



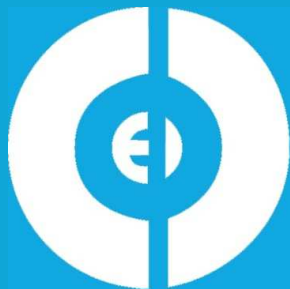
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A Standardized Victimization Survey Questionnaire

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Center of Excellence in
**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT,
CRIME, VICTIMIZATION AND JUSTICE**

Victimization surveys in the region (LAC)

- **79% countries in the LAC region** have had at least one study related to victimization and perception of safety.
- **30%** have conducted the study with support from an international donor.
- **58%** have had a victimization survey or a module with national level or urban-national level coverage.
- **51%** involve the National Statistical Offices.
- **55%** of surveys were conducted only once.
- Currently **only 3 countries** have institutionalized victimization surveys. These are conducted annually (Mexico, Chile and Colombia).



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Iniciativa para la Encuesta de Victimización Delictiva en Latinoamérica y el Caribe (VICLAC) - Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (LACSI)

- Proposes: a Regional Victimization Questionnaire
- Emerges from: the need of developing a common questionnaire and methodology;
- Enhances: the implementation and comparability of victimization surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Is the result of: 2 years of discussions amongst 12 countries: Argentina, Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru, with the support and constant participation of UNODC, IADB, UNDP, OAS and the Cisalva Institute.
- Obtains: Reliable and comparable data
- Explores: 11 nuclear crimes and 7 non-nuclear crimes;

Crimes explored

VICLAC-LACSI (core)

Vehicle/truck/pick-up theft	✓
Car parts theft	✓
Motorbike theft	✓
Burglary / housebreaking	✓
Robbery	✓
Theft (larceny)	✓
Bank fraud	✓
Consumer fraud	✓
Assault	✓
Threats	✓
Extortion	✓

VICLAC-LACSI (non core)

Theft of the objects from inside the vehicle	✓
Bicycle theft	✓
Vandalism	✓
Homicide	✓
Kidnapping	✓
Illegal possession of firearms	✓
Corruption (active and passive bribery)	✓

Indicators

VICLAC-LACSI (nuclear)

<u>crime prevalence</u>	✓
<u>crime incidence</u>	✓
<u>dark figure</u>	✓
<u>perceptions on safety</u>	✓

VICLAC-LACSI (annex)

Fear of crime	✓
Perceptions about Institutional Performance	✓
Cost of crime	✓
Antisocial behaviors	✓

Implementation of VICLAC-LACSI in the region

- Comparable with Chile, Colombia & Mexico
- Peru (pilot test in June 2016)
- Panama (July 2016)
- Argentina (2017)
- Guatemala (2016-2017)
- Dominican Republic (review of current module)
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Costa Rica



Support provided by the UNODC INEGI CoE

- Training
 - Online
 - Onsite
- Technical Assistance
 - During the different phases of the survey process



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Thank you!



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Centro de Excelencia (UNODC-INEGI)



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Encuesta Nacional de Victimización y Percepción de Seguridad Ciudadana (ENVIP)

- Reference period: July 2015- June 2016 (past 12 months)
- Sample design: Probabilistic: Multi-staged, Stratified and Clustered
- Sample unit: Selected households, household residents and the household selected informant.
- Target population: 18 years and older
- National Sample Size: 16, 296 households
- Data collection: 3-31 July 2016
- Geographic scope: National level, Urban-National, Urban-Province, Urban- Panama District and Urban-*San Miguelito* District.

A. Incidence

➤ **VICLAC-LACSI:**

Explores *the last incident* of each crime.

➤ **ENVIP:**

Explores the *last 3 incidents*, starting from the most recent one (it worked really well in the pilot).

- Provides more substantial information about the characteristics of the occurrence of a crime (trends);
- More importantly: a more precise dark figure.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is proven that if an informant has suffered a crime more than once in the last 12 months, it is less probable that he/she reports to the police the last incident. If only the last incident is explored, the dark figure will be overestimated.

B. Household selection criteria

ENVIP's paper questionnaires (PAPI) lacked a methodology for the household selection (if there were more than 1 in the dwelling), so the following steps were established:

1. The total number of residents in the selected dwelling must be identified.
2. The total number of households within the dwelling must be identified.
3. A list must be made with the names of the heads of each household, as provided by the informant.
4. These names then must be arranged alphabetically.
5. Based on a "random number table", the household should be selected.

RECOMMENDATION:

Implement a household selection criteria similar to ENVIP's in the VICLAC-LACSI questionnaire, giving that the latter lacks one.

C. Questions about reporting to the police

1. A combo was created (3 questions in 1) in order to ask about:
 - to **which competent authority** did the informant report the incident;
 - the **level of satisfaction** while reporting the incident;
 - **reasons** of dissatisfaction (if it applies).

Benefits of the combo:

- ✓ The recording of information is easier (less repetitive)
- ✓ Allows only to investigate authorities who are empowered to investigate an incident.

C. Questions about reporting to the police (cont.)

2. A verification question on the status of the report to the police was added:

- inquires if the informant signed a document where the informant explained the way in which the incident occurred.

Benefit of this question:

- ✓ Identifies if the report to the police derived in an investigation of the crime incident.

**The Criminal Justice System (prosecution) of the country must be analyzed before using this question in any other country.

D. Minor modifications

1. Phrasing of the question about crime fear (perception of public security section)

- In the question about habit changes, the phrase “*Have you stopped...*” was added in each response category.

Why? In the pilot was observed that the previous phrasing altered the comprehension of the question and confused the informant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Rephrase the question and add this specification in each response category in the LACSI questionnaire.

D. Minor modifications (cont.)

2. Creation of a combo (4 questions in 1) for public security authorities perception

- **Knowledge of authorities, *effectiveness*, *trustworthiness* and *corruption*** were put together in a combo question to:
 - ✓ Avoid repeating all response categories; and
 - ✓ Evaluate only institutions that the informant reported having knowledge of.

RECOMMENDATION:

Incorporate **trustworthiness** and **corruption**, as it provides a broader picture about the perception of the performance of the authorities.

D. Minor modifications (cont.)

3. Phrasing of crime screening questions

- In each crime screening question the reference period phrase “...this is, between July 2013 and June 2016...” was left out.
 - ✓ In the pilot, it was observed that the questions tend to be very long, so they bored and distracted the informant.
 - ✓ So, the phrase was put at the beginning of the section as a heading and it is repeated **three (3) more times** along the section to reinforce the reference period.

RECOMMENDATION:

Replicate this adjustment in the VICLAC-LACSI questionnaire.

The pilot proved that repeating the phrase after 4 or 5 screening questions, helped the informant retain the reference period in his/her mind, and the interview became more fluent.