National Criminal Justice Reference Service

# ncjrs

| 1.0 | 4.5 | | 2.8 | 2.5 |
| | 5.0 | | | |
| | | 3.2 | | 2.2 |
| | | 3.6 | | |
| 1.1 | | 4.0 | | 2.0 |
| | | | | 1.8 |
| 1.25 | | 1.4 | | |
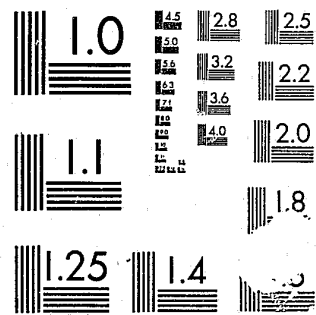
MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

DATE FILMED

8/20/81

National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20531

---

U. S. Department of Justice
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

# Analysis of National Crime Victimization Survey Data To Study Serious Delinquent Behavior

## Monograph Three

## Juvenile Criminal Behavior In Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas

75127

## Monographs in this series include:

Juvenile Criminal Behavior in the United States: Its Trends and Patterns

Juvenile Criminal Behavior: An Analysis of Rates and Victim Characteristics

Juvenile Criminal Behavior in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas

Juvenile Criminal Behavior and Its Relation to Economic Conditions (forthcoming)

Juvenile Criminal Behavior and Its Relation to Neighborhood Characteristics (forthcoming)

# Analysis of National Crime Victimization Survey Data To Study Serious Delinquent Behavior

## Monograph Three

## Juvenile Criminal Behavior In Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas

by
**John H. Laub**
Project Coordinator

and

**Michael J. Hindelang**
Project Director

Analysis of National Crime Victimization Survey
Data to Study Serious Delinquent Behavior


Project Staff

Michael J. Hindelang, Project Director
John H. Laub, Project Coordinator

Robert J. Sampson, Research Assistant
Kenneth R. Danser, Research Assistant
Thomas C. Castellano, Research Assistant

Lowell Tangjerd, Computer Programer

Diane Sage, Secretary

CONTENTS

## Executive Summary

In this report the 1973 to 1977 National Crime Survey victimization data are used to address three major questions regarding personal crimes committed by juveniles, youthful offenders, and adults across urban, suburban, and rural areas. The personal crimes of rape, robbery, assault, and personal larceny (purse snatch and pocket picking) and the commercial crime of robbery are examined.

The first question focuses on the patterns of criminal victimization across the urban-rural dimension. For example, how do the crime-specific rates of victimization differ across urban, suburban, and rural areas? Does the mix of crime types differ in urban areas compared with suburban and rural areas? The second question regards the nature of criminal victimization across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Do the elements of the victimization incident such as victim-offender relationship, weapon use, and the number of offenders differ by the extent of urbanization? The third general question is whether the consequences of victimization differ across urban, suburban, and rural areas. For instance, does the extent of property loss and victim injury differ across the urban-rural dimension?

Our analysis of the patterns of victimization across the urban-ural dimension showed that:

(1) Overall, victimization rates were higher in urban than in suburban and rural areas.

(2) Crimes of theft -- robbery and personal larceny -- were more likely in urban areas than rural areas, whereas assault, while quite common in both urban and rural areas, accounted for a larger proportion of all rural crimes compared with urban crimes. For the most part these patterns held for juveniles, youthful offenders, and adults.

(3) The rate of commercial robbery, like personal robbery, was higher in urban areas compared with rural settings. Also commercial robberies were committed disproportionately by adult offenders in all ecological areas.

(4) Overall, the rates of _offending_ in total personal victimization have not increased over the period 1973 to 1977 in urban, suburban, and rural areas. In fact, there was a slight decrease in the rates of offending in this period.

(5) In all ecological areas, 18 to 20 year olds, males, and blacks showed the highest rates of _offending_. Within each age, race, and sex subgroup, the extent of urbanization was a factor in that generally the urban rates were higher than suburban rates, which were in turn higher than the rural rates.

As to the second general question regarding the nature of victimization across the urban-rural dimension we found that:

(6) Overall, there was a larger proportion of victimizations by strangers in urban areas compared with rural areas. These relationships appeared strongest for juvenile offenders and weakest for adults.

(7) Although the number of offenders involved in the incident varied by type of crime, group crime was generally characteristic of urban centers. Conversely, lone offenders were more prevalent in rural areas.

(8) Overall, the use of weapons in personal victimization was stable across the urban-rural dimension. Similarly, there was little difference in the types of weapons (gun, knife, other) used in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

An examination of the consequences of victimization by the extent of urbanization revealed that:

(9) In robberies, no substantial differences appeared in the proportion of completed thefts across the urban-rural dimension among all three offender age groups.

(10) In personal larcenies, a greater proportion of victims in rural areas reported a completed theft compared with victims of personal larceny in urban areas. This pattern was evident for juvenile and youthful offenders but was non-existent for adults.

(11) Financial loss -- cash stolen, property stolen, and property damage -- did not differ by the extent of urbanization. Most financial losses reported by victims were relatively small.

(12) The proportion of injured victims, for the crimes of robbery and assault, was the same in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The proportion of injured victims increased, however, with age of offender for the crime of robbery.

Juvenile Criminal Behavior in
Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas

I. INTRODUCTION

In the first monograph in this series (McDermott and Hindelang, 1981),
results from national victimization surveys were used to examine trends
in offending in personal crimes (rape, robbery, assault, and larceny) for
the 1973-1977 period. The results suggested that in this period juvenile
offending had not increased substantially for these crimes. Furthermore,
no evidence was found to support the assertion that the severity of the
consequences of these crimes to victims -- for example, the extent of
injury or the amount of financial loss -- increased systematically in
this period. In the second monograph of the series the focus shifted
away from trends to an examination of variation in rates of <u>victimization</u>
and rates of <u>offending</u> (Hindelang and McDermott, 1981). One question
asked there was whether victims with different demographic characteristics
are victimized at different rates and whether they tend to be victimized
by offenders with demographic characteristics similar to those of the
victim. A related but distinct question was whether <u>offending</u> in face-
to-face personal crimes was disproportionately concentrated among persons
with particular demographic characteristics or was evenly distributed
throughout the sex-race-age structure.

The purpose of this monograph is to provide a comprehensive portrait
of the similarities and differences in juvenile criminal behavior across
urban, suburban, and rural areas. Historically, crime has been linked
to city life and the extent of urbanization is accepted as a major correlate
of crime. Yet little empirical knowledge has been generated regarding both
the quantitative and qualitative differences in crimes committed in urban
and rural areas.

Generally, three basic questions are examined in this report:

(1) What is the <u>pattern</u> of criminal victimizations by
juvenile offenders across urban, suburban, and
rural areas? For example, does the crime type
mix differ in urban areas compared with suburban
and rural areas?

(2) What is the <u>nature</u> of criminal victimizations
by juvenile offenders across urban, suburban,
and rural areas? That is, do the elements of
the victimization incident like weapon use,
number of offenders, etc., differ across the
urban-rural dimension?

(3) What are the <u>consequences</u> of victimizations by
juvenile offenders across urban, suburban, and
rural areas? Specifically, are there differences
in victim injury, theft, loss, etc., across the
urban-rural dimension?

The Research Framework

A number of key concepts have been used to distinguish cities from
rural areas. The essential characteristic of urban areas is that a large
number of persons are concentrated in a relatively small space. Size and
density then influence social organization in urban centers. Urban areas
have been described as embodying the following: 1) anonymity and imperson-
ality, 2) extensive conflicts of norms and values, 3) rapid social change,
4) heterogeneity and diversity, 5) a high degree of division of labor,

6) increased mobility, and 7) increased reliance on formal mechanisms of social control (See Clinard and Abbott, 1973).

Thus, cities are characterized as being markedly different from rural settings on a variety of dimensions. However, this multidimensionality creates difficulties in studying urban life. While there has been extensive theoretical speculation regarding cities, to a large degree the urban-rural dimension has been neglected in delinquency research. Most theorists of crime and delinquency take the urban character of crime as given and then build their theories from that point (e.g., Cohen, 1955, and Cloward and Ohlin, 1960). Other studies ignore this major source of variation and instead focus on inter-city or intra-city variations in criminality (e.g., Shaw and McKay, 1942, and Harries, 1974).

Surprisingly, little is known about the patterns and nature of criminal acts themselves in relation to the urban-rural dimension. Are certain crimes more common in urban areas as compared with suburban and rural areas? We do know there is a large amount of variation of criminal acts within similar legal categories (Sellin and Wolfgang, 1964; Gottfredson, 1976). However, we do not have any information on the nature of ostensibly similar criminal acts across urban, suburban, and rural areas. For example, are the elements of robberies committed in urban settings the same as robberies committed in suburban and rural settings?

This report will focus on these research issues. Whether it is the theorist attempting to construct an explanation of delinquent or criminal behavior, or a practitioner attempting to have some preventive impact on the extent and social consequences of serious offending behavior, it seems fruitless to begin without a firm empirical foundation. Until the

latter 1950's researchers interested in the nature, extent, and correlates of delinquent and criminal behavior relied almost exclusively on police and court records of offenses and offenders. With the publication of their pioneering papers Short and Nye (1957, 1958) introduced an innovative "self-report" technique that does not rely on the selection mechanisms of the criminal justice system for locating and identifying offenders. Because self-report methods are independent of the criminal justice system, they circumvent some of the criticisms of official data. For example, it has been argued that less powerful groups are disproportionately selected for official processing from among those engaging in criminal behavior (e.g., Chambliss and Seidman, 1971; Quinney, 1970). Offender's age, like offender's race and sex, is a variable that has been hypothesized to be differentially related to the probability of detection and arrest (Quinney, 1970:213-217). In a similar vein, it could be argued that urban-rural differences in, for example, per capita police expenditures, quality of record keeping systems, and police deployment patterns, exaggerate crime rate differences between urban and rural areas. Therefore, it is crucial to have available a data source that does not reflect criminal justice system biases that may exist.

The self-report method then has an important advantage over data from police and court records; however, the self-report method, as it has been used to date, has a critical disadvantage: criminal offenses that are of greatest social concern are not tapped in any meaningful way by this method. This limitation derives from two principal sources. First, serious criminality is sufficiently rare that general population surveys of the sizes typically used by self-report researchers -- generally

fewer than 1500 respondents -- yield an insufficient number of serious crimes. Second, most self-report instruments do not contain items that even attempt to tap serious crime. Hence, although the self-report approach has provided some very useful information about minor delinquent offenses, it has not been an acceptable replacement for, or even a very useful supplement to, official data (McDermott and Hindelang, 1981).

Recently, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, has generated data about crime that, like self-reports, are independent of the selection mechanisms of the criminal justice system, but unlike self-reports, contain information about relatively serious crimes. These data form the basis of this monograph and are generated in an ongoing survey of the general population of the United States that is designed to ascertain the nature and extent of criminal victimizations that may have been suffered by respondents. These National Crime Survey (NCS) results can shed light on some of the basic questions surrounding serious criminal behavior.

When NCS respondents indicate that they have experienced a criminal victimization they are asked a series of detailed questions relating to every aspect of the offense: exactly what happened, when and where the offense occurred, whether any injury or loss was suffered as a result of the offense, who was present during the offense, whether it was reported to the police, and what the victim perceived to be the offender's sex, race, and age group. (See NCS household interview schedule in Appendix A and NCS commercial interview schedule in Appendix B.)

On the basis of these limited offender data, it is possible to pose many important questions regarding the basic facts surrounding the offenses of various subgroups of offenders. For a variety of reasons alluded to

above, victimization survey data can provide more adequate answers to these questions than either self-reports or arrest data. Of course, this is not to say that victimization survey results as a source of data about offenders are without problems. There are four interrelated limitations regarding the use of NCS data in connection with studying offender characteristics. First, because the source of the data is the victim's report, only a small number of visible offender characteristics are available -- sex, race, age group, number of offenders, and relationship (if any) to the victim. Second, little systematic work has yet been done on the accuracy of the victim's reports of these offender variables.[1] Third, because these data depend on reports of victims, the data analyzed include only offenses in which the victim sees the offender; generally, this means rape, robbery, assault, and personal larceny. Fourth, questions related to incidence versus prevalence cannot be resolved with these data; that is, whether the over-abundance of males among offenders is due to a small proportion of males repeatedly offending or due to a large proportion of males offending a small number of times cannot be resolved with these data. Even within these limitations, however, the NCS data hold potential that is not found in self-report or police arrest data (Hindelang and McDermott, 1981).

Throughout this monograph three age groups of offenders will be examined in order to make comparisons among them. The first major group, _juvenile_ offenders, are those offenders perceived by their victims to be under 18 years of age. The second major group, _youthful_ offenders, are those offenders perceived by their victims to be 18 to 20 years old. The third major group, _adult_ offenders, are those perceived by their victims to be 21 years of age or older. The use of these three major age groupings of offenders will permit

analyses of age related differences in offending. Before turning to these findings, however, it is necessary to give some attention to the data to be used in these analyses.

Description of the Data

The data in this monograph are from the NCS national sample, collected by the United States Bureau of the Census, in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. In the national survey, probability samples of both housing units and businesses were selected on the basis of a stratified, multistage, cluster design.[2] The data used in this monograph cover the period from 1973 to 1977.[3]

The total sample size interviewed annually for the national surveys is about 60,000 households containing about 136,000 individuals and about 15,000 businesses (increased to about 50,000 in July 1975). The total interviewed sample is composed of six independently selected subsamples of about 10,000 households with 22,000 individuals and 2,500 businesses (increased to more than 8,000 in July 1975). Each subsample is interviewed in successive months about victimizations suffered in the preceding six months; each subsample is interviewed twice per year. For example, in January 22,000 individuals (in 10,000 households) and representatives from 8,000 businesses are interviewed. In the following month -- and in each of the next four succeeding months -- an independent probability sample of the same size is interviewed. In July, the housing units and business units originally interviewed in January are revisited and interviews are repeated; likewise, the original February sample units are revisited in August, the March units in September, etc. Each time they are interviewed in the national survey, respondents are asked about victimizations that they may have suffered during the 6 months preceding the month of interview.

Thus, the national survey is conducted using a panel design; the panel consists of addresses. Interviewers return to the same housing and business units every 6 months. If the family or business contacted during the last interview cycle has moved, the new occupants are interviewed. If the unit no longer exists or is condemned, it is dropped from the sample, but new units are added to the sample periodically. For household units this is accomplished by a continuing sample of new construction permits; new business units are added to the samples as they appear in the sampling segments during each month's enumeration. No attempt is made to trace families or businesses that have moved.[4] Housing units in the panel are visited a maximum of seven times, after which they are rotated out of the panel and replaced by a new, independent probability sample; maximum time in the sample for any housing unit, then, is 3 years. There is no provision for the rotation of sampled business units.

The data reported in this monograph represent estimates of crimes occurring in the United States, based on weighted sample data.[5] It is possible to make these estimates because a probability sample of respondents was surveyed. The interview completion rate in the national sample is about 95 percent or more of those selected to be interviewed in any given period, and hence population estimates are relatively unbiased.

This monograph is concerned with the personal crimes of rape, robbery, assault, and personal larceny. Although the survey also collects data on the household crimes of burglary, larceny from the household, and motor vehicle theft as well as the commercial crime of burglary, these crimes will not be included here. Our analysis requires reports from victims regarding what transpired during the event -- particularly regarding offender characteristics such as the perceived age of the offender -- and hence only those crimes generally involving contact between victims and

offenders will yield this information. The details about what happened during the event are gathered by means of personal interviews with the victims themselves.

Depending on whether there was one or more than one offender reported by the victim to have been involved in the incident, victims are asked one of two series of questions relating to offender characteristics (see NCS household interview schedule in Appendix A and NCS commercial interview schedule in Appendix B). If a lone offender victimized the respondent, that offender's characteristics are simply recorded. If more than one offender was involved, it is possible to have offenders of different ages, sexes, and races. Because age is used repeatedly throughout this monograph, Appendix C explains in detail how each of the offender age variables were created. In general, the tables and figures shown in this monograph in which both lone and multiple-offender incidents are included, use the age of the oldest multiple offender. Preliminary analysis shows that more often than not multiple offenders fall into the same age group; for this reason, whether the youngest or the oldest multiple offender is used has little impact on the results.

On the basis of the details of precisely what transpired -- whether force or threat of force was used by the offender, whether some theft was attempted or completed, whether serious injury was sustained, etc. -- crimes are classified according to definitions used in the Uniform Crime Reports (FBI, 1978). The elements constituting these definitions are shown in Appendix D for each of the major types of crime used herein.

### Definitional Concerns

There are some measurement problems that may affect the victimization survey results. For example, we now know relatively little regarding the ability of victims to describe accurately offender's age, race, and sex.

In principle, it would seem that for personal crimes the offender's sex would probably be the least difficult for victims to report on, the offender's race the next most difficult, and offender's age the most difficult for the victim to report (See Appendix C). This research does not attempt to present fine age distinctions regarding offenders. The NCS survey instrument uses the following age categories: under 12, 12 to 14, 15 to 17, 18 to 20, 21 or older, and "don't know." Our analysis uses only three broad offender age groups (under 18, 18 to 20, and 21 or older) in order to minimize misclassification of offenders on age. The focus of this report is an assessment of the characteristics of crimes in different ecological areas among different offender age groups. If one were examining variation in crimes by exact ages and using concepts such as "peak age of delinquency," the issue of the age of offender would be more problematic than is the case with this research (Hindelang and McDermott, 1981).

A second problem in this research is that the type of locality in which the victim lives, not the location where the incident occurred or the residence of the offender, is used to classify victimization events as urban, suburban, or rural. Given the proximity of the suburbs to the city, where are suburban people victimized? At home in the suburbs or at work or during leisure hours in the city? Or some combination? The victimization data source contains information on the type of locality in which the victim resides but little information on the geographical location where the crime occurred. No information in the data set is available regarding the residence of the offender. Therefore, if our prime interest is data at the individual level there is little choice but to use as our primary urban, suburban, and rural indicator the residence of the victim. If we use victim's residence as our urban, suburban,

and rural indicator, it is possible that although the victim resides in a particular area (suburban, for example), the crime may have occurred in a different area (urban) and thus be misclassified for the purposes of this study. Among the other possible combinations that could cause misclassification are when the offender and victim live in the same area but the crime occurs in a different area or when the victim resides in the same area where the offense took place, but the offender lives in another area. There are other possible ways in which misclassification can occur. Ultimately the problem turns on what we want to study and what we can study with the NCS data available. At the present time, the victim's residence is the only viable urban, suburban, and rural indicator at the individual level. Therefore, we will assume implicitly throughout that the victim's residence, place of occurrence of the crime, and the offender's residence are all in the same geographical area.

Unfortunately, as in the case of the accuracy of victim's perception, there is limited research that deals directly with this issue. Thus, how large the margin of error is through possible misclassification is unknown. Some research examines the place of occurrence of the crime in relation to the victim's residence, while other studies examine the place of occurrence in relation to the residence of the offender. Although it is difficult to summarize the research findings at hand, previous research has shown that in the vast majority of cases, the residence of the victim, the residence of the offender, and the occurrence of the victimization all take place in the same geographical area (e.g., Turner, 1964; Normandeau, 1968; Amir, 1971; Dunn, 1974; Pope, 1975; and Baldwin and Bottoms, 1976).

In the NCS data for the 26 cities, there is a question on the survey instrument which asks the respondent whether the crime occurred inside

the city of residence or elsewhere. For the 5 largest cities and 8 additional cities,[7] 93 percent of the personal crimes reported by victims to survey interviewers occurred inside the city of residence (Garofalo, 1977: 23). For the other 13 cities for which data are available,[8] similar figures appear with a range consisting of a low of 78 percent to a high of 96 percent. The figures are particularly high for the crimes of rape, robbery, and assault while lower for personal larceny with contact. Therefore, from these data it appears that most crimes as reported by urban residents to NCS interviewers occurred in the area of residence. Unfortunately, in the NCS national samples a comparable question was not asked, therefore we have no information from the national survey that sheds light on the proportion of residents of rural and suburban areas who were victimized within their area of residence.[9]

This issue is perhaps most problematic when examining victimizations occurring to suburban residents. More people migrate to cities from suburbs on a daily basis for purposes of employment and leisure activities than do people who migrate from cities to suburban or rural areas. Given, by definition, the close proximity of suburbs to cities it is likely that some suburban residents are victimized in cities. Although the suburbs will be included in our analysis, the results will have to be viewed with caution; this holds true to a much lesser extent for urban-rural comparisons. For our purposes here, delinquent activities in a suburban setting will be assumed to fall some place between urban and rural areas in regard to the major variables studied. For example, we expect urban rates of victimization to be greater than suburban rates and suburban rates in turn to be greater than rural rates. In a similar fashion in our examination of other key variables we expect the suburban category to fall between

urban and rural areas.

The third major problem in this research relates to the definition of urban, suburban, and rural areas. Throughout this monograph, Office of Management and Budget areal categories will be used to measure the extent of urbanization (Statistical Policy Division, 1975). Before defining these terms it is important to have an understanding of the concept Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. A SMSA is defined as:

> A county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with the central city (Bureau of the Census, 1972).[10]

In this research, urban areas are defined as the core centers within the SMSA's. These are also referred to as the "central cities" that are defined as the largest city (or twin cities) of a SMSA. Suburban areas are defined as the balance of the SMSA. These areas are also referred to as those metropolitan areas situated "outside central cities," but within the SMSA. Rural areas are defined as those non-metropolitan areas that are not situated in a SMSA. These areas contain a variety of localities ranging from sparsely inhabited areas to cities with a population of less than 50,000.

These designations, which reflect the metropolitan character of an area, attempt to take into consideration population size and density, the economic and social relationships of contiguous areas, and the characteristics of an area's labor force.

> The SMSA classification provides a distinction between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas by type of residence, supplementing the older rural-urban, farm-nonfarm distinctions.

> Further, SMSA's take into account places of industrial concentration (labor demand) and/or population concentration (labor supply). The SMSA has been used extensively by numerous government agencies as a standard area for data gathering, analysis, and publication of statistics (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1973:xxi).

When these categories are utilized as a measure of extent of urbanization, SMSA central cities are considered the most urbanized areas followed by the balance of SMSA, and areas outside SMSA's, respectively.

The Census designations of urban, suburban and rural areas have come under a great deal of criticism. First, the definitions themselves are questioned on conceptual grounds (see e.g., Hadden, 1968). The critics of the SMSA concept point to the arbitrary nature of the population criterion, namely a minimum city size of 50,000 persons. Some researchers claim that these figures are too small to distinguish "true" metropolitan centers like New York and Chicago from smaller cities like Albany, New York, or Canton, Ohio. Other critics say that the number is too large because a city population of 25,000 with high density is clearly not a rural area. Within urban, suburban, and rural areas variation among different size places is not taken into account.

The second point the critics attack is the criterion regarding social and economic integration and metropolitan character (e.g., Berry, 1968). This part of the SMSA definition has a vague and uncertain quality to it. Data to support or refute social and economic integration are difficult to find. Also the criterion ignores land use which seems central to any definition seeking to distinguish urban areas from rural areas (Berry, 1968). The critics conclude that more precise and detailed statements regarding the metropolitan concept and social and economic integration are needed.

Another major problem with the use of the SMSA concept is the notion of suburbs. Suburbs are not directly defined by the Bureau of the Census. Areas which researchers call suburbs are those areas outside the central city but within the SMSA. Implicit in the definition is that the suburb is in a peripheral location outside of the urban core. Also implicit is the idea that the suburban area is intermediate between urban and rural in regards to land use and density. Despite these notions in the construction of the definition, it has been argued that the definition of suburban areas is crude and potentially misleading; essentially "suburban" is a residual category. The definition is, at least in part, political and is sometimes made on the basis of political administration rather than on conceptual or theoretical grounds. Whether an area is a suburb or not is often due to the historical accident of annexation -- i.e. to what constitutes the exact boundaries of central cities. Thus, the definition of suburbs is not uniform across the United States. Hadden succinctly states the issue:

> There is no intrinsic argument in favor of re-
> stricting the concept of suburb to areas out-
> side the incorporated Central City other than
> the ease of using available data. Neither is
> there any intrinsic reason why all territory
> outside the Central City should be classified
> as suburban (Hadden, 1968:282).

However, despite all the criticisms and problems with the SMSA concept, using this operational definition of urban, suburban, and rural does have merit. In general, the SMSA definition provides a tool which allows researchers to classify areas on a standard basis. That is, areas composed of a large city and its closely integrated surrounding area are distinct from areas of small population size and low population density. The concept is also a considerable improvement over past definitions.

Areas are classified on the basis of size and density, which are two of the classical ecological concepts that distinguish areas as urban or rural (e.g., Wirth, 1938). Finally, there are presently few alternative indicators that are better than the SMSA concept. In conclusion, the concepts used in this study to distinguish urban, suburban, and rural areas are the Central Cities of SMSA, Balance of SMSA, and Areas Outside of SMSA distinction. As with any operational definition there are some problems with using the Census Bureau's definitions. These definitions do provide firm rules to follow regarding areal classification and seem adequate to enable an examination of similarities and differences in juvenile criminal behavior across urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Our attention will now shift to the three basic areas of concern regarding juvenile criminal behavior across the urban-rural dimension. The next section focuses on the patterns of victimization across the urban-rural dimension. The following sections will center on the nature of victimization events and the consequences of victimization across urban, suburban, and rural areas.

## II. PATTERNS OF VICTIMIZATION ACROSS URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL AREAS

### Rates of Victimization

Before discussing the nature and consequences of victimization events (for example, weapon use, injury, etc.), it is essential that one has an understanding of the patterns of victimization across different eco-logical areas. This section of the report will examine rates of victimization across the urban-rural dimension. That is, an analysis of the comparative risk of urban, suburban, and rural residents of being victimized by juveniles, youthful offenders, and adults. Rates and seriousness-weighted

rates will be examined and compared in this analysis.

