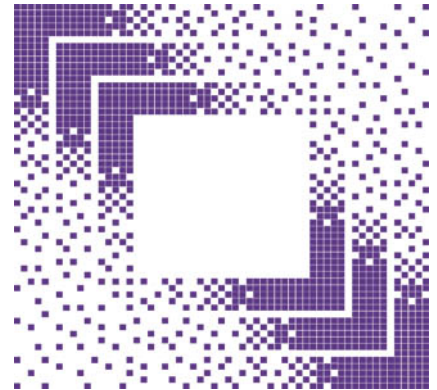




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General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18: Personal safety and perceptions of the criminal justice system in the territories



2004



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Statistics Canada
Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division

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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^p preliminary
- ^r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

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Introduction

In 2004, as part of its General Social Survey program, Statistics Canada conducted a survey on victimization and public perceptions of crime and the justice system. It was the fourth time that the General Social Survey (GSS) had examined victimization - previous surveys were conducted in 1988, 1993, and 1999. The target population was Canadians aged 15 years and older living in the ten provinces.

This survey also included a test collection of telephone survey data in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon. This document contains data tables for these territories produced from the sample of this test collection. These tables are similar to the ones produced for Canada and the provinces, within a document called 'General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18: An Overview of Findings, 2004' (Catalogue no. 85-565-XIE).

The following is a summary containing information on limitations of the test survey that helped produce these data.

Pilot test in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut

Introduction

Statistics Canada's 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization included a test collection of telephone survey data in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Yukon, using the Random Digit Dialing method (RDD). Following a detailed evaluation of the results, it was recommended that data from this pilot test not be released because of bias caused by substantial under-coverage.

The 2004 GSS on victimization again included a test collection of telephone survey data north of the ten provinces. This time the test sample included Nunavut as well as Yukon and NWT. In an attempt to improve the coverage of the survey, the sample was selected from respondents to the Canada Community Health Survey rather than using RDD. The CCHS cycle used was conducted in 2003.

The main objective of the 2004 GSS northern test was to attempt to collect the data needed to produce reliable estimates of criminal victimization for the territories through a telephone survey using a sub-sample of the another Statistics Canada survey. This evaluation report assesses the success of this pilot test collection.

Main findings

Collection in the Yukon, NWT, and Nunavut poses unique challenges, including language difficulties and incomplete telephone service. As a result, obtaining a representative sample in the territories is more difficult than in other parts of Canada.

It is estimated that the data collected by GSS-18 only represent 60% of the population of the territories; 40% of the population could not have been interviewed for the survey. This compares with only 4% of the population being excluded in the ten provinces.

The size of the population excluded from the survey would not be a major concern if it represented an exclusion at random. However, this evaluation found that Aboriginal people and individuals living in rural areas are under-represented in the 2004 GSS sample for Yukon, NWT and Nunavut. Adjustments to the weights were made to help correct for under-representation across these dimensions. However, some evidence suggests that there are problems with other characteristics. In Yukon, for example, even with new adjustments to the weights, Census estimates for four out of eight characteristics examined were outside the 95% confidence interval for the GSS estimate of the same characteristic. In the NWT, Census estimates for six out of the eight characteristics were outside this interval, as was the case for three out of the eight in Nunavut. Compared with the Census, the GSS estimates show significant biases.

Recommendations

Statistics Canada's Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division recommends not releasing a 2004 GSS Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) for the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut because the large proportion of the population excluded from the survey makes the representativity of the responding sample questionable. In particular, Aboriginal people and individuals living in rural areas are under-represented in the survey's sample for the territories.

Instead, we recommend releasing an analytic data file for the territories to the Canadian Centre of Justice Statistics. This file would be provided with a full report on limitations and a cautionary statement, as follows:

The 2004 GSS on victimization was conducted in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut as part of a pilot test. Compared to other areas in Canada, collection in the territories poses unique challenges, including incomplete telephone service and language difficulties. As a result, sampling and data collection are more difficult in the territories. The 2004 victimization data produce estimates with known biases and

may include unknown biases. For example, the sample over-estimates the population with English as a household language and under-estimates the Aboriginal population whose mother tongue is not English. Between slippage and non-response, only 60% of the northern population is represented in the GSS-18 sample. It is unknown whether the other 40% are similar with respect to all characteristics. As a result the data contained in these files should be used with caution.

