



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



# **VICTIMIZATION SURVEY IN KENYA**

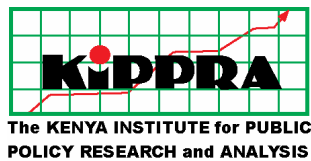
## **Executive summary**

**April 2010**

The UNODC initiative *Data for Africa* has the overall objective to improve the knowledge of drugs and crime problems in Africa, by strengthening the capacity of African countries to collect and analyse data and trends in drugs, crime and victimization.

This report presents the results of a victimization survey carried out within the framework of the UN Development Account project 06/07R *Collection and analysis of data and trends on drugs, crime and victimization in Africa*.

<http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/projects/2006/0607R.html>



The victimization survey in Kenya was carried out by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

This report and other Data for Africa publications can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/Data-for-Africa.html>

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This report summarizes the major findings of the crime victimization survey carried out in Kenya in early 2010. The survey had national coverage and targeted a sample of approximately 3,000 households.

## Rate of victimization

Table 1 indicates that livestock owners reported 201 cases of theft of cattle/animals in the year preceding the survey, that is, 13 per cent of households owning livestock. Car owners, who were frequently victims of theft of items from motor vehicles (22 per cent), also reported 29 cases of car hijackings (9 per cent). Car vandalism registered 5 per cent, while theft of car was less than 1 per cent and theft of motorcycle and bicycle affected 5 and 4 per cent of owners, respectively. Respondents reported 186 cases of burglary and 110 cases of attempted burglary (6 and 4 per cent, respectively).

At the individual level, 10 per cent of respondents experienced personal thefts, 5 per cent were victims assault/threat and 4 per cent of robbery. More than one fifth of respondents (22 per cent) were victims of consumer fraud, that is, they were cheated when buying something or requesting services. Fifteen per cent were victims of corruption, that is, they were asked to pay a bribe to a public official. With regard to sexual offences, only 42 cases were reported, resulting in a very low prevalence rate (1.4 per cent, the lowest at the individual level). Since this the question was addressed to both men and women, the low number of victims may indicate some reluctance to disclose this type of incidents.

**Table 1 – Prevalence of victimization during the year preceding the survey (2009)**

Type of crime	Frequency			Percentage (total)
Household crimes	Urban	Rural	Total	
Theft of car	2	-	2	0.6 <sup>1</sup>
Car hijacking	22	7	29	9.0 <sup>1</sup>
Theft from car	50	17	67	20.7 <sup>1</sup>
Car vandalism	15	2	17	5.3 <sup>1</sup>
Theft of motorcycle	3	3	6	4.5 <sup>2</sup>
Theft of bicycle	19	24	43	4.0 <sup>3</sup>
Theft of livestock	62	139	201	12.9 <sup>4</sup>
Burglary with entry	94	92	186	6.3
Attempted burglary	57	53	110	3.7
Crimes against the individual respondent	Urban	Rural	Total	
Robbery	76	34	110	3.7
Personal theft	167	142	309	10.4
Sexual offences	18	24	42	1.4
Assault / threat	65	86	151	5.1
Consumer fraud	331	317	648	21.9
Corruption	246	210	456	15.4

<sup>1</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (323)

<sup>2</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a motor cycle (134)

<sup>3</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a bicycle (1085)

<sup>4</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning livestock (1556)

Respondents living in urban areas were more frequently victims of car-related crimes, while those in rural areas were more exposed to the risk of theft of livestock, sexual offences and assaults. Most types of crime occurred with similar frequency in urban and rural areas.

## Experiences of victims in reporting to authorities

Victims of crime were asked whether they reported to the relevant authorities. Table 2 shows that theft of motor vehicle was the most frequently reported crime, with 94 per cent of cases reported to the police. Other vehicle-related crimes were also frequently reported (car hijacking 65 per cent, theft of motorcycle 78 per cent and theft of bicycle 46 per cent). Much lower percentages of any other types of crimes were reported to the police, with corruption recording the lowest reporting rate with less than 1 per cent of cases reported.

As regards crimes reported to authorities other than the police, this mostly took place with “contact” crimes such as assault, robbery and sexual offences (9, 8 and 6 per cent, respectively). Eight per cent of cases of theft of objects from vehicles and 4 per cent of car hijackings were also reported to other authorities. Finally, many more victims of corruption reported to other authorities, compared to the police.