Data from the 1973-1977 national samples of the NCS are used to estimate both the population base 12 years of age and older[11] and the number of victimizations that occurred annually in the United States. The rates reported are the average annual rates computed from five years of data (1973-1977). The rate of victimization is computed by dividing the number of victimizations by the number of persons in the population of interest. For example, to obtain a rate of total personal victimization for urban areas, one takes the number of victimizations in urban areas and divides that by the number of persons (12 and over) living in urban areas. This number is then multiplied by 100,000 to obtain a rate of victimization per 100,000 persons (12 and over). All of the rates of victimization presented herein are rates per 100,000 persons in the population subgroup of interest.

It must be emphasized that victimization rates do not take into account the number of potential offenders in each of the three offender age groups. For example, compared to the under 18 and 21 or older groups, there are relatively few potential offenders in the 18 to 20 age group. Thus, when rates of offending are computed for this age group (see text below) this age group will be shown generally to have the highest rate of offending. However, because the absolute number of victimizations committed by 18 to 20 year olds is small -- compared with the absolute number committed by the under 18 and the 21 or older groups -- this age group accounts for a relatively small portion of total personal victimizations suffered by the population.

The tables in this section also report seriousness-weighted rates of victimization. It is necessary to examine the seriousness of the victimization as well as the rate of victimization. The simple rates of victimization treat all victimization incidents as if they were equal in terms of the seriousness of the victimizations. It is possible that two groups, in this case urban and rural residents, could have comparable rates of victimization yet suffer very different victimizations in terms of seriousness. It is important then to examine seriousness-weighted rates as well as simple rates of victimization in order to ascertain whether these sets of rates differ in any meaningful manner.

Sellin and Wolfgang (1964) created a scaling technique designed to provide a composite seriousness score for incidents of delinquency. This technique takes into account elements of the incident such as personal injury and property loss, among others. For each victimization event the elements are weighted accordingly. For example, if the victim receives minor injuries and no professional medical attention, the seriousness score equals 1. If the victim is injured and treated at the hospital and discharged, the incident is given a seriousness score of 4. Finally, if the victim is hospitalized because of injuries incurred in the victimization, a seriousness score of 7 is given. Similar scores are given when property loss is incurred during the victimization incident.[12]

However, one modification in their approach is necessary. Only the consequences suffered by the individual victim are scored. This modification is necessary because the focus is on the seriousness of the victimization suffered by the given victim, not the seriousness of the incident (which may include more than one victim) (See Hindelang, 1976:143). The seriousness-weighted rates reported in this section

summarize across victims the seriousness score of each victimization reported. Specifically, the seriousness-weighted rates of victimization are computed by summing the seriousness score for each victimization reported, multiplying that total by 100,000 and dividing by the number of persons at risk in the population.

Figure 1 displays the rates of total personal victimization and seriousness-weighted rates of victimization by age of offender across urban, suburban, and rural areas. The simple rates of victimization are greater in urban areas compared with suburban areas and the suburban rates are greater than the rural rates. This pattern holds true for all three age groups, although the ratio between the urban and rural rate is slightly larger for juvenile offenders. The rates of total personal victimization due to adult offenders were almost 2 1/2 times that of the rates due to juvenile offenders, regardless of area.

The data in Table 1 present victimization rates by type of crime, extent of urbanization, and age of offender. These data are insightful as to the patterning of victimizations across the urban-rural dimension. For each specific crime type the rates of victimization are substantially greater in urban areas contrasted with rural areas. This finding holds for all three offender age groups. Also, within ecological areas all the rates of specific crime types increase with age of offender, especially the rate of rape victimization. (As noted above, however, these rates do not take into account the number of potential offenders in each of the three age groups. See text below.)

Examining juvenile offenders, the rates for rape are relatively low across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Rape by offenders under 18 is a rare event regardless of geographical area. The remaining crime types, however,

Figure 1  Estimated annual rates and seriousness-weighted rates of total personal victimization
(per 100,000 persons 12 years or older) by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a]
NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]
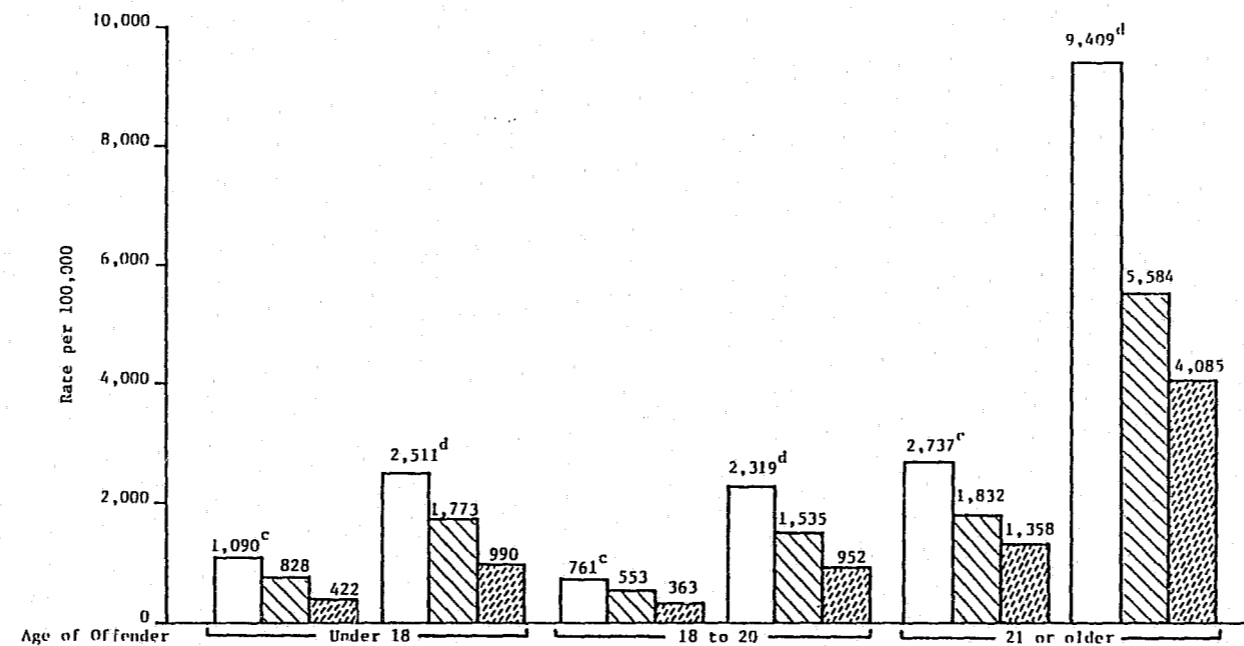


Population Bases:

|  |  | |
|---|---|---|
| SMSA Central Cities | 50,138,935[e] | |
| Balance of SMSA | 65,723,173 | |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 53,535,444 | |

[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of the oldest multiple offender.

[b]Excluded are incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there
was one or more than one offender.

[c]Simple rates of victimization.

[d]Seriousness-weighted rates per 100,000 are obtained by multiplying each victimization by its Sellin-
Wolfgang seriousness score, summing the weighted victimizations, then dividing this sum by the esti-
mated population and multiplying the result by 100,000.

[e]Five year average estimated number of persons in the population.

23

Table 1   Estimated annual rates of personal victimization (per 100,000 persons 12 years or older), by extent of urbanization, type of crime, and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Extent of urbanization and type of crime | Age of offender | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| **SMSA Central Cities** | | | | | |
| Rape | 9 | 14 | 107 | 5 | 136 |
| Robbery | 285 | 231 | 612 | 83 | 1,211 |
| Aggravated Assault | 217 | 189 | 812 | 50 | 1,268 |
| Simple Assault | 476 | 262 | 1,072 | 45 | 1,855 |
| Personal Larceny | 103 | 65 | 134 | 38 | 340 |
| **Balance of SMSA** | | | | | |
| Rape | 7 | 12 | 62 | 2 | 83 |
| Robbery | 145 | 103 | 263 | 25 | 537 |
| Aggravated Assault | 182 | 150 | 568 | 32 | 932 |
| Simple Assault | 447 | 268 | 893 | 30 | 1,638 |
| Personal Larceny | 45 | 21 | 46 | 14 | 126 |
| **Areas Outside of SMSA** | | | | | |
| Rape | 6 | 7 | 44 | 3 | 59 |
| Robbery | 54 | 48 | 160 | 17 | 279 |
| Aggravated Assault | 120 | 107 | 455 | 21 | 702 |
| Simple Assault | 229 | 190 | 673 | 24 | 1,115 |
| Personal Larceny | 14 | 12 | 27 | 16 | 69 |

Population Bases:

SMSA Central Cities       50,138,935[c]

Balance of SMSA           65,723,173

Areas Outside of SMSA     53,535,444

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] Excluded are incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c] Five year average estimated number of persons in the population.

show substantial differences for juvenile offenders across the urban-rural dimension. The rate of robbery by juvenile offenders in urban areas is approximately 5 times higher than the comparable rural rate. Similarly, the rate of personal larceny (another crime of theft) by juvenile offenders in urban areas is approximately 7 times higher than the comparable rate in rural areas. The rates of assault are somewhat less disparate. The assault rates, both aggravated and simple, for juvenile offenders in urban areas are twice the assault rates for juvenile offenders in rural areas.

The rates for youthful and adult offenders exhibit patterns similar to those evident for juvenile offenders. Again, theft victimizations, such as robbery and personal larceny, are most different across the urban-rural dimension, and violent victimizations, rape, aggravated assault, and simple assault, are less discrepant across areas, although the urban rates are still higher.

## The Distribution of Victimization Events

The data displayed in Table 2 show the percent distribution of specific crime types by the extent of urbanization and age of offender. Overall, the proportion of total crime accounted for by rape in urban and rural areas is virtually identical. Thus, although Table 1 showed rape rates increasing with urbanization, Table 2 shows that rape accounted for the same percentage of total crimes across ecological areas. As a proportion of all victimizations, the crime of robbery is far more common in urban areas compared with rural areas. The data on personal larceny, a theft crime like robbery, show similar results, although the relationships are not as strong. Undoubtedly, the most common personal crime in urban and rural areas is assault. Assault accounts for a larger proportion of rural

Table 2  Percent distribution of type of crime in personal victimization, by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973–1977 aggregate[b]

| Type of crime and extent of urbanization | Age of Offender | | | | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | |
| **SMSA Central Cities** | | | | | |
| Rape | 1[c] | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Robbery | 26 | 30 | 22 | 38 | 25 |
| Aggravated Assault | 20 | 25 | 30 | 23 | 26 |
| Simple Assault | 44 | 34 | 39 | 20 | 39 |
| Personal Larceny | 10 | 9 | 5 | 17 | 7 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (2,733,305) | (1,907,600) | (6,861,309) | (554,234) | (12,056,448) |
| **Balance of SMSA** | | | | | |
| Rape | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Robbery | 18 | 19 | 14 | 24 | 16 |
| Aggravated Assault | 22 | 27 | 31 | 31 | 28 |
| Simple Assault | 54 | 48 | 49 | 29 | 49 |
| Personal Larceny | 6 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (2,719,316) | (1,817,088) | (6,020,772) | (338,198) | (10,895,374) |
| **Areas Outside of SMSA** | | | | | |
| Rape | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Robbery | 13 | 13 | 12 | 22 | 12 |
| Aggravated Assault | 28 | 29 | 34 | 26 | 32 |
| Simple Assault | 54 | 52 | 50 | 29 | 50 |
| Personal Larceny | 3 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 3 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (1,129,060) | (971,735) | (3,635,339) | (215,638) | (5,951,772) |

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c] Column percent.

26

crime than urban crime. Assaults (aggravated and simple) account for 82 percent of all personal crimes in rural areas compared with 65 percent for urban areas.

These data then parallel the rates of victimization presented earlier in that the data demonstrate that the portrait of urban crime is different than the portrait of rural crime. Crimes of theft -- robbery and personal larceny -- are more common in urban areas than rural areas. On the other hand, crimes of assault (both aggravated and simple), while quite common in both urban and rural areas, account for a larger proportion of all rural crimes compared with urban crimes. For the most part these patterns hold true for juvenile, youthful, and adult offenders. Unlike the other crime types, rape is an extremely rare event and does not seem to be influenced by geographical location. Rather, the proportion of rape increases slightly with age of offender. Overall then the patterning of criminal activity is different across the urban-rural dimension.

## Rates of Commercial Robbery

Of all the personal crimes examined in this monograph only the crime of robbery can also be committed against a commercial establishment. Thus far the data presented have dealt only with personal robbery. This section analyzes data from the Commercial Victimization Surveys for the years 1974 thru 1976. These data, like the data in the earlier sections are used to investigate the distribution of commercial robbery by extent of urbanization and age of offender.

The data in Table 3 display rates of personal and commercial robbery victimizations by extent of urbanization and age of offender. The rates of commercial robbery (per 100,000 commercial establishments) are considerably larger than the rates of personal robbery (per 100,000 persons) in all areas and for all offender age groups. This large difference is

Table 3   Estimated annual rates of robbery victimization (per 100,000 businesses/persons) by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1974-1976 aggregate[b]

| Extent of urbanization | Under [.] | Age of offender | | | |
| | | [.] to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| SMSA Central Cities | | | | | |
| Commercial | 402 | 954 | 3,812 | 648 | 5,815 |
| Personal | 281 | 231 | 611 | 81 | 1,206 |
| Balance of SMSA | | | | | |
| Commercial | 225 | 581 | 1,937 | 473 | 3,216 |
| Personal | 153 | 110 | 263 | 23 | 550 |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | | | | | |
| Commercial | 118 | 210 | 537 | 71 | 936 |
| Personal | 56 | 47 | 161 | 18 | 282 |

| Population Bases: | Business | Personal |
| SMSA Central Cities | 2,804,707[c] | 50,481,632[c] |
| Balance of SMSA | 1,965,305 | 65,813,923 |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 2,476,160 | 53,569,472 |

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the number of offenders was not known.

[c] Three year average estimated number of businesses/persons in the population.

mainly due to the small denominator upon which the rates of commercial robbery were calculated. In terms of raw numbers personal robbery is far more frequent than commercial robbery. Overall, the rates of both personal and commercial robbery are substantially higher in urban areas than in suburban and rural areas. These data also indicate that the majority of commercial robberies in urban, suburban, and rural areas are committed by adult offenders. The rate of commercial robbery by adults in central cities is 7 times the rate of commercial robbery by adults in rural areas. But the rate of commercial robbery by juveniles in urban areas is only 3 times the rate of commercial robbery by those under 18 in rural areas. One of the most striking patterns is that the ratio of urban to rural commercial robbery rates increases as offender age group increases. Perhaps due to the skill and expertise involved in committing commercial robberies juvenile offenders are less likely than adults to be involved in such robberies in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Rates of Seriousness-Weighted Victimization

The question arises as to whether the seriousness-weighted rates of victimization exhibit the same patterns as the simple rates of victimization. Referring again to Figure 1, the seriousness-weighted rates are also displayed. The seriousness-weighted rates of victimization are greater in urban areas compared with suburban areas. In turn, the rates in suburban areas are greater than the rates in rural areas. Across all age groups the seriousness-weighted rates in urban areas are approximately 2 1/2 times larger than the seriousness-weighted rates in rural areas. The seriousness-weighted rates for adults are 3 to 4 times larger than the seriousness-weighted rates for juvenile offenders across all areas.

(Again the reader is cautioned that these victimization rates do not take into account the number of potential offenders in the three age-of-offender groups. See text below).

Therefore, the patterns of victimization exhibited across urban, suburban, and rural areas are somewhat different. As was expected, the overall rates of victimization and the seriousness-weighted rates are higher in urban areas compared with rates in suburban and rural areas. The types of crimes committed across the urban-rural dimension show some remarkable differences. For the most part, crimes of theft -- robbery and personal larceny -- are relatively rare in rural areas; these crimes are more common in urban centers. On the other hand, crimes of assault (both aggravated and simple) when viewed as a proportion of total crime within the respective areas are far more common in rural areas than in urban areas.[13]

### Rates of Offending

Up to this point in the analysis our examination of offender characteristics has not given attention to the number of potential offenders in particular sex-race-age subgroups. That is, we have not yet examined rates of offending. For example, how many persons (potential offenders) 12 to 17 years of age are there who account for the crimes in urban, suburban, and rural areas?

As mentioned above, victimization survey data offer an alternative to arrest and self-report data. Reports of victims are independent of the criminal justice system, these reports encompass relatively serious offenses, and they are sufficiently numerous to provide reliable estimates of rates of offending for various demographic subgroups. One limitation

of victimization survey data for this purpose is that it is not possible to tell the extent to which a small number of offenders account for a large proportion of offenses. In self-report studies, on the other hand, because there is one interview or questionnaire per subject, the number of offenses attributable to each distinct respondent can be ascertained. However, for arrest data published in the Uniform Crime Reports -- and for reports of victims in victimization surveys -- it is not possible to ascertain the number of distinct offenders arrested (or in victimization surveys, the number of offenders reported by victims). Hence victimization surveys and published UCR arrest data share this shortcoming. Despite this, the survey data have sufficient compensating advantages to recommend their use for studying rates of offending.

The rates of offending reported in this section are designed to parallel arrest data as closely as possible. That is, given that the survey data are incapable of providing information on the number of distinct offenders involved in offenses suffered by different victims, the rates of offending reported in this section take into account the total number of offenders in each sex-race-age subgroup theoretically at risk of being arrested for the offense reported to survey interviewers. This is accomplished by taking into account the total number of offenders in each sex-race-age subgroup for each incident. For example, if one victim reports having been victimized by one white male adult and two white female juveniles and another victim reports having been victimized by one black female adult and one white male adult, the sex-race-age subtotals for these victimizations would be two white male adults, two white female juveniles, and one black female adult. This subtotaling process continues across all incidents reported to survey interviewers

and results in a total number of offenders for each sex-race-age sub-
group.[14] These subgroup totals serve as the numerators for the rates of
offending reported in this section;[15] the denominators are estimates
of the number of persons in the general population (i.e., potential
offenders) in each sex-race-age subgroup.[16] Rates of offending are
reported per 100,000 potential offenders and they convey the extent to
which persons with particular demographic characteristics are dispropor-
tionately involved as offenders in personal victimizations (Hindelang
and McDermott, 1981).

Before proceeding to the analysis, it is necessary to make an im-
portant observation with respect to the adult rate of offending. UCR
arrest data show that the vast majority of arrestees (about 90 percent)
for the personal crimes of concern here are under 40 years of age.
However, because in the victimization survey data the oldest offender
age category is "21 or older," it is not possible to remove from the
numerator of the adult rates of offending the small proportion of crimes
committed by persons over 40 years of age. When the adult offending
rate is standardized by the full range of general population adults --
including many older persons who are beyond the effective upper age limit
of the offending distribution (about 40 percent of the general population
is over 40 years of age) -- the result is that the adult offending
rate is too low in absolute terms. That is, if most of the offending is
done by persons under 40 but the rate of offending is divided by all
adults -- persons 21 to 99 and even older -- the rate of offending for
the crime-prone segment of the adult age range will be underestimated.
Unfortunately, there is no entirely satisfactory solution to this problem,

principally because the oldest offenders cannot be removed from the numerator
of the rates. However, in most cases, even if the offending rates for
adults were doubled to compensate for this phenomenon the general patterns
in the data (i.e., the adult rate of offending being the lowest) would be
preserved (Hindelang and McDermott, 1981).

In the first monograph in this series it was shown that serious criminal
offending by juvenile, youthful, and adult offenders remain relatively
constant over the years 1973 to 1977. Moreover, juvenile offending showed
a modest decline for this time period (McDermott and Hindelang, 1981).
In the second monograph, trends over time were examined for specific age,
race, and sex groups. There it was found that the modest decline in juvenile
offending over the 1973-1977 period was primarily due to black juveniles
(Hindelang and McDermott, 1981).

In a similar fashion, the question here is whether the rates of offend-
ing across the urban-rural dimension remained stable over the same period,
1973 to 1977. There have been accounts in the media that suggest that
crime has increased dramatically in suburban and rural areas.[17] Figure 2
shows, however, that the rates of offending in total personal victimization
(rape, robbery, assault, and personal larceny) in urban, suburban, and rural
areas have not substantially increased over the 5-year period. In fact,
during this period, there was a slight overall decrease in the rates of
offending across all areas. Generally, these patterns did not change when
violent and property crime were examined separately (data not shown in
tabular form).

In our consideration of the patterns of offending in urban, suburban,
and rural areas, it is important to analyze the demographic characteristics
of the various offender groups. It may be that the patterns evident in the

Figure 2 Estimated rates of offending in total personal crimes (per 100,000 potential offenders in each population subgroup) by year and extent of urbanization, NCS national data, 1973-1977[a]
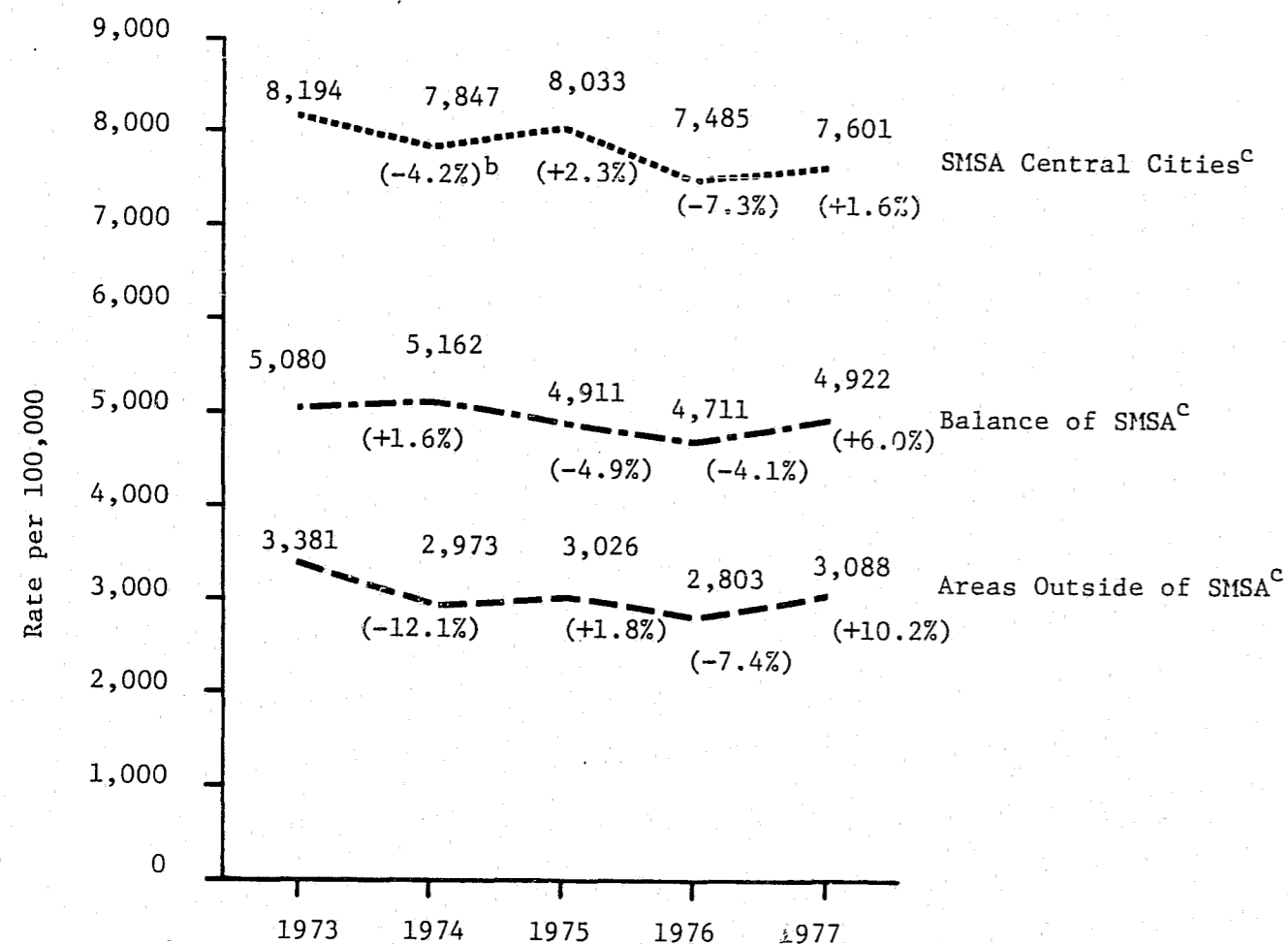
data above change when one examines the offending rates across age, race, and sex structures. Figure 3 presents rates of offending for juveniles, youthful offenders, and adults across urban, suburban, and rural areas. First, note that the hierarchical pattern of urban, suburban, and rural rates holds for all three offender age groups. That is, urban rates of offending are greater than suburban rates, which in turn are greater than rural rates for juveniles, youthful offenders, and adults. Second, it is clear from these data that youthful offenders have consistently greater rates of offending compared with juvenile and adult offenders. Moreover, and perhaps contrary to the impression conveyed by Figure 1, adults show the lowest rates of offending among all three age groups when the number of potential offenders in the population is taken into account.

Trend data from 1973 to 1977 (not shown in tabular form) show that the rates of offending for juveniles, youthful offenders, and adults in urban and rural areas remained stable across the years examined. Therefore, contrary to media reports, there was no increase in the rates of offending within juvenile, youthful offenders, and adults in urban, suburban, and rural areas for the years 1973 to 1977. In fact, there was a slight decline for all three offender age groups.[18]

Similar patterns are revealed when sex of offender is examined. The data in Figure 4 show that the rates of offending for both males and females decrease monotonically from urban to suburban to rural areas. There are dramatic differences in the rates of offending among males and females. For instance, in all areas, male rates were almost 10 times higher than female rates. Thus, while the urban, suburban, and rural patterns are evident in the data, strong differences across sex of offender are also revealed.[19]

[a]Excluded are incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[b]Percent change from previous year.

