
THE 2015 MONTANA CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, The Montana Board of Crime Control's (MBCC) Statistical Analysis Center—in partnership with the University of Montana Criminology Research Group (CRG), the University of Montana Social Science Research Lab, and the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER)—set out to construct a crime victimization survey to better understand crime in Montana. By asking Montanans about their personal experience of crime, the 2015 Montana Crime Victimization Survey (MCVS 2015) provides an important alternative to existing law enforcement crime data, such as the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), the Montana Incident-Based Reporting System (MTIBRS), and national-level victimization survey data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

Gathering data directly from Montanans about their experiences with criminal victimization provides insight into unreported crime (or crimes not known to police). By their nature, unreported crimes are absent from statistics obtained from the UCR and the MTIBRS. Though the NCVS also gathers crime data from victims, its design provides national-level statistics that cannot be disaggregated to the state level (with limited exceptions for some metropolitan areas). MCVS 2015 was designed to address the data gap between the UCR, the MTIBRS, and the NCVS by surveying the extent and nature of unreported crimes within Montana.

METHODOLOGY

PRECEDENTS FOR INSTRUMENT DESIGN

The MCVS 2015 instrument was drafted after an extensive review of literature on survey research with an emphasis on victimization surveys. The Tailored Design Method (Dillman, Smyth, & Christian, 2014) informed the design elements of the MCVS 2015 instrument. MCVS 2015 was modeled after three primary sources: the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the MCVS 2010 instrument (Steyee & Swinford, 2011), and recent state-administered victimization surveys, including Arizona 2013 (Stevenson, 2014), Idaho 2012 (Wing, 2014), Nevada 2011 (Hart & Culver, 2012), Maine 2011 (Rubin, Dodge, & Chiasson, 2011), Utah 2010 (Peterson, 2010), and Minnesota 2008 (Buskovich & Peterson, 2009).

INSTRUMENT MODE

MCVS 2015 is a paper and online self-response survey. This style (or “mode”) of survey instrument was selected to maximize both sample size and the overall response rate, given available resources.

The mixed paper and online self-response survey mode was thought to ensure access to both the widest demographic range and greatest number of respondents. Ultimately, this approach yielded a better response rate than most other recent state victimization surveys (see Orchowsky, Trask, & Stabile, 2014).

INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

The literature review for this analysis was completed in the fall of 2014. The MCVS 2015 instrument underwent numerous drafts and revisions between August 2014 and March 2016. Throughout 2015, CRG personnel designed, wrote, and tested the online version of the survey and prototyped early versions of the paper survey. The BBER developed the paper survey and completed the final draft in February of 2016. Online and paper versions of the survey were continuously tested by the CRG and periodically sent to MBCC for feedback.

The final MCVS 2015 survey instrument presented questions to respondents in six sections. Those sections include “The Nature of Crime in Your Community,” “Property Victimization,” “Personal Victimization,” “Sexual Assault Victimization,” “Victim Services,” and “Demographics.”

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION, SAMPLING, AND WEIGHTING PROCEDURES

MCVS 2015 was administered to a representative simple random sample of adults living in Montana. The sample excluded individuals living in institutional settings (such as hospitals and prisons), homeless individuals, and individuals living in military barracks. Survey administration was completed in the following steps:

- (1) Survey pre-letters were sent to 5,000 randomly selected Montana residents in April 2016.
- (2) 250 pre-letters were undeliverable, bringing the original sampling frame down to 4,750 potential respondents.
- (3) 1,996 Montana residents participated in the survey, resulting in a response rate of 42%.
- (4) Survey data collection was completed in August 2016.
- (5) Data were then weighted using standard practices established by NCVS (see the “Methods” chapter for a description of this process). The random sampling error rate for this survey is +/- 2.5%

VICTIMIZATION VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

Criminal victimization information was collected on respondents in three separate sections: “Property Victimization/Property Crimes,” “Personal Victimization/Crimes,” and “Sexual Assault Supplement.” Questions in the three sections were then broken down into crime categories. These categories are consistent with those commonly found in the UCR and NCVS, among other crime reports. The definitions used in the questions asked to gather information for this analysis, however, are not always the exact questions asked in the UCR, NCVS, and other similar reports.

Violent crime questions examined robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, and sexual assault. Serious property crime questions focused on burglary and motor vehicle theft. Additional questions explored stalking, identity theft, property damage, and theft from a motor vehicle. These additional offenses are grouped in to a “miscellaneous crime” group in the report.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

VICTIMIZATION RATES

- ❖ The victimization rate is a measure of the number of *victimization events* within a specified period of time (Truman & Morgan 2016; see the Methodology chapter for more details).
- ❖ Consistent with national trends, violent crimes were experienced at a much lower rate than property crimes.
 - Sexual assaults were experienced at a rate of 11.8 assaults per 1,000 adults. This number is high relative to the other MCVS 2015 rates. It’s also distinct from national trends in that sexual assault offenses were reported at significantly higher rates than robbery or aggravated assault. As discussed in more detail later in this report, this could be due to the behaviorally specific wording of the sexual assault questions, which tend to result in more accurate—and higher—estimates of sexual assault (e.g., Fisher 2009).
 - There were 41.9 assaults (aggravated and simple assaults) reported per 1,000 adults in Montana.
 - Simple assaults were the most commonly reported form of violent victimization at 36.5 per 1,000.
 - Home burglaries were experienced at 109.1 victimizations per 1,000 adults in Montana. This is the highest victimization rate reported for serious property crime.
 - Miscellaneous crimes, on average, were experienced at a higher rate than other individual categories.

- Identity theft was commonly reported with 123 victimizations per 1,000 adults.

PREVALENCE RATES

- ❖ The criminal victimization prevalence rate is a measure of the number of *victims* of crime within a specified time period (Truman & Morgan 2016; see the Methodology chapter for more details).
 - Reports of violent victimization were rare. Sexual assault (1%) was reported more often than both robbery (0.8%) and aggravated assault (0.7%).
 - Simple assault victimization (3.2%) was more commonly reported than any other violent crime.
 - Home burglaries (7.8%) constituted the most commonly reported serious property crime. Property crimes were almost twice as prevalent when compared to overall violent crime (4.4%).
 - More Montanans were victims of stalking, identity theft, theft from a motor vehicle, or property damage than any violent or serious property crime.
 - The most common form of victimization reported was identity theft (15%), with three out of every twenty Montanans experiencing identity theft victimization in 2015.

2010 AND 2015 MCVS COMPARISON

- ❖ While inherent differences exist between the 2010 MCVS and the 2015 MCVS (including sampling methods and data weighting), prevalence rates between the two surveys remained relatively similar.
 - No prevalence rate for any crime increased or decreased by more than three percentage points from the 2010 MCVS to the 2015 MCVS.
 - Robbery, home burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft from a motor vehicle all increased between 2010 and 2015.
 - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, stalking, and property damage decreased from 2010 to 2015.
 - Simple assault victimization did not change between 2010 and 2015.

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

- ❖ The following characteristics were more common for property crime victims:
 - Male
 - American Indian
 - Age 35-49
 - Homosexual or non-heterosexual
 - Single (never married) or divorced
 - Yearly household income of \$9,999 or less
 - Eighth grade or less educational attainment
- ❖ Characteristics more common for violent crime victims include:
 - Female (slightly)
 - White
 - Age 18-24
 - Homosexual or non-heterosexual
 - Single (never married)
 - Yearly household income of \$10,000-\$19,999
 - Some high school educational attainment
- ❖ Logistic regression models were performed to examine the impact of these demographic characteristics on the likelihood of experiencing violent or serious property victimization. Findings show:
 - Younger ($p \leq .001$), single, never married ($p \leq .01$), and homosexual ($p \leq .05$) Montanans experience heightened risks of violent victimization.
 - Taking into account the influence of all other demographic characteristics, sexual orientation was a key determinant of victimization. Homosexual respondents were four times more likely than heterosexuals to experience violent victimization.
 - Montanans are at an increased risk of serious property victimization if they are younger ($p \leq .001$) and male ($p \leq .05$).

THE VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

- ❖ Overall, violent crime victims in Montana were significantly more likely than serious property crime victims to have known the offender.
 - More than 56% of all violent crime victims knew the offender, compared to fewer than 27% of all serious property crime victims who knew the offender.
 - Sexual assault victims knew their offender 91.7% of the time.
 - Stalking victims knew the offender 56.5% of the time.
- ❖ Victims of identity theft (14.7%), property damage (13.5%), and theft from a motor vehicle (12.9%) were less likely to know the offender than victims of violent crime or serious property crime.

UNREPORTED CRIME: CAUSES AND PATTERNS

- ❖ Most crimes in Montana were not reported to the police in 2015.
 - Only 29.2% of those who reported experiencing criminal victimization in the MCVS 2015 survey indicated that they reported the event to law enforcement; 70.8% said that they did not report the crime to the police.
 - None of the sexual assault victimizations were reported to the police.
 - Aggravated assault and motor vehicle theft tended to be reported to police more frequently than other crimes (58.3% and 69.1%, respectively).
 - Only 23.4% of identity theft victims reported the crime to police; many identity theft victims indicated they reported the crimes instead to appropriate financial institutions.
- ❖ A number of reasons were cited to explain why crimes are not reported to the police.
 - The most common reason (46.2%) victimization went unreported was because the respondent did not believe police could do anything to help.
 - One third (34.3%) of respondents said they felt there was insufficient evidence or information to report the crime.
 - 11.2% said they did not want to involve police.
 - 2.4% said they were afraid of the offender.
 - 1.4% said they thought police would not believe them.
 - Almost a third (31.1%) reported “other” as the reason for not reporting the crime to police.
 - The most common reasons for not reporting discussed in the “other” category were: (1) feeling that there was not enough harm, damage,

or evidence to justify reporting and (2) because another business or agency, such as a bank or credit card company, handled the situation.

INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ❖ 43.5% of respondents said that they had some form of direct contact with local law enforcement during the year preceding MCVS 2015 completion.
 - Of those residents who had a contact with local law enforcement, 84.8% described their interaction as “very good” or “good.”
 - The most common type of interaction was a casual conversation (47.6%), followed by asking an officer for information (26%) and traffic stop (23.5%).
- ❖ Persons who experienced criminal victimization were four times more likely to characterize their treatment by law enforcement as “bad” or “very bad” compared to non-victims (17.1% versus 4.2%).

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME, DRUGS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- ❖ Public safety and fear of crime
 - Most respondents (93.3%) were either “never” (33.5%) or “almost never” (59.8%) fearful of becoming a victim of violent crime.
 - White respondents were more likely than American Indian respondents to rate law enforcement as doing “good” or “excellent” work (90.9% versus 60%).
 - American Indian respondents were more likely than white respondents to rate the job law enforcement was doing as “bad” or “terrible” (40% versus 9.1%).
- ❖ Drug crime
 - Most participants (60.9%) believe that drug crime had increased in their community during the past five years.
 - The majority of respondents (56.9%) believe that drug problems had worsened, either “somewhat increasing” (38.6%) or “greatly increasing” (18.3%) during the past five years.
 - 84.6% of respondents expressed confidence that police could effectively deal with the drug distribution and substance abuse problems in their community. Differences of opinion in this category were observed between white and American Indian participants. For example:
 - Most white respondents (86.6%) expressed some level of trust that police could effectively handle the drug problems in the community.

- Fewer than half (47.4%) of American Indian respondents expressed a similar level of confidence in the police's ability to manage local drug problems.

VICTIM SERVICES

- ❖ Most individuals (70.8%) sought some form of help as a result of their victimization.
 - Of the victims who reached out for help, most (65.8%) said they sought help from law enforcement. Approximately a quarter (25.8%) reached out to friends, and 23.2% reached out to family.
 - Fewer victims reached out to legal counsel (10.1%), victim advocates or victim service providers (6.7%), a counselor or therapist (4.7%), or a school or work affiliated group (3.4%).
 - Almost a quarter (22.8%) sought help from an "other" source. The most frequently cited "other" sources included those related to assistance for a financial crime or fraud, such as a business or the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.
- ❖ Almost no victims (3.4%) reported applying for victim compensation, such as financial benefits towards losses results from their victimization.
 - Four out of five victims (80.3%) who reported their victimization to police said that the responding officer did not tell them about crime victim services available to them in their community.
 - Only one out of five victims (21%) sought victim services following their experience with crime.
 - Of those victims who sought victim services, the most common way they learned about services was through law enforcement (40.7%) and by word of mouth (25.6%).
- ❖ Only one in five victims (19.3%) said they sought legal services.
 - Of those victims who sought legal services, 9.2% rated the services as "excellent," 18.4% rated them as "good," 39.5% of respondents said they were "acceptable," 6.6% indicated services were "not good," and 26.3% categorized the legal services they sought as "poor."

DISCUSSION

This investigation's objective was to examine victimization levels experienced by adults living in Montana. This report establishes a baseline for personal and property victimization that may be contrasted with future investigations. Research findings presented here provide critical knowledge and insight that is essential for future work in Montana. In particular, this study provides data on issues unaddressed by the previous two

surveys examining state-level victimization, including information on public confidence in the police, sexual assault victimization, and drug crime in Montana.

CAUTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- ❖ There are a handful of issues that need to be considered prior to assessing MCVS 2015 findings.
 - The findings are based on self-reported victimization.
 - Fewer than half (1,996) of the 5,000 households that were sampled to participate in the study completed and submitted the survey.
 - Trends reported are influenced by characteristics of the persons who choose to participate and those who did not.
 - Patterns reported here are dependent upon the willingness of persons to report crime on the survey and to accurately recall their experiences as crime victims.
 - It is possible that some events recorded as criminal victimization in the findings reported here occurred prior to Jan. 1, 2015 or after Dec. 31, 2015 (see Lee et al., 2013 for a discussion of this concern).

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the cautionary notes itemized in the previous section in mind, there are a number of recommendations associated with findings from the current investigation.

- ❖ Responses to criminal victimization
 - Crime patterns reported on the MCVS 15 must be understood as baseline estimates.
 - Crime levels reported here are similar to other state-level surveys previously conducted across the country.
 - Additional data collection through future crime victimization surveys administered in Montana are needed to understand changes in crime over time.
 - Work is needed to understand characteristics that distinguish persons who experience series victimization (six or more victimizations for the same offense in the previous 12 months) from those who experience no criminal victimization.
 - Crime prevention efforts should include a careful examination of series victimization and address factors most closely associated with repeat victimization.