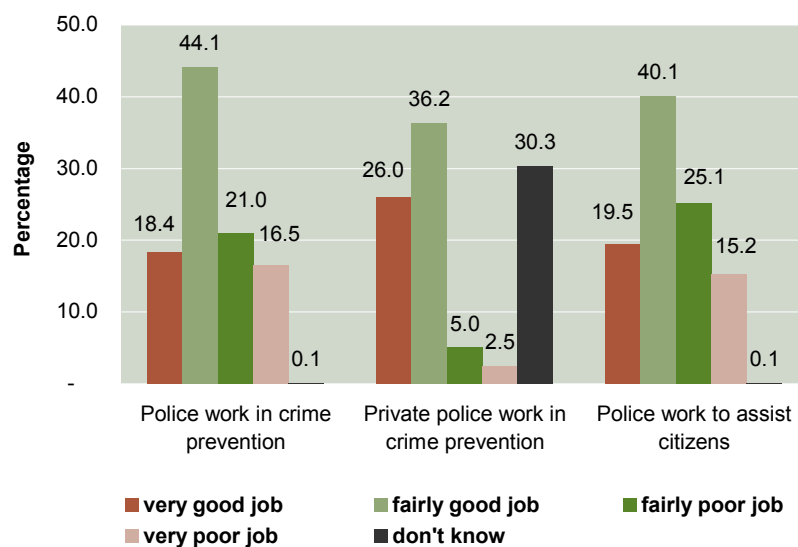
**Table 2– Percentage of victims who reported crimes to the police or other authorities**

Type of crime	% reported to the police	% reported to other authorities
Theft of car	93.8	-
Car hijacking	64.7	3.5
Theft from car	24.1	8.3
Car vandalism	37.8	-
Theft of motorcycle	77.8	-
Theft of bicycle	45.5	-
Theft of livestock	21.7	-
Burglary with entry	38.2	-
Attempted burglary	18.4	-
Robbery	33.7	8.0
Personal theft	11.1	-
Sexual offences	19.7	5.9
Assault / threat	21.3	9.4
Consumer fraud	2.8	1.8
Corruption	0.9	1.3

## Opinions about police work

Almost two thirds of the respondents affirmed that the police are doing either a fairly good job (44 per cent) or a very good job (18 per cent). On the other hand, 21 per cent and 17 per cent were of the opinion that the police are doing a fairly poor or a very poor job, respectively. A similar proportion of the respondents rated private security as very good (26 per cent) or fairly good (36 per cent), while only 8 per cent rated private security as doing a fairly poor or very poor job. Approximately one third of respondents (30 per cent) preferred not to express their opinion on the performance of private police. However, there was strong support for private security, with 90 per cent of respondents agreeing that increased use of private security was a good development.

**Figure 1: Opinion about police work in preventing and controlling crime and assisting citizens**

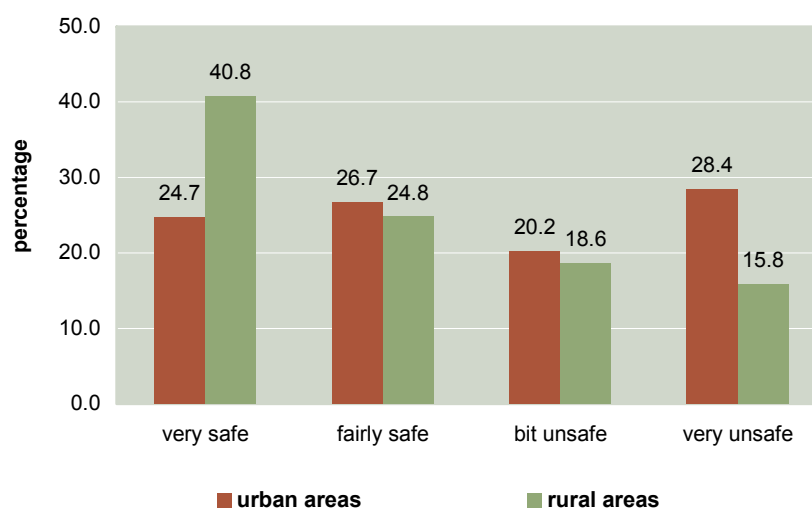


Respondents were also asked their opinion on how helpful the police are in assisting them. Figure 1 shows that 60 per cent of respondents agreed that the police are helpful to them. Nevertheless, 40 per cent disagreed that the police were helpful, with 15 per cent fully disagreeing.

## Fear of crime

Feelings of lack of safety may relate to fear of crime and insecurity and may be determined by the area where the respondents live. Indeed, a difference between urban and rural areas was observed (Figures 2 and 3). On average, the majority of respondents felt either very safe or fairly safe after dark, either in walking in their neighbourhood (61 per cent) or at home (76 per cent).

