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Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey

August 2003, NCJ 199994

Criminal Victimization, 2002

By

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In 2002 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced about 23.0 million violent and property victimizations, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These criminal victimizations included an estimated 17.5 million property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft), 5.3 million violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), and 155,000 personal thefts (pocket picking and purse snatching).

The 23.0 million criminal victimizations in 2002 continued a downward trend that began in 1994. Criminal victimization estimates are the lowest since the 1973 estimate of 44 million victimizations when the NCVS began.

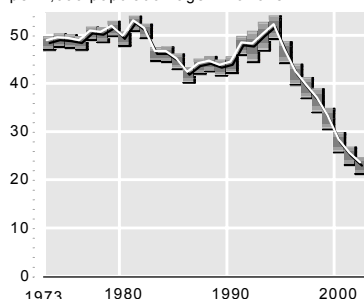
Between 1993 and 2002 the violent crime rate decreased 54%, from 50 to 23 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, and the property crime rate declined 50% (from 319 to 159 crimes per 1,000 households).

In 2002 victims reported to police 49% of the violent crime and 40% of the property crime they experienced. The proportion of crime reported to the police has increased since 1993, when victims indicated that 43% of the violent crime and 34% of the property crime had been reported to the police.

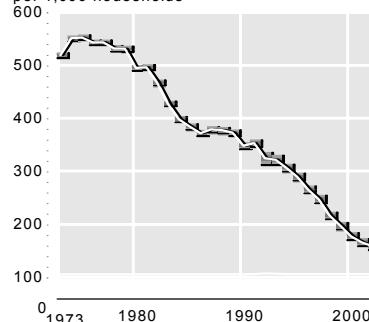
Highlights

The National Crime Victimization Survey reveals long-term declines in victimization to the lowest per capita rates in nearly 30 years

Violent victimizations
per 1,000 population age 12 or over



Property victimizations
per 1,000 households



The best estimate and range of estimates

Each vertical bar shows the range within which the true victimization rate was likely to fall. For discussion of displaying estimates, see <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/dvctue.pdf>>.

- Overall violent victimization and property crime rates in 2002 are the lowest recorded since the inception of the NCVS in 1973.¹
- In 2002 the rate for rape was 0.4 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, 60% of the 1993 rate.
- For the decade the rate for robbery was down 63%, falling to 2 per 1,000 in 2002.
- From 1993 to 2002 victimization by aggravated assault, associated with serious injury or weapons, declined 64% to 4 per 1,000. The rate of simple assault — a crime that involves neither serious injury nor weapon — fell 47%.
- The rate of violent crime dropped 21% from the period 1999-2000 to the period 2001-02.
- Reporting to the police increased from 43% of all violent crimes in 1993 to 49% in 2002; reporting of property crimes increased from 34% to 40%.
- Violent crimes against females were more likely to have been reported to the police than those against males.
- The relative increase in reporting crime to the police was greater for rape/sexual assault than it was for robbery or simple assault, 1993-2002.
- During 2002, 7% of violent crime victims faced an offender armed with a firearm.

¹Based on adjustments to pre-1992 estimates to account for the 1992 redesign of the NCVS.

Criminal victimization, 2001-02

The NCVS collects data on nonfatal crimes against persons age 12 or older, reported and not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households in the United States. Information on homicide comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of the FBI.

Crimes measured by the NCVS

Violent crimes refer to rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault taken as a whole. Property crimes refer to household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft considered together.

Though decreased crime rates and reductions in the NCVS sample size have made it more difficult for the NCVS to detect statistically significant year-to-year changes in crime rates, the decline in crime rates 2001-02 were consistent with the declining trend exhibited since 1994 (table 1 and graphical figures on page 5).

The violent crime rate declined somewhat from 25 to 23 victimizations per 1,000 persons, 2001-02. Aggravated assault rates fell significantly, robbery rates fell marginally, and

Table 1. Criminal victimization, numbers and rates, 2001 and 2002

Type of crime	Number of victimizations		Victimization rate per 1,000 (persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Violent crimes^a	5,743,820	5,341,410	25.1	23.1 [†]
Rape/sexual assault	248,250	247,730	1.1	1.1
Robbery	630,690	512,490	2.8	2.2 [‡]
Assault	4,864,890	4,581,190	21.2	19.8
Aggravated	1,222,160	990,110	5.3	4.3 [*]
Simple	3,642,720	3,591,090	15.9	15.5
Property crimes	18,283,510	17,539,220	166.9	159.0 [*]
Household burglary	3,139,700	3,055,720	28.7	27.7
Motor vehicle theft	1,008,720	988,760	9.2	9.0
Theft	14,135,090	13,494,750	129.0	122.3 [*]

Note: The total population age 12 or older was 231,589,260 in 2002 and 229,215,290 in 2001. The total number of households was 110,323,840 in 2002 and 109,568,450 in 2001.

^{*}The difference from 2001 to 2002 is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

[†]The difference from 2001 to 2002 is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

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

rape/sexual assault and simple assault rates did not change, 2001-02. Between 2001 and 2002 the property crime rate fell from 167 to 159 crimes per 1,000 households. While the rate of property theft fell significantly, no statistically significant change in the rate of burglary or motor vehicle theft was measured.

Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter

Based on preliminary 2002 data from the FBI, the number of persons murdered in the United States

increased 0.8% between 2001 and 2002. In 2001, 15,980 persons were murdered; the estimate for 2002 is about 16,110 victims of murder.

Preliminary data suggest that increases in the number of murders occurred in the South (+2.1%) and the West (+5.2%). Declines in the number of murders were measured in the Northeast (-4.8%) and the Midwest (-2.8%).

Murder and victim characteristics, 2001

In 2001, the year in which the most recent comprehensive data are available, the FBI reported a total of 15,980 murders or nonnegligent homicides. The total represents a 1.3% increase from the 15,586 murders recorded in 2000. The FBI defines murder in its annual *Crime in the United States* as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Not included are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program gathers statistics on murder from over 17,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies.

Though the rate and level of homicide changes year to year, the relationship between victim characteristics and homicide tends to remain the same.

For example, as in previous years, in 2001—

- Most murder victims were male (76%).
- When the race of the murder victim was known, about half were white (49.1%), and about half were black (46.9%).
- When information on the victim/offender relationship was available, 76% of the offenders were known to the victim, and strangers murdered 24% of victims.
- Firearms were used in the majority of murders (63%).
- Offenders were most often male (90%), and most often adults (92%).
- Homicide generally is intra-racial.
- Arguments were the most often cited circumstance leading to murder (28%).
- Homicides occurred in connection with another felony (such as robbery or narcotics) in 17% of incidents.

