

**Criminal Victimization Experiences, Fear of Crime,  
Perceptions of Risk, and Opinion of Criminal Justice  
Agents among a Sample of Kentucky Residents**

**2008**



**David May, Ph.D.  
Patricia Harden, M.S.  
Lena Kline, B.A.**



**Prepared by the Department of Safety, Security, and  
Emergency Management at Eastern Kentucky  
University on behalf of the  
Kentucky Statistical Analysis Center**

## **SUMMARY**

In this study, we used a mail survey of a sample of Kentucky residents to collect data relating to three major outcome variables of interest. These variables included: (1) fear of criminal victimization; (2) perceived risk of criminal victimization; and (3) self-reported victimization experiences for various offenses organized by property crime, violent crime, and sexual crime categories.

In an effort to make the sample as representative of the state as possible, we obtained a list of all registered voters in Kentucky and drew a random sample of 5,000 registered voters. Of that original 5,000, we received completed surveys from 1,616 adult respondents, a response rate of 36.6% after accounting for all undeliverable addresses.

## **IMPORTANT FINDINGS**

In the following pages, we highlight several interesting findings uncovered in this analysis and close by providing recommendations for policy and professionals based on these findings.

The first encouraging finding from this research is that even though they did not necessarily think crime was decreasing in their community, most Kentucky adults were satisfied with the protection they were receiving from law enforcement in their community. Most respondents were not afraid of being murdered and most do not let fear of criminal victimization prevent them from doing the things they like to do. Additionally, although the majority of respondents report the presence of guns in their home, less than half had installed new devices in their home for protection in the past 12 months, indicating that this group felt either little or no immediate danger in the area where they lived.

This good news should be taken with some caution, however. Approximately half of the respondents were afraid of property crime (both having their money/possessions taken from them and having someone break into their house while they were away) and more than 10% of the respondents were at least somewhat afraid of each of the crimes they were asked about. Additionally, about one quarter of the respondents felt that it was more likely than not that someone would steal something from them or break into their home in the next 12 months. As such, a substantial minority of respondents, while not necessarily changing their daily activities because of their fear of crime or their perceived risk of crime, still are concerned they may be victimized, particularly by property crimes such as theft and burglary.

The second important contribution of this research effort was that it allowed us to examine, for the first time of which we are aware, the self-reported impact that terrorism has had on the lives of a statewide sample of Kentucky residents. The results presented here suggest that the vast majority of the respondents are both fearful and expectant that a terror attack will occur in the United States. Additionally, a majority of the respondents are also fearful and expectant that someone in Kentucky will be victimized by terrorism as well. Nevertheless, the news is not all bad, as both the fear and perceived risk of terrorism decreases as respondents reported about their local community and their own chances of victimization by terrorism. In other words, while most Kentucky respondents are both fearful and expectant that terrorism will occur in the United States, far less are concerned about terrorism victimizing someone in their local community, in their family, or themselves.

A third important contribution of this research was that it allowed us to examine, again for the first time of which we are aware, the self-reported impact that identity theft has had on the lives of a statewide sample of Kentucky residents. These findings are encouraging, as less

than 1 in 10 respondents had been victimized by any form of identity theft, and, when identity theft did occur, most cases cost the respondent \$1000 or less.

This research also allowed us to examine the scope of both “traditional” property crime and violent crime. While the vast majority of respondents had not been victimized by crime in the past 12 months, those who had were far more likely to be victimized by property crime than by violent crime or identity theft. Unfortunately, although it appears that a substantial number of robbery, assault, and property crime victims reported their victimization experience to police, victims of identity theft and sexual crimes were generally unlikely to report that victimization experience to police. This finding is discussed in greater detail below in the policy implications section.

Another important contribution of this research involves the relationships between victims and offenders. Again, within the limitations of this sample of respondents and mirroring national data (Rand, 2008), for all victimizations where the victim was able to know who their victimizer was, victims of robbery, threats, rape, and assault were far more likely to be victimized by someone they knew than a stranger. Thus, despite the images of violent and property crime often presented by the media, we are far more likely to have crimes committed against us by people we at least casually know than we are by strangers.

A final contribution of this research involves the topics of rape and sexual assault. While the reported number of victims of sexual assault in the past year limits any statement we can make about the current extent of victimization by sexual crimes in Kentucky, our knowledge of the literature from national victimization surveys suggests that findings presented here are consistent with other research that indicates: (1) approximately one in ten women have been a victim of a sexual assault at some point in their lifetime; (2) women are

more likely to be victimized by unwanted sexual activity than forced sexual assault; and (3) we know very little about the true scope of rape and sexual assault in the United States because most victims, but particularly male victims, do not report that victimization to the police (Rand, 2008). These findings are also discussed in detail in the policy implications section.

## INTRODUCTION

In the past four decades, a substantial amount of research has been conducted regarding the subject of criminal victimization. National research using a wide variety of methods (e.g., self-report surveys, official police reports, hospital records) suggests that only about one-third of all crime is reported to the police via official arrest and crime data; as such, self-report surveys asking respondents about their victimization experiences are an essential resource for legislators and criminal justice agents in developing policy and determining funding priorities. In this report, we have used self-report surveys to examine these topics using data from a sample of Kentucky residents.

This is the third report of its kind conducted in Kentucky in the past decade. In 1999, the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council collaborated with a regional university to conduct a baseline statewide victimization mail survey. The survey consisted of questions in three areas: (1) attitudes regarding the criminal justice system, (2) fear of crime, and (3) victimization within the past year. Self-administered surveys were sent to a random sample of 18,000 Kentucky residents, and approximately 4,000 surveys were returned. Following the issuance of a final report by the primary university researcher in December 1999, Council staff conducted additional analyses of the data that compared results to national findings and highlighted policy implications.

In 2004, the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council collaborated with that same regional university to provide an update to those findings (May, Wells, Minor, Cobb, Angel, & Cline, 2004). In the 2004 report, researchers used telephone interviews of 1,991 Kentucky adults to examine their perceptions and experiences with property, violent, and sexual crime victimization and their opinions of criminal justice agents.

This report is a continuance of those efforts to examine victimization experiences and perceptions of crime and victimization in Kentucky. Much of the instrument used to collect data for this effort was modeled after the instrument used in the 2004 report as well as other state and national victimization surveys, such as the 2007 Maine Crime Victimization Survey (Rubin, 2007). Additionally, a number of items were included to examine perceptions of terrorism and likelihood of victimization by terroristic activities among Kentucky respondents. As such, while not directly comparable to the previous reports (because of the differing methodologies used by each team of researchers), this report provides additional information for legislators and criminal justice policymakers to consider in their efforts to reduce crime and victimization in the state of Kentucky.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Sampling**

The population targeted for this project was the state of Kentucky. In order for the survey to be representative of the state, our initial request was to the Kentucky Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing to obtain a randomly selected list of 5,000 licensed drivers to use as the sampling frame for this analysis. In early February 2008, we learned that current technological limitations did not make that a feasible sampling strategy. We then approached the Kentucky State Board of Elections and requested a list of all registered voters in the state of Kentucky. Upon receipt of this list, we selected a random sample of 5,000 registered voters.

