

5.C TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON CHAPTER 5

5.C.1 Introduction

In this section, detailed information is given on the calculation of average victimisation rates, the wording of the questionnaire and the sample sizes.

5.C.2 Calculation of average victimisation rates

The figures in tables 5.A.1, 5.A.2 and 5.A.3 are average victimisation rates over the three sweeps of the survey. They were calculated as follows. In each of the sweeps, the respondents were asked if they had been the victim of a certain type of crime over the last five years. If they answered positively, they were asked the exact date of the incident. Only if the victimisation had actually occurred in the year under consideration in 1995 for the 1996 survey), was it taken into account when calculating the victimisation rate (number of victims per 100 respondents) for that year. The average victimisation rate over the 3 sweeps was computed by summing up the yearly victimisation rates for each of the sweeps, in which a country participated; this sum was subsequently divided by the number of sweeps.

5.C.3 Wording of the questionnaire

In the victimisation surveys, the questions were worded as follows:

Theft of car, screening question: «Over the past five years have you or other members of your household had any of their cars/vans/trucks stolen? Please take your time to think about it».

Theft of car, follow up question: «First of all, you mentioned the theft of a car. When did this happen? Was this ... (this year / last year / before then / don't know / can't remember)»

Note: the event was counted in the annual victimisation rate only if the victim replied «last year» to the follow up question.

Theft from a car: «Apart from this, over the past five years have you or members of your household been the victim of a theft of a car radio, or something else which was left in your car, or theft of a part of the car, such as a car mirror or wheel?»

Theft from a car, follow up question: «The theft from your car that you mentioned, when did this happen? Was it ... (this year / last year / before then / don't know / can't remember)»

Note: the event was counted in the annual victimisation rate only if the victim replied «last year» to the follow up question.

Burglary, screening question: «Over the past five years, did anyone actually get into your house or flat without permission, and steal or try to steal something? I am not including here thefts from garages, sheds or lock-ups.»

Burglary, follow up question: «You said a burglar got into your home without permission in the last five years. When did this happen? Was it ... (this year / last year / before then / don't know / can't remember)»

Note: the event was counted in the annual victimisation rate only if the victim replied «last year» to the follow up question.

Robbery: «Next I want to ask you some questions about what may have happened to you personally. Things that you have mentioned already or which happened to other members of your household must not be mentioned now.»

«Over the past five years has anyone stolen something from you by using force or threatening you, or did anybody try to steal something from you by using force or threatening force?»

Robbery, follow up question: «The theft involving force that you mentioned, when did this happen? Was it ... (this year / last year / before then / don't know / can't remember)»

Note: the event was counted in the annual victimisation rate for robbery only if the victim replied «last year» to the follow-up question.

Other personal theft: «Apart from theft involving force there are many other types of theft of personal property, such as pickpocketing or theft of a purse, wallet, clothing, jewellery, sports equipment. This can happen at one's work, at school, in a pub, on public transport, on the beach, or in the street. Over the past five years have you personally been the victim of any of these thefts?»

Other personal theft, follow up question: «The theft of personal property that you mentioned, when did this happen? Was it ... (this year / last year / before then / don't know / can't remember)»

Note: the event was counted in the annual victimisation rate for other personal theft only if the victim replied «last year» to the follow up question.

Pickpocketing, follow up question: «(The last time) were you holding or carrying what was stolen (e.g., was it a case of pickpocketing?)»

«I would like now to ask you some questions about crimes of violence of which you personally may have been the victim.»

Note: the event was counted in the annual victimisation rate for pickpocketing only if the victim replied «last year» to the first follow up question and «yes» to the second one.

Sexual assault: «First, a rather personal question. People sometimes grab, touch or assault others for sexual reasons in a really offensive way. This can happen either at home, or elsewhere, for instance in a pub, the street, at school, on public transfer, in cinemas, on the beach, or at one's workplace. Over the past five years has anyone done this to you? Please take your time to think about it.»

