioned, break-in? No

Q41a. Other than incidents already mentioned, attack? No

Going into CIR, we know only that something was stolen.



Updates to victimization screener

- Separating screening probes into shorter examples with yes/no responses in each screener series
- Revising probe contents
- Using more behaviorally specific language and expanding the screening probes for rape or sexual assault
- Adding vandalism as a crime screener

Example victimization screener: Attack

1993-current NCVS

41a. (Other than any incidents already mentioned,
has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of
these ways –

- (a) With any weapon, for instance, a gun or knife -
- (b) With anything like a baseball bat, frying pan, scissors, or stick -
- (c) By something thrown, such as a rock or bottle -
- (d) Include any grabbing, punching, or choking,
- (e) Any rape, attempted rape or other type of sexual attack -
- (f) Any face to face threats -

OR

(g) Any attack or threat or use of force by anyone at all? Please mention it even if you are not certain it was a crime.

Ask only if necessary

Did any incidents of this type happen to you?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Redesigned NCVS

☐ YES

	
physical at have happ	e next few questions ask about any tacks against you personally. These may ened at your home or while you were{at school,} or away from home.
In the past attack you	6 months, did anyone attack or try to
With a wea □ YES	apon, for instance, a gun or knife? □ NO
	ething else used as a weapon, like a at, scissors, or a stick?
By throwir bottle? □ YES	ng something at you, such as a rock or □ NO
By hitting, choking yo □ YES	

In the past 6 months, did anyone attack, try to

Please mention it even if you are not certain it was a crime.

attack, or use force against you in any other way?

Updates to the crime incident report (CIR)

- Improving the use of victimization screener responses to drive questions asked in the CIR
- Revising items to improve measurement of key NCVS concepts (i.e., incident location and presence of respondent during incident)
- Increasing information collected about rape or sexual assault incidents
- Expanding measures of victim experiences, including use of victim services, satisfaction with police response, and consequences of victimization

Two new periodic modules

Police Performance:

contact with police and opinions about police performance

Community Safety:

indicators of community issues related to crime and neighborhood safety

- Questions asked of all respondents
- Administer police questions in Jan–June and community in July–Dec
- Items engage the respondents who have no crimes to report
- Measures have utility for small area estimation and understanding patterns of reporting to police

Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign: Results from a National Field Test

Key Field Test Findings

See National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign Field Test Topline Report: Comparing Condition 1 and Condition 2 by Interleaving Treatment (NCJ 303980, BJS, March 2022) for more information.

Field Test Overview

- National sample of households (excl. Alaska and Hawaii)
- Interviews attempted with all HH members 12 or older
 - One wave of interviewing
 - Household roster and most person interviews conducted in person
 - ➤ Reference period Last 12 months
- Households assigned to one of three treatments
 - Current NCVS (Condition 1)
 - Interleaved redesigned questionnaire (Condition 2 IL)
 - Non-interleaved redesigned questionnaire (Condition 2 NIL)

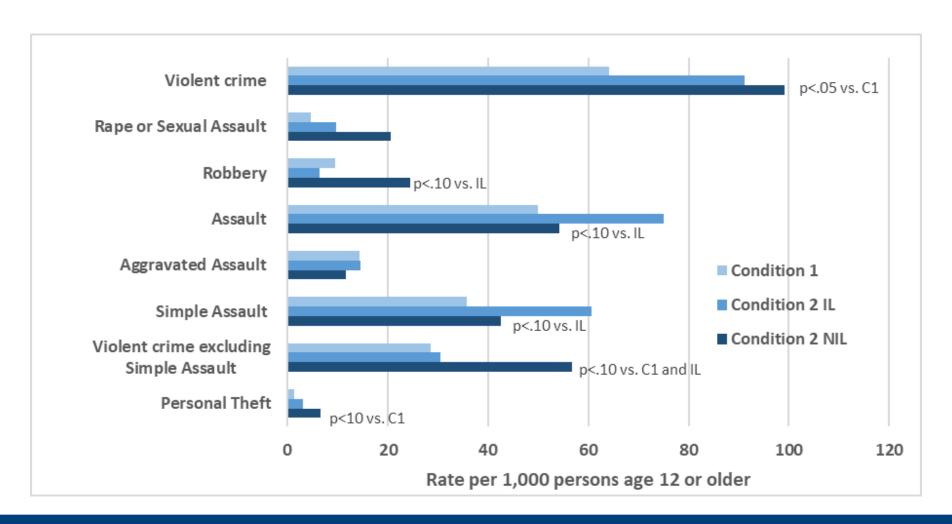
Interviews Completed and Weighted Response Rates

