



The Extent and Nature of Adult Crime Victimization in Illinois, 2002

**A Report on the Findings from
the Illinois Crime Victimization Survey,
2002**

by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) recently conducted a statewide survey asking Illinois residents about their experiences with crime victimization. Before this project, one of the few ways to measure crime in Illinois was through examining official crime statistics from the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program. However, these statistics reveal only those crimes reported to police, which are estimated to account for less than half of all crime victimization.¹ Moreover, because most of these statistics are limited to aggregate totals, nothing is known about the nature of these crimes. This project, the Illinois Crime Victimization Survey (IL-CVS), is Illinois' first attempt at gauging the extent and nature of crime victimization among our state's citizens. Specifically, the goals of the IL-CVS were to: (1) estimate the rate of personal² and property crime victimization in Illinois and regionally; (2) provide details about the nature of crime victimization in Illinois; and (3) assess public knowledge and utilization of crime victim services in Illinois.

The IL-CVS was mailed to nearly 7,500 adult residents of Illinois, asking them about their experiences with victimizations ranging from theft to violent sexual assaults during 2002. The questionnaire was modeled after the National Crime Victimization Survey, which has been conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Justice since 1973. The names and addresses of 7,498 individuals age 18 or older were randomly selected from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office's databases of driver's licenses and state identification cards. About 23 percent of subjects from the original sample could not be surveyed for reasons such as the person was not an Illinois resident in 2002, they no longer lived at the address listed in the state's records, or they were deceased. ICJIA received a total of 1,602 completed surveys, rendering a response rate of 28 percent. Although the number of surveys received allowed for estimates with low sampling errors (estimated rates of victimization are within standard errors of + or - 3 percent), the potential was high for non-response error—impossible to measure as precisely. For this reason, estimates provided should be interpreted with consideration to potentially large differences between those who responded to the survey and those who did not.

Although non-response error has limited the generalizability of this study's findings, with the exception of some under-representation among residents from more densely populated areas and minority residents, demographic characteristics between respondents of the IL-CVS final sample and Illinois' population were fairly similar according to U.S. Census data (See Table 7, Appendix E). Thus, although the IL-CVS findings are informative regarding the extent and nature of crime victimization in Illinois, they must be interpreted with caution.

¹ Rennison, C. and Rand, M. *Criminal Victimization, 2002*, National Crime Victimization Survey, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 2003, NCJ 199994.

² The term "personal crime" is used to describe the offenses of robbery, assault, aggravated assault, and sex offenses. Although these offenses are also commonly referred to as "violent crime," this term was not used for this report because robbery victimizations measured by the IL-CVS could have included incidents of purse snatching and pick-pocketing.

The full report provides a comprehensive description of the study's findings and recommendations for future victimization surveys. Following are some key findings among adult residents (age 18 or older) of Illinois in 2002.

- Nearly two of five Illinoisans (39 percent) were victimized by some type of crime (property, personal, or computer).
- Thirteen (13) percent of residents were victims of personal crime (robbery, assault and aggravated assault, and sex crime).
- Twenty-three (23) percent of residents were victims of property crime (motor vehicle theft, theft, burglary, and vandalism).
- Sixteen (16) percent of residents were victims of computer crime. This rate increased to 25 percent when only respondents who used a computer for personal use were considered. This means that one in four residents who used a computer experienced computer crime.
- One (1) percent of residents were victims of hate crime.
- Three (3) percent of residents were victimized by a family or household member (domestic crime).
- Eleven (11) percent of residents were victimized by someone they knew.
- Nearly half of Chicago residents (47 percent) were victims of some type of crime (personal, property, or computer). Chicago's victimization rate was significantly higher than rates for all other regions. Chicago also had the highest victimization rate for personal and property victimizations.
- The following subpopulations were significantly more likely to experience crime victimization (including computer crime) in 2002 compared to the general population:
 - Residents of Hispanic origin;
 - Black residents;
 - Residents age 34 or younger;
 - Residents who completed some undergraduate college (without completing a bachelor's degree) and residents who completed post graduate coursework;
 - Divorced residents and residents who were never married;
 - Residents living with at least one child under 18 in the household;
 - Residents with an annual income of less than \$10,000 *or* more than \$100,000;
 - Residents who live in a city;
 - Residents who live in an apartment building;
 - Residents who lived in their home for five years or less;
 - Residents who rent their home;
 - Employed residents;
 - Students;
 - Self-employed residents; and
 - Residents who work in a city.

- Of personal crime victimizations, 17 percent involved the use of weapons. The most common weapons used were blunt objects and handguns. Combined, these types of weapons were used in more than half of incidents that involved weapons.
- For the 17 percent of victimizations where this information was known, nearly half of incidents were committed by offenders who were under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs during the victimization, most often alcohol (76 percent of victimizations where offenders were under the influence).
- Eight (8) percent of victimizations resulted in the victim being injured. When only personal crime victimizations are considered, this number increases to 29 percent.
- Computer crime victims had several characteristics that were significantly different, and often directly conflicted characteristics of personal and property crime victims. For example, computer crime victims were more likely than other victims to be married, while victims personal crime were more likely than other crime victims to have never been married or divorced.
- Thirty-nine (39) percent of victimization incidents were reported to police. This percentage was higher for personal and property crime (46 and 45 percent respectively), and lower for computer crime (11 percent).
- Fifteen (15) percent of incidents that were reported to police resulted in an arrest. This percentage was higher for personal crime incidents (28 percent) and lower for property crime incidents (9 percent).
- Statewide, the greatest number of residents were aware of domestic violence services that exist in their communities (62 percent), followed closely by child abuse and neglect services (57 percent), and rape/sexual assault services (52 percent).
- Residents of Cook County (Chicago and suburban Cook County) were less likely to be aware of crime victim services available in their communities compared to residents of other regions in the state.
- Statewide, crime victims were no more likely than non-victims to be aware of crime victim services available in their community.
- Of victims who reported their victimization to police, 16 percent of personal crime victims and 8 percent of property crime victims reported being informed of crime victim services by police.
- Few victims utilized crime victim services from either the criminal justice system or a private, nonprofit agency. Of the 390 victims who answered the questions regarding use of victim services, 15 (4 percent) reported receiving victim services. Of the 156 personal crime victims, 11 (7 percent) reported to receive these services.

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I. Introduction

Crime is an important social problem as it affects public safety and well-being. In addressing any social problem, the likelihood of successfully alleviating it is improved with greater understanding about the extent and nature of the problem. This allows us to better estimate the amount of resources needed to address the problem, target efforts in specific areas or among populations that are most frequently and/or most seriously affected by the problem, and measure the impact (or lack thereof) of our efforts. Determining the extent and nature of crime, however, is not a simple process.

The most common way of measuring crime in Illinois is through the use of official crime statistics from the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting program (I-UCR). These statistics are a compilation of crimes reported by about 1,200 law enforcement agencies in the state. However, I-UCR statistics reveal only those crimes known to police, which are estimated to account for less than half of all crimes committed.³ Furthermore, most I-UCR statistics are limited to aggregate numbers of crime reported to law enforcement.⁴ Thus, nothing is known about the nature of these crimes—who committed them, how and why they were committed, where and when they occurred, who was victimized, and why they were reported to police.

Self-report studies such as the Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF) are another measure of crime used to gain insight about the extent of crime victimization. The MTF is an annual survey of high school students in which they are asked to self-report their personal drug use and delinquency. This study does not yield information about adult

³ Rennison, Callie Marie and Rand, Michael R., U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. “Criminal Victimization, 2002.” Washington, DC. August 2003, NCJ 199994.

⁴ Aggregate numbers are available for the eight Index crimes (homicide, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft, theft, burglary, and arson). However, some case-level information is available from the supplemental I-UCR program, which includes statistics regarding domestic crimes, crimes against children, crimes against school personnel, and hate crimes.

crime, and also runs the risk of under- or over-reporting. A third method of measuring crime is using estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), a survey of more than 40,000 households conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics. Both surveys, the MTF and the NCVS, do help to shed light on the "dark figure" of crime—crime that is never reported to police. However, these national studies do not help our understanding of how crime in Illinois may differ from the rest of the nation. They also do not allow us to learn about crime victimization patterns that may occur among different geographic or demographic subgroups within Illinois.

The Illinois Crime Victimization Survey (IL-CVS) was conducted to provide another measure of crime that helps compensate for limitations of other methods. Administered by mail, the IL-CVS collected detailed information about crime victimization from 1,602 adult residents of Illinois, yielding a response rate of 28 percent. Specifically, the goals of the IL-CVS were to: (1) estimate the rate of overall crime victimization as well as specific types of victimization (personal, property, computer crime) in Illinois; (2) provide more details about the nature of crime victimization in Illinois; and (3) assess public knowledge and utilization of crime victim services in Illinois.

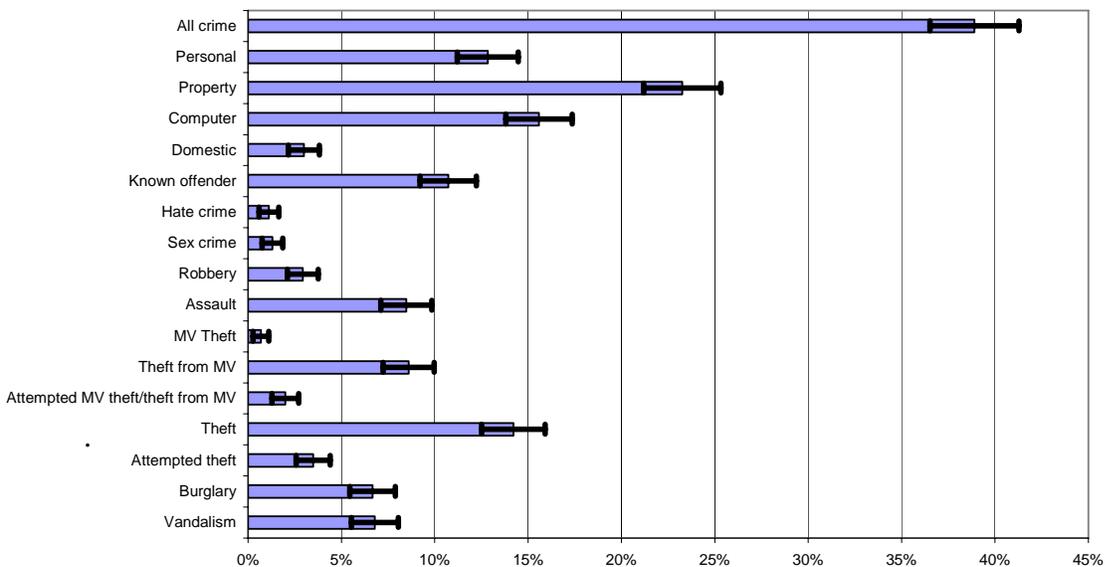
II. The extent of crime victimization in Illinois

Statewide victimization estimates

It was estimated that 39 percent of Illinois residents age 18 or older were victims of at least one type of crime during the year 2002 (Figure 1). Some victims were only victimized once, while others were victimized several times from different types of crime. This included 13 percent of residents who were victims of personal crime, which includes robbery, assault, and sex crime.⁵ The most common personal crime experienced was assault; 9 percent of Illinoisans were victims of assault or aggravated assault during 2002. Twenty-three (23) percent of residents were property crime victims, which includes motor vehicle theft, theft, burglary, and vandalism. The most common property crime was theft, experienced by more than 14 percent of residents.

Figure 1

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents by crime type, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 0.5 to +/- 2.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

⁵ The term “personal crime” is used to describe the offenses of robbery, assault, aggravated assault, and sex offenses. Although these offenses are also commonly referred to as “violent crime,” this term was not used for this report because robbery victimizations measured by the IL-CVS could have included incidents of purse snatching and pick-pocketing.

One of the most prevalent types of victimization among Illinois residents in 2002 was computer crime. Although computer crime could be either a personal crime (e.g. as being threatened via e-mail) or a property crime (e.g. fraud in purchasing something over the Internet), victims of computer crime were not included in personal or property crime figures for two reasons. First, both property and personal crime are not traditionally thought of as including computer crime (such as in the I-UCR). Second, computer crime is a relatively new phenomena that is just beginning to be measured, so it was thought best to designate computer crime as a separate category. Figure 1 shows that 16 percent of Illinoisans were victims of one of the following computer crimes: fraud in purchasing something over the Internet, a computer virus attack,⁶ threats of harm or attack made while on-line or through e-mail, a software copyright violation,⁷ or something else that they considered a computer-related crime. When only residents who used computers in 2002 were considered,⁸ the victimization rate increased to 25 percent.

IL-CVS findings suggested that 3 percent of Illinoisans were victims of domestic crime in 2002, while 11 percent of residents were victimized by someone they knew.⁹ Just 1 percent of residents were victims of sex crime during 2002. Although these figures may seem low, it must be considered that domestic crime and sex crime are the least likely types of crime to be reported to police.¹⁰ Furthermore, respondents of the IL-CVS may also been reluctant to report victimizations when the offender was someone living in the household out of fear the offender may see their responses, or respondents might not have recognized such incidents as

⁶ Respondents were asked to exclude computer virus attacks at their occupation, unless they were using a computer to operate their home business.

⁷ Respondents were asked to only report software copyright violations in connection with their home business.

⁸ Sixty-three (63) percent of respondents (1,015 of 1,602) indicated they used a computer for personal use during 2002.

⁹ The “known offender” category includes domestic crime. Furthermore, both domestic crime and “known offender” crime include both personal and property victimizations.

¹⁰ Rennison, Callie Marie and Rand, Michael R., U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. “Criminal Victimization, 2002.” Washington, DC. August 2003, NCJ 199994.

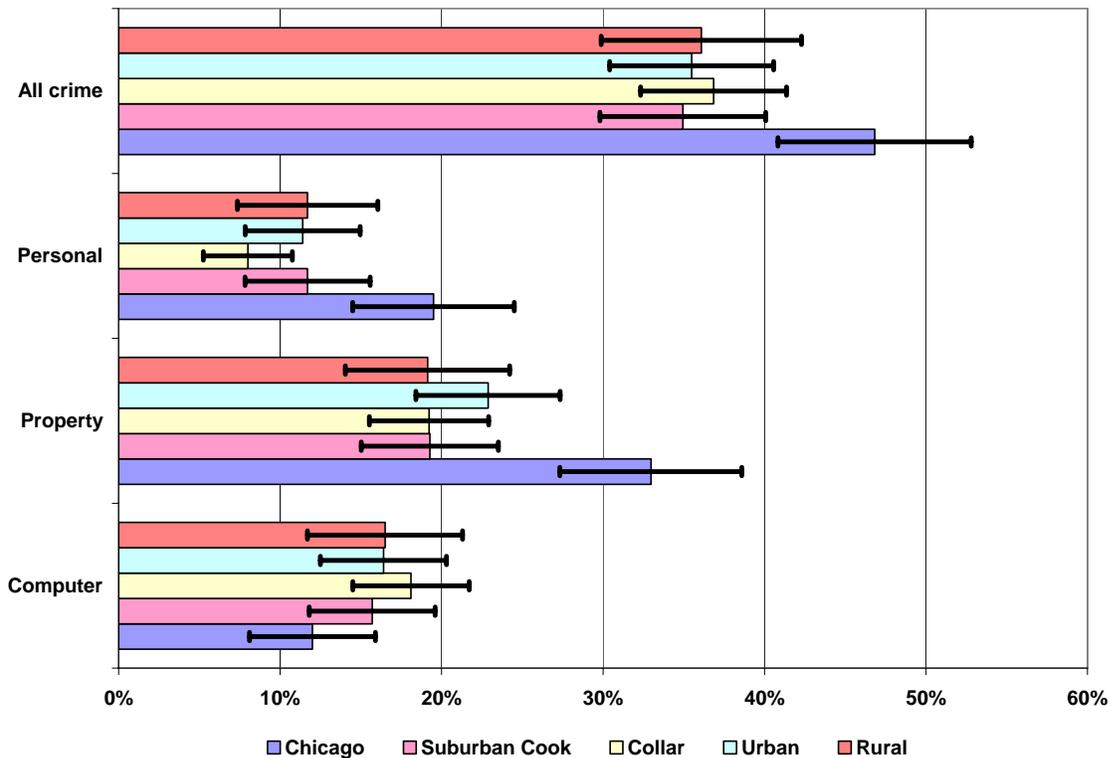
victimization. Only one (1) percent of residents were victims of hate crime in Illinois during 2002.

Regional victimization estimates

Illinois residents living in Chicago had the highest victimization rate of all regions in the state (Figure 2). An estimated 47 percent of Chicago residents were victimized in 2002. Chicago’s rate was significantly higher than rates for all other regions.¹¹ Victimization estimates were statistically similar among Suburban Cook, the collar counties, and the urban and rural counties, ranging between 35 and 37 percent.

Figure 2

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents by crime type and region, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 1.3 to +/- 6.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

¹¹ Estimates are considered significantly (and statistically) different when a Chi-square test results in $p < .05$, meaning the likelihood that the estimates differ by chance (or due to sampling error) is less than 5 percent.

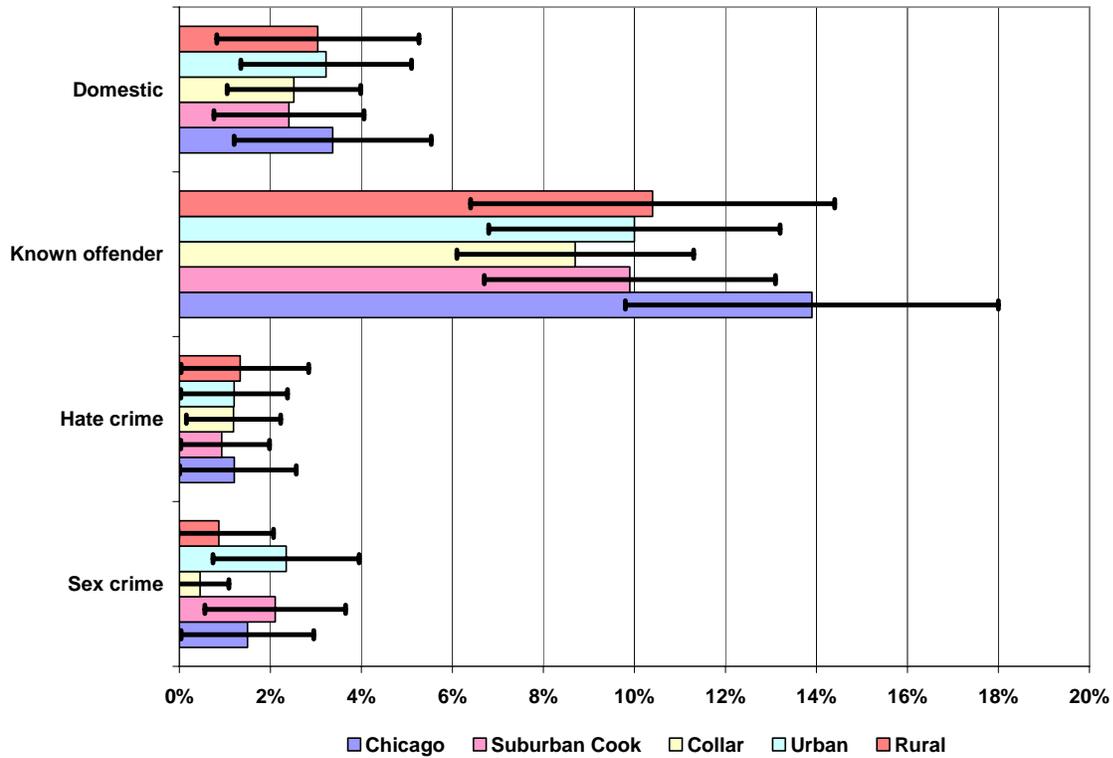
Chicagoans also had the highest personal and property victimization rates at 20 and 33 percent, respectively. Chicago's personal victimization rate was significantly higher than rates for every region; personal rates for other regions were between 8 and 12 percent. Chicago's property victimization rate was also significantly higher than all other regions, which ranged between 19 and 23 percent. The collar counties had the lowest rate of personal crime victimization (8 percent), which was significantly lower than rates for other regions (between 11 and 20 percent).

Finally, computer crime victimization rates were similar across regions, with estimates ranging between 12 and 18 percent. Although Chicago's computer crime rate (12 percent) was significantly lower than the collar counties' rate (18 percent), rates for both regions were statistically similar when residents who did not use a computer during 2002 were excluded from the analysis. This suggests that Chicago's lower rate of computer crime in comparison to the collar counties was due to a lower percentage of Chicago residents who used a computer in 2002.

Figure 3 shows that all regions had similar victimization rates for domestic and hate crime. Between 2 and 3 percent of Illinois residents from each of the five regions were victimized by a family or household member (domestic). All five regions had hate crime victimization rates of 1 percent. Victimization rates for which the offender(s) was known ranged between 9 and 14 percent for all regions. Fourteen (14) percent of Chicago residents were victimized by an offender known to them. This percentage was significantly higher than that for the collar counties (9 percent) and suburban Cook County (10 percent). When sex crime victimization was examined by region, the collar counties had the lowest sex crime rate (less than 1 percent), which was significantly lower than those for urban counties, suburban Cook County, and Chicago.

Figure 3

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents for domestic crime, “known offender” crime, hate and sex crime by region, 2002

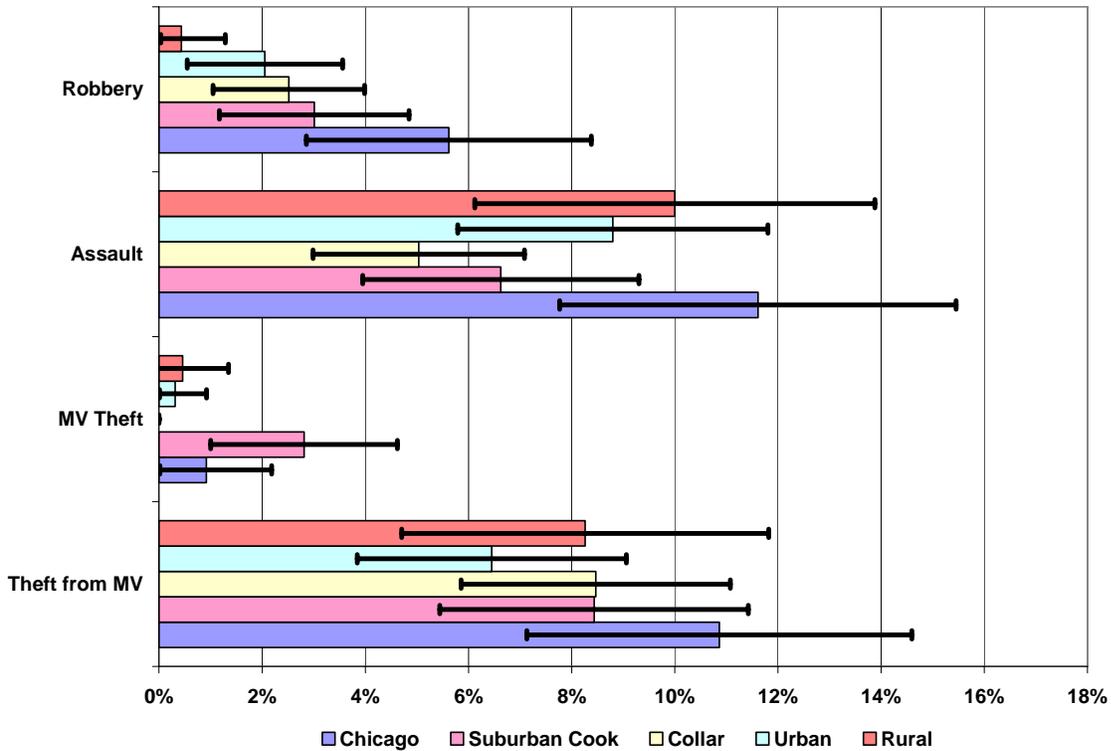


Standard errors for each crime type (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 0.9 to +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Rural counties had the lowest robbery victimization rate (less than 1 percent), while Chicago had the highest rate for robbery (6 percent) (Figure 4). The rural region’s rate for robbery was significantly less than all regions except that for the urban counties (2 percent). Chicago’s rate was significantly higher than all other regions. Chicago also had the highest rate of assault (12 percent), which was significantly higher than that of the collar counties and suburban Cook County.

Figure 4

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents for robbery, assault, motor vehicle theft, and theft from a motor vehicle by region, 2002



Standard errors for each crime type (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 0.6 to +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

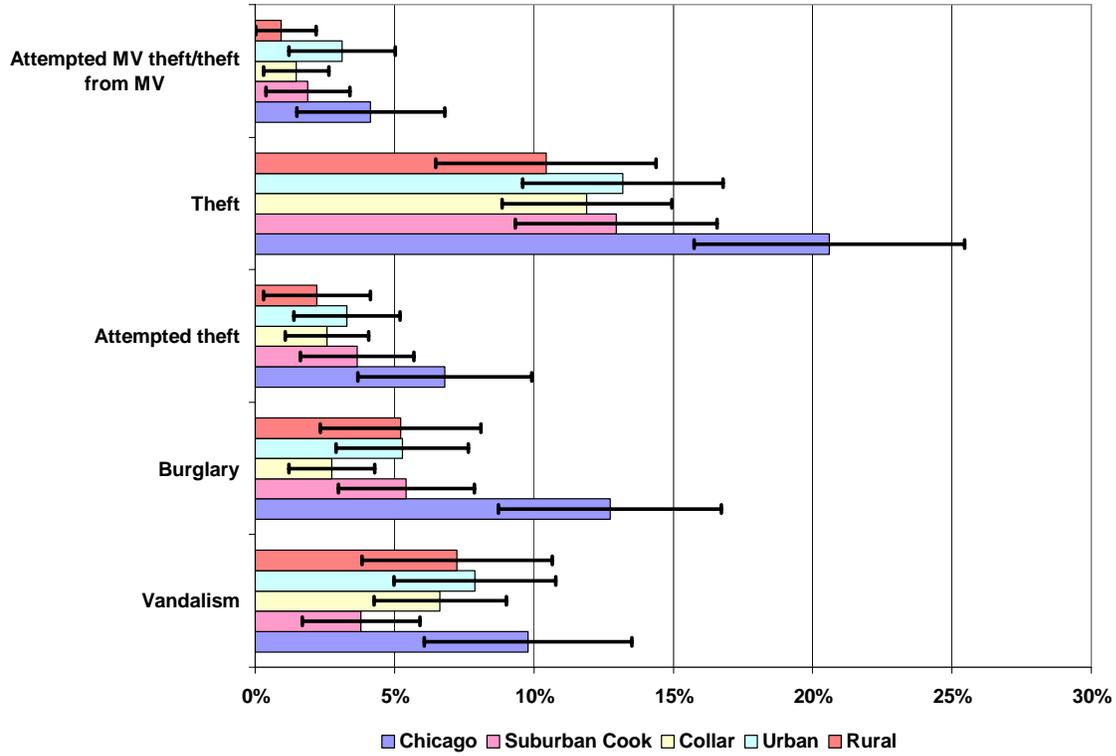
Suburban Cook County had the highest rate of motor vehicle theft at 3 percent, while no motor vehicle thefts were reported by any of the IL-CVS respondents from the collar counties, thereby rendering a rate of zero.¹² Statistical tests were not conducted to compare motor vehicle theft rates across regions, because respondents from four of the regions reported only two victimizations or less. Chicago had the highest rate of theft from a motor vehicle (11 percent), which was significantly higher than the urban counties' rate of 7 percent. The urban counties had the lowest victimization rate for theft from a motor vehicle, but this rate was only significantly lower than Chicago's rate.

¹² Standard errors cannot be calculated for zero estimates.

Figure 5 illustrates each region's estimated victimization rate in 2002 for the following types of property crime: attempted motor vehicle theft/attempted theft from a motor vehicle (combined), attempted theft, theft, attempted theft, burglary, and vandalism. For attempted motor vehicle theft/attempted theft from a motor vehicle, Chicago had the highest rate (4 percent), but it was only significantly higher than rates for the collar and rural counties; Chicago's rate was similar to suburban Cook County (2 percent) and the urban counties (3 percent). Chicago also had the highest rates for theft and attempted theft—21 and 7 percent, respectively. Both rates were significantly higher than all other regions, which ranged from 11 to 13 percent for theft and 2 to 4 percent for attempted theft. Thirteen (13) percent of Chicagoans were victims of burglary in 2002, which was again significantly higher than all other regions. The collar counties had the lowest burglary victimization rate of only 3 percent, which was significantly lower than all other regions in the state. Chicago had the highest estimated rate of vandalism at 10 percent, but it was not significantly higher than rates for the collar, urban and rural counties. Suburban Cook County had the lowest vandalism rate of 4 percent, and was significantly lower than rates for all other regions.

Figure 5

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents for motor vehicle theft/attempted theft from a motor vehicle, theft, attempted theft, burglary, and vandalism by region, 2002



Standard errors for each crime type (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 0.6 to +/- 4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

III. Extent of crime victimization among subpopulations

Victimization estimates were also generated for subpopulations with specific demographic characteristics. Rates of victimization differed significantly with regard to 15 of the 18 characteristics examined. The only characteristics that did not appear to affect the likelihood of crime victimization in Illinois were gender, disability status, and English-speaking ability. It should be noted, however, that victimization estimates among populations with certain characteristics were generated without controlling for potentially spurious variables—outside factors that may help explain differences in victimization rates between two groups. For example, the rate of victimization among students was significantly higher than the that for residents who were not students in 2002. However, this distinction considers only the differing characteristic of whether or not the respondent was a student, not the age of respondents. Because students generally tend to be younger than non-students, and because younger residents are more likely to be crime victims than older residents, it very well may be that the substantially higher rate of victimization among students is strongly influenced by age. These types of analyses will be saved for more focused, in depth examinations of the IL-CVS data.

Ethnicity and race

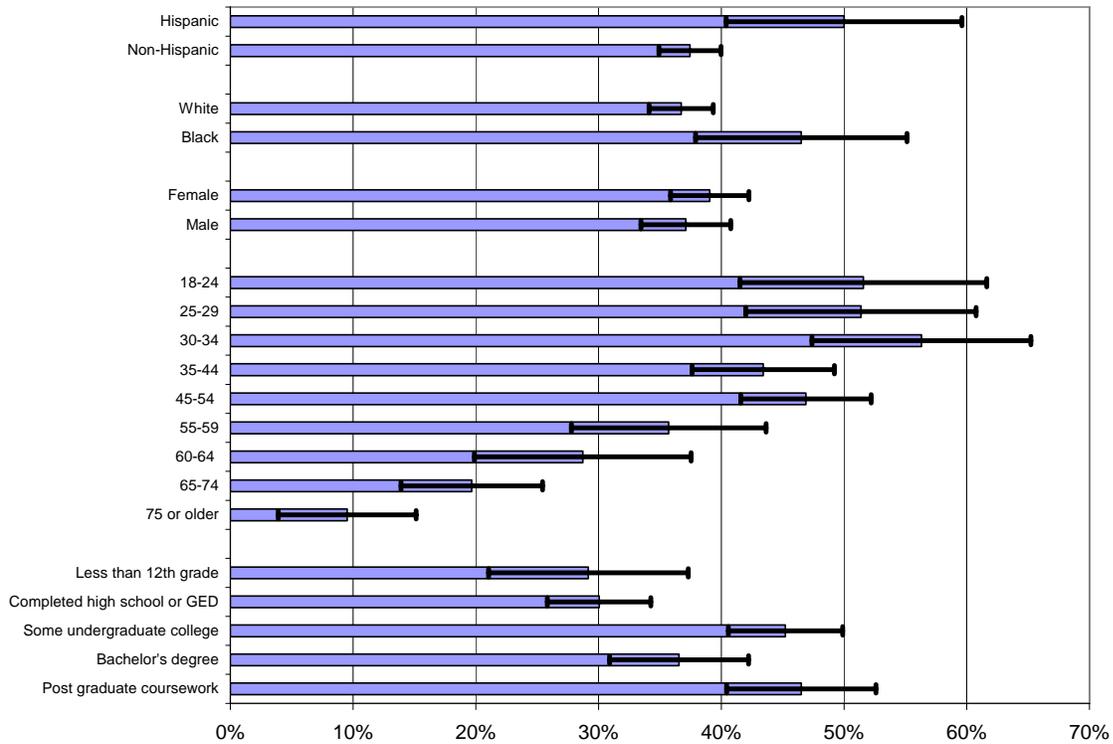
When ethnicity was examined, Hispanic residents were victimized at a significantly higher rate than non-Hispanic respondents (50 and 38 percent respectively) (Figure 6). Significant differences were also noted with regard to race. Nearly half (47 percent) of all black residents were crime victims in 2002, compared to 38 percent of white residents.

Gender

Thirty-seven (37) percent of males and 39 percent of females were victimized—not a statistically significant difference. Thus, males and females were similarly likely to be crime victims in 2002.

Figure 6

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents by ethnicity, race, gender, age group, and highest level of education completed, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 2.5 to +/- 10.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Populations with certain characteristics were excluded when the standard error was larger than +/- 10 percent.

Age

IL-CVS findings showed that more than half (56 percent) of residents between the ages of 30 and 34 were crime victims in 2002, and they had the highest estimated victimization rate of all age groups. Their rate was significantly higher compared to older age groups (age 35 and older). Younger residents in the 18 to 29 age group also had a high victimization rates at 52 percent. Their rates were significantly higher than those for residents age 55 or older. Residents between 35 and 44 were also significantly more likely to be crime victims (43 percent) than those age 55 or older (between 20 and 36 percent). Generally, victimization rates decreased as residents became older than 34, and particularly after age 54.

Education

Rates of victimization among different groups of varying levels of education were higher among those who had some college education. Residents who completed post-graduate coursework had the highest estimated rate (47 percent) followed closely by those with some undergraduate work (45 percent). Rates of victimization for both these groups were significantly higher than that for residents who had a bachelor's degree, and the rate among residents with a high school level education or less.

Higher victimization rates among more educated residents were somewhat influenced by computer crime. When victimization rates were estimated after excluding computer crime victims, most of the groups were statistically similar in their rates of victimization between 21 and 28 percent. However, the victimization rate for residents with some undergraduate coursework was still high compared to other residents at 32 percent—significantly higher than residents with 12th grade education (23 percent) and those with a bachelor's degree (21 percent). This may have been due to the increased likelihood of victimization among students (see Figure 9, page 18).

