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# **Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2008 Statistical Tables**

*National Crime Victimization Survey*

## **Table of contents**

**Index of statistical tables**

**Demography of victims - Tables 1 - 25**

**Victims and offenders - Tables 26 - 49**

**The crime event - Tables 59 - 90**

**Victims and the criminal justice system - Tables 91 - 109**

**Series victimizations - Table - 110**

**Survey Methodology**

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U. S. Department of Justice  
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These statistical tables were created by Jayne E. Robinson of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, under the supervision of Michael R. Rand. Catherine Bird provided statistical assistance and edited these tables. Dave Watt, of the U.S. Census Bureau, produced the tables.

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Data presented in these statistical tables may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan at: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/index.htm>  
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These statistical tables and other reports and data are available on the BJS website at: [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

*National Crime Victimization Survey, 2008- -Statistical tables*  
NCJ 231173

1. Victims of crime - United States.
2. Crime and criminals - United States.

I. Title II. Series

## Index

### A

#### ACTIVITY AT TIME OF INCIDENT, 64

#### AGE, by

##### Offender

juvenile-offender victimizations, 39, 41, 45

multiple-offender victimizations, 45, 47

single-offender victimizations, 39, 41

##### Victims of

##### Personal crimes

aggravated assault, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 35, 39, 45, 69, 96

assault, 3-4, 9, 29, 35, 39, 41, 45, 47, 69, 75, 79, 82, 96

purse snatching/pocket picking, 3-4, 9, 82, 96

rape/sexual assault, 3-4, 9, 29, 39, 45, 69, 82, 96

robbery, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 39, 41, 45, 47, 69, 75, 79, 82, 96

simple assault, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 35, 39, 45, 69, 96

##### Property crimes (head of household), 19

economic loss, 82

household burglary, 19, 82

motor vehicle theft, 19, 82

theft, 19, 82

vehicle owned, 18

##### Violent crimes, 3, 41, 47

economic loss, 82

family income, 75

gender, 4, 10, 29, 75

injury, 75

medical care, 79

insurance coverage, 78

race, 9-10, 75

reported to police, 96

self-protective measures, 69

victim-offender relationship, 35, 75

strangers, 29

#### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, (See Definition)

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109

Assault, See Assault

Distance from home, 65

##### Loss

economic, 81, 83

time from work, 87

Number of incidents, 26-27

##### Offender

age, 39, 45

drug/alcohol use, 32

gender, 38, 44

multiple-offender victimizations, 44-46, 49

number of offender, 37

race, 40, 42, 46

relationship to victim, 33-34, 43

single-offender victimizations, 38-40, 42-43

weapons used, 66

Physical force, who used first, 67

Place of occurrence, 61

##### Police

activity during initial contact, 108

response time to victim, 107

#### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, (continued)

