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ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M. EST
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1993

BJS
202-307-0784

20 YEARS OF MEASURING CRIME SHOWS FEWER OFFENSES OVERALL BUT INCREASED VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITIES AND THE YOUNG

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- After 20 years of asking Americans what their actual experiences with crime have been, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) today identified several long-term trends:

--Overall, the number of criminal victimizations dropped 6 percent since the annual National Crime Victimization Survey began in 1973.

--The steepest declines are in household burglary and theft.

--Blacks are substantially more likely to be violent crime victims than are whites.

--Young minority males in central cities are violent crime victims at the highest rates the survey ever recorded.

The data are from the survey's 20th anniversary report, which noted that more than 4.4 million interviews were conducted from 1973 through last year.

"While the overall trends are positive, some groups of Americans are disproportionately the victims of increasing

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crime," observed Lawrence A. Greenfeld, the acting BJS director. "For example, last year blacks experienced the highest per capita rates of violent crime in the survey's history."

"The survey also documented the growing ratio of violent crime," Greenfeld pointed out. "In 1973 about 15 percent of all crimes were violent compared to 20 percent in 1992. Moreover, about a third of all victims of violence report an injury."

During the last two decades an estimated 37 million victims were injured, and more than one-third of those injured had no health insurance or were not eligible for public health benefits. Among other report highlights:

--Handguns are used in about 10 percent of all violent crimes. Handgun crime rates are above the 1986 low but have not returned to the highest rate reached in 1982.

--During 1991 an estimated $19.1 billion were lost directly from personal and household crimes.

--Males are much more likely to be victims of violence inflicted by strangers than by family members or other close associates, whereas females are as likely to be hurt by family members and close associates as by strangers.

--About 30 percent of all violent crimes and 25 percent of home burglaries occur when the victim or victims are away from home on a leisure activity.

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--In approximately half of all female rapes the victim knew the offender. Strangers used some type of weapon in 29 percent of the offenses, compared to 17 percent by non-stranger rapists.

--In robberies during which the offender threatened the victim before the attack, those victims who defended themselves in some way were less likely to lose property but were more likely to be injured than were victims who took no action. When the offender had a handgun, the victim was seriously injured in 1 percent of the incidents in which self-protective measures were not taken, compared to 7 percent when such action was taken.

--Households earning more than $30,000 annually are generally more likely than are households in most other income categories to experience theft of a motor vehicle, but as household income rises, burglary rates fall.

--Black male teenagers (that is boys and young men from 12 through 19 years old) are more likely to be violent crime victims than any other group of people. Their average annual rate is 113 victimizations per 1,000 residents--or almost one in nine black teenagers. For white male teenagers the rate was 90 per 1,000--or about one in 11.

--For adult black males (35 through 64 years) the violent victimization rate was 35 per 1,000. For adult white males, 18 per 1,000; adult white females, 15; adult black females 13;

elderly (65 years or more) black males 12; elderly black females, 10; elderly white males, 6 and elderly white females, 3 per 1,000.

The rate of criminal victimizations for all U.S. residents compared to other life experiences is as follows:

Occurrences	Yearly rate per 1,000 adults
Accidental injury, all circumstances	220
Accidental injury at home	66
Personal theft	61
Accidental injury at work	47
Violent victimization	31
Assault (aggravated and simple)	25
Motor vehicle accident injury	22
Death, all causes	11
Victimization with injury	11
Aggravated assault	8
Robbery	6
Death from heart disease	5
Death from cancer	3
Rape (women only)	1
Accidental death, all circumstances	0.4
Death from pneumonia or influenza	0.4
Death in motor vehicle accident	0.2
Suicide	0.2
Death from HIV infection	0.1
Homicide and capital punishment executions	0.1

The survey measures rape, robbery, assault, burglary, personal and household larceny and motor vehicle theft. It does not measure murder, kidnapping or commercial crimes.

Last year 39 percent of all these crimes were reported to police--the highest since 1973, when it was 32 percent. The increased reporting rate was consistent with the fact that violent crime and motor vehicle theft have made up an increasing proportion of total crime during the last two decades.

The highest reporting rate last year was for completed motor vehicle theft--92 percent. The lowest was for personal larceny without contact--15 percent.

Single copies of the BJS special report, "Highlights from 20 Years of Surveying Crime Victims" (NCJ-144525), as well as other BJS statistical bulletins and reports may be obtained from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The telephone number is 1-800-732-3277.

Data from the tables and graphs used in many BJS reports can be made available to news organizations in spreadsheet files on 5¼" and 3½" diskettes by calling 202-307-0784.

# # #

93-76
After hours contact: Stu Smith 301-983-9354

Department of Justice

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M. EST
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1993

BJS
202-307-0784

CRIME FELL MORE THAN 5 PERCENT LAST YEAR, REACHING 20-YEAR LOW

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Crimes against U.S. residents and households fell by more than 5 percent last year, reaching a 20-year low, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced today.

"There were almost two million fewer crimes than in 1991," noted Lawrence A. Greenfeld, acting director of BJS, the Department's statistical agency. "In fact, the total number--approximately 34 million--was several million lower than in 1973, the first year of the survey."

Greenfeld pointed out, however, that the rate of violent crime (that is, the number of violent offenses per 1,000 inhabitants 12 years old and older) has fluctuated during the past two decades. Last year it was lower than in the peak years during the late 1970s and early 1980s. However, it is currently 32.1 per 1,000 U.S. residents, which is higher than at any time between 1985 and 1991. In 1973 it was 32.6 per 1,000 U.S. residents 12 years old and older.

(MORE)

For black residents the 1992 violent crime rate was the highest ever recorded.

The violent crime rate against young people from 12 through 15 years old was 36 percent higher last year than it was among the same age group during 1973, and among those from 16 through 19 years old it was 27 percent higher in 1992 than two decades ago. On the other hand, among those 35 years of age and older the rates of victimization for crimes of violence declined during the 20-year period.

During 1992 both the theft rate and the rate of household crimes reached all-time survey lows. BJS attributed this to significant declines in personal thefts without contact as well as household larcenies and burglaries.

Last year there were 12,211,000 personal thefts--674,000 fewer than in 1991 and 2,759,000 fewer than in 1973. There were 14,817,000 crimes against households last year--1,208,000 fewer than the year before and 523,000 fewer than during 1973.

However, the number of violent crimes has increased. There were 6,621,000 violent offenses last year--34,000 more than the year before and 1,271,000 more than in 1973.

The National Crime Victimization Survey, the federal government's second largest survey, has been measuring the total amount of crime in the U.S., both reported and that which is not reported to police, for two decades, during which time it has conducted more than 4.4 million interviews.

Thirty-nine percent of all crimes in the survey were reported to police last year, up from the 32 percent reported in 1973. Fifty-three percent of all rapes and attempted rapes were reported last year, compared to 49 percent in 1973.

Selected rates of crimes against men and women 12 years old or older or against households during 1973, 1991 and 1992 were as follows:

Rate per 1,000 U.S. residents or households

Crime	1973	1991	1992
All violent crimes	32.6	32.2	32.1
Rape	1.0	0.9	0.7
Robbery	6.7	5.9	5.9
Assault	24.9	25.5	25.5
Personal theft	91.1	63.1	59.2
Household burglary	91.7	53.9	48.9
Household larceny	107.0	90.4	83.2
Motor vehicle theft.	19.1	22.2	20.1

Except for theft and simple assault, blacks were

(MORE)

significantly more likely than were whites or people of other races, such as Asians or Native Americans, to be crime victims. In 1992, for instance, there were 15.6 robberies against black victims for every 1,000 black residents, compared to 4.7 for every 1,000 whites and 5.1 for every 1,000 people of other races.

People younger than 25 years old also had significantly higher victimization rates than did older people, and males sustained significantly higher rates than females.

Hispanics and non-Hispanics had generally similar victimization rates except for robbery. Hispanics were robbed at twice the rate of non-Hispanics (10.6 vs. 5.4 per 1,000 inhabitants.)

Single copies of the BJS bulletin, "Criminal Victimization 1992" (NCJ-144776), as well as other BJS statistical bulletins and reports may be obtained from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The telephone number is 1-800-732-3277.

Data from the tables and graphs used in many BJS reports can be made available to news organizations in spreadsheet files on 5¼" and 3½" diskettes by calling 202-307-0784.

# # #

93-97
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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Bulletin

A National Crime Victimization Survey Report

Criminal Victimization 1992

By Lisa D. Bastian
BJS Statistician

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.

• 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 signficantly lower than at any time throughout the 1970's or 1980's.

• Motor vehicle thefts were most likely to be reported to the police (75%) while larcenies without contact were the least likely (30%).

October 1993

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 report by contacting the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 1-800-732-3277.

I want to extend my appreciation on behalf of BJS 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

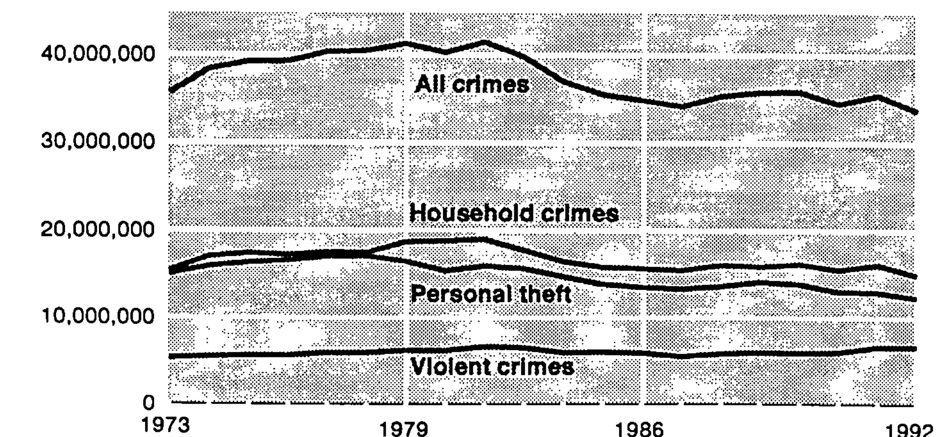

Figure 1

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

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

[3]Because the numbers in this report are estimates [illegible] on a sample, some apparent differences may reflect sampling variation. Such differences are described in the report as not statistically signficant 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.

• Certain demographic groups had higher victimization rates than others: Blacks were more likely than whites to be victims of violent crime; persons under age 25 had higher victimization rates than older persons; and households with the lowest incomes were more likely to be violent crime victims than households with higher incomes.

Crimes levels and rates in 1992

The level of theft overall, as well as the level of completed thefts, declined somewhat between 1991 and 1992 (table 2). However, the number of personal larcenies without contact resulting in losses of $50 or more decreased significantly by 8% in 1992.

The number of household crimes, completed household crimes, and household larcenies, including those with losses under $50, all also decreased, differing measurably over the previous year's levels. Burglaries showed some evidence of a decline in 1992.

