



# JDiBrief - Analysis

## Repeat victimisation: METHOD (3 of 5)

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**IDENTIFYING THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM:** The first part of any prediction of repeat victimisation (RV) involves establishing the impact that RV and near-repeat victimisation (NRV) has on local crime levels.

There are a number of ways you can measure the level of RV. The simplest is to use one year of recorded crime data and identify those victims that appear more than once. This can be done for repeat locations by identifying coincident x and y geographic coordinates, the same address (in its textual form e.g. 5 Acacia Avenue) or a combination of the two. Identifying (human) victims involves determining multiple occurrences of a unique reference number which is recorded against the victim on the crime recording system.

This simple method is though biased, as initial victimisation occurring earlier in the year has a greater chance of being re-victimised within the data timeframe. The preferred way of analysing repeat victimisation is to establish a set assessment period (usually twelve months), then identify initial victimisation of each unique target and determine whether the target was re-victimised in the assessment period following that initial victimisation.

For example, if there were two years of data you could set the first year as the initial victimisation period and the second year as the assessment period (see Figure 1).



Figure 1 – rolling period methodology

We advise using the free Near Repeat Calculator to measure near repeats (see Resources section on this topic for information on where to download the NR calculator). This tool identifies if there is a statistically significant NRV (and RV) problem, and within which space and time metric (e.g., within two days and 100m). The NR Calculator also allows you to extract the results and map those crime events that were NRVs as a consequence of an ‘originator’ crime.

**FORMULATING A RESPONSE:** Reducing RV and NRV relies on the disruption of offenders’ perceptions and activities. Once the extent of the problem is established through analysis, particular areas or targets need to be better protected so that their risk of victimisation is reduced following an initial incident. The profile of the targets, or the identification of a particular area can help to focus attention on the target characteristics that are encouraging victimisation.

Research suggests that RV and NRV are often committed by repeat offenders. It is likely that these offenders are known to the police, even if their current activities are unknown. This knowledge can direct attention to offenders known to be active in the area, or with a specific modus operandi. Forensic analysis can be prioritised for RV or NRV to see if this identifies a known offender. Members of the community can be asked to be vigilant for suspicious persons.