



Challenges in victimization surveys. Raising the value of official statistics

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Public security is one of the emergent issues in the public agenda in Latin America. In Mexico, 58% of the population reported in 2014 that public security was their main concern (National Survey on Victimization and Perception of Public Security, INEGI, 2014). Public policies related to public security and justice require highly-specialized statistical information. Administrative data from police or justice institutions provide considerable information. However, victimization surveys have a very special role in public policy design. In order to raise its value as an official statistic, these surveys face several challenges, like representativeness not just at the national level, but also at the regional or local level; permanent improvements in its methodologies; comparability across countries or regions, and, of course, its recognition as one of the most valuable data-producing instruments. The scope of indicators that victimization surveys can provide is essential to the understanding of a complex phenomenon such as crime. The prevalence and incidence rate of crime, the type of crimes with highest incidence, violent crimes, dark figure, levels of fear of crime, cost of crime, among others. This presentation will resume some of the most important results that victimization surveys have provided in Mexico, through a series of four annual measurements since 2011, but also the challenges that are faced by victimization surveys in order to accomplish the strategic user's need to support public policies.

Keywords: victimization; victimization surveys; prevalence victimization rate.