Ohio Crime Victimization Survey (OCVS)

Author(s) of Instrument:
Alan Wedd, M.S.
Kristina Nicholson, M.S.

Key References: Publications related to this instrument.


Primary Use/Purpose: This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.

The Ohio Crime Victimization Survey (OCVS) is a crime victimization survey designed to obtain estimates about the frequency of crimes against persons, crimes against property, and cybercrime.

The survey includes 9 screening questions, 7 violent crime questions, 4 property crime questions, 9 cybercrime questions, 1 question about additional crime, and 7 demographic questions. Additionally, the OCVS has 8 follow up questions if an individual reports that they have experienced a particular crime.

Some advantages of the OCVS are that it can provide information on crimes not reported to law enforcement, and it can be used to obtain information on cybercrime (which is often overlooked when studying victimization).

Its limitations include all of the limitations inherent to both self-report and telephone surveys. Users should be sure to review Wedd & Nicholson (2017) before administering the survey in order to ensure that they are familiar with the protocols for administration and analysis of OCVS survey items. Likewise, it is recommended that interviewers have access to key hotline phone
numbers (i.e. sexual assault hotline, domestic violence hotline, victims’ assistance programs, etc.) in situations where participants disclose victimization and request additional resources.

**Background and Development:** How and why this instrument was developed.

The OCVS was developed in order to better understand crime victimization at the state level. Survey questions about crimes against persons and property were adapted from the National Crime Victimization Survey in order to coincide with OIBRS definitions. Cybercrime questions were developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in collaboration with the Financial Fraud Research Center and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation; they were primarily based on work from Beals, DeLiema, and Deevy (2015). Once the initial survey items were developed, revisions were made based on feedback from BJS and the Applied Research Center at Miami University.

**Psychometrics (if applicable):** Any testing of this instrument.

N/A

**Link to Instrument:** Link to the instrument if available.

See attached.

**Submitted by:** Alan Wedd, M.S. submitted this instrument to the CVR Instruments Collection and certified permission to publicly share this instrument.
Appendix A: Ohio Crime Victimization Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is [ ] and I am calling from the Applied Research Center at Miami University on behalf of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. We are conducting a study on crime victimization in Ohio. Since many crimes are not reported to law enforcement, this survey will help us learn more about the crime rate in our state. Your phone number has been randomly chosen and your participation is voluntary. Some of these questions may be sensitive in nature. Your experiences are very important to us and you may stop at any time. Also, you may refuse to answer any question. Please keep in mind only group responses are reported, so your answers will be treated confidentially. Would you be kind enough to give me a few minutes of your time to help us better understand crime victimization?

If respondent says they haven’t been a victim of a crime, say: “Sometimes people don’t recognize certain behaviors as criminal, so we would still like to ask the questions on our survey to be as thorough as possible. Would you be willing to give me a few minutes of your time to help us better understand crime victimization?”

☐ Yes, continue with survey

Screening

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this survey. First, what is your age?

☐ 18 or older (record age) ________________
☐ Under 18 years of age
☐ Hung up

Is there another household member nearby that is 18 years old or older?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Hung up

May I speak to this individual?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Hung up

In what county do you live?

☐ No answer
☐ Hung up

What is your zip code?
How long have you lived in Ohio?
○ Less than 1 year
○ More than 1 year (record number of years) ____________________
○ Hung up

Is this a cellular phone? [By cellular phone I mean a telephone that is mobile and usable outside your neighborhood]
○ Yes
○ No
○ No answer
○ Hung up

Which of the following best describes your phone usage?
○ Cell phone only user
○ Cell phone with a landline, but mostly a cell phone user
○ Landline only phone user
○ Landline with a cell phone, but primarily landline phone user
○ Use both landline and cell phone equally
○ Not sure
○ No answer
○ Hung up

Violent Crime

The first section of this survey has questions on violent crime, which can be sensitive in nature. Please keep in mind that your responses will be kept anonymous and that you may skip any question if it makes you uncomfortable. When answering these questions, please think of those experiences that occurred within the last twelve months; that is [month] 2015 to [month] 2016.

1. In the last 12 months did anyone threaten or force you into having any form of sexual intercourse against your will, or when you were unable to consent? [Forcible Rape]
   ○ Yes - Continue with survey
   ○ Yes - Do not wish to discuss
   ○ No
   ○ No answer
   ○ Hung up
1a. How many times did this occur?[^26]

- Once
- More than once
- I do not wish to discuss the incident any further
- No answer
- Hung up

1b. What was the approximate month/year that the incident occurred? [If respondent says “more than once,” ask “What was the approximate month/year of the MOST RECENT occurrence?”]

- April 2015
- May 2015
- June 2015
- July 2015
- August 2015
- September 2015
- October 2015
- November 2015
- December 2015
- January 2016
- February 2016
- March 2016
- April 2016
- May 2016
- Not sure
- I do not wish to discuss the incident any further
- No answer
- Hung up

1c. Did you report this to the police?