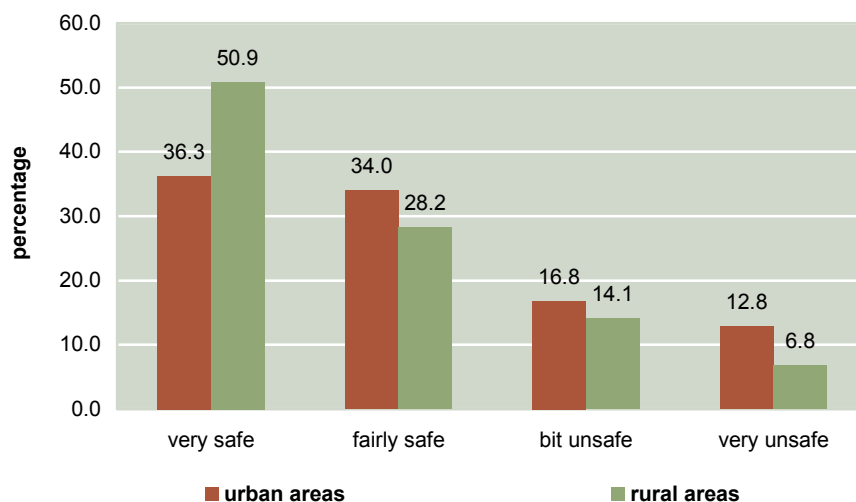
**Figure 2: Feelings of safety in the street after dark in urban and rural areas**



However, those living in rural areas felt much safer than those in urban contexts. Figure 2 shows that those who felt either very safe or fairly safe walking in their neighbourhood after night were approximately one-third of those living in urban areas compared to two-thirds of

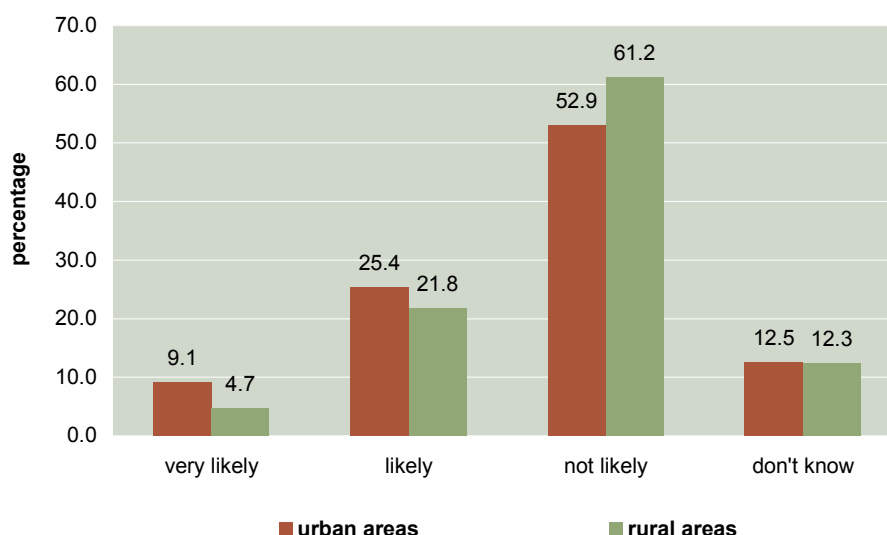
those living in rural areas. As regards staying home alone after dark (Figure 3), 70% of both urban and rural respondents felt either very safe or fairly safe, but the majority of those in rural areas had no doubts in indicating they felt very safe.

**Figure 3: Feelings of safety at home after dark in urban and rural areas**



Regarding the likelihood that a specific crime would occur to them in the near future, respondents were asked their opinion of the possibility that a burglar would break into their homes in the next twelve months. On average, the majority of respondents did not think that this would be likely. Figure 4 shows that, in particular, respondents from rural areas were those who showed less concern about this scenario (61 per cent). Among those living in urban areas, a third admitted that a burglary was likely or very likely. Some 13 per cent did not have an opinion about this matter, either in urban or rural areas.

