



Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey

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Criminal Victimization, 2002

By

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In 2002 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced about 23.0 million violent and property victimizations, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These criminal victimizations included an estimated 17.5 million property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft), 5.3 million violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), and 155,000 personal thefts (pocket picking and purse snatching).

The 23.0 million criminal victimizations in 2002 continued a downward trend that began in 1994. Criminal victimization estimates are the lowest since the 1973 estimate of 44 million victimizations when the NCVS began.

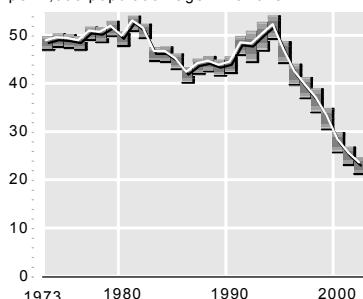
Between 1993 and 2002 the violent crime rate decreased 54%, from 50 to 23 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, and the property crime rate declined 50% (from 319 to 159 crimes per 1,000 households).

In 2002 victims reported to police 49% of the violent crime and 40% of the property crime they experienced. The proportion of crime reported to the police has increased since 1993, when victims indicated that 43% of the violent crime and 34% of the property crime had been reported to the police.

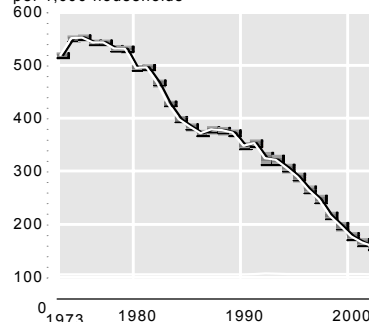
Highlights

The National Crime Victimization Survey reveals long-term declines in victimization to the lowest per capita rates in nearly 30 years

Violent victimizations per 1,000 population age 12 or over



Property victimizations per 1,000 households



The best estimate and range of estimates

Each vertical bar shows the range within which the true victimization rate was likely to fall. For discussion of displaying estimates, see <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/dvctue.pdf>>.

- Overall violent victimization and property crime rates in 2002 are the lowest recorded since the inception of the NCVS in 1973.¹
- In 2002 the rate for rape was 0.4 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, 60% of the 1993 rate.
- For the decade the rate for robbery was down 63%, falling to 2 per 1,000 in 2002.
- From 1993 to 2002 victimization by aggravated assault, associated with serious injury or weapons, declined 64% to 4 per 1,000. The rate of simple assault — a crime that involves neither serious injury nor weapon — fell 47%.
- The rate of violent crime dropped 21% from the period 1999-2000 to the period 2001-02.
- Reporting to the police increased from 43% of all violent crimes in 1993 to 49% in 2002; reporting of property crimes increased from 34% to 40%.
- Violent crimes against females were more likely to have been reported to the police than those against males.
- The relative increase in reporting crime to the police was greater for rape/sexual assault than it was for robbery or simple assault, 1993-2002.
- During 2002, 7% of violent crime victims faced an offender armed with a firearm.

¹Based on adjustments to pre-1992 estimates to account for the 1992 redesign of the NCVS.

Criminal victimization, 2001-02

The NCVS collects data on nonfatal crimes against persons age 12 or older, reported and not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households in the United States. Information on homicide comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of the FBI.

Crimes measured by the NCVS

Violent crimes refer to rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault taken as a whole. Property crimes refer to household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft considered together.

Though decreased crime rates and reductions in the NCVS sample size have made it more difficult for the NCVS to detect statistically significant year-to-year changes in crime rates, the decline in crime rates 2001-02 were consistent with the declining trend exhibited since 1994 (table 1 and graphical figures on page 5).

The violent crime rate declined somewhat from 25 to 23 victimizations per 1,000 persons, 2001-02. Aggravated assault rates fell significantly, robbery rates fell marginally, and

Table 1. Criminal victimization, numbers and rates, 2001 and 2002

| Type of crime | Number of victimizations | | Victimization rate per 1,000 (persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households) | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--|--------------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2001 | 2002 |
| Violent crimes^a | 5,743,820 | 5,341,410 | 25.1 | 23.1 [†] |
| Rape/sexual assault | 248,250 | 247,730 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Robbery | 630,690 | 512,490 | 2.8 | 2.2 [‡] |
| Assault | 4,864,890 | 4,581,190 | 21.2 | 19.8 |
| Aggravated | 1,222,160 | 990,110 | 5.3 | 4.3 [*] |
| Simple | 3,642,720 | 3,591,090 | 15.9 | 15.5 |
| Property crimes | 18,283,510 | 17,539,220 | 166.9 | 159.0 [*] |
| Household burglary | 3,139,700 | 3,055,720 | 28.7 | 27.7 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 1,008,720 | 988,760 | 9.2 | 9.0 |
| Theft | 14,135,090 | 13,494,750 | 129.0 | 122.3 [*] |

Note: The total population age 12 or older was 231,589,260 in 2002 and 229,215,290 in 2001. The total number of households was 110,323,840 in 2002 and 109,568,450 in 2001.

^{*}The difference from 2001 to 2002 is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

[†]The difference from 2001 to 2002 is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

^aThe NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

rape/sexual assault and simple assault rates did not change, 2001-02. Between 2001 and 2002 the property crime rate fell from 167 to 159 crimes per 1,000 households. While the rate of property theft fell significantly, no statistically significant change in the rate of burglary or motor vehicle theft was measured.

Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter

Based on preliminary 2002 data from the FBI, the number of persons murdered in the United States

increased 0.8% between 2001 and 2002. In 2001, 15,980 persons were murdered; the estimate for 2002 is about 16,110 victims of murder.

Preliminary data suggest that increases in the number of murders occurred in the South (+2.1%) and the West (+5.2%). Declines in the number of murders were measured in the Northeast (-4.8%) and the Midwest (-2.8%).

Murder and victim characteristics, 2001

In 2001, the year in which the most recent comprehensive data are available, the FBI reported a total of 15,980 murders or nonnegligent homicides. The total represents a 1.3% increase from the 15,586 murders recorded in 2000. The FBI defines murder in its annual *Crime in the United States* as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Not included are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program gathers statistics on murder from over 17,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies.

Though the rate and level of homicide changes year to year, the relationship between victim characteristics and homicide tends to remain the same.

For example, as in previous years, in 2001—

- Most murder victims were male (76%).
- When the race of the murder victim was known, about half were white (49.1%), and about half were black (46.9%).
- When information on the victim/offender relationship was available, 76% of the offenders were known to the victim, and strangers murdered 24% of victims.
- Firearms were used in the majority of murders (63%).
- Offenders were most often male (90%), and most often adults (92%).
- Homicide generally is intra-racial.
- Arguments were the most often cited circumstance leading to murder (28%).
- Homicides occurred in connection with another felony (such as robbery or narcotics) in 17% of incidents.

Criminal victimization, 1999-2000 and 2001-02

Comparing 2-year average annual rates (see box below) shows that for every category of crime except rape/sexual assault and motor vehicle theft the average annual rates were significantly lower in 2001-02 than in 1999-2000 (table 2). The average annual rate of rape/sexual assault was slightly lower in 2001-02 than in 1999-2000.

The average annual overall violent victimization rate declined 21% from 30 to 24 victimizations per 1,000 persons per year, 1999-2000 to 2001-02. During the same time robbery rates fell 27%, aggravated assault rates fell 23%, and simple assault rates fell 19%.

Property rates declined 13% from 188 to 163 crimes per 1,000 households per year, comparing 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Over the same period of comparison, burglary and property theft rates declined 14%.

