



Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey

September 2005, NCJ 210674

Criminal Victimization, 2004

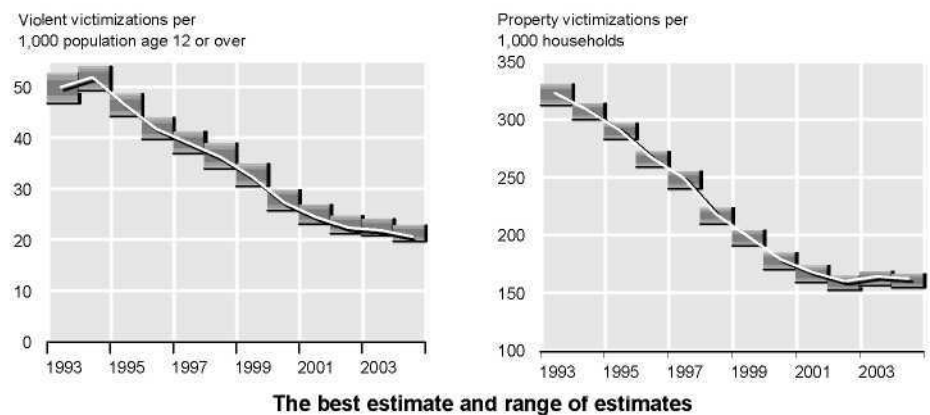
By
Shannan M. Catalano, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

In 2004 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced an estimated 24 million violent and property victimizations, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). (See *Survey methodology*, page 11.) These criminal victimizations included an estimated 18.6 million property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft), 5.2 million violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), and 224,000 personal thefts (pocket picking and purse snatching).

Victimization rates for every major type of crime measured were unchanged from their 2003 levels. For most crimes aggregated rates for the period 2003-04 were unchanged from those for 2001-02. However, for overall crimes of violence aggregate rates for the period 2003-04 declined 9% from 2001-02. Individual categories with observed marginal declines included attempted and threatened violence, attempted rape, completed robbery and simple assault. During this same period, a decline in rates of minor theft was also observed. Taken together, the 1-year (2003-04) and 2-year (2001-02 to 2003-04) change estimates indicate that crime rates remain stabilized at the lowest levels experienced since 1973.

Highlights

The National Crime Victimization Survey reveals that violent and property crime rates in 2004 did not change from the previous year



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>>.

- Though the downward trend in crime rates has stabilized, violent and property crime rates in 2004 remain at the lowest levels recorded since the survey's inception in 1973.
- Rates for all major categories of nonlethal crime remained stable from 2003 to 2004.
- The rate of violent crime dropped 9% from the period 2001-02 to the period 2003-04.
- From 1993 to 2004 the rate for crimes of violence was down 57%, from 50 to 21 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.
- Reporting of crime to the police increased significantly from 1993 to 2004. Reporting rose from 42% to 50% of violent crimes and from 34% to 39% of property crimes.
- During 2004, 22% of all violent crime incidents were committed by an armed offender; 6%, by an offender with a firearm.
- During 2004 males were about as vulnerable to violence by strangers (50% of the violence against males) as by nonstrangers (48%), while females were most often victimized by nonstrangers (64%).
- Between 2001-02 and 2003-04 violent crime decreased 17% in the West, from 31 to 26 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.
- Violent victimizations in urban areas fell 14% from 2001-02 to 2003-04.
- Based on preliminary 2004 data from the FBI, the number of persons murdered in the United States decreased 3.6% between 2003 and 2004.

Between 1993 and 2004 the violent crime rate decreased 57% from 50 to 21 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. Property crime declined 50% from 319 to 161 per 1,000 households.

In 2004, according to victims, 50% of violent crimes and 39% of property crimes were reported to the police. The proportions of crime reported to the police has increased since 1993, when victims indicated that 43% of the violent crimes and 34% of the property crimes had been reported.

Criminal victimization, 2003-04

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. Information on homicide is obtained 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.

The violent and property crime rates remained stable, 2003-04, as did rates for individual types of crime.

Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter

Based on preliminary 2004 data from the FBI, the number of persons murdered in the United States decreased 3.6% between 2003 and

2004. In 2003, 16,500 persons were murdered; the estimate for 2004 is about 15,910 victims of murder. Based on these preliminary data, the homicide rate for 2004, is about 5.4 per 100,000.

Preliminary data suggest that decreases in the number of murders occurred in the Northeast (-3.1%), Midwest (-4.8%), and South (-5.5%).

An increase in the number of murders was measured in the West (+0.4%).

Table 1. Criminal victimization, numbers and rates, 2003 and 2004

Type of crime	Number of victimizations		Victimization rate (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
All crimes	24,212,800	24,061,140
Violent crimes^a	5,401,720	5,182,670	22.6	21.4
Rape/sexual assault	198,850	209,880	0.8	0.9
Robbery	596,130	501,820	2.5	2.1
Assault	4,606,740	4,470,960	19.3	18.5
Aggravated	1,101,110	1,030,080	4.6	4.3
Simple	3,505,630	3,440,880	14.6	14.2
Property crimes	18,626,380	18,654,400	163.2	161.1
Household burglary	3,395,620	3,427,690	29.8	29.6
Motor vehicle theft	1,032,470	1,014,770	9.0	8.8
Theft	14,198,290	14,211,940	124.4	122.8

Note: The total population age 12 or older was 239,305,990 in 2003 and 241,703,710 in 2004. The total number of households was 114,136,930 in 2003 and 115,775,570 in 2004.

...Not applicable.

^aThe NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder. See *Survey methodology*, pages 11 and 12.

Murder and victim characteristics, 2003

In 2003, the year for which the most recent comprehensive data are available, the FBI reported a total of 16,500 murders or nonnegligent manslaughters. The total represents a 1.7% increase from the 16,230 murders recorded in 2002. 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. The FBI's UCR program gathers statistics on murder from over 17,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies.

Though the rate and level of homicide change year to year, the relationship between victim characteristics and

homicide tends to remain the same. For example, as in previous years, in 2003 —

- Most murder victims were male (78%).
- When the race of the murder victim was known, about half were white (49%), and about half were black (49%). About 3% of murder victims were of another race.
- When information on the victim/offender relationship was available, 78% of the offenders were known to the victim, while 22% were a stranger to the victim.
- Firearms were used in the majority of murders (71%).
- Offenders were most often male (90%), and most often adults (92%).
- Homicide is generally intraracial.
- Arguments were the most often cited circumstance leading to murder (29%).
- Homicides occurred in connection with another felony (such as rape, robbery, or arson) in 16% of incidents.