### **Data Collection**

In March 2008, we mailed a postcard to the 5,000 addresses that we had randomly selected advising them that they would be receiving a mail questionnaire asking them to share

their experience with crime and victimization. Approximately two weeks later, we mailed a packet containing the questionnaire, a cover letter explaining the purpose of the project, and a metered return envelope to each of the 5,000 selected addresses. Approximately two weeks later, we mailed a reminder postcard to all respondents that had not returned a completed questionnaire (or for whom we had not been notified by the post office that their address was incorrect). Two weeks after that, we mailed another packet containing the same contents as the initial packet. The data collection began in late March and continued into late May 2008.

Almost 12 (11.9) percent of the addresses selected were undeliverable to the respondent drawn through the random sampling strategy described above. Although we were notified by survivors that five respondents originally selected were deceased, practically all of the 593 respondents for whom the survey was undeliverable were not able to be contacted because the address supplied by the voter registration database was incorrect. Additionally, 15 respondents informed us, by sending a letter or the questionnaire that we sent to them, that they did not want to participate in the study. Three additional respondents returned a questionnaire that contained only minimal information (e.g., their gender and one or two other completed questions). Completed, usable questionnaires were received from 1,617 respondents. Using a total sample of 4,407 respondents as the valid sample from which the respondents were drawn, the response rate for this study was thus 36.7%.

### **Survey Instrument**

Members of the Statistical Analysis Committee met with a Justice Cabinet representative in December 2007 to begin the development of a survey draft and to establish the data collection technique and the sampling strategy to be used in this effort. Following this meeting, a draft of the survey was presented to Justice Cabinet staff, who then sought

input from a number of constituencies in January and February 2008. Feedback from these groups was used to revise the survey. The final version of the survey was completed in March 2008. The cover letter included with the original packet and the survey instrument itself appear in Appendices A and B, respectively.

## **RESULTS**

The demographic statistics of the respondents are presented in Table 1 alongside the state's demographic characteristics, according to the 2000 census. A comparison of the results indicates that respondents in this study were slightly more likely to be female, white, older, married, and to have higher levels of income and education and far more likely to be living in a home that they owned rather than rented. Most of these differences are likely due to the fact that the sample utilized in this study was adults who had registered to vote (rather than a more representative sample like the one that we would have drawn had we had access to the motor vehicle registration database). As such, the results presented here are not truly representative of the population of Kentucky adults. Consequently, given the fact that crime victims are disproportionately male, nonwhite, unmarried, renters, less educated, and with lower household incomes (Rand, 2008), the results presented here provide at best a conservative estimate of victimization experiences with crime in Kentucky.

Although these differences are a limitation, there are two reasons why we thought these two dissimilarities were not of great enough concern to merit weighting of the variables: (1) the units of analyses for the sample and the 2000 census data are different (see notes at the bottom of Table 1), thus introducing the opportunity for less similarity; and (2) the percent differences between the sample and 2000 census data are relatively small (i.e., do not exceed 20 percent) for any demographic category.

**Table 1. Comparison of Sample and Population Demographic Characteristics\***

<b>Demographic Variable</b>	<b>Sample (Frequency &amp; %)</b>	<b>Population 2000 Census Estimates (Frequency &amp; %)</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	730 (45.1)	1,975,368 (48.9)
Female	884 (54.7)	2,066,401 (51.1)
Missing Data	3 (0.2)	--
<b>Race</b>		
White	1524 (94.2)	3,678,740 (91.0)
Black	58 (3.6)	311,000 (7.7)
Other	38 (2.3)	96,581 (2.4)
Missing Data	7 (0.4)	--
<b>Education</b>		
Less than 12 years	119 (7.3)	685,000 (25.9)
G.E.D./High School Graduate	596 (36.9)	888,277 (33.6)
Some College	300 (18.6)	619,651 (23.4)
College Graduate	406 (25.1)	271,418 (10.3)
Postgraduate Work	152 (9.3)	182,051 (6.9)
Missing Data	44 (2.7)	--
<b>Age</b>		
18-24	83 (5.1)	401,858 (13.4)
25-35	192 (12.1)	632,494 (21.0)
36-45	264 (16.4)	637,074 (21.2)
46-55	355 (22.0)	539,033.2 (17.9)
56-65	369 (23.0)	361,716.4 (12.0)
66 and over	335 (20.0)	432,219.4 (14.4)
Missing Data	14 (0.9)	--
<b>Marital Status**</b>		
Married	1059 (65.5)	1,844,628 (57.3)
Widowed	103 (6.4)	231,630 (7.2)
Divorced	165 (10.2)	353,637 (11.0)
Single, Never Married	208 (12.9)	730,035 (22.7)
Opposite Sex partner sharing a home	60 (3.7)	--
Same Sex partner sharing a home	5 (0.3)	--
Missing Data	17 (1.1)	--

**Table 1. Comparison of Sample and Population Demographic Characteristics (cont.)\***

Number of children under the age of 18 living at current residence		
0	1047 (64.7)	--
1-2	426 (26.4)	--
3 or more	78 (4.9)	--
Missing Data	66 (4.1)	--
Income <sup>***</sup>		
Less than \$20,000	258 (16.0)	477,186 (30.0)
\$20,000 to less than \$50,000	446 (27.6)	604,145 (38.0)
\$50,000 to less than \$80,000	370 (22.9)	274,530 (17.2)
\$80,000 or more	340 (22.3)	235,878 (14.8)
Missing Data	183 (11.3)	--

\* Due to the differences in the manner in which some of the demographic data were categorized, some of the categorical data were interpolated by converting existing census categories to the same scale as the scale used for the data collection for this project. Data collected from the 2000 census included respondents age 15 and over; data for the sample came from respondents age 18 and over.

\*\* Sample used respondents 18 years and older; 2000 census used respondents 25 years and older

\*\*\* Census data are categorized from \$50,000-\$75,000 and over \$75,000, rather than \$50,000-\$80,000 and over \$80,000, as the question measuring household income was worded on the survey instrument for this study. The measure of income for the 2000 census was taken from the total number of households in Kentucky.

Given these similarities, and because using the original data is more intuitive for respondents not familiar with data weighting procedures, we felt that weighting would not significantly improve any estimates and thus used data in its original form.

The results presented in Table 1 indicate that the majority of the respondents were female (54.7%), white (94.2%), married, and over the age of 36 (at least 65% of all respondents for both the sample under study and the Kentucky census data). Most also had a household income less than \$80,000 (66.5%), and had no children under 18 living at their residence (64.7%). One in three (34.4%) were college graduates or had completed some postgraduate work.

**Table 2. Citizen Satisfaction with Criminal Justice System Components**

	Strongly Agree		Somewhat Agree		Somewhat Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
I think law enforcement is doing a good job of protecting me in my community.	443	27.4	743	45.9	251	15.5	138	8.5
Over the past three years, I believe that crime in my community has decreased.	122	7.5	482	29.8	494	30.6	417	25.8

The respondents' perceptions of the criminal justice system and crime in their community are presented in Table 2. The results indicate that although 73% of respondents agree that law enforcement is doing a good job, 56% believe crime either stayed the same or has increased in their community.