Estimating change in crime victimization rates

Since 1995, the NCVS has undergone sample reductions because of the escalating costs of data collection. At the same time, the rate of violence has continued to decline. The combination of the two — fewer survey respondents and less crime — has resulted in a diminished ability to detect statistically significant year-to-year changes in rates.

Comparing 2-year average rates gives the reader a picture of the continuing decline in rates seen over the last few years. For those who rely upon the annual detailed table of victimization counts and per capita rates, those data are located on the BJS website at <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cv02.htm>.

Table 2. Criminal victimization, average annual rates, 1999-2000 and 2001-02

| Type of crime | Average annual number of victimizations | | Average annual victimization rate (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households) | | Percent change ^d |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|---|---------|-----------------------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | |
| All crimes | 27,336,570 | 23,625,870 | ... | ... | |
| Personal crimes^a | 7,080,690 | 5,714,500 | 31.4 | 24.8 | -21.0* |
| Crimes of violence | 6,839,900 | 5,542,620 | 30.3 | 24.1 | -20.6* |
| Completed violence | 2,161,160 | 1,790,690 | 9.6 | 7.8 | -18.9* |
| Attempted/threatened violence | 4,678,740 | 3,751,930 | 20.7 | 16.3 | -21.5* |
| Rape/sexual assault | 322,060 | 247,990 | 1.4 | 1.1 | -24.6 [‡] |
| Rape/attempted rape | 174,020 | 157,100 | 0.8 | 0.7 | -11.7 |
| Rape | 116,760 | 87,010 | 0.5 | 0.4 | -27.1 |
| Attempted rape | 57,270 | 70,050 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 19.7 |
| Sexual assault | 148,040 | 90,940 | 0.7 | 0.4 | -39.9* |
| Robbery | 771,000 | 571,590 | 3.4 | 2.5 | -27.4* |
| Completed/property taken | 525,190 | 406,280 | 2.3 | 1.8 | -24.2* |
| With injury | 174,780 | 171,860 | 0.8 | 0.7 | -3.7 |
| Without injury | 350,410 | 234,420 | 1.6 | 1.0 | -34.4* |
| Attempted to take property | 245,820 | 165,310 | 1.1 | 0.7 | -34.1* |
| With injury | 71,890 | 55,170 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -24.8 |
| Without injury | 173,930 | 110,140 | 0.8 | 0.5 | -37.9* |
| Assault | 5,746,840 | 4,723,040 | 25.5 | 20.5 | -19.5* |
| Aggravated | 1,397,900 | 1,106,140 | 6.2 | 4.8 | -22.5* |
| With injury | 397,630 | 353,900 | 1.8 | 1.5 | -12.8 |
| Threatened with weapon | 1,000,270 | 752,240 | 4.4 | 3.3 | -26.4* |
| Simple | 4,348,950 | 3,616,910 | 19.3 | 15.7 | -18.6* |
| With minor injury | 993,670 | 875,760 | 4.4 | 3.8 | -13.7 [‡] |
| Without injury | 3,355,290 | 2,741,150 | 14.9 | 11.9 | -20.0* |
| Personal theft ^b | 240,800 | 171,890 | 1.1 | 0.7 | -30.0* |
| Property crimes | 20,255,880 | 17,911,370 | 188.0 | 162.9 | -13.4* |
| Household burglary | 3,547,640 | 3,097,710 | 32.9 | 28.2 | -14.4* |
| Completed | 2,986,930 | 2,642,000 | 27.7 | 24.0 | -13.3* |
| Forcible entry | 1,106,320 | 1,037,130 | 10.3 | 9.4 | -8.1 |
| Unlawful entry without force | 1,880,610 | 1,604,870 | 17.5 | 14.6 | -16.4* |
| Attempted forcible entry | 560,720 | 455,710 | 5.2 | 4.1 | -20.4* |
| Motor vehicle theft | 1,002,590 | 998,740 | 9.3 | 9.1 | -2.4 |
| Completed | 724,790 | 752,370 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 1.7 |
| Attempted | 277,800 | 246,370 | 2.6 | 2.2 | -13.0 |
| Theft | 15,705,650 | 13,814,920 | 145.8 | 125.7 | -13.8* |
| Completed ^c | 15,131,870 | 13,355,980 | 140.5 | 121.5 | -13.5* |
| Less than \$50 | 5,203,780 | 4,441,160 | 48.3 | 40.4 | -16.4* |
| \$50-\$249 | 5,542,920 | 4,634,320 | 51.5 | 42.2 | -18.1* |
| \$250 or more | 3,285,390 | 3,223,110 | 30.5 | 29.3 | -3.9 |
| Attempted | 573,790 | 458,940 | 5.3 | 4.2 | -21.6* |

Note: Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury. The total population age 12 or older was 231,589,260 in 2002; 229,215,290 in 2001; 226,804,610 in 2000; and 224,568,370 in 1999. The total number of households was 110,323,840 in 2002; 109,568,450 in 2001; 108,352,960 in 2000; and 107,159,550 in 1999.

...Not applicable.

*The difference from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

[‡]The difference from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

^aThe NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

^bIncludes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

^cIncludes thefts with unknown losses.

^dPercent change was calculated using unrounded rates.

Characteristics of the crime victim, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02

Violent crime

The rate of violent crime experienced by males, females, whites, blacks, and non-Hispanics fell significantly, 1999-2000 compared to 2001-02. The rate of violence against Hispanics fell somewhat during the same period. Rates of violent victimization remained statistically similar between 1999-2000 and 2001-02 for persons of "other races."²

| | Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|----------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | Percent change |
| Male | 34.9 | 26.4 | -24.5%* |
| Female | 26.0 | 21.9 | -15.7* |
| White | 29.5 | 23.6 | -19.9%* |
| Black | 38.4 | 29.5 | -23.1* |
| Other ² | 22.6 | 16.4 | -27.2 |
| Hispanic | 31.0 | 26.5 | -14.7%† |
| Non-Hispanic | 30.0 | 23.8 | -20.8* |

The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the — *95%-confidence level, †90%-confidence level.

Violence against never married, married, and divorced/separated persons fell 1999-2000 compared to 2001-02. The apparent increase in the rate of violent victimization experienced by widowed persons was not significant.

| | Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|----------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | Percent change |
| Never married | 56.0 | 44.0 | -21.4%* |
| Married | 13.6 | 11.0 | -19.2* |
| Widowed | 7.0 | 7.4 | +5.3 |
| Divorced/separated | 47.9 | 36.3 | -24.2* |

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

For persons under age 35 and those between ages 50 and 64, violent crime fell significantly, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02. A slight decline was measured for persons between ages 35 and 49. No change in the rate of violent victimization against persons age 65 or older was measured between 1999-2000 and 2001-02.

²In this report, "other races" are defined as Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, and American Indians considered together.

| | Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | |
|-------------|---|---------|----------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | Percent change |
| 12-15 years | 67.2 | 49.7 | -26.1%* |
| 16-19 years | 70.8 | 57.0 | -19.5* |
| 20-24 years | 58.8 | 46.1 | -21.6* |
| 25-34 years | 35.5 | 27.8 | -21.8* |
| 35-49 years | 23.5 | 20.5 | -12.8* |
| 50-64 years | 14.0 | 10.1 | -27.8* |
| 65+ years | 3.7 | 3.3 | -12.4 |

The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the — *95%-confidence level, †90%-confidence level.