Criminal victimization, 2001-02 and 2003-04

Comparing 2-year average annual rates shows that for several categories of crime the average annual rates were significantly lower in 2003-04 than in 2001-02 (text box below and table 2).

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/cv04.htm>.

Victimization rates as compared to victimization counts

The analyses in this report incorporate rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households. Using rates rather than counts takes into account the size of the population at risk for victimization. This allows for accurate comparisons of groups of differing sizes as well as changes in populations overtime. Ignoring these differences in populations (examining counts alone) can lead to erroneous conclusions about changes in vulnerability.

The average annual overall violent victimization rate declined 9% from 24 to 22 victimizations per 1,000 persons per year, from 2001-02 to 2003-04. During the same time rates of simple assault declined marginally. Overall

property rates remained the same during the 2001-02 to 2003-04 period; however, an 11% decline in minor theft under \$50 was observed over comparable years.

Table 2. Criminal victimization, average annual rates, 2001-2002 and 2003-04

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
	2001-02	2003-04	2001-02	2003-04	
All crimes	23,625,870	24,136,970	
Personal crimes^a	5,714,500	5,496,580	24.8	22.9	-7.9% [†]
Crimes of violence	5,542,620	5,292,200	24.1	22.0	-8.5 [*]
Completed violence	1,790,690	1,696,000	7.8	7.1	-9.3
Attempted/threatened violence	3,751,930	3,596,200	16.3	15.0	-8.2 [‡]
Rape/sexual assault	247,990	204,370	1.1	0.9	-21.1
Rape/attempted rape	157,050	108,950	0.7	0.5	-33.5 [*]
Rape	87,010	65,510	0.4	0.3	-27.9
Attempted rape	70,050	43,440	0.3	0.2	-40.6 [‡]
Sexual assault	90,940	95,420	0.4	0.4	0.5
Robbery	571,590	548,980	2.5	2.3	-8.0
Completed/property taken	406,280	338,560	1.8	1.4	-20.2 [‡]
With injury	171,860	135,200	0.8	0.6	-24.6
Without injury	234,420	203,360	1.0	0.9	-16.9
Attempted to take property	165,310	210,430	0.7	0.9	21.9
With injury	55,170	62,180	0.2	0.3	8.0
Without injury	110,140	148,250	0.5	0.6	28.9
Assault	4,723,040	4,538,850	20.5	18.9	-7.9 [‡]
Aggravated	1,106,140	1,065,600	4.8	4.4	-7.7
With injury	353,900	369,720	1.5	1.5	0.1
Threatened with weapon	752,240	695,880	3.3	2.9	-11.4
Simple	3,616,910	3,473,250	15.7	14.4	-8.0 [‡]
With minor injury	875,760	833,540	3.8	3.5	-8.8
Without injury	2,741,150	2,639,720	11.9	11.0	-7.7
Personal theft ^b	171,890	204,390	0.8	0.9	13.9
Property crimes	17,911,370	18,640,390	162.9	162.2	-0.5%
Household burglary	3,097,710	3,411,660	28.2	29.7	5.3
Completed	2,642,000	2,859,830	24.0	24.9	3.5
Forcible entry	1,037,130	1,055,940	9.4	9.2	-2.6
Unlawful entry without force	1,604,870	1,803,890	14.6	15.7	7.5
Attempted forcible entry	455,710	551,830	4.1	4.8	15.8
Motor vehicle theft	998,740	1,023,620	9.1	8.9	-2.0
Completed	752,370	771,360	6.8	6.7	-1.9
Attempted	246,370	252,270	2.2	2.2	-2.1
Theft	13,814,920	14,205,120	125.7	123.6	-1.7
Completed ^c	13,355,980	13,651,390	121.5	118.8	-2.2
Less than \$50	4,441,160	4,152,170	40.4	36.1	-10.6 [*]
\$50-\$249	4,634,320	4,799,360	42.2	41.8	1.0
\$250 or more	3,223,110	3,318,020	29.3	28.9	-1.5
Attempted	458,940	553,730	4.2	4.8	15.4

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 229,215,290 in 2001; 231,589,260 in 2002; 239,305,990 in 2003 and 241,703,710 in 2004. The total number of households was 109,568,450 in 2001; 110,323,840 in 2002; 114,136,930 in 2003; and 115,775,570 in 2004.

... Not applicable.

^{*}The difference from 2001-2002 to 2003-04 is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

[†]The difference from 2001-2002 to 2003-04 is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

[‡]The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

[§]Includes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

^{||}Includes thefts with unknown losses.

^dPercent change was calculated using unrounded rates.

Characteristics of the crime victim, from 2001-02 to 2003-04

Violent crime

Violent crime rates for females dropped 15% from 2001-02 to 2003-04: from 22 to 19 victimizations per 1,000 females. Apparent differences in the rates for males were not statistically significant.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change
Male	26.4	25.7	-2.6%
Female	21.9	18.6	-15.3*

The 2001-2002 and 2003-04 difference is significant at the *95%-confidence level.

Rates of violence against persons who were widowed declined somewhat from 2001-02 to 2003-04: from 7 to 4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change
Never married	44.0	40.5	-8.0%
Married	11.0	9.9	-9.4
Widowed	7.4	3.8	-49.3*
Divorced/separated	36.3	34.0	-6.3

The 2001-2002 and 2003-04 difference is significant at the *95%-confidence level.

For persons age 65 years or older, violent crime rates fell significantly from 3 to 2 victimizations per 1,000 persons. There was no significant change for persons of other age categories.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons		
	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change
12-15 years	49.7	50.7	1.9%
16-19 years	57.0	49.4	-13.3
20-24 years	46.1	43.2	-6.3
25-34 years	27.8	25.0	-9.9
35-49 years	20.5	18.2	-11.3
50-64 years	10.1	10.6	5.2
65+ years	3.3	2.0	-37.6*

The 2001-2002 and 2003-04 difference is significant at the *95%-confidence level.

