

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910961722303321
Titolo	Surveying victims : options for conducting the National Crime Victimization Survey // Panel to Review the Programs of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Committee on National Statistics, Committee on Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council of the National Academies ; Robert M. Groves and Daniel L. Cork, editors
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academies Press, 2008
ISBN	9786611726768 9780309177894 0309177898 9781281726766 1281726761 9780309115995 030911599X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (218 p.)
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Soggetti	Victims of crimes surveys Crime - Public opinion Criminal justice, Administration of - Public opinion
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Title -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- List of Figures -- List of Tables -- List of Boxes -- Executive Summary -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Goals of the National Crime Victimization Survey -- 3 Current Demands and Constraints on the National Crime Victimization Survey -- 4 Matching Design Features to Desired Goals -- 5 Decision-Making Process for a New Victimization Measurement System -- References -- A Findings and Recommendations -- B Principal Findings and Recommendations of the National Research Council (1976b) Study -- C Procedures and Operations of the National Crime Victimization Survey -- D The Uniform Crime Reporting Program -- E Other Victimization

Sommario/riassunto

It is easy to underestimate how little was known about crimes and victims before the findings of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) became common wisdom. In the late 1960s, knowledge of crimes and their victims came largely from reports filed by local police agencies as part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system, as well as from studies of the files held by individual police departments. Criminologists understood that there existed a "dark figure" of crime consisting of events not reported to the police. However, over the course of the last decade, the effectiveness of the NCVS has been undermined by the demands of conducting an increasingly expensive survey in an effectively flat-line budgetary environment. *Surveying Victims: Options for Conducting the National Crime Victimization Survey*, reviews the programs of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS.) Specifically, it explores alternative options for conducting the NCVS, which is the largest BJS program. This book describes various design possibilities and their implications relative to three basic goals; flexibility, in terms of both content and analysis; utility for gathering information on crimes that are not well reported to police; and small-domain estimation, including providing information on states or localities. This book finds that, as currently configured and funded, the NCVS is not achieving and cannot achieve BJS's mandated goal to "collect and analyze data that will serve as a continuous indication of the incidence and attributes of crime." Accordingly, *Surveying Victims* recommends that BJS be afforded the budgetary resources necessary to generate accurate measure of victimization.