[c]See population base estimates in Appendix G.

Figure 3  Estimated annual rates of offending in total personal crimes
(per 100,000 potential offenders in each population subgroup),
by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national
data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]



[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b]Excluded are incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

Figure 4  Estimated annual rates of offending in total personal crimes
(per 100,000 potential offenders in each population subgroup),
by extent of urbanization and sex of offender, NCS national
data, 1973-1977 aggregate[a]
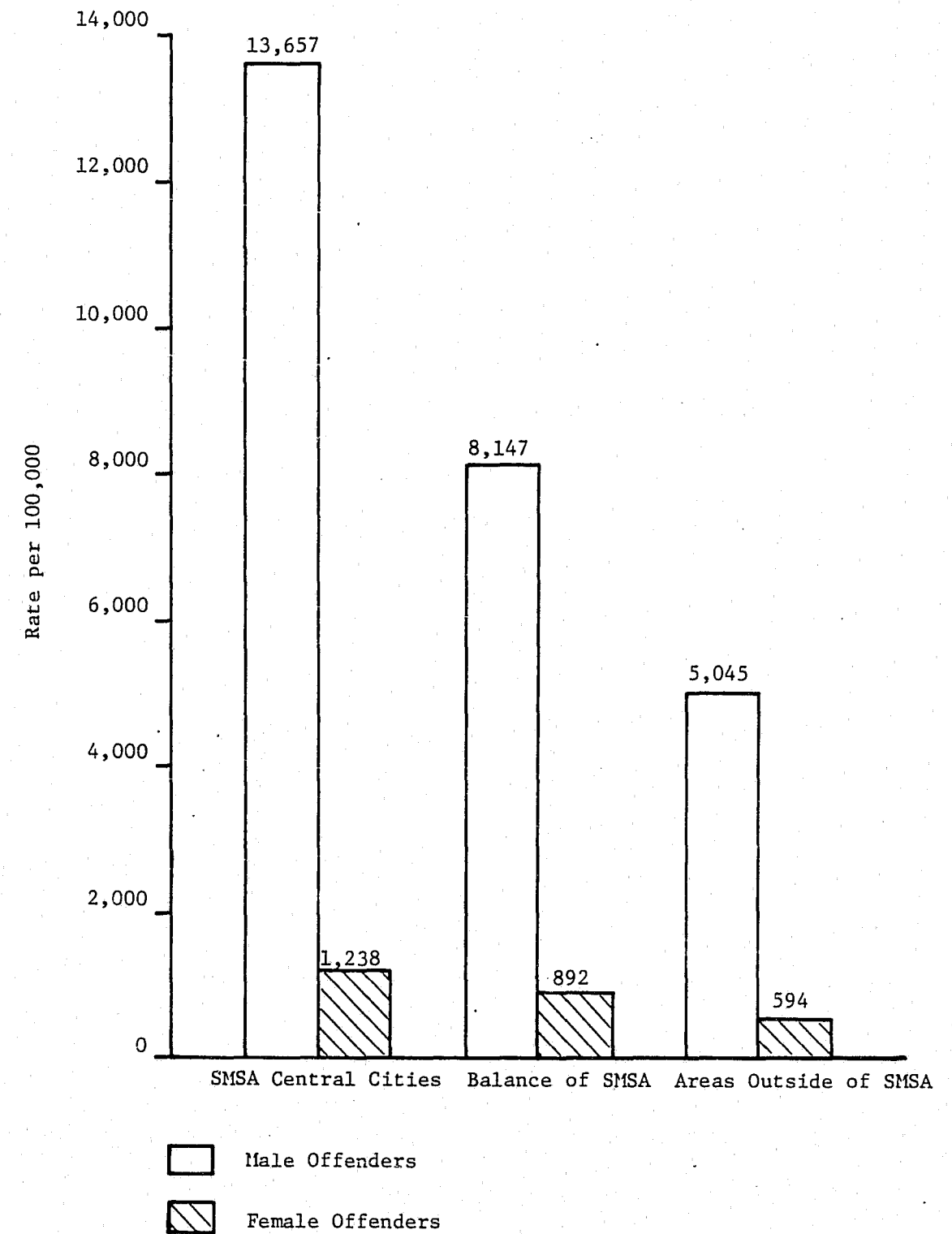


[a]Excluded are incidents (about 9 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender and incidents involving offenders of "mixed" sexes.

Figure 5 displays rates of offending in urban, suburban, and rural areas by race of offender. As expected from our earlier findings, the rates decrease across the urban-rural dimension for white offenders who constitute the majority of the population. However, when one considers the black rate of offending a rather surprising pattern appears. The rate of black offending in suburban areas is 26,501 (per 100,000), a rate about 50% greater than their urban rate of 17,544 per 100,000. It seems incongruous to find a suburban rate of offending so much in excess of the urban rate.

Nevertheless, there are important reasons why the black suburban rate of offending should be viewed with caution. As noted in the introduction, it may be that some suburban residents are victimized in urban areas. For example, a suburban commuter to the central city may have been victimized in a central city area. Since victimizations are classified according to the victim's residence, an unknown proportion of urban victimizations may be misclassified as suburban victimizations. These possible misclassifications may artificially inflate the suburban black offending rate. What would happen to these rates of offending by race if the urban-rural dimension were dichotomized in two alternative ways in order to reduce the potential misclassification errors? The data in Table 4 display rates of offending by race with suburban areas merged first with urban areas and then merged with rural areas. Both classifications show an urban-rural effect for both white and black offenders with the urban rates being at least slightly greater than the rural rates for each subgroup. In addition, the black rate of offending is considerably greater than the white rate of offending in both urban and rural areas under both classification schemes.

Figure 5   Estimated annual rates of offending in total personal crimes (per 100,000 potential offenders in each population subgroup), by extent of urbanization and race of offender, NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[a]
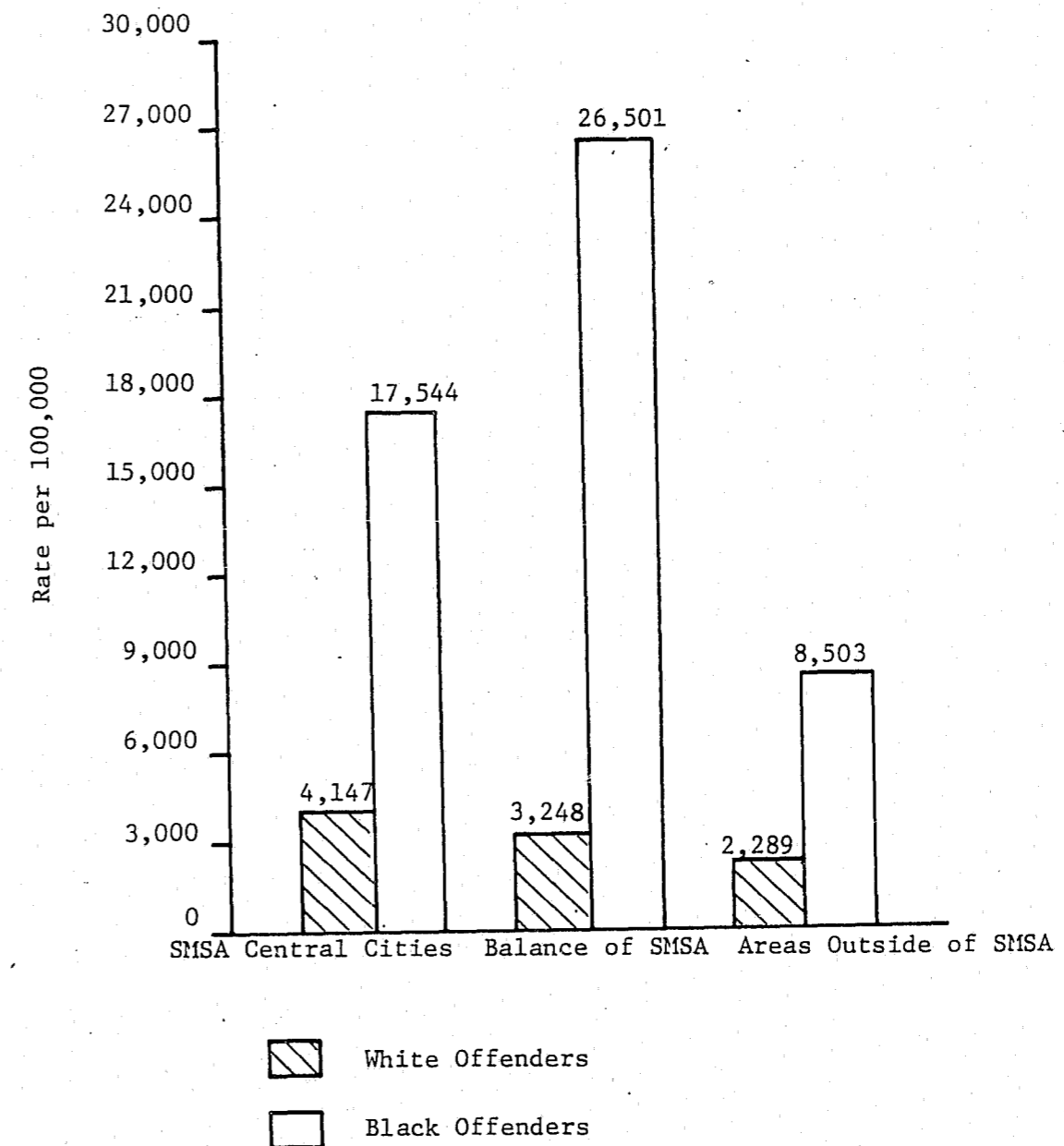


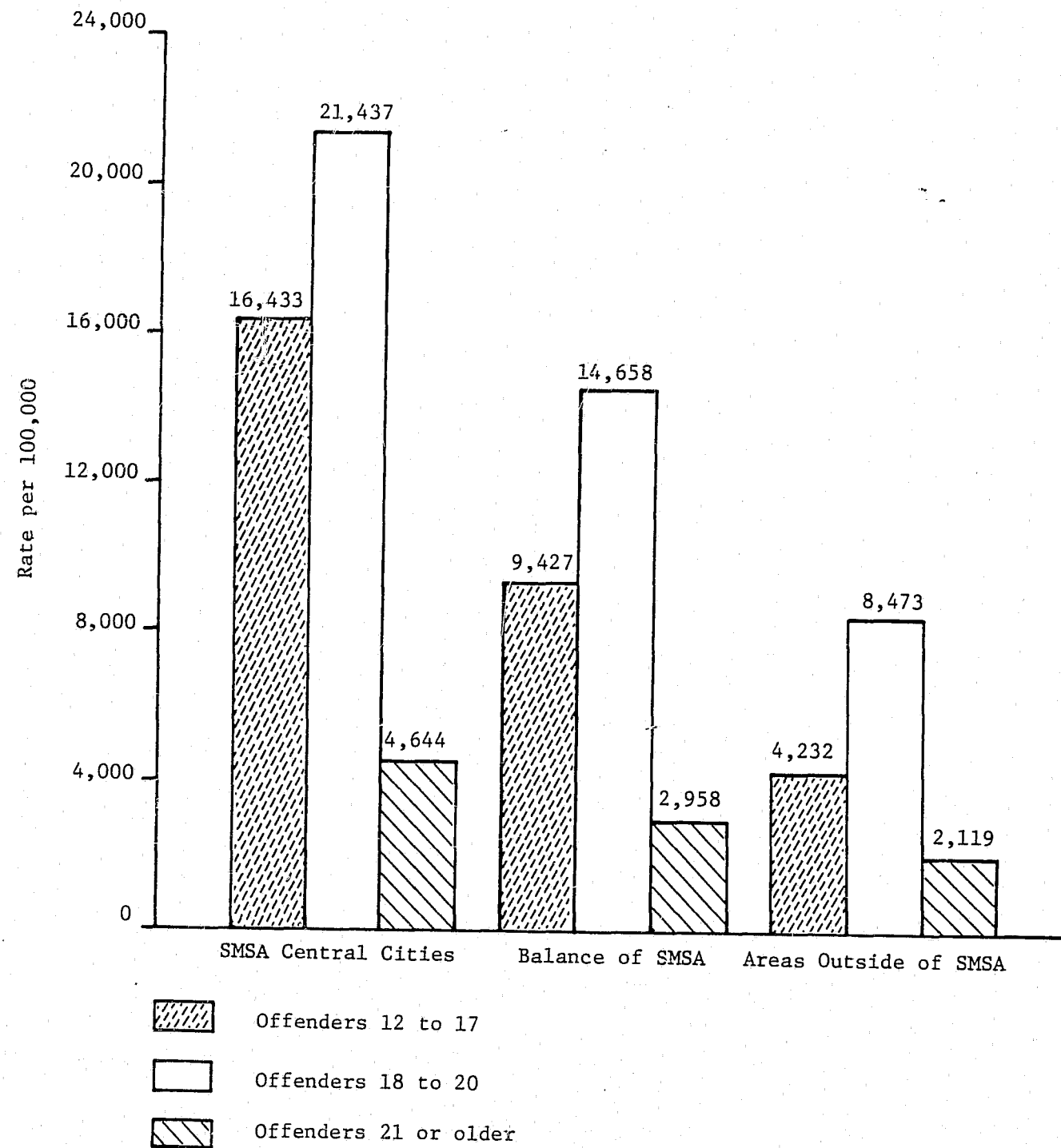[a]Excluded are incidents (about 8 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender and incidents involving offenders of "mixed" races.

Table 4    Estimated annual rates of offending in total personal
crimes (per 100,000 potential offenders in each popula-
tion subgroup), by extent of urbanization and race of
offender, NCS national data 1973-1977 aggregate[a]

| Race of offender | Extent of Urbanization | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | SMSA Central Cities and Balance of SMSA | Areas Outside of SMSA |
| White Offenders | 3,594 (99,763,896)[b] | 2,289 (49,046,527) |
| Black Offenders | 19,739 (14,226,788) | 8,503 (4,152,132) |

| | SMSA Central Cities | Balance of SMSA and Areas Outside of SMSA |
| --- | --- | --- |
| White Offenders | 4,147 (38,358,126) | 2,822 (110,452,298) |
| Black Offenders | 17,544 (10,741,232) | 16,717 (7,637,688) |

[a]Excluded are incidents (about 8 percent of the total) in which
the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one
offender and incidents involving offenders of "mixed" races.

[b]Five year average estimated number of persons in the population.

It is also evident in Figure 5 that the black rate of offending is
consistently greater than the white rate in urban, suburban, and rural
areas. The urban and rural black rates of offending are approximately
4 times greater than the white rates in those areas. Examining these
same relationships by year (data not shown) it is revealed that the black
rate monotonically declined each year for the period 1973 to 1977 in
urban and suburban areas. The rural rates for blacks also showed a
decrease overall, although it was not consistent each year. Thus, while
the black rate of offending is overall in excess of the white rate, there
is a clear trend that black rates declined each year from 1973-1977. The
white rates, in contrast, show a stable pattern during the same period.[20]

Another method that can be used to solve the problem that some victims
who reside in one area (e.g., suburban) may be victimized in another area
(e.g., urban) is to examine the subset of personal victimizations reported
to survey interviewers to have occurred "at or near home." Of all personal
victimizations reported to survey interviewers about one out of five were
reported to have occurred "at or near home." This finding is consistent
across the urban-rural dimension. The data in Figure 6 show that for
total personal victimizations occurring "at or near home" there is an
offending rate difference that indicates: a) among both blacks and whites
there is a decrease in the rate of offending from urban to suburban to
rural areas, and b) within these three areas, black rates of offending
exceed the white rates with the race effect stronger in urban than in
rural areas; in fact, the black rate of offending in rural areas is about
1/3 greater than that of white offenders in urban areas. When the
offenses of robbery and aggravated assault are examined separately similar
patterns emerge (data not shown in tabular form).[21]

Figure 6  Estimated annual rates of offending in total personal crimes
which occurred "at or near home" (per 100,000 potential offenders
in each population subgroup), by extent of urbanization and race
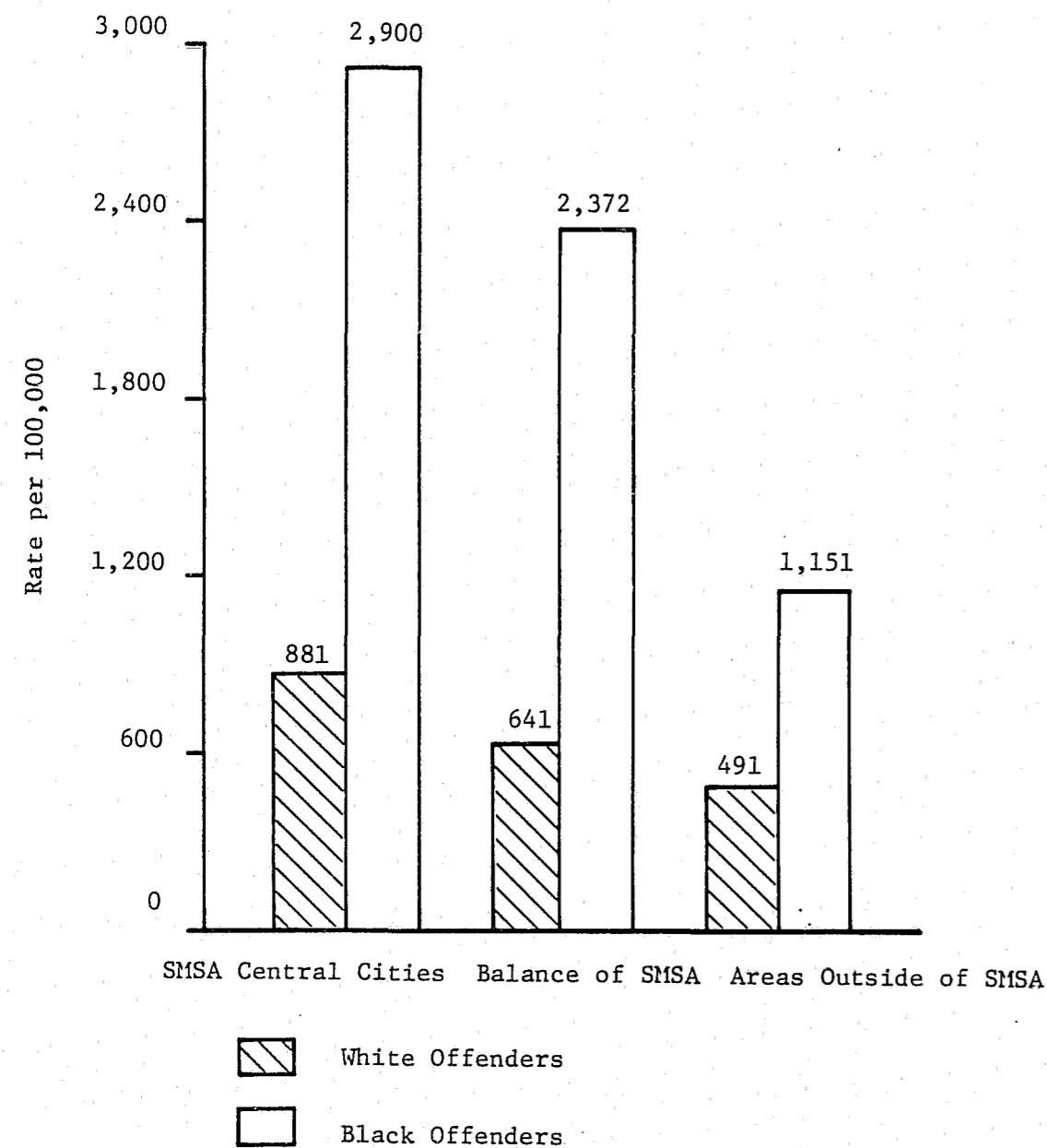of offender, NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[a]



[a] Also excluded are incidents (about 8 percent of the total) in
which the victim did not know whether there was one or more
than one offender and incidents involving offenders of "mixed"
races.

In summary, the patterns of offending across urban, suburban, and
rural areas showed remarkable consistency among various demographic sub-
groups. For every case except the black offending rate, urban rates were
greater than suburban rates, which in turn were greater than rural rates.
Furthermore, clear patterns were evident for specific age, race, and sex
groups. In all geographical areas, 18 to 20 year olds, males, and blacks
showed the greatest rates of offending. Within each subgroup, the extent
of urbanization was a factor in that the urban rates were greater than
the suburban rates, which were greater than the rural rates. The only
exception was the black suburban rate as noted above. However, when the
suburban areas are re-classified into urban areas and then reclassified
into rural areas, the urban-rural effect for black and white offenders
is in evidence. Further, when only "at or near home" victimizations
are examined the black rate of offending pattern shows the familiar
monotonic decrease across the urban-rural dimension. Also black offenders
have greater rates of offending compared with white offenders under all
classification schemes examined. As for the trends of offending over
the years 1973 to 1977, it was found that there was a slight overall
decrease in rates of offending in all three ecological areas for the
five years examined. This generally remained true even when violent
and property crimes were examined separately.

It is important to note at this juncture -- although the UCR published
data do not permit precise rate of offending comparisons with the NCS
data -- that the UCR arrest data generally show patterns congruent with
those evident in the NCS data presented here: namely that males, blacks,
and youthful offenders are substantially overrepresented among arrestees
in relation to their representation in the general population (e.g., FBI,
1978: Tables 27, 32, and 35).

III. THE NATURE OF VICTIMIZATION ACROSS URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL AREAS

## Victim-Offender Relationship

According to mass media portrayals, theoretical literature, and popular wisdom, crime is distinctly different in large cities compared with rural areas. In large cities interactions often occur between persons who are strangers to one another. Rural life, on the other hand, is characterized by close face-to-face interactions between persons who are known to each other. Thus, despite the high density in urban centers the large size of the population creates a "world of strangers" for those living in large cities (Lofland, 1973). The crime that occurs in large cities then will more likely involve people who are strangers to each other. Similarly, if there is the close association between persons in rural areas as portrayed in the literature, the crimes that do occur there will less likely be between strangers. It is important, then, to examine the extent to which crimes committed by strangers vary across urban, suburban, and rural areas.

In the NCS interview, victims were asked "Was the person (offender) someone you knew or was he a stranger?" In this analysis strangers were defined as those offenders not known to the victim, offenders known by sight only, or offenders whom the victim was unable to ascertain whether or not they were strangers. In cases where there were multiple offenders, these offenders were classified as strangers when the victim did not know any of them, when he or she knew them by sight only, or when the victim was unable to determine whether he or she knew any of them.

The data in Table 5 show for robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, and personal larceny the percent of offenders who were strangers

Table 5   Percent of stranger-offenders in personal victimization, by type of crime, extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Type of crime and extent of urbanization | Age of Offender | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| Robbery | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 83[c] (713,553)[d] | 92 (578,797) | 86 (1,534,458) | 97 (207,904) | 87 (3,034,711) |
| Balance of SMSA | 76 (477,945) | 89 (337,303) | 82 (865,876) | 99 (82,207) | 83 (1,763,332) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 72 (144,038) | 83 (127,846) | 70 (427,297) | 92 (46,523)[e] | 74 (745,704) |
| Aggravated Assault | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 59 (544,169) | 75 (473,571) | 62 (2,035,818) | 94 (126,211) | 64 (3,179,769) |
| Balance of SMSA | 58 (598,925) | 75 (491,751) | 68 (1,867,656) | 98 (105,111) | 68 (3,063,442) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 45 (320,918) | 63 (285,337) | 53 (1,217,000) | 90 (55,770)[e] | 54 (1,879,026) |
| Simple Assault | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 60 (1,193,543) | 68 (655,889) | 60 (2,687,156) | 90 (113,884) | 62 (4,650,472) |
| Balance of SMSA | 56 (1,468,934) | 66 (879,617) | 62 (2,934,092) | 93 (98,745) | 61 (5,381,388) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 37 (612,405) | 56 (507,723) | 47 (1,800,702) | 82 (63,005) | 47 (2,983,834) |
| Personal Larceny | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 94 (258,716) | 95 (163,215) | 90 (335,183) | 99 (94,170) | 93 (851,283) |
| Balance of SMSA | 90 (149,498) | 98 (69,646) | 81 (149,827) | 100 (45,156)[e] | 89 (414,127) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 66 (36,305)[e] | 80 (33,338)[e] | 76 (73,440) | 88 (42,105)[e] | 77 (185,189) |

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c] Percent with stranger-offenders.

[d] Number in parentheses shows estimated total number of victimizations (those with stranger-offenders plus those without stranger-offenders) on which percent shown is based.

[e] Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

to their victims by the extent of urbanization and age of offender. The

data show important variation in the extent of victimization by strangers

across both the urban-rural and age of offender dimensions: For most

types of crime, within each age group, urban areas generally evidence

the highest proportions of stranger crimes with suburban areas showing

slightly smaller proportions; rural areas have considerably smaller

proportions of stranger crimes than do either suburban or urban areas.

Except for robbery, the urban-rural differences are strongest for offenders

under 18 and weakest for offenders 21 or older.

## Number of Offenders

Another conception of crime in large cities, especially juvenile

crime, is that it is a group enterprise (e.g., Shaw & McKay, 1931).

Groups of juveniles engage in serious law violating behavior in large cities,

whereas juvenile gangs in rural areas are virtually unheard of. Most

crime in rural areas is committed by offenders who act alone (Clinard,

1964; Lentz, 1956; Lagey, 1957; and Wilks, 1967). In this section of

the report we will examine the extent to which victimization data show

differences across urban, suburban, and rural areas in group offending.