Significant declines in the rates of violent victimization were observed for persons in households earning between \$15,000 and \$24,999 and \$35,000 and \$49,999. A slight decline in violence was indicated for those in households earning between \$25,000 and \$34,999.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	46.0	44.0	-4.5%
\$7,500-\$14,999	34.3	34.8	1.7
\$15,000-\$24,999	30.9	25.3	-18.1*
\$25,000-\$34,999	28.1	23.5	-16.3*
\$35,000-\$49,999	25.9	21.5	-17.2*
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	22.5	13.3
\$75,000 or more	18.8	17.2	-8.1

The 2001-2002 and 2003-04 difference is significant at the *95% confidence or *90%-confidence level.

Between 2001-02 and 2003-04, violent crime decreased 17% in the West, from 31 to 26 victimizations per 1,000 individuals. Rates of violent victimization did not change significantly in the Northeast, Midwest, and South. Significant declines in the rate of violent victimizations were noted for persons residing in urban areas.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change
Northeast	19.5	18.5	-4.9%
Midwest	25.1	23.8	-5.3
South	21.7	20.4	-6.0
West	30.8	25.7	-16.5*
Urban	33.2	28.6	-13.7*
Suburban	21.2	19.6	-7.4
Rural	19.3	19.2	-0.1

The 2001-2002 and 2003-04 difference is significant at the *95%-confidence level.

Property crime

When considered by household income levels, no significant change between 2001-02 and 2003-04 was found in the vulnerability to property crime.

	Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	186.6	200.8	7.6%
\$7,500-\$14,999	174.4	174.5	0.1
\$15,000-\$24,999	175.8	173.5	-1.3
\$25,000-\$34,999	166.2	175.0	5.3
\$35,000-\$49,999	175.9	176.7	0.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	168.7	167.5	-0.7
\$75,000 or more	174.8	176.4	0.9

A marginal decline of 6% in property crimes was measured in the West, from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Rates of property crime increased somewhat in rural areas, from 125 to 136 victimizations per 1,000 households.

From 2001-02 to 2003-04, average annual property crime rates remained statistically similar for resident renters and homeowners.

	Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change
Northeast	120.5	114.6	-4.9%
Midwest	164.1	164.6	0.3
South	152.6	159.4	4.4
West	218.2	205.7	-5.7*
Urban	214.0	215.5	0.7
Suburban	151.0	144.0	-4.6
Rural	125.1	135.5	8.3*
Owned	141.3	143.1	1.3
Rented	208.3	203.9	-2.1

The 2001-2002 and 2003-04 difference is significant at the *90%-confidence level.

Table 3. Rates of criminal victimization and percent change, 1993-2004

Type of crime	Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)		Percent change ^a 1993-2004
	1993	2004	
Personal crimes^b	52.2	22.4	-57.1%*
Crimes of violence	49.9	21.4	-57.1*
Completed violence	15.0	7.2	-52.0*
Attempted/threatened violence	34.9	14.3	-59.0*
Rape/sexual assault	2.5	0.9	-64.0*
Rape/attempted rape	1.6	0.4	-75.0*
Rape	1.0	0.2	-80.0*
Attempted rape	0.7	0.2	-71.4*
Sexual assault	0.8	0.5	-37.5*
Robbery	6.0	2.1	-65.0*
Completed robbery	3.8	1.2	-68.4*
With injury	1.3	0.5	-61.5*
Without injury	2.5	0.8	-68.0*
Attempted robbery	2.2	0.8	-63.6*
With injury	0.4	0.3	-25.0
Without injury	1.8	0.5	-72.2*
Assault	41.4	18.5	-55.3*
Aggravated	12.0	4.3	-64.2*
With injury	3.4	1.6	-52.9*
Threatened with weapon	8.6	2.7	-68.6*
Simple	29.4	14.2	-51.7*
With minor injury	6.1	3.7	-39.3*
Without injury	23.3	10.5	-54.9*
Personal theft ^c	2.3	0.9	-60.9*
Property crimes	318.9	161.1	-49.5%*
Household burglary	58.2	29.6	-49.1*
Completed	47.2	25.1	-46.8*
Forcible entry	18.1	9.5	-47.5*
Unlawful entry without force	29.1	15.7	-46.0*
Attempted forcible entry	10.9	4.5	-58.7*
Motor vehicle theft	19.0	8.8	-53.7*
Completed	12.4	6.7	-46.0*
Attempted	6.6	2.0	-69.7*
Theft	241.7	122.8	-49.2*
Completed ^d	230.1	117.3	-49.0*
Less than \$50	98.7	35.5	-64.0*
\$50-\$249	76.1	41.9	-44.9*
\$250 or more	41.6	28.2	-32.2*
Attempted	11.6	5.4	-53.4*

Note: 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 older was 211,524,770; and 241,703,710 in 2004. The total number of households in 1993 was 99,927,410; and 115,775,570 in 2004.

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

†The difference between the indicated years is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

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

§The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

¶Includes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

¶Includes theft with unknown losses.

Victimization trends, 1993-2004

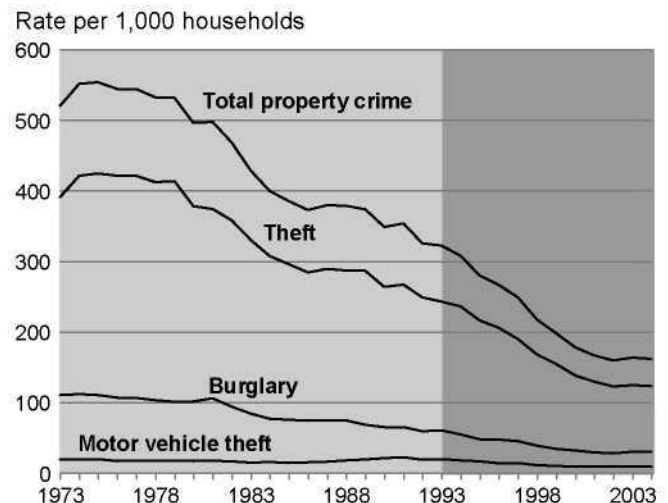
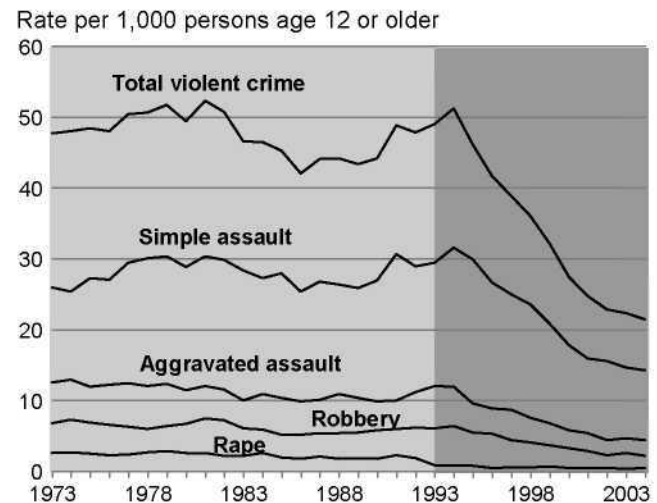
The rate of every major violent and property crime measured in the NCVS — rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft — fell significantly between 1993-2004 (table 3).