Table 1. Perceptions of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas, by territories, 2004¹

	Total (population 15+)	Levels of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas			Don't know/not stated
		Higher	About the same	Lower	
	(000s)	% of population 15 years and older			
Total territories	70	14	23	59	4^E
Yukon Territory	25	10	23	64	F
Northwest Territories	31	12	22	64	F
Nunavut	13	28 ^E	25	36	12 ^E

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Respondents to the 2004 GSS were asked questions about their neighbourhood. They were not provided a definition of the term, but based their answers on their own understanding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 2. Perceptions of neighbourhood crime compared to 5 years ago, by territory, 2004¹

	Total (Population 15+)	Level of neighbourhood crime compared to five years ago			
		Increased	Decreased	About the same	Don't know/not stated
	(000s)	% of population 15 years and older			
Total territories	70	37	4^E	55	4
Yukon Territory	25	28	5 ^E	65	F
Northwest Territories	31	41	4 ^E	49	5
Nunavut	13	41	F	52	F

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Respondents to the 2004 GSS were asked questions about their neighbourhood. They were not provided a definition of the term, but based their answers on their own understanding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 3. Feelings of safety from crime, 2004

	Population 15+ (000s)	% of population 15+
Personal safety		
Total	70	100
Very satisfied	37	53
Somewhat satisfied	28	41
Very or somewhat dissatisfied	4	5
Don't know/not stated	1 ^E	1 ^E
Home alone in the evening or night¹		
Total	70	100
Not at all worried	57	82
Somewhat worried	11	16
Very worried	1 ^E	2 ^E
Don't know/not stated	F	F

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Based on responses of people who are home alone in the evening or night.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 4. Feelings of safety from crime, by territory, 2004

	Total	Yukon Territory	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
% population 15 years and older				
Personal safety				
Very or somewhat satisfied	94	96	93	90
Very or somewhat dissatisfied	5	4 ^E	5 ^E	F
Don't know/not stated	1 ^E	F	F	F
Total	100			
Home alone in the evening or night¹				
Not at all worried	82	86	82	76
Very or somewhat worried	18	14	18	24 ^E
Don't know/not stated	F	F	F	F
Total	100			

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Based on responses of people who are home alone in the evening or night.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 5. Feelings of safety from crime, by sex and age, 2004

	Total males and females	Males						Females					
		Total	15- 24	25- 44	45- 64	65+	Total	15- 24	25- 44	45- 64	65+		
												%	(000s)
Personal safety													
Very or somewhat satisfied	94	34	95	93	97	96	86	31	92	91	95	91	84
Very or somewhat dissatisfied	5	1 ^E	4 ^E	F	F	F	F	2 ^E	6 ^E	F	5 ^E	6 ^E	F
Don't know/Not stated	1 ^E	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Being home alone in the evening or night¹													
Not at all worried	82	32	89	90	86	91	92	26	75	77	73	79	67
Very or somewhat worried	18	4	11	F	13 ^E	9 ^E	F	8	25	23 ^E	27	21	F
Don't know/Not stated	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

Note: Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Based on responses of people who are home alone in the evening or night.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 6. Perceptions of the criminal justice system, 2004

	Public perceptions			
	Good job	Average job	Poor job	Don't know/Not stated
	% of population 15 years and older			
What kind of job are your local police doing at...				
Enforcing the laws	51	39	8	2 ^E
Responding promptly to calls	49	26	14	11
Being approachable	69	19	7	5
Supplying information on reducing crime	48	30	15	8
Ensuring the safety of citizens	54	34	8	4
Treating people fairly	54	29	12	5
What kind of job are criminal courts doing at...				
Providing justice quickly	18	36	36	11
Helping the victim	22	35	30	13
Determining whether or not the accused is guilty	29	42	16	13
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused	46	35	8	11
What kind of job is the prison system doing at...				
Supervising/controlling prisoners	33	34	14	19
Helping prisoners become law abiding	17	36	29	18
What kind of job is the parole system doing at...				
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend	15	38	31	17
Supervising offenders on parole	16	34	31	19

