

## PART B

# Crime Victimisation Survey

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### **Introduction to the Research Process**

The most pressing operational requirement in Malta refers to that issue which concentrates on the need to have realistic figures of crime and victimisation, as conducted by youth and older offenders. Such a study could be carried out through a research based on the Crime Victimisation Survey or the Dark Figure of Crime survey, which survey would enable policy makers and decision-makers to have a base on which to draft policies, enact changes to legislation and instigate change.

A large proportion of crime is not reported to the Police resulting in the realisation that absolute figures of crime will never be known. Hyatt and Holzman (1999, p.7) indicate that less than 50% of violent crimes are reported, a figure that has stayed fairly constant over the years enabling the generation of realistic estimates of the actual incidence of serious offences. Figures have remained constant in victimisation studies conducted since 1970 in the FBI's UCR<sup>9</sup> Part I Crime US. Crimes go unreported mainly for 3 reasons (Mayhew, Maung and Mirrlees-Black, 1993, p.viii-ix): i) they are seen as too trivial by the victim even if serious; ii) questionable police response together with the intricacies of the victim-offender relationship, and; iii) the feeling that the police could not or would not want to deal with the offences. The dark figure of crime can be cause for concern considering that these types of crime are the ones victims would be expected to report, especially where repeat victimisation is concerned.

In the United Kingdom, similar research activities include the British Crime Survey, Local Crime Surveys and Longitudinal Research. The first British Crime Survey published in 1983 showed that in the case of violent crime only one in five offences were reported and one in four in the case of property loss or damage (Zedner, 1997, p.580-581). Such figures lead one to query what the figures for less dangerous crimes would be.

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<sup>9</sup> UCR – Uniform Crime Report

Should one carry out a cross-country analysis, the only issue that needs to be highlighted concerns the dark figure of crime within each reporting country which can vary considerably by country or group of countries; such as the 37% of violent crime as reported in Western Europe and 24% in Eastern Europe as against 65% and 44% respectively for property crime and 50% and 33% respectively for other crime (Alvazzi del Frate and Van Kesteren, 2004; Van Kesteren, Mayhew and Niuwbeerta, 2000). The British Crime Survey also reports that out of 11 million offences in 1981 less than 3 million were reported; as against 1.1m and 5.6m respectively for 2005/2006 (Jansson, 2007).

The first run of the Crime Victimization Survey in Malta took place in 1996. This was run under the auspices of UNICRI. A total of 1000 face-to-face interviews were conducted by 10 interviewees. The survey was financed by the Ministry for Social Policy. It was run by the Institute of Forensic Studies, within the University of Malta. Unfortunately the results of this survey were never published. The aim of these surveys are twofold. Primarily it is to have comparable international crime data, however another objective is to be able to compare official police data with the data that the crime victimization survey finds. This is a way of discovering the dark figure of crime.

The 1996 survey was followed in 2009 by an in-situ crime victimization survey in Dingli. This was a small-scale survey, where 300 one-to-one questionnaires were conducted, the results of which were published in 2010 (Azzopardi, Formosa, Scicluna, 2010a; 2010b).

Another survey, based on a digital setup was termed the MEPA employee Dark Figure of Crime Survey<sup>10</sup>. The survey was distributed to 300 MEPA employees as a controlled case study where employees were asked to report any crimes over 5 years and whether they filed reports to Police. However, both the sample and the reply rate was too low to enable reliable analysis and the author decided that it would not be included, though the framework is now ready for a larger run post this-study (Formosa, 2007).

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<sup>10</sup> *Dark Figure of Crime: Crime Reporting Survey was programmed in Lotus Notes by the Applications and Software Development Manager within the ICT Unit at MEPA and results were exported to .csv format. The survey was sent to employees as an email, which triggered the interface and respondents filled in available fields that were sent to the backend database for eventual export. 75 respondents (25%) filled in the survey, with the rest stating that they did not send it in as no crime was experienced in the period under study 2000-2005.*

An EU-wide project proposal entitled “Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on safety from crime” was not approved and such a survey planned for 2013 did not materialize (European Commission, 2011). The project’s aim that targeting the comparability of the results on safety from crime at EU level which will contribute to evidence based policy making, was based on the implementation of various process as follows:

- i) Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012, Title IV. Visas, asylum, immigration and other policies related to free movement of persons;
- ii) The European Council the Stockholm Programme (An open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens), OJ C 115, 4.5.2010, p.1;
- iii) The Commission Action Plan 2006-2010 on measuring crime and criminal justice, COM (2006) 0437.

In 2015, the UNICRI crime victimization survey, together with the Dingli survey were used to draw up a new national crime victimization survey.

## **Methodology**

The Survey was administered in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2015 and was structured as follows:

### ***Scope***

The scope of this survey was to understand the public’s perception of crime and safety through the identification of victimisation. The Crime Victimization Survey was held by the Department of Criminology within the Faculty of Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta. This survey formed part of the ESF 3.234 LEAP! Project - Building the future together: promoting social mobility.

The result of this survey is composed of a research document on crime victimisation that outlines the realities on the victimisation with special focus on juvenile offender/victimisation and the national readiness for the establishment of a secure college.

### ***Structure***

The tenderer was required to interview 1000 persons who were asked a series of questions categorised into 1 section comprised of 3 background information sections, 13 crime related sections and 1 locality related section. The survey had been drafted by the Department of Criminology as attached in the Maltese and English versions (Appendix B2 and B3). The tenderer was required to format the survey to facilitate the interview process.

