

Jenni R. Engebretsen
08/25/2000 01:37:06 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT: National Crime Victimization Survey

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

**Embargoed for Release
Until 4:30 PM EDT,
Sunday, August 27, 2000**

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, the Department of Justice released the 1999 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) which shows that last year, the nation's violent crime rate experienced the single largest one-year drop in the survey's history and is at its lowest level in over 25 years. This news is further proof that the Clinton-Gore Administration's anti-crime strategy of more police on our streets and fewer guns in the wrong hands has helped to create the safest America in a generation. Since the Vice President and I took office in 1993, every major category of violent and property crime has decreased significantly according to today's NCVS, with the overall violent crime rate down by one-third, and the rates for rape, and robberies and assaults with injuries down by more than one-third.

Despite our extraordinary progress, we can and must make America even safer. Every year, our nation loses nearly 30,000 Americans -- including 10 children every day -- to gun violence. That is why I call on Congress to continue our success by funding our Administration's proposals to put up to an additional 50,000 community police officers on the street, and hire 1,000 new federal, state and local gun prosecutors and 500 ATF firearms agents and inspectors to crack down on gun criminals. Congress also must make passage of the long-stalled common sense gun safety legislation a top priority as our children prepare to return to school. Together, we can continue to drive down the nation's crime rates and improve the quality of life for American families for generations to come.

30-30-30



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

G. Michael@usdoj.gov
Gretchen.Michael.

FACSIMILE FROM:

Anna Richter

OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 224
WASHINGTON, DC 20050

VOICE: (202)456-5565 FAX: (202)456-7028

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 2

DATE: August 25, 2000

TO: Gretchen Michael

VOICE: _____

FAX: 514 4276

- ☐ FOR YOUR REVIEW
☐ PER MY E-MAIL OR VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE TO YOU
☒ PER YOUR REQUEST

COMMENTS: Here is our POTUS statement which Bruce Reed
has cleared, but is in circulation for final sign-off —
As soon as I have a final, I will e-mail it & fax it
to you. Can you please do the same w/ the AG statement?
My e-mail is:

arichter@opd.eop.gov

THANK YOU!

Anna

DRAFT
STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

Today, the Department of Justice released the 1999 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) which shows that last year, the nation's violent crime rate experienced the single largest one-year drop in the survey's history and is at its lowest level in over 25 years. ^{The news} ~~The~~ ~~NCVS~~ is further proof that the Clinton-Gore Administration's tough, ~~smart~~ ^{new} anti-crime strategy of more police on our streets and fewer guns in the wrong hands has helped to create the safest America in a generation. Since the Vice President and I took office in 1993, every major category of violent and property crime has decreased significantly according to today's NCVS, with the overall violent crime rate down by one-third, ~~and~~ ^{and} the rates for rapes, ~~and~~ ^{also} robberies and assaults with injuries ~~down between 38% to 41%.~~ ~~The decline in each and every one of these crimes has meant one less victim, one less family shattered by violence.~~

Despite our extraordinary progress, we can all agree that we can, and must, make America even safer. Every year, our nation loses nearly 30,000 Americans – including 10 children every day -- to gun violence. That is why I call on Congress to continue our success by funding our Administration proposals to put an additional 50,000 community police officers on the street, and hire 1,000 new federal, state and local gun prosecutors and 500 ATF ^{firearms} agents and inspectors to crack down on gun criminals. ~~Just as importantly,~~ ^{also} Congress must make passage of the long-stalled common sense gun safety legislation a top priority as our children prepare to return to school. Together, we can continue to drive down the nation's crime rates and improve the quality of life for American families for generations to come.

DRAFT 11:15AM 8/25

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT
Embargoed for 4:30 pm August 27, 2000

Today, the Department of Justice released the 1999 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) which shows that last year, the nation's violent crime rate experienced the single largest one-year drop in the survey's history and is at its lowest level in over 25 years. This news is further proof that the Clinton-Gore Administration's anti-crime strategy of more police on our streets and fewer guns in the wrong hands has helped to create the safest America in a generation. Since the Vice President and I took office in 1993, every major category of violent and property crime has decreased significantly according to today's NCVS, with the overall violent crime rate down by one-third, and the rates for rape, and robberies and assaults with injuries down by more than one-third.

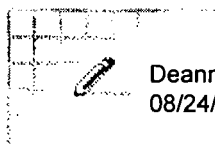
Despite our extraordinary progress, we can and must make America even safer. Every year, our nation loses nearly 30,000 Americans – including 10 children every day – to gun violence. That is why I call on Congress to continue our success by funding our Administration proposals to put up to an additional 50,000 community police officers on the street, and hire 1,000 new federal, state and local gun prosecutors and 500 ATF firearms agents and inspectors to crack down on gun criminals. Congress also must make passage of the long-stalled common sense gun safety legislation a top priority as our children prepare to return to school. Together, we can continue to drive down the nation's crime rates and improve the quality of life for American families for generations to come.

11:00 am 8/25

DRAFT
STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT
Embargoed for 4:30 pm August 27, 2000

Today, the Department of Justice released the 1999 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) which shows that last year, the nation's violent crime rate experienced the single largest one-year drop in the survey's history and is at its lowest level in over 25 years. The NCVS is further proof that the Clinton-Gore Administration's tough, smart anti-crime strategy of more police on our streets and fewer guns in the wrong hands has helped to create the safest America in a generation. Since the Vice President and I took office in 1993, every major category of violent and property crime has decreased significantly according to today's NCVS, with the overall violent crime rate down by one-third, ~~and~~ ^{more than one-third} the rates for rape, and robberies and assaults with injuries down by approximately 40 percent. The decline in each and every one of these crimes has meant one less victim, one less family shattered by violence.