Marital status

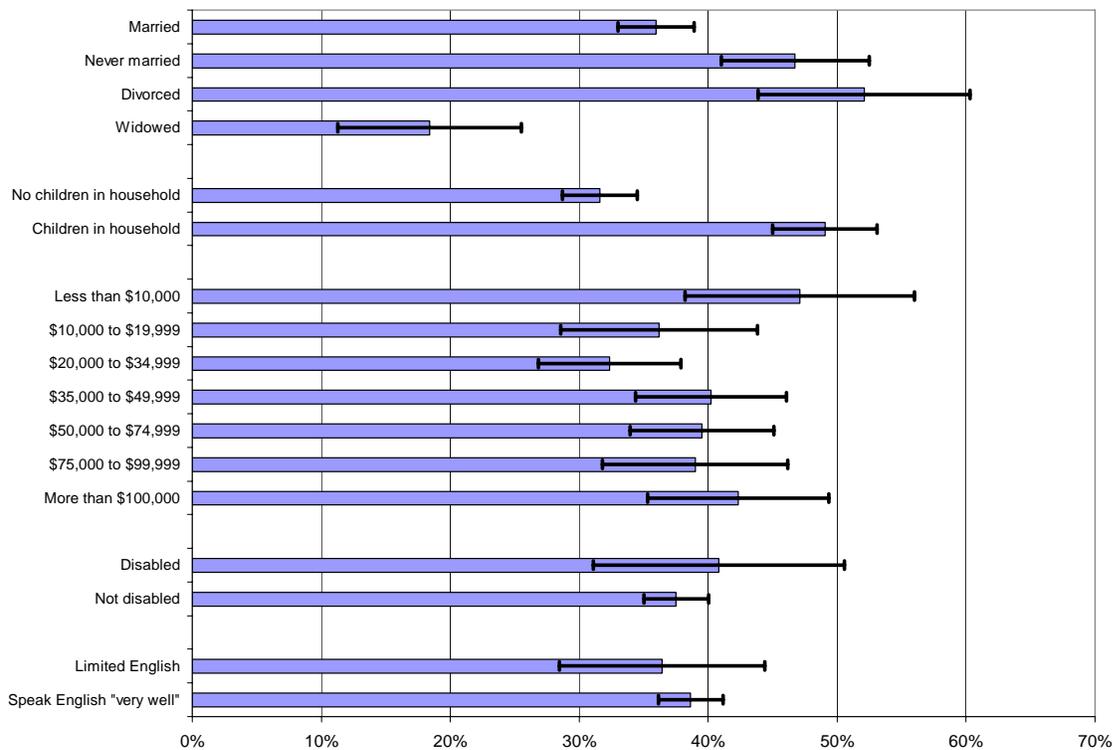
Figure 7 displays victimization rates with regard to marital status, whether or not there were children under 18 living in the household, income, disability status, and English-speaking ability. In reference to marital status, residents who were divorced and those who were never married had the highest estimated rates of victimization at 52 and 47 percent, respectively. Both rates were significantly higher than those for married (36 percent) and widowed residents (18 percent). Widowed residents had the lowest victimization rate—significantly lower than those for all other residents.

Presence of children in the household

Residents from households where at least one child under 18 lived were significantly more likely to be crime victims (49 percent) compared to residents from households without children (32 percent).

Figure 7

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents by marital status, whether or not children were living in the household, annual household income, disability status, and English-speaking ability, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 2.5 to +/- 9.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Populations with certain characteristics were excluded when the standard error was larger than +/- 10 percent.

Household income

When annual household income levels were examined, most groups were statistically similar with a couple exceptions. One was that residents from households with an income of less than \$10,000 had a statistically higher victimization rate (47 percent) than residents from

households with an income between \$10,000 and \$19,999 (36 percent) and residents with an income between \$20,000 and \$34,999 (32 percent). The other was that residents with an income between \$20,000 and \$34,999 had the lowest victimization rate at 32 percent—significantly lower than residents in the following groups: less than \$10,000 (47 percent), more than \$100,000 (42 percent), \$35,000 to \$49,999 (40 percent), and \$50,000 to \$74,999 (also 40 percent).

Disability status and ability to speak English

Victimization rates were similar between disabled and non-disabled residents, as well as between residents with and without limited English-speaking ability. Thus, IL-CVS findings suggest that residents with disabilities and limited English-speaking ability were not more likely to be victimized than residents without such barriers.

Residential area

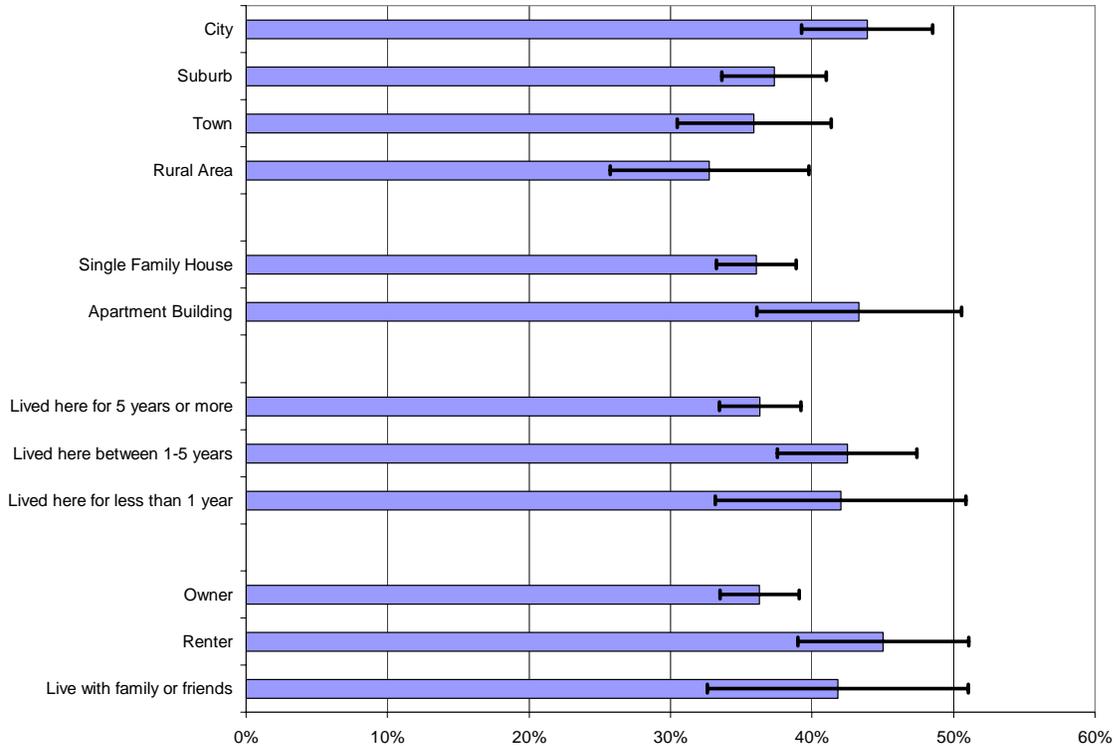
Other traits examined among survey respondents included residential area, type of dwelling, length of time in residence, and living status. Residents who lived in cities were significantly more likely to be victimized in 2002 compared to residents who lived in suburbs, towns, or rural areas. Forty-four (44) percent of residents who lived in cities were crime victims, while residents who lived in other types of areas were victimized at rates between 33 and 37 percent (Figure 8).

Residential dwelling

The type of dwelling residents lived in also affected the likelihood of being a crime victim. Forty-three (43) percent of residents who lived in apartment buildings were crime victims in 2002, significantly higher than the 36 percent victimization rate for residents who lived in single family houses.

Figure 8

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents by residential area, type of dwelling, residential stability, and living status, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 2.8 to +/- 9.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Populations with certain characteristics were excluded when the standard error was larger than +/- 10 percent.

Residential stability

Residential stability also appeared to be a factor affecting victimization among Illinoisans. Residents who lived in their homes for five years or more had a victimization rate of 36 percent. This rate was significantly lower than the rate for residents who lived in their homes between one and five years (43 percent), but was not significantly lower than the rate for residents who lived in their home for less than one year (42 percent).¹³

¹³ The rate for residents who lived in their homes for more than five years might have been significantly lower than that for residents who lived in their homes less than one year because the final sample of respondents was low (119). Because only 119 respondents to the IL-CVS reportedly lived in their homes for less than one year, the standard error for the victimization rate for this group of residents was higher (+/-8.9%).

Living status

When living status was examined, residents who rented their homes were crime victims at a significantly higher rate (45 percent) than residents who owned their homes (36 percent). The victimization rate for residents who lived with parents/friends/family (42 percent) was not statistically different than victimization rates of other residents.

Employment status and students

The greatest differences in victimization rates were found among respondents with respect to employment status and whether or not they were a student in 2002. The likelihood of victimization for employed residents was significantly higher than for residents who were not employed—43 percent compared to 25 percent, respectively (Figure 9). Similarly, students were more likely to be crime victims compared to non-students. More than half (52 percent) of students were victimized in 2002 compared to only 36 percent of non-students.

Type of employment organization

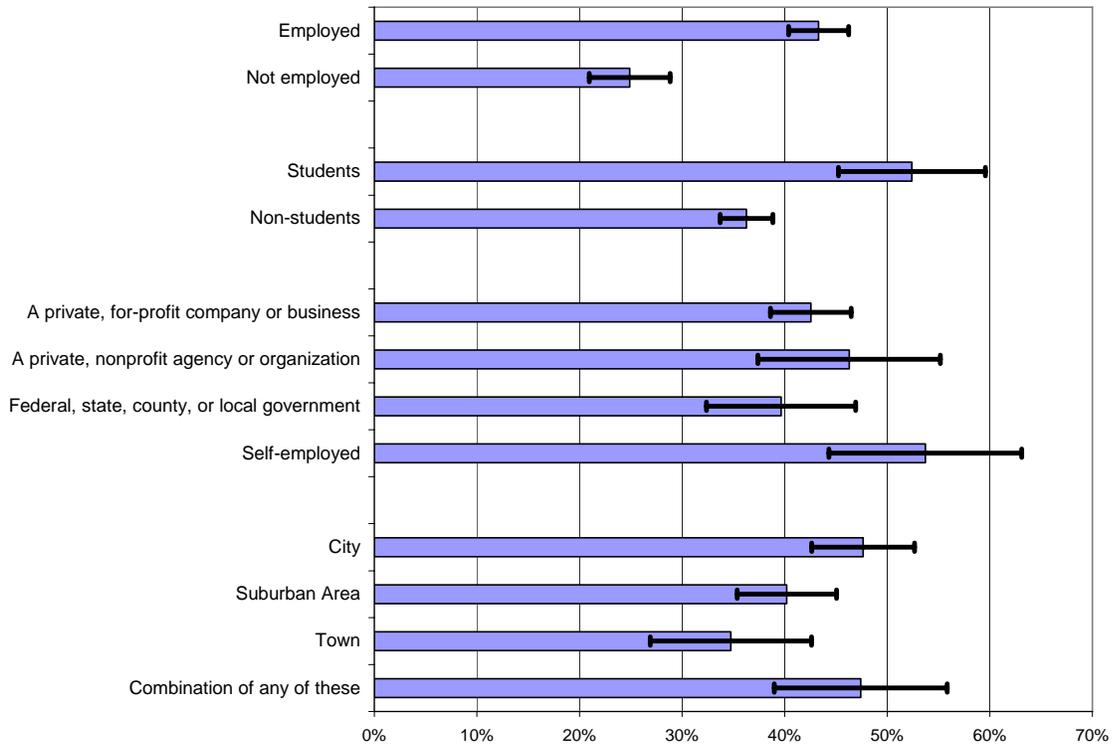
When the type of organization the respondent was employed by was examined, residents who were self-employed had the highest victimization rate at 54 percent. This rate was significantly higher than residents who worked for private, for-profit companies (46 percent) as well as than residents who worked for government agencies (40 percent).

Area of employment

Regarding the types of areas residents worked in, those who worked in cities had the highest victimization rate at nearly half of residents (48 percent). This rate was significantly higher than those for residents who worked in suburbs (41 percent) and towns (35 percent).

Figure 9

Estimated crime victimization rates among Illinois residents by employment status, school enrollment, type of employment organization, and area of employment, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 2.6 to +/- 9.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Populations with certain characteristics were excluded when the standard error was larger than +/- 10 percent.

IV. Characteristics of crime victimization incidents

As noted in Section XVI, Limitations (page 98), the IL-CVS captured detailed information for 22 percent of the estimated 2,796 victimization incidents¹⁴ experienced by respondents who answered incident-specific questions regarding their victimizations (incident reports).¹⁵ Each respondent who was a crime victim in 2002 could have completed up to four incident reports. This section summarizes the specific information obtained about victimization incidents experienced by respondents.

Statistical tests of significance were not used in this section to compare incident characteristics of different victimization types. One reason is that some characteristics were more likely to apply only to certain types of crime. For example, information about weapons used and victim injuries were more likely to apply to personal crime versus computer or property crime. Although several other characteristics were applicable to all crime types (e.g. time of day, location), tests of significance were still not utilized due to limitations in these data. First, data existed for only 22 percent of the victimizations experienced by respondents, who also comprised a final sample with a 28 percent response rate. Second, for some of the characteristics discussed, several respondents did not know the characteristic of the victimization. For example, respondents did not know the approximate time of day the victimization occurred for nearly one quarter of the incidents. The percentage of incidents where information was unknown was consistently highest with computer crime, followed by property crime. Not surprisingly,

¹⁴ This number (2,796) is an estimate for two reasons. First, when respondents were asked how many times each incident had happened to them, the highest frequency they could report was four (response was “4 or more times”). Therefore, if a respondent was victimized more than four times, only four would be included in this figure. This would result in an undercount of incidents. However, respondents may have also answered affirmatively to more than one survey item based on only one incident. For example, if a respondent was punched by a family member, they might have answered affirmatively for items 16d and 17c (see Appendix III to see questions in survey instrument.) This results in over counting incidents. The extent to which each of these occurrences affects the estimated number of incidents is unknown.

¹⁵ See page X of the Methodology section to learn why data were collected for only 22 percent of incidents experienced by respondents.

respondents were able to provide the most details for personal crime victimizations. These limitations decrease our confidence that findings can be generalized to Illinois' general population, and tests of significance should be reserved for data that are more representative.

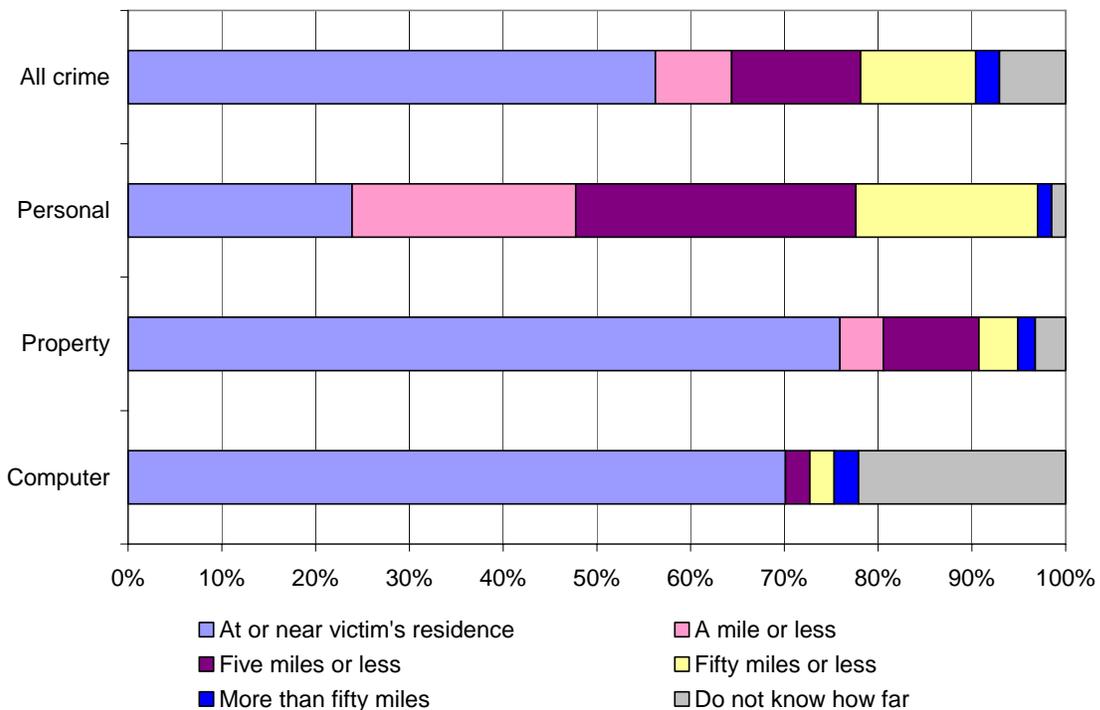
This does not, however, render the findings regarding characteristics of victimization incidents useless. They may not be generalizable to the entire state's population, but they do provide valuable insight by fostering more questions and providing direction for more focused research. Therefore, the basic percentage breakdowns of survey responses are displayed to show how characteristics of victimization incidents for each crime type differed among *respondents to the IL-CVS*.

Distance from the victim's residence

The majority of victimizations reported by respondents occurred close to home. Ninety-two (92) percent of incidents occurred within Illinois, while just 3 percent occurred outside the state. Of the victimizations that occurred in Illinois, 93 percent occurred in the same county where the respondents lived. Furthermore, more than half (56 percent) of the incidents occurred at or near the respondent's home (Figure 10). Another 22 percent occurred outside the home, but less than five miles from the respondent's residence. Respondents reported that only 3 percent of these incidents occurred more than fifty miles from their homes. Both property and computer crime victimizations were more likely to occur at or near the victim's home (76 and 70 percent respectively) than personal crime victimizations. Personal crime victimizations were more likely to occur more than one mile from the victim's home (52 percent of reported incidents) than other types of victimization.

Figure 10

Distance between location of incident and the victim's residence by crime type, 2002

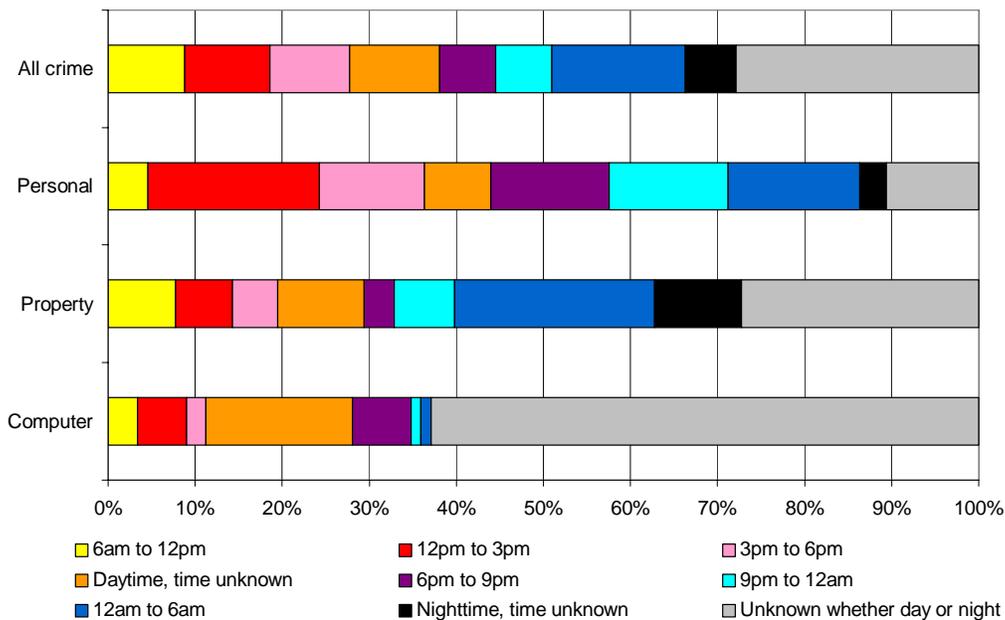


Time of victimization incident

Respondents who were victimized during the year 2002 were also asked to report the approximate time the crime occurred. For most of the reported incidents (72 percent), victims were able to recall whether the incident occurred during the day or night (Figure 11). Overall, a slightly higher percentage of incidents occurred during the day compared to night (53 percent compared to 47 percent). Some more pronounced differences were noted when the times of occurrence were examined by crime type. Computer crime most frequently occurred during the day (76 percent), while property crime was more likely to occur at night (60 percent). The most frequent six-hour time period for which victimization was reported was between 12 noon and 6pm, comprising more than one-third of incidents where the respondents could recall a specific time period. Another 27 percent occurred at night between midnight and 6 am.

Figure 11

Times when victimization incidents occurred by crime type, 2002

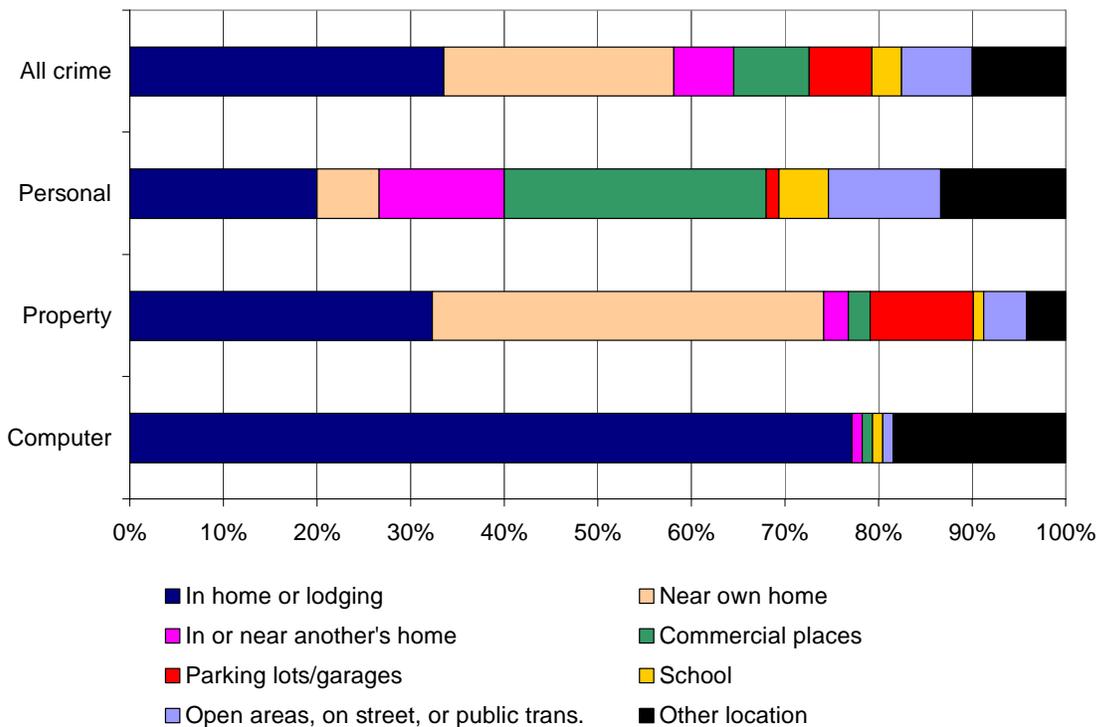


Location

Again, Illinois residents again seemed most vulnerable to crime when they were at or near their homes (Figure 12). Fifty-eight (58) percent of incidents occurred either at the victim’s home or lodging¹⁶ (34 percent), or near their homes (25 percent). Computer crime appeared to be the most likely type of crime to occur at the victim’s home at 77 percent. Property crime, however, most frequently occurred *near* the victim’s home¹⁷ (42 percent). Another 32 percent of property crime incidents occurred at or in the victim’s home. Conversely, the most frequently reported location where personal crime occurred was in commercial places such as a store, restaurant, or office. Twenty-eight (28) percent of personal crime victimizations occurred in commercial places, while 20 percent occurred at the victim’s home.

Figure 12

Location of victimization incidents by crime type, 2002



¹⁶ Lodging refers to when a victim was staying at a hotel or motel during the victimization.

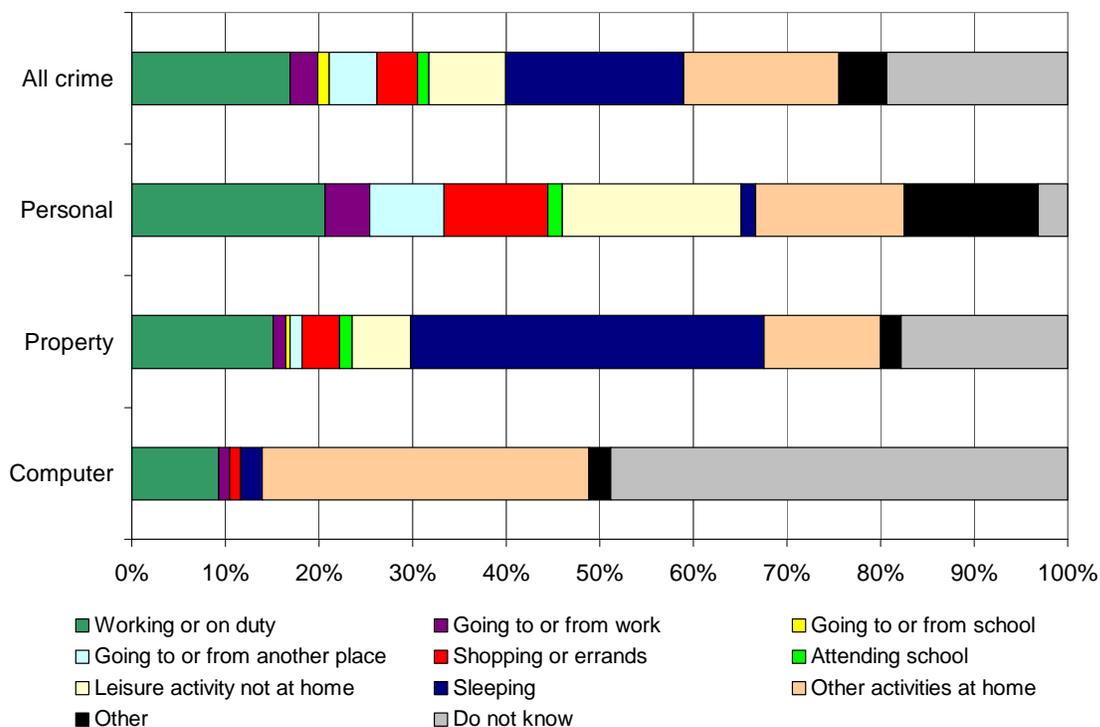
¹⁷ “Near home” included places such as a victim’s yard, sidewalk, street, or a hallway just outside the victim’s dwelling.

What the victim was doing when they were victimized

The IL-CVS also collected information about the types of activities crime victims were engaged in when they were victimized. Although respondents did not know or could not recall what they were doing for 19 percent of incidents, the most frequently reported activity among all incidents was sleeping (Figure 13). Victims were sleeping during 19 percent of all victimization incidents. Victims were engaging in other activities at home for another 17 percent of incidents, again reflecting the pattern of victimization occurring at or close to home. A substantial number of victims also reported that they were working or on duty when they were victimized. This occurred most often for victims of personal crimes; 21 percent of all personal victimizations occurred while the victim was working or on duty.

Figure 13

What victims were doing when they were victimized by crime type, 2002

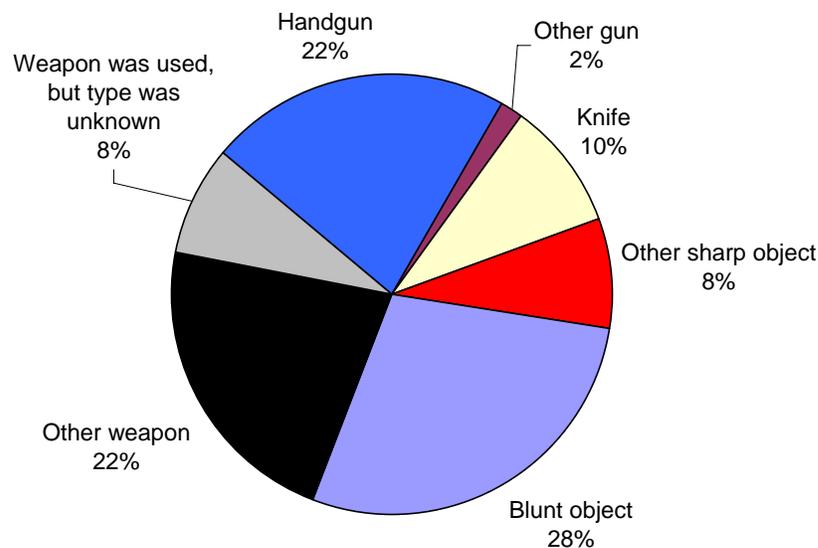


Weapons

Victimization becomes more dangerous when a weapon is used to commit a crime. Victims who completed the IL-CVS were asked whether or not a weapon was used to commit the crimes against them. Of the 423 victimization incidents for which this information was known by the respondent, 13 percent were committed using a weapon.¹⁸ When only personal crime victimizations were considered, this percentage increased to 17 percent. Blunt instruments were the most common type of weapon used (28 percent of incidents involving weapons), while 24 percent were committed with a handgun or other firearm (Figure 14).

Figure 14

Type of weapons used among those incidents involving weapons, 2002



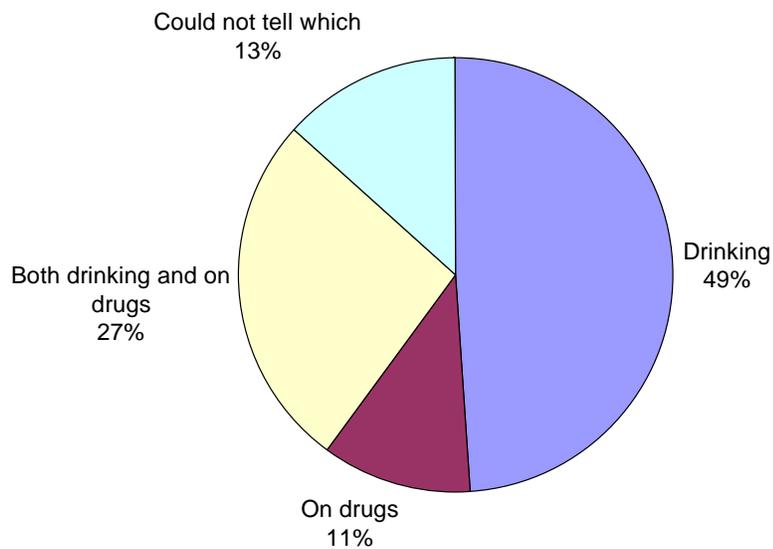
¹⁸ Weapons did not include “personal” weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)

Involvement of alcohol or drugs

The survey also asked respondents who were victims to report whether they believed the offender(s) who victimized them was under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the incident. However, respondents did not know the answer to this question for most incidents (83 percent). Of incidents for which they could answer this question (99 incidents), the offender(s) was perceived to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during 45 percent of them. This percentage was highest for personal crime (52 percent). Figure 15 displays victimization incidents for which respondents perceived the offender(s) to be under the influence. For nearly half of these incidents, the offender(s) appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. The offender(s) appeared to be under the influence of both alcohol and drugs for another 27 percent.

Figure 15

Victimization incidents where offenders were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 2002

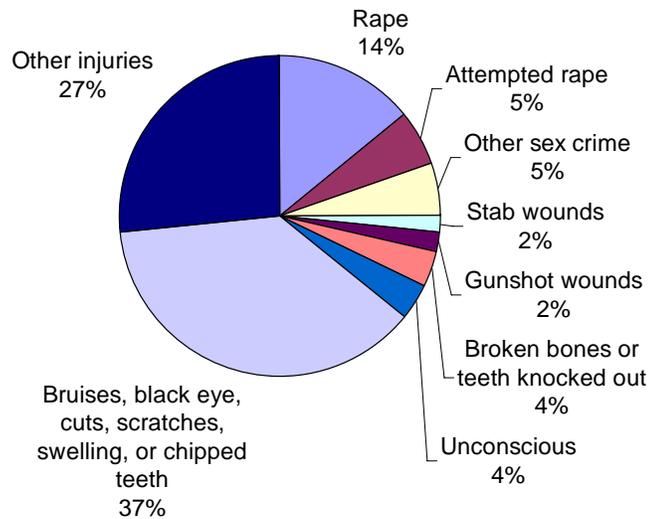


Injuries

One of the most feared potential outcomes of crime victimization is injury. Victims were asked if they experienced any type of physical injury as a result of the victimization. Eight (8) percent of the victimizations they experienced resulted in injury. As expected, this percentage increases substantially for personal crime. Of personal crime victimizations, nearly one-third (29 percent) resulted in injury. Of victimizations resulting in injury, the most common injuries were bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling, or chipped teeth (37 percent combined), followed by rape¹⁹ (14 percent) (Figure 16).

Figure 16

Victimization incidents resulting in injury by type of injury, 2002



¹⁹ Rape, attempted rape, and other unwanted sexual activity were each included in the list of possible injuries respondents could have reported in the IL-CVS incident report.

V. Characteristics of victims of different crime types

Comparisons are presented in this section to help our understanding of how different individual and household characteristics may increase or decrease one's vulnerability to different types of crime victimization. Victims who experienced a specific type of crime victimization were compared to all other victims who did not experience the same type (e.g. computer crime victims were compared to all other victims who did *not* experience computer crime). Although the figures in this section also display the characteristics of non-victims, this section does not describe general comparisons between victims of all crime types and non-victims, as this was discussed in Section III. The percentages provided for non-victim characteristics are provided only to serve as a close reference for readers.

Tests of significance were performed in these analyses, as data on victim and household characteristics were collected for nearly all respondents who reported victimization in 2002. Chi-square tests helped determine whether differences between victims of different crime types were likely due to sampling error. Statistically significant results²⁰ indicate characteristics that appeared to be related to the nature of victimization among Illinoisans. Differences identified with strong statistical significance ($p < .01$) are indicated with an asterisk (*).

It is important to note that most chi-square tests of statistical significance performed in this report do not control for other factors outside the relationship being tested. For example, the statistically significant relationship between victimization and race does not take into account other factors such as age, household income, or education that might also contribute to the likelihood of being a crime victim. Thus, identifying statistically significant differences indicate just that—differences exist between the two groups. They reveal nothing about how or why the groups differ, or how the differences may be influenced by other factors. These questions are

²⁰ If the Chi-square test resulted in $p < .05$, the differences are at least 95 percent likely to not be due to sampling error. If the result is $p < .01$, the difference is at least 99 percent likely to not be due to sampling error.

beyond the scope of this report, but will be explored with additional, more focused analyses of the IL-CVS data.

