Measuring Crime Victimization

[Name of the Writer]

[Name of the Institution]

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* **What source of crime reporting data do you feel is the most important to researchers? Explain why.**

**Sources of Crime Reporting**

Several sources of crime reporting data exist. All of them have been found accurate and reliable but not fully fine from every aspect. According to (Levitt, 1998), Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) has been found the most important for every researcher involved in the crime researches. The Uniform Crime Reports is the most crucial and important because it helps researchers to know and study all crimes that are known to law and police department etc. The UCR uses numerous ways of measuring criminal behaviors nature of crimes on both small and large level.

This source has been considered as the most important for researchers because it examines the reports the reasonableness, accuracy and several deviations which might indicate issues and errors with focusing on changes and modifications (Levitt, 1998). This source is the most important due to the reason that it provides fully detailed and comprehensive information to researchers about crimes or criminal incidents.

* **What method of collecting crime data do you feel is the most accurate? Explain your reasoning.**

**Most Accurate Methods**

All methods of collecting crime data are efficient and provide high quality and accurate data and information, but they also have possible issues too. According to my personal findings, Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is the most accurate method of collecting crime data. This method is the most accurate because;

* It gathers information about all crimes which are reported to law and concerned departments. The method eliminates the general survey and analysis that create issues or problems for researchers.
* This method provides fully new, modified and updated data about all existing and new crimes occurred through analyzing updated records and reports even on a monthly basis (Baklin, 2008).
* It presents crime counts of the nation as a whole as well as for states, regions, towns, cities, and institutes such as schools, colleges and universities. Hence, this method make the research and study very easy and simpler.
* It has been found the most accurate methods because most (even all) law agencies are switching to use this method instead of others available.
* **What significant challenges do you think exist with regard to crime reporting? Explain.**

**Major and Significant Challenges**

A number of challenges exist with regard to crime reporting. These challenges exist in many areas, but the most crucial ones are the challenges in measurements which are;

* **Reporting Reliability and Improvements:** Simple assessments of characteristics exist which do not lead fully advanced and reliable crime reporting while additional focus on reliability improvement is required (Skogan, 1998).
* **Impacts of Self-administration:** Needs to study and understand the impacts of self-administration on reporting errors in collecting crime data or survey of crime (John, Pepper, & Carol, 2013).
* **Response Issues and Challenges:** Fully systematic analysis of self and official data is required while departments lack it in crime reporting.

**How do you think these challenges can be overcome? Explain**

There are many ways through which the above mentioned challenges can be overcome but the most reliable and fully realistic ones are below.

* The researchers and all concerned bodies or departments should focus to bring improvement in the process of measuring crimes and information.
* The challenge of impact of self-administration can be overcome if self-report in longitudinal studies has been used. Especially those that cover main parts of the life course (John, Pepper, & Carol, 2013).
* The adaptation of fully advanced and systemic approaches & tools for analyzing one’s self and official data, can reduce and even eliminate the response challenge.

**References**

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