No clear pattern in short-term changes for income was measured. However, significant declines in the rate of violent victimization against persons in households earning more than \$50,000 annually were measured between 1999-2000 and 2001-02. Persons in households earning less than \$7,500 and those in households earning between \$25,000 and \$34,999 also experienced violence at lower rates in 2001-02 compared to 1999-2000. A slight decline in the rate of violence was noted for those in households earning between \$7,500 and \$14,999, while no change was observed for households earning between \$15,000 and \$24,999.

| | Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | |
|-------------------|---|---------|----------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | Percent change |
| Less than \$7,500 | 58.9 | 46.0 | -21.9%* |
| \$7,500-\$14,999 | 41.3 | 34.3 | -17.0† |
| \$15,000-\$24,999 | 33.6 | 30.9 | -8.1 |
| \$25,000-\$34,999 | 33.9 | 28.1 | -17.2* |
| \$35,000-\$49,999 | 29.4 | 25.9 | -11.8 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 28.5 | 19.9 | -30.2* |
| \$75,000 or more | 22.6 | 18.8 | -17.0* |

The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the — *95%-confidence level, †90%-confidence level.

Violent crime decreased in every region and type of area of the Nation, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02.

| | Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | |
|-----------|---|---------|----------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | Percent change |
| Northeast | 26.5 | 19.5 | -26.5%* |
| Midwest | 33.0 | 25.1 | -23.9* |
| South | 27.5 | 21.7 | -21.7* |
| West | 35.4 | 30.8 | -12.8* |
| Urban | 37.4 | 33.2 | -11.3%* |
| Suburban | 29.3 | 21.2 | -27.6* |
| Rural | 24.3 | 19.3 | -20.7* |

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Property crime

Except for households in the category of \$7,500-\$14,999 annual income, all households experienced property crime at rates lower during 2001-02 than during 1999-2000. The apparent decline in rates for households earning \$7,500-\$14,999 was not statistically significant.

| | Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households | | |
|-------------------|---|---------|----------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | Percent change |
| Less than \$7,500 | 220.8 | 186.6 | -15.5%* |
| \$7,500-\$14,999 | 184.3 | 174.4 | -5.4 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999 | 204.4 | 175.8 | -14.0* |
| \$25,000-\$34,999 | 195.7 | 166.2 | -15.1* |
| \$35,000-\$49,999 | 200.3 | 175.9 | -12.2* |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 197.5 | 168.7 | -14.6* |
| \$75,000 or more | 207.8 | 174.8 | -15.9* |

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Property crime rates fell, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02, regardless of the region. The largest decline occurred in the Northeast where property crime rates fell 21% over the period.

Property crime for households in urban, suburban, and rural areas declined from 1999-2000 to 2001-02.

The average annual property crime rates for households fell 13% from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 for both resident owners and renters.

| | Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households | | |
|-----------|---|---------|----------------|
| | 1999-2000 | 2001-02 | Percent change |
| Northeast | 151.5 | 120.5 | -20.5%* |
| Midwest | 190.9 | 164.1 | -14.0* |
| South | 179.6 | 152.6 | -15.0* |
| West | 233.2 | 218.2 | -6.4* |
| Urban | 239.1 | 214.0 | -10.5%* |
| Suburban | 172.5 | 151.0 | -12.5* |
| Rural | 156.2 | 125.0 | -19.9* |
| Owned | 161.8 | 141.3 | -12.7%* |
| Rented | 240.2 | 208.3 | -13.3* |

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Table 3. Rates of criminal victimization and percent change, 1993-2002

| Type of crime | Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households) | | Percent change ^{a,b} 1993-2002 |
|------------------------------------|--|-------|---|
| | 1993 | 2002 | |
| Personal crimes^c | 52.2 | 23.7 | -54.6%* |
| Crimes of violence | 49.9 | 23.1 | -53.7* |
| Completed violence | 15.0 | 7.6 | -49.3* |
| Attempted/threatened violence | 34.9 | 15.5 | -55.6* |
| Rape/sexual assault | 2.5 | 1.1 | -56.0* |
| Rape/attempted rape | 1.6 | 0.7 | -56.3* |
| Rape | 1.0 | 0.4 | -60.0* |
| Attempted rape | 0.7 | 0.3 | -57.1* |
| Sexual assault | 0.8 | 0.3 | -62.5* |
| Robbery | 6.0 | 2.2 | -63.3* |
| Completed robbery | 3.8 | 1.7 | -55.3* |
| With injury | 1.3 | 0.7 | -46.2* |
| Without injury | 2.5 | 0.9 | -64.0* |
| Attempted robbery | 2.2 | 0.5 | -77.3* |
| With injury | 0.4 | 0.2 | -50.0* |
| Without injury | 1.8 | 0.4 | -77.8* |
| Assault | 41.4 | 19.8 | -52.2* |
| Aggravated | 12.0 | 4.3 | -64.2* |
| With injury | 3.4 | 1.4 | -58.8* |
| Threatened with weapon | 8.6 | 2.9 | -66.3* |
| Simple | 29.4 | 15.5 | -47.3* |
| With minor injury | 6.1 | 3.9 | -36.1* |
| Without injury | 23.3 | 11.6 | -50.2* |
| Personal theft ^d | 2.3 | 0.7 | -69.6* |
| Property crimes | 318.9 | 159.0 | -50.1%* |
| Household burglary | 58.2 | 27.7 | -52.4* |
| Completed | 47.2 | 23.5 | -50.2* |
| Forcible entry | 18.1 | 9.2 | -49.2* |
| Unlawful entry without force | 29.1 | 14.3 | -50.9* |
| Attempted forcible entry | 10.9 | 4.2 | -61.5* |
| Motor vehicle theft | 19.0 | 9.0 | -52.6* |
| Completed | 12.4 | 7.1 | -42.7* |
| Attempted | 6.6 | 1.9 | -71.2* |
| Theft | 241.7 | 122.3 | -49.4* |
| Completed ^e | 230.1 | 118.2 | -48.6* |
| Less than \$50 | 98.7 | 37.9 | -61.6* |
| \$50-\$249 | 76.1 | 40.4 | -46.9* |
| \$250 or more | 41.6 | 29.6 | -28.8* |
| Attempted | 11.6 | 4.1 | -64.7* |

Note: Victimization rates may differ from those reported previously because estimates are now based on data collected in each calendar year rather than data about events within a calendar year. (See *Survey methodology* on page 12.) Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury. In 1993 the total population age 12 or older was 211,524,770; and in 2002; 231,589,260. The total number of households in 1993 was 99,927,410; and in 2002; 110,323,840. *The difference between the indicated years is significant at the 95%-confidence level. ^aDifferences between the annual rates shown do not take into account changes that may have occurred during interim years. ^bPercent change calculated using unrounded rates. ^cThe NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder. ^dIncludes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching. ^eIncludes thefts with unknown losses.

