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Federal-Local Cooperation Hitting Violent Crime, Reno Says

WASHINGTON (AP) Federal, state and local authorities are putting jurisdictional squabbles aside to make headway against violent crime, according to Attorney General Janet Reno.

"We tried to eliminate the turf battles because no one cares what badge someone is wearing when they crack a case or put away a violent criminal," Reno said.

She also announced \$15 million in grants to continue a campaign that led federal prosecutors to file 5,270 cases against 7,109 violent and repeat offenders between March and Dec. 31 of last year.

Local law enforcement officials who joined Reno at the Justice Department said information sharing between agencies and greater access to federal resources had boosted their crime-fighting efforts.

"In addition to access to resources, cooperation gives us greater flexibility," said Patricia Jessamy, the state attorney for Baltimore, who said federal support was key to winning convictions in the case of a 10-year-old boy killed by stray gunfire during a drug-related shootout.

In other examples, Reno said:

A housing project in Cairo, Ill., that had become a crack cocaine distribution center was cleaned up after 69 federal and 38 state prosecutions.

In Fort Dodge, Iowa, 43 members of a drug trafficking organization were arrested, and 38 have been convicted so far, helping to make 1994 a murder-free year in the town.

Dennis E. Nowicki, chief of police in Charlotte, N.C., said murders were down 34 percent in his city in 1994, and violent crime down 10 percent, compared with 1993.

In addition to federal law enforcement, Nowicki attributed the crackdown to tougher federal sentences that "send a message" to violent offenders.

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Washington, D.C., is to receive \$1.1 million to continue a program that put FBI agents on the streets with local police officers and to implement an intensive gun seizure program.

U.S. Attorney Eric Holder said the federal-local partnership has had a "major impact," helping to reduce the homicide rate by 15 percent and violent crime by 6 percent in the city.

"Washington, D.C., is no longer the nation's murder capital," Holder said.

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Federal-Local Cooperation Hitting Violent Crime, Reno Says

WASHINGTON (AP) Cooperation between federal, state and local authorities is paying off in progress against violent crime, Attorney General Janet Reno said Monday.

A yearlong campaign led to federal prosecutors filing 5,270 cases against 7,109 violent and repeat offenders between March and Dec. 31 of last year, she said in a report to President Clinton.

"We tried to eliminate the turf battles because no one cares what badge someone is wearing when they crack a case or put away a violent criminal," Reno said.

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Department of Justice

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BJS
202-307-0784

CRIME RATE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED LAST YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The number of Americans who were the victims of crime remained essentially unchanged last year, according to a redesigned annual survey the Department of Justice published today. The new format includes crimes not previously included, such as sexual assaults other than rape.

Estimates, based on questioning 100,000 people, showed there were almost 500,000 sexual attacks last year, including 160,000 rapes, 152,000 attempted rapes and 173,000 other sexual crimes. Other assaults, including domestic assaults, were up about 8 percent.

Nationwide, there were approximately 44 million personal and household crimes. However, there was no general trend up or down. Attempted assaults without a weapon were up 11 percent. However, other petty crimes, such as the theft of cash or property under \$50, fell 7 percent.

(MORE)

The annual crime victimization survey, begun in 1972, is intended to complement the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). The UCR is a compilation of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies, which, unlike the victimization survey, includes murder and manslaughter. The victimization survey cannot measure murder because of the inability to question the victim. However, it counts all other crimes whether or not they are reported to the police.

Violent crime victimizations continued a seven-year increase, principally because of a rise in attempted assaults. Victimization rates for personal crimes increased an estimated 5.6 percent between 1992 and 1993. Personal crimes consist of rape, other sexual attacks, robbery, assault, and personal thefts (purse snatching and pocket picking). The victimization rate for rape, as told to the survey's interviewers, decreased in 1993, but was not significantly different than in 1992, continuing the relatively constant rate shown in earlier years.

The number of completed violent victimizations dropped slightly last year. However, attempted violent crimes, which include threats involving weapons as well as attempted assaults, continued to increase slightly.

(MORE)

The property crime victimization rate, which includes household burglary, motor vehicle theft and property theft, declined 1 percent between 1992 and 1993.

The only victimizations that decreased by a significant amount were thefts of cash or property valued under \$50. Last year these thefts had decreased by more than 7 percent--from 104 thefts per 1,000 to 97 per 1,000 households.

The data reflect a recent pattern in which the levels of certain completed violent crimes, such as simple assault completed with injury, have been declining or holding steady while the levels of attempted victimizations, such as attempted simple assault without a weapon, have generally been on the increase.

The estimates are from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey, which is the government's second largest household survey. It is administered for BJS by the Bureau of the Census each year to approximately 100,000 people 12 years old and older in about 50,000 households.

(MORE)

Attached is a table of selected survey data prepared by BJS statistician Lisa D. Bastian. A comprehensive report, describing methodological and other technical changes, will be published later this year. For more information about the survey's redesign contact Jay Hoover, of BJS, on 202-307-1132.

Other BJS statistical reports, may be obtained from the BJS Clearinghouse, Box 179, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179. The telephone number is 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders to 410-792-4358. To receive a fax copy of 20 pages of background information on the redesigned report call 301-216-1827.

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Note to readers: Because of the redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), these figures are not directly comparable to those found in previous NCVS publications.

	Number of victimizations (1,000's)			Victimization rates (per 1,000)		
	1992	1993	Percent change, 1992-93	1992	1993	Percent change, 1992-93
All crimes	42,912	43,622	1.7%	...	...	...
Personal crimes*	10,692	11,409	6.7%	51.1	53.9	5.6%
Crimes of violence	10,317	10,896	5.6%	49.3	51.5	4.5%
Rape/Sexual assault	607	485	-20.1%	2.9	2.3	-20.9%
Completed rape	175	160	-8.3	0.8	0.8	-9.2
Attempted rape	200	152	-23.7	1.0	0.7	-24.5
Sexual assault**	233	173	-25.8	1.1	0.8	-26.6
Robbery	1,293	1,307	1.0%	6.2	6.2	0 %
Completed	862	826	-4.2	4.1	3.9	-5.2
Attempted	431	481	11.6	2.1	2.3	10.4
Assault	8,416	9,104	8.2%	40.2	43.0	7.1%
Aggravated	2,317	2,578	11.3	11.1	12.2	10.2
Completed with injury	671	713	6.3	3.2	3.4	5.2
Attempted assault with weapon	1,646	1,865	13.3	7.9	8.8	12.2
Simple	6,099	6,525	7.0%	29.1	30.8	5.9
Completed with injury	1,445	1,358	-6.0	6.9	6.4	-6.9
Attempted assault without weapon	4,655	5,167	11.0 ^b	22.2	24.4	9.9
Property crimes	32,220	32,213	0 %	325.3	322.4	-.9%
Household burglary	5,815	5,995	3.1%	58.7	60.0	2.2%
Completed	4,756	4,835	1.7	48.0	48.4	.8
Forcible entry	1,845	1,858	.7	18.6	18.6	-.2
Unlawful entry without force	2,911	2,977	2.3	29.4	29.8	1.4
Attempted forcible entry	1,059	1,160	9.6	10.7	11.6	8.6
Motor vehicle theft	1,838	1,967	7.0%	18.6	19.7	6.1%
Completed	1,203	1,297	7.8	12.1	13.0	6.9
Attempted	635	670	5.5	6.4	6.7	4.6
Theft	24,568	24,250	-1.3%	248.0	242.7	-2.2%
Completed***	23,474	23,033	-1.9	237.0	230.5	-2.7
Less than \$50	10,313	9,642	-6.5 ^b	104.1	96.5	-7.3 ^a
\$50-\$249	7,976	7,688	-3.6	80.5	76.9	-4.5
\$250 or more	4,144	4,264	2.9	41.8	42.7	2.0
Attempted	1,094	1,217	11.3	11.0	12.2	10.3

Note: The redesign in 1992 used a sample half the normal size. Therefore, fewer changes are statistically significant. Victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households.

^aSignificant at the 95% confidence level.

^bSignificant at the 90% confidence level.

...Not applicable.

*Personal crimes include purse snatching and pocket picking, not shown separately.

**Questions about crime included in this category were added in July 1992, covering the previous 6 months. The data used to develop these estimates do not constitute a complete year.

***Completed theft includes victimizations for which a dollar amount of loss was not available.



National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign

What is the National Crime Victimization Survey ?

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is one of two Justice Department measures of crime in the United States. A pioneering effort when it was begun in 1972, the survey was intended to complement what is known about crime from the FBI's annual compilation of information reported to law enforcement agencies. 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. Data are collected every year from a sample of approximately 50,000 households with more than 100,000 individuals age 12 or over.

Victimizations are categorized as personal or property crimes. Personal crimes, including attempts, involve incidents with direct contact between the victim and offender. (Murder is **not** measured by the NCVS because of the inability to question the victim.) Property crimes do not involve personal confrontation and include such crimes as household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Why redesign ?

- **Criticism** of the earlier survey's capacity to gather information about certain crimes, including sexual assaults and domestic violence, prompted numerous improvements.
- **Improved survey methodology** enhances the ability of people being interviewed to recall events.
- **Public attitudes** toward victims have changed, permitting more direct questioning about sexual assaults.

What is the redesign ?

The new methodology was systematically field tested and introduced starting in 1989, and its results are being published for the first time this year. New questions were added to accommodate heightened interest in certain types of victimizations. Improvements in technology and survey methods were incorporated in the redesign. The extended effort to improve the survey is paying off, as the numbers from the redesign will be available in October 1994. An advisory panel of criminal justice policymakers, social scientists, victim advocates, and statisticians oversaw the work of a consortium of criminologists and social and survey scientists who conducted research on the improved procedures.

What are the results of the redesign ?

Victims are now reporting more types of crime incidents to the survey's interviewers. Previously undetected victimizations are being captured. For example, the survey changes have substantially increased the number of rapes and aggravated and simple assaults reported to interviewers. For the first time, other victimizations, such as non-rape sexual assault and unwanted or coerced sexual contact that involves a threat or attempt to harm, are also being measured.

Why are survey participants reporting so many more victimizations?

The survey now includes improved questions and cues that aid victims in recalling victimizations. Survey interviewers now ask more explicit questions about sexual victimizations. Advocates have also encouraged victims to

talk more openly about their experiences. Together, these changes substantially improve reporting for many types of personal and household crime.

Can the new results be compared with previous years'?

Measuring annual change in crime victimization is one of the most important uses of NCVS. The transition to the redesigned survey preserved the ability to detect annual change. Both versions of the survey were used simultaneously to collect data for 1992-93. The overlap also permits measuring the differences between the old and new surveys to show whether the 1992-93 differences were due to changes in crime or changes in the survey.

Why did the Justice Department pick this time to release these findings?

Annual change estimates of crime victimizations are regularly published in the fall. For the first time, data collected with the redesigned survey are available for two consecutive years. The transition to the redesigned survey began in 1989, and this release has been planned since that time.

What do the results of the redesign tell us about the adequacy of information from the original survey?

• **Number of victimizations.** The original National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) benefited from survey methods that were state of the art at the time it was developed. The improvements in survey procedures for the redesigned NCVS have resulted in increased reporting of victimizations. Because victims are reporting more victimization experiences, the redesigned survey is in fact producing a more comprehensive picture of the overall volume of crime.

• **Characteristics of victimizations.** The standards the NCVS uses to define different types of victimizations remain largely the same in the redesigned survey. Details other than what happened to the victim, such as age, race, victim-offender relationship, and location of the offense, are also comparable with information provided by the original survey. Consequently, data collected about the characteristics of crime incidents are equally reliable, regardless of which questionnaire was used to collect it.

• **Annual change estimates.** Year-to-year victimization comparisons have always been calculated on data collected with like questionnaires and procedures. Comparisons for 1991-92 were calculated using the old questionnaire, and those for 1992-93 were prepared with information from the new questionnaire. Consequently, any published findings of differences between years should be considered reliable.

For more information about the NCVS redesign, contact Jay Hoover, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 202-307-1132.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the Department of Justice collects and analyzes statistics from all aspects of the criminal justice system. The NCVS data are collected and processed by the Bureau of Census. In addition to the National Crime Victimization Survey, BJS collects and disseminates information regarding corrections, law enforcement, prosecution, drugs, and justice expenditure and employment. For more information call the BJS Clearinghouse at 1-800-732-3277.
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Department of Justice

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CONCERN ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME DOUBLES AMONG BLACK HOUSEHOLDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Concern about neighborhood crime has increased twice as rapidly among black households as among white households, according to a new analysis by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

BJS, the Department of Justice's statistics agency, utilized the Department of Housing and Urban Development's biennial household survey data about residents' views of neighborhood problems. The findings were similar to BJS's National Crime Victimization Surveys, which show violent crime is highest among black households and those in central cities.

The BJS report noted that in 1991 black households were about three times more likely than were white households to cite neighborhood crime as a serious concern. During the 1985-1991 period, the percentage of white households expressing concern about crime near their homes grew from 4 percent to 6 percent, whereas among black households it almost doubled--growing from 9 percent to almost 17 percent. Black households in central cities

(MORE)

that cited crime as a neighborhood problem rose from 12 percent to 23 percent.

In 1991 crime was the number one neighborhood concern of black central city households. Less frequently mentioned neighborhood problems were noise (12 percent), litter or housing deterioration (8), traffic (6), poor public services (3), undesirable commercial property (2) and other problems (9 percent). Half the households identified no problem in their neighborhood.

Many convicted offenders report committing crimes near where they lived. For example, BJS's 1991 survey of state prison inmates disclosed that 43 percent of prisoners were serving time for offenses committed in their own neighborhoods. This included 45 percent of violent offenders and 52 percent of drug offenders.

Single copies of the BJS Crime Data Brief, "Crime and Neighborhoods" (NCJ-147005), as well as other BJS statistical reports may be obtained from the BJS Clearinghouse, Box 179, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179. The telephone number is 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders to 410-792-4358.



Crime Data Brief

June 1994, NCJ-147005

Crime and Neighborhoods

By Carol J. DeFrances and Steven K. Smith
BJS Statisticians

From 1985 to 1991, the percentage of all U.S. households identifying "crime" as a neighborhood problem increased from 5% to 7%, according to the American Housing Survey. Crime has become a particular neighborhood concern among black households. Asked what bothers them about their neighborhood, the percentage of all black households reporting "crime" almost doubled from 9% to 17%. Among central city black households in 1991, almost a quarter said "crime" was a neighborhood problem, up from 12% in 1985.

In 1991 "crime" was the most often mentioned neighborhood problem for black central city households. Less frequently cited problems included "traffic," "noise," and "poor public services." In 1985 the most often mentioned problem that bothered black central city households was "people" (19%),

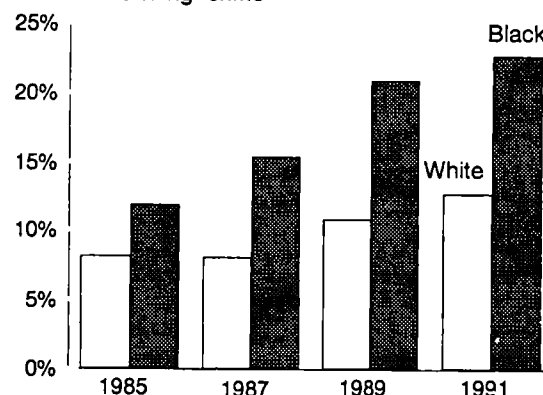
In 1991 central cities held over a fourth of white households and over half of black households

	Percent of households	
	White	Black
Central city*	28%	59%
Suburban	49	27
Rural	23	14

*Refers to the largest city or grouping of cities in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Black central city households increasingly indicated crime as a neighborhood problem, 1985-91

Percent of central city households citing "crime"



Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"

Source: American Housing Survey, 1985, 1987, 1989, and 1991, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Black households were most likely to identify crime as a neighborhood problem, 1985-91

	Percent of households identifying crime as a problem			
	1985	1987	1989	1991
All households	4.7%	4.8%	6.4%	7.4%
White	4.0	3.8	5.1	6.0
Black	8.5	11.0	15.4	16.5
Hispanic	7.7	8.4	11.2	12.1
Elderly	3.2	3.1	3.4	4.4
Place of residence				
Central city	9.1%	9.7%	13.1%	15.0%
Suburban	2.9	2.9	3.9	4.6
Rural	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.9

Note: Excludes missing data and those occupied units not considered in a neighborhood, ranging from 1% to 4% of units in subpopulations.

Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"
Source: American Housing Survey, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991.

For black central city households, few problems other than crime were an increasing concern, 1985-91

	Percent of black central city households			
	1985	1987	1989	1991
No problems	55.4%	52.1%	50.2%	50.2%
Problems	44.6	47.9	49.8	49.8
Crime	11.8	15.4	20.9	22.7
People	18.6	17.7	17.2	17.6
Noise	10.1	10.0	10.0	12.1
Litter or housing deterioration	9.5	10.1	8.5	7.7
Traffic	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.2
Poor city or county services	3.3	3.0	2.7	3.1
Undesirable commercial property	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.9
Other	8.0	8.3	9.7	8.5
Number of households (in millions)*	5.90	6.09	6.21	6.25

Note: Excludes missing data and those occupied units not considered in a neighborhood, an estimated 84,000 in 1985, 161,000 in 1987, 151,000 in 1989, and 144,000 in 1991. Figures may not add to totals because more than one category may apply to a housing unit.

*The estimate for the total number of households in 1991 is based on 1990 weighting and is not directly comparable to prior year estimates.

Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"
Source: American Housing Survey, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991.

which includes disliked neighbors, while "crime" was mentioned by 12%. In 1989-91 "crime" displaced "people" as the most often specified problem.

The percentage of all white households mentioning crime as a neighborhood problem also increased during this period, but it was consistently lower than that of black households. Among white central city households, crime never became the most frequently mentioned neighborhood problem, despite an increase from 8% in 1985 to 13% in 1991.

- Central city households (15%) were more likely to have identified crime as a neighborhood problem in 1991 than suburban households (5%) or rural households (2%). This has been the case since 1985 when this particular question was first asked.

Perception reflects victimization

In general, how different types of households assessed neighborhood crime reflected how much they were victimized by crime. Black households regularly mentioned crime as a neighborhood problem more frequently than white households and have consistently had a higher percentage of violent crime victimization as well as overall victimization.

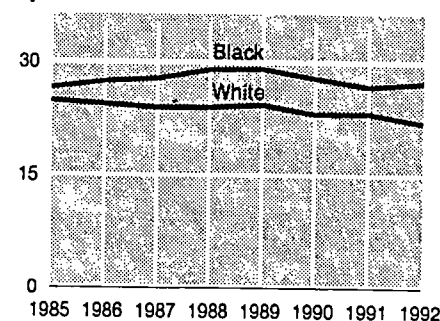
- During the period addressed by this report, central city households were consistently more likely to have experienced a violent crime than either suburban or rural households.

Most State prison inmates report having committed their offense outside their own neighborhood

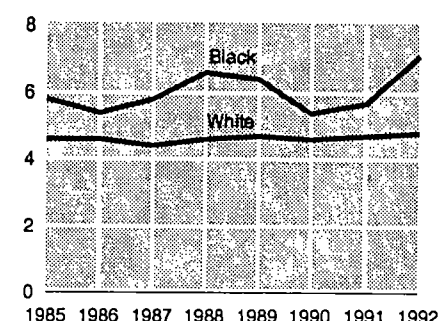
The 1991 BJS survey of State prison inmates found a majority (57%) of inmates had committed the offense for which they were serving time outside their own neighborhood. This included an estimated 69% of property offenders and 55% of violent offenders.

Black households were victimized by crime, especially violent crime, more often than white households

Percent of households experiencing any crime



Percent of households experiencing any violent crime



Source: National Crime Victimization Survey.

72% of robbers in State prison committed the crime outside their neighborhood

Offense	Percent of State prison inmates committing crime	
	In own neighborhood ^a	Outside own neighborhood
All offenses	43.0%	57.0%
Violent offenses	44.7%	55.3%
Murder ^b	44.5	55.5
Rape	59.6	40.4
Robbery	28.4	71.6
Assault	50.0	50.0
Property offenses	31.1%	68.9%
Burglary	32.5	67.5
Motor vehicle theft	32.1	67.9
Larceny	24.8	75.2
Drug offenses	52.0%	48.0%
Public-order offenses	47.9%	52.1%
Weapons	50.6	49.4
Other	47.0	53.0
Other offenses	34.4%	65.6%

Note: Based on a sample survey from among the approximately 711,000 State prison inmates. Table excludes approximately 1.8% of cases that are missing data.

^aIncludes offenses committed in inmate's home.

^bIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities.

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Crime and Neighborhoods



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

Murder in Families

By John M. Dawson
and Patrick A. Langan, Ph.D.
BJS Statisticians

A survey of murder cases disposed in 1988 in the courts of large urban counties indicated that 16% of murder victims were members of the defendant's family. The remainder were murdered by friends or acquaintances (64%) or by strangers (20%). These findings are drawn from a representative sample survey of State and county prosecutors' records. The survey covered disposed charges against nearly 10,000 murder defendants, whose murder cases accounted for over 8,000 victims.

Other findings include:

- Among murder victims 6.5% were killed by their spouses, 3.5% by their parents, 1.9% by their own children, 1.5% by their siblings, and 2.6% by some other family member.
- A third of family murders involved a female as the killer. In sibling murders, females were 15% of killers, and in murders of parents, 18%. But in spouse murders, women represented 41% of killers. In murders of their offspring, women predominated, accounting for 55% of killers.
- Among black marital partners, wives were just about as likely to kill their husbands as husbands were to kill their wives: 47% of the black victims of a spouse were husbands and 53% were wives. Among white victims murdered by their spouse, wives were much less likely to be the killers: 38%

July 1994

The United States has over 3,000 counties, but more than half of all murders occur in just 75 of them, the Nation's most populous jurisdictions. This report taps a rich source of murder data — prosecutors' files in a sample of these large urban places — for detailed information on the nature and extent of a particular type of murder: those that occur within families. In addition the report uses these files to document how urban criminal justice systems respond to family murder.

This study was possible as a result of the generous cooperation of urban prosecutors and their staffs in jurisdictions throughout the Nation. On behalf of BJS, I want to express my sincere appreciation.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

of the victims were husbands and 62% were wives.

- Forty-five percent of family murder victims were female, compared to 18% of nonfamily murder victims.

- When a mother killed her own child, the offspring she killed was more likely to be a son than a daughter: 64% sons versus 36% daughters. But when a father killed his own child, the offspring he killed was about as likely to be a daughter as a son: 52% daughters versus 48% sons.

- When a son killed a parent, his victim was about as likely to be the mother as the father: 47% mothers versus 53% fathers. But when a daughter killed a parent, her victim was more likely to be the father than the mother: 81% fathers versus 19% mothers.

- In murders of persons under age 12, the victims' parents accounted for 57% of the murderers.

- Eleven percent of all victims age 60 or over were killed by a son or daughter.

- No significant difference in conviction rate separated family murder defendants (76%) from nonfamily murder defendants (72%).

- Convicted family murder defendants (88%) were as likely to receive a prison sentence as convicted nonfamily murder defendants (91%).

- Firearms were used in the killing of 42% of all family murder victims, compared to 63% of all nonfamily murder victims.

- Seventy-four percent of murder defendants had a prior criminal record of arrest or conviction for a crime. A substantial percentage of murder victims, 44%, also had a prior criminal record. However, 19% of family murder victims had a prior record, compared to 51% of nonfamily murder victims. Also, 56% of family murder defendants, compared to 77% of other murder defendants, had a prior record.

Compared to other murder victims, family murder victims were —

More often

- female than male:
45% versus 18% (table 2)
- under age 12:
19% versus 2% (table 2)
- age 60 or older:
12% versus 6% (table 2)
- killed during the daytime:
39% versus 25% (table 5)
- killed in the victim's own home:
82% versus 22% (table 5)

Less often

- identified alcohol users:
33% versus 51% (table 3)
- unemployed:
7% versus 16% (table 3)
- identified as involved in criminal activity such as drug offenses about the time of the murder:
2% versus 26% (table 5)
- killed by a firearm:
42% versus 63% (table 5)
- armed: 15% versus 20% (page 5)
- killed by multiple assailants:
9% versus 19% (table 6)
- identified as having a past record of arrest or conviction:
19% versus 51% (table 7)
- were involved in murders in which both the defendant and the victim had a prior criminal record:
14% versus 43% (table 8)

Compared to other murder defendants, defendants in family murders — More often

- were age 30 or older:
57% versus 32% (table 2)
- had a history of mental illness:
14% versus 3% (table 3)
- committed a daytime murder:
38% versus 24% (table 5)
- committed the murder in the defendant's own home:
64% versus 10% (table 5)

Less often

- were under age 30:
43% versus 68% (table 2)
- were identified as alcohol users:
48% versus 68% (table 3)
- were unemployed:
29% versus 37% (table 3)
- had a victim of the same sex:
34% versus 80% (table 4)
- were identified as involved in criminal activity such as drug offenses at the time of the murder:
11% versus 46% (table 5)
- used a firearm:
43% versus 64% (table 5)
- had a record of arrest or conviction:
56% versus 77% (table 7)
- were involved in murders in which both the defendant and victim had a prior criminal record:
15% versus 44% (table 8)

The survey

Survey data were compiled from State prosecutor files and were based on a representative sample of all murder cases disposed in large urban counties in 1988. The murders were committed in 1988 or earlier. The Nation's 75 largest counties (as defined by number of arrests and population size) formed the population from which 33 counties were systematically sampled for the survey.

Within each of the 33 sampled counties, a criminal case was eligible for sampling if (a) one or more defendants in the case were charged with murder, and (b) at least one murder defendant in the case was disposed by a court in 1988. The sample ultimately drawn consisted of 2,539 sample murder cases against 3,119 defendants and involving 2,655 victims. When statistically weighted, the 3,119 defendants in the sampled cases represented 9,576 murder defendants in the Nation's 75 largest counties, and the 2,655 victims represented 8,063 victims in the 75 largest counties. To put the sample size into perspective, the estimated 8,063 victims accounted for 39% of the nationwide total of 20,860 murder victims in 1988.

Murder includes (1) intentionally causing the death of another person without extreme provocation or legal justification, (2) causing the death of another while committing or attempting to commit another crime, and (3) nonnegligent or voluntary manslaughter. Murder excludes negligent or involuntary manslaughter, and attempted murder, which is classified as aggravated assault. Murder also includes accessory to murder, aiding and abetting a murder, and facilitating a murder. When the term *murder* is used in this report without qualification, it includes nonnegligent manslaughter. *Defendant* in this report refers to a person arrested for murder and presented by the police for prosecution.

Victims

Murder cases disposed in the 75 largest counties in 1988 involved an estimated 8,063 victims (table 1). Sixteen percent of victims had a family relationship to at least one defendant in the case. The most frequent specific relationship was that of spouse; the least frequent, sibling. Nonfamily victim-offender relationships

Table 1. Murder victims and defendants in the 75 largest urban counties, by victim-assailant family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Murder victims		Murder defendants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All	8,063	100.0%	9,576	100.0%
Nonfamily	6,755	83.8%	8,292	86.6%
Family	1,308	16.2	1,284	13.4
Spouse	528	6.5	531	5.5
Offspring	285	3.5	258	2.7
Parent	154	1.9	150	1.6
Sibling	123	1.5	121	1.3
Other	218	2.6	224	2.3

Note: *Sibling* includes step-sibling.
Parent includes grandparent and step-parent.
Offspring includes grandchild and step-child.
Spouse includes common-law spouse.

Other includes cousin, in-law, extended family, and other family.
Detail percentages may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 2. Sex, race, and age, by the family relationship of murder victims and defendants, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	All	Sex		Race			Age				
		Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Under 12	12-19	20-29	30-59	60 or over
Victims											
All	100%	77.8%	22.2%	43.5%	54.2%	2.3%	4.8%	10.9%	35.6%	41.8%	7.0%
Nonfamily	100	82.2	17.8	44.4	53.3	2.3	2.1	12.2	38.5	41.1	6.1
Family	100	55.5	44.5	39.0	58.6	2.4	18.8	3.9	20.3	45.3	11.6
Spouse	100	40.2	59.8	41.2	56.4	2.4	0	0	27.9	65.0	7.1
Offspring	100	55.8	44.2	32.6	65.6	1.8	78.5	10.9	7.7	3.0	0
Parent	100	57.2	42.8	54.8	45.2	0	0	0	.9	56.7	42.4
Sibling	100	73.0	27.0	33.5	64.5	2.0	8.7	2.0	43.3	42.6	3.3
Other	100	74.9	25.1	34.1	61.0	4.9	4.6	8.2	19.1	47.5	20.6
Defendants											
All	100%	89.5%	10.5%	36.2%	61.9%	1.8%	.1%	21.8%	42.5%	31.4%	4.2%
Nonfamily	100	93.2	6.8	35.7	62.6	1.8	.1	23.1	44.5	28.4	3.8
Family	100	65.5	34.5	39.7	58.0	2.3	0	13.0	29.7	50.5	6.8
Spouse	100	59.3	40.7	41.8	56.1	2.2	0	.9	21.9	66.1	11.1
Offspring	100	45.4	54.6	34.5	64.5	1.0	0	17.2	36.4	40.3	6.0
Parent	100	81.6	18.4	49.8	50.2	0	0	38.2	30.7	29.4	1.7
Sibling	100	84.9	15.1	32.2	65.8	2.0	0	16.9	36.7	46.4	0
Other	100	83.5	16.5	38.1	56.1	5.9	0	18.0	35.9	41.3	4.9

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

characterized 84% of the victims, who were a stranger, acquaintance, or friend to the defendant or defendants.

Defendants

Murder cases disposed in the 75 largest counties in 1988 involved an estimated 9,576 defendants. Thirteen percent had a family relationship to at least one of the victims in the case. Nonfamily victim-offender relationships characterized 87% of defendants who were a stranger, acquaintance, or friend to the victim.

Family murder defendants and their victims comprised almost 15% of all victims and defendants recorded in the murder cases in 1988. Husbands and wives were the most likely to be involved in family murders. Spouses were 4 in 10 of all defendants and victims involved in a family murder:

Relationship of victim to assailant	Family murder victims and defendants	
	Number	Percent
All	2,592	100.0%
Spouse	1,059	40.9
Offspring	543	20.9
Parent	304	11.7
Sibling	244	9.4
Other	442	17.1

The second most frequent type of family murder, with offspring as victims and parents as assailants, were 21% of the total. (See the box on page 6 describing murders by parents of their children.) Those cases in which offspring were assailants and parents were the victims comprised 12% of all family murder victims.

As among victims, most of the nonfamily murder defendants (93%) and most of the family murder defendants (66%) were male (table 2). Offspring murder was the only murder category in which females predominated as killers. In offspring murders, the mother accounted for 55% of the defendants.

Sons, more often than daughters, were the defendants in the murders of parents: 82% versus 18%. Compared to defendants in other types of family murder, offspring accused of killing their parents were the youngest of the assailants, two-thirds being under age 30.

