

2193

98904

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Public Domain/Bureau of Justice
Statistics/US Department of Justice
to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

98904 c.1



Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

Criminal Victimization 1984

Criminal victimizations in the United States dropped by 1.5 million to about 35.5 million in 1984 for persons age 12 and older according to the National Crime Survey (NCS). This decline continued a trend that has now reduced criminal victimizations to their lowest level in the 12-year history of the NCS, about 14% below the 41.5 million victimizations recorded in the peak year of 1981 (table 1).¹

The victimization rate for crimes of personal theft dropped 7% during 1984 (table 2), to a rate about 26% below the

¹For definitions of crimes measured by the National Crime Survey and a description of NCS operations, see *Measuring Crime*, Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, NCS-75710, February 1981.

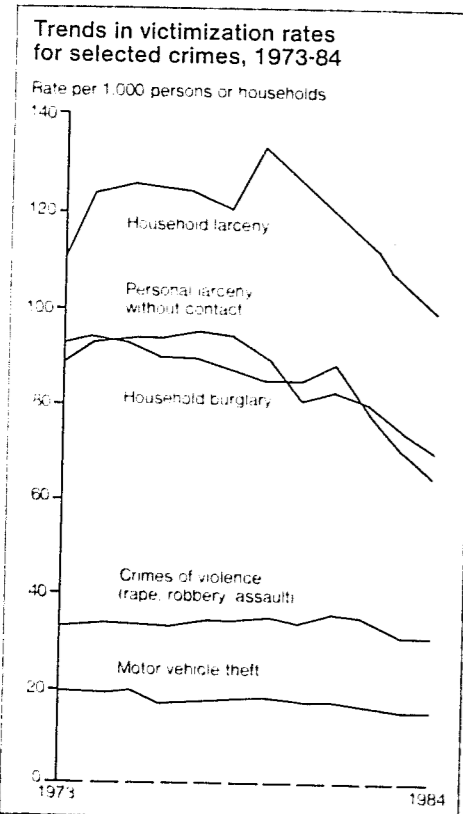


Figure 1

October 1985

The data in this bulletin update the preliminary estimates of victimization in 1984, which were released in April of this year. They confirm the earlier findings that overall crime decreased for the third year in a row, although violent crime leveled off after dropping in each of the two previous years.

The National Crime Survey

measures both crimes reported to the police and crimes not reported. Findings of the National Crime Survey that crime has declined for the last several years are supported by similar findings from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, which count crimes reported to the police.

Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

peak for these crimes, which occurred in 1977. Burglary rates, down 8% during the year, have been trending down since 1974 and are now 31% below the rate for that year. Household larceny fell 6% during the year and is now 26% below its peak year, 1979 (figure 1). Victimization rates for personal theft, household larceny, and burglary are all at new 12-year lows. Although violent crime rates remained basically unchanged between 1983 and 1984, they are 12% below their 1981 peak.

The National Crime Survey obtains information on criminal victimizations

whether or not the crime was reported to the police. Crimes were reported to the police in 1984 at a rate not measurably different from that of 1983. About one in three crimes measured by the NCS were reported to the police. The rate of police reporting has remained comparatively unchanged since measurement began in 1973.

Personal thefts at new low

The victimization rate for personal larceny without victim-offender contact continued a downtrend begun in 1978. The rate for 1984—69.1 victim-

Table 1. Victimization levels for selected crimes, 1973-84

| | Number of victimizations (in 1,000s) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Total | Violent crimes | Personal theft | Household crimes |
| 1973 | 35,661 | 5,350 | 14,970 | 15,340 |
| 1974 | 38,411 | 5,510 | 15,889 | 17,012 |
| 1975 | 39,266 | 5,573 | 16,294 | 17,400 |
| 1976 | 39,318 | 5,599 | 16,519 | 17,199 |
| 1977 | 40,314 | 5,902 | 16,933 | 17,480 |
| 1978 | 40,412 | 5,941 | 17,050 | 17,421 |
| 1979 | 41,249 | 6,159 | 16,382 | 18,708 |
| 1980 | 40,252 | 6,130 | 15,300 | 18,821 |
| 1981 | 41,454 | 6,582 | 15,863 | 19,009 |
| 1982 | 39,756 | 6,459 | 15,553 | 17,744 |
| 1983 | 37,001 | 5,903 | 14,657 | 16,440 |
| 1984 | 35,476 | 5,954 | 13,789 | 15,733 |
| Percent change, 1981-84 ^b | -14.4 ^a | -9.5 ^a | -13.1 ^a | -17.2 ^a |

^a The difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. ^b Total victimizations peaked in 1981.