Victimization trends, 1993-2002

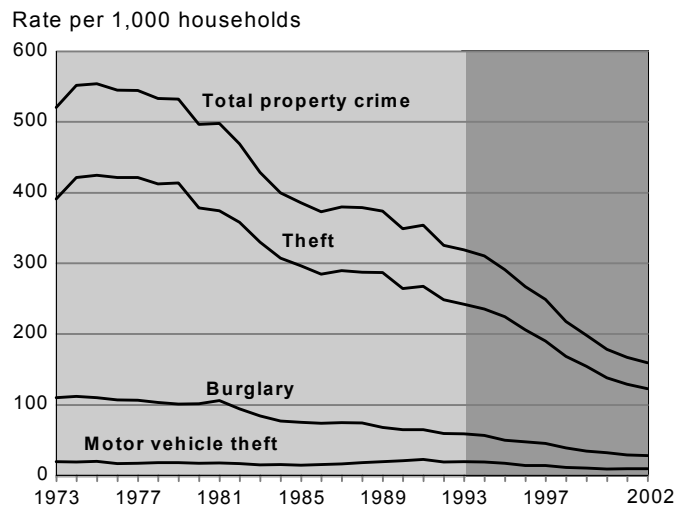
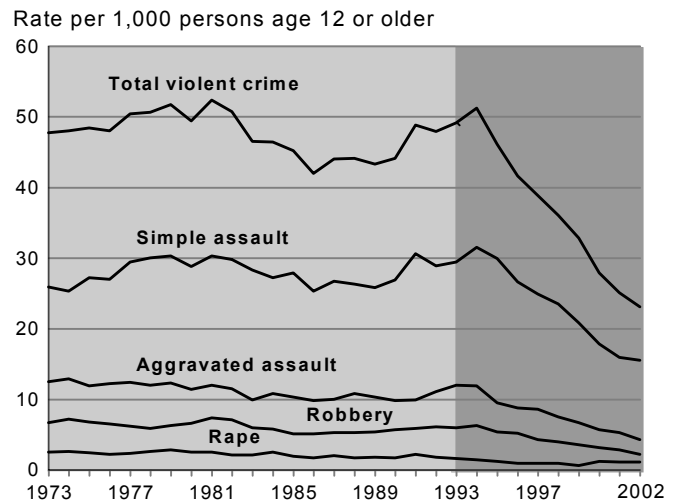
The rate of every major violent and property crime measured in the NCVS — rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft — fell significantly between 1993 and 2002 (table 3).

Violent crime

The overall violent crime rate fell 54% from 50 to 23 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older between 1993 and 2002. Other significant declines were measured in rates of rape/sexual assault (down 56%), robbery (down 63%), aggravated assault (down 64%), and simple assault (down 47%).

Property crime

From 1993 through 2002, the rate of overall property crime declined significantly, as did the rate for each major type of property crime considered. The household burglary rate fell 52%; the motor vehicle theft rate fell 53%; and rate of theft fell 49%. Attempted motor vehicle theft was marked by one of the largest percentage rate decreases (71%) of all categories of property crime examined, 1993-2002.



Note: Data collected before the NCVS redesign was implemented during the latter half of 1992 (the lightly shaded areas) have been made comparable to the post-redesign NCVS. Those data were re-estimated to account for the effects of the redesign.

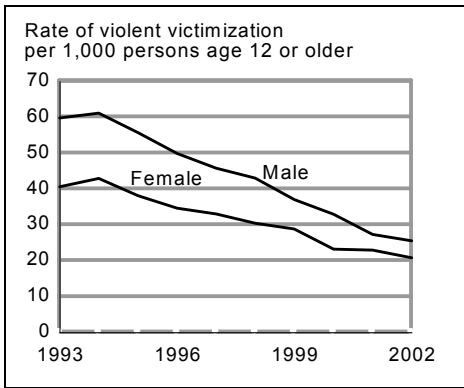


Figure 3 - Violent crime and gender

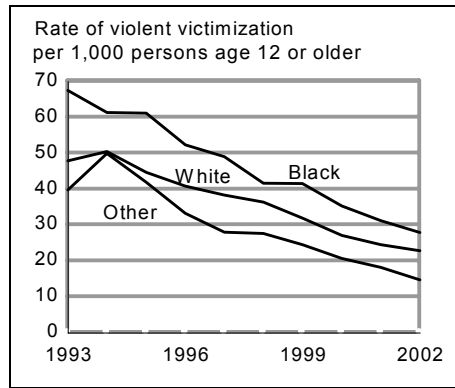


Figure 4 - Violent crime and race

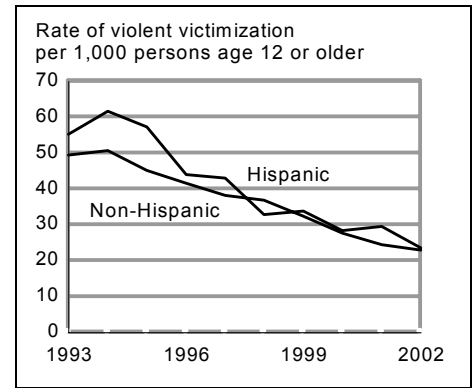


Figure 5 - Violent crime and Hispanic origin

Characteristics of victims, 1993-2002

Without exception declines in violent victimization were experienced by persons in all demographic categories considered — gender, race, Hispanic origin, and household income, 1993-2002 (figures 3, 4, and 5 and table 4).

While males and females both experienced drops in violence between 1993 and 2002, the rate at which violence fell differed.

The rate of violence against males fell to a greater degree than did the rate of violence against women, 1993-2002.

The decline in violent crime rates for whites, blacks and persons of other-races were statistically equal, 1993-2002.

With three exceptions, persons across all income categories examined experienced similar declines in violent crime, 1993-2002. The exceptions are that

persons living in households earning between \$50,000 and \$74,999 annually experienced a drop in violent crime that was significantly larger than those in households with annual incomes between \$15,000 to \$24,999, and somewhat larger than those in households with incomes between \$7,500 and \$14,999, and between \$25,000 and \$34,999, 1993-2002.

Table 4. Violent victimization rates of selected demographic categories, 1993-2002

| Demographic category of victim | Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | | | | | | | | | Percent change, 1993-2002 |
|--------------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------|
| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 59.8 | 61.1 | 55.7 | 49.9 | 45.8 | 43.1 | 37.0 | 32.9 | 27.3 | 25.5 | -57.4%* |
| Female | 40.7 | 43.0 | 38.1 | 34.6 | 33.0 | 30.4 | 28.8 | 23.2 | 23.0 | 20.8 | -48.9* |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 47.9 | 50.5 | 44.7 | 40.9 | 38.3 | 36.3 | 31.9 | 27.1 | 24.5 | 22.8 | -52.4* |
| Black | 67.4 | 61.3 | 61.1 | 52.3 | 49.0 | 41.7 | 41.6 | 35.3 | 31.2 | 27.9 | -58.6* |
| Other | 39.8 | 49.9 | 41.9 | 33.2 | 28.0 | 27.6 | 24.5 | 20.7 | 18.2 | 14.7 | -63.1* |
| Hispanic origin | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 55.2 | 61.6 | 57.3 | 44.0 | 43.1 | 32.8 | 33.8 | 28.4 | 29.5 | 23.6 | -57.2* |
| Non-Hispanic | 49.5 | 50.7 | 45.2 | 41.6 | 38.3 | 36.8 | 32.4 | 27.7 | 24.5 | 23.0 | -53.5* |
| Annual household income | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$7,500 | 84.7 | 86.0 | 77.8 | 65.3 | 71.0 | 63.8 | 57.5 | 60.3 | 46.6 | 45.5 | -46.3* |
| \$7,500-\$14,999 | 56.4 | 60.7 | 49.8 | 52.1 | 51.2 | 49.3 | 44.5 | 37.8 | 36.9 | 31.5 | -44.1* |
| \$15,000-\$24,999 | 49.0 | 50.7 | 48.9 | 44.1 | 40.1 | 39.4 | 35.3 | 31.8 | 31.8 | 30.0 | -38.3* |
| \$25,000-\$34,999 | 51.0 | 47.3 | 47.1 | 43.0 | 40.2 | 42.0 | 37.9 | 29.8 | 29.1 | 27.0 | -47.1* |
| \$35,000-\$49,999 | 45.6 | 47.0 | 45.8 | 43.0 | 38.7 | 31.7 | 30.3 | 28.5 | 26.3 | 25.6 | -43.9* |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 44.0 | 48.0 | 44.6 | 37.5 | 33.9 | 32.0 | 33.3 | 23.7 | 21.0 | 18.7 | -57.5* |
| \$75,000 or more | 41.3 | 39.5 | 37.3 | 30.5 | 30.7 | 33.1 | 22.9 | 22.3 | 18.5 | 19.0 | -54.0* |