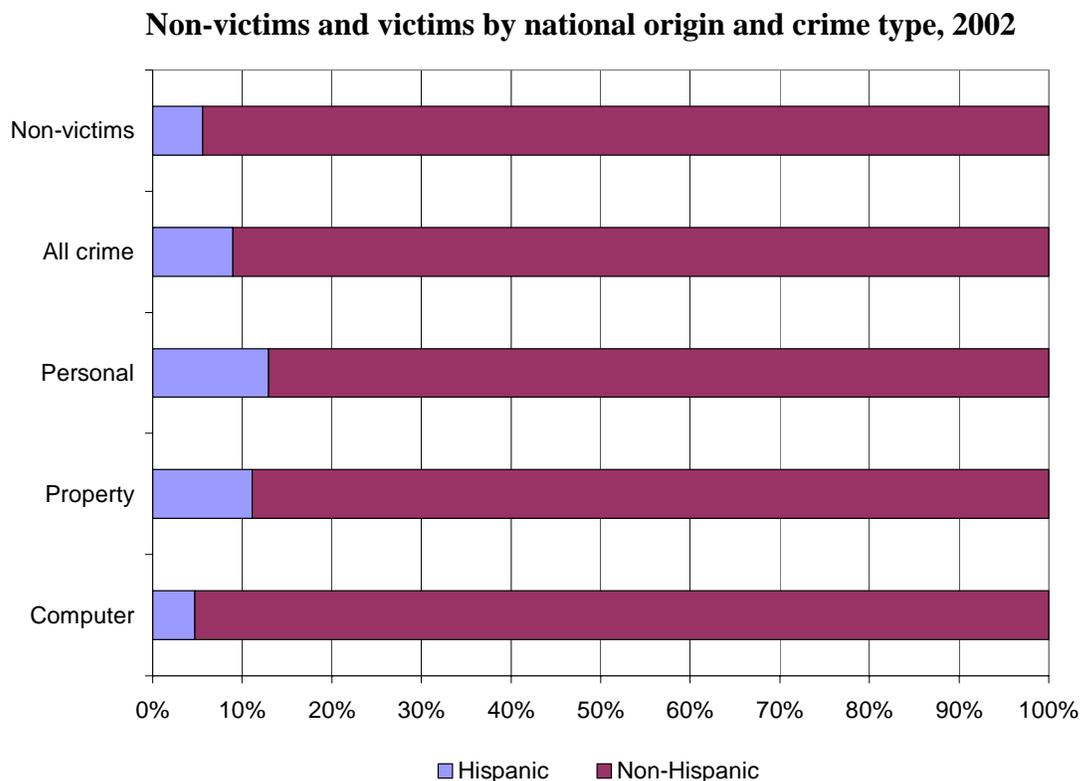
The exception to this was when comparisons were made between computer crime victims and other crime victims. Analyses were conducted while controlling for whether or not respondents used a computer during 2002. Because some populations may be more likely to use computers than others (e.g. students), this influences ways that computer crime victims might differ from other victims. Thus, when differences were identified between computer crime victims and other crime victims, readers can be assured that distinctions were also noted after excluding respondents who did not use a computer in 2002.

Ethnicity

When victims of different crime types were examined by national origin, Hispanic residents accounted for significantly greater portions of personal and property crime victims (13 and 11 percent, respectively) and lesser portions of computer crime victims (5 percent) (Figure 17). This suggests the following about Hispanic victims when compared to non-Hispanic victims:

- Hispanic victims were more likely to be victims of personal crime;*
 - Hispanic victims were more likely to be victims of property crime;*
 - Hispanic victims were less likely to be victims of computer crime.
- = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 17



Race

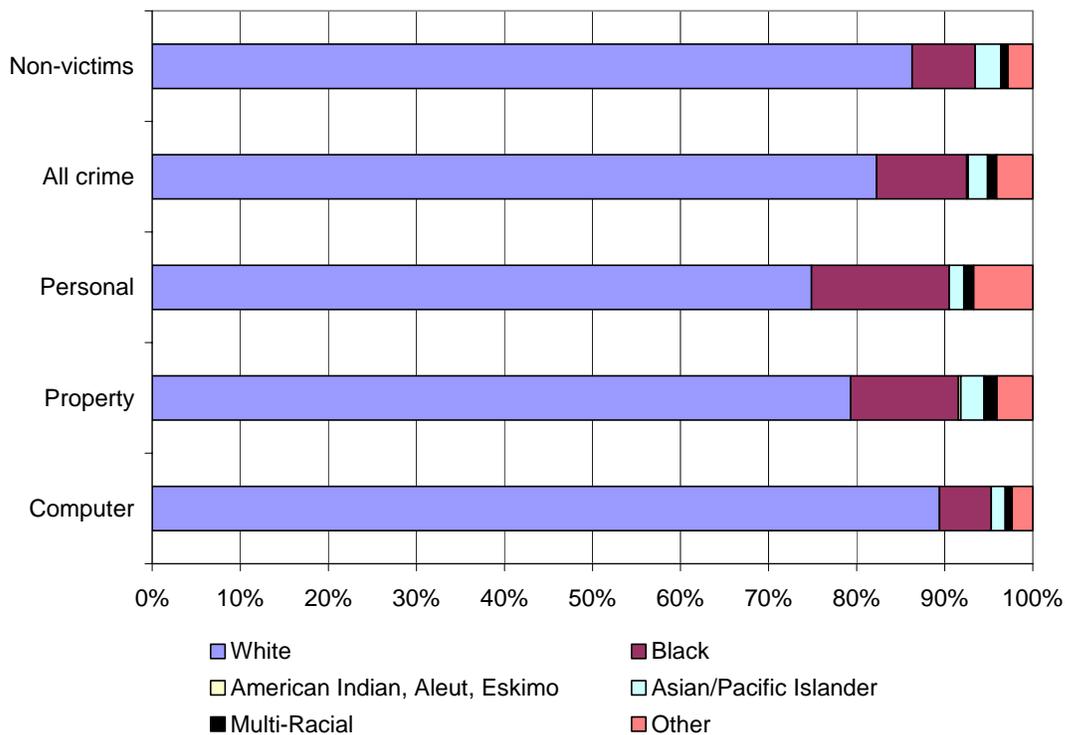
Blacks accounted for 10 percent of all crime victims, but higher percentages of personal (16 percent) and property (12 percent) crime victims (Figure 18). Victims of “other” races²¹ also comprised greater portions of personal and property crime victims compared to that of all crime victims. Victims of computer crime comprised the greatest portion of white victims at 89 percent. When victims of different crime types were compared by race, findings suggested that:

- Blacks were more likely to be victims of personal and property crime.*
- Whites were less likely to be victims of personal and property crime.
- Whites were more likely to be victims of computer crime.*

* = Strong statistical significance (p < .01)

Figure 18

Non-victims and victims by race and crime type, 2002



²¹ Note that about half of Hispanic residents indicated their race as “other.” For more information about this, see page 12 of the Methods section.

Age

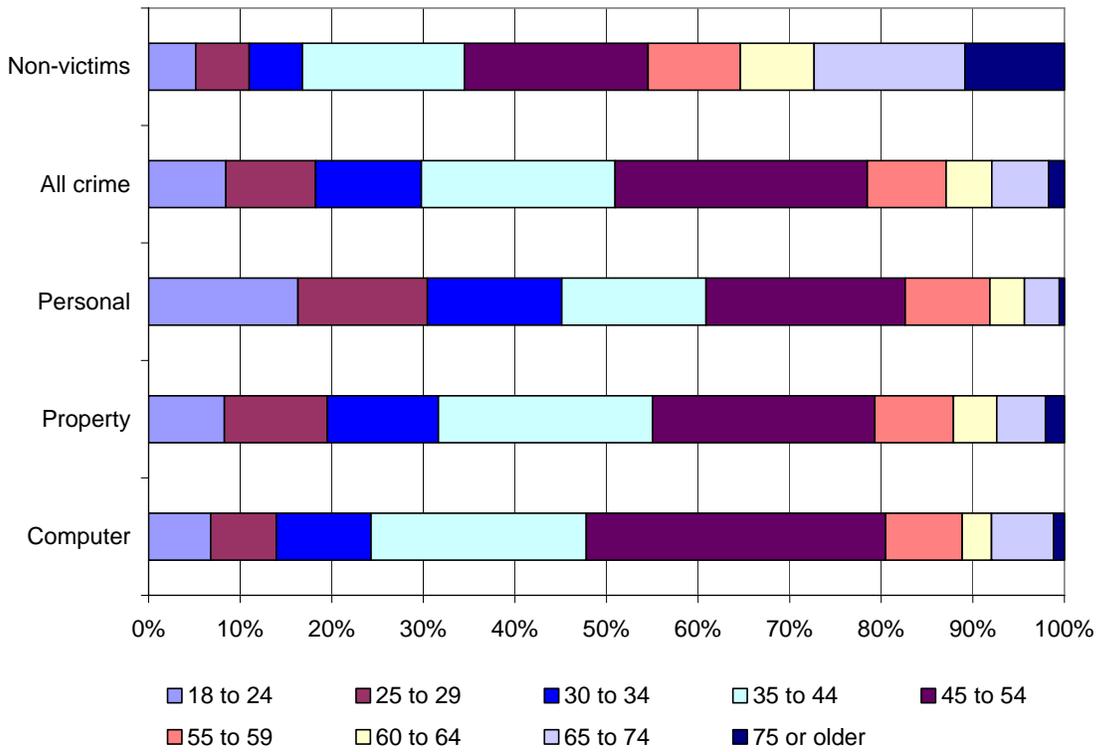
Younger victims between ages 18 and 34 comprised more personal crime victims (45 percent), while victims between ages 35 and 54 made up smaller portions of personal crime victims (38 percent) (Figure 19). Property victims included greater portions of those in the 25 to 29 year-old age group (11 percent) and the 35 to 44 year-old age group (23 percent), and a lesser portion of those age 45 to 54 (24 percent). Computer crime victims had higher portions of victims age 45 to 54 (33 percent) and those age 65 or older (8 percent) compared to other victims, while they had lesser portions of victims age 25 to 34 (18 percent), and age 60 to 64 (3 percent). When crime victims of different types were compared by age group, findings suggested that:

- Victims between ages 18 and 29 were more likely to be victims of personal crime.*
- Victims between ages 30 and 34 were also more likely to be victims of personal crime.
- Victims age 35 to 54 were less likely to be victims of personal crime.
- Victims age 25 to 29 and victims age 35 to 44 were more likely to be victims of property crime.
- Victims age 45 to 54 were less likely to be victims of property crime.*
- Victims between ages 45 and 54, as well as those age 65 or older were more likely to be victims of computer crime.*
- Victims age 25 to 29 were less likely to be victims of computer crime.*
- Victims age 30 to 34, as well as victims age 60 to 64 were also less likely to be victims of computer crime.

* = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 19

Non-victims and victims by age group and crime type, 2002



Marital status

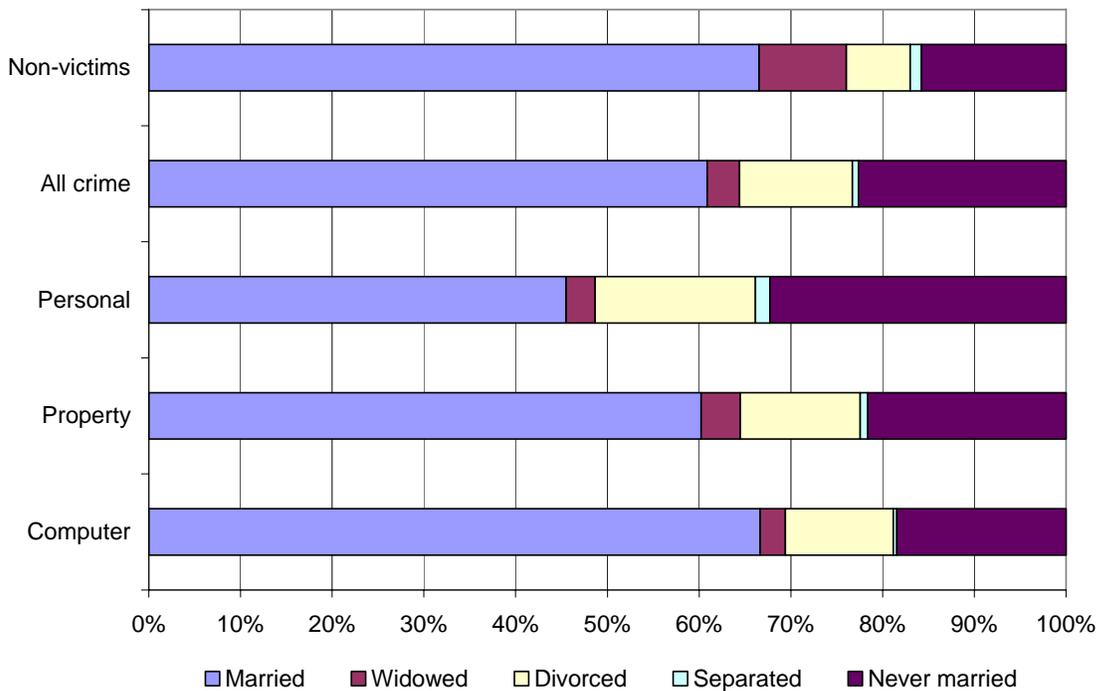
Compared to other crime victims, personal crime victims included more residents who were divorced (17 percent) and never married (33 percent), and included less residents who were married (45 percent) (Figure 20). Property crime victims did not differ from other crime victims significantly with regard to marital status. Computer crime victims had larger portions of married victims (67 percent) and smaller portions of never married victims (18 percent) compared to other crime victims. When victims of different crime types were compared by marital status, findings suggested that:

- Victims who were divorced or never married were more likely to be personal crime victims.*
- Victims who were married were less likely to be personal crime victims.*
- Married victims were more likely to be victims of computer crime.
- Never married victims were less likely to be victims of computer crime.

* = Strong statistical significance (p < .01)

Figure 20

Non-victims and victims by marital status and crime type, 2002



Presence of children in the household

When the presence of children in the household was examined among different types of crime victims, residents living in households with children accounted for a significantly greater portion of property crime victims (51 percent) compared to other types of victims²² (Figure 21).

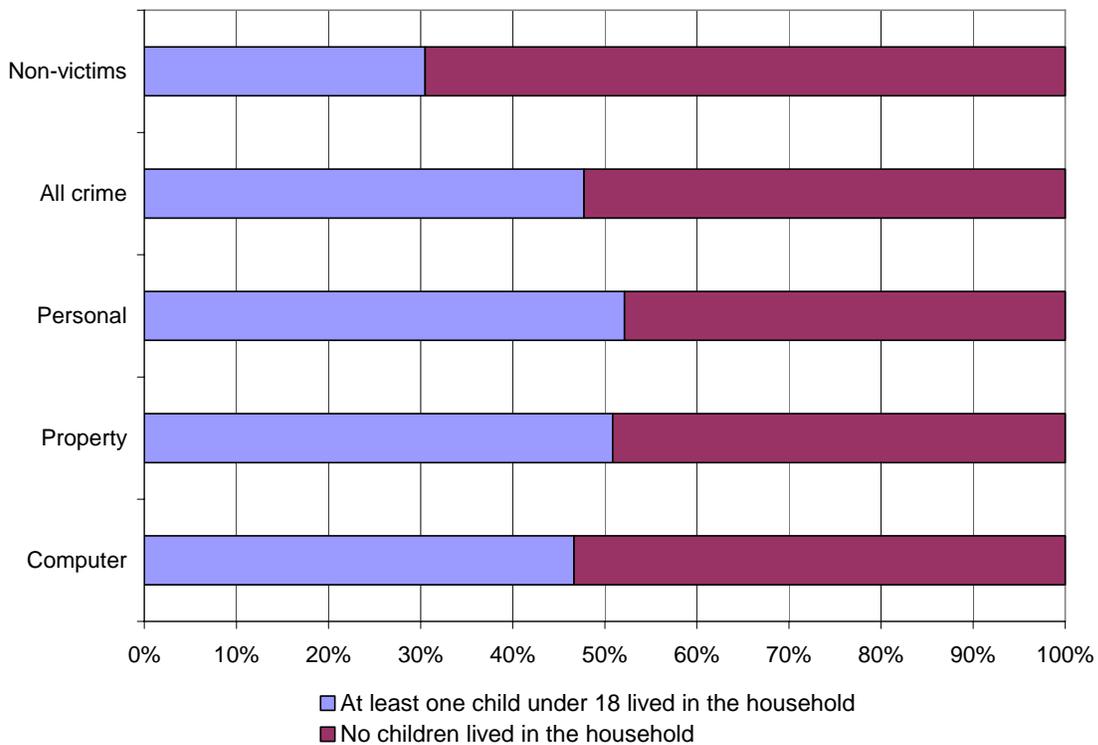
This resulted in the finding that:

- Victims living in households with children were more likely than victims living in childless households to be victims of property crime.*

* = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 21

Non-victims and victims by whether or not children lived in the household crime type, 2002



²² Although a slightly higher portion of personal crime victims lived in households with children (52 percent) compared to property crime victims (51 percent), personal crime victims were not statistically more likely to live with children in the household compared to other crime victims. The sample of personal crime victims was lower (188) than that for property crime victims (350), thus, the percentage difference must be greater to be statistically significant.

Education

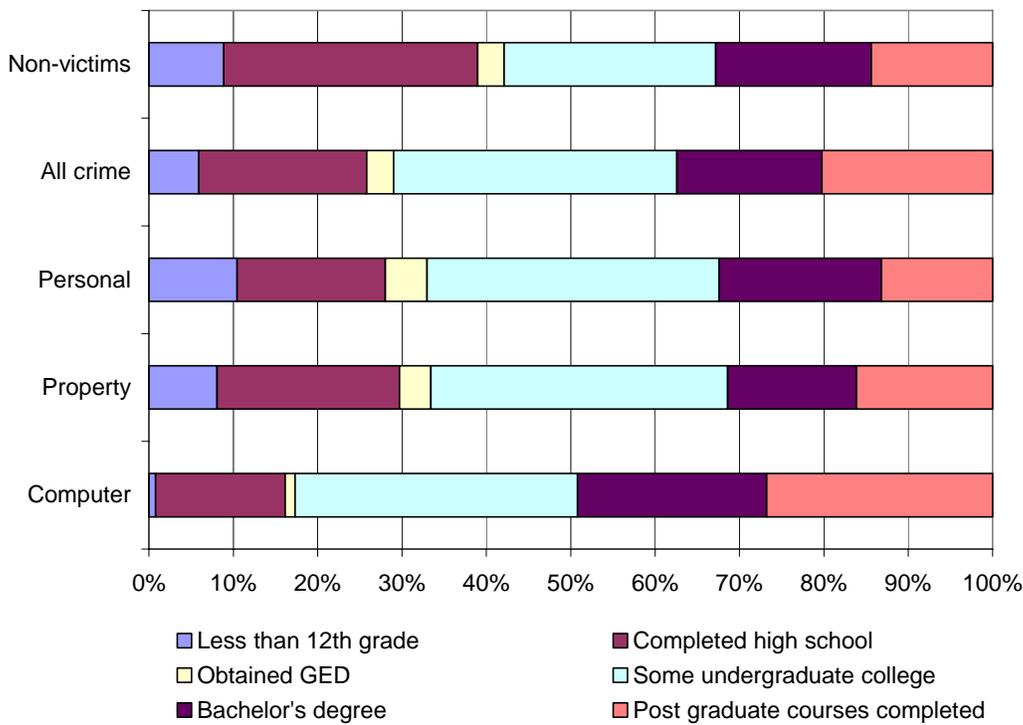
Compared to victims of other crime types, personal crime victims comprised a higher percentage of those with less than a 12th grade education (10 percent) and those who obtained a G.E.D. (5 percent) (Figure 22). Personal crime victims accounted for a lesser percentage of those who completed post-graduate coursework (13 percent) compared to other victims. Property crime victims also were more likely than other victims to have less education. Property victims included more victims with a less than 12th grade education (8 percent) and those who completed high school (22 percent); and they included less victims with a bachelor's degree (15 percent) and those who completed post-graduate coursework (16 percent). Conversely, computer crime victims had greater portions of victims with higher education; 22 percent had a bachelor's degree and 27 percent completed post-graduate coursework, while only 1 percent had less than a 12th grade education. When victims of different crime types were compared by highest level of education completed, findings suggested that:

- Victims with less than a 12th grade education and victims who obtained a G.E.D. were more likely to be personal crime victims.*
- Victims who completed post-graduate courses were less likely to be personal crime victims.*
- Victims with less than a 12th grade education were more likely to be property crime victims.*
- Victims who completed high school were also more likely to be property crime victims.
- Victims who completed post-graduate courses were less likely to be property crime victims.*
- Victims with a bachelor's degree were also less likely to be property crime victims.
- Victims with a bachelor's degree or who completed post-graduate coursework were more likely to be victims of computer crime.
- Victims with less than a 12th grade education were less likely to be computer crime victims.*

* = Strong statistical significance (p < .01)

Figure 22

Non-victims and victims by highest educational attainment and crime type, 2002



Household income

When different types of victims were compared by annual household income, personal crime victims included a higher percentage who had an income of less than \$20,000 (34 percent) and a lower percentage of victims whose incomes were either between \$50,000 and \$74,999 (15 percent) or more than \$100,000 (7 percent) (Figure 23). Victims with annual incomes between \$20,000 and \$49,999 comprised a greater percentage among property crime victims (35 percent) compared to victims of other crime types (28 percent), while property crime victims included a lower percentage of victims who made \$100,000 or more (10 percent). In comparison to other victims, computer crime victims had a larger portion of victims who had an income of \$100,000 or more (20 percent), and a smaller portion of victims who had incomes between \$10,000 and

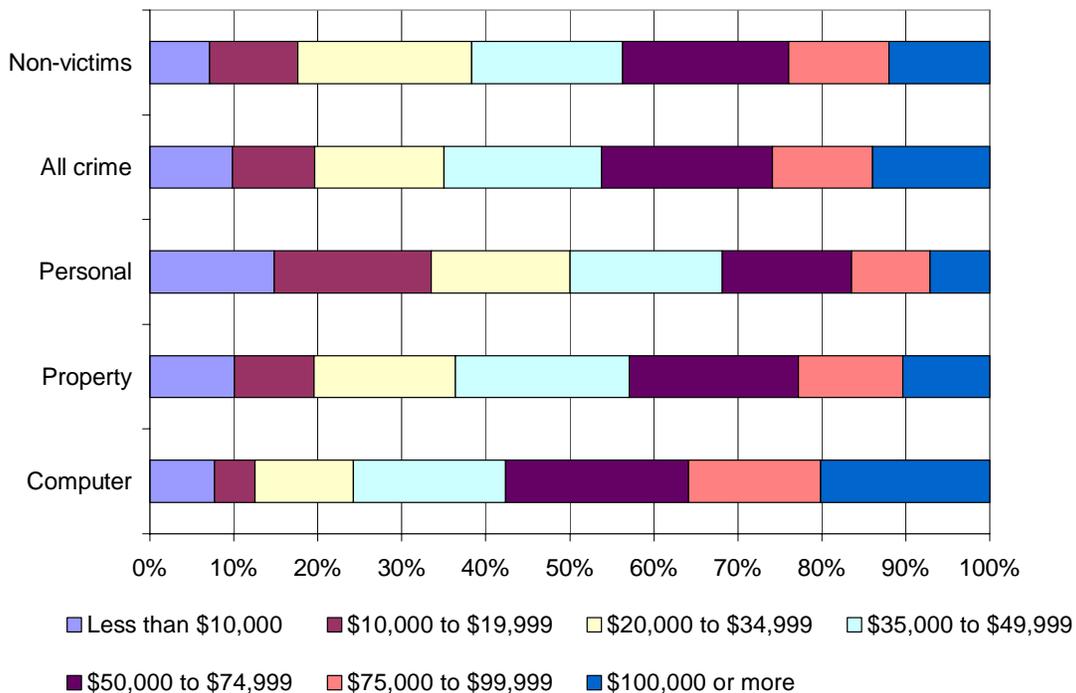
\$34,999 (19 percent). After victims of different crime types were compared by household income, findings suggested that:

- Victims with incomes less than \$20,000 were more likely to be victims of personal crime.*
- Victims with incomes of \$100,000 or more were less likely to be victims of personal crime.*
- Victims with incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999 were also less likely to be victims of personal crime.
- Victims with incomes between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to be victims of property crime.*
- Victims with incomes between \$20,000 and \$34,999 were also more likely to be victims of property crime.
- Victims with an income of \$100,000 or more were less likely to be property crime victims.*
- Victims with an income of \$100,000 or more were more likely to be computer crime victims.*
- Victims with an income between \$10,000 and \$34,999 were less likely to be victims of computer crime.

* = Strong statistical significance (p < .01)

Figure 23

Non-victims and victims by annual household income and crime type, 2002



Disability status

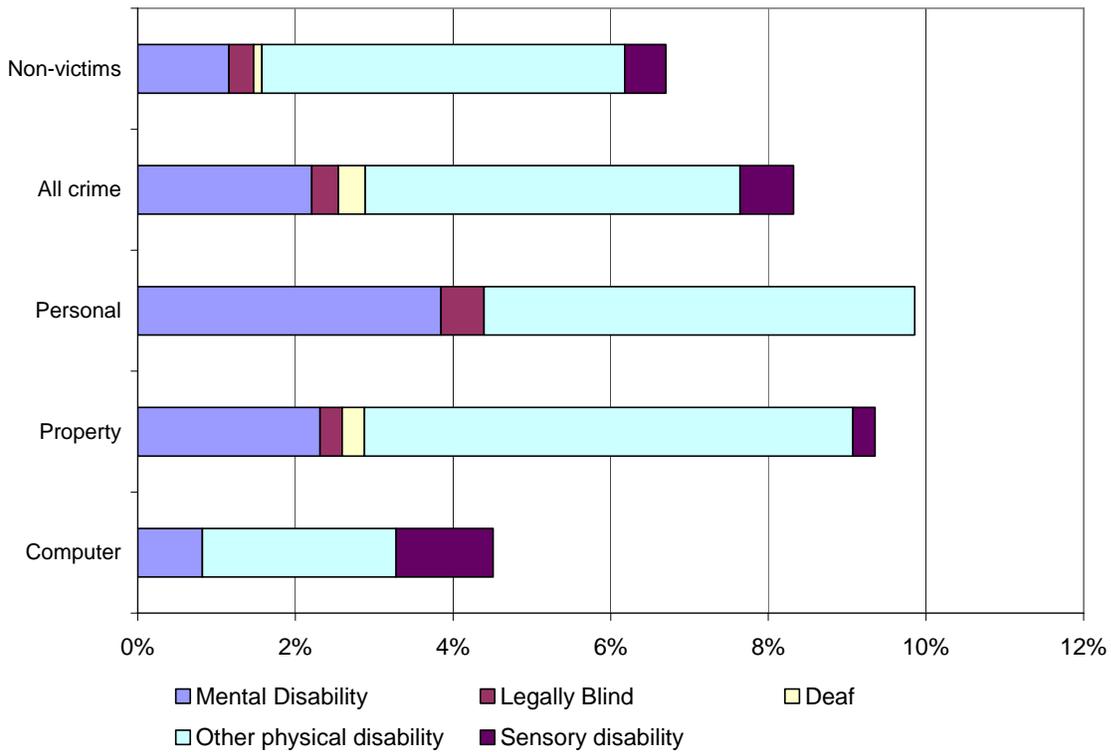
The only significant difference found among crime victims of different types when they were compared by disability status was that personal crime victims had a slightly higher percentage of disabled victims (10 percent) than other types of victims (7 percent) (Figure 24).

Thus, only one finding resulted from this analysis:

- Victims with a disability were more likely to be victims of personal crime compared to victims without a disability.

Figure 24

Non-victims and victims by disability status and crime type, 2002



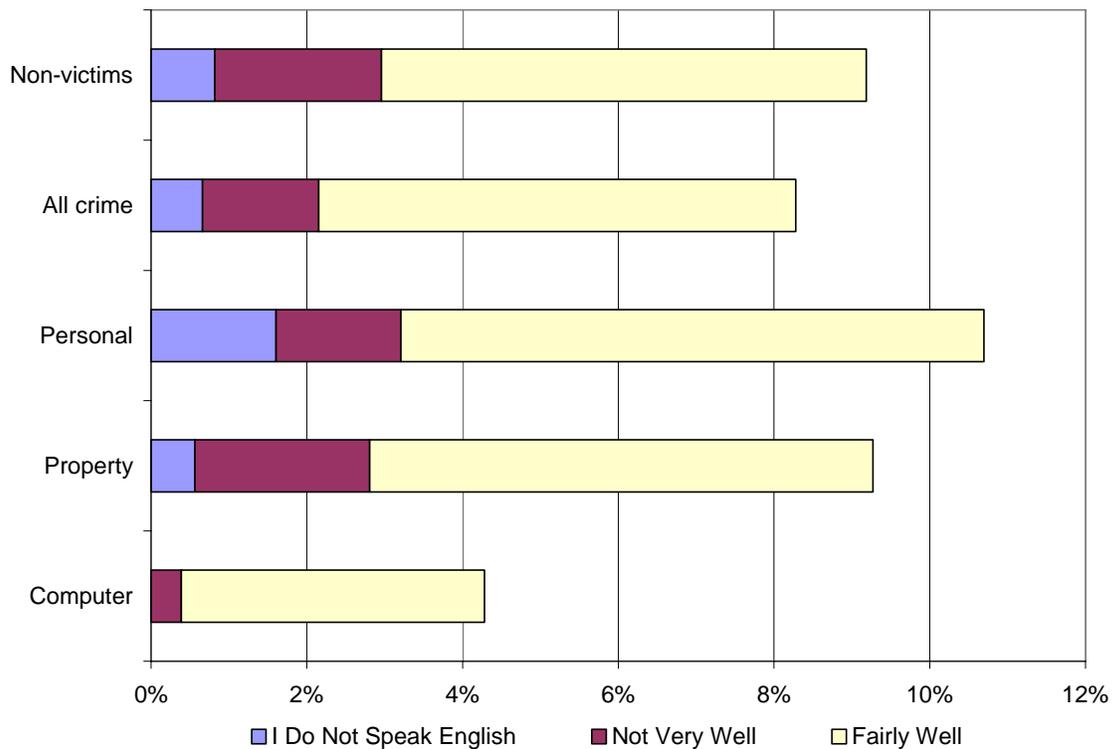
Ability to speak English

Again, only one difference was noted when different types of victims were examined by their ability to speak English. Computer crime victims contained less victims with limited ability to speak English (4 percent) compared to other crime victims (9 percent) (Figure 25). The resulting finding is that:

- Victims with limited ability to speak English were less likely to be computer crime victims compared to other crime victims.

Figure 25

Non-victims and victims with limited ability to speak English by level of ability and crime type, 2002



Residential area

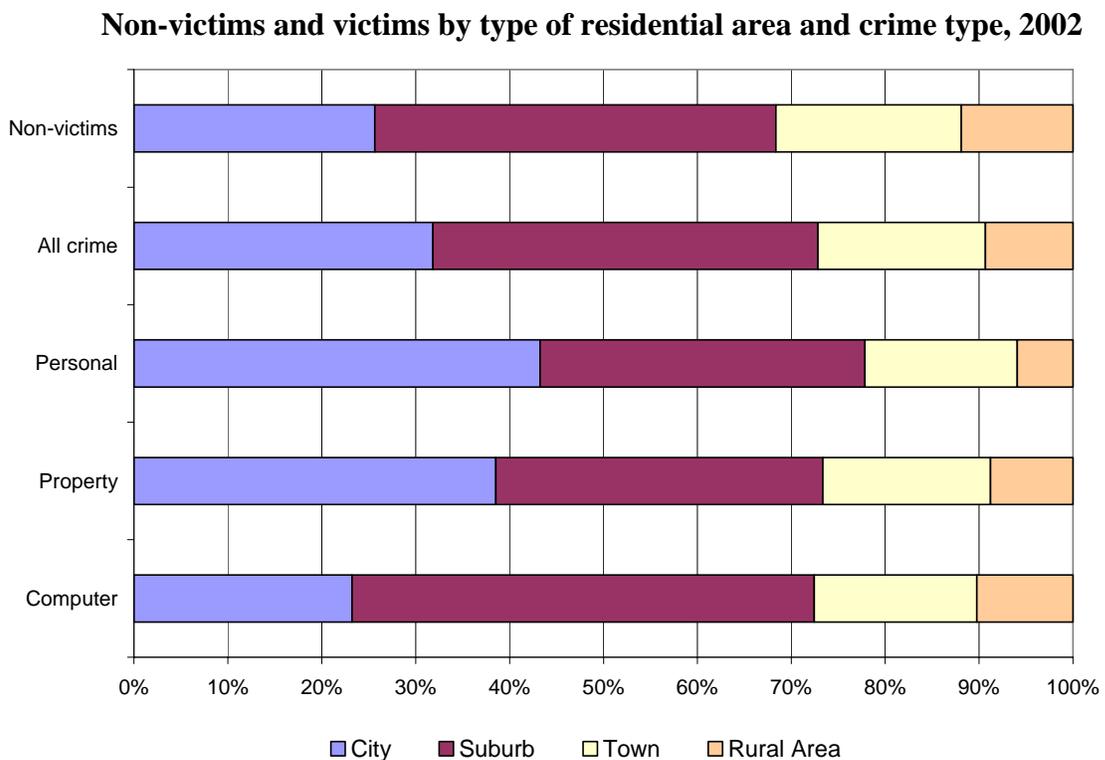
When victims who experienced different types of victimization were analyzed by the type of residential area they lived in, several significant differences were identified. Compared to other crime victims, personal crime victims included a higher percentage of victims who lived in a city

(43 percent), and lower percentages of victims who lived in a suburb (35 percent) or a rural area (6 percent) (Figure 26). Property crime victims also contained a larger portion of victims from cities (39 percent) and a smaller portion from suburbs (35 percent) when compared to other crime victims. The opposite was found when computer crime victims were compared to other victims; computer crime victims included more suburban residents (49 percent) and less city residents (23 percent). When victims of different crime types were compared by residential area, findings suggested that:

- Victims who lived in cities were more likely to be victims of personal and property crime.*
- Victims from suburbs were less likely to be victims of personal and property crime.*
- Victims residing in rural areas were less likely to be victims of personal crime.
- Victims in suburban areas were more likely to be computer crime victims.
- Victims from cities were less likely to be computer crime victims.*

* = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 26



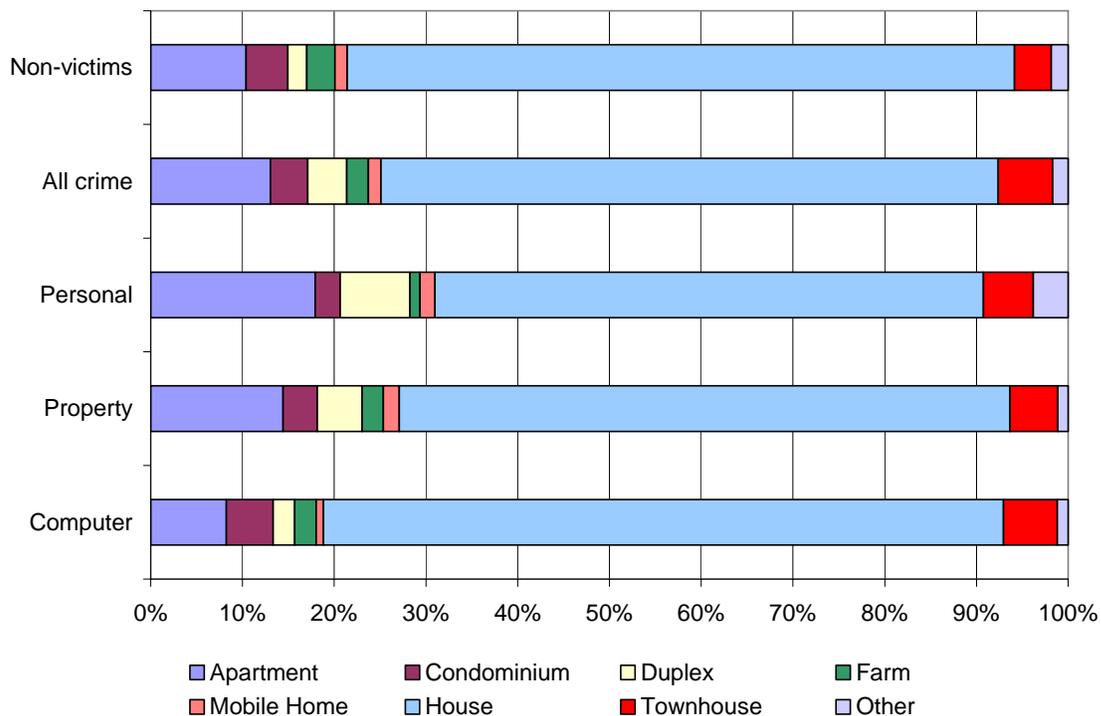
Residential dwelling

Compared to other crime victims, personal crime victims had greater portions of those living in apartment buildings (18 percent) and duplexes (8 percent), and a lesser portion residing in single family houses (60 percent) (Figure 27). Property crime victims were similar to other crime victims with respect to dwelling type. Computer crime victims had a larger portion of residents who lived in single family homes (74 percent) and the least number of victims who lived in apartment buildings (8 percent) compared to other victims. When victims of different crime types were compared by the type of dwelling they resided in, findings suggested that:

- Victims living in apartment buildings and duplexes were more likely to be personal crime victims.*
- Victims who lived in a single family house were less likely to be personal crime victims.*
- Victims living in single family houses were more likely to be victims of computer crime.*
- Victims who lived in apartment buildings were less likely to be victims of computer crime.*
- = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 27

Non-victims and victims by type of residential dwelling and crime type, 2002



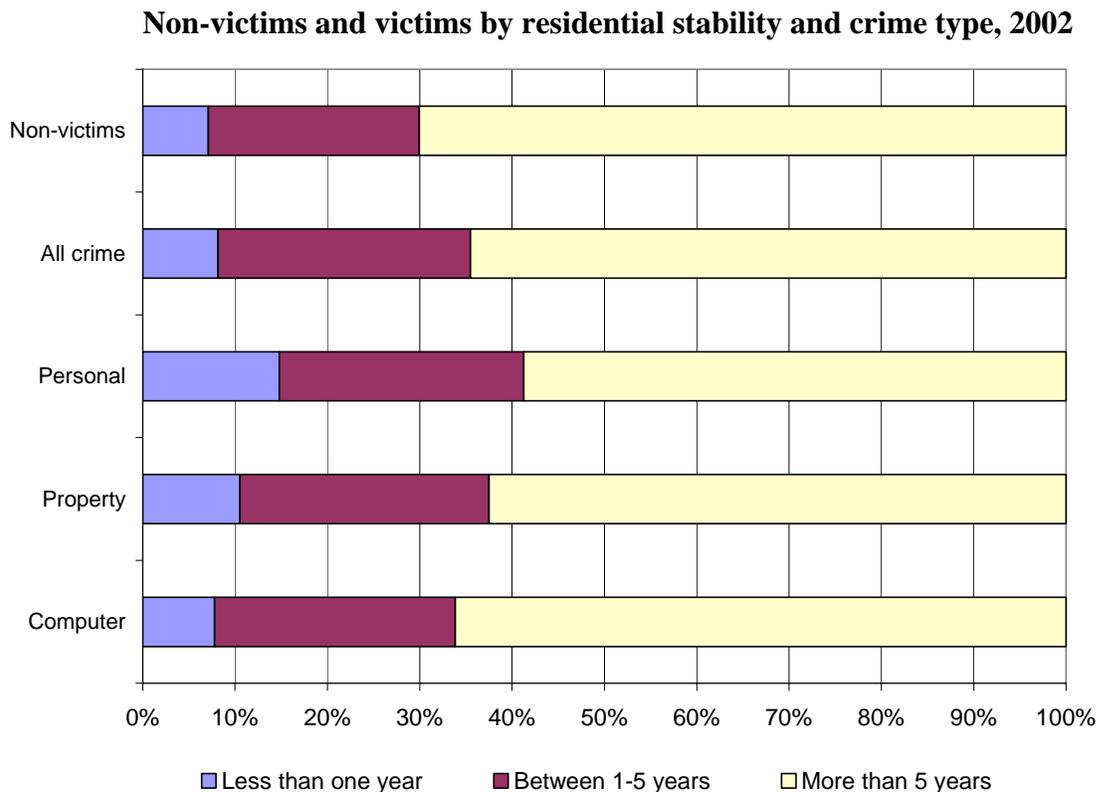
Residential stability

When victims of different crime types were analyzed, a few significant differences were identified with respect to residential stability. Personal crime victims included the highest percentage of victims who lived in their residence for less than one year (15 percent), and the lowest percentage of victims who lived in their residence for more than five years (59 percent) (Figure 28). Property crime victims also comprised a larger portion of victims who lived in their residence for less than one year (11 percent). No significant differences were found when computer crime victims were compared to other victims. When victims of different crime types are compared by residential stability, findings suggested that:

- Victims who lived in their residence for less than one year were more likely to be personal or property crime victims.*
- Victims who lived in their residence for more than five years were less likely to be personal crime victims.

* = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 28



Living status

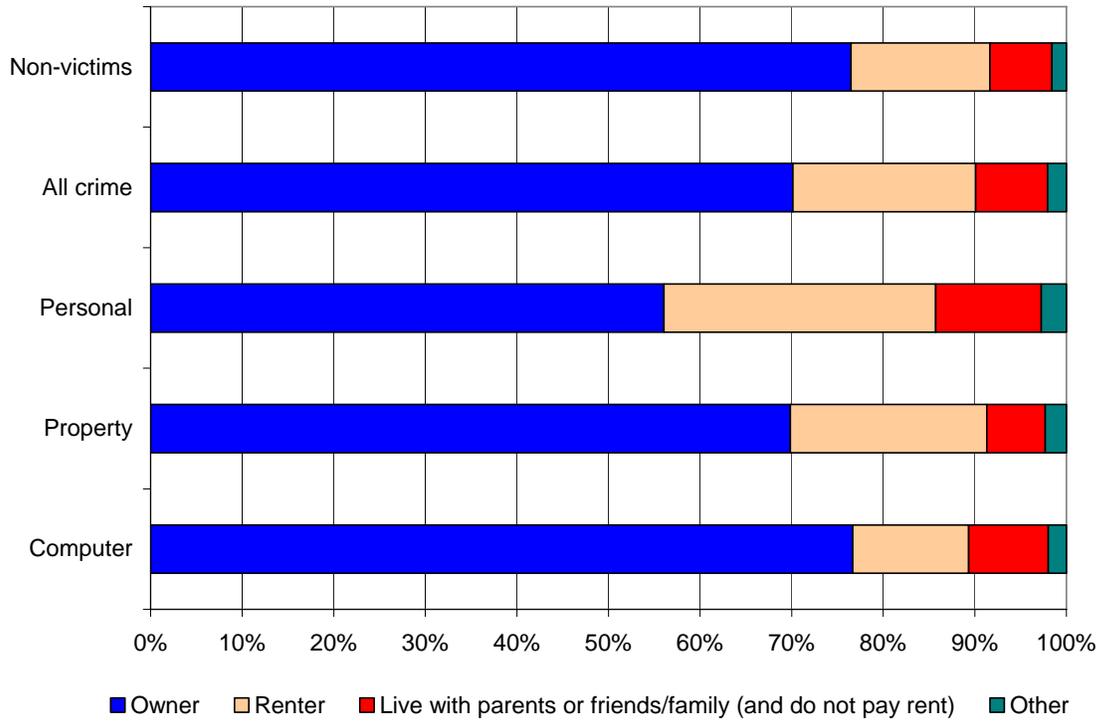
Compared to other crime victims, personal crime victims had higher percentages of victims who either rented (30 percent) or lived with parents/family/friends (12 percent) (Figure 29). Similarly, personal crime victims had a lower percentage of residents who owned their homes (56 percent) compared to other victims (77 percent). When property victims were examined, they had a higher percentage of residents who rented (21 percent) and a lower percentage of residents who lived with parents/family/friends (6 percent). On the other hand, computer crime victims had the highest percentage of residents who owned their residences (77 percent) and the lowest percentage of residents who rented (13 percent). When victims of different crime types were compared by living status, findings suggested that:

- Victims who rent and those who live with parents/family/friends are more likely to be personal crime victims.*
- Victims who own their home are less likely to be victims of personal crime.*
- Victims who rent are more likely to be property crime victims.
- Victims who live with parents/family/friends are less likely to be victims of property crime.
- Victims who own their home are more likely to be victims of computer crime.*
- Victims who rent are less likely to be computer crime victims.*

* = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 29

Non-victims and victims by living status and crime type, 2002

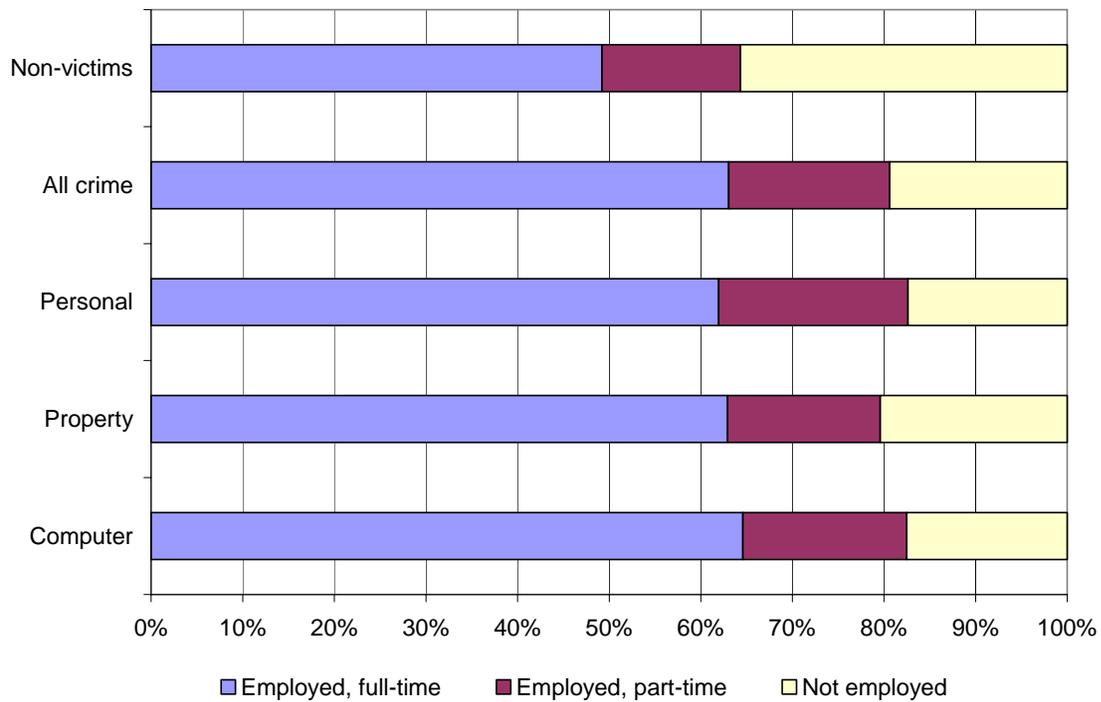


Employment status

When victims of different crime types were analyzed by employment status, no significant differences were noted. Victims of all crime types had similar portions of full-time employees (between 62 and 65 percent), part-time employees (between 17 and 21 percent), and unemployed residents (between 17 and 20 percent) (Figure 30).

Figure 30

Non-victims and victims by employment status and crime type, 2002

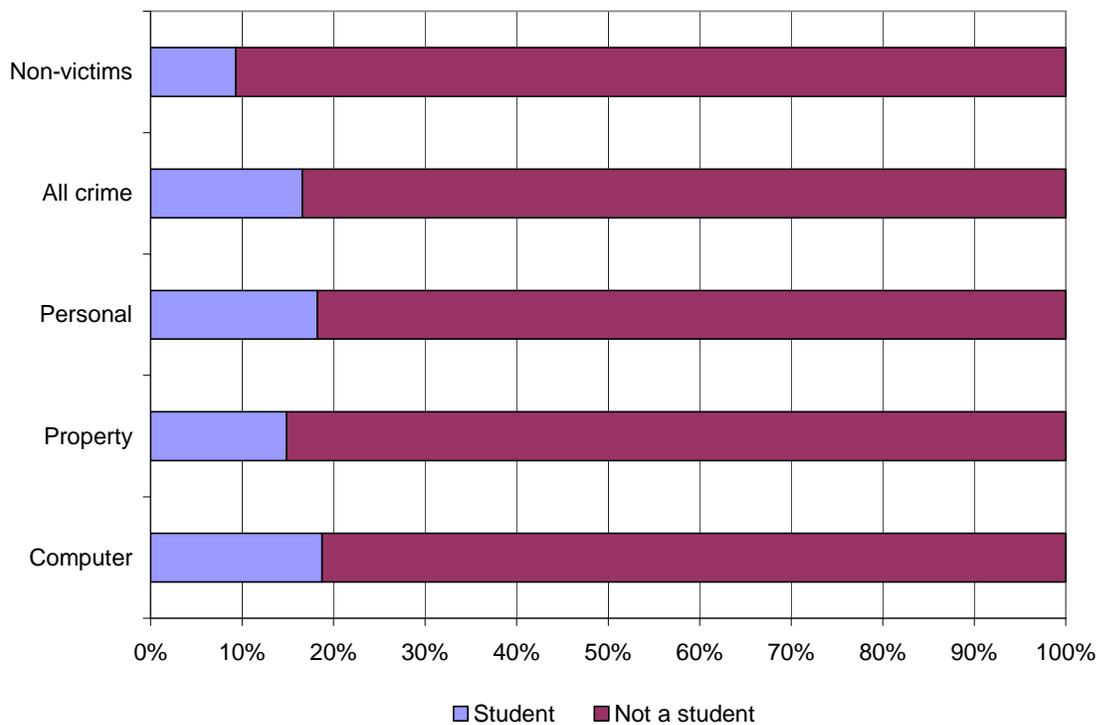


Students

When crime victims of different types were compared by whether or not they were a student, students comprised similar portions among all three groups of personal, property, and computer crime victims (between 15 and 19 percent) (Figure 31). So again, no statistically significant differences were identified among victims of different crime types with respect to student status.

Figure 31

Non-victims and victims by student status and crime type, 2002



Type of employment organization

No notable differences were found among personal or property crime victims when they were compared to other crime victims by the type of organization they were employed at.

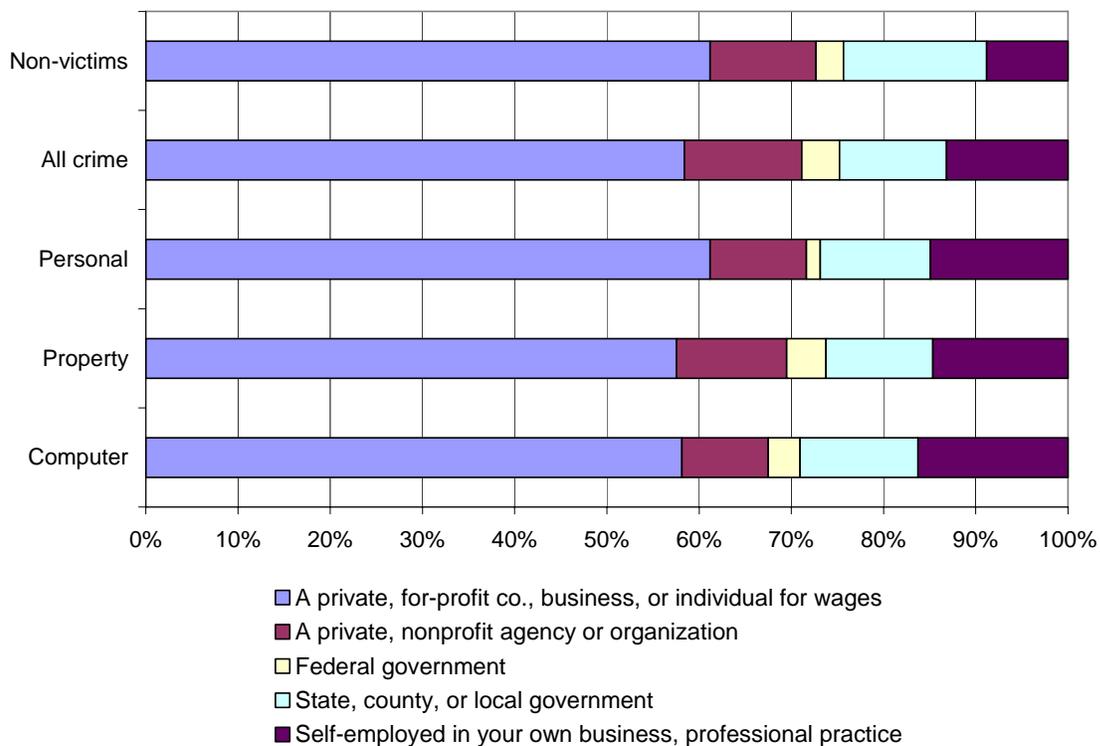
However, computer crime victims contained the highest percentage of victims who were self-employed (16 percent), and the lowest percentage of victims who worked for a private, nonprofit organization (9 percent) when compared to victims of other crime types (Figure 32). Thus, when victims of different crime types were compared by this characteristic, findings indicated that:

- Self-employed victims were more likely to be computer crime victims.*
- Victims who are employed by private, nonprofit organizations were less likely to be computer crime victims.

* = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 32

Non-victims and victims by type of employment organization, 2002



Area of employment

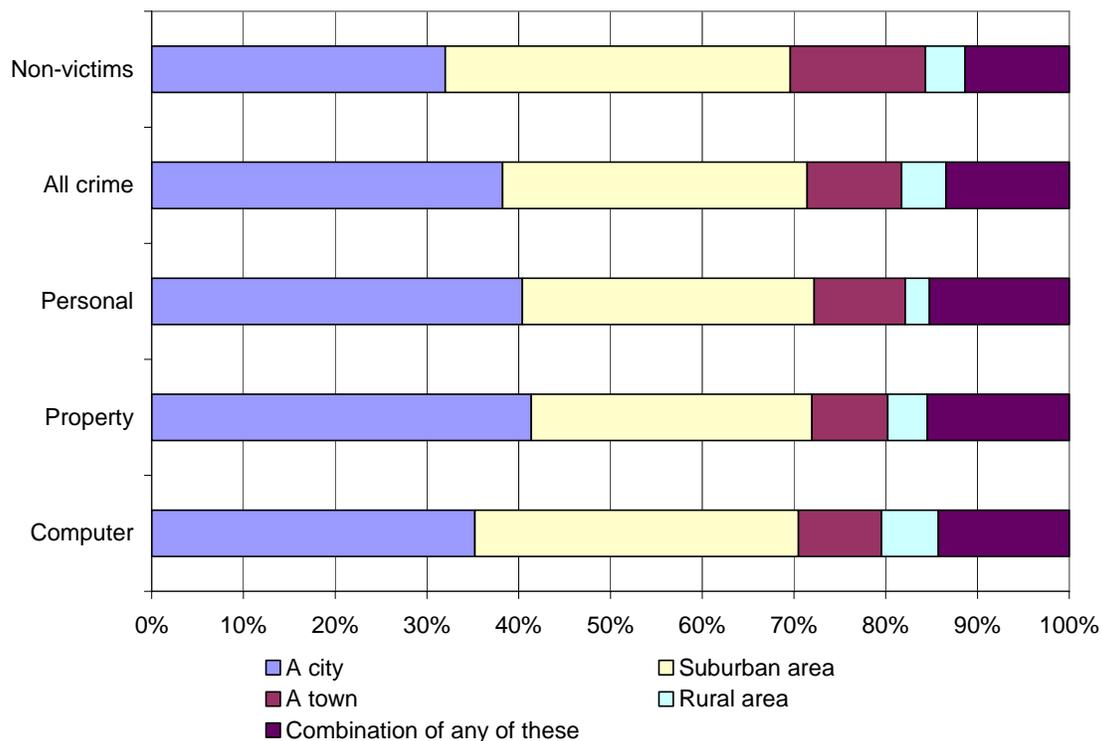
When analyses were conducted across different types of crime victims by the type of area they were employed in, no significant differences were found among victims of personal or computer crime (Figure 33). However, property crime victims had larger portions of victims who worked in cities (41 percent) and a combination of different types of areas (16 percent) versus other types of victims. Victims of property crime contained smaller portions of victims who worked in suburban areas (31 percent) and towns (8 percent). When victims of different crime types were compared by the type of area the victim was employed in, findings suggested that:

- Victims who worked in cities and victims who worked in a combination of different areas were more likely to be victims of property crime.*
- Victims who worked in suburban areas or towns were less likely to be property crime victims.

* = Strong statistical significance ($p < .01$)

Figure 33

Non-victims and victims by area of employment and crime type, 2002



VI. Characteristics of offenders

In this section, only the percentages for each offender characteristic are provided. Statistical tests of significance were not utilized to compare different types of crime victimization for the same reasons as those described in Section IV (Characteristics of crime victimization incidents)—the large number of incidents for which no information was completed, and the large number of incidents for which the respondent did not know characteristics of the offender. It is generally inappropriate to perform tests of significance when data limitations result in decreased generalizability of findings.

Offender characteristics are still presented using basic percentage breakdowns to provide insight about offenders who victimized those who responded to the IL-CVS. This can provide direction for additional research to examine and compare findings of the IL-CVS respondents with those of other studies.

Relationship to victim

Of incidents for which information was reported regarding the victim's relationship to the offender, nearly three-fourths (72 percent) involved offenders who were strangers or unknown to the victim²³ (Table 1). However, when personal crime was examined, only 56 percent of incidents involved offenders who were strangers or unknown to the victim. This percentage was higher (88 percent) for property crime, and still higher (93 percent) for computer crime (Table 1).

²³ The survey instrument did not allow for distinction between victims who did not know who the offender was and victims who were victimized by a stranger.

Table 1**Victimization incidents by the relationship of offender to victim, 2002***

| Relationship of offender to victim | All crime | Personal | Property | Computer |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| I did not know the offender | 72.4% | 55.9% | 87.6% | 92.9% |
| casual acquaintance | 4.3% | 4.4% | 1.8% | 2.4% |
| boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, ex-girlfriend | 4.1% | 16.2% | 1.3% | - |
| friend, ex-friend | 1.3% | 2.9% | 1.8% | - |
| roommate, boarder | 0.2% | - | - | 1.2% |
| schoolmate | 0.2% | - | - | 1.2% |
| neighbor | 2.8% | 1.5% | 3.1% | 1.2% |
| customer, client | 1.3% | 2.9% | - | - |
| patient | 0.2% | - | - | - |
| current or former supervisor | 0.3% | 1.5% | - | - |
| current or former employee | 1.0% | 1.5% | - | - |
| current or former coworker | 2.6% | 1.5% | 0.4% | - |
| other non-relative relationship | 5.1% | 5.9% | 1.8% | 1.2% |
| spouse | - | - | - | - |
| ex-spouse | 0.2% | 1.5% | - | - |
| parent, stepparent | 0.3% | 1.5% | - | - |
| child, stepchild | 1.2% | - | 1.3% | - |
| sibling | 1.3% | 1.5% | 0.4% | - |
| other relative | 1.3% | 1.5% | 0.4% | - |

*Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

There were many incidents, however, where the victim knew the offender(s). Of these incidents, casual acquaintance was most often the offender's relationship to the victim. These incidents comprised nearly 16 percent of all incidents where the offender(s) was known to the victim. This was closely followed by relationships where the victim and the offender were dating or formerly dating (boyfriend/girlfriend, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend), accounting for another 15 percent of incidents. A substantial number of incidents were committed by the victim's neighbor (10 percent of incidents where the victim knew the offender).

Most incidents where the offender(s) was known to the victim involved non-family relationships or non-relatives. In fact, incidents where the offender(s) was related to the victim through blood or marriage comprised only 16 percent of incidents involving a known

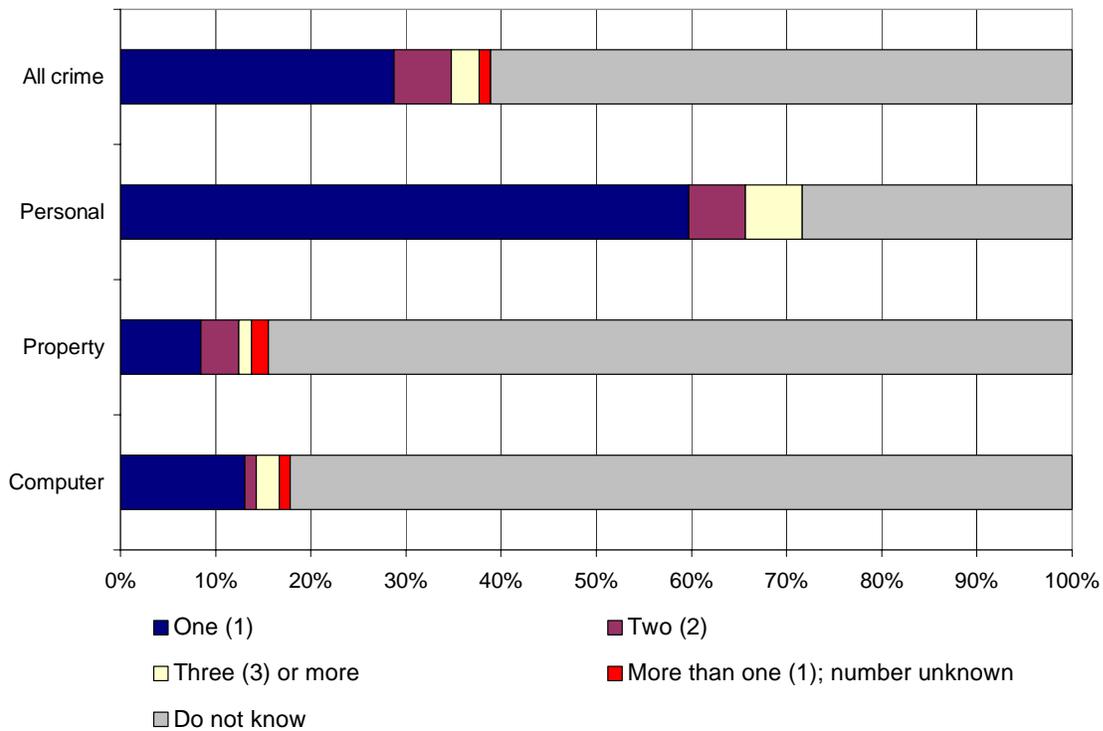
offender(s). Furthermore, not a single respondent reported that their spouse was the offender; and less than one percent of incidents where the offender(s) was known was reportedly an ex-spouse of the victim. Although the IL-CVS team made every effort to ensure that responses were completely confidential, and never linked respondents to potentially identifying information, respondents may have still been reluctant to report victimizations when the offender was a family member, particularly a family member living in the same household. Victims of such crimes may have also been unsure about whether the incident was actually a crime.

Number of offenders

Respondents were also asked how many offenders were involved in each victimization incident. Respondents knew this information for 39 percent of all reported incidents (Figure 34). Not surprisingly, few respondents knew the number of offenders that committed computer and property crime victimizations (18 and 16 percent respectively). However, respondents could report the number of offenders for 72 percent of the personal crime incidents. This pattern was similar for other offender characteristics presented later in this section.

Figure 34

Victimization incidents by number of offenders and crime type, 2002



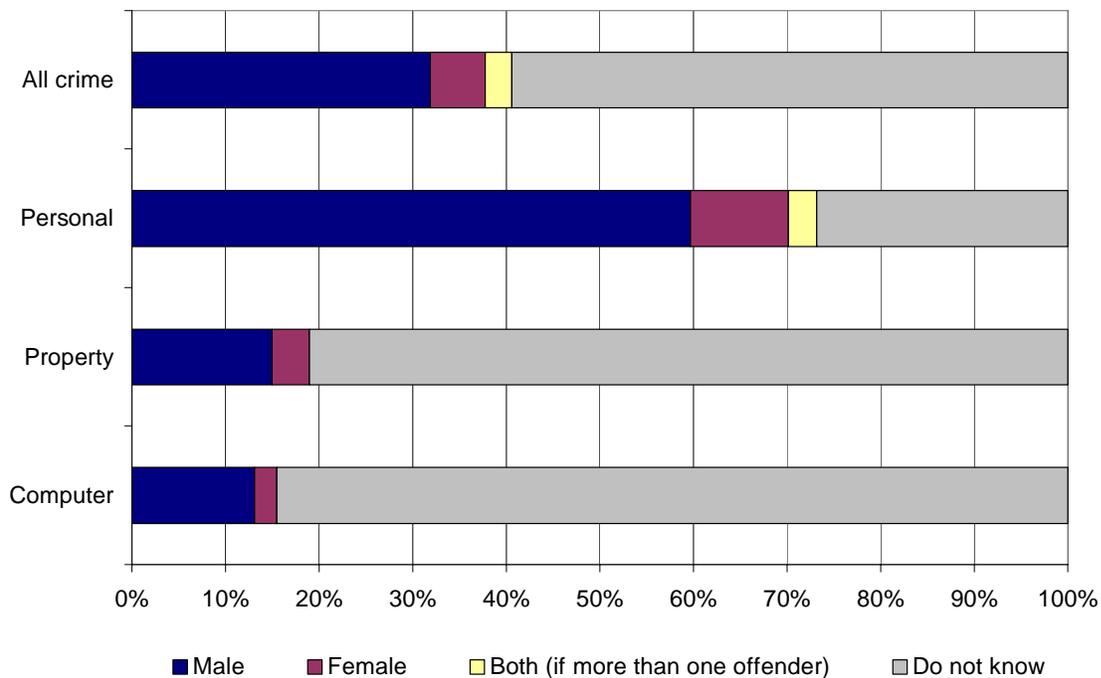
Of the 225 incidents for which the number of offenders was known, 74 percent involved just one offender. Another 16 percent involved two offenders, 8 percent were committed by three or more offenders, and the small number of remaining incidents involved more than one offender, but the respondent did not know the exact number.

Gender

Again, respondents did not know the gender of the offender(s) for most (59 percent) of the victimization incidents (Figure 35). Of the 243 incidents where this information was known, 79 percent were committed by males, and 14 percent were committed by females. The remaining 7 percent of incidents were committed by both males and females. Males committed 85 percent of computer crime incidents, 82 percent of personal crime, and 79 percent of property crime. Females were more likely to commit property crime compared to computer and personal crime. Of incidents for which the offender's gender was known, female offenders committed 21 percent of property crime compared to 14 percent of personal crime and just 2 percent of computer crime.

Figure 35

Victimization incidents by offender gender and crime type, 2002

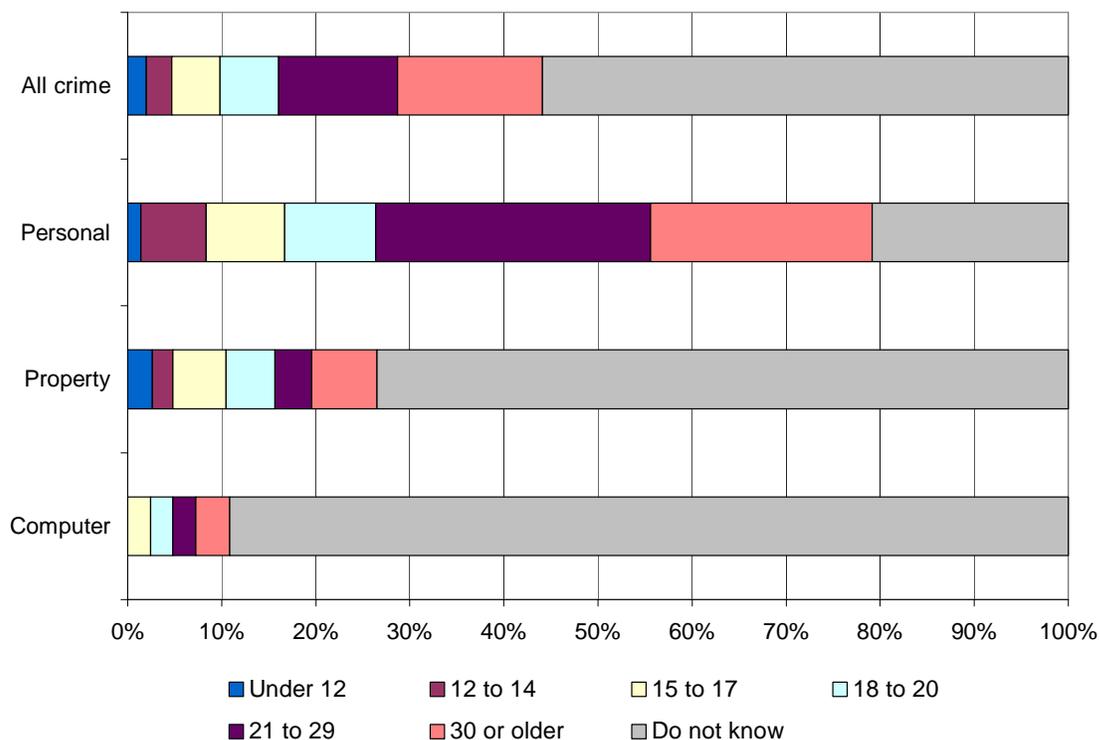


Age

Respondents were able to report the approximate age of the offender for 264 incidents (44 percent of incidents) (Figure 36). Of these incidents, the greatest number were committed by offenders who were 30 years of age or older (35 percent). This was followed by offenders between the ages of 21 and 29 (29 percent). Nearly 11 percent were age 14 or younger; another 12 percent were between ages 15 and 17; and 14 percent were between ages 18 and 20.

Figure 36

Victimization incidents by offender age group and crime type, 2002



Offenders age 14 or younger were more likely to commit property crime (18 percent) compared to personal crime (11 percent). Offenders between ages 15 and 20 committed a substantial portion of property crime—41 percent of incidents for which the age of the offender(s) was known. Personal crime victimizations were most often committed by offenders

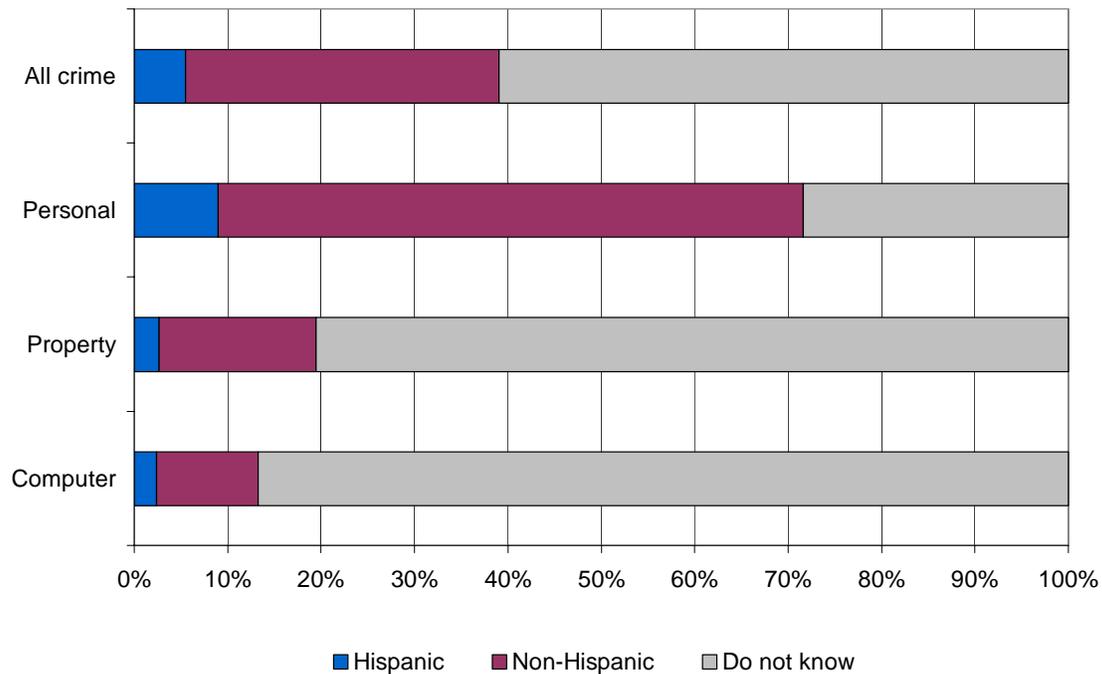
between ages 21 and 29, accounting for 37 percent of all personal crime for which the age of the offender(s) was known.