Table 2. Changes in victimization levels and rates for personal and household crimes, 1983-84

| | Number of victimizations (1,000s) | | | Victimization rates | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------------|---------------------|-------|------------------------|
| | 1983 | 1984 | Percent change 1983-84 | 1983 | 1984 | Percent change 1983-84 |
| All crimes | 37,001 | 35,476 | -4.1% ^a | ... | ... | ... |
| Personal crimes | 20,561 | 19,743 | -4.0 ^a | 107.9 | 102.8 | -4.7% ^a |
| Crimes of violence | 5,903 | 5,954 | 0.9 | 31.0 | 31.0 | 0.1 |
| Completed | 2,120 | 2,193 | 3.4 | 11.1 | 11.4 | 2.6 |
| Attempted | 3,783 | 3,761 | -0.6 | 19.9 | 19.6 | -1.3 |
| Rape ^b | 154 | 180 | 16.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 15.8 |
| Completed | 50 | 61 | 22.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 21.5 |
| Attempted | 105 | 119 | 14.0 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 13.1 |
| Robbery | 1,149 | 1,117 | -2.8 | 6.0 | 5.8 | -3.6 |
| Completed | 710 | 749 | 5.5 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.7 |
| With injury | 252 | 313 | 23.9 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 22.9 |
| From serious assault | 128 | 160 | 24.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 23.8 |
| From minor assault | 124 | 153 | 22.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 21.9 |
| Without injury | 457 | 436 | -4.7 | 2.4 | 2.3 | -5.4 |
| Attempted | 440 | 368 | -16.3 | 2.3 | 1.9 | -16.9 ^c |
| With injury | 125 | 106 | -14.9 | 0.7 | 0.6 | -15.5 |
| From serious assault | 59 | 54 | -8.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | -9.4 |
| From minor assault | 66 | 52 | -20.8 | 0.3 | 0.3 | -21.4 |
| Without injury | 315 | 262 | -16.8 | 1.7 | 1.4 | -17.4 ^c |
| Assault | 4,600 | 4,657 | 1.2 | 24.1 | 24.3 | 0.5 |
| Aggravated | 1,517 | 1,673 | 10.3 ^a | 8.0 | 8.7 | 9.4 |
| Completed with injury | 537 | 596 | 11.0 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 10.1 |
| Attempted assault with weapon | 980 | 1,077 | 9.9 ^c | 5.1 | 5.6 | 9.1 |
| Simple | 3,083 | 2,984 | -3.2 | 16.2 | 15.5 | -3.9 |
| Completed with injury | 824 | 788 | -4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | -5.2 |
| Attempted assault without weapon | 2,259 | 2,197 | -2.8 | 11.9 | 11.4 | -3.5 |
| Crimes of theft | 14,657 | 13,789 | -5.9 ^a | 76.9 | 71.8 | -6.6 ^a |
| Completed | 13,788 | 12,969 | -5.9 ^a | 72.4 | 67.6 | -6.7 ^a |
| Attempted | 869 | 820 | -5.7 | 4.6 | 4.3 | -6.4 |
| Personal larceny with contact | 563 | 530 | -5.9 | 3.0 | 2.8 | -6.6 |
| Purse snatching | 177 | 125 | -29.0 ^a | 0.9 | 0.7 | -29.6 ^a |
| Completed | 127 | 91 | -28.1 ^a | 0.7 | 0.5 | -28.7 ^c |
| Attempted | 50 | 34 | -31.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -32.2 |
| Pocket picking | 386 | 404 | 4.7 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 3.9 |
| Personal larceny without contact | 14,095 | 13,259 | -5.9 ^a | 74.0 | 69.1 | -6.6 ^a |
| Completed | 13,275 | 12,474 | -6.0 ^a | 69.7 | 65.0 | -6.8 ^a |
| Less than \$50 | 6,699 | 6,145 | -8.3 ^a | 35.2 | 32.0 | -9.0 ^a |
| \$50 or more | 6,094 | 5,797 | -4.9 ^a | 32.0 | 30.2 | -5.6 ^a |
| Amount not available | 482 | 531 | 10.2 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 9.4 |
| Attempted | 819 | 786 | -4.1 | 4.3 | 4.1 | -4.8 |
| Household crimes | 16,440 | 15,733 | -4.3% ^a | 189.8 | 178.7 | -5.8% ^a |
| Completed | 13,858 | 13,324 | -3.9 ^a | 160.0 | 151.3 | -5.4 ^a |
| Attempted | 2,582 | 2,409 | -6.7 ^a | 29.3 | 27.4 | -6.2 ^a |
| Burglary | 6,063 | 5,643 | -6.9 ^a | 70.0 | 64.1 | -8.4 ^a |
| Completed | 4,510 | 4,322 | -4.2 | 52.1 | 49.1 | -5.7 ^c |
| Forcible entry | 1,903 | 1,844 | -3.1 | 22.0 | 20.9 | -4.7 |
| Unlawful entry without force | 2,607 | 2,478 | -5.0 | 30.1 | 28.1 | -6.5 ^c |
| Attempted forcible entry | 1,553 | 1,321 | -14.9 ^a | 17.9 | 15.0 | -16.3 ^a |
| Household larceny | 9,114 | 8,750 | -4.0 ^a | 105.2 | 99.4 | -5.5 ^a |
| Completed | 8,538 | 8,167 | -4.3 ^a | 98.5 | 92.8 | -5.9 ^a |
| Less than \$50 | 4,429 | 3,982 | -10.1 ^a | 51.1 | 45.2 | -11.5 ^a |
| \$50 or more | 3,699 | 3,791 | 2.5 | 42.7 | 43.1 | 0.8 |
| Amount not available | 410 | 394 | -3.9 | 4.7 | 4.5 | -5.4 |
| Attempted | 576 | 583 | 1.3 | 6.6 | 6.6 | -0.3 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 1,264 | 1,340 | 6.1 | 14.6 | 15.2 | 4.4 |
| Completed | 810 | 836 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| Attempted | 454 | 505 | 11.3 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 9.5 |