	Condition 1		Condition 2	
	Number	Response	Number	Response
	Number	Rate		Rate
Household Roster	1,911	37.3%	3,058	35.8%
Person Interview				
Household	1,812	94.6%	2,832	92.5%
Other Adult	839	55.1%	1,155	47.5%
Youth	71	34.4%	157	34.5%
Final	2,722	27.0%	4,144	24.3%

Victimizations Reported

- Overall, 50% more "Yes" responses to screener in Condition 2 than in Condition 1
 - Condition 1: 0.20 "Yes" responses per respondent
 - Condition 2 IL: 0.30 "Yes" responses per respondent
 - ➤ Condition 2 NIL: 0.32 "Yes" responses per respondent
- Mean number of incidents reported per screener "Yes" response virtually identical across treatments
 - ➤ Condition 1: 1.81 incidents per "Yes" response
 - Condition 2 IL: 1.81 incidents per "Yes" response
 - Condition 2 NIL: 1.78 incidents per "Yes" response

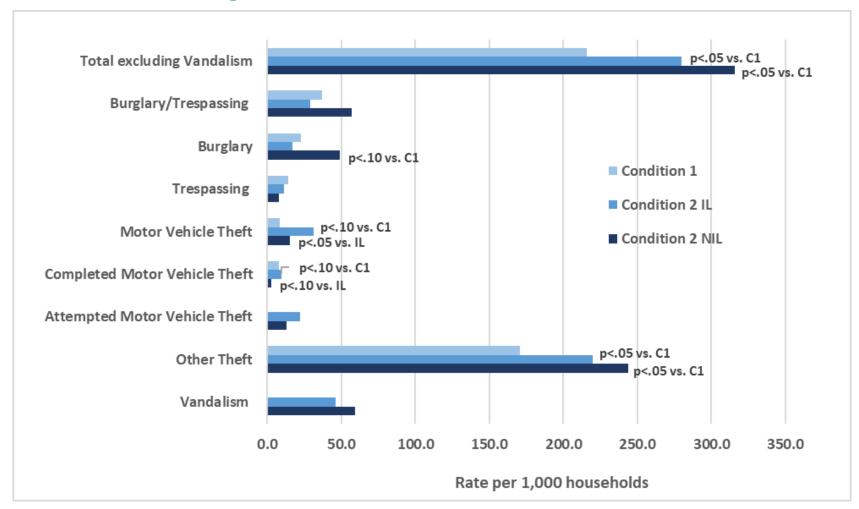
Violent Crime Victimization Rates



Violent Crime Rates

- Condition 2 generally higher than Condition 1, some differences statistically significant
- RSA rates much higher in Condition 2, as expected
- Robbery rates much higher in Condition 2 NIL than in Condition 1 or Condition 2 IL
- Simple Assault rates higher in Condition 2 than in Condition 1, IL difference with Condition 1 is significant

Property Crime Victimization Rates



Property Crime Rates

- Burglary much higher in Condition 2 NIL than in Condition 1 or Condition 2 IL
- Attempted Motor Vehicle Theft much higher in Condition 2 than in Condition 1
- "Other Theft" also much higher in Condition 2 than in Condition 1

Victimization Rates – Takeaways

- Redesigned questionnaire produced higher rates of both violent and property crime than current NCVS
 - More positive responses to screener series, probably because more separate questions
 - Differences most pronounced in "less memorable" incidents, as Simple Assault and Other Theft
- Condition 2 NIL yielded higher rates of complex crimes, Robbery and Burglary, than either Condition 1 or Condition 2 IL
 - Differences attributed to more follow-up probes in NIL treatment

Victimization Rates – Conclusions

- Condition 2 outperformed Condition 1
 - More victimization incidents reported
 - Reported incidents qualify as NCVS crimes at comparable rate
- Condition 2 NIL outperformed Condition 2 IL
 - Higher rates of Robbery and Burglary
 - Review of data and recordings indicates coding is accurate
- Problems with Condition 2 in the Field Test
 - Very high rate of Attempted Motor Vehicle Theft, ambiguous incidents
 - Attempted Theft not followed up in CIR

