

CLEEN Foundation

Lagos, Nigeria

NATIONAL CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION AND SAFETY SURVEY, 2009 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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Background

1. Effective crime prevention, crime control and criminal justice policies require reliable and valid information and statistics on the incidence, prevalence, pattern and trend of crime and criminal victimization.
2. Such data are unavailable in most countries due to several problems and challenges, including:
 - a. Lack of awareness of victimization
 - b. Non-reporting of victimization
 - c. Non-recording of reported criminal victimization
 - d. Manipulation of records to support crime increase or crime reduction
 - e. Poor crime recording culture and capability
3. Criminologists have in the past five decades attempted to minimize the problem by devising two alternative and independent measures of level of criminal activity and victimization in a country. These are:
 - a. self-report crime survey, and
 - b. crime victimization survey.

The three alternative measures of criminality and victimization are *official statistics, self-report survey and criminal victimization survey*. The latter method that has been adopted in this work is discussed below.

Crime Victim Survey

1. Crime victimization survey is used to obtain data on the extent, trend and pattern of crimes committed by members of society,
2. Questionnaires are designed and administered to gather information on respondents' experience of criminal victimization.
3. The method suffers several deficiencies, including inability of the respondents to accurately report events during the period covered by the survey.
4. However, several advantages have been attributed to victim survey, including the following:
 - a. It provides rich data for understanding the distribution of criminal victimization and the socio-demographic characteristics of victims and criminals;
 - b. It offers valuable information for building theories on criminality and victimization.

- c. It also promotes understanding of the consequences of victimization and the extent of fear of crime among different groups in different locations¹.

Research Design and Method

1. This study employed survey research design.
2. Its principal aim was to determine the views of Nigerians, 18 years and older, on the extent, trend and patterns of victimization in the country as input into policies and programmes aimed at enhancing security, safety and criminal justice administration.
3. Other objectives include the identification of the extent of public fear of crime; perceptions of the extent and pattern of crime in their communities; opinions on the extent of corruption in different institutions of society; perceptions of the performance of public agencies and officials, and extent of trust in public officials and institutions.
4. The fieldwork for the study was conducted nation-wide – in all the thirty-six states and the Federal Capital Territory, in February 2010.
5. The data collection method employed was household survey involving face-to-face personal interview.
 - a. Respondents were selected through stratified multi-stage random selection procedure in order to achieve a representative sample.
 - b. Respondents were adult Nigerian males and females who were eighteen years and older and who had lived in the selected households for a period of not less than six months.
 - c. A total of 10,228 respondents were covered in the survey, based on proportional representative sampling.
6. Fieldwork for the administration of the interview was carried out by the Practical Sampling International (PSI) an indigenous company that provides field social survey services. Data processing was handled by a company under the direction of Ms. Bola Adedoyin.
7. Analysis of the data was undertaken by the CLEEN Foundation, responsible for the study
8. The project is supported by MacArthur Foundation

¹ Cantor, D. and J. P. Lynch. 2000. "Self-Report Surveys as Measures of Crime and Criminal Victimization" *Criminal Justice*, 2000, vol. 4: 87-138 and Gottfredson, MR and MJ Hindelang (1981) "Sociological Aspects of Criminal Victimization"; *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 7: 107-128

Summary of Major Findings

Victimization of household members and respondents

Respondents were asked two separate questions. The first asked the respondents to report if any member of their household (other than themselves) were victims of specific crimes during the past three years. The second question asked the respondents if they were victims of specific crimes during the previous three years. Their responses are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Household and Personal Victimization: 2007-2009

Crime	% of respondents who reported victimization	
	Household members	Personal victimization
Murder	3.5	-
Attempted murder	2.6	1.6
Robbery	11.1	7.4
Attempted robbery	5.5	3.1
Rape	1.7	0.7 ²
Attempted rape	2.0	1.1
Kidnapping	1.7	0.5
Attempted kidnapping	1.5	0.4
Theft of car	3.5	1.0
Motorcycle theft	6.4	2.5
Domestic violence	16.9	11.2
Same-sex intercourse	1.8	0.8
Physical assault	21.4	16.3
Theft of mobile GSM phone	29.7	24.1
Burglary	10.7	5.7
Theft of money	23.5	17.5
Theft from car	4.1	1.7
Theft of agricultural product	12.4	6.8

The most common forms of victimization were theft of various kinds of property (money, GSM handset, agricultural products, automobiles, etc), robbery, domestic violence, physical assault and burglary (table 1)

The respondents were further asked about their most recent victimization. Their responses indicated the following as the most common forms of victimization: theft of GSM handset, theft of money, physical assault, domestic violence, robbery, theft of agricultural products and burglary (table 2).