In the NCS interview each victim was asked "Was the crime committed

by only one or more than one person?" If there was more than one offender

the victim was asked to specify the number of offenders there were. The

data displayed in Tables 6 to 8 show the number of offenders by the extent

of urbanization and age of offender for crime types of robbery, aggravated

assault, and personal larceny.[22] Robbery is a crime committed by lone

offenders almost 50 percent of the time. Data in Table 6 show that across

the urban-rural dimension, robbery victimizations by lone offenders appear

Table 6  Percent distribution of the number of offenders in personal robbery victimization, by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Extent of urbanization and number of offenders | Age of offender | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| **Robbery** | | | | | |
| **SMSA Central Cities** | | | | | |
| One | 35[c] | 38 | 45 | 39 | 41 |
| Two | 26 | 30 | 30 | 23 | 29 |
| Three | 17 | 14 | 14 | 23 | 15 |
| Four or more | 20 | 17 | 10 | 9 | 14 |
| Not ascertained | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (713,553) | (578,797) | (1,534,458) | (207,904) | (3,034,711) |
| **Balance of SMSA** | | | | | |
| One | 42 | 44 | 53 | 32 | 48 |
| Two | 24 | 28 | 26 | 31 | 26 |
| Three | 18 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Four or more | 15 | 16 | 8 | 14 | 12 |
| Not ascertained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (477,945) | (337,303) | (865,876) | (82,207) | (1,763,332) |
| **Areas Outside of SMSA** | | | | | |
| One | 54 | 43 | 56 | 34 | 52 |
| Two | 26 | 29 | 26 | 31 | 26 |
| Three | 12 | 12 | 11 | 16 | 12 |
| Four or more | 8 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 10 |
| Not ascertained | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (144,038) | (127,846) | (427,297) | (46,523)[d] | (745,704) |

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c] Column percent.

[d] Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

more likely in rural areas. Forty-one percent of the robbery victimiza-
tions in urban areas were committed by lone offenders compared with 52
percent in rural areas. This pattern is strongest for juvenile offenders:
35 percent of the robbery victimizations committed by juvenile
offenders in urban areas were by offenders who acted alone while 54 per-
cent of robbery victimizations in rural areas were committed by juvenile
offenders who acted alone. Juvenile offender groups of four or more in
robbery were more likely in urban areas than in rural areas. For youthful
offenders the proportion of offender groups of four or more in robbery
was virtually identical across the urban-rural dimension.

Table 7 reveals moderate differences across the urban-rural dimension
in the percent of lone offenders engaging in aggravated assault both for
juvenile and youthful offenders but the relationship is very small for
adult offenders. A relatively large proportion of the aggravated assaults
in urban areas were committed by groups of juvenile offenders (18 percent)
and youthful offenders (22 percent) numbering four or more, thus lending
some credence to the notion of the fighting gang in the big city (see
Yablonsky, 1962 and Miller, 1975). For simple assaults similar patterns
are revealed (data not shown in tabular form). It is interesting to note
that for both assault and robbery the urbanization effect diminishes as
the age of offender group increases and the age effect is weakest in rural
areas.

The data in Table 8 show that there were substantial differences in
the extent to which personal larcenies were committed by lone offenders
as opposed to groups of offenders across urban and rural areas. Sixty-
one percent of the personal larcenies in urban areas were committed by

Table 7  Percent distribution of the number of offenders in aggravated assault
victimization, by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS
national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Extent of urbanization and number of offenders | Age of offender | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| Aggravated Assault | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | | | | | |
| One | 59[c] | 46 | 70 | 51 | 64 |
| Two | 14 | 18 | 12 | 17 | 13 |
| Three | 8 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Four or more | 18 | 22 | 10 | 20 | 14 |
| Not ascertained | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (544,169) | (473,571) | (2,035,818) | (126,211) | (3,179,769) |
| Balance of SMSA | | | | | |
| One | 63 | 49 | 72 | 45 | 66 |
| Two | 14 | 15 | 12 | 23 | 13 |
| Three | 7 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Four or more | 16 | 23 | 10 | 15 | 13 |
| Not ascertained | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (598,925) | (491,751) | (1,867,656) | (105,111) | (3,063,442) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | | | | | |
| One | 70 | 63 | 74 | 56 | 71 |
| Two | 15 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 12 |
| Three | 6 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 7 |
| Four or more | 8 | 17 | 8 | 11 | 9 |
| Not ascertained | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 |
| Estimated number | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| of victimizations | (320,918) | (285,337) | (1,217,000) | (55,770)[d] | (1,879,026) |

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c] Column percent.

[d] Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

Table 8  Percent distribution of the number of offenders in personal larceny victimization, by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Extent of urbanization and number of offenders | Age of offender | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| **Personal Larceny** | | | | | |
| **SMSA Central Cities** | | | | | |
| One | 59[c] | 54 | 64 | 71 | 61 |
| Two | 26 | 29 | 27 | 20 | 26 |
| Three | 9 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| Four or more | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | (258,716) | (163,215) | (335,183) | (94,170) | (851,283) |
| **Balance of SMSA** | | | | | |
| One | 65 | 53 | 65 | 84 | 65 |
| Two | 20 | 33 | 22 | 14 | 22 |
| Three | 5 | 7 | 12 | 2 | 8 |
| Four or more | 10 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Not ascertained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | (149,498) | (69,646) | (149,827) | (45,156)[d] | (414,127) |
| **Areas Outside of SMSA** | | | | | |
| One | 74 | 71 | 74 | 97 | 79 |
| Two | 7 | 15 | 16 | 0 | 10 |
| Three | 6 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 6 |
| Four or more | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Not ascertained | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | (36,305)[d] | (33,338)[d] | (73,440) | (42,105)[d] | (185,189) |

[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b]This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c]Column percent.

[d]Estimate based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

offenders who acted alone compared with 79 percent in rural areas. This relationship held across all age groups. The data also indicate that pairs of offenders were more likely to engage in personal larceny in urban areas than in rural areas. This pattern also held for juvenile, youthful, and adult offenders.

These data support prior research and theory that has emphasized the important role of companions in crime, particularly juvenile crime. Most of the major works in criminology have pointed to the central role played by the group in explanations of juvenile and adult criminal behavior. Peer support has been posited as important in the initiation and maintenance of delinquent and criminal behavior (e.g., Cohen, 1955, Matza, 1964, and Cloward and Ohlin, 1960). However, while it is reasonable to assume that those who commit their crimes with others receive some form of group support, it does not follow that lone offenders do not receive peer support for their crimes. Despite the fact that the crime is executed alone, the lone offender may still be strongly supported by a peer group.

Weapon Use

This section of the report examines the nature and extent of weapon use across the urban-rural and age of offender dimensions. Given popular stereotypes regarding the violent nature of crimes in urban areas, one would expect weapon use to be more prominent in crimes committed in cities compared with crimes committed in rural areas. For similar reasons it might be expected that guns rather than other weapons would be used to a greater extent in urban areas compared with rural areas.

In the NCS interview, each victim was asked "Did the person(s) have a weapon such as a gun or knife, or something he was using as a weapon,

such as a bottle or wrench?" Thus, data are available on both the extent

of weapon use and the type of weapons used in robbery and aggravated

assault. By definition simple assault and personal larceny do not involve

any weapons and rape is too rare for reliable analyses of these variables.

Given the differential crime type mix in urban and rural areas, it

is important to examine the percent of weapon use within crime-specific

categories. The data in Table 9 display the percent of weapon use by

the extent of urbanization and age of offender for robbery and aggravated

assault. Contrary to popular expectations, the use of weapons is remark-

ably similar across the urban-rural dimension in both robbery and aggra-

vated assault. Examining each age group, no substantial differences in

the extent of weapon use appear in urban areas compared with rural areas.

Furthermore, in aggravated assaults, no differences in the use of weapons

are in evidence across the age of offender dimension in any of the three

ecological areas. However, weapon use increased dramatically with age

of offender for robberies in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Data were examined as to the extent to which guns, knives, and/or

other weapons were used in robberies and aggravated assaults by the

extent of urbanization and age of offender (data not shown in tabular

form). The use of guns in robberies is fairly stable across the urban-

rural dimension for all age groups. There are substantial differences in

the use of guns by juvenile offenders compared with adult offenders in

robberies. Adult offenders used guns in robberies approximately 5 times

as often as juvenile offenders. Use of knives is fairly constant in

robberies across the urban-rural dimension as is the use of other weapons.

In aggravated assaults, the use of guns did not differ by the extent

Table 9    Percent of weapon use in personal victimization, by type of crime, extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Type of crime and extent of urbanization | Age of Offender | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| Robbery | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 33[c] (713,553)[d] | 50 (578,797) | 61 (1,534,458) | 45 (207,904) | 51 (3,034,711) |
| Balance of SMSA | 26 (477,945) | 43 (337,303) | 59 (865,876) | 56 (82,207) | 47 (1,763,332) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 32 (144,038) | 48 (127,846) | 58 (427,297) | 71 (46,523)[e] | 52 (745,704) |
| Aggravated Assault | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 96 (544,169) | 95 (473,571) | 95 (2,035,818) | 93 (126,211) | 95 (3,179,760) |
| Balance of SMSA | 94 (598,925) | 94 (491,751) | 94 (1,867,656) | 98 (105,111) | 94 (3,063,442) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 96 (320,918) | 93 (285,337) | 94 (1,217,000) | 96 (55,770)[e] | 94 (1,879,025) |

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c] Percent with weapon use.

[d] Number in parentheses shows estimated total number of victimizations (those with weapon use plus those without weapon use) on which percent shown is based.

[e] Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

of urbanization except that youthful offenders in urban areas used guns
slightly more than their rural counterparts. This pattern is reversed
for knives. Aggravated assaults in rural areas by juvenile and youthful
offenders were more likely to involve knives as weapons than aggravated
assaults in urban areas. The use of other weapons in aggravated assaults
is similar across all age groups in urban and rural areas.

In summary, the analysis of the nature and extent of weapon use re-
vealed some surprising results. First, an examination of specific types
of crime revealed no substantial differences in the extent of weapon use
across the urban-rural dimension in robberies and aggravated assaults.
These stable relationships held for juvenile, youthful, and adult offenders.
The type of weapon utilized is more difficult to summarize. In robberies
the use of guns, knives, and other weapons was fairly stable across the
urban-rural dimension, although gun use differed remarkably across offender
age groups with a higher proportion of adult offenders using guns compared
with juvenile offenders. In aggravated assault the use of guns was fairly
stable across urban-rural areas except for youthful offenders. Knives
were more prominent in rural areas than in suburban and urban areas in
aggravated assaults by juvenile and youthful offenders. The use of other
weapons in aggravated assault did not differ across areas or among age
groups.

IV. THE CONSEQUENCES OF VICTIMIZATION EVENTS ACROSS URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL
AREAS.

Theft

This section of the report will focus on the nature and extent of
theft across the urban-rural dimension. Robbery and personal larceny --

purse snatch and pocket picking -- are committed primarily to gain cash,
property, or both. These crimes can be regarded as instrumental crimes
designed to make a profit. Rape may also involve a theft component as
well but the case where rape and theft occur are infrequent and thus
rape will not be included in any crime-specific analysis. Because the
crimes of aggravated and simple assault by definition do not involve any
theft, these crimes will also be excluded in any crime-specific analysis.

There are several reasons to believe that differences will arise in
an analysis of theft across the urban-rural dimension. In his discussion
of delinquency in nonmetropolitan areas, Kenneth Polk writes "Not only
are the acts less serious, but, as we might expect, one uniform finding
is that delinquent youth from nonmetropolitan areas are much less
sophisticated in their delinquencies than are the urban boys" (Polk,
1967:344). Urban youth are especially regarded as sophisticated in the
ways of the world at an earlier age than rural youth (Brown, 1965).

One of the ways this sophistication may manifest itself is in the
acquisition of knowledge of criminal techniques. From research by Clinard
(1964) and Lentz (1956) it was shown that the existence of a criminal
subculture, in which one learns of the techniques and motivations of
criminal behavior, is present in urban centers while fairly rare in rural
areas. Thus, it has been argued that completed theft, a profit motivated
crime that entails some skill in its completion, will be more likely in
urban areas compared with rural areas. To a large extent then the learn-
ing and opportunity structures in urban areas create conditions that allow
theft completed crimes to be more likely in these areas when compared with
rural areas. This is coupled with the differential nature of social
control across urban and rural areas. It is believed that there is less

informal social control in urban areas because of the large populations

in cities. Urban communities are more atomized than rural areas and as

a result urbanites rely on formal social control mechanisms (like the

police) to a larger extent than their rural counterparts (Wolfgang, 1968,

and Boggs, 1971). Given the low density, small population, and primary

nature of interpersonal interactions in rural settings, it is easier to

detect crimes, and hence, crimes of completed theft will be less likely

to occur in rural settings than in urban settings. In the NCS interview

each victim was asked "Was something stolen or taken without permission

that belonged to you or others in the household?" Thus, one can examine

the extent of completed theft across the urban-rural dimension by age

of offender. The data in Table 10 display the percentage of victims

reporting a completed theft by the extent of urbanization and age of offender

for robbery and personal larceny. For robberies, overall, the percentage

of victims experiencing a completed theft is virtually identical across

the urban-rural dimension; this holds for all three offender age groups.

For personal larceny, on the other hand, some interesting findings appear.

Overall, in rural areas, 92 percent of the personal larcenies involved

a completed theft compared with 79 percent of the personal larcenies in

urban areas. For juvenile offenders who committed personal larcenies,

97 percent of the rural larcenies resulted in a completed theft compared

with 66 percent in urban areas. This same relationship held for youthful

offenders, but there were no differences in the proportion of victims

reporting completed thefts for adult offenders in urban and rural areas.

It is important to note that the data on personal larcenies in rural

areas by juvenile and youthful offenders must be viewed with caution

Table 10  Percent of personal victimizations in which something was stolen, by type of crime, extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Extent of urbanization and type of crime | Age of Offender | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| Robbery | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 53[c] (713,553)[d] | 60 (578,797) | 67 (1,534,458) | 68 (207,904) | 62 (3,034,711) |
| Balance of SMSA | 53 (477,945) | 53 (337,303) | 58 (865,876) | 76 (82,207) | 56 (1,763,332) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 56 (144,038) | 57 (127,846) | 64 (427,297) | 70 (46,523)[e] | 61 (745,704) |
| Personal Larceny | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 66 (258,716) | 75 (163,215) | 88 (335,183) | 90 (94,170) | 79 (851,283) |
| Balance of SMSA | 71 (149,498) | 75 (69,646) | 78 (149,827) | 95 (45,156)[e] | 77 (414,127) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 97 (36,305)[e] | 85 (33,338)[e] | 89 (73,440) | 97 (42,105)[e] | 92 (185,189) |

[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b]This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c]Percent in which something was stolen.

[d]Number in parentheses shows estimated total number of victimizations (those with something stolen plus those without something stolen) on which percent shown is based.

[e]Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

because the estimates are based on a small number of unweighted cases.
At the same time, however, the "total" column -- which contains a much
larger number of cases -- shows a pattern across the urban-rural dimension
that is congruent with the pattern in the juvenile and youthful offender
columns. Thus, the data on robbery fail to exhibit the effect that some
criminologists and urban sociologists have hypothesized to exist and the
pattern exhibited by personal larceny is actually opposite to that hypothe-
sized by the theorists. Perhaps, due to the higher rates of crime, urban
victims take more defensive measures than rural victims and this may account
for the lower proportion of completed thefts in urban areas. For example,
urban women may tightly clutch their purses when shopping. Similarly,
urban men may be on guard for pickpockets and carry their wallets in
their front pocket. Therefore, differential victim response within urban
and rural areas may affect outcome more than the "sophistication" notion
as discussed here.

Loss

In addition to knowing simply whether a theft was completed it is
useful to know the total economic loss sustained by the victim. This
economic loss can be in the form of monetary loss, property loss, or
property damage. From research by Normandeau (1968) and Conklin (1972),
we know that robbery for the most part is not a lucrative enterprise.
According to police files, most losses to victims are skewed toward lower
values with the majority of losses less than $50 dollars. In the NCS
interview victims are asked to assess the economic consequences of the
personal crimes they have suffered. Victims who report cash stolen are
asked to specify the amount of cash stolen. Similarly, victims who

report their property taken are queried as to the value of the stolen
property. In addition, victims who had their property damaged are asked
to report repair and replacement costs for their damaged property. We
have created a variable, "total loss," that is a simple sum of these
three types of loss.

The data in Tables 11 and 12 present "total loss" by extent of
urbanization and age of offender in robberies and personal larcenies,
respectively. The data reveal that in robbery victimizations, for the
most part, losses are less than $50 dollars. The proportion of victimiza-
tions involving losses of less than $10 dollars are comparable across
urban, suburban, and rural areas. The pattern holds for youthful and
adult offenders. The only exception is juvenile offenders where 60 per-
cent of the robbery victimizations in rural areas entail losses of less
than $10 dollars compared with 44 percent in urban areas. As has been
found previously, there is an increase in the amount of loss in robbery
victimization with age of offender independent of the extent of urbaniza-
tion (See McDermott and Hindelang, 1981).

The data in Table 12 for personal larceny reveal essentially the
same pattern. Again, there are minor differences in the proportion of
victimizations involving losses of less than $10 dollars across urban,
suburban, and rural areas. This pattern holds for youthful and adult
offenders but not for juveniles. Forty-nine percent of the personal
larceny victimizations in rural areas entailed losses of less than $10
dollars compared with 34 percent in urban areas. The data on personal
larceny in rural areas, however, must be viewed with caution because the
estimates are based on a sample of less than 50 cases. In general there

Table 11  Percent distribution of total loss in personal robbery victimization, by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Total loss and extent of urbanization | Age of Offender | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 and older | Don't Know | Total |
| **SMSA Central Cities** | | | | | |
| None | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Less than $10 | 41 | 21 | 15 | 11 | 21 |
| 10-49 | 30 | 35 | 32 | 33 | 32 |
| 50-249 | 23 | 31 | 36 | 36 | 32 |
| 250 or more | 3 | 8 | 16 | 15 | 12 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 (363,117) | 100 (369,394) | 100 (1,021,071) | 100 (123,028) | 100 (1,876,609) |
| **Balance of SMSA** | | | | | |
| None | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Less than $10 | 43 | 25 | 14 | 19 | 23 |
| 10-49 | 29 | 31 | 29 | 33 | 30 |
| 50-249 | 17 | 26 | 33 | 26 | 27 |
| 250 or more | 6 | 14 | 20 | 18 | 15 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 (248,036) | 100 (183,279) | 100 (523,462) | 100 (52,719)[c] | 100 (1,007,496) |
| **Areas Outside of SMSA** | | | | | |
| None | 6 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Less than $10 | 54 | 30 | 12 | 15 | 23 |
| 10-49 | 26 | 34 | 33 | 12 | 30 |
| 50-249 | 15 | 23 | 34 | 34 | 28 |
| 250 or more | 0 | 13 | 18 | 35 | 15 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 (82,876) | 100 (78,343) | 100 (248,163) | 100 (30,079)[c] | 100 (439,462) |

[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b]This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c]Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

Table 12  Percent distribution of total loss in personal larceny victimization, by extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Total loss and extent of urbanization | Age of offender | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 and older | Don't known | |
| **SMSA Central Cities** | | | | | |
| None | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Less than $10 | 32 | 14 | 13 | 16 | 18 |
| 10-49 | 39 | 56 | 45 | 51 | 47 |
| 50-249 | 25 | 22 | 34 | 24 | 28 |
| 250 or more | 2 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 (156,523) | 100 (127,477) | 100 (272,963) | 100 (82,103) | 100 (639,066) |
| **Balance of SMSA** | | | | | |
| None | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Less than $10 | 36 | 12 | 9 | 18 | 19 |
| 10-49 | 35 | 31 | 40 | 25 | 35 |
| 50-249 | 24 | 53 | 38 | 41 | 36 |
| 250 or more | 4 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 9 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 (97,899) | 100 (49,937)[c] | 100 (109,292) | 100 (42,810)[c] | 100 (299,938) |
| **Areas Outside of SMSA** | | | | | |
| None | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Less than $10 | 46 | 19 | 10 | 20 | 22 |
| 10-49 | 27 | 66 | 37 | 42 | 41 |
| 50-249 | 20 | 10 | 42 | 34 | 30 |
| 250 or more | 3 | 5 | 11 | 4 | 7 |
| Estimated number of victimizations | 100 (31,748)[c] | 100 (24,451)[c] | 100 (58,095)[c] | 100 (37,125)[c] | 100 (151,419) |

[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b]This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c]Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

is an increase in the amount of loss with age of offender in personal

larcenies.

## Injury

As mentioned above, large cities are characterized by a disproportionate amount of violent crime. The popular view is that offenders in urban areas engage in violence to a greater extent than offenders in rural areas. This seems particularly applicable to juveniles where much has been written in scholarly journals and the press regarding the violent juvenile gang in large American cities (e.g., Miller, 1975). It is expected that this violence will be manifested in different rates of injury to victims in urban and rural areas. Thus, it is important to examine the extent of injury incurred by victims in personal crimes across the urban-rural dimension.

In the NCS interview, all of the respondents who were attacked were asked whether they suffered any injury; by definition, victims of personal larceny could not have suffered any injuries. Of those victims who reported suffering injury, some could have incurred less serious injuries (such as cuts and bruises) and some more serious injuries (like gunshot wounds). Thus, three victim groups were created; those victims with no injury, those victims with some injury, and those victims with injury requiring medical attention. It may be the case that rural victims may be injured as often as urban victims but not as seriously.

The data displayed in Table 13 show the extent of injury (defined as needing medical attention) by type of crime (excluding personal larceny), extent of urbanization, and age of offender. Examining each specific crime type, the overall stability of the data is impressive. For robbery,

Table 13  Percent injured to the extent that medical attention was needed in personal victimization, by type of crime, extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Type of crime and extent of urbanization | Age of Offender | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| Robbery SMSA Central Cities | 6[c] (713,553)[d] | 13 (578,797) | 16 (1,534,458) | 21 (207,904) | 14 (3,034,711) |
| Balance of SMSA | 5 (477,945) | 12 (337,303) | 12 (865,876) | 20 (82,207) | 10 (1,763,332) |
| Areas outside of SMSA | 5 (144,038) | 12 (127,846) | 15 (427,297) | 11 (46,523)[e] | 12 (745,704) |
| Aggravated Assault SMSA Central Cities | 14 (544,169) | 14 (473,571) | 19 (2,035,818) | 24 (126,211) | 18 (3,179,769) |
| Balance of SMSA | 15 (598,925) | 18 (491,751) | 16 (1,867,656) | 18 (105,111) | 16 (3,063,442) |
| Areas outside of SMSA | 15 (320,918) | 15 (285,337) | 18 (1,217,000) | 13 (55,770)[e] | 17 (1,879,026) |
| Simple Assault SMSA Central Cities | 4 (1,193,543) | 4 (655,889) | 6 (2,687,156) | 11 (113,884) | 5 (4,650,472) |
| Balance of SMSA | 4 (1,468,934) | 4 (879,617) | 6 (2,934,092) | 1 (98,745) | 5 (5,381,388) |
| Areas outside of SMSA | 6 (612,405) | 4 (507,723) | 6 (1,800,702) | 4 (63,005) | 6 (2,983,834) |

[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b]This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c]Percent with injury to the extent medical attention was necessary.

[d]Number in parentheses shows estimated total number of victimizations (those with injury plus those without injury) on which percent shown is based.

[e]Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

aggravated assault, and simple assault, there are no differences in the proportion of injured victims across urban, suburban, and rural areas. These patterns remain for all age groups; juvenile, youthful, and adult offenders. Adult offenders in robbery victimizations injured a higher proportion of victims compared with juvenile offenders who committed robbery. This relationship remained across the urban-rural dimension. For example, in urban areas 16 percent of the robbery victims of adult offenders were injured compared with 6 percent of the robbery victims of juvenile offenders. Similarly, in rural areas the comparable figures were 15 and 5 percent, respectively. Thus, in the case of robbery, age of offender was related to victim injury but extent of urbanization shows no systematic relationship to victim injury.

In the NCS interview all respondents who reported injuries requiring medical attention were asked whether they received any treatment at a hospital. This hospital treatment is defined as either emergency room treatment only or hospital medical care overnight or longer. Thus, although no differences appeared in the extent of injury across the urban-rural dimension, there may be differences in the seriousness of the injuries sustained by victims in personal crimes.

The data in Table 14 display the percent of victims receiving hospital treatment by extent of urbanization and age of offender for robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. In robberies, aggravated assaults, and simple assaults, the proportion of injured victims who received hospital treatment was virtually identical across the urban-rural dimension. This pattern held among all age groups. Also the proportion of injured victims receiving hospital treatment increased somewhat with age of offender for robbery but not for assault.

Table 14  Percent receiving hospital treatment (emergency room or more) in personal victimization, by type of crime, extent of urbanization and age of offender,[a] NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[b]

| Type of crime and extent of urbanization | Age of Offender | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older | Don't know | Total |
| Robbery | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 4[c] (713,553)[d] | 10 (578,797) | 13 (1,534,458) | 16 (207,904) | 11 (3,034,711) |
| Balance of SMSA | 4 (477,945) | 8 (337,303) | 8 (865,876) | 19 (82,207) | 7 (1,763,332) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 2 (144,038) | 8 (127,846) | 12 (427,297) | 11 (46,523)[e] | 9 (745,704) |
| Aggravated Assault | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 10 (544,169) | 12 (473,571) | 15 (2,035,818) | 22 (126,211) | 14 (3,179,769) |
| Balance of SMSA | 10 (598,925) | 14 (491,751) | 13 (1,867,656) | 16 (105,111) | 12 (3,063,442) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 10 (320,918) | 10 (285,337) | 14 (1,217,000) | 7 (55,770)[e] | 13 (1,879,026) |
| Simple Assault | | | | | |
| SMSA Central Cities | 2 (1,193,543) | 3 (655,889) | 4 (2,687,156) | 5 (113,884) | 3 (4,650,472) |
| Balance of SMSA | 2 (1,468,934) | 3 (879,617) | 4 (2,934,092) | 3 (98,745) | 3 (5,381,388) |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 3 (612,405) | 4 (507,723) | 4 (1,800,702) | 4 (63,005) | 3 (2,983,834) |

[a] Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

[b] This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender.