Just as in 1991, the level of violent crime did not differ significantly last year from the number measured in 1981, the peak year for crime (table 1 and figure 1). Approximately 6.6 million violent crimes occurred in both 1981 and 1992. Levels in all other general crime categories continued to decline from the peak. There were 23% fewer thefts and 22% fewer household crimes last year than in 1981. With 12.2 million thefts in 1992, this crime reached its lowest level since the peak year.

Rates of crime — the number of crimes per 1,000 persons for personal crimes or per 1,000 households for household crimes — 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 (table 2).

Table 1. Victimization levels for selected crimes, 1973-1992

	Number of victimizations (in 1,000's)			
	Total	Violent crimes	Personal theft	Household crimes
1973	35,661	5,350	14,970	15,340
1974	38,411	5,510	15,889	17,012
1975	39,266	5,573	16,294	17,400
1976	39,318	5,599	16,519	17,199
1977	40,314	5,902	16,933	17,480
1978	40,412	5,941	17,050	17,421
1979	41,249	6,159	16,382	18,708
1980	40,252	6,130	15,300	18,821
1981	41,454	6,582	15,863	19,009
1982	39,756	6,459	15,553	17,744
1983	37,001	5,903	14,657	16,440
1984	35,544	6,021	13,789	15,733
1985	34,864	5,823	13,474	15,568
1986	34,118	5,515	13,235	15,368
1987	35,336	5,796	13,575	15,966
1988	35,796	5,910	14,056	15,830
1989	35,818	5,861	13,829	16,128
1990	34,404	6,009	12,975	15,419
1991	35,497	6,587	12,885	16,025
1992	33,649	6,621	12,211	14,817
1981-92*	-18.8%•	.6%	-23.0%•	-22.1%•

*Total victimizations peaked in 1981.
•The difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

Trends in victimization rates of personal crimes, 1973-92

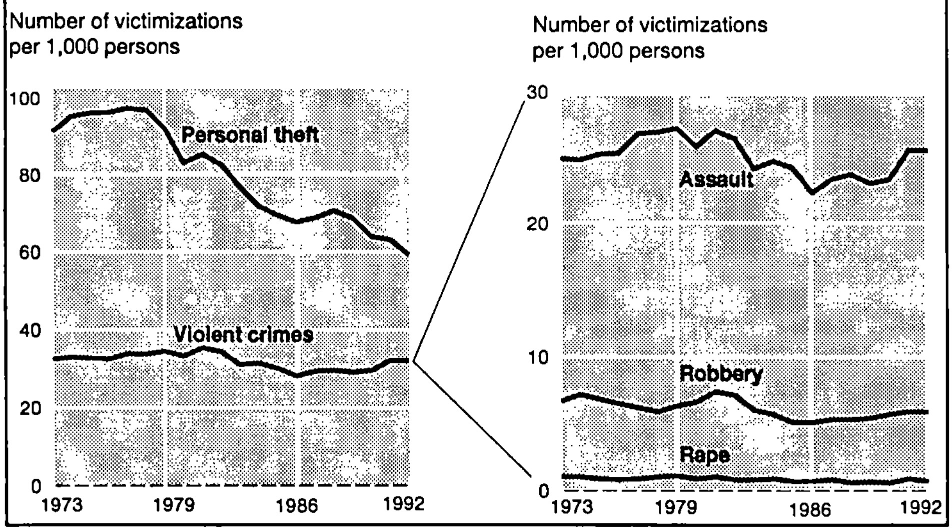

Figure 2

Trends in victimization rates of household crimes, 1973-92

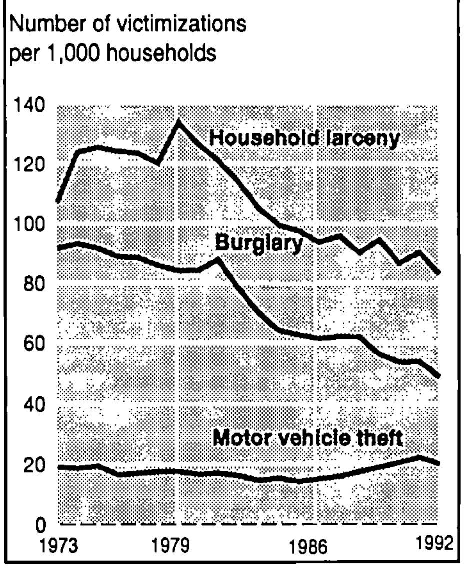

Figure 3

The rate of personal larceny without contact between the victim and offender dropped significantly in 1992, primarily attributable to a 9% decline in those larcenies that resulted in losses of $50 or more.

The total household crime rate also declined about 9% last year, from 166 crimes per 1,000 households in 1991 to 152 per 1,000 in 1992. Much of this decline may be accounted for by an 8% decrease in household larcenies overall, and especially by the sharp 19% drop in the rate of household larcenies resulting in losses under $50. There was some evidence of a decrease in burglaries as well: 54 burglaries per 1,000 housholds in 1991 compared to 49 per 1,000 in 1992.

Trends in crime rates, 1973-92

In 1992 both the total theft rate and total household crime rate reached all time lows, partly because of significant declines in personal larcenies without contact and household larcenies, respectively (tables 3 and 4). The rate of personal theft was 59 crimes per 1,000 persons in 1992, and for household crime the rate was 152 crimes per 1,000 households. Although the rates of personal crime, theft, and household crime have all generally shown declining trends since the early years of the survey, the violent crime rate has fluctuated. The rate of violent crime in 1992 was lower than in its peak years during the late 1970's and early 1980's, at 32 crimes per 1,000 persons, but generally higher than at any year between 1985 and 1991.

Table 2. Changes in victimization levels and rates for personal and household crimes, 1991-92

	Number of victimizations (1,000's)			Victimization rates		
	1991	1992	Percent change, 1991-92	1991	1992	Percent change, 1991-92
All crimes	35,497	33,649	-5.2%[a]	...	...	...
Personal crimes	19,472	18,832	-3.3%	95.3	91.2	-4.3%[b]
Crimes of violence	6,587	6,621	.5	32.2	32.1	-.5
Completed	2,528	2,410	-4.7	12.4	11.7	-5.7
Attempted	4,059	4,212	3.8	19.9	20.4	2.7
Rape[c]	174	141	-19.0	.9	.7	-19.8
Robbery	1,203	1,226	1.9	5.9	5.9	.8
Completed	802	806	.6	3.9	3.9	-.4
With injury	266	334	25.6	1.3	1.6	24.3
Without injury	535	472	-11.8	2.6	2.3	-12.7
Attempted	402	419	4.4	2.0	2.0	3.3
With injury	126	103	-17.8	.6	.5	-18.7
Without injury	276	316	14.5	1.4	1.5	13.3
Assault	5,210	5,255	.9	25.5	25.5	-.2
Aggravated	1,634	1,849	13.1	8.0	9.0	11.9
Completed with injury	601	658	9.5	2.9	3.2	8.4
Attempted assault with weapon	1,034	1,191	15.2	5.1	5.8	14.0
Simple	3,575	3,406	-4.7	17.5	16.5	-5.7
Completed with injury	1,056	905	-14.3	5.2	4.4	-15.2
Attempted assault without weapon	2,519	2,501	-.7	12.3	12.1	-1.7
Crimes of theft	12,885	12,211	-5.2[b]	63.1	59.2	-6.2[a]
Completed	12,004	11,448	-4.6[b]	58.8	55.5	-5.6[b]
Attempted	881	762	-13.5	4.3	3.7	-14.4
Personal larceny with contact	497	485	-2.4	2.4	2.3	-3.4
Purse snatching	142	152	7.1	.7	.7	6.0
Pocket picking	355	333	-6.2	1.7	1.6	-7.2
Personal larceny without contact	12,389	11,726	-5.3[b]	60.6	56.8	-6.3[a]
Completed	11,537	11,006	-4.6	56.5	53.3	-5.6[b]
Less than $50	4,491	4,391	-2.2	22.0	21.3	-3.2
$50 or more	6,460	5,942	-8.0[a]	31.6	28.8	-9.0[a]
Amount not available	585	673	15.0	2.9	3.3	13.8
Attempted	852	720	-15.5	4.2	3.5	-16.4
Household crimes	16,025	14,817	-7.5%[a]	166.4	152.2	-8.5%[a]
Completed	13,592	12,586	-7.4[a]	141.2	129.3	-8.4[a]
Attempted	2,433	2,231	-8.3	25.3	22.9	-9.3
Household burglary	5,187	4,757	-8.3[b]	53.9	48.9	-9.3[b]
Completed	4,050	3,785	-6.6	42.1	38.9	-7.6
Forcible entry	1,689	1,602	-5.1	17.5	16.5	-6.1
Unlawful entry without force	2,362	2,183	-7.6	24.5	22.4	-8.6
Attempted forcible entry	1,136	972	-14.4	11.8	10.0	-15.3
Household larceny	8,702	8,101	-6.9[a]	90.4	83.2	-7.9[a]
Completed	8,169	7,582	-7.2[a]	84.8	77.9	-8.2[a]
Less than $50	3,414	2,801	-18.0[a]	35.5	28.8	-18.8[a]
$50 or more	4,308	4,200	-2.5	44.7	43.2	-3.6
Amount not available	447	581	30.1[b]	4.6	6.0	28.7
Attempted	533	519	-2.5	5.5	5.3	-3.5
Motor vehicle theft	2,136	1,959	-8.3	22.2	20.1	-9.3
Completed	1,372	1,220	-11.1	14.3	12.5	-12.1
Attempted	764	739	-3.3	7.9	7.6	-4.3

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded numbers. 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. The population age 12 or older grew from 204,280,050 in 1991 to 206,414,480 in 1992, an increase of 1%. The number of households grew from 96,281,890 to 97,324,770 between 1991 and 1992, an increase of 1.1%.
...Not applicable.

[a]The difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.
[b]The difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.
[c]There were 1.4 rapes per 1,000 women age 12 or older in 1991 and .8 in 1992. As rapes accounted for only about one-half of 1% of all crimes measured by the NCVS in 1992, the 1992 rate for rape was not statistically different from any annual rape rate measured over the past 10 years.

Although assault rates have also fluctuated, the percent change between 1974 and 1992 was the largest significant *decrease* for aggravated assault (-13.3%). The percent change, 1975-92, represented the largest *increase* for simple assault rates (14.3%).

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. The burglary rate last year was 49 burglaries per 1,000 households. During the late 1980's the motor vehicle theft rate began to increase over its peak years in the early 1970's; the rate has remained stable at these high levels from 1989 to the present.