Despite our extraordinary progress, we can and must make America even safer. Every year, our nation loses nearly 30,000 Americans – including 10 children every day – to gun violence. That is why I call on Congress to continue our success by funding our Administration proposals to put up to an additional 50,000 community police officers on the street, and hire 1,000 new federal, state and local gun prosecutors and 500 ATF firearms agents and inspectors to crack down on gun criminals. Just as importantly, Congress must make passage of the long-stalled common sense gun safety legislation a top priority as our children prepare to return to school. Together, we can continue to drive down the nation's crime rates and improve the quality of life for American families for generations to come.



Deanne E. Benos
08/24/2000 08:23:32 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: NCVS -- Notes for your Meeting.

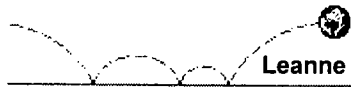
Karin -- Per your request, I am sending you a brief description of the NCVS for your meeting. This is not an official document, it is only notes. In addition, I am also sending you the DRAFT statement.

On Sunday at 4:30 p.m., the Department of Justice will release the 1999 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). This survey is one of 2 surveys that DOJ uses to measure crime in America -- the other is the FBI Uniform Crime Report. The difference between the two is that the NCVS is based on victims reports, and the UCR is based on police reports. Both show that crime is down. The highlights of this survey are that violent crime has fallen 10.4% from 1998 to 1999 -- the single largest annual drop in violent crimes since the NCVS was started in 1973. In addition, the NCVS shows that during this Administration (1993-1999), violent crimes are down by 32.7%; rapes by 40%; robbery with injury by 38.5%; aggravated assault with injury by 41.2%; and threats with weapons by 45.3%.

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

Today, the Department of Justice released the 1999 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) showing that my Administration's tough crime policy of more police on our streets and fewer illegal guns has helped us achieve the safest America in a generation and reduce violent crimes to record lows. In 1999, America experienced over a 10% decrease in violent crimes, the single largest annual drop in violent crimes since the survey began in 1973. Since the start of my Administration, total violent crimes have fallen by 32.7%; rapes by 40%; robbery with injury by 38.5%; aggravated assault with injury by 41.2% and threats with weapons by 45.3%. The prevention of each and every one of these crimes has meant one less victim, one less family shattered by violence.

Despite our progress, I think all of us can agree that we can and must do more. Every year, our nation loses nearly 30,000 Americans -- including 10 children every day -- in gun violence. That's why I call on Congress to build on our success by funding my proposals to put an additional 50,000 community police officers on the street, and to hire 1,000 new federal, state and local gun prosecutors and over 500 ATF firearms agents and inspectors to crack down on gun criminals. In addition, I urge Congress to make the passage of the long-stalled common sense gun safety legislation a top priority when they return from recess. Together, we can continue to save lives and improve the quality of life for American families for generations to come.



Leanne A. Shimabukuro

08/25/2000 09:50:25 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: deanne e. benos/opd/eop@eop, karin kullman/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: NCVS

I would recommend Gretchen Michael as a contact in the DOJ press office. Her number is 514-5322.
Anna Richter



Anna Richter

08/25/2000 09:44:41 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: deanne e. benos/opd/eop@eop, karin kullman/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: NCVS

then we should put our statement out today embargoed for Sunday at 4:30 pm. Do you know what time today they are releasing it or do you have a contact at DOJ I should coordinate with so I can make sure they have our statement to get out as well?
Leanne A. Shimabukuro



Leanne A. Shimabukuro

08/25/2000 09:42:09 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: deanne e. benos/opd/eop@eop, karin kullman/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: NCVS

Released today embargoed for Sunday at 4:30pm.
Anna Richter



Department of Justice

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ATTENTION: Anna Richter DATE: 8-25-00

OF: DPC SUBJ: MVCS

FAX#: 456-7028 PAGES: 4

FROM: Gretchen Michael

PHONE: 202-514-2007

FAX: 202-514-4276

NOTE: If you are not the intended receiver written above, please do not read the contents of this facsimile, for it may contain confidential information. Please call immediately and inform the sender. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Please call 202-514-2007 if there is a problem with this transmission.



Department of Justice

EMBARGOED UNTIL SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2000, 4:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2000
WWW.USDOJ.GOV

AG
(202) 514-2008
TDD (202) 514-1888

STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO ON THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN VIOLENT CRIME RATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics today released the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1999. The survey shows that the nation's violent crime rate fell by more than 10 percent in 1999, the largest one year drop since the NCVS was started in 1973.

Attorney General Janet Reno issued the following statement:

"The continuing drop in violent crime rates throughout the nation is good news for all Americans. It demonstrates that the innovative and collaborative policies and programs among federal state and local law enforcement work.

"There are a number of factors that have led to this historic reduction in crime. The Administration's program to put more police officers on our streets, more prosecutions and tougher sentences for violent offenders, prevention programs that work, a healthy economy, and a new approach to crime fighting that involves unprecedented collaborative partnerships between communities and federal, state and local law enforcement have all contributed to the continued reduction in crime."

"While these numbers are heartening, there is a great deal more work to be done. Every crime that we can prevent is one less victim. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to continue to reduce crime and make our streets and communities as safe they can possibly be."

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Department of Justice

EMBARGOED UNTIL 4:30 P.M. EDT
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2000

BJS
202/307-0784

NATIONAL VIOLENT CRIME RATE FALLS MORE THAN 10 PERCENT **VIOLENT VICTIMIZATIONS DOWN ONE-THIRD SINCE 1993**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The nation's violent crime rate fell by more than 10 percent during 1999, reaching the lowest level since the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) started measuring it in 1973. There were an estimated 28.8 million violent and property crimes during 1999, compared to 44 million such incidents counted in the first year of BJS' National Crime Victimization survey.