### ***Target Population***

The target population was construed of a 1000 completed interviews. It was imperative that each interview was completed to ensure validity and reliability. The target population was spread across the localities and age groups to ensure national coverage.

### ***List of Interviewees***

The Department of Criminology issued a sample list of interviewees who were chosen for this survey. The list included the 1000 interviewees (one per household identified) and where the listed person was not available the next person over 18 years of age with the closest birthday was to be chosen. Where no one responded to the interview, a second list was supplied by the Department of Criminology.

The contractor had to contact the interviewees prior to the interviews to ensure survey uptake. It was the responsibility of the contractor to identify the phone numbers pertaining to the interviewees in order to pre-advise, fix-appointment and arrange logistics.

Interviews were conducted in the person's residence. Interviewers needed to issue a number where the interviewees could phone to check (Appendix B3 and B4). A psychologist needed to be available in case of need.

### ***Contractor to Print Surveys***

Contractor was to ensure that the surveys are printed and issues to all interviewers. It is envisaged that digital input is not used during the interview to ensure interviewee responses and reduction of a situation where interviewees may perceive the device as audio/video recording the session.

### ***Data Inputting***

It was deemed imperative that double inputting of the data (interviews marked on paper and data is to be inputted in duplicate to ensure verification).

### ***Timelines***

1,000 completed interviews were conducted between September and October 2015.

The survey was conducted by Informa Consultants, which entity ran the survey through a tendering process (Appendix B4 and B5), which process enabled the 2015 survey to be conducted.

### ***Survey Structure***

The Survey incorporated three parts. Part one dealt with information about the individual's background. This was followed by the main part of the research that asked about crime victimization during 2014. The final part asked about perception of safety and juvenile justice in Malta. The questionnaire was divided into 17 sections as follows.

#### **Section A**

Information about the interviewer.

#### **Section B**

Questions about the interviewee, his/her family and the place they live in. Questions covered the following areas: education level, work and cultural participation. We also asked a number of questions about the social networks that the interviewees had.

#### **Section C**

This is a preliminary question about crime, aimed at setting the stage for sections D to Q, which are specifically on crime victimisation.

Section D: Crimes related to vehicles, ownership of cars	D1
Section E: Theft of cars/vans/trucks	E1
Section F: Theft from cars/vans/trucks	F1
Section G: Vandalism to cars/vans/trucks	G1
Section H: Theft of mopeds, motor scooter or bicycle	H1
Section I: Burglary	I1
Section J: Attempted Burglary	J1
Section K: Robbery	K1
Section L: Personal Thefts	L1
Section M: Sexual Offences	M1
Section N: Assaults/Threats	N1
Section O: Consumer Fraud	O1
Section P: Corruption	P1
Section Q: All interviewees – On Children	Q1
Section Z: All interviewees – General information	Z1

The final two sections pertained to all interviewees, which covered information on Children and punishment as well as Generic Information: (Section Q: All interviewees – On Children and Punishment) and (Section Z: All interviewees - General Information).

The survey was drawn up to target various aims. On the one hand we needed to know how much crime was occurring and not being reported. On the other hand we also needed to know which types of crimes were not being reported, where they occurred and whether the perpetrator was known to the victim. A special emphasis was made on crime perpetrated by the young. Therefore questions addressed, in an indirect way, problems of family violence and violence perpetrated by children. These were necessary to try to gauge the extent of violence committed by children on their parents. In the final section we also asked about punishment of youth and whether there were adequate structures to address problems the problem of control of the young.

### **Conducting the Survey**

After drawing up the survey in Maltese, it was translated into English (Appendix C). The survey was tendered out to a private firm.

The interviewing firm was given four samples of a 1000 addresses each. The interviewers would phone the prospective interviewee and ask to speak to the person who had the next birthday and was over 18 years living in the household. Once identified an appointment would be set up for the face-to-face interview. The interviewers would pass on to the next sample list if the person refused to answer the questionnaire. Once the lists were exhausted, the interviewers had the instruction to move four doors to the left and knock on that door and ask to interview the person over 18 who had the next birthday. This procedure would go on until 1000 interviews were conducted.

From the feedback we received from the interviewers it seemed that there was a general reluctance to participate in the survey. The four samples were exhausted and the interviewers had to resort to door knocking to complete the sample. However those who did agree to participate showed a willingness to participate and the feelings that the interviewers got was that on the whole, people were sincere in their answers. The vast majority of people interviewed in fact were very cooperative and motivated to participate in the survey.

### ***The Interviewers***

The interviews were carried out by Informa's trained and experienced interviewers. All interviewers will be thoroughly briefed on the questionnaire and the process to be adopted in the fieldwork stage, during a briefing session at Informa's offices. A detailed explanation of the questionnaire was given, elaborating on each question accordingly and allowing for any queries to be discussed and clarified accordingly.

### ***Sampling Process***

A random sample of 1000 persons was extracted by the Department of Criminology, together with an additional 3 back-up lists which would cater for refusals and unsuccessful contacts. Interviewers were instructed to contact the person on the initial list in order to establish an appointment to carry out the interview. In cases when the person was not available, the survey was attempted with another person in that household, using a random approach by asking for the person who has his/her birthday next. When the attempt resulted in a refusal or for other reasons the attempt was unsuccessful, the interviewer resorted to the back-up lists to carry out the interview. In the event that the back-up contacts were also unsuccessful, interviewers were instructed to select another household in that street, using a random approach by knocking on every 4th door.

This ensured that a total of 1,000 net respondents were interviewed, particularly given the restricted timeframe allocated for fieldwork. Should the methodology have required the interviews to be carried out strictly with the sample lists provided this would have required a considerably longer timeframe to be allocated for data collection since one would have to cater for a number of revisits to successfully fix the appointment and carry out the interviews accordingly.