Note: These rates are based on the collection year. *1993-2002 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

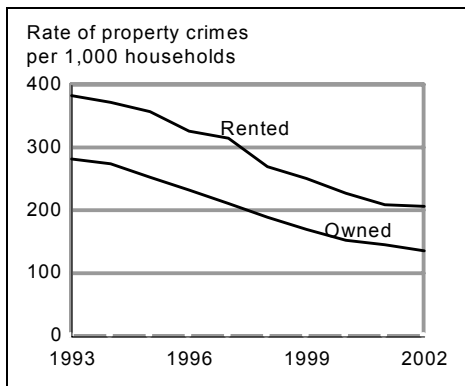


Figure 6 - Property crime and owned/rented residences

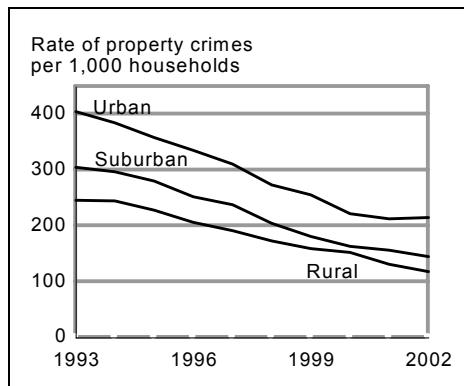


Figure 7 - Property crime and urbanicity

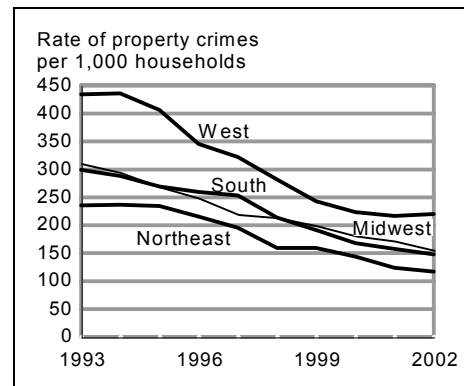


Figure 8 - Property crime and region

Property crime rates fell for every demographic group considered, 1993-2002 (figures, 6, 7, and 8 and table 5).

Though all groups experienced significant decreases in property crime over time, some experienced greater declines in rates than others. For example, property crime rates for households that rent showed a smaller decline than rates for households that own a home.

Households having an annual income greater than \$50,000 experienced larger drops in property crime rates than did households with lower incomes. And households with annual incomes of between \$25,000 and \$34,999 experienced a steeper drop in rates than the households with incomes of less than \$25,000 annually.

The rate of property crime for households in urban areas decreased less than did the rate for households in suburban areas, and somewhat less than the rate for households in rural areas, 1993-2002. Property crime rates in suburban and rural areas each dropped by half.

Households in all regions experienced similar decreases in property crime rates, 1993-2002.

Table 5. Property crime rates of selected household demographics, 1993-2002

| Demographic category | Number of property crimes per 1,000 households | | | | | | | | | | Percent change, 1993-2002 ^a |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 235.6 | 236.6 | 234.1 | 215.2 | 195.6 | 159.3 | 159.5 | 143.7 | 123.9 | 117.0 | -45.6%* |
| Midwest | 311.2 | 295.2 | 269.6 | 249.6 | 219.9 | 214.0 | 199.9 | 181.9 | 172.3 | 155.8 | -37.6* |
| South | 299.4 | 288.6 | 269.9 | 259.9 | 253.8 | 213.5 | 191.4 | 167.8 | 157.5 | 147.8 | -43.1* |
| West | 434.5 | 436.1 | 406.0 | 345.6 | 322.2 | 282.3 | 243.1 | 223.4 | 216.4 | 219.9 | -36.4* |
| Ownership | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Owned | 282.5 | 275.2 | 253.7 | 233.7 | 211.7 | 189.6 | 170.4 | 153.4 | 146.3 | 136.4 | -51.7* |
| Rented | 383.5 | 372.7 | 357.7 | 327.1 | 316.0 | 270.6 | 251.9 | 228.3 | 209.6 | 207.0 | -46.0* |
| Location | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 404.8 | 384.7 | 358.3 | 335.8 | 311.1 | 274.2 | 256.3 | 222.1 | 212.8 | 215.3 | -46.8* |
| Suburban | 305.1 | 297.2 | 280.6 | 252.6 | 238.0 | 204.5 | 181.4 | 163.7 | 156.7 | 145.3 | -52.4* |
| Rural | 246.4 | 245.2 | 228.4 | 206.4 | 191.7 | 173.5 | 159.8 | 152.6 | 131.9 | 118.3 | -52.0* |
| Annual household income | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$7,500 | 305.9 | 299.6 | 304.3 | 282.7 | 258.8 | 209.0 | 220.8 | 220.9 | 184.6 | 188.9 | -38.2* |
| \$7,500-\$14,999 | 285.9 | 299.1 | 267.1 | 247.5 | 236.3 | 229.8 | 200.1 | 167.1 | 181.6 | 166.7 | -41.7* |
| \$15,000-\$24,999 | 307.0 | 308.1 | 289.8 | 273.1 | 242.4 | 211.0 | 214.9 | 193.1 | 179.2 | 172.1 | -43.9* |
| \$25,000-\$34,999 | 336.7 | 305.2 | 294.8 | 285.1 | 260.3 | 233.8 | 199.1 | 192.2 | 170.4 | 161.7 | -52.0* |
| \$35,000-\$49,999 | 342.7 | 326.9 | 301.5 | 287.6 | 271.7 | 221.7 | 207.6 | 192.9 | 176.4 | 175.4 | -48.8* |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 374.4 | 364.1 | 333.2 | 284.0 | 270.9 | 248.6 | 213.6 | 181.9 | 178.8 | 158.3 | -57.7* |
| \$75,000 or more | 400.3 | 356.0 | 350.4 | 304.6 | 292.8 | 248.6 | 220.4 | 197.2 | 180.0 | 169.8 | -57.6* |

Note: These rates are based on the collection year. Thus, the 1993, 1994, and 1995 rates differ from rates published in *Changes in Criminal Victimization, 1994-95* (March 1997, NCJ 162032), which are based on data years.

*1993-2002 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

--Prior to 1996 region data were not available.

^aBecause region data were not available prior to 1996, percent change over time was based on comparisons of 1996 and 2002 rates. All other percent change calculations were based on 1993 and 2002 rates.

Characteristics of violent crime victims, 2002

Persons who have been historically the most vulnerable to violent victimization in the past — males, blacks, and youths — continued to be victimized at rates higher than others in 2002 (table 6).

Gender of victim

Males were victims of overall violent crime, robbery, total assault, simple assault, and aggravated assault at rates higher than those of females. Females were more likely than males to be victims of rape/sexual assault. While males and females were victims of simple assault at similar rates during 2001, males were victimized at a higher rate than females during 2002.

Race of victim

Blacks were victims of overall violence, rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault at rates higher than those for whites in 2002. Blacks were also victims of overall violence, total assault, and aggravated assault at rates significantly higher than those for persons of “other races.” Blacks were victims of simple assault at a rate somewhat higher than the rate for “others.”

Whites were victims of overall violence, total assault, aggravated and simple assault at rates higher than “others.”

Hispanic origin of victim

Hispanics and non-Hispanics were victims of violence at similar rates during 2002, with one exception: Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to be victims of aggravated assault.