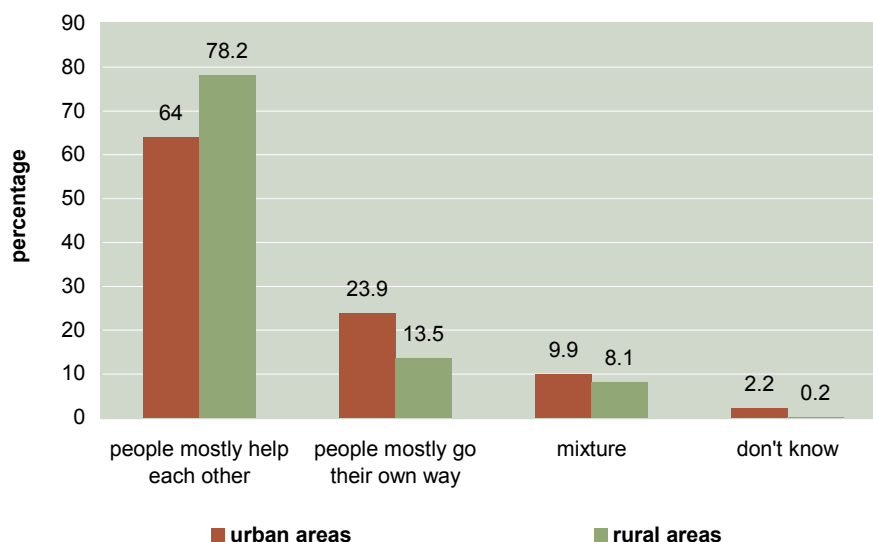
**Figure 4: Likelihood of becoming victims of burglary in urban and rural areas**



The perception of the majority of respondents was that they were living in areas or neighbourhoods where people mostly help each other (Figure 5). This was particularly evident in rural areas (78 per cent compared to 64 per cent in rural areas). On the contrary,

those who stated that people in their neighbourhood mostly go their own way were approximately a quarter of respondents in urban areas (24 per cent ), i.e. almost twice the number of those with the same opinion in rural areas).

**Figure 5: People help each other in the respondents' neighbourhood**



## Crime prevention measures

**Table 3 – Crime prevention measures at the household level**

Prevention measures	% of respondents using prevention measures
Installed burglar alarm	3.0
A formal neighbourhood watch scheme	5.6
Special door locks	23.5
Special window/door grilles	22.9
A dog that would detect a burglar	25.4
A high fence	20.0
A caretaker or security guard	10.3
Friendly arrangements with neighbours to watch each others houses	33.3
Other	4.9
None	10.3

As illustrated in Table 3, survey respondents make little use of measures to protect their households from crime. The most frequently reported precaution (33 per cent) was to make friendly arrangements with neighbours to watch for each others houses. Approximately a quarter of respondents had either special door locks (24 per cent), special grilles at windows or doors (23 per cent) or a dog to deter burglars (25 per cent), and 20 per cent had their houses protected by high fences.

Formal arrangements for crime prevention were used by 16 per cent in total: ten per cent reported having a security guard and 6 per cent were part of a formal neighbourhood watch scheme. Only 3 per cent of respondents mentioned installing burglar alarms. Some 10 per cent



were not protected by any measures, while 5 per cent said they were using other protection methods, such as ordinary door locks.

## Attitudes of respondents towards punishment

Respondents were asked which was their opinion about the appropriate sentence for a young burglar who had stolen a colour TV for the second time. Table 4 shows that the majority of respondents (61 per cent) believed that the appropriate type of punishment was imprisonment, followed by those who were in favour of monetary fines or community service (10 and 9 per cent of respondents, respectively).

As regards the length of the sentence, 50 per cent of those favouring imprisonment were of the opinion that it should be between one and five years, and 12 per cent said between 6 and 10 years. Ten per cent would prescribe the shortest period of less than six months. On the side of harsher punishment, life sentence was considered the appropriate measure by 11 per cent of respondents.

**Table 4 – Attitudes toward punishment**

Type of punishment	Count	% of respondents
Fine	303	10.2
Prison	1819	61.4
Community service	255	8.6
Suspended sentence	60	2
Any other sentence	125	4.2
Don't know	45	1.5
<b>Length of prison sentence:</b>		
Less than 6 months	183	10.0
Between 6 months and 1 year	128	7.0
1 to 5 years	909	49.9
6 to 10 years	216	11.9
11 to 15 years	26	1.4
16 to 19 years	5	0.3
More than 20 years	48	2.6
Life sentence	194	10.6
Don't know	113	6.2