- Priority should be given to prevention and intervention programs that target multiple facets shown in this report to increase the likelihood of criminal victimization.
 - Programs emphasizing situational determinants are likely to have a more immediate beneficial impact, while those focusing on structural determinates, such as poverty and a lack of educational attainment, offer promise for long-term impacts on crime in the state.
- ❖ Public perceptions and interactions with law enforcement
 - A better understanding of the reasons why criminal victimization goes unreported to the police is necessary.
 - Evidence gathered from the MCVS 2015 shows victims who did not report crime frequently believed there was nothing the police could do to help. These beliefs, in addition to victim perceptions that a lack of evidence or information would impede law enforcement outcomes, constitute key building blocks for beginning a more detailed analysis of why criminal victimization goes unreported to the police.
 - Evidence from the survey show that public attitudes about the police—in most instances—are not the result of direct contact with the police. Only 43.5% of participants had any form of interaction with law enforcement.
 - Most contact with the police is related to the service dimension of police work (e.g., casual conversation, asking for directions), not the law enforcement dimension.
- ❖ Improving existing services and information about crime victim services
 - It is important to understand the reasons why people choose not to seek assistance after experiencing criminal victimization.
 - MCVS 2015 findings indicate that uncertainty about the availability of existing services and how to access them constitute important considerations in the decision about whether to seek services.
 - Efforts are needed to better inform stakeholders within social service agencies that interact with victims about community resources and how to access them.
 - Education among law enforcement about available victim services is of particular importance, as law enforcement officers often serve as the initial point of contact after criminal victimization.
 - Access to information about crime victim services must be made easy to acquire and comprehensive enough to minimize the amount of time and the number of inquiries needed to locate them.

- Increasing the accuracy and visibility of victim service resources at the county-level is an essential part of improving accessibility.
 - A centralized location capable of providing navigational assistance to connect victims with services is recommended.
- ❖ Public perceptions of crime, drugs, and safety
- Encourage efforts across the state to connect law enforcement and the members of the communities that they serve.
 - Findings show that public approval of the police remains high despite perceptions of increases in crime and drug issues during the past five years.
 - Support efforts to reduce prescription drug, methamphetamine, and alcohol abuse.
 - Substance abuse prevention and education is a key piece of a comprehensive crime and victimization reduction strategy in Montana.
 - Develop a better understanding of the factors influencing perceptions of police among American Indians.
 - Findings show disparities between white and American Indian respondents in their feelings of confidence in the police.
 - Future attention should be given to understanding the sources of disparities between American Indians and white respondents and whether or not the disparities are similar for American Indians living on reservation lands and those who are living off reservation lands.
- ❖ Prioritize funding for future statewide crime victimization studies
- MCVS 2015 findings serve as a baseline for comparisons with findings from future studies.
 - Future surveys are needed to develop an understanding of changes in criminal victimization trends, public perceptions of the police, and services for victims of crime.
 - There is a need to expand on future surveys the number of questions asking about criminal victimization.
 - The need to expand questions about theft beyond motor vehicle theft is particularly apparent, as it is a key limitation of the MCVS 2015 and the previous Montana victimization surveys that informed MCVS 2015.
 - Information gathered through future surveys will be critical for the promotion of evidence-based practice.

CONCLUSION

The dearth of comprehensive data reflecting victimization trends has prompted some to call this void the “dark figure” of crime. Much of the criminal victimization that occurred in 2015 across Montana was never reported to the police, and, as such, it was not reported in official crime data statistics. Findings and recommendations reported here help fill the void by providing key information missing in statewide crime reports via the Montana Board of Crime Control’s Montana Incident-Based Reporting System (MTIBRS) and national-level crime data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Data gathered through MCVS 2015 yields insights into patterns of victimization and public perceptions of crime and safety in Montana. These insights provide baseline evidence to inform practice, planning, and policy decisions necessary for ensuring the criminal justice system effectively responds to criminal victimization. Much of the information reported here is consistent with patterns and trends in previous state-level surveys. This analysis found in some cases the level of crime committed against adults living in Montana higher than crime levels reported in other states. Furthermore, evidence presented here shows Montana adults in most cases chose to deal with criminal victimization in some way other than reporting it to police. With that in mind, it becomes clear that the data presented here constitute vital building blocks for forming a more complete understanding of crime and victimization in Montana.

Data from MCVS 2015 administration advances information collected from surveys administered by the Montana Board of Crime Control in 2005 and 2010. Data for the MCVS 2015 were gathered through an online and a pen-and-paper instrument. MCVS 2015 added questions related to drug crime, sexual assault, and public confidence in the police that had not been included in the 2005 and 2010 surveys. Data presented in this report are based on estimates derived from a multi-phase data weighting process that increases the sample’s representativeness (i.e., the ability to generalize these results to the entire state).

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, The Montana Board of Crime Control's (MBCC) Statistical Analysis Center—in partnership with the University of Montana Criminology Research Group (CRG), the University of Montana Social Science Research Lab, and the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER)—set out to construct a crime victimization survey to better understand crime in Montana. By gathering information from Montanans about their personal experiences related to crime, the 2015 Montana Crime Victimization Survey (MCVS 2015) and its findings provide an important alternative to law enforcement crime data, such as the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), the Montana Incident-Based Reporting System (MTIBRS), and data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

Most crimes reported through the MCVS 2015 are absent from statistics obtained from the UCR and the MTIBRS. Though NCVS also gathers crime data from victims, its design provides national level statistics that cannot be disaggregated to the state level (with limited exceptions for some metropolitan areas). MCVS 2015 was designed to address the data gap between the UCR, the MTIBRS, and the NCVS by surveying the extent and nature of unreported crimes in Montana.

BACKGROUND

The Montana Crime Victimization and Safety Surveys of 2005 and 2010 (MCVS 2005 and MCVS 2010) preceded MCVS 2015. The earlier surveys provided important baselines for MCVS 2015. Like MCVS 2005 (distributed in 2006) and MCVS 2010 (distributed in 2011), MCVS 2015 was distributed in spring 2016 and asked Montana residents to report crime victimization during the calendar year of 2015.

MCVS 2015 is the result of a three-year project funded through the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers (CFDA # 16.550) from 2014 through 2016. The project developed in three phases, each 12 months in length. The phases were comprised of planning, data collection, and analysis.

The planning phase had three main objectives. The first was to obtain University of Montana Institutional Review Board approval, the second was to conduct a comprehensive literature review, and the third to begin designing the MCVS 2015 survey instrument.

In the second year of the project, the CRG completed the online version of the survey instrument and the BBER converted it into the paper version. The surveys were distributed on April 15, 2016, and the data collection phase was terminated on Aug. 8, 2016.

In year three, CRG personnel addressed data inconsistencies (discussed in the Methods chapter) and conducted preliminary analyses. The BBER provided technical support in

weighting data for analysis. Finally, CRG personnel performed data analysis and wrote this report.

In the next chapter, we will discuss the study's research methods.

METHODS

The CRG sought to draft a replicable, cost-effective, and comprehensive victimization survey instrument that conforms to best practices. In the interests of facilitating future studies of crime victimization in Montana, the following chapter describes the methodology used for MCVS 2015 in six sections. First, we detail precedents for MCVS 2015 instrument design in the scholarly and technical literature. Next, we offer a description and justification of the survey mode used in MCVS 2015. Then, we explore the development of MCVS 2015 by the CRG and collaborators. Next, we provide a description and justification of the sampling and survey distribution procedures. Then, we define the victimization variables used in the study. Finally, we provide an explanation of the rates and percentages used for this analysis.

The University of Montana Institutional Review Board approved this study after reviewing both the sampling procedure and the survey instrument. A simple random sample of 5,000 adults across Montana were notified of the study first by postcard and then sent formal pre-letters with two dollars as incentive to complete the survey. Full paper surveys were sent to households that did not complete an online survey after two weeks. The data collection period was closed on Aug. 8, 2016 after 1,996 valid surveys (paper and online) were collected.

PRECEDENTS FOR INSTRUMENT DESIGN

The MCVS 2015 instrument was drafted after an extensive review of literature on survey research generally and victimization surveys in particular. The Tailored Design Method developed by Dillman, Smyth, and Christian (2014) informed the design elements of the MCVS 2015 instrument. Survey instrument content—including questions about personal and property crime victimization and those related to perceptions of public safety and law enforcement—was modeled after three primary sources. Those sources included the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the MCVS 2010 instrument, and recent state-administered victimization surveys, including Arizona 2013 (Stevenson, 2014), Idaho 2012 (Wing, 2014), Nevada 2011 (Hart & Culver, 2012), Maine 2011 (Rubin, Dodge, & Chiasson, 2011), Utah 2010 (Peterson, 2010), and Minnesota 2008 (Buskovich & Peterson, 2009). Questions were modified as needed to be appropriate to the self-response survey mode used in MCVS 2015.

The CRG referred to other, more specialized, survey instruments for guidance on crafting effective questions on highly sensitive topics such as sexual assault and drug-related crime. Questions for sexual assault victimization and perceptions of drug crime were derived from the *Sexual Experiences Survey–Long Form Victimization* (Koss et al., 2006) and the 2015 *Survey on Drug Use and Health* (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, 2016), respectively. Two other sets of questions focusing on the respondent's neighbors and neighborhood were borrowed directly from Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997) (see also: Cancino 2005; Uchida, Swatt, Solomon, & Varano, 2013).

INSTRUMENT MODE

MCVS 2015 is a paper and online self-response survey. This style (or “mode”) of survey instrument was selected to maximize both sample size and the overall response rate, given available resources. Replicating the rigorous, resource-intensive methods used in the NCVS would have been untenable unless the sample size was greatly reduced. Additionally, the relatively inexpensive (compared to NCVS) telephone-based interview designs of other state surveys have seen steadily diminishing response rates in recent years (e.g., Idaho’s 2012 State Victimization Survey) and a rising potential for selection bias—where groups of respondents are systematically excluded from analysis (Dillman & Smyth, 2009). While not without its limitations, the mixed paper and online self-response survey mode was thought to ensure access to both the widest demographic range and greatest number of respondents. This strategy ultimately yielded a better response rate than most other recent state victimization surveys (see Orchowsky, Trask, & Stabile, 2014).

Online surveys allow rapid, widespread, and inexpensive administration, flexibility in design elements, and largely automate the data collection process. This mode is still problematic in terms of selection bias, however. There are geographic regions and demographic groups in Montana with limited access to the internet, computers and smart phones, and/or resources for (or interest in) digital literacy. To ameliorate this issue, the CRG designed a paper survey to mirror the online version. Respondents were offered a link to the online survey in their initial contact letter, then automatically sent a paper survey if they did not complete the online version after one week. See the “Survey Administration and Sampling Weighting Procedures” section below for details on response rates for each survey instrument.

As with all crime victimization surveys, it is important to note that MCVS 2015 directly measures respondents’ *reported* experience of crime victimization, rather than the event itself. Thus, it is subject to certain limitations in the degree to which it gives a true measure of victimization. For example, MCVS 2015 could not give measurements of crimes such as homicide victimizations. Additionally, MCVS 2015 could not ask about the full range of crimes described by UCR statistics without increasing the time it would take respondents and thus reducing the response rate. Additional limitations are addressed in the “Cautions/Limitations” section at the end of this report.

INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

The literature review for this analysis was completed in the fall of 2014. The MCVS 2015 instrument underwent numerous drafts and revisions between August 2014 and March 2016. Throughout 2015, CRG personnel designed, wrote, and tested the online version of the survey and prototyped early versions of the paper survey. Using the online survey as a reference, the BBER developed the paper survey and completed the final draft in February 2016. Online and paper versions of the survey were continuously tested by the CRG and periodically sent to MBCC for feedback.

CRG personnel developed the online version of the survey instrument with Qualtrics Survey Software. This software enabled CRG personnel to develop sets of contingency questions that only appeared if respondents indicated they had experienced a victimization event in 2015. For example, only respondents who reported experiencing some form of crime were asked how many times they experienced the crime, whether and how often they reported the crime to police, and their relationship to the perpetrator of the most recent victimization. The contingency questions greatly reduced the overall length of the survey for respondents using the online format, but it presented design challenges when developing a printable version of the instrument.

To resolve this issue, the CRG, in collaboration with BBER, expanded on the paper design used in MCVS 2010 (Steyee & Swinford, 2011). For the MCVS 2010, Montana State University Professor Steven Swinford and Jimmy Steyee of MBCC presented contingency questions to respondents by using design elements such as arrows and framed question boxes. This clearly signaled to respondents that they did not need to answer contingency questions, unless they responded affirmatively to the related yes/no victimization question. Overall, this design appeared to be effective in 2015, as only one respondent to the paper survey reported a self-contradictory victimization pattern (i.e., indicating that they were victimized, then subsequently indicating they were victimized “0” times).

The final MCVS 2015 survey instrument presented questions to respondents in six sections: “The Nature of Crime in Your Community,” “Property Victimization,” “Personal Victimization,” “Sexual Assault Victimization,” “Victim Services,” and “Demographics.” The complete paper survey is provided in the Appendix.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION, SAMPLING, AND WEIGHTING PROCEDURES

As mentioned above, MCVS 2015 was administered to a representative simple random sample of adults living in Montana. The sample excluded individuals living in institutional settings such as hospitals and prisons, homeless people, and those living in military barracks.

Survey pre-letters were sent to 5,000 randomly selected Montana residents. To address the issue of coverage error, where groups of interest (i.e., individuals under 30 years old) are unintentionally excluded from analysis due to sampling methods, MCVS 2015 oversampled census block groups in Montana found to have the greatest population of 18 to 30 year olds. Using these block groups, 667 addresses were randomly selected to become part of the total sample of 5,000 addresses. Two-hundred fifty pre-letters were undeliverable, bringing the original sample frame down to 4,750 potential respondents.

