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# **Highlights from 20 Years of Surveying Crime Victims**

## **The National Crime Victimization Survey, 1973-92**

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

## Foreword

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The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the culmination of efforts to build a statistical body of knowledge about crime and justice in the United States. Since the 1850s, crime statistics have evolved from prisoner counts, to conviction counts, to law enforcement counts, and eventually to victim counts. This evolution represents a clear progression toward a more accurate description of crime.

With the advent of the survey, the phenomenon of crime for the first time could be measured directly, from its victims. They are able to tell us about the **two dark figures of crime** — crimes that are not reported to law enforcement agencies and crimes which, when reported, go unrecorded. They can also tell us about the toll crime takes on their lives in terms of personal injury, the value of property lost to crime, and time lost from work. Through this survey, the voices of those victimized by crime are heard and they challenge us to find ways to ameliorate crime and its consequences. The NCVS is truly **the national forum** for victims of crime.

On behalf of all the staff of BJS, I want to extend my appreciation to the staff of the Demographic Surveys Division, the Statistical Methods Division, and the Field Division of the Bureau of the Census who, for these 20 years, have labored, largely behind the scenes, to enable us to conduct the second-largest ongoing household survey sponsored by the Federal Government. We gratefully thank, as well, the more than 4 million persons who allowed the NCVS to become a part of their lives over this 20-year period.

Lawrence Greenfeld  
Acting Director

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## Introduction

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With the collection of 1992 data, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since this victimization survey was initiated in the 1970s, much has been learned about victims of crime, criminal events, and the criminal justice system's response to crime. Before the introduction of NCVS, no data existed on many of these topics. Perhaps the most important contribution of NCVS is its data about the "dark figure" of crime — those crimes that are not reported to the police.

This report chronicles much information that is uniquely available through this survey including —

- How much crime is there?
- What are the trends in crime?
- What are the characteristics of rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft?
- What are the consequences of crime, including injury and economic loss?
- Who are the victims of crime?
- Who is the offender in violent crimes?
- What is the relationship between the victim and the offender?
- How much crime occurs in schools?
- When does crime occur?
- To what extent are weapons involved in crime?
- How do victims of violent crime protect themselves?
- Are most crimes reported to the police?

Since all 1992 data are not yet available, most data presented here are for 1991 with the exception of general trends data. When the data are for specific time periods other than 1973 to 1992, the time period is specified. Rates of change are reported only when statistically significant.

More information about the survey and its redesign can be found in the section *Facts about the National Crime Victimization Survey*. Information on the publications from which most of these data were derived is in the section entitled, *BJS National Crime Victimization Survey publications, 1973-93*. It is followed by the *Selected bibliography* that contains citations for some of the papers, articles, and books about the survey and its data that have been written during the last 20 years.

## 20 years of the National Crime Victimization Survey

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### ***"One of the most neglected subjects in the study of crime is its victims..."***

The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967

The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice was created in the late 1960s in response to the rising crime problem and the riots that exploded in many American cities. The President's Commission found that much of the information needed to formulate recommendations was unavailable in 1967. To remedy this deficiency, the President's Commission initiated the first national victimization survey. Conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, this survey interviewed members of 100,000 households across the country. Respondents were asked if they had been the victim of a crime during the past year, whether the crime had been reported, and, if not, the reasons for not reporting. NORC found that the actual amount of crime was several times greater than the amount of crime reported to the police in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). The commission also sponsored several detailed surveys in high and medium crime rate precincts in Washington, D.C., Boston, and Chicago.

The results of the national and local surveys were used to formulate the commission's recommendations. Based on their experience with the surveys, the commission concluded that victimization surveys had great potential for providing information about the nature and extent of the crime problem and the relative effectiveness of different crime control programs.

Largely in response to the 1967 President's Commission report, the Department of Justice initiated the country's first widescale victimization survey. Planning for the survey began in 1969. After several years of research and testing, data collection for a national victimization survey began in 1972.

For the last 20 years, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), formerly the National Crime Survey, has measured the amount and nature of crime by asking large numbers of people whether they have been crime victims. It has provided long-term information about the victims of crime in-

cluding the kinds of crimes they have experienced, the context of crime, impact on the victims and if the crimes were reported to police.

Since its introduction, NCVS data have been used in many policy discussions including those on —

- crime control
- victim's rights
- gun control
- school crime
- domestic violence and crimes against women
- crimes against the elderly
- victim's compensation.

In addition, these data have informed potential victims about how to avoid crime and have been cited in Supreme Court decisions.

Over the same time period, many national and local surveys designed to measure the extent and nature of victimization have been conducted throughout the world including Canada, England and Wales, the Netherlands, Israel, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, France, Germany, and the United States. Many nations also participated in the United Nations sponsored International Crime Surveys in 1989 and 1992.

BJS publishes NCVS data annually with an initial release through a BJS Bulletin, followed by a more detailed accounting in *Criminal Victimization in the United States* and periodically in the trends report. In addition, BJS produces Special Reports from the NCVS on a wide variety of topics. Published findings from three supplements to NCVS also are available —

- *National Survey of Crime Severity Supplement*, which measured the seriousness of 204 detailed types of crimes
- *Victim Risk Supplement*, which measured the effects of various life-style attributes on the likelihood of victimization
- *School Crime Supplement*, which measured school-related victimization, fear of crime at school, gang activity, disciplinary practices, and the availability of illegal substances.

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## NCVS data provide authoritative answers to many of the 1967 Commission's questions

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### Findings from the 1967 President's Commission

### Findings from 20 years of NCVS measuring more than 816 million victimizations

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#### **Unreported crime**

*"At the present time, the best measure is considered to be statistics of offenses known to the police. It has always been known that there was a great deal of unreported crime, however, and given the changing nature of police forces and community expectations, there is every reason to believe that the ratio of reported to unreported crime, at least for some offenses, has been changing."*

- ◆ Nearly two-thirds of all crimes are not reported to police
- ◆ Motor vehicle theft is most often reported
- ◆ Larcenies without contact are least often reported
- ◆ Common reasons for not reporting violent crimes are that the offender was unsuccessful or that it was a private or personal matter
- ◆ More information about reporting of crime is available on pages 31-34.

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#### **Crime trends**

*"In terms of the system as a whole two of the most basic questions are how much of the various crimes there is and whether these amounts of crime are going up or down."*

- ◆ From 1973 to 1991, the level of crime overall has decreased since its peak year of 1981
- ◆ The violent crime rate has also declined from its peak rate in 1981
- ◆ More information about crime trends is on pages 7-14 as well as throughout this report.

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#### **Crime victim characteristics**

*"If it could be determined with sufficient specificity that people or businesses with certain characteristics are more likely to be crime victims, and that crime is more likely to occur in some places than others, efforts to control and prevent crime would be more productive."*

- ◆ Blacks are more likely than whites to be victims of violent crime
- ◆ Persons under age 25 have higher victimization rates than older persons
- ◆ Males have higher rates of victimization than females
- ◆ People who live in central cities have higher victimization rates than people who live in suburban or nonmetropolitan areas
- ◆ More information on victim characteristics can be found on pages 18-22.

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#### **Relationship between the victim and offender**

*"Unfortunately, no national statistics are available on relationships between victims and offenders in crimes other than criminal homicide."*

- ◆ In general, violent crimes are more likely to be committed by strangers than nonstrangers
- ◆ When the offender was known to the victim of violent crime, almost two-thirds of the offenders were either related or well known to the victim
- ◆ More information about victim/offender relationships is available on pages 24-25.

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#### **Interracial crime**

*"Another source of concern about crime, in addition to its violence and its frequency, is the extent to which it is assumed to involve interracial attacks."*

- ◆ Most victims are victimized by offenders of the same race
- ◆ About 75% of white victims were victimized by whites
- ◆ About 85% of black victims were victimized by blacks
- ◆ More information about the race of victims and offenders is presented on page 23.

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## The Nation's two crime measures

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) measure various aspects of crime at the national level. These complementary series each contribute to providing a complete picture about the extent and

nature of crime in the United States. Together the NCVS and UCR provide a more comprehensive assessment of crime in the United States than could be obtained from either statistical series alone.

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### *The National Crime Victimization Survey*

Using stable data collection methods since 1973, the NCVS has the following strengths:

- It measures both reported and unreported crimes.
- It is not affected by changes in the extent to which people report crime to police or improvements in police record-keeping technology.
- It collects information that is not available when the initial police report is made including contacts the victim has with the criminal justice system after the crime, extent and costs of medical treatment, and recovery of property.
- It collects detailed information about victims and characteristics of the victimization including who the victims are, what their relationship is to the offender, whether the crime was part of a series of crimes occurring over a 6-month period, what self-protective measures were used and how the victims assess their effectiveness, and what the victim was doing when victimized.
- On occasion, it includes special supplements about particular topics such as school crime and the severity of crime.

### *The Uniform Crime Reports*

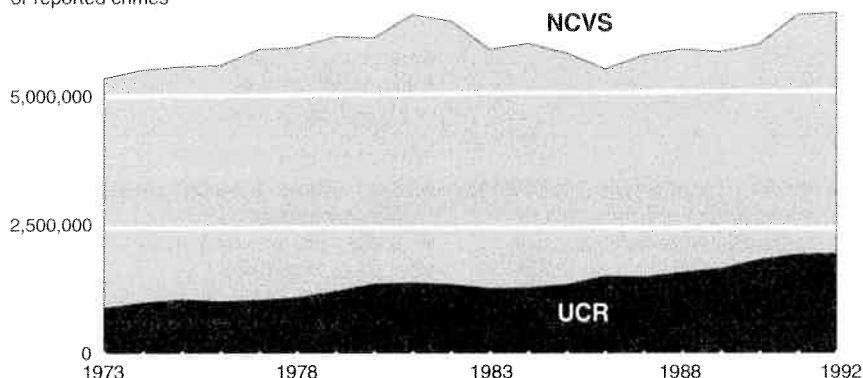
The UCR program measures police workload and activity. Local police departments voluntarily report information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) including the numbers of crimes reported to police, arrests made by police and other administrative information. The UCR program has the following strengths:

- It can provide local data about States, counties, cities and towns.
  - It measures crimes affecting children under age 12, a segment of the population that experts agree cannot be reliably interviewed in the NCVS.
  - It includes crimes against commercial establishments.
  - It collects information about the number of arrests and who was arrested.
  - It counts the number of homicides (murders and nonnegligent manslaughters), crimes that cannot be counted in a survey that interviews victims.
- UCR also collects detailed information about the circumstances surrounding homicides and the characteristics of homicide victims.

## NCVS provides information on both reported and unreported crime

**Violent crimes measured by NCVS and UCR\***

Number of victimizations  
or reported crimes



\*Includes NCVS violent crimes of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault; and UCR violent crimes of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

## Highlights from 20 Years of Surveying Crime Victims

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- Overall crime rates have been stable or declining in recent years; however, violent crime has increased for some groups. Violent crime rates for teenagers increased in recent years, while rates for other age groups remained stable or declined. The violent crime rate for blacks in 1992 is the highest ever recorded.
- From 1973 to 1991, 36.6 million people were injured as a result of violent crime including over 6 million people who received serious injuries.
- In general, you are more likely to become the victim of a violent crime than to be injured in a motor vehicle accident.
- One in four households in the United States is victimized by one or more crimes each year.
- About half of all violent crimes and more than a third of all crimes are reported to police.
- Teenagers and young adults consistently have the highest victimization rates.
- Handguns are used in about 10% of all violent crimes. Handgun crime rates are above the 1986 low but have not returned to the 1982 high.
- In 1991, an estimated \$19.1 billion was lost directly from personal and household crime.
- The average dollar loss per crime increased from \$142 in 1975 to \$550 in 1991, a substantial increase even when adjusted for inflation.
- 9% of violent victimizations were series crimes where the victim experienced three or more similar victimizations within a 6-month period, but was unable to describe them separately.
- Males are much more likely to be victimized by strangers than by family members or other intimates. Females are as likely to be victims of violence by intimates as they are by strangers.
- About 30% of violent crimes and 25% of burglaries occur when the victim is engaged in a leisure activity away from home.

## How much crime is there?

### Almost 34 million victimizations occurred in the United States in 1992

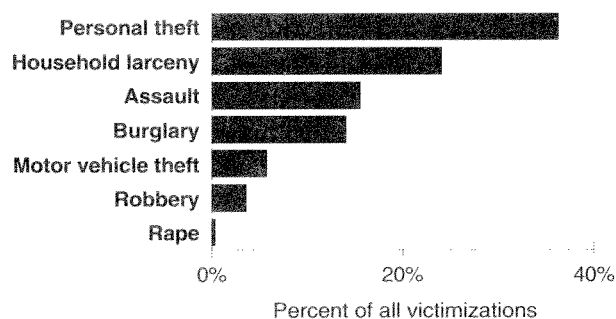
	Number of victimizations	Rate per 1,000 persons or households
<b>Personal crimes</b>	18,831,980	91.2
Violent crime	6,621,140	32.1
Rape	140,930	.7
Robbery	1,225,510	5.9
Assault	5,254,690	25.5
Personal theft	12,210,830	59.2
<b>Household crimes</b>	14,817,360	152.2
Burglary	4,757,420	48.9
Larceny	8,101,150	83.2
Motor vehicle theft	1,958,780	20.1

### About one in four U.S. households was victimized by a crime in 1992

In 1992 —

- 23% of U.S. households were victimized by a crime of violence or theft
- 5% of all households had at least one member age 12 or older who was a violent crime victim
- Black households, Hispanic households, and urban households were the most likely to experience crime.

### Most crime is property crime



### Some victims are repeatedly victimized

Series victimizations are defined as three or more similar victimizations occurring within a 6-month period, which the victim is unable to describe separately. Victims reported series victimizations in —

- 9% of all violent crimes
- 2% of personal thefts
- 3% of household crimes.