² Only female respondents were asked the question

Table 2: Most recent experience of crime

Crime	% of respondents who reported following crime as their most recent victimization
Attempted murder	0.8
Robbery	8.1
Attempted robbery	2.4
Rape	0.7
Attempted rape	1.0
Kidnapping	0.5
Attempted kidnapping	0.3
Theft of car	0.7
Motorcycle theft	1.7
Domestic violence	9.1
Physical assault	15.1
Theft of mobile phone	28.2
Burglary	4.0
Theft of money	17.7
Theft from car	0.8
Theft of agricultural products	7.8

Personal Victimization by State

The findings from the survey indicated that criminal victimization was highest in Kebbi, Kwara and Ebonyi states where more than three-quarters of the respondents said they experienced criminal victimization over the past three years. The safest states were Ogun and Katsina where less than 10% of the respondents reported experience of criminal victimization. Overall, 47.1% of the respondents, across the nation, reported being victims of crime over the past three years (table 3).

Crime reporting behaviour or preference

Crime reporting behaviour and preferences can indicate the extent to which the public trust the police. They may also indicate the pattern of crime in society and availability of various options for handling or resolving them. For example in many Nigerian cultures, the norm is that dispute among family members be settled by family and clan elders. Similarly, it is expected that acquaintances resolve their conflicts through the mediation of friends. Religious groups also expect that members will present their disputes to the leaders for resolution. In the literature, it has been demonstrated that the willingness or incentive to invoke the criminal justice system is dependent on the seriousness of offences, likelihood that offenders will be apprehended or that property that was lost will be recovered by the police.

The victims of crime reported their experience or victimization to the following different agencies:

1. Family and friends – 52%
2. Police – 20.2%
3. Traditional leaders – 3.0%
4. Religious leaders – 2.3%
5. Courts – 0.3%, understandably, because only civil cases can be taken to courts by victims
6. Vigilante groups – 2.4%

Respondents who reported to the police were asked if they were satisfied with the handling of their complaints by the police.

1. Less than a half (42.8%) were satisfied;
2. 13.1% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied;
3. the remaining 44% were dissatisfied.

They were further asked why they were dissatisfied with the action of the police. The respondents cited the following reasons:

1. Police did not do enough to apprehend the offender – 36.2%
2. Police did not do enough to recover property – 21.6%
3. Police were slow to respond to call for help – 9.3%
4. Did not keep me properly informed of development about their actions – 8.0%
5. Police did not treat them with respect – 5.8%
6. Police asked me for money, bribery – 13.2%
7. Police colluded with suspects – 3.9%

A careful analysis of the reasons indicated dissatisfaction of victims who reported to the police derived from three principal factors: capability and effectiveness of the police (67.1%); police treatment of complainants (13.8%) and integrity or lack of it, corruption – (17.1%).

Extent and causes of rape in communities

The respondents were asked about their opinion on the extent of the incidence of rape in their areas or communities.

1. Nearly a half (48.6%) said that rape was non-existent;
2. 37.6% said rape occurs only occasionally;
3. 10.6% said that the incidence of rape was widespread, and
4. 3.2% reported that rape was very widespread and occurs all the time.

Respondents were asked why women are being raped. They gave the following reasons:

1. Provocative dressing – 72.1%
2. Influence of the media – 8.2%
3. Lack of self-control by men – 11.3%
4. Mental illness by men – 3.2%
5. Influence of hard drugs – 2.1%

Nearly three quarters of the respondents attributed rape to provocative dressing. On classification of responses by sex,

1. 72.7% of male respondents and 71.5% of female respondents attributed rape to provocative dressing.