## Methodology and sample description

### Sample design

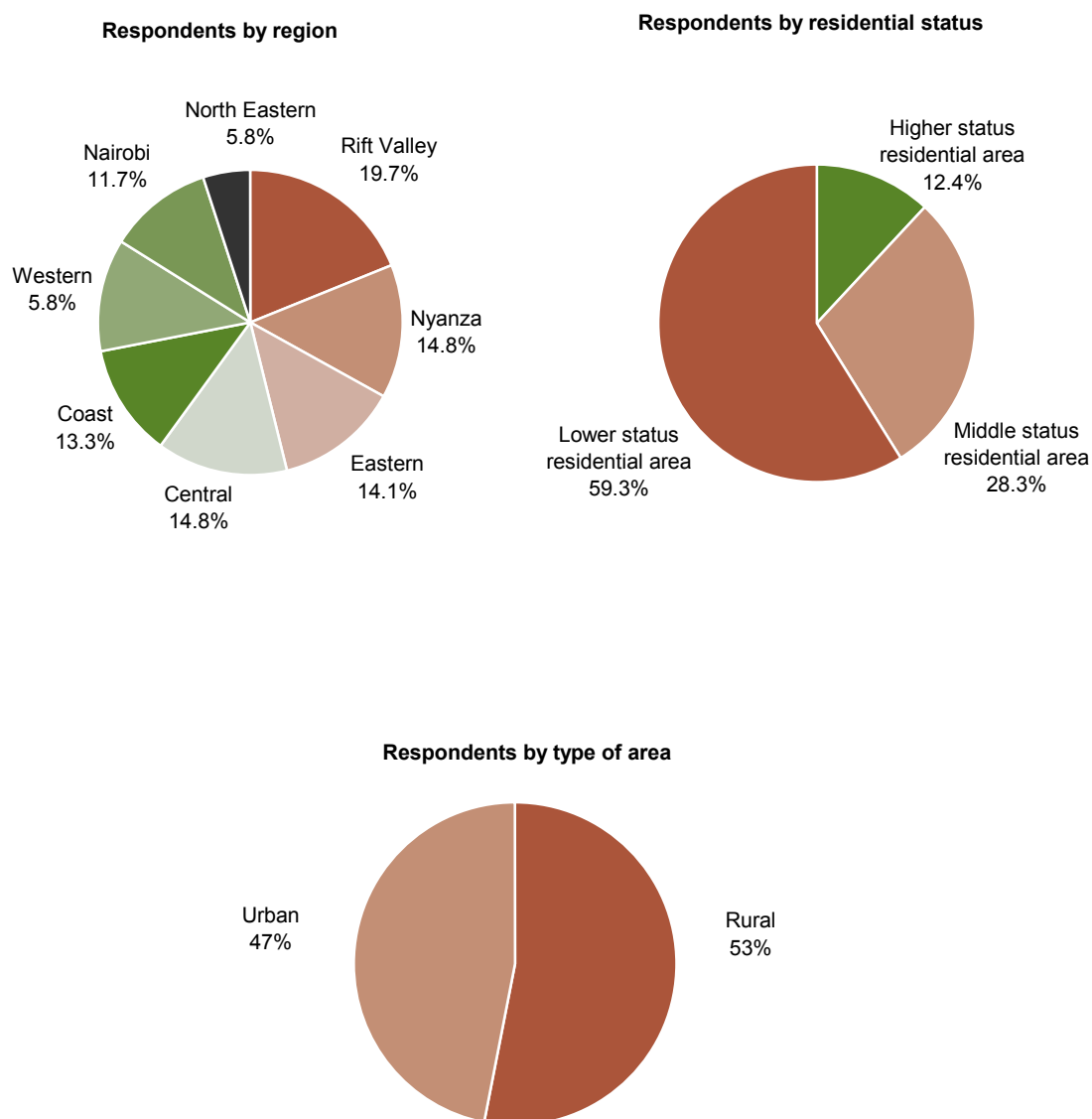
The 2010 Crime Victimization Survey was held in urban and rural areas in Kenya. The survey had national coverage with a sample of approximately 3,000 households (47% in urban areas and 53% in rural areas, see Figure 6). Due to cost consideration, the districts were purposefully selected but clusters and households were randomly selected.

The regional distribution shows that 19% of the sample was located in Rift Valley, followed by Central and Nyanza (14% each), Eastern 13%, Coast and Western (12%) each, Nairobi (11%) and North Eastern (5%).



The majority (59%) of the respondents lived in lower status residential areas, while slightly more than a quarter (29%) were in middle status residential areas and only 12% were found in higher status residential areas.

**Figure 6 Distribution of respondents by region, residential status and survey area**



### Age and sex of respondents

As regards the distribution by sex, Figure 7 indicates that 60% of the respondents were female and the 40% were male. In total, more than half of the respondents were in the age bracket 20-39 years (29% in age group 20-29 years and 27% in the 30-39 years age group). Approximately a quarter of the respondents were between age 40 and 59, while 13% were older. Those in the age group 16-19 years constituted only 5 percent.

**Figure 7 Distribution of respondents by sex and age**

