

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL VICTIMIZATION SURVEYS

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REPRISE OF SOURCEBOOK CHAPTER 6

- **31 European countries have conducted at least one victimization survey.**
- **Such surveys give estimates of crimes: attitudes about law enforcement: feelings of safety and actions towards crime prevention by households and staff training for businesses.**
- **Chapter 6 includes prevalence of crimes such as bodily injury, sexual assault, robbery, theft, domestic burglary and corruption: wording of questions, survey size and design, survey frequency and sources.**
- **It also includes opinions about safety and the justice system and is a useful compendium of material for the researcher.**

USEFULNESS OF VICTIMIZATION SURVEYS

- For politicians and governments the usefulness of victimization surveys is best seen by looking at surveys from the national level
- I will show some examples from the UK of how surveys can show useful data for policy formulation/crime prevention.
- UK is fortunate:
 - the general population and the media, are sympathetic to such surveys
 - an industry has grown up of survey firms, interviewers and publicists.
 - Survey data is freely available to universities for further analysis.
- Other jurisdictions have similar and sometimes wider experiences and it would be interesting to hear from them in the discussion or after the conference.

PREVALENCE OF CRIMES

Victimization surveys give robust measures of the prevalence of different types of crime. These are alternative measures that are in many ways more robust than those collected by the police.

Examples of crime types collected by these surveys are:

- **Bodily injury: Sexual violence: Theft (personal/theft of a motor vehicle): Domestic burglary: Robbery: Drug Use: Corruption**

These data can be correlated with personal and household data also collected in the survey.

- **Age, gender, relation of victim to suspect: use of crime prevention actions: types of drug used, etc.**

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

- **Police data only rarely show characteristics of victim**
- **Victimization surveys can show the extent of different social groupings becoming victims and how this changes:**
- **My next slides give examples on the: Extent of Drug misuse: Domestic violence against Adults: Crimes against children: against specific groups.**
- **Finally I show opinions about justice and safety, and how people and businesses take crime prevention action.**
- **All the material is for the United Kingdom**

Figure 1.1: Trends in 'any drug' use in the last year among adults, 16 to 59 and 16 to 24 year olds, 1996 to 2018/19 CSEW