The nature of the survey also posed a significant challenge to interviewers, particularly due to the recent media coverage on thefts and crimes around the island. In order to cater for this issue and minimize as far as possible the lack of cooperation from the interviewees, the respondents were supplied with a letter from the University of Malta which explained and authenticated the survey. This was substantiated with contact telephone numbers of both the University of Malta as well as of Informa Consultants, which allowed respondents to verify the authenticity of the survey when they felt it necessary.



Throughout the course of the study, interviews were also instructed to notify Informa Consultants immediately of any cases where they felt that the need of a psychologist / professional services was required.

Once the survey was completed, the respondents were also asked to supply their contact number which was to be used for back-checking purposes, in order to verify that the quality of the surveys. Nevertheless, respondents were assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of the survey.

Upon completion of the interviews, all questionnaires were inputted using SNAP Surveys software utilized by Informa Consultants and collated for analysis purposes. Data was checked and cleaned accordingly prior to exporting the data file for use within the SPSS software.

### **The Analysis**

The analysis of the CVS is a quantitative analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences – Version 20 (SPSS). All 1000 questionnaires were inputted in the SPSS software and through the process of analysis descriptive statistics were issued. All sections on crime data were analysed for frequency. Some data was cross tabulated with socio-economic data.

### **The Findings**

#### ***An overview of the results of the Crime Victimization Survey***

This is an overview of the preliminary results of the crime victimization survey carried out in September 2015 with 1000 respondents.

#### ***Characteristics of respondents***

Respondents were randomly chosen to represent the Maltese society, therefore, since the research participants do not live in a socio-cultural vacuum, a brief description of the culture that animates the Maltese and Gozitan way of life, might prove useful. The Maltese archipelago consists of three main islands, namely: Malta, Gozo and Comino – together with a number of islets that include: Cominotto, St Paul's islands and Filfla. Malta

and Gozo are the main islands, Malta being the bigger of the two, with a population of circa 425, 384 and Gozo follows, with a population of about 31,446 (NSO, 2015). For this reason, this research focused on these two sister islands.

Over the years, the history of a country weaves away at the socio-cultural fabric of the society it houses. It could be considered as the maker of the cultural cradle into which, the participants of this research were born. The country, or rather, the two islands under focus in this research are: Malta and Gozo. Geographically, they practically share the same central spot in the Mediterranean, about 120 kilometres away from Sicily (which is 80 times bigger than Malta) (Azzopardi, Scicluna, Formosa Pace & Formosa, 2013). The Maltese and Gozitans are expected to speak two languages: Maltese and English (Maltese is the national language whereas English is the official language). Their bi-lingualism is the direct result of having been a British colony until the 21st of September, 1964, when the Maltese archipelago was granted independence.

Even a cursory look at Maltese history would quickly show how their strategic geographical position, I actually placed the Maltese islands in jeopardy, at the mercy of: pirates, brigands, ruthless invaders and, in World War II, the forces of the Axis (particularly Nazi Germany and Musolini's Italy). As a result, after World War II, the war-thorn Malta and Gozo had to literally rise from their ashes...and they did. Today, Malta and Gozo are considered as two budding, modern islands – and are referred to, generally as just: “Malta”. In addition, one would assume that the life-styles of the Maltese are influenced, almost uniformly, by one homogeneous culture: the Mediterranean culture. However, one could be wrong in assuming that Malta and Gozo/that the Maltese and the Gozitans are so similar, that they are practically the same.

Zammit (2009, p. 303) explains that “society exists within a specific physical space and, therefore, within a specific environment... social relationships involve the physical context in which they occur... culture includes every product of society, both material [tangible objects] and non-material [ideas, belief systems, traditions, language and politics]”. Environmental conditions in Malta and Gozo are different, hence, social relationships are different and the resulting culture is different...even if, perhaps, slightly different.

The island of Malta is densely populated, pulsating with activity – even due to the fact that most amenities (including the airport and the general hospital) are found in Malta (not Gozo). Gozo, on the other hand, is a different story. Its population of about 31,446 inhabitants could make it comparable to just one sizeable town (like B'Kara or Qormi) in Malta. Unlike Malta, Gozo is mainly rural. “It is known for its many hills,

spectacular rolling fields, quaint villages and breath-taking sea views...[Gozo is] mystical and mysterious” (Formosa, Scicluna and Azzopardi, 2013, p.102). Indeed, if in Malta the Roman Catholic religion now shares the limelight together with other faiths, cultures, the media etc... in Gozo, it still takes the central role. The fact that one can only reach Gozo by ferry boat, as per scheduled trips, renders Gozo somewhat remote...isolated but protected. Understandably, the residents of Gozo might be justified in complaining that they are barred from opportunities and services that tend to be only offered in Malta. In fact, the young Gozitans tend to move to Malta, others seek their fortunes abroad, leaving a vacuum in their beautiful home island. However, that very channel that might be the cause of stress and hardship might protect Gozo’s natural beauty from the onslaught of the environmentally unscrupulous.

However this isolation might explain why Gozitan culture could vary from Maltese culture, in general. Since Malta and Gozo are Mediterranean islands, their citizens are expected to subscribe to what is referred to as the Mediterranean culture, which is built on two pillars: honour and shame (Abela, 1994). So, Mediterranean culture renders people obsessed with protecting their honour and avoiding shame. Pitt-Rivers (as cited in Cassar, 2003) explains that honour is “the value of a person in his [and honour is heavily associated with men] own eyes, but also in the eyes of his society... It is the estimation of one’s own worth... his claim to pride... his excellence recognized by society.”Mediterranean men prove their honour through: valor, fidelity and morality conversely, for women, “honour is essentially a sexual matter”. In the Mediterranean, men strive to command respect and to prove that they are worthy of honour and respect.