Criminal victimization, 1999-2000 and 2001-02

Comparing 2-year average annual rates (see box below) shows that for every category of crime except rape/sexual assault and motor vehicle theft the average annual rates were significantly lower in 2001-02 than in 1999-2000 (table 2). The average annual rate of rape/sexual assault was slightly lower in 2001-02 than in 1999-2000.

The average annual overall violent victimization rate declined 21% from 30 to 24 victimizations per 1,000 persons per year, 1999-2000 to 2001-02. During the same time robbery rates fell 27%, aggravated assault rates fell 23%, and simple assault rates fell 19%.

Property rates declined 13% from 188 to 163 crimes per 1,000 households per year, comparing 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Over the same period of comparison, burglary and property theft rates declined 14%.

Estimating change in crime victimization rates

Since 1995, the NCVS has undergone sample reductions because of the escalating costs of data collection. At the same time, the rate of violence has continued to decline. The combination of the two — fewer survey respondents and less crime — has resulted in a diminished ability to detect statistically significant year-to-year changes in rates.

Comparing 2-year average rates gives the reader a picture of the continuing decline in rates seen over the last few years. For those who rely upon the annual detailed table of victimization counts and per capita rates, those data are located on the BJS website at <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cv02.htm>.

Table 2. Criminal victimization, average annual rates, 1999-2000 and 2001-02

Type of crime	Average annual number of victimizations		Average annual victimization rate (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)		Percent change ^d
	1999-2000	2001-02	1999-2000	2001-02	
All crimes	27,336,570	23,625,870	
Personal crimes^a	7,080,690	5,714,500	31.4	24.8	-21.0*
Crimes of violence	6,839,900	5,542,620	30.3	24.1	-20.6*
Completed violence	2,161,160	1,790,690	9.6	7.8	-18.9*
Attempted/threatened violence	4,678,740	3,751,930	20.7	16.3	-21.5*
Rape/sexual assault	322,060	247,990	1.4	1.1	-24.6 [‡]
Rape/attempted rape	174,020	157,100	0.8	0.7	-11.7
Rape	116,760	87,010	0.5	0.4	-27.1
Attempted rape	57,270	70,050	0.3	0.3	19.7
Sexual assault	148,040	90,940	0.7	0.4	-39.9*
Robbery	771,000	571,590	3.4	2.5	-27.4*
Completed/property taken	525,190	406,280	2.3	1.8	-24.2*
With injury	174,780	171,860	0.8	0.7	-3.7
Without injury	350,410	234,420	1.6	1.0	-34.4*
Attempted to take property	245,820	165,310	1.1	0.7	-34.1*
With injury	71,890	55,170	0.3	0.2	-24.8
Without injury	173,930	110,140	0.8	0.5	-37.9*
Assault	5,746,840	4,723,040	25.5	20.5	-19.5*
Aggravated	1,397,900	1,106,140	6.2	4.8	-22.5*
With injury	397,630	353,900	1.8	1.5	-12.8
Threatened with weapon	1,000,270	752,240	4.4	3.3	-26.4*
Simple	4,348,950	3,616,910	19.3	15.7	-18.6*
With minor injury	993,670	875,760	4.4	3.8	-13.7 [‡]
Without injury	3,355,290	2,741,150	14.9	11.9	-20.0*
Personal theft ^b	240,800	171,890	1.1	0.7	-30.0*
Property crimes	20,255,880	17,911,370	188.0	162.9	-13.4*
Household burglary	3,547,640	3,097,710	32.9	28.2	-14.4*
Completed	2,986,930	2,642,000	27.7	24.0	-13.3*
Forcible entry	1,106,320	1,037,130	10.3	9.4	-8.1
Unlawful entry without force	1,880,610	1,604,870	17.5	14.6	-16.4*
Attempted forcible entry	560,720	455,710	5.2	4.1	-20.4*
Motor vehicle theft	1,002,590	998,740	9.3	9.1	-2.4
Completed	724,790	752,370	6.7	6.8	1.7
Attempted	277,800	246,370	2.6	2.2	-13.0
Theft	15,705,650	13,814,920	145.8	125.7	-13.8*
Completed ^c	15,131,870	13,355,980	140.5	121.5	-13.5*
Less than \$50	5,203,780	4,441,160	48.3	40.4	-16.4*
\$50-\$249	5,542,920	4,634,320	51.5	42.2	-18.1*
\$250 or more	3,285,390	3,223,110	30.5	29.3	-3.9
Attempted	573,790	458,940	5.3	4.2	-21.6*

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 231,589,260 in 2002; 229,215,290 in 2001; 226,804,610 in 2000; and 224,568,370 in 1999. The total number of households was 110,323,840 in 2002; 109,568,450 in 2001; 108,352,960 in 2000; and 107,159,550 in 1999.

...Not applicable.

*The difference from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

[‡]The difference from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 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.

^dPercent change was calculated using unrounded rates.

Characteristics of the crime victim, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02

Violent crime

The rate of violent crime experienced by males, females, whites, blacks, and non-Hispanics fell significantly, 1999-2000 compared to 2001-02. The rate of violence against Hispanics fell somewhat during the same period. Rates of violent victimization remained statistically similar between 1999-2000 and 2001-02 for persons of "other races."²

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	1999-2000	2001-02	Percent change
Male	34.9	26.4	-24.5%*
Female	26.0	21.9	-15.7*
White	29.5	23.6	-19.9%*
Black	38.4	29.5	-23.1*
Other ²	22.6	16.4	-27.2
Hispanic	31.0	26.5	-14.7%†
Non-Hispanic	30.0	23.8	-20.8*

The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the — *95%-confidence level, †90%-confidence level.

Violence against never married, married, and divorced/separated persons fell 1999-2000 compared to 2001-02. The apparent increase in the rate of violent victimization experienced by widowed persons was not significant.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	1999-2000	2001-02	Percent change
Never married	56.0	44.0	-21.4%*
Married	13.6	11.0	-19.2*
Widowed	7.0	7.4	+5.3
Divorced/separated	47.9	36.3	-24.2*

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

For persons under age 35 and those between ages 50 and 64, violent crime fell significantly, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02. A slight decline was measured for persons between ages 35 and 49. No change in the rate of violent victimization against persons age 65 or older was measured between 1999-2000 and 2001-02.

²In this report, "other races" are defined as Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, and American Indians considered together.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	1999-2000	2001-02	Percent change
12-15 years	67.2	49.7	-26.1%*
16-19 years	70.8	57.0	-19.5*
20-24 years	58.8	46.1	-21.6*
25-34 years	35.5	27.8	-21.8*
35-49 years	23.5	20.5	-12.8*
50-64 years	14.0	10.1	-27.8*
65+ years	3.7	3.3	-12.4

The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the — *95%-confidence level, †90%-confidence level.

