



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting a survey for the U.S. Department of Justice to obtain information on the type and amount of crime committed against households and individuals throughout the country. A Census Bureau representative will be contacting you soon. Our representative will show an official identification card and ask for some important information on this subject from you and your household.

The information you provide our representative will help inform the country about how much crime there is, where it occurs, when it occurs, what crime costs victims, and which segments of the population are most frequently victimized. Since many crimes are never reported to the police, information from this survey will show a more complete picture of the amount and types of crime occurring in the United States. The survey results are used in many ways, including by citizens to evaluate their vulnerabilities, by legislators and policymakers to develop programs to aid crime victims and prevent crime, and by researchers to understand various aspects of crime victimization.

Your address is part of a scientifically selected sample of addresses chosen throughout the country for participation in this survey. 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 voluntary cooperation is very important. I hope you will answer all the survey questions as completely and accurately as possible. Although there are no penalties for failure to answer any questions, each unanswered question substantially lessens the accuracy of the final data. Your answers will be used only to prepare statistical summaries, and no information about your household or you as an individual can be identified from these statistics. The law completely protects your confidential answers from disclosure.

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
101 Marietta Street, N.W., Suite 3200
Atlanta, GA 30303

Telephone: 1-800-424-6974, Ext. 53943

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

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves

What is the National Crime Victimization Survey all about?

This survey, called the National Crime Victimization Survey, collects data measuring the types and amount of crime involving people 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 48,000 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 (U.S.C.), 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, U.S.C., authorizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, to collect information using this survey. Title 42, U.S.C., Sections 3789g and 3735, also requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential. (OMB Number: 1121-0111; Expiration Date: 09/30/2012.)

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 at 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 types 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.