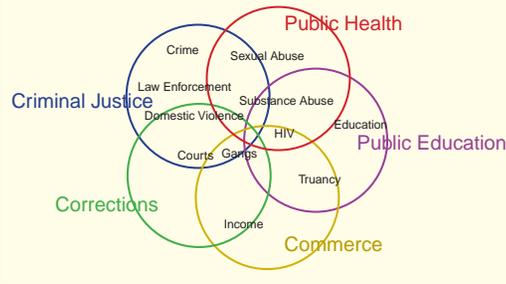


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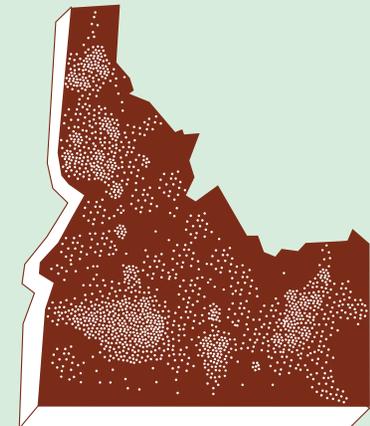
This project was supported by grant numbers; (97-MU-MU-K016) Bureau of Justice Statistics, (98STOP99) Office of Justice Programs, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare - Preventive Health and Health Services (1999-B1-ID-PRVS-04), and the Idaho Coalition against Domestic Violence. Points of view in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of IRAC member agencies.

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# 1999 Idaho Crime Victimization Survey

## Executive Summary

Principal Investigators - Mary Stohr, Ph.D.  
- Robert Uhlenkott



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# Methodology of ICVS



A random sample of 2,000 households in Idaho was selected. The sample was drawn and obtained from Survey Sampling, Inc (Fairfield, CT). The sample was completely random from the entire population of Idaho (ages 18 and above). In order to minimize the over sampling of some groups, the interviewers asked for the person in the household who was 18 or older with the most recent birthday. To achieve a 95% confidence level in the survey sample, with a statewide plus or minus confidence interval of three percent, a survey sample of 913 completed interviews was needed. The 1076 completed surveys was well within that N (survey sample) requirement.

These completed surveys were solicited using the following method: A postcard explaining the purpose of the telephone interview was mailed to each household in the sample about one week before calling. If it became necessary, a minimum of five calls were made in an attempt to contact sample respondents. Of the 2,000 sampled households, 1,076 completed telephone interviews, 281 declined to participate, 442 were not eligible (had moved, disconnected telephones, left no forwarding address, or were deceased), and 201 were not reached during the allotted time frame (these potential respondents had operating telephones with constant busy signals, answering machines receiving calls, or could not be contacted by surveyors at a convenient time). The overall response rate was 69%; however, excluding the 201 potential respondents who could not be reached, a relatively high cooperation rate of 79% was achieved.

All of the following graphs/charts utilize victim per capita measurements for cross comparison, minimizing outlier bias, accounting for multiple victimizations, and population deviation, unless stated otherwise.

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a. These figures are taken from the final report of the first statewide victimization survey (Crank, Stohr, Bissey, Jones, Musser and Badger 1997). For methodological reasons identical questions were not asked during the second year of the survey administration. Therefore, comparison of these rates between years must be viewed with some caution. Also note that the sample size for the 1996/1997 administration of this survey was larger at 1,682.

# Total Victimizations per 1,000 Households



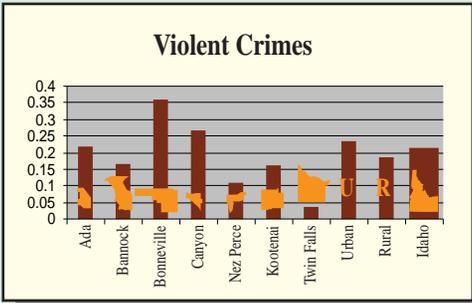
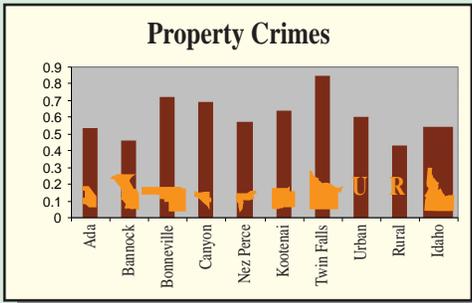
\*\*Use extreme caution when juxtaposing 1997 and 1999 rates. Survey Instruments differed in their content and administration.

