

National Crime Victimization Survey 50th Anniversary Event

Director's remarks as prepared for delivery

September 27, 2023

- Good morning, everyone! I'm Robert Santos, director of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- I'm so pleased to be here to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the National Crime Victimization Survey.
- Like everyone at the Census Bureau, I consider my role as director to be one of public service. We serve everyone, including you.
- We're honored and privileged to conduct this survey, which provides the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education with data they need to achieve their missions.
- The NCVS is currently the only source of annual national data on a number of important subjects, such as intimate partner violence, hate crime, workplace violence, and crime against vulnerable populations.
- And importantly, that includes instances of crime not reported to the police. Indeed, this survey is the only national vehicle we have for collecting those unreported victimizations.
- As you can imagine, conducting interviews for a complex survey instrument like the NCVS is demanding work. That's why I'm so pleased to be able to acknowledge and thank the Census Bureau field representatives who work on the NCVS—some of whom are here today, from our Philadelphia Regional Office.
- Their work is some of the hardest at our agency. And their success requires true interpersonal skill—it's like no other job I can think of.
- They are our face, the face, of the Census Bureau to the public. They stand toe-to-toe, day after day on the doorstep of a statistically representative slice of America and ask people to trust them—in this case, with what is often very personal information.
- But the product of their interactions can then become something everyone sees. And we're so proud of this decades-long partnership that has produced invaluable data on personal and household victimization in our nation.
- We're also proud to be involved in improving this survey for future iterations. It's within our grasp to build a better, stronger federal statistical system and to improve the data for our users.
- As you know, the NCVS is in the midst of an important instrument redesign—which in itself is part of a larger, multiyear effort to improve the efficiency, reliability, and utility of the survey.
- Next year, we'll coordinate with the Bureau of Justice Statistics to concurrently administer the new and current instruments through a split-sample design. We're eager to collaborate with you and look forward to overcoming all challenges that lie ahead.
- Thank you again for all your hard work on this survey. And happy anniversary to the National Crime Victimization Survey!