Mediterranean women avoid shame, “by keeping pure, by remaining loyal to their husbands and by guaranteeing the continuity of the family lineage (that is by giving birth, minding children and keeping the house)” (Azzopardi, Scicluna, Formosa Pace & Formosa, 2013). This mentality found a very devote ally: the Roman Catholic church and, as long as the Church was influential, this type of Mediterranean culture reigned supreme. However, there has been a growing secularization in Catholic societies and Malta has been no exception (Pace, 2011). In fact, one could argue that the image of the man of honour and the chaste, pure family woman, the idea of preserving family peace and unity at all cost ... could all have gone out of fashion, at least in Malta, at least judging by the extent of family break-up. In 2011, figures show that one separation for every five marriages were noted.

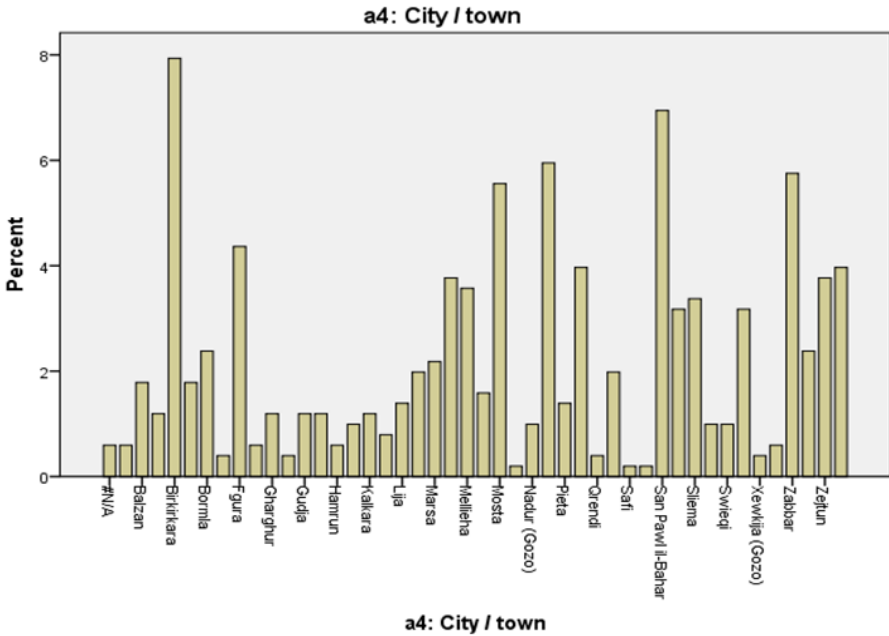
However, the winds of secularisation might have not blown very hard over the island of Gozo. In fact, the hold of the Roman Catholic church still seems to be strong here, churning the Mediterranean culture in Gozo to a point where concealing knowledge, for one's good or the perceived good of others, is not only tolerated but expected. This veil of secrecy, covers life particularly in the Gozitan brand of Mediterranean culture, and is referred to as: "omerta" (Azzopardi, Scicluna, Formosa Pace & Formosa, 2013). La Sorte (2013) claims that, ordinary, non-criminal Mediterranean people tend to be led by their blend of culture, wherein honour, shame, vengeance and secrecy play a vital role, implying that Mediterranean people might have a disquieting dark side – which can be exposed particularly through this victims of crime survey. Official statistics only record reported crime thus unreported crime remains hidden and unknown in figures that represent reported crimes.

As shown in the Figure B.1 and Table C.1, the spread of respondents in Malta can be considered as adequately representative. However, one would have preferred to have more respondents from Gozo. For ease of reference, residence were divided into the 6 regions of Malta and Gozo, resulting in 5 regions in Malta (central, south eastern, southern and northern) and the (one) region of Gozo. The figure below (Figure B.1) presents a list of towns and villages matched with the percentage of research participants in each town or village. Therefore towns like Birkirkara and St. Paul's Bay would have much more interviewees than Safi and Kirkop. One also notices that in some villages, especially in Gozo, no one was interviewed. This happens when the number of people living in the village is so small that it is easy for them to be missed in a random sample selection.

Table B.1: Region where interviews were carried out

Region	Percent
N/A	0.6
Central Region	18.9
South Eastern Region	28.6
Southern Region	20.0
Northern Region	30.5
Gozo	2.0
Total	100

Figure B.1: Interviewees – home town



The age of the respondents was divided into five-year intervals starting from age 18, as one of the requirements of choice of interviewees was that of having attained the 18th birthday. The age curve roughly represents the ages of the Maltese population, showing an aging population, although still roughly distributed over the adult ages (Refer to Table B.2).

The years, one spends in compulsory schooling in Malta is 10 (from 5 to 16 years). The data shows that a number of people did continue studying beyond the compulsory school age. However one needs to be careful when interpreting this data. The number of persons saying that they have studied beyond 16 years is a little too high for comfort. Considering the 10 years of formal schooling together with two years of sixth-form and 4 years at university, one would spend a total of 16 years in formal schooling.