- Yes
- No
- I do not wish to discuss the incident any further
- No answer
- Hung up

[^26]: Follow up questions 1a-1h were asked after each of the primary crime victimization items. In order to keep the appendix within a reasonable length, these items were provided as an example within Question 1 and omitted following each of the items thereafter.
1d. Why didn’t you report this to the police? [Select all that apply]

- Believed the police couldn’t do anything
- Incident was not important
- Dealt with the incident another way
- Did not want to involve the police
- Didn’t know about the crime until later
- Felt the crime was due to your own carelessness
- The offender was a close family member or friend
- Other ____________________
- I do not wish to discuss the incident any further
- No answer
- Hung up

1e. Were there multiple offenders?\(^{27}\)

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know
- I do not wish to discuss the incident any further
- No answer
- Hung up

1f. What is your relationship to the offender in the most recent incident?

- Don’t know who offender is
- Stranger
- Casual acquaintance
- Well-known, but not family or romantic partner
- Current dating partner or spouse
- Former dating partner or spouse
- A family member
- Other ____________________
- I do not wish to discuss the incident any further
- No answer
- Hung up

\(^{27}\) Participants were able to provide details on up to five offenders.
1g. What is the offender’s sex?

- Male
- Female
- Don’t know
- I do not wish to discuss the incident any further
- No answer
- Hung up

1h. What was the offender’s age at the time of the incident?

2. In the past 12 months, did anyone take, or attempt to take something directly from you by using force or the threat of force? [Robbery]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up

3. In the past 12 months, did anyone attack or threaten you with a weapon or anything that could be used as a weapon such as scissors, a baseball bat, stick, rock, vehicle, or bottle? [Aggravated Assault]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up

4. During the past 12 months, did anyone physically assault you such as push, grab, shove, slap, punch, kick, bite, choke, pull your hair, or throw something at you? [Simple Assault]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up
5. In the past 12 months, did anyone force, or attempt to force you into any other unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.? [Forcible Fondling]
   - Yes - Continue with survey
   - Yes - Do not wish to discuss
   - No
   - No answer
   - Hung up

6. In the past 12 months, have you experienced any unwanted contact or behaviors outside of those I have referred to previously? For example, has anyone followed or watched you, snuck around and done unwanted things to let you know they had been there, or showed up, rode or driven by places where you were when they have no business being there. Please remember the unwanted contact or behavior is not limited to these examples. Do not include bill collectors, solicitors, or other sales people. [Stalking]
   - Yes - Continue with survey
   - Yes - Do not wish to discuss
   - No
   - No answer
   - Hung up

7. In the last 12 months, did anyone threaten you with their words or actions in such a way that made you fear for your safety? [Intimidation]
   - Yes - Continue with survey
   - Yes - Do not wish to discuss
   - No
   - No answer
   - Hung up
Property Crime

The next section of this survey focuses specifically on questions pertaining to incidents involving your property. When answering these questions about property, please think of those experiences that occurred within the last 12 months, that is, from May 2015 to May 2016. Please keep in mind that your responses will be kept anonymous and you may skip a question if at any time you feel uncomfortable answering.

8. In the last 12 months, did anyone break into, or attempt to break into, your home, garage, or some other building on your property? This may include property you own or rent. [Burglary]
   - Yes - Continue with survey
   - Yes - Do not wish to discuss
   - No
   - No answer
   - Hung up

9. Did anyone use without permission, steal or attempt to steal, your motor vehicle, such as a car, truck, motorcycle, or ATV during the past 12 months? [Motor Vehicle Theft]
   - Yes - Continue with survey
   - Yes - Do not wish to discuss
   - No
   - No answer
   - Hung up

10. In the last 12 months, did anyone steal or attempt to steal, anything belonging to you? This may include things you carry like a wallet or purse, things in your home like a TV or stereo, things outside your home such as lawn furniture or a garden hose, or things from a vehicle such as a package or CD’s? [Theft]
    - Yes - Continue with survey
    - Yes - Do not wish to discuss
    - No
    - No answer
    - Hung up
11. In the last 12 months, did anyone deliberately destroy, damage, or vandalize any of your property? This includes things like graffiti or broken windows. [Destruction, Damage, Vandalism]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up

Cybercrime

We are moving on to another set of questions now that are specifically referring to crimes that have been committed online or via the internet. Sometimes consumers are misled into giving people money who misrepresent or never provide the goods or services they promise. The people who do these things may or may not work for a legitimate business and may contact consumers through a number of ways, including email and internet sites. The following items are different ways individuals may misrepresent goods and services. For each of the items, we are asking specifically about instances in which you were first contacted through an internet website or email.