Ethnicity

Respondents reported whether they believed the offender(s) was of Hispanic origin in 39 percent of victimization incidents (Figure 37). Of these victimizations, Hispanic offenders committed 14 percent, and non-Hispanic offenders committed the other 86 percent. Again, of only those victimizations where the offender's ethnicity was known by the victim, Hispanic offenders committed 13 percent of property crime victimizations, 14 percent of property crime victimizations, and 18 percent of computer crime victimizations.

Figure 37

Victimization incidents by whether or not the offender was of Hispanic origin and crime type, 2002

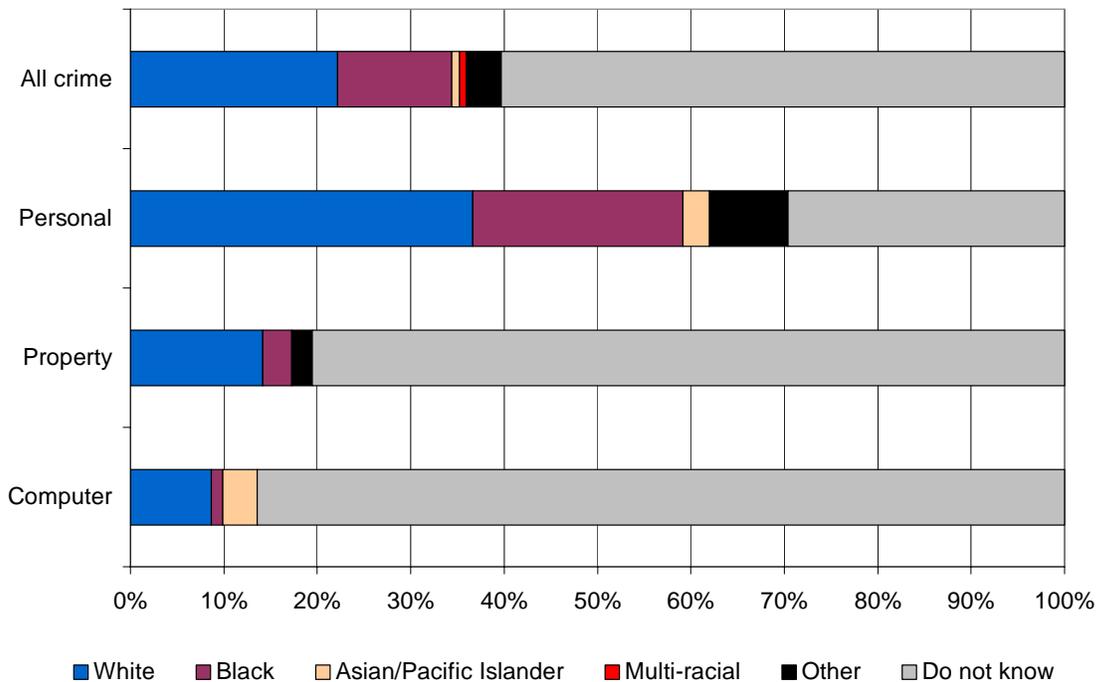


Race

Respondents were able to report the race of the offender for 40 percent of victimization incidents (Figure 38). Of these 231 incidents, more than half (56 percent) were committed by white offenders, and less than one-third (31 percent) were committed by black offenders. Ten (10) percent of incidents were committed by offenders of “other” races, and the remaining number of incidents were committed by Asian/Pacific Islanders and offenders of multiple races. It should be noted that when the 32 victimization incidents committed by Hispanic offenders were analyzed, most of these incidents were reported as “other” with regard to race, suggesting that respondents may not have realized that Hispanics can also be black, white, or of another race.

Figure 38

Victimization incidents by offender race and crime type, 2002

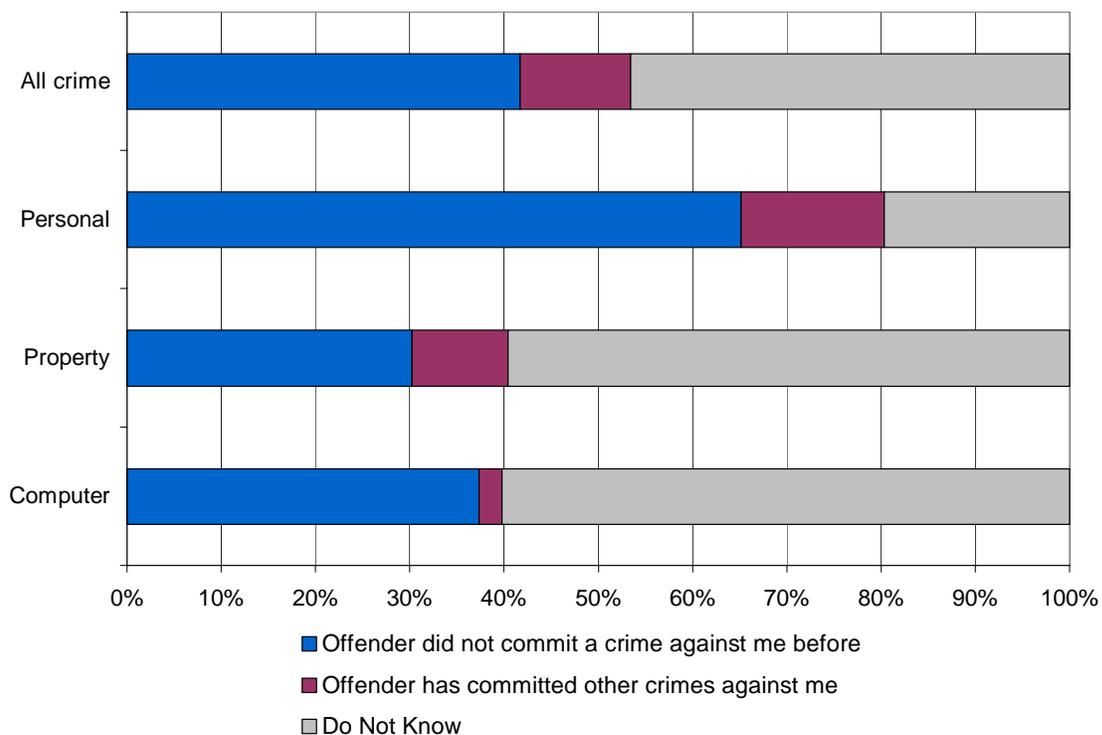


Offenders who victimize the same victim more than once

Respondents were able to report whether the offender had committed any crime against them in the past for about half of victimizations (53 percent) (Figure 39). Of incidents where this information was known, 22 percent were committed by an offender(s) who had previously committed a crime against the victim. This was most often the case with property crime; 25 percent of property victimizations were committed by an offender(s) who had previously victimized the respondent. This happened least often with computer crime (6 percent).

Figure 39

Victimization incidents by whether the offender committed a crime against the same victim and crime type, 2002

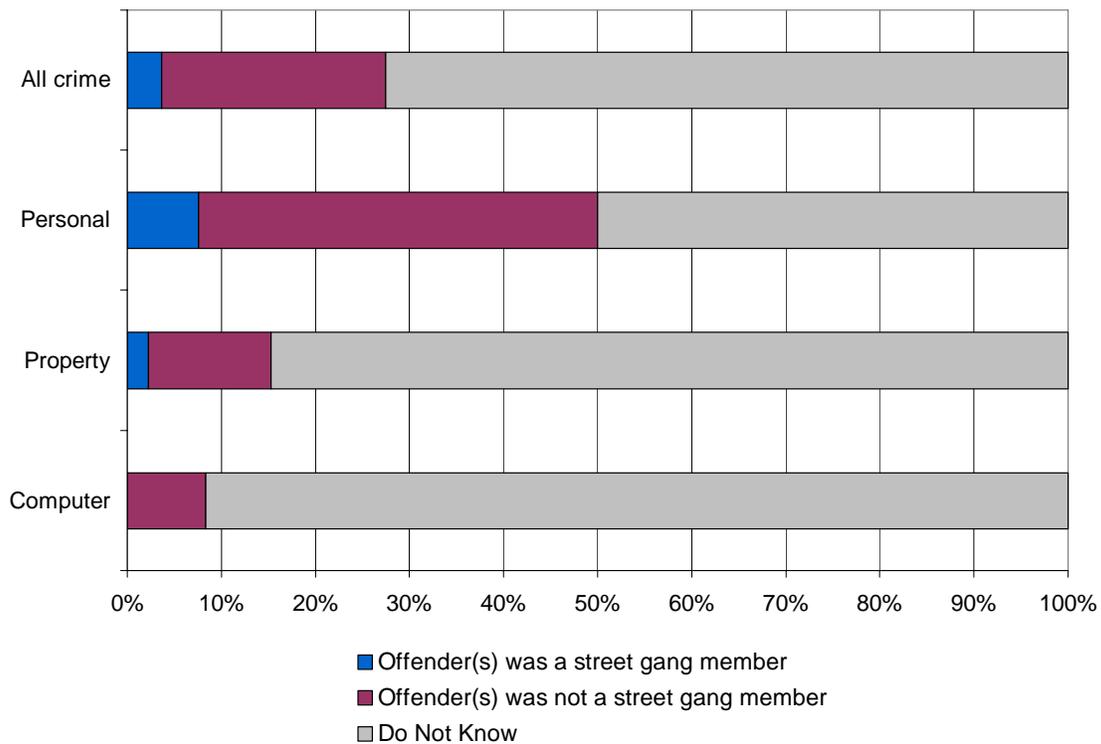


Gang membership

The last question regarding offender characteristics asked respondents whether or not they knew if the offender(s) was a gang member. Respondents knew the least information regarding this topic; it was known for just 27 percent of victimizations (Figure 40). Of these 158 incidents, 13 percent of victimizations were committed by an offender(s) who the victim believed was a gang member. This percentage was similar for property and personal crime, 15 percent of both types of crime were committed by street gang members (among only those incidents for which this was known). No computer crime victimizations were reportedly committed by gang members.

Figure 40

Victimization incidents by whether or not the offender was a gang member and crime type, 2002



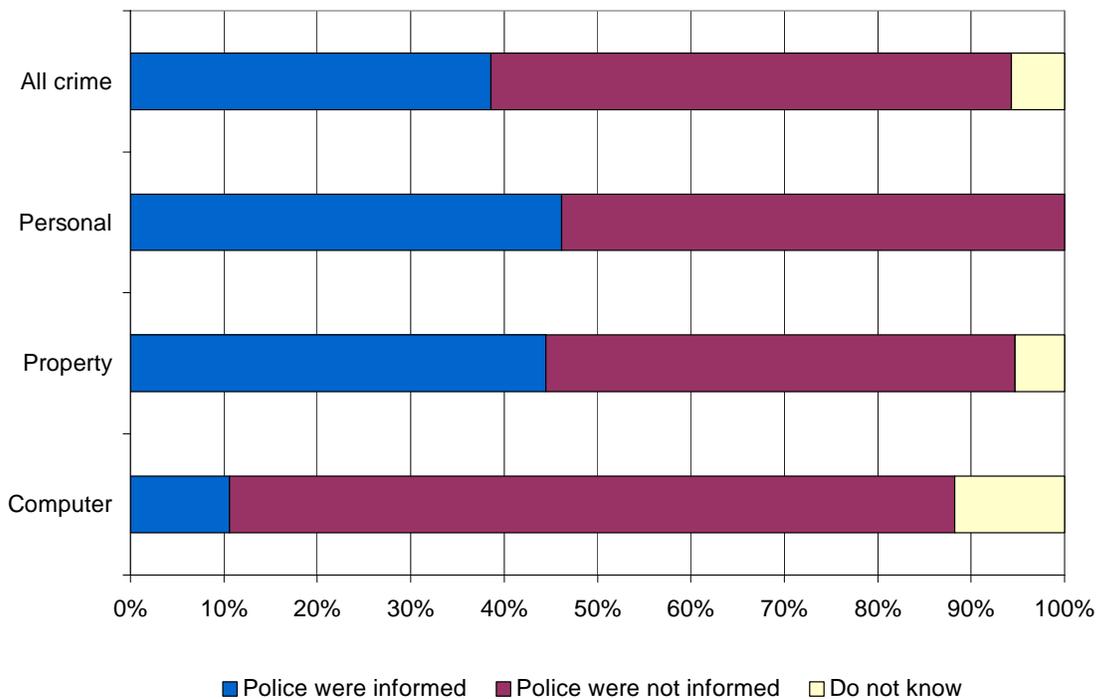
VII. Crime victimization reported to police

Extent of reporting to police

Thirty-nine (39) percent of victimization incidents reported by respondents came to the attention of law enforcement (Figure 41). This percentage was higher for personal and property crime (46 and 45 percent respectively), and lower for computer crime (11 percent). The type of property crime most often reported to police was vandalism at 50 percent, followed closely by completed or attempted motor vehicle theft or theft from a motor vehicle (47 percent). The type of property crime reported to police least often was completed or attempted theft at 41 percent. Robbery was the most likely personal crime to be reported to police at 60 percent, while sex crime was the least likely personal crime to be reported to police at 39 percent.

Figure 41

Victimization incidents by whether or not they were reported to police and crime type, 2002

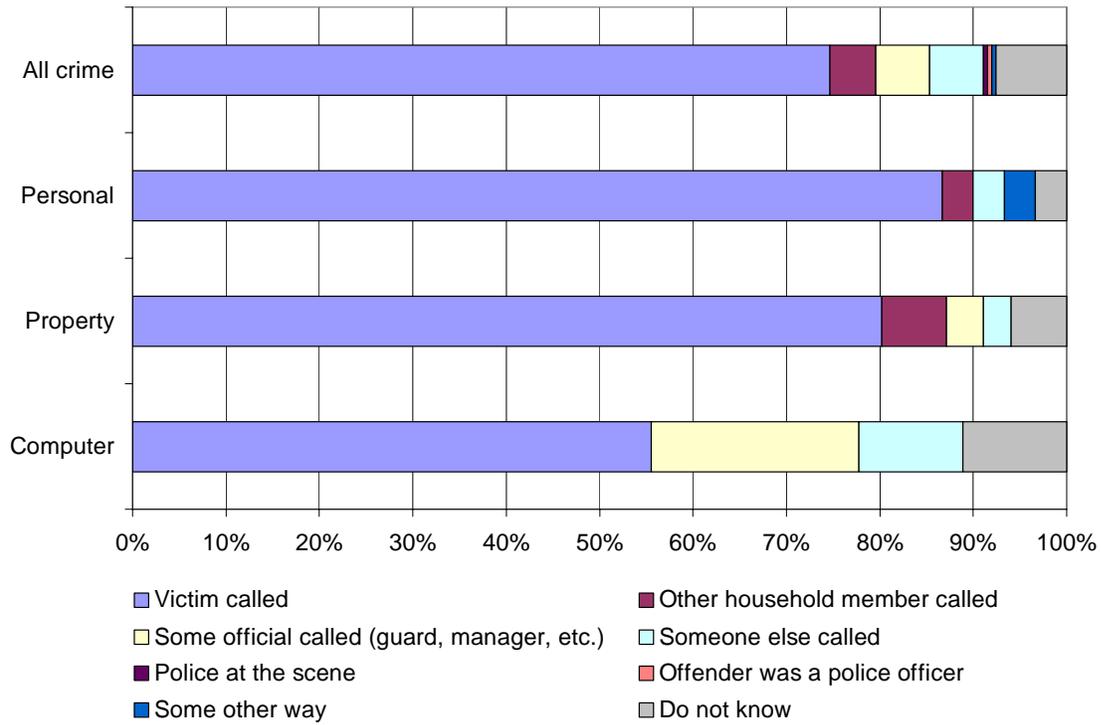


How victimizations are reported to police

For the majority of incidents that came to the attention of law enforcement, the victim contacted police. This was the most common method for all types of victimization, but occurred most often with personal crime and least often with computer crime (Figure 42).

Figure 42

Victimization incidents reported to police by method of reporting and crime type, 2002



Reasons for reporting or not reporting

Respondents most frequently stated that they reported the incident to police “to stop the offender from committing more crimes against anyone” (Table 2). Fifty-nine (59) percent of respondents indicated this as a reason why they reported their victimization to police. This was the most common reason stated for victims of both personal and property crimes. Other frequently cited reasons for reporting to police were: “to prevent further crimes against [themselves] or anyone else in their household” (48 percent); “to catch the offender” (48 percent), and “to stop or prevent this incident from happening” (47 percent).

Table 2

Percent of respondents who stated different reasons for reporting victimization incidents to police by crime type*, 2002**

| Reason for reporting to police | Property | Personal | All crime |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| To stop or prevent this incident from happening | 45.6% | 46.7% | 47.2% |
| To get help after the incident due to injury | - | 3.3% | 1.0% |
| To recover property | 51.1% | 40.0% | 42.2% |
| To collect insurance | 24.4% | 13.3% | 17.6% |
| To prevent further crimes against myself or anyone in my household | 47.8% | 40.0% | 48.2% |
| To stop this offender from committing other crimes against anyone | 55.6% | 63.3% | 59.3% |
| To punish the offender | 36.7% | 36.7% | 37.7% |
| To catch the offender | 52.2% | 56.7% | 47.7% |
| To improve police surveillance of my home or area | 46.7% | 30.0% | 36.2% |
| Felt a sense of duty to let police know about the crime | 45.6% | 46.7% | 44.2% |
| Other reason | 3.3% | 26.7% | 11.1% |

* Computer crime is not included in Table 2 because only five incidents were reported to police.

** Percentages will sum to more than 100 percent because respondents could select as many reasons they felt applied.

There was less consensus among victims regarding the reasons why they did not report victimizations to police (Table 3). The most common reason cited was that the incident was “a minor or unsuccessful crime.” Thirty-four (34) percent of those respondents who decided not to report their victimization to police cited this as a reason for not doing so. This percentage was higher among victims of property crime (46 percent). The most common reason cited among

personal crime victims was that the victimization was “a private or personal matter or took care of it informally” (34 percent). The next most common reasons provided for not reporting their victimizations to police were: “could not identify the offender or did not have enough proof” (21 percent); “police would not have enough evidence to arrest an offender” (19 percent), and the “crime was a private or personal matter or they took care of it informally” (17 percent).

Table 3

Percent of respondents who stated different reasons for NOT reporting victimization incidents to police by crime type, 2002*

| Reason for NOT reporting to police | Computer | Property | Personal | All crime |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Police were informed of this by someone else | 5.3% | 5.0% | - | 5.1% |
| Reported the incident to another official | 10.7% | 5.0% | 2.9% | 8.7% |
| Was a private or personal matter or took care of it myself or informally | 18.7% | 7.4% | 34.3% | 16.9% |
| Was minor or an unsuccessful crime, small or no loss, recovered property | 32.0% | 46.3% | 22.9% | 33.8% |
| Offenders were children | - | 3.3% | - | 2.5% |
| Was not sure if incident was a crime | 22.7% | 5.0% | 20.0% | 12.7% |
| No insurance or loss less than deductible | - | 15.7% | - | 6.2% |
| Did not find out until it was too late | 5.3% | 23.1% | 2.9% | 12.1% |
| Could not recover or identify property | - | 13.2% | 2.9% | 5.6% |
| Could not find or identify the offender or did not have enough proof | 20.0% | 27.3% | 20.0% | 21.4% |
| Police would not have enough evidence to arrest an offender | 8.0% | 27.3% | 14.3% | 19.2% |
| Police would not think it was important enough, or did not want to be bothered or get involved | 8.0% | 23.1% | 14.3% | 16.3% |
| Police would be inefficient or ineffective | 4.0% | 6.6% | 8.6% | 7.6% |
| Police would be biased and/or they might have harassed or insulted | - | 0.8% | - | 2.3% |
| Offender was a police officer | - | - | 2.9% | 1.1% |
| Did not want to get the offender in trouble | - | 0.8% | 5.7% | 3.1% |
| Advised not to report this to police | 1.3% | - | 2.9% | 0.6% |
| Afraid of reprisal by the offender or others | - | 1.7% | 17.1% | 5.4% |
| Did not want to or could not take the time, too inconvenient | 4.0% | 7.4% | 2.9% | 6.5% |
| Other reason | 26.7% | 6.6% | 8.6% | 13.8% |

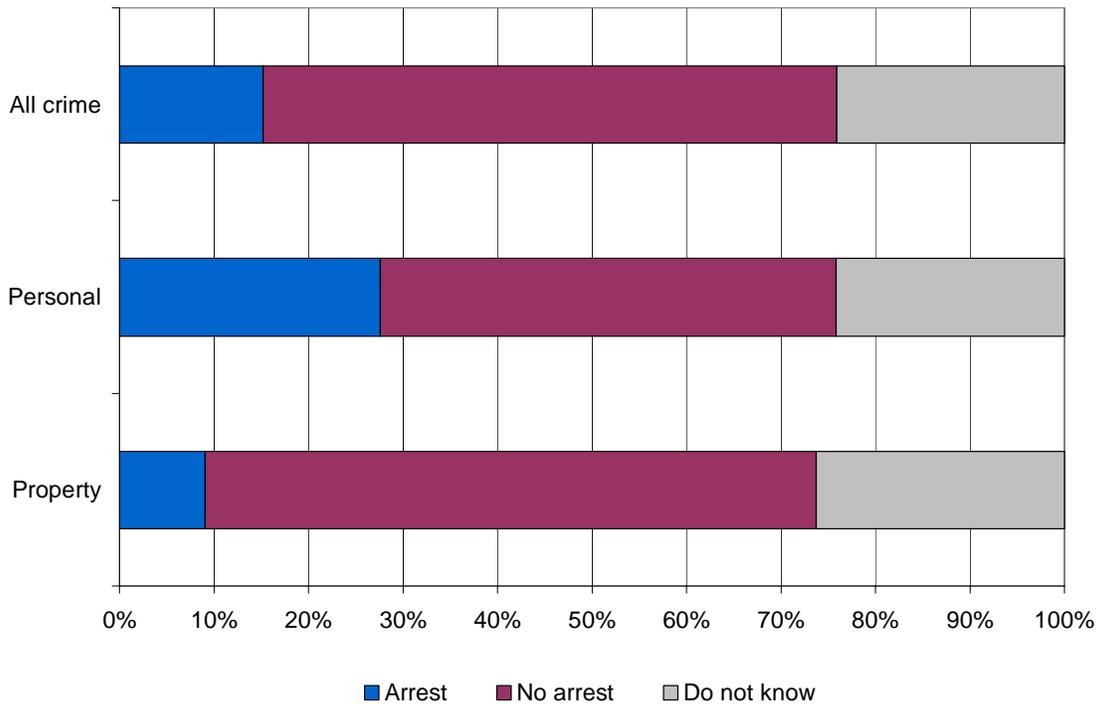
* Percentages will sum to more than 100 percent because respondents could select as many reasons they felt applied.

Police response

This study's findings indicated that less than four in ten victimization incidents actually came to the attention of police, and an even fewer number resulted in an arrest in 2002. Of the 225 incidents that came to the attention of law enforcement, 15 percent (34 incidents) resulted in an arrest (Figure 43). This percentage was somewhat higher for personal crime (28 percent), but lower (9 percent) for property crime.

Figure 43

Victimization incidents reported to police by whether or not an arrest was made and crime type,* 2002



* Computer crime is not included in Figure 43 because only five incidents were reported to police.

VIII. Public knowledge and utilization of crime victim services

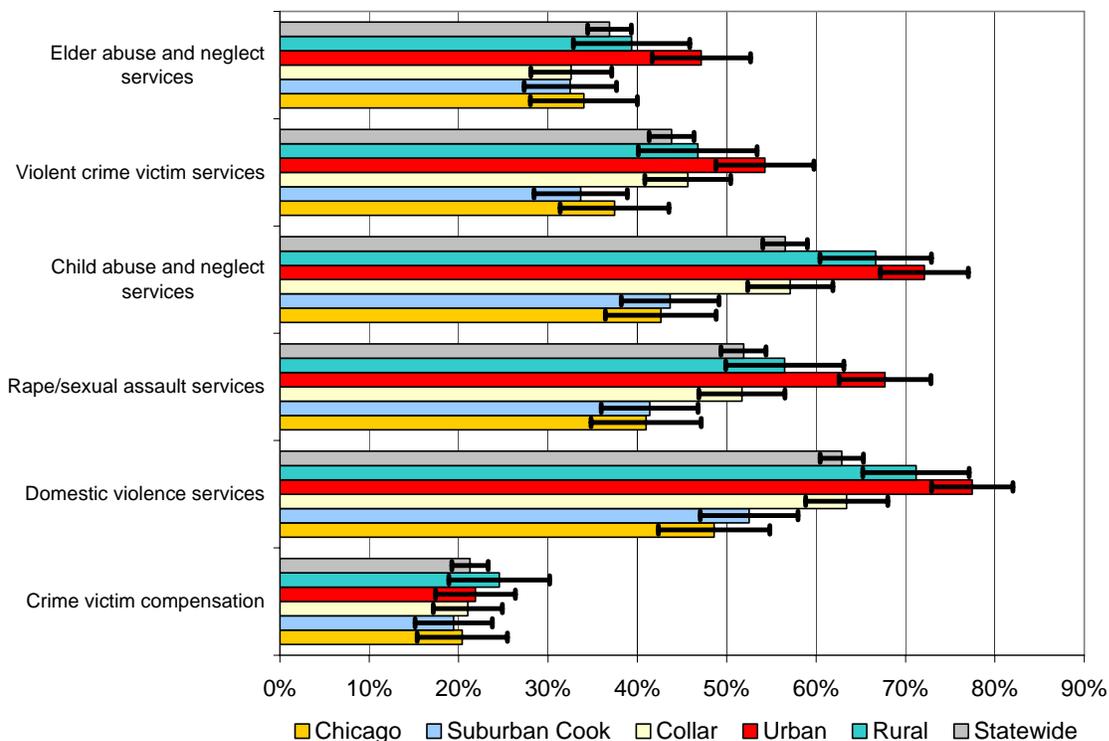
The IL-CVS helped shed light on how knowledgeable Illinois residents are of crime victim services in their communities, as well as the extent to which crime victims were informed of services and whether they utilized them.

Public knowledge

All respondents (victims and non-victims) who completed the survey were asked whether they were aware of specific crime victim resources. Residents were most aware of domestic violence services in their community (62 percent), followed by child abuse and neglect services (57 percent) (Figure 44). Only one in five respondents (21 percent) reported an awareness of crime victim compensation.

Figure 44

Estimated percentages of residents who were aware of crime victim resources by type of resource and region, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 2.0 to +/- 6.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

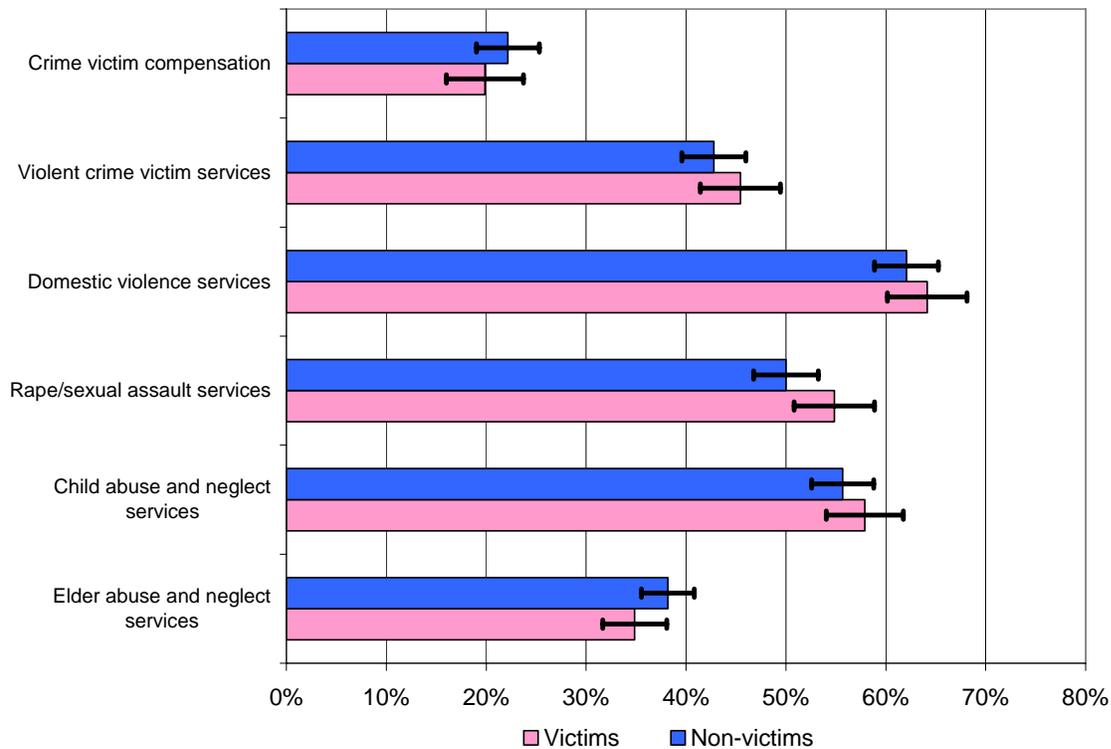
When public knowledge of crime victim resources was examined by region, residents from urban counties outside the Chicago metropolitan area appeared to be the most knowledgeable about crime victim resources with the exception of crime victim compensation. The percentages of residents from the urban counties who were aware of the other types of services available to crime victims were significantly higher than those for the state and most of the other regions. Residents from Cook County (both Chicago and suburban Cook County) were the least knowledgeable about crime victim resources. All regions were statistically similar regarding residents' knowledge of crime victim compensation.

Knowledge of victims versus non-victims

Analyses also compared victims and non-victims regarding their knowledge of victim resources. However, only one significant difference was noted between the two groups, and this was in reference to knowledge of rape/sexual assault services. Fifty-five (55) percent of victims knew of rape/sexual assault services that were available in their community, compared to 50 percent of non-victims (Figure 45). The two groups were statistically similar among all other types of victim resources analyzed.

Figure 45

Estimated percentages of residents who were aware of crime victim resources by whether or not they were victimized, 2002



Standard errors for each estimate (indicated by the black error bars) range from +/- 2.6 to +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Utilization of crime victim services

The IL-CVS also asked those respondents who were victimized whether or not they were informed about resources for crime victims. Of the 225 incidents that were brought to the attention of law enforcement, respondents reported that they were informed of victim services in 11 percent of incidents. This percentage was higher for personal crimes (16 percent), and lower for property and computer crimes (9 percent combined).

Few victims responding to the survey reported that they utilized crime victim services from either the criminal justice system or a private, nonprofit agency. Of the 390 victims who answered questions regarding use of victim services, 15 (4 percent) reported receiving victim services. Of the 156 personal crime victims who answered questions regarding use, 11 (7

percent) reported to receive these services. Thus, the IL-CVS data did not offer any useful information regarding the extent to which victims who did utilize services found them helpful.

IX. Computer crime

A separate section was included about computer crime victimization in this report, because the IL-CVS asked victims of computer crime additional questions specific to this type of victimization. A summary of their responses to these questions are described in this section.

A total of 254 respondents (16 percent) indicated they were a victim of computer crime during the year 2002. When only respondents who used a computer for personal use during 2002 are considered (63 percent or 1,015 respondents), this percentage increased to 25 percent. These 254 victims reported a total of at least 548 incidents,²⁴ averaging more than two incidents per victim.

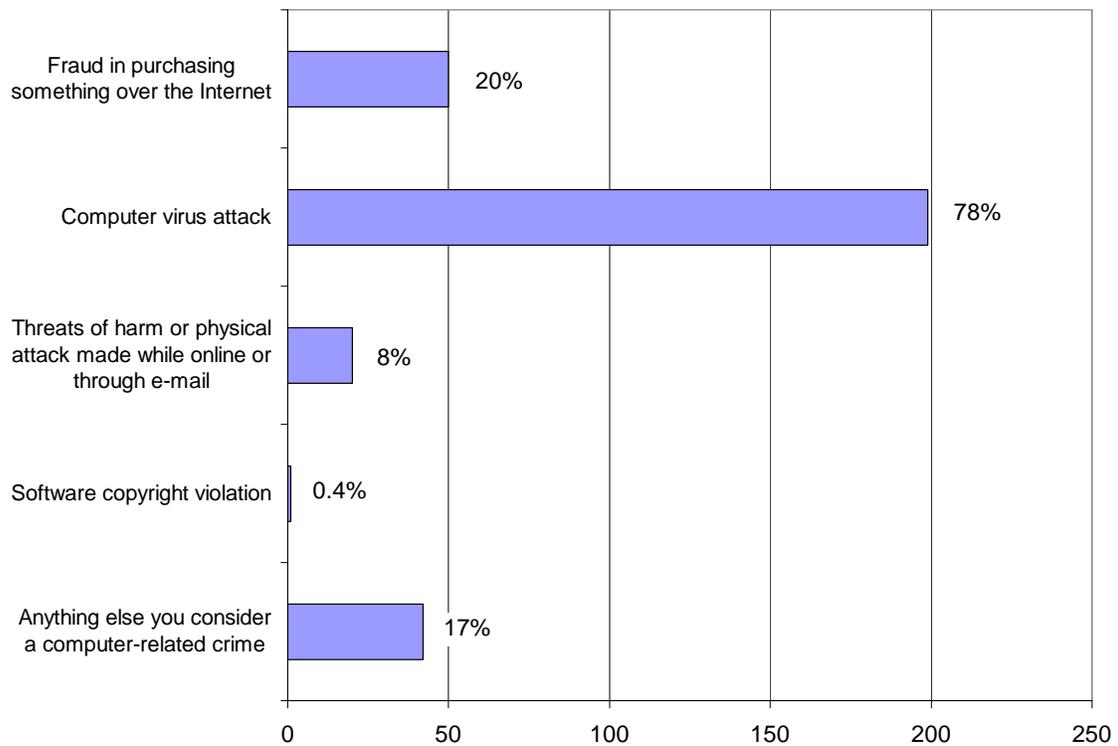
The instrument also asked respondents whether they had been victims of one of the following five types of computer crime: 1) fraud in purchasing something over the Internet; 2) a computer virus attack (excluding virus attacks at a respondent's employment unless he or she was self-employed); 3) threats of harm or physical attack made while online or through e-mail; 4) software copyright violations (only in connection with a respondent's business); and, 5) anything else the respondent considered a computer-related crime.