The BJS report says every major type of personal and property crime measured decreased between 1993 and 1999. The declines in the rates for selected crimes were as follows:

Completed violent crimes	-32.7 %
Rape	-40.0
Robbery with injury	-38.5
Aggravated assault with injury	-41.2
Threatened with weapon	-45.3
Personal theft (picked pockets or purses)	-60.9
Completed household burglaries	-39.4
Completed motor vehicle thefts	-39.5
Thefts of \$250 or more	-23.8
Attempted theft	-56.9

The 1999 data indicated that 54 percent of all violent crime victims in 1999 knew their attackers. Almost 70 percent of the rape and sexual assault victims knew the offender as an acquaintance, friend, relative or intimate, compared to just under 50 percent of the aggravated assault victims.

Forty-four percent of last year's violent victimizations were reported to police, compared to 34 percent of property crime victimizations. The most frequently reported crime was motor vehicle theft, while the least frequently reported was personal theft.

The survey also noted that a little more than 28 percent of the rape and sexual assault victimizations were reported to the police. A gun was present but not necessarily used in about 1 percent of such incidents and another type of weapon was brandished in another 4 percent.

Persons 16-19 and 35 - 49 years old experienced violent crimes at rates lower than they did in 1998, the report said. Last year's violent crime rates fell for a third of the demographic categories examined, including males, whites, urbanites and those earning \$75,000 or more annually.

(MORE)

- 2 -

According to preliminary Federal Bureau of Investigation data, homicides declined about 8 percent last year. Historically, males accounted for about three-quarters of the murder victims, and about one in eight of the murder victims was less than 18 years old.

Property crime rates continued a 25-year downward trend, dropping 9 percent from 1998 to 1999—from 217 per 1,000 U.S. households to 198 per 1,000 households.

The violent victimization rates were significantly higher in the West and the Midwest than in the Northeast and the South.

The bulletin, "Criminal Victimization 1999—Changes 1998-99 with Trends 1993-99" (NCJ-182734), was written by BJS statistician Callie Marie Rennison. Single copies may be obtained from the BJS fax-on-demand system by dialing 301/519-5550, listening to the complete menu and selecting document number 214. Or call the BJS clearinghouse at 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders for mail delivery to 410/492-4358. The full report may be obtained from the BJS Internet site at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

Additional criminal justice materials can be obtained from the Office of Justice Programs Website at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>

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BJS00186 (L)

After hours contact: Stu Smith at 301/983-9354



Bureau of Justice Statistics

National Crime Victimization Survey

August 2000, NCJ 182734

Criminal Victimization 1999

Changes 1998-99 with Trends 1993-99

By Callie Marie Rennison, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

Approximately 28.8 million violent and property crimes were experienced by Americans age 12 or older during 1999 according to National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data. Overall victimizations included about 21.2 million property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft and household theft), 7.4 million violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), and approximately 0.2 million personal thefts (pocket picking and purse snatching).

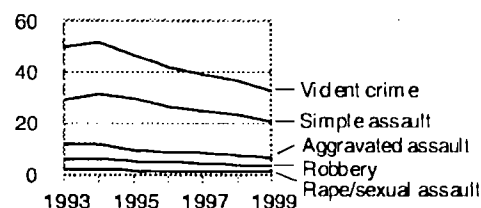
In 1999 there were 33 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. This represented a 10% decrease from the 37 per 1,000 in 1998. The rate of property victimization fell 9% from 1998 to 1999, from 217 to 198 per 1,000 households. The 1999 estimates of violence continued a consistent downward trend that began in 1994, while those for overall property crime began declining in 1974.

Violent victimization rates fell 34% from 50 to 33 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older between 1993 and 1999. The 1993 data were the first from a complete year following the survey's redesign. The 1999 personal theft rate of 0.9 per 1,000 persons represents a significant decline from the 1993 values (2.3 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older).

Highlights

Every major type of personal and property crime measured decreased between 1993 and 1999.

Rate of violent victimizations per
1,000 persons age 12 or older



- According to National Crime Victimization Survey data, from 1998 to 1999 the overall violent crime rate declined 10%, and the property crime rate fell 9%.
- Victimization rates in 1999 are the lowest recorded since the survey's creation in 1973.¹
- The decline in overall violent crime rate resulted from a decrease in the simple assault rate. Apparent declines in robbery and aggravated assault rates were not significant.
- Overall property crime rates fell between 1998 and 1999 due to lower rates of burglary and household theft.
- The motor vehicle theft rate remained similar to 1998 rate.
- During 1999 males and blacks were victims of overall violent crime at rates greater than those of whites and persons of other races.
- 54% of overall violent crime victims knew the perpetrator(s) in 1999. Almost 7 in 10 rape or sexual assault victims, in contrast to fewer than 5 in 10 aggravated assault victims, knew the offender(s) as acquaintance, friend, relative, or intimate.
- 44% of overall violent victimizations and 34% of all property crimes were reported to the police in 1999. The most frequently reported crime was motor vehicle theft (84%), while the least frequently reported victimization was personal theft (26%).

¹Pre-1992 estimates were adjusted to account for the 1992 redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey.

Victimization trends, 1973-99

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) was a pioneering effort when it began in 1972 and has benefited from ongoing improvements. In addition, a major methodological redesign was completed in 1992. Using adjustments to account for the methodological improvements instituted in 1992, the NCVS provides a 26-year trend of criminal victimization now.²

Violent crime

Between 1973 and 1994, violent crime victimization rates at times fluctuated. Since 1994 declines in violent crime rates have continued. Between 1994 and 1995 and between 1995 and 1996, a 10% reduction in the violent crime rate occurred, followed by 7% decreases between 1996 and 1997 and between 1997 and 1998. The 10% declines in the violent crime rate occurring in 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1998-99 are tied as the largest single-year percent decreases in NCVS history.

In general, robbery trends over the last 27 years paralleled overall violent crime trends. Initially, robbery rates fell from 1974-78, then increased until 1981. Between 1981 and 1985 the rate rose slowly until 1994, and since have decreased to the current level of 7 robberies per 1,000 persons — the lowest robbery rate recorded by the NCVS.