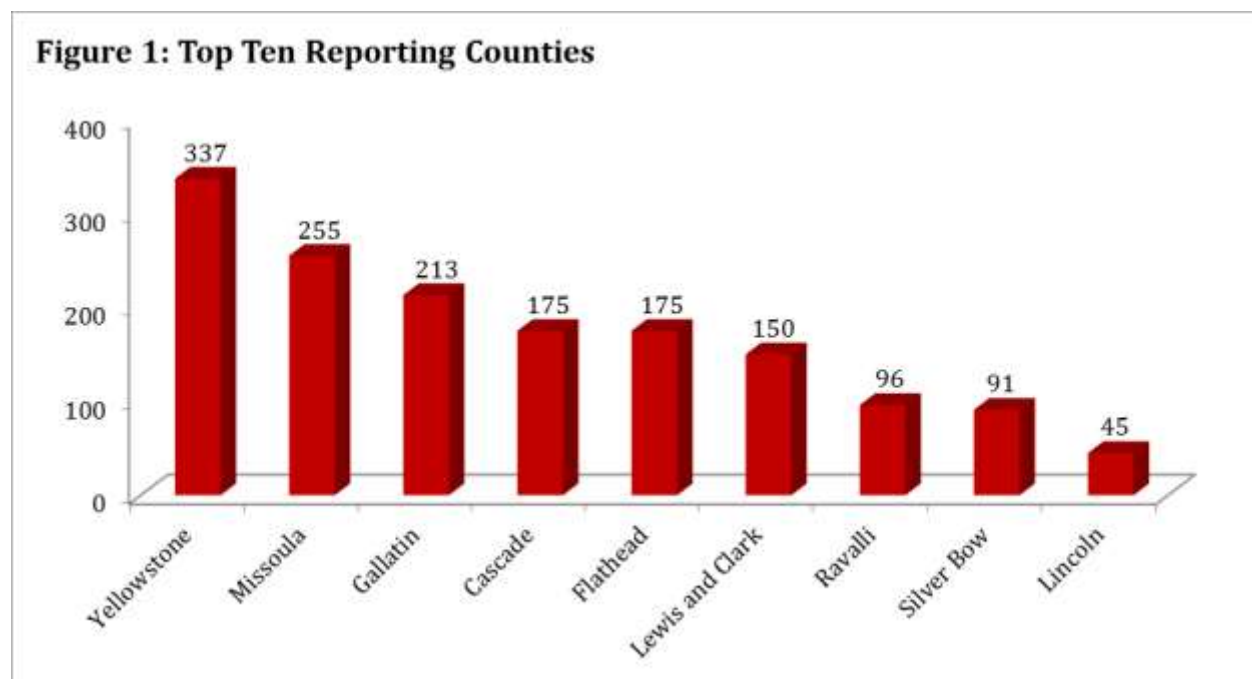
During the sampling timeframe, 1,996 Montana residents participated in the survey, resulting in a response rate of 42%. This level of survey response yielded an overall random sampling error rate of +/- 2.5%. The term random sampling error focuses on the effect of random sampling on survey estimates. If this survey was administered 100 times,

in 95 of the administrations the estimates for answers to the questions would be within +/- 2.5% of those presented in this report.

Of the survey participants, 29.8% (594) filled out the survey online, 51.7% (1,031) filled out the paper version of the survey during the first survey mailing, and the remaining 18.6% (371) filled out the paper version of the survey after the second mailing. Figure 1 shows the counties with the highest numbers of participants. A map displaying the locations of the participants by county is available in the Appendix.

The pre-letter instructed the adult individual (18 years and older) with the most recent birthday in each household to complete the survey. Unlike the NCVS, MCVS 2015 (along with most state victimization surveys) conflates individual adults with households, adding some ambiguity regarding property crime estimates. For example, it is unknown whether respondents reported or ignored crimes perpetrated on other household members' property. The CRG considered this ambiguity necessary for developing a concise, comprehensible survey.

The pre-letter was created using the best practice model developed by Dillman and colleagues (2014). Specifically, the pre-letter described the survey and invited the potential respondent to take the survey online. The letterhead contained the official MBCC logo and contact information to signal the legitimacy of the survey to the respondent. Importantly, the pre-letter explained that if potential respondents would rather take the survey by hand, a paper copy of the survey would be sent to them in approximately one week. Each respondent was given an individual identifier to ensure no participant completed the survey more than once.



Nonresponse error occurs when some groups of individuals respond less frequently to a survey than others. For example, in addition to being more likely to not receive a survey in the first place (coverage error), college-aged individuals may be more likely to lose or otherwise compromise their surveys due to their relative lack of a permanent address compared to other groups. The CRG used several strategies to reduce nonresponse error. As previously discussed, 5,000 potential respondents were identified and sent a letter inviting them to participate. The initial invitation letter sent to potential respondents contained a \$2 bill. This practice has been shown to increase response rates, as well as improve respondent trust in the research process (Dillman et al., 2014).

In keeping with standard practices established by NCVS, the data were weighted to further compensate for both sampling and non-sampling errors. The sample weights were calculated using a three-step process. First, a base weight was calculated to account for the probability of selection of each individual in the sample. The population control total was based on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2015 five-year estimate for the population in Montana of persons ages 18 and older. Second, the base weight was modified to adjust for possible nonresponse bias. Finally, the nonresponse-adjusted weight was calibrated to population control totals derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2015 five-year estimates for the population in Montana of persons ages 18 and older.¹

Below is a summary timeline of the data collection process:

- (1) April 2016: Initial invitation letters sent to 5,000 Montana addresses with a link to complete the survey online.
- (2) May 2016: A paper copy of the survey was sent to respondents who did not complete the survey online. A self-addressed stamped return envelope was included.
- (3) May 2016: Postcards reminding potential respondents to take the survey and postcards thanking participants who completed the survey were sent out to all households minus those addresses that were undeliverable (n = 4,750).
- (4) June 2016: A final follow-up letter containing an additional paper survey was sent to those who had not responded along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

¹ Survey weight calibration was conducted using the Gest_Calibration module of Generalized Estimation System version 2.01 (March 2017) developed by Statistics Canada. The MCVS 2015 survey weight was calibrated to population control totals by: (1) region within the state, (2) sex, (3) age, (4) race, and (5) household income. The weight calibration regions within Montana for the MCVS 2015 were: Region 1 (Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, and Lake counties); Region 2 (Beaverhead, Madison, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Meagher, Gallatin, and Park counties); Region 3 (Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Lewis and Clark, Cascade, Toole, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, and Blaine counties); Region 4 (Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, McCone, Garfield, Dawson, Prairie, Rosebud, Fallon, Custer, Powder River, Carter, and Wibaux counties); and Region 5 (Bighorn, Treasure, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, Yellowstone, Golden Valley, Petroleum, Fergus, Musselshell, Judith Basin, and Carbon counties).

(5) August 2016: Survey data collection complete. The survey was in the field for a total of 112 days.

VICTIMIZATION VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

Crime victimization information was collected on respondents in three separate sections on the MCVS 2015. The first section was titled "Property Victimization/Property Crimes," the second "Personal Victimization/Crimes," with the third labeled "Sexual Assault Supplement." Questions in these sections were then broken down into crime categories. These categories are commonly found in the UCR and NCVS, in addition to other crime reports. However, the definition of these categories do not necessarily reflect the definitions used in the UCR, NCVS, and other similar reports. Below, we describe how each victimization question is defined into the unique crime categories. Victimization rate tables utilize these categories when presenting MCVS 2015 findings.

VIOLENT CRIME

- ❖ **Overall Violent Crime:** Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, and Rape/Sexual Assault.
- ❖ **Robbery:** Did someone take or attempt to take something directly from you by using force or the threat of force?
- ❖ **Assault**
 - **Aggravated Assault:** Did anyone injure you or attempt to injure you with a weapon, such as a knife, gun, or blunt object?
 - **Simple Assault:** Did anyone hit, or attempt to hit, attack or beat you up by using only their hands and feet?
- ❖ **Rape/Sexual Assault:**
 - This section of the survey asks about non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact you may have experienced. The person with whom you had the unwanted sexual contact could have been a stranger or someone you know, such as a family member or someone you were dating or going out with.
 - In this survey section, "sexual contact" is defined as one of the four following events:
 - Touching of a sexual nature: Kissing, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, or rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it is over your clothes.
 - Oral sex: Someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals.

- Sexual intercourse: Someone's penis being put in your vagina or anus.
- Sexual penetration with a finger or object; someone putting their finger or an object in your vagina or anus.
- Did anyone have or attempt to have non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact with you? For a definition of sexual contact, see above.

PROPERTY CRIME

- ❖ **Home Burglary:** Did anyone break into or attempt to break into your home, garage, or some other building on your property?
- ❖ **Motor Vehicle Theft:** Did anyone use without your permission, steal, or attempt to steal your motor vehicle (such as your truck, car, motorcycle, or ATV)?

MISCELLANEOUS CRIME

- ❖ **Stalking:** Did you feel threatened by anyone because they were following you or spying on you, sending you unasked for messages, vandalizing your property, threatening harm to you or your pets, or showing up at your home, workplace or school uninvited?
- ❖ **Identity Theft** (two questions)
 - Other than a credit/debit card account, did someone use, or attempt to use, any of your existing accounts (such as telephone, bank, or social media account) without your permission?
 - Did someone use or attempt to use your personal information without your permission to obtain a new credit card or loans, run up debts, open other accounts, or otherwise commit theft, fraud, or some other identity crime?
- ❖ **Property Damage:** Was your property damaged or vandalized (such as graffiti, hit and run, or broken window)?
- ❖ **Theft from Motor Vehicle:** Did anyone steal or attempt to steal, anything that belonged to you from inside your motor vehicle, such as packages, money, phone, or clothing?

ESTIMATING VICTIMIZATION AND PREVELANCE RATES

Estimates of criminal victimization can be calculated using victimization rates or prevalence rates. These two calculations are used in the NCVS and this report. The victimization rate is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Victimization rate} = \frac{\text{Total number of victimizations reported}}{\text{Number of participants who answered the victimization screening question}} \times 1,000$$

For each form of victimization examined in the study, the respondent was first asked a “victimization screening question” that asks whether the individual experienced that form of victimization in 2015. If the participant answers “yes,” then they are asked several follow-up questions, including the number of times that they experienced this form of victimization.

Victimization rates measure the extent to which victimizations occur in a specified population, whereas prevalence rates indicate the number of individuals in the population who experienced one or more victimization events (Truman & Morgan, 2016). The following is the formula for calculating prevalence rates:

$$\text{Prevalence rate} = \frac{\text{Number of participants who experienced victimization}}{\text{Number of participants who answered the victimization screening question}} \times 100$$

Put differently, victimization rates describe how many victimization incidents occur in a population (e.g., there were 63 violent crime victimizations per 1,000 adults in Montana in 2015). In contrast, prevalence rates describe how many victims there are in a population (e.g., 4.4% of adults in Montana were victims of violent crime in 2015). Victimization rates measure the frequency of a criminal behavior, while prevalence rates measure the number of people affected by a criminal behavior.

Like MCVS 2010, the NCVS (prior to 2012), and other state victimization surveys, MCVS 2015 excluded any individuals experiencing six or more victimizations of a single crime from victimization rate calculations.² These “series victims” were placed in their own category. Though series victims are relatively rare, they do account for a disproportionate number of victimization incidents; therefore, excluding these cases from victimization rate estimates minimizes the impact of extreme outliers. Additionally, due to the high level of crime these individuals experience, they present issues regarding measurement error due to the fact that many series victims have difficulty recalling how many victimization incidents they experienced during the time period under examination (see Lauritsen et al., 2012). Though series victims can have an outsized impact on victimization rate estimates

² After 2012, the NCVS revised the definition of series victims from six to 10 or more victimizations within a 6-month period (Lauritsen et al., 2012).

and increase the likelihood of measurement error in these estimates, they do not present similar methodological concerns when estimating victimization prevalence rates.

In the next chapter, we examine MCVS 2015 results.

RESULTS

In this chapter, we discuss MCVS 2015 results. A discussion of the extent of victimization in Montana occurs, as does an examination of 2015 victimization rates, prevalence rates, and how prevalence rates compare to findings from the MCVS 2010. This chapter also analyzes victim demographics in Montana, the victim-offender relationship, and why victims do not report certain crimes to law enforcement. Finally, respondent interactions with law enforcement are explored, with perceptions of crime, drugs, and public safety also detailed, in addition to respondent experiences with victim services.

VICTIMIZATION RATES

Victimization rates drawn from survey responses are presented in Table 1. The victimization rate is a measure of the number of *victimization events* within a specified period of time (see the Methodology Chapter for a discussion of calculating victimization rates). As we stress throughout this report, comparing rates calculated by MCVS 2015 survey findings to NCVS or UCR data is problematic at best. However, the informed reader will immediately notice that these estimates for Montana victimization rates are higher than national estimates. The estimated violent crime rate, for example, is more than three times greater in MCVS 2015 than in NCVS for the same year (63 compared to 18.6) (for national estimates of victimization rates from the 2015 NCVS, see Truman & Morgan, 2016). The same is true of property crimes, where even motor vehicle theft is estimated to be more than seven times higher in Montana than nationally (31.8 compared to 4.3). It is perhaps most informative to view these statistics as indicative of broader trends and patterns in victimization in Montana.

In keeping with national trends, violent crimes were experienced at much lower rates than property crimes in Montana in 2015. The relative frequency of victimizations presents some surprising findings. Sexual assaults were experienced at a rate of 11.8 per 1,000 adults—high even relative to other MCVS 2015 rates presented here, and distinct from national trends in that it was found at significantly higher rates than robbery or aggravated assault. However, the higher relative rate of sexual assault victimization in the Montana data could be due to the fact that, compared to the sexual assault questions utilized in the NCVS, the MCVS 2015 items are more behaviorally specific, meaning they describe to the participants exactly what behavior is being measured (i.e., sexual assault).³ Research indicates that using behaviorally specific measures for sexual assault results in higher—and more accurate—estimates of rape and sexual assault (e.g., Fisher, 2009). While the high rate of simple assault relative to aggravated assault in MCVS 2015 is consistent with national trends (Truman & Morgan, 2016), the proportion of simple assaults is much higher in Montana than nationally. In Montana, there are nearly seven times more simple

³ The MCVS 2015 measures for sexual assault were derived from the *Sexual Experiences Survey–Long Form Victimization* (Koss et al., 2006).

assaults than aggravated assaults; nationally, the figure does not quite reach five times more.

The data indicate there were 41.9 assaults per 1,000 adults in Montana. This rate combines aggravated assault (assault with a weapon: 5.3 victimizations per 1,000 adults) and simple assault (assault without a weapon: 36.5 victimizations per 1,000 adults). Simple assault was the most common form of violent victimization. The robbery victimization rate is the third highest individual category of violent crime victimization with a rate of 8.5 victimizations per 1,000 adults. Again, there are slight differences here between the relative frequencies of crimes nationally and in Montana—aggravated assault is less common than robbery in Montana, but more common than robbery at the national level.

In general, the serious property crimes measured by MCVS 2015—including burglary and motor vehicle theft—occurred at a much higher rate than violent victimizations in 2015. The majority of these victimizations were due to burglaries. With a rate of 109.1 per 1,000 adults, burglary was the third most common form of victimization found in MCVS 2015. Compared to burglary, motor vehicle theft was experienced at a much lower rate, at 31.8 per 1,000 adults. This is broadly consistent with national trends in the same year.