Post-Field Test Recommendations

- Continue with Condition 2 NIL treatment
- Change order of screener series so Theft asked before MV Theft
- Add questions to assess ambiguous incidents involving vehicles
- Add questions for Vandalism incidents re offender intent
- Fine-tuning complex CIR sections
- Add incident-level brief description to screener

Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign:
Results from a National Field Test

Comparing Current and Redesigned Questionnaires

Victimization Screener

Victimization Screener: Current NCVS

- Nine screener series
 - ➤ Theft, Break-in, MV/MV Parts/Gas Theft, Attack (where), Attack (how), Attack/Theft (known offender), Sexual Attack, Call Police, Not Call Police
- Each series has 3 questions
 - Did any incidents of this type happen to you?
 - How many times?
 - What happened?
- Total of 39 cues across all screener series, each with multiple examples

Sample Screener Item: Current NCVS

Was something belonging to you stolen, such as--

- --Things that you carry, like luggage, a wallet, purse, briefcase, book -
- --Clothing, jewelry, or cellphone -
- --Bicycle or sports equipment -
- --Things in your home like a TV, stereo, or tools -
- --Things outside your home such as a garden hose or lawn furniture –
- --Things belonging to children in the household -
- --Things from a vehicle, such as a package, groceries, camera, or CDs OR
- --Did anyone ATTEMPT to steal anything belonging to you?

Ask only if necessary:

(Did any incidents of this type happen to you?)



Victimization Screener: Redesign

- Eight screener series, specific to broad type of crime
 - Theft, MV Theft, MV Parts/Gas Theft, Break-in, Vandalism, Attack, Sexual Attack, "Catch-all"
- Total of 33 cues, each asked as a separate question
- "How many times?" once per screener series
- If >6 incidents, whether series crime
- Date (month/year) of each incident (or most recent in series)
- De-duplication with previously reported incidents

Sample Screener Item: Redesign

{Other than the thefts or attempted thefts you have mentioned already, in/In} the past 12 months did anyone...

- 1 Steal something that you carry, like a cell phone, money, a wallet, purse, or backpack?
- 2 Steal something that you wear, like clothing, jewelry, or shoes?
- 3 Steal something in your home, like a TV, computer, tools, or guns?
- 4 Steal something from your porch, lawn, garage, or other part of your property, such as a bicycle, garden hose or lawn furniture?
- 5 Steal something out of a vehicle, such as a package or groceries?
- 6 {Steal something belonging to the children who live here?}
- 7 Steal anything else that belongs to you, including things that were stolen from you at work or at school?



Victimization Screener: Vandalism Cues

Vandalism is when someone deliberately damages or destroys something belonging to you. Examples are breaking windows, slashing tires, or painting graffiti on walls. In the past 6 months, has anyone vandalized your home, car, or something else that belongs to you or someone else living here?

In the past 6 months, did someone deliberately injure or kill an animal, such as a pet or livestock, that belonged to you or someone you live with?

RSA Screener Item: Current NCVS

Incidents involving forced or unwanted sexual acts are often difficult to talk about. Have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by --

- --Someone you didn't know -
- --A casual acquaintance OR
- --Someone you know well?

Ask only if necessary:

(Did any incidents of this type happen to you?)

RSA Screener Item: Redesign

Sexual contact includes touching of your sexual body parts, or any type of sexual penetration with a body part or object. It also includes making you touch or penetrate someone else. This could have been done by someone you knew well, someone you casually knew, or a stranger and can happen to both men and women.

RSA Screener Item: Redesign (cont.)

{Other than the unwanted sexual contact you have already mentioned,} in the past 6 months...

- 1. Did anyone touch, grab, or kiss your {sexual body parts against your will/private parts when you didn't want them to} or TRY to do this?
- 2. Did anyone force you to have sexual contact by holding you down with his or her body, pinning your arms, hitting or kicking you, or using some other type of force or TRY or THREATEN to do this?

RSA Screener Item: Redesign (cont.)

- 3. Did anyone threaten to physically hurt you or someone close to you if you did not have sexual contact?
- 4. Did anyone have sexual contact with you or try to have sexual contact with you while you were passed out, unconscious, asleep, or unable to consent because you were drunk or high?