Responses to a number of questions estimating the levels of fear of criminal victimization among the respondents in the sample are presented in Table 3. One in six respondents was at least somewhat afraid of being raped or sexually assaulted and one in three respondents were afraid of being attacked by someone with a weapon. Two in five (39%) were afraid of having their money/possessions taken from them while one in four respondents (24.8%) were at least somewhat afraid to go out at night for fear of being a victim of a crime. Over half (53.2%) of the respondents were at least somewhat afraid someone would break into their house while they were away. Most (82%) respondents were not afraid of being murdered and most (78%) responded that fear of criminal victimization did not prevent them from doing the things they like to do.

**Table 3. Impact of Fear of Crime on Behavior and Fear of Specific Crimes**

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>		<b>Somewhat Agree</b>		<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>		<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
I am afraid of being raped or sexually assaulted.	52	3.2	223	13.8	294	18.2	990	61.2
I am afraid of being attacked by someone with a weapon.	107	6.6	409	25.3	467	28.9	579	35.8
I am afraid of having my money/possessions taken from me.	182	11.3	446	27.6	457	28.3	482	29.8
I am afraid to go out at night because I might become a victim of crime.	114	7.1	287	17.7	435	26.9	729	45.1
I am afraid that someone will break into my house while I'm away.	272	16.8	589	36.4	396	24.5	308	19.0
I am afraid of being murdered.	58	3.6	183	11.3	370	22.9	950	58.8
Fear of criminal victimization prevents me from doing things I would like to do.	79	4.9	204	12.6	361	22.3	911	56.3

**Table 4. Perceptions of Risk of Criminal Victimization**

<i>On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not at all likely and 10 being very likely, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you in the next 12 months?</i>	<b>Average Score</b>	<b>% Greater than 5</b>
Someone stealing items that belong to you without using force.	4.09	25.7%
Someone breaking into your home and taking or attempting to take something.	4.02	21.4%
Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you.	3.33	15.5%
Someone taking or attempting to take something from you by force or threat of force.	3.14	13.5%
Someone threatening you with their fists, feet, or other bodily attack.	3.02	12.8%
Someone beating you or attacking you with a club, knife, gun or other weapon.	2.85	11.2%
Someone forcing you or attempting to force you to engage in sexual intercourse, fondling, or other sexual activity with them against your will.	2.27	8.5%

Respondents were then asked to rate the likelihood that they would be victimized by a wide variety of crimes in the upcoming year. The responses to those questions are presented in Table 4. Respondents felt they were most likely to be victimized by theft without force and by burglary as about one in four respondents rated the chances of being victimized by theft (25.7%) and burglary (21.4%) as a 6 or above (on a 10-point scale), indicating they felt theft and burglary were more likely than not. Motor vehicle theft was perceived as the next most likely crime to occur (15.5%), followed by robbery and assault without a weapon (13.5% and 12.8%), assault with a weapon (11.2%), and rape (8.5%), respectively.

**Table 5. Experiences with Threats in the Last 12 Months**

<b>In the last 12 months I have felt threatened by another person...</b>	<b>YES</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Following or spying on me.	124	7.7
Making unasked for phone calls to me.	129	8.0
Sending me unasked for letters, electronic, or written correspondence.	86	5.3
Standing outside my home, school or workplace.	132	8.2
Continually showing up at the places I was.	40	2.5
Leaving unwanted items for me.	20	1.2
Trying to communicate with me against my will.	49	3.0

Respondents were then asked about their experiences with threats from other people in the past 12 months. Responses to those questions are presented in Table 5. While no more than 1 in 10 respondents had experienced any of the threat situations, the most common threats the respondents had experienced were having someone stand outside their home, school, or workplace (8.2%), receiving phone calls for which they had not asked (8.0%), and having people following or spying on them (7.7%).

**Table 6. The Prevalence of Fear of Terrorism Among Kentucky Residents**

	Strongly Agree		Somewhat Agree		Somewhat Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
I am afraid someone living in the United States will be a victim in a terrorist attack.	1039	64.3%	375	23.2%	82	5.1%	71	4.4%
I am afraid more terrorist attacks will occur.	708	43.8%	657	40.6%	120	7.4%	84	5.2%
I am afraid someone in my state will be a victim in a terrorist attack.	269	16.6%	682	42.2%	398	24.6%	216	13.4%
I am afraid someone in my community will be a victim in a terrorist attack.	110	6.8%	480	29.7%	588	36.4%	388	24.0%
I am afraid someone in my family will be a victim in a terrorist attack.	132	8.2%	443	27.4%	579	35.8%	413	25.5%
I am afraid I will be a victim in a terrorist attack.	66	4.1%	336	20.8%	639	39.5%	526	32.5%

Respondents were then asked about the impact of fear of terrorism on their daily activities. Responses to those questions are presented in Table 6. Most respondents were both at least somewhat afraid that someone living in the United States would be a victim in a terrorist attack (87.5%) and most were also at least somewhat afraid that future terrorist attacks would occur (84.4%). Over half of the respondents (58.8%) were at least somewhat afraid someone in Kentucky will be a victim in a terrorist attack. More than one in three respondents were at least somewhat afraid that someone in their community (36.5%) or someone in their family (35.6%) would be a victim in a terrorist attack, but only one in four (24.9%) were afraid that they would be personally victimized by future terrorist activity.

**Table 7. Respondents' Perceptions of Risk of Terroristic Activity**

<i>On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not at all likely and 10 being very likely, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you in the next 12 months?</i>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>% Greater than 5</b>
Terrorists could spread a dangerous contamination or illness.	5.84	48.2%
Radioactive chemicals could be released by terrorists.	5.79	48.2%
Terrorists could acquire a nuclear bomb.	5.57	45.6%
There will be another terrorist attack on U.S. soil during the next 12 months.	5.37	41.4%
There will be a terrorist attack in Kentucky during the next 12 months.	3.22	13.5%
I could be on a plane that is hijacked.	2.73	11.6%
I could be the victim of a suicide bombing.	2.50	9.0%
I could be in a tall building during a terrorist attack.	2.39	8.2%
I could be on a subway or bus that is bombed.	2.14	7.3%
There will be a terrorist attack in my community in the next 12 months.	2.28	7.0%

Respondents were then asked about their perceptions of the likelihood of terrorism and their potential victimization in a terrorist attack. The responses to those questions are included in Table 7. Almost half the respondents felt that it was more likely than not those terrorists (1) could spread a dangerous contamination or illness, (2) could release radioactive chemicals, and (3) acquire a nuclear bomb. There were also a substantial number of respondents who think there will be another terrorist attack on U.S. soil in the next 12 months (41.4%).