NOTE: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Percent change based on unrounded figures. Victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 and older or 1,000 households. The population age 12 and older grew from 190,504,000 in 1983 to 191,962,000 in 1984, an increase of 0.8%. The number of households grew from 86,635,000 to 88,039,000 between 1983 and 1984, an increase of 1.6%.

^aThe difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

^bThe victimization rate for female rape (the number of rapes per 1,000 women age 12 and over) was 1.4 in 1983 and 1.6 in 1984.

^cThe difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

...Represents not applicable.

izations per 1,000 persons—was 27% lower than its high point in 1977 and the lowest in NCS history (tables 3 and 4).

Personal larcenies with victim-offender contact—purse snatchings and pocket pickings—occur far less often than the noncontact larcenies. Consequently actual changes in the level or rate of personal larceny with contact are much more difficult to measure. The overall rate for larceny with contact in 1984 was not measurably different from the 1983 rate or the rates for most earlier years.

One component of personal larceny with contact, purse snatching, did decline significantly, from a rate of 0.9 per 1,000 persons in 1983 to 0.7 per 1,000 persons in 1984. Rates for the other component, pocket picking, remained basically unchanged.

The decline in personal larceny without contact brought the overall 1984 rate for personal crimes of theft to 71.8 victimizations per 1,000 persons, the lowest rate to date for this grouping of crimes.

Residential crimes decline

The NCS measures three residential property crimes—burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Together they accounted for about 700,000 fewer victimizations in 1984 than they did in 1983, a decline of roughly 4%.

For the third year in a row, the burglary rate set a new record low, declining from 70.0 burglaries per 1,000 households to 64.1 per 1,000. The 1984 burglary rate was about 30% below the burglary rates of the 1973-75 period. Declines in the rates for unlawful entry without force and attempted forcible entry were largely responsible for the decrease in the overall burglary rate.² The rate for forcible entries did not decline measurably.

Household larceny continued the downward trend begun in 1980, declining by 6% between 1983 and 1984 to a 12-year low of 99.4 per 1,000 households. This decline primarily results from the drop in the number of household larcenies with losses valued at less than \$50. Rates for larcenies with

²The difference between the 1983 and 1984 rates for unlawful entry without force is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level; the difference in levels was not statistically significant. It should be noted that because rates take into account changes in the number of households between years, they are the preferred measure of change.