12. Do you ever access the internet?

- Yes
- No
- No answer
- Hung up

13. In the last 12 months, have you paid for an investment opportunity promising high financial returns, but the earnings were grossly misrepresented or nonexistent? This may include, but is not limited to, investments in oil drilling, precious metals or real estate. Again, we are specifically referring to incidents where initial contact was made through a website or email. [Consumer Investment Fraud]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up
14. In the last 12 months, have you paid for goods and/or services that were not received as promised? This may include, but is not limited to, payment for non-existent, unnecessary, or worthless products or services, or unauthorized billing for products and/or services. Keep in mind, we are specifically referring to incidents where initial contact was made through a website or email. [Consumer Products and Services Fraud]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up

15. In the last 12 months, have you invested money in employment related expenses, such as training, tools, equipment, or upfront fees to become involved in an advertised employment opportunity that either did not exist or whose wages were grossly misrepresented? [Employment Fraud]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up

16. In the last 12 months, have you won a prize/lottery/grant/money, but were first required to purchase a product or make certain payments in advance? Again, we are specifically referring to incidents where initial contact was made through a website or email. [Prize and Grant Fraud]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up

17. In the last 12 months, have you been contacted by a debt collector regarding an unknown debt? Keep in mind, we are specifically referring to incidents where initial contact was made through a website or email. [Phantom Debt Collection Fraud]

- Yes - Continue with survey
- Yes - Do not wish to discuss
- No
- No answer
- Hung up
18. In the last 12 months, have you donated money to a charitable organization or a cause on a
crowdfunding website that turned out to be fake or that you suspect was fake? Keep in mind,
we are specifically referring to incidents where initial contact was made through a website or
email. [Charity Fraud]

☐ Yes - Continue with survey
☐ Yes - Do not wish to discuss
☐ No
☐ No answer
☐ Hung up

19. In the last 12 months, have you given money to someone you were communicating with
online who said they were a family member, friend, or someone interested in you
romantically, but that person was not who they claimed to be? [Relationship & Trust Fraud]

☐ Yes - Continue with survey
☐ Yes - Do not wish to discuss
☐ No
☐ No answer
☐ Hung up

20. In the last 12 months, did anyone use or attempt to use: [Read list, select all that
apply] [Identity Theft]

☐ Your existing credit cards without permission
☐ Your existing bank accounts without permission
☐ Your social security number without permission
☐ Your personal information to obtain services
☐ Your personal information to obtain new credit cards or accounts, run up debts etc.
☐ None of the above happened
☐ No answer
☐ Hung up

Other Crime

21. In the past 12 months, were you a victim of any other crimes that we haven’t asked about?

☐ Yes - Continue with survey
☐ Yes - Do not wish to discuss
☐ No
☐ No answer
☐ Hung up
Demographics

These last few questions will help us classify the opinions of the people in the study, and are for planning purposes only.

22. Are you of Hispanic or Latino/Latina origin?
   - Yes
   - No
   - No answer
   - Hung up

23. Which of the following best describes your race?
   - Caucasian/White
   - African American/Black
   - Asian or Pacific Islander
   - American Indian or Alaskan Native
   - Bi-racial
   - Other ____________________
   - No answer
   - Hung up

24. Which of the following best describes your relationship status?
   - Single, never married
   - Married
   - Domestic partnership
   - Divorced
   - Separated
   - Widowed
   - Other ____________________
   - No answer
   - Hung up
25. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?
   - No schooling completed, or less than 1 year
   - Nursery, Kindergarten, and Elementary (grades 1-8)
   - High School (grades 9-12, no degree)
   - High School Graduate
   - Some college or technical school
   - Associate’s Degree
   - Bachelor’s Degree
   - Master’s Degree
   - Professional school degree (MD, DD, JD, etc)
   - Don’t know
   - No answer
   - Hung up

26. Which of the following best describes how you think about yourself?
   - Lesbian or gay
   - Straight, that is, not lesbian or gay
   - Bisexual
   - Something else ____________________
   - Don’t know
   - Refused
   - Hung up

27. Next, I am going to read some income categories. Please stop me when I reach the category that includes the approximate TOTAL annual income for your household.
   - Less than $10,000
   - $10,000 to $14,999
   - $15,000 to $24,999
   - $25,000 to $34,999
   - $35,000 to $49,999
   - $50,000 to $74,999
   - $75,000 to $99,999
   - $100,000 to $149,999
   - $150,000 to $199,000
   - $200,000 or more
   - No answer
   - Hung up
Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

☑ Employed full-time for wages
☑ Employed part-time for wages, less than 30 hours a week
☑ Self-employed
☑ Unemployed - out of work 1 year or more
☑ Unemployed - out of work less than 1 year
☑ Student
☑ Retired
☑ Homemaker
☑ Unable to work
☑ Other ____________________
☑ No answer
☑ Hung up

Those are all the questions I have today. Thank you for taking the time to speak with me.

DO NOT ASK - Sex of respondent.

☑ Male
☑ Female

Phone number

Initials