By far, the most common type of computer crime victimization reported by these respondents was a computer virus attack. Seventy-eight (78) percent of computer crime victims reported they had experienced a virus attack during 2002 (Figure 46). The next most common types of computer victimizations were fraud in purchasing something over the Internet (20 percent) and other incidents that respondents considered to be computer crimes (17 percent). Eight (8) percent of computer crime victims reported that they were threatened while online or through e-mail.

²⁴ Respondents were asked how many times the incident occurred. Options provided were 1, 2, 3, and 4 or more times.

Figure 46

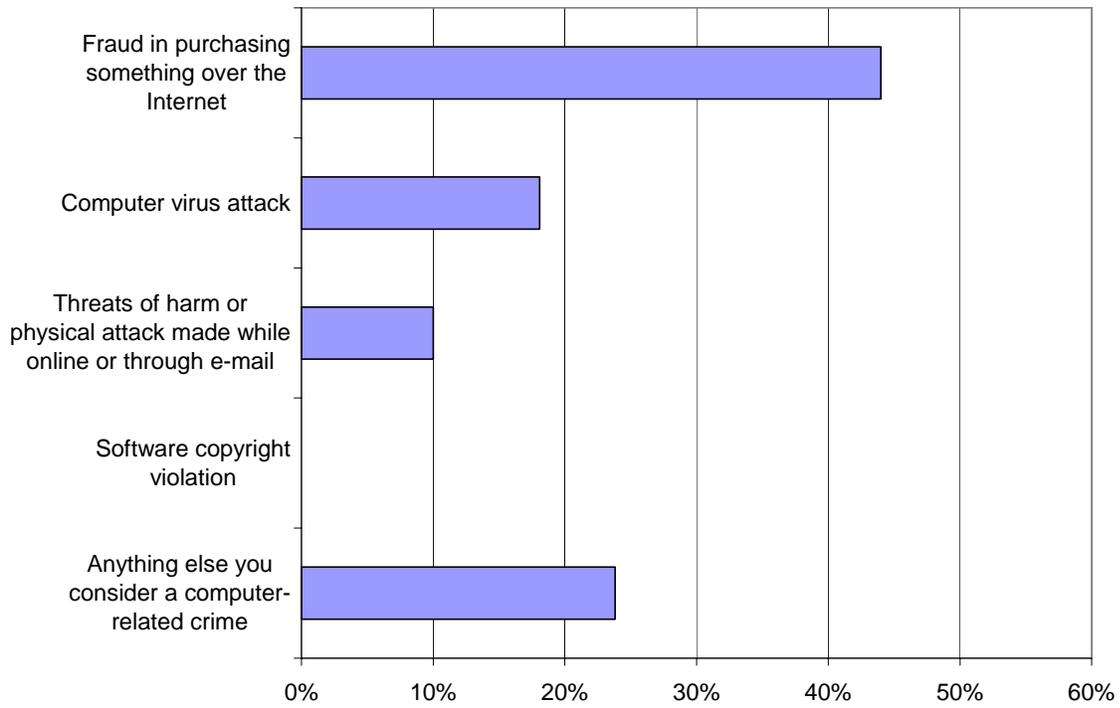
Number and percentage of computer crime victims by type of computer crime, 2002



Of the 254 respondents who were victims of computer crime, 19 percent suffered financial loss as a result of their victimization. Respondents who were victims of fraud in purchasing something over the Internet were most likely to experience financial loss. Forty-four (44) percent of them suffered financial loss as a result of the crime (Figure 47).

Figure 47

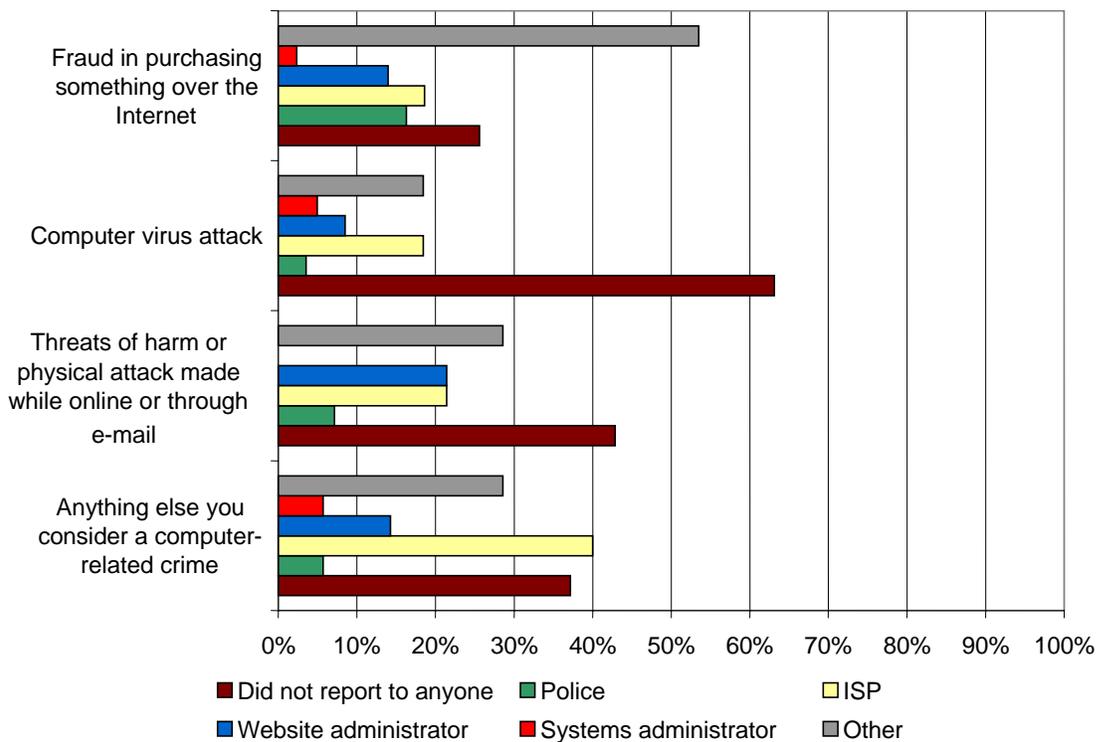
Percentage of computer crime victims who suffered financial loss as a result of the victimization by type of computer crime, 2002



The IL-CVS also asked computer crime victims to what authority (if any) they reported the incident. Of the 254 computer crime victims, only 72 percent answered this question. Of those who answered, 57 percent did not report the incident to anyone. Twenty (20) percent reported the incident to an Internet Service Provider (ISP); 8 percent reported to a website administrator; 4 percent to a systems administrator, and only 5 percent reported to police. One-quarter of victims reported the incident to other organizations.²⁵ When each type of computer crime was analyzed, victims of computer virus attacks were the least likely to report the incident to anyone (Figure 48). Victims of fraud were the most likely to report the incident to some organization, including the police.

Figure 48

Computer crime victims by whether or not they reported the incident to some authority, type of authority the incident was reported to, and type of computer crime, 2002



²⁵ The sum of percentages is greater than 100 percent, because respondents could indicate more than one response.

X. Hate crime

The IL-CVS asked victims of hate crime about their beliefs as to why they were targeted. A summary of their responses are provided in this section. Statistical tests of significance were not conducted to compare differences of hate crime victims and other crime victims because the number of hate crime victims was so low (18). Moreover, such a low sample size made it extremely difficult for characteristics of hate crime victims to meet the criteria of of even being substantially different—that differences in characteristics were not due to just a few individuals.

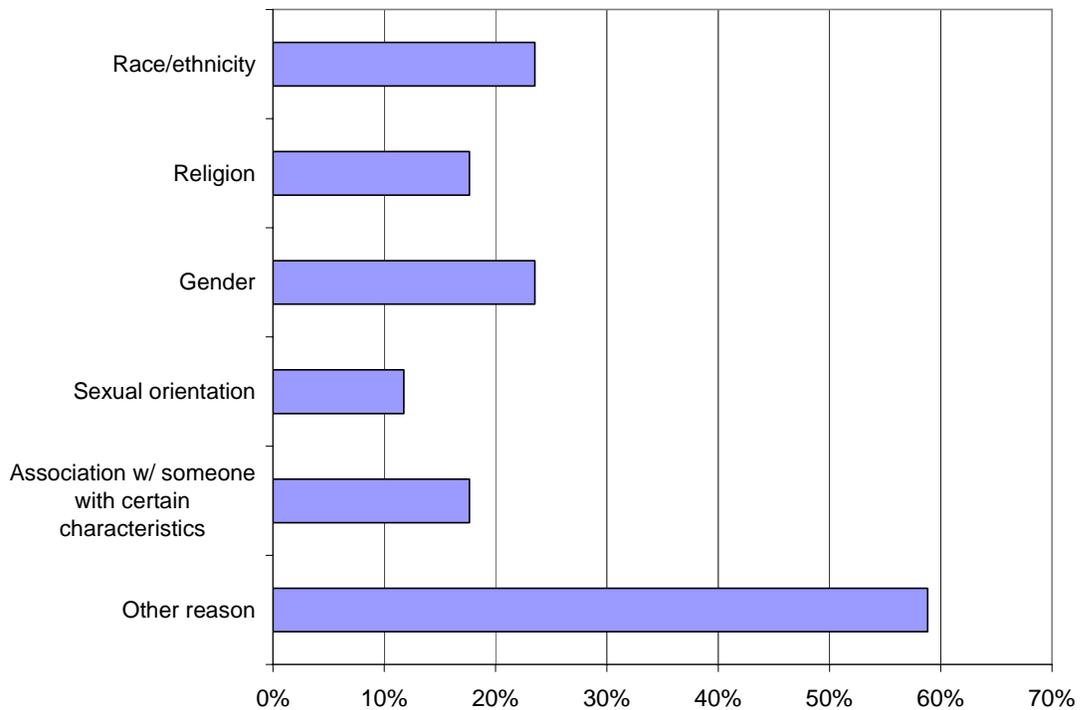
As indicated in Figure 1 (page 20), it was estimated that 1 percent of Illinois residents age 18 or older was a victim of hate crime in 2002. The 18 respondents indicated they were a victim of at least 36 incidents²⁶ of hate crime—averaging 2 incidents per victim. When characteristics of hate crime victims were compared to those of other crime victims, only one difference was worth noting. Hate crime victims had a fairly higher percentage of residents who were of a non-white race (35 percent) compared to non-victims (14 percent).

²⁶ Respondents were asked how many times the incident occurred. Options provided were 1, 2, 3, and 4 or more times.

Most hate crime victims (17) indicated why they suspected they were targeted. Ten of the 17 victims (59 percent) indicated “other reasons” as a response for why they suspect they were targeted (Figure 49). The most common specific reasons for which victims suspected they were targeted were race/ethnicity and gender. For each characteristic; four of 18 victims cited one or both reasons as to why they were targeted.

Figure 49

Hate crime victims by suspected reason for targeting, 2002



XI. Sex crime

Again, because the number of sex crime victims was so low (21), significance tests were not conducted and it was difficult to determine how characteristics of sex crime victims were substantially different than those of other crime victims. As indicated in Figure 1 (page 20), it was estimated that 1 percent of Illinois residents age 18 or older was a sex crime victim in 2002. At least 38 sex crime incidents²⁷ were reported by these 21 respondents. Of the 11 victims who completed an incident report, seven were sexually assaulted or raped,²⁸ two additional respondents reported they were victims of attempted sexual assault, and another two reported they were forced or coerced to engage in other sexual activity. Among the 14 sex crime victims who provided information about how well they knew the offender(s), nine knew the offender well, five knew the offender casually, and only two did not know the offender. This suggests that compared to other types of victims, sex crime victims are more likely to be victimized by someone they know.

²⁷ Respondents were asked how many times the incident occurred. Options provided were 1, 2, 3, and 4 or more times.

²⁸ Sexual assault (or rape) refers to forced or coerced vaginal, oral, or anal penetration such as sexual intercourse, oral sex, or inserting objects.

Despite the small number of sex crime victims, a few characteristics appeared to differ substantially from those of other crime victims. Table 4 contains data on these characteristics for sex crime victims and other crime victims. Compared to other crime victims, victims of sex crime appeared:

- More likely to be female;
- Less likely to be married;
- Less likely to own a home and more likely to live with parents, friends, or family;
- More likely to be between 18 and 24 years old; and
- More likely to have an annual household income of less than \$35,000.

Table 4

Sex crime victims compared to other crime victims by characteristics where differences were noted, 2002

| Characteristic | Sex crime victims | Other crime victims |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Gender</i> | | |
| Female | 72.7% | 58.4% |
| <i>Marital status</i> | | |
| Married | 23.8% | 62.3% |
| <i>Living status</i> | | |
| Owner | 38.1% | 71.3% |
| Live with parents, friends, or family | 23.8% | 7.2% |
| <i>Age group</i> | | |
| Age 18-24 | 28.6% | 7.7% |
| <i>Annual household income</i> | | |
| Less than \$35,000 | 57.1% | 34.0% |

XII. Domestic crime

Analyses were also conducted to help describe victims of domestic crime in Illinois. As mentioned earlier in this report, domestic crime is defined as stated in the Illinois Domestic Violence Act,²⁹ which means a victim and offender can be related by any family or household member relationship. This includes persons related by blood or marriage (including former marriage), persons living in the same household (even if no family relationship exists), and persons who are (or were) in a dating relationship.

The IL-CVS revealed that 47 respondents were victims of crimes committed by a family or household member during 2002. Although the sample of domestic crime victims was slightly higher than those for hate and sex crime victims, the sample was still thought to be low for statistical tests.

²⁹ Illinois Domestic Violence Act, Definitions, page 4.

These 47 victims reported at least 89 incidents.³⁰ Fourteen (14) of these victims were victimized by intimate partners. Some characteristics of domestic crime victims appeared to be substantially different than those of other crime victims. Table 5 contains data on these characteristics. Compared to other crime victims, victims of domestic crime seemed:

- Less likely to be married and more likely to have never been married;
- More likely to live in a city;
- Less likely to own a home and more likely to live with parents, friends, or family;
- More likely to be between 18 and 34 years old;
- Less likely to be white and more likely to be black;
- Less likely to have a college degree;
- More likely to have an annual household income of less than \$20,000 and less likely to have an annual income of \$50,000 or more.

Table 5

Domestic crime victims compared to other crime victims by characteristics where differences were noted, 2002

| Characteristic | Domestic crime victims | Other crime victims |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Marital status</i> | | |
| Married | 44.7% | 62.3% |
| Never married | 36.2% | 21.5% |
| <i>Area of residence</i> | | |
| City | 45.7% | 31.1% |
| <i>Living status</i> | | |
| Owner | 54.5% | 71.4% |
| Live with parents, friends, or family | 15.9% | 7.2% |
| <i>Age group</i> | | |
| Age 18-34 | 42.2% | 28.7% |
| <i>Race</i> | | |
| White | 68.1% | 83.1% |
| Black | 25.5% | 9.2% |
| <i>Highest level of education completed</i> | | |
| Less than a college degree | 82.6% | 60.7% |
| <i>Annual household income</i> | | |
| Less than \$20,000 | 40.0% | 17.9% |
| \$50,000 or more | 17.8% | 48.6% |

³⁰ Respondents were asked how many times the incident occurred. Options provided were 1, 2, 3, and 4 or more times.

XIII. Summary of findings

Extent of crime victimization statewide

- 1) Nearly four in ten Illinoisans (39 percent) age 18 or older were victimized in 2002. These victims included:
 - Thirteen (13) percent of residents were victims of personal crime (robbery, assault and aggravated assault, and sex crime).
 - The most common type of personal crime victimization experienced by Illinois residents was assault and aggravated assault (9 percent combined or nearly one in ten residents).
 - One (1) percent of residents were victims of sex crime.
 - Three (3) percent of residents were victims of robbery.
 - Twenty-three (23) percent of residents were victims of property crime (motor vehicle theft, theft, burglary, and vandalism).
 - The most common type of property crime victimization was theft, experienced by 14 percent of residents.
 - Sixteen (16) percent of residents were victims of computer crime; this rate increased to 25 percent when only respondents who used a computer for personal use were considered. This means that one in four residents who used a computer experienced computer crime.
 - One (1) percent of residents were victims of hate crime.
 - Three (3) percent of residents were victimized by a family or household member (domestic crime).
 - Eleven (11) percent of residents were victimized by someone they knew.

Extent of crime victimization for Illinois regions

- 2) Chicago residents experienced the highest victimization rate among residents age 18 or older in 2002. Nearly half of Chicago residents (47 percent) were crime victims. Chicagoans were significantly more likely to be victimized compared to residents from any of the other four regions.
- 3) More than one in three residents age 18 or older from suburban Cook County, the collar counties, rural counties, and urban counties were victimized in 2002. Victimization rates were similar for these four regions, ranging between 35 and 37 percent.
- 4) Chicago residents had the highest personal victimization rate at 23 percent. Chicago's personal victimization rate was significantly higher than those for all other regions, which ranged between 8 and 12 percent.
- 5) Chicago also had the highest property victimization rate of 33 percent. Chicago's property victimization rate was significantly higher than all other regions, which ranged between 19 and 23 percent.
- 6) All five regions of the state experienced similar rates of computer crime, all with rates between 12 and 18 percent, or between 24 and 27 percent when considering only residents who used a computer.

- 7) Victimization rates for domestic crime and hate crime were statistically similar across all five regions.
- 8) Chicago had the highest victimization rate for crimes where the offender was somehow known to the victim (14 percent), which was significantly higher than rates for the collar counties and suburban Cook County (9 and 10 percent respectively).
- 9) Most of the sex crime victimization rates were statistically similar across regions, although the collar counties had a significantly lower rate (less than 1 percent) in comparison to the urban counties, suburban Cook County, and Chicago (2 percent each).
- 10) Chicago had the highest robbery rate (6 percent), which was significantly higher than those of all other regions. The rural counties' robbery rate (less than 1 percent) was significantly lower than robbery rates for all other regions.
- 11) Chicago had the highest rate of assault (12 percent), but was only significantly higher than the rate for the collar counties (5 percent) and suburban Cook County (7 percent).
- 12) Suburban Cook County had the highest victimization rate for motor vehicle theft at 3 percent, but it is not known whether this is significantly higher than other regions because the number of victimizations was too low to perform a test.
- 13) Chicago had the highest rate of theft from a motor vehicle (11 percent), but this rate was only significantly higher than the urban counties rate of 7 percent—the region with the lowest rate for theft from a motor vehicle.
- 14) Chicago had the highest rate of attempted motor vehicle theft/attempted theft from a motor vehicle (4 percent), and was significantly higher than rates of the collar and rural counties.
- 15) Chicago had the highest rate for both theft (21 percent) and attempted theft (7 percent), and was significantly higher than rates of both crimes for all other regions.
- 16) Chicago had the highest victimization rate for burglary among all five regions (13 percent), and was significantly higher than burglary rates than the four other regions, each ranging from 3 to 5 percent.
- 17) All regions except for suburban Cook County had victimization rates for vandalism that were statistically similar. Suburban Cook County's rate of 4 percent was significantly lower than those for all other regions.

Extent of crime victimization among subpopulations

18) The following subpopulations were statistically more likely than the general population to experience crime victimization (including computer crime) in 2002:

- Residents of Hispanic origin;
- Black residents;
- Residents age 34 or younger;
- Residents who completed some undergraduate college (without completing a bachelor's degree) *or* have completed post graduate coursework;
- Divorced residents or residents who were never married;
- Residents living with at least one child under 18 in the household;
- Residents with an annual income of less than \$10,000 *or* more than \$100,000;
- Residents who live in a city;
- Live in an apartment building;
- Residents who lived in their home for five years or less;
- Residents who rent their home;
- Employed residents;
- Students;
- Self-employed residents;
- Residents who work in a city; and
- Chicago residents.

Nature of victimization incidents

19) Most victimization incidents occurred at or near the victim's home, with the exception of personal crime, which was more likely than other types of victimization to occur away from the victim's home yet still within their residential community.

20) Personal and property crime victimizations were just as likely to occur during the day as they were at night. However, computer crime victimizations were more likely to occur during the day than at night.

21) Personal crime victimization most often occurred in commercial locations such as a store, restaurant, or office, while property crime victimization most often occurred near the victim's home. Computer crime victimization most frequently occurred in the victim's home.

22) The three most frequent activities victims were engaged in when they were victimized were: sleeping (most often for property crime); working or on duty (most often for personal crime); or other activities at home (most often for computer crime).

23) Of personal crime victimizations, 17 percent involved the use of weapons. The most common weapons used were blunt objects and handguns. Combined, these types of weapons were used in more than half of incidents that involved weapons.

24) For the 17 percent of victimizations where this information was known, nearly half of incidents were committed by offenders who were under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs during the victimization, most often alcohol.

25) Eight (8) percent of victimizations resulted in the victim being injured. When only personal crime victimizations are considered, this number increases to 29 percent.

26) Personal crime victims had the following characteristics that were significantly different from those of other crime victims. Personal crime victims were more likely than other crime victims to:

- Be of Hispanic origin;
- Be black;
- Be between ages 18 and 34;
- Be divorced or never married;
- Have less than a 12th grade education or completed a G.E.D;
- Have an annual household income of less than \$20,000;
- Have a disability;
- Live in a city;
- Live in an apartment building or a duplex;
- Have lived in their residence for less than one year; and
- Pay rent for their home or live with parents/friends/family.

27) Property crime victims had the following characteristics that were significantly different from those of other crime victims. Property crime victims were more likely than other victims to:

- Be of Hispanic origin;
- Be black;
- Be between ages 25 and 29, or 35 and 44;
- Be living in a household with at least one child under 18;
- Have less than a 12th grade education or completed high school;
- Have an annual household income between \$20,000 and \$49,999;
- Live in a city;
- Have lived in their residence for less than one year;
- Pay rent for their home; and
- Work in a city or a combination of different types of areas.

28) Computer crime victims had several characteristics that were significantly different, and often the exact opposite compared to characteristics of other crime victims. Findings suggested that computer crime victims were more likely than other crime victims to:

- Be non-Hispanic;
- Be white;
- Be between ages 45 and 54, or 65 or older;
- Be married;
- Have completed a bachelor's degree or post graduate coursework;
- Have an annual income above \$100,000;
- Speak English "very well";
- Live in a suburb;
- Live in a single family house;
- Own a home; and
- Be self-employed;

Characteristics of offenders

29) In 72 percent of victimizations, the victim did not know who the offender was or the offender was a stranger to the victim.

30) Of offenders that were known to the victim, the most frequent type of relationship reported was the offender was a casual acquaintance, closely followed by a dating or former dating relationship. A substantial portion of victimizations were also committed by neighbors.

31) Of victimizations for which this information was known, 74 percent of victimizations were committed by just one offender.

32) Of victimizations for which this information was known, 79 percent of victimization incidents were committed by male offenders.

33) Of victimizations for which the age of the offender was known, most were committed by young offenders, many of whom were minors. Twenty-three (23) percent of victimizations were committed by offenders under age 18, of which almost half of which were 14 or younger. Forty-three (43) percent of victimizations were committed by offenders between 18 and 29. Just 30 percent of victimizations were committed by offenders age 30 or older. Offenders under 21 were more likely than other offenders to commit property crime, whereas victims age 21 and older were more likely than other offenders to commit personal crime.

34) Offenders were of Hispanic origin in 14 percent of victimizations reported for which the ethnicity of the offender was known.

35) Of victimizations for which this information was known, 56 percent of incidents were committed by white offenders, and 31 percent involved black offenders, while the remaining incidents were committed by offenders of other or multiple races

36) Of victimizations for which this information was known, 22 percent were committed by an offender who had previously committed a crime against the same victim.

37) Of victimizations for which this information was known, 13 percent of victimizations were committed by someone who the victim believed was a gang member.

Victimizations reported to police

38) Thirty-nine (39) percent of victimization incidents were reported to police. This percentage was higher for personal and property crime (46 and 45 percent respectively), and lower for computer crime (11 percent).

39) The property crime most often reported to police was vandalism (50 percent), followed closely by completed or attempted motor vehicle theft or theft from a motor vehicle (47 percent). The property crime reported to police least often was completed or attempted theft at 41 percent.

40) Robbery was the most likely personal crime to be reported to police at 60 percent, while sex crime was the least likely personal crime to be reported to police at 39 percent.

41) Following are reasons most often cited as to why victims reported their victimization to police:

- To stop this offender from committing other crimes against anyone (59 percent)
- To prevent further crimes against myself or anyone in my household (48 percent)
- To catch the offender (48 percent)
- To stop or prevent this incident from happening (47 percent)
- Felt a sense of duty to let police know about the crime (44 percent)
- To recover property (42 percent)

42) Following are reasons most often cited as to why victims did not report their victimization to police:

- Was a minor or unsuccessful crime, small or no loss, recovered property (34 percent)
- Could not find or identify the offender or did not have enough proof (21 percent)
- Police would not have enough evidence to arrest an offender (19 percent)
- Was a private or personal matter or took care of it myself or informally (17 percent)
- Police would not think it was important enough, or did not want to be bothered or get involved (16 percent)

43) Fifteen (15) percent of incidents that were reported to police resulted in an arrest. This percentage was higher for personal crime incidents (28 percent) and lower for property crime incidents (9 percent).

Public knowledge and utilization of crime victim services

44) When respondents were asked about their awareness of crime victim services in their communities, they were most likely to be aware of domestic violence services (62 percent), followed closely by child abuse and neglect services (57 percent), and rape/sexual assault services (52 percent). Thirty-six (36) percent of respondents were aware of elder abuse and neglect services, and only 21 percent of respondents knew about crime victim compensation.

- 45) Residents from Cook County (Chicago and suburban Cook County) were less aware of crime victim services available in their communities than residents of other Illinois regions.
- 46) Generally, victims were no more knowledgeable than non-victims about crime victim services available in their communities.
- 47) Of victims who reported their victimization to police, 16 percent of personal crime victims and 8 percent of property crime victims were informed of crime victim services by police.
- 48) Few victims utilized crime victim services from either the criminal justice system or a private, nonprofit agency. Of the 390 victims who answered the questions regarding use of victim services, 15 (4 percent) reported receiving victim services. Of the 156 personal crime victims, 11 (7 percent) reported to receive these services.

Other findings about specific types of crime victimization

- 49) The most frequently reported type of computer crime experienced by residents was a computer virus attacks (excluding any attacks occurring at their place of employment unless it was related to their home business). Seventy-eight (78) percent of computer crime victims were victims of a computer virus attack.
- 50) Nineteen (19) percent of computer crime victims suffered financial loss as a result of their victimization, most often resulting from incidents of fraud in purchasing something over the Internet.
- 51) Of all hate crime victims responding to the IL-CVS (18 victims), “other reason” was most often selected (10 victims) as the suspected reason as to why victims were targeted. This reason was selected more often than race/ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and association with someone with certain characteristics. The most common specific reasons cited were race/ethnicity and gender (4 victims each).
- 52) Although the number of sex crime victims that reported their relationship with the offender was low, almost all of them (12 of 14) knew the offender who victimized them, and most knew the offender well (9 of 14).

XVI. Recommendations for future crime victimization surveys

- 1) Oversample in areas with higher population densities. When the IL-CVS response rates for each region were compared, response rates *decreased* as population density *increased*. Although this practice will help ensure the final sample will be more representative of the state's population, it will not alleviate non-response error.
- 2) Victimization surveys administered by mail should not use questions identical to those used in the NCVS. Even though NCVS questions use simple common language, the questions are probably too long and complicated for mail surveys. Questions from the NCVS should be used more as a guide as opposed to a model for developing questions suitable for a mail survey. Questions for a mail survey must be as short and simple as possible. One method of assessing an instrument's level of difficulty is to employ a "readability statistics" option. This tool, available in most word processing applications, automatically calculates the estimated reading grade level (between 1 to 12) by counting the number of words used per sentence and the number of syllables per word used. This test was conducted for all IL-CVS materials to ensure they scored a 6th grade reading level or lower. Thus, a subsequent survey should aim for a 4th grade reading level or lower.
- 3) Victimization surveys administered by mail should not require more than 30 minutes to complete, and the survey instrument should consist of few number of pages possible without impeding the instrument's readability (e.g. decreasing the font so small that it is difficult to read).
- 4) It's likely that the use of screening instruments and incident reports for the IL-CVS negatively affected the response rate and encouraged more missing data. New methods of gathering detailed information regarding specific victimizations should be developed. Perhaps future surveys could include only a few important questions from the incident report as contingency questions for each survey item that screens for crime victimization. Some of the detailed information must be compromised to improve response rates and reduce the amount of missing data.
- 5) Victimization surveys administered by mail could inform subjects that participation is voluntary, without stating it so prominently that it almost dissuades participation. This could increase response rate with little, if any, increased risk to subjects.
- 6) Conduct more formal, rigorous pretesting of mail survey instruments among a greater number of individuals with varying levels of education, cultures, and other demographic characteristics. Ask these individuals what specific items they found confusing, which items they felt did not provide an appropriate response for them, and which questions they were more hesitant to answer.
- 7) After pretesting the instrument with a substantial number of respondents, enter the data and conduct pilot analyses. This will help increase the validity of the survey by ensuring it measures what it was intended to measure.

- 8) New methods should be developed to better gauge the extent and nature of sex crime and domestic violence. The IL-CVS had was limited in its ability to measure these two crime types, and victimization rates for both types were less than expected. Although these rates should not be discounted, future studies might incorporate innovate methods to improve ability to measure these sensitive crimes.
- 9) ICJIA may want to consider employing other methods for surveying the public about crime victimization, such as phone interviews. Although this method is more expensive, phone interviews should yield higher response rates and less unknown information than mail surveys.
- 10) Identify improved methods to collect data from non-English speaking populations. Although the IL-CVS made Spanish versions of all survey materials and had a Spanish-speaking staff person available to respond to Spanish-speaking subjects, only 40 subjects contacted ICJIA to request these materials. This resulted in only a handful of completed Spanish versions of the survey. U.S. Census data collected in 2000 showed that 12 percent of Illinois' population was Spanish-speaking, of which half had limited English-speaking skills.
- 11) Many of the IL-CVS findings regarding the nature of victimization are consistent with those provided by the NCVS. Thus, ICJIA might benefit most by conducting state surveys more targeted to supplement existing knowledge. Additionally, this would help justify conducting a statewide survey every two to three years instead of annually. In the interim between state surveys, ICJIA can pair NCVS findings with the most recent IL-CVS findings. This practice would ensure existing resources are maximized without compromising our knowledge regarding the extent and nature of crime victimization in Illinois.

XV. Methodology

Sample source and plan

Through a Request For Proposals (RFP) process, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) selected Bronner Group, LLC to design the sampling plan and administer the survey. The plan included drawing a random sample of non-institutionalized Illinois residents age 18 or older. The sample sources were two databases maintained by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office: the driver's license database and the state identification card database. The driver's license database is the most comprehensive collection of Illinoisans age 18 or older. However, because not all Illinois residents possess a driver's license, Authority staff asked the Secretary of State's Office to draw 20 percent of the sample from the database of state identification cards. Bronner Group's project team performed a query of the database to remove any duplicate records to ensure the sample consisted of only unique individuals. The sample of 7,498 Illinois residents age 18 or older included: 1,915 Chicago residents; 1,594 residents from suburban Cook County; 1,781 residents from one of the five collar counties bordering Cook County; 1,398 residents from other urban counties in Illinois; and 810 residents of Illinois' rural counties.³¹

Mail methods

The primary reason the IL-CVS was administered by mail instead of using face-to-face or telephone interviews is cost. Telephone surveys are usually about three to four times more expensive than surveys administered by mail. Given this was Illinois' first effort at surveying the public about their experiences with crime victimization, and that other states had successfully administered crime victimization surveys by mail, the decision was made. Although telephone surveys result in larger response rates and allow for interviewers to clarify any misinterpretations

³¹ See Appendix III for definitions of Illinois regions and lists of counties that are included in each region.

of questions by respondents, mail surveys have advantages also. For one, mail surveys provide greater anonymity for respondents, which is particularly important for surveys that ask sensitive questions. Additionally, mail surveys provide greater consistency in soliciting responses compared to face-to-face or telephone surveys, because even trained interviewers will have different communication styles.

The IL-CVS mailing method was modeled after other mail-administered crime victimization surveys conducted in Minnesota³² and Hawaii.³³ Both states used five mail contacts described in the following sequence:

1. Brief introductory postcard
2. Survey packet including a cover letter
3. Reminder/thank you postcard
4. Replacement survey packet with a second cover letter
5. Final reminder/thank you postcard

Elements from the Tailored Design Method³⁴ were also used for the IL-CVS, including the mail contact sequence described above and the use of return envelopes with first-class stamps.

Between January 6 and March 28, 2003, five mailings were sent to individuals in the sample to obtain the best possible response rate. First, the introductory postcard was mailed to all 7,498 subjects in the sample to introduce the survey and its general purpose. The introductory postcard also allowed for screening of undeliverable addresses. Postcards that were returned with no forwarding address in Illinois were removed from the list of individuals to receive subsequent mail contacts. One week after the introductory postcards were mailed, the first survey packets were sent. The survey packets included a cover letter, an informed consent statement, the survey instrument, and a stamped return envelope. Three to four weeks later, reminder/thank you

³² Minnesota Planning. Keeping Watch: 1999 Minnesota Crime Survey. St. Paul, MN. March 2000.

³³ Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, Research & Statistics Branch. Crime and Justice in Hawaii: 1998 Household Survey Report. Honolulu, HI. December 1998.

³⁴ Dillman, Don A. Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, NY. 2000.

postcards were mailed to every subject who had not yet returned a completed survey. Two weeks later, a second survey packet was mailed to each non-respondent. Finally, two weeks after the second survey packets were sent, a final reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to each remaining subject who had not returned a survey.³⁵

Development of survey instrument

The IL-CVS instrument was modeled after the NCVS instrument, because the NCVS has been conducted annually for more than thirty years with relative success. The instrument has been administered to tens of thousands of respondents and was revised in 1992 after incorporating nearly two decades of lessons learned. Additionally, questions in the NCVS provide detailed cues in simple terms to define crime events, thereby encouraging respondents to report even if they were unsure whether a crime occurred. For example, one question intended to measure robbery asked, “Was something stolen from you that you were carrying, using, or wearing during the time of the incident, like luggage, a wallet, purse, or briefcase?” This question is then followed by additional cues to encourage respondents to think more broadly about their experiences, “like clothing, jewelry, or calculator,” and, “like a bicycle or sports equipment.”

Like the NCVS, the IL-CVS instrument contained screening questions (screening instrument) and incident-specific questions (incident report). The screening instrument included questions to collect information about the respondent and their household (e.g. demographics, annual household income), and to identify respondents who were victimized during 2002. If respondents experienced victimization in 2002, they were instructed to complete an incident report with incident-specific questions to gather details about each victimization experienced.