Husbands killed wives more frequently than wives killed husbands. Overall, husbands comprised about 60% of the assailants in spouse killings. The predominance of husbands as the defendant, however, varied by race. In black murders, wives were about as likely as husbands to be charged with the murder of their spouse. Of the 283 black-on-black spouse killings, 53% of the assailants were husbands, compared to 62% of the 218 white-on-white spouse killings. For Asian, Native

Table 3. Alcohol use at the time of the murder, history of mental illness, unemployment, and homelessness, by the family relationship of murder victims and defendants, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Alcohol use at the time of the murder	History of mental illness	Unemployed	Homeless
Victims				
All	47.4%	.5%	13.8%	1.1%
Nonfamily	50.9%	.4%	15.8%	1.3%
Family	32.7	.9	7.4	.2
Spouse	49.6	1.5	12.8	.5
Offspring	5.7	1.3	0	0
Parent	25.4	0	4.4	0
Sibling	34.9	0	17.7	0
Defendants				
All	64.4%	4.3%	35.3%	1.6%
Nonfamily	68.0%	2.7%	36.6%	1.7%
Family	47.6	14.3	29.1	1.2
Spouse	54.4	12.3	25.0	1.6
Offspring	29.8	15.8	28.9	0
Parent	28.4	25.1	33.6	2.3
Sibling	53.9	17.3	34.9	3.3

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships. "Alcohol" is coded only if present in the person.

American, Pacific Islander, or Alaska Native spouses, in all 11 spouse murders the husband killed the wife.

Drinking, unemployment, and mental illness

About half of the nonfamily murder victims and a third of the family murder victims consumed alcoholic drinks before the crime (table 3). Compared to victims in other types of family murder, victims in spouse murders were the most likely to have been drinking (49.6%). Sixty-eight percent of nonfamily defendants and 48% of family murder defendants were drinking at about the time of the murder.

Parents who were murdered were, apart from offspring murder victims, the least likely to be unemployed.

Family murderers were more likely than nonfamily murderers to have a history of mental illness (14%). Those who killed their parents were particularly likely to have such a history (25%).

Sex of offender and victim

Defendants in family murder cases were much less likely to be accused of murdering someone of the same sex (34% of defendants) than were defendants in murder cases not involving family members (80%) (table 4). When the sex of the victim and offender is considered, spousal murder, which by definition includes a man and a woman, provides the primary source of the difference between family and nonfamily murder. If spousal murder is excluded from consideration, murderers and victims were of the same sex in 65% of family murders.

Table 4. Murder defendants with a victim of the same sex, by their family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of defendants with a victim of the same sex		
	All	Male	Female
All	73.7%	79.5%	21.9%
Nonfamily	79.9	84.1	25.9
Family	34.3	40.6	17.8
Spouse	0	0	0
Offspring	41.7	48.1	36.3
Parent	48.4	52.8	19.1
Sibling	69.3	73.6	45.1

See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

Female defendants were more likely than male defendants to have murdered a person of the opposite sex. When a mother murdered her own child, the offspring she killed was more often a son (64%) than a daughter (36%). Among fathers who murdered, 48% of their victims were a son and 52% were a daughter. When a daughter killed a parent, the victim was more likely to be a father (81%) than a mother (19%). Among sons who murdered a parent, 53% of the victims were a father. When a sister murdered a sibling, 55% of the victims were a brother. Among brothers who killed a sibling, 74% of the victims were a brother.

Guns used as the murder weapon

Over 60% of the nonfamily murders and over 40% family murders were committed with a gun. Compared to victims in other types of family murder, victims in spouse murders were the most likely to have died from a gunshot (53%). Offspring were the least likely to be shot to death: 1 in 5 offspring murdered by a parent died from a bullet wound.

Armed victims and victim-precipitated murders

Nineteen percent of murder victims were armed with a gun, knife, or other deadly weapon. A smaller percentage of family

murder victims (15%) than nonfamily murder victims (20%) were armed.

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of victims	
	Armed	Precipitated the incident
All	19.4%	19.1%
Nonfamily	20.4	19.5
Family	14.9	17.1
Spouse	15.2	22.6
Offspring	7.9	8.1
Parent	23.0	18.8
Sibling	11.7	20.3

Some armed victims used the deadly weapon to provoke the defendant. Others provoked the defendant with a nonlethal weapon or their fists or by pushing the defendant. Altogether, 19% of the victims in some way provoked the defendant. The provocation did not vary significantly between family (17%) and nonfamily murders (20%).

Multiple victims and assailants

Victims in murders of family members were about half as likely as nonfamily murder victims to have had multiple assailants (table 6). However, similar percentages of defendants in both types of murder (family murders, 6% and other murders, 5%) were charged with killing more than one person. Compared to defendants in other types of family murder, defendants accused of killing their offspring or their parents were the most likely to have multiple victims. These murders were also the most likely to involve multiple assailants.

Table 5. Murder committed with a firearm, during daytime, or at home, by victim-assailant family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder cases		
	Firearm as murder weapon	Time and place of murder	
		Daytime	Home
Victims			
All	59.8%	27.1%	32.0%
Nonfamily	63.3	24.9	21.7
Family	41.6	38.5	81.5
Spouse	53.3	38.6	86.5
Offspring	19.6	43.4	88.0
Parent	34.8	36.4	95.6
Sibling	37.1	46.6	71.9
Defendants			
All	61.0	25.6	17.5
Nonfamily	63.9	23.7	10.0
Family	42.6	37.5	63.8
Spouse	52.5	38.8	76.1
Offspring	20.6	46.3	75.4
Parent	33.9	33.8	58.8
Sibling	38.3	45.3	62.0

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

Table 6. Multiple victims and assailants, by their family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent	
	Victims with multiple assailants	Defendants with multiple victims
All	17.5%	5.0%
Nonfamily	19.1	4.8
Family	8.7	6.0
Spouse	4.8	1.7
Offspring	13.0	11.7
Parent	13.9	12.7
Sibling	8.1	5.7

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

Criminal history

A little over half of the defendants in family murders, but over three-quarters of defendants in nonfamily murders, had been arrested in the past (table 7). Defendants were more likely to have a criminal history than their victims. Nevertheless, 44% of murder victims (51% nonfamily and 19% family murders) had a prior history of arrest or conviction.

Whether the victim had a criminal history, the killer had such a history in most cases. The likelihood of the killer's having a prior record was greater when the victim also had a record (table 8). Victims with a prior criminal record accounted for 44% of all victims; 83% of these victims were killed by someone with a prior criminal history. (See note in *Methodology* for calculation of percentage of defendants with a prior record.) For family murder victims the percentages were lower: 21% had a criminal record and 69% of these victims were killed by someone with a prior record. Among the murderers of family victims without a criminal record, 42% had such a history.

Age of victim and victim-assailant family relationship

When a person under age 12 is murdered, a family member is the best suspect, according to survey results; family members accounted for 63% of child murder victims.

Table 7. Criminal history of murder victims and defendants, by their family relationship

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent with any prior arrest or conviction
Victims	
All	43.7%
Nonfamily	51.2
Family	19.3
Spouse	34.5
Offspring	2.1
Parent	11.7
Sibling	27.4
Defendants	
All	73.8%
Nonfamily	76.7
Family	56.0
Spouse	51.4
Offspring	45.4
Parent	67.2
Sibling	71.0

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

Table 8. Criminal history of murder victims and offenders within the same case, by their family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of victims and defendants with a criminal history			
	Neither	Both	Victim only	Defendant only
Victims				
All	23.2%	36.9%	7.5%	32.2%
Nonfamily	16.9	43.4	7.9	31.8
Family member	45.7	14.3	6.4	33.6
Defendants				
All	23.1%	38.2%	8.8%	29.9%
Nonfamily	16.3	43.9	9.2	30.5
Family member	50.5	15	7.1	27.3

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships. Percentages of victims or defendants with a criminal history differ slightly from table 7 because of missing data.

Age of victim	Percent of murder victims	
	All	With a family relationship to assailant
All	100%	16%
Under 12	5	63
12-19	11	6
20-29	35	9
30-59	42	18
60 or older	7	27

However, a family member is an unlikely suspect in murders of persons in their teens. Among victims age 20 or older, the likelihood increased that a family member was the killer as the victim's age increased.

A family member was involved in the murder of 27% of the murder victims age 60 years or older. Among all murders of persons in the oldest group, offspring as the killer accounted for 11%. Among murders of family members age 60 or older, the most frequent assailant category was not the spouse, as for younger adult victims, but the victim's offspring. The assailant was an offspring in 42% of family member victims age 60 or over and a spouse in 24%. The most frequent family member category varied by victim age:

Age of family victim	If family murder victim, most likely assailant	Percent of family murder victims with most likely assailant
All	spouse	40%
Under 12	parent	91
12-19	parent	59
20-29	spouse	55
30-59	spouse	57
60+	offspring	42

Murder weapons used against young children and elderly parents

When parents killed their offspring under age 12, they rarely used a firearm or knife. Firearms or knives were responsible for the deaths of 7% of offspring victims under 12. When sons and daughters killed their parents age 60 or older, in most cases they did not use a firearm or knife. Firearms or knives accounted for 44% of family murder victims age 60 or over.

Victims who were children under age 12

A parent was the assailant in the majority (57%) of family murders involving victims under 12.

For all murder victims under age 12, death was often preceded by child abuse. In 57% of cases, the assailant had abused the murder victim under age 12. Among offspring murder victims who were under age 12, before their death 79% had suffered abuse by the assailant.

Rape or sexual assault preceded the death of 6% of murder victims under age 12. These crimes occurred less often when the assailant was a parent, accounting for 1% of offspring murder victims under age 12.

Circumstance	Among all victims	Offspring victims Any age	Under age 12	All victims under 12
Included felony sexual assault	2%	1%	1%	6%
Assailant had abused the victim	3%	62%	79%	57%

Strangulation, blunt instrument, and pounding by fists or feet were among the more frequent methods of death when firearms or knives were not used.

Arrested for murder or manslaughter

The family relationship of the defendant to the murder victim made little difference in whether the defendant was charged with first-degree murder or a less serious type of homicide (table 9). When a family member was victim, 73% of the defendants were charged with first degree murder, compared to 74% of the defendants charged with murdering a stranger or acquaintance. Compared to defendants in other types of family murder, defendants in offspring murders were the most likely to have had voluntary or nonnegligent manslaughter as the most serious arrest charge.

Time to arrest and disposition

In more than half of the family murder cases but about a third of the cases of other types of victims, the arrest occurred on the day of the crime (table 10). Spouses and siblings were identified as the murderer more quickly than parents or offspring. Overall, family murder cases required less time to disposition than other types of murder cases: prosecution was completed within 6 months for 34% of family murder defendants versus 29% of nonfamily murder defendants.

Age of offspring	Percent of offspring victims	
	All	Those killed with firearm or knife
All ages	100%	26%
Under 12	78	7
12-19	11	93
20-29	8	100
30-59	3	100

Age of parent victims	Percent of parent victims	
	All	Those killed with firearm or knife
All ages	100%	72%
30-59 years	58	91
60 or older	42	44

Table 9. Level of murder charges filed against persons arrested for murder, by victim-assailant family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants whose most serious conviction charge was:		
	First-degree murder	Other murder	Voluntary or nonnegligent manslaughter
All	73.5%	24.2%	2.3%
Nonfamily	73.7	24.6	1.8
Family member	72.6	21.5	5.9
Spouse	69.4	24.2	6.4
Offspring	63.1	22.8	14.1
Parent	75.2	24.8	0
Sibling	82.4	15.5	2.0

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships. "First degree murder" refers to premeditated murder or felony murder; "other murder" refers to nonpremeditated murder; "voluntary or nonnegligent manslaughter" refers to intentional killing without malice.

Table 10. Time to arrest and disposition for murder cases, by victim-assailant family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants:	
	Arrested on the day of the crime	Whose prosecution ended within 6 months of crime
All	34.8%	29.1%
Nonfamily	31.7	28.6
Family member	54.2	33.7
Spouse	62.3	35.8
Offspring	49.3	23.5
Parent	37.2	42.1
Sibling	55.3	34.0

See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

Parental murder of offspring under age 12

Prosecutors' files contained information on reasons a parent murdered an offspring under age 12. One or more reasons were given for 62 of the total 84 offspring murder victims under age 12. The following presents reasons and the number of victims:

- Unspecified forms of child abuse (18)
- Victim's behavior such as crying or misbehavior (15)
- Parent's emotional instability or retardation (9)
- Unwanted newborn baby (8)
- Unintended consequence of the commission of another crime (lethal conflict between the parents) (6)
- Neglect (5)
- Difficulty handling responsibility of child rearing (3)
- Child held hostage (1)

Examination of the details concerning the method of killing covered all but 3 of the victims. By far the most frequent method of murder was beating: punching with fists, kicking, throwing, pushing, slapping, hitting with belts, hammers, and wooden brushes, striking body against furniture (shower head, walls).

With five of the victims counted under two or three methods, specific methods and the number of victims were as follows:

- Beating (35)
- "Shaking baby syndrome" (10)
- Arson (6)
- Newborn disposed of in toilet or trash can (6)
- Drowning in bathtub (6)
- Firearm (5)
- Suffocation/strangulation (5)
- Neglect (dehydration, starvation, and failure to use infant heart monitor) (4)
- Stabbing (3)
- Starvation (2)
- Other methods, including poisoning with carbon monoxide, lethal doses of drugs, running over with a car, boiling, and putting in freezer (5)

Of the five victims who were shot to death, three died because the assailant accidentally fired his gun while committing another crime; therefore, two offspring victims under age 12 were intentionally killed with a firearm.

Justice system response to family murder

The criticism is sometimes made that police, prosecutors, and judges treat family violence less seriously than violence between strangers and other unrelated persons.* The urban county data provide

Delbert S. Elliott, "Criminal Justice Procedures in Family Violence Crimes," in Lloyd Ohlin and Michael Tonry (eds), *Family Violence* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989), p. 428.

little support for such criticism. In several important respects, the criminal justice outcomes of family-murder defendants were about the same overall as those of other murder defendants. Where differences in the overall case outcome existed, the more detailed statistical testing of data removed the characteristic of nonfamily-family as a possible source of those differences.

Compared to other murder defendants, those in family-murder cases —

- Were as likely to be charged with first-degree murder (table 9)
- Were no more likely to have their cases diverted, rejected for prosecution, or to be acquitted, and were less likely to be dismissed by the court (table 11)
- Were as likely to have their cases result in a conviction for some crime, and specifically, as likely to be convicted of murder (table 12).

Table 11. Outcome of prosecution of murder defendants, by victim-assailant family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants by type of outcome of prosecution							
	Diverted	Rejected	Dismissed	Acquitted	Convicted at trial	Pleaded guilty	Insanity acquittal	Other*
All	.8%	8.4%	7.0%	7.3%	33.9%	38.8%	.5%	3.2%
Nonfamily	.7	8.4	7.5	7.6	33.9	38.2	.2	3.4
Family member	.9	7.9	3.8	5.8	33.5	42.8	2.8	2.4
Spouse	.6	6.5	3.5	6.1	37.4	42.1	1.2	2.5
Offspring	1.0	11.3	3.0	5.6	37.4	35.6	3.9	2.3
Parent	.8	4.8	5.5	5.9	22.8	47.6	9.0	3.7
Sibling	2.2	10.4	0	8.1	21.7	51.9	4.7	1.0

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

*Includes murder defendants who died or whose individual cases had not been disposed.