Table B.2: Age of respondents

Age	Percent
18 – 22	2.9
23 – 27	6.0
28 – 32	3.9
33 – 37	7.9
38 – 42	7.9
43 – 47	7.9
48 – 52	8.9
53 – 57	7.9
58 – 62	9.9
63 – 67	12.0
68 – 72	12.4
73 – 77	5.4
78- 82	4.6
83 – 87	1.3
88- 92	0.9
Total	100.0

Another (full-time) year of postgraduate study would possibly land one with a Masters degree and, in turn, another 3 (full-time) years of study, after the Masters degree, could land a person with a PhD. Technically, this person would have spent 20 years of his/her life studying. Consequently, in retrospect, it could be that some participants might have misunderstood this question, assuming that they were being asked how old they were when they finished their scholastic endeavours, rather than the years they actually spent in formal schooling. Yet, from the data, one can infer that the majority of the research participants have received an adequate education. The brief respondents' profile provided, shows that the researchers could be getting an opinion, particularly about how society should react to juvenile crime, that could very well echo the opinion of the Maltese society at large.

***Theft of Cars***

The vast majority of people (83.3%) own, at least one car. Almost a third each have one or two cars respectively (32.5% and 34.9%), 9.5% have 3 cars, 4.6% have four cars and 6.2% have five or more cars. The percentage of stolen cars is rather small, with only 2.4% of the respondents admitting that their car was stolen during the past five years. Out of the respondents, only 0.4% said that their car was stolen during 2014 (Refer to Tables C.3 and C.4). All those who had their car stolen reported the fact to the police. 2.4% is not an alarming rate of car theft. This crime could be being held low by several factors: traffic congestion could actually be discouraging car thieves (Malta Chamber, 2015); improved anti-theft technologies might have contributed to such a low percentage of car thefts.

A decline in car thefts between 2002 and 2012 in Hawaii was, in fact attributed to enhanced vehicle anti-theft equipment, these include, car alarms, immobilizing devices, fuel cut-offs, smart keys, tracking tools, sturdier steering column locks, alarms that get activated once cars are inclined (to be dragged away with tow trucks) (Hannah, 2015); since Malta and Gozo are islands, like the Hawaiian archipelago, stolen vehicles cannot be easily shipped (Hannah, 2015). The fact that all the victims of car theft reported their victimization to the police could emanate from the people’s confidence in the Malta police force. Additionally, without the police report, victims would not be entitled to any compensation from their insurance company.

Table B.3: Percentage of cars stolen in the past 5 years

		Percent
Valid	Yes	2.4
	No	92.3
	Total	94.6
Missing System		5.4
	Total	100.0

Table B.4: Reports made to the police

		Percent
Valid	Yes	2.4
	Missing System	97.6
	Total	100.0

### *Theft from Cars*

The subsequent questions addressed theft from cars. As perhaps expected, theft from cars scored higher than theft of cars, with 6% (Refer to Table B.5) of the respondents answering that they had been victimized in the last five years, however half of the respondents had been victimized before 2014 with 30% saying that they had been victimized this year (Refer to Table B.6). This could be a direct consequence of the apparent increase in the volume of vehicles on the roads.

Unlike victims of car theft, who all declared that they had reported the crime to the police, only slightly more than half of the respondents stated that they had reported their victimization to the police. Of course, there would be people who would not bother to report the theft, if they consider it as not serious enough to warrant police intervention, there would be others who simply would not have afforded the time to go to the police to report their victimization. This said, around 57% filed a police report.

Table B.5: Victims of theft from cars during the last 5 years

		Percent
Valid	Yes	6.0
	No	89.5
	Total	95.4
Missing	System	4.6
	Total	100.0

Table B.6: When did this happen?

		Percent
Valid	This year	30.0
	Last year (2014)	13.3
	Before then	50.0
	Don't know/can't remember	6.7
	Total	100.0



### ***Vandalism to Cars***

When asked whether their cars had been vandalised in the past 5 years, slightly more than 16% said that their vehicle had, in fact been vandalised. Almost half of the respondents (42%) said that their car had been vandalized in 2015 whilst another 30.9% claimed that their cars were vandalised prior to 2015. Most vandalism occurred only once, however there were 31% of the respondents who suffered vandalism to their car more than once.

Vandalism is even less reported to the police. Interestingly, only 38.3% of the respondents saw the need to report this crime to the police. Whilst one cannot exclude the possibility that vandalism increased in 2015, same could be said about the possibility for respondents to have forgotten to mention vandalism their cars suffered from in the past years. However, what could be noteworthy is the fact that less than 40% of the respondents filed a report to the police that their car had been vandalised, possibly indicating a lack of confidence in the police or they deemed it is pointless filing such a report in the first place. In summary, victims might think that it is not important enough to report less serious crimes either because the police are too busy dealing with more serious cases or they do not have enough confidence in the ability of the police to handle their case (Eye witness News, 2015).

### ***Theft of Mopeds, Motor Scooter or Bicycle***

The questions addressing theft of mopeds, motor scooters and bicycles did not yield much victimization. No one had his/her moped stolen in the last 5 years. Perhaps this could be indicative of the fact that few people own mopeds. On the other hand, many respondents (93% of them) declared that they owned at least one bicycle. Yet only 0.2% of the respondents had their bicycle stolen and they all reported this victimization to the police. These few bicycle owners might have had their bicycles insured and, to be eligible for compensation, police reports were necessary.