Table 1: Victimization Rate by Type of Crime

	Rate per 1,000 adults
Violent Crime	
Overall Violent Crime	63.0
Robbery	8.5
Assault	41.9
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	5.3
<i>Simple Assault</i>	36.5
Rape/Sexual Assault	11.8
Serious Property Crime	
Home Burglary	109.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	31.8
Miscellaneous Crime	
Stalking	88.6
Identity Theft	232.3
Property Damage	123.0
Theft from Motor Vehicles	95.9

Miscellaneous crimes, on average, were experienced at a higher rate than other individual categories. The miscellaneous crime victimization category shares the same general pattern as the violent and serious property crime segment—crimes against property (identity theft, theft from motor vehicles, and property damage) were far more common

than crimes against persons (stalking). Montana residents reported experiencing identity theft more frequently than any other crime (232.3 per 1,000 adults). Stalking victimization, meanwhile, was experienced at a rate of 88.6 per 1,000 adults. Property damage victimization was reported at a rate of 123 per 1,000 residents.

Victims who reported experiencing six or more incidents of the same type of victimization—“series victims”—are excluded from the victimization rates discussed above. Individuals who experience multiple, often ongoing, incidents of victimization can have difficulty identifying how many discrete instances of victimization they have experienced. Often, they can only give their best guess about the number of victimizations they have suffered over a year. Including these victims in rate calculations, therefore, can result in inflated estimates of victimization rates (Lauritsen et al., 2012). Nevertheless, it is important to examine patterns in series victimization for a robust understanding of crime. Table 2 itemizes the proportion of victims (of all victims of each crime) who reported experiencing the same crime six or more times in one year.

Table 2: Series Victims within Each Crime	
	Percent Series Victims
Violent Crime	
Overall Violent Crime	12.7%
Robbery	11.7%
Assault	15.9%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	14.4%
<i>Simple Assault</i>	15.8%
Rape/Sexual Assault	0.0%
Serious Property Crime	
Home Burglary	2.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	0.0%
Miscellaneous Crime	
Stalking	24.0%
Identity Theft	3.9%
Property Damage	3.8%
Theft from Motor Vehicles	3.4%

Assault accounted for the largest proportion of violent crime series victims, with nearly 16% of respondents reporting six or more assault victimizations (simple or aggravated) in 2015. In analyses not presented in the table, we found that, compared to other individuals who experience violent crime, victims of intimate partner violence were much more likely to be series victims. A large proportion (24%) of victims of stalking and harassment experienced these crimes six or more times in 2015. Victims of property crimes (including identity theft and property damage) were, in general, far less likely to experience serial

victimization, despite the much higher general victimization rates associated with these crimes. Taken as a whole, these data make clear that, while violent crimes against persons were experienced less frequently than property crimes overall, they tended to be much more likely to be experienced by the same victim multiple times.

PREVALENCE RATES

Table 3 presents the prevalence rates by type of crime. The crime victimization prevalence rate is a measure of the number of *victims* of crime within a specified time period (see the Methodology Chapter for a discussion of calculating prevalence rates). Due to survey instrument design, prevalence rates are an important means of reporting victimization characteristics such as the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, as well as the demographic characteristics of victims (see the section below titled “The Victims”). Here, we examine prevalence rates for each class of victimization measured by MCVS 2015, then we discuss intimate partner and domestic violence prevalence rates.

Again, while MCVS prevalence rates are much higher than those found nationally in the 2015 NCVS (Truman & Morgan, 2016), the more informative comparison is between trends in Montana as opposed to those reported in the NCVS. In this respect, the most obvious difference in Montana is the high prevalence of sexual assault relative to other forms of violent crime (an estimated 1% of the population experienced this form of victimization in 2015).⁴

There were more victims of simple assault (3.2%) than any other violent crime. Victims of aggravated assault (0.7%) were least common. Victims of home burglary were by far the most common at 7.8%, while motor vehicle theft victims accounted for about 2.6% of the overall population of Montana in 2015.

Consistent with the victimization rates reported in the previous section, on average, more Montanans were victims of stalking, identity theft, theft from a motor vehicle, or property damage than any violent or the remaining property crimes. Fifteen percent of respondents experienced identity theft at least once, meaning nearly seven in 100 Montanans experienced this form of crime in 2015.

⁴ The 2015 NCVS (Truman & Morgan, 2016) showed that, nationally, sexual assaults (0.08%) are much rarer than robbery and aggravated assault (0.7% and 0.8%, respectively). In contrast, Montana sexual assault edges out both of these other forms of victimization by a few tenths of a percent.

Table 3: Prevalence Rate by Type of Crime

	Prevalence Rate
Violent Crime	
Overall Violent Crime	4.4%
Robbery	0.8%
Assault	3.5%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	0.7%
<i>Simple Assault</i>	3.2%
Rape/Sexual Assault	1.0%
Serious Property Crime	
Home Burglary	7.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	2.6%
Miscellaneous Crime	
Stalking	6.7%
Identity Theft	15.0%
Property Damage	9.0%
Theft from Motor Vehicles	9.6%

COMPARISON TO THE MCVS 2010

Table 4 below compares prevalence victimization rates from 2010 and 2015. As described previously, MCVS 2015 used a weighting technique and sampling methods that were not employed in 2010. Due to these differences, one must take caution when making direct comparisons.

Results of MCVS 2015 are similar to those found on the 2010 survey. There was a 36% increase in robbery in 2015, but this change is relatively small when looking at the raw prevalence rates during these years. Simple assault did not change from 2010 to 2015 and aggravated assault decreased 30% in 2015. Sexual assault remained relatively constant with a prevalence rate of 1.19% in 2010 and a 1.0% rate in 2015. Motor vehicle theft and burglary both show slight increases in 2015 (32% and 37%, respectively). Theft from inside a motor vehicle show the largest percent increase from 2010 to 2015 with 47%. Stalking decreased 9% and vandalism decreased 15%. MCVS 2010 did not ask respondents about identity theft victimization. Overall, the prevalence victimization rates from 2010 to 2015 are relatively constant with no victimization increasing or decreasing by more than three percentage points.⁵

⁵ Though the prevalence rates found in MCVS 2015 are higher than national estimates (i.e., prevalence rates found in the 2015 National Crime Victimization Survey), it should be noted that these estimates are fairly similar to the MCVS 2010 prevalence rates.

Table 4: MCVS 2010 and MCVS 2015 Comparison

	MCVS 2010	MCVS 2015
Violent Crime		
Robbery	0.59%	0.80%
Simple Assault	3.19%	3.20%
Aggravated Assault	1.00%	0.70%
Sexual Assault	1.19%	1.00%
Serious Property Crime		
Motor Vehicle Theft	1.97%	2.60%
Burglary	5.68%	7.80%
Miscellaneous Crime		
Theft From Motor Vehicle	6.51%	9.60%
Stalking	7.36%	6.70%
Vandalism	10.64%	9.00%

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

We examined demographic characteristics of victims of violent crime and serious property crime to uncover patterns in the prevalence of victimization. Sex, race, age, sexual orientation, marital status, household income, and education level were all examined for possible relationships to victimization risk (these results are presented in Table A in the Appendix).

We found several interesting patterns in the prevalence of violent crime victimization across demographic groups. Gender did not play a large role in being a victim of violent crime. Females (4.6%) presented a slightly increased rate of violent victimization over males (3.6%). White respondents were victims of violent crime 4.5% of the time, compared to American Indians with 3.5%; all other race categories combined with 2.5%. Survey findings show individuals aged 18 to 24 at a much greater risk of violent victimization (10.4%) with a rate that is almost twice the rate of the second highest category, which is 35-49 years at 6.5%). Regarding marital status, single, never married respondents reported the highest violent crime victimization with 9.9 percent. One of the largest differences in violent victimization rates was found based on respondent sexual orientation. Homosexual respondents (18.6%) were almost five times more likely to be a victim of violent crime compared to heterosexual respondents (4%). Among household income brackets, the second lowest household income category (\$10,000-\$19,999 a year) reported the highest rate of violent victimization (10%). Households that made between \$40,000 and \$49,999 had the second highest reported violent crime rate with 7.8%. All other income categories fell below 6.0%. Those respondents reporting to have “some high school” as their highest level of education reported the highest violent crime victimization rate (8.5%). The second

highest violent crime victimization rate was those respondents who graduated high school or received their GED (6.8%).

We found fewer large differences in prevalence of serious property victimization across demographic groups. Males were slightly more likely to be a victim than females (16.9% versus 14.6%). American Indians reported being a victim of property crime (22.8%) at a greater rate than white individuals (15.7%) or the other race categories combined (10.7%). The highest rate of property victimization occurred for the age range of 35 to 49 and the lowest rate occurred between the ages of 18 and 24. Homosexual or non-heterosexual respondents show a significantly higher victimization rate (25.6%) than their heterosexual counterparts (15.4%). Those respondents who were single and had never been married presented the highest property victimization rate (20.1%). Divorced people (19.3%) and those sharing a home with a partner (17%) presented similar prevalence rates. Those victims who reported to making the least amount of household income (\$9,999 or less annually) were the most likely to be a victim of property crime (25.9%). Respondents who reported to making between \$60,000 and \$69,999 were the second most likely to be a victim of property crime. The top four income categories (\$70,000 through \$100,000 or more) were the least likely to be victims of property crime. Finally, respondents with the lowest reported education level were the most likely (21.4%) to be a victim of property crime and those with the highest reported education level were the least likely (12.5%) to be a victim of property crime.

Additionally, we performed logistic regression models to examine the impact of these demographic characteristics on the likelihood of experiencing violent or serious property victimization.⁶ According to these analyses, age, marital status, and sexual orientation impacted the likelihood of being a victim of violent crime. Younger ($p \leq .001$), single, never married ($p \leq .01$), and homosexual ($p \leq .05$) Montanans experience heightened risks of violent victimization. Indeed, sexual orientation had a pronounced effect on the risk of violent victimization. Regression results showed that, taking into account the influence of all other demographic characteristics, homosexuals were four times more likely than heterosexuals to be a victim of violent crime. The regression results confirm findings above for victims of serious property crimes. Holding all demographic characteristics constant, age and gender were both found to increase the likelihood of being a victim of serious property crime. Montanans are at an increased risk of serious property victimization if they are younger ($p \leq .001$) and male ($p \leq .05$). No other demographic variables were statistically significant.

THE VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

After each question about whether or not the respondent was a victim of crime, an additional question asked whether the victim knew the offender. Table 5 presents each crime and the percent of respondents who knew the offender. “Known offender” is defined

⁶ Full regression models available upon request.

as one of the following: spouse, live-in partner, non-live-in partner, former spouse or partner, family non-spouse, friend, acquaintance, and non-stranger other category. A stranger was defined as a person not known by the victim and one who could not be identified.

Personal violent crime offenders are known to the victims of crime at a much greater rate than property crime victims. For all violent crime categories, more than 50% of the victims knew their offender. Of sexual assault victims, 91.7% knew the offender, and 56% of victims of simple and aggravated assault knew the offender. Serious property crimes were largely committed by strangers. Only 26.4% of home burglary victims knew the offender, and 24.3% of motor-vehicle theft victims knew the offender. Stalking has the highest known offender rate other than violent crime with 56.5% of the victims knowing the offender. For identity theft, property damage, and theft from a motor vehicle respectively, fewer than 15% of the victims knew the offender. It is important to keep in mind that property crimes and miscellaneous crime victims were less likely to determine exactly who the offender was. If the offender was never discovered, they were classified into the stranger category. This protocol will inflate the stranger category for property and miscellaneous crime.

Table 5: Victim's Relationship to Offender

	Known Offender*	Stranger
Violent Crime		
Robbery	61.6%	38.4%
Simple Assault	56.8%	43.2%
Aggravated Assault	56.9%	43.1%
Sexual Assault	91.7%	
Serious Property Crime		
Home Burglary	26.4%	73.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	24.3%	75.7%
Miscellaneous Crime		
Stalking	56.5%	43.5%
Person Using Existing Account	14.7%	85.3%
Person Using Personal Information	13.0%	87.0%
Property Damage	13.5%	86.5%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	12.9%	87.1%

*Note: "Known Offender" includes spouse, live-in partner, non-live-in partner, former spouse or former partner, family member, friend, acquaintance, and non-stranger other category.

Intimate partner violence constituted a sizeable proportion of violent crimes involving a known offender. Acts of intimate partner violence were defined as violent crimes in which the perpetrator was identified as one of the following: a spouse or live-in partner, a non-live-in partner, a former spouse or partner, or someone the respondent dated. Table 6

presents the findings for intimate partner violence for victimization in Montana during 2015. Robbery was found to have the highest percent of intimate partner violence at 44.6%. Closely behind robbery is aggravated assault, with 44.3%. Simple assault findings indicate that 25.3% of the victimizations were caused by intimate partners. Finally, no sexual assault victims reported their offender was an intimate partner.

Table 6: Intimate Partner Violence

Type of Crime	Intimate Partner	Non-Intimate Partner
Robbery	44.6%	55.4%
Simple Assault	25.3%	74.7%
Aggravated Assault	44.3%	55.7%
Sexual-Assault	0.0%	100.0%

UNREPORTED CRIME: CAUSES AND PATTERNS

The survey examined unreported crime, asking victims whether they reported the criminal incident(s) to law enforcement and, if not, why they decided not to report the crime. Results from this line of inquiry are presented in Table 7. Individuals generally did not report their victimization incidents to the police, with just more than 70% of respondents indicating their crimes went unreported. The reasons for this varied. Just less than half of these victims (46.2%) failed to report the crimes because they did not believe the police could do anything to help them. Roughly one-third of these individuals (34.3%) did not report to law enforcement because they felt that there was not sufficient evidence or information to report the crime. A small number of participants (11.2%) said that they did not report the crime because they did not want to involve the police. Only a handful of victims did not report the crimes because they were afraid of the offender (2.4%) or because they thought that the police would not believe them (1.4%).

Finally, a fairly large number of these victims (31.1%) indicated that some other reason led them to decide to not report the crime. Analysis of these 83 responses revealed several patterns. Answers provided by victims fell into five categories, with the majority of responses being in the first two categories. The most prevalent theme (35 responses) was that victims felt that they either could not or should not report the crime. There was a range of reasons why participants felt they shouldn't or couldn't report their incident, but a majority felt that there was not enough harm, damage, or evidence to justify notifying law enforcement. For example, when explaining their rationale for not reporting to the police, one participant stated: "Window shot with BB gun, drive by, when I was away." Another said: "Brother-in-law keys car and trucks, shot out windows, no witnesses so police can do nothing." A third said: "What they took wasn't worth wasting the officer's time." The second most common theme that emerged (27 participants) was from victims who did not report their incidents to the police because another business or agency helped to manage the situation. Most responses in this category were related to bank or credit card offenses. Such

explanations included language such as: “It was handled by my bank,” and, “Felt not appropriate to report, it was a credit card issue,” in addition to, “Thought it better to deal with my bank and settle issues.”