Table 12. The most serious conviction offense of murder defendants, by victim-assailant family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants convicted of:		Percent of convicted defendants, by the most serious conviction offense						Percent of convictions for less than the most serious arrest charge
	Any crime	Murder	All	First degree murder	Other murder	Voluntary/ nonnegligent manslaughter	Other violent	Other	
All	72.6%	62.8%	100%	25.6%	30.9%	29.9%	9.9%	3.7%	61.8%
Nonfamily	72.1	62.4	100	25.9	32.0	28.7	9.4	3.9	61.3
Family member	76.3	64.8	100	23.6	24.3	37.1	12.4	2.6	64.6
Spouse	79.5	71.2	100	21.4	25.6	42.6	8.0	2.4	62.0
Offspring	72.9	52.4	100	16.5	27.8	27.5	28.2	0	77.7
Parent	70.4	65.4	100	35.6	17.2	40.2	4.7	2.3	55.4
Sibling	73.7	66.7	100	10.6	28.0	52.0	6.5	2.9	77.3

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

Table 13. Sentences received by murder defendants convicted of murder or other crime, by victim-assailant family relationship, 1988

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of convicted murder defendants defendants sentenced to:				Mean prison term ^c
	Prison		Jail	Probation ^b	
	Total ^a	Life			
All	90.7%	15.6%	6.0	3.3%	14.4 years
Nonfamily	91.1	16.0	6.2	2.7	14.7
Family member	88.4	12.8	4.5	7.1	12.8
Spouse	88.9	12.7	1.8	9.3	13.0
Offspring	85.1	8.1	10.8	4.1	12.6
Parent	95.2	17.8	4.8	0	12.9
Sibling	82.0	6.5	5.9	12.1	9.3

Note: See table 1 note for definitions of the family relationships.

^aIncludes those sentenced to life or death.

^bIncludes straight probation only. Probation with incarceration is reported as a sentence to prison or jail.

^cExcludes sentences to life or death.

At sentencing, as compared to other defendants, convicted family murder defendants, including those initially charged with murder of a family member but convicted of some other offense, were not significantly less likely to receive —

- a prison sentence: 88% versus 91% or
- a sentence to life imprisonment: 13% versus 16% (table 13).

Compared to nonfamily murder defendants, however, convicted family murderers were —

- more likely to receive a less severe sentence, probation: 7.1% versus 2.7%
- given shorter prison sentences: 12.8 years, on average, versus 14.7.

Analyzing differences between sentences for family murder and other types of murder

These findings of more probation sentences and shorter prison terms do not necessarily reflect greater tolerance of family violence by justice system officials. Numerous differences between family murder and other murder might possibly account for less severe sentencing for family murder. To test that possibility, regression analysis was applied to the data.

This analysis accounts for the simultaneous effects on sentencing of the following factors:

- offense seriousness (degree of murder)
- nature of conviction (trial or guilty plea)
- defendant criminal history
- age of defendant
- number of victims
- victim precipitation
- county (place-to-place variability in sentencing can be substantial)
- race and sex of both victim and defendant.

Results showed that sentencing differences are not statistically significant (.05-level) once differences in case characteristics are taken into account.

Regression analysis did not confirm differences in sentencing severity between family and nonfamily murders because defendants in family murders less often had characteristics that are associated with the more severe sentences.

As indicated in the discussion and tables describing family murders, for example —

— Voluntary or nonvoluntary manslaughter is the least severely punished category of murder. A greater percentage of the family-murder defendants had voluntary or nonnegligent manslaughter as their most serious conviction offense.

— Having a prior arrest or conviction is associated with receiving a prison sentence and with longer terms of confinement. A smaller percentage of family-murder defendants had such a criminal history.

— Convicted murder defendants under age 30 were less likely to be sentenced to probation. A smaller percentage of family-murder defendants were younger than 30.

— Family murder convictions were less likely than nonfamily murder convictions to have resulted from a trial. Conviction based on trial rather than guilty plea increases the likelihood of any of the more severe sentences (life or long prison term).

Methodology

Sample selection

The 33 counties in the sample were selected to be representative of the nation's 75 largest counties. The ranking of counties in which the 75 largest were identified was based on a combination of crime data (1980 and 1984 Uniform Crime Report Part I arrests) and population data (1980 population from the Census Bureau's City County Data Book). Rankings reflected the size of the prosecutors' offices. The original sample plan identified 34 counties, one of which ultimately declined to participate.

The following are the 33 counties whose prosecutors' offices participated in the study reported here:

Arizona
Pima
California
Los Angeles
Orange
Kern
San Diego
Riverside
Colorado
Denver
Arapahoe
Connecticut
New Haven
Florida
Dade
Orange
Broward
Illinois
Cook
Louisiana
Orleans
Massachusetts
Middlesex
Maryland
Prince Georges
Michigan
Wayne

Missouri
St. Louis
New Mexico
Bernalillo
New York
Kings
Monroe
New York
Queens
Ohio
Franklin
Montgomery
Oklahoma
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Philadelphia
Allegheny
Tennessee
Shelby
Texas
Dallas
Tarrant
Travis
Washington
King

A total of 2,539 murder cases were sampled. These cases were a sample of about half of all murder charge cases disposed in the sampled 33 counties in 1988. Not eligible for sample selection were nonmurder defendants or any whose most serious charge was attempted murder, negligent or involuntary manslaughter, or vehicular homicide. In counties with 200 or fewer disposed murder cases in 1988, all were selected for inclusion in the sample. In counties with more than 200, a systematic sample of 200 was chosen. Only 6 of the 33 counties had more than 200 murder cases.

Virtually all cases meeting the 1988-disposition criterion were disposed for all defendants in the case. Of the more than 3,100 defendants on whom data were obtained, only 13 had not yet had their cases adjudicated at the time the survey was carried out in 1990. Another 25 defendants had died of suicide or other causes.

Nonavailability of cases

The survey goal to track murder cases across justice system stages was not met in nine counties. In one of the nine, legal restrictions barred access to cases rejected by the prosecutor. In the remaining eight counties some of the sampled cases could not be located.

To an unknown degree, these data access problems help explain why no case from the nine was coded as "rejected by prosecutor." Though there is no reason for all of the unavailable cases to be rejections in all nine counties, assuming that all such cases were rejections results in an estimated rejection rate of 12%, instead of 8%, as shown in table 11. Other outcomes would have been similarly affected. The percentage of defendants tried and convicted would have been 33% instead of 34%; the percentage pleading guilty would have been 37% instead of 39%; and the percentage receiving an incarceration sentence of more than 1 year would have been 62% instead of 65%.

Computation of estimates from sample data

Case weights were applied to statistics on the sampled cases to expand them to estimates for the universe of the 75 largest counties, the key assumption being that cases not sampled were similar to the cases sampled. A case weight was the inverse of the probability that a case would be in the survey. That probability was the product of the probability that a given county would be chosen and the probability of selection of that case in that county. Case weights were adjusted to compensate for the loss of one nonparticipating county.

Statistically weighted, the 3,119 defendants in the sample cases represented 9,576 murder defendants in the Nation's 75 largest counties. The 2,655 victims represented 8,063 victims in the 75 largest counties.

Coding of circumstances and victim/killer relationships

Information about a murder case usually included details about the relationship between the victim and the defendant, and the circumstances that existed at the time of the murder. The rules for describing relationships and circumstances were those used by local police in reporting murder cases to the FBI. These rules were developed by the FBI for publication of its Supplemental Homicide Reports. The reporting rules include a set of codes to describe the principal victim-assailant relationship and the circumstances in which they were involved at the time the murder occurred.

In the survey reported here, however, provision was made for coding as many as three kinds of relationships and three kinds of circumstances. For example, if the victim was the assailant's brother and was also the assailant's drug supplier, both a family relationship and a drug relationship would be recorded. Likewise more than one type of circumstance might have existed at the time of the murder. Altogether, 79 separate relationship codes and 85 circumstance codes were available for coding cases.

Among all pairs of victims and assailants found in the prosecutor's murder files, a majority required only a single relationship or circumstance code. The percentages requiring more are shown below:

Number of codes used	Percent of victim and assailant pairs in coding of:	
	Relationships	Circumstances
2	8.4%	40.0%
3 or more	.3	8.6

Response rates

Except as noted below, this report focused exclusively on characteristics that were successfully obtained in a high percentage of sample cases ("response rate").

The case records identified age, race, sex and ethnicity for nearly all defendants (approximately 98%). The same was true of victims, except that victim age was available in only 16% of cases.

Also obtained in nearly all cases were the relationships between victims and defendants and the circumstances preceding the homicide, as well as the arrest or indictment charge, and whether the defendant was convicted, and if so, the conviction offense. In incarceration or probation cases, the length of the term of sentence was usually known.

Defendant criminal history was available in three-quarters of the cases, but victim criminal history was obtained in only a third of the cases. The juvenile portion of the criminal history information was probably less complete than the adult portion.

Victim and offender information compiled both on drug use at the time of the offense and on drug use history were not presented in the report because of concerns about data credibility. Drug use, for example, was far below what previous surveys have documented. Also, the data show drug use to have been more common among victims than defendants, a finding that did not seem believable. Consequently, survey data on drug consumption and type of drug consumed were not used.

Source of percentages of defendants who had a criminal record and whose victim also had a criminal record

Overall

44% of victims had a criminal record (from table 8: 36.9%+7.5%).

83% of these victims were killed by someone with a prior record (36.9/44.4)

Family murders

21% of victims had a criminal record (14.3%+6.4%)

69% of these victims were killed by someone with a prior record (14.3/20.7)

78% of victims had no criminal record (45.7%+33.6%)

43% of these victims were killed by someone with a prior record (33.6/78.3)

Comparison with other BJS murder data collections

Selected data reported here can be compared with other BJS publications that contain information on murder cases.

Conviction rate

The 73%-rate of conviction reported in table 12 is higher than the 66% reported for murder defendants in the National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP). See Table 13 in *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1988*, BJS, NCJ-122385, April 1990. The NPRP studied a sample of felony cases obtained from court records in 40 of the 75 largest counties in the Nation. Those cases were followed to disposition or for up to a maximum 1 year.

The following two reports give data for cases accepted by the prosecutor. The comparable conviction rate in this report would be 79%, rather than 73%, after deducting the cases rejected for prosecution (table 11).

The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) program reported a 76%-conviction rate among murder cases that were prosecuted in 14 States. See table 4 in *Tracking Offenders, 1988*, BJS, NCJ-129861, June 1991. The OBTS uses arrest records, disposition information, and data from fingerprint cards that are submitted by local law enforcement agencies to State criminal information repositories. This 76%-conviction rate is not measurably different than the 79% estimate in this report.

Conviction rates of murder cases filed in court are reported for a selection of 10 counties in table 2 in *The Prosecution of Felony Arrests, 1988*, BJS, NCJ-130914, February 1992. The local prosecutors in those 10 counties provided the data. The rates in those counties, among murder cases disposed during 1988, ranged from 57% to 84%. Four of ten had rates higher than the 79% reported here.

Number of murder convictions

Table 12 showed 63% of murder defendants convicted of murder, for a total of approximately 6,000 convictions. The comparable number in the National Judicial Reporting Program for the 75 largest counties in the United States during 1988 is approximately 5,000, which is not measurably different than the 6,000 estimate reported here. See table 2.1a in *National Judicial Reporting Program, 1988*, BJS, NCJ-135945, December 1992. However, the 63% of defendants convicted of murder is higher than the comparable 48% reported by the NPRP.

Sentences to prison, jail or probation

The NJRP and NPRP reports include the sentences received by those convicted of murder, comparable to table 14 of this report. All three studies show that of such defendants, more than 90% were sentenced to a prison term, fewer than 5% were sentenced to jail, and about 3% were sentenced to probation without any incarceration. The OBTS, however, reported these percentages as 81%, 11%, and 5% respectively. Table 11 above shows 18% receiving a life sentence, while NJRP showed 26%.

Standard errors

Data collected in this murder study were collected from a sample rather than a complete enumeration. Because counties and cases were sampled, a sampling error (standard error) is associated with each number in the report. In general, if the difference between two numbers is greater than twice the standard error for that difference, we can say that we are at least 95 percent confident that the two numbers are in fact different; that is, the apparent difference is not simply the result of surveying a sample rather than the entire population.

Similarly, if the difference between two numbers is greater than 1.6 standard errors, we are at least 90 percent confident that the two numbers are different. In this report, the term "statistically significant" was used to denote a difference in which we have at least 90 percent confidence. Except where explicitly indicated otherwise, all differences discussed in this report had a confidence level at or above 90 percent.

Typical reasons why a standard error may be large relative to the difference it pertains to include: (1) the measurements or observations being compared (a sex difference in average prison sentence length) is highly variable from one case to another, and (2) a small sample size.

Standard errors for selected key variables in the report are presented below.

Related reading

Data used in this report were previously used in the John M. Dawson and Barbara Boland, *Murder in Large Urban Counties, 1988*, BJS Special Report, NCJ-140614, May 1993.

The data presented in this report may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The name of the dataset is Murder in Large Urban Counties, 1988 (ICPSR 9907). The data are available in either dBASE or SAS format.

John M. Dawson and Patrick A. Langan wrote this report. Tom Hester edited and produced it, assisted by Priscilla Middleton. Marilyn Marbrook, assisted by Jayne Robinson, administered the final production.

July 1994, NCJ-143498

**Estimates of 1 standard error for text
table column 2 page 3**

Relationship of victim to assailant	Family murder victims and defendants	
	Victims	Defendants
All	724.0	880.5
Nonfamily	105.0	109.4
Family	634.9	786.8
Spouse	66.1	65.1
Offspring	31.2	26.7
Parent	23.1	22.6
Sibling	21.6	21.1
Other	23.8	24.8

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 2

Relationship of victim to assailant	Sex		Race			Age				
	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Under 12	12-19	20-29	30-59	60 or over
Victims										
All	0.7%	0.7%	2.8%	3.0%	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	1.0%	1.2%	0.4%
Nonfamily	0.8	0.8	2.8	3.0	0.4	0.2	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.4
Family	2.1	2.1	3.4	3.6	0.6	2.6	0.7	2.1	2.7	1.4
Spouse	3.2%	3.2%	5.3%	—	0.8%	0	0	2.7%	2.6%	1.9%
Offspring	5.2	5.2	5.0	—	1.4	4.0	2.1	2.8	2.3	0
Parent	6.4	6.4	5.7	—	0	0	0	0.4	6.2	6.3
Sibling	6.2	6.2	7.7	—	1.5	4.4	1.6	7.9	7.5	2.8
Other	4.3	4.3	5.1	—	2.6	2.2	3.0	4.0	5.7	4.2
Defendants										
All	0.6%	0.6%	2.6%	2.8%	0.3%	0.3%	0.9%	0.7%	0.9%	0.3
Nonfamily	0.5	0.5	2.7	2.9	0.3	—	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.4
Family	2.1	2.1	3.1	3.2	0.6	0	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.0
Spouse	3.3%	3.3%	5.0%	5.1%	0.8%	0	0.5%	—	3.2%	1.6%
Offspring	3.9	3.9	4.9	5.2	0.8	0	4.0	4.2	4.5	3.0
Parent	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.2	0	0	6.3	4.7	5.4	1.4
Sibling	6.0	6.0	7.6	7.5	1.6	0	5.4	7.4	7.8	0
Other	3.6	3.6	4.8	4.9	2.8	0	4.0		4.7	1.8

—Standard error was not calculated.

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 3

Relationship of victim to assailant	Alcohol use at the time of the murder	History of mental illness	Unemployed	Homeless
Victims				
All	1.6%	0.1%	—	0.3%
Nonfamily	1.9	0.1	—	0.3
Family	2.6	0.3	—	0.2
Spouse	3.2%	0.7%	7.7%	0.4%
Offspring	1.7	0.7	0	0
Parent	7.4	0	2.5	0
Sibling	9.4	0	1.6	0
Defendants				
All	1.9%	0.4%	3.0%	0.3%
Nonfamily	1.9	0.3	3.2	0.4
Family	3.5	1.6	3.2	0.5
Spouse	5.7%	2.5%	4.1%	1.0%
Offspring	7.1	3.7	7.0	0
Parent	8.9	5.2	9.9	1.7
Sibling	9.6	5.2	10.4	2.7

—Standard error was not calculated.

