



**Palestinian National Authority  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**Victimization Survey, 2004**

**User Guide**

## Table of Contents

Definitions and Explanations

Survey Questionnaire

Data Set Linkage

Target Population

Sample and Frame

Weighing

Variance Calculation

Data Collection

Response Rate

Data Processing

Data Quality

## Concepts and Definitions

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Assault:</b>                  | Refers to physical attack against persons, but excludes indecent assault. Some criminal or penal codes distinguish between aggravated and simple assault depending on the degree of resulting injuries.  |
| <b>Crime:</b>                    | Any act involving violation of laws or public rights duties towards the state or society in general.   |
| <b>Crime Location:</b>           | The place where the crime took place.  |
| <b>Household:</b>                | One or a group of persons living together who make common provisions for food or other essentials for living. Household members may be related, unrelated or a combination of both.  |
| <b>Number of Households (n):</b> | Sample size (weighted).  |
| <b>Perpetrator:</b>              | The person violating effective laws by undertaking criminal events against other persons or their properties.  |
| <b>Physical Harm:</b>            | All losses a person may suffer during the crime that took place in the last 12 months, which resulted in wounds, murder, malformation or disability.   |
| <b>Properties:</b>               | All movable and fixed assets belonging to the individuals (household members) regardless of whether they were inside or outside the house.   |
| <b>Robbery:</b>                  | Illegally breaking into the property of somebody with the intention to commit a crime.   |
| <b>Theft:</b>                    | Refers to the removal of property without the property owner's consent. Theft excludes burglary and house breaking; it includes the theft of motor vehicle, shoplifting and other minor offenses, e.g. pilfering and petty theft may or may not be included as thefts. |
| <b>Victim:</b>                   | The person affected by an offense or loss or prey to catastrophic, criminal or brutal events. Any person who was offended and whose properties were partially or totally affected by a criminal act or incident is classified as a victim.                             |

## Survey Questionnaire

A special questionnaire was designed in accordance with UN standards and recommendations in the field of victimization statistics while taking the Palestinian particularities into account. The questionnaire covers the following items:

1. Type of criminal offense
2. Crime location
3. Crime reporting
4. Perpetrator

## Data Set Linkage

The data set to users consists of two primary files that are related by identification variables (keys). A description of the files is below.

| File Name       | Content                 | Identification Variable  |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| Households 2004 | Roster Data             | IDh00: Master Record Identification<br>HR01 - Unique Person Number |
| Persons 2004    | Housing and Family Data | IDh00: Master Record Identification                                |

## Target Population

The target population consisted of all Palestinian households that usually reside in the Palestinian Territory

## Sample and Frame

The sampling frame consisted of a master sample of enumeration areas (EAs) selected from the Population Housing and Establishment Census 1997. The master sample consists of area units of relatively equal size (number of households, about 150 housing units), and these units have been used as primary sampling units (PSUs).

## Sample Design

The sample is a two-stage stratified cluster random sample. The sample in this survey was implemented in all households in round 35 of the Labor Force Survey.

## Stratification:

Four levels of stratification were made:

1. Stratification by Governorates ( 16 Governorates)
2. Stratification by type of Locality which comprises:
  - (a) Urban
  - (b) Rural
  - (c) Refugee Camps
3. Stratification by classifying localities, excluding Governorate capitals, into three strata based on the ownership of households within these localities of durable goods.
4. Stratification by size of locality (number of households).

## **Sample Size**

The sample size equals 7,563 households. The sample is distributed over 481 enumeration areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## **Target cluster size**

The next important issue in sample design is the target cluster size or “sample-take,” the number of households to be selected per PSU on the average. In this survey 7,563 households have been selected from 481 master sample areas.

## **Weighting**

Weights have been calculated for each sampling units. Weights reflect the sampling procedures. Adjusted weight is important to reduce bias resulting from non-responses.

## **Variances Calculation**

It is very important to calculate standard errors for the main survey estimations, so that the user can identify the accuracy of estimations and the survey reliability. Total errors of the survey can be divided into two kinds: statistical errors, and non-statistical errors. Non-statistical errors are related to the procedures of statistical work at different stages, such as the failure to explain questions in the questionnaire, unwillingness or inability to provide correct responses, bad statistical coverage, etc. These errors depend on the nature of the work, training, supervision, and conducting of all the various related activities.

The work team spared no effort at the different stages to minimize non-statistical errors; however, it is difficult to estimate numerically such errors due to absence of technical computation methods based on theoretical principles to tackle them.

On the other hand, statistical errors can be measured. Frequently they are measured by the standard error, which is the positive square root of the variance. The variance of this survey has been computed by using the “programming package” CENVAR.

## **Data Collection**

PCBS conducted the third round of the Victimization Survey 2004: data collection was conducted during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2004 (04/10/2004 – 30/12/2004).

Six teams of interviewers, three in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip carried out the data collection. Each team consisted of a supervisor and two interviewers. Fieldwork teams were distributed to different districts according to sample allocation.

All field staff received a training session combining general theoretical and practical components. Interviewers, supervisors and editors for the survey were selected from those who worked on the Labour Force Survey. Fieldwork procedures and organization were designed to ensure adequate supervision and the collection of high quality data. To this end, several quality control measures were used through out fieldwork.

## **Response Rate**

The study is based on a random sample of 7,563 households, of which 6,281 households completed the interview. The completed interviews are distributed by region as 4,088 in the West Bank and 2,193 in Gaza Strip.

## **Data Processing**

Both data entry and tabulation were performed using the ACCESS and SPSS software programs. Data entry was organized into two files, corresponding to the main parts of the questionnaire. A data entry template was designed to reflect an exact image of the questionnaire, and included various electronic checks: logical check, range checks, consistency checks and cross-validation.

## **Data Quality**

Sampling rather than comprehensive enumeration has been used to collect data in this survey. Therefore it is liable to two types of errors affecting the quality of survey data, sampling (statistical error) and non-sampling errors (non-statistical error). Statistical error means the errors resulting from sample designing and this is computed simply. Variance and effect of sample design has been computed for the Palestinian Territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Non-statistical errors, on the other hand, could not be determined easily, due to the diversity of sources from which they may arise, e.g., the interviewer, respondent, editor, coder, and data entry operator.

However, several measures were adopted to minimize the effects of non-statistical errors on the data. To avoid errors and reducing their effects, the interviewers, editors, and coders have exercised a great effort to train interviewers intensively, and were provided with fieldwork manuals to resort to when facing any problem. The interviewers, editors, and coders underwent intensive training.

To have a fair idea on the situation and limiting obstacles, there has been continuous contact with supervisors and editors through regular visits to the regional offices and regular meetings. Also problems faced by interviewers have been discussed to clarify any issues they faced.

Also data entry staff were trained on an entry program that was examined for the questionnaires received during the training. The data entry program was programmed in a way that allows error detection and correction, particularly logical errors that might not be discovered before data entry. A consistency check was also performed to assure accuracy after data entry.

There are different methods to evaluate data according to subjects, and they include:

- Frequency of missing values and responses like “other” or “do not know” and examining data consistency between the different sections.
- Comparing survey results with other sources; and also, with results of Victimization Survey 1996, 1999, all utilized quality checks revealed that data is of a high quality.