Table 7: Unreported Crime

	Yes	No
Did you report the crime to law enforcement? (<i>n</i> =407)	29.7%	70.3%
Why did you decide not to report the crime to law enforcement? (<i>n</i> =286)*		
I believed the police could do nothing to help		46.2%
I felt that there was not enough evidence or information		34.3%
I did not want to involve the police		11.2%
I was afraid of the offender(s)		2.4%
I did not think that the police would believe me		1.4%
Other		31.1%

*Note: Participants could select more than one response, so the percentages total more than 100%.

Remaining responses fell into three categories. A less common theme (nine responses) was a distrust of law enforcement preventing the reporting of crime. One response, for example, explained: “After a previous incident a few years ago, I don’t trust the judicial system.” Another answer stated: “Police do very little.” A third respondent, meanwhile, indicated that they were “sick of being told it’s a ‘civil matt’ or there’s nothing they can do.” Another less common theme (five responses) came from victims preferring to handle matters themselves, instead of reporting it to law enforcement. As one individual stated: “I took care of incident myself.” Another person said: “I dealt with the parents.” The final less prevalent theme (four responses) was from victims seeking help from other individuals instead of reporting to the police. These individuals were usually family members, friends, or neighbors, as indicated by responses like “Family issue,” “Neighbor called police on behalf of all involved,” and, “My friend had words with this person and the problem hasn’t occurred since.” The few remaining responses did not fit into any of these five categories.

Though most crimes were not reported to law enforcement, reporting rates did vary by type of crime. Table 8 examines the reporting patterns for specific crimes. Most notably, none of the sexual assault victimizations reported in MCVS 2015 were reported, and only 47.8% of simple assaults were reported. Robbery was reported as often as property damage (46.6%), while aggravated assault and motor vehicle theft tended to be reported more often than not (58.3% and 69.1%, respectively).

Few identity theft victimizations (23.4%) were reported to police, though many respondents voluntarily stated that such crimes were reported to an appropriate financial

institution (e.g., their bank) or another entity outside of local law enforcement (e.g., LifeLock).

Table 8: Crimes Reported to the Police

	Percent Reported to Police
Violent Crime	
Overall Violent Crime	46.2%
Robbery	46.6%
Assault	60.3%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	58.3%
<i>Simple Assault</i>	47.8%
Rape/Sexual Assault	0.0%
Serious Property Crime	
Home Burglary	49.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	69.1%
Miscellaneous Crime	
Stalking	34.1%
Identity Theft	23.4%
Property Damage	46.6%
Theft from Motor Vehicles	31.9%

Overall, violent crimes were reported somewhat less frequently to police than property crimes. This pattern holds among the “miscellaneous crimes” measured by MCVS 2015. Only 34.1% of cases of stalking—where the threat of violence looms—were reported to police. Victims of property damage reported these victimizations nearly half of the time (46.6%).

INTERACTIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

The survey examined participant interactions with police and other law enforcement officers. In general, many participants had some interaction with law enforcement, most thought they were treated well by the police during this interaction, and the most common form of contact was simply a casual conversation. Table 9 displays results from an examination of participant interactions with law enforcement.

Overall, fewer than half (43.5%) of respondents said they had some form of direct contact with local law enforcement during the year preceding survey completion. Broadly speaking, these individuals thought they were treated positively by law enforcement during these interactions. Nearly half (46.6%) of participants described their interactions with the police as “very good,” while more than one third (38.2%) characterized the contact as “good.” Few respondents viewed their interactions with law enforcement as either “bad” (10.3%) or “very bad” (5.1%).

Table 9: Interactions with Law Enforcement

		Yes	No	
In 2015, did you have any direct contact with local law enforcement? (n=1,975)		43.5%	56.5%	
	Very Good	Good	Bad	Very Bad
How were you were treated by law enforcement? (n=853)	46.4%	38.2%	10.3%	5.1%
What was the nature of this contact with law enforcement? (n=857)				
	Casual conversation	47.6%		
	Asked law enforcement for information	26.0%		
	Traffic stop	23.5%		
	Witness to crime, accident, etc.	18.9%		
	Victim of crime	17.9%		
	Community activity	15.2%		
	Involved in an accident	11.6%		
	Questioned by police	6.0%		
	Business/residence alarm	3.6%		
	Vehicle problem (car not working, keys locked inside, etc.)	3.2%		
	Arrested	1.4%		
	Other	14.1%		

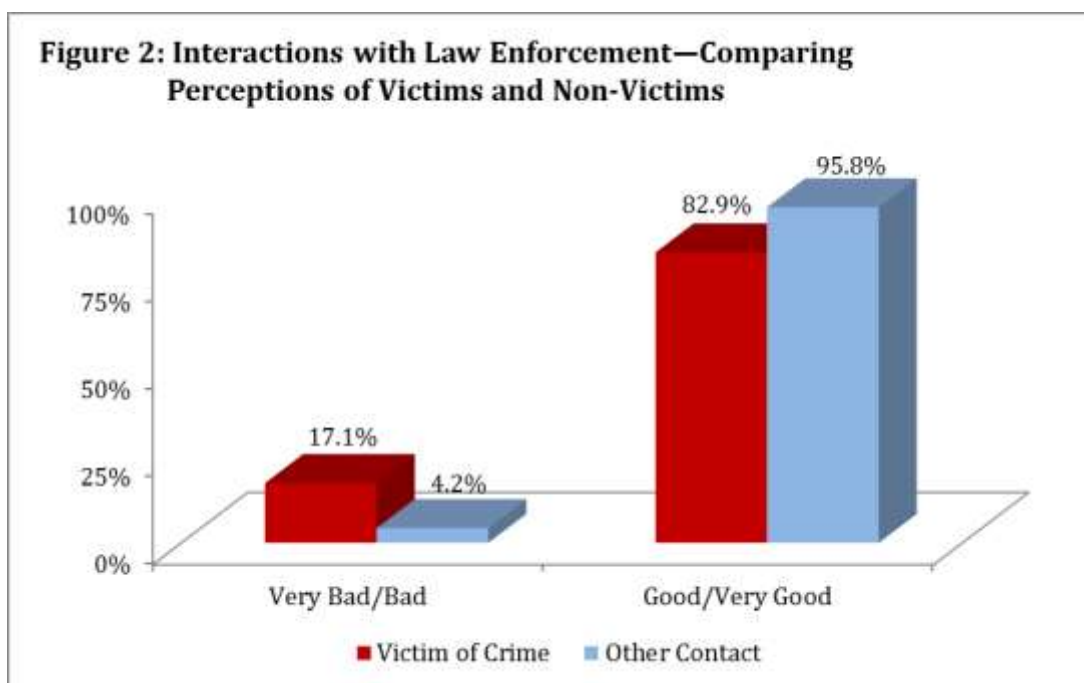
*Note: Participants could select more than one response, so the percentages total more than 100%.

Types of interactions that surveyed individuals had with law enforcement officers ranged widely. Respondents could select from the survey categories that applied to their police contact. The most common type of contact reported was a casual conversation (47.6%). A little more than one-quarter of participants (26%) said that they asked the officer for information; 23.5%, meanwhile, characterized their interaction as a traffic stop. Just under one-fifth of respondents (18.9%) had contact with the police because they were a witness (to a crime, traffic accident, etc.). A similar number of participants (17.9%) encountered police because they were the victim of a crime. Some individuals (15.2%) interacted with law enforcement officers while engaged in a community activity, while 11.6% said they encountered police because they were involved in a traffic accident. Only a handful of participants reported interacting with law enforcement as a result of police questioning (6%). Three point six percent of respondents said their communication with law enforcement was due to a business or residential alarm, while 3.2% said the interaction resulted from a vehicular problem. One point four percent said the interaction was related to their arrest.

Finally, a number of participants (14.1%) characterized their contact with law enforcement as something other than the previous categories. Analysis of those responses showed that most fell into a broad category of turning to local law enforcement for help with personal or neighborhood issues. This category included personal issues (such as getting a weapons permit, assistance getting up after a fall, or getting a restraining order), family issues (which prominently featured the mental illness and substance abuse problems of family

members), and neighborhood issues (including problems with neighbors, speeding cars, and noise complaints).

Though most participants viewed their interactions with law enforcement positively, a distinct pattern emerged when comparing victims and non-victims. When examining individuals' perceptions of how they were treated by law enforcement, we found that victims reporting a crime are more likely to characterize these interactions as negative compared to individuals having any other form of contact with police (e.g., casual conversation, traffic stop, community activity, etc.). Results from this analysis are displayed in Figure 2. Though most victims had a positive view of their interactions with law enforcement, respondents who had some other form of contact with police were even more likely to rate their treatment as "good" or "very good" (82.9% versus 95.8%). Victims were four times more likely to characterize their treatment by law enforcement as "bad" or "very bad" compared to non-victims (17.1% versus 4.2%). This pattern could impact a victim's decision to report crime to law enforcement in the first place and contribute to the high level of crimes that go unreported. As discussed in the previous section, more than 70% of victims in the study did not report their experience with crime to law enforcement.



PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME, DRUGS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The survey examined participant perceptions of crime and public safety in their communities, with a particular focus on the issue of drug use and distribution. In general, it appears that Montanans are not afraid of crime. Table 10 shows results related to perceptions of crime and public safety.

Most participants (60.9%) indicated that crime in their community had increased during the five years preceding survey completion. Of that sum, 46.7% said crime had increased somewhat, while 14.2% indicated it had increased greatly or greatly. The same participants, however, do not appear to feel significant threats to their safety. Almost all respondents (95.7%) said that they felt safe from crime in their community. Of that number, 72% said they felt safe almost always, while 23.7% said they always feel safe. Similarly, most individuals (93.3%) said that they were never (33.5%) or almost never (59.8%) fearful of becoming a victim of violent crime, such as murder, robbery, or sexual assault. Additionally, most participants are not afraid to move around their communities. When asked whether there was an area near their home where they were afraid to walk alone at night (due to crime, not natural threats such as wild animals or environmental conditions), most participants (72.1%) were not afraid, though 27.9% did express fear. Finally, most respondents positively viewed the job that law enforcement was doing in their community. Almost all individuals thought that law enforcement was doing either a good (67.6%) or an excellent (21.9%) job dealing with crime in the community. Few participants (8.2%) stated police were doing a bad job in the community, 2.2% said police were doing a terrible job. Taken together, it seems that residents in Montana feel that crime has increased in recent years, but despite this sense, they feel fairly safe from crime and believe that local law enforcement is doing a good or excellent job. This faith in law enforcement varies by race, however. That trend will be examined later in this section.

Table 10: Perceptions of Crime and Public Safety

	Greatly Decreased	Somewhat Decreased	Stayed the Same	Somewhat Increased	Greatly Increased
How has crime changed in your community over the past 5 years? (n=1,965)	1.8%	4.4%	32.9%	46.7%	14.2%
	Never	Almost Never	Almost Always	Always	
How often do you feel safe from crime in your community? (n=1,992)	0.8%	3.6%	72.0%	23.7%	
How often are you fearful of being a victim of violent crime? (n=1,1989)	33.5%	59.8%	5.9%	0.8%	
	No	Yes			
Is there an area within a mile of your home where you are afraid to walk or jog alone at night? (n=1,978)	72.1%	27.9%			
	Excellent	Good	Bad	Terrible	
How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community? (n=1,969)	21.9%	67.6%	8.2%	2.2%	

The survey also asked participants about their perceptions of drug crime in their communities. These results are displayed in Table 11. Overall, participants say that they

see drugs as becoming a more significant problem in recent years. When asked how drug use and distribution have changed during the five years preceding the survey, only a handful of individuals indicated such problems have greatly decreased (1.5%) or somewhat decreased (5.5%). Rather, most participants (56.9%) stated their belief that drug problems had worsened, either somewhat increasing (38.6%) or greatly increasing (18.3%). In contrast, 36.1% said they perceived drug problems as staying the same.

Despite the perception of an increase in drug-related problems among most survey participants, the vast majority (84.6%) of survey respondents indicated they either fully trusted (46.4%) or somewhat trusted (38.2%) law enforcement to deal with drug-related problems in their communities.

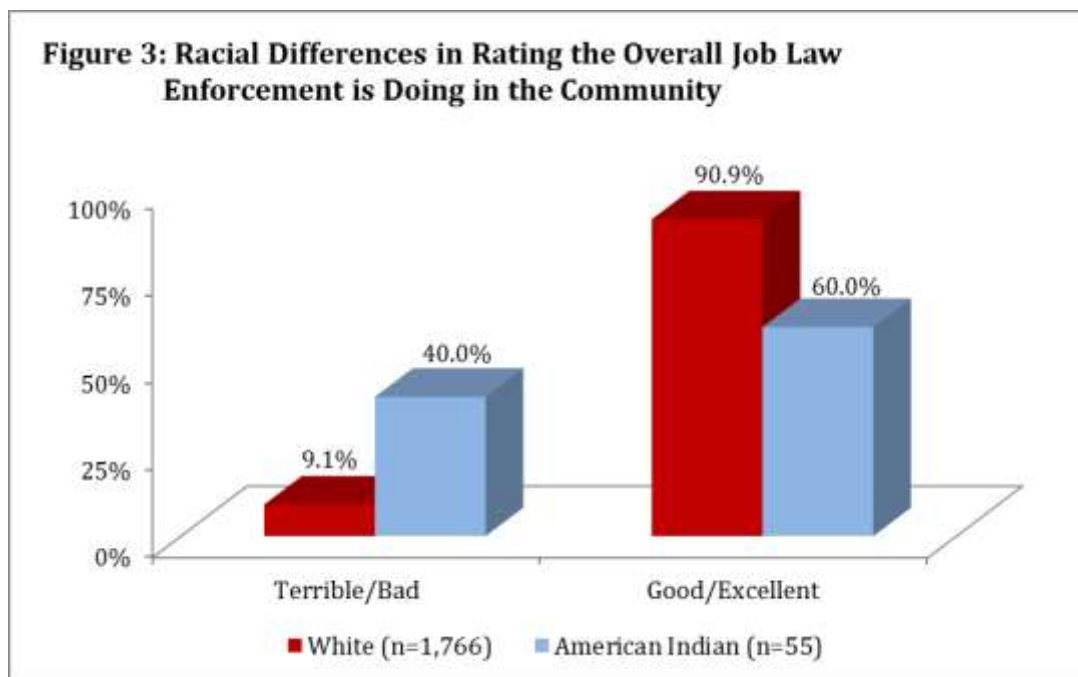
Table 11: Perceptions of Drug Crime

	Greatly Decreased	Somewhat Decreased	Stayed the Same	Somewhat Increased	Greatly Increased
How have drug use and distribution changed in your community over the past 5 years? (n=1,919)	1.5%	5.5%	36.1%	38.6%	18.3%
	Trust	Somewhat Trust	Somewhat Distrust	Distrust	
To what extent do you trust law enforcement to deal with drug distribution and substance abuse problems in your community? (n=1,975)	46.4%	38.2%	10.3%	5.1%	
Is the abuse and/or distribution of these drugs a problem in your community?*					
	Yes				
Prescription Drugs	75.1%				
Methamphetamine	74.6%				
Alcohol	71.0%				
Marijuana	55.9%				
Cocaine	44.5%				
Heroin	43.1%				
Inhalants	41.1%				
Hallucinogens	37.5%				

*Note: The valid responses to this question varied for each substance, ranging from 1,803 to 1,926.

