WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released *Determining the Optimal Number of Interview Waves in the National Crime Victimization Survey: Evaluation and Recommendations*, which presents the results of a panel design study that evaluated the data quality and cost of changing the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) from the current design in which household members are interviewed 7 times during a 3.5-year period to a 5, 4, 3 or 1 interview design. The research and development report describes the development of simulations used to mimic different panel designs and outcomes. It shows the results of changing the number of interviews on property and violent victimization rates reported in the NCVS, including point estimates, variability, sample sizes and costs. This report was prepared by RTI International and Statistics Canada under a cooperative agreement with BJS.

**TITLE:**  
DETERMINING THE OPTIMAL NUMBER OF INTERVIEW WAVES IN THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY: EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (NCJ 249238)

**AUTHOR:** Marcus Berzofsky and Ivan Carrillo-Garcia

**WHERE:**  
http://www.bjs.gov

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