Table 3. Victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973-84

| | Victimization rates per 1,000 population age 12 and over or per 1,000 households | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| Personal crimes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence | 32.6 | 33.0 | 32.8 | 32.6 | 33.9 | 33.7 | 34.5 | 33.3 | 35.3 | 34.3 | 31.0 | 31.0 |
| Rape | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Robbery | 6.7 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 6.0 | 5.3 |
| Assault | 24.9 | 24.8 | 25.2 | 25.3 | 26.8 | 26.9 | 27.2 | 25.8 | 27.0 | 26.4 | 24.1 | 24.3 |
| Aggravated assault | 10.1 | 10.4 | 9.6 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 9.9 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 9.3 | 8.0 | 8.7 |
| Simple assault | 14.8 | 14.4 | 15.6 | 15.4 | 16.8 | 17.2 | 17.3 | 16.5 | 17.3 | 17.1 | 16.2 | 15.5 |
| Crimes of theft | 91.1 | 95.1 | 96.0 | 96.1 | 97.3 | 96.8 | 91.9 | 83.0 | 85.1 | 82.5 | 76.9 | 71.8 |
| Personal larceny with contact | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| Personal larceny without contact | 88.0 | 92.0 | 92.9 | 93.2 | 94.6 | 93.6 | 89.0 | 80.0 | 81.9 | 79.5 | 74.0 | 69.1 |
| Household crimes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Household burglary | 91.7 | 93.1 | 91.7 | 88.9 | 88.5 | 86.0 | 84.1 | 84.3 | 87.9 | 78.2 | 70.0 | 64.1 |
| Household larceny | 107.0 | 123.8 | 125.4 | 124.1 | 123.3 | 119.9 | 133.7 | 126.5 | 121.0 | 113.9 | 105.2 | 99.4 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 19.1 | 18.8 | 19.5 | 16.5 | 17.0 | 17.5 | 16.7 | 17.1 | 16.2 | 14.6 | 14.6 | 15.2 |

NOTE: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Statistically significant differences between the rates for 1984 and each preceding year are identified in table 4.

Table 4. Comparison of changes in victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973-84

| | Percent change in victimization rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 1973-84 | 1974-84 | 1975-84 | 1976-84 | 1977-84 | 1978-84 | 1979-84 | 1980-84 | 1981-84 | 1982-84 | 1983-84 |
| Personal crimes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence | -4.7% ^b | -5.9% ^a | -5.5% ^a | -4.8% ^b | -8.5% ^a | -8.0% ^a | -10.2% ^a | -6.7% ^a | -12.2% ^a | -9.5% ^a | 0.1% |
| Rape | -1.1 | -4.1 | 3.3 | 11.9 | 5.6 | -3.1 | -13.0 | 0 | -1.1 | 16.0 | 15.8 |
| Robbery | -13.6 ^a | -18.9 ^a | -13.9 ^a | -9.9 | -6.4 | -1.2 | -7.0 | -11.3 ^b | -21.5 ^a | -17.8 ^a | -3.6 |
| Assault | -2.5 | -2.3 | -3.7 | -4.0 | -9.4 ^a | -9.6 ^a | -10.8 ^a | -5.8 ^b | -10.0 ^a | -8.0 ^a | 0.5 |
| Aggravated assault | -13.4 ^a | -16.1 ^a | -9.3 ^b | -11.6 ^a | -12.6 ^a | -10.0 ^b | -12.1 ^a | -5.8 | -9.5 ^b | -6.3 | 9.4 |
| Simple assault | 5.1 | 7.7 ^b | -0.1 | 0.9 | -7.5 ^a | -9.4 ^a | -10.1 ^a | -5.7 | -10.2 ^a | -9.0 ^a | -3.9 |
| Crimes of theft | -21.1 ^a | -24.5 ^a | -25.2 ^a | -25.3 ^a | -26.1 ^a | -25.8 ^a | -21.8 ^a | -13.5 ^a | -15.6 ^a | -12.9 ^a | -6.6 ^a |
| Personal larceny with contact | -10.1 | -11.3 | -10.7 | -4.5 | 4.2 | -11.5 | -3.8 | -8.9 | -15.1 ^b | -9.8 | -6.6 |
| Personal larceny without contact | -21.5 ^a | -24.9 ^a | -25.7 ^a | -25.9 ^a | -27.0 ^a | -26.2 ^a | -22.4 ^a | -13.6 ^a | -15.6 ^a | -13.1 ^a | -6.6 ^a |
| Household crimes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Household burglary | -30.1 ^a | -31.2 ^a | -30.1 ^a | -27.9 ^a | -27.6 ^a | -25.4 ^a | -23.8 ^a | -23.9 ^a | -27.1 ^a | -18.0 ^a | -8.4 ^a |
| Household larceny | -7.1 ^a | -19.7 ^a | -20.7 ^a | -19.9 ^a | -19.4 ^a | -17.1 ^a | -25.7 ^a | -21.4 ^a | -17.9 ^a | -12.7 ^a | -5.5 ^a |
| Motor vehicle theft | -20.2 ^a | -19.1 ^a | -21.9 ^a | -7.6 | -10.3 ^b | -13.1 ^a | -13.1 ^a | -8.8 | -11.0 ^b | -5.8 | 4.4 |