### How do crime rates compare with the rates of other life events?

Events	Rate per 1,000 adults per year
Accidental injury, all circumstances	220
Accidental injury at home	66
<b>Personal theft</b>	61
Accidental injury at work	47
<b>Violent victimization</b>	31
<b>Assault</b> (aggravated and simple)	25
Injury in motor vehicle accident	22
Death, all causes	11
<b>Victimization with injury</b>	11
<b>Serious (aggravated) assault</b>	8
<b>Robbery</b>	6
Heart disease death	5
Cancer death	3
<b>Rape</b> (women only)	1
Accidental death, all circumstances	.4
Pneumonia/influenza death	.4
Motor vehicle accident death	.2
Suicide	.2
HIV infection death	.1
<b>Homicide/legal intervention</b>	.1

Sources: See the Appendix for detailed sources, time periods, and calculations used for these data.

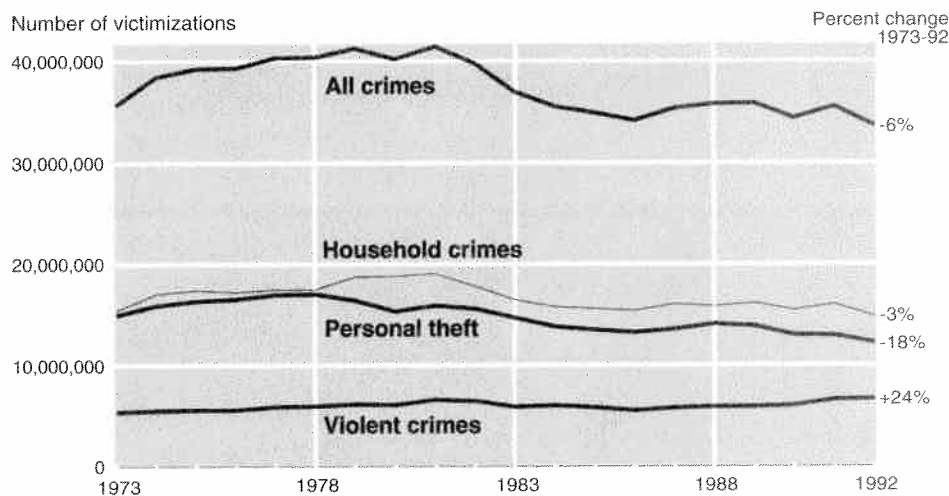
### The vast majority of violent crimes involve one victim rather than multiple victims

Of all violent crimes, 92% had only one victim. The crimes of aggravated assault and robbery had more incidents with more than one victim than the other personal crimes.

A crime incident can have multiple victims. The National Criminal Victimization Survey covers both incidents and victims. Some measures such as where the crime occurred are analyzed based on incidents; other measures such as the number of injured victims are based on the number of victimizations.

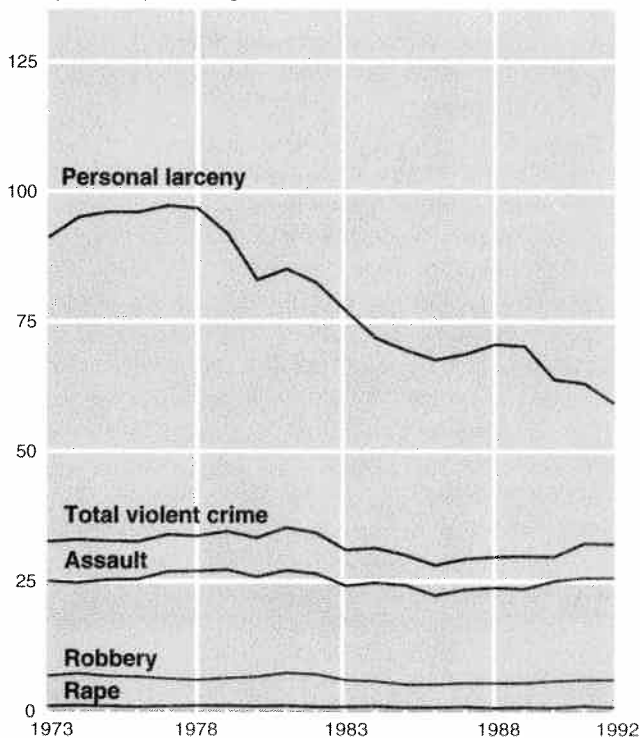
## What are the trends in crime?

The number of victimizations rose from 1973 until the early 1980s and has since declined

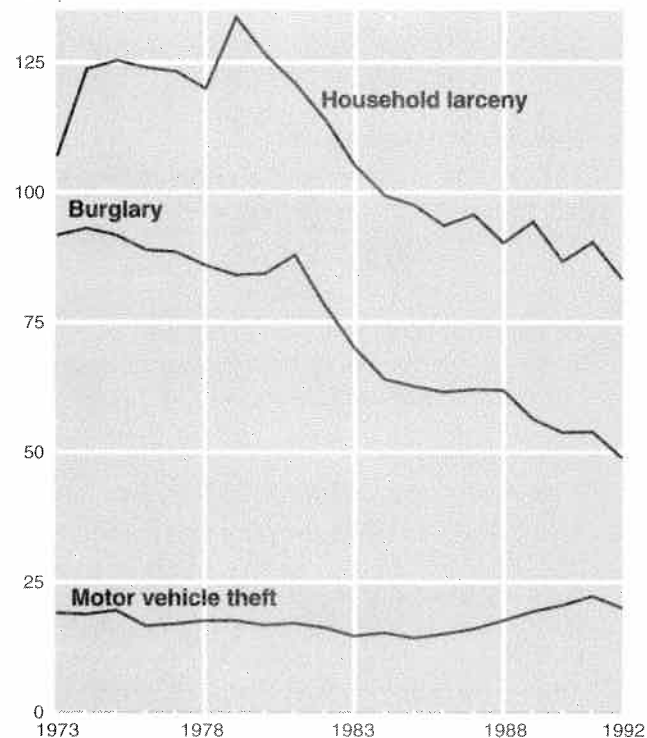


Victimization rates for most property crimes have also declined

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older



Rate per 1,000 households

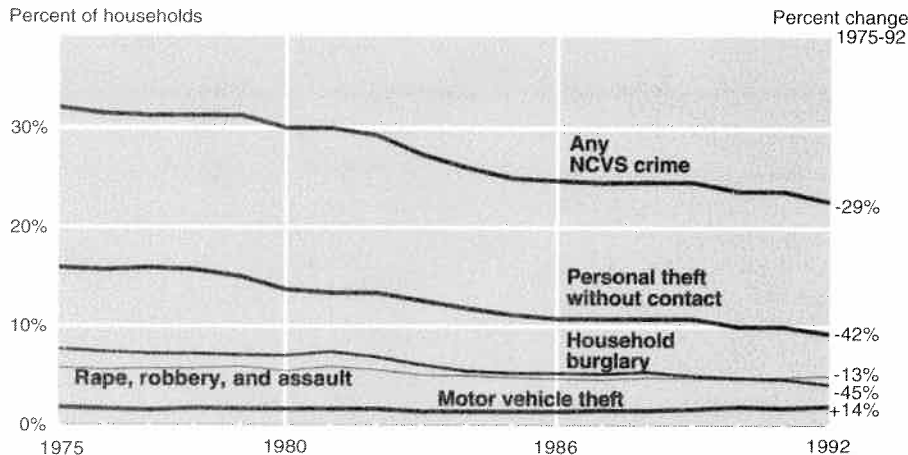


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## The percent of households victimized by crime is also decreasing

- The 1992 estimate that 23% of all households were victimized by crime is the lowest recorded since the measure was introduced in 1975.

- While both white and black households were less likely to experience a crime in 1992 than in earlier years, the decrease was much greater for white than black households.



### Changes in U.S. households have affected the estimates of households experiencing crime

Since the initiation of NCVS in the early 1970s, U.S. households have changed:

#### Number of households

The number of households in the United States has increased from over 63 million in 1970 to almost 96 million in 1992 but the annual rate of growth has slowed during the 1980s.

#### Household size

The average number of persons per household has decreased from 3.14 in 1970 to 2.62 in 1992.

#### Composition

- Married couple families accounted for more than half of all households in 1992 but a majority did not have any children under 18 at home.
- The proportion of single parent families has grown from 13% of all families in 1970 to 30% in 1992.
- About 30% of households in 1992 were nonfamily households, up from 19% in 1970. A nonfamily household is either a householder living alone or with unrelated people.

#### Residence and region

- In recent years the population of the United States has been moving away from the Northeast and Midwest into the South and West.
- Urban residents have been moving to suburban and rural areas.

Two of the changes in households have shifted population from households more likely to experience crime — larger ones and those in urban areas — to those less likely — smaller ones and those in suburban and rural areas. Another population movement has shifted population in the other direction, from the Northeast, a region with a lower likelihood of crime, to the West, where a higher proportion of households experience crime.

If the size distribution of American households were the same in 1992 as in 1975, an estimated 24% rather than 23% of households would have experienced crime. This estimate is still below the 1975 estimate of 32% of households victimized by crime. The degree to which all population shifts have affected the overall percentage of households experiencing crime is unknown.



## What are the characteristics of the crimes measured by NCVS?

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### Rape

#### Definition

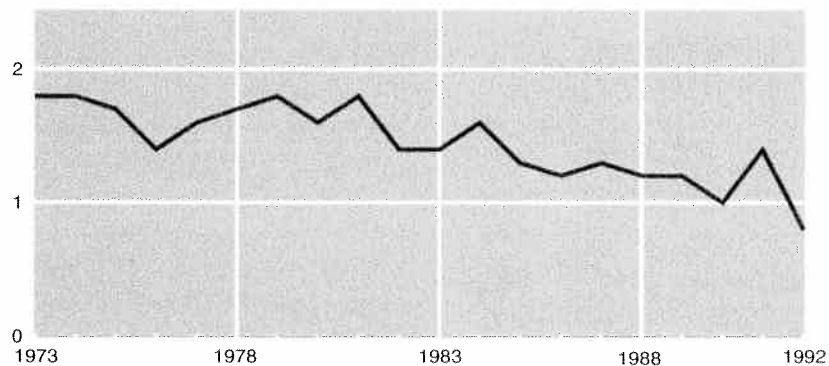
Carnal knowledge through the use of force or the threat of force, including attempts. Both heterosexual and homosexual rape are included.

#### Facts about rape\*

- In 1992, 141,000 rapes were reported to the NCVS. Rapes of males account for about 8% of all rapes measured by the survey. Crimes including rapes that occur in an institutionalized setting (such as a prison, hospital, or the military) are not measured in the survey.
- About half of all rapes of females were perpetrated by someone known to the victim.
- The offender was armed in about one fifth of rapes of females. A higher proportion of stranger rapists were armed with some type of weapon (29%) compared to nonstranger rapists (17%). About the same proportion of handguns were used in stranger rapes as were knives or other sharp instruments. Nonstranger rapists were more likely to be armed with knives or sharp instruments.
- Of female rape victims who took some type of self-protective action such as fighting back and yelling and screaming, most reported that it helped the situation rather than made it worse.
- Slightly more than half of female rape victims report their victimizations to the police. They are more likely to report the crime if the perpetrator was armed, if they sustained additional injuries, and if they received medical care for these injuries. The relationship the victim had with the offender (intimate, acquaintance, stranger) does not affect whether the victimization is reported to the police.

#### The rape rate fluctuated over the past 20 years

Number of rapes per 1,000 females age 12 or over



\* In the future NCVS will measure both rape and sexual assault. The redesigned questionnaire implemented in July 1993 asks if respondents have been the victims of forced or unwanted sexual activity. They are asked detailed questions about whether forced or coerced intercourse or sexual activity of any kind was

completed or attempted. The changes to these questions are expected to result in an increase in the number of rapes and sexual assaults recorded. For more information on the redesign see page 37.

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## Robbery

### Definition

Completed or attempted theft of property or cash directly from a person by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon.

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### Facts about robbery

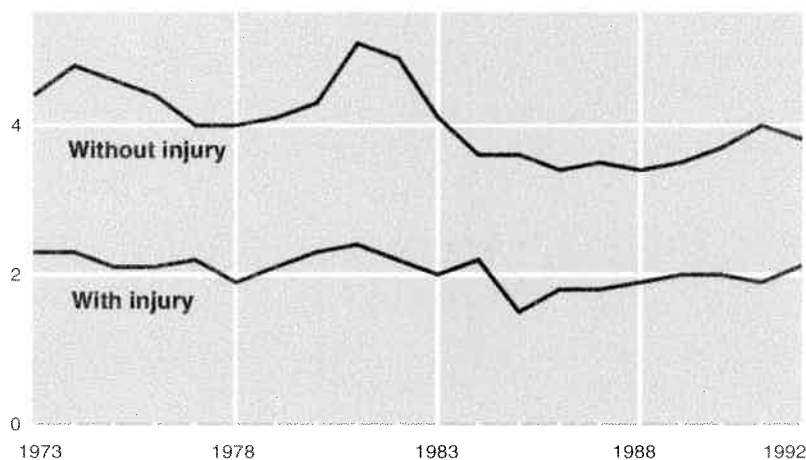
- In 1992, 1.2 million robbery victimizations occurred in the United States. Property was lost in two-thirds of these robberies.
- For the period 1987-90, four of every five robberies measured by the NCVS were committed by persons who were strangers to the victim.
- The most common outcome in robberies committed by strangers (42%) was for the victim to lose property but to sustain no injury. The victim suffered a serious injury and lost property to the offender in 1 in 20 robberies. In 25% of all stranger robberies, the victim escaped from the incident without being injured or losing property.
- Offenders were armed with handguns in 21% of all stranger robberies. The offender's weapon was a knife in 19%, and an object used as a weapon (such as a stick, rock, etc.) in 10% of stranger robberies. The offender was unarmed in a third of all robberies committed by strangers.