### ***Burglary***

The questionnaire proceeded to address the more serious crimes of burglary, attempted burglary and robbery. 4.8% of the respondents claimed to have been victims of burglary in the last five years as compared to the 89.5% who claimed that they were not victims of burglary during the same period (Refer to Table B.7). Out of which 79.2% declared that something was stolen. The most common stolen items were money, jewellery and other precious items - this being the case in more than three quarters of the cases. Other stolen items consisted of tools and other goods. The value of the items stolen also varied from a low of 100 euro to a maximum of 6,000 euro, with most people suffering losses on the high end of the spectrum; a clear indication of the negative aspects related to more affluence. Over the years, the extent of burglaries seems constant, with a quarter having suffered the victimization between 2000 and 2013. This type of crime is usually suffered once (by the same victim). More than half (58.3%) incurred some form of damages amounting to a couple of hundred euro to a maximum of a 1,000 euro. Almost everyone (95.7%) reported this crime to the police. This could be explained in view of a potential scenario where respondents are more likely to file a police report for more serious crimes which incur great damage to the social fabric. In other words, serious crimes tend to be more reported than petty crimes either for i) insurance related issues, or ii) because people believe that reporting such a serious crime is the right thing to do or iii) because people want the persons who harmed them most to be found and punished (Eye witness News, 2015).

However, almost all the respondents (94.7%) complained that they did not recover their stolen items. Gallagher, Maguire, Mastrofski & Reisig (2001) explain that it is very difficult to come up with a generic, all-encompassing explanation of the source of public discontent and pessimism vis a vis the police, however, they list three main categories of reasons behind the lack of confidence in the police. The first category of possible reasons is the perceived quality of police performance (Gallagher et. al. , 2001) believe that if “lawfulness, fairness, professionalism, integrity, and service are keys to the legitimacy of police agencies, the police may simply fail to live up to those standards often enough to cast doubt in the public mind”. The second category constitutes how the police are portrayed in the press and in the media (Gallagher et. al., 2001). The third category of possible reasons for the loss of confidence in the police includes “the heightened expectations and standards that the public brings to their evaluations of the police...[which] are hard to meet, especially if they rise fastest among precisely those people who are worst off” (Gallagher et. al., 2001). In this respect, since 94.7% complained that their stolen property was not recovered following burglary; such a scenario cannot be enhancing the confidence of the Maltese in the police.

Table B.7: Victims of burglary in the last 5 years

		Percent
Valid	Yes	4.8
	No	89.5
	Total	94.2
Missing	System	5.8
	Total	100.0

### *Attempted Burglary*

Attempted burglary was also addressed in this research. Only 2.2% of the respondents claimed that intruders/burglars once attempted to enter their residence whilst the other 91.9% were not victims of attempted burglary. Reflecting the incidence of burglary over recent years, the data indicates that attempted burglary was kept constant over the years – almost mirroring the data for burglary (Refer to Table B.8). However, unlike burglary, attempted burglary is not always reported to the police. In fact, 63% of the respondents stated that attempted burglary was reported to the police, which is undoubtedly lower than the 95.7% whom filed a police report for a completed burglary. Thus, since it was attempted and not actuated burglary, no items would have had been stolen. So, a considerable number of victims of attempted burglary might have considered it futile to bother reporting the incident to the police, particularly since they perhaps did not need the police report for insurance purposes and were after retribution as in the case of actuated burglaries outlined earlier.

Table B.8: Attempted burglary: When did it happen?

		Percent
Valid	This year	9.1
	Last year (2014)	18.2
	Before then	72.7
	Total	100.0

### **Robbery**

Cook (1987, p. 357) explains that robbery is “both a property crime and a crime of violence... The violence element of robbery makes it a serious crime...Robbery is particularly fear-inspiring, as it usually involves an unprovoked surprise attack by strangers on an innocent victim. This fear has serious consequences”. In other words, in this type of crime, people can be hurt. As expected, very few (1%) respondents claimed that they had incurred a robbery (Refer to Table B.9). The incidence of robbery seems to also have been constant, throughout the years as well. Most victims (60%) said that only one perpetrator was involved in the crime, the others were not sure how many offenders were present, with 40% saying that they knew the offender. This is even more interesting in light of findings from the Formosa Pace’s (2015) study where it is claimed that crime families specialise in crimes that involve the use of violence such as robbery where violence could act as an indirect risk factor to crime continuity across generations of Maltese families.

No weapons were used in the robberies suffered by the respondents; however 40% of the victims said that they were hurt as a consequence of the robbery. This is possible, particularly when one considers that psychological duress and harm is closely associated with this crime (The National Center for Victims of Crime, 2008).

Table B.8: Victims of robbery

		Percent
Valid	Yes	1.0
	No	93.3
	Total	94.2
Missing	System	5.8
	Total	100.0

Since robbery is considered as a particularly serious crime (because of its potential to put all those involved in jeopardy), one would expect that all the victims would report the crime to the police. However, a noteworthy 40% of the respondents who have incurred this crime stated that they did not report the incident to the police. Of course, it could be indicative of lack of confidence in the police however since same amount of respondents (40%) admitted knowing the perpetrator, it could be that the 40% of the respondents who claimed that they did not report the crime to the police, could have been the same 40% of the respondents who claimed that they knew the perpetrator. In summary they could have decided not to report the robbery for reasons that could include: loyalty towards the

perpetrator who could have been a restricted and/or extended family member (Formosa Pace, 2015) and/or a friend/acquaintance; fear of reprisal from the perpetrator since they know each other (Schwontkowski, 2005).

### *Personal Thefts*

The next section dealt with personal thefts. 2.4% of the respondents stated that they were victims of theft. Also, a noteworthy 91.7% did not suffer from personal theft. Yet again this type of crime seems to have been kept at a constant over the years, although it seems that the year 2014 was predominantly high with regards to personal theft. Interestingly (and disturbingly), a respondent claimed s/he incurred theft four times (Refer to Table B.9). 66.7% reported this crime to the police whereas 33.3% did not file a police report. The latter might have considered that the crime was not serious enough thus not worth to report, or might have felt that the police would not handle their case appropriately being a less serious crime or were not after retribution at all.