When asked about the risk they perceived of terrorism in Kentucky or their own likelihood of being involved in terrorist actions, however, perceptions of risk dropped off markedly, with only one in eight (13.5%) respondents anticipating a terrorist attack in Kentucky and less than 1 in 10 (7%) anticipating that a terrorist attack was likely in their community. The perceived likelihood of personal involvement in a terror-related attack ranged from a high of 11.6% of respondents who thought it was more likely than not that they

**Table 8. Property and Identity Theft Victimization Experiences in the Past 12 Months**

In the last 12 months have you:	YES		NO		MISSING	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing credit cards or credit card numbers without your permission?	121	7.5%	1490	92.1%	6	0.4%
Discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing accounts (e.g. telephone account, bank account) without permission?	73	4.5%	1535	94.9%	9	0.6%
Discovered that someone used or attempted to use your personal information without permission to obtain NEW credit cards or loans, run up debts, open other accounts, or otherwise commit theft, fraud, or some other crime?	64	4.0%	1546	95.6%	7	0.4%
Were you the victim of a property crime such as someone attempting to steal or stealing your car, breaking into, or trying to break into your home, or vandalizing your property?	212	13.1%	1360	84.1%	45	2.8%

would be on a plane that was hijacked, followed by suicide bombing (9.0%), presence in a tall building during an attack (8.2%), and presence on a subway or bus during an attack (7.3%), respectively.

Respondents were next asked about their victimization experiences in the past 12 months by property crime and identity theft. Their responses are presented in Table 8. The vast majority of respondents (greater than 84%) had not been victimized by each of the crimes in question. The most frequent victimization experience (for which 13.1% of the sample had been victimized) involved property crime. Less than 1 in 20 respondents had someone use or attempt to use any of their existing accounts (4.5%) or use or attempt to use

**Table 9. Reporting of Property Crime and Identity Theft Victimization to Law Enforcement Agencies**

	YES		NO	
	N	%	N	%
Did you report the misuse of credit cards, personal information, etc. to the police? (Number of Victims = 181)	65	35.9%	116	64.1%
As a result of the misuse, have you or anyone in your household had banking problems, or had problems with credit card accounts? (Number of Victims = 182)	33	18.1%	149	91.9%
<i>As a victim of a property crime in the last 12 months</i> did you report it to the police? (Number of Victims = 212)	135	63.7%	77	36.3%

their personal information without permission to obtain new credit cards, loans, or open new accounts (4.0%). A slightly higher percentage (7.5%) reported that someone had attempted to fraudulently use their credit cards.

The respondents who had been victimized by the crimes presented in Table 8 were then asked whether they reported the victimizations to the police. As can be seen from the results recorded in Table 9, a much larger proportion of the victims of property crime (63.7%) reported their victimization to the police than did victims who reported credit card or personal information victimization (35.9%). One in five victims (18.1%) of credit card/personal information misuse expressed having banking or credit card problems because of their victimization experience.

**Table 10. Estimated dollar amount of Credit Card Victimization\***

	Someone used your credit cards		Someone used your account		Someone used your personal info	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than \$500	66	58.4%	39	60.9%	27	52.9%
\$500 to \$1,000	29	25.7%	15	23.4%	12	23.5%
\$1,001 to \$10,000	16	14.2%	8	12.5%	10	19.6%
More than \$10,000	2	1.8%	2	3.1%	2	3.9%

\* Some of the respondents were victims of multiple crimes.

Victims of identity theft were then asked to estimate the amount of financial damage they received from their identity theft victimization. Responses to those questions are presented in Table 10. The responses presented in Table 10 indicate that, for each victimization experience (e.g., when someone used their credit cards, when some used their account(s), when someone used their personal information), the majority of victims lost less than \$500 as a result of the victimization. Nevertheless, about one in four victims in each category lost between \$500 and \$1,000.

**Table 11. Violent Crime Victimization Experiences**

	YES		NO		MISSING	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>In the last 12 months:</b>						
Did anyone threaten to hit, attack, or assault you?	96	5.9%	1496	92.5%	25	1.5%
Did anyone take, or attempt to take, something directly from you by using force, or threat of force?	29	1.8%	1526	94.4%	62	3.8%
Did anyone injure you with a weapon or assault you with physical force?	20	1.2%	1571	97.2%	26	1.6%
Did anyone force you, or attempt to force you to have sexual intercourse with them?	7	0.4%	1577	97.5%	33	2.0%
Did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?	20	1.2%	1567	96.9%	30	1.9%
<b>In your lifetime:</b>						
Has anyone ever forced or attempted to force you to have sexual intercourse with them?	192	11.9%	1400	86.6%	25	1.5%

The respondents were then asked about their victimization experiences in the past 12 months by crimes involving violence or threats of violence and were also asked about their sexual crime victimization experience at any point in their lives. The responses to those questions are presented in Table 11. Although the vast majority of the respondents did not report any violent crime victimization in the past 12 months, slightly more than 1 in 20 respondents (5.9%) had someone threaten to hit, attack or assault them. Very small percentages had been victims of attempted or completed robbery (1.8%), or had been injured or assaulted with a weapon or through physical force (1.2%) in the last 12 months.

**Table 12. Incidence of Reporting Crime to Police in Cases of Victimization by Violent Crime**

	Males				Females			
	Yes		No		Yes		No	
<b>As a recent crime victim (last 12 months), did you report your victimization to the police?</b>	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<i>When someone took, or attempted to take, something directly from you by using force, or threat of force.</i>	5	38.5%	8	61.5%	8	50.0%	8	50.0%
<i>When someone threatened to hit, attack, or assault you.</i>	13	26.5%	32	73.5%	18	35.3%	33	64.7%
<i>When someone injured you with a weapon or assaulted you with physical force.</i>	2	25.0%	6	75.0%	9	60.0%	6	40.0%
<i>When someone forced you, or attempted to force you to have sexual intercourse with them.</i>	0	0.0%	4	100%	1	25.0%	3	75.0%
<i>When someone forced you, or attempted to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.</i>	0	0.0%	5	100%	1	6.3%	15	93.7%
<i>Did you report your victimization to the police when, in your lifetime, someone forced or attempted to force you to have sexual intercourse with them?</i>	2	10.0%	18	90.0%	21	12.0%	154	88.0%

Respondents were also asked about their sexual victimization experiences in the past 12 months and in their lifetimes. Slightly more than one percent (1.2%) had someone force or attempt to force them into unwanted sexual activity; of that number, 80% (16 of 20 total recorded victims in results not reported here) were female. Only seven respondents had been victimized by forced or attempted forced sexual intercourse in the past 12 months; interestingly, three of the seven respondents were male.

Finally, respondents were asked whether someone had forced or attempted to force them to have sexual intercourse with them at some point in their life. More than 1 in 10 respondents (11.9%) had been victimized by this crime at some point in their lifetime. The vast majority of victims were female (91.1%).

For each of the violent crime victimization experiences, respondents who had been victimized were also asked whether they reported their victimization to the police. The victims' responses to those questions are presented in Table 12. Responses to those questions are presented by gender to provide an examination of gender patterns in reporting behaviors.

Among those who had been victimized by violent crime in the past 12 months, a clear gender pattern emerged: females were more likely than males to report each of the violent victimizations to the police. For robbery, two in five (38.5%) males and half (50.0%) of the females reported their victimization experience. For threats, only one in four (26.5%) males and one in three (35.3%) females reported their victimization experience to the police while for completed assaults, one in four male victims (25.0%) and three in five female victims (60.0%) reported their victimization experience to the police.