Type of Crime/Offense	Victimization Rates (per 1,000 households)	
	1997 a	1999
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Property Crimes</b>		
Pickpocket	16.1	14.0
Theft from outside	4.9	67.1
Other thefts	45.2	44.8
<b>Total Larcenies and Thefts</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>125.9</b>
Theft from inside vehicle	103.5	95.1
Theft of vehicle parts	69.6	59.8
Theft of vehicle	23.2	14.0
<b>Total Motor Vehicle Thefts</b>	<b>196.3</b>	<b>168.9</b>
<b>Total Vandalism</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>121.0</b>
Break into property	63.6	70.0
Break into steal	(35.7)	(36.4)
Break into hotel/motel	4.8	12.1
<b>Total Burglary</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>82.1</b>
<b>Property Crime Totals</b>	<b>403.4</b>	<b>497.9</b>
<b>Driving Under the Influence (collisions)</b>		
Alcohol		4.6
Other influence		2.8
<b>Violent Crimes</b>		
<b>Total Robbery</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Physical assault	71.3	53.2
Verbal assault	63.6	97.6
Other assault	73.1	23.4
<b>Total Non-sexual Assault</b>	<b>208.0</b>	<b>173.8</b>
Unwanted sexual touching		13.5
Sexual assault	40.4	7.5
Rape and attempted rape	10.7	.9
<b>Total Sexual Assault and Rape</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>21.6</b>
Threat		10.2
Attempt		3.7
Murder	2.4	1.9
<b>Total Murder</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>
<b>Violent Crime Totals</b>	<b>268.1</b>	<b>222.3</b>
<b>Child Abuse</b>		
Neglect		38.1
Physical Harm		6.5
Exposure to Sexual Materials		8.4
Sexually Offensive Behavior		17.7
Sexual Abuse		3.7
<b>Child Abuse Totals</b>		<b>76.3</b>
<b>Domestic Violence</b>		
Physical Abuse		31.7
Sexual Abuse		1.9
Emotional Abuse		0.0
Stalked/Harassed		24.2
<b>Domestic Violence Totals</b>		<b>5.6</b>
<b>Sexual/Gender Harassment</b>		<b>63.4</b>
		<b>79.9</b>

\* Please note this table represents all victimizations as opposed to single victims. The following charts compare single victims in order to eliminate bias and maximize data integrity for cross-comparison analysis.

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# \* Urban vs. Rural



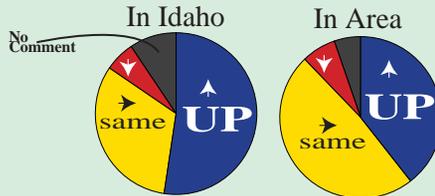
Consistent with reported rates of crime (IBRS), the ICVS found that Property and Violent crimes tend to occur at higher rates in urban settings as opposed to rural settings. Consistent with other data, the incidence of crimes involving intimates or acquaintances, e.g. - child abuse and domestic violence, tended to be equally distributed between urban and rural counties.

\*Urban counties included the seven most densely populated counties in the state (Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Nez Perce, Kootenai, and Twin Falls), which comprises approximately 62% of the Idaho population. All other (37) counties in Idaho were classified as rural within the ICVS database.

# Crime Perception



The typical 'not in my backyard' (NIMBY) social science paradigm exists in how people perceive crime. On average, Idahoans tend to believe the crime rate is higher in geographic areas other than their own.



We asked: Has crime risen, fallen, or stayed the same in Idaho, and in your area?

## Gender

Females were more likely than men to respond that crime rates had increased!