³⁵ See Appendices V through IX for all study materials mailed to subjects.

The survey instrument included four incident reports, so respondents could provide detailed information for up to four victimization incidents.

The IL-CVS included about half of the questions from the NCVS. Thirty-eight (38) questions were used for the screening instrument, and 22 incident-specific questions were included in each incident report. Not all the questions from the NCVS were used, because the NCVS is mostly administered using face-to-face interviews, and can thereby include more questions as an interviewer can keep a respondent engaged longer than a mail survey instrument. Questions from the NCVS that were selected for the IL-CVS were those thought to be most important toward understanding the extent and nature of crime victimization in Illinois. Although the questions were essentially the same, some of the wording was changed slightly so that they were more appropriate for a mail survey. In addition to the NCVS questions, three unique questions were developed for the IL-CVS instrument to help gauge public knowledge and utilization of resources for crime victims.

The IL-CVS measured the following property crimes: motor vehicle theft, theft from motor vehicle, attempted motor vehicle theft/theft from motor vehicle, theft, attempted theft, burglary (includes attempts), and vandalism. It measured the following personal crimes: robbery,³⁶ assault (includes aggravated assault), and sex crime.³⁷ The IL-CVS also measured prevalence of hate crime³⁸ and computer crime³⁹ committed against Illinoisans. Finally, the

³⁶ Robbery includes pick-pocketing and purse snatching.

³⁷ Sex crime includes sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, and other forced or coerced unwanted sexual activity.

³⁸ Hate crime includes any personal crime or vandalism committed against a respondent for reasons motivated by hate, prejudice, or bigotry.

³⁹ Respondents were provided the following descriptions to constitute computer crime: fraud in purchasing something over the Internet; computer virus attacks (excluding virus attacks at a respondent's employment unless they were operating a home business); threats of harm or physical attack made while on-line or through e-mail; software copyright violations in connection with a home business; and anything else the respondent considered a computer crime.

screening instrument included a question about domestic crime committed by a relative or family member.⁴⁰

To a lesser extent, the IL-CVS measured school and workplace victimization and other forms of domestic crime such as dating violence and elder abuse, or victimization committed by a non-relative living in the household (e.g. roommate, caretaker). Measuring these types of victimization relied on respondents' completion of incident reports, which was later realized to be more problematic than anticipated. Nearly one-third (31 percent) of the 607 respondents who reported victimization during the year 2002 did not complete a corresponding incident report. Furthermore, several respondents who experienced multiple victimizations did not complete an incident report for every incident. Because of this large amount of incomplete information from respondents, the ability to measure these crimes was limited. For example, one question from the incident report asked respondents to identify their relationship with the offender(s) more specifically. Response options for this question included (but were not limited to) spouse, dating partner, neighbor, employer, and schoolmate. For respondents who reported victimization but did not complete an incident report, this level of detail is unknown.

The IL-CVS measured victimization at the individual level and also at the household level for certain property crimes. Although the survey materials were mailed to individuals, no respondent in the sample belonged to the same household. This provided the opportunity to measure some types of victimization at the household level. For these crimes, subjects were asked if a crime was committed against themselves or anyone else in their household. The

⁴⁰ The Illinois Domestic Violence Act defines domestic crime as any crime (personal or property) committed against a family or household member(s). Family or household members include any current or former relationship through blood or marriage, persons who share a child, any member of the same household, and dating and former dating relationships. However the screening instrument of the IL-CVS measured only domestic crimes committed by family members or relatives. The incident reports measured other types of domestic crime such as those committed by non-family household members and dating partners.

property crimes of burglary and vandalism were measured at the individual and household levels, while all other types of crime were measured only at the individual level.

Authority staff developed English and Spanish versions of all survey materials. However, Spanish-speaking subjects could not be identified in the final sample (to send Spanish versions to), and resources were not sufficient to mail both Spanish and English versions of the materials to every subject. Thus, all subjects received materials in English, which included instructions in Spanish for requesting Spanish versions of the IL-CVS materials. A Spanish-speaking staff member from ICJIA was designated as the contact person to fulfill these requests, and was also able to answer questions about the IL-CVS for Spanish-speaking subjects. Forty (40) requests were fulfilled to have the Spanish version of the survey materials mailed.

Both versions of the final instrument were pretested with ICJIA staff, staff from Bronner Group, LLC, and about 25 other individuals who were known to ICJIA staff. The pretest subjects had varying levels of education, and included some who spoke English as a second language. Final revisions were made to the instruments based on responses and comments from the pretest respondents.

The survey instruments were developed as forms that could be scanned using an optical mark read (OMR) scanner. This allowed Bronner Group's project team to prepare a data file ready for analysis more quickly and accurately. The project team examined each of the surveys for errors before they were scanned with the OMR. Surveys were placed through the OMR scanner to enter and code all survey data in preparation for data analysis.

The IL-CVS instrument collected race and ethnicity information from respondents separately. First, the survey asked respondents to report whether or not they were of Hispanic origin (ethnicity), and a following question asked respondents to report their race. The U.S. Census Bureau has been collecting race and ethnicity data in this manner since the 2000 Census.

It should be noted that about half of respondents who were of Hispanic origin indicated that they were of an “other” race. This suggests that several respondents may not have realized that ethnicity and race were collected as separate characteristics. Some Hispanic respondents may have indicated “other” as a response to the question on race because they did not see an option for “Hispanic.” Thus, findings regarding respondents who reported themselves in the “other” race category are largely influenced by the inclusion of Hispanic respondents.

Final response rates and weighting

Although every effort was made to obtain a sample that was representative of the Illinois’ population, the resulting response rate was 28 percent with a total of 1,602 completed surveys.⁴¹ Although this final sample was large enough to be statistically sufficient for generating statewide, and to a lesser extent, regional estimates; findings may not be generalizable to the entire state’s population due to *non-response* error.⁴² The *sampling* error⁴³ for statewide estimates using the IL-CVS was no more than +/- 3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. However, because the response rate was only 28 percent, the potential for large disparities between respondents and non-respondents (non-response error) is high, yet impossible to measure precisely.

Upon receipt of the complete database of survey responses, it was noted that certain subgroups of respondents were over and under-represented in our sample when compared to Illinois’ population. A Chi-square test⁴⁴ supported the conclusion our sample was underrepresentative of Illinoisans from Chicago and, to a lesser extent, the rural regions.

Additionally, our sample was overrepresentative of residents from the collar counties and urban

⁴¹ Appendix IV contains detailed figures on how the response rate was calculated.

⁴² Non-response error is error resulting from people who respond to a survey being different from sampled individuals who did not respond, in a way relevant to the study.

⁴³ Sampling error is error resulting in surveying some (a sample), and not all, individuals within a survey population.

⁴⁴ The Chi-Square Test procedure tests whether the observed frequency distribution of a variable is likely to be equivalent, statistically speaking, to an expected distribution.

counties outside the Chicago metropolitan area. A Chi-square test also indicated that our sample had significantly more female than male respondents compared to the general population. Thus, statewide estimates presented in this report were weighted by region and gender.

Although other subgroups were over or under-represented (e.g. Hispanic respondents, those age 18 to 24), statewide victimization estimates were weighted only by region and gender to more closely reflect Illinois' population. The number of respondents in each category by region and gender was higher than that of other subgroups, thereby decreasing the likelihood of multiplying non-response error. For the same reason, cases were weighted only when generating statewide estimates. Regional estimates were not weighted because the sample sizes were lower, and most subgroups within the regional samples (e.g females from rural counties) contained less than 200 respondents. Although weighting cases in a sample helps to more closely represent the general population, it is no substitute for having a higher response rate. For this reason (and others to be mentioned later), this study's findings should be interpreted with caution.

XVI. Limitations

Low response rate

The greatest limitation of this study's findings is that the response rate was only 28 percent. As mentioned in the Methods section, this resulted in potential for non-response error to be high. Further complicating matters is that the extent to which non-response error impacted the survey's findings cannot be determined. Although it can be safely assumed that respondents differ from individuals in the sample who did not return a survey, how much and in what ways these two groups differ are unknown. The only information available about subjects in the sample who did not return a survey is their street address (if they still live at the address listed on their state drivers license or identification card). No demographic information, household information, or reasons why they chose not to respond are known. On a positive note, even though non-response error has limited the generalizability of this study's findings, with the exception of some under-representation among residents from more densely populated areas and minority residents, demographic characteristics between respondents of the IL-CVS final sample and Illinois' population were fairly similar according to U.S. Census data (See Table 7, Appendix E). Thus, although the IL-CVS findings are informative regarding the extent and nature of crime victimization in Illinois, they must be interpreted with caution.

Reasons for the lower response rate can only be speculated. Similar victimization surveys administered by mail in other states (Minnesota and Hawaii) attained response rates of about 50 percent.⁴⁵ There are several factors that may have hindered Illinois' response rate. One probable reason was that the survey instrument was too long. Despite efforts to keep the instrument

⁴⁵ Minnesota Planning. Keeping Watch: 1999 Minnesota Crime Survey. St. Paul, MN. March 2000.
Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, Research & Statistics Branch. Crime and Justice in Hawaii: 1998 Household Survey Report. Honolulu, HI. December 1998.

manageable for respondents, the length may have deterred subjects from responding to the survey.

Another possible factor is that subjects only *perceived* the survey as too long, meaning that subjects may have overestimated the amount time actually required to complete the survey, especially if they did not read the survey instructions. The IL-CVS differed from surveys conducted in Minnesota and Hawaii in that the IL-CVS segmented the questionnaire into a screening instrument (six pages) and four incident reports (four pages each). This turned the survey into a booklet of several pages, perhaps a seemingly daunting task to subjects.

When the IL-CVS instrument was pretested, respondents who were not victimized in 2002—including those with less education or language barriers—completed the survey in 15 minutes or less. For respondents who did experience victimization, each incident added an extra five to ten minutes to the survey. Only those respondents who were victimized four or more times in 2002 spent up to 55 minutes completing the survey, still keeping the time required at less than one hour. These estimated times were stated in the survey instructions. The screening instrument and incident reports were used in the IL-CVS to collect important information toward understanding victimization, but this increased the number of pages needed for the instrument. As a result, many would-be respondents may have ignored the survey because it seemed too time-consuming.

Another possible factor for the low response rate is that the questions were too long and/or complicated. Although the survey was pretested among individuals with varying levels of education and even language barriers, the instrument's level of difficulty may have been underestimated. As mentioned, most of the questions in the IL-CVS were similar or identical to the NCVS. However, most NCVS data are collected using face-to-face interviews, allowing opportunity for an interviewer to clarify misunderstandings to a respondent, as well as for a

respondent to clarify their experiences to an interviewer. The lower response rate of the IL-CVS yields an important lesson: before using questions from a face-to-face interviewing instrument in a mail survey, the questions must be rigorously pretested, reviewed, and modified so that they are as short and simple as possible.

Another characteristic of the IL-CVS that may have prevented a higher response rate was the manner in which the survey materials informed subjects that participation in this study was completely voluntary. This message was displayed as conspicuously as possible, always in bold font and as one of the first statements in each of the survey materials. To ensure protection and minimal or no risk to human subjects, the Authority will continue to inform subjects that their participation is voluntary. However, because this was the first victimization survey ever conducted in Illinois, the most conservative methods were applied to maximize protection to human subjects. Although the surveys in Minnesota and Hawaii also informed subjects of the voluntary nature of their studies, the statement was less striking in their survey materials. Perhaps a future survey could inform subjects that participation is voluntary without stating it so prominently that it almost dissuades participation. This could increase response rate with little, if any, increased risk to subjects.

Missing data

Another substantial limitation of the IL-CVS was the large amount of missing data from respondents. Nearly one-third (31 percent) of the 607 respondents who reported victimization during the year 2002 did not complete a corresponding incident report. Furthermore, several respondents who experienced multiple victimizations during 2002 did not complete an incident report for each of their experiences. Finally, many respondents who did complete incident reports for all or some of their victimizations did not answer every question. The IL-CVS captured detailed information (completed incident reports) for 622 of the estimated 2,796

victimization incidents⁴⁶ reported by respondents. This resulted in detailed information for just 22 percent of the estimated number of victimizations reported by respondents. Thirty-seven (37), or 6 percent of the 607 victims experienced unknown types of victimization, meaning it is unknown whether they were victims of property or personal crime. Additionally, although the other 94 percent of victims who responded to the survey experienced at least one victimization for which the crime type was known, it was not known for all of the incidents they experienced.

This occurrence yielded two valuable lessons for future mail surveys: 1) the survey probably included too many questions, thereby discouraging respondents from answering every question; and 2) it is likely that some questions were too long or complicated for a mail survey; respondents may have been reluctant to answer questions they did not fully understand.

Questions for which the type of victimization could not be determined

As previously mentioned, about half of the NCVS questions were selected for use in the IL-CVS instrument, thereby excluding about leaving one-half of the NCVS questions. Including all the NCVS questions would have been much too long for a mail survey. The NCVS measures some types of crime using a complex combination of responses to multiple questions. For example, the NCVS measures the crime of “simple assault” if a respondent answers “yes” to one question, and then answers “no” to another question, provides a “yes” answer to a third question, and so on. This method of measurement was not fully realized when NCVS questions were being selected for the IL-CVS.

⁴⁶ This number (2,796) is an estimate for two reasons. First, when respondents were asked how many times each incident had happened to them, the highest frequency they could report was four (response was “4 or more times”). Therefore, if a respondent was victimized more than four times, only four incidents would be included in this figure. This results in an undercount of incidents. However, respondents could have also answered affirmatively to more than one survey item based on only one incident. For example, if a respondent was punched by a family member, they might have answered affirmatively for both questions 16d and 17c (see Appendix III to see questions in survey instrument.) This results in an overcount of incidents. Although it is reasonable to assume that these combined effects help cancel each other out, thus rendering a reasonable estimate, there is no way to be sure of the extent to which each affects the estimated number of incidents.

As a result, three questions used in the IL-CVS screening instrument (questions 15, 17, and 20) do not allow for identification of crime type (personal or property). If certain follow-up questions that were used in the NCVS were also included in the IL-CVS, they would have allowed for identification of the crime type for all victims. These questions were not included in the IL-CVS instrument out of concern for keeping the instrument of manageable length.

Fortunately, the impact of this oversight was minimized for two reasons. First, respondents could have provided more detailed information in the incident report, thereby revealing the type of victimization. Second, if the respondent answered affirmatively to one of these three questions, their victimization should have also been applicable to one of the other questions in the screening instrument that did allow identification of the type of victimization. For example, if a respondent was a victim of aggravated assault at his home during 2002, and the offender threw a bottle at this victim, this respondent should have answered affirmatively to question 15 of the screening instrument, “During the year 2002, were you attacked or threatened or did you have something stolen from you...[examples of different locations]?” If the respondent answered “yes” to this question, it is known this respondent was victimized, but it is unknown that he was a victim of aggravated assault, or even that he was a victim of personal crime. However, this respondent should have also answered yes to question 16c, “During the year 2002, has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways? ...By something thrown, such as a rock or a bottle?” If the respondent also answered “yes” to this question, it was then known that the respondent was a victim of aggravated assault. Even so, a small number of victims (37 of 607) answered one of these three questions affirmatively without providing further information that revealed the type of victimization. Thus, the type of victimization experienced by these 37 respondents is unknown.

Despite this limitation, questions 15, 17, and 20 encouraged respondents to think more broadly about their victimization experiences by providing examples of where and how victimization can occur that respondents may not have thought of. This likely improved estimates of overall victimization. This limitation also resulted in another important lesson for future surveys. Not only is it a good idea to pretest the survey instrument, but also to pretest data analyses using responses provided by the pretest respondents. This will help ensure that the survey questions will capture more complete and accurate information.

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APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

BACKGROUND ON THE ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority was created in 1983 to coordinate the use of information in the criminal justice system; to promulgate effective criminal justice information policy; to encourage the improvement of criminal justice agency procedures and practices with respect to information; to provide new information technologies; to permit the evaluation of information practices and programs; to stimulate research and development of new methods and uses of criminal justice information for the improvement of the criminal justice system and the reduction of crime; and to protect the integrity of criminal history record information, while protecting the citizen's right to privacy (see 20 ILCS 3930 *et seq.*). The specific powers and duties of the Authority are delineated in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Ch. 20, Sec. 393/7).

Composition & Membership

The Authority is governed by a 21-member board of state and local leaders in the criminal justice community, plus experts from the private sector. The Authority is supported by a full-time professional staff working out of the agency's office in Chicago. The Authority is led by a chairman, who is appointed by the governor from among the board's members. By law, the Authority meets at least four times a year in public meetings. Authority members are responsible for setting agency priorities, tracking the progress of ongoing programs, and monitoring the agency's budget.

By law, the Authority includes:

- Two police chiefs (Chicago and another municipality)
- Two sheriffs (Cook and another county)
- Two state's attorneys (Cook and another county)
- Two circuit court clerks (Cook and another county)
- Illinois attorney general (or designee)
- Director, Illinois State Police
- Director, Illinois Department of Corrections
- Director, Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor
- Director, Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Defender
- Executive Director, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
- Cook County Board President
- Six members of the public

The Authority accomplishes its goals through efforts in four areas: 1) information systems, technology and data quality; 2) research and analysis; 3) policy and planning; and 4) grants administration.

1. Information systems, technology, and data quality

The Authority: (1) Develops, operates, and maintains computerized information systems for police agencies; (2) Serves as the sole administrative appeal body for determining citizen challenges to the accuracy of their criminal history records; and (3) Monitors the operation of existing criminal justice information systems to protect the constitutional rights and privacy of citizens.

2. Research and analysis

The Authority: (1) Publishes research studies that analyze a variety of crime trends and criminal justice issues; (2) Acts as a clearinghouse for information and research on crime and the criminal justice system; (3) Audits the state central repositories of criminal history record information for data accuracy and completeness; and (4) Develops and tests statistical methodologies and provides statistical advice and interpretation to support criminal justice decision making.

3. Policy and planning

The Authority: (1) Develops and implements comprehensive strategies for drug and violent crime law enforcement, crime control, and assistance to crime victims, using federal funds awarded to Illinois; (2) Advises the governor and the General Assembly on criminal justice policies and legislation; and (3) Develops and evaluates state and local programs for improving law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice.

4. Grants administration

The Authority: (1) Implements and funds victim assistance and violent crime and drug law enforcement programs under the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act, Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act, and other grant programs as they become available; (2) Monitors program activity and provides technical assistance to grantees; (3) Coordinates policy-making groups to learn about ongoing concerns of criminal justice officials; and (4) Provides staff support to the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, an 11-member board working to curb motor vehicle theft.

APPENDIX C

Definitions of Illinois Regions

To provide more useful comparisons, statewide data were separated into five regions; 1) Chicago, 2) suburban Cook County, 3) Collar counties, 4) urban counties (outside of Cook and the Collar counties), and 5) rural counties. The Collar counties are the five that border Cook County (DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry and Will). Urban and rural counties outside the six counties within the Chicago metropolitan area are defined by whether or not they lie within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). A geographic area qualifies as a MSA in one of two ways defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census: if it includes a city of at least 50,000 population or if it includes an urbanized area of at least 50,000 population with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000. In addition to the county containing the main city or urbanized area, a MSA may include counties having strong economic or social ties to the central county (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census). Based on this definition, there are 28 counties in Illinois that are part of a MSA (Cook, Collar and urban counties) and 74 counties that are not part of a MSA (in other words, rural).

It should be noted that in December 2003, the U.S. Census Bureau released new information regarding counties that are part of an MSA based on Census 2000 data. Due to population changes between 1991 and 2000, nine counties in Illinois that were rural are now urban, and one county that was urban is now a rural county. Today there are 36 Illinois counties that are part of an MSA (Cook, Collar and 30 counties outside the Chicago metropolitan area) and 66 counties that are not part of a MSA (rural). Because this information was not released until after the IL-CVS data collection period, findings in this report are based region criteria before the new information was released. The list below specifies urban and rural counties outside the Chicago metropolitan area as they were known prior to the release of this new information.

Urban counties: Boone, Champaign, Clinton, DeKalb, Grundy, Henry, Jersey, Kankakee, Kendall, Macon, Madison, McLean, Menard, Monroe, **Ogle**, Peoria, Rock Island, Sangamon, St. Clair, Tazewell, Winnebago, and Woodford.

*Bolded county was designated as a rural county in December 2003.

Rural counties: Adams, Alexander, **Bond**, Brown, Bureau, **Calhoun**, Carroll, Cass, Christian, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, **Ford**, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Iroquois, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, JoDaviess, Johnson, Knox, LaSalle, Lawrence, Lee, Livingston, Logan, **Macoupin**, Marion, **Marshall**, Mason, Massac, McDonough, **Mercer**, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Perry, **Piatt**, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, **Stark**, Stephenson, Union, **Vermillion**, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Whiteside, Williamson.

*Bolded counties were designated as urban counties in December 2003.

APPENDIX D

Table 6

Detailed figures on response rate

| | Chicago | Suburban Cook | Collar | Urban | Rural | Total |
|---|----------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Subjects in original sample | 1,915 | 1,594 | 1,781 | 1,398 | 810 | 7,498 |
| | | | | | | |
| Deceased | 2 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 25 |
| Jail | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Out of state in college or military duty | 0 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Was not an Illinois resident during 2002 | 19 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 41 |
| Address undeliverable | 591 | 302 | 361 | 329 | 137 | 1,720 |
| Subjects who were ineligible or not reachable | 613 | 314 | 382 | 346 | 150 | 1,805 |
| | | | | | | |
| Refusals | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 27 |
| No response | 1,030 | 941 | 955 | 708 | 428 | 4,062 |
| Total non-response | 1,036 | 949 | 962 | 711 | 431 | 4,089 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total subjects excluding those who were ineligible or not reachable | 1,302 | 1,280 | 1,399 | 1,052 | 660 | 5,693 |
| Completed surveys | 266 | 331 | 435 | 340 | 229 | 1,602 |
| | | | | | | |
| Response rate | 20.4% | 25.9% | 31.1% | 32.3% | 34.7% | 28.1% |

APPENDIX E

Table 7

**Illinois population data (from the 2000 Census) compared to
IL-CVS final sample data**

| | <u>Illinois population</u> | <u>IL-CVS final sample</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Region</i> | | |
| Chicago | 23.3% | 16.6% |
| Suburban Cook | 20.0% | 20.7% |
| Collar | 21.9% | 27.2% |
| Urban | 19.7% | 21.2% |
| Rural | 15.1% | 14.3% |
| <i>Gender</i> | | |
| Male | 49.0% | 42.8% |
| Female | 51.0% | 57.2% |
| <i>Age</i> | | |
| 18-19 | 3.9% | 1.3% |
| 20-24 | 9.3% | 5.2% |
| 25-34 | 19.7% | 15.5% |
| 35-44 | 21.6% | 19.1% |
| 45-54 | 17.7% | 23.0% |
| 55-59 | 6.3% | 9.5% |
| 60-64 | 5.0% | 6.9% |
| 65-74 | 8.4% | 12.4% |
| 75-84 | 5.8% | 6.3% |
| 85+ | 2.1% | 0.8% |
| <i>Race</i> | | |
| White | 73.5% | 84.8% |
| Black | 15.1% | 8.3% |
| American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo | 0.2% | 0.1% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 3.4% | 2.6% |
| Multi-racial | 1.9% | 0.9% |
| Other | 5.8% | 3.3% |

Table 7 (continued)

| | <u>Illinois population</u> | <u>IL-CVS final sample</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Ethnicity</i> | | |
| Hispanic | 12.3% | 6.8% |
| Not Hispanic | 87.7% | 93.2% |
| <i>Educational attainment (Illinois population data includes only residents age 25 or older)</i> | | |
| Less than high school | 18.6% | 7.7% |
| High school or GED | 27.7% | 29.4% |
| Some college, no Bachelor's Degree | 27.6% | 28.3% |
| Bachelor's Degree or higher | 26.1% | 34.6% |
| <i>Marital Status (Illinois population data includes only residents age 15 or older)</i> | | |
| Married | 53.6% | 64.4% |
| Widowed | 6.7% | 7.2% |
| Divorced | 8.9% | 9.0% |
| Separated | 1.8% | 1.0% |
| Never married | 28.9% | 18.4% |
| <i>Employment status (Illinois population data includes only residents age 16 or older)</i> | | |
| Employed | 61.4% | 70.5% |
| Not employed | 38.5% | 29.5% |
| <i>Household income</i> | | |
| Less than \$10,000 | 8.3% | 8.2% |
| \$10,000 - \$34,999 | 28.7% | 28.8% |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999 | 16.2% | 18.3% |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999 | 20.7% | 20.0% |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999 | 11.6% | 12.0% |
| \$100,000 or more | 14.4% | 12.8% |

APPENDIX F

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

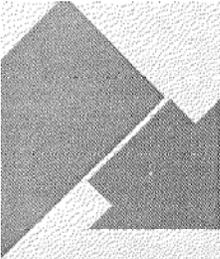
ILLINOIS CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY



The seal of the State of Illinois, featuring an eagle with wings spread, holding a shield on its chest, and a banner in its beak. The text around the seal reads "SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS" and "AUG 26TH 1818".

- The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the Bronner Group are conducting this survey about the public's experiences with crime victimization.
- The results of this survey will be used to improve the criminal justice system in Illinois.
- **Your responses are strictly confidential.** After we remove your completed survey from the envelope, we will no longer be able to link your answers to your name. The identification number on the return envelope will be used only to determine who should receive reminder postcards to complete and return the survey. Your answers will be treated confidentially by the researchers at the Bronner Group and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Your name will not appear anywhere on the survey or the survey results.

- If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Jennifer Hiselman of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority at 312-793-8550.
- Para residentes que hablan español (Spanish-speaking residents): Si prefiere recibir una encuesta en Español, por favor llame al 312-793-8550 y pregunte por Ms. Adriana Pérez. Gracias.



Instructions

Please take the time to read and answer every question, and completely fill in the oval(s) that corresponds with the appropriate response. If you would like to make additional comments regarding your experiences with crime or the criminal justice system in Illinois, you may use the last page of this survey booklet for that purpose.

To complete this survey you will need to:

- *Use a pencil throughout the survey.*
- *Fill in only one answer oval for each question UNLESS the question reads, "Mark all that apply."*
- *Completely fill in the oval that corresponds to your answer.*
- *Completely erase any answer that you accidentally filled in.*
- *Please keep the survey intact – do not fold or bend this survey, and do not tape or staple anything to this survey.*

Many of you will finish the survey in about 15 minutes. However, if any of the events asked about in this survey happened to you during the year 2002, you are asked to answer some additional questions. This will increase the time needed to complete the survey by 5 to 40 minutes, depending on how many times these events happened to you.

Please mail the completed survey in the envelope provided as soon as possible to avoid reminder postcards and additional surveys being mailed to you.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Jennifer Hiselman at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority at 312-793-8550.

Si prefiere recibir una encuesta en Español, por favor llame al 312-793-8550 y pregunte por Ms. Adriana Pérez. Gracias.

Before we begin asking the crime questions, we would first like to ask you a few questions about your household. These are helpful in studying how and where crimes occur.

1. How long have you lived at your current address?

- Less than one year More than 5 years
 Between 1-5 years

2. Altogether, how many times have you moved in the last five years, that is, since today's date back in 1998?

- I have not moved in the last five years.
 Once (1)
 Twice (2)
 Three (3) or four (4) times
 Five (5) or six (6) times
 Seven (7) or more times

3. During most of the year 2002 (six months or more), what was your marital status?

- Married
 Widowed
 Divorced
 Separated
 Never married

4. During most of the year 2002, how many children under the age of 18 lived in your household?

- No children lived in my household during most of the year 2002.
 1 2 3 4 5 or more

5. What best describes where you live?

- City Town
 Suburb Rural area

6. What best describes your place of residence?

- Apartment building Mobile home or trailer
 Condominium Single family house
 Duplex Townhouse
 Farm Other

7. What best describes your living status?

- Owner
 Renter
 Live with parents or friends/family (and do not pay rent)
 Other

In this section, we begin asking about your experiences with crime. Remember to report incidents on this survey whether or not you reported them to the police. Please report ONLY those incidents that occurred during the year 2002.

8. During the year 2002, what was the total number of cars, vans, trucks, motorcycles, or other motor vehicles owned by YOU. Include those you no longer own.

- I did not own any motor vehicles in 2002. (Skip to Question 11.)
 1 2 3 4 or more

9. During the year 2002, did anyone:

a. Steal or use your vehicle (or any one of your vehicles) without permission?

- YES NO

If YES, how many times?

- 1 2 3 4 or more

b. Steal any parts such as a tire, tape deck, hubcap, or battery?

- YES NO

If YES, how many times?

- 1 2 3 4 or more

c. Steal any gas?

- YES NO

If YES, how many times?

- 1 2 3 4 or more

10. During the year 2002, did anyone ATTEMPT to steal any vehicle, parts, or gas, but did NOT succeed?

- YES NO

If YES, how many times?

- 1 2 3 4 or more

11. During the year 2002, did anyone steal:

a. Something in your HOME, like a TV, stereo, or tools?

- YES NO

If YES, how many times?

- 1 2 3 4 or more

b. Something outside your home such as a garden hose or lawn furniture?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. Something belonging to children in your household?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

d. Something from your vehicle, such as a package, groceries, camera, or cassette tapes?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

12. During the year 2002, did anyone ATTEMPT to steal anything belonging to you but did NOT succeed?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

13. During the year 2002, did anyone break in or ATTEMPT to:

a. Break into your home by forcing a door or window, pushing past someone, jimmying a lock, cutting a screen, or entering through an open door or window?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

b. Illegally get in or try to get into your garage, shed, or storage room?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. Illegally get in or try to get into a hotel or motel room or vacation home where you were staying?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

14. During the year 2002, was something stolen from you that you were CARRYING, USING, or WEARING during the time of the incident, like:

a. Luggage, a wallet, purse, briefcase or book?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

b. Clothing, jewelry, or calculator?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. Bicycle or sports equipment?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

15. During the year 2002, were you attacked or threatened OR did you have something stolen from you:

a. At home including the porch or yard?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

b. At or near a friend's, relative's, or neighbor's home?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. At work or school?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

d. In places such as a storage shed or laundry room, a shopping mall, restaurant, bank, or airport?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

e. While riding in any vehicle?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

f. On the street or in a parking lot?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

g. At such places as a party, theater, gym, picnic area, bowling lanes, or while fishing or hunting?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

h. In 2002, did anyone ATTEMPT to attack or ATTEMPT to steal anything belonging to you from any of these places but did NOT succeed?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

NOTE: The next set of questions may require you to recall disturbing events. They will ask about your experience with serious violent crimes, including sex crimes. If you have been the victim of a violent crime and would like assistance coping with the aftermath of this event, please call one of the toll free hotlines provided at the bottom of page four of this booklet. Operators at these hotlines will be able to refer you to services available in your area.

16. During the year 2002, has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways (please exclude telephone threats):

a. With any weapon like a gun or a knife?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

b. With anything like a baseball bat, frying pan, scissors, or stick?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. By something thrown, such as a rock or a bottle?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

d. Grabbed, punched, or choked you?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

e. Sexually assaulted or raped you, or ATTEMPTED to sexually assault or rape you, or commit any other type of sexual activity with you that you did not consent to?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

f. Threaten you face to face?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

g. Attack or threaten or use force on you at all in any other way? Please indicate YES if this happened to you even if you are not certain it was a crime.

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

Often, people don't think of incidents committed by someone they know. However, a large number of crimes occur between people that know each other very well, even family members.

17. During the year 2002, did you have something stolen from you OR were you attacked or threatened by anyone of the following (please exclude telephone threats):

a. Someone at work or school?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

b. A neighbor or friend?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. A relative or family member?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

d. Any other person whom you've met or known?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

Incidents involving forced or unwanted sexual acts are very difficult to talk about, whether a stranger or someone you know very well commits them. Again, if you have experienced this type of victimization, operators at one of the toll free hotlines listed at the bottom of this page will be able to refer you to services available in your area.

18. During the year 2002, were you forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by:

a. Someone you didn't know before?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

b. A casual acquaintance?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. Someone you know well?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

19. During the year 2002, did anyone intentionally damage or destroy property, or injure or kill animals (pets, livestock) owned by you or someone else in your household? Examples are breaking windows, slashing tires, or painting graffiti on walls.

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

The next few questions ask about hate crimes, or crimes of prejudice or bigotry. Hate crimes or crimes of prejudice or bigotry occur when someone targets people because of one or more of their characteristics or religious beliefs. Again, if you have experienced this type of victimization, please use one of the toll free hotlines listed at the bottom of this page to locate services available in your area.

20. During the year 2002, did anyone intentionally damage or destroy property, or injure or kill animals owned by you or someone in your household OR attack OR threaten you for reasons that you suspect would make this incident a hate crime or crime of prejudice or bigotry?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

Also only if YES, why do you suspect the offender(s) targeted you? Please mark all that apply.

- Your race
- Your religion
- Your ethnic background or national origin (e.g., people of Hispanic origin)
- Your gender
- Your sexual orientation (homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual)
- Your association with a person(s) who has certain characteristics or religious beliefs
- Other reason

The next few questions ask about computer crime. Please refer only to YOUR use of a computer for personal use or operating your home business.

21. During the year 2002, did you use a computer at home, work, or anywhere else for personal use? (Please do NOT include computer use as part of your employment duties, unless it was for operating your home business.)

Yes No (Skip to Question 23.)

22. During the year 2002, have you experienced any of the following COMPUTER-RELATED incidents during YOUR use of a computer, whether it was for personal use or for operating your home business?

a. Fraud in purchasing something over the Internet?

Yes No

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

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ILLINOIS TOLL-FREE CRIME VICTIMS HOTLINE: 1-800-228-6638 Mon-Fri 9a to 5p
NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: 1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255)
TTY: 1-800-211-7996 www.ncvc.org gethelp@ncvc.org Mon-Fri 7:30a to 7:30p

b. Computer virus attack? Please do NOT include a virus attack of your computer at your occupation UNLESS it is to operate your home business.

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

c. Threats of harm or physical attack made while on-line or through E-mail?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

d. Software copyright violation in connection with your home business?

Do not operate my own home business

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

e. Something else that you consider a computer-related crime?

YES NO

If YES, how many times?

1 2 3 4 or more

f. If you answered YES to any of the questions regarding computer-related crime, did you suffer any financial loss as a result of the incident(s)?

Did not experience any computer-related crime

YES NO

g. Again, if you answered YES to any of the questions regarding computer-related crime, did you report the incident (or any of the incidents) to any of the following? Mark all that apply.

Did not experience any computer-related crime

Did not report the incident(s) to anyone

Reported to police

Reported to an Internet Service Provider

Reported to a website administrator

Reported to a systems administrator

Reported to someone else

In this section, we ask some questions about you. These questions are also very helpful in studying why and to whom crimes occur.