No clear pattern in short-term changes for income was measured. However, significant declines in the rate of violent victimization against persons in households earning more than \$50,000 annually were measured between 1999-2000 and 2001-02. Persons in households earning less than \$7,500 and those in households earning between \$25,000 and \$34,999 also experienced violence at lower rates in 2001-02 compared to 1999-2000. A slight decline in the rate of violence was noted for those in households earning between \$7,500 and \$14,999, while no change was observed for households earning between \$15,000 and \$24,999.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	1999-2000	2001-02	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	58.9	46.0	-21.9%*
\$7,500-\$14,999	41.3	34.3	-17.0†
\$15,000-\$24,999	33.6	30.9	-8.1
\$25,000-\$34,999	33.9	28.1	-17.2*
\$35,000-\$49,999	29.4	25.9	-11.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	28.5	19.9	-30.2*
\$75,000 or more	22.6	18.8	-17.0*

The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the — *95%-confidence level, †90%-confidence level.

Violent crime decreased in every region and type of area of the Nation, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	1999-2000	2001-02	Percent change
Northeast	26.5	19.5	-26.5%*
Midwest	33.0	25.1	-23.9*
South	27.5	21.7	-21.7*
West	35.4	30.8	-12.8*
Urban	37.4	33.2	-11.3%*
Suburban	29.3	21.2	-27.6*
Rural	24.3	19.3	-20.7*

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Property crime

Except for households in the category of \$7,500-\$14,999 annual income, all households experienced property crime at rates lower during 2001-02 than during 1999-2000. The apparent decline in rates for households earning \$7,500-\$14,999 was not statistically significant.

	Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	1999-2000	2001-02	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	220.8	186.6	-15.5%*
\$7,500-\$14,999	184.3	174.4	-5.4
\$15,000-\$24,999	204.4	175.8	-14.0*
\$25,000-\$34,999	195.7	166.2	-15.1*
\$35,000-\$49,999	200.3	175.9	-12.2*
\$50,000-\$74,999	197.5	168.7	-14.6*
\$75,000 or more	207.8	174.8	-15.9*

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Property crime rates fell, from 1999-2000 to 2001-02, regardless of the region. The largest decline occurred in the Northeast where property crime rates fell 21% over the period.

Property crime for households in urban, suburban, and rural areas declined from 1999-2000 to 2001-02.

The average annual property crime rates for households fell 13% from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 for both resident owners and renters.

	Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	1999-2000	2001-02	Percent change
Northeast	151.5	120.5	-20.5%*
Midwest	190.9	164.1	-14.0*
South	179.6	152.6	-15.0*
West	233.2	218.2	-6.4*
Urban	239.1	214.0	-10.5%*
Suburban	172.5	151.0	-12.5*
Rural	156.2	125.0	-19.9*
Owned	161.8	141.3	-12.7%*
Rented	240.2	208.3	-13.3*

*The 1999-2000 and 2001-02 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Table 3. Rates of criminal victimization and percent change, 1993-2002

Type of crime	Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)		Percent change ^{a,b} 1993-2002
	1993	2002	
Personal crimes^c	52.2	23.7	-54.6%*
Crimes of violence	49.9	23.1	-53.7*
Completed violence	15.0	7.6	-49.3*
Attempted/threatened violence	34.9	15.5	-55.6*
Rape/sexual assault	2.5	1.1	-56.0*
Rape/attempted rape	1.6	0.7	-56.3*
Rape	1.0	0.4	-60.0*
Attempted rape	0.7	0.3	-57.1*
Sexual assault	0.8	0.3	-62.5*
Robbery	6.0	2.2	-63.3*
Completed robbery	3.8	1.7	-55.3*
With injury	1.3	0.7	-46.2*
Without injury	2.5	0.9	-64.0*
Attempted robbery	2.2	0.5	-77.3*
With injury	0.4	0.2	-50.0*
Without injury	1.8	0.4	-77.8*
Assault	41.4	19.8	-52.2*
Aggravated	12.0	4.3	-64.2*
With injury	3.4	1.4	-58.8*
Threatened with weapon	8.6	2.9	-66.3*
Simple	29.4	15.5	-47.3*
With minor injury	6.1	3.9	-36.1*
Without injury	23.3	11.6	-50.2*
Personal theft ^d	2.3	0.7	-69.6*
Property crimes	318.9	159.0	-50.1%*
Household burglary	58.2	27.7	-52.4*
Completed	47.2	23.5	-50.2*
Forcible entry	18.1	9.2	-49.2*
Unlawful entry without force	29.1	14.3	-50.9*
Attempted forcible entry	10.9	4.2	-61.5*
Motor vehicle theft	19.0	9.0	-52.6*
Completed	12.4	7.1	-42.7*
Attempted	6.6	1.9	-71.2*
Theft	241.7	122.3	-49.4*
Completed ^e	230.1	118.2	-48.6*
Less than \$50	98.7	37.9	-61.6*
\$50-\$249	76.1	40.4	-46.9*
\$250 or more	41.6	29.6	-28.8*
Attempted	11.6	4.1	-64.7*

Note: Victimization rates may differ from those reported previously because estimates are now based on data collected in each calendar year rather than data about events within a calendar year. (See *Survey methodology* on page 12.)

Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury.

In 1993 the total population age 12 or older was 211,524,770; and in 2002; 231,589,260. The total number of households in 1993 was 99,927,410; and in 2002; 110,323,840.

*The difference between the indicated years is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

^aDifferences between the annual rates shown do not take into account changes that may have occurred during interim years.

^bPercent change calculated using unrounded rates.

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

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

^eIncludes thefts with unknown losses.

Victimization trends, 1993-2002

The rate of every major violent and property crime measured in the NCVS — rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft — fell significantly between 1993 and 2002 (table 3).

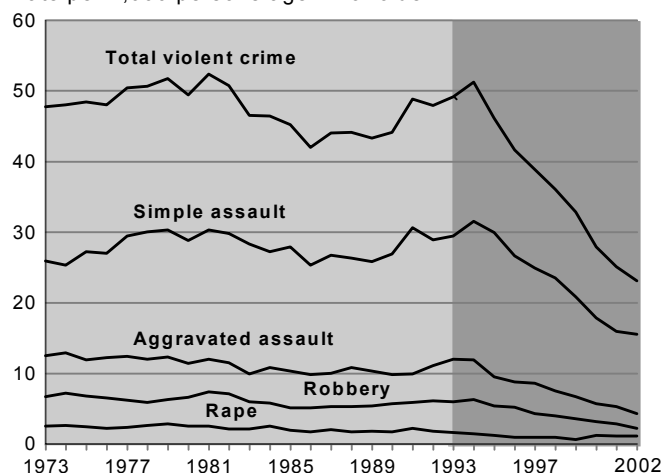
Violent crime

The overall violent crime rate fell 54% from 50 to 23 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older between 1993 and 2002. Other significant declines were measured in rates of rape/sexual assault (down 56%), robbery (down 63%), aggravated assault (down 64%), and simple assault (down 47%).