Further classification by religion shows that:

2. 72.7% of Christian respondents;
3. 69.6% of Muslim respondents, and
4. 54.1% of traditional religion respondents attributed the reason why women are being raped to provocative dressing.

The responses fit into either victim-blaming or victim-precipitated explanations in the criminological literature.

Perceptions of corruption among public officials, especially law enforcement agencies

Perceptions of corruption are generally much higher than actual incidence of corrupt practices. A better picture of corruption can be obtained through information on the proportion of respondents with officials who reported being asked to pay bribe.

Table 4 presents level of contact for services with selected public officials during the past 12 months and solicitation for bribe by public officials.

Table 4: Contact and perception of corruption

Agencies	% of respondents with contact	% of respondents that reported being solicited for bribe
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission	1.0	15.7
Federal Road Safety Corps	5.4	29.4
State Security Services	1.0	15.2
Independent Corrupt Practices Commission	0.5	9.9
Custom Service	2.9	26.0
Immigration	4.4	29.8
Police	29.7	51.7
Civil Defence – NSCDC	3.4	21.9
Higher courts	2.8	12.0
Lower Courts	3.9	14.9
Prison	6.0	18.4
Lecturers in tertiary institutions	20.3	23.2
Power Holding Company – PHCN/NEPA	42.5	27.6

Contacts between members of the public and government officials within the context of service delivery vary considerably. The highest contacts occurred between the public and officials of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (responsible for the provision of electricity). Cases of corruption were reported across the agencies, with the highest proportion by those with contacts with the police followed by those with contacts with Immigration, FRSC, PHCN, Custom, lecturers in tertiary institutions and civil defence where at least 20% of officials were reported to have solicited for bribe from those requesting services or against whom laws were being enforced.

Three-fifths (60.0%) of the respondents said corruption has increased during the past three years. Perception of increase in corruption within the state was highest in Ogun, Abia, Nasarawa and Imo states where more than four-fifths of the respondents said that corruption increased a lot or slightly. The cleanest states were Zamfara, Jigawa, Cross River, Rivers and Kebbi states where less than two-fifths reported increase in corruption in the state over the past three years.

The respondents proffered several recommendations towards the control of corruption in the country. Percentages of respondents who recommended the following are:

1. Tougher laws and sentences – 62.3%
2. Better education and upbringing of children – 70.1%
3. Effective monitoring and control of public officials – 54.5%
4. Greater publicity of the impact of corruption – 55.4%

5. Good leadership – 71.5%
6. Better salaries for public officials – 60.9%
7. Social security for the aged, unemployed and handicapped – 50.2%

Fear of being a victim of crime

Fear of being a victim of crime can affect social relationships, economic activities and confidence in vital institutions of society, especially the government and law enforcement agencies.

Most respondents exercise very high degree of fear. Overall, 38.9% were very fearful, 32.7% were fearful and 15% were a little fearful. Respondents in Gombe, FCT, Plateau, Ebonyi, Ondo and Sokoto states were most fearful while those from Anambra, Ogun and Lagos states were least fearful (table 6).

Road safety and accident

Road accident and highway robbery are major sources of death on Nigerian highways. Respondents were asked about how safe they felt on the highways in the state. Overall, 71.1% of the respondents across the nation said they felt safe in their respective states. However, there were variations in the extent to which respondents felt safe in their states (table 7).

Respondents in Katsina, Lagos, Adamawa and Zamfara states generally felt very safe on the highways while respondents in Abia, Ebonyi, Kebbi, Edo and Yobe states generally felt unsafe (table 7).

Trend of property crime in the last 12 months

Property crimes constitute the highest proportion of the nation's criminal statistics. Slightly more than one-half (51.2%) of the respondents across the country said property crimes decreased in their respective states. However, there are variations across the state (table 8)

The highest level of reduction in the incidence of property crime was reported by respondents in Jigawa, Lagos, Rivers and Niger states while least reduction was reported in Nasarawa, Edo, Plateau and Delta states

Trend of violent crimes in the state in the past twelve months

The feeling of insecurity in Nigeria has generally been engendered by the incidence of violent crimes such as murder and especially robbery and kidnapping. More than one-half (52.4%) of the respondents across the nation said there was a decrease in the incidence of violent crimes during the past twelve months in their respective states (table 9).