Table B.9: Personal theft: When did it happen?

		Percent
Valid	This year	8.3
	Last year (2014)	41.7
	Before then	33.3
	Don't know/can't remember	16.7
	Total	100.0

### *Sexual Offences*

1.4% admitted to being victim of some form of sexual offences. Of the 1.4% who claimed to have been victims of sexual offences, more than half of these incidents happened this year (2015), with one of the incidents constituting multiple victimizations and occurring more than five times. This seems to be linked to a case of domestic violence, wherein one person was the perpetrator. Additionally, almost half knew the name of the perpetrator, with a little less than a third knowing their face. Here one has a mix of domestic violence with relative violence and stranger violence. However, only about 15% were living with the person who committed the domestic violence. Offences suffered were described as: being pushed, tied, shoved, hit on the face, hit, choked, threatened and hit with a hard object. A third of those who claimed to be victims of sexual offences were forced to have sexual intercourse.

Almost half of the victims (42.9%) experienced the incidence more than once. These incidences were due to a mentality that the man is always right (42.9%); drugs (28.6%); the mentality that men are in command (28.6%); jealousy (28.6%); alcohol (14.3%); arguments (14.3%) and sexual interest (0.2%). These percentages amount to more than 100% because the victims could chose more than one option as reasons/scenarios that could have paved the way to sexual offending and their subsequent victimisation. As it has been explained earlier on, the Mediterranean culture assigns very unyielding gender roles: the men are considered as the providers and the protectors of their women who are expected to keep to their domestic role as carers. This culture dictates that men should do whatever is in their power to preserve their supremacy and to continually attest that they are worthy of honour. Their role is to safeguard their honour.

Conversely, Mediterranean women are expected to avoid shame at all cost, by keeping chaste, by staying faithful to their spouses and by ensuring the “continuity of the family lineage (that is by giving birth, minding children and keeping the house)” (Azzopardi, Scicluna, Formosa Pace, Formosa, 2013). In the Mediterranean, society expects women to do whatever is in their power to avoid shame (Cassar, 2003: p. 12). “Mediterranean culture dictates that whereas a husband’s duties are economic and his rights are sexual (that is he is provided with domestic service)... the wife’s duties are sexual and her rights economic since she is not expected to work outside the home (Azzopardi, Scicluna, Formosa Pace, Formosa, 2013). Thus, the macho mentality could find very fertile land in the Mediterranean – where it seems to flourish. Giovannoni (1989, p.185) explicates that this mindset commands that ‘men are valued by how well’ they perform sexually. Giovannoni (1989, p.185) stresses macho men are fixated with sex because ‘their male genitalia’ symbolises authority (Giovannoni, 1989). The behaviour of these macho men

might be additionally fueled by negative emotions (like paranoia and jealousy), disputes and substance abuse. And, if Allison and Wrightsman (1993, p. 98) are correct, macho men tend to believe that: ‘women cannot be raped against their will’, ‘women ask for it’, ‘women secretly wish to be raped’, ‘most accusations of rape are faked’ and ‘any healthy woman can resist a rapist’...and act accordingly.

Only 14.3% of the respondents knew who the offender was. So, in 14.3% of cases, either an ex-husband, an ex-partner or a close friend was involved. Fortunately, most offenders (71.4%) were not armed, however only 28.6% were armed, yet only half of these actually used their weapons, and when they did use weapons, they were not arms-proper, but something that was made available in the household (item/s found in most households as goods for day-to-day activities) and was used as a weapon to hurt the victim.

Victims of sexual assault consider this incident as an imposition, an assault and an offensive attitude (42.9% each), and an indecent assault and rape (14.3% respectively) (Refer to Table B.10). Victims do consider this accident a crime. Most of them (71.4%) said that this was a crime however most (85.7%) did not report the crime to the police. This could be viewed as rather strange, but probably understandable since most victims knew their perpetrator. This might explain the reluctance of the victims to go to the police as this could result in future victimization or problems with families or their children (Schwontkowski, 2005). Another factor could be shame which the Mediterranean culture seems to emphasize. Whereas guilt could trigger people to positive action – aimed at improving their quality of life, shame does the opposite. It pushes the individual who feels ashamed, to wish to vanish from society such as in the case of rape victims who resort to self blame.

Table B.10: How would you describe this incident?

Incident	Percentage
Imposition	42.9
Assault	42.9
Offensive attitude	42.9
Indecent Assault	14.3
Rape	14.3

### *Assaults/Threats*

The next section of the crime victimization survey addressed the incidence of assaults or threats. Only 3.4% of the respondents said that they were threatened or assaulted during the last five years. If one looks at the distribution of the incidents during the last five years one finds that this crime was committed at quite a constant rate, over the years, with a third occurring in 2014 and slightly more than 22 % occurring this year (2015). This crime only seems to have happened once to the respondents concerned. Half of the respondents said that their family members had been victimized (assaulted and/or threatened once). Again, this crime is evenly distributed over the years, with the same pattern of single victimization being incurred by victims.

Almost half of the respondents (47.1%) say that only one person was involved in the crime, while almost a third of the respondents claim that the perpetrators were two or more. A staggering 82.4% of the people knew the aggressor. The usual suspects were listed by the respondents, namely: ex-spouses and ex-partners (11% of the offenders), with colleagues constituting another 11%. People were threatened in 82.4% of the cases, with force being used in 23.5% of the cases reported to the researchers by the respondents. The total adds to more than a 100% because some people suffered both types of abuse. Only in 5.9% of the cases was a weapon used and some got hurt during the incident to the extent that 12.5% of them needed medical attention.