Age of victim

During 2002 rates of overall violence differed between all adjacent age categories. Persons age 16 to 19 experienced overall violence, rape/sexual assault, and assault overall at rates at least slightly higher than rates for persons in other age categories. Persons age 16 to 19 and age 20 to 24 were victims of aggravated assault at

Table 6. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by gender, age, race, and Hispanic origin, 2002

| Characteristic of victim | Population | Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--|---------------------|---------|-------|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| | | Violent crimes | | | | | Personal theft | |
| | | All | Rape/sexual assault | Robbery | Total | Assault Aggravated | | Simple |
| Gender | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 112,241,930 | 25.5 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 22.3 | 5.2 | 17.1 | 0.6 |
| Female | 119,347,330 | 20.8 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 17.4 | 3.4 | 14.0 | 0.7 |
| Race | | | | | | | | |
| White | 192,956,980 | 22.8 | 0.8 | 1.9 | 20.0 | 4.1 | 15.9 | 0.7 |
| Black | 28,871,440 | 27.9 | 2.5 | 4.1 | 21.3 | 6.7 | 14.6 | 0.7* |
| Other | 9,760,850 | 14.7 | 1.2* | 2.4* | 11.0 | 0.9* | 10.1 | 0.4* |
| Hispanic origin | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 26,991,490 | 23.6 | 0.7* | 3.2 | 19.7 | 6.1 | 13.7 | 0.4* |
| Non-Hispanic | 203,062,880 | 23.0 | 1.1 | 2.1 | 19.8 | 4.1 | 15.8 | 0.7 |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 | 16,676,560 | 44.4 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 39.3 | 5.0 | 34.3 | 0.9* |
| 16-19 | 16,171,800 | 58.2 | 5.5 | 4.0 | 48.6 | 11.9 | 36.7 | 0.6* |
| 20-24 | 19,317,740 | 47.4 | 2.9 | 4.7 | 39.8 | 10.1 | 29.7 | 1.6* |
| 25-34 | 37,329,720 | 26.3 | 0.6* | 2.8 | 22.8 | 5.2 | 17.6 | 0.5* |
| 35-49 | 65,263,580 | 18.1 | 0.5* | 1.5 | 16.1 | 3.5 | 12.7 | 0.7 |
| 50-64 | 43,746,850 | 10.7 | 0.2* | 1.6 | 8.9 | 1.7 | 7.2 | 0.3* |
| 65 or older | 33,083,000 | 3.4 | 0.1* | 1.0 | 2.2 | 0.7* | 1.5 | 0.6* |

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

similar rates, and at rates higher than those for persons in other age categories. Persons age 12 to 15 and age 16 to 19 experienced simple assault at similar rates, and their rates of simple assault were at least slightly higher than rates for all other age categories. Persons age 12 to 15, 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 were more likely than persons in other age categories to be robbed.

Household income

During 2002 persons in households with an annual income under \$7,500 were more likely to be victims of overall violence and of aggravated assault than members of households with higher incomes (table 7). Members of households that earned below \$7,500 a year, experienced simple assault at a rate somewhat higher than the rates for persons in households at all other income levels.

Individuals in households earning between \$7,500 and \$49,999 annually were victims of violence and aggravated assault at similar rates. Those rates were higher than the rates for

persons in households earning above \$49,999 in the year.

Individuals in households earning below \$50,000 in the year were victims of rape/sexual assault at rates higher than rates for persons in households earning \$50,000 or more annually.

Persons with household incomes below \$75,000 annually were more likely to be robbed than were persons with higher annual household incomes. Apparent differences in the rate of robbery across income categories less than \$75,000 were not statistically significant.

Marital status

During 2002 persons who had never married were victims of violent crime overall, rape/sexual assault, total assault, and simple assault at rates higher than those for married, widowed, or divorced/separated persons.

Persons who had never married and those who were divorced/separated were victims of robbery and of aggravated assault at similar rates.

Region

Western and Midwestern residents were victimized by violent crime overall and total assault at similar rates and at rates higher than residents in the South and Northeast, 2002. Northeastern and Southern residents were victims of violent crime overall, rape/sexual assault, total assault, and simple assault at similar rates, 2002.

With one exception, no regional differences between the rates of rape/sexual assault emerged. Western residents were victims of rape/sexual assault at a higher rate than that for residents of the Northeast during 2002.

No regional differences between robbery rates were observed with the exception that Southerners were more likely than Northeasterners to be robbed.

With a single exception, no differences between the regional rates of aggravated assault were measured: Residents in the Northeast had a rate lower than those for all other regions.

Residence

For all types of violent crime considered, urban residents were victimized at rates higher than rates for suburban and rural residents during 2002.

With the sole exception of robbery, suburban and rural residents were victims of violence at statistically similar rates during 2002. Suburban residents were robbed at a higher rate than rural residents.

Characteristics of victims of property crime, 2002

Annual household income

Overall property crime rates did not differ by annual household income (table 8). However, the relationship between annual household income and property crime rates did vary by specific types of property crime.

Households with an annual income below \$7,500 were burglarized at a rate higher than the rate for households with higher incomes. Households

Table 7. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by household income, marital status, region, and location of residence of victims, 2002

| Characteristic of victim | Population | Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older | | | | | | Personal theft |
|--------------------------|-------------|--|---------------------|---------|-------|--------------------|--------|----------------|
| | | Violent crimes | | | | | | |
| | | All | Rape/sexual assault | Robbery | Total | Assault Aggravated | Simple | |
| Household income | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$7,500 | 8,347,650 | 45.5 | 2.5* | 6.3 | 36.7 | 11.2 | 25.5 | 1.7* |
| \$7,500 - \$14,999 | 15,608,210 | 31.5 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5.8 | 18.4 | 0.5* |
| \$15,000 - \$24,999 | 23,872,200 | 30.0 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 25.0 | 6.1 | 18.9 | 0.8* |
| \$25,000 - \$34,999 | 24,104,810 | 27.0 | 1.2* | 2.9 | 22.9 | 4.1 | 18.9 | 0.3* |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999 | 31,655,160 | 25.6 | 0.9* | 2.2 | 22.4 | 5.2 | 17.2 | 0.4* |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999 | 33,713,640 | 18.7 | 0.2* | 2.1 | 16.5 | 2.5 | 14.0 | 0.6* |
| \$75,000 or more | 43,139,380 | 19.0 | 0.4* | 1.0 | 17.6 | 2.8 | 14.8 | 0.7 |
| Marital status | | | | | | | | |
| Never married | 74,029,810 | 43.3 | 2.6 | 3.7 | 37.0 | 7.3 | 29.7 | 1.1 |
| Married | 117,296,790 | 10.6 | 0.2* | 0.9 | 9.5 | 2.2 | 7.2 | 0.3 |
| Divorced/separated | 24,768,200 | 30.7 | 1.1* | 4.0 | 25.6 | 5.9 | 19.7 | 1.1* |
| Widowed | 13,699,370 | 7.1 | 0.3* | 2.0* | 4.8 | 2.2* | 2.7 | 0.6* |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 43,705,120 | 18.8 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 16.7 | 2.7 | 13.9 | 1.2 |
| Midwest | 54,065,070 | 25.7 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 22.6 | 4.3 | 18.3 | 0.5* |
| South | 83,470,930 | 19.7 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 16.2 | 4.7 | 11.5 | 0.6 |
| West | 50,348,150 | 29.4 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 25.5 | 5.0 | 20.6 | 0.5* |
| Residence | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 64,533,840 | 33.1 | 2.2 | 4.3 | 26.7 | 6.5 | 20.2 | 1.2 |
| Suburban | 111,164,070 | 20.0 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 17.6 | 3.5 | 14.1 | 0.6 |
| Rural | 55,891,360 | 17.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 16.2 | 3.3 | 12.9 | 0.2* |

