

For those using the Crime Seriousness dataset, the following methodology is excerpted and modified from:

Williams, Frank P., III, McShane, Marilyn D., & Clark, Gregory A. (2007). Does victimization affect estimates of the seriousness of crime? A policy-based analysis.” In Laura J. Moriarty and Robert A. Jerin (Eds.), *Current issues in victimology research, 2nd edition* (forthcoming). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Methodology

The data used in this analysis were collected as part of a survey of Southwestern adults on crime-related issues. The sample was drawn from a list of 10,000 names randomly selected from a state's drivers license listings. From this larger sample, a systematic random subsample of 2,000 names was drawn for use in the survey. All 2,000 individuals were sent a 19-page instrument containing questions on various crime-related issues. The survey was a two-wave design, beginning with a preliminary letter and ending with a follow-up letter to the second wave. Since each wave of questionnaires was followed by a letter to non-respondents, a total of five contacts were possible. Those who were either deceased or whose mail was declared nonforwardable by the U.S. Post Office were removed from the original sampling frame. The total of 1033 usable responses represented an adjusted response rate of 55 percent. Comparing key demographic variables of gender, race, and age, the survey closely approximated census estimates for the population of residents over the age of 17.

The Dependent Variables

The survey was specifically designed to replicate items from the Rossi model of crime seriousness. The dependent variables are the estimation of crime severity for some 24 crimes on the original Rossi et al. list of offenses. Respondents were asked to rate the 24 crimes according to their severity using a scale which ranged from 1 to 9. A rating of one was designated as “not serious at all” and a rating of nine was noted as “extremely serious.” The rating scale was the same as used in Rossi et al. (1974) and subsequent surveys.