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 4

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of defendants with a victim of the same sex	
	Male	Female
All	0.8%	1.9%
Nonfamily	0.8	2.5
Family	2.2	3.5
Spouse	0	0
Offspring	6.3%	7.7%
Parent	7.5	8.0
Sibling	6.1	21.3

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 6

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent	
	Victims with multiple assailants	Defendants with multiple victims
All	0.8%	0.4%
Nonfamily	0.9	0.4
Family	1.3	1.0
Spouse	1.4%	0.6%
Offspring	3.3	3.1
Parent	4.6	3.4
Sibling	4.7	2.4

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 7

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent with any prior arrest or conviction
Victims	
All	2.4%
Nonfamily	2.7
Family	2.4
Spouse	5.2%
Offspring	1.2
Parent	7.2
Sibling	10.8
Defendants	
All	1.0%
Nonfamily	1.1
Family	2.5
Spouse	3.3%
Offspring	4.5
Parent	6.6
Sibling	7.7

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 5

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder cases		
	Firearm as murder weapon	Time and place of murder	Daytime Home
Victims			
All	1.6%	1.2%	0.8%
Nonfamily	1.6	1.3	0.8
Family	3.0	2.4	1.6
Spouse	4.3%	3.1%	2.1%
Offspring	3.7	5.2	2.9
Parent	6.2	5.7	1.5
Sibling	7.3	8.6	6.4
Defendants			
All	1.5%	1.2%	0.7%
Nonfamily	1.5	1.4	0.5
Family	3.0	2.4	1.7
Spouse	4.4%	2.8%	2.1%
Offspring	3.6	5.6	4.0
Parent	5.9	5.2	5.7
Sibling	7.3	8.5	6.7

Estimates of 1 standard error for text table column 2 page 5

Age of victim	Percent of murder victims with a family relationship to assailant
All	0.7%
Under 12	4.6
12-19	1.1
20-29	1.0
30-59	1.0
60 or older	2.8

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 8

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of victims and defendants with a criminal history			
	Neither	Both	Victim only	Defendant only
Victims				
All	2.0%	2.2%	0.8%	2.2%
Nonfamily	2.1	2.5	0.9	2.6
Family	3.6	2.2	1.6	3.8
Defendants				
All	1.9%	2.2%	0.9%	2.0%
Nonfamily	1.9	2.4	1.0	2.3
Family	3.6	2.3	1.8	3.4

Estimates of 1 standard error for text table page 4

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of victims	
	Armed	Precipitated the incident
All	0.7%	0.8%
Nonfamily	0.8	0.8
Family	1.8	1.9
Spouse	2.7%	3.0%
Offspring	1.5	1.5
Parent	5.7	5.9
Sibling	4.8	6.9

Estimates of 1 standard error for text table column 2 page 5

Age of family victim	If family murder victim, most likely assailant	Percent of family murder victims with most likely assailant
All	spouse	3.3%
Under 12	parent	3.1
12-19	parent	9.7
20-29	spouse	6.0
30-59	spouse	3.4
60+	offspring	7.0

Estimates of 1 standard error for text table column 3 page 5

Circumstance	Among all victims	Offspring victims Any age	Under age 12	All victims under 12
Included felony sexual assault	0.2%	0.8%	1.0%	1.7%
Assailant had abused the victim	0.4%	4.8%	5.2%	5.4%

**Estimates of 1 standard error for text
table column 1 page 6**

Age of offspring	Percent of offspring victims	
	All	Those killed with firearm or knife
All	0	4.1%
Under 12	4.0	2.6
12-19	2.1	4.7
20-29	2.8	0
30-59	2.3	0

Age of parent victims	Percent of parent victims	
	All	Those killed with firearm or knife
All	0	6.8%
30-59 years	6.2	4.0
60 or older	6.3	10.9

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 9

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants whose most serious conviction charge was:		
	First- degree murder	Other murder	Voluntary or nonnegligent manslaughter
All	4.5%	4.4%	0.3%
Nonfamily	4.6	4.6	0.3
Family	3.9	3.6	1.1
Spouse	3.6%	3.8%	1.8%
Offspring	6.5	5.3	3.9
Parent	6.6	6.6	0
Sibling	6.2	6.1	1.6

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 10

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants:	
	Arrested on the day of the crime	Whose prosecution ended within 6 months of crime
All	1.1%	2.3%
Nonfamily	1.0	2.3
Family	2.1	3.1
Spouse	2.8%	4.2%
Offspring	6.0	4.7
Parent	6.4	5.3
Sibling	7.3	7.6

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 11

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants by type of outcome of prosecution							
	Diverted	Rejected	Dismissed	Acquitted	Convicted at trial	Pleaded guilty	Insanity acquittal	Other*
All	0.2%	2.2%	0.6%	0.6%	1.9%	2.4%	0.1%	0.4%
Nonfamily	0.2	2.1	0.6	0.6	1.9	2.4	0.1	0.3
Family	0.4	2.6	1.0	1.1	2.7	3.5	0.8	1.5
Spouse	0.4%	3.3%	1.2%	1.6%	3.9%	4.5%	0.6%	1.6%
Offspring	0.8	3.7	1.3	2.0	4.4	5.3	2.3	1.7
Parent	0.3	2.1	3.5	2.2	4.9	7.0	3.0	3.1
Sibling	1.7	5.4	0	3.3	5.8	8.0	2.1	0.4

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 12

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of murder defendants convicted of:		Percent of convicted defend- ants, by the most serious conviction offense			Percent of convictions for less than the most serious arrest charge
	Any crime	Murder	First degree murder	Other murder	Voluntary/ nonnegli- gent man- slaughter	
All	2.7%	2.1%	2.4%	1.7%	1.7%	1.4%
Nonfamily	2.7	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.4
Family	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.6
Spouse	4.3%	3.7%	3.6%	3.3%	3.8%	3.7%
Offspring	4.8	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.4	4.2
Parent	6.0	5.9	7.9	4.8	7.7	7.4
Sibling	6.5	7.1	5.2	9.3	9.1	7.3

Estimates of 1 standard error for table 13

Relationship of victim to assailant	Percent of convicted murder defendants defendants sentenced to:			Mean prison term
	Total	Prison	Probation	
All	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5 years
Nonfamily	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5
Family	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.9
Spouse	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%	1.3
Offspring	2.9	3.5	1.4	1.8
Parent	2.5	1.1	0	1.1
Sibling	6.4	6.4	5.9	1.3



Crime Data Brief

National Crime Victimization Survey

July 1994, NCJ-148199

Violence and Theft in the Workplace

By Ronet Bachman, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

• Each year nearly 1 million individuals become victims of violent crime while working or on duty. These victimizations account for 15% of the over 6½ million acts of violence experienced by Americans age 12 or older. In addition, over 2 million personal thefts and over 200,000 car thefts occur annually while persons are at work. This report analyzes data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1987-92 to describe these crimes. (See the NCVS box on page 2.)

• Crime victimizations occurring in the workplace cost about half a million employees 1,751,100 days of work each year; an average of 3.5 days per crime. This missed work resulted in over \$55 million in lost wages annually, not including days covered by sick and annual leave.

Annually, 1987-92 —

• Nearly 1 million violent victimizations occurred while victims were working or on duty

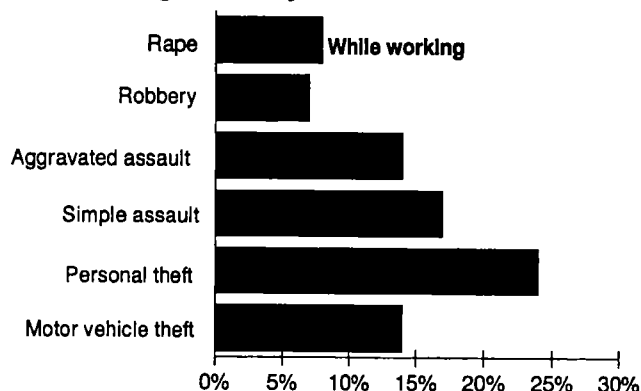
• These victimizations resulted in almost 160,000 injuries

Type of crime	Average annual number of	
	Victimizations	Injuries
Crimes of violence	971,517	159,094
Rape	13,068	3,438
Robbery	79,109	17,904
Aggravated assault	264,174	48,180
Simple assault	615,160	89,572

• Among people victimized while working, men were more likely than women to experience a violent crime. However, women were just as likely as men to become the victims of theft while working.

• Victims who were working were as likely to face armed offenders as those victimized while not working. Over 30% of victims who were working during a violent victimization faced armed offenders. Almost a third of these offenders had a handgun.

An estimated 7% of rapes, 8% of robberies, and 16% of all assaults occurred while victims were working or on duty.



Note: These numbers represent the percentage of the total number of victimizations in the United States which occurred while the victim was working or on duty, 1987-92.

• Victims of violence at work were less likely to be injured than victims of violence that occurred away from work. 16% of violent victimizations which occurred while the victim was working resulted in physical injuries; 10% of these injuries required medical care.

• Among only those persons injured by a crime victimization at work, an estimated 876,800 work days were lost annually, costing employees over \$16 million in wages, not including days covered by sick and annual leave.

• 6 out of 10 incidents of workplace violence occurred in private companies. While government employees make up approximately 18% of the total U.S. workforce, 30% of the victims of violence in this sample were Federal, State, or local government employees. Several factors may be responsible for this overrepresentation, including a potentially high risk of victimization for particular government occupations such as public safety personnel.

- Although men who were victimized while working were more likely to be attacked by a stranger, women were more likely to be attacked by someone known to them than by a

Victim-offender relationship	Percent of victimizations	
	Female	Male
Stranger	40%	58%
Casual acquaintance	35	30
Well known	19	10
Relative	1	1
Intimate	5	1

stranger. 5% of the women victimized at work were attacked by a husband, exhusband, boyfriend, or exboyfriend.

- Over half of all victimizations sustained at work were not reported to the police. When individuals were asked why they did

not report, 40% said they believed the incident to be a minor or a private matter. An additional 27% did not report to police because they reported the victimization to another official such as a company security guard.

Victims of violence at work were less likely to be injured than persons victimized while not working, 1987-92

Characteristics	Percent of violent victimizations, by activity of victim	
	Working	Not working
Offender was armed		
No	62%	56%
Yes	32	35
Not ascertained	6	9
Sustained injuries		
No	84%	69%
Yes	16	31
Required medical care	10	16
Lost work time because of injuries	6	5
Incident reported to police		
No	56%	52%
Yes	43	47
Not ascertained	1	1

According to victims of violent crime at work who identified more precisely the location, over a third of the crimes occurred in commercial establishments.

Place where victimization occurred	Percent of victimizations occurring at work where victim identified location
Total	100%
Type of work setting	
Private company	61%
Government employee (Federal, State or local)	30
Self-employed	8
Working without pay	1
Location where victimization occurred	
Restaurant, bar, or nightclub	13%
Office, factory, or warehouse	14
Other commercial establishment	23
On school property	9
Parking lot/garage	11
On public property (such as streets and parks)	22
Other	8

The National Crime Victimization Survey conducts interviews with over 100,000 individuals age 12 or older annually. Respondents who reported a violent victimization and said they were either working or on duty when asked, "What were you doing when the incident happened?" represent the sample for this report. This does not include those victims who said they were on their way to or from work. For more information about the NCVS methodology, see *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1992*, March 1994, NCJ-145125.

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Violence and Theft in the Workplace



Department of Justice

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M. EST
SUNDAY JULY 24, 1994

BJJS
202-307-0784

WORK PLACE VIOLENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- One in six violent crimes occurs in the work place, according to a Department of Justice study released here today.

The Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) said an estimated 7 percent of all rapes, 8 percent of all robberies and 16 percent of all assaults occur at work. The data are from an analysis of work place crime from 1987 through 1992 gathered through the National Criminal Victimization Survey of U.S. households.

"The work place is the scene of almost 1 million violent crimes every year," said Acting BJS Director Lawrence A. Greenfield. "About 10 percent--or 100,000--of these violent workplace crimes involve offenders armed with handguns."

Of the approximately 3.2 million violent crimes and thefts in the work place, about 500,000 victims lose an estimated 1.8

(MORE)

million workdays each year and \$55 million in lost wages, not including days covered by sick and annual leave, the study said.

Among the women who experience crime at work, 40 percent are attacked by a stranger, 35 percent by a casual acquaintance, 19 percent by a well known acquaintance and 1 percent by a relative. About 5 percent are attacked by a husband, former husband, boyfriend or former boyfriend.

The average annual number of workplace victimizations from 1987 through 1992 follow:

	<u>No. of Victimizations</u>	<u>No. with Injuries</u>
Rape	13,068	3,438
Robbery	79,109	17,904
Aggravated assault .	264,174	48,180
Simple assault . . .	615,160	89,572

Federal, state and local government workers, who make up about 18 percent of the total U.S. workforce, account for 30 percent of all workplace victims. "Several factors may be responsible for this overrepresentation, including a potentially high risk of victimization for particular government occupations such as public safety personnel" the report noted.

(MORE)

In addition to the violent crimes, there was an annual average of more than 2 million personal thefts in the work place during the period as well as more than 200,000 motor vehicle thefts.

More than half of all work place victimizations were not reported to police--among those not reporting, 40 percent said they believed the matter was minor or too personal, and 27 percent said they reported the incident to another official, such as a company security guard.

Single copies of the BJS crime data brief, "Violence and Theft in the Workplace" (NCJ-148199), as well as other BJS statistical reports may be obtained from the BJS Clearinghouse, Box 179, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179. The telephone number is 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders to 410-792-4358.

#

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After hours contact: Stu Smith 301-983-9354



Crime Data Brief

April 1994, NCJ-147003

Handgun Victimization, Firearm Self-Defense, and Firearm Theft

Guns and Crime

By Michael R. Rand, BJS Statistician

In 1992 offenders armed with handguns committed a record 931,000 violent crimes. Handgun crimes accounted for about 13% of all violent crimes. As measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the rate of nonfatal handgun victimizations in 1992 — 4.5 crimes per 1,000 people age 12 or older — supplanted the record of 4.0 per 1,000 in 1982.

On average per year in 1987-92, about 62,200 victims of violent crime, about 1% of all victims of violence, used a firearm to defend themselves. Another 20,300 used a firearm to defend their property during a theft, household burglary, or motor vehicle theft.

For 1987-92 victims reported an annual average of about 341,000 incidents of firearm theft. Because the NCVS asks for types but not a count of items stolen, the annual total of firearms stolen probably exceeded the number of incidents.

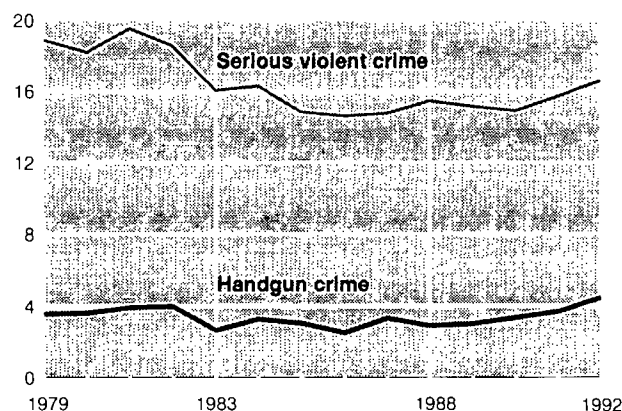
Handguns and crime, 1987-92

	1992	Annual average, 1987-91
Handgun crimes	930,700	667,000
Homicide	13,200	10,600
Rape	11,800	14,000
Robbery	339,000	225,100
Assault	566,800	417,300

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data for homicide come from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports.

