

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this survey about?

The NCVS asks whether people experienced crime in the last 6 months and asks about those experiences, regardless of whether they were reported to the police.

Who is conducting this survey?

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the NCVS on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

How is the information collected?

A Census Bureau representative will come to your home or call to interview you and any other household members aged 12 or older. Generally, people from each selected address are interviewed once every 6 months over a 3-year period for a total of seven interviews.

How was I selected for this survey?

We select addresses, not you personally, to represent all households in the United States. If you move away while this address is still in the survey, we will interview the residents who move in.

Why should I participate?

Your cooperation is important to help ensure accurate and reliable information about crime and safety in neighborhoods like yours. We think you will find the survey interesting, and your participation will help the public understand crime and safety issues in different communities around the country.

How will my privacy be protected?

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9 and Title 34, U.S. Code, Sections 10231 and 10134). Your answers will not be connected to your name. The Census Bureau and the BJS are not allowed to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household.

Resources for Victims

National Center for Victims of Crime
1-202-467-8700
<<https://victimsofcrime.org>>

Victim Connect
1-855-4VICTIM (1-855-484-2846)
<<https://victimconnect.org>>

Boys Town National Hotline
1-800-448-3000
<www.boystown.org/hotline>

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)
<www.childhelp.org>

Eldercare Locator
1-800-677-1116
<<https://eldercare.acl.gov>>

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
<www.thehotline.org>

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
988
<<https://988lifeline.org>>

The National Sexual Assault Hotline
1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)
<www.rainn.org>

The Trevor Project
1-866-488-7386
<www.thetrevorproject.org>

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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics
bjs.ojp.gov

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

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NCVS

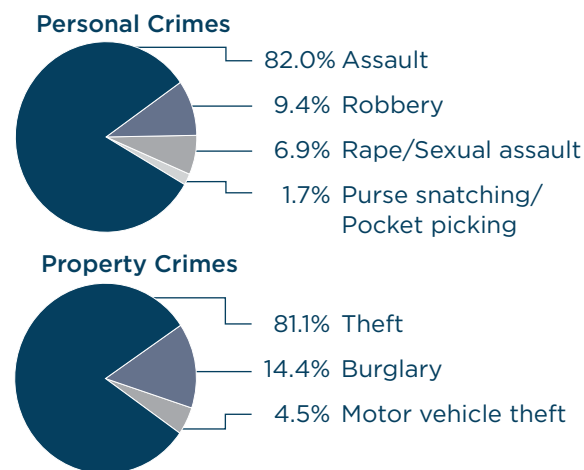
National Crime Victimization Survey

What is the National Crime Victimization Survey?

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a nationwide survey based on a sample of U.S. households. The survey is designed to obtain detailed information about people and whether they were victims of certain types of crime, such as theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, robbery, assault, rape, and purse snatching/pocket picking.

NCVS data, like those shown in Figures 1 and 2, are used to track trends and patterns in crime and safety and to develop policies. More examples are available at <https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/Home>.

Figure 1.
Victimizations by Type of Crime
(Percentage of total victimizations)



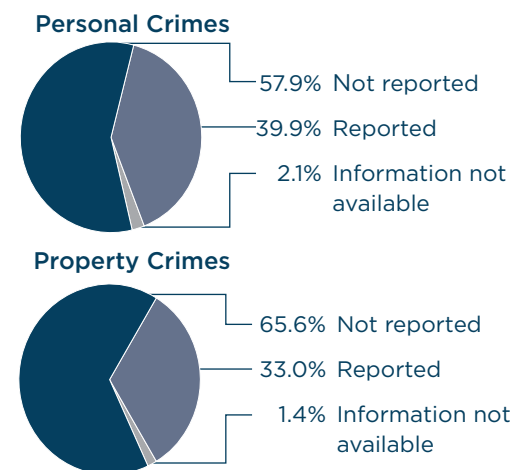
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020.

What information is collected in this survey?

The NCVS collects information about crime incidents from the victim's perspective, whether or not they were reported to the police. This includes:

- Types and numbers of crimes experienced
- Characteristics of persons and households
- Crime details, including:
 - When and where crimes occur
 - Economic loss to the victim
 - Injuries
 - Police involvement
 - Weapons used
 - Victim services used

Figure 2.
Victimizations Reported to the Police
(Percentage of total victimizations)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020.

Accuracy of the data

Data presented in this factsheet are based on people and households that responded to the NCVS. The estimates are representative of the entire population. However, the data are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. More information is available in the NCVS Technical Documentation: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs#documentation-0>.

Who can I contact with questions?

Contact the Bureau of Justice Statistics via:
E-mail: askBJS@usdoj.gov
Phone: 202-307-0765

For more information about this survey, please visit by link <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs> or QR code:



For more information from the U.S. Census Bureau and to verify the person contacting you to participate in the survey is a Census Bureau employee, please visit by link www.census.gov/ncvs or QR code:

