



Councilmember Charles Allen



Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To direct the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants to contract with an entity to conduct a biennial crime victimization survey, to establish certain criteria that a contracted entity must meet, and to establish basic parameters of the survey and a survey report to be transmitted to the Mayor and the Council.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “District of Columbia Crime Victimization Survey Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (“OVSJG”) shall contract with an entity to conduct a biennial crime victimization survey in the District.

(b) The entity that OVSJG enters into a contract with to conduct the survey must:

(1) Be nationally recognized;

(2) Have significant experience in survey research, including creating and testing survey instruments, fielding surveys through various survey modes, and securely storing and analyzing complex survey data; and

(3) Have an internal Institutional Review Board or a current contract with an external Institutional Review Board, which will be used to review the methodology of the survey

35 and to ensure that all aspects of the survey conform to applicable federal regulations on research
36 projects involving human subjects and best practices in survey research.

37 Sec. 3. (a) The crime victimization survey shall be fielded to:

38 (1) A representative sample of adults in the District; and

39 (2) An oversample of adults in the District who live in areas with high levels of
40 reported crime.

41 (b) The crime victimization survey shall include questions on the following information
42 and topics:

43 (1) Basic demographic information of the survey respondents, including age, race,
44 ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, primary language spoken,
45 educational attainment, income, occupation, and Ward of residence;

46 (2) Basic information on criminal victimization incidents experienced by survey
47 respondents within the last 12 months, including the type of crime in which the respondent was
48 victimized, any injuries sustained as a result of the incident, where the incident occurred, the
49 time of day at which the incident took place, the number of suspects involved in the incident, the
50 respondents relationship to the suspect or suspects, the use of any weapons by the suspect or
51 suspects during the incident, and the estimated cost of any property destroyed or damaged by the
52 suspects;

53 (3) Incident reporting behavior by survey respondents, including whether a
54 respondent reported any incident identified in paragraph (2) of this subsection to police, the
55 respondents' experience with the police if he or she reported the incident, and if a respondent did
56 not report the incidents to police, the reasons why a respondent did not report the incident, and
57 what alternative reporting mechanisms, if any, were used to deal with suspects;

58 (4) Actions taken by the survey respondent after the incident to address the
59 consequences of victimization, including alterations in behavior or the respondent's physical
60 environment to avoid further victimization, the use of any medical or social services by the
61 respondent, and the cost of any medical or social services used the respondent; and

62 (5) Any other information which the OVSJG believes is necessary to adequately
63 measure crime victimization and its consequences within the District.

64 (c) The crime victimization survey may be supplemented by additional data such as in-
65 depth interviews or focus groups of District residents who have been victims of crime, as deemed
66 appropriate by OVSJG.

67 Sec. 4. (a)(1) The contracted entity must submit a list of any project personnel who will
68 have access to identifiable survey data to OVSJG for approval prior to fielding the survey.

69 (2) Any alterations or additions to the list of project personnel must be approved
70 by OVSJG in writing.

71 (b)(1) A researcher may submit a written request to OVSJG and the contracted entity for
72 de-identified data for purposes of secondary analysis.

73 (2) The request must be approved by OVSJG and the contracted entity.

74 (3) The request shall be subject to any conditions deemed necessary by OVSJG
75 and the contracted entity to protect the data and ensure that respondents cannot be identified.

76 Sec. 5. (a)(1) The results and analysis of the crime victimization survey shall be
77 published in a report submitted to the Council and the Mayor and shall be made available to the
78 public in easily accessible formats.

79 (2) The report shall, at a minimum, include:

80 (A) Basic information about the methodology of the survey, including the
81 sample size, how respondents were sampled, the survey mode, and non-response reduction
82 strategies;

83 (C) Basic information about cleaning, coding, and weighting procedures
84 used on the survey data for purposes of producing the report;

85 (D) Descriptive and inferential statistics of survey data broken out by
86 respondent demographics, including crime victimization rates, crime incident characteristics,
87 crime reporting behavior, and any actions taken by the respondent after victimization; and

88 (E) Recommendations to the Mayor and Council, based on the analysis
89 provided in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, to address gaps in processes, policies, and
90 services for victims of crime in the District.

91 Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

92 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
93 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
94 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

95 Sec. 7. Effective date.

96 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
97 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
98 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
99 24, 1973, (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
100 Columbia Register.