Violent crime

The overall violent crime rate fell 57% from 50 to 21 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older between 1993 and 2004. Other significant declines were measured in the rates of rape/sexual assault (down 64%), robbery (down 65%), aggravated assault (down 64%), and simple assault (down 52%).

Property crime

From 1993 through 2004 the rate of overall property crime declined as did the rate for each major type of property crime considered. The household burglary rate fell 49%; the motor vehicle theft rate fell 54%; and the theft rate fell 49%.



Note: Data collected before the NCVS redesign was implemented during 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. Rape does not include sexual assault for this trend analysis.

Figures 1 and 2

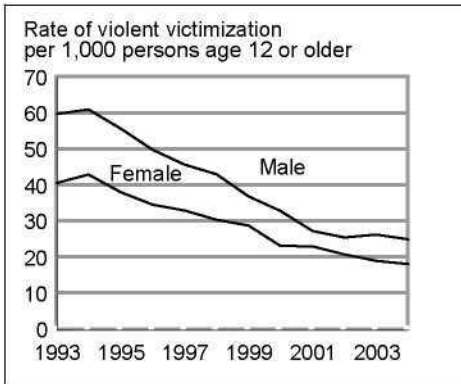


Figure 3 - Violent crime and gender

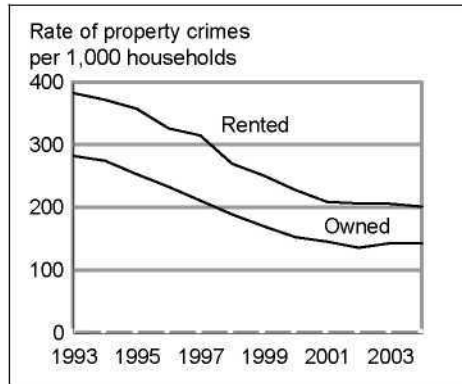


Figure 4 - Property crime and owned/rented residences

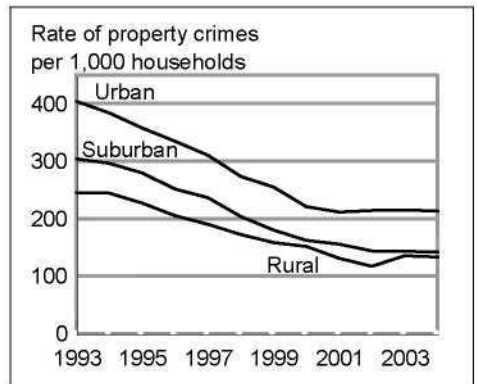


Figure 5 - Property crime and urbanicity

Characteristics of victims, 1993-2004

While violence decreased for both males and females between 1993 and 2004, the rate for males in each year was higher than that for females (figure 3). The rate of violence for males declined 58%, from 60 to 25 violent victimizations per 1,000. The rate of violence against females declined 56%, from 41 to 18 victimizations per 1,000 individuals.

Changes in survey methodology prevent long-term comparisons for race and ethnicity. See *Survey methodology* on page 11 for further details.

Violent crime rates declined 31% for victims residing in households earning \$7,500 to \$14,999, from 56 to 39 victimizations per 1,000 individuals (table 4). Violent crime rates for individuals in all other income categories declined 50% or more.

Property crime rates fell for every demographic group considered, 1993-2004 (figures 4, 5, and 6 and table 5). Property crime rates for households that owned their homes showed a decline of 50%, and rates for households of renters declined 48% over the period.

Between 1993 and 2004 households with an annual income of less than \$7,500 experienced smaller declines in property crime rates than did households with annual incomes of \$25,000 or more. Households with an annual income greater than \$50,000 experienced larger drops in property crime rates than did households with lower annual incomes.

The rate of urban property crime declined 47%, 1993-2004. Property crime in rural areas decreased 46% during this period (figure 5). Households in the suburbs experienced the greatest decline in property crime rates (53%) from 1993 to 2004.

Table 4. Violent victimization rates of selected demographic categories, 1993-2004

Demographic category of victim	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older												Percent change, 1993-2004
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
Gender													
Male	59.8	61.1	55.7	49.9	45.8	43.1	37.0	32.9	27.3	25.5	26.3	25.0	-58.2 %*
Female	40.7	43.0	38.1	34.6	33.0	30.4	28.8	23.2	23.0	20.8	19.0	18.1	-56.5 *
Race													
White	47.9	50.5	44.7	40.9	38.3	36.3	31.9	27.1	24.5	22.8	21.5	21.0	-56.2 %*
Black	67.4	61.3	61.1	52.3	49.0	41.7	41.6	35.3	31.2	27.9	29.1	26.0	-61.4 *
Other race	39.8	49.9	41.9	33.2	28.0	27.6	24.5	20.7	18.2	14.7	16.0	12.7	-68.1 *
Two or more races	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	67.7	51.6	--
Hispanic origin													
Hispanic	55.2	61.6	57.3	44.0	43.1	32.8	33.8	28.4	29.5	23.6	24.2	18.2	-67.0 %*
Non-Hispanic	49.5	50.7	45.2	41.6	38.3	36.8	32.4	27.7	24.5	23.0	22.3	21.9	-55.8 *
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	49.9	38.4	-54.7 %*
\$7,500-\$14,999	56.4	60.7	49.8	52.1	51.2	49.3	44.5	37.8	36.9	31.5	30.8	39.0	-30.9 *
\$15,000-\$24,999	49.0	50.7	48.9	44.1	40.1	39.4	35.3	31.8	31.8	30.0	26.3	24.4	-50.2 *
\$25,000-\$34,999	51.0	47.3	47.1	43.0	40.2	42.0	37.9	29.8	29.1	27.0	24.9	22.1	-56.7 *
\$35,000-\$49,999	45.6	47.0	45.8	43.0	38.7	31.7	30.3	28.5	26.3	25.6	21.4	21.6	-52.6 *
\$50,000-\$74,999	44.0	48.0	44.6	37.5	33.9	32.0	33.3	23.7	21.0	18.7	22.9	22.1	-49.8 *
\$75,000 or more	41.3	39.5	37.3	30.5	30.7	33.1	22.9	22.3	18.5	19.0	17.5	17.0	-58.8 *

Note: Annual rates are based on interviews conducted during the calendar year. Beginning in 2003 the racial categories are white/black/other "only" and "two or more races." "Other race" includes American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, and Native Hawaiians/other Pacific Islanders identifying a single racial background. The collection of racial and ethnic categories in 2003 changed from that of previous years; however, because about 0.9% of survey respondents identified two or more races, the impact on the victimization rates for each race is small. See *Survey methodology* on page 11 for explanation.

--Not available

*1993-2004 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Table 5. Property crime rates of selected household demographics, 1993-2004

Demographic category	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households												Percent change, 1993-2004
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
Region													
Northeast	235.6	236.6	234.1	215.2	195.6	159.3	159.5	143.7	123.9	117.0	122.1	107.1	-54.5 %*
Midwest	311.2	295.2	269.6	249.6	219.9	214.0	199.9	181.9	172.3	155.8	160.2	168.8	-45.8 *
South	299.4	288.6	269.9	259.9	253.8	213.5	191.4	167.8	157.5	147.8	160.5	158.3	-47.1 *
West	434.5	436.1	406.0	345.6	322.2	282.3	243.1	223.4	216.4	219.9	207.4	204.0	-53.0 *
Ownership													
Owned	282.5	275.2	253.7	233.7	211.7	189.6	170.4	153.4	146.3	136.4	143.5	142.8	-49.5 %*
Rented	383.5	372.7	357.7	327.1	316.0	270.6	251.9	228.3	209.6	207.0	206.4	201.4	-47.5 *
Location													
Urban	404.8	384.7	358.3	335.8	311.1	274.2	256.3	222.1	212.8	215.3	216.3	214.7	-47.0 %*
Suburban	305.1	297.2	280.6	252.6	238.0	204.5	181.4	163.7	156.7	145.3	144.8	143.2	-53.1 *
Rural	246.4	245.2	228.4	206.4	191.7	173.5	159.8	152.6	131.9	118.3	136.6	134.4	-45.5 *
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	204.6	197.1	-35.6 %*
\$7,500-\$14,999	285.9	299.1	267.1	247.5	236.3	229.8	200.1	167.1	181.6	166.7	167.7	181.5	-36.5 *
\$15,000-\$24,999	307.0	308.1	289.8	273.1	242.4	211.0	214.9	193.1	179.2	172.1	179.2	167.8	-45.3 *
\$25,000-\$34,999	336.7	305.2	294.8	285.1	260.3	233.8	199.1	192.2	170.4	161.7	180.7	169.3	-49.7 *
\$35,000-\$49,999	342.7	326.9	301.5	287.6	271.7	221.7	207.6	192.9	176.4	175.4	177.1	176.2	-48.6 *
\$50,000-\$74,999	374.4	364.1	333.2	284.0	270.9	248.6	213.6	181.9	178.8	158.3	168.1	167.0	-55.4 *
\$75,000 or more	400.3	356.0	350.4	304.6	292.8	248.6	220.4	197.2	180.0	169.8	176.4	176.5	-55.9 *

Note: Annual rates are based on interviews conducted during the calendar year. See *Survey methodology* in <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvsmeth.pdf>>. *1993-2004 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Table 6. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and age, 2004

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	117,486,840	25.0	0.1*	2.9	22.1	5.8	16.3	1.0
Female	124,216,870	18.1	1.6	1.3	15.1	2.8	12.3	0.9
Race^a								
White	198,673,820	21.0	0.8	1.8	18.4	4.0	14.4	0.8
Black	29,030,650	26.0	1.7	3.7	20.7	6.7	13.9	1.5
Other race	11,848,970	12.7	0.0*	2.6*	10.1	1.8*	8.3	1.0*
Two or more	2,150,270	51.6	2.4*	3.8*	45.3	5.5*	39.8	3.2*
Hispanic origin^a								
Hispanic	30,878,140	18.2	0.6*	2.8	14.9	3.2	11.7	0.7*
Non-Hispanic	209,415,300	21.9	0.9	2.0	19.1	4.4	14.6	1.0
Age								
12-15	17,082,980	49.7	2.2	3.8	43.6	6.2	37.5	2.1
16-19	16,256,320	45.9	2.5	4.8	38.6	11.3	27.2	3.3
20-24	20,272,750	43.0	2.5	3.1	37.4	9.4	28.0	0.7*
25-34	39,509,560	23.7	0.7*	2.4	20.6	4.8	15.8	0.6*
35-49	65,580,130	17.9	0.5	2.1	15.2	3.9	11.4	0.7
50-64	48,411,930	11.0	0.3*	1.1	9.6	1.9	7.8	0.5*
65 or older	34,590,050	2.1	0.1*	0.3*	1.8	0.5*	1.3	0.8*

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. ^aRacial and ethnic categories in 2004 are not comparable to those of years prior to 2003. See *Survey methodology* on page 11 for a discussion.

Households in all regions of the country experienced decreases in property crime rates of at least 46%, 1993-2004 (figure 6).

Characteristics of violent crime victims, 2004

Persons who have been historically the most vulnerable to violent victimization - males and youths - continued to be victimized at higher rates than others in 2004 (table 6).

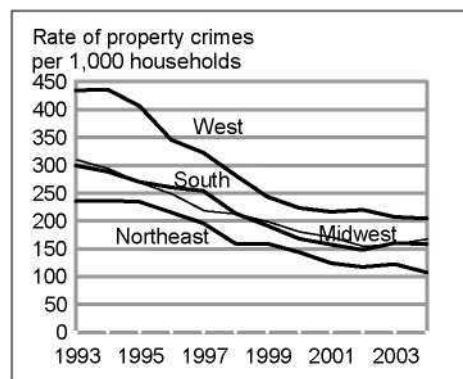


Figure 6 - Property crime and region

Table 7. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by household income, marital status, region, and location of residence of victims, 2004

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	8,783,200	38.4	2.4*	6.4	29.5	7.3	22.3	3.1*
\$7,500 - \$14,999	15,329,910	39.0	0.4*	4.4	34.2	7.8	26.5	1.1*
\$15,000 - \$24,999	23,900,730	24.4	1.6	2.1	20.7	5.6	15.0	0.7*
\$25,000 - \$34,999	23,426,060	22.1	0.6*	2.1	19.4	5.0	14.3	0.6*
\$35,000 - \$49,999	30,708,110	21.6	0.9*	1.4	19.4	4.3	15.1	1.4
\$50,000 - \$74,999	35,175,870	22.1	0.6*	1.3	20.3	4.9	15.4	0.8*
\$75,000 or more	50,561,030	17.0	0.6*	1.3	15.1	2.5	12.6	1.1
Marital status								
Never married	77,809,950	39.4	1.6	4.0	33.8	7.9	25.9	1.5
Married	121,607,250	9.7	0.2*	0.8	8.7	1.9	6.8	0.6
Divorced/separated	26,046,520	33.0	2.3	3.0	27.6	6.6	21.0	1.1*
Widowed	14,356,700	4.0	0.0*	0.6*	3.3	1.2*	2.1*	0.8*
Region								
Northeast	43,938,260	16.0	0.2*	2.7	13.1	3.5	9.6	0.9
Midwest	56,544,160	23.9	0.7	2.3	21.0	5.1	15.9	1.1
South	88,151,070	19.6	1.3	1.6	16.7	3.9	12.9	0.7
West	53,070,220	26.3	0.9	2.1	23.2	4.6	18.6	1.3
Residence								
Urban	65,786,550	29.0	1.5	4.0	23.6	5.7	17.9	1.7
Suburban	118,210,250	18.0	0.8	1.4	15.8	3.5	12.3	0.6
Rural	57,706,910	19.9	0.3*	1.4	18.2	4.1	14.1	0.7

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.

than rates for persons age 25 or older. Persons age 16-19 and 20-24 experienced rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault at similar rates. Persons age 20-24 were less likely than persons age 16-19 to be victims of personal theft.

Household income

During 2004 there was a general pattern of decreasing victimization rates for persons residing in households with higher incomes. Persons in households with an annual income under \$7,500 were more likely to be victims of robbery and assault than members of households with incomes greater than \$25,000 (table 7).

Individuals in households earning less than \$15,000 annually were victims of assault at a significantly higher rate than those of persons in households at higher income levels. Members in households earning \$15,000 to \$24,999 and \$25,000 to \$34,999 experienced rape/sexual assault at similar rates. Persons residing in households earning more than \$75,000 were victims of violent crime at significantly lower rates than those of persons in households earning less.

Marital status

During 2004 persons who were never married or divorced/separated experienced statistically similar rates of rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Persons who were never married experienced overall violent victimization at rates higher than those for married, widowed, or divorced/separated persons.

Region

In 2004 residents in the Northeast experienced the lowest rates of overall violent victimization. Rates of overall violent victimization were the same in the Midwest and West. Persons residing in the Northeast and Midwest were equally likely to experience robbery while residents in Northeast experienced higher rates of robbery than persons living in the South.

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.

Race of victim

Beginning in 2003 survey respondents were able to self-identify with more than one race. The racial categories presented in this report consist of the following: white only, black only, other race only (an American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander identifying a single race), and two or more races (all persons indicating two or more races).

Persons of two or more races were victims of overall violence at significantly higher rates than those for whites, blacks, and persons of other races.

Blacks were victims of overall violence, robbery, and aggravated assault at rates higher than those for whites in 2004. Blacks and whites were equally likely to experience rape/sexual assault, simple assault, and theft in 2004. Blacks were also more likely than persons of other races to be victims of overall violence and simple assault.

Hispanic origin of victim

Non-Hispanics were victims of overall violence and simple assault at rates higher than those of Hispanics in 2004. Hispanics and non-Hispanics were equally likely to experience rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and theft.

Age of victim

During 2004, as in previous years, there was a general pattern of decreasing crime rates for persons of older age categories. Persons age 12-19 experienced overall violence at rates higher

Residence

Urban residents were victimized at rates higher than those for suburban and rural residents during 2004. Except for rape/sexual assault, suburban and rural residents were victims of violence at statistically similar rates during 2004.

Characteristics of victims of property crime, 2004

Annual household income

No clear pattern in overall property crime rates was evident in 2004. The relationship between income and crime rates did vary for specific types of property crime (table 8).

Households with an annual income below \$7,500 were burglarized at rates higher than those of households with larger incomes. Households with an annual income below \$7,500 and households with an annual income of greater than \$75,000 experienced motor vehicle theft at statistically similar rates. No significant differences in the rates of household theft were observed.

Region, locality, and home ownership

Rates of overall property crime were highest for households in the West and lowest for households in the Northeast

Table 8. Property crime victimization, by household income, region, residence, and home ownership of households victimized, 2004

Characteristic of household or head of household	Number of households, 2004	Victimizations per 1,000 households			
		Total	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
Household income					
Less than \$7,500	5,414,760	197.1	59.3	4.9	132.8
\$7,500 - \$14,999	8,863,500	181.5	38.5	9.7	133.3
\$15,000 - \$24,999	12,328,610	167.8	40.1	8.7	119.0
\$25,000 - \$34,999	11,583,370	169.3	27.6	11.1	130.6
\$35,000 - \$49,999	14,138,170	176.2	33.4	9.3	133.6
\$50,000 - \$74,999	15,228,470	167.0	21.8	9.0	136.2
\$75,000 or more	20,340,650	176.5	23.9	7.4	145.1
Region					
Northeast	21,252,710	107.1	18.6	5.5	83.0
Midwest	27,425,670	168.8	32.8	7.6	128.4
South	42,492,710	158.3	34.0	7.9	116.4
West	24,604,480	204.0	27.8	14.4	161.8
Residence					
Urban	32,530,010	214.7	41.9	13.4	159.4
Suburban	54,874,530	143.2	23.2	8.8	111.2
Rural	28,371,040	134.4	27.8	3.4	103.2
Home ownership					
Owned	79,511,410	142.8	24.9	7.1	110.8
Rented	36,264,170	201.4	39.9	12.5	148.9

in 2004. For households located in the South and Midwest, the rates of overall property crime were statistically similar.

Northeastern households were less likely to be burglarized than households in other regions. The rate of burglary was lower in the West than in the Midwest and South. No difference in burglary rates was observed between the Midwest and the South. Western households were most likely and Northeastern households were the

least likely to experience motor vehicle theft in 2004. Rates of household theft were highest in the West and lowest in the Northeast.

Rates of property crime were highest for households located in urban areas, 2004. Rates of burglary were higher for rural households than suburban households but lower than rates of burglary in urban areas.

Table 9. Victim and offender relationship, 2004

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	2,937,250	100%	6,200	100%	335,520	100%	683,440	100%	1,912,090	100%
Nonstranger	1,412,860	48%	0	0%*	116,670	35%	301,940	44%	994,250	52%
Intimate	111,750	4	0	0*	16,860	5*	20,160	3*	74,730	4
Other relative	163,700	6	0	0*	5,720	2*	44,430	7	113,550	6
Friend/acquaintance	1,137,410	39	0	0*	94,100	28	237,350	35	805,960	42
Stranger	1,475,230	50%	6,200	100%*	208,160	62%	367,760	54%	893,110	47%
Relationship unknown	49,150	2%	0	0%*	10,680	3%*	13,740	2%*	24,740	1%*
Female victims										
Total	2,245,420	100%	203,680	100%	166,310	100%	346,650	100%	1,528,790	100%
Nonstranger	1,439,430	64%	136,550	67%	89,100	54%	212,030	61%	1,001,750	66%
Intimate	466,600	21	35,340	17	50,410	30	63,250	18	317,600	21
Other relative	198,590	9	5,600	3*	7,470	5*	45,440	13	140,080	9
Friend/acquaintance	774,250	35	95,610	47	31,220	19*	103,340	30	544,070	36
Stranger	771,230	34%	64,040	31%	74,810	45%	121,220	35%	511,160	33%
Relationship unknown	34,760	2%	3,090	2%*	2,400	1%*	13,400	4%*	15,880	1%

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

Table 10. Presence of weapons in violent incidents, 2004

Presence of offender's weapon	Violent crime		Rape/sexual assault		Robbery		Simple and aggravated assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	4,781,660	100%	207,240	100%	459,800	100%	4,114,620	100%
No weapon	3,311,600	69%	180,070	87%	220,350	48%	2,911,190	71%
Weapon	1,054,810	22%	16,460	8%*	213,100	46%	825,250	20%
Firearm	280,890	6	0	0*	84,860	19	196,030	5
Knife	272,930	6	10,260	5*	64,570	14	198,100	5
Other	430,500	9	6,200	3*	55,670	12	368,640	9
Type not ascertained	70,480	2	0	0*	8,000	2*	62,480	2*
Don't know	415,250	9%	10,710	5%*	26,350	6%*	378,190	9%

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.

In 2004 households that rented were more likely than households that owned their homes to experience all types of property crime.

Characteristics of the crime incident

Victim-offender relationship in violent crimes

Females were most often victimized by someone they knew while males were equally likely to be victimized by a stranger or nonstranger during 2004 (table 9).

Of those offenders victimizing females, 21 % were described as intimates and 34% as strangers. By contrast, of those offenders victimizing males, 4% were described as intimates and 50% as strangers.

For women, rape was most likely to be committed by a friend or acquaintance. Robbery was the crime most likely to be committed by a stranger for both males and females. A third of aggravated assaults were committed by a friend or acquaintance for both males and females.

Presence of weapons in violent crimes

During 2004 armed offenders committed 22% of all violent crime incidents (table 10). The presence of a weapon during a violent crime was related to the type of crime. For example, rape and sexual assault incidents (8%) were less likely than robberies (46%) to be committed by an armed offender.

The type of weapon also varied by the type of violence. Nineteen percent of robbery incidents occurred with a firearm present, compared to 5% of assault incidents. The rate of firearm violence declined significantly between 1993 and 2004 from 5.9 to 1.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

	1993	2004
Firearm Incidents	1,054,820	280,890
Firearm Victims	1,248,250	331,630
Firearm crime Rate per 1,000	5.9	1.4
Percent of violent incidents	11.0%	5.9%

Note: The rate of firearm victimization in 2003-04 — 1.6 per 1,000 — was significantly lower than the 2001-02 rate of 2.1 per 1,000.

Reporting to the police

During 2004, 50% of all violent victimizations and 39% of all property crimes were reported to the police. The percentage of violent crime reported differed among the specific types of crime. Robbery (61%) and aggravated assault (64%) were most frequently reported to police. Thirty-six percent of victims who experienced rape/sexual assault and 45% of the victims experiencing simple assault indicated that their victimization had been reported to the police. Motor vehicle theft continued to be the property crime most frequently reported to the police (85%).

Fifty-three percent of burglaries and 32% of household thefts were reported to the police in 2004.

Percent of crime reported to the police, 2004

Violent crime	49.9%
Rape/sexual assault	35.8
Robbery	61.1
Aggravated assault	64.2
Simple assault	44.9
Personal theft	40.5%
Property crime	39.0%
Burglary	53.0
Motor vehicle theft	84.8
Theft	32.3

Reporting and victim characteristics

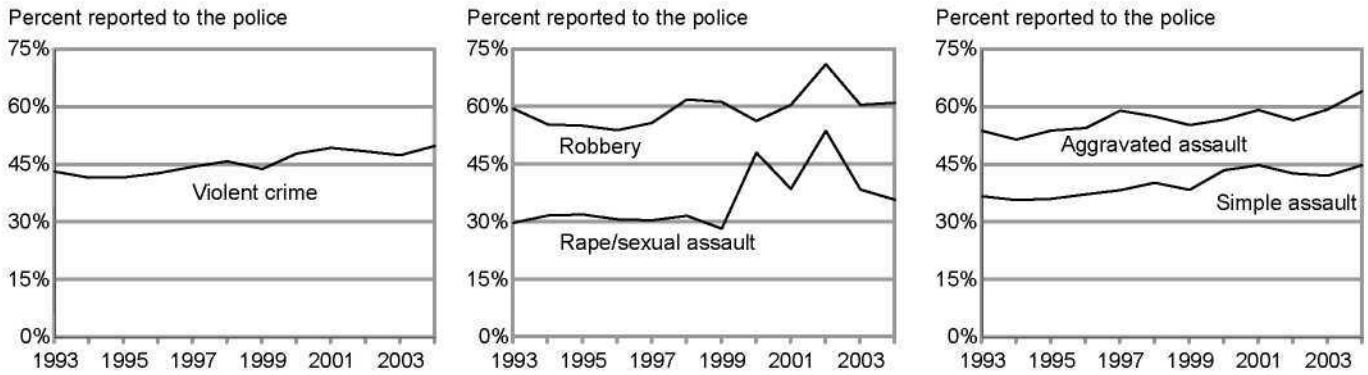
In 2004 females were more likely than males to report violent victimizations to the police. Both males and females were equally likely to report property victimizations to the police.

Victim gender, race, and Hispanic origin	Percent of crime reported to the police, 2004	
	Violent	Property
Total	49.9%	39.0%
Male	45.9%	38.7%
White	45.8	38.6
Black	45.1	42.9
Other	49.9	31.8
Hispanic	41.6%	39.2%
Non-Hispanic	46.3	38.7
Female	55.2%	39.3%
White	52.1	38.8
Black	66.9	42.6
Other	71.9	35.2
Hispanic	65.1%	34.4%
Non-Hispanic	53.8	40.1

Note: Total includes estimates for persons identifying with two or more races, not shown separately. Racial categories displayed are for persons who identified one race only.

Rates of reporting for violent victimizations did not differ for males across racial categories. Female victims who were black or of other races were more likely to report violent victimization to the police than were white females.

Reporting to the police increased from 43% of all violent crimes in 1993 to 50% in 2004



Figures 7, 8, 9

Non-Hispanic and Hispanic males were equally likely to report victimizations to the police. Among females, Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to report a violent crime. In contrast, non-Hispanic females were more likely than Hispanic females to report a property crime.

Reporting crime to the police, 1993-2004

Overall reporting of violent and property crime increased significantly from 1993 to 2004 (figures 7-12).

Reporting for violent crime remained the same between 2003 and 2004.

Reporting of burglary to police (from 50% in 1993 to 53% in 2004) remained

statistically similar from 1993 to 2004. Increases in the reporting of theft from 1993 to 2004, 26% to 32%, were statistically significant.

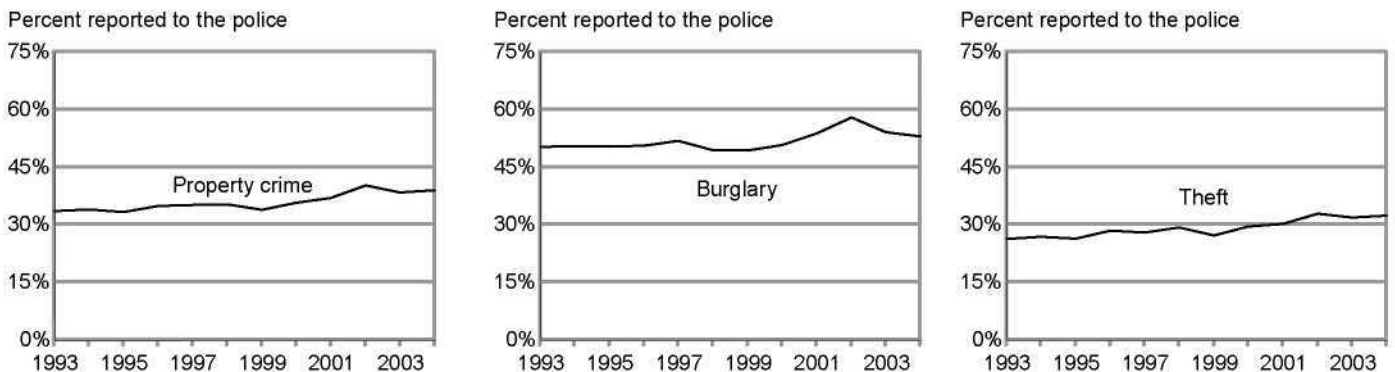
Survey methodology

This Bulletin presents data on non-lethal violence and property crimes from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and data on homicide from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program. In 2004, 84,360 households and 149,000 individuals age 12 or older were interviewed. For the 2004 NCVS data presented here, the response rate was 91.3% of eligible households and 85.5% of eligible individuals.

In 1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) introduced new guidelines for the collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data in government surveys. These methodological changes were implemented for all demographic surveys as of January 1, 2003. Individuals are now allowed to choose more than one racial category. In prior years they were asked to select a single primary race.

Racial categories presented in this report now consist of the following: white only, black only, other race only (American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander if only one of these races is given), and two or more races (all persons of any race indicating two or more races).

Reporting to the police increased from 34% of all property crimes in 1993 to 39% in 2004



Figures 10, 11, 12

Individuals are now asked whether they are of Hispanic ethnicity before being asked about their race, and are now asked directly if they are Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino.

Standard error computations

Comparisons of percentages and rates made in this report were tested to determine if observed differences were statistically significant. Differences described as higher, lower, or different passed a hypothesis test at the 0.05 level of statistical significance (95% confidence level). The tested differ-

ence was greater than twice the standard error of that difference. For comparisons that were statistically significant at the 0.10 level (90% confidence level), "somewhat," "slightly," "marginally," or "there is some indication that" is used to denote the nature of the difference. Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this Bulletin.

See <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cvusst.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 the director. Shannan M. Catalano, Ph.D., BJS Statistician, wrote this report under the supervision of Michael Rand. Cathy T. Maston provided statistical review. Marianne Zawitz produced the Highlight figures. Tina Dorsey and Tom Hester produced and edited the report.

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