[c] Percent receiving hospital treatment.

[d] Number in parentheses shows estimated total number of victimizations (those receiving hospital treatment plus those not receiving hospital treatment) on which percent shown is based.

[e] Estimate, based on fewer than 50 sample cases, may be statistically unreliable.

## V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Despite the fact that extent of urbanization is one of the strongest and most enduring correlates of criminality, it has been virtually ignored by theorists and researchers alike. Attention instead has focused on intracity or intercity variations, without significant attention being devoted to suburban and rural crime.[23] The result has been that knowledge in this area has lagged behind that in the rest of the field. For example, little is known regarding the similarities and differences in criminal acts across the urban-rural dimension.

The availability of victimization survey data provides a means of assessing the extent to which the higher rates of victimization evidenced in urban areas as contrasted with rural areas remain when the potential biasing factors that may be introduced by the criminal justice system itself are circumvented. Because in victimization surveys data are gathered directly from the victims, it cannot be the case that urban-rural differences in victimization rates are accounted for by such factors as more intense police patrols or more sophisticated police record keeping systems in urban areas. The victimization rate data clearly show that urban crime occurs at a higher rate and consists of a greater proportion of theft crimes than does rural crime. These findings are roughly comparable for similar crimes as reported in the UCR (see, e.g., FBI, 1978:Table 1).

The offending rate data also generally parallel UCR arrest data with respect to the offender characteristics of sex, race, and age group; the expected differences -- males, blacks, and 18 to 20 year olds having greater rates of offending than their counterparts -- hold generally within

urban and rural areas.[24] Once again, because the victimization data, which are collected directly from victims themselves, cannot be affected by biases in police patrol strategies (e.g., intensely patrolling areas with large minority populations) or outright race or sex biases in arrest procedures, it is very significant that the offending rate data are generally compatible with UCR arrest data at the national level.[25]

Also of notable theoretical significance is the finding that for all offender age groups -- but particularly for juvenile offenders -- the proportion of crimes involving strangers was larger in urban than in rural areas. Because crime by strangers is regarded as fear provoking, this finding, in addition to the higher crime rate, may help account for the high levels of fear of crime expressed by urban residents as contrasted with rural residents in opinion polls (Clemente and Kleinman, 1977, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1978:220-225). In addition, it was found that the number of offenders involved in the incident increased with the extent of urbanization. That is, group crime tends to be characteristic of urban centers while rural offenders more often act alone; findings consistent with previous research (Clinard, 1942, 1964; Lentz, 1956; Wilks, 1967; and Polk, 1967).

However, the most interesting and perhaps the most important findings were regarding the similarities of urban and rural victimizations. For example, the extent of weapon use did not vary across the urban-rural dimension. Similarly, the types of weapons used -- guns, knives, or other weapons -- did not differ in victimizations across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Moreover, urban and rural victimizations had very similar consequences. For instance, success in theft, rates of victim

injury, and financial loss did not differ across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Thus, although rates of victimization were much higher in urban areas, when victimizations did occur, the outcomes to the victim were not very different across the urban-rural dimension. It was shown that at least for theft, injury, financial loss, and weapon use, age of offender was more strongly associated with them than was the extent of urbanization.[26]

What implications then do these data have for policy, research, and criminological theory? In recent years there has been growing media and public concern with respect to a perceived rapid rise in rural as compared to urban crime. These concerns, to the extent that they are empirically grounded, are usually based on Uniform Crime Report data for Index offenses published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The personal crimes examined here are only a subset of Index crimes and do not include the voluminous property crimes suffered by households and businesses -- burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larcenies without contact between the victim and the offender. Further, in this report only a short time series of victimization survey data was available. However, within these constraints the victimization data indicate that the rate of personal victimization in urban areas relative to that in rural areas has been stable in the 1973 to 1977 period. Furthermore, when comparable offenses in the Uniform Crime Reports are examined a similar picture of relative stability between rates of rape, aggravated assault, and robbery in SMSA's versus rural areas maintains for this period. It is significant that victimization survey data are compatible with UCR data on this point since it has often been speculated that a substantial part of the urban-rural

crime difference is due to the propensity of rural residents to handle victimizations more informally than their urban counterparts. However, because the victimization data include both crimes reported to the police and crimes not reported to the police, the data clearly suggest that the artifact of reporting crimes to the police does not explain urban-rural differences in rates of personal victimization.[27] Thus, although other indicators or data from other periods may justify an increased attentiveness to rural crime, clearly the available National Crime Survey data for personal crimes and the corresponding Uniform Crime Report data for this period do not justify an increased concern with crime in rural areas.

From the standpoint of criminological research and theory the data presented in this report should serve as a stimulus for additional work that has for too long been given inadequate attention. As noted in the introduction the purpose of this monograph has been to examine similarities and differences in urban and rural crimes. This report can be seen as only one step in the process of providing an adequate description of this phenomenon; it is obvious that the victimization data in and of themselves are generally too sketchy to provide final answers to the questions raised. These results do, however, provide stepping stones that can be used by others interested in this problem area. Despite their limitations the results reported herein can be used to suggest avenues for further empirical and theoretical efforts. For example, etiological theorists who have been hesitant to accept UCR arrest data on demographic characteristics of offenders should be more comfortable in doing so in light of the parallel findings with respect to age, sex, race, and urban versus rural differences found in victimization data reported above. In addition, the unexpected

findings reported here -- if they are confirmed by subsequent research --
that rural and urban victimizations are similar with respect to their
consequences to victims (e.g., injury) and characteristics (e.g., the
nature and extent of weapon use) should stimulate reformulations of
existing conceptualizations that envision rural crimes as less harmful
than urban crimes to their victims.

Because extent of urbanization has been historically, and continues
to be an important correlate of rates of personal victimization, it is
important for researchers and theorists to go beyond the rates themselves
and investigate closely the properties of crimes in rural versus urban
areas. One important general question, for example, is to what extent
do theories originally formulated to account for urban offending (e.g.,
Shaw and McKay, 1942; Cohen, 1955; and Cloward and Ohlin, 1960) apply to
suburban and rural offending as well and, regardless of the answer to this
question, what theoretical constructs can be postulated to account for
variation in rates of offending across the urban-rural dimension. These
and other critical issues are clearly beyond the scope of this report,
which, at best, can only begin to address some of the most fundamental
issues in this realm.

## NOTES

[1] See Appendix C for some data on the accuracy of the victims' perception of
the offenders' age, race, and sex.

[2] See Garofalo and Hindelang (1977) and U.S. Bureau of the Census (undated)
for additional details about design and collection.

[3] The business portion of the national survey has been discontinued. The
last full year for which data are available is 1976. Also business survey
results from 1973 have reportedly been permanently lost by the Bureau of
Census and hence, are not included in this monograph.

[4] This procedure does not completely ignore mobile families and businesses.
Although no attempt is made to trace families and businesses that move
away from an address in the sample, a similar mobile family or business
may move into that address and will be included in the survey.

[5] See Garofalo and Hindelang (1977) for more details.

[6] In a small proportion of cases (victims 12 and 13 years of age and victims
who for some physical or mental reason are unable to respond for themselves)
interviews are completed by proxy with another household member.

[7] The five largest cities are Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia,
and Detroit. The eight additional cities include Atlanta, Baltimore,
Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Newark, Portland, and St. Louis.

[8] These cities are Oakland, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C.,
San Diego, Houston, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Boston, Buffalo, Miami,
Pittsburgh, and San Francisco.

[9] As will be seen below respondents in the national samples were asked "Where
did this incident take place?" Responses to this question fell into categories
such as "at or near home," "on the street," and "inside a commercial build-
ing." Although it can be inferred that "at home" and "near home" are within
respondent's areas of residence, it cannot be inferred that responses that
fall into other categories (e.g., "inside a commercial building") are outside
of respondents' areas of residence. This issue will receive further attention
in the text below.

[10] See Appendix E for a complete definition of the Standard Metropolitan
Statistical Area.

[11] In the NCS sample persons under 12 are not eligible to be interviewed.

[12] See Appendix F for a more detailed description of the Sellin-Wolfgang seriousness scale.

[13] For a more detailed discussion of victimization rates across the urban-rural dimension see John J. Gibbs, Crimes Against Persons in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas: A Comparative Analysis of Victimization Rates (1979).

[14] Actually, rather than simply cumulating the raw number of offenders in each subgroup, the incident weight -- the inverse of the probability that an incident will be sampled -- is cumulated for each sex-race-age subgroup. This is necessary because, owing to the complex design of the survey, not every incident has the same likelihood of appearing in the sample.

[15] Incidents in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender, or in which there was a group of offenders of "mixed" sexes (i.e., in which there were both males and females) or "mixed" races were excluded from analysis. These exclusions constituted about 11 percent of total personal incidents. It was necessary to exclude incidents in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender because in such cases the victim was not asked the sex, race, or age of the offender(s). It was necessary to exclude incidents involving multiple offenders of "mixed" sexes and races because victims were not asked how many offenders were from each sex or race group. When offenders were of "mixed" ages, the age group of the oldest was arbitrarily used in order to prevent the loss of additional cases; treating "mixed" age-group offenders as all in the youngest age group resulted in only minor variations from the results obtained when the oldest age-group rule was used.

[16] See Appendix G for population bases used in constructing the age by sex by race rates of offending reported in Figures below.

[17] See, for example, Martin Waldron, "Violent Crimes Up in Jersey Suburbs" and John Herbers, "Growth in Rural Regions Brings Rapid Crime Rise" both in The New York Times, November 4, (1979:38 and 26, respectively).

[18] For a more detailed discussion of the rates of offending by various age, sex and race offender groups see Hindelang and McDermott, Juvenile Criminal Behavior: An Analysis of Rates and Victim Characteristics (1981).

[19] See Hindelang (1979) for a more complete discussion of sex of offender in criminal activity as shown in victimization survey data.

[20] For more discussion regarding the race of offender in criminal activity see Hindelang (1978) and Hindelang and McDermott (1981).

[21] The "at or near home" rates of offending for sex and age group of offender were also examined in this fashion and it was found that these rates generally followed the patterns shown for total rates of offending. Furthermore, other characteristics of the victimizations were examined separately for "at or near

home" events and it was found that generally these patterns did not differ substantially from those found for total personal victimizations.

[22] Data on rape are not displayed in tabular form because of the small number of rapes in the sample. Rape, for the most part (78% overall), is committed by lone offenders, regardless of ecological area.

[23] The notable exception to this is the research done by Marshall Clinard and Kenneth Polk.

[24] The UCR arrest data are not presented as rates per 100,000 persons within relevant sex, race, and age subgroups (However, see Hindelang, 1978 and 1979). To the extent possible we have converted UCR arrest counts to rates and these findings parallel the victimization offending rate data, particularly with respect to the zero order effects for sex, race, and age group.

[25] See the Introduction and the Rates of Offending sections of this report for a brief discussion of the shortcomings of victimization survey data for studying offender characteristics.

[26] See Tables 9 thru 14. For more information regarding the association of age of offender and these variables see the first report in this series, McDermott and Hindelang (1981).

[27] The percentage of non-reporting to the police for the total personal victimizations examined in this report is 53%, 53%, and 51% across urban, suburban, and rural areas, respectively.

Appendix A

NCS Household Interview Schedule

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 43-R0587

FORM NCS-1 AND NCS-2
(4-19-77)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY
### NATIONAL SAMPLE
### NCS-1 – BASIC SCREEN QUESTIONNAIRE
### NCS-2 – CRIME INCIDENT REPORT

NOTICE – Your report to the Census Bureau is confidential by law (U.S. Code 42, Section 3771). All identifiable information will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey, and may not be disclosed or released to others for any purpose.

Sample (cc 4)  | Control number (cc 5)
JO_____ | PSU | Segment | Ck | Serial

Household number (cc 2) | Land use (cc 9–11)

NCS 1 and 2

INTERVIEWER: Fill Sample and Control numbers, and items 1, 2, 4, and 9 at time of interview.

**1. Interviewer identification**
Code | Name
(010)

**2. Record of interview**
Line number of household respondent (cc 12) | Date completed
(011)

**3. TYPE Z NONINTERVIEW**
Interview not obtained for
Line number | NOTE: Fill NCS-7 Noninterview Record, for Types A, B, and C noninterviews.
(016) _____
(017) _____
(018) _____
(019) _____
Complete 14–21 for each line number listed.

**4. Household status**
(020)
1 ☐ Same household as last enumeration
2 ☐ Replacement household since last enumeration
3 ☐ Previous noninterview or not in sample before

**5. Special place type code (cc 6c)**
(021) _____

**6. Tenure (cc 8)**
(022)
1 ☐ Owned or being bought
2 ☐ Rented for cash
3 ☐ No cash rent

**7. Type of living quarters (cc 15)**
Housing unit
(023)
1 ☐ House, apartment, flat
2 ☐ HU in nontransient hotel, motel, etc.
3 ☐ HU – Permanent in transient hotel, motel, etc.
4 ☐ HU in rooming house
5 ☐ Mobile home or trailer
6 ☐ HU not specified above – Describe

OTHER Unit
7 ☐ Quarters not HU in rooming or boarding house
8 ☐ Unit not permanent in transient hotel, motel, etc.
9 ☐ Vacant tent site or trailer site
10 ☐ Not specified above – Describe

**8. Number of housing units in structure (cc 26)**
(024)
1 ☐ 1 | 5 ☐ 5–9
2 ☐ 2 | 6 ☐ 10 or more
3 ☐ 3 | 7 ☐ Mobile home or trailer
4 ☐ 4 | 8 ☐ Only OTHER units

ASK IN EACH HOUSEHOLD:
**9. (Other than the . . . business) does anyone in this household operate a business from this address?**
(025)
1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes – What kind of business is that?

INTERVIEWER: Enter unrecognizable businesses only

CENSUS USE ONLY

(026) **10. Family income (cc 27)**
1 ☐ Under $1,000
2 ☐ $1,000 to 1,999
3 ☐ 2,000 to 2,999
4 ☐ 3,000 to 3,999
5 ☐ 4,000 to 4,999
6 ☐ 5,000 to 5,999
7 ☐ 6,000 to 7,499
8 ☐ 7,500 to 9,999
9 ☐ 10,000 to 11,999
10 ☐ 12,000 to 14,999
11 ☐ 15,000 to 19,999
12 ☐ 20,000 to 24,999
13 ☐ 25,000 to 49,999
14 ☐ 50,000 and over

**11a. Household members 12 years of age and OVER**
(027) _____ Total number

**b. Household members UNDER 12 years of age**
(028) _____ Total number
0 ☐ None

**12. Crime Incident Reports filled**
(029) _____ Total number – Fill item 31 on Control Card
0 ☐ None

**13a. Use of telephone (cc 25)**
☐ Phone in unit (Yes in cc 25a)
Phone interview acceptable? (cc 25c or 25d)
(030)
1 ☐ Yes . . . . . . . . . . } SKIP to next applicable item
2 ☐ No – Refused number }

☐ Phone elsewhere (Yes in cc 25b)
Phone interview acceptable? (cc 25c or 25d)
3 ☐ Yes . . . . . . . . . . } SKIP to next applicable item
4 ☐ No – Refused number }

5 ☐ No phone (No in cc 25a and 25b)

**13b. Proxy information – Fill for all proxy interviews**
(1) Proxy interview obtained for line number _____
Proxy respondent name | Line number
Reason for proxy interview

(2) Proxy interview obtained for line number _____
Proxy respondent name | Line number
Reason for proxy interview

If more than 2 Proxy interviews, continue in notes.

(031) | (032) | (033)

## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

| 14. NAME (of household respondent) | 15. TYPE OF INTERVIEW | 16. LINE NO. | 17. RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLD HEAD | 18. AGE LAST BIRTH-DAY | 19. MARITAL STATUS | 20a. RACE | 20b. ORIGIN | 21. SEX | 22. ARMED FORCES MEMBER | 23. Education – highest grade | 24. Education – complete (that year?) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| KEYER – BEGIN NEW RECORD | | (cc 12) | (cc 13b) | (cc 17) | (cc 18) | (cc 19a) | (cc 19b) | (cc 20) | (cc 21) | (cc 22) | (cc 23) |
| Last | (034) | (035) | (036) | (037) | (038) | (039) | | (040) | (041) | (042) | (043) |
| | 1 ⃞ Per – Self-respondent | | 1 ⃞ Head | | 1 ⃞ M. | 1 ⃞ W. | 1 ⃞ M | 1 ⃞ Yes | | | 1 ⃞ Yes |
| | 2 ⃞ Tel. – Self respondent | | 2 ⃞ Wife of head | | 2 ⃞ Wd. | 2 ⃞ Neg. | 2 ⃞ F | 2 ⃞ No | | | 2 ⃞ No |
| First | 3 ⃞ Per. – Proxy ⎱ Fill 13b on | Line No. | 3 ⃞ Own child | | 3 ⃞ D. | 3 ⃞ Ot. | | | | | |
| | 4 ⃞ Tel. – Proxy ⎰ cover page | | 4 ⃞ Other relative | Age | 4 ⃞ Sep. | | Origin | | | Grade | |
| | 5 ⃞ INI – Fill 16–21 | | 5 ⃞ Non-relative | | 5 ⃞ NM | | | | | | |

**CHECK ITEM A** ➤ Look at item 4 on cover page. Is this the same household as last enumeration? (Box 1 marked?)
(051) ⃞ Yes – SKIP to Check Item B   ⃞ No

25a. Did you live in this house on April 1, 1970?
(044) 1 ⃞ Yes – SKIP to Check Item B   2 ⃞ No

b. Where did you live on April 1, 1970? (State, foreign country, U.S. possession, etc.)
State, etc. _____ County _____

c. Did you live inside the limits of a city, town, village, etc.?
(045) 1 ⃞ No   2 ⃞ Yes – Name of city, town, village, etc. →
(046) (Ask males 18+ only)

d. Were you in the Armed Forces on April 1, 1970?
(047) 1 ⃞ Yes   2 ⃞ No

**CHECK ITEM B** ➤ Is this person 16 years old or older?
⃞ No - SKIP to 29   ⃞ Yes

26a. What were you doing most of LAST WEEK – (working, keeping house, going to school) or something else?
(048)
1 ⃞ Working – SKIP to 28a   6 ⃞ Unable to work–SKIP to 26d
2 ⃞ With a job but not at work   7 ⃞ Retired
3 ⃞ Looking for work   8 ⃞ Other – Specify →
4 ⃞ Keeping house
5 ⃞ Going to school   (If Armed Forces, SKIP to 28a)

b. Did you do any work at all LAST WEEK, not counting work around the house? (Note If farm or business operator in HH, ask about unpaid work.)
(049) 0 ⃞ No   Yes – How many hours? _____ – SKIP to 28a

c. Did you have a job or business from which you were temporarily absent or on layoff LAST WEEK?
(050) 1 ⃞ No   2 ⃞ Yes – Absent – SKIP to 28a
3 ⃞ Yes – Layoff – SKIP to 27

**Notes**

26d. Have you been looking for work during the past 4 weeks?
(051) 1 ⃞ Yes   No – When did you last work?
2 ⃞ Less than 5 years ago – SKIP to 28a
3 ⃞ 5 or more years ago ⎱ SKIP to 29
4 ⃞ Never worked ⎰

27. Is there any reason why you could not take a job LAST WEEK?
(052) 1 ⃞ No   Yes – 2 ⃞ Already had a job
3 ⃞ Temporary illness
4 ⃞ Going to school
5 ⃞ Other – Specify →

28a. For whom did you (last) work? (Name of company, business, organization or other employer)
(053) x ⃞ Never worked – SKIP to 29

b. What kind of business or industry is this? (E.g.: TV and radio mfg., retail shoe store, State Labor Department, farm)
(054)

c. Were you –
(055)
1 ⃞ An employee of a PRIVATE company, business or individual for wages, salary or commissions?
2 ⃞ A GOVERNMENT employee (Federal, State, county, or local)?
3 ⃞ SELF-EMPLOYED in OWN business, professional practice or farm?
4 ⃞ Working WITHOUT PAY in family business or farm?

d. What kind of work were you doing? (E.g.: electrical engineer, stock clerk, typist, farmer, Armed Forces)
(056)

e. What were your most important activities or duties? (E.g.: typing, keeping account books, selling cars, Armed Forces)

FORM NCS-1 (4-19-77)   Page 2

---

### HOUSEHOLD SCREEN QUESTIONS

29. Now I'd like to ask some questions about crime. They refer only to the last 6 months – between _____ 1, 197__ and _____, 197__. During the last 6 months, did anyone break into or somehow illegally get into your (apartment/home), garage, or another building on your property?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

30. (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned) Did you find a door jimmied, a lock forced, or any other signs of an ATTEMPTED break in?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

31. Was anything at all stolen that is kept outside your home, or happened to be left out, such as a bicycle, a garden hose, or lawn furniture? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

32. Did anyone take something belonging to you or to any member of this household, from a place where you or they were temporarily staying, such as a friend's or relative's home, a hotel or motel, or a vacation home?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

33. What was the total number of motor vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) owned by you or any other member of this household during the last 6 months?
(057)
0 ⃞ None – SKIP to 36
1 ⃞ 1
2 ⃞ 2
3 ⃞ 3
4 ⃞ 4 or more

34. Did anyone steal, TRY to steal, or use (it/any of them) without permission?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

35. Did anyone steal or TRY to steal parts attached to (it/any of them), such as a battery, hubcaps, tape-deck, etc.?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

### INDIVIDUAL SCREEN QUESTIONS

36. The following questions refer only to things that happened to YOU during the last 6 months – between _____ 1, 197__ and _____, 197__. Did you have your (pocket picked/purse snatched)?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

37. Did anyone take something (else) directly from you by using force, such as by a stickup, mugging or threat?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

38. Did anyone TRY to rob you by using force or threatening to harm you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

39. Did anyone beat you up, attack you or hit you with something, such as a rock or bottle? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

40. Were you knifed, shot at, or attacked with some other weapon by anyone at all? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

41. Did anyone THREATEN to beat you up or THREATEN you with a knife, gun, or some other weapon, NOT including telephone threats? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

42. Did anyone TRY to attack you in some other way? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

43. During the last 6 months, did anyone steal things that belonged to you from inside ANY car or truck, such as packages or clothing?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

44. Was anything stolen from you while you were away from home, for instance at work, in a theater or restaurant, or while traveling?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

45. (Other than any incidents you've already mentioned) was anything (else) at all stolen from you during the last 6 months?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

46. Did you find any evidence that someone ATTEMPTED to steal something that belonged to you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

47. Did you call the police during the last 6 months to report something that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime? (Do not count any calls made to the police concerning the incidents you have just told me about.)
⃞ No – SKIP to 48
⃞ Yes – What happened?
_____
_____
(058) ⃞⃞⃞

**CHECK ITEM C** ➤ Look at 47. Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

48. Did anything happen to YOU during the last 6 months which you thought was a crime, but did NOT report to the police? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
⃞ No – SKIP to Check Item E
⃞ Yes – What happened?
_____
_____
(059) ⃞⃞⃞
⃞⃞⃞
⃞⃞⃞

**CHECK ITEM D** ➤ Look at 48. Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him?
⃞ Yes – How many times?   ⃞ No

**CHECK ITEM E** ➤ Do any of the screen questions contain any entries for "How many times?"
⃞ No – Interview next HH member. End interview if last respondent, and fill item 12 on cover page.
⃞ Yes – Fill Crime Incident Reports.

FORM NCS-1 (4-19-77)   Page 3

## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

| 14. NAME | 15. TYPE OF INTERVIEW | 16. LINE NO. | 17. RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLD HEAD | 18. AGE LAST BIRTH-DAY | 19. MARITAL STATUS | 20b. RACE | 20a. ORIGIN | 21. SEX | 22. ARMED FORCES MEMBER | 23. Education – highest grade | 24. Education – complete that year? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| KEYER – BEGIN NEW RECORD | | | | (cc 12) (cc 13b) | (cc 17) | (cc 18) | (cc 19a) | (cc 19b) | (cc 20) | (cc 21) | (cc 22) | (cc 23) |

**Last**

**First**

(034)
1 ☐ Per – Self-respondent
2 ☐ Tel. – Self-respondent
3 ☐ Per. – Proxy  *Fill 13b on*
4 ☐ Tel. – Proxy  *cover page*
5 ☐ INI – Fill 16-21

(035) Line No.

(036)
1 ☐ Head
2 ☐ Wife of head
3 ☐ Own child
4 ☐ Other relative
5 ☐ Non-relative

(037) Age

(038)
1 ☐ M.
2 ☐ Wd.
3 ☐ D.
4 ☐ Sep.
5 ☐ NM

(039)
1 ☐ W.
2 ☐ Neg.
3 ☐ Ot.