For the sex-related victimization experiences, another clearly evident pattern emerged: the vast majority (or in some cases, all) of the victims for each offense chose *not* to report their victimization to the police. For males who had been victimized by either forced sexual intercourse or forced unwanted sexual activity not involving intercourse in the past 12 months, none of the victims reported that victimization to the police. Only one in four of the female victims of forced sexual intercourse and 1 in 16 (6.3%) of the female victims of unwanted sexual activity not involving intercourse reported that victimization to the police. Among those who had been victims of forced or attempted forced sexual assault in their lifetime, only 10% of the male victims and 12% of the female victims reported their victimization experience to the police. As such, mirroring evidence from national victimization surveys, the vast majority of sexual assaults in Kentucky (both in 2008 and throughout the victims' lifetimes) were not reported to the police.

Each of the victims of violent crime was also asked a number of additional questions about their victimization experience. Responses to those questions are presented in Tables 13 through 19. We begin those findings with responses to questions about robbery victimization, presented in Table 13.

**Table 13. Characteristics of Robbery Victimization (N = 29 robbery victims)**

	N	%
<b>Did you report victimization to police?</b>		
Yes	13	44.8%
No	12	41.4%
Missing	4	13.8%
<b>Did the offender use a gun or firearm?</b>		
Yes	2	6.9%
No	20	69.0%
Missing	7	24.1%
<b>Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?</b>		
Juvenile	2	6.9%
Adult	16	55.2%
Both	2	6.9%
Missing	9	31.0%
<b>Was the person who did this to you a:</b>		
Stranger	9	31.0%
Casual Acquaintance	3	10.3%
A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)	6	20.7%
A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family	0	0.0%
Did not see anyone	6	20.7%
Missing	5	17.2%

A number of interesting findings are revealed for robbery victims. First, robbery victims were slightly more likely than not to report their victimization experience to the police (44.8% reported their victimization compared to 41.4% that did not). Second, an overwhelming majority of the victims who reported the type of weapon used in the offense said that the offender did not use a gun and in the vast majority of cases where the age of the offender was estimated, the offender was an adult. Among those victims who reported the type of relationship they had with the offender, half reported that they were victimized by a stranger, 33% by a family member and 17% by a casual acquaintance.

**Table 14. Characteristics of Threat of Assault Victimization (N = 96 threat of assault victims)**

	N	%
<b>Did you report victimization to police?</b>		
Yes	31	32.3%
No	64	66.7%
Missing	1	1.0%
<b>Were you threatened with:</b>		
Physical Force	77	80.2%
Knife	3	3.1%
Gun	4	4.2%
Club	0	0.0%
Another weapon	3	3.1%
More than one of the above with gun most serious	2	2.1%
Missing	7	7.3%
<b>Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?</b>		
Juvenile	9	9.4%
Adult	81	84.4%
Both	3	3.1%
Missing	3	3.1%
<b>Was the person who did this to you a:</b>		
Stranger	27	28.1%
Casual Acquaintance	23	24.0%
A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)	22	22.9%
A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family	20	20.8%
Did not see anyone	0	0.0%
Missing	4	4.2%

Responses to questions about threat of assault victimizations are presented in Table 14. Two in three threat of assault victims did not report their attack to the police. Of these victims, the vast majority were threatened with physical force (80.2%), with weapons threats accounting for the remaining types of victimizations. In the vast majority of the cases, the threat came from an adult (84.4%); the person making the threat was almost equally likely to be a stranger (28.1%), a casual acquaintance (24.0%), a family member (22.9%) or a person well known to

**Table 15. Characteristics of Assault Victimization (N = 20 assault victims)**

	N	%
<b>Did you report victimization to police?</b>		
Yes	11	55.0%
No	7	35.0%
Missing	2	10.0%
<b>Were you threatened with:</b>		
Physical Force	16	80.0%
Knife	0	0.0%
Gun	2	10.0%
Club	0	0.0%
Another weapon	0	0.0%
Missing	2	10.0%
<b>Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?</b>		
Juvenile	2	10.0%
Adult	16	80.0%
Both	1	5.0%
Missing	1	5.0%
<b>Was the person who did this to you a:</b>		
Stranger	5	25.0%
Casual Acquaintance	4	20.0%
A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)	8	40.0%
A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family	2	10.0%
Did not see anyone	0	0.0%
Missing	1	5.0%

the victim (20.8%). As such, in 67.7% of the threat of assault victimizations, the offender was somehow familiar to the victim. This finding mirrors that of national victimization surveys as well.

Responses to more detailed questions for those who had been assaulted in the past 12 months are presented in Table 15. Coinciding with research from national victimization studies, reporting rates for serious violent crime (with the exception of sexual assault discussed below) were higher than for less serious violent crimes. Of the 20 respondents who

**Table 16. Characteristics of 12-Month Sexual Victimization Experiences (N= 7 victims)**

	N	%
<b>Did you report victimization to police?</b>		
Yes	1	14.3%
No	6	85.7%
Missing	0	0.0%
<b>Were you threatened with:</b>		
Physical Force	5	71.4%
Knife	0	0.0%
Gun	2	28.6%
Club	0	0.0%
Another weapon	0	0.0%
Missing	0	0.0%
<b>Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?</b>		
Juvenile	0	0.0%
Adult	7	100%
Both	0	0.0%
Missing	0	0.0%
<b>Was the person who did this to you a:</b>		
Stranger	1	14.3%
Casual Acquaintance	3	42.9%
A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)	1	14.3%
A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family	2	28.6%
Did not see anyone	0	0.0%
Missing	0	0.0%

were assaulted in the last 12 months, 11 (or 55%) reported that victimization to the police.

Four in five (80%) reported that they had been threatened with physical force (in other words, not involving a weapon); two had been threatened with a gun and two did not indicate the type of threat they received. Four in five respondents (80%) indicated their attacker was an adult, while two respondents were attacked by a juvenile and one was attacked by both an adult and a juvenile. The aggressor also was most likely to be a family member (40%), followed by a stranger (25%), casual acquaintance (20%), or someone well known to the

victim (10.0%), respectively. In sum, in 70% of the cases of aggravated assault the aggressor was familiar to the victim, either as a family member, an acquaintance, or someone well known to the victim.

Responses to follow-up questions to the seven respondents who were victimized by forcible sexual intercourse in the past 12 months are presented in Table 16. The findings presented in Table 16 suggest that 6 of the 7 victims did not report their victimization to the police. Additionally, five of the seven victims responded that the offender who had victimized them did so by physical force while the other two victims indicated the perpetrator used a firearm. All seven victims were victimized by an adult. In all but one case, the offender was in some way known to the victim: in three cases, the perpetrator was a casual acquaintance of the victim, in two cases, the perpetrator was a non-family member well-known to the victim, and in one case, the perpetrator was a family member. In only one case was the perpetrator was a stranger.

In Table 17, more detailed responses from the victims of unwanted sexual activity, including touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc. in the past 12 months are presented. Practically all (19 of the 20, or 95%) victims did not report their victimization to the police.