Weapon type	1987-90 stranger robberies	
	Number	Percent
Total robberies	3,514,600	100%
Handgun	743,900	21
Other gun	53,900	2
Knives, sharp objects	657,000	19
Other weapons	361,200	10
Unarmed	1,138,700	32
Weapon type not known or not known whether offender was armed	560,000	16

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### Robbery rates decreased from their peak in 1981

Number of robberies per 1,000 persons age 12 or over



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## Assault

### Definition

The intentional inflicting, or attempted inflicting of injury upon another person. Aggravated assault involves serious injury and includes all assaults or threats of injury with a deadly or

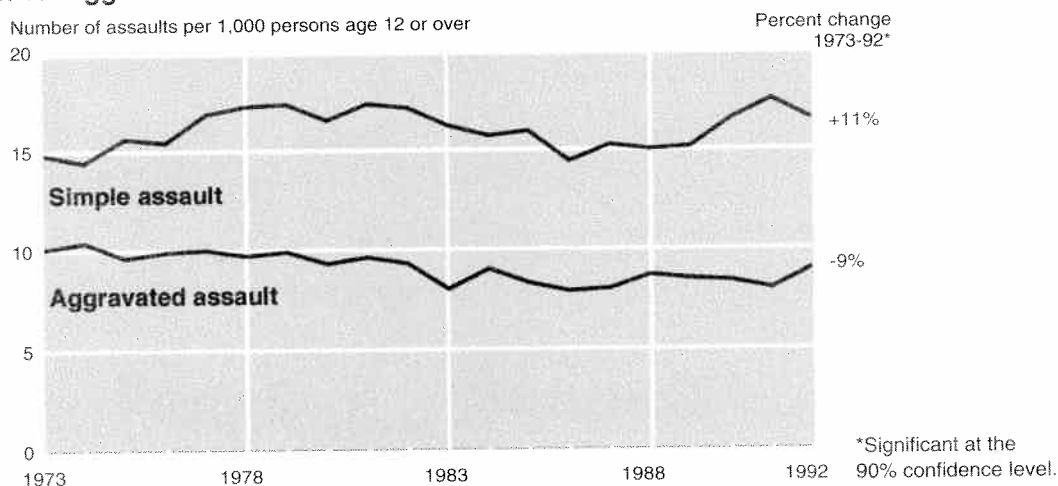
dangerous weapon. Simple assault involves less serious injury and by definition does not include any assaults involving weapons.

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### Facts about assault

- In 1992, over 5 million assaults were committed; two-thirds of these assaults were simple assaults.
  - Over 1.5 million assaults in 1991 resulted in some sort of injury.
  - Over half of the injured assault victims who receive medical care receive their care in a clinic or hospital.
  - Most assaults by armed offenders occur at night, usually before midnight. Most assaults by unarmed offenders occur during the day.
  - About 7% of assaults occur inside a bar, restaurant or nightclub. The most common places where both simple and aggravated assaults occur are on the street; in a parking lot or garage; at or in the victim's home; or at, in, or near a friend's, relative's, or neighbor's home.
  - About a third of the aggravated assaults involve the use of a gun. However, those resulting in injury are more likely to involve a blunt object than any other weapon.
  - The victim used some form of self-protection in almost three-fourths of all assaults. These findings are the same for both stranger and nonstranger assaults.
  - When self-protection was used, 72% of victims felt that it helped the situation, 7% thought it hurt the situation, 7% thought it both helped and hurt, and 13% thought it neither helped nor hurt.
  - More than half of victims who said that self-protection helped felt it avoided injury or greater injury. Of those who thought self-protection was harmful, 67% said it made the offender angrier or more aggressive.
- 

**The rate for simple assault has increased over 1973 levels while the rate for aggravated assault has declined**



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## Burglary

### Definition

Unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence. This crime usually, but not always, involves theft. As long as the person has no legal right to be present in the structure a burglary has occurred.

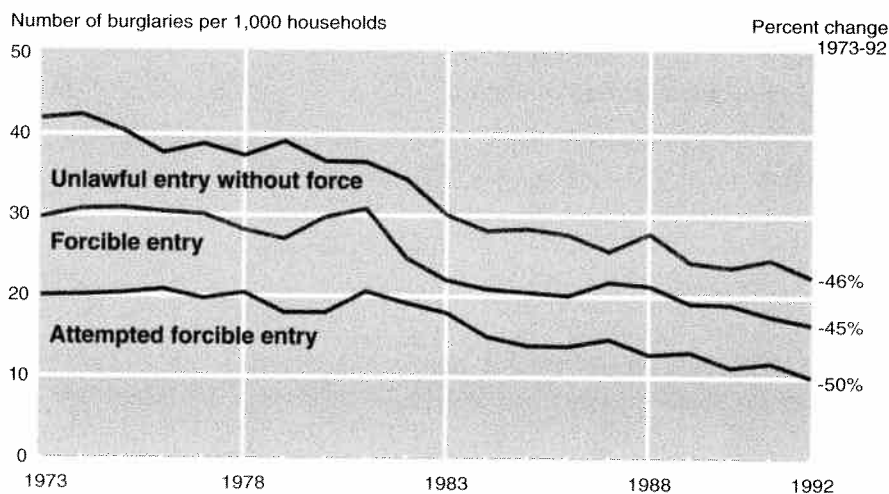
The structure may be a house, garage, shed, or any other structure on the premises. If it occurs in a vacation residence or hotel occupied by the household, it is still classified as a burglary for the household.

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### Facts about burglary

- About 4% of all households in the United States experienced one or more of the 4.8 million household burglaries that occurred in 1992.
  - When the time of occurrence was known, victims reported that over half of all burglaries took place during the day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Almost 3 in 10 burglaries result in losses of \$500 or more.
  - Some economic loss including property damage occurs in 86% of all burglaries and about 95% of all forcible entry burglaries.
  - The estimated economic loss to victims of household burglaries was \$4.2 billion in 1991. This figure includes only direct costs to victims and does not measure such costs as operating the criminal justice system or increased insurance premiums.
  - About half of all burglaries are reported to the police. Serious burglaries are more likely to be reported; more than 70% of burglaries involving forcible entry are reported to police but 42% of the burglaries when the offender enters without force are reported.
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### The rates for all types of household burglary have been decreasing



## Larceny

### Definition

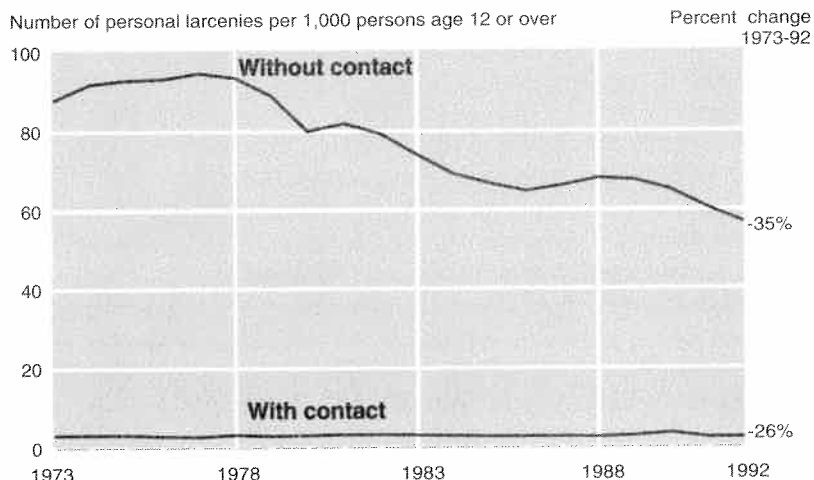
Theft or attempted theft of property or cash without involving force or illegal entry. If the property is taken from a residence by someone who has a legal right to be there, it is a household

larceny. If it is taken from a person either with contact but no direct force or without contact it is a personal larceny. Personal larceny with contact includes purse snatching and pocket picking.

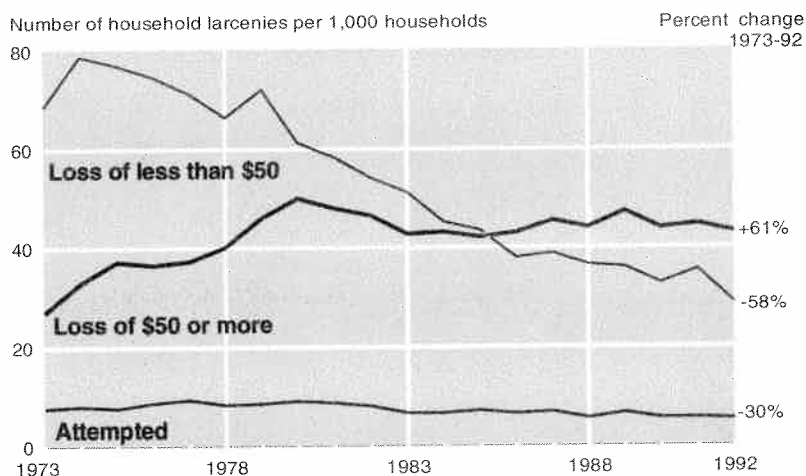
### Facts about larceny

- In 1992, a total of 12,210,830 personal larcenies and 8,101,150 household larcenies occurred. Of the personal larcenies, 152,300 involved purse snatching and 332,500 involved pocket picking.
- Personal larcenies without contact are the least likely crimes to be reported to the police.
- The estimated direct losses to victims of personal and household larceny were \$5.4 billion in 1991.
- Personal larceny with contact (purse snatching or pocket picking) is the one crime measured by NCVS that affects the elderly to the same extent as it affects younger persons in the population.

### The rates for personal larceny have declined



### Rates for household larceny with a loss of under \$50 decreased, but the rate for larcenies with a loss of \$50 or more increased



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## Motor vehicle theft

### Definition

Stealing or unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle, including attempted thefts.

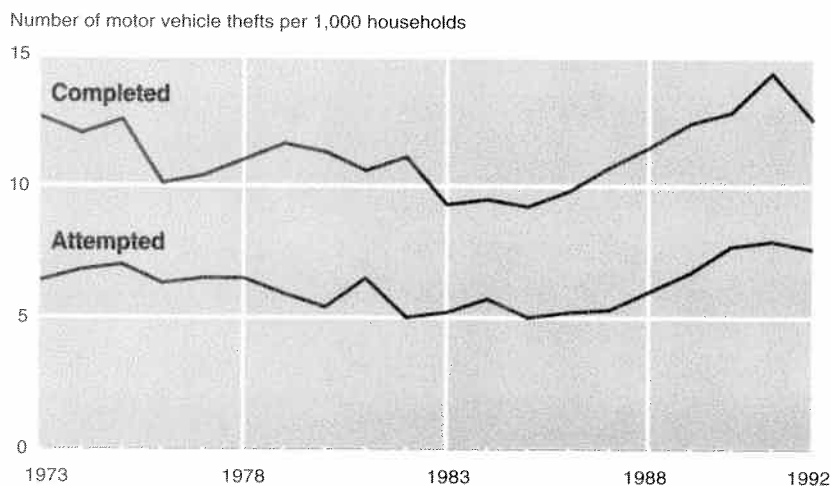
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### Motor vehicle theft facts

- A total of about 2 million motor vehicle thefts occurred in the United States in 1992. When based upon the number of vehicles owned the motor vehicle theft rate was about 13 motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 vehicles.
- Of all households in the United States, 2% were the victims of one or more motor vehicle thefts during 1992.
- Of all crimes measured by the NCVS, completed motor vehicle thefts are the most likely to be reported to the police (92%).
- The most common place for a motor vehicle theft to occur is in a parking lot or garage (36%).
- In 1991, motor vehicle theft resulted in an estimated \$8.5 billion in direct losses to victims.
- Motor vehicle theft rates are higher for households headed by blacks (37 per 1,000) than for whites (19 per 1,000). When calculated based upon vehicles owned the rates are still higher for blacks (31 per 1,000) than for whites (11 per 1,000).
- Motor vehicle theft rates are higher for Hispanics (42 per 1,000 households) than for non-Hispanics (20 per 1,000).
- The rate of motor vehicle theft is higher for renters (29 per 1,000) than for homeowners (18 per 1,000).
- Motor vehicle theft rates are higher in central cities (37 per 1,000 households) than suburban areas (21 per 1,000) or rural areas (6 per 1,000).

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**The rates for motor vehicle theft declined through the 1970s and early 1980s, but began rising in the late 1980s**



## What are the consequences of crime?

### From 1973 to 1991, 36.6 million people were injured as a result of violent crime

Included in this number of injured victims are over 6 million people who received serious injuries. Annually, about 2 million people are injured as a result of violent crime. About one in three victims of robbery and assault are injured during the crime.

The NCVS measures injuries that occur and medical treatment that is received for all violent crimes, including rape. It does not specifically measure psychological trauma or long-term effects on the victim.

### What kinds of injuries do victims sustain?

Of the violent crime victims who were injured, 84% received bruises, cuts, scratches, etc. Among those victims injured in violent crimes —

- 1% received gunshot wounds
- 4% received knife wounds
- 7% suffered broken bones or teeth knocked out.

Of victims of violent crime who are injured —

- 51% required some level of medical treatment
- 19% received treatment at a hospital emergency room or were treated at a hospital and released that day
- 4% required hospitalization for at least one night.

### Crime-caused injuries use a substantial amount of the nation's health care resources

Crime-related injuries typically account for more than 700,000 days of hospitalization annually — the equivalent of about 30% of the hospital days for traffic accident injuries and just over 1% of the days resulting from heart disease.

The average hospital stay for victims of crime, 9 days, was about the same as for those undergoing cancer treatment and 2 days longer than the average hospitalization for those injured in traffic accidents or receiving treatment for heart disease.

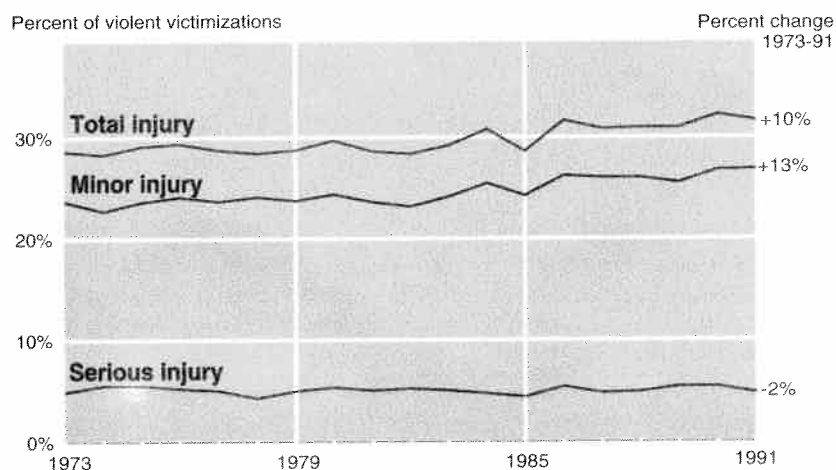
Of those victims of violence who go to the hospital, 56% receive emergency room care only, 26% are hospitalized for less than a day, 12% for 1-3 days, and 5% for 4 days or more.