Finally, individuals thought that the use and distribution of particular drugs to be more rampant, with prescription drugs, methamphetamine, and alcohol being perceived as particularly problematic. Just more than three quarters of participants found problematic the abuse or distribution of prescription drugs (75.1%), while 74.6% found methamphetamine to be a problem in their communities, and 71% found alcohol to be a problem. Most participants (55.9%) also indicated marijuana was a problem in their communities. Fewer people viewed as problems cocaine (44.5%), heroin (43.1%), inhalants (41.1%), and hallucinogens (37.5%). Overall, these results suggest that most Montanans think that the use and distribution of drugs is becoming a greater problem in their communities, and prescription drugs, methamphetamine, and alcohol are the drugs

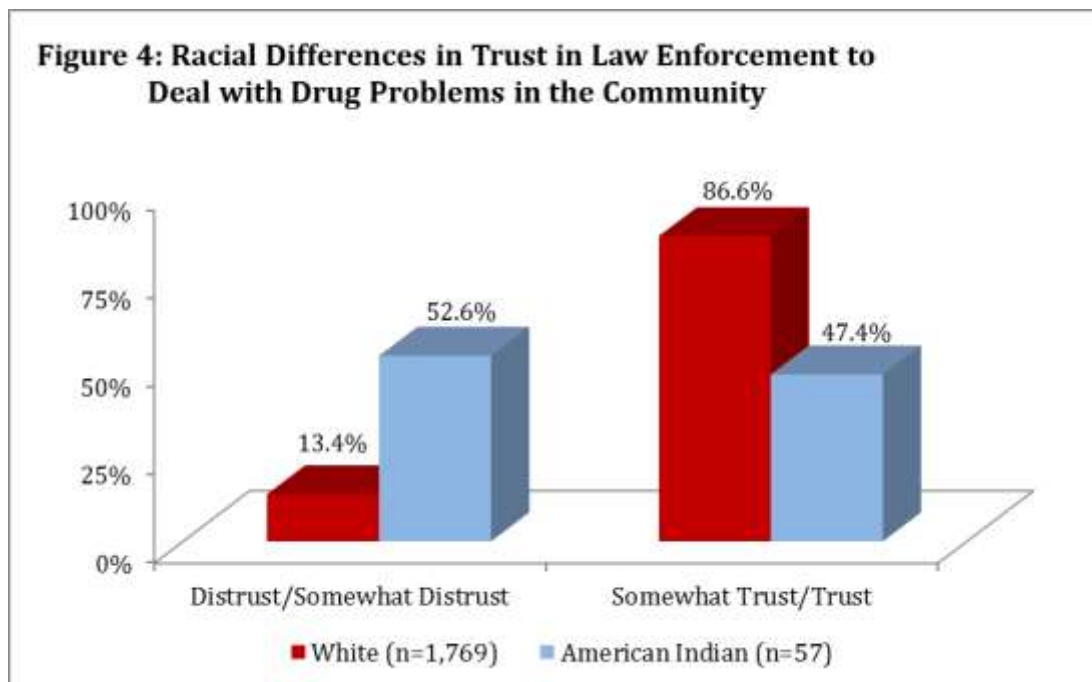
generating the most concern. That said, most residents feel confident that law enforcement can effectively deal with the issue of increased substance abuse and distribution. Yet, as with views on the overall job law enforcement is doing in the community, participant confidence in the police to deal with these increased drug and substance abuse problems varied by race.



As discussed above, views on law enforcement were not consistent across racial groups. Figures 3 and 4 examine these differences. Compared to white people, American Indians had more negative views of law enforcement. Figure 3 examines the differences between whites and American Indians in the perception of the overall job that law enforcement is doing in their communities. Most white individuals and American Indians positively view the job that law enforcement is doing; however, whites are far more likely than American Indians to rate it as “good” or “excellent” (90.9% versus 60%). Similarly, whites were far less likely than American Indians to rate the job law enforcement was doing as “bad” or “terrible” (9.1% versus 40%).

American Indians also expressed less faith in the ability of law enforcement to deal with the substance use problems in their communities. Figure 4 examines the racial differences in the extent that respondents trusted law enforcement to deal with the problems of drug distribution and substance use. While most whites (86.6%) expressed some level of trust that police could handle the drug problems in the community, fewer than half of American Indians expressed a similar level of confidence (47.4%). Conversely, most American Indians (52.6%) expressed some level of distrust that law enforcement would deal with the drug problems facing their community, while very few whites (13.4%) were not confident that the police would deal with the drug problem.

Overall, these results indicate that, compared to whites, American Indians have less confidence in law enforcement. This suggests that law enforcement agencies should explore ways to improve their relationships with American Indian individuals and communities.



VICTIM SERVICES

The survey asked crime victims questions about their experiences with victim services following an offending incident. Results from that line of questioning are displayed in Table 12. Most individuals (70.8%) said that they sought help as a result of their victimization. Of these victims who responded to the question, most (65.8%) said they sought help from law enforcement. Just more than one-quarter said that they sought help from friends (25.8%) or family (23.2%). Very few sought help from other sources, including legal counsel (10.1%), a victim advocate or victim service provider (6.7%), a counselor or therapist (4.7%), a school or work affiliated group (3.4%), a health care provider (1%), or a church support group or clergy member (0.3%). Finally, nearly one quarter of victims who reported seeking help as a result of their crime said that they reached out for something other than the individuals and entities discussed above. Analysis of these responses showed that roughly two-thirds of those respondents referenced seeking help from businesses or the IRS, generally as a result of financial crime or fraud.

Victims were also asked about accessing victim services and how they learned about these services. Almost no respondents reported applying for victim compensation such as financial benefits towards losses resulting from the offense; 3.4% of victims applied for victim compensation, whereas 96.6% did not. Four out of five victims (80.3%) who reported their incident to the police said that the responding officer did not tell them about

crime victim services available in their community. Only one in five victims (21%) sought victim services following their experience with crime. Of these individuals, the most common way information about services was made available to victims was through law enforcement (40.7%). About one-quarter (25.6%) of the victims who sought services heard about them through word of mouth. Far fewer of these victims learned about services through a solicitation by a victim service provider (9.3%), the internet (7%), or television (2.3%). Just more than one third (34.9%) of these victims said they learned about victim services available in their community through another source. Analysis of responses indicative of seeking services through another source showed the most common alternate source was the victim's current job (generally cases in which the victim had work experience in the fields of law, health care, or corrections).

Finally, victims were asked about legal services that they may have received following their victimization incident. Nearly one in five victims (19.3%) said that they sought legal services. Of these individuals, most said that the legal services were provided by local law enforcement (64.6%). A few of these respondents said that they received legal services from the county attorney (12.7%) or a private, non-profit organization (5.1%). Nearly one third of the victims who sought legal services received them from another source. Analysis of responses related to victims seeking services from another source for legal services showed most of those participants received them from a private lawyer or a crime victim advocate. Overall, participant satisfaction with legal services secured was mixed. Few rated the services as excellent (9.2%) and nearly one fifth said the services were good (18.4%). The most common response to the prompt about legal services received indicated the services were acceptable (39.5%). A handful of the victims rated legal services as not good (6.6%) and more than one in five called the services poor.

Overall, results from this portion of the MCVS 2015 analysis suggest that most victims do seek help following their victimization, and the most common source of this help is local law enforcement. Many victims do not seem to be aware of victim services in their communities, and this could be due to the fact that most responding officers are not informing them of these services. Ultimately, most victims do not seek specialized services for victims of crime. This includes legal services, which only a fraction of victims reported accessing. Those who did access legal services tended to receive them from local law enforcement, private attorneys, or crime victim advocates. Many participants rated these legal services as acceptable or poor.

In the final chapter, we will address the overall MCVS 2015 findings and discuss recommendations derived from this research.

Table 12: Victim Services

	Yes	No
Did you seek help as a result of your crime? (n=421)	70.8%	29.2%
Who did you seek for help? (n=298)*		
Local Law Enforcement	65.8%	
Friends	25.8%	
Family	23.2%	
Legal Counsel	10.1%	
Victim Advocate or Victim Service Provider	6.7%	
Counselor or Therapist	4.7%	
School or Work Affiliated Group	3.4%	
Health Care Provider	1.0%	
Church Support Group or Clergy Member	0.3%	
Other	22.8%	
	Yes	No
Did you apply for victim compensation? (n= 428)	3.4%	96.6%
Did the responding officer(s) tell you about any crime victim services in your community? (n=223)	19.7%	80.3%
Did you seek any crime victim services in response to the incident? (n=410)	21.0%	79.0%
How did you hear about the victim services available in your community? (n=86)*		
Local Law Enforcement	40.7%	
Work of Mouth	25.6%	
Solicitation by a Victim Services Provider	9.3%	
Internet	7.0%	
Television	2.3%	
Other	34.9%	
	Yes	No
Did you seek legal services in response to the incident (n=409)	19.3%	80.7%
Who provided these legal services? (n=79)*		
Local Law Enforcement	64.6%	
County Attorney	12.7%	
Private Non-Profit Organization	5.1%	
Other	30.4%	
How would you rate these legal services? (n=76)		
Excellent	9.2%	
Very Good	18.4%	
Acceptable	39.5%	
Not Good	6.6%	
Poor	26.3%	

*Note: Participants could select more than one response, so the percentages total more than 100%.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The objective of this study was to examine victimization levels experienced by adults living in Montana. Information in this report establishes a baseline for personal and property victimization that future investigations can be compared to. Research findings presented here provide critical knowledge and insight that is essential to future work in Montana. In particular, this inquiry provides information about public confidence in the police, sexual assault victimization, and drug crime that were not examined in the previous two MCVS studies.

Experiences as a violent crime victim are less likely than serious property crime (e.g., home burglary and motor vehicle theft). Identity theft is the most common victimization reported by Montanans. Identity theft is more than twice as likely as the second most reported offense, general property damage. On average, more Montanans were victims of stalking, identity theft, theft from a motor vehicle, or property damage than any violent or serious property crime. The percentage of series victimizations (i.e., where a person reports experiencing six or more events in the previous 12 months) is higher than national level estimates (Truman & Morgan, 2016). This is particularly true of stalking, which was the most common form of serial victimization. Variation in the likelihood of a crime victimization was influenced by income, education, marital status, sexual orientation, and residential status.

Most crimes that were committed against adults in Montana were not reported to the police. The general patterns show an increased likelihood of reporting a crime to law enforcement as the seriousness of the offense increases. Consistent with national patterns, motor vehicle theft was the most likely type of victimization reported to the police (Truman & Morgan, 2016). Less than half of respondents reported some direct contact with the police in the prior year. Most of these interactions were rated as very good or good, but crime victims are more likely than those who had not experienced crime victimization to report unfavorable ratings of the police.

Despite perceptions that crime had increased in the past five years, almost all respondents reported feeling “almost always” or “always” safe in their community and viewed law enforcement doing a good or excellent job of keeping them safe. Most respondents rated drug crime in their communities as staying the same or somewhat increasing over the past five years, but expressed high levels of trust in the ability of law enforcement to address community drug issues. Prescription drugs, methamphetamine, and alcohol were the substances most likely to be reported as a problem. Positive ratings of the police and confidence in protecting the community were more favorable among white than American Indian respondents.

Less than one third of persons who reported crime victimization in 2015 sought help from specialized services for victims in order to address any issues stemming from the crime committed against them. An even smaller percentage of individuals reported seeking legal services and less than 5% applied for victim compensation. Local law enforcement was

cited as the source of help most commonly sought and the entity that was most likely to provided information to crime victims about available services. Assistance from friends and family and hearing about crime victim services through word of mouth were also common.

CAUTIONS/LIMITATIONS

Before moving to the recommendations, we should discuss a few cautions regarding the MCVS 2015 data. In gauging the impact of the findings, it is important to remember that they are based on self-reported victimization. Fewer than half (1,996) of the 5,000 households sampled to participate completed the survey. The trends reported here are influenced by the characteristics of the individuals who choose to participate and those who did not. The sample may suffer from some degree of selection bias, meaning that the participants who completed the survey are systematically different from those who decided not to participate. It is possible that an individual's experience with victimization impacted their willingness to participate in MCVS 2015. Maybe people who were victims of crime were less likely to complete the survey because recalling their experiences in this format would be traumatic; conversely, maybe individuals who were victims were more likely to take the time to complete a survey focused on criminal victimization. It is also possible that unique types of victimizations impacted people's participation rates differently, with some forms of victimization (e.g., motor vehicle theft) increasing participation in the survey and other forms of victimization (e.g., sexual assault) decreasing participation. To the extent that victims were more likely than non-victims to complete the survey, the estimates of victimization rates and prevalence in this report are inflated. To the extent that victims were less likely complete the survey, this study underestimates the true level of victimization in Montana. Unfortunately, we cannot know why the majority of the households sampled did not complete the survey, so we cannot assess the degree to which selection bias impacts the final MCVS 2015 sample.

The patterns reported here are dependent upon the willingness of sampled individuals to report their experiences as crime victims and their ability to accurately recall these experiences. During creation of the MCVS 2015 instrument, we paid special attention to using behaviorally specific crime definitions; however, there may be differences between respondent perceptions and legal definitions of the events that were reported. Care was also given to communicate to respondents that they should only report experiences that occurred during the calendar year of 2015. Yet, it is possible that some events recorded as crime victimization in the findings reported above occurred prior to Jan. 1, 2015 or after Dec. 31 of that same year (see Lee et al., 2013 for a discussion of this concern).

