Repeat Victimization

Why is repeat victimization important?
Several studies have found that:
- Repeat victimization is a fairly common occurrence
- Repeat victimization is one of the best predictors of future victimization

There are three types of repeat victimization:
- Single Offense Repeat-where victims are repeatedly victimized for the same offense
- Multi-Victimization-where victims are repeatedly victimized for all offenses
- Near-RepeatVictimization-where areas and locations are treated as victims for the purpose of studying the geo-spatial aspect of victimization

The Dataset

CPSI was granted access to a victimization database. This dataset spans from 2005 to 2011, and draws from all of the reports filed during that period.

The dataset is comprised of:
- 192,889 reports of victimization
- 119,633 individuals
- 161 variables used to describe each crime and victim, including age, race, ethnicity, date of birth, crime type, etc.
- Data on the geo-spatial location of the crime

Methods

- Victims were identified and assigned unique identification numbers based on Last name, the initial of their first name and date of birth.
- Unique IDs were aggregated in order to generate a Victimization count, which documents the number of times the victim appears in the dataset.
- Examine the distribution of the victimization count in the database. How many victims were victimized once? How many were victimized twice?
- Examine individual cases of victimization. What can these tell us that a simple look at the distribution cannot?

Questions for Further Study

- Are there statistically significant differences between males and females when it comes to repeat victimization?
- Between races? Ethnicities? Age groups?
- Are there accurate predictors of repeat victimization other than past victimization?
- Are there certain crimes that people are more likely to be repeat victims of?
- Do victims of violent crime have greater odds of repeat victimization than victims of non-violent crime?
- Can potential repeat victims be identified before they become repeat victims? If so, can repeat victimization be prevented?

For more information, visit the following websites:
RIT Center for Public Safety Initiatives
www.rit.edu/cla/cps/

POPcenter: Analyzing Repeat Victimization
http://www.popcenter.org/tools/repeat_victimization/