Table 3. Victimization rates for personal and household crimes

Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households	Type of crime													
		Crimes of violence						Crimes of theft			Household crimes			
					Assault				Personal larceny					
	Personal crimes	Total	Rape	Robbery	Total	Aggravated	Simple	Total	With contact	Without contact	Total	Burglary	Larceny	Motor vehicle theft
1973	123.6	32.6	1.0	6.7	24.9	10.1	14.8	91.1	3.1	88.0	217.8	91.7	107.0	19.1
1974	128.1	33.0	1.0	7.2	24.8	10.4	14.4	95.1	3.1	92.0	235.7	93.1	123.8	18.8
1975	128.9	32.8	0.9	6.8	25.2	9.6	15.6	96.0	3.1	92.9	236.5	91.7	125.4	19.5
1976	128.7	32.6	0.8	6.5	25.3	9.9	15.4	96.1	2.9	93.2	229.5	88.9	124.1	16.5
1977	131.2	33.9	0.9	6.2	26.8	10.0	16.8	97.3	2.7	94.6	228.8	88.5	123.3	17.0
1978	130.5	33.7	1.0	5.9	26.9	9.7	17.2	96.8	3.1	93.6	223.4	86.0	119.9	17.5
1979	126.4	34.5	1.1	6.3	27.2	9.9	17.3	91.9	2.9	89.0	235.3	84.1	133.7	17.5
1980	116.3	33.3	0.9	6.6	25.8	9.3	16.5	83.0	3.0	80.0	227.4	84.3	126.5	16.7
1981	120.5	35.3	1.0	7.4	27.0	9.6	17.3	85.1	3.3	81.9	226.0	87.9	121.0	17.1
1982	116.8	34.3	0.8	7.1	26.4	9.3	17.1	82.5	3.1	79.5	208.2	78.2	113.9	16.2
1983	107.9	31.0	0.8	6.0	24.1	8.0	16.2	76.9	3.0	74.0	189.8	70.0	105.2	14.6
1984	103.2	31.4	0.9	5.7	24.7	9.0	15.7	71.8	2.8	69.1	178.7	64.1	99.4	15.2
1985	99.4	30.0	0.7	5.1	24.2	8.3	15.9	69.4	2.7	66.7	174.4	62.7	97.5	14.2
1986	95.6	28.1	0.7	5.1	22.3	7.9	14.4	67.5	2.7	64.7	170.0	61.5	93.5	15.0
1987	98.0	29.3	0.8	5.3	23.3	8.0	15.2	68.7	2.6	66.1	173.9	62.1	95.7	16.0
1988	100.1	29.6	0.6	5.3	23.7	8.7	15.0	70.5	2.5	68.0	169.6	61.9	90.2	17.5
1989	97.8	29.1	0.7	5.4	23.0	8.3	14.7	68.7	2.7	66.0	169.9	56.4	94.4	19.2
1990	93.4	29.6	0.6	5.7	23.3	7.9	15.4	63.8	3.1	60.7	161.0	53.8	86.7	20.5
1991	95.3	32.2	0.9	5.9	25.5	8.0	17.5	63.1	2.4	60.6	166.4	53.9	90.4	22.2
1992	91.2	32.1	0.7	5.9	25.5	9.0	16.5	59.2	2.3	56.8	152.2	48.9	83.2	20.1

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Table 4 identifies statistically significant differences between the rates for 1992 and preceding years.

Table 4. Comparison of changes in victimization rates for personal and household crimes

	Type of crime													
		Crimes of violence						Crimes of theft			Household crimes			
					Assault				Personal larceny					
	Personal crimes	Total	Rape	Robbery	Total	Aggravated	Simple	Total	With contact	Without contact	Total	Burglary	Larceny	Motor vehicle theft
1973-92	-26.2%	-1.5%*	-28.1%*	-11.9%*	2.4*	-11.1%	11.5%	-35.0%	-23.5%	-35.5%	-30.1%	-46.7%	-22.2%	5.5%*
1974-92	-28.8	-2.7*	-30.3*	-17.3	2.5*	-13.8	14.3	-37.8	-24.5	-38.3	-35.4	-47.5	-32.8	6.9*
1975-92	-29.2	-2.3*	-24.9*	-12.2*	1.1*	-6.8*	6.1*	-38.4	-24.0	-38.9	-35.6	-46.7	-33.6	3.3*
1976-92	-29.1	-1.5*	-18.7*	-8.1*	.7*	-9.2*	7.1*	-38.4	-18.7*	-39.1	-33.7	-45.0	-32.9	22.2
1977-92	-30.4	-5.4*	-23.3*	-4.5*	-5.0*	-10.3*	-1.8*	-39.2	-11.4*	-40.0	-33.4	-44.8	-32.5	18.6
1978-92	-30.1	-4.9*	-29.6*	.8*	-5.2*	-7.6*	-3.8*	-38.9	-24.7	-39.3	-31.9	-43.1	-30.6	14.9
1979-92	-27.8	-7.1	-36.8	-5.2*	-6.4*	-9.7*	-4.6*	-35.6	-18.2*	-36.2	-35.3	-41.9	-37.7	14.9
1980-92	-21.5	-3.6*	-27.3*	-9.5*	-1.1*	-3.3*	--*	-28.7	-22.5	-29.0	-33.1	-42.0	-34.2	20.6
1981-92	-24.3	-9.2	-28.3*	-19.9	-5.6*	-7.1*	-4.8*	-30.5	-27.6	-30.6	-32.6	-44.4	-31.2	17.6
1982-92	-21.9	-6.4	-15.7*	-16.1	-3.5*	-3.8*	-3.4*	-28.3	-23.2	-28.5	-26.9	-37.5	-26.9	24.5
1983-92	-15.5	3.5*	-15.7*	-1.5*	5.4*	12.5*	2.0*	-23.1	-20.4	-23.2	-19.8	-30.2	-20.9	37.9
1984-92	-11.6	2.3*	-27.3*	4.0*	3.0*	-.5*	5.0*	-17.6	-14.9*	-17.8	-14.8	-23.7	-16.3	32.2
1985-92	-8.2	6.9	-3.8*	17.1*	5.2*	8.3*	3.5*	-14.8	-12.7*	-14.9	-12.7	-22.0	-14.6	41.4
1986-92	-4.6	14.1	3.5*	15.5*	14.1	13.8*	14.3	-12.3	-14.0*	-12.3	-10.4	-20.5	-11.0	34.2
1987-92	-6.9	9.4	-8.9*	12.2*	9.4	11.5*	8.3*	-13.8	-8.6*	-14.0	-12.4	-21.3	-13.0	25.5
1988-92	-8.9	8.2	6.7*	12.9*	7.2*	2.6*	9.9	-16.1	-4.1*	-16.5	-10.2	-21.0	-7.7	15.0
1989-92	-6.7	10.2	1.9*	9.5*	10.6	8.3*	12.0	-13.9	-13.0*	-13.9	-10.4	-13.3	-11.8	4.9*
1990-92	-2.3*	8.5	6.6*	5.0*	9.4	13.7*	7.2*	-7.3	-25.0	-6.4	-5.4	-9.1	-4.0*	-2.0*
1991-92	-4.3	-.5*	-19.8*	.8*	--*	11.9*	-5.7*	-6.2	-3.4*	-6.3	-8.5	-9.3	-7.9	-9.3*

Note: Percent change was calculated using rates that were rounded to the nearest 100th.
*The difference is *not* statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.
--Less than 0.5%.

Reporting of crime remains stable

Of all crimes measured by the NCVS only 39% were reported to law enforcement officials in 1992 (table 5 and figure 4). The rate at which crimes were reported to the police has not changed significantly since 1990. Fifty percent of all violent crimes were reported to police last year, as were 30% of all personal thefts and 41% of household crimes.

In specific crime categories, motor vehicle thefts were most likely to be reported to the police (75%), while larcenies without contact were the least likely (30%).

Over time the reporting rate for violent crime has remained stable. However, the rates at which the crimes of theft and household crimes, overall, were reported to the police were generally higher in 1992 than in any year between 1973 and 1980.

Table 5. Reporting victimizations to the police, 1973-92

Percent of victimizations reported to the police	Type of crime														
			Crimes of violence						Crimes of theft			Household crimes			
						Assault				Personal larceny					
	All crimes	Personal crimes	Total	Rape	Robbery	Total	Aggravated	Simple	Total	With contact	Without contact	Total	Burglary	Larceny	Motor vehicle theft
1973	32%	28%	46%	49%	52%	44%	52%	38%	22%	33%	22%	38%	47%	25%	68%
1974	33	30	47	52	54	45	53	39	25	34	24	37	48	25	67
1975	35	32	47	56	53	45	55	39	26	35	26	39	49	27	71
1976	35	32	49	53	53	48	58	41	27	36	26	38	48	27	69
1977	34	30	46	58	56	44	51	39	25	37	24	38	49	25	68
1978	33	30	44	49	51	43	53	37	25	34	24	36	47	24	66
1979	33	30	45	51	55	42	51	37	24	36	24	36	48	25	68
1980	36	33	47	41	57	45	54	40	27	36	27	39	51	28	69
1981	35	33	47	56	56	44	52	39	27	40	26	39	51	26	67
1982	36	33	48	53	56	46	58	40	27	33	27	39	49	27	72
1983	35	32	47	47	53	46	56	41	26	36	26	37	49	25	69
1984	35	33	47	56	54	45	55	40	26	31	26	38	49	27	69
1985	36	34	48	61	54	46	58	40	27	33	27	39	50	27	71
1986	37	34	50	48	58	48	59	41	28	38	28	41	52	28	73
1987	37	34	48	52	55	46	60	38	28	36	27	40	52	27	75
1988	36	34	48	45	57	46	54	41	27	35	27	40	51	26	73
1989	37	34	45	51	51	43	52	38	29	30	29	41	50	28	76
1990	38	35	48	54	50	47	59	42	29	37	28	41	51	27	75
1991	38	36	49	59	55	47	58	42	29	38	28	41	50	28	74
1992	39	37	50	53	51	49	62	43	30	31	30	41	54	26	75

