

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### GENERAL TERMS

**Cluster sampling** Cluster sampling is a technique in which the sampling of respondents or subjects occurs within clusters or groups. For example, selecting students by sampling schools and the students that attend that school.

**Crime** Any violation of a statute or regulation or any act that the government has determined is injurious to the public, including felonies and misdemeanors. Such violation may or may not involve violence, and it may affect individuals or property.

**Incident** A specific criminal act or offense involving one or more victims and one or more offenders.

**Multi-stage sampling** A survey sampling technique in which there is more than one wave of sampling. That is, one sample of units is drawn, and then another sample is drawn within that sample. For example, at the first stage, a number of Census blocks may be sampled out of all the Census blocks in the United States. At the second stage, households are sampled within the previously sampled Census blocks.

**Prevalence** The percentage of the population directly affected by crime in a given period. This rate is based upon specific information elicited directly from the respondent regarding crimes committed against his or her person, against his or her property, or against an individual bearing a unique relationship to him or her. It is not based upon perceptions and beliefs about, or reactions to, criminal acts.

**School** An education institution consisting of one or more of grades K through 12.

**School crime** Any criminal activity that is committed on school property.

**School year** The 12-month period of time denoting the beginning and ending dates for school accounting purposes, usually from July 1 through June 30.

**Stratification** Stratification is a survey sampling technique in which the target population is divided into mutually exclusive groups or strata based on some variable or variables (e.g., metropolitan area) and sampling of units occurs separately within each stratum.

**Unequal probabilities** A survey sampling technique in which sampled units do not have the same probability of selection into the sample. For example, the investigator may over-sample minority students in order to increase the sample sizes of minority students. Minority students would then be more likely than other students to be sampled.

## SPECIFIC TERMS USED IN VARIOUS SURVEYS

### *National Crime Victimization Survey*

**At school (students)** Inside the school building, on school property (school parking area, play area, school bus, etc.), or on the way to or from school.

**At school (teachers)** Inside the school building, on school property (school parking area, play area, school bus, etc.), at worksite, or while working. For thefts, “while working” was not considered, since thefts of teachers’ property kept at school can occur when teachers are not present.

**Aggravated assault** Attack or attempted attack with a weapon, regardless of whether or not an injury occurs, and attack without a weapon when serious injury results.

**Rape** Forced sexual intercourse including both psychological coercion, as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). Includes attempts and verbal threats of rape. This category also includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle.

**Robbery** Completed or attempted theft, directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon, and with or without injury.

**Rural** A place not located inside the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This category includes a variety of localities, ranging from sparsely populated rural areas to cities with populations of less than 50,000.

**Serious violent crime** Rape, sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault.

**Sexual assault** A wide range of victimizations, separate from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender. Sexual assault may or may not involve force and includes such things as grabbing or fondling. Sexual assault also includes verbal threats.

**Simple assault** Attack without a weapon resulting either in no injury, minor injury, or in undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault without a weapon.

**Suburban** A county or counties containing a central city, plus any contiguous counties that are linked socially and economically to the central city. On the data tables, suburban areas are categorized as those portions of metropolitan areas situated “outside central cities.”

**Theft** Completed or attempted theft of property or cash without personal contact.

**Victimization** A crime as it affects one individual person or household. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is equal to the number of victims involved. The number of victimizations may be greater than the number of incidents because more than one person may be victimized during an incident.

**Victimization rate** A measure of the occurrence of victimizations among a specific population group.

**Violent crime** Rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, or simple assault.

**Urban** The largest city (or grouping of cities) in an MSA.

### ***School Crime Supplement***

**Total victimization** Combination of violent victimization and theft. If a student reported an incident of either type, he or she is counted as having experienced any victimization. If the student reported having experienced both, he or she is counted once under “total victimization.”

**At school** In the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to or from school.

**Serious violent crime** Rape, sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault.

**Violent crime** Rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, or simple assault.

### ***Youth Risk Behavior Survey***

**On school property** On school property is included in the question wording, but was not defined for respondents.

**Weapon** Examples of weapons appearing in the questionnaire include guns, knives, and clubs.

**Illegal drugs** Examples of illegal drugs were marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, steroids, or prescription drugs without a doctor’s permission, heroin, and methamphetamines.

### ***School Survey on Crime and Safety***

**At school/at your school** Includes activities that happened in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, and at places that held school-sponsored events or activities. Unless otherwise specified, respondents were requested to report on activities that occurred during normal school hours or when school activities/events were in session.

**Cult or extremist group** A group that espouses radical beliefs and practices, which may include a religious component, that are widely seen as threatening the basic values and cultural norms of society at large.

**Firearm/explosive device** Any weapon that is designed to (or may readily be converted to) expel a projectile by the action of an explosive. This includes guns, bombs, grenades, mines, rockets, missiles, pipe bombs, or similar devices designed to explode and capable of causing bodily harm or property damage.

**Gang** An ongoing loosely organized association of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, that has a common name, signs, symbols or colors, whose members engage, either individually or collectively, in violent or other forms of illegal behavior.

