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Activity: Discussion

Crime surveys

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- assess the reasons for differences in victims' willingness to participate in victim surveys.

A. Working in small groups, prepare answers to questions 1-3 below.

1. In what ways might some people's particular experiences of crime make them less likely to take part in the survey?
2. For what other reasons might someone refuse to take part in an interview, *whatever* the interview was about (for example, if the survey was about their shopping habits, political opinions or religious beliefs)?
3. Why might some people be particularly keen to take part in a survey about being a victim? How might this affect the representativeness of the survey's overall results?

B. As a class and using your answers to part A discuss what steps could be taken to encourage victims of violent or sexual assault who were reluctant to talk about their experience to take part in victim surveys.