## **Research Article:**

## National Crime Victimization Survey Report (Under the Crime Victimization Survey Project - 2012)

The *Crime Victimization Survey Project* systematically monitors crime data from victims of crime throughout the country. The survey was initiated by the Office of Justice Affairs which is keenly aware of the importance of monitoring statistical crime victimization data.

In 2012, the Office of Justice Affairs coordinated with the National Statistical Office to monitor crime victimization statistics in every province throughout the country and coordinated with Suan Dusit Rajaphat University to analyze the data and produce a report on the key findings on crime in four areas: crimes related to property, crimes threatening life or physical safety, sex crimes, and unauthorized use of personal data or documents.

This paper provides details of victims of crime in 2007 and 2012. Most victims were male, between 45-59 years of age, employed in sales or privately-owned business operations, married, with mid-level income and owning their own house. The most frequently occurring type of crime in 2007 and 2012, both inside and outside local municipal administration districts, was crime relating to property. The next most frequent was crime threats to life or physical safety, followed by crime related to unauthorized use of personal data or documents.

Risk factors for frequent occurrences of crime include leaving the home unattended while away at work during the day, wearing expensive jewelry and going out at night.

In 2007, the majority of crimes were committed by males, aged between 18-25 years. In 2012, the majority of crimes were committed by males aged between 26-35 years. Most crimes occurred at night time between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

In 2007, 82.1% of crimes related to property were theft. In 2012, this increased to 95.10%. Property stolen, both within and outside local municipal administration areas, was mostly motor vehicles and motor vehicle spare parts.

In 2007 and 2012, crimes threatening life or physical safety were usually committed by pulling, dragging, slapping, hitting or punching. Most sex crimes involved obscene behavior and unarmed attempts at sexual coercion. Unauthorized use of personal data or documents occurred mostly for the purpose of obtaining credit cards or carrying out business transactions. The frequency of this type of crime increased from 49.4% in 2007 to 54.3 % in 2012.

In 2007, 77.5% of notifications to the police by members of the public were made in the hope that the police could apprehend the offenders. In 2012, this percentage reduced to 73.70%. In 2007, 65.2% of victims did not report a crime to the police. This percentage increased to 66.6% in 2012.

## **Application of research findings**

- The next collection and analysis of data should focus on specific groups so as to be able to protect and assist victims of crime; especially women, children under the age of 12 years, teenagers, foreign refugees and specific nationalities.
- The collection of data should be expanded to include victimless crime, such as drug addiction. Data should also be collected on crimes against businesses and commercial crime as well as non-premeditated murder and manslaughter.
- Data collection staff should be trained in interviewing and data collection techniques before entering the field to collect data, especially data related to sex crimes, so that they will be able to collect in-depth data efficiently.
- More importance should be given to systems of dispute mediation and reconciliation in the justice system to reduce the number of victims of crimes that initiate judicial procedures.
- The role of local area agencies; such as sub-district headmen, village leaders and District Administration Organizations located in the local area; should be increased to assist victims of crimes and mediate solutions to problems of victims, especially in crimes threatening life or physical safety, sex crimes, and domestic violence.