**Insubordination** A deliberate and inexcusable defiance of or refusal to obey a school rule, authority, or a reasonable order. It includes but is not limited to direct defiance of

school authority, failure to attend assigned detention or on-campus supervision, failure to respond to a call slip, and physical or verbal intimidation/abuse.

**Intimidation** To frighten, compel, or deter by actual or implied threats. It includes bullying and sexual harassment.

**Physical attack or fight** An actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual.

**Rape** Forced sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal, or oral penetration). Includes penetration from a foreign object.

**Robbery** The taking or attempting to take anything of value that is owned by another person or organization, under confrontational circumstances by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. A key difference between robbery and theft/larceny is that a threat or battery is involved in robbery.

**Serious violent incidents** Include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attacks or fights with a weapon, threats of physical attack with a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon.

**Sexual battery** An incident that includes threatened rape, fondling, indecent liberties, child molestation, or sodomy. Principals were instructed that classification of these incidents should take into consideration the age and developmentally appropriate behavior of the offenders.

**Sexual harassment** Unsolicited, offensive behavior that inappropriately asserts sexuality over another person. The behavior may be verbal or non-verbal.

**Specialized school** A school that is specifically for students who were referred for disciplinary reasons. The school may also have students who were referred for other reasons. The school may be at the same location as the respondent's school.

**Theft/larceny** (taking things over \$10 without personal confrontation) The unlawful taking of another person's property without personal confrontation, threat, violence, or bodily harm. Included are pocket picking, stealing purse or backpack (if left unattended or no force was used to take it from owner), theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts or accessories, theft of bicycles, theft from vending machines, and all other types of thefts.

**Vandalism** The willful damage or destruction of school property including bombing, arson, graffiti, and other acts that cause property damage. Includes damage caused by computer hacking.

**Violent incidents** Include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attacks or fights with or without a weapon, threats of physical attack with or without a weapon, robbery with or without a weapon.

**Weapon** Any instrument or object used with the intent to threaten, injure, or kill. Includes look-alikes if they are used to threaten others.

## ***Schools and Staffing Survey***

**Central city** A large central city (a central city of a Metropolitan Statistical Area [MSA] with population greater than or equal to 400,000, or a population density greater than or equal to 6,000 per square mile) or a mid-size central city (a central city of an MSA, but not designated as a large central city).

**Elementary school teachers** An elementary school teacher is one who, when asked for the grades taught, checked: (1) only “ungraded” and was designated as an elementary teacher on the list of teachers provided by the school; (2) 6th grade or lower, or “ungraded,” and no grade higher than 6th; (3) 6th grade or lower and 7th grade or higher, and reported a primary assignment of prekindergarten, kindergarten, or general elementary; (4) 7th and 8th grades only, and reported a primary assignment of prekindergarten, kindergarten, or general elementary; (5) 6th grade or lower and 7th grade or higher, and reported a primary assignment of special education and was designated as an elementary teacher on the list of teachers provided by the school; or (6) 7th and 8th grades only, and reported a primary assignment of special education and was designated as an elementary teacher on the list of teachers provided by the school. A teacher at school that has grade 6 or lower, or one that is “ungraded” with no grade higher than the 8th.

**Rural or small town** Rural area (a place with a population of less than 2,500 and defined as rural by the U.S. Bureau of the Census) or a small town (a place not within an MSA, with a population of less than 25,000, but greater than or equal to 2,500, and defined as nonurban by the U.S. Bureau of the Census).

**Secondary school teachers** A secondary school teacher is one who, when asked for the grades taught, checked: (1) “ungraded” and was designated as a secondary teacher on the list of teachers provided by the school; (2) 6th grade or lower and 7th grade or higher, and reported a primary assignment other than prekindergarten, kindergarten, or general elementary; (3) 9th grade or higher, or 9th grade or higher and “ungraded”; (4) 7th and 8th grades only, and reported a primary assignment other than prekindergarten, kindergarten, general elementary, or special education; (5) 7th and 8th grades only, and reported a primary assignment of special education and was designated as a secondary teacher on the list of teachers provided by the school; or (6) 6th grade or lower and 7th grade or higher, or 7th and 8th grades only, and was not categorized above as either elementary or secondary.

**Urban fringe or large town** Urban fringe of a large or mid-size city (a place within an MSA of a mid-size central city and defined as urban by the U.S. Bureau of the Census) or a large town (a place not within an MSA, but with a population greater or equal to 25,000 and defined as urban by the U.S. Bureau of the Census).

## ***School-Associated Violent Deaths Surveillance System***

**Homicide** An act involving a killing of one person by another resulting from interpersonal violence.

**School-associated violent death** A homicide or suicide in which the fatal injury occurred on the campus of a functioning elementary or secondary school in the United States,

while the victim was on the way to or from regular sessions at such a school, or while the victim was attending or traveling to or from an official school-sponsored event. Victims included nonstudents as well as students and staff members.

**Suicide** An act of taking one's own life voluntarily and intentionally.