Highest reduction in the incidence of violent crimes was reported by respondents in Jigawa, Lagos, Niger and Rivers states. Least reduction in violent crimes was reported by respondents in Plateau, Nasarawa, Edo, Delta, Ebonyi and Abia states (table 9).

Public assessment of police performance

The Nigeria Police Force is the law enforcement agency with the widest jurisdiction and powers concerning the enforcement of law and maintenance order. Members of the Force

have primary responsibility for the preservation of security and safety in the country. Less than one-half (43.4%) of the respondents across the country said the police were doing very good or good job. Slightly more than a third (34.3%) said they were doing poor or very poor job, while 22.4% said the police were neither doing a good nor a bad job. In table 10, the variation across the states is presented.

The police received the highest positive performance evaluation from the respondents in Jigawa, Katsina, Plateau and Bauchi states. Most negative evaluation of the police were reported by respondents in Ebonyi, Kebbi, Ekiti, Imo, Rivers, Abia and Cross River states where less than a quarter said the police were doing very good or good job.

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Appendix: Tables

Table 3: Personal victimization over three years: 2007-2009

State	<i>% that reported personal victimization over past 3 years</i>
Kebbi	82.9
Kwara	79.9
Ebonyi	75.3
Gombe	69.9
Borno	69.2
Ondo	68.4
Niger	65.4
Bauchi	65.2
Cross River	65.1
Edo	63.9
Enugu	62.7
Akwa-Ibom	62.6
Plateau	61.6
Yobe	61.5
Adamawa	60.9
Bayelsa	58.9
Oyo	52.0
Benue	50.8
Sokoto	50.6
Rivers	50.4
Delta	48.5
Anambra	43.5
Kano	43.5
Abia	42.9
Kaduna	42.4
Jigawa	37.9
Ekiti	35.1
Taraba	34.1
Nasarawa	31.3
Zamfara	29.5
FCT	29.2
Lagos	28.5
Osun	28.4
Imo	21.8
Kogi	19.6
Katsina	9.5
Ogun	9.3
National	47.1

Table 5: Perception of trend of corruption in the states

States	% reporting increase in corruption
Ogun	85.2
Abia	84.8
Nasarawa	83.8
Imo	83.4
Plateau	79.8
Oyo	77.0
Ondo	73.4
Osun	70.8
Edo	70.4
Gombe	67.0
Kano	66.5
Enugu	66.0
Akwa-Ibom	65.4
Sokoto	65.1
Kaduna	64.9
Delta	64.6
Bayelsa	64.4
Adamawa	64.0
FCT	63.2
Anambra	63.0
Borno	61.9
Ekiti	61.5
Bauchi	58.7
Benue	57.3
Ebonyi	57.2
Kwara	56.4
Kogi	53.8
Lagos	52.7
Yobe	52.3
Katsina	51.8
Niger	48.1
Taraba	40.6
Kebbi	36.3
Rivers	35.7
Cross River	34.4
Jigawa	25.5
Zamfara	24.7
National	60.0

Table 6: Fear of being a victim of crime

State	% that reported being very fearful or fearful
Gombe	98.9
FCT	98.2
Plateau	97.8
Ebonyi	97.6
Ondo	97.3
Sokoto	97.0
Borno	96.0
Taraba	95.9
Osun	95.7
Enugu	95.0
Nasarawa	94.8
Bauchi	93.9
Kogi	92.9
Edo	92.3
Adamawa	92.0
Niger	90.7
Jigawa	90.5
Oyo	90.4
Abia	89.4
Kano	89.0
Katsina	88.6
Yobe	86.8
Kebbi	85.5
Kaduna	84.0
Bayelsa	83.8
Kwara	83.8
Benue	82.6
Cross River	82.6
Rivers	79.9
Akwa-ibom	79.4
Imo	79.2
Delta	78.2
Ekiti	77.1
Zamfara	76.9
Lagos	72.9
Ogun	66.7
Anambra	58.1
National	86.6