From 1974 the rate of aggravated assault declined with some interruptions until the mid-1980's. After a few years of minimal change in both directions, the aggravated assault rate increased from 1990 to 1993. Since that time, the aggravated assault rate fell steadily reaching the current level — the lowest ever recorded.

Simple assault, the most common form of violent crime measured by the NCVS, increased from 1974 to 1977, remained stable until 1979, then declined until 1989. Between 1990 and 1991, simple assault rates returned to the peak levels found during the late 1970's. Between 1991 and 1994, the rates rose to the highest level recorded, 32 victimizations per 1,000 persons. Since 1994 simple assault rates have fallen to the lowest level recorded, 21 simple assaults per 1,000 persons.

Property crime

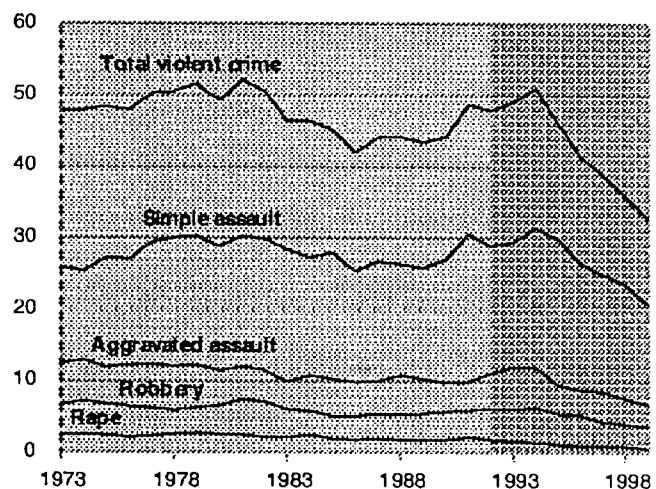
Aside from an increase between 1973 and 1974, the overall property crime rate has declined. After a period of slow decline that was interrupted by an increase from 1980 to 1981, the burglary rate fell each year through the rest of the period. The 1999 household burglary rate was

about a third that of the adjusted rate of 1973 (34 burglaries per 1,000 households).

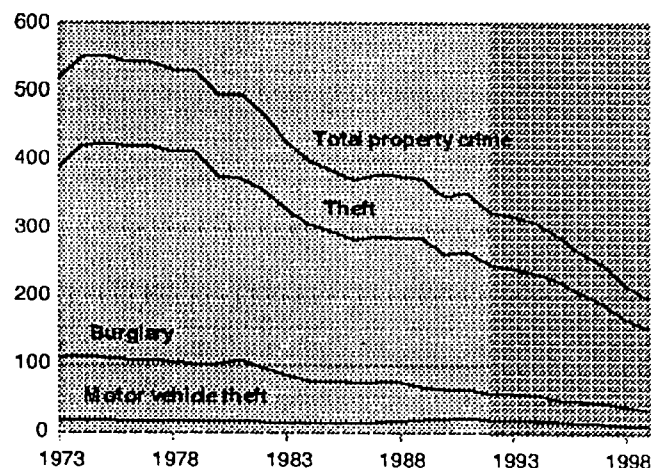
Despite some periods of increases, the motor vehicle rate declined from 1973 through 1999. The 1999 rate was nearly half that seen in 1973 (19 versus 10 motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 households). In general between 1973 and 1985, motor vehicle theft rates fell. From 1985 through 1991, motor vehicle theft rates increased markedly, peaking in 1991. Between 1992 and 1994 motor vehicle theft rates remained stable, then began to decline slowly.

Thefts increased between 1973 and 1974, then remained stable until 1977. From this time, the rates of theft have declined steadily. In 1999 the theft rate was about 61% lower than the adjusted rate in 1973.

Violent victimization rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and older, 1973-99



Property crime rate per 1,000 households, 1973-99



²For more information about the redesign, see *The Effects of the Redesign on Victimization Estimates* (NCJ 164381), National Crime Victimization Survey (NCJ 151169), National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign: Fact Sheet (NCJ 151170), Technical Background (NCJ 151172), and the Questions & Answers (NCJ 151171).

Note: From 1973 through June 1992 data were collected under the National Crime Survey (NCS) and made comparable to data collected under the redesigned methods of the NCVS that began in July 1992.

Criminal victimization, 1998 to 1999

Violent crime

The NCVS collects data on reported and unreported nonfatal violent crimes against persons age 12 or older in the United States. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of the FBI collects data on homicide.

Violent crimes measured by the NCVS

Overall violent victimization includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault. Between 1998 and 1999, overall violent crime fell 10% from 37 to 33 victimizations per 1,000 persons (table 1). Declines in both attempted and completed violent crimes contributed to the decrease in overall violence during this period.

Simple assault was the only of the 4 major components of overall violent crime to decrease significantly between 1998 and 1999. Apparent decreases in robbery and aggravated assault were not significant. However, two decreases emerged in specific subcategories of violent crime. Aggravated assault with injury decreased slightly, and completed robbery without injury fell significantly from 1998-99.

Violent crime rates fell for many of the demographic groups considered between 1998 and 1999. The rate at which males, whites, and non-Hispanic persons were victimized decreased between 1998 and 1999.