Trends in reporting crimes to the police, 1973-92

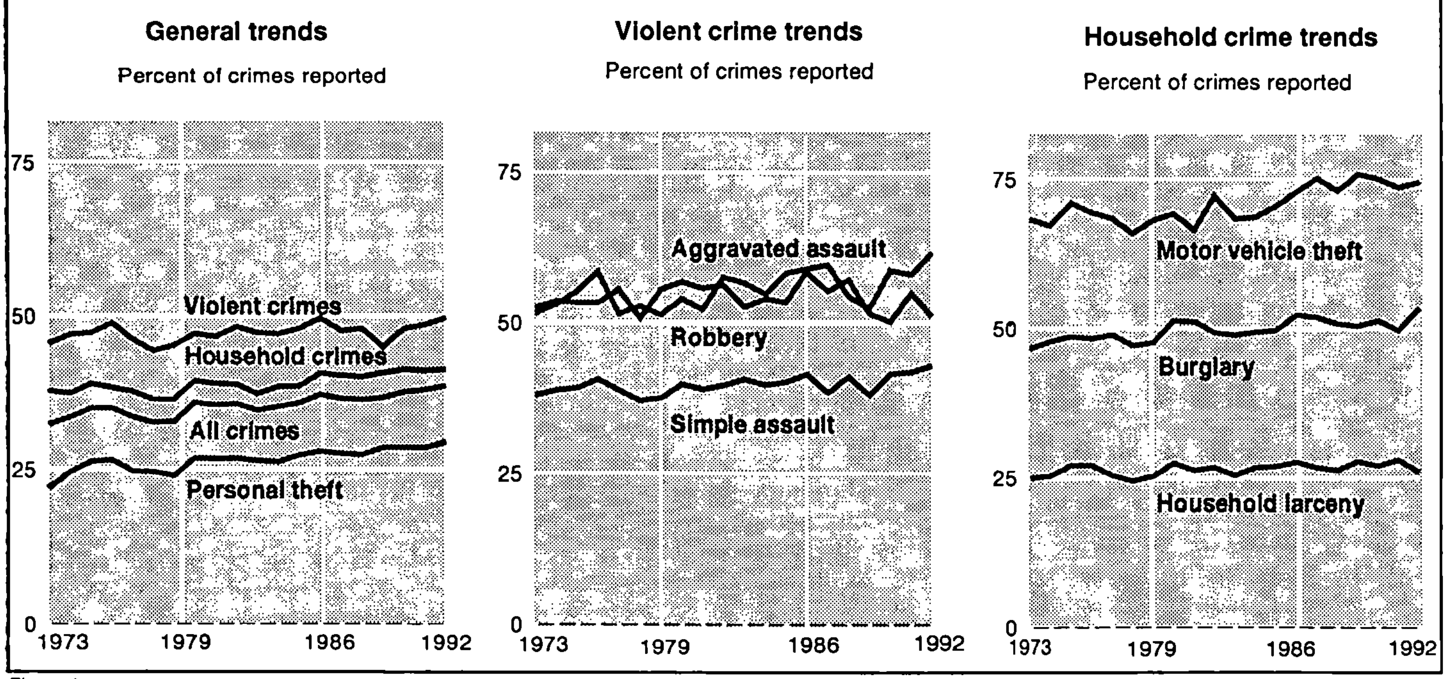

Figure 4

Characteristics of victims

Research by BJS has shown a relationship between certain demographic characteristics and the risk of crime victimization.[4] Males, younger persons, blacks, Hispanics, residents of central cities, and the poor tend to have higher rates of victimization than persons who do not possess these characteristics (table 6).

In every personal crime category males sustained significantly higher victimization rates than did females. Males were twice as likely as females to experience both robberies and aggravated assaults, for example.

Except for the crimes of theft and simple assault, blacks were significantly more likely than whites or persons of other races, such as Asians or Native Americans, to be victims of crimes. For instance, in 1992 there were 15.6 robberies for every 1,000 black persons, 4.7 for every 1,000 whites, and 5.1 for every 1,000 persons in other racial categories. There were no significant differences between the three racial groups for simple assaults and theft.

Persons under age 25 had higher victimization rates than older persons. Those 65 or older generally had the lowest victimization rates. The rate of assault was 60.9 crimes per 1,000 persons ages 16 to 19 and 3.1 per 1,000 persons 65 or older.

Table 6. Victimization rates for persons age 12 or older, by type of crime and sex, age, race, ethnicity, income, and locality of residence of victims, 1992

	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						
		Crimes of violence					
				Assault			Crimes
	Total	Total*	Robbery	Total	Aggravated	Simple	of theft
Sex							
Male	101.4	38.8	8.1	30.1	12.0	18.1	62.6
Female	81.8	25.9	3.9	21.1	6.1	15.0	55.9
Age							
12-15	171.0	75.7	9.8	64.8	20.1	44.7	95.3
16-19	172.7	77.9	15.4	60.9	26.3	34.5	94.8
20-24	177.0	70.1	11.4	56.0	18.1	38.0	106.9
25-34	111.1	37.6	7.7	29.4	9.3	20.1	73.4
35-49	75.1	21.2	3.8	17.1	6.8	10.2	53.9
50-64	43.3	10.0	2.8	7.1	2.3	4.8	33.3
65 or older	21.1	4.8	1.5	3.1	1.3	1.8	16.3
Race							
White	88.7	29.9	4.7	24.6	7.8	16.8	58.8
Black	110.8	50.4	15.6	33.5	18.3	15.2	60.4
Other	88.3	23.7	5.1	18.6	5.3	13.3	64.6
Ethnicity							
Hispanic	100.1	38.1	10.6	26.9	10.0	16.8	61.9
Non-Hispanic	90.3	31.4	5.4	25.3	8.9	16.4	58.9
Family income							
Less than $7,500	136.7	64.4	11.1	52.0	23.1	28.8	72.3
$7,500-$9,999	94.4	40.3	11.5	28.8	9.3	19.5	54.1
$10,000-$14,999	85.9	34.3	7.1	26.6	9.0	17.6	51.6
$15,000-$24,999	88.1	34.1	5.4	27.8	9.7	18.1	54.0
$25,000-$29,999	93.3	35.6	6.3	29.3	6.3	23.0	57.6
$30,000-$49,999	83.3	26.6	4.8	20.9	6.6	14.3	56.6
$50,000 or more	92.2	21.2	3.7	16.9	5.5	11.4	71.0
Residence							
Central city	116.5	43.2	10.8	31.5	12.1	19.4	73.3
Suburban	84.8	28.2	4.4	23.1	7.3	15.8	56.5
Nonmetropolitan areas	72.4	25.2	2.7	22.1	7.8	14.3	47.2

*Includes data on rape not shown separately.

Hispanics and non-Hispanics had generally similar victimization rates except for the crime of robbery. Hispanics sustained robberies at twice the rate of non-Hispanics (10.6 versus 5.4).

In general, persons from households with low incomes experienced higher violent crime victimization rates than did persons from wealthier households. Persons from households with an income under $7,500 had a significantly higher rate of aggravated assault than persons in all other income groups, particularly those from households earning $50,000 or more. For the crimes of theft, however, this pattern did not hold. Persons from households earning less than $7,500 had personal theft rates that were not significantly different from persons with a household income of $50,000 or more.

Residents of central cities had higher rates for all personal crimes than did suburbanites or residents of nonmetropolitan areas. In fact, central city residents were robbed at greater than 3 times the rate of residents of nonmetropolitan areas (10.8 versus 2.7).

Certain demographic groups also had higher household victimization rates than others (table 7). Blacks had a significantly higher rate of household crime than whites. Compared to non-Hispanics, Hispanics had a higher rate for each of the household crimes.

As was the case for personal crimes, place of residence was related to a household's risk of victimization. For each type of household crime, central city residents had consistently higher rates than suburban or nonmetropolitan residents. For example, households in central city areas were burglarized at 1.5 times the rate of nonmetropolitan households (60.1 versus 41.7).

Households that rented their residence had significantly higher victimization rates than households that owned. Households that rented sustained motor vehicle thefts at about twice the rate of households that owned their residence, with 29.2 thefts per 1,000 households versus 15.0.

[4] *The Risk of Violent Crime*, BJS Special Report, NCJ-97119, May 1985.

Sur methodology d sampling error

The National Crime Victimization Survey measures personal and household offenses, including crimes not reported to the police, by interviewing all the occupants of housing units, age 12 and over which have been selected to comprise a representative sample. Each housing unit is interviewed at 6-month intervals; interviews for the complete sample of households are spread out over the entire year. In 1992, approximately 110,000 people in 66,000 housing units were interviewed about the crimes they had experienced in the previous 6 months. These numbers reflect a 96% response rate.

In 1992, about 58,000 persons in 34,000 housing units in selected areas were interviewed using a new survey questionnaire. Data from households receiving this new questionnaire are excluded from this report. In order to convert to the new questionnaire, while maintaining the capability of producing estimates of annual crime rate changes, the new questionnaire is being phased in gradually over a few years. Adjustments were made in the NCVS weighting to compensate for the exclusion of these new questionnaire cases from the 1992 data.

Each person interviewed is asked about the crimes he or she may have experienced over the previous 6 months. Certain (nonsampling) errors may occur during data collection — responses to questions may be erroneously recorded, questions may not be answered correctly, or some people may forget to mention crimes, for example. The NCVS was designed to eliminate as many of these errors as possible.

The estimates in this Bulletin are derived from sample survey data and are subject to sampling variation. Comparisons presented in this report were determined to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, meaning that the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error. Statements of comparison qualified by language such as "slightly," "somewhat," or "marginal" indicate statistical significance at the 90% level (1.6 standard errors).

Note, with the exclusion of the sample cases receiving the new questionnaire, the standard errors for 1992 estimates are larger than those in recent years. Because of this, larger differences between two numbers are needed in order to be declared significantly different. Additionally, with the composition of the sample areas changing as the new questionnaire is phased in, the consistency of certain types of geographic and demographic estimates over time may be reduced.

It is also possible that the crime trends exhibited by the National Crime Victimization Survey during the past 20 years may have been affected by changes in the demographic makeup of the American population. For example, the proportion of the American population that was between the ages of 12 and 19 was much smaller in 1992 than it was in 1972. This group has the highest violent crime rate of any age group and has experienced a rising violent crime rate during the past few years, while older groups have experienced a much more stable rate. Preliminary analysis by BJS and the Bureau of the Census indicates that the national

Table 7. Household victimization rates, by type of crime and race, ethnicity, income, residence, and form of tenure of head of household, 1992

	Victimizations per 1,000 households			
	Total	Burglary	Household larceny	Motor vehicle theft
Race				
White	146.0	46.4	82.3	17.3
Black	199.1	68.4	93.6	37.1
Other	147.4	44.3	68.6	34.5
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	260.2	69.9	141.8	48.6
Non-Hispanic	144.1	47.3	78.8	18.0
Family income				
Less than $7,500	174.2	71.3	87.9	15.0
$7,500-$9,999	190.8	63.4	103.3	24.2
$10,000-$14,999	164.7	61.2	78.9	24.5
$15,000-$24,999	151.3	45.0	86.3	20.0
$25,000-$29,999	157.5	44.3	91.8	21.4
$30,000-$49,999	146.5	40.5	86.5	19.5
$50,000 or more	141.4	43.6	79.3	18.5
Residence				
Central city	209.9	60.1	114.5	35.3
Suburban	134.3	44.6	72.4	17.3
Nonmetropolitan areas	109.5	41.7	61.6	6.2
Form of tenure				
Home owned	126.7	39.4	72.3	15.0
Home rented	197.8	65.8	102.8	29.2

Table 8. Estimates based on 1980-decennial and 1990-decennial census population counts, 1991

	Number of victimizations (in 1,000's)			Victimization rates		
	Based on 1980 census	Based on 1990 census	Percent change	Based on 1980 census	Based on 1990 census	Percent change
Personal crimes	19,469	19,472	0%	94.8	95.3	.5%
Crimes of violence	6,567	6,587	.3	32.0	32.2	.8
Rape	173	174	.4	0.8	0.9	.9
Robbery	1,207	1,203	-.4	5.9	5.9	.2
Assault	5,186	5,210	.5	25.3	25.5	1.0
Aggravated	1,623	1,634	.7	7.9	8.0	1.2
Simple	3,563	3,575	.3	17.4	17.5	.9
Crimes of theft	12,902	12,885	-.1	62.8	63.1	.4
Personal larceny						
With contact	501	497	-.8	2.4	2.4	-.2
Without contact	12,402	12,389	-.1	60.4	60.6	.4
Household crimes	16,105	16,025	-.5%	166.3	166.4	.1%
Household burglary	5,213	5,187	-.5	53.8	53.9	.1
Household larceny	8,742	8,702	-.5	90.3	90.4	.1
Motor vehicle theft	2,149	2,136	-.6	22.2	22.2	0

Number of persons		**Number of households**	
1980 based	205,344,340	1980 based	96,839,300
1990 based	204,280,050	1990 based	96,281,890

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding. 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. Percent change is based on unrounded numbers.

rate of violent crime would have been higher in 1992 if the age distribution in 1992 had matched that in 1972. Upon completion of the analysis, BJS will publish a report describing the effects of demographic changes in the U.S. population.