23. What is your gender?

Male

Female

24. What is your current age in years? Please write in the number and fill in the corresponding ovals.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-------|
| | | | Years |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 9 | 0 | 1 | |

25. What is your national origin?

Non-Hispanic

Hispanic

26. What is your race?

White

Black

American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo

Asian/Pacific Islander

Multi-racial

Other

27. What is the highest level of education you completed?

Less than 12th grade

High school (completed 12th grade)

Obtained GED

Some undergraduate college

Bachelor's degree

Post graduate courses completed

28. Please indicate if any of the following currently describe you. Mark all that apply.

Mental disability

Legally blind

Deaf

Other physical disability besides blindness or deafness

Sensory disability

None of these conditions apply to me.

29. How well do you speak English?

Very well

Fairly well

Not very well

I do not speak English

30. During the year 2002 (or most of 2002), what was your employment status? (Please do not include volunteer work or housework.)

- Employed, full-time (36-40 hours per week)
- Employed, part-time (less than 36 hours per week)
- Not employed (Skip to Question 35)

31. If you were employed full or part-time for all or most of 2002, what profession would you classify your employment from the following categories? If you had more than one profession in 2002, please use the profession in which you spent the most time.

Medical Profession - As a...

- Physician
- Nurse
- Technician
- Other

Mental Health Services Field - Are your duties...

- Professional (Social worker, psychiatrist)
- Custodial care
- Other

Teaching Profession - Were you employed in a...

- Preschool
- Elementary school
- Junior high or middle school
- High school
- College or university
- Technical or industrial school
- Special education facility
- Other

Law Enforcement or Security Field - Were you employed as a...

- Law enforcement officer
- Prison or jail guard
- Security guard
- Other

Retail Sales - Were you employed as a...

- Convenience or liquor store clerk
- Gas station attendant
- Bartender
- Wait staff
- Other

Transportation Field - Were you employed as a...

- Public transportation driver
- School bus driver
- Taxi cab driver
- Other

Other Professions

- Something other than those listed above

32. Is your job with:

- A private, for-profit company, business, or individual for wages?
- A private, nonprofit agency or organization?
- The Federal government?
- A State, county, or local government?
- Yourself (self-employed) in your own business, professional practice

33. Are you employed by a college or university?

- YES
- NO

34. While working at your job, do you work mostly in:

- A city?
- Suburban area?
- A town?
- Rural area?
- Combination of any of these?

35. Were you a student at any time during the year 2002?

- YES
- NO

If YES, what type of school did you attend? Mark all that apply.

- Regular school (through 12th grade)
- College/university
- Trade school
- Vocational school

36. What best describes your total annual or yearly household income before paying taxes?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- More than \$100,000

37. Before completing this survey, were you aware that some crime victims are eligible to apply for financial benefits as compensation toward losses resulting from victimization?

- YES
- NO

38. Are you aware of any of the following crime victim resources that exist in your community? Please indicate YES for each resource that you know exists in your area.

Domestic violence services (shelter, advocacy, counseling)

- YES
- NO

Rape/sexual assault crisis centers

- YES
- NO

Services for child abuse victims and their non-offending family members

- YES
- NO

Services for victims of violent crimes (advocacy, counseling)

- YES
- NO

Services for victims of elder abuse

- YES
- NO

4. Where did this incident happen?

In home or lodging

- In own dwelling, own attached garage, or enclosed porch (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)
- In detached building on own property, such as detached garage, storage shed, etc. (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)
- In vacation home/second home (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)
- In hotel or motel room you were staying in (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)

Near own home

- Own yard, sidewalk, driveway, carport, unenclosed porch (Do not include apartment yards.)
- Apartment hall, storage area, laundry room (Do not include apartment parking lot/garage.)
- On street immediately adjacent to own home

At, in, or near a friend's/relative's/neighbor's home

- At or in home of other building on their property
- Yard, sidewalk, driveway, carport (Do not include apartment yards.)
- Apartment hall, storage area, laundry room (Do not include apartment parking lot/garage.)
- On street immediately adjacent to their home

Commercial places

- Inside restaurant, bar, nightclub
- Inside bank
- Inside gas station
- Inside other commercial building, such as a store
- Inside office
- Inside factory or warehouse

Parking lots/garages

- Commercial parking lot/garage
- Noncommercial parking lot/garage
- Apartment/townhouse parking lot/garage

School

- Inside school building
- On school property (school parking area, play area, school bus, etc.)

Open areas, on street, or public transportation

- In apartment yard, park, field, playground (other than school)
- On the street (other than immediately adjacent to own/friend's/relative's/neighbor's home)
- On public transportation or in station (bus, train, plane, airport, depot, etc.)

Other

- Other location not specified above

5. How far away from your residence did this incident happen?

- At, in, or near the building containing your home/next door
- A mile or less
- Five miles or less
- Fifty miles or less
- More than 50 miles
- Do not know how far

6. Did the offender use a weapon during this incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which of the following weapons did the offender use? (Mark all that apply.)

- Handgun (pistol, revolver, etc.)
- Other gun (rifle, shotgun, etc.)
- Knife
- Other sharp object (scissors, ice pick, axe, etc.)
- Blunt object (rock, club, blackjack, etc.)
- Other weapon not specified
- Do not know what weapon the offender used

7. How many offenders committed this incident?

- One (1) offender
- Two (2) offenders
- Three (3) or more offenders
- More than one offender, but not know how many
- Do not know

8. Was the offender male or female?

- Male
- Female
- Both (if more than one offender)
- Do not know

9. How old would you say the offender was? You may guess if not completely sure, or indicate, "Do not know." If there was more than one offender, mark ALL that apply.

- Under 12
- 12-14
- 15-17
- 18-20
- 21-29
- 30 +
- Do not know

10. Did the offender (or any of the offenders) appear to be of Hispanic origin?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

11. Of which race did the offender appear to be? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL that apply.

- White
- Black
- American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- Other
- Do not know

12. What was your relationship with the offender when this incident occurred? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL relations that apply.

Stranger

I did not know the offender

Known Non-relative

- The offender was a casual acquaintance
- The offender was a boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend
- The offender was a friend or ex-friend
- The offender was a roommate or boarder
- The offender was a schoolmate
- The offender was a neighbor
- The offender was a customer or client
- The offender was a patient
- The offender was my current or former supervisor
- The offender was a current or former employee
- The offender was a current or former co-worker
- Other non-relative relationship

Relative

- The offender was my spouse
- The offender was my ex-spouse
- The offender was my parent or stepparent
- The offender was my child or stepchild
- The offender was my sibling (brother or sister)
- Other relative

13. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) a member of a street gang?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

14. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) drinking or on drugs during the time of the incident?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which was it, drinking or on drugs?

- Drinking
- On drugs
- Both drinking and on drugs
- Could not tell which

15. Was this the only time this offender (or any of the offenders) committed a crime against you or your household?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

16. What were you doing when this incident happened or when it started?

- Working or on duty
- On the way to or from work
- On the way to or from school
- On the way to or from another place
- Shopping or errands
- Attending school
- Leisure activity away from home
- Sleeping
- Other activities at home
- Other
- DO NOT KNOW

17. Did you suffer any of the following injuries as a result of this incident? Please mark only those injuries you endured as a result of this incident. Mark ALL that apply.

- I did not suffer any injuries
- OR**
- Rape (rape refers to vaginal, oral, or anal penetration such as forced sexual intercourse or oral sex, or inserting objects)
- Attempted rape
- Sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape (e.g., unwanted fondling, touching, or other sexual activity that did not include penetration)
- Knife or stab wounds
- Gunshot, bullet wounds
- Broken bones or teeth knocked out
- Internal injuries
- Knocked unconscious
- Bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling, chipped teeth
- Other injuries not listed above

18. Were the police informed or did they find out about this incident in any way?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, how did the police find out about it?

- You reported the incident to police.
- Some other member of your household reported the incident to police
- Some official called police (guard, apt. manager, school official, etc.)
- Someone else
- Police were at the scene
- Offender was a police officer
- Some other way

If YES, did the responding police officer(s) ever tell you about any crime victim services or programs in your community?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If you DID report this incident to police, why did you do so? Mark ALL that apply.

- To stop or prevent this incident from happening.
- I needed help after the incident due to injury.
- I wanted to recover property.
- I wanted to collect insurance.
- To prevent further crimes against myself or anyone in my household.
- To stop this offender from committing other crimes against anyone.
- To punish the offender.
- To catch or find the offender.
- To improve police surveillance of my home, area, etc.
- I felt a sense of duty to let police know about crime.
- Other reason not listed above.

If you DID NOT report this incident to police, why not? (Mark ALL that apply.)

- The police were informed of this incident by someone else.
- I reported the incident to another official instead (guard, apartment manager, school official, etc.)
- I felt the incident was a private or personal matter or took care of it myself or informally (e.g., told offender's parent.)
- The incident was minor or an unsuccessful crime, small or no loss, recovered property.
- The offenders were children so I chose not to report the incident to police.
- I was not sure if the incident was a crime or that harm was intended.
- No insurance, loss less than deductible, etc.
- I didn't find out until it was too late.
- I could not recover or identify property.
- I could not find or identify the offender or I did not have enough proof.
- The police would not have enough evidence to arrest an offender.
- The police wouldn't think it was important enough, or I didn't want to be bothered or get involved.
- Police would be inefficient, ineffective. (They'd arrive late or not at all, or wouldn't do a good job.)
- Police would be biased and/or I might have been harassed or insulted, or given trouble by police.
- The offender was a police officer.
- I did not want to get the offender in trouble with the law.
- I was advised not to report this incident to police.
- I was afraid of reprisal by the offender or others.
- I did not want to or could not take time; too inconvenient.
- Other reason not listed above.

19. As far as you know, was anyone arrested in connection with this incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

20. Have you (or someone in your household) had contact with any other authorities about this incident other than the police (such as a prosecutor, court, or juvenile officer)?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which authorities?

- Prosecutor, district attorney
- Magistrate
- Court
- Juvenile, probation or parole officer
- Other

21. Did you receive any crime victim services from the criminal justice system (e.g., police, state's attorney's office, courts) after this incident, such as counseling, or services from a victim advocate?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, how helpful did you find these services?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not helpful

22. Did you receive any crime victim services from a private, non-profit organization outside of the criminal justice system (e.g., a domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, or other crime victims program)?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, how helpful did you find these services?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not helpful

5. How far away from your residence did this incident happen?

- At, in, or near the building containing your home/next door
- A mile or less
- Five miles or less
- Fifty miles or less
- More than 50 miles
- Do not know how far

6. Did the offender use a weapon during this incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which of the following weapons did the offender use? (Mark all that apply.)

- Handgun (pistol, revolver, etc.)
- Other gun (rifle, shotgun, etc.)
- Knife
- Other sharp object (scissors, ice pick, axe, etc.)
- Blunt object (rock, club, blackjack, etc.)
- Other weapon not specified
- Do not know what weapon the offender used

7. How many offenders committed this incident?

- One (1) offender
- Two (2) offenders
- Three (3) or more offenders
- More than one offender, but not know how many
- Do not know

8. Was the offender male or female?

- Male
- Female
- Both (if more than one offender)
- Do not know

9. How old would you say the offender was? You may guess if not completely sure, or indicate, "Do not know." If there was more than one offender, mark ALL that apply.

- Under 12
- 12-14
- 15-17
- 18-20
- 21-29
- 30+
- Do not know

10. Did the offender (or any of the offenders) appear to be of Hispanic origin?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

11. Of which race did the offender appear to be? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL that apply.

- White
- Black
- American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- Other
- Do not know

12. What was your relationship with the offender when this incident occurred? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL relations that apply.

Stranger

- I did not know the offender

Known Non-relative

- The offender was a casual acquaintance
- The offender was a boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend
- The offender was a friend or ex-friend
- The offender was a roommate or boarder
- The offender was a schoolmate
- The offender was a neighbor
- The offender was a customer or client
- The offender was a patient
- The offender was my current or former supervisor
- The offender was a current or former employee
- The offender was a current or former co-worker
- Other non-relative relationship

Relative

- The offender was my spouse
- The offender was my ex-spouse
- The offender was my parent or stepparent
- The offender was my child or stepchild
- The offender was my sibling (brother or sister)
- Other relative

13. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) a member of a street gang?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

14. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) drinking or on drugs during the time of the incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which was it, drinking or on drugs?

- Drinking
- On drugs
- Both drinking and on drugs
- Could not tell which

15. Was this the only time this offender (or any of the offenders) committed a crime against you or your household?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

16. What were you doing when this incident happened or when it started?

- Working or on duty
- On the way to or from work
- On the way to or from school
- On the way to or from another place
- Shopping or errands
- Attending school
- Leisure activity away from home
- Sleeping
- Other activities at home
- Other
- DO NOT KNOW

17. Did you suffer any of the following injuries as a result of this incident? Please mark only those injuries you endured as a result of this incident. Mark ALL that apply.

- I did not suffer any injuries
- OR
- Rape (rape refers to vaginal, oral, or anal penetration such as forced sexual intercourse or oral sex, or inserting objects)
- Attempted rape
- Sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape (e.g., unwanted fondling, touching, or other sexual activity that did not include penetration)
- Knife or stab wounds
- Gunshot, bullet wounds
- Broken bones or teeth knocked out
- Internal injuries
- Knocked unconscious
- Bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling, chipped teeth
- Other injuries not listed above

18. Were the police informed or did they find out about this incident in any way?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, how did the police find out about it?

- You reported the incident to police.
- Some other member of your household reported the incident to police
- Some official called police (guard, apt. manager, school official, etc.)
- Someone else
- Police were at the scene
- Offender was a police officer
- Some other way

If YES, did the responding police officer(s) ever tell you about any crime victim services or programs in your community?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If you DID report this incident to police, why did you do so? Mark ALL that apply.

- To stop or prevent this incident from happening.
- I needed help after the incident due to injury.
- I wanted to recover property.
- I wanted to collect insurance.
- To prevent further crimes against myself or anyone in my household.
- To stop this offender from committing other crimes against anyone.
- To punish the offender.
- To catch or find the offender.
- To improve police surveillance of my home, area, etc.
- I felt a sense of duty to let police know about crime.
- Other reason not listed above.

If you DID NOT report this incident to police, why not? (Mark ALL that apply.)

- The police were informed of this incident by someone else.
- I reported the incident to another official instead (guard, apartment manager, school official, etc.)
- I felt the incident was a private or personal matter or took care of it myself or informally (e.g., told offender's parent.)
- The incident was minor or an unsuccessful crime, small or no loss, recovered property.
- The offenders were children so I chose not to report the incident to police.
- I was not sure if the incident was a crime or that harm was intended.
- No insurance, loss less than deductible, etc.
- I didn't find out until it was too late.
- I could not recover or identify property.
- I could not find or identify the offender or I did not have enough proof.
- The police would not have enough evidence to arrest an offender.
- The police wouldn't think it was important enough, or I didn't want to be bothered or get involved.
- Police would be inefficient, ineffective. (They'd arrive late or not at all, or wouldn't do a good job.)
- Police would be biased and/or I might have been harassed or insulted, or given trouble by police.
- The offender was a police officer.
- I did not want to get the offender in trouble with the law.
- I was advised not to report this incident to police.
- I was afraid of reprisal by the offender or others.
- I did not want to or could not take time; too inconvenient.
- Other reason not listed above.

19. As far as you know, was anyone arrested in connection with this incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

20. Have you (or someone in your household) had contact with any other authorities about this incident other than the police (such as a prosecutor, court, or juvenile officer)?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which authorities?

- Prosecutor, district attorney
- Magistrate
- Court
- Juvenile, probation or parole officer
- Other

4. Where did this incident happen?

In home or lodging

- In own dwelling, own attached garage, or enclosed porch (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)
- In detached building on own property, such as detached garage, storage shed, etc. (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)
- In vacation home/second home (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)
- In hotel or motel room you were staying in (Include illegal entry or attempted illegal entry of same.)

Near own home

- Own yard, sidewalk, driveway, carport, unenclosed porch (Do not include apartment yards.)
- Apartment hall, storage area, laundry room (Do not include apartment parking lot/garage.)
- On street immediately adjacent to own home

At, in, or near a friend's/relative's/neighbor's home

- At or in home of other building on their property
- Yard, sidewalk, driveway, carport (Do not include apartment yards.)
- Apartment hall, storage area, laundry room (Do not include apartment parking lot/garage.)
- On street immediately adjacent to their home

Commercial places

- Inside restaurant, bar, nightclub
- Inside bank
- Inside gas station
- Inside other commercial building, such as a store
- Inside office
- Inside factory or warehouse

Parking lots/garages

- Commercial parking lot/garage
- Noncommercial parking lot/garage
- Apartment/townhouse parking lot/garage

School

- Inside school building
- On school property (school parking area, play area, school bus, etc.)

Open areas, on street, or public transportation

- In apartment yard, park, field, playground (other than school)
- On the street (other than immediately adjacent to own/friend's/relative's/neighbor's home)
- On public transportation or in station (bus, train, plane, airport, depot, etc.)

Other

- Other location not specified above

5. How far away from your residence did this incident happen?

- At, in, or near the building containing your home/next door
- A mile or less
- Five miles or less
- Fifty miles or less
- More than 50 miles
- Do not know how far

6. Did the offender use a weapon during this incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which of the following weapons did the offender use? (Mark all that apply.)

- Handgun (pistol, revolver, etc.)
- Other gun (rifle, shotgun, etc.)
- Knife
- Other sharp object (scissors, ice pick, axe, etc.)
- Blunt object (rock, club, blackjack, etc.)
- Other weapon not specified
- Do not know what weapon the offender used

7. How many offenders committed this incident?

- One (1) offender
- Two (2) offenders
- Three (3) or more offenders
- More than one offender, but not know how many
- Do not know

8. Was the offender male or female?

- Male
- Female
- Both (if more than one offender)
- Do not know

9. How old would you say the offender was? You may guess if not completely sure, or indicate, "Do not know." If there was more than one offender, mark ALL that apply.

- Under 12
- 12-14
- 15-17
- 18-20
- 21-29
- 30 +
- Do not know

10. Did the offender (or any of the offenders) appear to be of Hispanic origin?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

11. Of which race did the offender appear to be? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL that apply.

- White
- Black
- American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- Other
- Do not know

12. What was your relationship with the offender when this incident occurred? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL relations that apply.

Stranger

I did not know the offender

Known Non-relative

- The offender was a casual acquaintance
- The offender was a boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend
- The offender was a friend or ex-friend
- The offender was a roommate or boarder
- The offender was a schoolmate
- The offender was a neighbor
- The offender was a customer or client
- The offender was a patient
- The offender was my current or former supervisor
- The offender was a current or former employee
- The offender was a current or former co-worker
- Other non-relative relationship

Relative

- The offender was my spouse
- The offender was my ex-spouse
- The offender was my parent or stepparent
- The offender was my child or stepchild
- The offender was my sibling (brother or sister)
- Other relative

13. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) a member of a street gang?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

14. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) drinking or on drugs during the time of the incident?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which was it, drinking or on drugs?

- Drinking
- On drugs
- Both drinking and on drugs
- Could not tell which

15. Was this the only time this offender (or any of the offenders) committed a crime against you or your household?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

16. What were you doing when this incident happened or when it started?

- Working or on duty
- On the way to or from work
- On the way to or from school
- On the way to or from another place
- Shopping or errands
- Attending school
- Leisure activity away from home
- Sleeping
- Other activities at home
- Other
- DO NOT KNOW

17. Did you suffer any of the following injuries as a result of this incident? Please mark only those injuries you endured as a result of this incident. Mark ALL that apply.

I did not suffer any injuries

OR

- Rape (rape refers to vaginal, oral, or anal penetration such as forced sexual intercourse or oral sex, or inserting objects)
- Attempted rape
- Sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape (e.g., unwanted fondling, touching, or other sexual activity that did not include penetration)
- Knife or stab wounds
- Gunshot, bullet wounds
- Broken bones or teeth knocked out
- Internal injuries
- Knocked unconscious
- Bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling, chipped teeth
- Other injuries not listed above

18. Were the police informed or did they find out about this incident in any way?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, how did the police find out about it?

- You reported the incident to police.
- Some other member of your household reported the incident to police
- Some official called police (guard, apt. manager, school official, etc.)
- Someone else
- Police were at the scene
- Offender was a police officer
- Some other way

If YES, did the responding police officer(s) ever tell you about any crime victim services or programs in your community?

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If you DID report this incident to police, why did you do so? Mark ALL that apply.

- To stop or prevent this incident from happening.
- I needed help after the incident due to injury.
- I wanted to recover property.
- I wanted to collect insurance.
- To prevent further crimes against myself or anyone in my household.
- To stop this offender from committing other crimes against anyone.
- To punish the offender.
- To catch or find the offender.
- To improve police surveillance of my home, area, etc.
- I felt a sense of duty to let police know about crime.
- Other reason not listed above.

If you DID NOT report this incident to police, why not? (Mark ALL that apply.)

- The police were informed of this incident by someone else.
- I reported the incident to another official instead (guard, apartment manager, school official, etc.)
- I felt the incident was a private or personal matter or took care of it myself or informally (e.g., told offender's parent.)
- The incident was minor or an unsuccessful crime, small or no loss, recovered property.
- The offenders were children so I chose not to report the incident to police.
- I was not sure if the incident was a crime or that harm was intended.
- No insurance, loss less than deductible, etc.
- I didn't find out until it was too late.
- I could not recover or identify property.
- I could not find or identify the offender or I did not have enough proof.
- The police would not have enough evidence to arrest an offender.
- The police wouldn't think it was important enough, or I didn't want to be bothered or get involved.
- Police would be inefficient, ineffective. (They'd arrive late or not at all, or wouldn't do a good job.)
- Police would be biased and/or I might have been harassed or insulted, or given trouble by police.
- The offender was a police officer.
- I did not want to get the offender in trouble with the law.
- I was advised not to report this incident to police.
- I was afraid of reprisal by the offender or others.
- I did not want to or could not take time; too inconvenient.
- Other reason not listed above.

19. As far as you know, was anyone arrested in connection with this incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

20. Have you (or someone in your household) had contact with any other authorities about this incident other than the police (such as a prosecutor, court, or juvenile officer)?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which authorities?

- Prosecutor, district attorney
- Magistrate
- Court
- Juvenile, probation or parole officer
- Other

21. Did you receive any crime victim services from the criminal justice system (e.g., police, state's attorney's office, courts) after this incident, such as counseling, or services from a victim advocate?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, how helpful did you find these services?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not helpful

22. Did you receive any crime victim services from a private, non-profit organization outside of the criminal justice system (e.g., a domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, or other crime victims program)?

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If YES, which of the following weapons did the offender use? (Mark all that apply.)

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- 30 +
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10. Did the offender (or any of the offenders) appear to be of Hispanic origin?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

11. Of which race did the offender appear to be? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL that apply.

- White
- Black
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- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- Other
- Do not know

12. What was your relationship with the offender when this incident occurred? If there was more than one offender, mark ALL relations that apply.

Stranger

- I did not know the offender

Known Non-relative

- The offender was a casual acquaintance
- The offender was a boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend
- The offender was a friend or ex-friend
- The offender was a roommate or boarder
- The offender was a schoolmate
- The offender was a neighbor
- The offender was a customer or client
- The offender was a patient
- The offender was my current or former supervisor
- The offender was a current or former employee
- The offender was a current or former co-worker
- Other non-relative relationship

Relative

- The offender was my spouse
- The offender was my ex-spouse
- The offender was my parent or stepparent
- The offender was my child or stepchild
- The offender was my sibling (brother or sister)
- Other relative

13. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) a member of a street gang?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

14. Was the offender (or one of the offenders) drinking or on drugs during the time of the incident?

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If YES, which was it, drinking or on drugs?

- Drinking
- On drugs
- Both drinking and on drugs
- Could not tell which

15. Was this the only time this offender (or any of the offenders) committed a crime against you or your household?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

16. What were you doing when this incident happened or when it started?

- Working or on duty
- On the way to or from work
- On the way to or from school
- On the way to or from another place
- Shopping or errands
- Attending school
- Leisure activity away from home
- Sleeping
- Other activities at home
- Other
- DO NOT KNOW

17. Did you suffer any of the following injuries as a result of this incident? Please mark only those injuries you endured as a result of this incident. Mark ALL that apply.

- I did not suffer any injuries
- OR
- Rape (rape refers to vaginal, oral, or anal penetration such as forced sexual intercourse or oral sex, or inserting objects)
- Attempted rape
- Sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape (e.g., unwanted fondling, touching, or other sexual activity that did not include penetration)
- Knife or stab wounds
- Gunshot, bullet wounds
- Broken bones or teeth knocked out
- Internal injuries
- Knocked unconscious
- Bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling, chipped teeth
- Other injuries not listed above

18. Were the police informed or did they find out about this incident in any way?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, how did the police find out about it?

- You reported the incident to police.
- Some other member of your household reported the incident to police
- Some official called police (guard, apt. manager, school official, etc.)
- Someone else
- Police were at the scene
- Offender was a police officer
- Some other way

If YES, did the responding police officer(s) ever tell you about any crime victim services or programs in your community?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If you DID report this incident to police, why did you do so? Mark ALL that apply.

- To stop or prevent this incident from happening.
- I needed help after the incident due to injury.
- I wanted to recover property.
- I wanted to collect insurance.
- To prevent further crimes against myself or anyone in my household.
- To stop this offender from committing other crimes against anyone.
- To punish the offender.
- To catch or find the offender.
- To improve police surveillance of my home, area, etc.
- I felt a sense of duty to let police know about crime.
- Other reason not listed above.

If you DID NOT report this incident to police, why not? (Mark ALL that apply.)

- The police were informed of this incident by someone else.
- I reported the incident to another official instead (guard, apartment manager, school official, etc.)
- I felt the incident was a private or personal matter or took care of it myself or informally (e.g., told offender's parent.)
- The incident was minor or an unsuccessful crime, small or no loss, recovered property.
- The offenders were children so I chose not to report the incident to police.
- I was not sure if the incident was a crime or that harm was intended.
- No insurance, loss less than deductible, etc.
- I didn't find out until it was too late.
- I could not recover or identify property.
- I could not find or identify the offender or I did not have enough proof.
- The police would not have enough evidence to arrest an offender.
- The police wouldn't think it was important enough, or I didn't want to be bothered or get involved.
- Police would be inefficient, ineffective. (They'd arrive late or not at all, or wouldn't do a good job.)
- Police would be biased and/or I might have been harassed or insulted, or given trouble by police.
- The offender was a police officer.
- I did not want to get the offender in trouble with the law.
- I was advised not to report this incident to police.
- I was afraid of reprisal by the offender or others.
- I did not want to or could not take time; too inconvenient.
- Other reason not listed above.

19. As far as you know, was anyone arrested in connection with this incident?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

20. Have you (or someone in your household) had contact with any other authorities about this incident other than the police (such as a prosecutor, court, or juvenile officer)?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If YES, which authorities?

- Prosecutor, district attorney
- Magistrate
- Court
- Juvenile, probation or parole officer
- Other

APPENDIX G

INTRODUCTORY AND REMINDER POSTCARDS

Introductory postcard

Dear Illinois Resident:

You were randomly chosen with more than 6,000 other Illinoisans to be in a study about crime. In about two weeks, you will receive a survey that will ask about your experiences with crime. You will also be able to provide any comments you may have about crime and the criminal justice system in Illinois. This study will help us learn more about crime in our state.

We sent this postcard to let you know of the survey's arrival. **Although your participation is completely voluntary**, we encourage you to complete and return your responses. **All answers to this survey will be kept strictly confidential.** If you have any questions about this study, please contact me at 312-793-8550.

Thank you.

Jennifer Hiselman
Project Manager

Si prefiere recibir una encuesta en Español, por favor llame al 312-793-8550 y pregunte por Ms. Adriana Pérez. Gracias.

Reminder postcard

Dear Illinois Resident:

We recently sent you the Illinois Crime Victimization Survey. As of today, our records show that we did not receive a survey from you. **Although your participation is completely voluntary**, we hope that you complete the survey even if you have not been a crime victim. **Your answers will be kept strictly confidential.** The survey will help us learn how our justice systems can improve their response to crime and crime victims.

If you already returned the survey, thank you for your help. If not, please take the time to complete and return the survey. If you did not receive a survey, misplaced it, or you have any questions about it, please feel free to contact me at 312-793-8550. Thank you.

Jennifer Hiselman
Project Manager

ERROR NOTIFICATION: Prior materials you may have received regarding this survey included an error in the phone number provided for the Illinois Crime Victims Hotline. **The correct phone number for the Illinois Crime Victims Hotline is 1-800-228-3368.**

Si prefiere recibir una encuesta en Español, por favor llame al 312-793-8550 y pregunte por Ms. Adriana Pérez. Gracias.

APPENDIX H

FIRST COVER LETTER

Dear Illinois Resident:

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency that works to improve the criminal justice system in Illinois. With assistance from the Bronner Group, we are surveying people like you to learn more about crime and the needs of crime victims in our state. You were randomly chosen with more than 7,000 other Illinoisans to be in this study. We ask that you complete and return this survey unless you are under the age of 18.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Even so, we hope you complete the survey even if you have never been a crime victim. By doing so, you will help us learn about how much crime really happens in our state. It will also help us learn what crime victims need to help them better cope with the aftermath of a crime. This can help improve the way our justice system responds to crime and crime victims.

Your answers will remain strictly confidential. Only your answers to this survey will be studied, NOT your name. Your name will not be anywhere on the survey. Also, your name will never be printed in any reports from this study. In fact, once we remove your completed survey from the return envelope, we will no longer be able to link your answers to your name.

Currently, crime information is primarily obtained from police reports. However, we know that many crimes are not reported to police. This survey will help us learn more about all crime that occurs in Illinois, even crimes that police never hear about.

Some questions in the survey may be sensitive, especially if you have been a victim of a violent crime. If you have been a crime victim, there are resources that can help you. Operators at the toll-free hotlines listed below can give you information and access to help you may need.

Enclosed you will find: the survey, a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and an informed consent statement. The informed consent statement contains important information for you to know before you complete the survey.

We hope you choose to be a part of this important study. If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like more information about this survey, please contact me at 312-793-8550.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Hiselman
Project Manager

Enclosures

SPANISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS: Si prefieres recibir una encuesta en Español, por favor llame al 312-793-8550 y pregunte por Ms. Adriana Pérez. Gracias.

RESOURCES FOR CRIME VICTIMS:

ILLINOIS CRIME VICTIMS HOTLINE: 1-800-228-3368 Mon-Fri 9a to 5p
NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: 1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255)
TTY: 1-800-211-7996 www.ncvc.org gethelp@ncvc.org Mon-Fri 7:30a to 7:30p

APPENDIX I

SECOND COVER LETTER

Dear Illinois Resident:

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, with assistance from the Bronner Group, is surveying people like you to learn more about crime and the needs of crime victims in our state. You were randomly chosen with thousands of other Illinoisans to receive this survey. It should have been mailed to you about one month ago. Our records show that you have not yet returned the survey.

Your participation is completely voluntary. However, we hope you choose to complete the survey even if you have never been a crime victim. If only crime victims respond to this survey, our findings will be skewed because it will appear that everyone in the state is a crime victim. By completing and returning the survey, you will help us learn how our justice systems can improve their response to crime and crime victims.

Your answers to this survey will be kept strictly confidential. Only your answers to this survey will be studied, NOT your name. Your name is not included anywhere on the survey. Also, your name will never be printed in any reports from this study. In fact, once we remove your completed survey from the return envelope, we will never be able to link your answers to your name.

If you already completed the survey, thank you for your valuable input. Enclosed is a new survey in case you misplaced the first one, a self-addressed stamped envelope, and an informed consent statement. The informed consent statement contains important information you should know before you complete the survey.

We hope you choose to be a part of this important study. If you have any questions about this survey, or you would like to receive a copy of the final report describing the results, please feel free to contact me at 312-793-8550.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Hiselman
Project Manager

Enclosures

SPANISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS: Si prefiera recibir una encuesta en Español, por favor llame a 312-793-8550 pregunte por Ms. Adriana Pérez. Gracias.

RESOURCES FOR CRIME VICTIMS:

ILLINOIS CRIME VICTIMS HOTLINE: 1-800-228-3368 Mon-Fri 9a to 5p

NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: 1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255)

TTY: 1-800-211-7996 www.nevc.org gethelp@nevc.org Mon-Fri 7:30a to 7:30p

APPENDIX J

Statement of Informed Consent for Respondents of the Illinois Crime Victimization Survey

Please read this statement of informed consent before completing the survey. It contains important information about the survey that you should know before completing it. This statement also informs about services you can access if you need help due to being a victim of crime. Make sure you read both the front and back of this statement.

The Illinois Crime Victimization Survey is a mail response survey to 7,500 Illinois residents. Individuals were randomly selected from the Illinois drivers' licenses and state identification card records. The survey responses will help us learn more about the extent and nature of crime in Illinois and what crime victims need. This survey will also help us learn how much crime is not reported to police in Illinois.

Here are some important points for you to know about this survey:

- **You must be at least 18 years of age to complete this survey.** Although we only selected individuals age 18 or older according to birth dates, it is possible that this survey could have been mistakenly sent to a younger person. If you are under the age of 18, please do not complete the survey.
- **Your decision to participate is completely voluntary.** By completing and returning this survey in the enclosed envelope, you are agreeing to be a participant in this study. If you choose not to complete the survey, there are no penalties or costs to you. Survey responses will be collected from January to April 2003. A final report about the survey results will be completed by October 2003.
- **Your answers will remain strictly confidential.** A list of names and addresses of each person that receives a survey will be kept during the survey collection phase. The only reason we will keep this list during this time is so we know who to mail reminder notices to. All information containing individual names will be in exclusive possession of, and accessible only to, a designated research team by the Bronner Group and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. No other government agency or any other organization will have access to this information. This list will be kept for three years, so we can prove that we actually completed this study. After that time, this list will be destroyed. Your name will not be anywhere on the survey, nor any reports that will describe the survey's results. No one other than the research team members will ever know that you completed a survey. Reports about this survey will be available to the general public. However, they will not contain any information that could possibly reveal your identity.

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- **There are foreseeable risks or discomforts in answering this survey.** Potential risks or discomforts from this study may occur due to the sensitive nature of some of the questions. If you have been a crime victim, you know that coping with the after effects of such an event can cause stress and discomfort. The questions in this survey will ask you to recall these events, some of which may be stressful and disturbing. However, your responses are critical toward improving how our criminal justice system responds to crime and the needs of crime victims.
- **Resources exist for crime victims that need help.** If you have been a crime victim and think you need help, there are resources that can help you or simply provide information you may need. Operators at the toll-free hotlines listed below can give you the information to access the help you may need.
- **What benefits will result from this study?** By choosing to be a part of this study, you will help provide essential information about crime and the needs of crime victims in our state. This information will help us improve the ways our justice system responds to crime and crime victims. Any publications from this study will be available to the general public at no cost.

This statement of informed consent is yours to keep. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like more information about this study, please contact Jennifer Hiselman of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority at 312-793-8550. If you prefer to speak with a Spanish-speaking person, you may contact Adriana Perez at 312-793-8550.

Thank you for reading this statement of informed consent. We hope you will choose to be a part of this important study.

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Lori G. Levin, Executive Director