NOTE: Percent change is based on rates that were rounded to the nearest hundredth.

^aThe difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

^bThe difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

greater losses were constant between 1983 and 1984.

The 1984 rate for motor vehicle theft did not differ measurably from that of a year earlier, but it was below the rates that prevailed throughout most of the 1970s.

Violent crime rates stable

Victimization rates for rape, robbery, and assault—the three violent crimes measured by the NCS—remained basically unchanged between 1983 and 1984 (figure 2).

The overall rate for robbery—5.8 victimizations per 1,000 persons—was not measurably different from 1983. However, there was some evidence of a decline in the rate of attempted robberies without injury.

The rate of female rape, at 1.6 victimizations per 1,000 women in 1984,

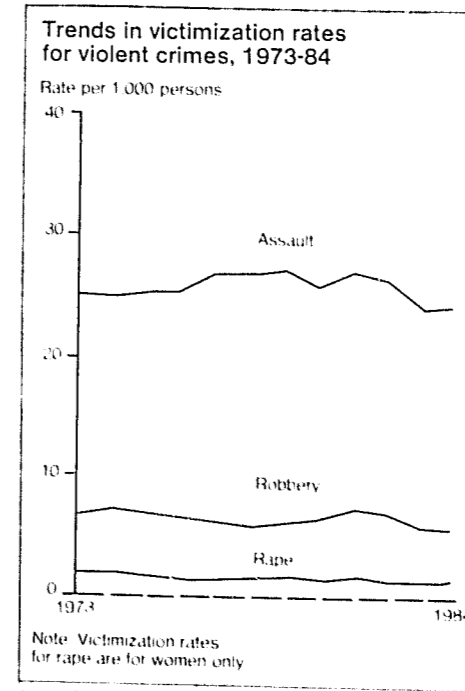


Figure 2

was not measurably different from that of the previous year.

Assaults occurred at a rate of 24.3 per 1,000 persons, which did not differ measurably from the 1983 rate. The number of aggravated assaults in 1984 increased by 10% over the 1983 level. The increase in the rate of aggravated assault, however, was not large enough to be statistically significant. Simple assault did not register a measurable change between 1983 and 1984.

Police reporting unchanged

In 1984, 35% of all NCS crimes were reported to the police, a rate of reporting that has remained basically unchanged throughout the 1980s (table 5 and figure 3).

The 1984 reporting rate did not change measurably for any major crime

³The aggregate rate of police reporting includes all the crime categories shown in table 5.

Table 5. Reporting victimizations to the police, 1973-84

| | Percent of victimizations reported to the police | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| Personal crimes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence | 46% | 47% | 47% | 49% | 46% | 44% | 45% | 47% | 47% | 48% | 47% | 47% |
| Rape | 49 | 52 | 56 | 53 | 58 | 49 | 51 | 41 | 56 | 53 | 47 | 56 |
| Robbery | 53 | 54 | 53 | 53 | 56 | 51 | 56 | 57 | 56 | 56 | 53 | 55 |
| Assault | 44 | 45 | 45 | 48 | 44 | 43 | 42 | 45 | 44 | 46 | 46 | 44 |
| Aggravated assault | 52 | 53 | 55 | 58 | 52 | 53 | 51 | 54 | 52 | 58 | 57 | 53 |
| Simple assault | 38 | 39 | 39 | 41 | 39 | 37 | 37 | 40 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 39 |
| Crimes of theft | 22 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 26 |
| Personal larceny with contact | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 34 | 36 | 36 | 40 | 33 | 36 | 32 |
| Personal larceny without contact | 22 | 24 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 26 |
| Household crimes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Household burglary | 47 | 48 | 49 | 48 | 49 | 47 | 48 | 51 | 51 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Household larceny | 25 | 25 | 27 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 28 | 26 | 27 | 25 | 27 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 68 | 67 | 71 | 70 | 68 | 66 | 68 | 69 | 67 | 72 | 69 | 69 |