response to reported incident, 106

Reporting to police, 91

##### Victims

age, 96

ethnicity, 95

gender, 93

race, 94

reasons for, 101

reasons for not, 102

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Time of occurrence, 59

##### Victim-offender relationship

nonstrangers, 27-28, 37, 43a, 66, 68, 93-95

strangers, 27-31, 35, 37, 43, 43a, 49, 66, 68, 93-95

##### Victims

activity at time of incident, 64

age, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 35, 69, 96

distance from home, 65

ethnicity, 7-8, 43a, 95

family income, 14-15, 35

gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 35, 43a, 69, 93

head of household, 13

marital status, 11-12, 31, 35

medical care, 76

number of, 36

race, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 35, 42, 43a, 69, 94

self-protective measures, 68-70, 72-74

#### ALCOHOL use by offender, 32

#### ARMED ROBBERY, See Robbery

#### ARSON, See FBI Uniform Crime Reports (WL)

#### ASSAULT, (See Definition)

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109

Aggravated, See Aggravated Assault

##### Loss

economic, 81-83

time from work, 87-89

Number of incidents, 26-27

##### Offender

age, 39, 41, 45, 47

alcohol/drug use, 32

armed, 60, 62

gender, 38, 44

multiple-offender victimizations, 44-49

number of, 37

race, 40, 42, 46, 48

relationship to victim, 33-34, 43, 49

single-offender victimizations, 38-43

unarmed, 60, 62

weapons used, 66

Physical force, who used first, 67

Place of occurrence, 61-63

Reporting to police, 91

##### Victims

age, 96

ethnicity, 95

gender, 93

## ASSAULT, (continued)

race, 94, 103

reasons for, 101

reasons for not, 102-104

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Simple, See Simple Assault

Time of occurrence, 59-60

Victim-offender relationship

nonstrangers, 27-28, 37, 43a, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-80, 93-95, 104

strangers, 27-31, 35, 37, 43, 43a, 49, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-80, 93-95, 104

Victims

age, 3-4, 9, 29, 35, 41, 47, 69, 75, 79, 82, 96

distance from home, 65

ethnicity, 7-8, 43a, 95

family income, 14-15, 35, 75

gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12-13, 29-31, 35, 43a, 69, 75, 79-80, 93

head of household, 13

injury, 75

marital status, 11-12, 31, 35

medical

care, 76

expenses, 77

hospital care, 79-80

number of, 36

race, 5-6, 9, 15, 30, 35, 42, 43a, 48, 69, 75, 77, 79-80, 88, 94, 103

self-protective measures, 68-70, 72-74

## ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIM, by type of agency, 109

### ATTEMPTED CRIMES

Both property and violent crimes, 1, 59, 61, 81, 83, 87-89, 91, 101-102, 110

Property crimes, 16-17, 19-25, 93a, 97-99

Violent crimes, 2-9, 11-15, 26-28, 33-34, 36-40, 42-46, 49, 66, 68-70, 76, 82, 93-96, 109

## AUTO THEFT, See Motor Vehicle Theft

## B

## BATTERY, See Aggravated Assault

## BLACK-ON-BLACK CRIME, See Race/Victim Offender Relationship

## BREAKING AND ENTERING, See Burglary

## BURGLARY, (See Definition)

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109

Loss

economic, 81-82

time from work, 87-90

property stolen, 84

recovery of, 86

theft, 84-86

value of, 85, 100

Number of

persons in household, 24

units in structure, 25

## BURGLARY, (continued)

Police

activity during initial contact, 108

response to reported incident, 106

response time to victim, 107

Reporting to police, 91

Victims

ethnicity, 97

family income, 99

gender, 93a

head of household, 97

ownership of residence (tenure), 97-98

race, 97, 105

value of loss, 100

reasons for, 101

reasons for not, 102, 105

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Time of occurrence, 59

Type of entry, 21

Victims (head of household)

activity at time of incident, 64

age, 19

ethnicity, 17, 97

gender, 93a

family income, 20-21

race, 16, 21, 85-86, 88, 90, 97, 105

residence, ownership of (tenure), 97

## C

## CAR THEFT, See Motor Vehicle Theft

### COMPLETED CRIMES

Both property and violent crimes, 1, 59, 61, 81, 83, 87-89, 91, 101-102, 110

Property crimes, 16-17, 19-25, 93a, 97, 99

Violent crimes, 2-9, 11-15, 26-28, 33-34, 36-40, 42-46, 49, 66, 68-70, 76, 82, 93-96, 109

### CRIME RATES

Personal crimes

aggravated assault, 1-15, 28, 35

assault, 1-9, 11-15, 28, 35

purse snatching/pocket picking, 1-9, 11-15

rape/sexual assault, 1-9, 11-15, 28

robbery, 1-15, 28

simple assault, 1-15, 28, 35

Property crimes

household burglary, 1, 16-17, 19-21, 24-25

motor vehicle theft, 1, 16-20, 23-25

theft, 1, 16-20, 22, 24-25

urban, suburban, rural, 18

ownership of residence (tenure), 18

Victims of property crimes (head of household)

age, 18-19

ethnicity, 17

family income, 14, 21-23

number of persons in household, 24

race, 16, 18, 21-23

Victims of violent crimes

age, 3-4, 9-10, 35

ethnicity, 7-8

family income, 14-15, 20, 35

CRIME RATES, (continued)  
gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 35  
head of household, 13  
marital status, 11-12, 35  
race, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 35  
residence, number of units, 25  
victim-offender relationship  
nonstrangers, 28  
strangers, 28, 35

**CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS**, See Personal Crimes

**CRIMES OF VIOLENCE**, See Personal Crimes

**CRIMINALS**, See Offenders

## D

**DISTANCE FROM HOME**, 65

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**, See Family Violence

**DRUG, use by offenders**, 32

## E

**ECONOMIC LOSS**, See Loss

**ELDERLY VICTIMS**, See Age

**ETHNICITY** (Hispanic/Non Hispanic)

Victims of

Personal crimes

aggravated assault, 7-8, 43a, 95  
assault, 7-8, 43a, 82, 95  
purse snatching/pocket picking, 7-8, 82, 92  
rape/sexual assault, 7-8, 43a, 82, 95  
robbery, 7-8, 43a, 82, 95  
simple assault, 7-8, 43a, 95

Property crimes (head of household), 17, 91b

economic loss, 82  
gender, 91b  
household burglary, 17, 82, 97  
motor vehicle theft, 17, 82, 97  
ownership of residence (tenure), 97  
race, 91b, 97  
theft, 17, 82, 97

Violent crimes, 7, 43a, 92, 95

economic loss, 82  
gender, 8, 43a, 92  
race, 43a, 92  
reporting to police, 91b, 92, 95, 97  
victim-offender relationship  
nonstrangers, 43a, 95  
strangers, 43a, 95

## F

**FAMILY INCOME, by**

Victims of

Personal crimes

aggravated assault, 14-15, 35  
assault, 14-15, 35, 82, 75  
purse snatching/pocket picking, 14-15, 82  
rape/sexual assault, 14-15, 82  
robbery, 14-15, 75, 82  
simple assault, 14-15, 35

Property crimes (head of household)

economic loss, 82  
household burglary, 20-21, 82, 99  
motor vehicle theft, 20, 23, 82, 99  
race, 21-23  
theft, 20, 22, 82, 99

Violent crimes, 14

age, 35, 75  
economic loss, 82  
gender, 35, 75  
injury, 75  
marital status, 35  
medical insurance coverage, 78  
race, 15, 35  
reporting to police, 99  
victim-offender relationship, 35, 75

**FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Victims of

Personal crimes

aggravated assault, 33-35  
assault, 33-35  
rape/sexual assault, 33-34  
robbery, 33-34  
simple assault, 33-35

Violent crimes

age, family income, gender, marital status,  
and race, 35  
victim-offender relationship, 33-35

**FEMALE VICTIMS**, See Victims/gender

**FIREARMS**, See Weapons

## G

**GENDER, by**

Offender

multiple-offender victimizations, 44  
single-offender victimizations, 38

Victims of

Personal crimes

aggravated assault, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 35,  
38, 43a, 44, 69, 93  
assault, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12-13, 29-31, 35, 38, 43a, 44, 69,  
75, 79-80, 82, 93  
purse snatching/pocket picking, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12-13, 82,  
89  
rape/sexual assault, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12-13, 29-31, 38, 43a,  
44, 69, 82, 93  
robbery, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 38, 43a, 44, 69,  
75, 79-80, 82, 93  
simple assault, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 35, 38,  
43a, 44, 69, 93