New Periodic Modules

Police Performance

- Crime Indicators Work Group recommended collecting indicators of police efficacy
- Goal of tracking measures over time, with regular NCVS reports

Police Performance Questions

- Contacts with police
- Police efficacy
 - > Treat people with respect
 - > Time and attention
 - > Treat everyone fairly
 - > Effectiveness at preventing crime
 - > Trust
 - Overall performance

Community Safety

- Recommendations from the Work Group and literature review
 - Fear of crime
 - Community disorder
 - Collective efficacy
- Reports will track key measures
- Also serve as predictors of victimization

New Predictor Items

Added Predictor Items

Individual

- Periods of homelessness
- Current employment details for all respondents, most recent job, periods of unemployment
- Physical/emotional limitations
- Cohabitation

Household

- Receipt of public assistance
- Income insecurity

Crime Incident Report (CIR)

Identifying RSA in Current NCVS CIR

- CIR questions where RSA may be identified
 - What actually happened? (If no attack, attempted attack, or threat reported.)
 - How did the offender TRY to attack you?
 - How were you threatened?
 - How were you attacked?
 - What were the injuries you suffered, if any?
- Follow-up questions if respondent mentions RSA
 - You mentioned some type of unwanted sexual contact with force. Do you mean forced or coerced sexual intercourse including attempts?
 - You mentioned rape. Do you mean forced or coerced sexual intercourse?
 - You mentioned attempted rape. Do you mean attempted forced or coerced sexual intercourse?



Classifying RSA in Redesigned CIR

- "What Happened: RSA" CIR section is entirely new to NCVS
- Detailed, explicit questions about offenders' behavior
 - > Type and direction of penetration
 - Other unwanted sexual contact.
- Detailed questions about offenders' tactics
 - Use or threat of force
 - Blacked out, unconscious, unable to consent while drunk or high
 - Other forms of coercion
 - Whether offender continued after being told to stop

Vandalism

- CIR asks what was damaged and in what way
- Also includes questions to distinguish Vandalism from other types of crime
- Vandalism has lowest priority in type-of-crime coding

Presence of a Weapon and Injury

- Redesign collects more information about the type of weapon and how it was used
- Current NCVS asks how victim was injured, if at all
- Redesign asks whether victim was injured, then how
 - > Added concussion, injury from sexual intercourse as "major" injuries
 - Dropped gunshot, stabbing, rape
 - Added list of "minor" injuries

Victim-Offender Relationship: Changes

- More detailed response categories for intimate partners
 - Live-in partner
 - Fiancé
 - Boyfriend, girlfriend, dating partner
 - Ex-boyfriend, ex-girlfriend, former fiancé
 - Someone you were casually seeing
 - Someone you were no longer dating or seeing

• New questions:

- What was your connection, if any, to this person?
- Had you ever lived with this person?
- Were you living with this person at the time of this incident?

Self-Protection: Recommended Changes

- New question if respondent says did not do anything to protect self or do anything else about the incident while it was going on:
- SP1c. Did you do nothing, freeze, do what the offender told you to do, or do something else while the incident was going on?
- Adding response categories to "What did you do?"
 - Held onto or hid belongings
 - Threatened to call police
 - Said no
 - Froze



Police Involvement: Added Questions

- P16b. Did you tell the police that you believe the incident was a hate crime?
- PI5. You said someone else informed the police.} How did {you first/ they} notify the police?
- PI9. Which of the following BEST describes when the police were first contacted? (during incident, <10 min, <1hr, <24 hr, >1 day)
- PI11. How satisfied were you with how the phone report was taken?
- PI12. Do you think the police should have come to you when they were contacted?

Police Involvement: Added Questions (cont.)

- PI13. How satisfied were you with the time it took the police to get to you after they were contacted?
- PI14. Had the police told {you/the person who contacted them} how long it would take them to get there?
- PI16a. Did anyone report the incident to a school official {IF AGE < 18: such as a teacher, counselor, or principal —} or School Resource Officer (SRO) or did they find out about the incident in any way?
- PI20. How respectfully did the police treat you?

Police Involvement: Added Questions (cont.)

- PI21. How satisfied were you with the amount of time the police gave you to tell your story?
- PI22. How satisfied were you that the police did everything they could?
- PI23. Taking the whole experience into account, how effectively did the police handle the incident?
- PI24. At the time, did you consider this incident to be a crime?
- PI25. Now, looking back, do you consider this incident to be a crime?

Victim Services: Dropped Questions

- 130. Did you (or someone in your household) receive any help or advice from any office or agency other than the police that deals with victims of crime?
- 131a. Was that a government or private agency?