Despite research limitations, findings reported for this analysis offer several important contributions to understanding crime in Montana. First, and perhaps most importantly, both the survey instrument and the responses it elicited form an important baseline for future research on victimization. Future victimization surveys, if modeled after MCVS 2015, will yield data that can be directly comparable to the findings reported here. This will allow researchers to study longitudinal trends in victimization, perceptions of police

effectiveness, and Montanans' understanding of victim services. Second, the data have been weighted to better ensure they are representative of the entire state. Data reported here provide more reliable estimates of victimization levels than previously available. Additionally, it is possible to compare the data presented here to other states with similar survey instruments, as long as appropriate qualifications are made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With cautions itemized in the section above in mind, there are a number of recommendations associated with findings from the current investigation.

❖ Responses to crime victimization

- Crime patterns drawn from the MCVS 2015 must be understood as baseline estimates.
 - Crime levels reported here are similar to other state-level surveys previously conducted across the country.
 - Additional data collection through future crime victimization surveys administered in Montana is needed to understand changes in crime over time.
 - Addressing shifts in patterns and trends will merit policy, program, and practice considerations.
- Work is needed to understand the characteristics that distinguish persons who experience series victimization (six or more victimizations for the same offense in the previous 12 months) from those who experience no crime victimization.
 - Crime prevention efforts should include a careful examination of series victimization and address those factors most closely associated with repeat victimization.
- Priority should be given to prevention and intervention programs that target multiple facets shown in this report to increase the likelihood of crime victimization.
 - Programs that emphasize situational determinants are likely to have a more immediate impact on crime reduction, while those focusing on structural causes (e.g., poverty or lack of education) offer promise for long-term impacts on crime.

❖ Public perceptions of and interactions with law enforcement

- A better understanding about the reasons why crime victimization goes unreported to the police is necessary.
 - Evidence gathered from the survey indicates that a major reason for unreported crime was the belief held by many victims that there was nothing that the police could do to help. Another key rationale for not reporting crime cited by victims was a lack of evidence/information.
- Evidence from the survey shows that public attitudes about the police—in most instances—are not the result of direct contact with the police.
 - When individuals did experience direct contact with law enforcement, it was usually related to the service dimension of police work, not the law enforcement dimension.

❖ Improving existing victim services and dissemination of information about these services

- It is important to understand the reasons why people choose not to seek assistance after experiencing crime victimization.
 - Uncertainty about the availability of existing services and how to access them are important considerations in the decision on whether crime victims seek services.
- Efforts are needed to better inform stakeholders within social service agencies that interact with victims about the availability of services in their community and how to access them.
 - Education among law enforcement stakeholders about available services is of particular importance, as they often serve as the initial point of contact after criminal victimization occurs.
- Access to information about crime victim services must be easy to access and comprehensive enough to minimize the amount of time and the number of inquiries needed to locate them.
 - Increasing the accuracy and visibility of victim service resources at the county-level is an essential part of this process.
 - A centralized location that can provide navigational assistance to connect to victim services is recommended.

❖ Public perceptions of crime, drugs, and safety

- Encourage efforts across the state to connect law enforcement with members of the communities they serve.
 - MCVS 2015 findings show public perceptions of the police remain high, despite perceptions of increases in crime and drug issues during the five years preceding the survey.
- Support efforts to reduce prescription drug, methamphetamine, and alcohol abuse.
 - Substance abuse prevention and education is a key piece of a comprehensive crime and victimization reduction strategy in Montana.
- Develop a better understanding of the factors that influence perceptions of the police among American Indian residents.
 - Findings show disparities in public confidence in the police between white and American Indian respondents, with American Indians reporting lower levels of confidence.
 - Future attention should be given to understanding the sources of perceptual differences and whether or not they are similar for American Indians living on reservation lands and those who are living off reservation lands.

❖ Prioritize funding for future statewide crime victimization studies

- MCVS 2015 findings serve as a baseline for comparisons with findings from future studies.
 - Future surveys are needed to develop an understanding of changes in crime victimization trends, public perceptions of the police, and existing services for victims of crime.
- There is a need to expand the number of questions that ask about crime victimization on future surveys.
 - The need to expand questions about theft beyond motor vehicle theft is particularly apparent, as it is a key limitation of the MCVS 2015 and the previous Montana victimization surveys that informed MCVS 2015.
- Information gathered through future surveys will be critical for the promotion of evidence-based practice.

CONCLUSION

The importance of information from victimization surveys as a comparison to official reports of crime has been widely demonstrated since the Bureau of Justice Statistics began administering the National Crime Victimization Survey in the 1970s. During the past 20 years, states have been collecting additional information about victimization patterns. The MCVS 2015 is the third such effort in the state of Montana.

Findings and recommendations reported here provide key pieces of information missing in official reports from the Montana National Incident-Based Reporting System, reported at the state-level from the Montana Board of Crime Control and at the national-level from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Information on criminal victimization presented here addresses a void in these official reports that has been called the “dark figure” of crime. Much of the criminal victimization that occurred in 2015 across Montana was never reported to the police, and, as a result, will not show up in official crime statistics.

The data gathered through MCVS 2015 yields insights into victimization patterns and public perceptions of crime and safety in Montana. These insights provide baseline evidence to inform practice, planning, and policy decisions that will need to be made in order to ensure that the criminal justice system effectively responds to criminal victimization. Much of the information reported above is consistent with patterns and trends in previous state-level surveys. In some cases, the level of crime committed against adults living in Montana is higher than those reported in other states. The evidence also shows that Montana adults—in most cases—chose to deal with crime victimization in some way other than reporting the crime to the police. The victimization data in this report, in conjunction with official reports of crime, produce a more accurate picture of the actual amount of crime in the state.

In conclusion, the findings and recommendations from this report add to existing knowledge about crime and safety in Montana. Data from MCVS 2015 administration advances information collected from surveys administered by MBCC in 2005 and 2010. The data for this analysis were gathered through the use of both an online and a pen-and-paper instrument. There were additional questions related to drug crime, sexual assault, and public confidence in the police that had not been included in the two previous surveys. Data presented in this report are based on estimates derived from a multi-phase data weighting process that increases the sample’s representativeness (i.e., the ability to generalize the results to the entire state). It is expected that the findings will contribute to future efforts across Montana to understand and respond to crime.

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APPENDIX

FIGURE A: MAP OF PARTICIPANT LOCATIONS

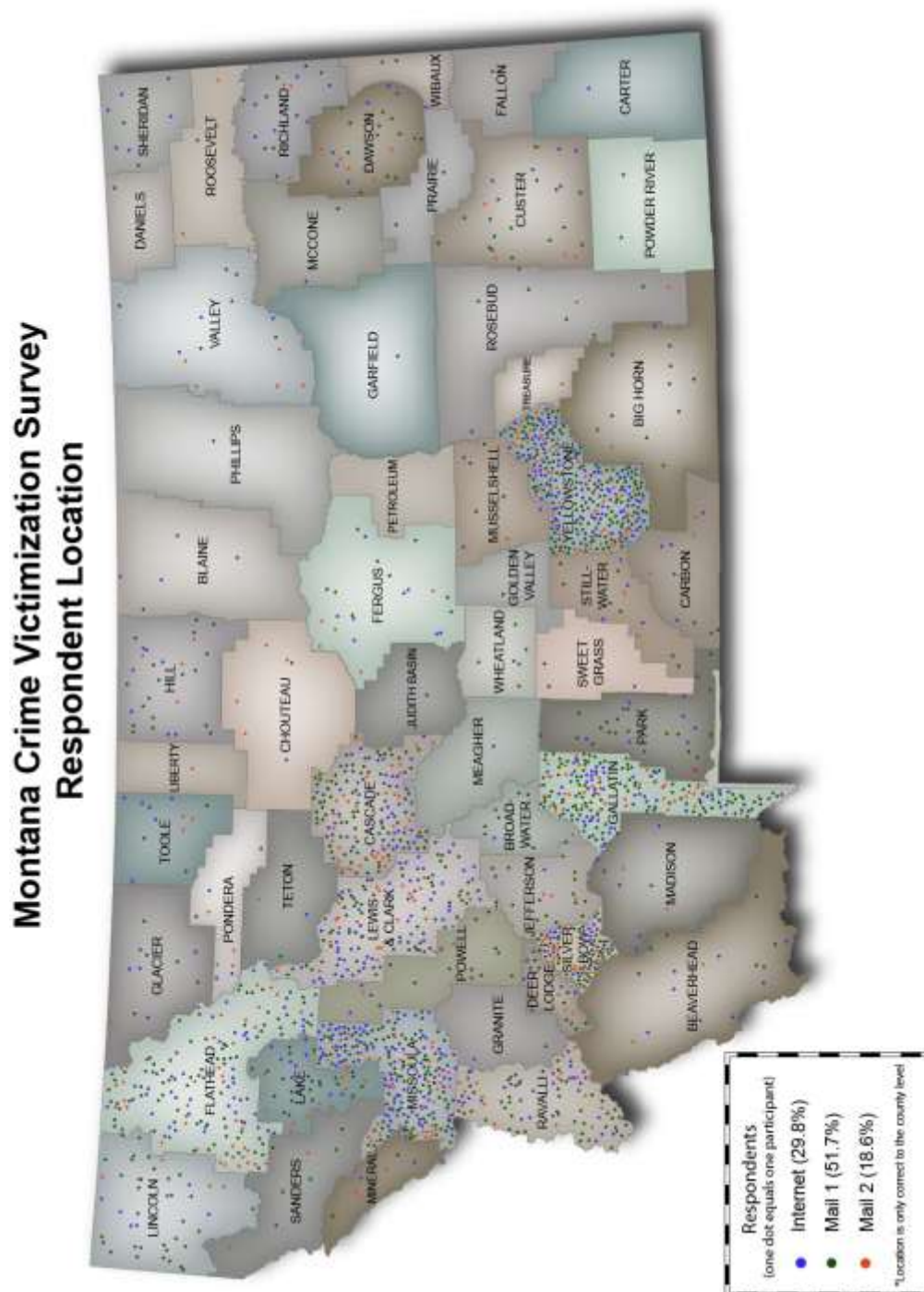


TABLE A: VICTIMIZATION PREVALENCE RATES BY DEMOGRAPHICS

Table A: Victimization Prevalence by Demographic Characteristics, 2015

	Violent Victimization	Property Victimization
Total	4.3%	15.7%
Sex		
Male	3.6%	16.9%
Female	4.6%	14.6%
Race		
White	4.5%	15.7%
American Indian	3.5%	22.8%
Other or Multiracial	2.5%	10.7%
Age		
18-24	10.4%	7.3%
25-34	5.9%	19.7%
35-49	6.5%	22.7%
50-64	2.0%	14.3%
65 or Older	1.5%	7.6%
Sexual Orientation		
Heterosexual (Straight)	4.0%	15.4%
Homosexual (Gay) or Other	18.6%	25.6%
Marital Status		
Married	2.3%	13.6%
Divorced	5.9%	19.3%
Single-never been married	9.9%	20.1%
Widowed	0.8%	9.2%
Partner sharing a home	4.5%	17%
Household Income		
\$9,999 or less	4.3%	25.9%
\$10,000-\$19,999	10.0%	15.0%
\$20,000-\$29,999	2.1%	16.3%
\$30,000-\$39,999	5.6%	14.7%
\$40,000-\$49,999	7.8%	16.8%
\$50,000-\$59,999	6.0%	18.5%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	4.7%	24.2%
\$70,000-\$79,999	0.0%	8.6%
\$80,000-\$89,999	0.0%	10.1%
\$90,000-\$99,999	1.3%	13.3%
\$100,000 or More	2.5%	11.8%
Education Level		
8th or Less	0.0%	21.4%
Some High School	8.5%	18.3%
High School / GRE Graduate	6.8%	14.2%
Some College	3.5%	17.7%
Two Year Degree	3.5%	13.7%
Bachelor Degree	3.2%	17.2%
Graduate or Advance Degree	4.6%	12.5%



Montana Crime Victimization Survey: 2015

You are invited to participate in a statewide effort to gather information about crime victimization and services for crime victims in the State of Montana. As a reminder, please have the adult (age 18 or over) in your household who has had **the most recent birthday** complete the survey. This survey should take about 30 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and responses will be kept anonymous. You have the option to not respond to any questions that you choose. Submission of the survey will be interpreted as your informed consent to participate and that you affirm that you are at least 18 years of age.

Some of the questions included in this survey are about traumatic events that may or may not have happened to you during 2015. Whether or not these events have occurred in your life, the graphic nature of some of these questions may make you uncomfortable or upset. Despite the sensitive nature of these topics, this information is perhaps the most critical for developing a more comprehensive picture of crime in Montana.

With your help, the information from this survey will be used to better understand crime and plan crime victimization services in Montana. If you have any questions about the research, please contact the Survey Field Coordinator, Janet Stevens, via email at janet.stevens@mso.umt.edu or via telephone at (406) 243-5114. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, contact the University of Montana Institutional Review Board at (406) 243-6672, refer to IRB #184-15.

No personally identifiable information will be used in any reporting of the research. All written information provided will be reported in a summary format to protect the anonymity of participants. Your name and physical address will never be used in any report or analysis of the data obtained from this survey.



Please turn to the next page and begin.



The Nature of Crime in Your Community

This section asks questions about your thoughts on crime, police effectiveness, and substance abuse in Montana in 2015.

1. How often do you feel safe from crime in your community? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Always safe
- ☐ Almost always safe
- ☐ Almost never safe
- ☐ Never safe

2. How often are you fearful of being a victim of a violent crime (such as mugging, murder, or rape)? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Always fearful
- ☐ Almost always fearful
- ☐ Almost never fearful
- ☐ Never fearful

3. Over the past five years, how do you believe crime has changed in your community? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Greatly decreased
- ☐ Somewhat decreased
- ☐ Stayed the same
- ☐ Somewhat increased
- ☐ Greatly increased

4. Is there an area within a mile of your home where you are afraid to walk or jog alone at night? Keep in mind that we're asking specifically about crime. If ONLY natural threats, such as wild animals or environmental conditions, are a concern for you, then please select "no." Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. Overall, how would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Bad
- ☐ Terrible

6. How likely are your neighbors to intervene if the following events occurred? Please respond to each item listed below (X):

	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely	Very Likely
a. Children skipping school and hanging out in the neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Children spray-painting graffiti on a local building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Children showing disrespect to an adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A fight breaking out in front of your neighbor's house	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The fire station closest to their house being threatened with budget cuts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. How strongly do you agree with the following about your neighborhood? Please respond to each item listed below (X):

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. People around here are willing to help their neighbors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. This is a close-knit neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. People in this neighborhood can be trusted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. People in this neighborhood generally don't get along with each other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. People in this neighborhood do not share the same values	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Did you know that some crime victims are eligible to apply for financial benefits as compensation towards losses resulting from victimization? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Attention: Remember to check for a "Go to" instruction after you answer the question below.