**GENDER** (continued)

- Property crimes (head of household), 93a
  - economic loss, 82
  - household burglary, 82, 93a
  - motor vehicle theft, 82, 93a
  - theft, 82, 93a
- Violent crimes, 2
  - age, 4, 10, 29, 69, 75, 78-79
  - economic loss, 82
  - ethnicity, 8, 43a
  - family income, 75, 78
  - head of household, 13, 93a
  - hospital care, 79-80
  - injury, 75
  - marital status, 12, 31
  - medical insurance coverage, 78
  - race, 6, 10, 30, 43a, 69, 75, 78-80
  - reporting to police, 91b-93a
  - self-protective measures, 69, 71
  - victim-offender relationship
    - nonstrangers, 43a, 75, 79-80, 93
    - strangers, 29-31, 35, 43a, 75, 79-80, 93

**GUNS**, See Weapons

**H**

**HATE CRIMES**, See FBI Uniform Crime Reports

**HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD**, (Property Crimes)

- Personal crimes, 13
- Police
  - reason for not reporting to, 105
  - reasons for reporting to, 93a
- Residence
  - ownership of (tenure), 18, 97
  - urban, suburban, rural, 18
- Victims of
  - Personal crimes, 13
  - Property crimes (head of household)
    - age, 18-19
    - ethnicity, 17, 97
    - family income, 21-23
    - gender, 13, 93a
    - household burglary, 16-17, 19, 21, 93a, 97, 105
    - motor vehicle theft, 16-17, 19, 23, 93a, 97, 105
    - race, 16, 18, 21-23, 97, 105
    - relationship of victim to, 13
    - theft, 16-19, 22, 93a, 97, 105

**HISPANIC VICTIMS**, See Ethnicity

**HOMICIDE**, See FBI Uniform Crime Reports (WL)

**HOSPITAL CARE**, See Medical Care

**HOUSEHOLD BURGLARY**, See Burglary

**HOUSEHOLD CRIMES**, See Property Crimes

**HOUSEHOLD INCOME**, See Family Income

**HOUSEHOLDS**, See *also*, Head of Household

Number of persons in households, 16-25

**I**

**INCOME**, See Family Income

**INJURY**, 75, 78, 80

**INSURANCE COVERAGE**, See Medical Care

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE**, See Family Violence

**J**

**JUVENILE VICTIMS**, See Age

**K**

**KNIVES**, See Weapons

**L**

**LARCENY**, See Theft

**LOSS**

- Economic, 81-83
- Property recovery of, 86
- Property stolen, 84
- Theft, 84-86
- Time from work, 87-90
- Value of, 85, 100

**M**

**MALE VICTIMS**, See Victims/gender

**MARITAL STATUS**, by

- Victims of
  - Personal crimes
    - aggravated assault, 11-12, 31, 35
    - assault, 11-12, 31, 35
    - purse snatching/pocket picking, 11-12
    - rape/sexual assault, 11-12, 31
    - robbery, 11-12, 31
    - simple assault, 11-12, 31, 35
  - Violent crimes, 11
    - gender, 12, 31
    - victim-offender relationship, 33-35
    - strangers, 31

**MEDICAL CARE**, 76

- Expenses, 77
- Hospital care, 79-80
- Insurance coverage, 78

**METHODOLOGY** (WL)

- Data collection
- Sample design and size
- Collection year estimates
- Estimation procedure
- Series victimizations
- Accuracy of estimates
- Computation and application of standard errors

units in structure, 25

**MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, (See Definition)**

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109

Loss

economic, 81, 83  
property stolen, 84  
recovery of, 86  
theft, 84-86  
time from work, 87-90  
value of, 85, 100

Number of

persons in household, 24  
units in structure, 25

Place of occurrence, 61

Police

activity during initial contact, 108  
response time to victim, 107  
response to reported incident, 106

Reporting to police, 91

Victims

ethnicity, 97  
family income, 99  
gender, 93a  
head of household, 97  
race, 97  
value of loss, 100

reasons for, 101

reasons for not, 102, 105

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Time of occurrence, 59

Type of theft (all vehicle, completed or attempted), 23

Victims (head of household)

activity at time of incident, 64  
age, 18-19  
distance from home, 65  
ethnicity, 17, 97  
family income, 20, 23  
race, 16, 18, 23, 88, 90, 97, 105  
residence, ownership of (tenure), 18, 97-98