	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	
	1998	1999
Male	43.1	37.0*
Female	30.4	28.8
White	36.3	31.9*
Black	41.7	41.6
Other	27.6	24.5
Hispanic	32.8	33.8
Non-Hispanic	36.8	32.4*

*1998-99 difference is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Table 1. Criminal victimization, 1998-99

Type of crime	Number of victimizations (1,000's)		Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)		Percent change, 1998-99
	1998	1999	1998	1999	
All crimes	31,307	28,780	...	...	...
Personal crimes^a	8,412	7,565	37.9	33.7	-11.1%*
Crimes of violence	8,116	7,357	36.6	32.8	-10.4*
Completed violence	2,564	2,278	11.6	10.1	-12.9*
Attempted/threatened violence	5,553	5,079	25.0	22.6	-9.6*
Rape/sexual assault	333	383	1.5	1.7	13.3
Rape/attempted rape	200	201	0.9	0.9	0.0
Rape	110	141	0.5	0.6	20.0
Attempted rape	89	60	0.4	0.3	-25.0
Sexual assault	133	182	0.6	0.8	33.3
Robbery	886	810	4.0	3.6	-10.0
Completed/property taken	610	530	2.7	2.4	-11.1
With injury	170	189	0.8	0.8	0.0
Without injury	439	341	2.0	1.5	-25.0*
Attempted to take property	277	280	1.2	1.2	0.0
With injury	70	78	0.3	0.3	0.0
Without injury	207	202	0.9	0.9	0.0
Assault	6,897	6,164	31.1	27.4	-11.9*
Aggravated	1,674	1,503	7.5	6.7	-10.7
With injury	547	449	2.5	2.0	-20.0 [†]
Threatened with weapon	1,126	1,054	5.1	4.7	-7.8
Simple	5,224	4,660	23.5	20.8	-11.5*
With minor injury	1,175	998	5.3	4.4	-17.0*
Without injury	4,048	3,662	18.2	16.3	-10.4*
Personal theft ^b	296	208	1.3	0.9	-30.8*
Property crimes	22,895	21,215	217.4	198.0	-8.9%*
Household burglary	4,054	3,652	38.5	34.1	-11.4*
Completed	3,380	3,064	32.1	28.6	-10.9*
Forcible entry	1,310	1,175	12.4	11.0	-11.3 [†]
Unlawful entry without force	2,070	1,890	19.7	17.6	-10.7 [†]
Attempted forcible entry	674	587	6.4	5.5	-14.1
Motor vehicle theft	1,138	1,068	10.8	10.0	-7.4
Completed	822	808	7.8	7.5	-3.8
Attempted	316	260	3.0	2.4	-20.0 [†]
Theft	17,703	16,495	168.1	153.9	-8.4*
Completed ^c	17,074	15,964	162.1	149.0	-8.1*
Less than \$50	6,169	5,700	58.6	53.2	-9.2*
\$50-\$249	6,083	5,789	57.8	54.0	-6.6 [†]
\$250 or more	3,693	3,394	35.1	31.7	-9.7*
Attempted	629	532	6.0	5.0	-16.7 [†]

Note: Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury. The total population age 12 or older was 221,880,960 in 1998 and 224,568,370 in 1999. The total number of households was 105,322,920 in 1998 and 107,159,550 in 1999.

...Not applicable.

*The difference from 1998 to 1999 is significant at the 95% confidence level.

†The difference from 1998 to 1999 is significant at the 90% confidence level.

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

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

^cIncludes thefts with unknown losses.

The slight difference between white and black overall violent crime rates evident in 1998 grew to a significant difference in 1999.

Violent victimization rates fell among several of the age groups that historically have experienced the highest rates of violence.

	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	
	1998	1999
12-15 years	82.4	74.4
16-19 years	91.1	77.4*
20-24 years	67.3	68.5
25-34 years	41.5	36.3 [†]
35-49 years	29.9	25.2*
50-64 years	15.4	14.4
65+ years	2.8	3.8

1998-99 difference is significant at the —

*95% confidence level

†90% confidence level.

Persons age 16 to 19 and 35 to 49 experienced violence at rates significantly lower in 1999 than they did in 1998. Persons age 25 to 34 were victimized in 1999 at rates somewhat lower than they were in 1998.

An examination of income and violent crimes demonstrates that violent crime

rates declined between 1998-99 for those who have historically experienced the lowest rates of violent victimization — those with the highest annual household incomes. Persons residing in households with annual incomes of greater than \$75,000 experienced violent crime at lower rates in 1999 than they did in 1998.

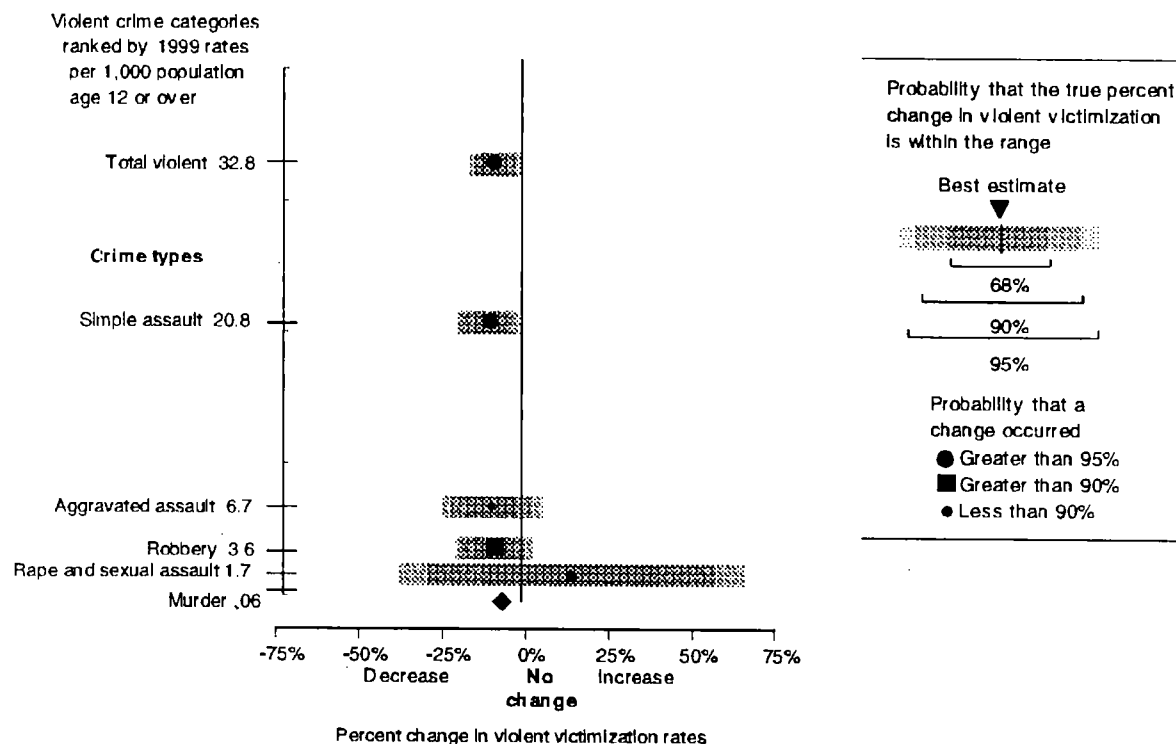
Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older