Table 7: Feeling of Safety on the Road

State	% that reported feeling very safe or safe on roads In the state
Katsina	93.3
Lagos	92.8
Adamawa	86.2
Zamfara	85.9
Niger	83.7
Bayelsa	83.0
Akwa-ibom	82.2
Cross River	81.4
Rivers	79.9
Sokoto	79.6
Ogun	78.9
Delta	76.8
FCT	76.5
Kwara	76.0
Bauchi	75.8
Anambra	74.4
Enugu	74.3
Jigawa	74.2
Kogi	74.2
Oyo	74.2
Taraba	72.9
Borno	70.2
Kano	69.3
Plateau	68.6
Imo	66.2
Gombe	61.8
Nasarawa	61.1
Kaduna	60.6
Osun	57.2
Ondo	55.4
Benue	53.1
Ekiti	51.8
Yobe	48.6
Edo	46.4
Kebbi	41.5
Ebonyi	36.1
Abia	21.4
National	71.1

Table 8: Trend of Property Crimes

State	% that reported felt that property crimes has decreased In the state in the last 12 months
Jigawa	82.0
Lagos	79.2
Rivers	68.9
Niger	64.0
Osun	63.4
Zamfara	62.0
Anambra	59.7
Kebbi	59.4
Ekiti	59.2
Kogi	59.2
Cross River	57.7
Borno	57.3
Benue	56.6
Bauchi	55.8
Taraba	55.3
Adamawa	54.7
Kaduna	53.7
Yobe	53.4
Akwa-ibom	51.7
Kwara	51.4
Ogun	48.5
Ondo	48.4
Bayelsa	48.1
Sokoto	46.1
Enugu	45.6
Oyo	43.1
Imo	43.0
Kano	41.0
FCT	36.8
Abia	35.7
Gombe	34.7
Katsina	33.2
Delta	28.6
Ebonyi	28.3
Plateau	22.4
Edo	19.7
Nasarawa	17.2
National	51.2

Table 9: Trend of Violent Crime

State	% that said violent crime has decreased In the state
Jigawa	84.4
Lagos	79.9
Niger	72.7
Rivers	68.4
Osun	64.2
Zamfara	64.1
Kebbi	62.0
Benue	61.5
Kogi	59.6
Borno	59.5
Taraba	58.2
Bauchi	58.1
Yobe	58.0
Anambra	57.1
Ekiti	56.9
Cross River	56.7
Kaduna	56.2
Adamawa	54.2
Sokoto	52.8
Kwara	52.0
Ondo	50.8
Bayelsa	49.6
Ogun	47.0
Akwa-ibom	46.9
Imo	45.4
Enugu	43.2
Kano	42.2
Oyo	42.1
FCT	40.6
Gombe	39.3
Katsina	37.9
Abia	35.3
Ebonyi	30.7
Delta	24.2
Edo	19.7
Nasarawa	18.7
Plateau	17.7
National	52.4

Table 10: Performance of the Police

State	% that reported felt the police was doing very good or good in the state
Jigawa	78.7
Katsina	68.5
Plateau	67.6
Bauchi	65.5
Adamawa	61.8
Yobe	61.5
Zamfara	61.1
Benue	58.5
Nasarawa	57.5
Ogun	52.6
Kaduna	50.6
Osun	50.6
Kano	48.1
Ondo	48.1
Enugu	47.7
Kogi	45.8
Borno	43.0
FCT	41.5
Sokoto	40.9
Akwa-ibom	39.8
Gombe	38.7
Delta	38.4
Bayelsa	37.2
Kwara	35.2
Lagos	35.2
Niger	35.2
Taraba	34.1
Anambra	33.1
Edo	33.0
Oyo	32.3
Cross River	24.6
Abia	22.4
Rivers	21.2
Imo	19.8
Ekiti	19.5
Kebbi	18.8
Ebonyi	7.8
National	43.4