**MUGGING, See** Robbery, Assault, and Purse Snatching/Pocket Picking

**MULTIPLE-OFFENDER VICTIMIZATIONS, See** Offenders/number of

**MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER, See** FBI Uniform Crime Reports (WL)

**N**

**NUMBER OF**

**INCIDENTS, 26 (See Definition)**

Distance from home, 65  
Number of offenders, 37  
Police response, 106  
Victim-offender relationship, 27, 63, 66  
Victims  
activity at time of incident, 64  
number of, 36  
Weapons used, 66

**VICTIMIZATIONS, 1, 26 (See Definition)**

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109  
Loss  
economic, 83

property stolen, 84

recovery of, 86

**VICTIMIZATIONS (continued)**

theft, 84-86

time from work, 89-90

value of, 85

Reporting to police, 91, 93a

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Vehicle owned, 18

Victims of

Property crimes (head of household)

ethnicity, 17  
gender, 93a  
race, 16

Violent crimes

age, 10  
ethnicity, 7  
gender, 2, 6, 10  
race, 5-6, 10, 85-86, 90  
victim-offender relationship  
nonstrangers, 28  
strangers, 28, 33-34

**O**

**OFFENDERS**

Aggravated Assault

age, 39, 45  
drug/alcohol use, 32  
gender, 38, 44  
multiple-offender victimizations, 44-46, 49  
number of, 37  
race, 40, 42, 46  
single-offender victimizations, 38-43  
victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 37, 43, 49  
weapons used, 66

Assault

age, 39, 41, 45, 47  
armed, 60, 62  
drug/alcohol use, 32  
gender, 38, 44  
multiple-offender victimizations, 44-49  
number of, 37  
race, 40, 42, 46, 48  
single-offender victimizations, 38-43  
unarmed, 60, 62  
victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 37, 43, 49  
weapons used, 66

Robbery

age, 39, 41, 45, 47  
armed, 60, 62  
drug/alcohol use, 32  
gender, 38, 44  
multiple-offender victimizations, 44-49  
number of, 37  
race, 40, 42, 46, 48  
single-offender victimizations, 38-43  
unarmed, 60, 62  
victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 37, 43, 49  
weapons used, 66

Rape/sexual assault

age, 39, 45  
drug/alcohol use, 32  
gender, 38, 44  
multiple-offender victimizations, 44-46, 49  
number of, 37

race, 40, 42, 46  
single-offender victimizations, 38-40, 42-43  
**OFFENDERS** (continued)  
weapons used, 66  
Simple Assault  
age, 39, 45  
drug/alcohol use, 32  
gender, 38, 44  
multiple-offender victimizations, 44-46, 49  
number of, 37  
race, 40, 42, 46  
single-offender victimizations, 38-43  
victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 37, 43, 49  
weapons used, 66

**OFFENSES**, See Crime Rates/Personal and Property Crimes

**OWNERSHIP, of residence (tenure)**

Victims of  
Property crimes (head of household)  
ethnicity, 97  
household burglary, 97-98  
motor vehicle theft, 97-98  
race, 97  
reported to police, 97-98  
theft, 97-98  
vehicle owned, 18