	1998	1999
Less than \$7,500	63.8	57.5
\$7,500-\$14,999	49.3	44.5
\$15,000-\$24,999	39.4	35.3
\$25,000-\$34,999	42.0	37.9
\$35,000-\$49,999	31.7	30.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	32.0	33.3
\$75,000 plus	33.1	22.9*

*1998-99 difference is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Change in violent victimization, by category, 1998-99

Annual percent change in violent victimization by category, 1998-99



Note: The change in murder rates is presented as a point because the source of the data, the Uniform Crime Reports, is not a sample survey. 1999 homicide data are preliminary.

For further explanation of the graph, see the BJS Technical Report *Displaying Violent Crime Trends Using*

Estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey, NCJ 167881.
 *The murder rates were for all ages.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, and FBI, Uniform Crime Reports.

The figure shows the estimated annual percentage change in victimization rates from 1998 to 1999 for the categories that comprise violent crime: homicide, rape and sexual assault, aggravated assault, simple assault, and robbery. The crime categories are displayed vertically according to their 1999 rates per 1,000 population age 12 or older. Total violent (the sum of all types) is first with

the highest rate, and murder is last with the lowest rate.

Because the National Crime Victimization Survey relies on a sample of households, the rates and numbers from it are estimates and are not exact. Each bar shows the range within which the true percent change in rates from year to year is likely to fall.

If a bar is clear of the "No change" line, we are reasonably certain a change occurred. If a bar crosses the "No change" line, there is a possibility that there was no change. The degree of certainty depends on where the bar crosses the line. The bars representing the crime categories in which a statistically significant year-to-year change occurred are outlined.

The length of the range bars varies considerably from crime to crime, dependent on sample size and rarity of the event. The preliminary value for the change in homicide rates is given as a point and not a range of estimates because homicide rates are derived from nonsample data. The murder rates have no variance, but some discrepancies exist between UCR rates and *Vital Statistics* of the National Center for Health Statistics.

Violent crime rates were similar in 1998 and 1999 among persons in the Northeast and South. For people in the West — the area that historically has experienced the highest victimization rates — victimization rates fell significantly from 47 to 37 victimizations per 1,000 persons. Persons living in the Midwest experienced violent crimes at somewhat lower rates in 1999 than in 1998 (40 versus 36 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons).

Number of violent crimes per
1,000 persons age 12 or older

	1998	1999
Northeast	31.1	29.6
Midwest	40.2	35.5 ¹
South	31.0	30.2
West	46.7	36.9*

1998-99 difference is significant at the —

*95% confidence level

¹90% confidence level.

Urbanites experienced violent victimization at rates significantly lower in 1999 than they did in 1998 (46 versus 40 per 1,000 urbanites).

Number of violent crimes per
1,000 persons age 12 or older

	1998	1999
Urban	46.3	39.8*
Suburban	35.5	32.8
Rural	27.6	24.9

*1998-99 difference is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter measured by the UCR

Preliminary estimates from the UCR program of the FBI suggest that the number of murders declined about 8% between 1998 and 1999. Among regions, preliminary estimates suggest a decline in the number of murders of 10% in the South (the largest decline) and a 4% decline in the Northeast (the smallest decline). The Midwest and West each saw declines of 7%. See text box for more information.

Property crime

In the NCVS, property crime includes burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft. Between 1998 and 1999, overall property crime rates fell 9% from 217 to 198 incidents per 1,000 households (table 1). The decline in overall property crime rates is explained by significant decreases in burglary and theft during this period.

Burglary rates fell 11% from 39 to 34 victimizations between 1998 and 1999 due primarily to a significant decrease in completed burglary. Theft rates decreased 8% from 1998 to 1999 (168 to 154 thefts per 1,000 households).

Property crime rates declined between 1998 and 1999 for several of the demographic groups examined. The overall property crime rate fell from 213 to 190 property victimizations per 1,000 households for white households.

Fewer property victimizations occurred among both Hispanic and non-Hispanic households in 1999 than in 1998.

Number of property crimes per
1,000 households

	1998	1999
White	212.6	190.0*
Black	248.0	249.9
Other	224.5	206.3

Hispanic	267.6	232.5*
Non-Hispanic	212.5	194.6*

*1998-99 difference is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Households in most income categories experienced property crime in 1999 at rates lower than those in 1998. Households with annual incomes between \$7,500 and \$14,999, between \$25,000 and \$34,999, and greater than \$50,000 were victims of property crime at lower rates in 1999 than in 1998.

Number of property crimes
per 1,000 households

	1998	1999
Less than \$7,500	209.0	220.8
\$7,500-\$14,999	229.8	200.1*
\$15,000-\$24,999	211.0	214.9
\$25,000-\$34,999	233.8	199.1*
\$35,000-\$49,999	221.7	207.6 ¹
\$50,000-\$74,999	248.6	213.6*
\$75,000 or more	248.6	220.4*

*1998-99 difference is significant at the 95% confidence level.

