**Chapter 11: Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data**

Your in-class, group assignment is to break into small groups and choose one of the following four options. After 1 hour, each group will report back and educate the rest of us about their research and their findings.

**First option**

This task involves selecting both

* 3 characteristics about victimization (it could be a type of crime [rape, robbery, aggravated assault, etc.], armed violence, intimate violence, stranger violence, reported violence, unreported violence, etc.) and making a conclusion trends of those victimization characteristics from 1993 to 2010.
* 3 victim characteristics [e.g., female, black,18-24 year old] and making a conclusion about the trends of violence for these groups from 1993 to 2010.

Thus, you’ll be reporting out 5 (or more if you want) items and their trends over time. To find these statistics, you need to go to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) home page. The website for this Bureau in the Department of Justice is located at: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/>. The site contains an extensive list of data, statistics and reports published by BJS for all things criminal justice. This includes courts, corrections, victimization, policing, etc. You will find the needed statistics in what are known as a “bulletins”. Bulletins are released annually and summarize victimization data from that year. To complete your secondary data analysis task, open the bulletins from 1993 and 2010.

To open 1993 you can type in this url: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/Cv93.pdf> (upper and lower case matters).

OR

From the home BJS page, hover over “publications and products” (top left hand corner) and click on “alphabetical index.” Click on the letter “c”. (Hold on, it takes a second…). Scroll down to the report titled “**Criminal Victimization, 1993: National Crime Victimization Survey**.” Click on the little open book icon to the right of this title. Click on the “Pdf” option. The report should open.

To open 2010 you can type in this url: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv10.pdf>. (upper and lower case matters).

OR

From the home BJS page, hover over “publications and products” (top left hand corner) and click on “alphabetical index.” Click on the letter “c”. (Hold on, it takes a second…). Scroll down to the report titled “**Criminal Victimization, 2010.**” Click on the little open book icon to the right of this title. Click on the “Pdf” option. The report should open.

Once open, scroll through the reports (they are relatively short) and chose your topics to report on. You should find the same info in both the 1993 and 2010 reports (with few exceptions).

Report out on:

* What is your unit of analysis? (this is a bit tricky – keep in mind the name of the survey from which this data come…vic….)
* Your findings regarding trends.
* Drawing a figure on the board and/or presenting statistics may be helpful to the audience.
* What do these findings mean to you? What may account for these similarities and differences?
* Did these findings surprise you? How?
* Are there any reliability or validity issues?
* Do they suggest policy needs?
* What would Joel Best say about this info?
* What were any problems encountered?
* What were the advantages and disadvantages of the way this research was conducted?
* What further research is needed to better understand these differences?

**Second Option**

The World Bank offers numerous resources that are useful for comparative research. In this option, please go to the World Bank Web site at [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org). Here you will find all sorts of data and statistics listed by countries. Please select a random sample of 5 countries along with 3 social indicators of your choice. From the information provided, summarize the differences and similarities you have identified between the five countries.

Report out on:

* What is your unit of analysis?
* Your findings regarding trends.
* Drawing a figure on the board and/or presenting statistics may be helpful to the audience.
* What do these findings mean to you? What may account for these similarities and differences?
* Did these findings surprise you? How?
* Are there any reliability or validity issues?
* Do they suggest policy needs?
* What would Joel Best say about this info?
* What were any problems encountered?
* What were the advantages and disadvantages of the way this research was conducted?
* What further research is needed to better understand these differences?

**Third Option**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides extensive economic indicator data on the Web for regions, states, and cities. Go to the BLS Web page, which offers statistics by location: http://stats.bls.gov/eag/. Click on four states and find the Dec 2011 unemployment rate statistics for each. Now find the 2001 unemployment rates for each state. How do the four states compare?

Report out on:

* What is your unit of analysis?
* Your findings regarding trends.
* Drawing a figure on the board and/or presenting statistics may be helpful to the audience.
* What do these findings mean to you? What may account for these similarities and differences?
* Did these findings surprise you? How?
* Are there any reliability or validity issues?
* Do they suggest policy needs?
* What would Joel Best say about this info?
* What were any problems encountered?
* What were the advantages and disadvantages of the way this research was conducted?
* What further research is needed to better understand these differences?

**Fourth Option**

The website <http://www.city-data.com/> offers many statistics from numerous sources about every city in the US. Even tiny cities. This website is also useful for comparative research using secondary data. In this option, please select a random sample of 5 cities along with 5 social indicators of your choice. From the information provided, summarize the differences and similarities you have identified between the five cities.

Report out on:

* What is your unit of analysis?
* Your findings regarding trends.
* Drawing a figure on the board and/or presenting statistics may be helpful to the audience.
* What do these findings mean to you? What may account for these similarities and differences?
* Did these findings surprise you? How?
* Are there any reliability or validity issues?
* Do they suggest policy needs?
* What would Joel Best say about this info?
* What were any problems encountered?
* What were the advantages and disadvantages of the way this research was conducted?
* What further research is needed to better understand these differences?