Only 64.7% considered this incident (assaults and threats) a crime and all 64.7% of these respondents claimed to have reported the fact to the police. The 35.3% of the sample that suffered the abuse but did not consider this to be a crime is an interesting figure (Refer to Table B.11). Further analysis might reveal the existence of a relationship (friendship, family, romantic...) between the victim and the perpetrator. This relationship might have led the respondent/victim to not consider the perpetrator's actions as crime (Schwontkowski, 2005).

Table B.11: Do you consider this incident a crime?

		Percent
Valid	Yes	64.7
	No	35.3
	Total	100.0



**Consumer Fraud**

A small percentage (3.2%) of the respondents, were victims of some form of consumer fraud. From these the most common type of fraud was purchase from shops, however cyber fraud seems to be on the increase. In fact, one notes a number of fraudulent acts committed using the computer and the internet such as via on-line purchases (Refer to Table B.12). It seems that people also feel victimized by the banks or financial services. Other examples of fraud include the hacking of one’s e-mail, rental agreements that were not honoured and false cheques. One notes that the cyber world has provided a new arena for crime.

Although one still finds the classical forms of fraud, committed on a person-to-person basis, computer crime is slowly creeping in. Interestingly, most respondents (81.3%) did not report computer crime to the police. Fraud seems to be one of the most hidden and elusive of crimes. It is not underreported because this type of fraud is considered as trivial. Rather, the reason for underreporting could emanate from the fact that victims might tend to feel stupid for having fallen victim to this type of crime, and thus are reluctant to report it to the police. Perception is crucial. Individuals tend to consider themselves as too smart to be conned, and thus, they are inclined to consider victims of fraud as feeble-minded and naïve people who thus deserve to be duped (Factors which allow the problem to continue, n.d.). Of course, it might not be easy for people with this poor impression of fraud victims, to admit that they have been victimized by frauds. Consequently, they avoid reporting their victimization to the police, if they can help it. So, people could avoid reporting fraud to the police, particularly if they are not covered by insurance since insurance companies request police reports.

Table B.12: What was the fraud related to?

	Percent
Computer	6.3
Purchases on-line	18.8
Purchases from shops	25
Purchase of a service	6.3
Bank/financial services	12.5
Repair of machinery	12.5

### ***Corruption***

Transparency International gauges the perception citizens have of the extent of corruption in their particular countries. Although Transparency International's research could be described as mainly intuitive, and could be criticized for this, considering the indications it provides, it could be considered as quite reliable. For example, if from a score of 100%, 100% signalling no corruption and 0% pointing to total corruption, Transparency International rated Denmark at 92%, while rating North Korea 8%. Transparency International gave Italy (known for its high level of corruption) 43% - ranking 69th. Malta got assigned 55%, ranking 43 amid 173 nations (Transparency International: The Global Coalition Against Corruption).

This research also addressed corruption. And although the gauge of Transparency International: The Global Coalition Against Corruption is pointing on the red, when it comes to the perception of corruption in the Maltese islands, a meagre 0.2% of the respondents declared that some government official had expected payment for services, for which he/she was not entitled to. And those respondents, who actually admitted that they had been victimized, did not wish to reveal what type of official that had asked for extra payment. As one could have expected, no report was made to the police.

Bearing in mind the Transparency International: The Global Coalition Against Corruption Index for Malta, rather than suggesting that corruption is low in Malta and Gozo, this finding (0.2%), the mere 0.2% declared victimization, could simply indicate that most Maltese and Gozitan people do not feel comfortable discussing corruption, and could prefer to keep it tightly covered by the veil of secrecy, *omerta'*, inherent in the Mediterranean culture (Azzopardi, Scicluna, Formosa Pace & Formosa, 2013) and this explains why across decades Maltese citizens might have avoided to report corruption to the police.

### **Main Elements Elicited from the Crime Victimization Survey**

The Crime Victimization Survey aimed at trying to discover the dark figure of crime, or those crimes that are not reported to the police in Malta. One thousand face-to-face interviews were carried out within a month. Interviewees were chosen randomly and the respondents can be said to adequately represent the Maltese Islands for spread of age and location. The survey was divided into 18 sections, 13 of which addressed specific crimes from theft of bicycles to robbery to crimes on the person to corruption. Other sections asked for personal information and what people thought about punishment and control of young persons. Once the surveys were completed their results were inputted in an SPSS program and analysed.

The most common crime was Vandalism of Cars with 16% and Theft from Cars (6%). This was followed by Burglary at 4.8%, Assaults at 3.4% and Consumer Fraud at 3.2%. At slightly more than two percent we find Theft of cars (2.4%) Personal Theft (2.4%) and Attempted Burglary (2.2%). These are followed by Sexual Offences at 1.4% and Robbery at 1%. Almost no one reported being a victim of Corruption (0.2%) and no one reported being a victim of Theft of Motor Scooters or bicycles.

The preliminary results show that certain crimes are invariably reported to the police while others are not. Everyone reports thefts of cars and almost everyone reported burglaries. People do not report theft from cars and even less vandalism to cars. Many did not bother to report attempted burglary. Robbery and personal thefts, although a serious crimes, were often not reported to the police. Reports to the police are also low for assaults this being especially true if the victim knew the perpetrator. Fraud and Corruption are also not reported to the police. Overall the results indicate that Malta is a safe country.