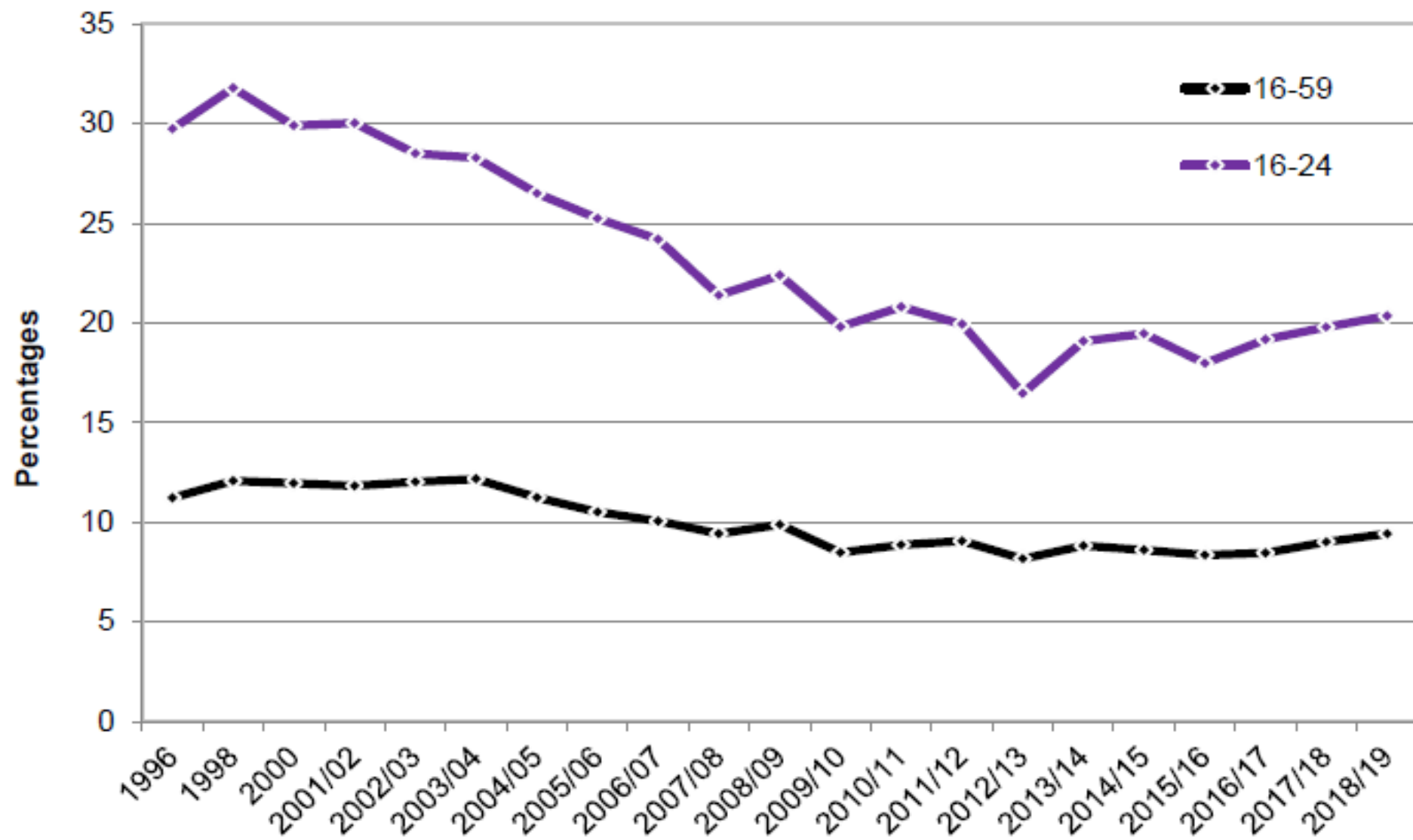
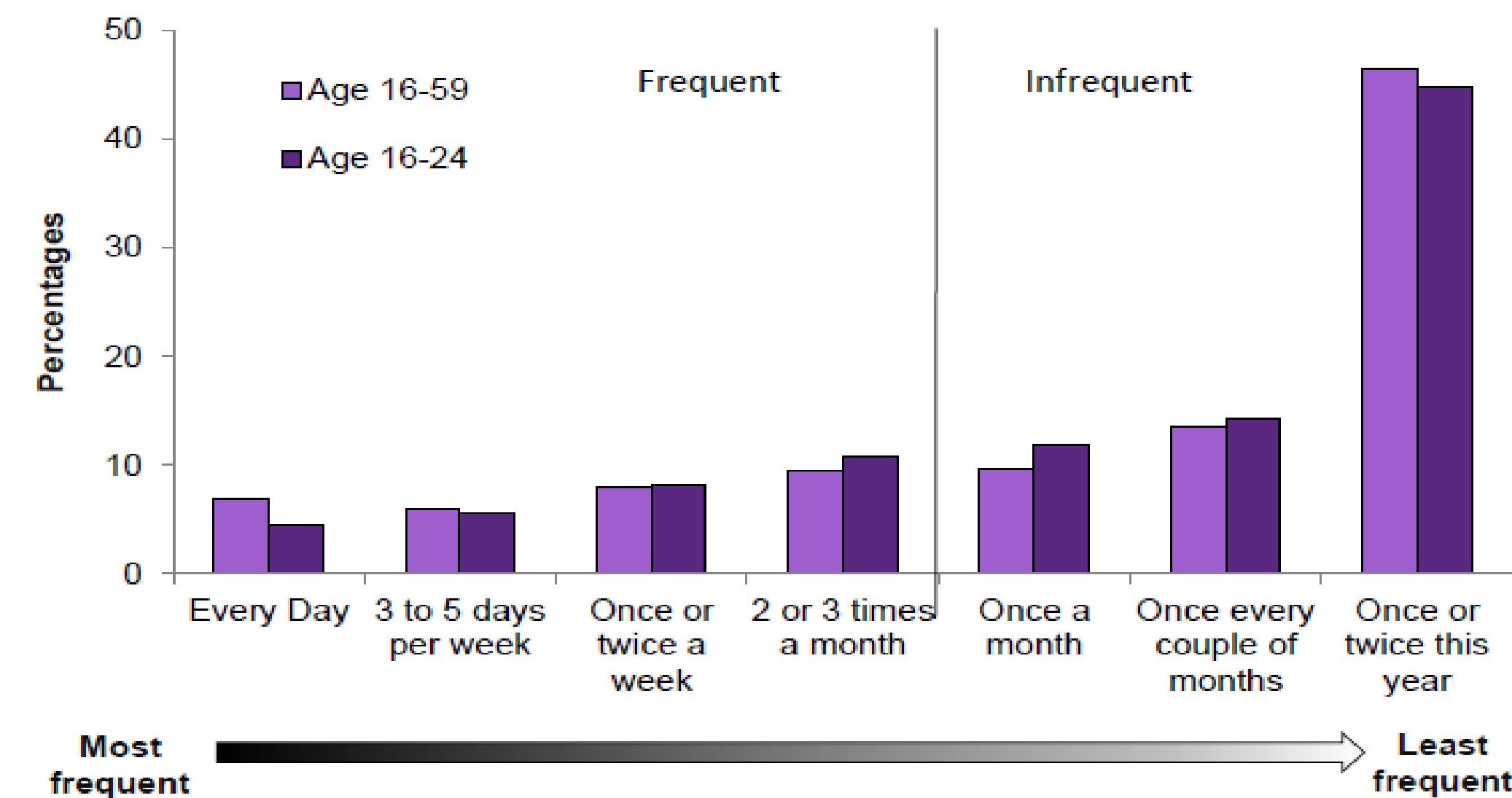