People in the Midwest, South, and West experienced less property crime in 1999 than they did in 1998. Those in the West — the area with the highest rate of property crime historically — experienced a 14% decrease in

Murder In the United States, 1999

Statistics on murder are compiled from over 16,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies as part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). In 1998 the UCR program stated that 16,914 murders occurred in the United States. Preliminary 1999 UCR data suggest about an 8% drop in the number of murders in the United States, resulting in an estimated 15,561 murders during 1999.

The FBI defines murder in its annual Crime in the United States as the willful, nonnegligent killing of one human being by another. The incidence of murder varies across victim characteristics. The relationship between victim characteristics and homicide victims has remained stable year after year.

- Males account for about three-quarters of all murder victims.
- White and black persons each account for almost half of all homicide victims.
- About 1 in 8 people murdered are less than 18 years of age.
- Firearms are used in about 7 in 10 homicides.
- Homicide rates tend to be the highest in the South and the lowest in the Northeast.
- Metropolitan cities experience homicide in higher rates than smaller cities and rural areas.

property crime rates between 1998 and 1999 (282 versus 243 property crimes per 1,000 households).

Number of property crimes
per 1,000 households

	1998	1999
Northeast	159.3	159.5
Midwest	214.0	199.9*
South	213.5	191.4*
West	282.3	243.1*
Urban	274.2	256.3*
Suburban	204.5	181.4*
Rural	173.5	159.8†
Home owned	189.6	170.4*
Home rented	270.6	251.9*

1998-99 difference is significant at the —

*95% confidence level

†90% confidence level.

Urban and suburban households experienced significantly lower, and rural households sustained slightly lower rates of property crime in 1999 compared to 1998. Property crime rates fell during the same period for persons who owned and persons who rented their home.

Characteristics of violent crime victims, 1999

The well-documented relationship between victimization and demographics was demonstrated in 1999 (table 2). Violent crime rates show that groups that were most vulnerable to victimization in the past continued to be most vulnerable in 1999.

Gender of victim

Males were victims of overall violent crime, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault at rates higher than females in 1999. Males experienced violent crime at rates 28% greater (37 compared to 29 victimizations per 1,000), and were robbed at rates more than 2 times that (5 compared to 2 robberies per 1,000) of females. Females were victims of rape and sexual assault at 7.5 times greater the rate of males. During 1999, 3 females in contrast to 0.4 males per 1,000 were raped or sexually assaulted.

Age of victim

In 1999 persons age 12-15, 16-19, and 20-24 experienced similar rates of overall violent victimization (74, 77, and 69 victimizations per 1,000 persons, respectively). These youngest persons sustained violent crime at rates higher than persons in all other age categories. Among persons ages 25 or older, violent victimization rates decreased as age increased. For example, 36 persons age 25-34 compared to 4 persons age 65 or older per 1,000 were victimized during 1999.

Race of victim

Blacks were victims of overall violent crime in 1999 at rates higher than whites and than other races considered together.* Forty-two blacks, 32

*"Other races" refers to an aggregation including Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, and American Indians.

whites, and 25 persons of other races per 1,000 were victimized during this time. Blacks experienced rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault at higher rates than whites. Compared to persons of other races considered together, blacks were more likely to experience overall violent crime and simple assault. Whites experienced overall violent crime, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault at higher rates than persons of other races taken as a whole.

Ethnicity of victim

Non-Hispanics and Hispanics were victims of overall violent crime and rape or sexual assault at similar rates in 1999. Non-Hispanics were slightly more likely to become a victim of a simple assault, while Hispanics were more likely to become a victim of a robbery and an aggravated assault during the same period.

Table 2. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by gender, age, race, and Hispanic origin, 1999

		Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						
		Violent crimes						Personal theft
Characteristic of victim	Population	All crimes of violence*	Rape/ Sexual assault	Robbery	Assault			
					Total	Aggravated	Simple	
Gender								
Male	108,652,550	37.0	0.4	5.0	31.6	8.7	22.9	0.9
Female	115,915,820	28.8	3.0	2.3	23.6	4.8	18.8	0.9
Age								
12-15	15,920,740	74.4	4.0	6.7	63.7	13.1	50.6	3.1
16-19	15,925,090	77.4	6.9	8.2	62.3	16.8	45.5	1.5
20-24	18,067,050	68.5	4.3	7.7	56.4	16.7	39.7	1.0
25-34	38,470,320	36.3	1.7	4.1	30.5	8.3	22.2	1.2
35-49	64,329,680	25.2	0.8	2.8	21.6	4.7	16.9	0.4
50-64	39,371,500	14.4	0.2	1.9	12.3	1.8	10.5	0.6
65 or older	32,483,990	3.8	0.1	0.7	3.0	1.1	1.9	0.6
Race								
White	187,576,000	31.9	1.6	3.1	27.2	6.2	21.1	0.8
Black	27,539,830	41.6	2.6	7.7	31.3	10.6	20.8	1.3
Other	9,452,540	24.5	1.7	2.5	20.3	5.7	14.6	1.5
Hispanic origin								
Hispanic	22,966,050	33.8	1.9	5.6	26.3	8.9	17.4	1.5
Non-Hispanic	199,116,660	32.4	1.7	3.4	27.3	6.4	20.9	0.9

*The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault, but not murder and manslaughter.

Household income

In general, higher annual household incomes were associated with lower violent victimization rates during 1999 (table 3). Individuals in households with annual incomes greater than \$75,000 were victims of violent crime at rates lower than other income categories (23 per 1,000 persons). In contrast, persons in households earning less than \$7,500 annually experienced the highest rate of violence of all income categories (58 per 1,000 persons).

Marital status

In 1999, those who never married were the most likely to be violent crime victims, followed by those who were divorced or separated. These persons were more likely to be victimized than married individuals, who, in turn, had higher victimization rates than widowed persons. Those who never married became violent crime victims at 10 times the rate of widowed persons and over 4 times the rate of married persons.