Victim Services: Added Questions

- VS1A. Besides the parent or other adult relative you mentioned, (H/h) Have you told any family, friends, co-workers, {classmates} or neighbors about the incident?
- VS1B. Other than { If PI1 = 1: the police {if PI16a=1: or School Resource Officer} or} family/friends, have/ELSE: Have} you told anyone in the following positions about the incident who you thought might be able to help you?
- What services received (see VS2 next slide) and

Victim Services: Added Questions (cont.)

VS2. Have you received the following kinds of services because of the incident?

Hotline, helpline, or crisis line intervention?

Counseling, therapy, support groups, or help from a mental health provider?

{Help or advocacy with medical care or medical exams, including accompanying you to a medical exam}?

{Sexual assault exam by a doctor, nurse or other medical professional?}

Legal help or assistance, such as free or low-cost legal services, help with the legal process, preparing for court, or enforcement of your rights?

Help filing for a restraining, protection, or NO-contact order?

{Help applying for victim compensation?}

{Short term or emergency financial assistance?}

{Housing, shelter or safehouse services?}

{Any other help or services because of the incident?}

Victim Services: Added Questions (cont.)

- VS3A-J. Satisfaction with each service reported in VS2
- VS7. You said you didn't get any services. Did you want any services?
- VS8. Please indicate whether or not each of the following were reasons why you did not get any services.

(10 possible reasons)

Socio-emotional Consequences: Changed Questions

- 37. . . . did you feel any of the following ways for A MONTH OR MORE?

 Worried or anxious? Angry, sad or depressed? Vulnerable? Violated? Like you couldn't trust people? Unsafe? Some other way?
- CS4. . . . For each, please tell me whether you didn't feel this way at all, you felt this way for less than a month, or you felt this way for a month or longer.

 Angry? Shocked? Fearful? Depressed? Anxious or panicked? Less confident? Sad? Annoyed?

Socio-emotional Consequences: Changed Questions (cont.)

- 37k. Did you seek any kind of professional help for the feelings you experienced as a result of being a victim of this crime?
- 371. What kind of professional help did you seek?
- CS6. Have you talked to a psychologist, psychiatrist, counselor, or other mental health professional about {this/the} incident?

Socio-emotional Consequences: Changed Questions (cont.)

- 36a. Did being a victim of this crime lead you to have significant problems with your job or schoolwork, or trouble with your boss, coworkers, or peers
- CS1. Did the incident lead you to have serious problems with your (job or) (schoolwork), or trouble with people (at work) or (at school)?
- 36b. Did being a victim of this crime lead you to have significant problems with family members or friends, including getting into more arguments or fights than you did before, not feeling you could trust them as much, or not feeling as close to them as you did before
- CS2. Did (this/the) incident lead you to have serious problems with family members or friends, such as having more arguments with them, losing trust in them, or feeling more distant from them?

Socio-emotional Consequences: Changed Questions (cont.)

38. Did you experience any of the following physical problems associated with being a victim of this crime for A MONTH OR MORE?

Headaches? Trouble sleeping? Changes in your eating or drinking habits? Upset stomach? Fatigue? High blood pressure? Muscle tension or back pain? Some other physical problem?

CS5a. Did you have difficulty sleeping because of the incident?

Socio-emotional Consequences: Added Questions

- CS7. Did you have any out—of—pocket expenses for your mental health care, that is, expenses that you do not expect to get paid back from insurance or some other source?
- CS8. How much were these out-of-pocket expenses?



Next Steps for the NCVS Instrument Redesign

Respondent communications refresh

Why is my child's participation important?

Youth participation in the NCVS is extremely important!

NCVS data provide crucial information about a range of topics, including crime and safety in schools and communities, trends in violent and property crime and the response of law enforcement to reports of victimization.

Regardless of whether or not your child has experienced crime, their participation in the NCVS can help researchers and public officials in your community and beyond better understand and address crimes against youth.

Your child's responses not only represent your household, but also hundreds of other similar households that are not surveyed.

Your child's participation contributes to local and national research and policy:

- Law enforcement, judicial, correctional and victim service agencies use NCVS data to improve their effectiveness and planning.
- . The U.S. Department of Education uses NCVS data to measure the prevalence and nature of student victimizations at and away from school.
- · Researchers use NCVS data to study trends in criminal victimization across geographic areas and demographic groups.











For more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey, please visit:

www.census.gov/programssurveys/ncvs.html

For questions about youth participation in the NCVS, please contact:

505-566-5989 NCVS@Census.gov









Youth Participation in the

National Crime Victimization Survey





U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington, D.C. 20531

October 2019

Dear Resident.