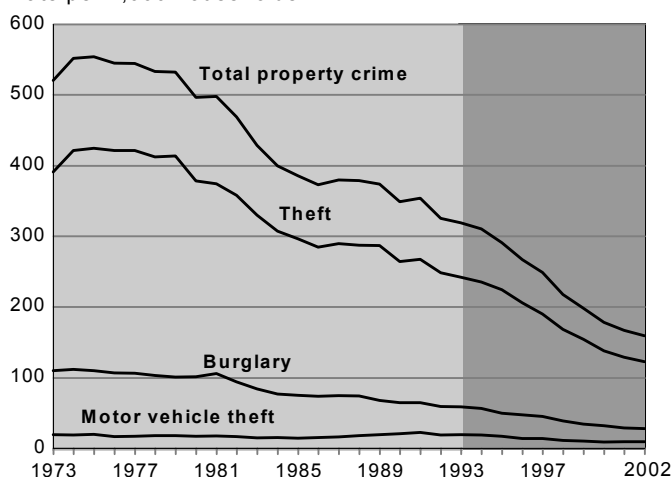
Property crime

From 1993 through 2002, the rate of overall property crime declined significantly, as did the rate for each major type of property crime considered. The household burglary rate fell 52%; the motor vehicle theft rate fell 53%; and rate of theft fell 49%. Attempted motor vehicle theft was marked by one of the largest percentage rate decreases (71%) of all categories of property crime examined, 1993-2002.

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older



Rate per 1,000 households



Note: Data collected before the NCVS redesign was implemented during the latter half of 1992 (the lightly shaded areas) have been made comparable to the post-redesign NCVS. Those data were re-estimated to account for the effects of the redesign.

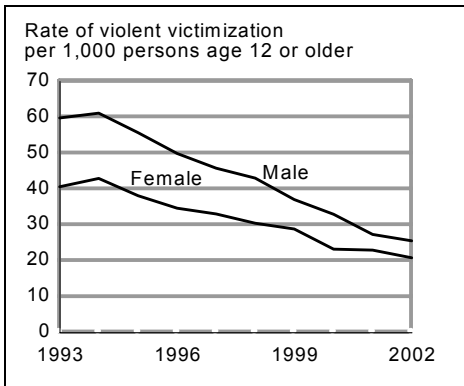


Figure 3 - Violent crime and gender

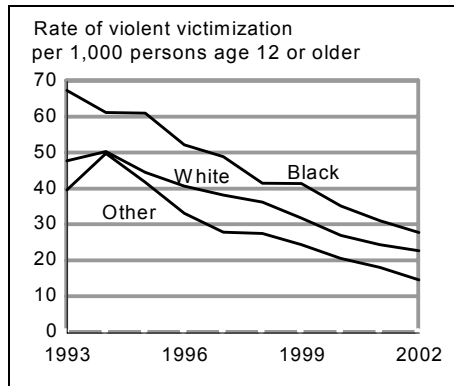


Figure 4 - Violent crime and race

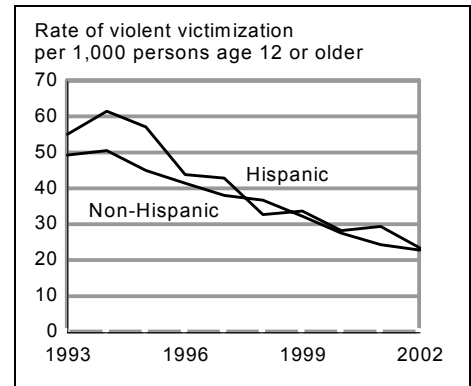


Figure 5 - Violent crime and Hispanic origin

Characteristics of victims, 1993-2002

Without exception declines in violent victimization were experienced by persons in all demographic categories considered — gender, race, Hispanic origin, and household income, 1993-2002 (figures 3, 4, and 5 and table 4).

While males and females both experienced drops in violence between 1993 and 2002, the rate at which violence fell differed.

The rate of violence against males fell to a greater degree than did the rate of violence against women, 1993-2002.

The decline in violent crime rates for whites, blacks and persons of other-races were statistically equal, 1993-2002.

With three exceptions, persons across all income categories examined experienced similar declines in violent crime, 1993-2002. The exceptions are that

persons living in households earning between \$50,000 and \$74,999 annually experienced a drop in violent crime that was significantly larger than those in households with annual incomes between \$15,000 to \$24,999, and somewhat larger than those in households with incomes between \$7,500 and \$14,999, and between \$25,000 and \$34,999, 1993-2002.

Demographic category of victim	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older										Percent change, 1993-2002
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Gender											
Male	59.8	61.1	55.7	49.9	45.8	43.1	37.0	32.9	27.3	25.5	-57.4%*
Female	40.7	43.0	38.1	34.6	33.0	30.4	28.8	23.2	23.0	20.8	-48.9*
Race											
White	47.9	50.5	44.7	40.9	38.3	36.3	31.9	27.1	24.5	22.8	-52.4*
Black	67.4	61.3	61.1	52.3	49.0	41.7	41.6	35.3	31.2	27.9	-58.6*
Other	39.8	49.9	41.9	33.2	28.0	27.6	24.5	20.7	18.2	14.7	-63.1*
Hispanic origin											
Hispanic	55.2	61.6	57.3	44.0	43.1	32.8	33.8	28.4	29.5	23.6	-57.2*
Non-Hispanic	49.5	50.7	45.2	41.6	38.3	36.8	32.4	27.7	24.5	23.0	-53.5*
Annual household income											
Less than \$7,500	84.7	86.0	77.8	65.3	71.0	63.8	57.5	60.3	46.6	45.5	-46.3*
\$7,500-\$14,999	56.4	60.7	49.8	52.1	51.2	49.3	44.5	37.8	36.9	31.5	-44.1*
\$15,000-\$24,999	49.0	50.7	48.9	44.1	40.1	39.4	35.3	31.8	31.8	30.0	-38.3*
\$25,000-\$34,999	51.0	47.3	47.1	43.0	40.2	42.0	37.9	29.8	29.1	27.0	-47.1*
\$35,000-\$49,999	45.6	47.0	45.8	43.0	38.7	31.7	30.3	28.5	26.3	25.6	-43.9*
\$50,000-\$74,999	44.0	48.0	44.6	37.5	33.9	32.0	33.3	23.7	21.0	18.7	-57.5*
\$75,000 or more	41.3	39.5	37.3	30.5	30.7	33.1	22.9	22.3	18.5	19.0	-54.0*