Origin

(040) (041)
1 ☐ M   1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ F   2 ☐ No

(042) Grade

(043)
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

**CHECK ITEM A ▶** Look at item 4 on cover page. Is this the same household as last enumeration? (Box 1 marked)
☐ Yes – *SKIP to Check Item B*  ☐ No

**25a.** Did you live in this house on April 1, 1970?
(044) 1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to Check Item B*  2 ☐ No

b. Where did you live on April 1, 1970? (State, foreign country, U.S. possession, etc.)
State, etc. _____ County _____

c. Did you live inside the limits of a city, town, village, etc.?
(045) 1 ☐ No  2 ☐ Yes – Name of city, town, village, etc. _____
(046)

(Ask males 18+ only)
d. Were you in the Armed Forces on April 1, 1970?
(047) 1 ☐ Yes  2 ☐ No

**CHECK ITEM B ▶** Is this person 16 years old or older?
☐ No – *SKIP to 36*  ☐ Yes

**26a.** What were you doing most of LAST WEEK – (working, keeping house, going to school) or something else?
(048)
1 ☐ Working – *SKIP to 28a*  6 ☐ Unable to work – *SKIP to 26d*
2 ☐ With a job but not at work  7 ☐ Retired
3 ☐ Looking for work  8 ☐ Other – Specify
4 ☐ Keeping house
5 ☐ Going to school  (If Armed Forces, SKIP to 28a)

b. Did you do any work at all LAST WEEK, not counting work around the house? (Note: If farm or business operator in HH, ask about unpaid work.)
(049) 0 ☐ No  ☐ Yes – How many hours? _____ – *SKIP to 28a*

c. Did you have a job or business from which you were temporarily absent or on layoff LAST WEEK?
(050) 1 ☐ No  2 ☐ Yes – Absent – *SKIP to 28a*  3 ☐ Yes – Layoff – *SKIP to 27*

**26d.** Have you been looking for work during the past 4 weeks?
(051) 1 ☐ Yes  ☐ No – When did you last work?
2 ☐ Less than 5 years ago – *SKIP to 28a*
3 ☐ 5 or more years ago  } *SKIP to 36*
4 ☐ Never worked

**27.** Is there any reason why you could not take a job LAST WEEK?
(052) 1 ☐ No  Yes – 2 ☐ Already had a job
3 ☐ Temporary illness
4 ☐ Going to school
5 ☐ Other – Specify

**28a.** For whom did you (last) work? (Name of company, business, organization or other employer)
(053) x ☐ Never worked – *SKIP to 36*

b. What kind of business or industry is this? (E.g.: TV and radio mfg., retail shoe store, State Labor Department, farm)
(054)

c. Were you –
(055)
1 ☐ An employee of a PRIVATE company, business or individual for wages, salary or commissions?
2 ☐ A GOVERNMENT employee (Federal, State, county, or local)?
3 ☐ SELF-EMPLOYED in OWN business, professional practice or farm?
4 ☐ Working WITHOUT PAY in family business or farm?

d. What kind of work were you doing? (E.g.: electrical engineer, stock clerk, typist, farmer, Armed Forces)
(056)

e. What were your most important activities or duties? (E.g.: typing, keeping account books, selling cars, Armed Forces)

## INDIVIDUAL SCREEN QUESTIONS

**36.** The following questions refer only to things that happened to YOU during the last 6 months – between ____ 1, 197__ and ____ 1, 197__.
Did you have your (pocket picked/purse snatched)?
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**37.** Did anyone take something (else) directly from you by using force, such as by a stickup, mugging or threat?
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**38.** Did anyone TRY to rob you by using force or threatening to harm you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**39.** Did anyone beat you up, attack you or hit you with something, such as a rock or bottle? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**40.** Were you knifed, shot at, or attacked with some other weapon by anyone at all? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**41.** Did anyone THREATEN to beat you up or THREATEN you with a knife, gun, or some other weapon, NOT including telephone threats? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**42.** Did anyone TRY to attack you in some other way? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**43.** During the last 6 months, did anyone steal things that belonged to you from inside ANY car or truck, such as packages or clothing?
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**44.** Was anything stolen from you while you were away from home, for instance at work, in a theater or restaurant, or while traveling?
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**45.** (Other than any incidents you've already mentioned) Was anything (else) at all stolen from you during the last 6 months?
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**46.** Did you find any evidence that someone ATTEMPTED to steal something that belonged to you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**47.** Did you call the police during the last 6 months to report something that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime? (Do not count any calls made to the police concerning the incidents you have just told me about.)
(058) ☐ No – *SKIP to 48*  ☐ Yes – What happened? _____

**CHECK ITEM C ▶** Look at 47 – Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him?
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**48.** Did anything happen to YOU during the last 6 months which you thought was a crime, but did NOT report to the police? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
(059) ☐ No – *SKIP to Check Item E*  ☐ Yes – What happened? _____

**CHECK ITEM D ▶** Look at 48 – Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him?
☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

**CHECK ITEM E ▶** Do any of the screen questions contain any entries for "How many times?"
☐ No – Interview next HH member. End interview if last respondent, and fill item 12 on cover page.
☐ Yes – Fill Crime Incident Reports.

FORM NCS-1 (4-19-77)  Page 4

---

| KEYER – BEGIN NEW RECORD | Notes |
|---|---|
| (101) Line number | |
| (102) Screen question number | |
| (103) Incident number | |

### CRIME INCIDENT REPORT

### NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY – NATIONAL SAMPLE

**NCS-2 INCIDENT REPORT**

**1a.** You said that during the last 6 months – (Refer to appropriate screen question for description of crime).
In what month (did this/did the first) incident happen? (Show flashcard if necessary. Encourage respondent to give exact month.)
(104) _____ Month (01-12)  Year 197____

**CHECK ITEM A ▶** (105) Is this incident report for a series of crimes?
1 ☐ No – *SKIP to 2*
2 ☐ Yes – (Note: series must have 3 or more similar incidents which respondent can't recall separately)

b. In what month(s) did these incidents take place? (Mark all that apply)
(106)
1 ☐ Spring (March, April, May)
2 ☐ Summer (June, July, August)
3 ☐ Fall (September, October, November)
4 ☐ Winter (December, January, February)

c. How many incidents were involved in this series?
(107)
1 ☐ Three or four
2 ☐ Five to ten
3 ☐ Eleven or more
4 ☐ Don't know

**INTERVIEWER:** If this report is for a series, read the following statement.
(The following questions refer only to the most recent incident.)

**2.** About what time did (this/the most recent) incident happen?
(108)
1 ☐ Don't know
2 ☐ During the day (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
At night (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)
3 ☐ 6 p.m. to midnight
4 ☐ Midnight to 6 a.m.
5 ☐ Don't know

**3a.** In what State and county did this incident occur?
☐ Outside U.S. – *END INCIDENT REPORT*
State _____ County _____

b. Did it happen INSIDE THE LIMITS of a city, town, village, etc.?
(110) 1 ☐ No
(111) 2 ☐ Yes – Enter name of city, town, etc.

**4.** Where did this incident take place?
(112)
1 ☐ At or in own dwelling, in garage or other building on property (Includes break-in or attempted break-in) } *SKIP to 6a*
2 ☐ At or in a vacation home, hotel/motel
3 ☐ Inside commercial building such as store, restaurant, bank, gas station, public conveyance or station } *ASK 5a*
4 ☐ Inside office, factory, or warehouse
5 ☐ Near own home; yard, sidewalk, driveway, carport, apartment hall (Does not include break-in or attempted break-in)
6 ☐ On the street, in a park, field, play-ground, school grounds or parking lot } *SKIP to Check Item B*
7 ☐ Inside school
8 ☐ Other – Specify

**5a.** Were you a customer, employee, or owner?
(113)
1 ☐ Customer
2 ☐ Employee
3 ☐ Owner
4 ☐ Other – Specify _____

b. Did the person(s) steal or TRY to steal anything belonging to the store, restaurant, office, factory, etc.?
(114)
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No  } *SKIP to Check Item B*
3 ☐ Don't know

**6a.** Did the offender(s) live there or have a right to be there, such as a guest or a workman?
(115)
1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to Check Item B*
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know

b. Did the offender(s) actually get in or just TRY to get in the building?
(116)
1 ☐ Actually got in
2 ☐ Just tried to get in
3 ☐ Don't know

c. Was there any evidence, such as a broken lock or broken window, that the offender(s) (forced his way in/TRIED to force his way in) the building?
(117)
1 ☐ No
Yes – What was the evidence? Anything else? (Mark all that apply)
2 ☐ Broken lock or window
3 ☐ Forced door or window  } *SKIP to Check Item B*
4 ☐ Slashed screen
5 ☐ Other – Specify

d. How did the offender(s) (get in/try to get in)?
(118)
1 ☐ Through unlocked door or window
2 ☐ Had key
3 ☐ Don't know
4 ☐ Other – Specify _____

**CHECK ITEM B ▶** (119) Was respondent or any other member of this household present when this incident occurred? (If not sure, ASK)
1 ☐ No – *SKIP to 13a*
2 ☐ Yes

**7a.** Did the person(s) have a weapon such as a gun or knife, or something he was using as a weapon, such as a bottle, or wrench?
(120)
1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Don't know
Yes – What was the weapon? Anything else? (Mark all that apply)
3 ☐ Gun
4 ☐ Knife
5 ☐ Other – Specify _____

b. Did the person(s) hit you, knock you down, or actually attack you in any way?
(121)
1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 7f*
2 ☐ No

c. Did the person(s) threaten you with harm in any way?
(122)
1 ☐ No – *SKIP to 7e*
2 ☐ Yes

Page 9

## CRIME INCIDENT QUESTIONS – Continued

**7d. How were you threatened? Any other way?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(123)
1 Verbal threat of rape
2 Verbal threat of attack other than rape
3 Weapon present or threatened with weapon
4 Attempted attack with weapon (for example, shot at)
5 Object thrown at person
6 Followed, surrounded
7 Other – *Specify* 7
*SKIP to 10a*

**e. What actually happened? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(124)
1 Something taken without permission
2 Attempted or threatened to take something
3 Harassed, argument, abusive language
4 Forcible entry or attempted forcible entry of house
5 Forcible entry or attempted entry of car
6 Damaged or destroyed property
7 Attempted or threatened to damage or destroy property
8 Other – *Specify* 7
*SKIP to 10a*

**f. How did the person(s) attack you? Any other way?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(125)
1 Raped
2 Tried to rape
3 Hit with object held in hand, shot, knifed
4 Hit by thrown object
5 Hit, slapped, knocked down
6 Grabbed, held, tripped, jumped, pushed, etc.
7 Other – *Specify*

**8a. What were the injuries you suffered, if any? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(126)
1 None – *SKIP to 10a*
2 Raped
3 Attempted rape
4 Knife or gunshot wounds
5 Broken bones or teeth knocked out
6 Internal injuries, knocked unconscious
7 Bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling
8 Other – *Specify*

**b. Were you injured to the extent that you needed medical attention after the attack?**
(127)
1 No – *SKIP to 10a*
2 Yes

**c. Did you receive any treatment at a hospital?**
(128)
1 No
2 Emergency room treatment only
3 Stayed overnight or longer – How many days? 7
(129)

**d. What was the total amount of your medical expenses resulting from this incident, INCLUDING** anything paid by insurance? Include hospital and doctor bills, medicine, therapy, braces, and any other injury-related medical expenses.
*INTERVIEWER – If respondent does not know exact amount, encourage him to give an estimate.*
(130)
0 No cost – *SKIP to 10a*
$ _____ .00
x Don't know

**9a. At the time of the incident, were you covered by any medical insurance, or were you eligible for benefits from any other type of health benefits program, such as Medicaid, Veterans' Administration, or Public Welfare?**
(131)
1 No
2 Don't know
3 Yes
*SKIP to 10a*

**b. Did you file a claim with any of these insurance companies or programs in order to get part or all of your medical expenses paid?**
(132)
1 No – *SKIP to 10a*
2 Yes

**9c. Did insurance or any health benefits program pay for all or part of the total medical expenses?**
(133)
1 Not yet settled
2 None . . . . . . .
3 All . . . . . . . .
4 Part
*SKIP to 10a*

**d. How much did insurance or a health benefits program pay?**
(134)
$ _____ .00 *(Obtain an estimate, if necessary)*

**10a. Did you do anything to protect yourself or your property during the incident?**
(135)
1 No – *SKIP to 11*
2 Yes

**b. What did you do? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(136)
1 Used/brandished gun or knife
2 Used/tried physical force (hit, chased, threw object, used other weapon, etc.)
3 Tried to get help, attract attention, scare offender away (screamed, yelled, called for help, turned on lights, etc.)
4 Threatened, argued, reasoned, etc., with offender
5 Resisted without force, used evasive action (ran/drove away, hid, held property, locked door, ducked, shielded self, etc.)
6 Other – *Specify*

**11. Was the crime committed by only one or more than one person?**
(137)
1 Only one 7   2 Don't know – *SKIP to 12a*   3 More than one 7

**a. Was this person male or female?**
(138)
1 Male
2 Female
3 Don't know

**b. How old would you say the person was?**
(139)
1 Under 12
2 12–14
3 15–17
4 18–20
5 21 or over
6 Don't know

**c. Was the person someone you knew or was he a stranger?**
(140)
1 Stranger
2 Don't know
3 Known by sight only
4 Casual acquaintance
5 Well known
*SKIP to e*

**d. Was the person a relative of yours?**
(141)
1 No
Yes – What relationship?
2 Spouse or ex-spouse
3 Parent
4 Own child
5 Brother or sister
6 Other relative – *Specify* 7

**e. Was he/she –**
(142)
1 White?
2 Negro?
3 Other? – *Specify* 7
4 Don't know
*SKIP to 12a*

**f. How many persons?**
(143)

**g. Were they male or female?**
(144)
1 All male
2 All female
3 Male and female
4 Don't know

**h. How old would you say the youngest was?**
(145)
1 Under 12   4 18–20
2 12–14   5 21 or over – *SKIP to j*
3 15–17   6 Don't know

**i. How old would you say the oldest was?**
(146)
1 Under 12   4 18–20
2 12–14   5 21 or over
3 15–17   6 Don't know

**j. Were any of the persons known or related to you or were they all strangers?**
(147)
1 All strangers   *SKIP to m*
2 Don't know   *SKIP to m*
3 All relatives   *SKIP to l*
4 Some relatives
5 All known
6 Some known

**k. How well were they known?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(148)
1 By sight only
2 Casual acquaintance(s)   *SKIP to m*
3 Well known

**l. How were they related to you?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(149)
1 Spouse or ex-spouse   4 Brothers/ sisters
2 Parents   5 Other – *Specify* 7
3 Own children

**m. Were all of them –**
(150)
1 White?
2 Negro?
3 Other? – *Specify* 7
4 Combination – *Specify* 7
5 Don't know

---

## CRIME INCIDENT QUESTIONS – Continued

**12c. Were you the only person there besides the offender(s)?**
(151)
1 Yes – *SKIP to 13a*
2 No

**b. How many of these persons, not counting yourself, were robbed, harmed, or threatened? Do not include persons under 12 years of age.**
(152)
0 None – *SKIP to 13a*
_____ Number of persons

**c. Are any of these persons members of your household now? Do not include household members under 12 years of age.**
(153)
0 No
Yes – How many, not counting yourself?
*(ALSO MARK "YES" IN CHECK ITEM I ON PAGE 12)*

**13a. Was something stolen or taken without permission that belonged to you or others in the household?**
*INTERVIEWER – Include anything stolen from unrecognizable business in respondent's home. Do not include anything stolen from a recognizable business in respondent's home or another business, such as merchandise or cash from a register.*
(154)
1 Yes – *SKIP to 13f*
2 No

**b. Did the person(s) ATTEMPT to take something that belonged to you or others in the household?**
(155)
1 No – *SKIP to 13e*
2 Yes

**c. What did they try to take? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(156)
1 Purse
2 Wallet or money
3 Car
4 Other motor vehicle
5 Part of car (hubcap, tape-deck, etc.)
6 Don't know
7 Other – *Specify*

**CHECK ITEM C** ▶ Did they try to take a purse, wallet, or money? *(Box 1 or 2 marked in 13c)*
No – *SKIP to 18a*
Yes

**d. Was the (purse/wallet/money) on your person, for instance in a pocket or being held?**
(157)
1 Yes   *SKIP to 18a*
2 No

**e. What did happen? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(158)
1 Attacked
2 Threatened with harm
3 Attempted to break into house or garage
4 Attempted to break into car
5 Harassed, argument, abusive language
6 Damaged or destroyed property
7 Attempted or threatened to damage or destroy property
8 Other – *Specify*
*SKIP to 18a*

**f. What was taken that belonged to you or others in the household? Anything else?**
(159)
Cash: $ _____ .00
and/or
Property: *(Mark all that apply)*
(160)
0 Only cash taken – *SKIP to 14c*
1 Purse
2 Wallet
3 Car
4 Other motor vehicle
5 Part of car (hubcap, tape-deck, etc.)
6 Other – *Specify*

**Was a car or other motor vehicle taken?** *(Box 3 or 4 marked in 13f)*
**CHECK ITEM D** ▶ No – *SKIP to Check Item E*
Yes

**14a. Had permission to use the (car/motor vehicle) ever been given to the person who took it?**
(161)
1 No
2 Don't know   *SKIP to Check Item E*
3 Yes

**b. Did the person return the (car/motor vehicle)?**
(162)
1 Yes
2 No

**Is Box 1 or 2 marked in 13f?**
**CHECK ITEM E** ▶ No – *SKIP to 15a*
Yes

**c. Was the (purse/wallet/money) on your person, for instance, in a pocket or being held by you when it was taken?**
(163)
1 Yes
2 No

**Was only cash taken?** *(Box 0 marked in 13f)*
**CHECK ITEM F** ▶ Yes – *SKIP to 16a*
No

**15a. Altogether, what was the value of the PROPERTY that was taken?**
*INTERVIEWER – Exclude stolen cash, and enter $0 for stolen checks and credit cards, even if they were used.*
(164)
$ _____ .00

**b. How did you decide the value of the property that was stolen? Any other way?** *(Mark all that apply)*
(165)
1 Original cost
2 Replacement cost
3 Personal estimate of current value
4 Insurance report estimate
5 Police estimate
6 Don't know
7 Other – *Specify*

**16a. Was all or part of the stolen money or property recovered, not counting anything received from insurance?**
(166)
1 None   *SKIP to 17a*
2 All
3 Part

**b. What was recovered? Anything else?**
(167)
Cash: $ _____ .00
and/or
Property: *(Mark all that apply)*
(168)
0 Cash only recovered – *SKIP to 17a*
1 Purse
2 Wallet
3 Car
4 Other motor vehicle
5 Part of car (hubcap, tape-deck, etc.)
6 Other – *Specify*

**c. What was the value of the property recovered (excluding recovered cash)?**
(169)
$ _____ .00

| CRIME INCIDENT QUESTIONS – Continued |
|---|

**17a. Was there any insurance against theft?**

(170)
1. | No . . . . . }
2. | Don't know } SKIP to 18a

3. | Yes

**b. Was this loss reported to an insurance company?**

(171)
1. | No . . . . . }
2. | Don't know } SKIP to 18a

3. | Yes

**c. Was any of this loss recovered through insurance?**

(172)
1. | Not yet settled }
2. | No . . . . . . . . } SKIP to 18a

3. | Yes

**d. How much was recovered?**

*INTERVIEWER – If property replaced by insurance company instead of cash settlement, ask for estimate of value of the property replaced.*

(173) $ _____ . [00]

**18a. Did any household member lose any time from work because of this incident?**

(174)
0. | No – SKIP to 19a

Yes – How many members? ___

**b. How much time was lost altogether?**

(175)
1. | Less than 1 day
2. | 1–5 days
3. | 6–10 days
4. | Over 10 days
5. | Don't know

**19a. Was anything that belonged to you or other members of the household damaged but not taken in this incident? For example, was a lock or window broken, clothing damaged, or damage done to a car, etc.?**

(176)
1. | No – SKIP to 20a
2. | Yes

**b. (Was/were) the damaged item(s) repaired or replaced?**

(177)
1. | Yes – SKIP to 19d
2. | No

**c. How much would it cost to repair or replace the damaged item(s)?**

(178) $ _____ . [00] } SKIP to 20a
x. | Don't know

**d. How much was the repair or replacement cost?**

(179)
x. | No cost or don't know – SKIP to 20a
$ _____ [00]

**e. Who paid or will pay for the repairs or replacement? Anyone else? (Mark all that apply)**

(180)
1. | Household member
2. | Landlord
3. | Insurance
4. | Other – Specify _____

FORM NCS-2 (4-19-77)      Page 12

---

**20a. Were the police informed of this incident in any way?**

(181)
1. | No
2. | Don't know – SKIP to Check Item G
Yes – Who told them?
3. | Household member }
4. | Someone else } SKIP to Check Item G
5. | Police on scene }

**b. What was the reason this incident was not reported to the police? Any other reason? (Mark all that apply)**

(182)
1. | Nothing could be done – lack of proof
2. | Did not think it important enough
3. | Police wouldn't want to be bothered
4. | Did not want to take time – too inconvenient
5. | Private or personal matter, did not want to report it
6. | Did not want to get involved
7. | Afraid of reprisal
8. | Reported to someone else
9. | Other – Specify _____

**CHECK ITEM G** ▶ Is this person 16 years or older?
1. | No – SKIP to Check Item H
| Yes – ASK 21a

**21a. Did you have a job at the time this incident happened?**

(183)
1. | No – SKIP to Check Item H
2. | Yes

**b. What was the job?**

(186)
1. | Same as described in NCS-1 items 28a–e – SKIP to Check Item H
2. | Different than described in NCS-1 items 28a–e

**c. For whom did you work?** *(Name of company, business, organization or other employer)*

**d. What kind of business or industry is this?** *(For example: TV and radio mfg., retail shoe store, State Labor Dept., farm)*

(187) [ ][ ][ ]

**e. Were you –**

(188)
1. | An employee of a PRIVATE company, business or individual for wages, salary or commissions?
2. | A GOVERNMENT employee (Federal, State, county or local)?
3. | SELF-EMPLOYED in OWN business, professional practice or farm?
4. | Working WITHOUT PAY in family business or farm?

**f. What kind of work were you doing?** *(For example: electrical engineer, stock clerk, typist, farmer)*

(189) [ ][ ][ ]

**g. What were your most important activities or duties?** *(For example: typing, keeping account books, selling cars, finishing concrete, etc.)*

**CHECK ITEM H** ▶ Summarize this incident or series of incidents.
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

**CHECK ITEM I** ▶ Look at 12c on Incident Report. Is there an entry for "How many?"
| No
| Yes – Be sure you have an Incident Report for each HH member 12 years of age or over who was robbed, harmed, or threatened in this incident.

**CHECK ITEM J** ▶ Is this the last Incident Report to be filled for this person?
| No – Go to next Incident Report.
| Yes – Is this the last HH member to be interviewed?
| No – Interview next HH member.
| Yes – END INTERVIEW. Enter total number of Crime Incident Reports filled for this household in Item 12 on the cover of NCS-1.

---

Appendix B

NCS Commercial Interview Schedule

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 43-R0587

**NOTICE** — Your report to the Census Bureau is confidential by law (Public Law 93–83). All identifiable information will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey, and may not be disclosed or released to others for any purpose.

FORM **CVS-100** (4-21-77)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**
**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**
**ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR**
**LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION**
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

### 1. IDENTIFICATION CODES

| a. PSU | b. Segment | c. Line No | d. Part | e. Panel |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

| f. RO | g. Interviewer code | h. Total number of incidents |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**COMMERCIAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY**

**NATIONAL SAMPLE**

### INTRODUCTION

Good morning (afternoon). I'm Mr(s.) _____ (your name) _____ from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. We are conducting a survey in this area to measure the extent to which businesses are victims of burglaries and/or robberies. The Government needs to know how much crime there is and where it is to plan and administer programs which will have an impact on the crime problem. You can help by answering some questions for me.

▶ **Part I – BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS**

**2a.** Did you (the owner) operate this establishment at this location during the entire 6-month period ending _____ ?

1 [ ] Yes – SKIP to 3a
2 [ ] No – How many months during the designated period? ...... | Months |

**b.** What were these months?

1 [ ] Jan.  4 [ ] Apr.  7 [ ] July  A [ ] Oct.
2 [ ] Feb.  5 [ ] May  8 [ ] Aug.  B [ ] Nov.
3 [ ] Mar.  6 [ ] June  9 [ ] Sept.  C [ ] Dec.

**c.** The last time we were here (Mr(s.) _____ gave information for) this establishment (was vacant).

Did anyone else own this establishment during the 6-month period ending _____ ?

1 [ ] Yes – Enter name _____
2 [ ] No
3 [ ] Don't know – Inquire at neighboring establishment.

INTERVIEWER – Complete additional questionnaire(s) by contacting the former owner(s) or for vacant establishments by contacting neighboring establishments. Complete separate questionnaires to account for all months of reference period.

**3a.** Is this establishment owned or operated as an incorporated business?

1 [ ] Yes – SKIP to 4  2 [ ] No

**b.** How is this business owned or operated?

1 [ ] Individual proprietorship
2 [ ] Partnership
3 [ ] Government – Continue interview ONLY if liquor store or any type of transportation
4 [ ] Other – Specify ⟍

**4.** Do you (the owner) operate more than one establishment?

1 [ ] Yes  2 [ ] No

**5.** Excluding you (the owner) (the partner) how many paid employees did this establishment average during the 6-month period ending _____ ?

1 [ ] None  4 [ ] 8 to 19
2 [ ] 1 to 3  5 [ ] 20 or more
3 [ ] 4 to 7

**6a.** What do you consider your kind of business to be at this location? | OFFICE USE ONLY |

**b.** Mark (X) one box

**RETAIL**
1 [ ] Food
2 [ ] Eating and drinking
3 [ ] General merchandise
4 [ ] Apparel
5 [ ] Furniture and appliance
6 [ ] Lumber, hardware, mobile home dealers
7 [ ] Automotive
8 [ ] Drug and proprietary
9 [ ] Liquor
A [ ] Gasoline service stations
B [ ] Other retail

**WHOLESALE**
C [ ] Durable
D [ ] Nondurable

**MANUFACTURING**
E [ ] Durable
F [ ] Nondurable

**REAL ESTATE**
G [ ] Apartment rental office
H [ ] Other real estate
I [ ] SERVICE
J [ ] BANKS
K [ ] TRANSPORTATION
L [ ] ALL OTHERS – Specify ⟍

**7.** Did anyone else operate any departments or concessions or some other business activity in this establishment during the 6-month period ending _____ ?