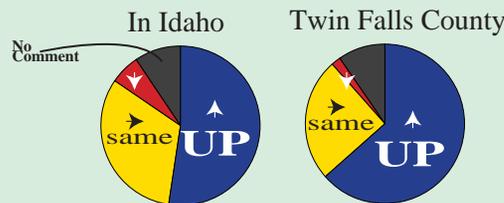
## Region

Respondents in rural areas were slightly more likely to respond that crime had gone up in Idaho last year!

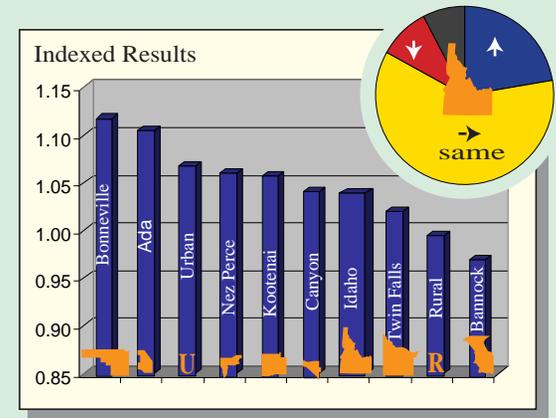
## Education / Income

The more education and income the respondent had, the more likely they were to respond that crime had indeed fallen in the past year!

A majority of Twin Falls respondents indicated that crime had risen in the past year. However, in 1998 the official crime rate in Twin Falls fell 17%. Twin Falls County, however, experienced a comparatively high rate of victimization, partially explaining this perception.



# Police Services



## Multipliers

- 2 - improved
- 1 - remained the same
- 0 - unsure
- 1 - worsened

## KEY

- 1.20 and above = much better
- .67 - 1.20 = better
- ★ .67 = the same ★
- below .67 = worse

As depicted in the chart above, respondents perceive that police services have improved over the past year. Only a small minority of respondents indicated that police services have declined in the previous year. In fact, respondents from all jurisdictions represented appear to have positive perceptions about police services. Twin Falls County respondents, although generally positive in their perceptions regarding police services, were less positive than respondents in most other urban counties. This perception is ironic given the 17% reduction in the Twin Falls crime rate in 1998 (IBRS-UCR). The juxtaposition of crime rate perceptions, police services perceptions, along with actual reported crime (IBRS-UCR), provide insight on the impact of the media on the criminal justice community.

## Summary of Findings



The Idaho Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) found that women tend to be victimized at least as much as men in Idaho. This is not found in other measures of victimization or crime rate measurement, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), Incident Based Reporting System (IBRS). Reported levels of crime, Incident Based Reporting System (IBRS), indicate males are more victimized than females. This finding is corroborated by the ICVS question which asks whether or not the crime was reported. Women tended to report the crime at the same or lower levels than men, again bucking national trends. Subsequent surveys in Idaho will serve to validate or invalidate the finding that women are victimized more than men in Idaho.

The ICVS results indicated that a majority of Idaho respondents perceive police services have either stayed the same or improved during the last year.

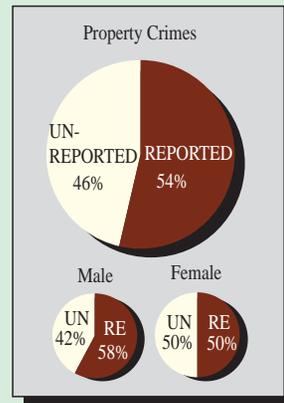
Consistent with other surveys the majority believe crime has increased in the past year, when the opposite has occurred, according to reported crime (IBRS - Idaho, Incidence Based Reporting System).

## Income & Education

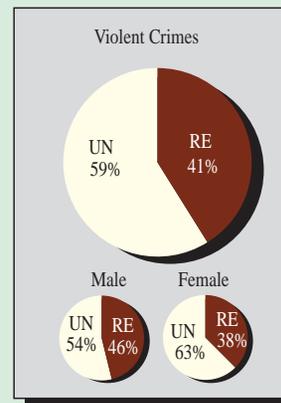


Findings for both income and education portions of the survey reflected a clear correlation between earnings and educational achievement. While many surveys reflect a higher incidence of crime among lower income households, ICVS results indicated that crime was fairly evenly distributed across all income and education levels, with few distinguishable trends.

