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