9. In 2015, did you have any direct contact with local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes **————→ GO TO NEXT QUESTION 10**
☐ No **————→ SKIP TO QUESTION 12**

10. If yes, in 2015, which best characterizes your contact(s) with local law enforcement? Mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Casual conversation
☐ Asked law enforcement for information
☐ Community activity
☐ Victim of crime
☐ Witness to crime, accident, etc.
☐ Involved in an accident
☐ Traffic stop
☐ Vehicle problem (car not working, keys locked inside, etc.)
☐ Questioned by police
☐ Arrested
☐ Business/residence alarm
☐ Other (please specify) _____

11. Overall, how would you describe the way you were treated by local law enforcement during your contact with them in 2015? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Very good
☐ Good
☐ Bad
☐ Very bad

12. Do you agree or disagree that the abuse and/or distribution of the following drugs and substances are a problem in your community? Please respond to each substance listed below (X).

	Agree	Disagree
a. Marijuana or Hashish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Methamphetamine ("meth")	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Cocaine (such as "crack," free base, and coca paste)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Inhalants (such as butane, "whippets," and air dusters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Hallucinogens (such as ecstasy, LSD, hallucinogenic mushrooms, and PCP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Heroin ("smack")	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Prescription drugs (such as abuse of Vicodin, Adderall, "Oxy," and Ambien)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. To what extent do you trust or distrust law enforcement to deal with drug distribution and substance abuse problems in your community? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Trust law enforcement
☐ Somewhat trust law enforcement
☐ Somewhat distrust law enforcement
☐ Distrust law enforcement

14. Over the past five years, how have drug use and drug distribution changed in your community? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Greatly decreased
☐ Somewhat decreased
☐ Stayed the same
☐ Somewhat increased
☐ Greatly increased

Property Crimes

This section contains questions about property crimes. Property crimes occur when property is used, taken, defaced or destroyed without the owner's permission. Property crime includes theft, arson, breaking and entering, and trespassing.

15. In 2015, did anyone use without your permission, steal, or attempt to steal your motor vehicle (such as your truck, car, motorcycle, or ATV)? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes **————→ GO TO NEXT QUESTION 16A**
☐ No **————→ SKIP TO QUESTION 17 ON PAGE 3**

16a. In 2015, how many times did someone use without permission, steal, or attempt to steal your motor vehicle? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5
☐ 6 or more

16b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5
☐ 6 or more

16c. What was your relationship with the person that most recently used without your permission, stole or attempted to steal your motor vehicle? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one person was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

16d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

17. In 2015, did anyone steal or attempt to steal, anything that belonged to you from inside your motor vehicle, such as packages, money, phone, or clothing? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 18A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 19 ON PAGE 3**

18a. In 2015, how many times did anyone steal or attempt to steal, anything that belonged to you from inside your motor vehicle? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

18b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

18c. What was your relationship with the person that most recently stole, or attempted to steal, something that belonged to you from inside your motor vehicle? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one person was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

18d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

19. In 2015, did anyone break into or attempt to break into, your home, garage, or some other building on your property? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 20A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 21 ON PAGE 4**

20a. In 2015, how many times did anyone break into or attempt to break into, your home, garage, or some other building on your property? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

20b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

20c. What was your relationship with the person that most recently broke into or attempted to break into, your home, garage, or some other building on your property? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one person was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

20d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

21. In 2015, was your property damaged or vandalized (such as graffiti, hit and run, or a broken window)? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 22A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 23 ON PAGE 4**

22a. In 2015, how many times was your property damaged or vandalized? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

22b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

22c. What was your relationship with the person that most recently damaged or vandalized your property? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one person was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

22d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

23. In 2015, did someone take or attempt to take something directly from you by using force or the threat of force? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 24A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 25 ON PAGE 5**

24a. In 2015, how many times did someone take or attempt to take something directly from you by using force or the threat of force? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

24b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

24c. What was your relationship with the person that most recently took or attempted to take something from you? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one person was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

24d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

25. In 2015, other than a credit/debit card account, did someone, use, or attempt to use, any of your existing accounts (such as telephone, bank, or social media accounts) without your permission? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 26A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 27 ON PAGE 5**

26a. In 2015, how many times did someone use or attempt to use any of your existing accounts without your permission? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

26b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

26c. What was your relationship with the person that most recently used or attempted to use your accounts without your permission? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one person was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

26d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

27. In 2015, did someone use or attempt to use your personal information without your permission to obtain a new credit card or loans, run up debts, open other accounts, or otherwise commit theft, fraud, or some other identity crime? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 28A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 29 ON PAGE 6**

28a. In 2015, how many times have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use your personal information without permission? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

28b. How many of these incidents did you report to local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

28c. What was your relationship with the person that most recently used or attempted to use your personal information without your permission? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one person was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

28d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

Personal Crimes

This section deals with crimes against your person. Personal crimes include battery, assault, and stalking, among others. Remember, your answers will be kept completely confidential. We appreciate your willingness to discuss these difficult events.

29. In 2015, did anyone hit, or attempt to hit, attack, or beat you up by using only their hands and feet? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 30A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 31 ON PAGE 6**

30a. In 2015, how many times did anyone hit, or attempt to hit, attack, or beat you up by using only their hands and feet? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

30b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

30c. What was your relationship with the person that hit, or attempted to hit, attack, or beat you up by using only their hands and feet? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one aggressor was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

30d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

31. In 2015, did anyone injure you or attempt to injure you with a weapon, such as a knife, gun, or blunt object? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 32A**
- ☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 33 ON PAGE 7**

32a. In 2015, how many times did anyone injure you or attempt to injure you with a weapon, such as a knife, gun, or blunt object? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

32b. How many of these incidents did you report to the local law enforcement? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

32c. What was your relationship with the person who injured or attempted to injure you with a weapon at the time of the incident? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one aggressor was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

32d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

33. In 2015, did you feel threatened by anyone because they were following you or spying on you, sending you unasked for messages, vandalizing your property, threatening harm to you or your pets, or showing up at your home, workplace, or school uninvited? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes **→ GO TO NEXT QUESTION 34A**
- ☐ No **→ SKIP TO QUESTION 35 ON PAGE 8**

34a. In 2015, how many times did you feel threatened? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

34b. If you were threatened or stalked, how many of these incidents did you report to the police?

Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

34c. How would you describe your relationship with that person at the time of the incident? If this happened to you more than once in 2015, report on the most recent event; if more than one aggressor was involved, report on the person that was most involved. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse or live in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A non-live-in boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ A former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

34d. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Juvenile (Under 18)
- ☐ Adult (18 and older)
- ☐ Unknown

Sexual Assault

This section of the survey asks about non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact you may have experienced. The person with whom you had the unwanted sexual contact could have been a stranger or someone you know, such as a family member or someone you were dating or going out with.

In this survey "sexual contact" is defined as one of the four following events:

Touching of a sexual nature: Kissing, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, or rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it is over your clothes.

Oral sex: Someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals.

Sexual intercourse: Someone's penis being put in your vagina or anus.

Sexual penetration with a finger or object: Someone putting their finger or an object in your vagina or anus.

Please remember participation in this survey is voluntary. If you need to talk to someone about sexual trauma you or someone you know has experienced please call the **General Crime Victims Services 24 Hour Hotline at 1-612-340-5400**, or the **National Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-799-7233**. Your responses are critical for providing effective services and support for survivors of sexual violence.

35. In 2015, did anyone have or attempt to have non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact with you?

FOR A DEFINITION OF SEXUAL CONTACT, SEE ABOVE. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes → **GO TO NEXT QUESTION 36A**
☐ No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 37 ON PAGE 9**
☐ Prefer not to answer → **SKIP TO QUESTION 37 ON PAGE 9**

36a. In 2015, how many times did anyone attempt to have non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact with you? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5
☐ 6 or more
☐ Prefer not to answer

36b. How many of these incident(s) did you report to the police? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 0
☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5
☐ 6 or more
☐ Prefer not to answer

36c. Just prior to the most recent incident, had you been drinking alcohol or taking any other drugs? If yes, this does not minimize any aspect of the crime committed against you. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to answer

36d. Just prior to the most recent incident, had you been given a drug without your consent? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure
☐ Prefer not to answer

36e. Just prior to the most recent incident, were you unable to stop or provide consent to the sexual contact because you were asleep or passed out? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to answer

36f. During the most recent incident, what kind(s) of sexual contact did the offender(s) have or attempt to have with you? Please mark all that apply:

- ☐ Touching of a sexual nature
- ☐ Oral sex
- ☐ Sexual intercourse
- ☐ Sexual penetration with finger or object
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

36g. At the time of the most recent incident, what was your relationship with the offender? Please consider only the most recent incident. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ A spouse, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend you live with
- ☐ A spouse, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend you do not live with
- ☐ A former spouse, partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or someone you dated
- ☐ A family member other than a spouse
- ☐ A friend or casual acquaintance
- ☐ An authority figure (teacher, boss, etc.)
- ☐ A stranger
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't Know
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

36h. Was the most recent offender(s) a juvenile or adult? If multiple offenders, mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 or older
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Victim Services

This section of the survey asks questions about your knowledge of, and experiences with, services available to victims of crime in your community as well as questions regarding your response to victimization.

37. Did anyone commit, or attempt to commit, a crime against you in 2015? If you answered yes to any of the previous questions, please answer "Yes" here. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes **→ GO TO NEXT QUESTION 38**
- ☐ No **→ SKIP TO QUESTION 50 ON PAGE 10**

38. Who did you seek for help as a result of the crime?
Please mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ No one
- ☐ Local law enforcement
- ☐ Legal counsel
- ☐ Victim advocate/victim service provider
- ☐ Church support group/clergy member
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Friend
- ☐ School/work affiliated group
- ☐ Health care provider
- ☐ Counselor/therapist
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

39. Did you apply for victim compensation such as financial benefits towards losses resulting from victimization in 2015?
Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

40. Did the responding officer(s) ever tell you about any crime victim services or programs within your community?
Mark one box (X).

- ☐ I did not report the incident to the police
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

41. If you sought victim services in 2015, were any in relation to a sexual assault? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ I did not seek victim services
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

42. If you sought health care services in response to a crime in 2015, what type of health care did you receive? Please mark all that apply(X).

- ☐ I did not seek health care services in response to the incident
- ☐ Hospital care
- ☐ Physician care
- ☐ Dental care
- ☐ Ambulance/paramedic care
- ☐ Physical therapy

43. How would you rate the health care services provided to you? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Acceptable
- ☐ Not good
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ I did not seek health care services in response to the incident

44. If you sought legal services in response to a crime in 2015, who provided these services? Please mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ I did not seek legal services in response to the incident
- ☐ Local law enforcement
- ☐ County attorney
- ☐ Private, non-profit organization
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

45. How would you rate the legal services provided to you? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Acceptable
- ☐ Not good
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ I did not seek legal services in response to the incident

46. How did you hear about available victim services in your community? Please mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ I did not seek any services in response to the incident
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Local law enforcement
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Solicitation by a victim services provider
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

47. If you did not report one or more incidents to local law enforcement, what were the reasons you decided against reporting? Please consider all crimes described in previous sections, and check all that apply (X).

- ☐ I reported all incidents to local law enforcement
- ☐ I believed the police could do nothing to help
- ☐ I did not want to involve police
- ☐ I did not think I would be believed by police
- ☐ I was afraid of the assailant(s)
- ☐ I felt there was not enough evidence or information
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

48. How much impact did the crime(s) committed against you in 2015 have on your life? Please consider all crimes described in previous sections. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Very large impact
- ☐ Large impact
- ☐ Some impact
- ☐ Little impact
- ☐ Very little impact
- ☐ No impact

49. Do you believe the crimes committed against you were because of your: Please select YES or NO for each item (X).

	Yes	No
a. Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Physical disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Mental disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Demographic Information

The following questions ask you to provide some basic information about yourself. This information will be used for research purposes only. Please note this is the final section of the survey.

50. What is your gender? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

51. Which of the following do you identify yourself with?
Mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☐ Homosexual or gay or lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

52. In what year were you born? Please enter the full year
_____ year (for example: 1973)

53. What is your marital status? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Single, never been married
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Partner sharing a home

54. Which category best describes the highest level of education you have completed? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ 8th grade or less
- ☐ Some high school (9th through 12th grade) but did not graduate
- ☐ High school graduate or GED
- ☐ Some college but did not graduate
- ☐ Two year degree
- ☐ Bachelor degree
- ☐ Graduate or advanced degree

55. How long have you lived at your current address? Round up to the nearest month.

_____ years _____ months

56. In total, approximately how many months did you spend in Montana in 2015? Enter number of months between 0 and 12.

_____ months

57. How would you describe your current residence? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Apartment
- ☐ Condominium or townhouse
- ☐ Hotel or motel
- ☐ Trailer Home
- ☐ Recreational Vehicle (RV)
- ☐ Single bedroom house
- ☐ Multiple bedroom house
- ☐ Low income or subsidized housing
- ☐ No permanent residence

58. How many people over 18 years of age (including yourself) live in your current residence?

_____ people

59. How many people under 18 years of age live in your current residence? Please write 0 if none.

_____ people

60. Which category best describes your current employment status? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Employed Full Time
- ☐ Employed Part Time
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Disabled or unable to work

61. Are you enrolled as a student? Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Yes, Full-time
- ☐ Yes, Part-time
- ☐ No

62. What race(s)/ethnicities do you consider yourself to be?
Mark all that apply (X).

- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ American Indian
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Hispanic
- ☐ Pacific Islander
- ☐ Latino
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

63. In 2015, what was your total yearly household income?
Include income from spouse or any other income that you consider to be part of your total household income. Mark one box (X).

- ☐ Under \$9,999
- ☐ \$10,000-19,999
- ☐ \$20,000-29,999
- ☐ \$30,000-39,999
- ☐ \$40,000-49,999
- ☐ \$50,000-59,999
- ☐ \$60,000-69,999
- ☐ \$70,000-79,999
- ☐ \$80,000-89,999
- ☐ \$90,000-99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 or more

Thank you very much for your time and effort!