

Learn More about the NCVS (Youth Participants, English)

[MUSIC PLAYING] INTERVIEWER: We hear a lot about crime and safety in the news every day. But many crimes, especially those that happen to young people, never get reported to police. So how do we really know what kinds of crimes are happening to young people? What is the NCVS. Every year, thousands of 12 to 17-year-olds. And their families take part in the National Crime Victimization Survey, also known as the NCVS.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the NCVS for the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics. In the survey, people answer questions about whether they have been the victim of a crime, like having something stolen, or being physically attacked. Since many crimes against teenagers don't get reported to police, the NCVS is one of the only ways to find out what kinds of crimes are happening to them.

Why is this important? The NCVS needs young people like you to help paint a picture of who has been the victim of a crime, how many crimes are happening, and what kinds of crimes happen. All of this information is used to help reduce crime and to support people who have experienced crimes.

So how does the NCVS work? Every year, a group of households around the country is picked from a list of U.S. addresses and asked to take part in the NCVS. If your household gets chosen, then everyone who lives there who is 12 or older can be a part of this survey.

Why should you participate? You are helping to make a difference by responding to the NCVS. Even if you've never been the victim of a crime, your answers can help make sure we know what is, and what isn't happening to teens all over the country. For more information about the NCVS, visit bjs.ojp.gov/ncvs-participant, or scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone. You can also email us at askbjs@usdoj.gov.