**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.

**Group 1:**

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 2000 to 2019.
* 3 victim characteristics [e.g., female, black, 18-24 year old] and making a conclusion about the trends of violence for these groups from 2000 to 2019.

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: <https://www.bjs.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 victimization 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 2000 and 2019.

To open the 2019 bulletin go to this url: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv19.pdf>. If you want to open the 2010 bulletin, go to this url: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv10.pdf>. If you want one from the 2000 bulletin, go here: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv00.pdf>. You should see a pattern here. ☺

Be sure to report out this information:

* 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 (estimates over time)
* 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?

**Group 2:**

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 5 countries along with 3 social indicators of your choice to report out on. From the information provided, summarize the differences and similarities on the social indicators you have identified among the five countries.

Report out on:

* What is your unit of analysis?
* What do you learn about these social indicators in terms of trends?
* What do these findings mean to you? What may account for these similarities and differences among the countries?
* 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?

**Group 3:**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides extensive economic indicator data on the Web for regions, states, and cities in the United States. Go to the BLS Web page, which offers statistics by location: http://stats.bls.gov/eag/. Click on four states and find the September 2020 unemployment rate statistics for each state. Now find the 2015 unemployment rates for each state (use ‘back data’ and you may have to estimate based on a figure). How do the four states compare?

Report out on:

* What is your unit of analysis?
* Your findings regarding trends.
* 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?

**Group 4:**

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 current 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.
* 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?