**Table 17. Characteristics of 12-Month Unwanted Sexual Activity Victimization (N= 20 victims)**

	N	%
<b>Did you report victimization to police?</b>		
Yes	1	5.0%
No	19	95.0%
Missing	0	0.0%
<b>Were you threatened with:</b>		
Physical Force	14	70.0%
Knife	0	0.0%
Gun	2	10.0%
Club	2	10.0%
Another weapon	0	0.0%
Missing	2	10.0%
<b>Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?</b>		
Juvenile	0	0.0%
Adult	20	100%
Both	0	0.0%
Missing	0	0.0%
<b>Was the person who did this to you a:</b>		
Stranger	4	20.0%
Casual Acquaintance	11	55.0%
A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)	1	5.0%
A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family	4	20.0%
Did not see anyone	0	0.0%
Missing	0	0.0%

This finding, combined with the earlier finding from Table 16 where only one of seven victims chose to make a police report, suggests that victims of unwanted sexual activity or assault regularly do not report that victimization to police. All 20 victims also identified the offender in their victimization as an adult. Most (70%) perpetrators used physical force as the means to compel the unwanted sexual activity; the offender used a gun in two cases and a club in two cases. The perpetrator was most likely to be a casual acquaintance (55% or 11 cases), followed by a stranger (20%, 4 cases) or person well known to the victim (20%, 4 cases), and, in one case, a family member.

**Table 18. Characteristics of Lifetime Sexual Victimization (N= 192 Victims)**

	N	%
<b>Did you report victimization to police?</b>		
Yes	23	12.0%
No	168	87.5%
Missing	1	0.5%
<b>Were you threatened with:</b>		
Physical Force	151	78.6%
Knife	3	1.6%
Gun	9	4.7%
Club	1	0.5%
Another weapon	9	4.7%
Missing	19	9.9%
<b>Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?</b>		
Juvenile	32	16.7%
Adult	143	74.5%
Both	16	8.3%
Missing	1	0.5%
<b>Was the person who did this to you a:</b>		
Stranger	20	10.4%
Casual Acquaintance	73	38.0%
A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)	45	23.4%
A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family	40	20.8%
Did not see anyone	0	0.0%
Family member and person well-known to you but not in your family	5	2.6%
Stranger, casual acquaintance, and non-family person well-known to you	1	0.5%
Non-family person well-known to you and you did not see anyone	2	1.0%
Family member and casual acquaintance	4	2.1%
Casual acquaintance and non-family person well-known to you	1	0.5%
Missing	1	0.5%

Responses from the 192 respondents who had been victimized by a sexual assault at some point in their lives are presented in Table 18. The results presented in Table 18 suggest that over 87% of the victims did not report the sexual assault to the police. The majority

**Table 19. Presence of Protection Devices in the Home**

	YES		NO		Missing Data	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Are there any guns or firearms in your home?	875	54.1%	584	36.1%	158	9.8%
I have placed new devices in my home for protection from crime.	342	21.2%	1249	77.2%	26	1.6%

(78.6%) of the victims reported being threatened with physical force and said their assailant was an adult (74.5%). Only 10.4% of the victims had been victimized by a stranger. This finding could explain the victims' tendency not to report the crime, as reporting victimizations committed by people known to the victim has a greater likelihood of causing embarrassment for the victim and a greater potential for causing economic harm or provoking the offender to commit further victimizations against the victim (particularly when the offender is a close relative).

Respondents were then asked about two common methods through which homeowners protect themselves from criminal victimization. Responses to those questions are presented in Table 19. More than half (54.1%) of the respondents indicated that they had guns or firearms in the home; approximately one in five (21.2%) indicated that they had placed new devices in their home for crime protection.

### LIMITATIONS

While we feel this report has made a number of substantive contributions to the area of crime victimization and its consequences in Kentucky, we are aware that the report has a number of limitations that reduce its generalizability. The first limitation involves the very

small number of victims of crime for which we have data, particularly when it comes to sexual victimizations. At the outset of the project, we knew it would be difficult to obtain a large enough sample of victims using a random sampling strategy; as such, we drew a sample of 5,000 initial respondents with the hope of obtaining enough victims from which to make generalizations. Because we did not, any generalizations about direct victimization experiences of Kentucky residents are limited. The second limitation has to do with the sampling frame of this report. Our initial plan was to obtain 5,000 addresses from the Kentucky Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing. Nevertheless, current system limitations would not allow us to draw a sample of that size that was representative of drivers throughout the state. Because that sample was not available, we then had to use the next most representative set of addresses that we could find: voter registration records. Because voters rarely update their registration records when they move, however, use of these records uncovered almost 600 (593) addresses at which the survey was undeliverable. This further limited the potential number of respondents, and thus victims, as well. Additionally, because we were only able to use a sample of registered voters, that sampling strategy necessarily excludes one group of adults: unregistered voters. A sample of registered voters also excludes those who are ineligible to vote because they are convicted felons and those who are not United States citizens. A number of researchers have determined that residents who are young, mobile, less educated, and of lower socioeconomic status are less likely to both register to vote and vote than their counterparts (see Knack, & White, 2000, for review). Additionally, in Kentucky, registered voters are more likely to be female (53% of registered voters) and Democrat (57% of registered voters-- see Kentucky State Board of Election statistics available at <http://www.elect.ky.gov/stats/>). As such, a random sample of registered

voters in Kentucky is likely to be slightly older, less mobile, more educated, of higher socioeconomic status, slightly more female, and more likely to be Democrats). The demographic statistics presented in Table 1 suggest that these biases are evident in this sample as well.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

While several findings presented here have relevance for crime policy and criminal justice agents, two findings are particularly relevant in that regard. The first involves terrorism. It appears that, for many people in Kentucky, the threat of terrorism on the national level is a real concern for their daily activities. Yet, since September 11, 2001, there have been no large-scale acts of domestic terror in the United States. As such, it appears that Kentucky residents remain far more concerned about terrorists attacking the United States than they are about their own victimization by more “traditional” crimes in their daily lives.

As such, we recommend that a more realistic vision of their threat of victimization by terrorism (particularly in comparison to their threat from other crimes) be presented to Kentucky residents. Television or newspaper investigative reports that focus on the measures being taken to prevent terrorism at the local, state, and federal levels might be helpful in reducing this concern. While it is important that Kentucky residents do not become complacent about the terroristic threat facing them in their daily lives, a more realistic view of that threat might be helpful in reducing their concerns. Alternatively, bulletins and reports from those agencies designed to prevent terrorism in Kentucky that present the activities they have uncovered and the successes that have occurred (to the extent they can without compromising their efforts to fight terrorism) might be helpful in reducing these fears as well.

No matter what the medium, it is important that Kentucky residents realize the low probability of terroristic activity affecting their daily lives.

A second important policy implication of this research has to do with the reporting of identity theft and sexual assaults. While law enforcement agencies have, in recent decades, taken a number of steps toward encouraging better reports of sexual assault, the response presented here suggests that additional efforts need to be made. These same efforts need to be made with a goal of encouraging better reporting of identity theft as well. With these two crimes particularly, it is very difficult for police to make an “on-view” arrest (one in which they uncover the victimization while it is occurring); as such, it is essential that efforts be made to encourage greater reporting of these victimizations in Kentucky.

