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Chapter 2: Measuring Criminal Victimization

SHORT-ANSWER REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Name three major data sources researchers use to measure the level of crime.
- 2. What was the original purpose behind developing the *Uniform Crime Reports* (UCR)?
- 3. Give three advantages associated with the UCR.
- 4. Give three disadvantages associated with the UCR.
- 5. List the UCR Part I Index Offenses.
- 6. What is the "dark figure of crime"?
- 7. What is the "hierarchy rule"?
- 8. What is NIBRS?
- 9. What advantages does NIBRS hold for the study of victimization?
- 10. What is a victimization survey?
- 11. How many generations of victim surveys are there to date?
- 12. How did the researchers conduct the NORC survey?
- 13. Compare and contrast NORC and UCR crime rates contained in Table 2.1 of your textbook.
- 14. What does sample size have to do with the NORC findings?
- 15. Did the NORC study have any shortcomings?
- 16. Explain how telescoping could affect a victim survey.
- 17. What role does memory decay play in a victim survey?
- 18. Do telescoping and memory decay balance each other?
- 19. What is a reverse record check?
- 20. What was learned from the reverse record check strategy?
- 21. How do forward record checks work?
- 22. What was learned from the forward record check strategy?
- 23. What are the three assumptions behind the record check strategy?

- 24. What is a "panel design"?
- 25. What is "bounding," and why is it important?
- 26. What is the difference between a "self-respondent" and a "household respondent"?
- 27. Explain four things that researchers learned from the second-generation surveys.
- 28. What is the "mover-stayer problem"?
- 29. What major problem did business victimization surveys face?
- 30. How does the fourth generation of victim surveys represent an improvement over earlier efforts?
- 31. What is a "screen question"?
- 32. Why are screen questions valuable?
- 33. Give an example of a screen question.
- 34. What is a "gray-area event"?
- 35. What is a supplement survey?
- 36. What is the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS)?
- 37. What does a comparison of the number of crimes reported in the NCVS with the number of crimes reported in the UCR tell us?
- 38. What does the information in Table 2.3 convey regarding victim-offender relationships?
- 39. Define fear of crime.
- 40. What difficulties surround the measurement of fear?
- 41. Explain what "risk" means.
- 42. Explain what "vulnerability" means.
- 43. What is "vicarious victimization"?
- 44. How does vicarious victimization relate to fear of crime?
- 45. What do the terms "revictimization" or "repeat victimization" mean?

- 46. What does "series victimization" mean?
- 47. What is the difference between prevalence and incidence data?
- 48. What is the difference between a "near repeat" and a "virtual repeat"?
- 49. What does "risk heterogeneity" mean?
- 50. How does "event dependency" help explain repeat victimization?
- 51. What three findings emerge from studies of revictimization?

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1. The annual FBI *Uniform Crime Reports* (UCR) is based upon which of the following?
 - a. victim surveys
 - b. self-report data
 - c. crimes known to the police
 - d. insurance reports
 - e. the "dark figure of crime"
- 2. Which of the following crimes is **NOT** an Index or Part I Offense in the UCR?
 - a. murder
 - b. robbery
 - c. burglary
 - d. aggravated assault
 - e. kidnapping
- 3. Which of the following is **NOT** an advantage of the UCR?
 - a. It provides an annual compilation of data.
 - b. It helps standardize crime definitions.
 - c. It allows a look at crime trends.
 - d. It provides details about a large number of felonies, misdemeanors, local ordinance violations, and traffic citations in all 50 states.
 - e. All of the above are advantages.
- 4. The "dark figure of crime" refers to which of the following items?
 - a. crimes not known to the police
 - b. criminal acts committed by police officers
 - c. crimes known to the police
 - d. hate crimes
 - e. crimes that take place between 6 PM and 6 AM
- 5. Which of the following items describes the accurate use of the "hierarchy rule" when

multiple offenses occur during the course of a criminal event?

- a. crimes are ranked according to the temporal order in which they occur during a criminal event
- b. the entire incident is recorded under the most serious offense
- c. agencies are ranked by the number of crimes they report
- d. the incident is cataloged by the number of officers dispatched to the scene
- e. the seriousness of a property crime is determined by the value of the property that is lost or damaged
- 6. Which of the following variables is **NOT** collected in the NIBRS program?
 - a. sex of victim
 - b. type of injury
 - c. cause of the crime
 - d. property value
 - e. all of the above are collected
- 7. The Ennis/NORC victimization survey uncovered a crime rate that was _____ as what the *Uniform Crime Reports* uncovered.
 - a. the same as
 - b. roughly twice as high as
 - c. approximately 10 times as high as
 - d. almost four times lower than
 - e. almost 10 times lower than
- 8. Which of the following methodological issues affected the Ennis victimization survey?
 - a. small sample size
 - b. question wording
 - c. memory decay
 - d. telescoping
 - e. all of the above issues affected the survey
- 9. Which of the following crimes is **NOT** measured by the NCVS?
 - a. counterfeiting
 - b. burglary
 - c. battery
 - d. robbery
 - e. auto theft
- 10. On which of the following offenses do victim surveys and official UCR data show the most agreement?
 - a. larceny
 - b. aggravated assault
 - c. motor vehicle theft
 - d. burglary
 - e. forcible rape