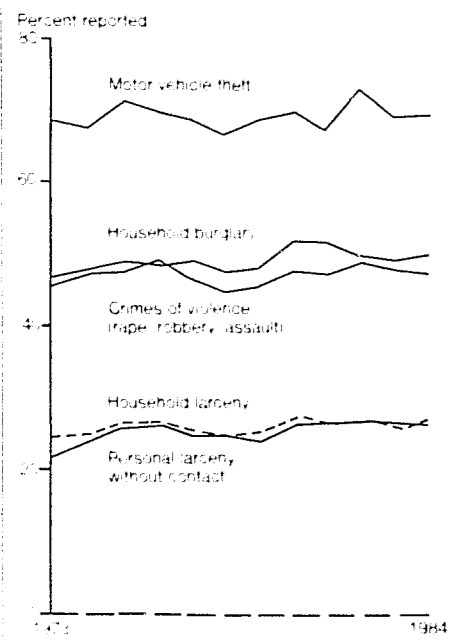
Table 6. Preliminary estimates and final results for 1984 victimization levels and rates

| | Number of victimizations (in 1,000s) | | | Victimization rates | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|
| | Preliminary | Final | Percent change | Preliminary | Final | Percent change |
| Personal crimes | | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence | 5,951 | 5,954 | 0.1% | 31.0 | 31.0 | 0.2% |
| Rape | 186 | 180 | -3.6 | 1.0 | 0.9 | -3.4 |
| Robbery | 1,129 | 1,117 | -1.1 | 5.9 | 5.8 | -0.9 |
| Assault | 4,636 | 4,657 | 0.5 | 24.1 | 24.3 | 0.6 |
| Aggravated assault | 1,611 | 1,673 | 3.8 | 8.4 | 8.7 | 4.0 |
| Simple assault | 3,022 | 2,984 | -1.3 | 15.7 | 15.5 | -1.1 |
| Crimes of theft | 13,992 | 13,789 | -1.5 | 72.8 | 71.8 | -1.3 |
| Personal larceny with contact | 561 | 530 | -5.6 | 2.9 | 2.8 | -5.4 |
| Personal larceny without contact | 13,432 | 13,259 | -1.3 | 69.9 | 69.1 | -1.1 |
| Household crimes | | | | | | |
| Household burglary | 5,473 | 5,643 | 3.1 | 62.1 | 64.1 | 3.3 |
| Household larceny | 8,621 | 8,750 | 1.5 | 97.8 | 99.4 | 1.7 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 1,283 | 1,340 | 4.4 | 14.6 | 15.2 | 4.6 |

NOTE: Numbers and rates may not add to total shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded numbers.

category. As in the past, motor vehicle theft, with roughly 7 in every 10 incidents reported to the police, had the

Trends in reporting to the police for selected crimes, 1973-84



highest rate of reporting; personal larceny without contact and household larceny, with only 1 in every 4 cases reported, had the lowest police reporting rates.

The National Crime Survey

The NCS measures selected personal and household offenses, including crimes not reported to the police, through interviews at 6-month intervals with the occupants of housing units that make up a representative national sample. During 1984, some 128,000 persons—occupants of about 60,000 housing units—participated in the survey. Field interviews are administered monthly to one-sixth of the sample, according to a rotation schedule. Information pertaining to the previous 6 months is gathered at each interview.