Note: These rates are based on the collection year. *1993-2002 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

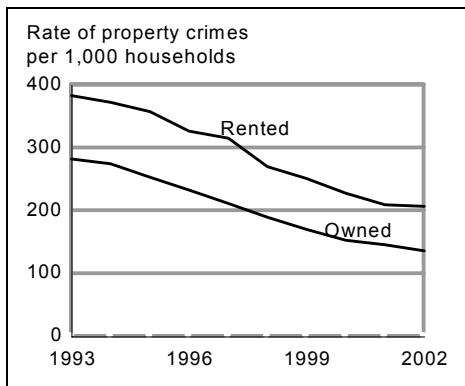


Figure 6 - Property crime and owned/rented residences

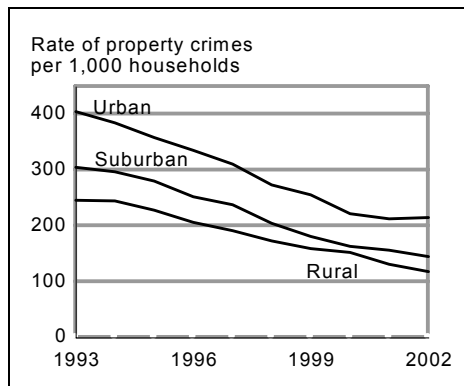


Figure 7 - Property crime and urbanicity

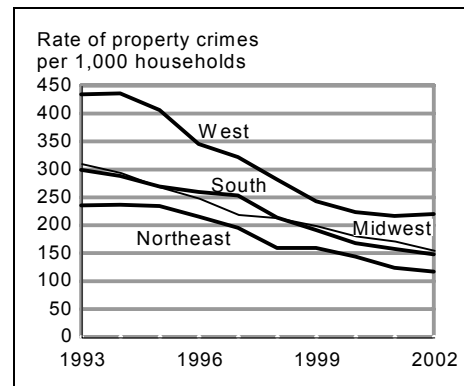


Figure 8 - Property crime and region

Property crime rates fell for every demographic group considered, 1993-2002 (figures, 6, 7, and 8 and table 5).

Though all groups experienced significant decreases in property crime over time, some experienced greater declines in rates than others. For example, property crime rates for households that rent showed a smaller decline than rates for households that own a home.

Households having an annual income greater than \$50,000 experienced larger drops in property crime rates than did households with lower incomes. And households with annual incomes of between \$25,000 and \$34,999 experienced a steeper drop in rates than the households with incomes of less than \$25,000 annually.

The rate of property crime for households in urban areas decreased less than did the rate for households in suburban areas, and somewhat less than the rate for households in rural areas, 1993-2002. Property crime rates in suburban and rural areas each dropped by half.

Households in all regions experienced similar decreases in property crime rates, 1993-2002.

Table 5. Property crime rates of selected household demographics, 1993-2002

Demographic category	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households										Percent change, 1993-2002 ^a
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Region											
Northeast	235.6	236.6	234.1	215.2	195.6	159.3	159.5	143.7	123.9	117.0	-45.6%*
Midwest	311.2	295.2	269.6	249.6	219.9	214.0	199.9	181.9	172.3	155.8	-37.6*
South	299.4	288.6	269.9	259.9	253.8	213.5	191.4	167.8	157.5	147.8	-43.1*
West	434.5	436.1	406.0	345.6	322.2	282.3	243.1	223.4	216.4	219.9	-36.4*
Ownership											
Owned	282.5	275.2	253.7	233.7	211.7	189.6	170.4	153.4	146.3	136.4	-51.7*
Rented	383.5	372.7	357.7	327.1	316.0	270.6	251.9	228.3	209.6	207.0	-46.0*
Location											
Urban	404.8	384.7	358.3	335.8	311.1	274.2	256.3	222.1	212.8	215.3	-46.8*
Suburban	305.1	297.2	280.6	252.6	238.0	204.5	181.4	163.7	156.7	145.3	-52.4*
Rural	246.4	245.2	228.4	206.4	191.7	173.5	159.8	152.6	131.9	118.3	-52.0*
Annual household income											
Less than \$7,500	305.9	299.6	304.3	282.7	258.8	209.0	220.8	220.9	184.6	188.9	-38.2*
\$7,500-\$14,999	285.9	299.1	267.1	247.5	236.3	229.8	200.1	167.1	181.6	166.7	-41.7*
\$15,000-\$24,999	307.0	308.1	289.8	273.1	242.4	211.0	214.9	193.1	179.2	172.1	-43.9*
\$25,000-\$34,999	336.7	305.2	294.8	285.1	260.3	233.8	199.1	192.2	170.4	161.7	-52.0*
\$35,000-\$49,999	342.7	326.9	301.5	287.6	271.7	221.7	207.6	192.9	176.4	175.4	-48.8*
\$50,000-\$74,999	374.4	364.1	333.2	284.0	270.9	248.6	213.6	181.9	178.8	158.3	-57.7*
\$75,000 or more	400.3	356.0	350.4	304.6	292.8	248.6	220.4	197.2	180.0	169.8	-57.6*

Note: These rates are based on the collection year. Thus, the 1993, 1994, and 1995 rates differ from rates published in *Changes in Criminal Victimization, 1994-95* (March 1997, NCJ 162032), which are based on data years.

*1993-2002 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

--Prior to 1996 region data were not available.

^aBecause region data were not available prior to 1996, percent change over time was based on comparisons of 1996 and 2002 rates. All other percent change calculations were based on 1993 and 2002 rates.

Characteristics of violent crime victims, 2002

Persons who have been historically the most vulnerable to violent victimization in the past — males, blacks, and youths — continued to be victimized at rates higher than others in 2002 (table 6).

Gender of victim

Males were victims of overall violent crime, robbery, total assault, simple assault, and aggravated assault at rates higher than those of females. Females were more likely than males to be victims of rape/sexual assault. While males and females were victims of simple assault at similar rates during 2001, males were victimized at a higher rate than females during 2002.

Race of victim

Blacks were victims of overall violence, rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault at rates higher than those for whites in 2002. Blacks were also victims of overall violence, total assault, and aggravated assault at rates significantly higher than those for persons of “other races.” Blacks were victims of simple assault at a rate somewhat higher than the rate for “others.”

Whites were victims of overall violence, total assault, aggravated and simple assault at rates higher than “others.”

Hispanic origin of victim

Hispanics and non-Hispanics were victims of violence at similar rates during 2002, with one exception: Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to be victims of aggravated assault.

