

The Swedish School Survey on Crime

Cognitive testing of the questionnaire



Agenda

- Background of the survey
- Questions included in the survey
- Problems in self-declaration surveys
- Tests conducted on the questionnaire
- Changes made in the questionnaire

Background of the survey

- Nine data collections between 1995–2015
- Main purpose: to study exposure to crime and participation in crime and other risk behaviours among 9th grade students (15 years old)
- 84 % of the selected students in the 224 participating schools answered the questionnaire
- Number of participating students (n): 4 659
- Survey administered by the teachers

Questions included in the survey

- **Exposure to crime**
 - Theft
 - Assault
 - Threat
 - Robbery
 - Sexual offences
 - Violations made online
 - Bullying
 - Hate crimes
- **Participation in crime**
 - Theft
 - Assault
 - Vandalism
 - Drug use
 - Other criminal behaviours
 - Other risk behaviours

Problems in self-declaration surveys

- Under-reporting
- Over-reporting
- How do students interpret the questions, what do they include in their interpretations?

Revision and tests conducted on the questionnaire

- Revision of the questionnaire in several steps
- The tests of the questionnaire were conducted in two steps:
 - 1) Expert review
 - 2) Cognitive interviews

Changes made in the questionnaire

- Linguistic changes
- New answering options to some questions
- A new set of questions were added, and some questions were removed
- New, clear structure

The Swedish School Survey on Crime

Anna Frenzel

Researcher at The Swedish
National Council for Crime
Prevention

anna.frenzel@bra.se