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 8. Property crime victimization, by household income, region, residence, and home ownership of households victimized, 2002

| Characteristic of household or head of household | Number of households, 2002 | Victimizations per 1,000 households | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------|
| | | Total | Burglary | Motor vehicle theft | Theft |
| Household income | | | | | |
| Less than \$7,500 | 5,157,750 | 188.9 | 51.4 | 3.2* | 134.3 |
| \$7,500 - \$14,999 | 9,038,620 | 166.7 | 31.8 | 8.1 | 126.8 |
| \$15,000 - \$24,999 | 12,231,090 | 172.1 | 33.8 | 9.9 | 128.5 |
| \$25,000 - \$34,999 | 11,586,530 | 161.7 | 27.8 | 12.6 | 121.2 |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999 | 14,391,310 | 175.4 | 27.3 | 11.3 | 136.9 |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999 | 14,283,610 | 158.3 | 24.6 | 9.2 | 124.5 |
| \$75,000 or more | 17,532,840 | 169.8 | 21.0 | 5.9 | 142.9 |
| Region | | | | | |
| Northeast | 20,821,680 | 117.0 | 18.4 | 6.4 | 92.1 |
| Midwest | 26,238,340 | 155.8 | 30.7 | 7.9 | 117.2 |
| South | 40,202,070 | 147.8 | 28.2 | 7.9 | 111.8 |
| West | 23,061,760 | 219.9 | 31.9 | 14.3 | 173.8 |
| Residence | | | | | |
| Urban | 31,937,800 | 215.3 | 40.5 | 17.1 | 157.7 |
| Suburban | 51,446,980 | 145.3 | 22.4 | 7.5 | 115.4 |
| Rural | 26,939,060 | 118.3 | 22.6 | 2.2 | 93.5 |
| Home ownership | | | | | |
| Owned | 75,023,210 | 136.4 | 23.9 | 6.5 | 105.9 |
| Rented | 35,300,630 | 207.0 | 35.7 | 14.2 | 157.1 |

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 9. Victim and offender relationship, 2002

| Relationship with victim | Violent crime | | Rape/sexual assault | | Robbery | | Aggravated assault | | Simple assault | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Male victims | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 2,857,930 | 100% | 31,640 | 100% | 323,530 | 100% | 588,430 | 100% | 1,914,320 | 100% |
| Nonstranger | 1,216,440 | 43% | 16,500 | 52%* | 75,980 | 24% | 229,000 | 39% | 894,960 | 47% |
| Intimate | 72,520 | 3 | 0 | 0* | 11,490 | 4* | 13,480 | 2* | 47,560 | 3 |
| Other relative | 98,780 | 4 | 0 | 0* | 0 | 0* | 26,350 | 5* | 72,430 | 4 |
| Friend/acquaintance | 1,045,140 | 37 | 16,500 | 52* | 64,490 | 20 | 189,170 | 32 | 774,970 | 41 |
| Stranger | 1,603,230 | 56% | 15,140 | 48%* | 239,380 | 74% | 352,630 | 60% | 996,070 | 52% |
| Relationship unknown | 38,260 | 1% | 0 | 0%* | 8,170 | 3%* | 6,800 | 1%* | 23,290 | 1%* |
| Female victims | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 2,483,480 | 100% | 216,090 | 100% | 188,960 | 100% | 401,670 | 100% | 1,676,760 | 100% |
| Nonstranger | 1,665,980 | 67% | 149,620 | 69% | 103,560 | 55% | 233,800 | 58% | 1,179,000 | 70% |
| Intimate | 494,570 | 20 | 21,920 | 10* | 36,140 | 19 | 75,250 | 19 | 361,260 | 22 |
| Other relative | 170,500 | 7 | 3,850 | 2* | 20,700 | 11* | 32,190 | 8 | 113,760 | 7 |
| Friend/acquaintance | 1,000,910 | 40 | 123,850 | 57 | 46,710 | 25 | 126,360 | 32 | 703,980 | 42 |
| Stranger | 767,270 | 31% | 61,000 | 28% | 80,860 | 43% | 147,960 | 37% | 477,450 | 29% |
| Relationship unknown | 50,240 | 2% | 5,470 | 3%* | 4,540 | 2%* | 19,910 | 5%* | 20,320 | 1%* |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding. *Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

with incomes greater than \$7,500 annually were burglarized at statistically similar rates, 2002.

Households with an income under \$7,500 were less likely than other households to experience motor vehicle theft. Those having an income of \$75,000 or above were slightly less likely to be victimized by such theft.

Region, locality, and home ownership

Western households were victims of overall property crime at the highest rate while households in the Northeast sustained property crime at the lowest rate of all regions, 2002. Southern and Midwestern households were victims of property crime at similar rates.

Northeastern households were less likely to be burglarized than

households in other regions. The Midwest, South, and West had similar 2002 rates of burglary.

Western households were victims of motor vehicle theft at rates higher than those for other regions.

Western households experienced theft at the highest regional rate; Northeastern households, at the lowest. Theft rates for Southern and Midwestern households were similar during 2002.

Urban households were victims of each type of property crime at rates higher than those for suburban and rural households, 2002. Except for burglary, suburban households were victims of each type of property crime at rates higher than rural household rates. Rural and suburban households were burglarized at statistically similar rates, 2002.

Characteristics of the crime event

Victim-offender relationship

Females were most often victimized by someone they knew while males were more likely to be victimized by a stranger during 2002 (table 9).

Of those offenders victimizing females, 40% were described as friends/acquaintances, 20% as intimates, and 7% as some other relative. Strangers to the victim committed 31% of the violence against females.

In contrast, of those offenders victimizing males, 37% were described as friends/acquaintances, 3% as intimates, and 4% as some other relative. Strangers committed 56% of the violence against males.

Table 10. Presence of weapons in violent crimes, 2002

| Presence of offender's weapon | Violent crime | | Rape/sexual assault | | Robbery | | Simple and aggravated assault | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total | 5,130,830 | 100% | 257,380 | 100% | 473,220 | 100% | 4,400,230 | 100% |
| No weapon | 3,619,900 | 71% | 218,950 | 85% | 220,620 | 47% | 3,200,330 | 73% |
| Weapon | 1,084,600 | 21% | 17,730 | 7%* | 218,840 | 46% | 848,030 | 19% |
| Firearm | 364,090 | 7 | 11,330 | 4* | 117,480 | 25 | 235,280 | 5 |
| Knife | 289,470 | 6 | 6,400 | 2* | 55,530 | 12 | 227,540 | 5 |
| Other | 353,220 | 7 | 0 | 0* | 30,750 | 6 | 322,470 | 7 |
| Type not ascertained | 77,820 | 2 | 0 | 0* | 15,080 | 3* | 62,740 | 1 |
| Don't know | 426,340 | 8% | 20,690 | 8%* | 53,770 | 11% | 351,880 | 8% |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding. If the offender was armed with more than one weapon, the crime is classified based on the most serious weapon present.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Robbery was the crime most likely to be committed by a stranger for both male and female victims.

Presence of weapons

During 2002, 71% of all violent crime victims did not face an armed offender (table 10). However, the presence of a weapon during a violent crime was related to the type of crime. For example, rape and sexual assault victims were the least likely (7%) and robbery victims the most likely (46%), to face an armed offender.

The type of weapon also varied by the type of violence. Four percent of victims of rape/sexual assault faced an offender armed with a firearm, compared to 25% of robbery victims. An offender brandishing a knife confronted 2% of rape/sexual assault victims and 12% of robbery victims.