Preliminary estimates and sampling error

In April 1985, the Bureau of Justice Statistics issued a release of preliminary NCS victimization levels and rates, as well as police reporting data for 1984. When levels and rates of vic-

timization for the early 1984 estimates are compared to the final 1984 results, the procedure used in calculating the preliminary estimates appears to have yielded reliable indicators of both magnitude and change in criminal victimization during 1984 (table 6). For example, the preliminary 1984 rate for crimes of theft was 72.8 per 1,000 persons; the final rate was 71.8.⁴

Data collected in the National Crime Survey are obtained from a sample and not from a complete enumeration. Consequently, a sampling error (standard error) is associated with each number in this report, including the numbers measuring change. In general, if the difference between two numbers is greater than twice the standard error for that difference, we can say that we are 95% confident that the two numbers are in fact different—that is, the apparent difference is not simply the result of surveying a sample rather than the entire population. If the difference is greater than 1.6

⁴For a complete discussion of preliminary estimation procedures, see BJS Bulletin *Criminal Victimization, 1983*, NCS-93869, June 1984.

standard errors, we are 90% confident that the two numbers are different. All comparisons made in the text are at or above the 95% confidence level except where footnoted or when the phrase "some evidence" is used. These

exceptions are at or above the 90% confidence level. Where differences between two numbers are below the 90% confidence level, the two numbers are described in the text as "not measurably different."

Bureau of Justice Statistics reports

(revised August 1985)

Call toll-free 800-732-3277 (local 251-5500) to order BJS reports, to be added to one of the BJS mailing lists, or to speak to a reference specialist in statistics at the Justice Statistics Clearinghouse, National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850. Single copies of reports are free; use NCJ number to order. Postage and handling are charged for bulk orders of single reports. For single copies of multiple titles, up to 10 titles are free; 11-40 titles \$10; more than 40, \$20; libraries call for special rates.

Public-use tapes of BJS data sets and other criminal justice data are available from the Criminal Justice Archive and Information Network, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (313-763-5010).

National Crime Survey

Criminal victimization in the U.S.:

1983 (final report), NCJ-96459, 10/85
1982 (final report), NCJ-92820, 11/84
1973-82 trends, NCJ-90541, 9/83
1981 (final report), NCJ-90208
1980 (final report), NCJ-84015, 4/83
1979 (final report), NCJ-76710, 12/81

BJS special reports:

The risk of violent crime, NCJ-97119, 5/85
The economic cost of crime to victims, NCJ-93450, 4/84
Family violence, NCJ-93449, 4/84

BJS bulletins:

Households touched by crime, 1984, NCJ-97689, 6/85
The crime of rape, NCJ-96777, 3/85
Household burglary, NCJ-96021, 1/85
Criminal victimization 1983, NCJ-93869, 6/84
Violent crime by strangers, NCJ-80829, 4/82
Crime and the elderly, NCJ-79614, 1/82
Measuring crime, NCJ-75710, 2/81

Response to screening questions in the National Crime Survey (BJS technical report), NCJ-97624, 7/85

Victimization and fear of crime: World perspectives, NCJ-93872, 1/85

The National Crime Survey: Working papers, vol. I: Current and historical perspectives, NCJ-75374, 8/82

vol. II: Methodological studies, NCJ-90307, 12/84

Crime against the elderly in 26 cities, NCJ-76706, 1/82

The Hispanic victim, NCJ-69261, 11/81

Issues in the measurement of crime, NCJ-74682, 10/81

Criminal victimization of California residents, 1974-77, NCJ-70944, 6/81

Restitution to victims of personal and household crimes, NCJ-72770, 5/81

Criminal victimization of New York State residents, 1974-77, NCJ-66481, 9/80

The cost of negligence: Losses from preventable household burglaries, NCJ-53527, 12/79

Rape victimization in 26 American cities, NCJ-55878, 8/79

Criminal victimization in urban schools, NCJ-56396, 8/79

Crime against persons in urban, suburban, and rural areas, NCJ-53551, 7/79

An introduction to the National Crime Survey, NCJ-43732, 4/78
Local victim surveys: A review of the issues, NCJ-39973, 8/77

Expenditure and employment

Justice expenditure and employment, 1982 (BJS bulletin), NCJ-98327, 8/85
Justice expenditure and employment in the U.S.: 1980 and 1981 extracts, NCJ-96007, 6/85
1971-79, NCJ-92596, 11/84
1979 (final report), NCJ-87242, 12/83

Corrections

BJS bulletins and special reports:

Capital punishment 1984, NCJ-98399, 8/85
Prison admissions and releases, 1982, NCJ-97995, 7/85
Prisoners in 1984, NCJ-97118, 4/85
Examining recidivism, NCJ-96501, 2/85
Returning to prison, NCJ-95700, 11/84
Time served in prison, NCJ-93924, 6/84

