

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

Survey Redesign Seminar

July 17th, 1-3pm

BLS

NCVS Overview

- Annual estimates of level and changes in household and person criminal victimizations in the U.S.
- Household sample frame
 - Households: ~60,000 interviewed twice a year
 - Persons: ~90,00 persons interviewed twice a year
- Rotating panel design- HHs interviewed up to 7 waves over a 3-year period
- 6-month reference period
- Mixed-mode: TIS 1 in-person, TIS2-7 primarily by phone; Replacement households- in-person

Redesign Motivations

- Survey was flat funded for more than a decade and cuts in sample and quality controls caused a break in series.
- National Academy of Science panel on NCVS
- Initial focus 2008
 - Restoration of sample/reliability
 - Containing costs
- Current focus
 - Restoring core sample and quality
 - Modernization and stakeholder utility/value
 - Costs
 - Handling the unexpected—screening issues

Restoring the Core Design

- Sample re-instatement.
 - Restore precision and reliability
 - Sample is back to 1997 levels for households
- Interviewer training
 - All interviewers have been trained for the first time in a decade.
- Expand interviewer evaluation metrics beyond simply response rates.
- Assessment of the effects of improvements on annual rates.

Fundamental Re-negotiation of Relationship with Census

- Substantially expanded IAA to include more specifics on what is expected from Census.
- NCVS is one of two surveys participating in Census re-organization of field and central office staff.
- Adopted Census implementation team design around internal service providers
- Introduction of paradata analytics to address cost and quality issues.

Changes to infrastructure and process

- Small area focus - vetting process
- Protocol for item and supplement review on a routine basis
- Field management- Census RO restructuring, FR supervision and feedback, paradata
- Fitness for use panel

Research Priorities

- Sub-national estimation program.
- Improving the measurement of rape and sexual assault.
- Exploring long term cost reductions.
- Improving measurement of victimization of juveniles and young children.

Sub-national Estimation

- Generic area estimation
- Direct estimates for largest cities and states
 - Simulations demonstrate feasibility
 - Pilot boost to test assumptions of simulations
- Indirect estimates
 - Models under development
- Blended estimates
 - Low cost mailed screeners being tested
 - Blending methods being developed

Measuring Rape and Sexual Assault

- NCVS is not the optimum design for measuring rape and sexual assault.
- Competing approaches to measuring these events.
 - Public health approach.
 - Criminal justice approach.
- Public health approach does not satisfy the information demands of the criminal justice system
- CNSTAT panel is charged with identifying an optimum design.
- Field test to follow.

Research Conducted

- Sample reinstatement- workload
- Refresher training and monitoring
- Small area research- direct and indirect
- Cost/mode studies (initial efforts 2008)
 - Mode
 - IVR
 - Nonresponse

Final Redesign Model

- Design decisions will be made in 2014 for implementation in 2016.
 - If pilot boost successful, expansion of sub-national estimates to larger number of states and localities.
 - Rape and sexual assault field test will indicate if a separate survey is required for measuring these crimes or changes can be made in NCVS.
- Approval process
 - Sub-national estimation—vetting with constituent groups
 - CNSTAT panel for rape and sexual assault
 - DOJ and OMB as part of the budget process

Redesign Evaluation

- Redesign will be successful if the NCVS core survey is stabilized.
 - Sample size restored
 - Training and quality controls in place
 - Control over field staff and costs
- And if the survey plays a larger role in policy formation and resource allocation.
 - Rape and sexual assault statistics seen as authoritative
 - Sub-national estimates used to guide federal funding

Current Status

- *Timeline for adoption and implementation*
 - NAS panel 2008
 - Focus on sample restoration, first wave June 2011
 - Field quality- refresher training and monitoring 2011-2012
 - State-level pilot boost 2013-2015
 - State sample implementation/decennial redesign 2016
 - Instrument recommendations and redesign efforts present-2016
 - New survey in production 2016

Costs

- Current survey annualized costs are ~\$27 million
- Approximately \$18M spent on Redesign
- The Redesigned NCVS will do more and it will cost more.

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