- 11. A study that employs a reverse record check strategy or a forward record check strategy represents an attempt to examine which of the following concerns?
 - a. small sample size
 - b. question wording
 - c. household respondent vs. self-respondent accuracy
 - d. microscoping
 - e. respondent recall
- 12. A research design that surveys the same people numerous times at regular intervals is called what?
 - a. longitudinal design
 - b. panel design
 - c. prospective design
 - d. retrospective design
 - e. cross-sectional design
- 13. When a researcher checks for an official police report stored under the respondent's name after the respondent identifies himself or herself as a crime victim, that researcher is conducting what type of a study?
 - a. panel design
 - b. reverse record check
 - c. forward record check
 - d. cohort analysis
 - e. propensity score analysis
- 14. The *National Crime Victimization Survey* builds its sample plans on residential locations and not residents. This strategy invites which of the following problems?
 - a. memory decay
 - b. forward record decay
 - c. reverse record check
 - d. computer-assisted telephone interviews become obsolete
 - e. mover-stayer problem
- 15. What is the advantage of screen questions on victimization surveys?
 - a. They give you an idea about what the interviewers are going to ask you next.
 - b. They serve as prompts for recalling past victimization experiences.
 - c. They only ask about crimes that occurred in the past twelve months.
 - d. None because they serve as fillers until the interviewer gets to the real questions.
 - e. All of the above are advantages.
- 16. The random sampling of victimization surveys has selected your residence to participate in the latest round of the NCVS. You are the only person at home when the interviewer arrives. The interviewer asks you, "Have you or anyone at this address been the victim of a violent crime in the past six months?" By answering this question, you represent which of the following items?
 - a. a household respondent

- b. a self-respondent
- c. a family representative
- d. an adult respondent
- e. only "b" and "c" above are correct
- 17. Which of the following best describes a "gray-area event"?
 - a. a victimization episode that is not reported to the police
 - b. a victimization that takes place just outside the officer's geographical jurisdiction
 - c. an interracial victimization event
 - d. a victimization that does not correspond to the usual stereotype
 - e. a victimization episode involving an elderly person
- 18. Which of the following terms does **NOT** belong on this list?
 - a. reverse record check
 - b. prevalence data
 - c. incidence data
 - d. repeat victimization
 - e. revictimization
- 19. Which of the following is true about fear of crime?
 - a. the objective and the subjective odds of victimization are balanced
 - b. the objective odds of victimization are much higher than the subjective odds
 - c. the objective odds of victimization are much lower than the subjective odds
 - d. there is no difference between the objective and the subjective odds of victimization
 - e. the authorities are unable to provide sufficient information to address the issue
- 20. According to your textbook, which of the following is a vulnerability factor?
 - a. living alone
 - b. residential location
 - c. fear of crime
 - d. lack of social support
 - e. all of the above are vulnerability factors
- 21. A heightened fear of crime stemming from exposure to media accounts about the growing crime problem is an example of which of the following items?
 - a. transference
 - b. countertransference
 - c. catharsis
 - d. double victimization
 - e. vicarious reinforcement
- 22. Which of the following terms are victimologists referring to when they talk about the number of individuals who experience a victimization episode within a certain period of time?
 - a. victimization rate
 - b. prevalence data

- c. incidence data
- d. episodic victimization
- e. repeat victimization
- 23. What conclusion would victimologists reach if incidence was greater than prevalence in a victim survey?
 - a. the subjective odds of victimization have soared
 - b. the objective odds of victimization have soared
 - c. repeat victimization does not exist
 - d. repeat victimization does exist
 - e. there is an acute need to examine police patrol tactics

TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

- 1. The Uniform Crime Reports are produced annually by the CIA.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 2. Robbery and arson are examples of Index offenses.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 3. Another name for the dark figure of crime is Batman.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 4. According to the hierarchy rule, only the top 3 offenses per day are submitted to the UCR from each jurisdictional agency.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 5. Telescoping occurs when respondents mistakenly bring criminal events that occurred outside the time frame into the survey period.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 6. A forward record check begins by locating victims in police records.
 - a. True
 - b. False

of time is called a panel design.

a. True

False

b.

	a.	True
	b.	False
9. A vio	etimizati	ion that does not conform to the usual stereotype is known as a gray-area
even	t.	
	a.	True True
	b.	False
4.0 551		
10. The		nsistently documents more crime than the NCVS.
	a.	True
	b.	False
11 Revi	ctimizat	ion occurs when the number of victims exceeds the number of incidents.
II. KCVI	a.	True
	b.	False
	<u> </u>	
12. In ev	ent depe	endency, an offender commits another offense based on past experiences
		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
with	that vict	tim or location.
With	that vict a.	tim or location. True
With		
With	a.	True
With	a.	True
Witn	a.	True
With	a.	True
Witn	a.	True
With	a.	True

7. Surveying the same group of households or respondents at regular intervals over a period

8. Screen questions are those inquiries that probe possible victimization experiences.