Nevertheless, within the limitations of this sample, we feel that the findings presented here are informational and relevant and should be considered by those working in any function that deals with crime and its victims in Kentucky. Making the best decisions in criminal justice depends upon the best consideration of all available evidence; this report is just another piece of that evidence to be considered.

## REFERENCES

- Knack, S., & White, J. (2000). Election-day registration and turnout inequality. *Political Behavior, 22*(1), 29-44.
- May, D.C., Wells, J.B., Minor, K.I., Cobb, K., Angel, E., & Cline, K. (2004). *Criminal victimization experience, fear of crime, perceptions of risk, and opinion of criminal justice agents among a sample of Kentucky residents*. Richmond, KY: Center for Criminal Justice Education and Research, Eastern Kentucky University.
- Rand, M.R. (2008). *Criminal victimization, 2007*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJ 224390.
- Rubin, M., Dorsey, C., & Shaler, G. (2007). *Maine crime victimization report: Informing public policy for safer communities*. Portland, ME: University of Southern Maine, Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, Maine Statistical Analysis Center.

**APPENDIX A**



## EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

*Serving Kentuckians Since 1906*

**College of Justice and Safety**  
 "A Program of Distinction"  
 Safety, Security, & Emerg. Mgmt.  
[www.eku.edu](http://www.eku.edu)

250B Stratton Building  
 521 Lancaster Avenue  
 Richmond, KY 40475-3102  
 (859) 622-6681  
 FAX: (859) 622-6548

To: Concerned Kentucky Citizen  
 From: David C. May  
 Re: Kentucky Residents' Experiences with Crime and Criminal Justice

For many years, researchers, legislators, and people working in criminal justice fields have been concerned about crime victimization and the problems it causes in the United States. In 2004, we conducted a study where we interviewed 2,000 Kentucky adults about their experiences with crime. We found that a lot of people had experienced crime and some of those people had changed their activities because of that experience.

It has now been four years since we completed that study. You have been randomly selected to help update our knowledge about crime victimization in Kentucky. We are conducting a research project that asks Kentucky adults their experiences with crime victimization in an effort to determine if people in Kentucky in 2008 have had different experiences with crime than those in 2004. The goal of this project is to provide data to legislators and policymakers regarding experiences of Kentucky residents with crime.

In this envelope, we have enclosed a questionnaire and a self-addressed stamped envelope. The questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please leave blank any question to which you do not feel comfortable responding. In an effort to obtain the most valid answers possible, your responses will be kept strictly confidential. Each questionnaire has been assigned a code for processing only (located in the upper right-hand corner of the questionnaire); this code is to insure that once you have completed the questionnaire, we will not bother you with any more follow-up questionnaires. Once we have received your completed questionnaire, we will remove your name from any database that we have (other than that required to send you a copy of the final report). The completed questionnaires will be entered into a computerized database and will then be destroyed. Only I will know how you responded to any question on the questionnaire. However, there are some circumstances in which we may have to show your information to other people. For example, the law may require us to show the anonymous electronic information to a court. A report based on the data analysis would eventually be made available to you if you would like. If you would like to receive a copy, please include an email address or mailing address on the back page of the survey and we will be happy to send you one after they become available. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and please feel free to contact me at the number or email address below if you have any questions.

Sincerely

David C. May, Ph.D.  
 Professor in Safety, Security, and Emergency Management  
[David.may@eku.edu](mailto:David.may@eku.edu)

**APPENDIX B**

**We are conducting a survey about various issues dealing with crime victimization experiences and attitudes about Kentucky's criminal justice system. Please follow the instructions below.**

**We will begin by asking you a few questions about yourself. For each of the following questions, please place an X in the box that best describes you.**

1. What is your gender?  
 Male  Female
2. How many years of education have you completed? (i.e., 12 = High School; 16 = College)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you describe yourself?  
 White  
 Black  
 American Indian/Aleutian Islander/Eskimo  
 Asian/Pacific Islander  
 Multi-racial (If checked, please indicate your racial/ethnic heritage on the line below)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you Hispanic?  
 Yes  No
5. Do you own or rent the residence where you live?  
 Own  Rent
6. In what year were you born?  
 19\_\_\_\_\_

**Now we would like to ask you some questions regarding your experiences with crime in the last 12 months. For each question below, please place an X in the box that most accurately represents your experience.**

7. In the last 12 months, have you:

Discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing credit cards or credit card numbers without your permission?

Yes  No

Discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing accounts (e.g. telephone account, bank account) without your permission?

Yes  No

Discovered that someone used or attempted to use your personal information without permission to obtain NEW credit cards or loans, run up debts, open other accounts, or otherwise commit theft, fraud, or some other crime?

Yes  No

**If you answered no to all of the above questions, please skip to question #9.**

**PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE**

8. Please estimate the total dollar amount the person obtained while misusing your credit cards, accounts, and/or personal information.

- Less than \$500  
 \$500 to \$1000  
 \$1,001 to \$10,000  
 More than \$10,000

Did you report this misuse (of credit cards, personal information, etc.) to the police?

- Yes  No

As a result of this misuse, have you or anyone in your household had banking problems, or had problems with credit card accounts?

- Yes  No

9. In the last 12 months, were you the victim of a property crime such as someone attempting to steal or

stealing your car, breaking into, or trying to break into your home, or vandalizing your property?

- Yes  No (**Skip to #10**)

Did you report it to the police?

- Yes  No

10. In the last 12 months, did anyone take, or attempt to take, something directly from you by using force, or threat of force?

- Yes  No (**Skip to #11**)

Did you report it to the police?

- Yes  No

Did the offender use a gun or a firearm?

- Yes  No

Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult or both?

- Juvenile (under age 18)  
 Adult (age 18 or older)  
 Both

Was the person who did this to you a:

- Stranger  
 Casual Acquaintance  
 A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)  
 A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family  
 You did not see anyone

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE**

11. In the last 12 months, did anyone threaten to hit, attack, or assault you?

Yes

No (**Skip to #12**)

Did you report it to the police?

Yes

No

Were you threatened with:

Physical force

A knife

A gun (or firearm)

A club

Another weapon

Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult or both?

Juvenile (under age 18)

Adult (age 18 or older)

Both

Was the person who did this to you a:

Stranger

Casual Acquaintance

A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)

A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family

You did not see anyone

If you marked "a family member" above, was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

Yes

No

12. In the last 12 months, did anyone injure you with a weapon or assault you with physical force?

Yes

No (**Skip to #13**)

Did you report it to the police?

Yes

No

Was the injury caused by:

Physical force

A knife

A gun (or firearm)

A club

Another weapon

Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult or both?

Juvenile (under age 18)

Adult (age 18 or older)

Both

**PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE**

Was the person who did this to you a:

- Stranger
- Casual Acquaintance
- A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)
- A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family
- You did not see anyone

If you marked "a family member" above, was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

- Yes  No

13. In your lifetime, has anyone ever forced or attempted to force you to have sexual intercourse with them?

- Yes  No (**Skip to #14**)

*Please answer the following questions in terms of the most recent incident:*

Did you report it to the police?