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 7. Perceptions of the criminal justice system doing a good job, by territory, 2004¹

	Total territories	Territoires		
		Yukon Territory	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
% of population 15 years and older				
Local police are doing a good job...				
Enforcing the laws	51	50	52	50
Responding promptly to calls	49	56	44	48
Being approachable	69	74	62	74
Supplying information on reducing crime	48	52	46	44
Ensuring the safety of citizens	54	55	54	52
Treating people fairly	54	59	52	52
Criminal courts are doing a good job...				
Providing justice quickly	18	12 ^E	22	20 ^E
Helping the victim	22	16 ^E	26	25 ^E
Determining whether or not the accused is guilty	29	23	33	32
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused	46	42	50	43
The prison system is doing a good job...				
Supervising/controlling prisoners	33	27	42	25 ^E
Helping prisoners become law abiding	17	10 ^E	23	15
The parole system is doing a good job...				
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend	15	11 ^E	17	19
Supervising offenders on parole	16	11 ^E	17	26 ^E

^E use with caution

1. Only the percentage who perceive justice agencies as doing a good job is shown.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 8. Perceptions of the criminal justice system doing a good job, by sex, 2004¹

	Total	Female	Male
		% of population 15 years and older	
Local police are doing a good job...			
Enforcing the laws	51	51	51
Responding promptly to calls	49	49	49
Being approachable	69	70	68
Supplying information on reducing crime	48	46	49
Ensuring the safety of citizens	54	54	55
Treating people fairly	54	57	52
Criminal courts are doing a good job...			
Providing justice quickly	18	19	16
Helping the victim	22	21	23
Determining whether or not the accused is guilty	29	33	24
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused	46	53	39
The prison system is doing a good job...			
Supervising/controlling prisoners	33	36	31
Helping prisoners become law abiding	17	18	15
The parole system is doing a good job...			
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend	15	18	11
Supervising offenders on parole	16	20	12

1. Only the percentage who perceive justice agencies as doing a good job is shown.

Source : Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 9. Perceptions of the criminal justice system doing a good job, by age, 2004¹

	Age of population (years)				
	Total	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
	%				
Local police are doing a good job...					
Enforcing the laws	51	42	50	56	64
Responding promptly to calls	49	46	47	53	53
Being approachable	69	62	68	75	72
Supplying information on reducing crime	48	34	49	54	57
Ensuring the safety of citizens	54	49	53	58	64
Treating people fairly	54	48	53	59	63
Criminal courts are doing a good job...					
Providing justice quickly	18	28	17	11 ^E	24 ^E
Helping the victim	22	38	19	14	22 ^E
Determining whether or not the accused is guilty	29	36	27	25	32 ^E
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused	46	41	45	47	60
The prison system is doing a good job...					
Supervising/controlling prisoners	33	39	33	31	31 ^E
Helping prisoners become law abiding	17	21	15	15	23 ^E
The parole system is doing a good job...					
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend	15	27 ^E	12	9 ^E	F
Supervising offenders on parole	16	27	15	11 ^E	F

^E use with caution

F amount too unreliable to be published

1. Only the percentage who perceive justice agencies as doing a good job is shown.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 10. Perceptions of local police doing a good job, by contact with police, 2004¹

Perceptions of the local police doing a good job						
	Being approachable	Ensuring the safety of citizens	Enforcing the laws	Supplying information on reducing crime	Responding promptly to calls	Treating people fairly
% of population 15 years and older						
Contact with the police²...						
Total	69	54	51	48	49	54
for a public information session						
Yes	72	55	56	50	50	55
No	68	54	50	47	49	54
for a traffic violation						
Yes	62	48	44	40	51	45 ^E
No	69	55	52	49	49	56
as a victim of crime³						
Yes	65	40	45	39	42	46
No	69	56	52	49	50	56
as a witness of a crime						
Yes	63	39	50	39	49	48
No	70	57	51	49	49	56
other contact						
Yes	73	57	55	45	50	57
No	68	53	50	49	49	54

^E use with caution

1. Only the percentage who perceive local police force as doing a good job is shown.
2. Includes the 12 months preceding the survey.
3. Crimes are defined by the respondent and may therefore not fall within the specific offences measured by the General Social Survey.

Source : Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.