



The Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ)

Modules

We have designed the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ) to gather information on a broad range of victimizations that are often at the present time studies in isolation. Although comprehensiveness is an important goal, we wanted subsections of the questionnaire to nonetheless take into account important conceptual demarcations that have characterized prior research and to be useable individually in stand-alone form. So we have divided the questionnaire into modules. All modules should be administered if a comprehensive picture is desired of all forms of victimization that an individual has experienced. Modules can be administered singly or in any combination to focus on particular domains of interest.

Module A: CONVENTIONAL CRIME

These are victimizations that parallel the offenses defined and measured by the U.S. Federal Government in the National Crime Victimization Survey (Rennison and Rand, 2003). They are the most important crime categories in virtually every police district in the United States. By organizing questionnaire items around these crime categories, questionnaire results can be compared much more easily to crime statistics and presented in a way more clearly understandable to police, politicians, and other policy makers. The results from these items can also give guidance as to when to recommend reporting a victimization to the police. This module also includes property crimes, which is the most frequent form of victimization in the U.S. but which is omitted from almost all other victimization questionnaires. The module begins

with the property crime items (#1-3) in order to begin the questionnaire with victimizations that are usually less traumatizing than interpersonal victimizations.

- C1) Robbery
- C2) Personal Theft
- C3) Vandalism
- C4) Assault with Weapon
- C5) Assault without Weapon
- C6) Attempted Assault
- C7) Kidnapping
- C8) Bias Attack
- (S2) Nonspecific Sexual Assault *should be asked here if Sexual Victimization module is not given*

Module B: CHILD MALTREATMENT

These 4 items are intended to parallel offenses of concern to child protection agencies. They specifically include mention of victimization by caregivers because extensive research has shown that people are unlikely to mention family perpetrators to general crime items such as those in Module A (Hamby & Finkelhor, 2000). It is worth noting that, contrary to some expectations, research has shown that parents and other caregivers will report maltreatment committed against their own children in surveys (e.g, Straus, Hamby, Finkelhor, Runyan, & Moore, 1998).

- M1) Physical Abuse by Caregiver
- M2) Psychological/Emotional Abuse
- M3) Neglect
- M4) Custodial Interference/Family Abduction
- (S1) Sexual Assault by Known Adult *should be asked here if Sexual Victimization module is not given*

Module C: PEER AND SIBLING VICTIMIZATION

This module covers the common offenses of childhood. Many of these are not typically considered to be crimes, which is one reason questions about peer perpetrators need to be asked separately from the more general assault questions. These are also the forms of victimization of most interest to professionals in schools and similar settings.

- P1) Gang or Group Assault
- P2) Peer or Sibling Assault
- P3) Nonsexual Genital Assault
- P4) Bullying
- P5) Emotional Bullying
- P6) Dating Violence

Module D: SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION

This module was developed because of evidence that general sexual assault questions may not elicit reports of intimate, statutory and other kinds of sexual offenses. Research has also shown that asking multiple screener questions about sexual assault increases the number and accuracy of reports on this very sensitive topic (Bolen & Scannapieco, 1999; Williams, Siegel, & Pomeroy, 2000). The JVQ also assesses more types of sexual victimization than most other questionnaires by including items that do not necessarily involve forced physical attacks.

- S1) Sexual Assault by Known Adult
- S2) Nonspecific Sexual Assault
- S3) Sexual Assault by Peer
- S4) Rape: Attempted or Completed
- S5) Flashing/Sexual Exposure
- S6) Verbal Sexual Harassment
- S7) Statutory Rape & Sexual Misconduct

Module E: WITNESSING AND INDIRECT VICTIMIZATION

These items are included because offenses against others can have psychological impact on children as well as direct victimizations. Some are very serious but rare victimizations that might not be picked up by other modules, but are important for many policy issues.

- W1) Witness to Domestic Violence
- W2) Witness to Parent Assault of Sibling
- W3) Witness to Assault with Weapon
- W4) Witness to Assault without Weapon
- W5) Burglary of Family Household
- W6) Murder of Family Member or Friend
- W7) Witness to Murder
- W8) Exposure to Random Shootings, Terrorism, or Riots
- W9) Exposure to War or Ethnic Conflict