Prisoners in State and Federal institutions on Dec. 31, 1982 (final), NCJ-93311, 12/84
Capital punishment 1982 (final), NCJ-91533, 11/84

1979 survey of inmates of State correctional facilities and 1979 census of State correctional facilities:

BJS special reports:

The prevalence of imprisonment, NCJ-93657, 7/85
Career patterns in crime, NCJ-88672, 6/83

BJS bulletins:

Prisoners and drugs, NCJ-87575, 3/83
Prisoners and alcohol, NCJ-86223, 1/83
Prisons and prisoners, NCJ-80697, 2/82
Veterans in prison, NCJ-79232, 11/81

Census of jails and survey of jail inmates:

The 1983 jail census (BJS bulletin), NCJ-95536, 11/84
Jail inmates 1982 (BJS bulletin), NCJ-87161, 2/83
Census of jails, 1978: Data for individual jails, vols. I-IV, Northeast, North Central, South, West, NCJ-72279-72282, 12/81
Profile of jail inmates, 1978, NCJ-65412, 2/81

Parole and probation

BJS bulletins:

Probation and parole 1983, NCJ-94776, 9/84
Setting prison terms, NCJ-76218, 8/83
Characteristics of persons entering parole during 1978 and 1979, NCJ-87243, 5/83
Characteristics of the parole population, 1978, NCJ-66479, 4/81
Parole in the U.S., 1979, NCJ-69562, 3/81

Courts

BJS bulletin:

The growth of appeals: 1973-83 trends, NCJ-96381, 2/85
Case filings in State courts 1983, NCJ-95111, 10/84

BJS special reports:

Felony sentencing in 18 local jurisdictions, NCJ-97681, 6/85
The prevalence of guilty pleas, NCJ-96018, 12/84
Sentencing practices in 13 States, NCJ-95399, 10/84

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Bulletins are prepared principally by the staff of BJS. This bulletin was written by Anita Timrots and Marshall DeBerry, with statistical assistance by Gertrude Thomas and Cathy Whitaker. Carol B. Kalish, chief of data analysis, edits the bulletins. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administers production, assisted by Millie Baldea, Tina Dorsey and Joyce Stanford.

October 1985, NCJ-98904

Criminal defense systems: A national survey, NCJ-94630, 8/84
Habeas corpus, NCJ-92948, 3/84
Case filings in State courts 1983, NCJ-95111, 10/84
State court caseload statistics, 1977 and 1981, NCJ-87587, 2/83

Supplement to the state court model statistical dictionary, NCJ-98326, 9/85

Privacy and security

Computer crime:

BJS special reports:

Electronic fund transfer fraud, NCJ-96666, 3/85
Electronic fund transfer and crime, NCJ-92650, 2/84

Computer security techniques, NCJ-84049, 9/82

Electronic fund transfer systems and crime, NCJ-83736, 9/82

Legislative resource manual, NCJ-78890, 9/81

Expert witness manual, NCJ-77927, 9/81

Criminal justice resource manual, NCJ-61550, 12/79

Criminal justice information policy:

Data quality of criminal history records, NCJ-98079, 10/85
Intelligence and investigative records, NCJ-95787, 4/85
Victim/witness legislation: An overview, NCJ-94365, 12/84

Federal offenses and offenders

BJS special reports:

Pretrial release and misconduct, NCJ-96132, 1/85

BJS bulletins:

Bank robbery, NCJ-94463, 8/84
Federal drug law violators, NCJ-92692, 2/84
Federal justice statistics, NCJ-80814, 3/82

General

BJS bulletins:

Tracking offenders: The child victim, NCJ-95785, 12/84
The severity of crime, NCJ-92326, 1/84
The American response to crime: An overview of criminal justice systems, NCJ-91936, 12/83
Tracking offenders, NCJ-91572, 11/83
Victim and witness assistance: New State laws and the system's response, NCJ-87934, 5/83

BJS telephone contacts '85, NCJ-98292, 8/85

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1984, NCJ-96382, 10/85

How to gain access to BJS data (brochure), BC-00022, 9/84

Information policy and crime control strategies, NCJ-93926, 10/84

Proceedings of the 2nd workshop on law and justice statistics, 1984, NCJ-93310, 8/84

Report to the nation on crime and justice: The data, NCJ-87068, 10/83

END