### In 10% of all violent victimizations, the victim incurred medical expenses

Where the dollar amount was known, medical expenses exceeded \$250 in almost three-fifths of the victimizations.

Victims reported that they were neither covered by health insurance nor eligible for benefits from Medicaid, the Veterans Administration, or Public

### The percent of violent victimizations with minor injuries has increased while the percent with serious injuries has remained stable



Note: Serious injuries include gunshot or knife wounds, broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, and undetermined injuries requiring 2 or more days of

hospitalization. Minor injuries include bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling, and undetermined injuries requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization.

Welfare in 34% of the victimizations that resulted in injury. Those victims with the lowest annual incomes (under \$15,000) are least likely to report health insurance coverage or eligibility for public medical benefits.

### **An estimated \$19.1 billion was lost from personal and household crime in 1991**

This estimate includes losses from property theft or damage, cash losses, medical expenses and other costs. It does not include losses from crimes not covered by NCVS such as crimes against businesses, fraud, or homicide.

In 1981, the first year that the total economic cost is available, the estimated cost of crime to victims was \$10.9 billion. Adjusting for inflation, the cost of crime to victims has risen 17% from 1981 to 1991.

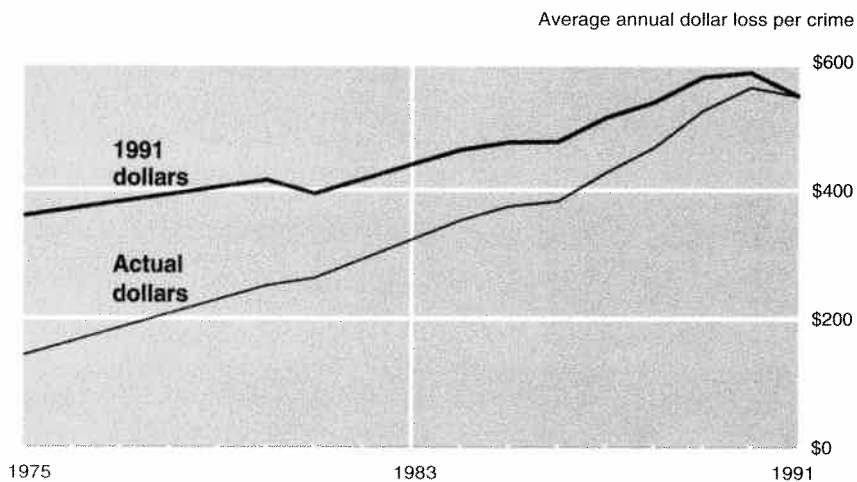
### **The greatest dollar losses result from household crimes such as motor vehicle theft and burglary**

Type of crime	1991 gross dollar loss in millions
All crimes	\$19,098
Personal crimes	4,569
Crimes of violence	1,076
Crimes of theft	3,493
Household crimes	14,529
Specific crimes	
Motor vehicle theft	\$8,478
Burglary	4,162
Personal larceny without contact	3,400
Household larceny	1,890
Assault	566
Robbery	472
Personal larceny with contact	92
Rape	38

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Losses do not reflect recovered property or insurance payments.

### **The average loss per crime has increased**

During the same time period, according to the Current Population Survey, household money income adjusted for inflation remained stable.



Note: Data are interpolated for 1976-79 and 1982-83.



### **Most victims do not recover their stolen property**

With the exception of motor vehicle theft, crime victims who have had property stolen stand little chance of recovering any of their property after the incident. Only about 10% of theft and burglary victims recover some or all of their stolen property. About 20% of robbery victims recover any stolen property.

About 44% of stolen motor vehicles were recovered in 1991. In an additional 26% of vehicle thefts, victims recovered some of their property such as missing parts.

### **Economic loss from crime includes property loss and damage**

Both property loss and damage may occur in any one incident.

Of all personal victimizations in 1991, 72% resulted in economic losses:

- property was stolen in 66%
- belongings were damaged in 16%.

Property was lost in 97% of personal larcenies and in 74% of robberies.

Of household crimes in 1991, 92% resulted in economic losses:

- property was lost in 80%
- property was damaged in 27%.

Households lost property in 94% of household larcenies and 65% of burglaries.

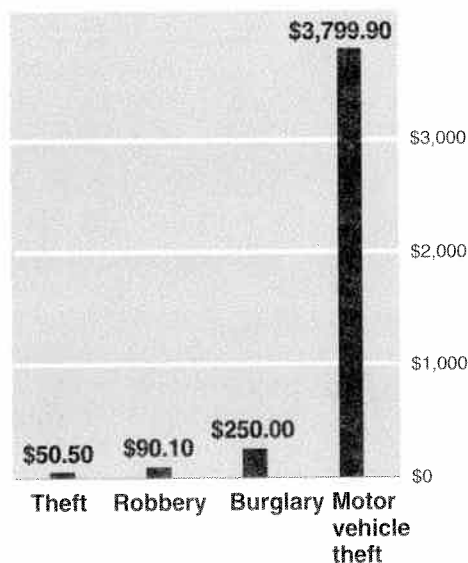
In completed burglaries in which forcible entry was used, 79% resulted in lost property and 72% in damaged property. Burglaries involving unlawful entry without force showed 84% losing property and 5% with property damage.

Of all motor vehicle theft incidents, 64% resulted in the theft of the vehicle. In attempted motor vehicle thefts when the vehicle was not stolen, 57% resulted in damage to the vehicle costing \$100 or more.

### **The losses incurred vary by crime type**

Although household larcenies occur more frequently than burglaries, the number of victimizations with an economic loss of \$100 or more to the household occurs more often in burglaries (57%) than larcenies (39%).

Average theft loss, 1987-90



### **Some crime victims or members of their families lose time from work**

Crime victims and their families can lose time from work because of injury, repairing or replacing property, or involvement in criminal justice proceedings. Time was lost from work in approximately —

- 9% of violent victimizations
- 4% of personal thefts
- 6% of household crimes.

Of victims who lost time from work because of violent criminal victimization —

- 54% lost between 1 and 5 days
- 15% lost less than a day
- 13% lost 11 or more days.

## Who are the victims of crime?

### Who are the victims of personal crime?

	Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or over	
	Violence	Theft
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	40	65
Female	23	58
<b>Age</b>		
12-15	63	101
16-19	91	94
20-24	75	115
25-34	35	71
35-49	20	56
50-64	10	35
65 and older	4	20
<b>Race</b>		
White	30	61
Black	44	61
Other	28	52
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic	36	59
Non-Hispanic	31	61
<b>Marital status by sex</b>		
<b>Males</b>		
Never married	80	97
Divorced/separated	44	95
Married	19	43
Widowed	*	23
<b>Females</b>		
Never married	43	90
Divorced/separated	45	74
Married	11	44
Widowed	6	22
<b>Family income</b>		
Less than \$7,500	59	62
\$7,500-\$9,999	42	61
\$10,000-\$14,999	43	60
\$15,000-\$24,999	31	57
\$25,000-\$29,999	32	57
\$30,000-\$49,999	25	60
\$50,000 or more	20	66
<b>Education</b>		
0-4 years	18	16
5-7 years	45	67
8 years	28	49
9-11 years	49	62
High school graduate	28	49
1-3 years college	36	83
College graduate	18	68
<b>Residence</b>		
Central city	44	75
1,000,000 or more	39	76
500,000-999,999	50	80
250,000-499,999	54	70
50,000-249,999	38	74
Suburban	26	61
Rural	25	44

- ◀ Males have higher personal crime victimization rates than females, except for the crimes of rape and personal larceny involving contact.
- ◀ The elderly (those age 65 or older) are significantly less likely than younger age groups to become the victims of most types of crime.
- ◀ Blacks have significantly higher violent victimization rates than whites or persons of other races.
- ◀ Hispanics have somewhat higher violent victimization rates than non-Hispanics, but there is little difference between theft rates for the two groups.
- ◀ Those who never married have the highest rates of both violent crimes and personal thefts, while persons who are divorced or separated have the second highest. Widowed persons have the lowest rates for these crimes.
- ◀ Victims with higher incomes have lower violent victimization rates.
- ◀ Theft rates vary much less than violent victimization rates across income categories. However, members of families earning \$15,000 to \$29,999 have lower theft rates than members of families earning more than \$50,000.

- ◀ City dwellers are more likely to be the victims of both violent and theft crimes than are suburban and rural residents.

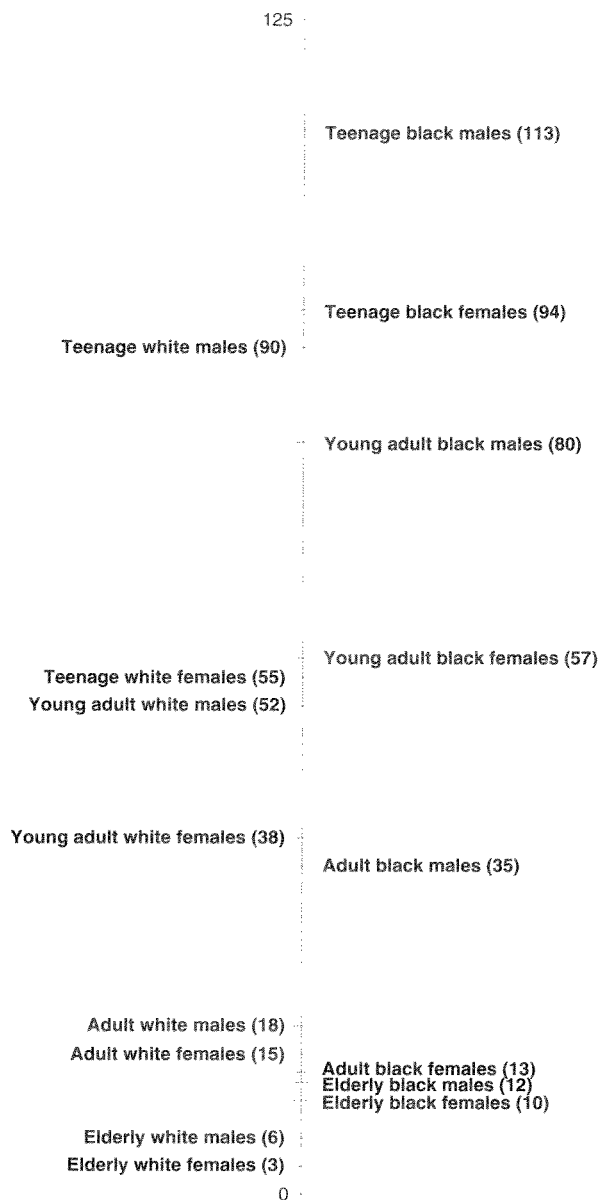
\* Based on 10 or fewer cases.

## What kinds of households are the victims of crime?

	Rates per 1,000 households			
	Household burglary	Larceny	Motor vehicle theft	
<b>Age of household head</b>				
12-19	194	206	46	◀ Household victimizations are more likely in households headed by younger persons.
20-34	73	114	26	
35-49	59	100	26	
50-64	39	75	23	
65 and older	27	45	8	
<b>Race of household head</b>				
White	50	87	19	◀ Households headed by blacks have the highest rates of household crimes.
Black	75	96	37	
Other	52	85	34	
<b>Ethnicity of household head</b>				
Hispanic	75	123	42	◀ For each household crime measured by the NCVS, Hispanics have higher rates than non-Hispanics.
Non-Hispanic	51	85	20	
<b>Income</b>				
Less than \$7,500	81	96	10	◀ As household income rises, burglary rates fall.
\$7,500-\$9,999	69	86	19	
\$10,000-\$14,999	65	92	19	◀ Households earning more than \$30,000 a year are generally more likely than households in most other income categories to be victims of motor vehicle theft.
\$15,000-\$24,999	49	97	22	
\$25,000-\$29,999	45	76	16	
\$30,000-\$49,999	44	87	24	
\$50,000 or more	41	80	28	
<b>Number of persons in household</b>				
One	44	52	12	◀ The more people in the household, the higher the crime rate. Households with 6 or more members have the highest household crime rates.
2-3	52	86	22	
4-5	62	122	30	
6 or more	88	186	45	
<b>Form of tenure</b>				
Home owned or being bought	42	77	18	◀ Renters are more likely to be victims of household crimes than owners.
Home rented	73	107	29	
<b>Place of residence</b>				
Central city	70	117	37	◀ Households in central cities are more likely to experience a household crime than households in suburban or rural areas.
1,000,000 or more	65	109	51	
500,000-999,999	75	131	43	
250,000-499,999	80	114	36	
50,000-249,999	64	119	16	
Suburban	45	78	21	
Rural	47	69	6	