The 1992 handgun victimization rate was the highest on record

Number of victimizations per 1,000 population



Source: BJS National Crime Victimization Survey, 1979-92.

Note: Serious violent crime includes rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Violent crime rates

Unlike the record rate of handgun crimes in 1992, the overall rates for violent crimes were well below the 1981 peaks.¹ The total 1992 rate for rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault was 35 per 1,000 persons, compared to 39 per 1,000 in 1981. The 1992 rate of 17 per 1,000 for the more serious violent crimes (rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was also less than the 20 per 1,000 in 1981.

Most likely victims of handgun crime

- Males were twice as likely as females to be victims of handgun crimes, and blacks 3 times as likely as whites.
 - Young black males continued to be the population subgroup most vulnerable to handgun crime victimization.
- For males age 16-19 —
The rate for blacks (40 per 1,000 persons) was **4 times** that of whites (10 per 1,000).
- For males age 20-24 —
The rate for blacks (29 per 1,000) was **3 times** that of whites (9 per 1,000).

Males, blacks, and the young had the highest rates of handgun crime victimization, 1987-92

Age of Victim	Average annual rate of crimes committed with handguns (per 1,000 persons)*					
	Male victims			Female victims		
	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black
All ages	4.9	3.7	14.2	2.1	1.6	5.8
12-15	5.0	3.1	14.1	2.5	2.1	4.7
16-19	14.2	9.5	39.7	5.1	3.6	13.4
20-24	11.8	9.2	29.4	4.3	3.5	9.1
25-34	5.7	4.9	12.3	3.1	2.1	9.0
35-49	3.3	2.7	8.7	1.7	1.4	3.3
50-64	1.5	1.2	3.5	0.8	0.7	1.6
65 or older	0.8	0.6	3.7	0.3	0.2	2.3

*Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in each age category. Rates do not include murder or nonnegligent manslaughter committed with handguns. The totals include persons of other races not shown separately.

¹ Except where noted, this brief excludes homicides, which NCVS does not measure.

When offenders fired at victims

• Offenders fired their weapon in 17% of all nonfatal handgun crimes (or about 2% of all violent crimes). In 3% of handgun crimes, about 21,000 a year, the victim was wounded. (An additional annual average of 11,100 were victims of homicide by handgun.) The offender shot at but missed the victim in 14% of handgun crimes.

Self-defense with firearms

- 38% of the victims defending themselves with a firearm attacked the offender, and the others threatened the offender with the weapon.
- A fifth of the victims defending themselves with a firearm suffered an injury, compared to almost half of those who defended themselves with weapons other than a firearm or who had no weapon. Care should be used in interpreting these data because many aspects of crimes — including victim and offender characteristics, crime circumstances, and offender intent — contribute to the victims' injury outcomes.
- In most cases victims who used firearms to defend themselves or their property were confronted by offenders

About three-fourths of the victims who used firearms for self-defense did so during a crime of violence, 1987-92

	Average annual number of victimizations in which victims used firearms to defend themselves or their property		
	Total	Attacked offender	Threatened offender
All crimes	82,500	30,600	51,900
Total violent crime	62,200	25,500	36,700
With injury	12,100	7,300	4,900
Without injury	50,000	18,200	31,800
Theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft	20,300	5,100	15,200

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Includes victimizations in which offenders were unarmed. Excludes homicides.

who were either unarmed or armed with weapons other than firearms. On average between 1987 and 1992, about 35% (or 22,000 per year) of the violent crime victims defending themselves with a firearm faced an offender who also had a firearm.²

Theft of firearms

- Although most thefts of firearms (64%) occurred during household burglaries, a significant percentage (32%) occurred during larcenies. Loss of firearms through larceny was as likely to occur away from the victim's home as at or near the home. In 53% of the firearm thefts, handguns were stolen.

341,000 incidents of firearm theft occurred per year, 1987-92

Crime in which firearm was stolen	Average annual number of victimizations in which firearms were stolen		
	Total	Handgun	Other gun
Total	340,700	180,500	160,200
Violent crime	7,900	5,300	2,600
Personal theft	56,200	33,900	22,300
Household theft	52,600	31,700	20,900
Household burglary	217,200	105,300	112,000
Motor vehicle theft	6,700	4,400	2,400

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. The table measures theft incidents, not numbers of guns stolen. See text on page 1.

²Because the NCVS collects victimization data on police officers, its estimates of the use of firearms for self-defense are likely to include police use of firearms. Questionnaire revisions introduced in January 1993 will permit separate consideration of police and civilian firearm cases.

Offenders shot at victims in 17% of handgun crimes, 1987-92

	Percent
Shot at victim	16.6%
Hit victim	3.0
Missed victim	13.6
Nongunshot injury	1.6
No physical injury	12.0
Did not shoot at victim	83.4%
Other attack/attempt	19.9
Verbal threat of attack	15.4
Weapon present	46.8
Other threat	.8
Unknown action	.5
Average annual number	699,900

Note: Excludes homicides.

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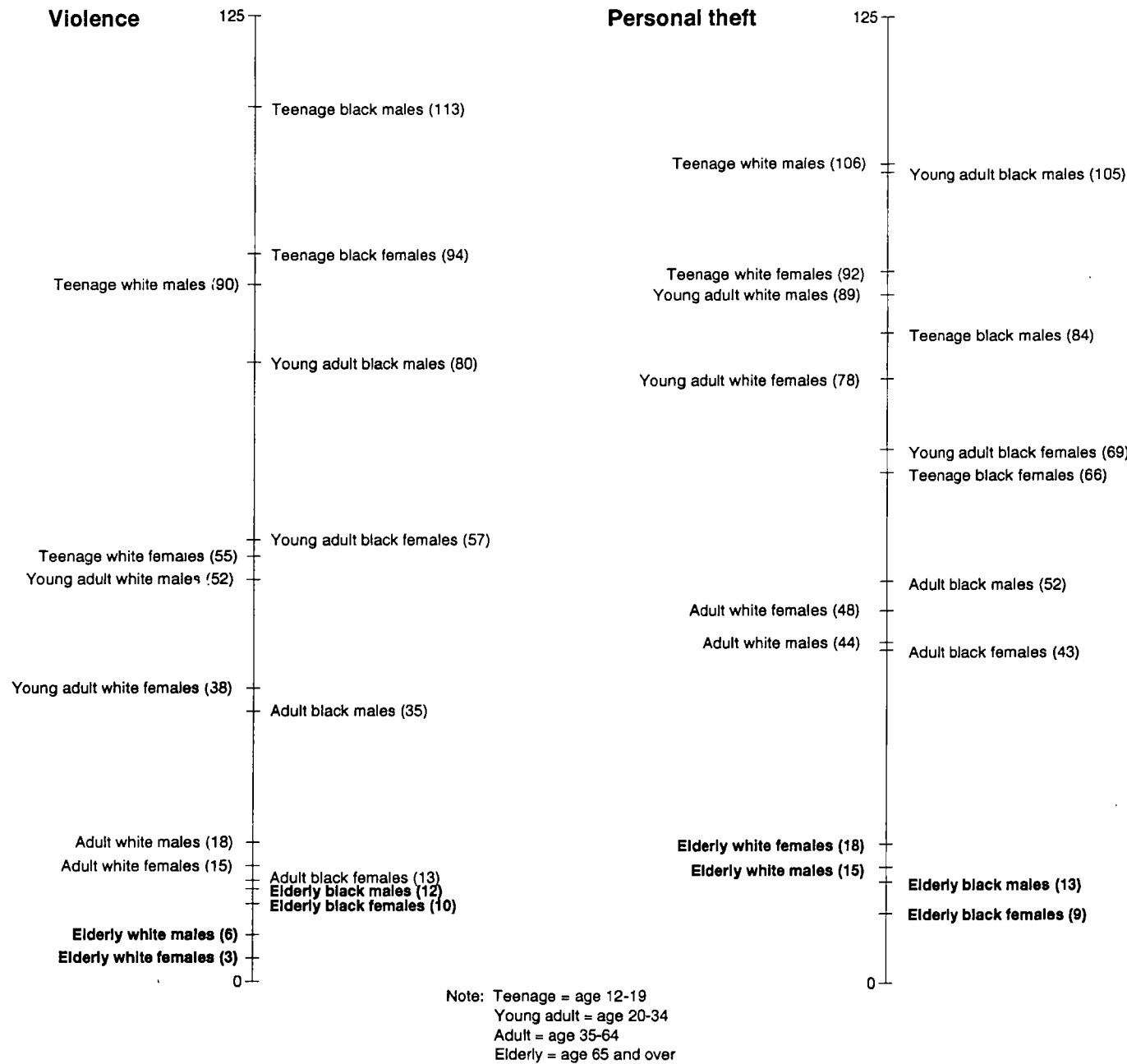
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WASHINGTON DC 20500-

Guns and Crime

White women age 65 or older have the lowest violent crime rates

Black women age 65 or older have the lowest personal theft rates



Sources

Most of the information in this report came from the BJS Special Report, *Elderly Victims* by Ronet Bachman, Ph.D., released in October 1992 (NCJ-138330). Other sources include: BJS, *Criminal Victimization in the U.S., 1992*, forthcoming (NCJ-145125); BJS, *Highlights from 20 Years of Surveying Crime Victims: The National Crime Victimization Survey*, October 1993 (NCJ-144525); FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1992*, October 1993; and National Opinion Research Center data presented in the BJS *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1992* (NCJ-143496).

Additional information

To order this report (NCJ-147186) or ask about other BJS crime and justice data, call or write to:

Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse
Box 179
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0179

1-800-732-3277 or
Fax orders to 1-410-792-4358
with the title and NCJ number.



Bureau of Justice Statistics

March 1994

National Crime Victimization Survey

Elderly Crime Victims

In 1992, persons 65 or older experienced about 2.1 million criminal victimizations

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) asks about 100,000 people every 6 months about the crimes they sustained. By interviewing a large sample of households selected to represent the U.S. population, BJS is able to draw accurate conclusions about crime in the Nation. The NCVS includes the violent crimes of rape, robbery, and assault; personal theft; and crimes that occur in households such as burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Persons age 65 or older comprise about 14% of persons age 12 or older interviewed in the NCVS but report less than 2% of all victimizations. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented here are from a special analysis of the NCVS for elderly victims that aggregated data from 1987 to 1990. Trend data and information on the current rates of elderly victimizations are from the 1992 NCVS.

Persons age 65 or older are the least likely of all age groups in the Nation to experience crime

Age	Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons or households		
	Violent crime	Personal theft	Household crime
12-24	64.6	112.7	309.3
25-49	27.2	71.2	200.2
50-64	8.5	38.3	133.0
65 or older	4.0	19.5	78.5

Persons between the ages of 12 and 24 have the highest victimization rates for all types of crime, while those age 65 or older have the lowest.

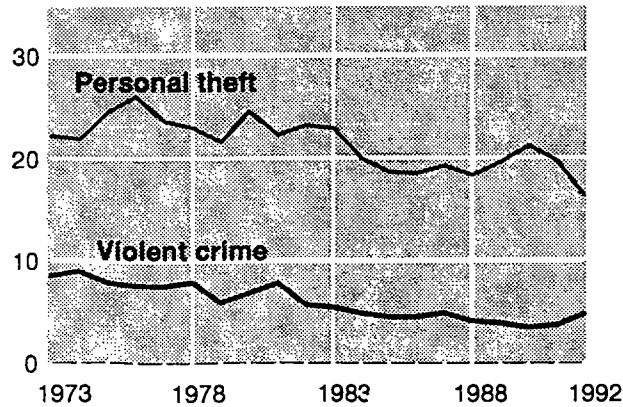
The violent crime rate is nearly 16 times higher for persons under age 25 than for persons over age 65 (64.6 versus 4 victimizations per 1,000 persons in each age group). The rate for robbery, one of the crimes of violence,

Crime victimization rates among the elderly have generally been declining

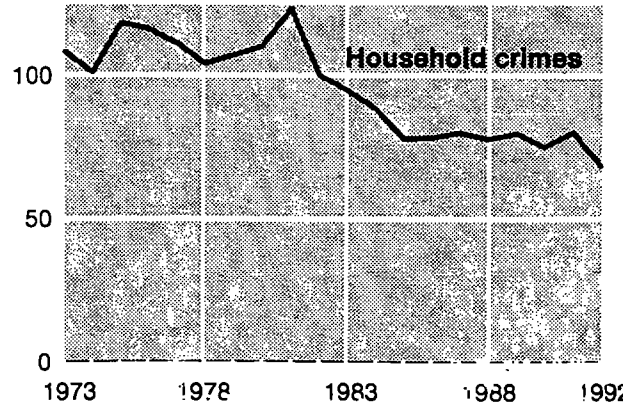
Over 20 years, the lowest rate of violent crime against the elderly was recorded in 1990, 3.5 per 1,000 persons age 65 or older. This was 61% lower than the 9 crimes per 1,000 persons in 1974, the peak year.

The rates for personal theft and household crime among the elderly in 1992 were the lowest ever recorded in the 20 year history of NCVS.

Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 65 or older



Number of victimizations per 1,000 households headed by a person age 65 or older



for those under 25 is nearly 6 times higher than for those age 65 or older.

- According to the FBI, 5% of the murder victims in 1992 were age 65 or older.
- Just as for personal crime victimizations, persons over the age of 65 are significantly less likely to become victims of all forms of household crime than younger age groups.
- Personal larceny with contact (purse snatching and pocket picking) is an exception. Those who are 65 or older were about as likely as those under age 65 to be victims of personal larceny with contact.

The elderly appear to be particularly susceptible to crimes motivated by economic gain

Crimes motivated by economic gain include robbery and personal theft, as well as the household crimes of larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Like the general population, the elderly are most susceptible to household crimes and least susceptible to violent crimes. Unlike younger victims of violence, elderly victims of violence are about as likely to be robbed as assaulted. Robberies are 38% of the violent crimes against the elderly but 20% of the violence experienced by persons younger than age 65.

Injured elderly victims of violent crime are more likely than younger victims to suffer a serious injury

Violent offenders injure about a third of all victims. Among the violent crime victims age 65 or older, 9% suffer serious injuries like broken bones and loss of consciousness. By comparison, 5% of younger victims suffer serious injuries. In addition, when injured, almost half the older victims but a fourth of the younger ones receive medical care in a hospital.

Outcome	Percent of violent crime victims	
	Under 65	65 or older
Injured	31%	33%
Serious	5	9
Minor	26	24
Received medical care	15	19
Hospital care	8	14

Note: Serious injuries are broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, rape or attempted rape injuries, or undetermined injuries requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. Minor injuries are bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling, or undetermined injuries requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization.

Elderly violent crime victims are more likely than younger victims to face assailants who are strangers

Most victims of violent crime are attacked by a stranger rather than by a relative or someone whom the victim knows. Robbery victims age 65 or older are more likely than younger victims to be particularly vulnerable to offenders whom they do not know.

	Percent of violent crime victims whose offenders are:			
	Relatives	Acquaintances	Strangers	Relationship unknown
Crimes of violence				
Under 65	8%	33%	56%	3%
65 or older	8	20	64	8
Robbery				
Under 65	5	17	74	4
65 or older	3	5	83	9
Assault				
Under 65	9	36	52	3
65 or older	13	32	47	8

Elderly victims of violent crime are almost twice as likely as younger victims to be raped, robbed, or assaulted at or near their home

Half of the elderly victims of violence and a quarter of those under age 65 are victimized at or near their home.