Reporting to the police

During 2002, 49% of all violent victimizations and 40% of all property crimes were reported to the police. The percentage of crime reported differed based on the specific type of crime considered. For example, 71% of robberies were brought to the attention of police, while 43% of simple assaults were reported to the police in 2002.

Motor vehicle theft continued to be the property crime most often reported to the police (86%). Fifty-eight percent of burglaries and 33% of thefts were reported to the police, 2002.

| | Percent of crime reported to the police, 2002 |
|---------------------|---|
| Violent crime | 48.5% |
| Rape/sexual assault | 53.7 |
| Robbery | 71.2 |
| Aggravated assault | 56.6 |
| Simple assault | 42.7 |
| Personal theft | 46.4% |
| Property crime | 40.2% |
| Burglary | 57.9 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 86.1 |
| Theft | 32.8 |

Reporting and victim characteristics

The violent victimization of a female was more likely to be reported to the police than was the victimization of a male during 2002. This difference in reporting for males and females existed for violence against white, black, and non-Hispanic victims. Violence against females of "other races" was reported to police in slightly higher percentages than was violence against males of "other races." The apparent difference in reporting of violence against Hispanic males and females was not significant, 2002.

Among male victims the percentage of violence reported to the police did not differ across racial categories or by Hispanic origin.

With one exception among female victims there were no differences between the percentages across racial categories or by Hispanic origin of crimes reported to the police. Violent crimes against black females were more likely to be reported to the police than those against white females.

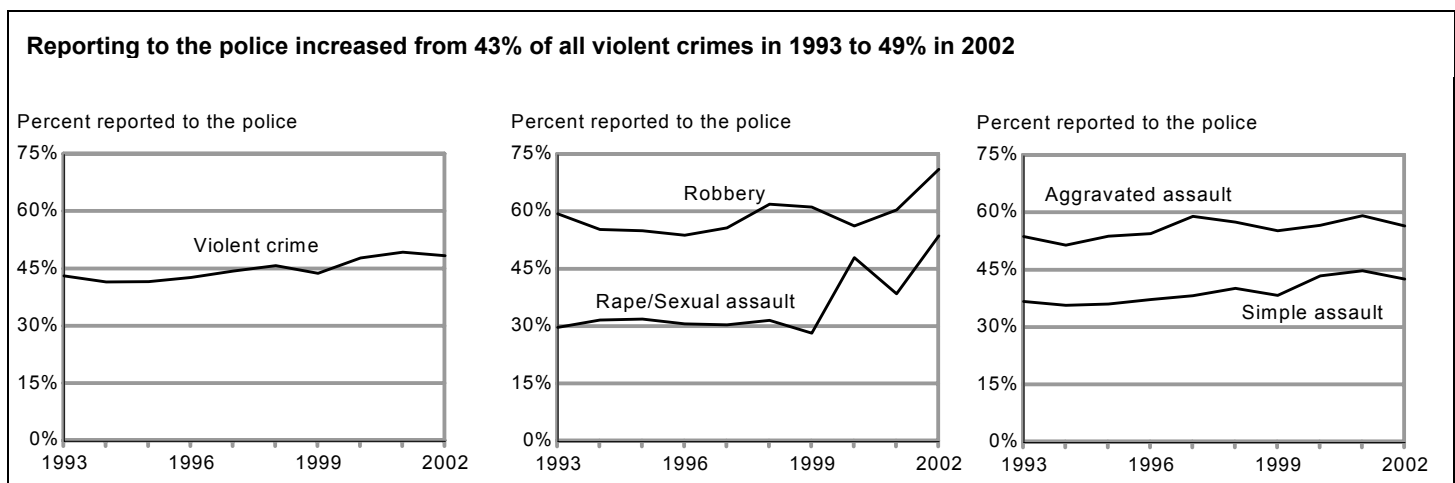
| Victim gender, race, and Hispanic origin | Percent of crime reported to the police, 2002 | |
|--|---|----------|
| | Violent | Property |
| Total | 48.5% | 40.2% |
| Male | 44.6% | 40.9% |
| White | 44.0 | 40.2 |
| Black | 48.0 | 46.8 |
| Other | 46.9 | 41.5 |
| Hispanic | 47.0 | 37.5 |
| Non-Hispanic | 44.0 | 41.5 |
| Female | 53.0% | 39.5% |
| White | 50.7 | 38.1 |
| Black | 61.7 | 44.7 |
| Other | 65.2 | 43.7 |
| Hispanic | 55.5 | 39.9 |
| Non-Hispanic | 52.8 | 39.4 |

Reporting crime to the police, 1993-2002

Except for aggravated assault, the percentages of all types of property and violent crimes reported to the police increased significantly, 1993-2002 (figures 9-14). No statistically significant change in reporting was measured for aggravated assault.

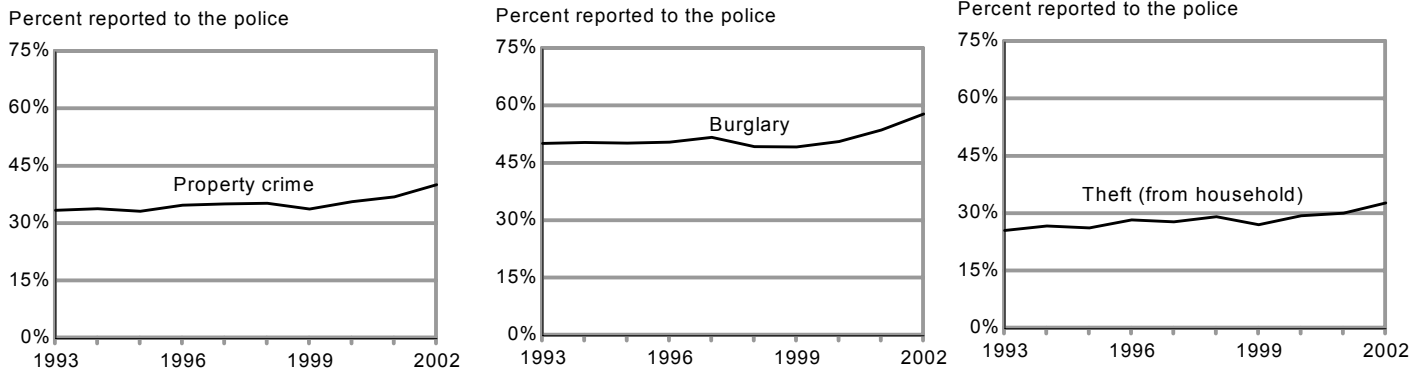
The increases in reporting varied by type of crime. The relative increase in reporting crime to the police was greater for rape/sexual assault than it was for robbery or simple assault, 1993-2002.

The relative increases of reporting to police of burglary (from 50% in 1993 to 58% in 2002), motor vehicle theft (from 75% to 86%), and theft (from 26% to 33%) were statistically similar. (For further discussion see *Reporting Crime to the Police, 1992-2000*, <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/rcp00htm>.)



Figures 9, 10, 11

Reporting to the police increased from 34% of all property crimes in 1993 to 40% in 2002



Figures 12, 13, 14

Survey methodology

This Bulletin presents data on non-lethal violence and property crimes from the National Crime Victimization

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Survey (NCVS), and data on homicide from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program. In 2002, 42,340 households and 76,050 people age 12 or older were interviewed. For the 2002 NCVS data presented here, the response rate was 92.4% of eligible households and 87.3% of eligible individuals. See <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstracts/cv02.htm> for additional information on methodology, standard error calculations, and definitions.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director. Callie Marie Rennison and Michael R. Rand, BJS Statisticians, wrote this report. Cathy T. Maston provided statistical review. Marianne Zawitz produced the Highlight figures.

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