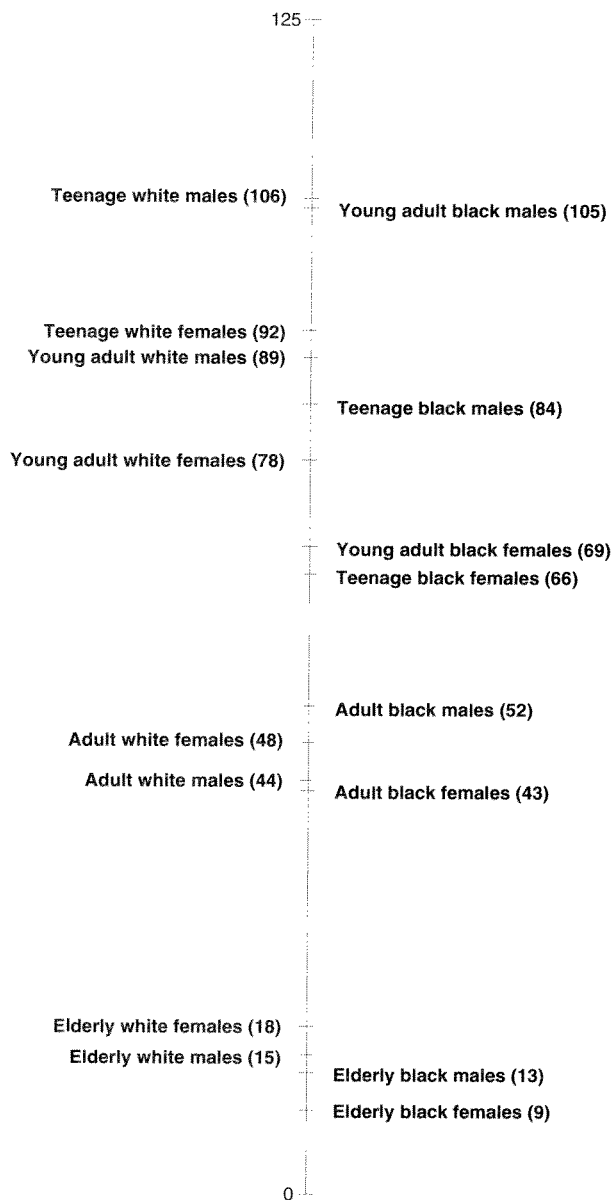
## Black male teens have the highest violent victimization rates

Victimization rate per 1,000 persons



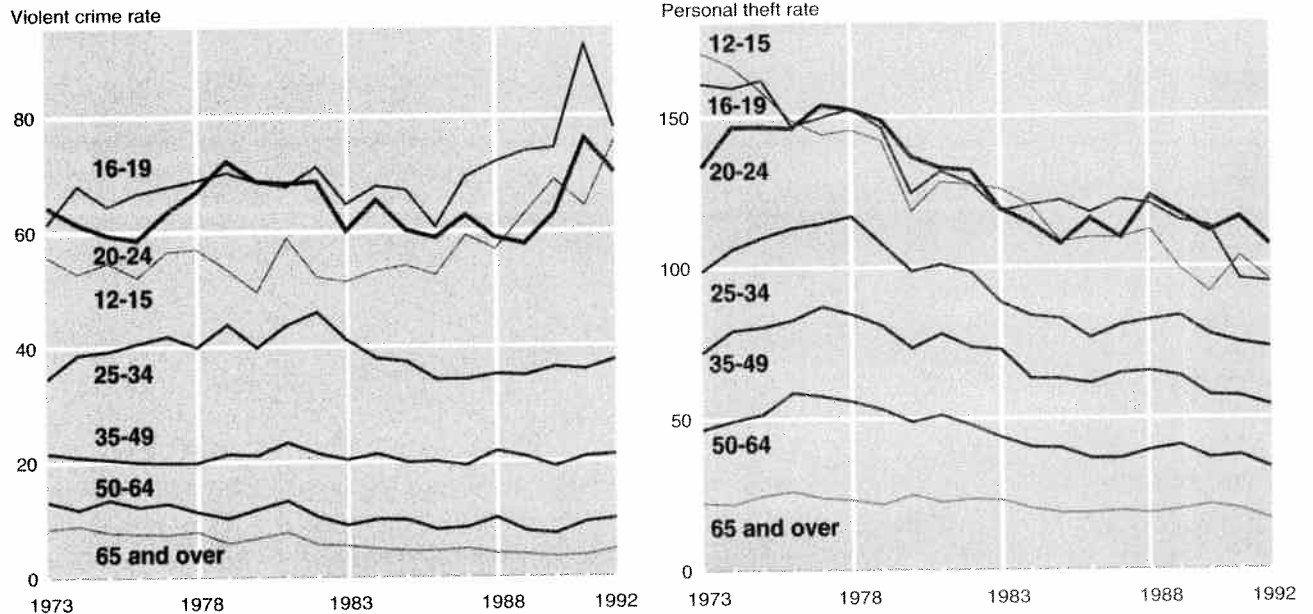
## Personal theft rates are highest for teenagers and young adults

Victimization rate per 1,000 persons



Note: Teenage = age 12-19  
 Young adult = age 20-34  
 Adult = age 35-64  
 Elderly = age 65 and over.

**While victimization rates for personal crimes have declined for most age groups, the violent crime rate for young people has been increasing**



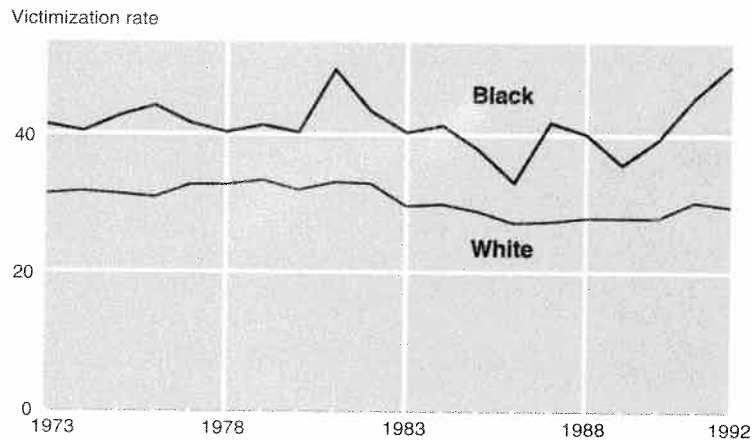
**While the victimization rates for males have declined since 1973, violent crime rates for females have remained relatively stable**



**For personal theft and household crimes, victimization rates for blacks and whites have declined; however, the violent crime rate for blacks in 1992 is the highest ever recorded**

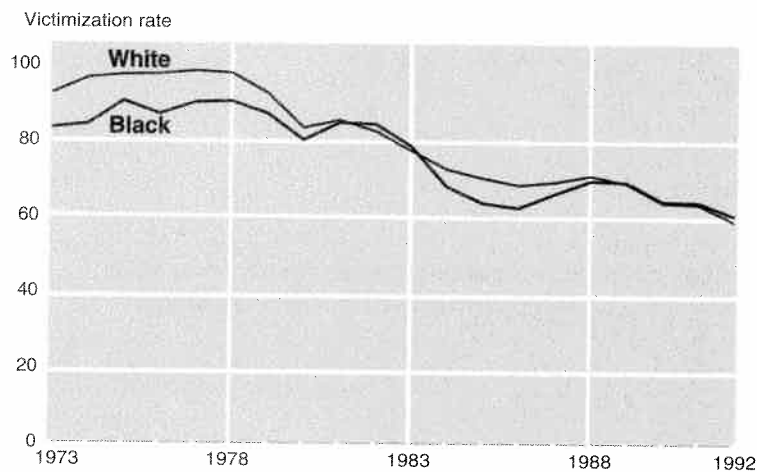
**Violence**

(rape, robbery, assault)



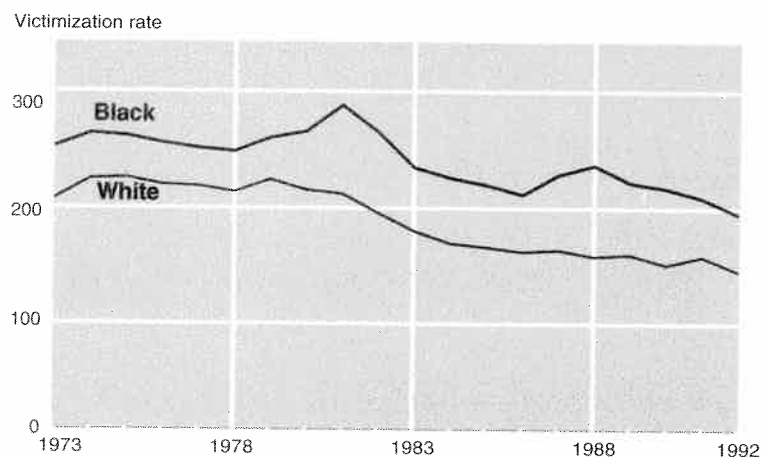
**Personal theft**

(purse snatching, pocket picking, larceny without contact)



**Household crimes**

(burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft)



## Who are the offenders in violent crimes?

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### **Many victims of violent crime can describe the offender**

The NCVS asks crime victims their perceptions of the age, sex, and race of the offenders in confrontational crimes like rape, robbery and assault. Offender descriptions are not available from NCVS on those crimes where the victim and the offender do not confront one another, such as household larcenies. In general, NCVS data on offenders are consistent with other sources such as arrest data.

### **Number of offenders**

Of violent incidents, 70% are committed by a lone offender. Rapes are more likely to involve only one offender than assaults or robberies. Robberies are more likely to involve multiple offenders than the other violent crimes.

### **Age**

Most violent crime victims describe the offender as young. Of violent victimizations committed by a lone offender, the offender was perceived to be —

- under age 14 in nearly 9% of the victimizations
- between the ages of 15 and 17 in nearly 11%
- between the ages of 18 and 20 in nearly 15%
- between 21 and 29 years of age in 33%
- age 30 and over in 33%.

When more than one offender committed a crime, victims perceived that the offenders were most often teenagers (between the ages of 12 and 20.)

### **Sex**

The victim perceived the offender to be male in 85% of the single-offender victimizations including over 95% of the rapes and 92% of the robberies. Victims are more likely to be confronted by a female offender in an assault than in a rape or robbery. When more than one offender was involved, victims report that all the offenders were male in 83% of the victimizations, they were both male and female in 10%, and all were female in about 5%.

### **Race**

Violent crime victims reported that the offender was white in 64% of the victimizations by lone offenders, black in 28%, of other races in 7%. In 58% of the single-offender robberies, victims perceived that the offender was black.

Comparatively, victims described the offender as white in —

- 77% of rapes
- 70% of simple assaults
- 64% of aggravated assaults.

Of all multiple-offender victimizations, victims perceived that in —

- 38% all of the offenders were black
- 35% they all were white
- 16% they were mixed
- 8% they were all of other races.

### **In four-fifths of all violent crimes, the victims and offenders are of the same race**

Of all single-offender crimes of violence, 80% are intraracial including —

- 69% where the victim and offender are white
- 11% where the victim and offender are black.

For the 20% of violent crimes that are interracial

- 15% involve white victims and black offenders
- 3% involve white victims and other-race offenders
- 2% involve black victims and white offenders.

Robbery is the most interracial crime; 37% involved victims and offenders of different races.

Of all single-offender robberies —

- 31% involved white victims and black offenders
- 4% involved white victims and other-race offenders
- 2% involved black victims and white offenders.

### **How many offenders were under the influence of drugs or alcohol?**

In 54% of violent victimizations, the victim reported on the offender's drug or alcohol use. When reported, the offender was perceived to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol in 61% of violent victimizations including —

- both drugs and alcohol in 10%
- alcohol alone in 40%
- drugs alone in 8%.

Robbery victims are less likely to report that the offender was under the influence of drugs or alcohol than are rape or assault victims.

## What is the relationship between the victim and the offender?

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### Violent crimes are generally more likely to be committed by strangers than nonstrangers

However, there are no measurable differences in the rate of simple assaults committed by strangers compared to those committed by nonstrangers.

Fifty-nine percent of all violent victimizations were committed by strangers in 1991 including —

- 52% of rapes
- 84% of robberies
- 54% of all assaults.

Violent crimes committed by strangers were more likely to involve multiple offenders than crimes committed by nonstrangers.

The likelihood of being victimized by a stranger varies. For example —

- Males are more likely than females to be victimized by strangers.
- City and suburban dwellers are more likely to be victimized by strangers than rural residents. Residents of rural areas are significantly more likely to experience a crime of violence perpetrated by someone known to them such as a relative or an acquaintance than city and suburban dwellers.

### When the offender is not a stranger, the offender is usually well known but not related to the victim

Of violent victimizations committed by lone offenders who were not strangers —

- 44% involved an offender who was well known but not related to the victim
- 38% of single-offender violent crimes were between casual acquaintances
- 19% involved a victim and offender who were related.

Of multiple-offender violent crimes in which at least one of the offenders was known to the victim, offenders and their victims were most likely to be casually acquainted with each other (61%). Approximately 4% of these victimizations involved relatives.

### Males are more likely than females to be victimized by strangers

For violent victimizations —

- males are more likely to be the victims of strangers than someone known to them
- females are just as likely to be victimized by an intimate such as a husband or boyfriend as they are to be victimized by an acquaintance or stranger.

Victim/offender relationship	Violent crime rate per 1,000 ...	
	Females	Males
Intimates	5.4	.5
Other relatives	1.1	.7
Acquaintance	7.6	13.0
Stranger	5.4	12.2

Similar patterns are revealed in homicide victimization statistics. Male homicide victims are more likely to be killed by a stranger or an acquaintance, whereas female homicide victims are just as likely to be killed by a stranger as they are to be killed by a relative or an acquaintance.

### What is family violence?

Family violence is difficult to measure; no consensus exists as to what constitutes family violence, it most often occurs in private, and victims are often reluctant to report incidents of family violence to anyone because of shame or from fear of reprisal. The NCVS, as the largest national crime survey, produces estimates of family violence that victims perceive to be crimes and are willing and able to report to the survey interviewers. Further information about measuring family violence can be obtained from two BJS Special reports, *Family violence* and *Violent crime by strangers and nonstrangers*.

Family violence as measured by the NCVS includes any rape, robbery or assault that was committed by intimates such as spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, parents, children or other relatives. Most (85%) of NCVS family violence crimes are assaults. Homicide is not measured in the survey. Crimes against children under age 12 are excluded from the NCVS because asking sen-



sitive questions about victimization might be stressful to the child or the parents, possibly discouraging adult participation in the survey. Therefore the NCVS cannot measure child abuse committed against such young children.

