

Victimisation Surveys

Criminal Justice

What population surveys about crime experience capture, and what they cannot.

Designed to reach crime that never enters police records.

What they capture

Crime never reported to the police

Comparable trends over long periods

Repeat victimisation within a year

Worry, perception and impact

Demographic patterns in risk

What they miss

Homicide, by definition

Crimes against businesses and the state

People outside the sampling frame

Fraud and online offences, until recently

Repeat incidents capped by counting rules

Educational reference. Survey estimates carry sampling error; small year-on-year movements are often not statistically significant.