	Place of occurrence				
	Total	At home	Near home	On the street	In public or business facility Elsewhere
Crimes of violence					
Under 65	100%	14%	11%	39%	21%
65 or older	100	25	25	31	9
Robbery					
Under 65	100	13	9	52	16
65 or older	100	20	21	37	13
Assault					
Under 65	100	14	12	36	21
65 or older	100	27	29	27	7

The vulnerability of the elderly to violent crime at or near their home may reflect their lifestyle. Often living alone and not working away from home, persons age 65 or older are also less likely than younger persons to go out after dark to social gatherings. Public opinion surveys conducted over the last 20 years among national samples of persons age 50 or older consistently show that about half of those persons feel afraid to walk alone at night in their own neighborhood.

About 38% of elderly victims of violent crime and 35% of younger victims report facing an armed offender

When facing an armed offender, older victims are somewhat more likely to face an offender with a gun (41% versus 36%).

	Percent of violent crime victims	
	Under 65	65 or older
Unarmed offenders	65%	62%
Armed offenders	35	38
Type of weapon used		
Guns	36%	41%
Knives or sharp instruments	30	29
Blunt objects	19	18
Other weapons	15	12

Most victims of violent crime, regardless of age, face lone assailants, but the likelihood of encountering multiple offenders varies by type of crime

About half the robbery victims age 65 or older are accosted by multiple robbers; more than half of the robbery victims under 65 face single offenders. For aggravated assault, the reverse is true. Younger victims of aggravated assault are more likely than older victims to face multiple offenders (29% versus 20%).

Among the elderly, certain groups were generally more likely to experience a crime than others

Victim characteristics	Number of victimizations per 1,000		
	Persons 65 or older		Households headed by a person 65 or older
	Violence	Theft	Household crime
Sex			
Male	4.9	19.8	82.2
Female	3.4	19.4	74.3
Age			
65 to 75	4.7	22.9	82.2
75 and over	3.0	14.2	74.3
Race			
White	3.6	19.5	70.9
Black	7.6	19.6	154.1
Family income			
Less than \$7,500	12.0	29.1	76.3
\$7,500-\$14,999	8.4	30.4	70.2
\$15,000-\$24,000	6.5	40.3	81.3
\$25,000 or more	6.1	60.8	96.0
Marital status			
Never married	3.0	18.2	77.6
Widowed	4.2	4.2	75.1
Married	7.6	26.3	71.1
Divorced/separated	11.3	35.4	110.4
Place of residence			
Urban	7.1	26.4	112.6
Suburban	2.9	19.6	61.2
Rural	2.2	11.4	64.5
Form of tenure			
Own	3.1	17.8	82.0
Rent	7.7	26.7	66.8

Elderly victims less often than younger victims act to protect themselves during a violent crime

Victims age 65 or older take self-protective measures in 58% of their victimizations, compared to 73% of the younger victims. Moreover, the older victims are less likely to use physical action such as attacking or chasing the offender or resisting in some other way. Those persons age 65 or older who do protect themselves use nonphysical action, including arguing or reasoning with the offender, screaming, or running away.

Elderly victims of robbery and personal theft are more likely than younger victims to report those crimes to the police

Seven out of ten elderly victims and just over 5 out of 10 victims under age 65 report a robbery or attempted robbery to the police. No measurable difference, however, distinguishes older from younger victims in reporting aggravated assault or household crimes to the police.



Crime Data Brief

April 1994, NCJ-147003

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Guns and Crime

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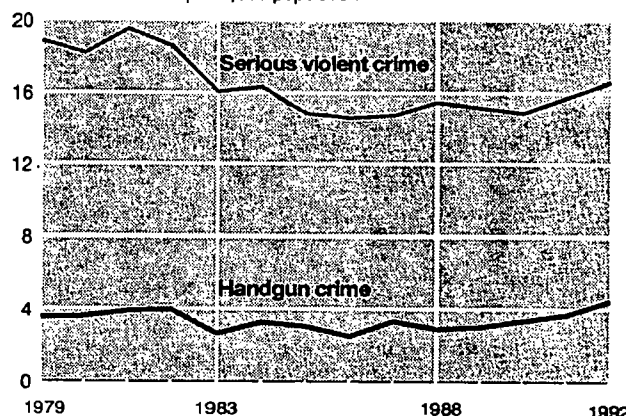
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The 1992 handgun victimization rate was the highest on record

Number of victimizations per 1,000 population



Source: BJS National Crime Victimization Survey, 1979-92.

Note: Serious violent crime includes rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Violent crime rates

Unlike the record rate of handgun crimes in 1992, the overall rates for violent crimes were well below the 1981 peaks.¹ The total 1992 rate for rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault was 35 per 1,000 persons, compared to 39 per 1,000 in 1981. The 1992 rate of 17 per 1,000 for the more serious violent crimes (rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was also less than the 20 per 1,000 in 1981.

Most likely victims of handgun crime

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- Young black males continued to be the population subgroup most vulnerable to handgun crime victimization.
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 - The rate for blacks (40 per 1,000 persons) was **4 times** that of whites (10 per 1,000).
 - For males age 20-24 —
 - The rate for blacks (29 per 1,000) was **3 times** that of whites (9 per 1,000).

Males, blacks, and the young had the highest rates of handgun crime victimization, 1987-92

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	Male victims			Female victims		
	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black
All ages	4.9	3.7	14.2	2.1	1.6	5.8
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50-64	1.5	1.2	3.5	0.8	0.7	1.6
65 or older	0.8	0.6	3.7	0.3	0.2	2.3

*Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in each age category. Rates do not include murder or nonnegligent manslaughter committed with handguns. The totals include persons of other races not shown separately.

¹ Except where noted, this brief excludes homicides, which NCVS not measure.

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- 38% of the victims defending themselves with a firearm attacked the offender, and the others threatened the offender with the weapon.

- A fifth of the victims defending themselves with a firearm suffered an injury, compared to almost half of those who defended themselves with weapons other than a firearm or who had no weapon. Care should be used in interpreting these data because many aspects of crimes — including victim and offender characteristics, crime circumstances, and offender intent — contribute to the victims' injury outcomes.

- In most cases victims who used firearms to defend themselves or their property were confronted by offenders

About three-fourths of the victims who used firearms for self-defense did so during a crime of violence, 1987-92

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who were either unarmed or armed with weapons other than firearms. On average between 1987 and 1992, about 35% (or 22,000 per year) of the violent crime victims defending themselves with a firearm faced an offender who also had a firearm.²

Theft of firearms

- Although most thefts of firearms (64%) occurred during household burglaries, a significant percentage (32%) occurred during larcenies. Loss of firearms through larceny was as likely to occur away from the victim's home as at or near the home. In 53% of the firearm thefts, handguns were stolen.

Offenders shot at victims in 17% of handgun crimes, 1987-92

	Percent
Shot at victim	16.6%
Hit victim	3.0
Missed victim	13.6
Nongunshot injury	1.6
No physical injury	12.0
Did not shoot at victim	83.4%
Other attack/attempt	19.9
Verbal threat of attack	15.4
Weapon present	46.8
Other threat	.8
Unknown action	.5
Average annual number	699,900

Note: Excludes homicides.

341,000 incidents of firearm theft occurred per year, 1987-92

Crime in which firearm was stolen	Average annual number of victimizations in which firearms were stolen		
	Total	Handgun	Other gun
Total	340,700	180,500	160,200
Violent crime	7,900	5,300	2,600
Personal theft	56,200	33,900	22,300
Household theft	52,600	31,700	20,900
Household burglary	217,200	105,300	112,000
Motor vehicle theft	6,700	4,400	2,400

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Department of Justice

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M. EST
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1994

BJS
202-307-0784

RECORD NUMBER OF HANDGUN CRIMES--NEARS ONE MILLION A YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The number of non-fatal crimes committed with a handgun rose to a record level during 1992, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced today. Handguns were used in an estimated 917,500 non-fatal crimes, almost 50 percent more than the average for the previous five years. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported an additional 13,200 handgun homicides during the same year, a 24 percent increase over the five-year average.

Offenders armed with handguns committed one in every eight violent crimes--rape, robbery and assault--measured by BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey. The other violent crime victims were attacked or threatened by offenders who were either unarmed or were armed with such weapons as rocks, sticks, knives or other types of firearms. The most common violent crime, simple assault, by definition does not involve the use of a weapon.

(MORE)

In contrast to the record high handgun crime rate (4.5 per 1,000 inhabitants 12 years old or older), the 1992 rate for all non-fatal violent crime (35 per 1,000) was below the 1981 peak for the past two decades (39 per 1,000 residents), which means that a growing percentage of violent crimes involves handguns.

Young black males are the most vulnerable to handgun crime. Among 16-to-19-year-olds, the most victimized age group, the rate for black males was four times higher than the rate for white males.

The average annual rates of non-fatal crimes committed with handguns per 1,000 persons during the years 1987 through 1992 by race and age were as follows:

Victim's age	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	White	Black	White	Black
12-15	3.1	14.1	2.1	4.7
16-19	9.5	39.7	3.6	13.4
20-24	9.2	29.4	3.5	9.1
25-34	4.9	12.3	2.1	9.0
35-49	2.7	8.7	1.4	3.3
50-64	1.2	3.5	0.7	1.6
65 or older	0.6	3.7	0.2	2.3

(MORE)

The data are from the federal government's second largest household survey, which interviews people 12 years old and older throughout the country about their experiences with crime and criminal offenders. Because it includes only information obtained from victims' responses to questions, it obtains no homicide data.

During the 1987-1992 period, offenders fired their weapons in 17 percent of all non-fatal handgun crimes, missing the victim four out of five times. In 3 percent of the non-fatal crimes committed with handguns, about 21,000 annually, the victim was wounded. In addition, an average 11,100 were killed each year.

During the same period an estimated annual average of 62,000 violent crime victims (approximately 1 percent of all violent crime victims) used a firearm in an effort to defend themselves. In addition, an annual average of about 20,000 victims of theft, household burglary or motor vehicle theft attempted to defend their property with guns.

In most cases victims defending themselves with firearms were confronted by unarmed offenders or those armed with weapons

(MORE)

other than firearms. During the six-year period, about one in three armed victims faced an armed offender.

BJS estimated that more than 340,000 crimes annually involved firearm thefts. During the period almost two-thirds of such losses occurred during household burglaries and almost one-third in larcenies. The survey does not report on thefts or burglaries from stores or other businesses.

Single copies of the BJS crime data brief, "Guns and Crime, Handgun Crime Victimization and Firearm Self-Defense and Firearm Theft," (NCJ-147003) as well as other BJS statistical reports may be obtained from the BJS Clearinghouse, Box 179, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179. The telephone number is 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders to 410-792-4358.

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Crime Data Brief

National Crime Victimization Survey

Carjacking

By Michael R. Rand, BJS Statistician

Carjacking, a type of robbery, is theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle by force or threat of force. Between 1987 and 1992, carjackings accounted for 2% of the 1.9 million vehicle thefts per year that occurred nationwide. This report analyzes data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to describe this crime. (See the NCVS box on page 2.)

- An average of 35,000 completed and attempted carjackings took place each year in the United States between 1987 and 1992. In 52% of the carjackings the offender succeeded in stealing the victim's motor vehicle.

- Each year on average between 1987 and 1992, .2 per 1,000 Americans age 12 or older (or 2 per 10,000) were victims of a completed or attempted carjacking.

- Men were more likely than women (.3 per 1,000 compared to .1 per 1,000) and blacks were more likely than whites (.4 and .2 respectively) to be victimized by carjacking. Persons age 35 or older were less likely than younger people to become carjacking victims.

Carjackings, 1987-92: Aggregate annual average

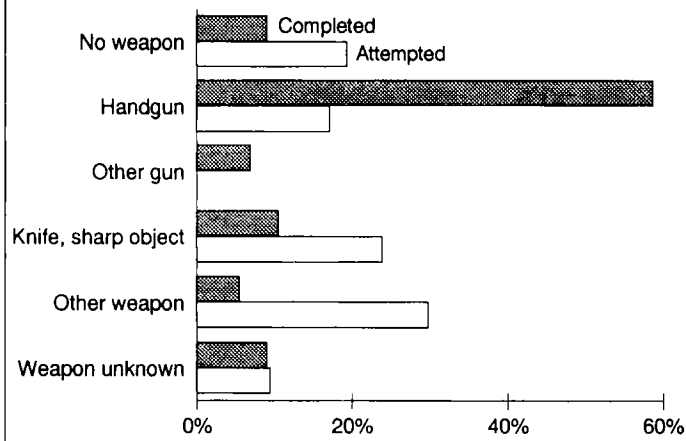
Total	35,500
Completed	18,600
Attempted	16,900

Carjacking compared to risks of other life events

Events	Rate per 1,000 adults per year
Violent victimization	31
Assault (aggravated and simple)	25
Injury in motor vehicle accident	22
Victimization with injury	11
Serious (aggravated) assault	8
Robbery	6
Heart disease death	5
Rape (women only)	1
Motor vehicle accident death	.2
Carjacking	.2
Homicide/legal intervention	.1

Source: *Highlights from 20 Years of Surveying Crime Victims*, October 1993, NCJ-144525.

The offender carried a handgun in 60% of completed carjackings, 1987-92



- Nine in ten completed carjackings were reported to the police, compared to 6 in 10 attempts.

- Most carjacking victims escaped without injury. Victims were injured in 24% of the completed carjackings and 18% of attempted carjackings. Four percent of all victims of attempted or completed carjackings suffered a serious injury — gunshot or knife wounds, broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, or undetermined injuries requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization.

- Offenders used a weapon in 77% of all attempted and completed carjackings. The offender was armed in 82% of completed carjackings and 71% of all attempted carjackings. Handguns were the most common weapon used in the completed offenses, but not in the attempts. Offenders were armed with handguns in 59% of completed carjackings and in 17% of attempted carjackings.

- Carjackings were more likely to occur in the evening or at night. About two-thirds of all carjackings occurred after dark. Fifty-eight percent of carjackings that occurred at night and 45% of those during the day were completed.

- Most carjackings occurred away from the victim's home. Twenty-nine percent took place in a parking lot or garage, and 45% occurred in an open area, such as on the street. Eighteen percent occurred at or near the victim's home.

- Offenders between ages 21 and 29 committed about half of all completed carjackings. An additional 12% were committed by offenders 18-20 years of age.

- Victims identified the offenders' race as white in 32% of all carjackings, black in 49%, and Asian or American Indian in 6%. Multiple offenders of more than one race committed 5% of all carjackings. In 8% of all carjackings the victim was unable to identify the offender's race.

- Men committed 87% of all carjackings. Six percent were committed by males and females together. Only 1% of all carjackings were committed by women alone. In 6%, the victim could not identify the offenders' sex.

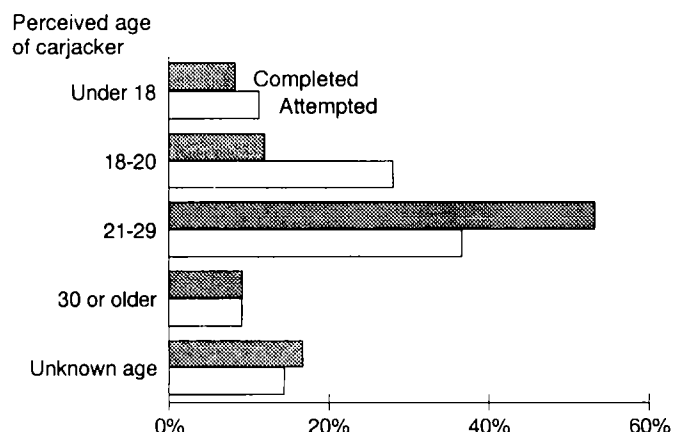
- The median value of automobiles stolen in carjackings was \$4,000. Forty-six percent were valued at over \$5,000; 13%, at \$2,500-\$4,999; and 41%, at \$2,499 or less.