### Who commits most family violence?

<u>Relationship of the offender to the victim</u>	<u>Average annual number</u>	<u>Percent of all family victimizations</u>
Boyfriend/girlfriend	315,956	37%
Spouse	211,872	25
Ex-spouse	93,134	10
Other relative	71,788	8
Brother/sister	54,436	7
Parent	31,991	4
Child	34,571	4
Unspecified	33,052	5

### Females are victims of family violence at a rate 3 times that of males

Females are victims of violent intimates at a rate of 6 crimes per 1,000 females compared to 2 crimes per 1,000 males. From 1987 to 1991, about 625,800 females were victims of family violence by intimates each year. Females are much more likely than males to be victims of family violence (25% of female violence victims compared to 4% of male violence victims). Males are more likely than females to be victims of stranger violence.

<u>Victim-offender relationship</u>	<u>Percent female victims</u>
Intimate	84%
Spouse	93
Boyfriend/girlfriend	91
Ex-spouse	89
Child	78
Brother/sister	59
Other relative	57
Parent	52
Unspecified	28
Other known offender	38
Stranger	32

About 1 in 5 females victimized by their spouse or ex-spouse reported that they had been a victim of a series of at least 3 assaults in the last 6 months.

### Are there demographic differences in family violence?

#### **Race**

White females are more likely to be assaulted by spouses or ex-spouses (3 per 1,000); black females are more likely to be victims of boyfriends or ex-boyfriends (4 per 1,000).

#### **Ethnicity**

Hispanic and non-Hispanic females have about the same rate of violence between intimates, 6 per 1,000.

#### **Age**

The victims of violence by a spouse or ex-spouse are most likely to be age 20 to 34, while the victims of boyfriends are most likely to be age 16 to 24. Those under 25 are more likely than those age 25 or older to have been victims of other family members.

#### **Income**

Females living in families with annual incomes under \$20,000 are 4 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence than those in families with incomes over \$50,000.

### Are the victims of family violence as likely to be injured as the victims of strangers?

Over half of the victims of intimate offenders were injured compared with just under a quarter of the victims of strangers. In almost a quarter of the cases of violence by an intimate, the victim received medical care: 1 in 10 were treated in a hospital or emergency room; about 1 in 20 in a doctor's office; and about 1 in 10 in other places.

## Where does crime occur?

### Victimization rates are highest in the West

Residents living in the West are more likely to become the victims of assault and crimes of theft than are those residing in any other region of the Nation. The number of personal crime victimizations per 1,000 residents was —

- 122 in the West
- 91 in the Midwest and the South
- 70 in the Northeast.\*

Residents living in the Northeast, however, are just as likely to experience a robbery as are those living in the West.

Residents of the West are also most vulnerable to the crimes of burglary and household larceny followed by residents in the South, Midwest and Northeast respectively. However, rates of motor vehicle theft in the Northeast are comparable to those in the West. The Midwest and Southern regions of the country generally have the lowest rates of motor vehicle theft.

### City dwellers are more likely to be victims of crimes than are suburban and rural residents

For all type of personal crimes, city dwellers are more often victims than are suburban or rural residents. Rural residents experience the lowest rates of violence and theft.

Type of crime	Victimization rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	City	Suburban	Rural
Crimes of violence	41	26	21
Rape	1	1	—
Robbery	10	4	2
Assault	30	22	19
Aggravated	11	7	6
Simple	18	14	12
Crimes of theft	86	70	45
Personal larceny with contact	5	2	1
Personal larceny without contact	81	68	45

— Less than 0.5 per 1,000.

Since 1980, rates of both violent and nonviolent forms of victimization have declined in city, suburban and rural areas.

Both males and females are more likely to experience all forms of personal crime in cities than in either suburban or rural areas. However, rates of robbery and assault for females residing in either suburban or rural areas are similar.

In general, household crime rates are highest in cities and lowest in rural areas. However, burglary rates in suburban and rural areas are similar. Suburban and rural householders age 65 years or older experience similar household larceny and motor vehicle theft rates, but rural householders age 65 or older are more likely to experience a burglary than their suburban counterparts.

### The largest proportion of violent incidents occurred on a street away from the victim's home

Victims reported that 22% of violent crimes occurred on a street not near the victim's or a friend's home. Another 11% occurred inside a school building or on school property. Crime locations vary by type of crime:

- The largest proportion of armed robberies and armed assaults occurred on a street away from the victim's home; however, 8% of these robberies and 11% of the assaults occurred in the victim's home.
- 27% of rapes occurred in the victim's home or lodgings, compared to 11% of all violent crime.
- 87% of violent crimes perpetrated by strangers occurred away from the victim's home, while 67% of violent incidents perpetrated by nonstrangers occurred away from the victim's home.

\* Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. South includes the District of Columbia and the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

## How much crime occurs in schools?

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### How many students are victimized by crime at school?

According to the NCVS School Crime Supplement, 9% of students had experienced a victimization at school during a 6-month period in 1989:

- 7% had experienced a property crime
- 2% had been victims of violence.

Sixteen percent of respondents claimed that a student had attacked or threatened a teacher at their school in the 6 months before the interview.

### Which groups of students are more likely to be victims of crime?

The types of students who are most likely to be victimized varies:

- Public school students (9%) are more likely to be crime victims than private school students (7%).
- Students of different races experience about the same amount of violent or property crime in and around their schools.
- Hispanic students are less likely than non-Hispanics to sustain a property crime.
- For crimes at school, students older than age 17 are generally less likely to be victims than were younger students (ages 12 to 16).

Victimization by violent crime at school has no consistent relationship to income levels of the victim's families. For property crime, however, students in families with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more are more likely to be victimized than students whose families earn less than \$10,000 a year. Students living in families that moved three or more times in the preceding 5 years are nearly twice as likely to experience a criminal victimization as students who moved no more than once.

### Crime in schools causes fear among students

For example —

- victims of violent crimes are about 3 times as likely as nonvictims to report they are afraid of being attacked at school (53% versus 19%)
- 6% of students indicate they avoid some place in or around their school because they think someone might attack or harm them there

- public school students (22%) are substantially more likely than students in private schools (13%) to indicate some level of fear of attack at school. Students in public schools are also twice as likely as private school students to avoid certain places at school out of fear.

### Students report that illegal drugs are available at some schools

Overall, students most frequently report that drugs of any type are hard or impossible to obtain at school. Concerning drug availability, students report:

- About 30% of the students interviewed believe that marijuana is easy to obtain at school. In comparison, 9% said crack is easy to obtain, and 11% claim cocaine to be readily available.
- About half of the sixth-graders report that drugs are available, compared to three-fourths or more of the students in grades 10 to 12.
- Students who were crime victims are more likely to say that drugs are easy to obtain than to say drugs are either hard or impossible to obtain.

Students' reporting of the availability of drugs in school does not vary by ethnicity or levels of family income. Public school students are more likely than private school students to say that drugs are available (70% versus 52%).

### Do gangs exist in many schools?

Seventy-nine percent of students say that no gangs existed at their schools; 15% report that gangs exist, while another 5% are not sure whether gangs exist at their schools. Differences in reporting the existence of gangs were found between groups:

- Students in central cities are the most likely to report gangs at their schools (25%); nonmetropolitan area students the least (8%).
- A higher percentage of black students (20%) than white students (14%) say their schools have gangs.
- At schools with gangs, 78% of students report that a person can obtain drugs at school, compared to 66% of students at schools without gangs.

## When does crime occur?

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### What time of day does crime occur?

Most frequent time of occurrence	Crime type	Percent at most frequent time
<b>Daytime</b> 6 AM - 6 PM	Personal larceny with contact	65%
	Personal larceny without contact	55
	Simple assault	53
	Burglary	51
<b>Nighttime</b> 6 PM - 6 AM	Motor vehicle theft	75%
	Household larceny	70
	Rape	67
	Aggravated assault	63
	Robbery	55
	Assault (all types)	52

The times when different crimes are most likely to occur vary:

- Most violent crimes that occur at night occur in the hours before midnight (37% of total incidents versus 15% after midnight). However, rapes are almost equally divided between pre- and post-midnight hours.
- Most nighttime household crimes take place in the post-midnight hours. This pattern is particularly pronounced for motor vehicle theft.
- Approximately 60% of robberies committed by armed offenders occurred at night, compared to 46% of robberies involving unarmed offenders. Similarly, 62% of assaults by armed offenders were at night, while only 46% of assaults by unarmed offenders took place during these hours.
- Fifty-eight percent of violent crimes involving strangers occurred at night, compared to 45% of such crimes committed by offenders known to the victim. This pattern was consistent across different types of violent crime.

### What were the victims doing at the time of the crime?

Victims most frequently report that they were pursuing a leisure activity such as patronizing a restaurant or nightclub when the crime occurred. The type of activity varies by crime type.

Of violent crimes —

- 29% occur when the victim is engaged in a leisure activity away from home
- 16% occur when the victim is participating in an activity at home (other than sleeping)
- 14% occur when the victim is working or on duty.

Of burglaries —

- 25% occur when the victim is away, pursuing a leisure activity
- 21% occur when the victim is working or on duty
- 15% occur when the victim is sleeping.

Household larceny (40%) and motor vehicle theft (44%) are most frequently reported to have occurred when the victim is asleep. For crimes of theft, the two most common activities for victims at the time of the crime are leisure activities away from home (21%) and working (19%).

### What crimes have seasonal patterns?

The usual seasonal pattern is for the high-crime months to occur in the summer and the low-crime months in the winter. Notable exceptions to this pattern are robbery and personal larceny with contact, which peak in December.

Based on total victimizations, the highly seasonal crimes are —

- household larceny \$50 or more
- rape
- household larceny less than \$50
- unlawful entry.

These crimes all peak in the summer.

Those crimes exhibiting the least amount of seasonality are —

- personal larceny without contact \$50 or more
- motor vehicle theft
- robbery
- forcible entry
- simple assault.

## To what extent are weapons involved in crime?

### A third of violent crimes involve a weapon

	Percent of incidents			
	All violent	Aggravated assault	Robbery	Rape
All involving weapons	32%	92%	55%	20%
Type of weapon used	100%	100%	100%	100%
Handgun	29	23	40	36*
Knife	23	21	26	35*
Blunt object	19	21	16	12*
Other	14	16	8	12*
Other gun	8	9	6	0
Sharp object	4	4	4*	5*
Unknown	4	6	1*	0

\* Ten or fewer sample cases.

◀ One in every five rapes and over half of robberies involved an offender with a weapon. By definition almost all aggravated assaults involve weapons.

◀ Handguns are the most frequently used weapon, followed by knives and blunt objects.

### Strangers are generally more likely to use a weapon than nonstrangers

Almost 40% of violent incidents committed by a stranger involve weapons compared to 22% in which the victim and offender knew each other. Additionally —

- Strangers are more likely than nonstrangers to arm themselves with a firearm in a violent crime.
- Nonstrangers are somewhat more likely than strangers to use a knife in a violent incident.

### How often are handguns used in crimes?

Handgun crimes represented 10% of all violent crimes and 27% of all violent crimes by armed offenders that occurred during 1979-87. During this period, offenders with handguns committed about —

- 7% of all rapes
- 18% of all robberies
- 8% of all assaults
- 22% of aggravated assaults.

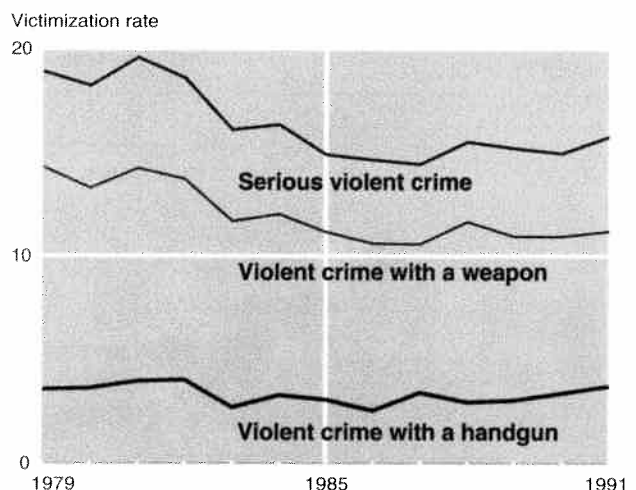
In 87% of the nonfatal crimes involving handguns, the offender did not fire the weapon but used it to intimidate. Victims reported that the offender fired the gun but missed in 10% of the crimes involving handguns, and wounded the victim in 2%.

Average annual number, 1979-87

<b>Handgun crimes</b>	638,900
Murder	9,200
Rape	12,100
Robbery	210,000
Assault	407,600
<b>Nonfatal handgun crimes</b>	629,700
Victims injured	91,500
Shot	15,000
Other injury	76,400

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

### Handgun crime rates are above the 1986 low but have not returned to the 1982 high



## How do victims of violent crime protect themselves?

### Many victims use self-protective measures

Victims take some type of measure to protect themselves in nearly —

- 71% of all violent victimizations
- 82% of rapes
- 58% of robberies
- 73% of assaults.

Victims are more likely to take self-protective measures during violent crimes when victimized by someone known to them than when victimized by a stranger.

### What types of self-protective measures do victims use?

Type of self-protective measure	Percent
Resisted or captured offender	23.2%
Ran away or hid	16.0
Persuaded or appeased offender	13.9
Attacked offender without a weapon	11.5
Got help or gave alarm	10.6
Took another method	8.6
Scared or warned offender	7.8
Screamed from pain or fear	3.1
Threatened offender without weapon	1.9
Threatened offender with weapon	1.9
Attacked offender with weapon	1.5

Note: Some respondents may have cited more than one self-protective measure.

### Are males more likely to take self-protective measures than females?

The likelihood of a victim taking self-protective measures does not vary measurably by sex.

However, the type of self-protective measure used varies:

- Males are more likely than females to protect themselves by attacking an offender without a weapon and by resisting or capturing an offender.
- Females are more likely to get help or give an alarm, as well as scream as a means of protecting themselves.

### Most victims of violent crime think that the self-protective measures they took helped the situation

Victims who used self-protective measures report that the measures —

- helped in 60% of the victimizations
- hurt in 7%
- both helped and hurt in 6%
- neither helped nor hurt in 11%.

When others took protective measures, victims report that the measures neither helped nor hurt in 44% of the victimizations and helped in 35%.