## Reported vs. Unreported Crimes

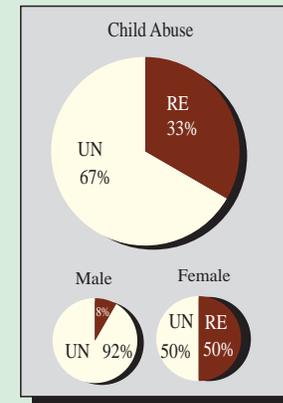


This finding (46%) of unreported property crimes is somewhat consistent with the 1997 ICVS (61%). However, unreported property crimes in Idaho were substantially below the NCVS rate (almost 80%).



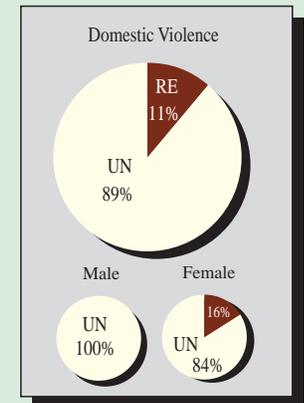
This finding (59%) of unreported violent crimes slightly differs from the 1997 ICVS (69%). However, unreported violent crimes in Idaho were above the NCVS rate (50%). This is partially explained by the more inclusive ICVS approach.

The ICVS results indicated that Idaho respondents tend to report Property Crimes more than the average U.S. citizen (NCVS), but report Violent Crimes less than the average U.S. citizen. The charts below reflect that crimes committed by an intimate or acquaintance tend to be unreported or underreported at alarming levels.



\* SAMPLE SIZE TOO SMALL FOR STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

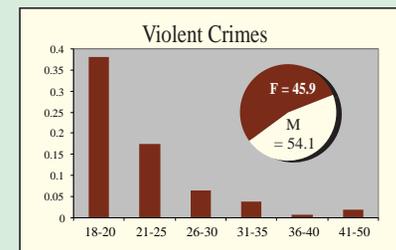
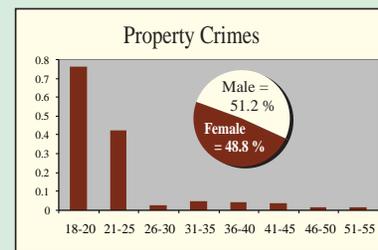
Most child abuse victimizations fell within the pornography category. Categories such as pornography typically fall within the family sphere of influence, and are not generally reported.



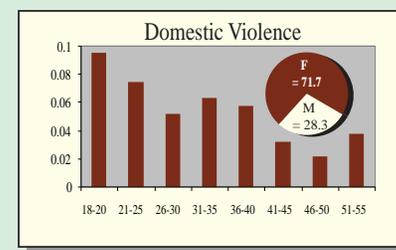
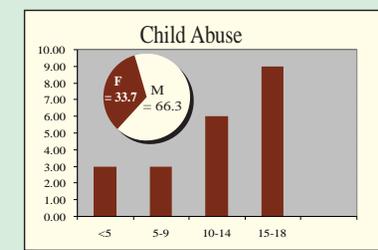
\* SAMPLE SIZE TOO SMALL FOR STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This is consistent with national research, indicating the social stigma that remains involving domestic violence. Total unreported victimizations are even higher than the depicted rates per victim, due to some individuals being victimized on more than one occasion.

## Gender and Age by Victim



As expected, the ICVS indicated that more crimes are typically committed against younger adults. Again, the ICVS found higher rates of female victimization across all crime categories than one would expect, given the lower rates of female victimization found in IBRS data (1998 UCR), or other national surveys (NCVS). This finding is corroborated by the previous findings that females in Idaho have higher rates of unreported victimizations. Therefore, it appears that IBRS may understate female victimizations, since ICVS findings indicate females are less likely to report crime. Subsequent ICVS studies are necessary to validate this finding.



\*\*Child Abuse graphic includes a small sample size and are raw numbers as opposed to rates per respondent.