

International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection - as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

The International Crime Victims Survey was organized by the ICVS International Working Group, led by Jan J.M. van Dijk, Pat Mayhew, Anna Alvazzi del Frate, John van Kesteren and others. The project was funded by participating countries and ad-hoc grants from for instance the European Commission and the United Nations.

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey.

Several researchers were frustrated with the lack of comparability between the national crime surveys during the 1970s and early 1980s. However, technological difficulties and other problems hindered the development of a truly comparative survey. In the 1980s a highly successful experiment with the CATI-method in Switzerland, which significantly lowered the costs of conducting surveys, led Jan van Dijk to form a working group in 1988 to discuss the possibility of an international, comparative crime victimization survey. The fieldwork was carried out in 1989, thus making the International Crime Victimization Survey a reality (Killias 2010).

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

http://www.unicri.it/services/library_documentation/publications/icvs/

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

The survey was conducted four times in the period 1989-2000. The survey was continued in 2004-05 under the new name *the European Crime and Safety Survey*. This survey is considered as a separate survey – please refer to the specific report for more information on the ECSS.

ICVS I: 1989

ICVS II: 1992

ICVS III: 1996/97

ICVS IV: 2000

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

The survey focuses on people's experiences with crime, policing, crime prevention, and feelings of safeness.

An outline of the type of sample used.

According to ICPSR, the universe consists of persons aged 16 and over in the participating countries. The sample sizes vary from 1,000 to 2,000 and with some exceptions (national or urban samples) these cases were drawn from each country's largest cities. Different sampling procedures were employed in different countries. For details, please refer to [the codebook](#) (*warning: this codebook is more than 30 MB large and may take a few minutes to download*).

An outline of the main data collection methods employed.

Computer assisted telephone interviews and face-to-face interviews.

An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

The data are freely available for download at [ICPSR](#) upon logging in via Facebook, Google or MyData.

Questionnaires, English version

The questionnaire is available in [the codebook](#).

The countries included in the different rounds

The following areas were included in one or more rounds:

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Catalonia, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England and Wales, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Panama, the Philippines,

Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Ukraine, the US, and Zambia.

Cumulative file of the various rounds

The cumulative file is available [here](#).

Publications based on data

A list of publications based on this data is available [here](#).

Analytical summary

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is taken directly from the responsible organization's website.

Killias, Martin. "International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)" in B.S. Fisher and S.P. Lab (2010), *Encyclopedia of Victimology and Crime Prevention*, SAGE Publications, Inc.