Figure 2.1: Frequency of ‘any drug’ used in the last year, adults aged 16 to 59 and 16 to 24, 2018/19 CSEW



Prevalence of domestic abuse among adults:

	MEN	WOMEN
PARTNER ABUSE	2.4%	5.6%
FAMILY ABUSE	1.7%	1.9%
STALKING	2.6%	5.4%

Figure B1: Offences experienced by children aged 10-15, Crime Survey for England and Wales, years ending March 2014 to 2019^{167,168,169}

Measure	Year ending March					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Estimated number of incidents (thousands)	866	804	1,007	795	757	841
Estimated percentage who were victims of one incident or more	12%	12%	13%	11%	10%	11%
Estimated percentage who were a victim of a violent offence	6%	5%	6%	6%	4%	5%
Estimated percentage who were a victim of a theft offence	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Number of children aged 10-15 surveyed	2,933	2,374	2,804	3,062	3,008	2,850

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, ONS

How serious are these offences?

- **Of the 841,000 offences experienced by those aged 10-15 last year:**
 - **454,000 (54%) were violence: 86,000 resulted in wounding: 254,000 resulted in minor injury.**
 - **There were 227,000 thefts from children**
 - **There were 126,000 offences of criminal damage against children's property (sports gear, clothes, school related possessions)**
 - **There were 232,000 cases of robbery against children.**
- **13 and 14 year olds were more at risk than other ages.**

What groups were victims?

- **Boys were twice as likely to be victims as girls (14% to 7%)**
- **15% of Mixed Ethnicity children experienced victimization: 11% of White children: 9% of Black children and 7% of Asian children.**
- **21% of children with a long-standing illness or disability were victims compared to 10% of those with no long-standing illness or disability**
- **25% of those who were bullied in the last twelve months were victims compared with 7% of those not bullied.**

Abuse as a child and later life

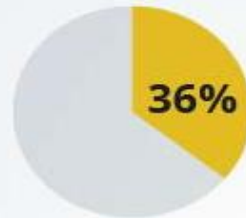
Past

Of all those who were abused by a family member as a child

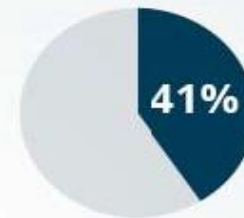


Present

36% went on to be abused as an adult by a partner or ex...

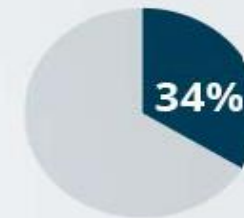


...and **41%** of these adults had a child in the home who may have witnessed the abuse



Future

34% of people who witnessed domestic abuse as a child went on to be abused by a partner



Victimization surveys can measure opinions

OPINION	2011	2014	2017
Is the criminal justice system effective?	43.7%	50.9%	52.9%
Is the criminal justice system fair?	62.6%	66.2%	68.8%

Surveys track personal computer crime victims

	Type of computer crime	Prevalence(%)
UK (SCOTLAND) 2018-2019	Personal details stolen on line	0.7%
	Device infected by malicious software	8.0%
	Someone accessed social media, etc without your consent for malicious use	4.8%
	Locked out of device and asked to make payment	0.8%
	Card/bank account details stolen on line	4.5%
	Received a scam call saying your device had a problem	4.1%
	Victim of on line dating fraud	0.2%

Effectiveness of burglary security (Tseloni)

- This study linked data from the CSEW, 2012 and the BCS, 1992-2011 to compare security profiles of burgled households against all households, based on the Crime Prevention and Victim modules data.
- It was found that:
 - a combination of window locks, indoor lights on a timer, door double locks or deadlocks, and external lights on a timer or sensor proves 49 times more protection than no security.
 - Homes with no security experience a four-fold rise in incidents compared to homes with a combination of security devices.
 - A surprising discovery was that homes with just a burglary alarm and nothing else have a slightly higher burglary risk than homes with no security at all.

Surveys track crime against business: eg cybercrime

- The UK conducts an annual survey of cyber breaches directed at commercial companies. Results are mostly about policies and companies reactions to cybercrime more than the crimes themselves. Topics include awareness of and approaches to cyber security: incidence/impact of breaches.
- Almost half of businesses (46%) and a quarter of charities (26%) report having cyber security breaches or attacks in the last 12 months. Like previous years, this is higher among medium businesses (68%), large businesses (75%) and high-income charities (57%).
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cyber-security-breaches-survey-2020/cyber-security-breaches-survey-2020>

Completeness and Quality of the data

- I hope I have shown a little of the benefits of national victimization surveys for better understanding of crime, leading to action on crime prevention, new legislation and allocation of resources.
- Each country is best placed to use surveys in its own way. Countries can learn from one another as far as methodology and questions asked but comparisons across countries are not easily carried out.
- Some countries have integrated their police/justice statistics publications with those of their crime surveys to give more complete coverage of the position; eg see the England and Wales Statistical Bulletins from the Office of National Statistics.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2020>

Thank you

QUESTIONS?

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