

**NCVS-573(L) SEATTLE
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Several months ago, a representative from the Census Bureau contacted your address in connection with the National Crime Victimization Survey which the Census Bureau is conducting for the U.S. Department of Justice. We are grateful for the cooperation we were given then. Now it is time for us to interview at your address again. Our representative will update the characteristics and experiences of the current residents, whether you are the same household we talked with before or whether you moved to this address since our last interview.

This survey collects important information on the extent to which persons in this country are victimized by crime. The survey results are used in many ways, including by citizens to evaluate their vulnerabilities to becoming victims of crime, by legislators and policymakers to develop programs to aid crime victims and prevent crime, and by researchers to understand the nature of various aspects of victimization.

A Census Bureau representative, either from a centralized telephone center or from our field office, will contact you shortly to ask you and other members of your household some questions on this subject. We are conducting this survey under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, Section 8. Section 9 of this law requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential. We may use this information only for statistical purposes. Also, Title 42, Section 3732, United States Code, authorizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, to collect information using this survey. Title 42, Sections 3789g and 3735, United States Code, also requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential.

Because this is a sample survey, your answers represent not only you and your household, but also hundreds of other households like yours. For this reason, your participation in this voluntary survey is extremely important to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the final results. Although there are no penalties for failure to answer any question, each unanswered question substantially lessens the accuracy of the final data.

Answers to the most frequently asked survey questions are on the reverse side of this letter. If you would like further information, contact the Census Bureau by writing or calling the following office:

Regional Director
U.S. Census Bureau
601 Union Street, Suite 3800
Seattle, WA 98101

Telephone: 1-800-233-3308

Thank you for your cooperation. The Census Bureau appreciates your help.

Sincerely,

Charles Louis Kincannon

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What is the National Crime Victimization Survey all about?

This survey, called the National Crime Victimization Survey, collects data measuring the kinds and amount of crime involving persons 12 years of age and older. Periodically, the survey includes such additional topics as crime in schools, hate crime, contacts with law enforcement, and crime in the workplace.

How was I selected for this survey?

Actually, we selected your living quarters, not you personally for this survey. We scientifically selected approximately 56,000 addresses across the country to represent the entire population. At each selected address, we interview household members age 12 and older. If your household should move away while your address is still in the survey, we would interview the new family that moves in.

Will information I provide be confidential?

We are conducting this survey under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, Section 8. Section 9 of this law requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential. We may use this information only for statistical purposes. Also, Title 42, Section 3732, United States Code, authorizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, to collect information using this survey. Title 42, Sections 3789g and 3735, United States Code, also requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential.

Do I have to participate?

The survey is voluntary, and there are no penalties for not participating. We expect the interview to take about 25 minutes. Your interview may be somewhat shorter or longer than this depending on your circumstances. If you have any comments about this survey or have recommendations for reducing its length, send them to the Chief, Victimization Statistics Branch, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, DC 20531.

How are the data used?

Data from this survey are used to provide information on many topics related to crime and victimization, including crime in schools, trends in violent crime, costs of crime, and the response of law enforcement to reports of victimization. To see examples of reports, tables, and charts that use data from the survey, you can visit the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Web site: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/.

I thought that the Census Bureau only operated every 10 years, when they counted people. What is the Census Bureau doing now?

In addition to the decennial census, which is conducted every 10 years, the Census Bureau collects many different kinds of statistics. We conduct other censuses required by law on a regular basis, including the censuses of business and manufactures and the census of state and local governments. Additionally, we collect data on a monthly basis to provide current information on such topics as labor force participation, retail and wholesale trade, various manufacturing activities, and trade statistics, as well as yearly surveys of business, manufacturing and governments, family income, and education.