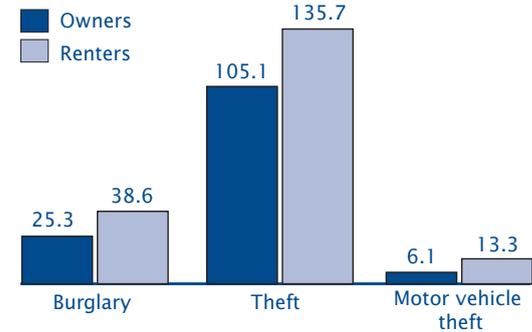


- Survey results show that these property crimes are more prevalent in large households with six or more people than in households with fewer than six people.
- As illustrated in Figure 3, renters had higher rates of victimization in 2005 than homeowners for each of the three major types of property crimes.

Figure 3.

Property Crimes: 2005
(Rate per 1,000 households)

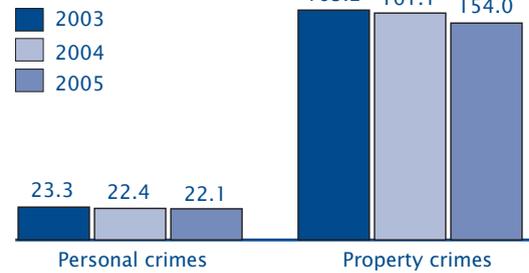


Comparing Crime Data

- By comparing NCVS data over time, criminal justice planners can determine whether or not there are any meaningful changes in criminal victimization patterns for certain types of crime.
- Between 2003 and 2005, the number of people victimized by personal crimes dropped from 23.3 per 1,000 people aged 12 and older to 22.1 per 1,000 people. This represents a decrease of 1.2 victimizations per 1,000 people (see Figure 4).
- Property crimes also experienced a decrease in the crime rate from 2003 to 2005. Property crimes went from 163.2 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2003 to 154 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2005, a decrease of 9.2 victimizations per 1,000 households.

Figure 4.

Comparison of Crime: 2003 to 2005
(Rate per 1,000 people)

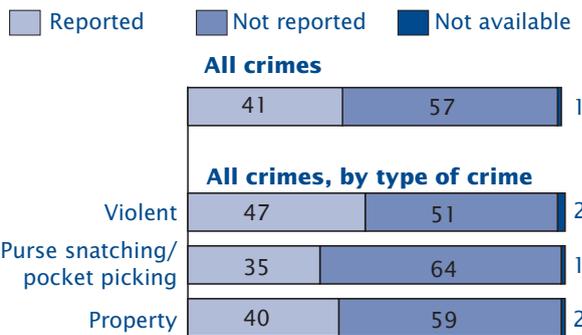


Reporting Crimes to the Police

- The NCVS was intended to complement what is known about crime from the FBI's annual compilation of information reported to police (Uniform Crime Reports). The survey, which also counts incidents not reported to the police, provides a detailed picture of crime incidents, victims, and trends from the victim's perspective. The majority of crimes measured by the NCVS in 2005 were not reported to the police. About 57 percent of all crimes, 51 percent of violent crimes, 64 percent of purse snatching/pocket picking, and 59 percent of property crimes were not reported to the police (see Figure 5).

Figure 5.

Reporting Crimes to the Police: 2005
(In percent)

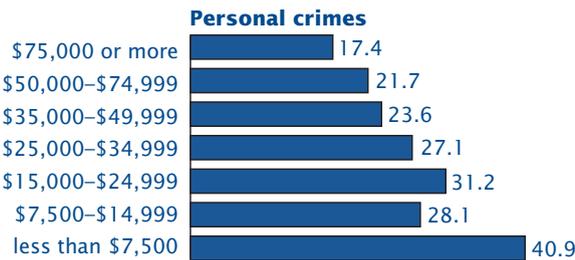


Household Income

- Analysis of NCVS data shows that, in some instances, household income can be an important indicator of the likelihood of being victimized by a particular type of crime.
- In 2005, crimes that involved violence and purse snatching/pocket picking occurred more frequently among individuals who earned less than \$7,500 annually. The income group with the lowest victimization rate for these crime types was households with an income of \$75,000 or more (see Figure 6).

Figure 6.

Total Personal Crimes of Violence and Purse Snatching/Pocket Picking by Annual Household Income: 2005
(Rate per 1,000 people)



A Word About Confidentiality . . .