The most common reason given that self-protective actions helped was that the actions allowed the victim to avoid injury altogether or to prevent greater injury. When self-protective measures hurt, victims most often report that the action made the offender angrier or more aggressive.

## What effects do self-protective measures have on the outcome of robberies?

In robberies in which the offender threatened the victim prior to initiating an attack, victims who defended themselves in some way were —

- less likely to lose property than victims who took no actions during the incident
- more likely to be injured.

Offender used:	Percent of confrontational robberies that resulted in —					
	Property loss when the victim:		Injury, when the victim:		Serious injury, when the victim:	
	Took action	Took no action	Took action	Took no action	Took action	Took no action
Handgun	56%	89%	18%	5%	7%	1%
Knife	39	93	18	4	9	1
Other weapon	26	70	25	16	5	3
No weapon	43	79	26	15	2	5

## Are most crimes reported to the police?

### In 1992, 39% of the crimes included in the NCVS were reported to the police

Victims reported the crime to the police in —

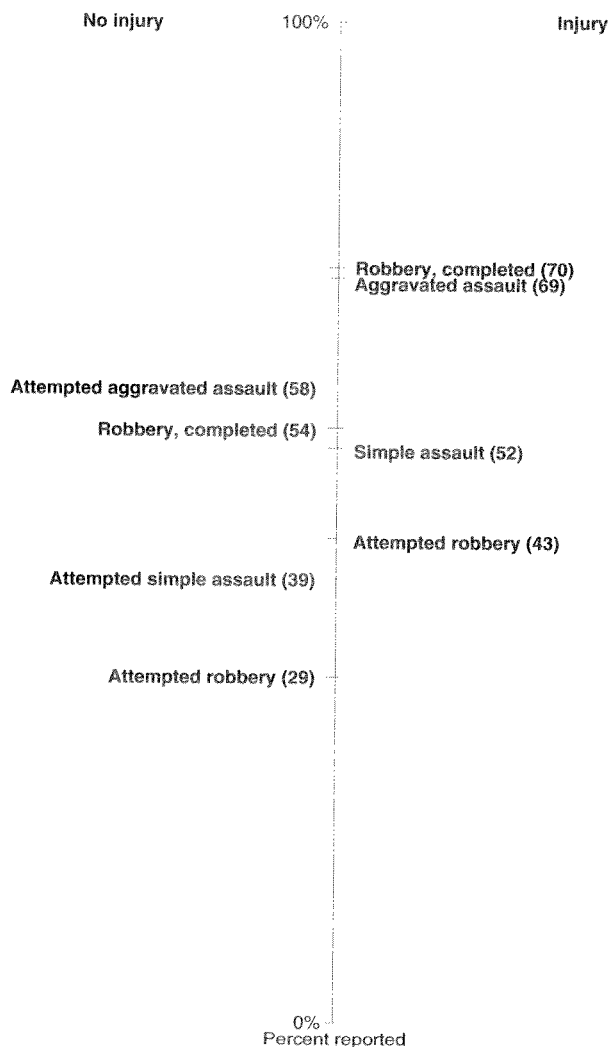
- 50% of the violent victimizations
- 41% of all household crimes
- 30% of the personal thefts.

The proportion of reported crimes is highest for completed motor vehicle thefts; 92% were reported to the police. The lowest proportion of reported crime is for personal larceny without contact that resulted in a loss of less than \$50; 15% were reported.

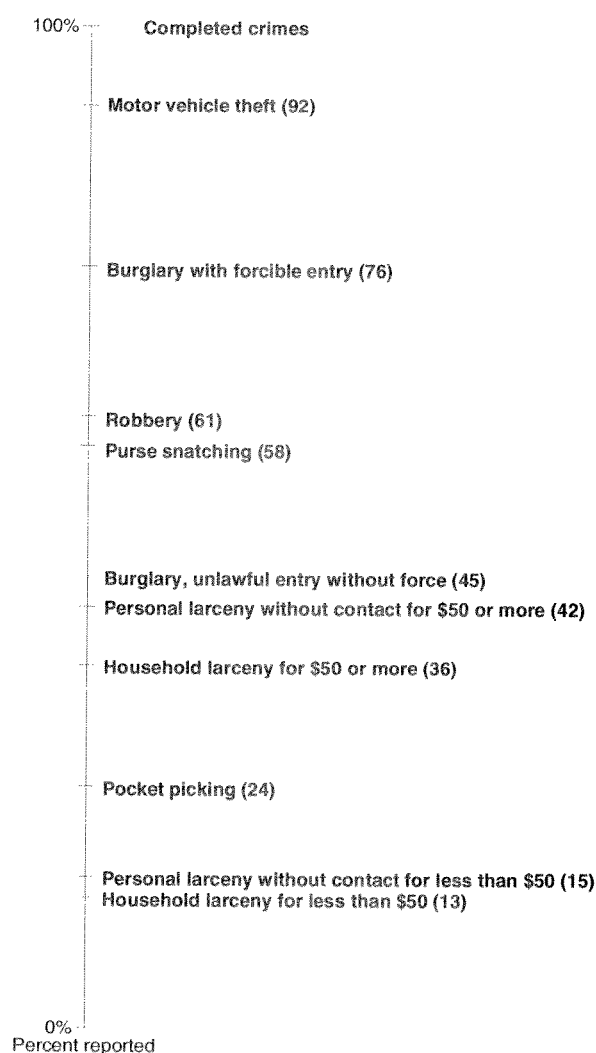
Except for thefts, completed crimes are more often reported than attempted crimes.

### Various factors affect whether a crime is reported

Crimes involving injury are more often reported than those without injury



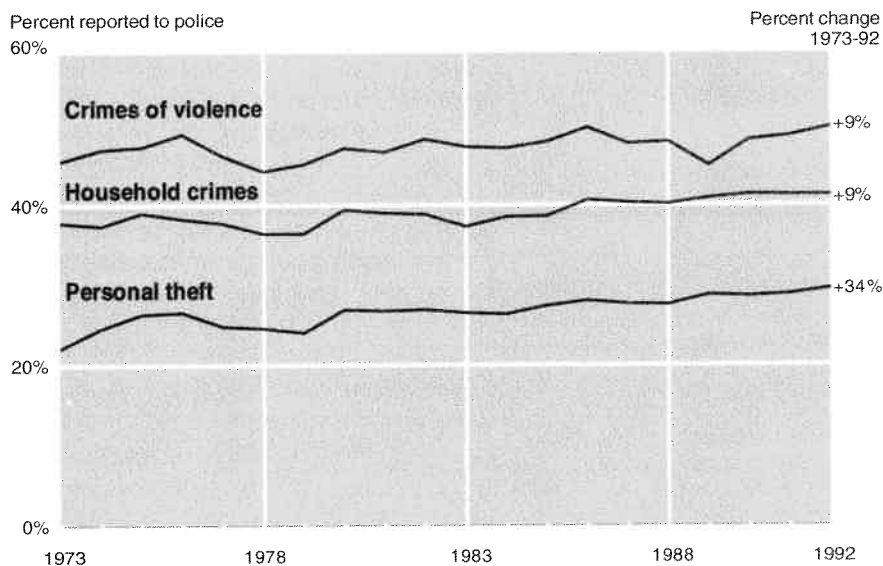
Property crimes involving large losses are more often reported



Note: For some types of violent crime, 1992 reporting percentages were not available by whether or not the victim was injured. By definition, attempted assaults are without injury. In 1992, 53% of all rapes were reported to the police.

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## The proportion of crimes reported to the police was higher in 1992 than in 1973



### Does the relationship between the victim and offender affect the likelihood of reporting?

Almost half of all crimes of violence are reported to the police. There is no difference in reporting whether the offender was a stranger or non-stranger. For crimes of theft involving contact there is also no difference in reporting crime to police whether the offender was a stranger or non-stranger. About 31% of these crimes are reported.

### Are any groups of victims more likely to report their victimizations to the police?

#### Age

Violent crime victims age 12 to 19 generally are less likely than persons in other age groups to report crimes to police. There are few measurable differences in reporting rates for persons 20 or over. Generally, the proportion of violent crimes reported by victims age 20 to 34 declined after 1976 but, after 1980, returned to levels similar to those recorded in the early 1970s.

#### Sex

Females are more likely to report violent victimizations to the police than males; 56% of the female victimizations are reported to the police compared with 45% of the male victimizations. However, about the same proportion of male and female victims of theft report the crime to police. Male and female victims of violent crimes are not more likely to report to the police when the offender is a stranger than when the crime is committed by someone known to the victim. The proportion of nonstranger violent crimes reported by females has been increasing, while the proportion reported by males has remained relatively constant.

#### Race

The proportion of crimes reported to the police is similar for blacks and whites. In general, there are no trends in reporting rates for either race, with the exception of household crime reporting rates for households headed by whites, which increased after 1985.

#### Ethnicity

There is no measurable difference between reporting rates for Hispanic and non-Hispanic victims.



## Why do people fail to report crimes to the police?

Crime	Most frequent reasons for not reporting to the police
<b>Violent crime</b>	
Rape	Private or personal matter,* 18% Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased,* 13% Offender unsuccessful,* 13%
Robbery	Object recovered, offender unsuccessful, 19% Lack of proof, 13% Police would not want to be bothered, 11%
Aggravated assault	Private or personal matter, 22% Offender unsuccessful, 16% Lack of proof, 9%
Simple assault	Private or personal matter, 26% Offender unsuccessful, 19% Reported to another official, 13%
<b>Theft</b>	
Personal larceny with contact	Object recovered, offender unsuccessful, 25% Lack of proof, 22% Police would not want to be bothered, 11%
Personal larceny without contact	Object recovered, offender unsuccessful, 28% Reported to another official, 18% Lack of proof, 11%
<b>Household crime</b>	
Burglary	Object recovered, offender unsuccessful, 24% Lack of proof, 11% Not aware crime occurred until later, 11%
Household larceny	Object recovered, offender unsuccessful, 31% Police would not want to be bothered, 12% Lack of proof, 11%
Motor vehicle theft	Object recovered, offender unsuccessful, 36% Police would not want to be bothered, 10% Lack of proof, 7%

\*Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

◀ The most common reasons for not reporting violent crimes to the police are that the crime was a personal or private matter and that the offender was not successful.

◀ The most common reasons for not reporting thefts are that the object was recovered or the offender was unsuccessful, the theft was reported to another official, and lack of proof.

◀ The most common reasons that victims of household crimes did not report to the police are because the object was recovered or the offender was unsuccessful, the police would not want to be bothered, and lack of proof.

### Home ownership

Households that owned their homes are significantly more likely than those who rent to report their household crimes to the police (44% versus 38%.) White homeowners are also more likely than white renters to report crimes, but there is no measurable difference between the reporting by black homeowners and black renters.

### Family income

Families with an annual income of \$50,000 a year or more are more likely to report victimizations of their households than those earning less than \$7,500 a year (43% versus 38%.)

## What reasons do victims give for reporting crimes to the police?

Crime	Most frequent reasons for reporting crimes to the police
<b>Violent crime</b>	
Rape	Prevent further crimes by offender, 23% Punish offender, 12% Prevent crime by offender against anyone,* 12%
Robbery	Recover property, 20% Prevent further crimes by offender, 12% Catch or find offender, 11%
Aggravated assault	Prevent further crimes by offender, 20% Stop or prevent this incident, 15% Because it was a crime, 14%
Simple assault	Prevent further crimes by offender, 25% Stop or prevent this incident, 17% Because it was a crime, 11%
<b>Theft</b>	
Personal larceny with contact	Recover property, 36% Because it was a crime, 18% Stop or prevent this incident, 9%
Personal larceny without contact	Recover property, 29% Because it was a crime, 19% Collect insurance, 9%
<b>Household crimes</b>	
Burglary	Recover property, 20% Prevent further crimes by offender, 13% Because it was a crime, 12%
Household larceny	Recover property, 27% Because it was a crime, 15% Prevent further crimes by offender, 11%
Motor vehicle theft	Recover property, 36% Because it was a crime, 12% Collect insurance, 12%

◀ The most common reasons for reporting violent crimes to the police are to prevent further crimes by the offender, to stop or prevent the incident, and because it was a crime.

◀ The most common reasons for reporting thefts are to recover property, because it was a crime, to collect insurance, and to stop or prevent this incident.

◀ The most common reasons that victims of household crimes reported to the police are to recover property, because it was a crime, and to prevent further crimes by the offender.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

## What is the police response to reported crime?

Police response varies according to the type of crime committed. Police came to the victim in —

- 75% of the violent crimes
- 67% of the household crimes
- 50% of the thefts.

Police were already at the scene in about 5% of the violent crimes as compared to 3% of the thefts and 1% of the household crimes. Police were most often at the scene of robberies or assaults.

When police came to the scene, response time also varied according to the type of crime. Police arrived within an hour or less in —

- 89% of the violent crimes
- 81% of the thefts
- 78% of the household crimes.

The police were more likely to respond to a violent crime within 5 minutes than any other type of crime. The victim/offender relationship does not appear to affect the response taken by police to the call.



## How does the National Crime Victimization Survey collect data?

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The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) measures the amount and nature of crime in the United States by asking large numbers of people whether they have been crime victims. NCVS provides information about the victims of crime, including the kinds of crimes they have experienced, characteristics of those crimes, impact on the victims and whether or not the crimes were reported to police.

### Household survey

The NCVS is the second largest of the household survey programs conducted by the Federal Government to collect information about a variety of subjects. Other Federal household surveys include the Current Population Survey, which measures the monthly unemployment rate; the Survey of Income and Program Participation, which details family dynamics and economic events; and the National Survey of Drug Abuse, which measures the extent of drug use.

### Sample survey

NCVS is a sample survey since it is impractical to ask every citizen or resident of the United States about crime. By interviewing a large sample of households selected to represent the characteristics of the United States population as a whole, BJS is able to draw conclusions about crime in the Nation as a whole. In 1992, about 166,000 interviews in 84,000 housing units were conducted. In the past 20 years, NCVS has conducted over 4.6 million interviews. The NCVS has consistently obtained a response rate of 95% or higher from the households selected for these interviews. This response rate is much higher than that obtained in most surveys even among hard-to-reach groups.