Differences between estimates based on the 1980- and 1990-decennial censuses

The NCVS employs independent population estimates, derived and updated from decennial censuses, to improve the precision of its statistics on victimization. Use of the latest census counts allows the population controls (which are used in weighting the sample data) to be updated and provides an opportunity for introducing estimation refinements that further enhance the reliability of the estimates.

Table 8 shows that the population counts for 1991 based on the 1980 census compared to those based on the 1990 census varied by only about one-half of one percent for both persons and households. Also, there were no significant differences between estimates of crime rates based on the 1980 census counts compared to rates based on the 1990 census.

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Comparison of findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey and the Uniform Crime Reports

The U.S. Department of Justice administers two programs to measure the magnitude, nature, and impact of crime in the United States: the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the source of this report, and the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR).

Because of differences in methodology and crime coverage, the two programs examine the Nation's crime problem from somewhat different perspectives, and their results are not strictly comparable. The definitional and procedural differences can account for many of the apparent discrepancies in estimates from the two programs. The Department of Justice fact sheet *The Nation's Two Crime Measures* (NCJ-122705) contains a detailed description of the NCVS and UCR.

This Bulletin was written by Lisa D. Bastian with assistance from Marshall M. DeBerry, Jr. and Tina Dorsey. Lisa D. Bastian designed the layout of the report. Review, editorial, and post-production assistance was provided by Thomas Hester, Marilyn Marbrook, and Jayne Pugh.

October 1993, NCJ-144776

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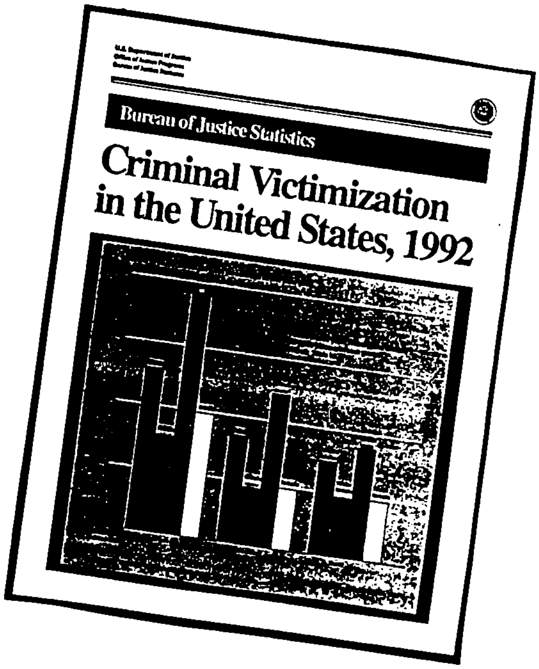

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CRIMES AFFECTING U.S. HOUSEHOLDS REACH NEW LOW

A smaller percentage of U.S. households were victimized by violent crime or thefts last year than in any year since the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) started counting in 1975.

Burglaries and thefts showed the biggest drops for the 1975-1992 period. Assaults and robbery also declined. Only rape and motor vehicle theft did not decrease.

Altogether, 22 million of the nation's almost 100 million households were affected by crime last year--roughly 23 percent. In 1975 32 percent of American households was hit by at least one crime.

"Nonetheless, that still means almost one in four households were victimized by a violent or property crime during 1992," noted Acting BJS Director Lawrence A. Greenfeld.

"Five percent of American households experienced violent crimes during 1992, which was unchanged from 1991," Greenfeld said.

-MORE-

BJS noted that most crime was more likely to have minority and poor households as victims. While 22 percent of all white households were touched by crime last year, 27 percent of black households were victimized. Twenty-two percent of the households headed by non-Hispanics were victimized by crime at least once last year, compared to 31 percent of the households headed by Hispanics. Households with incomes under $15,000 were more vulnerable to becoming victims of a burglary than were households with higher incomes.

Seven percent of all black households had a member who was a violent crime victim last year, compared to 5 percent of all white households.

As in previous years, households in the Northeast were the least likely to be victimized by crime. Those in the West were the most likely. Urban households were more vulnerable than were rural.

Some of the 1975-1992 decreases were substantial. For example, burglary fell from 7.7 percent to 4.2 percent of all households during the 17-year period. Household theft dropped from 10.2 to 7.2 percent, and personal theft from 16.4 to 9.7 percent. The decline was attributed, in part, to gradual shifts in population from large households and those in urban areas, which are more likely to experience crime, to smaller ones or those in suburban and rural areas.

The households indicator is a component of the National Crime Victimization Survey, conducted for BJS by the Bureau of the Census. Interviews are conducted at six-month intervals with approximately 99,000 occupants age 12 or older in about 49,000 housing units. The nationally representative survey counts only those crimes for which the victim can be questioned and therefore excludes homicides. However, the inclusion of homicides would have made no appreciable difference in the data.

Single copies of the bulletin "Crime and the Nation's Households, 1992" (NCJ-143288) may be obtained from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The telephone number is 1-800-732-3277.

Data from the tables and graphs used in many BJS reports can be made available to news organizations in spreadsheet files on 5¼" and 3½" diskettes by calling (202) 307-0784.

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Special Report

Murder in Large Urban Counties, 1988

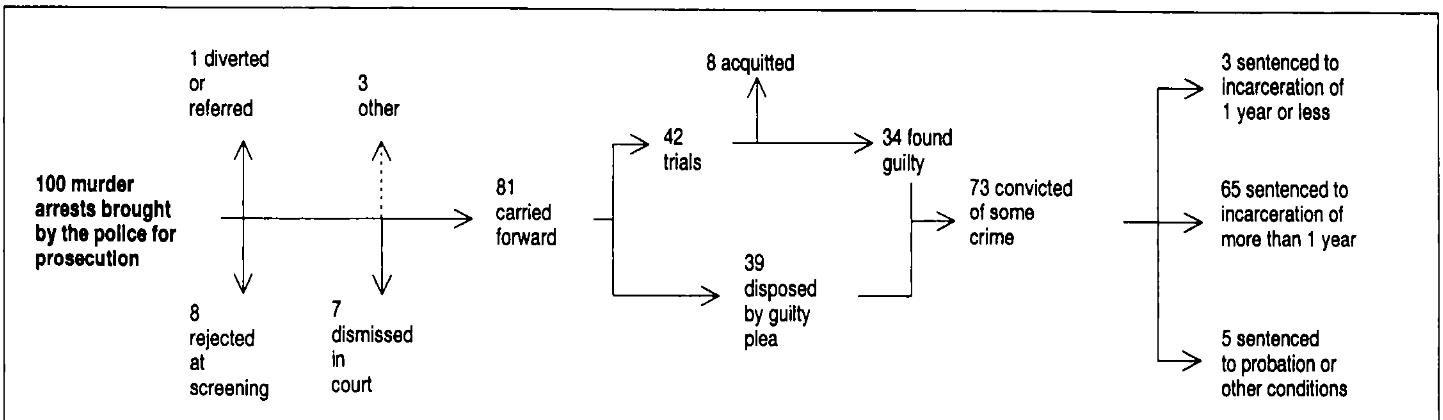
By John M. Dawson,
BJS Statistician,
and Barbara Boland

About 8 in 10 murder victims were killed by relatives or acquaintances in murder cases disposed in the Nation's 75 most populous counties during 1988. Strangers killed about 2 in 10 of the victims. 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 from the survey include:

- Among those arrested for murder and presented for prosecution, 63% were convicted of murder; overall, 73% were convicted of some charge.

- Among those convicted of murder, 95% received a sentence of incarceration or death: 74% were sentenced to a prison term, 18% to a life sentence, 2% to a death sentence, and 2% to probation.



May 1993

This special report provides a detailed analysis of murderers, their victims, the circumstances in which they come in contact with one another, and the justice system's handling of those arrested for this most serious crime. It is an important contribution to our understanding of murder. The study sample of cases was drawn to represent nearly 10,000 murder defendants and more than 8,000 murder victims in 1988 in the 75 most populous counties in the United States — about half of those arrested for murder and just under half of those murdered throughout the Nation that year.

The study provides statistics to portray the victim-offender relationship, the demographic characteristics of both victim and offender, the type of weapon used, the circumstances surrounding the murders, and the outcome of the case — all elements necessary for a thorough analysis of prosecution and sentencing.

This study was possible as a result of the cooperation extended by the prosecutors and their staffs in the Nation's largest counties. On behalf of BJS, I want to express my sincere appreciation.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Bulletin

Crime and the Nation's Households, 1992

By Michael R. Rand
BJS Statistician

In 1992, 23% of U.S. households were victimized by a crime of violence or theft. This was a slight decline from the 24% of households that experienced a crime measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in 1991. The 1992 percentage is the lowest recorded since 1975, the first year that the NCVS produced an estimate of households touched by crime. The marginal decrease between 1991 and 1992 was the result of slight decreases in the percentages of households victimized by theft and burglary.

Additional findings for 1992

The following was also found in 1992:

• Five percent of U.S. households had at least one member age 12 or older who was the victim of a violent crime.

• Black households were more likely to experience crime victimization than were white households.

• Hispanic households were more likely to experience crime victimization than were non-Hispanic households.

• Urban households were the most likely, and rural households the least likely to sustain a crime in 1992.

Households experiencing selected crimes of violence and theft, 1975-92

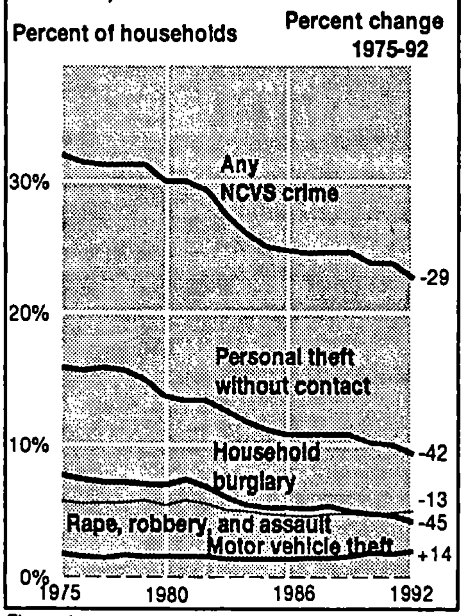


Figure 1

The National Crime Victimization Survey

The NCVS is an ongoing survey that obtains information about the victimization experience of members of a sample of U.S. households. The NCVS, which was first administered in 1972, measures the personal crimes of rape, robbery, assault and theft, as well as the household crimes of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Since it is a survey of victims, the NCVS may obtain information on crimes reported to the police as well as those

August 1993

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), sponsored annually by BJS and the Department of Justice since 1972, provides policymakers with the only mechanism to gauge the extent to which the public is exposed to crime and the consequences of crime to victims. All of our citizens as well as those employed by agencies of the criminal justice system may use these data to evaluate each year whether the number and percentage of our Nation's households affected by crime is growing and which types of households are most affected by crime.

In 1992, our citizens reported that nearly 22.1 million U.S. households were directly affected by crime or just under 23% of all households nationwide. While criminal victimization is far too prevalent, this is both the lowest number of American households and the smallest percentage of households victimized by crime since this indicator was developed. In 1975, for example, an estimated 23.4 million households, about 32% of all households, were struck by crime.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the NCVS, a complement to crime data supplied by law enforcement agencies, and it will be celebrated with a special volume to be issued later this year focusing upon trends and patterns in crime.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

that were not reported. Homicide and commercial crimes are excluded from the survey. Over the past 17 years this indicator, which reports the proportion of households that experience an attempted or completed crime, has been calculated to estimate the dispersion of crime (see *Methodology* on page 6 for further discussion of the indicator and of the NCVS).

Table 1. Households experiencing crime in 1992, and relative percent change since 1991

Households	1991 Number of households	1991 Percent	1992 Number of households	1992 Percent	Relative percent change, 1991-92[a]
Total	96,561,000	100.0%	97,613,000	100.0%	
Victimized by:					
Any NCVS crime	22,855,000	23.7%	22,093,000	22.6%	-4.4%*
Violent crime	4,711,000	4.9	4,888,000	5.0	2.7
Rape	161,000	.2	149,000	.2	-8.4
Robbery	951,000	1.0	998,000	1.0	3.9
Assault	3,852,000	4.0	3,975,000	4.1	2.1
Aggravated	1,367,000	1.4	1,436,000	1.5	4.0
Simple	2,752,000	2.9	2,807,000	2.9	.9
Total theft	16,069,000	16.6%	15,343,000	15.7%	-5.5*
Personal	10,029,000	10.4	9,451,000	9.7	-6.8*
With contact	463,000	.5	484,000	.5	3.5
Without contact	9,655,000	10.0	9,029,000	9.3	-7.5*
Household	7,421,000	7.7	7,036,000	7.2	-6.2
Burglary	4,554,000	4.7	4,116,000	4.2	-10.6*
Motor vehicle theft	1,755,000	1.8	1,947,000	2.0	9.8
Crimes of high concern (a rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a burglary)	6,964,000	7.2%	6,654,000	6.8%	-5.5%

Note: Detail does not add to total or crime subtotals because of overlap in households experiencing various crimes. Relative percent change is based on unrounded figures.
*Change was statistically significant at the 90% confidence level. No other change was statistically significant at or above that level. See Methodology section for discussion of sample size effects on 1992 estimates.
[a]Relative percent change in percentage of households experiencing crime 1991-92.

A household refers both to a dwelling unit, like a house or apartment, and to the people who live in it. A household was counted as having experienced a crime during the year if it met one of these criteria:

- It fell victim to a burglary, motor vehicle theft, or household theft.

- A household member age 12 or older was raped, robbed or assaulted.

- A household member age 12 or older experienced a personal theft.

Trends

Since the inception of the households-touched-by-crime indicator in 1975, the proportion of U.S. households experiencing a crime of any type has never shown a significant year-to-year increase (table 2; figure 1). The proportion of households touched by crime declined by 22% between 1975 and 1985, with 32% of all households reporting at least one victimization in 1975 compared to 25% in 1985 (table 2). After a period of stability between 1985 and 1989, the proportion of households affected by crime decreased to 24% in 1990 and to 23% in 1992.

Table 2. Households experiencing crime, by type of crime, 1975-92

	Percent of U.S. households										Households touched by crime (in millions)	Households in U.S. (in millions)
	Any NCVS crime	Violent crime: Total	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Personal theft	Household theft	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft			
Percent of households experiencing crime												
1975	32.1%	5.8%	.2%	1.4%	4.5%	16.4%	10.2%	7.7%	1.8%		23.377	73.123
1976	31.5	5.6	.2	1.2	4.4	16.2	10.3	7.4	1.6		23.540	74.528
1977	31.3	5.7	.2	1.2	4.7	16.3	10.2	7.2	1.5		23.741	75.904
1978	31.3	5.7	.2	1.1	4.6	16.2	9.9	7.2	1.7		24.277	77.578
1979	31.3	5.9	.2	1.2	4.8	15.4	10.8	7.1	1.6		24.730	78.964
1980	30.0	5.5	.2	1.2	4.4	14.2	10.4	7.0	1.6		24.222	80.622
1981	30.0	5.9	.2	1.3	4.7	13.9	10.2	7.4	1.6		24.863	82.797
1982	29.3	5.6	.2	1.4	4.5	13.9	9.6	6.9	1.6		24.989	85.178
1983	27.4	5.1	.1	1.1	4.2	13.0	8.9	6.1	1.4		23.621	86.146
1984	26.0	5.0	.2	1.0	4.1	12.3	8.5	5.5	1.4		22.806	87.791
1985	25.0	4.8	.1	.9	4.0	11.5	8.1	5.3	1.4		22.191	88.852
1986	24.7	4.7	.1	.9	3.8	11.2	8.0	5.3	1.4		22.201	90.014
1987	24.5	4.6	.1	.1	3.8	11.1	8.0	5.2	1.5		22.404	91.391
1988	24.6	4.8	.2	.9	4.0	11.2	7.7	5.4	1.5		22.844	92.892
1989*	24.6	4.8	.1	1.0	3.9	11.2	8.0	5.0	1.6		23.221	94.553
1990	23.7	4.7	.1	1.0	3.8	10.5	7.5	4.8	1.9		22.652	95.461
1991	23.7	4.9	.2	1.0	4.0	10.4	7.7	4.7	1.8		22.855	96.561
1992	22.6	5.0	.2	1.0	4.1	9.7	7.2	4.2	2.0		22.093	97.614

*Estimates for 1989 differ from those published in *Crime and the Nation's Households, 1989.* See *Methodology.*

Some population segments have experienced trends that have differed from the national trend. The percentage of urban households sustaining a crime rose from 29% to 31% between 1986 and 1989. Rural households experienced a decline from 20% to 17% during this same period. Since 1989, the percentage of urban households experiencing a crime has decreased, reaching 28% in 1992, while the percentage of rural households victimized by crime has remained unchanged from the 1989 level.

In 1992, the percentage of white households experiencing crime was at its lowest level ever.[1] By contrast, the proportion of black households touched by crime has not changed significantly since 1989.

The proportions of black and white households experiencing crime in 1992 were well below the proportions in 1975. However, the decrease for black households over this period was smaller than that for white households. Between 1975 and 1992 the proportion of victimized white households declined by 31%; for black households the decline was 17%.

[1]In the NCVS the race of the household is considered to be that of the household head.

1991-92 comparisons

The percentage of households sustaining crime decreased slightly between 1991 and 1992, the result of slight decreases in the percentages of households experiencing personal thefts and burglary. All other crime categories remained unchanged between 1991 and 1992.[2]

Among most demographic groups examined, the overall households-victimized-by-crime indicator changed little between 1991 and 1992. White households were less victimized by crimes of personal theft in 1992 than in the previous year, causing the overall percentage of white households touched by crime to decrease. Black households and households of "other" races — those with members of Asian or Native American descent — remained as vulnerable to crime in 1992 as in the previous year.

Black households were somewhat more likely in 1992 than in 1991 to have a member victimized by an aggravated assault.

[2]In 1992 interviews from only half the NCVS sample were used to produce estimates for this report, because the other half sample was used to introduce a new crime screener. See *Methodology*.

Although Hispanic households experienced about the same vulnerability to crime in 1991 and 1992, non-Hispanic households were less likely to be victimized by crime in 1992 because of a lower percentage victimized by theft and a marginal decrease in the percentage burglarized.

The proportion of households with incomes between $25,000 and $49,999 that were burglarized declined in 1992.

Table 3. Percent of households experiencing crime, by race and ethnicity of household head, 1992

Percent of households experiencing:	Race of household head: White	Black	Other	Ethnicity of household head: Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
Any NCVS crime	21.9%	27.2%	25.2%	22.0%	30.7%
Violent crime	4.8%	7.1%	4.0%	4.8%	7.6%
Rape	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
Robbery	0.9	2.2	1.2	0.9	2.4
Assault	4.0	5.1	3.1	4.0	5.4
Aggravated	1.3	2.6	0.8	1.4	2.3
Simple	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.8	3.5
Total theft	15.5%	17.1%	17.8%	15.3%	21.1%
Personal	9.6	9.8	12.7	9.5	11.4
Household	7.1	8.6	6.1	6.9	11.6
Burglary	4.0	5.8	4.3	4.1	5.8
Motor vehicle theft	1.8	3.3	3.0	1.8	4.4
Serious violent crime[a]	2.3%	4.7%	2.0%	2.4%	4.5%
Crimes of high concern[b]	6.4%	9.7%	6.3%	6.6%	10.0%

Note: Detail does not add to total or crime subtotals because of overlap in households experiencing various crimes.

[a]Rape, robbery, or aggravated assault.
[b]A rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a burglary.

Households experiencing selected crimes, by race of household head, 1975-92

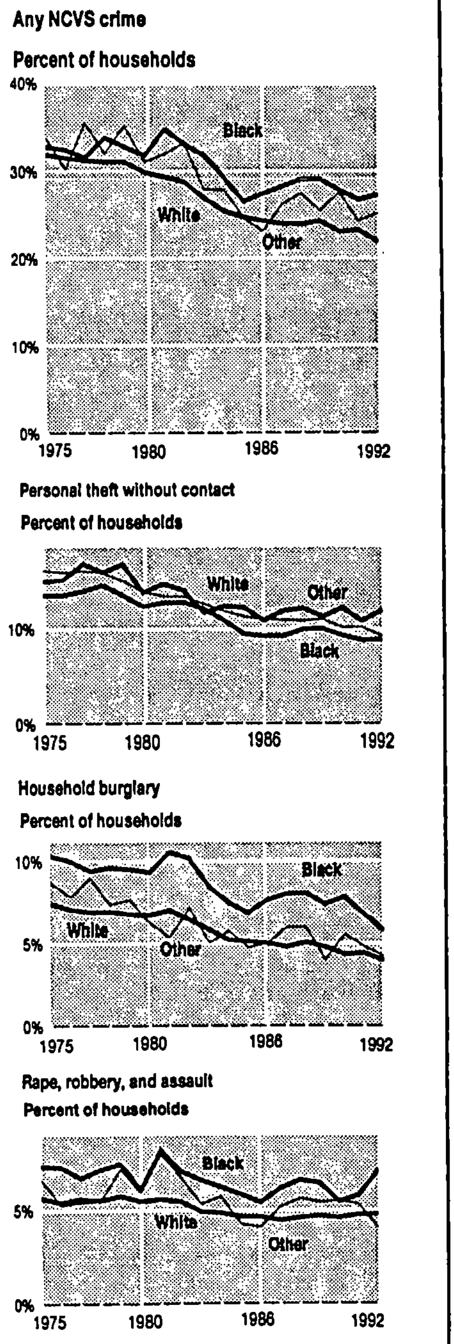


Figure 2

While urban and rural households had similar overall crime experiences in 1991 and 1992, suburban households were slightly less vulnerable to crime in 1992, the result of a decreased vulnerability to crimes of theft. Urban households were less likely to be victimized by burglaries in 1992 than in the previous year.

Households in the Midwest were less susceptible to crime in 1992, largely because of a decrease in the percentage of households touched by household theft. The percentage of Northeast households that were victimized by household theft was slightly lower in 1992, but the overall percentage of Northeast households touched by any crime was unchanged from 1991.

Households with 2 to 3 members experienced slightly less crime in 1992 than in 1991, because of a marginally lower vulnerability to crimes of theft.

Race and ethnicity of household

Black households were generally more likely than white households to have been victimized in 1992 (table 3). Black households were more likely to be burglarized or have a motor vehicle stolen or to have members who were victims of robberies or aggravated assaults than were white households. However, black and white households had a similar susceptibility to crimes of theft.

Family income

Generally, households with higher incomes were more susceptible to crimes of personal theft than were households with lower incomes. Households with incomes of $25,000 or more experienced such crimes to a greater degree than did households with lower incomes.

While vulnerability to personal theft increased for higher income households, households across all income levels had similar vulnerability to household theft and motor vehicle theft.

Households with incomes under $7,500 were more likely than households with incomes of $15,000 or more (and slightly more likely than households with incomes of $7,500 to $14,999) to have a member who had been a victim of a crime of violence during 1992. Households with incomes under $15,000 were more vulnerable to becoming victims of a household burglary than were households with higher incomes.

Place of residence

Urban households were the most vulnerable to crime, and rural households the least vulnerable. While households in suburban areas suffered relatively more robberies than did rural households, suburban households were not more likely than rural households to experience an assault or a violent crime. In addition, suburban and rural households had an equivalent vulnerability to household burglary. In 1992, 1 in 55 urban households had a member who was the victim of a robbery, compared with 1 in 137 suburban households and 1 in 258 rural households.

Region

As in previous years, Northeastern households experienced some of the lowest and Western households some of the highest percentages of households victimized by crime (table 4). Households in the South (23%) were more vulnerable to crime than were households in the Midwest (21%).

For the overall measure and for most types of crime, the Northeast had the lowest proportion of households touched by crime, followed by the Midwest, South, and West in that order. However, for some types of crime the regional patterns differed. The percentage of Midwest households with members who were victims of violent crime did not differ significantly from Northeastern or Southern households. Midwestern, Southern, and Western households were victimized by burglaries to a similar degree, higher than that experienced by Northeastern households. Northeastern households were as likely as Western households,

Table 4. Percent of households experiencing crime, by selected characteristics, 1992

Percent of households experiencing:	Annual household income					Place of residence[a]			Region			
	Under $7,500	$7,500-$14,999	$15,000-$24,999	$25,000-$49,999	$50,000 or more	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Any NCVS crime	23.6%	21.0%	21.6%	23.6%	25.2%	28.1%	21.4%	16.9%	18.0%	20.9%	23.4%	28.5%
Violent crime	7.0%	5.3%	5.1%	4.8%	4.3%	6.4%	4.6%	3.8%	3.8%	4.4%	5.1%	6.9%
Rape	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2
Robbery	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	.8	1.8	.7	.4	1.0	.7	1.0	1.4
Assault	5.7	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.5	4.7	3.9	3.5	2.9	3.7	4.1	5.8
Aggravated	2.5	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.9	1.2	1.3	.9	1.2	1.6	2.2
Simple	3.7	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.8	4.0
Total theft	14.8%	13.5%	14.9%	17.3%	18.5%	19.5%	15.0%	11.4%	11.8%	14.3%	16.2%	21.0%
Personal	8.6	7.3	8.5	10.8	13.1	11.4	9.8	6.9	7.7	9.1	9.6	12.7
Household	7.6	7.3	7.6	7.8	6.6	9.7	6.3	5.2	4.8	6.1	7.8	10.1
Burglary	6.1	5.5	3.9	3.4	3.8	5.0	3.8	3.7	2.6	4.2	4.7	5.0
Motor vehicle theft	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.2	3.2	1.8	.6	2.5	1.5	1.9	2.2
Serious violent crime[b]	3.9%	2.9%	2.6%	2.2%	1.9%	3.7%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.7%	3.6%
Crimes of high concern[c]	9.3%	7.8%	6.5%	6.0%	6.4%	8.8%	6.1%	5.3%	4.7%	6.3%	7.2%	9.1%

Note: Detail does not add to total because of overlap in households experiencing various crimes.
[a]These estimates are not comparable to estimates for place of residence prior to 1986 because of changes in geographic classification (see footnote 3).
[b]Rape, robbery, or aggravated assault.
[c]A rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a burglary.

and more likely than Midwestern households to suffer a completed or attempted motor vehicle theft.

Size of household

In general, the more people in a household, the greater its susceptibility to crime. (table 5). This tendency is more pronounced for personal crimes than for household crimes because larger households have more members at risk for personal crimes, but each household, regardless of size, is at risk for household crimes.

The likelihood of personal crime victimization generally does not increase at a rate proportional to increases in household size. For example, in 1992, as in previous years, the percentage of six-or-more-person households touched by personal theft was about 2 1/2 times that of one person households.

There are a number of various reasons why the rate of victimization by personal crime is not simply proportional to household size. Many households with two or more members have children under age 12. Crimes against young children are not included in the NCVS measurement of crime victimization.[3] In addition, variations in demographic characteristics and lifestyles among different size households can affect their likelihood of criminal victimization.

The relationship between household size and susceptibility to crime shown in past years also held for 1992:

[3]Crimes against children under age 12 are excluded from the NCVS because asking sensitive questions about victimization might be stressful to the child or the parents, possibly discouraging adult participation in the survey.

Table 5. Percent of households touched by selected crimes, by size of household, 1992

Percent of households experiencing:	Number of persons in household: 1	2-3	4-5	6+
Any NCVS crime	15.3%	21.7%	31.6%	36.8%
Violent crime	2.9%	4.4%	7.9%	12.0%
Total theft	9.9	15.1	22.5	26.9
Personal	6.0	9.2	14.3	16.9
Household	4.5	7.0	10.2	12.9
Burglary	3.8	4.0	4.8	6.4
Motor vehicle theft	0.9	2.1	2.9	2.8

• Fewer than 1 in 5 single-person households were touched by crime, compared with 2 in 5 households with six or more members.

• Households with six or more members were about 4 times more likely than single-person households to have had at least one member who was victimized by violent crime (12% vs 3%) and 2 1/2 times more likely to have sustained a personal or household theft (27% vs 10%).

As in previous years, burglary varied the least among households of different sizes. In 1992, 4% of single-person households were burglarized, compared to 6% of households with six or more members.

Crimes of high concern

Of the crimes measured by the NCVS, many people find burglaries and violent crimes committed by strangers to be especially threatening. Crimes by strangers are often unpredictable and can be difficult to protect against. Household burglaries are felt by many to be invasions of personal domain. For this report, these crimes have been termed crimes of high concern. Last year 1 in 15 households in the Nation were touched by a crime of high concern, compared with 1 in 14 households in 1991.

The kinds of households most vulnerable to crime in general were the most likely to be victims of crimes of high concern: higher percentages of black households than white households, Hispanic households than non-Hispanic households, urban households than suburban or rural households sustained such crimes in 1992. Households with incomes under $7,500 were more likely than households with incomes of $15,000 or more to experience a crime of high concern. Households in the Northeast were least likely, and those in the West most likely, to sustain at least one of these crimes, while similar proportions of Midwestern and Southern households were victimized by a crime of high concern.

Between 1981 and 1984, the percentage of households victimized by a crime of high concern decreased from 11% to 8%. This percentage remained constant until declining again in 1989 to 7%. Since 1989, the proportion of households

Households experiencing crimes of high concern, by race of household head, 1981-92

(A rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a burglary)

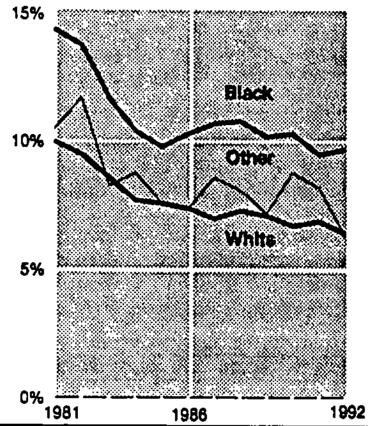


Figure 3

touched by a crime of high concern has remained at this 7% level.

Race and crime seriousness

In 1992, black households were not only more vulnerable to crime than white households, but were also more likely, if victimized, to be victimized by a serious violent crime and slightly more likely, if victimized, to suffer a crime of high concern. In 1992, 17% of the black households experiencing any crime had a member victimized by a rape, robbery or aggravated assault, while 10% of victimized white households had a member who suffered one of these crimes. Similarly, among those households that fell victim to a crime in 1992, 36% of black households and 29% of white households were victimized by a crime of high concern.

Factors affecting trends

Over time, population shifts and changes in household composition have affected the overall downward trend that the households touched by crime indicator has shown since 1975.

American society is extremely mobile. For some time the population has been moving away from the Northeast and Midwest into the South and West. Urban residents have been moving to suburban and rural areas. In 1975, 50% of the U.S. population lived in the Northeast or Midw , compared to 44% in 1992. Between 1975 and 1985 the percentage of households located in urban areas fell from 32% to 29% of all households, while suburban and rural households increased from 68% to 71%. Between 1986 and 1988, urban households continued to account for a declining percentage of all households, and suburban households, an increasing one. Since 1988, the urban, suburban, and rural distribution of households has remained substantially unchanged.[4]

As people are constantly moving into and out of different households, creating new households and merging existing households, the average household size has decreased over the recent past. One-person households represented 21% of all households in 1975, but 26% in 1992. The percentage of households consisting of six or more persons fell from 7% to 3%.

Two population movements outlined above, changing household size and household location, have shifted population from types of households more likely to experience crime — larger ones and those in urban areas — to those less likely — smaller ones and those in suburban or rural areas. Another movement has shifted the population in the opposite direction, from the Northeast, a region with a lower likelihood of crime, to the West, where a higher proportion of households experience crime.

While current data do not permit measurement of the degree to which all population movements have affected the indicator, estimates can be made for the effect of changes in household size. If the size distribution of American households were the same in 1992 as in 1975, the estimate of households experiencing crime would have been 23.7% rather than 22.6%.[5] This adjusted estimate, however, is still significantly below the 1975 estimate of 32% of households victimized by crime.

[4]Places of residence for 1986 through 1992 are based on 1980 Census definitions, and earlier years are 3 on 1970 definitions. Hence, the places of residence and population distributions identified in the two periods 1975-1985 and 1986-1992 were not directly comparable.

[5]This analysis assumes that in each category of household size the percentage of households victimized by crime in 1992 would be unchanged, given the size distribution for all households that existed in 1975.

Methodology

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) developed the households-touched-by-crime indicator in 1981 to improve our understanding of the impact of crime on our society.[6] The household was chosen as the unit of analysis because crimes such as burglary are crimes against an entire household and crimes against persons affect members of the victims' household.

Crimes not included in the NCVS

Households-touched-by-crime estimates are derived from NCVS statistics on rape, personal robbery, assault, household burglary, personal and household theft, and motor vehicle theft.[7] Because the NCVS counts only crimes for which the victim can be interviewed, homicide is not counted. Its exclusion does not noticeably affect the estimates. If each of the homicides during 1992 had occurred in a different household and if these households had been victimized by no other crime (the largest possible effect), then the inclusion of homicides in these findings would not have raised the overall percent of households victimized by crime (22.6) by as much as 0.05%.[8]

Other crimes against persons or their households, such as fraud, confidence games, kidnaping, and arson are not included in this analysis because they are not measured by the NCVS. Commercial crimes, drug trafficking, and drug possession crimes also are not included.

Rates of crime-number of crimes per 1,000 persons or households.

Traditional measures of crime are in the form of volumes or rates. Data on the volume of crime have limited usefulness because the size of the population is not taken into account. Rates—expressed in the NCVS as crimes per 1,000 households or per 1,000 persons—automatically correct for different population sizes. Rates based on the individual person and household, however, give only one measure of how common a crime is. Because crimes against individuals are likely to affect everyone with whom they reside, another estimate of whether crime is widely spread or highly concentrated is to measure its occurrence in households with different characteristics.

[6]*The Prevalence of Crime*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-75905, April 1981.

[7]These crimes are defined in *Measuring Crime*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-75710, February 1981. As used in this report, the term "theft" is synonymous with the term "larceny" used in previous reports. The NCVS was formerly named the National Crime Survey (NCS).

[8]Preliminary estimates for 1992 indicate that homicides increased by 6% from the 24,703 reported in 1991 (Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, 1992).

Households-victimized-by crime

For each type of crime examined, a household is counted only once, regardless of how many times that household is victimized. For example, if a household were burglarized twice and one of its members was robbed once during the year, it is counted once for households sustaining burglary even though it was victimized twice by burglary. It is also counted once for households victimized by robbery. Finally it is counted once in the overall measure, households victimized by crime.

Consequently, the households-touched-by-crime estimate for 1992 (22.6%) is less than the sum of the estimates for households victimized by personal crimes (13.5%) and those victimized by household crimes (12.3%) because 3.2% of U.S. households were victims of both personal and household crimes. Similarly, because about 1.2% of U.S. households experienced both personal theft and violence, the sum of households victimized by personal theft (9.7%) and those victimized by violence (5.0%) exceeds the estimate of those victimized by personal crime (13.5%).

All data in this Bulletin are from the NCVS except those specifically attributed to other sources. The NCVS is an ongoing survey conducted for BJS by the Bureau of the Census. Interviews are conducted at 6-month intervals with all occupants age 12 or older in about 49,000 housing units (99,000 persons). Because the NCVS does not obtain information about crimes against persons under age 12, households experiencing only such crimes are not included in the estimate of households touched by crime.

Estimates of standard errors

The estimates in this Bulletin are derived from sample survey data and are subject to sampling variation.[9] Because the procedure used to produce estimates of households sustaining crime differs from that for victimization rates, the households-touched-by-crime data have standard errors about 8% higher than those for victimization rates with the same population bases, even though they are derived from the same sample survey.

Comparisons presented in this report were determined to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, meaning that the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error. Statements of comparison qualified by language such as "slightly," "somewhat," or "marginal" indicate statistical significance at the 90% level (1.6 standard errors). The estimates are also subject to response errors, including crimes that are forgotten or withheld from the interviewer. Such response errors tend to cause understated counts of households touched by crime.[10]

Presented in the table on this page are the 95% confidence intervals around the levels and proportions of the major crimes measured by this indicator.

The standard errors for the estimated percentages used in these calculations are computed using the following formula:

$$s.e.(p)=\sqrt{\left(\frac{b}{y}\right)(p(1.0-p))}$$

where

p= percentage or rate expressed in decimal form
y= base population or total number of crimes
b= a constant equal to 8492

[9]Details of the NCVS sample design, the standard error computation, and the customary estimation procedure for victimization rates and counts may be found in *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1991*, NCJ-139563, December 1992, appendix III.
[10]A more detailed description of the procedures used to estimate households victimized by crime appears in an unpublished memorandum prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The memorandum is available from Michael Rand, c/o Bureau of Justice Statistics, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531, (202-616-3494).

Crime and the Nation's Households, 1992
95 percent confidence intervals

	Number	95% confidence interval	Percent	95% confidence interval
Any crime	22,093,068	21,346,338 — 22,839,798	22.6	21.9 — 23.4
Violent crime	4,888,127	4,498,924 — 5,277,330	5.1	4.6 — 5.4
Rape	149,086	79,400 — 218,772	.2	.1 — .2
Robbery	997,739	818,250 — 1,177,228	1.0	.8 — 1.2
Assault	3,974,993	3,622,297 — 4,327,689	4.1	3.7 — 4.4
Aggravated	1,436,420	1,221,547 — 1,651,293	1.5	1.3 — 1.7
Simple	2,806,739	2,508,526 — 3,104,952	2.9	2.6 — 3.2
Personal theft	9,450,969	8,923,271 — 9,978,667	9.7	9.1 — 10.2
Burglary	4,115,678	3,757,064 — 4,474,292	4.2	3.8 — 4.6
Household theft	7,035,770	6,574,270 — 7,497,270	7.2	6.7 — 7.7
Motor vehicle theft	1,947,133	1,697,626 — 2,196,640	2.0	1.7 — 2.3

Estimates have been rounded to the nearest tenth.

The standard errors for the estimated levels used in these calculations are computed using the following formula:

$$s.e.(x)=\sqrt{ax^2+bx}$$

where

x= estimated number of households victimized by crime

a= a constant equal to -0.00008700

b= a constant equal to 8492

NCVS survey redesign

Beginning in January, 1992, the NCVS underwent the introduction of a revised crime screening procedure. In order to enable measurement of any differences between the current and new crime screening procedures, half of the NCVS sample was administered each crime screener. Beginning in July, 1993, the entire NCVS sample will be interviewed using the revised crime screener.

The NCVS crime screening procedure was introduced as part of an overall survey redesign. Research has indicated that the new screener will improve recall

Comparison of findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey and the Uniform Crime Reports

The U.S. Department of Justice administers two programs to measure the magnitude, nature, and impact of crime in the United States: the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the source of this report, and the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR).

Because of differences in methodology and crime coverage, the two programs examine the Nation's crime problem from somewhat different perspectives, and their results are not strictly comparable. The definitional and procedural differences can account for many of the apparent discrepancies in estimates from the two programs. The Department of Justice fact sheet *The Nation's Two Crime Measures* (NCJ-122705) contains a detailed description of the NCVS and UCR.

and reporting of crime incidents, especially for some underreported crimes such as family violence and sexual assault.[11]

The estimates in this report were calculated using only the interviews conducted with the current crime screener, that used since the survey was introduced in 1972. Because the sample size used to produce estimates is so much smaller than in past years, the variances associated with the estimates are dramatically increased. For this reason, some apparent differences that might have been statistically significant in past years were not sufficient to pass tests for statistical significance in 1992.

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[11]For more information about the NCVS redesign, see *New Directions for the National Crime Survey*, BJS Technical Report NCJ-115571, March 1989, or *Redesign of the National Crime Survey*, NCJ-111457, February 1989.

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U.S. Department of Justice
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Bureau of Justice Statistics
Bulletin

Crime and the Nation's Households, 1992

By Michael R. Rand
BJS Statistician

In 1992, 23% of U.S. households were victimized by a crime of violence or theft. This was a slight decline from the 24% of households that experienced a crime measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in 1991. The 1992 percentage is the lowest recorded since 1975, the first year that the NCVS produced an estimate of households touched by crime. The marginal decrease between 1991 and 1992 was the result of slight decreases in the percentages of households victimized by theft and burglary.

Additional findings for 1992

The following was also found in 1992:

- Five percent of U.S. households had at least one member age 12 or older who was the victim of a violent crime.

- Black households were more likely to experience crime victimization than were white households.

- Hispanic households were more likely to experience crime victimization than were non-Hispanic households.

- Urban households were the most likely and rural households the least likely to sustain a crime in 1992.

Households experiencing selected crimes of violence and theft, 1975-92

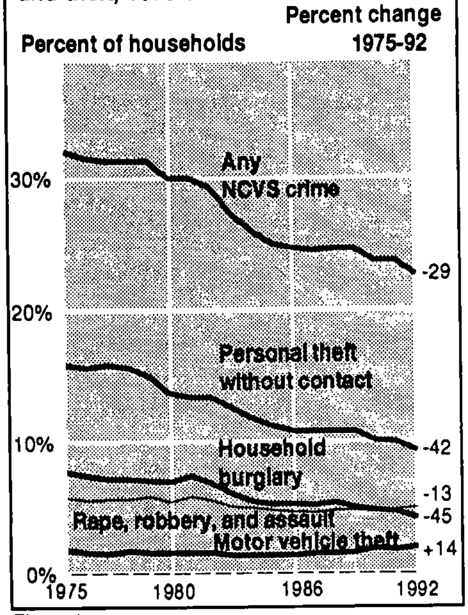

Figure 1

The National Crime Victimization Survey

The NCVS is an ongoing survey that obtains information about the victimization experience of members of a sample of U.S. households. The NCVS, which was first administered in 1972, measures the personal crimes of rape, robbery, assault and theft, as well as the household crimes of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Since it is a survey of victims, the NCVS may obtain information on crimes reported to the police as well as those

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The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), sponsored annually by BJS and the Department of Justice since 1972, provides policymakers with the only mechanism to gauge the extent to which the public is exposed to crime and the consequences of crime to victims. All of our citizens as well as those employed by agencies of the criminal justice system may use these data to evaluate each year whether the number and percentage of our Nation's households affected by crime is growing and which types of households are most affected by crime.

In 1992, our citizens reported that nearly 22.1 million U.S. households were directly affected by crime, just under 23% of all households nationwide. While criminal victimization is far too prevalent, this is both the lowest number of American households and the smallest percentage of households victimized by crime since this indicator was developed. In 1975, for example, an estimated 23.4 million households, about 32% of all households, were struck by crime.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the NCVS, a complement to crime data supplied by law enforcement agencies, and it will be celebrated with a special volume to be issued later this year focusing upon trends and patterns in crime.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

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Drugs and Crime Facts, 1992

A summary of drug data published in 1992

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