Region

Western and Midwestern residents had similar and higher violent victimization rates than people in other regions in

Table 3. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by household income, marital status, region, and location of residence of victims, 1999

Characteristic of victim	Population	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						
		All*	Rape/ Sexual assault	Robbery	Violent crimes			Per- sonal theft
					Total	Assault Aggra- vated	Simple	
Household income								
Less than \$7,500	10,758,020	57.5	4.3	8.1	45.1	14.5	30.6	1.9
\$7,500 - \$14,999	19,375,060	44.5	1.6	6.9	35.9	10.0	26.0	1.1
\$15,000 - \$24,999	28,473,900	35.3	3.2	4.8	27.2	7.2	20.1	0.8
\$25,000 - \$34,999	27,368,560	37.9	1.2	3.1	33.7	6.9	26.7	1.2
\$35,000 - \$49,999	33,504,970	30.3	1.6	3.5	25.3	5.5	19.7	0.5
\$50,000 - \$74,999	33,820,410	33.3	1.5	2.2	29.7	7.1	22.6	0.4
\$75,000 or more	32,734,790	22.9	0.8	1.8	20.3	4.0	16.3	1.2
Marital status								
Never married	70,572,780	60.6	3.9	7.2	49.5	12.6	36.9	1.6
Married	114,642,670	14.4	0.3	1.1	12.9	2.7	10.3	0.4
Divorced/separated	24,253,880	53.6	2.9	5.8	45.0	11.6	33.3	1.2
Widowed	13,667,350	6.0	0.0	1.9	4.1	1.3	2.8	1.0
Region								
Northeast	42,939,810	29.6	1.5	3.6	24.5	5.1	19.4	1.0
Midwest	53,728,950	35.5	1.6	3.2	30.8	7.7	23.0	1.0
South	80,108,190	30.2	1.8	3.3	25.1	6.6	18.4	0.7
West	47,791,420	36.9	1.9	4.6	30.4	7.0	23.4	1.2
Residence								
Urban	62,576,810	39.8	2.3	6.7	30.9	8.5	22.4	1.6
Suburban	105,313,560	32.8	1.6	2.8	28.4	6.6	21.7	0.9
Rural	56,678,000	24.9	1.3	1.7	22.0	4.8	17.1	0.2

*The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault, but not murder and manslaughter.

1999 (37 and 36 victimizations per 1,000 persons, respectively). Similarly, Northeastern and Southern residents experienced similar rates of violent crime (30 per 1,000 persons).

Residence

Urban residents experienced overall violent victimization at rates higher than suburban residents, and suburban

residents experienced overall violent victimization at rates higher than rural residents in 1999. During 1999, 40 urban residents, 33 suburban resident and 25 rural residents per 1,000 persons were victims of a violent crime per 1,000 persons. Similar patterns in victimization rates occurred for robbery, total assault and simple assault. Only one geographic difference emerged for rape and sexual assault – urban residents were victimized at almost twice the rate of rural residents.

Victim-offender relationship

About half (54%) of violent crime victims knew the offender(s) in 1999 (table 4). Rape or sexual assault victims were most likely to know the offender(s) (69%), and robbery victims were least likely to know the offender(s) (34%). Victims identified intimate partners as offenders in 11%

of overall violent crimes, 20% of rape or sexual assaults, and 8% of aggravated assaults.

Female victims were more likely than male victims to identify an intimate as an offender. Intimates were offenders in 20% of the overall violence against females, versus 3% of the violence against males. Intimates committed

16% of the aggravated assaults experienced by females compared to 3% experienced by males.

Males experienced violence at the hands of strangers in higher percentages than females. Strangers committed 55% of the overall violence experienced by males compared to 32% of that sustained by females.

Table 4. Victim and offender relationship, 1999

Relationship with victim	Violent crime		Rape or sexual assault		Robbery		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All victims										
Total	7,357,060	100%	383,170	100%	810,220	100%	1,503,280	100%	4,660,400	100%
Nonstranger	3,988,820	54%	263,950	69%	276,730	34%	737,440	49%	2,710,700	58%
Intimate	780,040	11	77,170	20	69,750	9	120,210	8	512,900	11
Other relative	345,060	5	12,500	3*	22,540	3*	68,080	5	241,940	5
Friend/acquaintance	2,863,720	39	174,280	46	184,430	23	549,150	37	1,955,850	42
Stranger	3,265,190	44%	116,460	30%	514,570	64%	719,640	48%	1,914,500	41%
Relationship unknown	103,050	1%	2,750	1%	18,910	2%	46,190	3%	35,200	1%
Male victims										
Total	4,016,580	100%	39,340	100%	546,880	100%	944,720	100%	2,485,630	100%
Nonstranger	1,734,180	43%	17,700	45%*	132,890	24%	406,700	43%	1,176,880	47%
Intimate	109,450	3	0	0*	14,940	3*	31,820	3*	62,690	3
Other relative	147,200	4	4,970	13*	12,200	2*	39,770	4*	90,250	4
Friend/acquaintance	1,477,540	37	12,740	32*	105,750	19	335,110	36	1,023,940	41
Stranger	2,206,800	55%	18,880	48%*	403,040	74%	501,010	53%	1,283,860	52%
Relationship unknown	75,600	2%	2,750	7%*	10,950	2%	37,010	4%	24,890	1%
Female victims										
Total	3,380,480	100%	343,830	100%	263,330	100%	558,550	100%	2,174,760	100%
Nonstranger	2,254,640	68%	246,250	72%	143,840	55%	330,740	59%	1,533,820	71%
Intimate	670,590	20	77,170	22	54,810	21	88,390	16	450,220	21
Other relative	197,860	6	7,530	2*	10,340	4*	28,310	5*	151,680	7
Friend/acquaintance	1,386,180	42	161,550	47	76,680	30	214,040	38	931,910	43
Stranger	1,058,380	32%	97,580	28%	111,530	42%	218,630	39%	630,640	29%
Relationship unknown	27,460	1%	0	0*	7,960	3%*	9,190	2%*	10,310	1%*

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.