- We use the information you provide for statistical purposes only. Anyone who might see your answers has to take an oath and is subject to a fine and/or imprisonment for improperly disclosing any information you provide (U.S. Code, Title 13, Sections 9 and 214).
- The charts and graphs shown in this fact sheet were created from a compilation of data provided by respondents like you and are examples of how the data are used to provide information on many topics related to crime and victimization. Your name and address are NOT part of the statistical totals released to the public.
- It is illegal for us to provide anyone, including other government agencies, with information about you as an individual.

Other Publications

- This fact sheet contains only a few of the highlights of the NCVS findings. The BJS publishes other reports periodically to meet the needs of the many interested people in law enforcement, government, and the private sector who analyze the crime problem and plan programs for combating it. By participating in the NCVS, you are contributing to the knowledge needed to plan effective programs to combat crime.
- The BJS publishes a wide variety of special reports on topics such as Black and Hispanic victims, elderly victims, robbery victims, rape, motor vehicle theft, and so forth. You may obtain the most recent copies of these and other reports from the NCVS data by writing to BJS or visiting the BJS Web site at:

Justice Statistics Clearinghouse/NCJRS
P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/

Useful Information

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

National Center for Victims of Crime
1-800-FYI-CALL
1-800-211-7996 (TTY)

Child Help USA National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD

Eldercare Locator
1-800-677-1116

National Crime Victimization Survey

Factsheet



What Is the National Crime Victimization Survey?

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a nationwide survey based on a sample of approximately 42,000 households a year. The survey is designed to obtain detailed information about people victimized by certain types of crime, such as theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, robbery, assault, rape, and purse snatching/pocket picking.

The NCVS . . .

- Reflects crimes that victims do not report to the police, as well as those that they do report.
- Is the only current source of detailed information on the characteristics of both the victim and the crime and gives a more complete picture of the extent and nature of crime in the United States.
- Was redesigned in 1993 to improve the survey's ability to measure victimization, particularly certain difficult-to-measure crimes, such as rape and sexual assault.

Your participation is important.

- Participation in this survey is voluntary and there are no penalties for refusing to answer any questions. However, whether you were victimized or not, your cooperation is extremely important to help ensure the completeness and reliability of the survey results. Your answers not only represent your household but also approximately 2,750 other similar households.

Uses of the NCVS data.

- The NCVS provides information used by law enforcement, judicial, and correctional agencies to improve their effectiveness and planning.
- The U.S. Department of Education—measures the prevalence and nature of student victimizations at school.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—measures crime in public housing.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture—measures how crime affects farmers.

- The U.S. Department Health and Human Services—identifies occupations and workplaces at high-risk for violence so that effective preventative measures are developed.
- Educational institutions—many academics and researchers use the NCVS data to prepare reports and scholarly publications, which are used in a number of academic disciplines, including sociology, criminology, psychology, and political science.

Who conducts this survey?

- The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the NCVS for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) of the U.S. Department of Justice.
- The Census Bureau collects and processes the information and aids the BJS in the analysis of the data.

- The BJS is responsible for the publication of the results.

How is the information collected?

- The NCVS involves interviews of households scientifically sampled in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Sample survey methods permit the study of small numbers of people to obtain needed facts about the entire population of the country. These methods greatly reduce the cost of collecting information.
- Interviews are conducted by Census Bureau interviewers either in person or by telephone.

How was I selected for this survey?

- We scientifically select a cross-section of addresses, not you personally, to represent all households in the United States for this survey.
- We interview each selected address once every 6 months over a 3-year period for a total of seven interviews.
- If you move away while your dwelling is still in the survey, we would interview the family that moves in.

What Information Do You Get From This Survey?

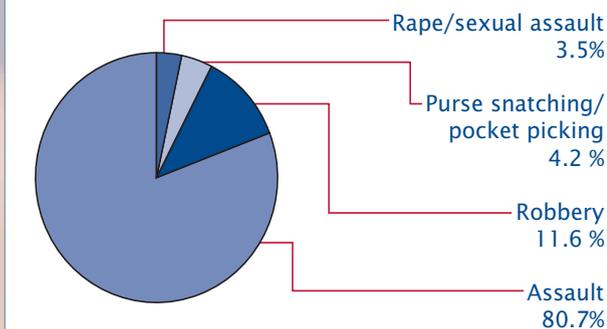
- Types and amount of crimes committed.
- Characteristics of victims.
- Offender characteristics for violent offenses.
- Details of crimes, including:
 - When and where crimes occur.
 - Economic loss to the victim.
 - Extent of injuries suffered by the victim.
 - Whether the victim knew the offender or whether they were strangers.
 - Whether the offender used a weapon.
 - Whether the police were notified.