- About half (54%) of all completed or attempted carjackings were committed by groups of two or more offenders. Forty-one percent were committed by lone offenders. In 5% of all carjackings, the number of offenders was not known. The number of offenders did not appear to affect the probability that the crime would be completed. About half of both lone-offender and multiple-offender carjackings were completed.

- The risks of carjacking were different in different types of residential areas, similar to the risks of robbery and motor vehicle theft. Suburbanites were less likely than residents of a central city and more likely than rural residents to be victims of a completed or attempted carjacking:

Area	Carjackings per 1,000 residents age 12 or older
Urban	.31
Suburban	.17
Rural	.03

53% of completed carjackings were committed by offenders in their 20's



Note: Offender characteristics are based on victim's perceptions. For carjackings involving more than one offender, the age used is that of the oldest offender.

- Completed and attempted carjackings accounted for 3% of all robberies. Carjackings involving property loss of at least \$1,000 represented 22% of robberies with losses of \$1,000 or more.

The National Crime Victimization Survey, from which the data for this data brief were drawn, has not previously been used to create an estimate of carjacking. This data brief does not provide individual year estimates of carjacking because many of the annual estimates fell below the statistical threshold for reliability maintained for the survey. By aggregating data for a number of years, and producing average annual estimates, more reliable estimates of this relatively rare crime are possible. For more information about the NCVS methodology, see *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1991*, December 1992, NCJ-139563.

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Crime Data Brief

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Crime Data Brief

The Costs of Crime to Victims

By Patsy A. Klaus, BJS Statistician

Crime victims in 1992 lost \$17.6 billion in direct costs, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These costs included losses from property theft or damage, cash losses, medical expenses, and amount of pay lost because of injury or activities related to the crime. The crimes included in this figure are rape, robbery, assault, personal and household theft, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Crimes include attempts as well as completed offenses.

• Economic loss of some kind occurred in 71% of all personal crimes. These crimes included rape, robbery, assault, and personal theft. For crimes of violence (rape, robbery, assault) economic loss occurred in 23% of victimizations. Household crimes of burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft involved economic loss in 91% of all victimizations.

• In 1992, a total of 33,649,340 victimizations occurred. Twenty-three percent of all U.S. households were victimized in 1992; the total number of households experiencing one or more victimizations was 22,093,000.

• Economic loss occurred in 13,371,400 personal crimes and 13,515,140 household crimes — a total of 26,886,580* victimizations. In 4.4% of these victimizations, the loss was of no monetary value but involved the loss of something that the victim regarded as having value.

Average loss per crime, 1992

Mean loss, all crimes*	\$524
Personal crimes	\$218
Crimes of violence	206
Rape	234
Robbery	555
Assault	124

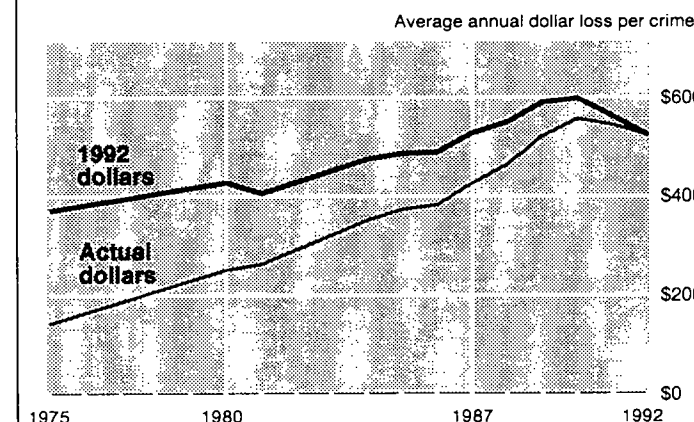
Household crimes	\$914
Personal and household theft	221
Burglary	834
Motor vehicle theft	3,990

Note: Data include all forms of economic loss, medical expenses, and time lost from work because of the crime.

*Includes crimes involving no loss.

*This number is larger than the number of victimized households, since a household is counted only once, regardless of the number of victimizations that occurred.

The average loss per crime increased 1975-92



Note: During the 1975-92 period, according to the Current Population Survey, household money income adjusted for inflation remained relatively unchanged. Data are interpolated for 1976-79 and 1982-83.

• Among crimes that involved loss —

— About 12% of personal crimes and 24% of household crimes involved economic losses of \$500 or more.

— For personal crimes, 11% of whites and 15% of blacks lost \$500 or more. For household crimes, 23% of whites and 25% of blacks had such losses.

— In robberies at least \$250 or more was taken from the victim in about a fourth (26%) of all victimizations. Black victims lost this amount in 41% of the victimizations, and white robbery victims, in 19%.

— Lost property was not recovered in 89% of personal crimes (90% for whites; 89% for blacks) and 85% of household crimes in 1992 (85% for whites; 82% for blacks).

Median loss for crimes of theft, 1992

All crimes, with or without loss \$26

Crimes involving loss

Robbery	\$89
Theft	55
Burglary	50
Motor vehicle theft	3,600

Note: Data include only direct property losses and do not include medical expenses or other costs.

Victims receiving medical care, by type of crime and where care was received, 1992									
Type of crime	Number of victims receiving medical care	Total	At the scene	Atown, neighbor's, or friend's house	Health unit or first-aid station	Doctor's office or clinic	Emergency room at hospital or clinic	Hospital	Other
Crimes of violence	1,419,940	100.0%	6.7%	30.1%	2.3%*	11.5%	31.8%	14.1%	3.6%
Rape	68,070	100.0	.0*	.0*	.0*	20.4*	47.7*	24.7*	7.2*
Robbery	355,570	100.0	7.4*	38.8	1.0*	10.0*	25.5	9.8*	7.5*
Assault	996,290	100.0	6.9	29.0	2.9*	11.4	33.0	15.0	1.9*
Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Respondents may have received medical attention at more than one location; however, percent distribution is based on locations of medical care.									
*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.									

• About 31% of all victims of crimes of violence (robbery and assault) in 1992 sustained some physical injury. Thirty percent of whites and 32% of blacks sustained injury.

• For crimes of violence involving injuries in which medical expenses were known, 65% involved costs of \$250 or more. These findings were similar for whites (65%) and blacks (66%).

• In 1992, 69% of the victims who were injured had health insurance or were eligible for public medical services. Seventy percent of all whites and 66% of all blacks had insurance coverage or eligibility for public medical services.

• About 8% of all victims lost time from work in 1992 as a result of a crime of violence and 6% as a result of a household crime.

• About the same percentages of blacks and whites lost time from work for personal crimes (whites, 5%; blacks, 6%). However, when time was lost, 67% of blacks lost 1-5 days, compared with 43% of whites. For personal crimes of theft, 77% of blacks lost 1-5 days, compared with 31% of whites.

The economic costs to victims reported in this crime data brief include only those that had occurred before the interview, which was 6 months or less after the crime. Medical costs may continue to accumulate for months or years after a victimization; these are not included. The victim is not specifically asked about psychological counseling, although some victims may have included this as a medical cost. Increases to insurance premiums as a result of filing claims, decreased productivity at work, moving costs incurred when moving as a result of victimization, intangible costs of pain and suffering, and other similar costs are also not included.

February 1994, NCJ-145865

Amount of loss, based upon crimes involving economic loss, 1992						
	Total victimizations	No monetary value	\$1-\$249	\$250-\$499	\$500 or more	Don't know
Personal crimes						
Crimes of violence ^a	13,371,440	5.3%	57.3%	8.6%	12.7%	16.2%
Robbery	876,800	1.3*	60.0	9.1	17.7	11.6
Assault	639,170	10.3	55.4	7.6	4.0	22.8
Personal theft	11,822,760	1.8	68.6	9.4	11.8	8.3
Household crimes						
Burglary	4,009,560	3.9	39.8	11.7	31.3	13.4
Household theft	7,748,500	1.5	69.4	9.5	9.6	9.9
Motor vehicle theft	1,757,080	1.4*	15.0	5.1	69.1	9.4
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.						
^a Includes rape, not shown separately because of the relatively few victims reporting monetary loss.						

Total economic loss to victims of crime, 1992	
All crime victims	\$17,646,000,000
Victims with losses	
Personal crimes	\$4,110,000,000
Crimes of violence	1,362,000,000
Rape	33,000,000
Robbery	680,000,000
Assault	649,000,000
Crimes of personal theft	2,748,000,000
Larceny with contact	76,000,000
Larceny without contact	2,672,000,000
Household crimes	\$13,536,000,000
Burglary	3,970,000,000
Household larceny	1,750,000,000
Motor vehicle theft	7,816,000,000

1.8 million victims in 1992 lost 6.1 million days from work, an average of 3.4 days per crime	
	Percent of all victimizations with lost time
All personal crimes	
Crimes of violence	5.2%
Crimes of theft	7.6
Crimes of theft	3.9
All household crimes	
Burglary	6.1
Larceny	5.2
Larceny	4.0
Motor vehicle theft	17.2

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Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

A National Crime Victimization Survey Report

Criminal Victimization 1992

By Lisa D. Bastian
BJS Statistician

October 1993

During 1992, persons age 12 or older living in the United States experienced 18.8 million victimizations involving violence or personal theft, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).¹ In addition, 14.8 million household crimes were committed. The NCVS measures both crimes that are reported to the police and those that go unreported. Fifty percent of violent crimes and over 60% of crimes overall went unreported last year. The NCVS measures the violent crimes of rape, robbery, aggravated and simple assault; personal thefts; and the household crimes of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.²

• Just as in 1991, the level of violent crime in 1992 did not differ significantly from the number measured in 1981, the peak year for crime. Approximately 6.6 million violent crimes occurred in both 1981 and 1992.³

¹The National Crime Survey was renamed the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in 1990.

²For definitions of the crimes measured by the NCVS and a description of NCVS operations, see *Measuring Crime*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-75710, February 1981.

³Because the numbers in this report are estimates based on a sample, some apparent differences may reflect sampling variation. Such differences are described in the report as not statistically significant or not measurably different. Unless one of these designations is used, any difference described reflects at least a 90% certainty that the difference is not the result of sampling variation. See the discussion on page 7.

With this publication, BJS marks the 20th anniversary of the annual National Crime Victimization Survey, the Nation's second largest ongoing survey of U.S. households. In addition to the regular NCVS annual publications, BJS has just published *Highlights from 20 Years of Surveying Crime Victims* (NCJ-144525) — a summary of some of the most important things we have learned from the Survey. I would urge anyone interested

in the NCVS to obtain a copy of this the report by contacting the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 1-800-732-3277.

On behalf of BJS, I want to extend my appreciation to the millions of people who have allowed the NCVS to gather information about their experiences with crime over the last 20 years.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

Victimization trends, 1973-92

Number of victimizations

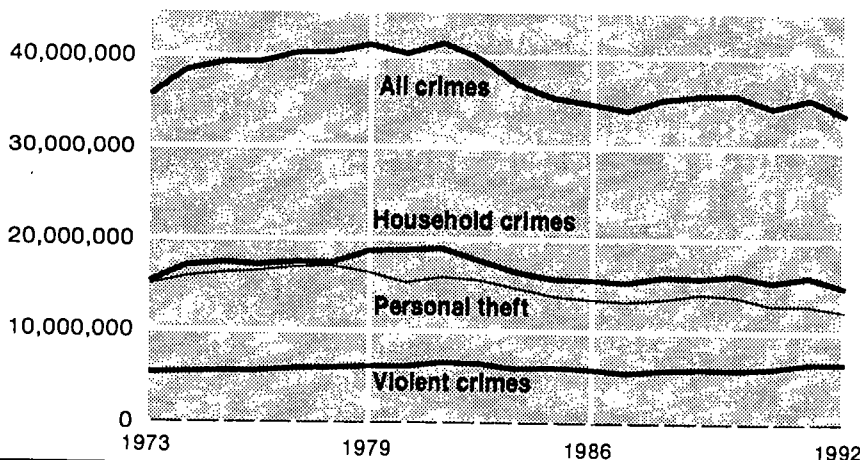


Figure 1

• Rates of crime either declined or remained stable last year. While violent crime rates did not change significantly compared to figures for 1991, rates of theft, both personal and household, decreased.

• The robbery rate was lower last year than at its highest points in 1981 and 1982, and the rate of household burglary was significantly lower than at any time throughout the 1970's or 1980's.

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Bureau of Justice Statistics Technical Report

National Incident-Based Reporting System

Using NIBRS Data to Analyze Violent Crime

By Brian A. Reaves, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

With 1991 data, the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began moving from summary counts to a more comprehensive and detailed reporting system known as the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). By 1982 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) had already provided over \$11 million to States to establish centralized State-level UCR programs. In a 1985 report, an FBI-BJS task force that BJS underwrote recommended an incident-based system. When the Attorney General approved NIBRS, BJS allocated an additional \$13 million to the States to implement the system.

NIBRS versus the traditional UCR system

The traditional, summary-based UCR system counts incidents and arrests, with some expanded data on incidents of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter. NIBRS, which will eventually replace the traditional UCR as the source of official FBI counts of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies, is designed to go far beyond the summary-based UCR in terms of information about crime.

One important difference between the two systems is number of crime categories. The traditional UCR counts incidents and arrests for the 8 offenses of the FBI Crime Index and counts arrests for other offenses; NIBRS provides detailed incident information on 46 *Group A* offenses representing 22 categories of crimes (table A). NIBRS, unlike the traditional UCR, also makes a distinction between attempted and completed crimes.

October 1993

In September 1982 a BJS-FBI task force undertook a study of improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, which was created in 1930. Law enforcement organizations, State UCR program managers, and the research community strongly supported this effort. In January 1984 a conference considered various recommendations, and in 1985 BJS and the FBI released *Blueprint for the Future of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program*.

The resulting program, the National Incident-Based Reporting System, collected its first data in 1991. An estimated

40% of the Nation will report to NIBRS by the end of 1994. NIBRS represents a new way of thinking about crime, providing details about victims, offenders, and the environments in which they interact. This report on the first NIBRS data is a beginning step toward using the data for planning and evaluating law enforcement responses to crime. It also illustrates the close partnership among BJS, the FBI, and the more than 17,000 State and local law enforcement agencies.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

Table A. The NIBRS Group A offenses

Arson	Negligent manslaughter
Assault offenses	Justifiable homicide
Aggravated assault	Kidnaping/abduction
Simple assault	Larceny/theft offenses
Intimidation	Pocket picking
Bribery	Purse snatching
Burglary/breaking and entering	Shoplifting
Counterfeiting/forgery	Theft from building
Destruction/damage/vandalism of property	Theft from coin-operated machines
Drug/narcotic offenses	Theft from motor vehicle
Drug/narcotic violations	Theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories
Drug equipment violations	All other larceny
Embezzlement	Motor vehicle theft
Extortion/blackmail	Pornography/obscene material
Fraud offenses	Prostitution offenses
False pretenses/swindle/confidence game	Prostitution
Credit card/ATM fraud	Assisting or promoting prostitution
Impersonation	Robbery
Welfare fraud	Sex offenses, forcible
Wire fraud	Forcible rape
Gambling offenses	Forcible sodomy
Betting/wagering	Sexual assault with an object
Operating/promoting/assisting gambling	Forcible fondling
Gambling equipment violations	Sex offenses, nonforcible
Sports tampering	Stolen property offenses
Homicide offenses	Weapon law violations
Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter	