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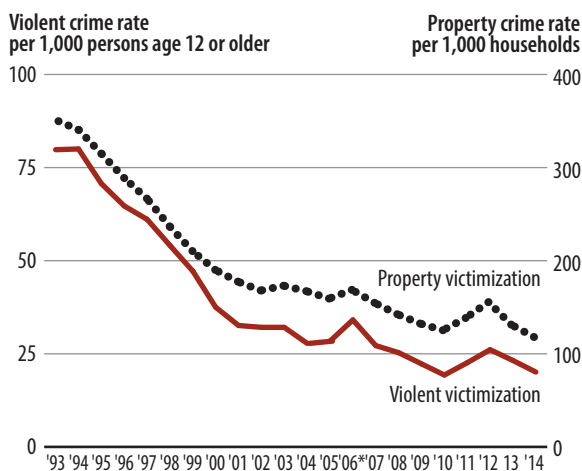
# Criminal Victimization, 2014

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In 2014, U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced an estimated 5.4 million violent victimizations and 15.3 million property victimizations, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). There was no significant change in the overall rate of violent crime, defined as rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault, from 2013 (23.2 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older) to 2014 (20.1 per 1,000) (figure 1). However, the rate of violent crime in 2014 was lower than the rate in 2012 (26.1 per 1,000). From 1993 to 2014, the rate of violent crime declined from 79.8 to 20.1 per 1,000.

The overall property crime rate (which includes household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft) decreased from 131.4 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2013 to 118.1 victimizations per 1,000 in 2014. The decline in theft accounted for the majority of the decrease in property crime. Since 1993, the rate of property crime declined from 351.8 to 118.1 victimizations per 1,000 households.

**FIGURE 1**  
Violent and property victimization, 1993–2014



Note: See appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors.  
\*See *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (NCJ 224390, BJS web, December 2008) for information on changes in the 2006 NCVS.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993–2014.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Violent crime

- No significant change occurred in the rate of violent crime from 2013 (23.2 victimizations per 1,000) to 2014 (20.1 per 1,000).
- From 2013 to 2014, no statistically significant change was detected in the rate of serious violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, violence resulting in an injury, and violence involving a firearm.
- No significant change was found in the percentage of violent crime reported to police from 2013 to 2014 (46%).
- About 12% of victims of serious violence and 28% of intimate partner violence victims received assistance from a victim service agency.
- No change was observed in the percentage of violent crime victims who received assistance from a victim service agency from 2013 to 2014.

### Property crime

- The rate of property crime decreased from 131.4 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2013 to 118.1 per 1,000 in 2014.

### Prevalence of crime

- In 2014, 1.1% of all persons age 12 or older (3 million persons) experienced at least one violent victimization.
- An estimated 0.5% (1.2 million persons) experienced at least one serious violent victimization in 2014.
- In 2014, 8% of all households (10.4 million households) experienced one or more property victimizations.
- The prevalence rate of property victimization declined from 9% of all households in 2013 to 8% in 2014.

## No change was observed in the rate of serious violent crime from 2013 to 2014

There was no statistically significant change in the rate of serious violent crime—defined as rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault—from 2013 (7.3 per 1,000)

to 2014 (7.7 per 1,000) (table 1). The rate of simple assault declined from 15.8 victimizations per 1,000 persons in 2013 to 12.4 per 1,000 in 2014. Rates of total violent crime (down 29%) and simple assault (down 35%) were lower in 2014 than rates observed a decade earlier in 2005.

**TABLE 1**  
Violent victimization, by type of violent crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014

Type of violent crime	Number			Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Violent crime<sup>b</sup></b>	6,947,800 †	6,126,420	5,359,570	28.4 †	23.2	20.1
Rape/sexual assault	207,760	300,170	284,350	0.8	1.1	1.1
Robbery	769,150	645,650	664,210	3.1	2.4	2.5
Assault	5,970,890 †	5,180,610	4,411,010	24.4 †	19.6 ‡	16.5
Aggravated assault	1,281,490	994,220	1,092,090	5.2 ‡	3.8	4.1
Simple assault	4,689,400 †	4,186,390 †	3,318,920	19.2 †	15.8 †	12.4
Domestic violence <sup>c</sup>	1,242,290	1,116,090	1,109,880	5.1 †	4.2	4.2
Intimate partner violence <sup>d</sup>	816,010	748,800	634,610	3.3 ‡	2.8	2.4
Stranger violence	2,829,600 †	2,098,170	2,166,130	11.6 †	7.9	8.1
Violent crime involving injury	1,759,210 ‡	1,603,960	1,375,950	7.2 †	6.1	5.2
<b>Serious violent crime<sup>e</sup></b>	2,258,400	1,940,030	2,040,650	9.2	7.3	7.7
Serious domestic violence <sup>c</sup>	425,270	464,730	400,030	1.7	1.8	1.5
Serious intimate partner violence <sup>d</sup>	311,480	360,820	265,890	1.3	1.4	1.0
Serious stranger violence	1,096,480	737,940	930,690	4.5	2.8	3.5
Serious violent crime involving weapons	1,659,030	1,174,370	1,306,900	6.8 †	4.4	4.9
Serious violent crime involving injury	824,800	739,210	692,470	3.4	2.8	2.6

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Total population age 12 or older was 244,505,300 in 2005; 264,411,700 in 2013; and 266,665,160 in 2014. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes homicide because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>c</sup>Includes victimization committed by intimate partners and family members.

<sup>d</sup>Includes victimization committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

<sup>e</sup>In the NCVS, serious violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

## The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

The NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes reported and not reported to police against persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. Initial NCVS interviews are conducted in person with subsequent interviews conducted either in person or by phone. In 2014, the response rate was 84% for households and 87% for eligible persons. The NCVS produces national rates and levels of violent and property victimization, information on the characteristics of crimes and victims, and the consequences of victimization. Since NCVS is based on interviews with victims, it cannot measure homicide.

The NCVS measures the violent crimes of rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. The NCVS classifies rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault as serious violent crimes. Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft. The survey also measures personal larceny, which includes pickpocketing and purse snatching. For additional estimates not included in this

report, see the [NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool \(NVAT\)](#) on the BJS website.

Victimization is the basic unit of analysis used throughout most of this report. A victimization is a crime as it affects one person or household. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is equal to the number of victims present during a criminal incident. The number of victimizations may be greater than the number of incidents because more than one person may be victimized during an incident. Each crime against a household is counted as having a single victim—the affected household.

The victimization rate is a measure of the occurrence of victimizations among a specified population group. For personal crimes, the victimization rate is based on the number of victimizations per 1,000 residents age 12 or older. For household crimes, the victimization rate is calculated using the number of incidents per 1,000 households. Estimates are presented for 2014, 2013, and 2005—the 10-year change.

### The rate of intimate partner violence remained stable from 2013 to 2014

The rate of domestic violence, which includes crime committed by intimate partners and family members, remained stable from 2013 to 2014 (4.2 per 1,000). No measurable change was detected from 2013 to 2014 in the rate of intimate partner violence (2.4 per 1,000), which includes victimizations committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

From 2013 to 2014, no statistically significant change was observed in the rate of violent victimizations committed by a stranger (8.1 per 1,000). However, the rate of violence committed by a stranger in 2014 was 30% lower than the rate 10 years earlier in 2005 (11.6 per 1,000). No statistically significant difference was found in rates of serious violent crime involving weapons (4.9 per 1,000) or resulting in physical injury to the victim (2.6 per 1,000) from 2013 to 2014. Like violent victimizations committed by a stranger, the rate of serious violent crime involving weapons in 2014 was 28% lower than the rate in 2005 (6.8 per 1,000).

### No change occurred in firearm violence from 2013 to 2014

No measurable change was detected in the rate of nonfatal firearm violence from 2013 (1.3 per 1,000) to 2014 (1.7 per 1,000) (table 2). An estimated 466,110 nonfatal firearm victimizations occurred in 2014, compared to 332,950 in 2013. The rate of firearm violence in 2014 was similar to the rate in 2005 (2.1 per 1,000). In 2014, about 82% of all serious violent crimes that involved a firearm were reported to police. No measurable change was detected in the percentage of firearm violence reported to police from 2013 to 2014.

### Property crime declined from 2013 to 2014

Following the decline from 2012 to 2013, the number and rate of property crime victimization decreased again from 2013 (131.4 victimizations per 1,000 households) to 2014 (118.1 per 1,000) (table 3). This recent decline was driven primarily by a decrease in theft. The rate of theft declined from 100.5 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2013 to 90.8 per 1,000 in 2014. The rate of household burglary decreased slightly, from 25.7 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2013 to 23.1 per 1,000 in 2014. During the same period, the rate of motor vehicle theft declined from 5.2 to 4.1 victimizations per 1,000. In 2014, rates of property crime, burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft were lower than rates in 2005.

**TABLE 2**  
Firearm victimizations, 2005–2014

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>
Firearm incidents	446,370	552,040	448,410	331,620	383,390	378,800	415,160	427,700	290,620	414,700
Firearm victimizations	503,530	614,410	554,780	371,290	410,110	415,000	467,930	460,720	332,950	466,110
Rate of firearm victimizations <sup>b</sup>	2.1	2.5 ‡	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.7
Percent of firearm victimizations reported to police	72.3%	71.0%	52.9% †	70.8%	61.5% †	50.9% †	73.5%	66.4% †	75.3%	81.9%

Note: Includes violent incidents and victimizations in which the offender had, showed, or used a firearm. See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>b</sup>Per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005–2014.

**TABLE 3**  
Property victimization, by type of property crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014

Type of crime	Number			Rate per 1,000 households		
	2005	2013	2014*	2005	2013	2014*
Total	18,673,360 †	16,774,090 †	15,288,470	159.5 †	131.4 †	118.1
Burglary	3,584,850 †	3,286,210	2,993,480	30.6 †	25.7 ‡	23.1
Motor vehicle theft	1,003,150 †	661,250 †	534,370	8.6 †	5.2 †	4.1
Theft	14,085,360 †	12,826,620 †	11,760,620	120.3 †	100.5 †	90.8

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Total number of households was 117,099,820 in 2005; 127,622,320 in 2013; and 129,492,740 in 2014. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

\*Comparison year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

## Prevalence of crime

Annual estimates of a population's risk for criminal victimization can be examined using victimization rates or prevalence rates. Historically, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports using National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data have relied on victimization rates, which measure the extent to which victimizations occur in a specified population during a specific time. Victimization rates are used throughout this bulletin. For crimes affecting persons, NCVS victimization rates are estimated by dividing the number of victimizations that occur during a specified time (T) by the population at risk for those victimizations and multiplying the rate by 1,000.

$$\text{Victimization rate}_T = \frac{\text{Number of victimizations experienced by a specified population}_T}{\text{Number of persons in the specified population}_T} \times 1,000$$

Prevalence rates also describe the level of victimization but are based on the number of unique persons (or households) in the population who experienced at least one victimization during a specified time. The key distinction between a victimization rate and a prevalence rate is whether the numerator consists of the number of victimizations or the number of victims. For example, a person who experienced two robberies on separate occasions within the past year would be counted twice in the victimization rate but counted once in the prevalence rate. Prevalence rates are estimated by dividing the number of victims in the specified population by the total number of persons in the population and multiplying the rate by 100. This is the percentage of the population victimized at least once in a given period.

$$\text{Prevalence rate}_T = \frac{\text{Number of victims in a specified population}_T}{\text{Number of persons in the specified population}_T} \times 100$$

Victimization and prevalence rates may also be produced for household crimes, such as burglary. In these instances, the numerators and denominators are adjusted to reflect

households rather than persons. To better understand the percentage of the population that is victimized at least once in a given period, prevalence rates are presented by type of crime and certain demographic characteristics. (For more information about measuring prevalence in the NCVS, see *Measuring the Prevalence of Crime with the National Crime Victimization Survey*, NCJ 241656, BJS web, September 2013.)

### In 2014, 0.5% of all persons age 12 or older experienced serious violent crime

In 2014, 1.1% of all persons age 12 or older (3 million persons) experienced at least one violent victimization (**table 4**). During the same period, 0.5% of all persons age 12 or older (1.2 million persons) experienced at least one serious violent victimization (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault). No measurable change occurred in the prevalence rate of total violent or serious violent victimization from 2013 to 2014. During the same period, the prevalence rates of simple assault declined slightly from about 0.8% to 0.7%.

Less than 0.5% of all persons age 12 or older experienced one or more domestic violence (0.2%) or intimate partner violence (0.1%) victimizations in 2014. No measurable change occurred in the prevalence rates of domestic violence and intimate partner violence from 2013 to 2014. The prevalence of serious violence committed by strangers declined slightly from 2013 (0.19%) to 2014 (0.23%).

In 2014, 8.0% of all households (10.4 million households) experienced one or more property victimizations. The prevalence rate of property victimization declined from 9.0% in 2013 to 8.0% in 2014. During the same period, the prevalence of household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft also declined. Similar to the property victimization rate, the decline in the prevalence rate of theft accounted for the majority of the decline in the prevalence rate of property victimization.

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## Prevalence of crime (continued)

**TABLE 4**  
**Number of victims and prevalence rate, by type of crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Type of crime	Number of persons victimized <sup>a</sup>			Prevalence rate <sup>b</sup>		
	2005	2013	2014 <sup>c</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Violent crime<sup>d</sup></b>	3,350,630 †	3,041,170	2,948,540	1.37% †	1.15%	1.11%
Rape/sexual assault	118,700	173,610	150,420	0.05	0.07	0.06
Robbery	414,740	369,070	435,830	0.17	0.14	0.16
Assault	2,868,470 †	2,600,920	2,449,820	1.17 †	0.98	0.92
Aggravated assault	721,750	633,090	681,280	0.30	0.24	0.26
Simple assault	2,211,580 †	2,046,600	1,842,100	0.90 †	0.77 ‡	0.69
Domestic violence <sup>e</sup>	526,470	589,140	596,270	0.22	0.22	0.22
Intimate partner violence <sup>f</sup>	323,060	369,310	319,950	0.13	0.14	0.12
Stranger violence	1,601,500 †	1,244,560	1,274,100	0.65 †	0.47	0.48
Violent crime involving injury	975,790	849,240	856,760	0.40 †	0.32	0.32
<b>Serious violent crime<sup>g</sup></b>	1,238,410	1,145,350	1,235,290	0.51%	0.43%	0.46%
Serious domestic violence <sup>e</sup>	172,600 ‡	231,170	239,330	0.07	0.09	0.09
Serious intimate partner violence <sup>f</sup>	98,360	163,480	128,090	0.04	0.06	0.05
Serious stranger violence	651,400	497,920 ‡	600,650	0.27	0.19 ‡	0.23
Serious violent crime involving weapons	905,930	738,540	815,380	0.37 †	0.28	0.31
Serious violent crime involving injury	433,370	420,890	440,690	0.18	0.16	0.17
<b>Property crime</b>	11,781,400 †	11,531,420 †	10,352,520	10.06% †	9.04% †	7.99%
Burglary	2,457,040 †	2,458,360 †	2,166,890	2.10 †	1.93 †	1.67
Motor vehicle theft	730,970 †	555,660 †	429,840	0.62 †	0.44 †	0.33
Theft	9,259,190 †	9,070,680 †	8,297,290	7.91 †	7.11 †	6.41

Note: Detail may not sum to total because a person or household may experience multiple types of crime. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Number of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one victimization during the year for violent crime, and number of households that experienced at least one victimization during the year for property crime.

<sup>b</sup>Percent of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one victimization during the year for violent crime, and percent of households that experienced at least one victimization during the year for property crime.

<sup>c</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes homicide because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>e</sup>Includes victimization committed by intimate partners and family members.

<sup>f</sup>Includes victimization committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

<sup>g</sup>In the NCVS, serious violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

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## Prevalence of crime (continued)

### Prevalence of violent crime among males and females remained stable from 2013 to 2014

In 2014, 1.2% of all males age 12 or older (1.5 million males) and 1.1% of all females (1.5 million females) experienced one or more violent victimizations (table 5). No measureable change occurred in the prevalence of violent crime for males or females from 2013 to 2014. Unlike in 2005 when a higher percentage of males than females were victims of one or more violent crimes, no significant difference was detected in the 2014 prevalence rates for males (1.2%) and females (1.1%) in 2014.

No measurable change occurred in the prevalence rate for non-Hispanic whites or blacks from 2013 to 2014. While there were more than 3 times more white victims (1.8 million) than black victims (453,650) in 2014, blacks (1.4%) had higher prevalence rates than whites (1.1%). Unlike in 2013 when Hispanics had higher prevalence rates than whites, no significant difference was observed

in Hispanic (1.1%) and white (1.1%) prevalence rates in 2014. This difference was because the prevalence of violent crime declined slightly for Hispanics from 2013 to 2014, but remained the same for whites.

The prevalence of violent crime declined for persons ages 12 to 17 from 2013 (2.2%) to 2014 (1.7%). In 2013, persons ages 12 to 17 had the highest prevalence of violent crime of all age groups. In 2014, no significant difference was observed in the prevalence of violent crime among persons ages 12 to 17 (1.7%), ages 18 to 24 (1.6%), and ages 25 to 34 (1.5%). Persons age 65 or older (0.3%) had the lowest prevalence rate of violent crime.

Persons who were never married had a higher prevalence rate of violent crime (1.6%) than persons who were married (0.6%) in 2014. Persons who were separated (3.0%) had the highest prevalence of violent crime in 2014. From 2013 to 2014, the prevalence of violent crime remained stable for persons of all marital statuses.

**TABLE 5**  
Prevalence of violent crime, by victim demographic characteristics, 2005, 2013, and 2014

Victim demographic characteristic	Number of persons victimized <sup>a</sup>			Prevalence rate <sup>b</sup>		
	2005	2013	2014 <sup>c</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Total</b>	3,350,630 †	3,041,170	2,948,540	1.4% †	1.2%	1.1%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	1,972,270 †	1,567,070	1,497,430	1.7% †	1.2%	1.2%
Female	1,378,360	1,474,090	1,451,110	1.1	1.1	1.1
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>						
White <sup>d</sup>	2,192,670 †	1,860,870	1,848,860	1.3% †	1.1%	1.1%
Black/African American <sup>d</sup>	474,420	430,380	453,650	1.7	1.3	1.4
Hispanic/Latino	489,410	540,130	457,320	1.5 †	1.3 ‡	1.1
Other <sup>d,e</sup>	194,130	209,800	188,710	1.4 ‡	1.1	1.0
<b>Age</b>						
12–17	691,670 †	545,370 ‡	422,460	2.7% †	2.2% †	1.7%
18–24	751,860 †	527,410	478,740	2.6 †	1.7	1.6
25–34	621,640	604,500	650,560	1.6	1.4	1.5
35–49	793,800	684,150	703,980	1.2	1.1	1.2
50–64	421,600 †	566,990	579,770	0.8	0.9	0.9
65 or older	70,080 †	112,760	113,030	0.2	0.3	0.3
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	1,850,330 †	1,626,980	1,482,570	2.3% †	1.8%	1.6%
Married	851,590	738,410	806,200	0.7	0.6	0.6
Widowed	60,270	74,880	77,420	0.4	0.5	0.5
Divorced	435,660	405,420	410,540	2.0 †	1.6	1.6
Separated	134,660	171,630	151,630	3.1	3.3	3.0

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Number of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one victimization during the year for violent crime.

<sup>b</sup>Percent of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one victimization during the year for violent crime.

<sup>c</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin.

<sup>e</sup>Includes American Indians and Alaska Natives; Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders; and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

### In 2014, 46% of violent victimizations were reported to police

The NCVS allows for examination of crimes reported and not reported to police. Victims may not report the victimization for a variety of reasons, including fear of reprisal or getting the offender in trouble, believing that police would not or could not do anything to help, and believing the crime to be a personal issue or too trivial to report. Police notification can come from the victim, a third party (including witnesses, other victims, household members, or other officials, such as school officials or workplace managers), or police being at the scene of the incident. Police notification may occur during or immediately following a criminal incident or at a later date. Police may include municipal police departments, sheriff's offices, or other state or local law enforcement agencies.

From 2013 to 2014, no statistically significant change was observed in the percentage of violent and serious violent victimizations reported to police (table 6). In 2014, 46% of violent victimizations and 56% of serious violent victimizations were reported to police. A greater percentage of robberies (61%) and aggravated assaults (58%) were reported to police than simple assaults (40%) and rape or sexual assaults (34%).

In 2014, 37% of property victimizations were reported to police. From 2013 to 2014, no measurable change was detected in the percentage of total property victimizations, burglaries, or thefts reported to police. The percentage of reported motor vehicle thefts increased slightly from 75% to 83% during the same period. Similar to previous years, a larger percentage of motor vehicle thefts (83%) than burglaries (60%) and other thefts (29%) were reported to police in 2014.

**TABLE 6**  
Percent of victimizations reported to police, by type of crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014

Type of crime	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Violent crime<sup>b</sup></b>	45.8%	45.6%	46.0%
Rape/sexual assault	35.1	34.8	33.6
Robbery	55.4	68.0	60.9
Assault	44.9	43.4	44.6
Aggravated assault	65.0	64.3	58.4
Simple assault	39.4	38.5	40.0
Domestic violence <sup>c</sup>	53.0	56.9	56.1
Intimate partner violence <sup>d</sup>	56.9	57.0	57.9
Stranger violence	48.1	49.6	48.8
Violent crime involving injury	59.6	55.5	54.9
<b>Serious violent crime<sup>e</sup></b>	59.0%	61.0%	55.8%
Serious domestic violence <sup>c</sup>	61.4	65.3	60.0
Serious intimate partner violence <sup>d</sup>	57.4	60.4	56.7
Serious stranger violence	53.4 ‡	61.9	65.4
Serious violent crime involving weapons	64.0	65.7	57.6
Serious violent crime involving injury	64.5	66.2	61.0
<b>Property crime</b>	38.7%	36.1%	37.0%
Burglary	55.3 ‡	57.3	60.0
Motor vehicle theft	81.7	75.5 ‡	83.3
Theft	31.5 ‡	28.6	29.0

Note: See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes homicide because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>c</sup>Includes victimization committed by intimate partners and family members.

<sup>d</sup>Includes victimization committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

<sup>e</sup>In the NCVS, serious violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.



### Rates of property crime reported and not reported to police declined from 2013 to 2014

From 2013 to 2014, no significant differences were detected in rates of any type of violent crime reported to police (table 7). With the exception of a slight decline in simple assault, rates of violent crime not reported to police also remained stable.

In comparison, overall rates of property crime reported and not reported to police declined from 2013 to 2014. The overall rate of property crime reported to police decreased from 47.4 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2013 to 43.7 per 1,000 in 2014. This decline was driven largely by a slight decrease in thefts reported to police from 2013 (28.7 per 1,000) to 2014 (26.4 per 1,000).

The rate of unreported property crime declined from 83.1 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2013 to 72.8 per 1,000 in 2014. The decline in unreported property crime occurred across all types of property crime measured by the NCVS.

### No change occurred in the percentage of violent crime victims who received assistance from a victim service agency over a 10-year span

Victim service agencies are publicly or privately funded organizations that provide victims with support and services to aid their physical and emotional recovery, offer protection from future victimizations, guide them through the criminal justice system process, and assist them in obtaining restitution. From 2013 to 2014, no significant change was observed in the overall percentage of violent crime victims who received assistance from a victim service agency (10.5%) (table 8). In addition, no significant difference was detected in the percentage of violent crime victims who received assistance in 2014 compared to 10 years earlier in 2005.

**TABLE 7**  
Rates of victimizations reported and not reported to police, by type of crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014

Type of crime	Reported to police			Not reported to police		
	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Violent crime<sup>b</sup></b>	13.0 †	10.6	9.2	15.0 †	12.2	10.5
Rape/sexual assault	0.3 †	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7
Robbery	1.7 †	1.7	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.0
Assault	11.0 †	8.5	7.4	13.1 †	10.7	8.9
Aggravated assault	3.4 †	2.4	2.4	1.8 †	1.3	1.7
Simple assault	7.6 †	6.1	5.0	11.3 †	9.5 ‡	7.2
Domestic violence <sup>c</sup>	5.8	2.4	2.3	2.4	1.7	1.7
Intimate partner violence <sup>d</sup>	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.4 ‡	1.2	0.9
Stranger violence	5.6 †	3.9	4.0	5.7	3.8	4.1
Violent crime involving injury	4.3 †	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.3
<b>Serious violent crime<sup>e</sup></b>	5.4 †	4.5	4.3	3.7	2.8	3.3
Serious domestic violence <sup>c</sup>	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6
Serious intimate partner violence <sup>d</sup>	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
Serious stranger violence	2.4	1.7	2.3	2.1 †	1.0	1.2
Serious violent crime involving weapons	4.3 †	2.9	2.8	2.4	1.5	2.0
Serious violent crime involving injury	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.0
<b>Property crime</b>	61.8 †	47.4 †	43.7	95.9 †	83.1 †	72.8
Burglary	16.9 †	14.8	13.9	13.4 †	10.9 †	8.8
Motor vehicle theft	7.0 †	3.9	3.4	1.5 †	1.2 †	0.7
Theft	37.8 †	28.7 ‡	26.4	81.0 †	71.0 †	63.3

Note: Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older for violent crime and per 1,000 households for property crime. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes homicide because the NCVS is based on interviews and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>c</sup>Includes victimization committed by intimate partners and family members.

<sup>d</sup>Includes victimization committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

<sup>e</sup>In the NCVS, serious violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**TABLE 8****Violent crime victims who received assistance from a victim service agency, by type of crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Type of crime	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Violent crime<sup>b</sup></b>	9.7%	9.5%	10.5%
Serious violent crime <sup>c</sup>	13.3	13.7	12.3
Simple assault	8.0	7.6	9.5
<b>Intimate partner violence</b>	24.4%	31.0%	28.2%
<b>Violent crime involving injury</b>	15.7%	17.2%	14.9%
<b>Violent crime involving weapon</b>	13.0% †	7.4%	7.2%

Note: See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Excludes homicide because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>c</sup>In the NCVS, serious violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, 2014.

**Violent crime decreased for Hispanics and young persons**

From 2013 to 2014, the rate of violent victimization for Hispanics declined 35% from 24.8 victimizations per 1,000 persons to 16.2 per 1,000 (**table 9**). With the decline, the violent victimization rate for Hispanics dropped below that for non-Hispanic blacks (22.5 per 1,000). This was a change from 2013, when blacks and Hispanics had similar rates of violent crime. No statistically significant difference was observed in rates of violent crime for non-Hispanic whites and Hispanics in 2013 and 2014.

The decline in overall violent crime for Hispanics was largely driven by a decline in simple assault (not shown). The Hispanic rate of serious violent victimization remained relatively unchanged from 2013 (7.5 per 1,000) to 2014 (8.3 per 1,000).

**TABLE 9****Rate of violent victimization, by victim demographic characteristics, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Victim demographic characteristic	Violent crime <sup>a</sup>			Serious violent crime <sup>b</sup>		
	2005	2013	2014 <sup>c</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Total</b>	28.4 †	23.2	20.1	9.2	7.3	7.7
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	34.0 †	23.7	21.1	11.4 ‡	7.7	8.3
Female	23.1	22.7	19.1	7.2	7.0	7.0
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>						
White <sup>d</sup>	27.7 †	22.2	20.3	7.6	6.8	7.0
Black/African American <sup>d</sup>	32.7 †	25.1	22.5	15.4 ‡	9.5	10.1
Hispanic/Latino	25.9 †	24.8 †	16.2	11.9	7.5	8.3
Other <sup>d,e</sup>	34.3 ‡	25.2	23.0	10.7	8.8	7.7
<b>Age</b>						
12–17	59.8 †	52.1 †	30.1	14.9 †	10.8	8.8
18–24	61.0 †	33.8	26.8	23.5 †	10.7	13.6
25–34	29.7	29.6	28.5	11.5	10.2	8.6
35–49	24.9	20.3	21.6	7.1	7.1	8.9
50–64	15.0	18.7	17.9	4.4 ‡	6.9	7.0
65 or older	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.0	1.1	1.3
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	47.3	36.3 †	27.9	15.2 †	9.6	10.7
Married	15.1	10.7	12.4	5.1	3.2	4.0
Widowed	8.9	8.6	8.7	5.3	5.2	2.9
Divorced	39.7	34.4	30.3	12.7	16.0	14.2
Separated	68.1	73.2	52.8	16.5	33.3	27.7

Note: Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Excludes homicide because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>b</sup>In the NCVS, serious violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>c</sup>Comparison year.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin.

<sup>e</sup>Includes American Indians and Alaska Natives; Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders; and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

From 2013 to 2014, the violent victimization rate declined for persons ages 12 to 17, from 52.1 to 30.1 victimizations per 1,000. In 2013, persons ages 12 to 17 (52.1 per 1,000) had a higher rate of violent victimization than persons in any other age group. In 2014, no significant difference was observed in violent crime rates across persons ages 12 to 17, ages 18 to 24, or ages 25 to 34 (28.5 per 1,000).

Like the decline in violence for Hispanics, the decline for persons ages 12 to 17 was largely driven by declines in simple assault (not shown). No significant difference was detected in the 2013 (10.8 per 1,000) and 2014 (8.8 per 1,000) rates of serious violence for persons ages 12 to 17. No other age groups had a measurable change in rates of violence or serious violence from 2013 to 2014.

Rates of violent victimization were relatively unchanged from 2013 to 2014 for persons of all marital statuses, other than those who were never married. Violent victimization rates for persons who were never married decreased from 36.3 victimizations per 1,000 persons in 2013 to 27.9 per 1,000 in 2014. In 2014, persons who were separated had the highest rate of violent crime (52.8 per 1,000).

### Violent crime declined in the Northeast and the West

From 2013 to 2014, rates of violent victimization decreased at least slightly in the Northeast and in the West, with no change detected in the South or Midwest (table 10). The rate of violent crime declined slightly in the West, from 27.3 to 20.3 victimizations per 1,000 persons. In the Northeast, the rate declined from 27.5 to 18.9 victimizations per 1,000 persons. No significant differences were observed in rates of violence or serious violence across any of the four regions in 2014.

During the same period, there were also no significant differences in rates of violent crime across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Rates of serious violence were slightly higher in urban areas (9.3 per 1,000) in 2014 than in suburban (6.9 per 1,000) and rural (6.5 per 1,000) areas.

From 2013 to 2014, property crime rates decreased in all regions of the country, except the Northeast where no significant change was detected in the rate. As in 2013, property crime rates were highest in the West (153.0 per 1,000) and lowest in the Northeast (85.8 per 1,000) in 2014.

Property crime rates also declined in urban and suburban areas from 2013 to 2014, but did not change significantly in rural areas. Urban areas (148.8 per 1,000) had a higher rate of property crime victimization than suburban (101.7 per 1,000) and rural (103.2 per 1,000) areas.

**TABLE 10**  
**Violent and property victimization, by household location, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Household location	Violent crime <sup>a</sup>			Serious violent crime <sup>b</sup>			Property crime <sup>c</sup>		
	2005	2013	2014 <sup>d</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>d</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>d</sup>
Total	28.4 †	23.2	20.1	9.2	7.3	7.7	159.5 †	131.4 †	118.1
<b>Region</b>									
Northeast	25.9 ‡	27.5 †	18.9	7.8	7.8	6.2	113.3 †	92.1	85.8
Midwest	34.6 †	23.7	20.6	12.3 †	7.5	7.5	165.9 †	122.3 †	111.8
South	23.4	18.0	20.2	7.8	5.5	7.6	148.8 †	125.8 †	116.2
West	32.0 †	27.3 ‡	20.3	9.4	9.6	8.9	209.3 †	182.1 †	153.0
<b>Location of residence</b>									
Urban	37.2 †	25.9	22.2	15.3 †	8.8	9.3	202.5 †	165.3 †	148.8
Suburban	25.6 †	23.3	19.3	6.9	6.8	6.9	146.8 †	115.3 †	101.7
Rural	22.4	16.9	18.3	6.4	6.1	6.5	126.2 †	109.4	103.2

Note: Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older for violent crime and per 1,000 households for property crime. See appendix table 11 for standard errors.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Excludes homicide because the NCVS is based on interviews and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>c</sup>Includes household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft.

<sup>d</sup>Comparison year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

## NCVS and UCR showed similar declines in property crime from 2013 to 2014

In the first half of 2014, preliminary findings from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program showed a 5% decline in the number of serious violent crimes (table 11). The Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) showed an apparent decline in serious violent victimizations which was not statistically significant.

Because the NCVS and UCR measure an overlapping, but not identical, set of offenses and use different methodologies, congruity between the estimates is not expected. Throughout the 40-year history of the NCVS, both programs have generally demonstrated similar year-to-year increases or decreases in the levels of overall violent and property crimes. While this has not always been the case for certain crime types over the past 5 years, the two have generally shown similar declines in the two most recent reporting periods.

The UCR measures the violent crimes of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. For property crime, the UCR measures burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. The UCR measures crimes known to law enforcement, occurring against both persons and businesses. The FBI obtains data on crimes from law enforcement agencies, while the NCVS collects data through interviews with victims. Additional information about the differences between the two programs can be found in *The Nation's Two Crime Measures* (NCJ 246832, BJS web, September 2014).

Significant methodological and definitional differences exist between the NCVS and UCR:

- The NCVS obtains estimates of crimes both reported and not reported to police, while the UCR collects data on crimes known to and recorded by law enforcement.
- The UCR includes homicide and commercial crimes, while the NCVS excludes these crime types.
- The UCR excludes simple assault and sexual assault, which are included in the NCVS.\*
- The NCVS estimates are based on data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. The UCR percentage changes are based on counts of offenses reported by a large sample of law enforcement agencies.

\*Simple assaults include attacks or attempted attacks without a weapon resulting in either no injury or minor injury. Sexual assaults include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender that may or may not involve force.

- The NCVS excludes crimes against children age 11 or younger, persons in institutions (e.g., nursing homes and correctional institutions), and may exclude highly mobile populations and persons who are homeless. Victimization against these persons are included in the UCR.

Given these differences, the two measures of crime should complement each other and provide a more comprehensive picture of crime in the United States.

In the first half of 2014, compared to the same period in 2013, the UCR showed declines in all types of serious violent and property crimes known to law enforcement. The number of NCVS motor vehicle thefts also declined 19% from 2013 to 2014, but the apparent decline in the NCVS estimate of overall serious violent crime was not statistically significant. While most of the NCVS estimates of crime reported to police did not change significantly from 2013 to 2014, the general direction of change in the NCVS estimates appeared to be consistent with the declines in UCR numbers.

**TABLE 11**  
Percent change in the number of crimes reported in the UCR and the NCVS, 2013–2014

Type of crime	UCR <sup>a</sup>	NCVS	
		Total	Reported to police
<b>Violent crime<sup>b</sup></b>	~	-12.5%	-11.8%
<b>Serious violent crime<sup>c</sup></b>	-4.6%	5.2%	-3.9%
Murder	-6.0%	~	~
Rape <sup>d</sup>	-10.1	-5.3	-8.7
Robbery	-10.3	2.9	-7.9
Aggravated assault	-1.6	9.8	-0.3
<b>Property crime</b>			
Burglary	-14.0%	-8.9%	-4.6%
Motor vehicle theft	-5.7	-19.2 †	-10.8

~Not applicable.

† Significant change from 2013 to 2014 at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Includes commercial crimes.

<sup>b</sup>NCVS estimates exclude murder, and include simple assault.

<sup>c</sup>NCVS measures include rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>d</sup>NCVS estimates include sexual assault. UCR estimate is based on the revised definition of rape but does not include agencies that used the legacy definition in 2013 and the revised definition in 2014.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2013–2014; and FBI, *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January–June 2014*, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/preliminary-semiannual-uniform-crime-report-january-june-2014/tables/table-3>.

## Methodology

### Survey coverage

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS is a self-report survey in which interviewed persons are asked about the number and characteristics of victimizations experienced during the prior 6 months. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and other theft) both reported and not reported to police. In addition to providing annual level and change estimates on criminal victimization, the NCVS is the primary source of information on the nature of criminal victimization incidents.

Survey respondents provide information about themselves (e.g., age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization. The NCVS collects information for each victimization incident about the offender (e.g., age, race and Hispanic origin, sex, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (including time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and victim experiences with the criminal justice system.

The NCVS is administered to persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of households in the United States. The NCVS defines a household as a group of persons who all reside at a sampled address. Persons are considered household members when the sampled address is their usual place of residence at the time of the interview and when they have no usual place of residence elsewhere. Once selected, households remain in the sample for 3 years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months either in person or over the phone for a total of seven interviews.

All first interviews are conducted in person with subsequent interviews conducted either in person or by phone. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households that have been in the sample for the 3-year period. The sample includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings, and excludes persons living in military barracks and institutional settings such as correctional or hospital facilities, and persons who are homeless.

### Nonresponse and weighting adjustments

In 2014, 90,380 households and 158,090 persons age 12 or older were interviewed for the NCVS. Each household was interviewed twice during the year. The response rate was 84% for households and 87% for eligible persons.

Victimizations that occurred outside of the United States were excluded from this report. In 2014, less than 1% of the unweighted victimizations occurred outside of the United States and were excluded from the analyses.

Estimates in this report use data from the 1993 to 2014 NCVS data files, weighted to produce annual estimates of victimization for persons age 12 or older living in U.S. households. Because the NCVS relies on a sample rather than a census of the entire U.S. population, weights are designed to inflate sample point estimates to known population totals and to compensate for survey nonresponse and other aspects of the sample design.

The NCVS data files include both person and household weights. Person weights provide an estimate of the population represented by each person in the sample. Household weights provide an estimate of the U.S. household population represented by each household in the sample. After proper adjustment, both household and person weights are also typically used to form the denominator in calculations of crime rates.

Victimization weights used in this analysis account for the number of persons present during an incident and for high-frequency repeat victimizations (i.e., series victimizations). Series victimizations are similar in type but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall each individual event or describe each event in detail. Survey procedures allow NCVS interviewers to identify and classify these similar victimizations as series victimizations and to collect detailed information on only the most recent incident in the series.

The weight counts series incidents as the actual number of incidents reported by the victim, up to a maximum of 10 incidents. Including series victimizations in national rates results in large increases in the level of violent victimization; however, trends in violent crime are generally similar, regardless of whether series victimizations are included. In 2014, series incidents accounted for about 1% of all victimizations and 4% of all violent victimizations. Weighting series incidents as the number of incidents up to a maximum of 10 incidents produces more reliable estimates of crime levels, while the cap at 10 minimizes the effect of extreme outliers on rates. Additional information on the series enumeration is detailed in the report *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimizations in the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 237308, BJS web, April 2012).

### Standard error computations

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as with the NCVS, caution must be used when comparing one estimate to another estimate or when comparing estimates over time. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors,

including the amount of variation in the responses and the size of the sample. When the sampling error around an estimate is taken into account, the estimates that appear different may not be statistically different.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error can vary from one estimate to the next. Generally, an estimate with a small standard error provides a more reliable approximation of the true value than an estimate with a large standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors are associated with less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

To generate standard errors around numbers and estimates from the NCVS, the Census Bureau produced generalized variance function (GVF) parameters for BJS. The GVFs take into account aspects of the NCVS complex sample design and represent the curve fitted to a selection of individual standard errors based on the Jackknife Repeated Replication technique. The GVF parameters were used to generate standard errors for each point estimate (e.g., counts, percentages, and rates) in this report.

BJS conducted tests to determine whether differences in estimated numbers, percentages, and rates in this report were statistically significant once sampling error was taken into account. Using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS, all comparisons in the text were tested for significance. The primary test procedure was the Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. Differences described as higher, lower, or different passed a test at the 0.05 level of statistical significance (95% confidence level). Differences described as somewhat, slightly, or marginally different, or with some indication of difference, passed a test at the 0.10 level of statistical significance (90% confidence level). Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this report.

Data users can use the estimates and the standard errors of the estimates provided in this report to generate a confidence interval around the estimate as a measure of the margin of error. The following example illustrates how standard errors can be used to generate confidence intervals:

According to the NCVS, in 2014, the violent victimization rate among persons age 12 or older was 20.1 per 1,000 persons (see table 1). Using the GVFs, it was determined that the estimated victimization rate has a standard error of 1.2 (see appendix table 2). A confidence interval around the estimate was generated by multiplying the standard errors by  $\pm 1.96$  (the t-score of a normal, two-tailed distribution that excludes 2.5% at either end of the distribution). Therefore, the 95% confidence interval around the 20.1 estimate from 2014 is  $20.1 \pm (1.2 \times 1.96)$  or (17.7 to 22.5). In other words, if different samples using the same procedures were taken from the U.S. population in 2014, 95% of the time the violent victimization rate would fall between 17.7 and 22.5 per 1,000 persons.

In this report, BJS also calculated a coefficient of variation (CV) for all estimates, representing the ratio of the standard error to the estimate. CVs provide a measure of reliability and a means for comparing the precision of estimates across measures with differing levels or metrics.

## NCVS measurement of rape and sexual assault

### *Definition of rape and sexual assault*

The measurement of rape and sexual assault presents many challenges. Victims may not be willing to reveal or share their experiences with an interviewer. The level and type of sexual violence reported by victims is sensitive a variety of factors related to the interview process, including how items are worded, definitions are used, and the data collection mode. In addition, the legal definitions of rape and sexual assault vary across jurisdictions.

For the NCVS, survey respondents are asked to respond to a series of questions about the nature and characteristics of their victimization. The NCVS classifies victimizations as rape or sexual assault even if other crimes, such as robbery or assault, occurred at the same time. Then, the NCVS uses the following rape and sexual assault definitions:

**Rape** is the unlawful penetration of a person against the will of the victim, with use or threatened use of force, or attempting such an act. Rape includes psychological coercion and physical force, and forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender. Rape also includes incidents where penetration is from a foreign object (e.g., a bottle), victimizations against male and female victims, and both heterosexual and homosexual rape. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.

**Sexual assault** is defined across a wide range of victimizations, separate from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between a victim and offender. Sexual assault may or may not involve force and includes grabbing or fondling.

From 2005 to 2014, 30% of NCVS rape and sexual assault victimizations were classified as completed rape (table 12). Attempted rape or other sexual assault accounted for nearly 50% of rape or sexual assault victimizations. About 1 in 5 (18%) were verbal threats of rape or sexual assault.

### *Comparison of NCVS estimates to other survey estimates*

Over the past several decades, a number of other surveys have also been used to study rape and sexual assault in the general population. BJS estimates of rape and sexual assault from the NCVS have typically been lower than estimates derived from other federal and private surveys. However, the NCVS methodology and definitions of rape and sexual assault differ from many of these surveys in important ways that contribute to the variation in estimates of the prevalence and incidence of these victimization. Additional information about differences in self-report estimates of rape and sexual assault is available

on the BJS website. BJS continues an active research program on the collection of rape and sexual assault data in an effort to improve the quality and accuracy of these estimates.

Despite the current differences in methods and estimates that exist between the NCVS and other surveys, a strength of the NCVS is its capacity to be used to make comparisons over time, as year-to-year comparisons are not affected by the NCVS methodology. Methodological differences that exist between the NCVS and the other surveys that lead to higher estimates of the levels of rape and sexual assault in the other surveys should not affect the within-NCVS comparisons of estimates from 2013 to 2014.

**TABLE 12**  
**Distribution of types of rape and sexual assault victimizations, 2005-2014**

Type of rape/sexual assault	Percent
Total	100%
Completed rape	30
Attempted rape	23
Sexual assault	24
Unwanted sexual contact without force	6
Verbal threats of rape and sexual assault	18

Note: See appendix table 12 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005-2014.

### Methodological changes to the NCVS in 2006

Methodological changes implemented in 2006 may have affected the crime estimates for that year to such an extent that they are not comparable to estimates from other years. Evaluation of 2007 and later data from the NCVS conducted by BJS and the Census Bureau found a high degree of confidence that estimates for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 are consistent with and comparable to estimates for 2005 and previous years. The reports, *Criminal Victimization, 2006* (NCJ 219413, December 2007); *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (NCJ 224390, December 2008); *Criminal Victimization, 2008* (NCJ 227777, September 2009); *Criminal Victimization, 2009* (NCJ 231327, October 2010); *Criminal Victimization, 2010* (NCJ 235508, September 2011); *Criminal Victimization, 2011* (NCJ 239437, October 2012); *Criminal Victimization, 2012* (NCJ 243389, October 2013); and *Criminal Victimization, 2013* (NCJ 247648, September 2014) are available on the BJS website.

## APPENDIX TABLE 1

### Estimates and standard errors for figure 1: Violent and property victimization, 1993–2014

	Estimates		Standard errors	
	Violent victimization <sup>a</sup>	Property victimization <sup>b</sup>	Violent victimization <sup>a</sup>	Property victimization <sup>b</sup>
1993	79.8	351.8	2.93	5.56
1994	80.0	341.2	2.72	5.66
1995	70.7	315.5	2.41	5.29
1996	64.7	289.3	2.63	4.33
1997	61.1	267.1	2.78	5.77
1998	54.1	237.1	2.61	5.35
1999	47.2	210.6	2.34	4.77
2000	37.5	190.4	1.98	5.71
2001	32.6	177.7	1.67	4.99
2002	32.1	168.2	2.07	4.17
2003	32.1	173.4	1.68	4.51
2004	27.8	167.5	1.34	3.91
2005	28.4	159.5	1.63	3.97
2006 <sup>c</sup>	34.1	169.0	1.87	3.63
2007	27.2	154.9	1.55	3.48
2008	25.3	142.6	1.60	3.66
2009	22.3	132.6	1.31	3.32
2010	19.3	125.4	1.44	2.73
2011	22.6	138.7	1.38	3.50
2012	26.1	155.8	1.20	3.08
2013	23.2	131.4	1.62	2.89
2014	20.1	118.1	1.22	2.60

<sup>a</sup>Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

<sup>b</sup>Rate per 1,000 households.

<sup>c</sup>See *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (NCJ 224390, BJS web, December 2008) for information on changes in the 2006 NCVS.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993–2014.

## APPENDIX TABLE 2

### Standard errors for table 1: Violent victimization, by type of violent crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014

Type of violent crime	Number of victimizations			Rate		
	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014
<b>Violent crime</b>	399,741	427,599	326,328	1.6	1.6	1.2
Rape/sexual assault	37,852	52,203	48,603	0.2	0.2	0.2
Robbery	89,671	88,698	82,903	0.4	0.3	0.3
Assault	360,859	380,749	286,771	1.5	1.4	1.1
Aggravated assault	126,588	119,926	114,257	0.5	0.5	0.4
Simple assault	306,323	328,333	237,439	1.3	1.2	0.9
Domestic violence	137,673	148,613	130,862	0.6	0.6	0.5
Intimate partner violence	103,508	111,985	89,469	0.4	0.4	0.3
Stranger violence	241,512	232,533	207,081	1.0	0.9	0.8
Violent crime involving injury	174,541	192,221	151,608	0.7	0.7	0.6
<b>Serious violent crime</b>	186,161	191,668	172,098	0.8	0.7	0.6
Serious domestic violence	66,840	79,936	65,610	0.3	0.3	0.2
Serious intimate partner violence	54,387	66,895	50,038	0.2	0.3	0.2
Serious stranger violence	126,463	110,833	116,039	0.5	0.4	0.4
Serious violent crime involving weapons	167,691	154,079	146,350	0.7	0.6	0.5
Serious violent crime involving injury	104,261	110,968	94,912	0.4	0.4	0.4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.



**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Standard errors for table 2: Firearm victimizations, 2005–2014**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Firearm incidents	69,030	76,877	68,470	62,019	71,992	67,931	65,371	62,863	57,480	67,207
Firearm victimizations	74,811	82,561	80,010	66,653	75,355	72,425	70,968	65,925	63,225	72,678
Rate of firearm victimizations	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Percent of firearm victimizations reported to police	5.3%	4.9%	4.9%	6.8%	6.9%	6.3%	5.2%	5.6%	6.2%	4.8%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005–2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Standard errors for table 3: Property victimization, by type of property crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Type of crime	Number			Rate		
	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014
Total	464,392	369,131	337,113	4.0	2.9	2.6
Burglary	168,237	136,987	129,208	1.4	1.1	1.0
Motor vehicle theft	74,044	50,769	46,911	0.6	0.4	0.4
Theft	395,094	316,083	290,595	3.4	2.5	2.2

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Standard errors for table 4: Number of victims and prevalence rate, by type of violent crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Type of crime	Number of persons victimized			Prevalence rate		
	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014
<b>Violent crime</b>	148,707	108,609	112,101	0.053	0.040	0.042
Rape/sexual assault	19,775	22,303	19,745	0.008	0.008	0.007
Robbery	39,078	29,812	42,962	0.016	0.011	0.016
Assault	136,197	101,859	104,061	0.048	0.038	0.038
Aggravated assault	54,450	42,550	47,323	0.022	0.016	0.017
Simple assault	121,619	87,665	90,454	0.044	0.033	0.034
Domestic violence	45,200	38,908	46,899	0.018	0.014	0.018
Intimate partner violence	37,867	32,601	31,777	0.015	0.012	0.012
Stranger violence	83,427	67,165	63,072	0.031	0.025	0.024
Violent crime involving injury	64,721	52,850	52,780	0.025	0.020	0.020
<b>Serious violent crime</b>	69,577	56,271	66,094	0.027	0.021	0.025
Serious domestic violence	23,651	24,777	30,045	0.010	0.009	0.011
Serious intimate partner violence	18,220	21,793	19,438	0.007	0.008	0.007
Serious stranger violence	50,879	39,025	43,792	0.020	0.015	0.017
Serious violent crime involving weapons	61,586	46,741	53,511	0.025	0.018	0.020
Serious violent crime involving injury	37,921	36,693	36,633	0.016	0.014	0.014
<b>Property crime</b>	317,178	228,264	230,653	0.217	0.158	0.162
Burglary	105,981	95,066	84,021	0.087	0.073	0.065
Motor vehicle theft	43,402	41,791	33,095	0.037	0.033	0.026
Theft	270,963	196,644	205,728	0.189	0.139	0.144

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6****Standard errors for table 5: Prevalence of violent crime, by victim demographic characteristics, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Victim demographic characteristic	Number of persons victimized			Prevalence rate		
	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014
<b>Total</b>	148,707	108,609	112,101	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	101,505	75,546	75,109	0.07%	0.06%	0.06%
Female	88,926	69,052	69,928	0.07	0.05	0.05
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>						
White	120,714	79,807	87,113	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%
Black/African American	45,412	45,957	43,208	0.16	0.14	0.13
Hispanic/Latino	42,945	42,699	37,420	0.12	0.09	0.08
Other	28,642	28,075	24,946	0.20	0.15	0.13
<b>Age</b>						
12–17	53,368	48,894	41,146	0.20%	0.19%	0.16%
18–24	60,667	45,943	43,521	0.19	0.14	0.15
25–34	57,058	42,661	42,242	0.14	0.10	0.10
35–49	58,468	50,074	45,632	0.09	0.08	0.07
50–64	37,323	44,940	44,218	0.08	0.07	0.07
65 or older	13,654	17,124	16,670	0.04	0.04	0.04
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	96,188	77,364	82,391	0.11%	0.08%	0.09%
Married	57,890	39,954	47,132	0.04	0.03	0.04
Widowed	14,557	16,037	13,712	0.10	0.11	0.09
Divorced	37,437	37,796	33,752	0.17	0.14	0.13
Separated	22,186	23,127	22,313	0.48	0.44	0.44

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 7****Standard errors for table 6: Percent of victimizations reported to police, by type of crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Type of crime	2005	2013	2014
<b>Violent crime</b>	2.4%	2.8%	2.6%
Rape/sexual assault	7.6	6.5	6.7
Robbery	4.9	5.4	5.2
Assault	2.5	2.9	2.8
Aggravated assault	4.0	4.8	4.4
Simple assault	2.6	3.0	2.9
Domestic violence	4.2	4.7	4.4
Intimate partner violence	4.8	5.3	5.4
Stranger violence	3.2	3.9	3.5
Violent crime involving injury	3.7	4.2	4.1
<b>Serious violent crime</b>	3.4%	4.0%	3.6%
Serious domestic violence	6.1	6.0	6.3
Serious intimate partner violence	6.9	6.7	7.4
Serious stranger violence	4.4	5.3	4.6
Serious violent crime involving weapons	3.7	4.5	4.2
Serious violent crime involving injury	4.7	5.2	5.2
<b>Property crime</b>	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%
Burglary	1.9	1.8	1.9
Motor vehicle theft	2.5	3.2	3.1
Theft	1.1	0.9	1.0

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 8****Standard errors for table 7: Rates of victimizations reported and not reported to police, by type of crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Type of crime	Reported to police			Not reported to police		
	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014
<b>Violent crime</b>	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.9
Rape/sexual assault	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Robbery	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Assault	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.8
Aggravated assault	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.3
Simple assault	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	1.0	0.7
Domestic violence	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Intimate partner violence	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Stranger violence	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Violent crime involving injury	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<b>Serious violent crime</b>	0.1	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4
Serious domestic violence	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Serious intimate partner violence	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Serious stranger violence	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Serious violent crime involving weapons	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Serious violent crime involving injury	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Property crime</b>	2.2	1.6	0.8	2.9	2.2	2.0
Burglary	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.6
Motor vehicle theft	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Theft	1.7	1.2	1.1	2.6	2.0	1.9

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 9****Standard errors for table 8: Violent crime victims who received assistance from a victim service agency, by type of crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Type of crime	2005	2013	2014
<b>Violent crime</b>	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%
Serious violent crime	2.0	2.3	2.0
Simple assault	1.2	1.3	1.5
<b>Intimate partner violence</b>	3.9%	4.6%	4.6%
<b>Violent crime involving injury</b>	2.4%	2.8%	2.6%
<b>Violent crime involving weapon</b>	2.2%	1.9%	1.8%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 10****Standard errors for table 9: Rate of violent victimization, by victim demographic characteristics, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Victim demographic characteristic	Violent crime			Serious violent crime		
	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014
<b>Total</b>	1.6	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.6
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	2.5	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.0	1.0
Female	1.9	2.2	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.9
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>						
White	2.0	2.0	1.6	0.8	0.9	0.8
Black/African American	3.8	3.5	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.7
Hispanic/Latino	3.1	3.2	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.4
Other	4.9	4.1	3.5	2.4	2.0	1.7
<b>Age</b>						
12–17	5.7	6.1	3.8	2.4	2.1	1.7
18–24	5.6	4.3	3.3	3.0	2.0	2.1
25–34	3.2	3.6	3.1	1.7	1.7	1.4
35–49	2.4	2.5	2.3	1.1	1.2	1.3
50–64	1.9	2.4	2.0	0.9	1.2	1.1
65 or older	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	3.5	3.4	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.3
Married	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.6
Widowed	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.5	2.1
Divorced	4.6	4.6	3.8	2.3	2.7	2.3
Separated	11.0	11.9	9.1	4.7	7.2	6.2

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 11****Standard errors for table 10: Rate of violent and property victimization, by household location, 2005, 2013, and 2014**

Household location	Violent crime			Serious violent crime			Property crime		
	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014	2005	2013	2014
<b>Total</b>	1.6	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.6	4.0	2.9	2.6
<b>Region</b>									
Northeast	2.8	3.3	2.3	1.3	1.4	1.1	5.6	4.3	4.2
Midwest	3.2	2.8	2.3	1.6	1.3	1.2	6.3	4.6	4.4
South	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	5.2	3.9	3.8
West	3.0	3.1	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.3	7.3	5.7	5.2
<b>Location of residence</b>									
Urban	3.1	2.7	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.2	6.5	4.7	4.4
Suburban	2.0	2.2	1.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	4.6	3.4	3.1
Rural	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	5.9	5.0	4.9

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005, 2013, and 2014.

**APPENDIX TABLE 12****Standard errors for table 12: Distribution of types of rape and sexual assault victimizations, 2005–2014**

Type of rape/sexual assault	Percent
Completed rape	2.1%
Attempted rape	1.9
Sexual assault	2.0
Unwanted sexual contact without force	1.0
Verbal threats of rape and sexual assault	1.7

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005–2014.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. William J. Sabol is director.

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