1 [ ] Yes – List each department, concession, or other business activity on a separate line of Section V of the segment folder, if not already listed. Complete a separate questionnaire for each one that falls on a sample line.
2 [ ] No

**DO NOT ASK ITEM 8 UNTIL PART II AND ANY INCIDENT REPORTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED**

**8.** What were your approximate gross sales of merchandise and/or receipts from services at this establishment for the previous 12 months ending _____ ? (Estimate annual sales and/or receipts if not in business for entire 12 months.)

1 [ ] None
2 [ ] Under $10,000
3 [ ] $10,000 to $24,999
4 [ ] $25,000 to $49,999
5 [ ] $50,000 to $99,999
6 [ ] $100,000 to $499,999
7 [ ] $500,000 to $999,999
8 [ ] $1,000,000 and over
9 [ ] Other – Specify

### INTERVIEWER USE ONLY

**9a.** Record of interview

(1) Date

(2) Name of respondent

(3) Title of respondent

| (4) Telephone | Area code | Number | Extension |
|---|---|---|---|
| ➝ | | | |

**b.** Reason for non-interview

**TYPE A**
1 [ ] Occupant in business during survey period but unable to contact
2 [ ] Refusal and in business during survey period
3 [ ] Other Type A – Specify ⟍

**TYPE B**
4 [ ] Present occupant not in business during survey period
5 [ ] Vacant or closed
6 [ ] Other Type B (Seasonal, etc.) – Specify ⟍

**TYPE C**
7 [ ] Occupied by nonlistable activity
8 [ ] Demolished
9 [ ] Other Type C – Specify ⟍

CONTINUED 1 OF 2

## Part II – SCREENING QUESTIONS

a. The last time this establishment was interviewed,_____burglary(ies) were reported in_____(month) and_____robbery(ies) were reported in_____(month).

b. Now I'd like to ask some questions about particular kinds of theft or attempted theft. These questions refer only to this establishment for the 6-month period ending_____.

**10.** During this period did anyone break into or somehow illegally get into this place of business?

1 ☐ Yes – How many times?_____ Number
*(Fill an Incident Report for each)*
2 ☐ No

**11.** (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned,) during this period did anyone find a door jimmied, a lock forced, or any other signs of an ATTEMPTED break-in?

1 ☐ Yes – How many times?_____ Number
*(Fill an Incident Report for each)*
2 ☐ No

**12.** During this period were you, the owner, or any employee held up by anyone using a weapon, force or threat of force on these premises?

1 ☐ Yes – How many times?_____ Number
*(Fill an Incident Report for each)*
2 ☐ No

**13.** (Other than the incident(s) already mentioned,) did anyone ATTEMPT to hold up you, the owner, or any employee by using force or threatening to harm you while on these premises?

1 ☐ Yes – How many times?_____ Number
*(Fill an Incident Report for each)*
2 ☐ No

**14.** (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned,) during this period were you, the owner, or any employee held up while delivering merchandise or carrying business money outside the business?

1 ☐ Yes – How many times?_____ Number
*(Fill an Incident Report for each)*
2 ☐ No

**15.** (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned,) did anyone ATTEMPT to hold up you, the owner, or any employee while delivering merchandise or carrying business money outside the business?

1 ☐ Yes – How many times?_____ Number
*(Fill an Incident Report for each)*
2 ☐ No

**16a.** Is this establishment insured against burglary and/or robbery by means other than self-insurance?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know } SKIP to 17a

b. Does the insurance also cover other types of crime losses, such as vandalism or shoplifting and employee theft?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know } SKIP to 19a

**17a.** Has this establishment ever been insured against burglary and/or robbery by means other than self-insurance?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 18
3 ☐ Don't know – SKIP to 19a

b. Did the insurance also cover other types of crime losses, such as vandalism or shoplifting and employee theft?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

c. Did you drop the insurance or did the company cancel your policy?

1 ☐ Businessman dropped it ........ } SKIP to 19a
2 ☐ Insurance company cancelled policy

**18.** Why hasn't this establishment ever been insured against burglary and/or robbery?

1 ☐ Couldn't afford it
2 ☐ Couldn't get anyone to insure you
3 ☐ Didn't need it
4 ☐ Self-insured
5 ☐ Premium too expensive
6 ☐ Other – Specify

**19a.** What security measures, if any, are present at this location now, to protect it against burglary and/or robbery?

a. Mark (X) all that apply

b. When were these security measures first installed or otherwise undertaken?
Enter the appropriate code from the list given below.
b. Codes

1 ☐ Alarm system – outside ringing, building alarm .....
2 ☐ Burglar alarm – inside ringing
3 ☐ Central alarm – rings at police department or security agency
4 ☐ Reinforcing devices, such as bars on windows, grates, gates, etc. ............
5 ☐ Guard, watchman .........
6 ☐ Watch dog .........
7 ☐ Firearms .........
8 ☐ Cameras ............
9 ☐ Mirrors .........
A ☐ Locks ............
B ☐ Comply with National Banking Act (for banks only)
C ☐ Lights – outside or additional inside ............
D ☐ Other – Specify
E ☐ None

**Codes for use in item 19b**

| LESS THAN 1 YEAR AGO | | MORE THAN 1 YEAR |
|---|---|---|
| 1 – January | 7 – July | D – 1–2 years ago |
| 2 – February | 8 – August | E – 2–5 years ago |
| 3 – March | 9 – September | F – More than 5 years ago |
| 4 – April | A – October | |
| 5 – May | B – November | |
| 6 – June | C – December | |

**20. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM** ▶ Were there any incidents reported in 10–15?

☐ No – Detach Incident Reports, enter "0" in item 1h on page 1, and continue with item 8.

☐ Yes – Enter number of incidents in item 1h on page 1, and continue with first Incident Report.

NOTES

---

*TRANSCRIBE THE IDENTIFICATION CODES FROM ITEM 1 OF THE COVER SHEET AND COMPLETE A SEPARATE INCIDENT REPORT FOR EACH INCIDENT.*

FORM CVS-100 (4-21-77)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMIN.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### INCIDENT REPORT
**COMMERCIAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY – NATIONAL SAMPLE**

**IDENTIFICATION CODE**

| a. PSU | b. Segment | c. Line No. | d. Part | e. Panel | f. RO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |

9. Incident No. ▶ **INCIDENT NUMBER** Record which incident (1, 2, etc.) is covered by this page

You said that during the 6 months beginning_____ and ending_____(refer to screening questions 10–15 for description of crime).

**1.** In what month did this (did the first) incident happen?

1 ☐ Jan.  4 ☐ April  7 ☐ July  A ☐ Oct.
2 ☐ Feb.  5 ☐ May  8 ☐ Aug.  B ☐ Nov.
3 ☐ Mar.  6 ☐ June  9 ☐ Sept.  C ☐ Dec.

**2.** About what time did it happen?

1 ☐ During the day (6 a.m. – 6 p.m.)
At night (6 p.m. – 6 a.m.)
2 ☐ 6 p.m. – Midnight
3 ☐ Midnight – 6 a.m.
4 ☐ Don't know what time at night
5 ☐ Don't know

**3.** Where did this incident take place?

1 ☐ At this place of business
2 ☐ On delivery
3 ☐ Enroute to bank
4 ☐ Other – Specify_____

**4.** Were you, the owner, or any employee present while this incident was occuring?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 10
3 ☐ Don't know

**5a.** Did the person holding you up have a weapon or something that was used as a weapon, such as a bottle or wrench?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know } SKIP to 6a

b. What was the weapon? *(Mark (X) all that apply)*

1 ☐ Gun
2 ☐ Knife
3 ☐ Other – Specify_____

**6a.** How many persons were involved in committing the crime?

1 ☐ One – Continue with 6b below
2 ☐ Two
3 ☐ Three } SKIP to 6e
4 ☐ Four or more
5 ☐ Don't know – SKIP to 7a

b. How old would you say the person was?

1 ☐ Under 12  4 ☐ 18–20
2 ☐ 12–14  5 ☐ 21 or over
3 ☐ 15–17  6 ☐ Don't know

c. Was the person male or female?

1 ☐ Male
2 ☐ Female
3 ☐ Don't know

d. Was he (she) –

1 ☐ White?
2 ☐ Black?
3 ☐ Other? – Specify_____ } SKIP to 7a
4 ☐ Don't know

e. How old would you say the youngest person was?

1 ☐ Under 12  4 ☐ 18–20
2 ☐ 12–14  5 ☐ 21 or over – SKIP to 6g
3 ☐ 15–17  6 ☐ Don't know

f. How old would you say the oldest person was?

1 ☐ Under 12  4 ☐ 18–20
2 ☐ 12–14  5 ☐ 21 or over
3 ☐ 15–17  6 ☐ Don't know

g. Were they male or female?

1 ☐ All male  3 ☐ Male and female
2 ☐ All female  4 ☐ Don't know

h. Were they –

1 ☐ Only white?
2 ☐ Only black?
3 ☐ Only other? – Specify_____
4 ☐ Some combination? – Specify_____
5 ☐ Don't know

**7a.** Were you, the owner, or any employee injured in this incident, seriously enough to require medical attention?

1 ☐ Yes – How many?_____ Number
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 9a

b. How many of them stayed in a hospital overnight or longer?_____ Number

**8.** Of those receiving treatment in or out of a hospital, did this business pay for any of the medical expenses not covered by a regular health benefits program?

1 ☐ Yes – How much was paid? $_____._____
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know

**9a.** Did any deaths occur as a result of this incident?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 15a

b. Who was killed? *(Mark (X) all that apply)*    c. How many?

1 ☐ Owner(s) ...............
2 ☐ Employees ...............
3 ☐ Customers ...............
4 ☐ Innocent bystander(s) .......
5 ☐ Offender(s) ...............
6 ☐ Police ...............
7 ☐ Other – Specify

SKIP to 15a

**10.** Did the offender enter, attempt to enter, or remain in this establishment illegally?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

Discontinue use of Incident Report. Enter at the top of this sheet "Out of Scope–Larceny," erase incident number, change number of incidents in item 1h, page 1, change the answers to screening questions 10–15, and go on to the next reported incident. If no other incidents are reported, return to page 1 and complete items 8 and 9 and end the interview.

**11.** Did the offender(s) actually get in or just try to get in?

1 ☐ Actually got in
2 ☐ Just tried to get in

**12.** Was there a broken window, broken lock, alarm, or any other evidence that the offender(s) forced (tried to force) his (their) way in?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 14

**13.** What was the evidence? *(Mark all that apply)*

1 ☐ Broken lock or window
2 ☐ Forced door
3 ☐ Alarm } SKIP to 15a
4 ☐ Other – Specify_____

**14.** How did the offender(s) get in (try to get in)?

1 ☐ Through unlocked door or window
2 ☐ Had a key
3 ☐ Other – Specify_____
4 ☐ Don't know

**INCIDENT REPORT – Continued**

**15a.** Was anything damaged in this incident? For example, a lock or window broken, damaged merchandise, etc.
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 16a

**b.** Was (were) the damaged item(s) repaired or replaced?
1 ☐ Yes – SKIP to 15d
2 ☐ No

**c.** How much would it cost to repair or replace the damages? (Estimate)
$ _____ .☐ ⎫ SKIP to 15e
x ☐ Don't know ⎭

**d.** How much did it cost to repair or replace the damages?
$ _____ .☐
v ☐ No cost – SKIP to 16a
x ☐ Don't know

**e.** Who paid or will pay for the repairs or replacement? (Mark (X) all that apply)
1 ☐ This business
2 ☐ Insurance
3 ☐ Owner of building (landlord)
4 ☐ Other – Specify _____
5 ☐ Don't know

**16a.** Did the offender(s) take any money, merchandise, equipment, or supplies?
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 18a

**b.** How much money was taken? → $ _____ ☐

**c.** What was the total value of merchandise, equipment, or supplies taken?
$ _____ ☐
v ☐ None ⎫ SKIP to 17a
x ☐ Don't know ⎭

**d.** How was the value (merchandise, equipment, or supplies taken) determined?
1 ☐ Original cost
2 ☐ Replacement cost
3 ☐ Other – Specify _____

**17a.** How much, if any, of the stolen money and/or property was recovered by insurance?
$ _____ .☐
v ☐ None – Why not? ⌐
  1 ☐ Didn't report it
  2 ☐ Does not have insurance
  3 ☐ Not settled yet
  4 ☐ Policy has a deductible
  5 ☐ Money and/or merchandise was recovered
x ☐ Don't know

**b.** How much, if any, of the stolen money and/or property was recovered by means other than insurance?
$ _____ .☐
v ☐ None ⎫ SKIP to 18a
x ☐ Don't know ⎭

**c.** By what means was the stolen money and/or property recovered?
1 ☐ Police
2 ☐ Other – Specify _____

NOTES

**18a.** Did you, the owner, or any employee here lose any time from work because of this incident?
1 ☐ Yes – How many people? → ☐ Number
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 19a

**b.** How many work days were lost altogether?
1 ☐ Less than 1 day
2 ☐ 1–5 days
3 ☐ 6–10 days
4 ☐ Over 10 days – How many? → ☐ Days
5 ☐ Don't know

**19a.** Were any security measures taken after this incident to protect the establishment from future incidents?
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – SKIP to 20a

**b.** What measures were taken? (Mark (X) all that apply)
1 ☐ Alarm system – outside ringing
2 ☐ Burglar alarm – inside ringing
3 ☐ Central alarm
4 ☐ Reinforcing devices, grates, gates, bars on window, etc.
5 ☐ Guard, watchman
6 ☐ Watch dog
7 ☐ Firearms
8 ☐ Cameras
9 ☐ Mirrors
A ☐ Locks
B ☐ Lights – outside or additional inside
C ☐ Other – Specify ⌐

**20a.** Were the police informed of this incident in any way?
1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Don't know – SKIP to 21
 ☐ Yes – Who told them? ⌐
  3 ☐ Owner(s)
  4 ☐ Employee ⎫ SKIP to 21
  5 ☐ Someone else
  6 ☐ Police on scene ⎭

**b.** What was the reason this incident was not reported to the police? (Mark (X) all that apply)
1 ☐ Nothing could be done – lack of proof
2 ☐ Did not think it important enough
3 ☐ Police wouldn't want to be bothered
4 ☐ Did not want to take the time – too inconvenient
5 ☐ Private or personal matter, did not want to report it
6 ☐ Did not want to get involved
7 ☐ Afraid of reprisal
8 ☐ Reported to someone else
9 ☐ Other – Specify ⌐

**21. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM** ▶ Are there more incidents to record?
☐ No – Return to page 1, complete items 8 and 9, and end interview.
☐ Yes – Fill the next Incident Report.

FORM CVS-100 (4-21-77)          Page 4

---

## Appendix C

### Offender Age in National Crime Survey Data

In the National Crime Survey victims are asked several questions designed to yield information about characteristics of their offenders. Among these questionnaire items, specific questions deal with the victim's perception of the age of the offender(s). The victimization survey data collected in response to these offender age questions provide an opportunity to examine variations in criminal victimizations committed by offenders perceived by their victims to be under 18 years old (juveniles), 18 to 20 years old (youthful offenders), or 21 or older (adults). This appendix provides explanation of and documentation for the various offender age variables which were created and used in this report and its companion reports in this series.

In order to fully understand the nature of the offender age data obtained in the National Crime Survey it is necessary to review the questions asked of survey respondents who were victimized in face-to-face encounters. Figure C1 illustrates these questions. The first question asked about offender characteristics is whether the crime was committed by only one or more than one person. If the victim reports that there was only one offender, he or she is asked the age of the lone offender. If more than one offender was involved, the victim is asked to report both the age of the youngest of the multiple offenders and the age of the oldest of the multiple offenders.

Figure C1  Offender age questions in the National Crime Survey[a]

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│              Was the crime committed by only          │
│              one or more than one person?[b]          │
│                                                       │
│  1. __ Only one    2. __ Don't know   3. __ More than one │
│                          (skip)                       │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

```
┌─────────────────────┐   ┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ How old would you   │   │ How old would you say       │
│ say the person was? │   │ the youngest was?           │
│                     │   │                             │
│ 1. __ Under 12      │   │ 1. __ Under 12   4. __ 18-20 │
│                     │   │                             │
│ 2. __ 12-14         │   │ 2. __ 12-14      5. __ 21 or over │
│                     │   │                             │
│ 3. __ 15-17         │   │ 3. __ 15-17      6. __ Don't know │
│                     │   └─────────────────────────────┘
│ 4. __ 18-20         │
│                     │   ┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ 5. __ 21 or over    │   │ How old would say           │
│                     │   │ the oldest was?             │
│ 6. __ Don't know    │   │                             │
└─────────────────────┘   │ 1. __ Under 12   4. __ 18-20 │
                          │                             │
                          │ 2. __ 12-14      5. __ 21 or over │
                          │                             │
                          │ 3. __ 15-17      6. __ Don't know │
                          └─────────────────────────────┘
```

```
                    ┌──────────────────────┐
                    │                      │
                    │  TOTAL VICTIMIZATION  │
                    └──────────────────────┘
         ┌──────────────┼──────────────────┐
┌─────────────────┐ ┌──────────────────┐ ┌─────────────────┐
│ LONE OFFENDER   │ │                  │ │ MULTIPLE        │
│ VICTIMIZATIONS  │ │ Don't know number;│ │ OFFENDER        │
│                 │ │                  │ │ VICTIMIZATIONS  │
│ Age of lone     │ │  not asked age   │ │                 │
│ offender        │ │                  │ │ Age of youngest │
└─────────────────┘ └──────────────────┘ │      and        │
                                         │ age of oldest   │
                                         │ multiple        │
                                         │ offender        │
                                         └─────────────────┘
```

[a]See Appendix A: National Crime Survey Household Interview Questionnaire, Incident Report, questions 11, 11b, 11h, and 11i, and Appendix B : National Crime Survey Commerical Interview Questionnaire, Incident Report, questions 6a, 6b, 6e, and 6f.

[b]This question is different in the commercial surveys.  See Appendix B incident question 6a.

Several important considerations emerge from an examination of Figure C1. First, "don't know" offender age responses are obtained from two groups of victims. One group is those who did not know whether the crime was committed by one or more than one offender. Generally, this group does not constitute a large proportion of the total victims. For example, in the NCS national sample for the years 1973 to 1977, in about 6 percent of the total personal victimizations (including rape, robbery, the assaults, and personal larceny) the victim did not know whether one or more than one offender was involved. The second group consists of victims who knew whether there was one or more than one offender, but did not know the offender's age. For this reason, in an additional 4 percent of the incidents the age of the offender was not ascertained.

Second, because victims of more than one offender (multiple offenders) are asked to report both the ages of the youngest and the oldest of multiple offenders, the survey data have three major offender age variables: 1) the perceived age of the lone offender, 2) the perceived age of the youngest of multiple offenders, and 3) the perceived age of the oldest of multiple offenders.

Third, the NCS interview schedules produce rather fine offender age categories only for offenders perceived to be less than 21 years old. From the victim response, the interviewer records the offender age as under 12 years old, 12 to 14, 15 to 17, 18 to 20, or 21 or older. This means that detailed offender age information is available only for victimizations committed by offenders perceived to be less than 21 years old. In the analyses in this report, offenders perceived by their victims to be under 18 years old are juveniles, those perceived to be between 18 and 20 years old are youthful offenders, and those perceived to be 21 or older are adults.

Table C1 shows the offender age variables that were used in the analysis for this report. Variables A, B, and C are the three major offender age variables in the NCS data: detailed age of lone offender, detailed age of the youngest of multiple offenders, and detailed age of the oldest of multiple offenders. Variables AA, BB, CC are ordinary recodes of these variables; they simply categorize together all offenders perceived to be under 18 years old.

The primary focus of much of the analysis in this report is on the incidents of victimization by juveniles, youthful offenders, and adults. Therefore it was necessary to create an offender age variable that would express the percent of the total victimizations (minus the small percentage in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender) attributable to offenders in different age categories, regardless of whether the incident involved lone or multiple offenders. To do this, variable D was created from variables A (detailed age of lone offender) and C (detailed age of oldest multiple offender) in the following manner:

| Condition | | Value |
|---|---|---|
| If A=1, under 12 or if C=1, under 12 | then | D=1, under 12 |
| If A=2, 12-14 or if C=2, 12-14 | then | D=2, 12-14 |
| If A=3, 15-17 or if C=3, 15-17 | then | D=3, 15-17 |
| If A=4, 18-20 or if C=4, 18-20 | then | D=4, 18-20 |
| If A=5, 21 or older or if C=5, 21 or older | then | D=5, 21 or older |
| If A=6, Don't know age or if C=6, Don't know age | then | D=6, Don't know age |

Thus, when variable D (see Table C1) has the value of "1", under 12, this includes all lone offender victimizations committed by offenders perceived to be under 12 years old, plus all multiple offender victimizations in which the oldest of the multiple offenders was perceived to be under 12 years old. Variable D makes possible an examination of victimizations committed by offenders in various age groups, whether the incident involved only one or more than one offender. Variable DD is an ordinary recode of the detailed age of offender into juveniles (under 18), youthful offenders (18 to 20), and adults (21 or older).

The detailed age of the oldest of multiple offenders (variable C), rather than the detailed age of the youngest of multiple offenders (variable B) was used to create variable D in order to insure that the perceived age of all offenders in any given offender age category did not exceed the upper limit of the age category. This is because there are some incidents in which the age composition of the multiple offender group is varied (e.g., the youngest might be 14 and the oldest might be 18). Table C2 shows that a mixed-age multiple offender group was reported in fewer than one out of three multiple offender victimizations. In two-thirds of the multiple offender victimizations the youngest and oldest multiple offenders were both perceived to be in the same age category. (Both under 18, 28 percent; both 18 to 20, 10 percent; and both 21 or older, 28 percent.)

Because of the mixed-age multiple offender groups, in order to guarantee that no category of the detailed age of offender variable would include incidents that involved multiple offenders older than the upper limit of the category specified, it was necessary to use the age of the oldest of multiple offenders. However, because the majority of multiple offender incidents involved same-age offenders, the results of the analysis would

Table C1  Offender age variables

| Variable name | Values |
|---|---|
| A. Detailed age of lone offender | 1=Under 12, 2=12-14, 3=15-17, 4=18-20, 5=21 or older, 6=Don't know |
| B. Detailed age of youngest multiple offender | 1=Under 12, 2=12-14, 3=15-17, 4=18-20, 5=21 or older, 6=Don't know |
| C. Detailed age of oldest multiple offender | 1=Under 12, 2=12-14, 3=15-17, 4=18-20, 5=21 or older, 6=Don't know |
| D. Detailed age of offender[a] | 1=Under 12, 2=12-14, 3=15-17, 4=18-20, 5=21 or older, 6=Don't know |
| AA. Age of lone offender | 1=Under 18, 2=18-20, 3=21 or older, 4=Don't know |
| BB. Age of youngest multiple offender | 1=Under 18, 2=18-20, 3=21 or older, 4=Don't know |
| CC. Age of oldest multiple offender | 1=Under 18, 2=18-20, 3=21 or older, 4=Don't know |
| DD. Age of offender[a] | 1=Under 18, 2=18-20, 3=21 or older, 4=Don't know |

[a]Includes perceived age of lone and perceived age of oldest multiple offender.

Table C2  Ages of youngest and oldest multiple offenders in personal victimization, NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate[a]

| Ages of youngest and oldest multiple offender | Percent | | Estimated number of victimizations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Both under 18 | 27.9) | | 2,821,802 |
| Both 18 to 20 | 9.6 | }65.3 | 972,372 |
| Both 21 or older | 27.8 ) | | 2,810,194 |
| Youngest under 18/oldest 18 to 20 | 11.3 ) | | 1,140,592 |
| Youngest under 18/oldest 21 or older | 5.7 | }28.3 | 574,249 |
| Youngest 18 to 20/oldest 21 or older | 11.3 ) | | 1,141,134 |
| Error cases[b] | 0.2 | | 18,068 |
| Don't know age[c] | 6.2 | | 632,558 |
| Total | 100.0 | | 10,110,969 |

[a]This table excludes incidents (about 6 percent of the total) in which the victim did not know whether there was one or more than one offender. Also excluded are lone offender victimizations.

[b]In a few cases the youngest offender was recorded in the interview as older than the oldest offender.

[c]Don't know age of youngest, age of oldest, or both.

not differ substantially if the age of the youngest multiple offender had been used in variable D.

## Accuracy of Victims' Perceptions of Offenders' Characteristics

Most of the analyses in this monograph depend upon the ability of victims to make at least crude distinctions among offenders of different age groups; to a more limited extent, there is also a dependence upon the victims' ability to make distinctions between offenders of different sexes and races. The research literature that exists in this area is limited almost exclusively to questions relating to the accuracy of victim and witness recall of offender identity (e.g., ability to pick the offender out of a lineup) and descriptions of what transpired during the event, rather than to questions about the offender's basic demographic characteristics such as age, sex, and race. Most of this research involves simulations or staged "crimes," often in front of groups of observers such as college students.[1] Although this research suggests that eyewitness testimony regarding the identity of the actors involved and what transpired during the event are subject to substantial error, the research provides virtually no information about the ability of victims to report accurately about offenders' ages, sexes, and races. Presumably it is much less difficult for a victim simply to report these basic demographic characteristics than it is for a victim to identify a specific "offender" from among a "lineup" group of persons selected for inclusion in the lineup because they are demographically similar to each other. Because the available research literature did not shed much light on the accuracy of victims' perceptions of offenders' ages, sexes, and races, an attempt was made to study a sample of victims' reports of suspect characteristics (age, sex, and race) made at the time that the police took the offense report and the characteristics of arrestees who were subsequently

arrested for these crimes. The data below are for rapes and attempted rapes reported to the police in New York City between 1974 and 1977.[2]

Of the three demographic characteristics -- age, race, and sex -- age is probably the most difficult for victims to estimate accurately. Table C3 shows a tabulation of suspect's age group as perceived by the victim at the time that the rape or attempted rape offense report was filed, and the arrestee's age group -- as determined from the arrestee's birth date -- as shown on the police arrest report. Suspect ages were reported for more than twelve thousand suspects and were reported as "don't know" for about nine hundred suspects. For most suspects (more than 8,000 out of 13,000), no arrest was made. Of those suspects for whom an arrest was made, the perceived age group and the arrest report age group are remarkably close. For example, of those arrested suspects perceived by the victim to have been under 14 years old, arrest records showed that 97 percent were actually under 14. For those suspects perceived to be 14 to 19, 95 percent of the arrestees were 14 to 19. In fact, for no suspect age group is the victims' accuracy rate less than 89 percent. The overall ordinal measure of association (Somers' d) between suspect and arrestee's age for arrested rapists is .95.