Households stay in the sample for 3 years; household members are interviewed 7 times during this period. New households are constantly being added to the sample as other households complete their time in sample.

### Interviews

Every person age 12 and over in the selected households is interviewed by field representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau. The interview begins with a brief screening questionnaire to determine if any crimes have occurred within the household during the past 6 months. Questions are worded in simple language such as —

- Did anyone beat you up?
- Did anyone attack you?
- Was anything stolen from you?

If any crimes are reported, detailed questions are asked about the incident including time and place of occurrence, extent of injury, medical treatment and economic loss, characteristics of the victim(s) and offender(s), whether the crime was reported to police and reasons for reporting or not reporting.

The initial interview is conducted in person; five of the next six interviews are conducted by telephone. However, personal interviews are always conducted in households where there is no telephone and households where the members prefer a personal interview. Interviewers are selected to match the characteristics of the neighborhood by race and ethnic background. Interviews are translated for non-English speaking respondents. About 95% of the interviewers are female.

### Crimes included

NCVS measures rape, robbery, assault, burglary, personal and household larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The NCVS does not measure murder and kidnaping. It does not include commercial robbery and burglary which were collected in the Commercial Victimization Survey that was dropped in 1977. Crimes referred to as victimless crimes such as public drunkenness, gambling, drug abuse, and prostitution are not measured. NCVS also does not measure crimes where the victims may not be aware of the crime such as buying stolen property and certain types of fraud and embezzlement.

## The redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey

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In 1979, after an evaluation of the NCVS by the National Academy of Sciences, BJS began an extensive research and development effort to redesign the National Crime Victimization Survey. The redesign project and subsequent evaluations resulted in several major changes to NCVS.

### Revised "screening" strategy

New questions were designed to aid respondent recall and provide additional information on the situations in which victimizations may occur, resulting in improved reporting of crime victimizations.

### New questions on rape and family violence

The NCVS could not include direct questions about sensitive subjects such as rape and sexual assault in 1972. Because the American public's attitude toward discussing these subjects has changed over the past 20 years, respondents are now asked directly whether they have been raped. More precise definitions also were developed for rape and attempted rape, to clarify how the survey is measuring these victimizations. In addition, information is being collected on other forms of sexual assault, and new screening questions aid recall of incidents in which the offender was someone the victim knew.

Questions have been added to encourage respondents to discuss family violence. As interviewers ask about various crimes, they remind the respondent to include events that may have been committed by a family member or friend. Some of the questions include specific cues about family violence.

### New collection modes

- Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) techniques were studied by the NCVS redesign project to improve data quality without increasing costs. The Census Bureau is using CATI to collect data for the NCVS and other large federally sponsored surveys at two central facilities. When implemented, CATI facilities are expected to account for more than 30% of NCVS interviews.
- Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) techniques are being tested by the Census Bureau. Using CAPI, interviewers would complete an NCVS questionnaire on their laptop computer and transmit the data electronically to a central

processing facility. In addition to improving data quality, this technique eliminates manual coding of data and improves the speed of data preparation.

### Special Supplements

Tracking crime trends requires that NCVS practices remain consistent over time. At the same time, the NCVS needs to provide information about new issues as they become topical. The NCVS supplement program was developed in response to this need. The aim of supplements is to allow intensive study of a topical issue by incorporating additional questions for a limited time in the NCVS instrument. Supplements allow utilization of both regular NCVS and supplement questions in analyses, but are designed so as not to disrupt regular NCVS time series data. Supplements completed to date include —

- National Survey of Crime Severity Supplement
- Victim Risk Supplement
- School Crime Supplement.

### Future directions

The changes recommended by the redesign project are being phased in over the next few years.

- New questions have been phased in to the NCVS sample and will be used first to produce estimates of crime levels and annual changes for 1992 and 1993 data.
- A statistical splice has been developed so that data collected prior to 1993 using the old questionnaire can be used with data from the questionnaire now being used.
- CATI is currently being phased in. CAPI is being reviewed.
- The Special Supplements program will include replications of the Victim Risk and School Crime supplements, as well as a supplement that tracks the long-term consequences of victimization for violent crime victims.

### Further reading on the NCVS and its redesign

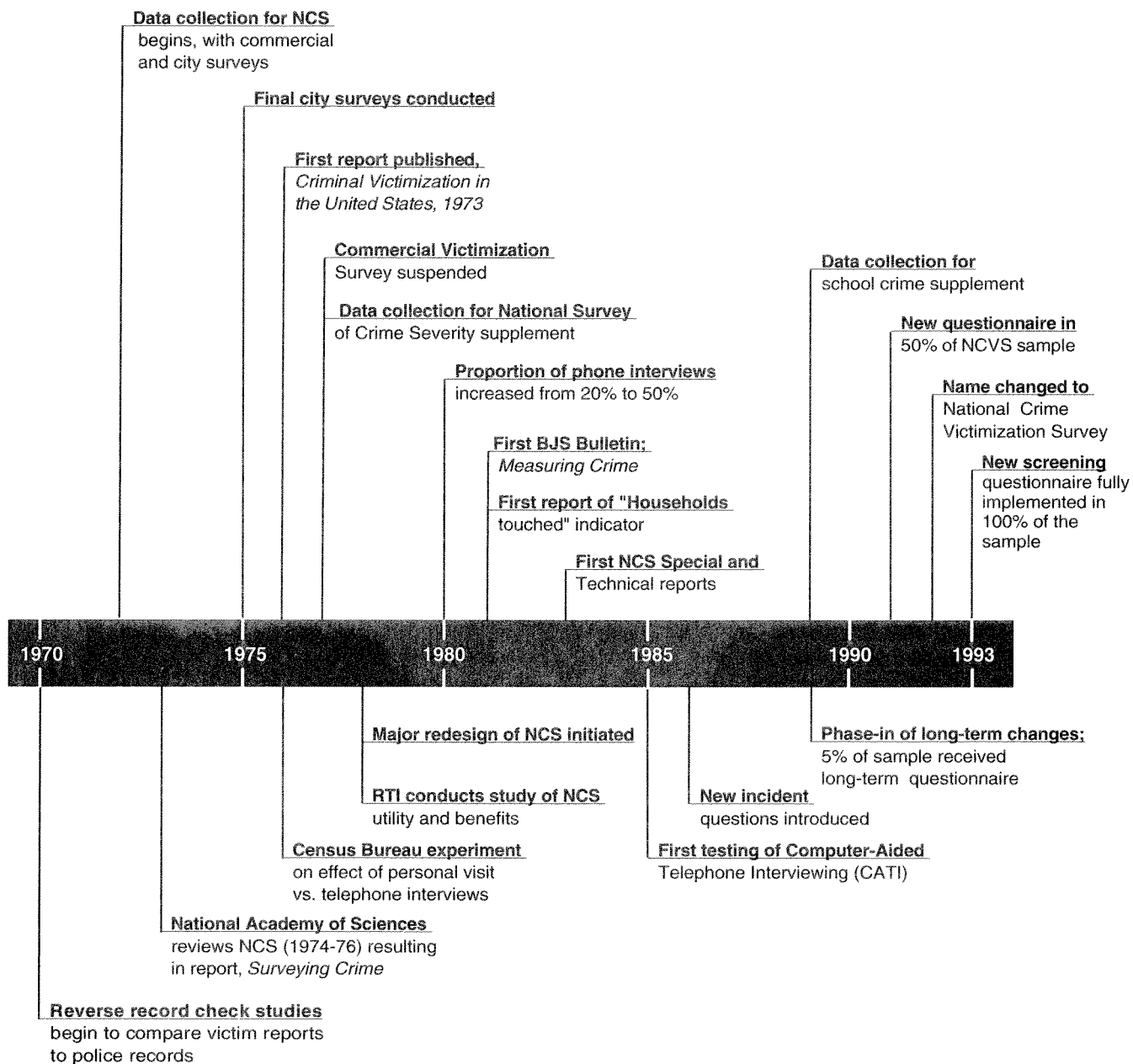
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*Redesign of the National Crime Survey*, NCJ-111457, BJS, February 1989

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# History of the National Crime Victimization Survey

## Data collection and dissemination



## Research and development

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*Crimes and victims: A report on the Dayton-San Jose Pilot Survey of Victimization*, June 1974.

*Criminal victimization in the U.S.: January-June 1973*, November 1974.

*An analysis of victimization survey results from the eight impact cities, 1971-72: Summary report*, November 1974.

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*Criminal victimization surveys in San Diego*, July 1977.

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*The police and public opinion: An analysis of victimization and attitude data from 13 American cities*, November 1977.

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*Criminal victimization in the United States, 1974*, May 1978.

*Criminal victimization in the United States, 1975*, June 1978.

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*Washington, D.C.: Public attitudes about crime*, June 1978.

*Compensating victims of violent crime: Potential costs and coverage of a national program*, July 1978.

*Oakland: Public attitudes about crime, 1974*, July 1978.

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*Milwaukee: Public attitudes about crime*, December 1978.

*Minneapolis: Public attitudes about crime*, December 1978.

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## 1979

*Cincinnati: Public attitudes about crime*, March 1979.

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*Boston: Public attitudes about crime*, June 1979.

*Buffalo: Public attitudes about crime*, NCJ-46236, June 1979.

*Rape victimization in 26 American cities*, August 1979.

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*Criminal victimization in the U.S.: Summary findings of 1977-78 changes in crime and of trends since 1973*, NCJ-61368, November 1979.

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*Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1977*, NCJ-58725, December 1979.

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*Criminal victimization of California residents, 1974-77*, NCJ-70944, March 1981.

*Restitution to victims of personal and household crimes*, NCJ-72770, May 1981.

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*Criminal victimization in the U.S.: 1979*, NCJ-76710, September 1981.

*Violent crime in the U.S., White House briefing book*, NCJ-79741, September 1981.

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## Appendix — Sources for page 6

### How do crime rates compare with the rates of other life events?

#### Accidental injury, all circumstances

$$1000 \times 40,260,000/183,913,000=220$$

numerator:

$$40,260,000=7,517,000+18,806,000+8,263,000+5,674,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 52, p. 72. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

base population:

$$183,913,000=24,641,000+81,098,000+47,162,000+18,301,000+11,991,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 74, p. 120. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

#### Accidental injury at home

$$1000 \times 12,151,000/183,913,000=66$$

numerator:

$$12,151,000=1,454,000+4,818,000+2,748,000+3,131,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 52, p. 72. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

base population:

$$183,913,000=24,641,000+81,098,000+47,162,000+8,301,000+11,991,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 74, p. 120. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

#### Personal theft

$$61.0=61$$

Source: BJS, *Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1991*, table 2. 1991 data on persons age 12 and older.

#### Accidental injury at work

$$1000 \times 8,673,000/183,913,000=47$$

numerator:

$$8,673,000=1,529,000+5,343,000+1,801,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 52, p. 72. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

base population:

$$183,913,000=24,641,000+81,098,000+47,162,000+18,301,000+11,991,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 74, p. 120. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

#### Violent victimization

$$31.3=31$$

Source: BJS, *Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1991*, table 2. 1991 data on persons age 12 and older.

#### Assault (aggravated and simple)

$$24.9=25$$

Source: BJS, *Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1991*, table 2. 1991 data on persons age 12 and older.

#### Injury in a motor vehicle accident

$$1000 \times 4,106,000/183,913,000=22$$

numerator:

$$4,106,000=1,608,000+1,731,000+615,000+152,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 52, p. 72. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

base population:

$$183,913,000=24,641,000+81,098,000+47,162,000+18,301,000+11,991,000$$

Source: "Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1991," *Vital and health statistics*, table 74, p. 120. 1991 data on persons age 18 and older.

#### Death, all causes

$$1000 \times 2,094,745/195,795,000=11$$

numerator:

$$2,094,745=2,148,463-(38,351+6,931+3,995+4,441)$$

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990," *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 2, p. 15. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:

$$195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)$$

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

#### Victimization with injury

$$1000 \times 2,181,560/205,344,910=11$$

numerator:

$$2,181,560=173,310+256,750+125,490+593,610+1,032,400$$

denominator:

$$205,344,910$$

Source: BJS, *Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1991*, table 1. 1991 data on persons age 12 and older.

#### Serious (aggravated) assault

$$7.8=8$$

Source: BJS, *Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1991*, table 2. 1991 data on persons age 12 and older.

#### Robbery

$$5.6=6$$

Source: BJS, *Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1991*, table 2. 1991 data on persons age 12 and older.

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**Heart disease death**

1000 x 914,308/195,795,000=.5

numerator:  
914,308=916,007-(963+335+401)

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 8, p. 22. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

**Accidental death, all circumstances**

1000 x 84,837/195,795,000=.4

numerator:  
84,837=91,983-(930+2,566+3,650)

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 8, p. 22. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

**Suicide**

1000 x 30,642/195,795,000=.2

numerator:  
30,642=30,906-264

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 8, p. 22. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

**Cancer death**

1000 x 503,625/195,795,000=.3

numerator:  
503,625=505,322-(90+513+1,094)

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 8, p. 22. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

**Pneumonia/Influenza death**

1000 x 78,574/195,795,000=.4

numerator:  
78,574=79,513-(634+171+134)

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 8, p. 22. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

**HIV infection death**

1000 x 24,875/195,795,000=.1

numerator:  
24,875=25,188-(106+123+84)

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 14, p. 33. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

**Rape (women only)**

1.4=1

Source: BJS, *Criminal victimization in the U.S., 1991*, table 3. 1991 data on persons age 12 and older.

**Motor vehicle accident death**

1000 x 43,632/195,795,000=.2

numerator:  
43,632=46,814-(195+928+2,059)

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 8, p. 22. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

**Homicide/legal intervention**

1000 x 23,710/195,795,000=.1

numerator:  
23,710=24,932-(332+378+512)

Source: "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1990" *Monthly vital statistics report*, table 8, p. 22. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.

base population:  
195,795,000=249,924,000-(18,874,000+18,064,000+17,191,000)

Source: *Statistical abstracts of the United States, 1992*, table 12, p. 14. 1990 data on persons age 15 and older.