Age of victim

During 2002 rates of overall violence differed between all adjacent age categories. Persons age 16 to 19 experienced overall violence, rape/sexual assault, and assault overall at rates at least slightly higher than rates for persons in other age categories. Persons age 16 to 19 and age 20 to 24 were victims of aggravated assault at

Table 6. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by gender, age, race, and Hispanic origin, 2002

Characteristic of victim	Population	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						
		Violent crimes					Personal theft	
		All	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Total	Assault Aggravated		Simple
Gender								
Male	112,241,930	25.5	0.3	2.9	22.3	5.2	17.1	0.6
Female	119,347,330	20.8	1.8	1.6	17.4	3.4	14.0	0.7
Race								
White	192,956,980	22.8	0.8	1.9	20.0	4.1	15.9	0.7
Black	28,871,440	27.9	2.5	4.1	21.3	6.7	14.6	0.7*
Other	9,760,850	14.7	1.2*	2.4*	11.0	0.9*	10.1	0.4*
Hispanic origin								
Hispanic	26,991,490	23.6	0.7*	3.2	19.7	6.1	13.7	0.4*
Non-Hispanic	203,062,880	23.0	1.1	2.1	19.8	4.1	15.8	0.7
Age								
12-15	16,676,560	44.4	2.1	3.0	39.3	5.0	34.3	0.9*
16-19	16,171,800	58.2	5.5	4.0	48.6	11.9	36.7	0.6*
20-24	19,317,740	47.4	2.9	4.7	39.8	10.1	29.7	1.6*
25-34	37,329,720	26.3	0.6*	2.8	22.8	5.2	17.6	0.5*
35-49	65,263,580	18.1	0.5*	1.5	16.1	3.5	12.7	0.7
50-64	43,746,850	10.7	0.2*	1.6	8.9	1.7	7.2	0.3*
65 or older	33,083,000	3.4	0.1*	1.0	2.2	0.7*	1.5	0.6*

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

similar rates, and at rates higher than those for persons in other age categories. Persons age 12 to 15 and age 16 to 19 experienced simple assault at similar rates, and their rates of simple assault were at least slightly higher than rates for all other age categories. Persons age 12 to 15, 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 were more likely than persons in other age categories to be robbed.

Household income

During 2002 persons in households with an annual income under \$7,500 were more likely to be victims of overall violence and of aggravated assault than members of households with higher incomes (table 7). Members of households that earned below \$7,500 a year, experienced simple assault at a rate somewhat higher than the rates for persons in households at all other income levels.

Individuals in households earning between \$7,500 and \$49,999 annually were victims of violence and aggravated assault at similar rates. Those rates were higher than the rates for

persons in households earning above \$49,999 in the year.

Individuals in households earning below \$50,000 in the year were victims of rape/sexual assault at rates higher than rates for persons in households earning \$50,000 or more annually.

Persons with household incomes below \$75,000 annually were more likely to be robbed than were persons with higher annual household incomes. Apparent differences in the rate of robbery across income categories less than \$75,000 were not statistically significant.

Marital status

During 2002 persons who had never married were victims of violent crime overall, rape/sexual assault, total assault, and simple assault at rates higher than those for married, widowed, or divorced/separated persons.

Persons who had never married and those who were divorced/separated were victims of robbery and of aggravated assault at similar rates.

Region

Western and Midwestern residents were victimized by violent crime overall and total assault at similar rates and at rates higher than residents in the South and Northeast, 2002. Northeastern and Southern residents were victims of violent crime overall, rape/sexual assault, total assault, and simple assault at similar rates, 2002.

With one exception, no regional differences between the rates of rape/sexual assault emerged. Western residents were victims of rape/sexual assault at a higher rate than that for residents of the Northeast during 2002.

No regional differences between robbery rates were observed with the exception that Southerners were more likely than Northeasterners to be robbed.

With a single exception, no differences between the regional rates of aggravated assault were measured: Residents in the Northeast had a rate lower than those for all other regions.

Residence

For all types of violent crime considered, urban residents were victimized at rates higher than rates for suburban and rural residents during 2002.

With the sole exception of robbery, suburban and rural residents were victims of violence at statistically similar rates during 2002. Suburban residents were robbed at a higher rate than rural residents.

Characteristics of victims of property crime, 2002

Annual household income

Overall property crime rates did not differ by annual household income (table 8). However, the relationship between annual household income and property crime rates did vary by specific types of property crime.

Households with an annual income below \$7,500 were burglarized at a rate higher than the rate for households with higher incomes. Households

Table 7. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by household income, marital status, region, and location of residence of victims, 2002

Characteristic of victim	Population	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						Personal theft
		Violent crimes						
		All	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Total	Assault Aggravated	Simple	
Household income								
Less than \$7,500	8,347,650	45.5	2.5*	6.3	36.7	11.2	25.5	1.7*
\$7,500 - \$14,999	15,608,210	31.5	3.2	4.1	24.2	5.8	18.4	0.5*
\$15,000 - \$24,999	23,872,200	30.0	2.1	2.9	25.0	6.1	18.9	0.8*
\$25,000 - \$34,999	24,104,810	27.0	1.2*	2.9	22.9	4.1	18.9	0.3*
\$35,000 - \$49,999	31,655,160	25.6	0.9*	2.2	22.4	5.2	17.2	0.4*
\$50,000 - \$74,999	33,713,640	18.7	0.2*	2.1	16.5	2.5	14.0	0.6*
\$75,000 or more	43,139,380	19.0	0.4*	1.0	17.6	2.8	14.8	0.7
Marital status								
Never married	74,029,810	43.3	2.6	3.7	37.0	7.3	29.7	1.1
Married	117,296,790	10.6	0.2*	0.9	9.5	2.2	7.2	0.3
Divorced/separated	24,768,200	30.7	1.1*	4.0	25.6	5.9	19.7	1.1*
Widowed	13,699,370	7.1	0.3*	2.0*	4.8	2.2*	2.7	0.6*
Region								
Northeast	43,705,120	18.8	0.7	1.5	16.7	2.7	13.9	1.2
Midwest	54,065,070	25.7	1.0	2.2	22.6	4.3	18.3	0.5*
South	83,470,930	19.7	1.0	2.6	16.2	4.7	11.5	0.6
West	50,348,150	29.4	1.6	2.3	25.5	5.0	20.6	0.5*
Residence								
Urban	64,533,840	33.1	2.2	4.3	26.7	6.5	20.2	1.2
Suburban	111,164,070	20.0	0.7	1.8	17.6	3.5	14.1	0.6
Rural	55,891,360	17.5	0.6	0.7	16.2	3.3	12.9	0.2*