Sexual assault, follow up question: «You mentioned that you had been a victim of sexual offence. Could I ask you about this. When did this happen? Was it ... (this year / last year / before then / don't know / can't remember).»

Sexual assault, follow up question: «Would you describe the incident as a rape (forced intercourse), an attempted rape, an indecent assault or as just behaviour which you found offensive.»

Note: This question was put to female respondents only. The event was counted in the annual victimisation rate for sexual assault only if the victim replied «last year» to the first follow up question and «rape» to the second one.

Other assault and threat: «Apart from the incidents just covered, have you over the past five years been personally attacked or threatened by someone in a way that really frightened you, either at home or elsewhere, such as in a pub, in the street, at school, on public transport, on the beach, or at your workplace?»

Other assault and threat, follow up question: «The attack or threat that you mentioned, when did this happen? Was it ... (this year / last year / before then / don't know / can't remember).»

Note: the event was counted in the annual victimisation rate only if the victim replied «last year» to the follow up question.

5.C.4 Sampling

In table 5.C.1, the sample sizes for each of the sweeps are indicated for the European countries which participated in at least one of the surveys. In this connection, special attention should be paid to the column sub-headings (national, urban, rural). In a number of countries smaller samples of the population were interviewed (sometimes drawn from parts of the country only), and this was mainly for financial and practical reasons; in some cases this sample was complemented by a sample from one or more rural areas.

The breakdown into urban and rural areas is based on the information the respondents provided themselves on the number of inhabitants in their respective communities. A community was considered to be urban, if the number of inhabitants was said to be 100000 or more. Only in those cases where a sample size is indicated in the column 'national', is this sample actually representative of the total population of a given country. In all other cases, the samples only represent part of the total population which lives in one or more large cities and one or more rural areas.

Table 5.C.1. Sample size in individual countries - ICVS sweeps of 1989, 1992, and 1996.

sample**	Survey covering 1988, number of valid cases			Survey covering 1991, number of valid cases			Survey covering 1995 / 1996*, number of valid cases		
	national	urban	rural	national	urban	rural	national	urban	rural
Albania								983	217
Austria							1507	433	1074
Belgium	2060	123	1937	1485	242	1243			
Bulgaria**								1076	
Croatia**								994	
Cyprus									
Czech Republic ***				1262	237	1025	1801	717	1084
Denmark									
Estonia				1000	457	543	1173	364	809
Finland	1025	222	803	1655	420	1235	3830	977	2853
France	1502	347	1155				1003	199	804
Germany	5274	1523	3751						
Greece									
Hungary								756	
Ireland									
Italy				2024	550	1474			
Latvia							1411	1011	400
Lithuania**							1176	656	520
Luxembourg									
Malta**							1000	543	456
Moldova									
Netherlands	2000	386	1614	2000	409	1591	2008	434	1574
Norway	1009	145	864						
Poland				2033	666	1367	3483	1073	2410
Portugal									
Romania							1091	1000	91
Russia					1002			1018	
Slovakia**, ***				508	21	487		1105	
Slovenia**					1000		2053	1107	946
Spain	2041	895	1146						
Sweden				1707	327	1380	1000	234	766
Switzerland	1000	128	872				1000	110	890
The F.Y.R.O.Macedonia								700	
Turkey									
<i>United Kingdom</i>									
England and Wales	2006	628	1378	2001	496	1505	2171	559	1612
Northern Ireland	2000		2000				1042	262	780
Scotland	2007	484	1523				2194	353	1841

* The figure in the column «national» gives the size of a sample which was representative at national level. If no representative sample was drawn at national level, no figure is given in this column. The figures in the columns «urban» and «rural» indicate the number of respondents who declared that they lived in a community of 100000 or more inhabitants («urban») or less than 100000 («rural»).

** In the countries concerned the third sweep of the survey was carried out in 1997 and covered victimisation in 1996.

*** The results from the 1991 survey for Czechoslovakia were separated into information for the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. This was based upon information collected on the place of residence of each respondent.