What Are the Results From the NCVS?

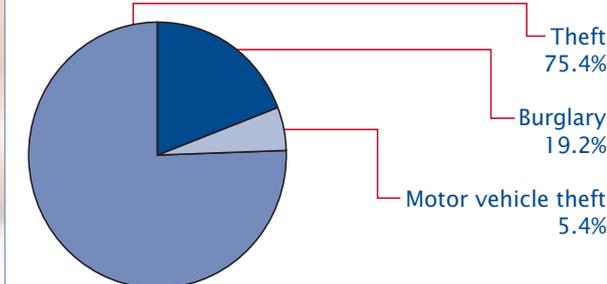
- The BJS releases the results of the NCVS on an annual basis, as well as issues special topical reports on a periodic basis. It publishes only aggregate statistics on the country as a whole and never releases information about you as an individual.
- Results for 2005, the most recent year in which annual estimates are available, showed that assaults were the single most prevalent type of crime committed against people (personal crime). They comprised about 80.7 percent of all personal victimizations in 2005 (see Figure 1).
- Assaults are defined as unlawful physical attacks or threats of attack made directly toward a person face-to-face. They are classified as simple or aggravated, with the severity of attack ranging from simple or minor to nearly fatal.
- The remainder of the personal crimes include robbery, rape/sexual assault, and purse snatching/pocket picking. These crimes collectively account for the remaining 19.3 percent of personal victimizations in 2005.
- Thefts, such as lawn furniture stolen from a backyard or a bicycle stolen from a driveway, were the most common property crimes reported for 2005, accounting for about 75.4 percent of all property crimes. Other crimes against property include burglary, at about 19.2 percent, and motor vehicle theft, at about 5.4 percent.

Figure 1.

Crimes Against People: 2005 (Percent of total victimizations)



Property Crimes: 2005 (Percent of total victimization)



Crimes Against People

Sex of victim

- Males are more frequently victims of personal crimes of violence than females.
- For personal crimes of violence in 2005, males experienced about 26 victimizations per 1,000 people, while females experienced about 18 victimizations per 1,000 people.

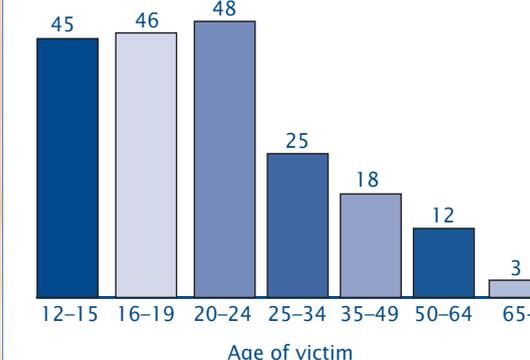
Age of victim

- A person's age affects the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime. NCVS findings show that younger people are more frequently the victims of personal crimes than older people.

- In 2005, those under the age of 25 were most likely to be victimized (see Figure 2). People aged 20–24 had about 48 personal crimes per 1,000 people, the highest victimization rate. People aged 16–19 had about 46 personal crimes per 1,000 people, while people aged 12–15 had about 45 personal crimes per 1,000 people. On the other hand, people aged 65 and older had about 3 personal crimes per 1,000 people, the lowest victimization rate.

Figure 2.

Age of Victim Personal Crimes: 2005 (Rate per 1,000 people)



Property crimes

- We classify property crimes reported to the NCVS into three major types: burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft (includes both attempted and completed crimes).
 - Burglary consists of the actual or attempted unlawful entry of a house, apartment, or other residential structure, such as a homeowner's garage.
 - Motor vehicle theft includes theft and attempted theft of cars, trucks, motorcycles and other vehicles legally entitled to use the public roads and highways.
 - Theft, the most prevalent property crime, occurs when an offender takes or attempts to take cash or property without personal contact. Incidents involving theft of property from within the sample household would classify as a theft if the offender has a legal right to be in the house, otherwise the incident would classify as a burglary.