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 8. Property crime victimization, by household income, region, residence, and home ownership of households victimized, 2002

Characteristic of household or head of household	Number of households, 2002	Victimizations per 1,000 households			
		Total	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
Household income					
Less than \$7,500	5,157,750	188.9	51.4	3.2*	134.3
\$7,500 - \$14,999	9,038,620	166.7	31.8	8.1	126.8
\$15,000 - \$24,999	12,231,090	172.1	33.8	9.9	128.5
\$25,000 - \$34,999	11,586,530	161.7	27.8	12.6	121.2
\$35,000 - \$49,999	14,391,310	175.4	27.3	11.3	136.9
\$50,000 - \$74,999	14,283,610	158.3	24.6	9.2	124.5
\$75,000 or more	17,532,840	169.8	21.0	5.9	142.9
Region					
Northeast	20,821,680	117.0	18.4	6.4	92.1
Midwest	26,238,340	155.8	30.7	7.9	117.2
South	40,202,070	147.8	28.2	7.9	111.8
West	23,061,760	219.9	31.9	14.3	173.8
Residence					
Urban	31,937,800	215.3	40.5	17.1	157.7
Suburban	51,446,980	145.3	22.4	7.5	115.4
Rural	26,939,060	118.3	22.6	2.2	93.5
Home ownership					
Owned	75,023,210	136.4	23.9	6.5	105.9
Rented	35,300,630	207.0	35.7	14.2	157.1

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 9. Victim and offender relationship, 2002

Relationship with victim	Violent crime		Rape/sexual assault		Robbery		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male victims										
Total	2,857,930	100%	31,640	100%	323,530	100%	588,430	100%	1,914,320	100%
Nonstranger	1,216,440	43%	16,500	52%*	75,980	24%	229,000	39%	894,960	47%
Intimate	72,520	3	0	0*	11,490	4*	13,480	2*	47,560	3
Other relative	98,780	4	0	0*	0	0*	26,350	5*	72,430	4
Friend/acquaintance	1,045,140	37	16,500	52*	64,490	20	189,170	32	774,970	41
Stranger	1,603,230	56%	15,140	48%*	239,380	74%	352,630	60%	996,070	52%
Relationship unknown	38,260	1%	0	0%*	8,170	3%*	6,800	1%*	23,290	1%*
Female victims										
Total	2,483,480	100%	216,090	100%	188,960	100%	401,670	100%	1,676,760	100%
Nonstranger	1,665,980	67%	149,620	69%	103,560	55%	233,800	58%	1,179,000	70%
Intimate	494,570	20	21,920	10*	36,140	19	75,250	19	361,260	22
Other relative	170,500	7	3,850	2*	20,700	11*	32,190	8	113,760	7
Friend/acquaintance	1,000,910	40	123,850	57	46,710	25	126,360	32	703,980	42
Stranger	767,270	31%	61,000	28%	80,860	43%	147,960	37%	477,450	29%
Relationship unknown	50,240	2%	5,470	3%*	4,540	2%*	19,910	5%*	20,320	1%*

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding. *Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

with incomes greater than \$7,500 annually were burglarized at statistically similar rates, 2002.

Households with an income under \$7,500 were less likely than other households to experience motor vehicle theft. Those having an income of \$75,000 or above were slightly less likely to be victimized by such theft.

Region, locality, and home ownership

Western households were victims of overall property crime at the highest rate while households in the Northeast sustained property crime at the lowest rate of all regions, 2002. Southern and Midwestern households were victims of property crime at similar rates.

Northeastern households were less likely to be burglarized than

households in other regions. The Midwest, South, and West had similar 2002 rates of burglary.

Western households were victims of motor vehicle theft at rates higher than those for other regions.

Western households experienced theft at the highest regional rate; Northeastern households, at the lowest. Theft rates for Southern and Midwestern households were similar during 2002.

Urban households were victims of each type of property crime at rates higher than those for suburban and rural households, 2002. Except for burglary, suburban households were victims of each type of property crime at rates higher than rural household rates. Rural and suburban households were burglarized at statistically similar rates, 2002.

Characteristics of the crime event

Victim-offender relationship

Females were most often victimized by someone they knew while males were more likely to be victimized by a stranger during 2002 (table 9).

Of those offenders victimizing females, 40% were described as friends/acquaintances, 20% as intimates, and 7% as some other relative. Strangers to the victim committed 31% of the violence against females.

In contrast, of those offenders victimizing males, 37% were described as friends/acquaintances, 3% as intimates, and 4% as some other relative. Strangers committed 56% of the violence against males.

Table 10. Presence of weapons in violent crimes, 2002

Presence of offender's weapon	Violent crime		Rape/sexual assault		Robbery		Simple and aggravated assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	5,130,830	100%	257,380	100%	473,220	100%	4,400,230	100%
No weapon	3,619,900	71%	218,950	85%	220,620	47%	3,200,330	73%
Weapon	1,084,600	21%	17,730	7%*	218,840	46%	848,030	19%
Firearm	364,090	7	11,330	4*	117,480	25	235,280	5
Knife	289,470	6	6,400	2*	55,530	12	227,540	5
Other	353,220	7	0	0*	30,750	6	322,470	7
Type not ascertained	77,820	2	0	0*	15,080	3*	62,740	1
Don't know	426,340	8%	20,690	8%*	53,770	11%	351,880	8%

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding. If the offender was armed with more than one weapon, the crime is classified based on the most serious weapon present.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Robbery was the crime most likely to be committed by a stranger for both male and female victims.

Presence of weapons

During 2002, 71% of all violent crime victims did not face an armed offender (table 10). However, the presence of a weapon during a violent crime was related to the type of crime. For example, rape and sexual assault victims were the least likely (7%) and robbery victims the most likely (46%), to face an armed offender.

The type of weapon also varied by the type of violence. Four percent of victims of rape/sexual assault faced an offender armed with a firearm, compared to 25% of robbery victims. An offender brandishing a knife confronted 2% of rape/sexual assault victims and 12% of robbery victims.

Reporting to the police

During 2002, 49% of all violent victimizations and 40% of all property crimes were reported to the police. The percentage of crime reported differed based on the specific type of crime considered. For example, 71% of robberies were brought to the attention of police, while 43% of simple assaults were reported to the police in 2002.

Motor vehicle theft continued to be the property crime most often reported to the police (86%). Fifty-eight percent of burglaries and 33% of thefts were reported to the police, 2002.