- Yes  No

Did the force or attempted force involve (check all that apply)?

- Physical force
- A knife
- A gun (or firearm)
- A club
- Another weapon

Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult or both?

- Juvenile (under age 18)
- Adult (age 18 or older)
- Both

Was the person who did this to you a:

- Stranger
- Casual Acquaintance
- A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)
- A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family
- You did not see anyone

If you marked "a family member" above, was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

- Yes  No

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE**

14. In the last 12 months, did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, to have sexual intercourse with them?

Yes  No (**Skip to #15**)

Did you report it to the police?

Yes  No

Did the force (or attempted force) involve (check all that apply)?

- Physical force  
 A knife  
 A gun (or firearm)  
 A club  
 Another weapon

Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult or both?

- Juvenile (under age 18)  
 Adult (age 18 or older)  
 Both

Was the person who did this to you a:

- Stranger  
 Casual Acquaintance  
 A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)  
 A person or people who are well-known to you, excluding family  
 You did not see anyone

If you marked "a family member" above, was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

Yes  No

15. In the last 12 months, did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?

Yes  No (**Skip to #16**)

Did you report it to the police?

Yes  No

Did the force (or attempted force) involve (check all that apply)?

- Physical force  
 A knife  
 A gun (or firearm)  
 A club  
 Another weapon

Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult or both?

- Juvenile (under age 18)  
 Adult (age 18 or older)  
 Both

**PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE**

Was the person who did this to you a:

- Stranger  
 Casual Acquaintance  
 A family member (including an unmarried partner living in your home)  
 A person or people who are well to you, excluding family  
 You did not see anyone

If you marked "a family member" above, was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

- Yes  No

16. Are there any guns or firearms in your home?

- Yes  No

**Now we would like to ask you some questions about your perceptions of crime in your community. For each of the following statements, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement using the following scale:**

- 1 = Strongly Agree**  
**2 = Somewhat Agree**  
**3 = Somewhat Disagree**  
**4 = Strongly Disagree**

- \_\_\_\_\_17. I am afraid of being raped or sexually assaulted.  
 \_\_\_\_\_18. I am afraid of being attacked by someone with a weapon.  
 \_\_\_\_\_19. I am afraid of having my money/possessions taken from me.  
 \_\_\_\_\_20. I am afraid to go out at night because I might become a victim of crime.  
 \_\_\_\_\_21. I am afraid of being murdered.  
 \_\_\_\_\_22. I am afraid that someone will break into my house while I'm away.  
 \_\_\_\_\_23. I think law enforcement is doing a good job of protecting me in my community.  
 \_\_\_\_\_24. Over the past three years, I believe that crime in my community has decreased.  
 \_\_\_\_\_25. Fear of criminal victimization prevents me from doing things I would like to do.

**On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not at all likely and 10 being very likely, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you in the next 12 months.**

- \_\_\_\_\_26. Someone breaking into your home and taking or attempting to take something.  
 \_\_\_\_\_27. Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you.  
 \_\_\_\_\_28. Someone stealing items that belong to you without using force.  
 \_\_\_\_\_29. Someone taking or attempting to take something from you by force or threat of force.  
 \_\_\_\_\_30. Someone beating you or attacking you with a club, knife, gun or other weapon.  
 \_\_\_\_\_31. Someone threatening you with their fists, feet, or other bodily attack.  
 \_\_\_\_\_32. Someone forcing you or attempting to force you to engage in sexual intercourse, fondling, or other sexual activity with them against your will.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE**

The next group of questions deals with your current perceptions about terrorism. I'd like to begin by asking you some questions about your worries about terrorism. **For each of the following statements, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement using the following scale:**

- 1 = Strongly Agree**
- 2 = Somewhat Agree**
- 3 = Somewhat Disagree**
- 4 = Strongly Disagree**

- \_\_\_\_\_33. I am afraid more terrorist attacks will occur.
- \_\_\_\_\_34. I am afraid I will be a victim in a terrorist attack.
- \_\_\_\_\_35. I am afraid someone in my family will be a victim in a terrorist attack.
- \_\_\_\_\_36. I am afraid someone in my community will be a victim in a terrorist attack.
- \_\_\_\_\_37. I am afraid someone in my state will be a victim in a terrorist attack.
- \_\_\_\_\_38. I am afraid someone living in the United States will be a victim in a terrorist attack.

Apart from the issue of worries about terrorism, it is useful to know people's idea of risk of certain events such as terrorism occurring to them or someone they know. **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not at all likely and 10 being very likely, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you in the next 12 months.**

- \_\_\_\_\_39. I could be on a plane that is hijacked.
- \_\_\_\_\_40. I could be on a subway or bus that is bombed.
- \_\_\_\_\_41. I could be in a tall building during a terrorist attack.
- \_\_\_\_\_42. I could be the victim of a suicide bombing.
- \_\_\_\_\_43. Terrorists could acquire a nuclear bomb.
- \_\_\_\_\_44. Terrorists could spread a dangerous contamination or illness.
- \_\_\_\_\_45. Radioactive chemicals could be released by terrorists.
- \_\_\_\_\_46. There will be another terrorist attack on U.S. soil during the next 12 months.
- \_\_\_\_\_47. There will be a terrorist attack in Kentucky during the next 12 months.
- \_\_\_\_\_48. There will be a terrorist attack in my community in the next 12 months.

**PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE**

Now we would like to ask you a few questions about your experiences in the last 12 months. For each of the following statements, please place an X in the box that most accurately represents your experience.

In the last 12 months:	YES	NO
49. I have placed new devices in my home for protection from crime.		
50. I have felt threatened by another person following or spying on me.		
51. I have felt threatened by another person making unasked for phone calls to me.		
52. I have felt threatened by another person sending me unasked for letters, electronic, or written correspondence.		
53. I have felt threatened by another person standing outside my home, school or workplace.		
54. I have felt threatened by another person continually showing up at the places I was.		
55. I have felt threatened by another person leaving unwanted items for me.		
56. I have felt threatened by another person trying to communicate with me against my will (other than those previously mentioned).		
57. I have received medical treatment as a result of being victimized by crime.		
58. I have talked to a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health professional as a result of being victimized by crime.		
59. I have lost time from work as a result of being victimized by crime.		
60. I have contacted a crisis or support hotline as a result of being victimized by crime.		
61. I was a victim of crime due to my race, gender, or sexual orientation.		

We would like to close by asking you just a few more background questions. For each of the following questions, please place an X in the box that best describes you.

62. What is your marital status?

- Single  
 Married  
 Divorced  
 Widowed  
 Opposite Sex partner sharing a home  
 Same Sex partner sharing a home

63. How many children under the age of 18 live at your current residence? \_\_\_\_\_

64. Which category best describes your 2007 total household income before taxes?

- Less than \$20,000  
 \$20,000 to less than \$50,000  
 \$50,000 to less than \$80,000  
 \$80,000 to less than \$100,000  
 \$100,000 or more

**Thank you for your participation in this survey.**

This project was supported by Grant No. 2007-BJ-CX-K041, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U. S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U. S. Department of Justice, or the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.