Why did Ireceive this letter? Your address has been scientifically selected to take part in the National Survey of Crime and Safety (NSCS).

Your address cannot be replaced. To make sure the results are statistically valid, only people at the selected addresses can take part in the survey.



What is the NSCS? The NSCS asks about people's experiences with crime in the last 12 months. It also asks people's opinions about neighborhood safety and the local police. For more details, please see www.bis.gov/content/nscs.cf.m.



developed the NSCS?

The NSCS was developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), a part of the U.S. Department of Justice, with assistance from Westat, a social science research company.



What should lexpect?

A Westat Interviewer (with a Westat ID) will come to your home.

2. They will ask a few questions about the people who live at this address.

3. All household members age 12 or older will be asked to complete the survey.



What do I do now? Before the interviewer visits, you can call 1-855-849-6119 or send an email to NSCS@westat.com to schedule an appointment at a time that is convenient for you. For most people, the interview will take between 20 and 40 minutes.



Why should I participate?

- . Help your community. Communities can use these data to help improve the effectiveness of local law enforcement.
- . Help schools. The U.S. Department of Education can use these data to measure the prevalence of school victimization.
- . Help employers. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can use these data to understand violence in the workplace.



Your confidentiality is ensured by law. The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose as required by law (Title 34, U.S. Code,

Thank you for participating in this important research study.

Sin œrely,

Bureau of Justice Statistics U.S. Department of Justice





NCVS web test

Testing self-administered, web-based mode as a third mode for the future

Research questions:

- Are respondents willing to complete NCVS on web?
- What proportion of respondents exhibit signs of inattention or satisficing?
- How do victimization rates estimated from self-administered web survey compared to those from interviewer-administered survey

NCVS web test (cont.)

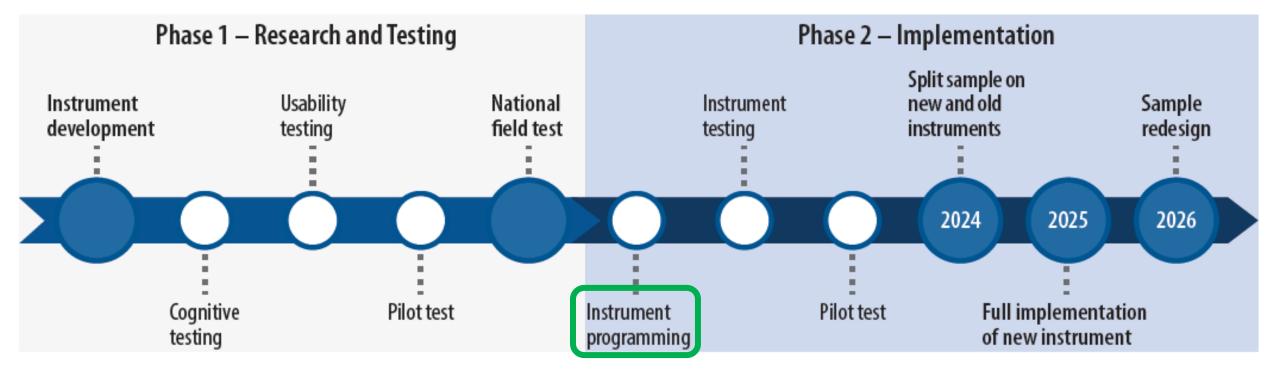
- Two sample design:
 - (1) address-based sample (ABS), and
 - (2) probability-based online panel in the U.S.
 - Household roster for ABS completed on web or paper
 - Person level surveys completed on the web
- Data collection: January to May 2022 (<u>OMB 1121-0339</u>)
- Census expects to have technology in place for web mode in 2027
 - To prepare for this, BJS anticipates more research and testing to determine if and how web mode will be used in the NCVS

New NCVS instrument

- Field Test version of the instrument available in NCVS Redesign Field Test Topline Report
 - (available at: https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bjs/grants/303980.pdf)
- Post-Field Test version of the new instrument will be released during next phase of testing
- Westat, Census, and BJS working to develop crosswalk of NCVS instrument comparison old to new

For more information and updates, see the NCVS Instrument Redesign page at https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign.

NCVS instrument redesign timeline



Note: Phase 2 schedule is preliminary and subject to change.

Q&A Session

Please type your questions for the panelists into the **Q&A** window

Send to All Panelists

Thank you!



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