	Percent of crime reported to the police, 2002
Violent crime	48.5%
Rape/sexual assault	53.7
Robbery	71.2
Aggravated assault	56.6
Simple assault	42.7
Personal theft	46.4%
Property crime	40.2%
Burglary	57.9
Motor vehicle theft	86.1
Theft	32.8

Reporting and victim characteristics

The violent victimization of a female was more likely to be reported to the police than was the victimization of a male during 2002. This difference in reporting for males and females existed for violence against white, black, and non-Hispanic victims. Violence against females of "other races" was reported to police in slightly higher percentages than was violence against males of "other races." The apparent difference in reporting of violence against Hispanic males and females was not significant, 2002.

Among male victims the percentage of violence reported to the police did not differ across racial categories or by Hispanic origin.

With one exception among female victims there were no differences between the percentages across racial categories or by Hispanic origin of crimes reported to the police. Violent crimes against black females were more likely to be reported to the police than those against white females.

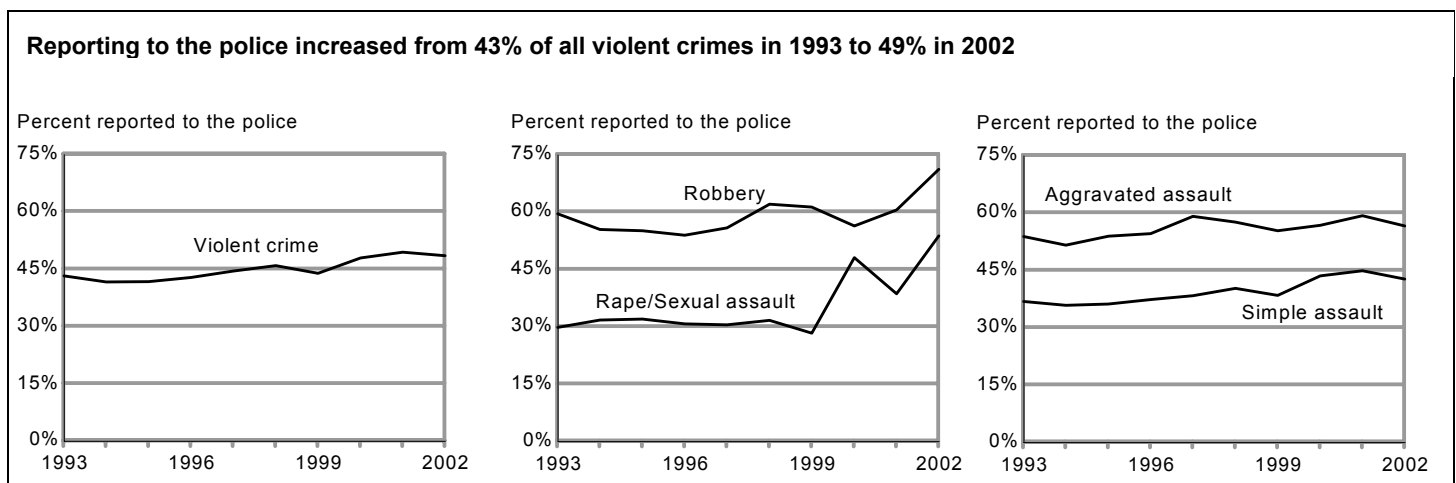
Victim gender, race, and Hispanic origin	Percent of crime reported to the police, 2002	
	Violent	Property
Total	48.5%	40.2%
Male	44.6%	40.9%
White	44.0	40.2
Black	48.0	46.8
Other	46.9	41.5
Hispanic	47.0	37.5
Non-Hispanic	44.0	41.5
Female	53.0%	39.5%
White	50.7	38.1
Black	61.7	44.7
Other	65.2	43.7
Hispanic	55.5	39.9
Non-Hispanic	52.8	39.4

Reporting crime to the police, 1993-2002

Except for aggravated assault, the percentages of all types of property and violent crimes reported to the police increased significantly, 1993-2002 (figures 9-14). No statistically significant change in reporting was measured for aggravated assault.

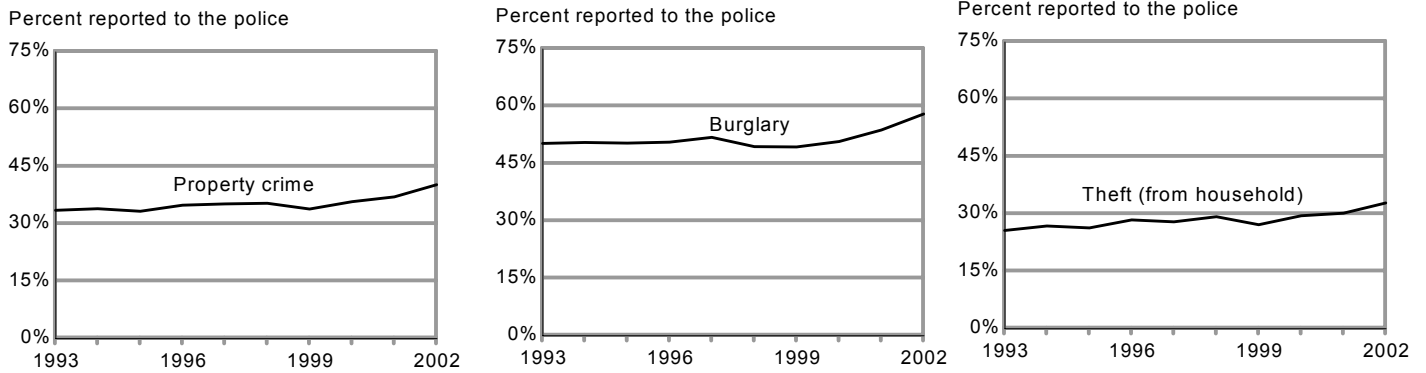
The increases in reporting varied by type of crime. The relative increase in reporting crime to the police was greater for rape/sexual assault than it was for robbery or simple assault, 1993-2002.

The relative increases of reporting to police of burglary (from 50% in 1993 to 58% in 2002), motor vehicle theft (from 75% to 86%), and theft (from 26% to 33%) were statistically similar. (For further discussion see *Reporting Crime to the Police, 1992-2000*, <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/rcp00htm>.)



Figures 9, 10, 11

Reporting to the police increased from 34% of all property crimes in 1993 to 40% in 2002



Figures 12, 13, 14

Survey methodology

This Bulletin presents data on non-lethal violence and property crimes from the National Crime Victimization

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Survey (NCVS), and data on homicide from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program. In 2002, 42,340 households and 76,050 people age 12 or older were interviewed. For the 2002 NCVS data presented here, the response rate was 92.4% of eligible households and 87.3% of eligible individuals. See <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstracts/cv02.htm> for additional information on methodology, standard error calculations, and definitions.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director. Callie Marie Rennison and Michael R. Rand, BJS Statisticians, wrote this report. Cathy T. Maston provided statistical review. Marianne Zawitz produced the Highlight figures.

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