The age groups for those under 21 are somewhat cruder, and those over 21 are finer, than in the NCS data. Nonetheless, the agreement between victims' perceptions and arrestees' actual ages is remarkable. It is important to note parenthetically that the strength of this relationship does not diminish appreciably when only the victims and offenders who were strangers to each other are included in the analysis.

Because of the sexual nature of the offense of rape, the information on the correspondence between the suspect's and arrestee's sex is of limited

Table C3  Correspondence Between Age of Suspect as Reported by Victim and Age of
Arrestee as Shown on Police Arrest Records, New York City Rapes and
Attempted Rapes, 1974-1977

| Suspect's Age | Arrestee's Age | | | | | | | | No arrest | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 14 | 14-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-45 | Over 45 | | |
| Under 14 | 97.1[a] (169) | 2.9 (5) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | -- (76)[b] | 100 (174)[c] |
| 14-19 | .6 (6) | 95.7 (997) | 2.7 (28) | .8 (8) | .2 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | .1 (1) | -- (1,224)[b] | 100 (1,042)[c] |
| 20-24 | .2 (2) | 5.4 (56) | 89.3 (930) | 3.8 (40) | .9 (9) | .3 (3) | 0 (0) | .1 (1) | -- (2,196)[b] | 100 (1,041)[c] |
| 25-29 | .1 (1) | 1.1 (11) | 5.3 (55) | 90.0 (933) | 2.4 (25) | .8 (8) | .3 (3) | .1 (1) | -- (1,945)[b] | 100 (1,037)[c] |
| 30-34 | 0 (0) | .5 (3) | 1.9 (12) | 4.1 (26) | 90.4 (577) | 1.9 (12) | 1.1 (7) | .2 (1) | -- (1,055)[b] | 100 (638)[c] |
| 35-39 | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | .9 (4) | 1.8 (8) | 2.9 (13) | 89.4 (397) | 3.2 (14) | 1.8 (8) | -- (533)[b] | 100 (444)[c] |
| 40-45 | 0 (0) | .7 (2) | .3 (1) | .3 (1) | 2.0 (6) | 2.0 (6) | 91.1 (278) | 3.6 (11) | -- (294)[b] | 100 (305)[c] |
| Over 45 | 0 (0) | .7 (2) | 0 (0) | .7 (2) | .3 (1) | .3 (1) | 2.1 (6) | 95.8 (276) | -- (182)[b] | 100 (288)[c] |
| Don't Know | 4.4 (2) | 21.7 (10) | 13.0 (6) | 26.1 (12) | 15.2 (7) | 4.4 (2) | 8.7 (4) | 6.5 (3) | -- (848)[b] | 100 (46)[c] |

[a] Row percent.

[b] "No Arrests" excluded from row percent.

[c] Excludes "No Arrests."

100

value, but it is shown in Table C4. Of those suspects reported by victims
to have been males and for whom an arrest was made, virtually all of them
(99.8 percent) were male as judged from the police arrest report; of the 34
suspects reported by victims to have been females and for whom an arrest was
made, 24 were female as judged by police arrest reports. The measure of associ-
ation, phi -- the magnitude of which is severely limited owing to the extreme
skewness of the sex distributions of suspects and arrestees -- is .73.

The last characteristic to be examined is race/ethnicity (Table C5).
The race/ethnicity categories used here are finer than are those available
in the NCS data, and hence provide a stricter test of the ability of victims
to report on arrestees' race/ethnicity. Consistent with the age data, these
data show that victim's reports of suspects' race/ethnicity are in close
agreement with the arrest report data. The agreement is .95 as judged by
the nominal measure of association lambda.

Of particular interest in connection with Table C5 is that according to
Census Bureau procedures Hispanics are counted as white for purposes of racial
classification. Hence in the NCS data, Anglo and Hispanic offenders are not
categorized separately (see data collection instrument, Appendix A). It
is possible that some victims perceive Hispanics as blacks or blacks as
Hispanics, but it is important to note that every few victims so misperceive.
Thus, from the New York City rape data this does not appear to be a signifi-
cant source of measurement error.

These data regarding victims' ability to report on offenders' demographic
characteristics are very encouraging. Although future research will have to
sample a broader range of crimes and locales, the data suggest that some
confidence in victims' reports of offenders' ages, races, and sexes, appears
justified at this time.

Table C4  Correspondence Between Sex of Suspect As
Reported by Victim and Sex of Arrestee As
Shown on Police Arrest Records, New York
City Rapes and Attempted Rapes, 1974-1977

| Suspect's Sex | Arrestee's Sex | | | |
| | Male | Female | No Arrest | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 99.8[a] (5,034) | .2 (8) | -- (8,240)[b] | 100 (5,042)[c] |
| Female | 29.4 (10) | 70.6 (24) | -- (52)[b] | 100 (34)[c] |

[a]Row percent.

[b]"No Arrests" excluded from row percents.

[c]Excludes "No Arrests."

Table C5  Correspondence Between Race of Suspect As Reported by Victim and Race of Arrestee as Shown on Police Arrest Records, New York City Rapes and Attempted Rapes, 1974–1977

| Suspect's Race | Arrestee's Race | | | | | No Arrest | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | White | Black | Hispanic | Oriental | Other | | |
| White | 96.1[a] | 1.0 | 2.9 | 0 | 0 | -- | 100[c] |
| | (597) | (6) | (18) | (0) | (0) | (1,244)[b] | (621)[c] |
| Black | .2 | 98.9 | .8 | 0 | 0 | -- | 100 |
| | (7) | (3,179) | (26) | (1) | (0) | (5,394)[b] | (3,213)[c] |
| Hispanic | .6 | 1.6 | 97.7 | .1 | 0 | -- | 100 |
| | (7) | (19) | (1,167) | (1) | (0) | (1,550)[b] | (1,194)[e] |
| Oriental | 9.1 | 0 | 9.1 | 81.8 | 0 | -- | 100 |
| | (1) | (0) | (1) | (9) | (0) | (28)[b] | (11)[c] |
| Other | 0 | 7.7 | 23.1 | 0 | 69.2 | -- | 100 |
| | (0) | (1) | (3) | (0) | (9) | (16)[b] | (13)[c] |
| Don't Know | 33.3 | 0 | 66.7 | 0 | 0 | -- | 100 |
| | (1) | (0) | (2) | (0) | (0) | (81)[b] | (84)[c] |

[a] Row percent.

[b] "No Arrests" excluded from row percents.

[c] Excludes "No Arrests."

NOTES

[1]See for example Buckhout (1974), Note (1977), Duncan (1976), Leippe, Wells, Ostrom (1978), Clifford and Scott (1978), and Kuehn (1974).

[2]We are grateful to Dennis Butler of the New York City Police Department for making available these data from his current comprehensive study of rape.

Appendix D

Table D1   Type of crime definitions in the National Crime Survey

| Type of crime | Definition |
| --- | --- |
| Rape | Carnal knowledge through the use of force or the threat of force, including attempts. Statutory rape (without force) is excluded. Includes both heterosexual and homosexual rape. |
| Robbery | Theft or attempted theft, directly from a person or a business, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon. |
| | This includes both: |
| Robbery with injury | Theft or attempted theft from a person, accompanied by an attack, either with or without a weapon, resulting in injury. An injury is classified as resulting from a serious assault if a weapon was used in the commission of the crime or, if not, when the extent of the injury was either serious (e.g., broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness) or undetermined but requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. An injury is classified as resulting from a minor assault when the extent of the injury was minor (e.g., bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling) or undetermined but requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. |
| | And: |
| Robbery without injury | Theft or attempted theft from a person, accompanied by force or the threat of force, either with or without a weapon, but not resulting in injury. |
| Aggravated assault | Attack with a weapon resulting in any injury and attack without a weapon resulting either in serious injury (e.g., broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness) or in undetermined injury requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault with a weapon. |

Table D1   (continued)

| | |
|---|---|
| Simple assault | Attack without a weapon resulting either in minor injury (e.g., bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling) or in undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault without a weapon. |
| Personal larceny with contact* | Theft of purse, wallet, or cash by stealth directly from the person of the victim, but without force or the threat of force. Also includes attempted purse snatching. |
| Personal larceny without contact | Theft or attempted theft, without direct contact between victim and offender, of property or cash from any place other than the victim's home or its immediate vicinity. In rare cases, the victim sees the offender during the commission of the act. |

---

*In this report personal larceny with contact is referred to simply as "personal larceny." This is a departure from the standard National Crime Survey definitions in which "personal larceny" includes both personal larceny with contact and personal larceny without contact.

APPENDIX E

Definition of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

I.  Each standard metropolitan statistical area must include at least:

A.  One city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or
B.  A city with at least 25,000 inhabitants, which, together with those contiguous places (incorporated or unincorporated) having population densities of at least 1,000 persons per square mile, has a combined population of 50,000 and constitutes for general economic and social purposes a single community, provided that the county or counties in which the city and contiguous places are located has a total population of at least 75,000.

II.  A contiguous county will be included in a standard metropolitan statistical area if:

A.  At least 75.00% of the resident labor force in the county is in the nonagricultural labor force, and
B.  At least 30.00% of the employed workers living in the county work in the central county or counties of the area.

III.  A contiguous county which does not meet the requirements of criterion 2 will be included in a standard metropolitan statistical area if at least 75.00% of the resident labor force is in the nonagricultural labor force and it meets two of the following additional criteria of metropolitan character and one of the following criteria of integration.

A.  Criteria of metropolitan character.
    (1)  At least 25.00% of the population is urban.
    (2)  The county had an increase of at least 15.00% in total population during the period covered by the two most recent Censuses of Population.
    (3)  The county has a population density of at least 50 persons per square mile.

B.  Criteria of integration.
    (1)  At least 15.00% of the employed workers living in the county work in the central county or counties of the area, or
    (2)  The number of people working in the county who live in the central county or counties of the area is equal to at least 15.00% of the employed workers living in the county, or
    (3)  The sum of the number of workers commuting to and from the central county or counties is equal to 20.00% of the employed workers living in the county.

Source:  Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1975, pp. 1-2 (footnotes omitted).

Appendix F

Sellin-Wolfgang Seriousness Weights

In The Measurement of Delinquency Sellin and Wolfgang (1964) endeavored
to remedy some of the classification problems inherent in the Uniform Crime
Reports system by constructing a seriousness weighted delinquency index. The
focus of Sellin and Wolfgang's research was the nature of harm inflicted
in criminal events, regardless of the legal classification of events. A major
underlying assumption of Sellin and Wolfgang's work was that a crime index
should be constructed from criminal events that inflict some bodily harm on a
victim and/or cause property loss by theft, damage, or destruction, and that
these effects are more important in this connection than the specific legal
labels attached to the events (Sellin and Wolfgang, 1964:295). A second
guiding assumption of their work is that each component of a criminal event must
be taken into account in evaluation, and not merely the most serious one, as is
the UCR practice.

Sellin and Wolfgang originated the construction of their delinquency index
by taking a random sample of case records from the Juvenile Aid Division of the
Philadelphia Police Department in 1960. Of the original 1,313 offenses drawn,
141 offenses involving injury, theft, and damage were extracted. The offense
categories were then presented to sample groups consisting of university
students, police officers, Juvenile Aid Division officers, and juvenile court
judges. The groups were then asked to rate what they perceived to be the
seriousness of the criminal events on numerical categorical and magnitude scales.

Each delinquent event consisted of one or more of the following six major
elements of harm: the number of victims of bodily harm, of forcible sexual

intercourse, and of intimidation; the number of premises forcibly entered and
the number of motor vehicles stolen; and the value of property stolen, damaged,
or destroyed. The final seriousness weights ranged from 1 to 26, with a score
of 1 representing the forcible entry of premises and 26 representing homicide.

The calculation of Sellin-Wolfgang seriousness scores is intuitively and
mechanically straightforward (see Table F1). For example, if the victim of
an assault receives minor injuries the seriousness score assigned is 1. If
the victim is hospitalized the seriousness score is 7, and if the victim dies
the resulting weight is 26. The seriousness scores for the value of property
stolen or damaged range from 1 for a loss less than $10, to a score of 8 for
losses exceeding $80,000. Since the final ratio scale has additive properties,
victimizations involving aggravating factors are easily calculated by cumulating
the corresponding weights. For example (weights in parentheses), if a woman is
raped (10) at gunpoint (2) and then hospitalized (7), the total seriousness
score for the event is 19. The seriousness weighted rate per 100,000 persons
in a given community can be computed by summing seriousness scores across offense
events, dividing by the community population at risk, and multiplying the result
by 100,000. The resulting index would allow one to examine the seriousness
of harm inflicted upon a community in a given time period.

The Sellin-Wolfgang seriousness scale can easily be adapted to victimiza-
tion data with one important modification. The focus of this analysis is the
seriousness of the victimization suffered by any given victim, and not the
total seriousness of victimization incidents. Unlike the Sellin-Wolfgang
procedure, our use of the method ignores the number of victims involved in a
criminal event. Since all of the elements of the Sellin-Wolfgang offense
categories except homicide are available in the NCS data, seriousness weights
are assigned to each consequence of victimization reported by survey respondents.

In this monograph all seriousness-weighted rates are reported per 100,000 of the relevant population group. Seriousness-weighted rates of personal victimization are computed by summing across victims the seriousness scores for each victimization, dividing by the population at risk, and multiplying the result by 100,000. For example, the seriousness-weighted rate of total male victimization is calculated by summing the seriousness scores for each victimization of a male, dividing by the male population base, and multiplying by 100,000. An example of the utility of the Sellin-Wolfgang weighting system can be seen when one examines the seriousness-weighted rates and total rates of personal victimization in the United States for black and white victims making less than $3,000 (data not shown in tabular form). When the age of offender is 21 or older, the white victimization rate is 3,311 per 100,000 and the black victimization rate is somewhat higher, 3,820 per 100,000. When one considers the serious-weighted rates, however, the white seriousness-weighted rate is 10,564, while the black seriousness rate is a much higher 16,331. If blacks and whites suffered equally serious victimizations, the black seriousness-weighted rate would be 12,223 per 100,000. It can be concluded, therefore, that blacks making less than $3,000 suffer more serious victimizations (in terms of bodily injury and financial loss) than do their white counterparts, even though the risk of victimization is similar for both groups. It is apparent, then, that the application of the Sellin-Wolfgang seriousness scale to victimization survey data can add an important dimension to the analysis of criminal victimization.

Table F1: Sellin-Wolfgang Seriousness Weighting System

| Element | Score (Weight) |
|---|---|
| Minor Injury to Victim | 1 |
| Victim Treated and Discharged | 4 |
| Victim Hospitalized | 7 |
| Victim Killed | 26 |
| Victim of Forcible Sexual Intercourse | 10 |
| Intimidated by Weapon | add 2 |
| Intimidation of persons in connection with theft, etc. (other than in connection with forcible sex acts): | |
| Physical or Verbal Only | 2 |
| By Weapon | 4 |
| Forcible Entry of Premises | 1 |
| Value of property stolen and/or damaged: | |
| Under 10 dollars | 1 |
| $10 - $250 | 2 |
| $251 - $2,000 | 3 |
| $2,001 - $9,000 | 4 |
| $9,001 - $30,000 | 5 |
| $30,001 - $80,000 | 6 |
| Over $80,000 | 7 |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle (recovered, undamaged) | 2 |

(Source: Sellin and Wolfgang, The Measurement of Delinquency, p. 298.)

Appendix G

Population Base Estimates

Table G1  Estimated population bases by year and extent of urbanization,
NCS national data, 1973-1977

| Extent of urbanization | Year | | | | | Five year average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | |
| Urban | 50,050,022 | 50,005,050 | 50,248,415 | 50,191,431 | 50,199,756 | 50,138,935 |
| Suburban | 62,736,187 | 64,549,832 | 65,700,964 | 67,190,973 | 68,437,908 | 65,723,173 |
| Rural | 51,543,993 | 52,492,379 | 53,709,399 | 54,506,639 | 55,424,810 | 53,535,444 |

Table G2  Estimated annual population bases by age and extent of urbanization,
NCS national data, 1973-1977

| Extent of urbanization | Age | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 12 to 17 | 18 to 20 | 21 or older |
| Urban | 6,479,915 | 3,579,389 | 40,079,631 |
| Suburban | 10,133,984 | 4,484,611 | 51,104,578 |
| Rural | 8,127,606 | 3,805,086 | 41,602,752 |

Table G3  Estimated annual population bases by extent of urbanization and sex,
NCS national data, 1973-1977 aggregate

| Extent of urbanization | Sex | |
|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female |
| SMSA Central Cities | 23,362,114 | 26,776,821 |
| Balance of SMSA | 31,894,711 | 33,828,462 |
| Areas Outside of SMSA | 25,834,521 | 27,700,923 |

Table G4  Estimated annual population bases by race and extent of urbanization,
NCS national data, 1973-1977

| Extent of urbanization | Race | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | White | Black | Other |
| Urban | 38,358,126 | 10,741,232 | 1,039,577 |
| Suburban | 61,405,770 | 3,485,556 | 831,846 |
| Rural | 49,046,527 | 4,152,132 | 336,785 |

## References

Amir, Menachim (1971). Patterns in Forcible Rape. Chicago: The University Press.

Baldwin, John, and A.E. Bottoms (1976). The Urban Criminal. London: Tavistock Publications.

Berry, Brian J.L. (1968). Metropolitan Area Definition: A Re-Evaluation of Concept and Statistical Practice. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Boggs, Sarah (1971). "Formal and Informal Crime Control: An Exploratory Study of Urban, Suburban, and Rural Orientations." The Sociological Quarterly 12(Summer): 319-327.

Brown, Claude (1965). Manchild in the Promised Land. New York: New American Library.

Buckhout, Robert (1974). "Eyewitness Testimony." Scientific American 231:23-31.

Chambliss, William, and Robert Seidman (1971). Law, Order, and Power. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley.

Clifford, Brian R., and Jane Scott (1978). "Individual and Situational Factors in Eyewitness Testimony." Journal of Applied Psychology 63:352-359.

Clemente, Frank, and Michael B. Kleinman (1977). "Fear of Crime in the United States: A Multivariate Analysis." Social Forces 56:519-531.

Clinard, Marshall B. (1942). "The Process of Urbanization and Criminal Behavior." American Journal of Sociology 48(September): 202-213.

Clinard, Marshall B. (1964). "The Relation of Urbanization and Urbanism to Criminal Behavior" in Ernest W. Burgess and Donald J. Bogue (eds.) Contributions to Urban Sociology. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Clinard, Marshall B., and Daniel Abbott (1973). Crime in Developing Countries. New York: Wiley.

Cloward, Richard A., and Lloyd Ohlin (1960). Delinquency and Opportunity. New York: The Free Press.

Cohen, Albert K. (1955). Delinquent Boys: The Culture of the Gang. Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press.

Conklin, John E. (1972). Robbery and the Criminal Justice System. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott.

Duncan, Birt L. (1976). "Differential Social Perception and Attribution
   of Intergroup Violence: Testing the Lower Limits of Stereotyping of
   Blacks." Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 34:590-598.

Dunn, Christopher (1974). "The Analysis of Environmental Attribute/Crime
   Incident Characteristic Interrelationships." Ph.D. dissertation,
   State University of New York at Albany.

Garofalo, James (1977). The Police and Public Opinion: An Analysis of
   Victimization and Attitude Data from 13 American Cities. Washington,
   D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Garofalo, James, and Michael J. Hindelang (1977). An Introduction to the
   National Crime Survey. Analytic Report SD-VAD-4. National Criminal
   Justice Information and Statistics Service, Law Enforcement Assistance
   Administration, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.: Govern-
   ment Printing Office.

Gibbs, John J. (1979). Crimes Against Persons in Urban, Suburban, and Rural
   Areas: A Comparative Analysis of Victimization Rates. Analytic Report
   SD-VAD-7. National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service,
   Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice.
   Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Gottfredson, Michael R. (1976). "The Classification of Crime and Victims."
   Ph.D. dissertation, State University of New York at Albany.

Hadden, Jeffrey K. (1968). "Use of Ad Hoc Definitions" in Sociological
   Methodology edited by Edgar F. Borgatta. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Harries, Keith D. (1974). The Geography of Crime and Justice. New York:
   McGraw-Hill.

Herbers, John (1979). "Growth in Rural Regions Brings Rapid Crime Rise."
   New York Times, November 4:26.

Hindelang, Michael J. (1976). Criminal Victimization in Eight American Cities.
   Cambridge: Ballinger.

Hindelang, Michael J. (1978). "Race and Involvement in Common Law Personal
   Crimes," American Sociological Review 43:93-109.

Hindelang, Michael J. (1979). "Sex Differences in Criminal Activity."
   Social Problems 27 (December):143-156.

Hindelang, Michael J., and M. Joan McDermott (1981). Juvenile Criminal
   Behavior: An Analysis of Rates and Victim Characteristics.

Kuehn, Lowell L. (1974). "Looking Down a Gun Barrel: Person Perception and
   Violent Crime." Perceptual and Motor Skills 39:1159-1164.

Lagey, J.C. (1957). "The Ecology of Juvenile Delinquency in the Small City
   and the Rural Hinterlands." Rural Sociology 22:320-234.

Leippe, Michael R., Gary L. Wells, and Thomas M. Ostrom (1978). "Crime
   Seriousness as a Determinant of Accuracy in Eyewitness Identification."
   Journal of Applied Psychology 63:345-351.

Lentz, William P. (1956). "Rural and Urban Differentials in Juvenile
   Delinquency." Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police
   Science 47:331-339.

Lofland, Lyn (1973). A World of Strangers. New York: Basic Books.

Matza, David (1964). Delinquency and Drift. New York: John Wiley and
   Sons, Inc.

McDermott, M. Joan, and Michael J. Hindelang (1981). Juvenile Criminal
   Behavior in the United States: Its Trends and Patterns.

Miller, Walter B. (1975). Violence by Youth Gangs and Youth Groups as a
   Crime Problem in Major American Cities. National Institute for
   Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Juvenile Justice
   and Delinquency Prevention, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration,
   U.S. Department of Justice.

Normandeau, Andre (1968). "Trends and Patterns in Crimes of Robbery."
   Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania.

Note (1977). "Did Your Eyes Deceive You? Expert Psychological Testimony
   on the Unreliability of Eyewitness Identification." Stanford Law
   Review 29:969-1030.

Polk, Kenneth (1967). "Delinquency and Community Action in Non-Metropolitan
   Areas." Task Force Report: Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime.
   President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of
   Justice. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Pope, Carl E. (1975). "Dimensions of Burglary: An Empirical Examination
   of Offense and Offender Characteristics." Ph.D. dissertation, State
   University of New York at Albany.

Quinney, Richard (1970). The Social Reality of Crime. Boston: Little,
   Brown and Co.

Sellin, Thorsten, and Marvin Wolfgang (1964). The Measurement of Delinquency.
   New York: John Wiley.

Shaw, Clifford R., and Henry D. McKay (1931). "Social Factors in Delinquency."
   Report on the Causes of Crime, Vol. II National Commission on Law
   Observance and Enforcement. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing
   Office.

118

Shaw, Clifford R. and Henry D. McKay (1942). _Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas_. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Revised Edition published in 1969.

Short, James F., and F. Ivan Nye (1957). "Reported behavior as a criterion of deviant behavior." _Social Problems_ 5:207-213.

Short, James F. and F. Ivan Nye (1958). "Extent of unrecorded delinquency: tentative conclusions." _Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology_ 49:296-302.

Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget (1975). _Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas_. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Turner, Stanley (1964). "Delinquency and Distance" in Thorsten Sellin and Marvin Wolfgang (eds.), _Delinquency: Selected Studies_. New York: Wiley.

U.S. Bureau of the Census (undated). _Survey Documentation: National Crime Survey, National Sample_. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce.

U.S. Bureau of the Census (1972). _Population of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 1950 to 1970_. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

U.S. Bureau of the Census (1973). _City and County Data Book_ (A Statistical Abstract Supplement). Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research (1978). _The 1978 HUD Survey on the Quality of Community Life_. Washington, D.C.: Department of Housing and Urban Development.

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI, 1978). _Crime in the United States, 1977_. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Waldron, Martin (1979). "Violent Crimes Up In Jersey Suburbs." _New York Times_, November 4:38.

Wilks, Judith A. (1967). "Ecological Correlates of Crime and Delinquency," in _Task Force Report: Crime and Its Impact - An Assessment_. President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Wirth, Louis (1938). "Urbanism as a Way of Life." _American Journal of Sociology_ 44(July):1-24.

Wolfgang, Marvin E. (1968). "Urban Crime" in James Q. Wilson (ed.)., _The Metropolitan Enigma: Inquiries into the Nature and Dimensions of America's "Urban Crisis."_ Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Yablonsky, Lewis (1962). _The Violent Gang_. New York: MacMillan Company.

END