**P**

**PERSONAL CRIMES**, 1 (See Definition)

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109  
Aggravated assault, See Aggravated Assault  
Assault, See Assault  
Distance from home, 65  
Loss  
economic, 81-83  
property stolen, 84  
recovery of, 86  
theft, 84-86  
time from work, 87-90  
value of, 85  
Number of incidents, 26-27  
Offender  
age, 39, 41, 45, 47  
drug/alcohol use, 32  
gender, 38, 44  
multiple-offender victimizations, 44-49  
number of, 37  
race, 40, 42, 46, 48  
single-offender victimizations, 38-43  
victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 43, 49  
weapons used, 66  
Physical force, who used first, 67  
Place of occurrence, 61-63  
Police  
activity during initial contact, 108  
response time to victim, 107  
response to reported incident, 106  
Purse snatching/pocket picking, See Purse Snatching/Pocket Picking  
Reporting to police, 91  
Victims  
age, 96  
ethnicity, 91b, 92, 95

victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 37, 43, 49

gender, 91b, 92-93  
race, 91b, 92, 94, 103  
reasons for, 101

**PERSONAL CRIMES** (continued)

reasons for not, 102-104  
Rape, See Rape  
Robbery, See Robbery  
Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)  
Simple assault, See Simple Assault  
Time of occurrence, 59-60  
Victims  
activity at time of incident, 64  
age, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 35, 41, 47, 69, 75, 79, 96  
distance from home, 65  
ethnicity, 7-8, 43a, 95  
family income, 14-15, 35, 75  
gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 35, 43a, 69, 75  
79-80, 93  
head of household, 13  
injury, 75  
marital status, 11-12, 31, 35  
medical  
care, 76, 79-80  
expenses, 77  
number of, 36  
race, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 35, 42, 43a, 48, 66, 77, 79-80, 85-86, 88, 90, 94  
self-protective measures, 68-70, 72-74  
victim-offender relationship  
nonstrangers, 27-28, 37, 43a, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-80, 93-95, 104  
strangers, 27-31, 35, 37, 43, 43a, 49, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-80, 93-95, 104

**PHYSICAL INJURY** (See Injury), 75, 78, 80

**PHYSICAL FORCE, who used first**, 67

**POLICE**

Response time to victim, 107  
Response to reported incident, 106  
Victims of  
Personal crimes  
aggravated assault, 91, 101-102, 106-107  
assault, 91, 101-104  
purse snatching/pocket picking, 91, 101-103, 106  
rape/sexual assault, 91, 101-104, 106  
robbery, 91, 101-104, 106-107  
simple assault, 91, 101-102, 106-107  
Property crimes (head of household), 97  
gender, 93a  
ownership of (tenure), 97-98  
race, 105  
Violent crimes  
activity during initial contact, 108  
age, 96  
ethnicity, 91b, 92, 95, 97  
gender, 91b, 92-93, 93a  
race of, 91b, 92, 94, 97, 103, 105  
reasons  
for, 101  
for not, 102-105  
reported to, 91, 91b, 92-93, 93a, 94-101  
not reported, 91, 102-105



value of loss, 100  
victim-offender relationship

**PROPERTY CRIMES, 1 (See Definition)**

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109  
Burglary, *See* Burglary

Loss

economic, 81-83  
property stolen, 84  
recovery of, 86  
theft, 84-86  
time from work, 87-90  
value of, 85, 100

Motor Vehicle Theft, *See* Motor Vehicle Theft

Number of

persons in household, 24  
units in structure, 25

Place of occurrence, 61

Police

activity during initial contact, 108  
response time to victim, 107  
response to reported incident, 106

Reporting to police, 91

Victims

ethnicity, 91b, 97  
family income, 99  
gender, 91b, 93a  
head of household, 97  
race, 91b, 97  
value of loss, 100

reason for, 101

reasons for not, 102, 105

Series victimizations, 110 (*See* Definition)

Theft, *See* Theft

Time of occurrence, 59

Victims (head of household)

activity at time of incident, 64  
age, 19  
distance from home, 65  
ethnicity, 17, 97  
family income, 20-23  
race, 16, 21-23, 85-86, 88, 90, 97, 105  
residence, ownership of (tenure), 97-98

**PURSE SNATCHING/POCKET PICKING, (See Definition)**

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109

Loss

economic, 81-83  
property stolen, 84  
recovery of, 86  
theft, 84-86  
value of, 85

Number of incidents, 26

Place of occurrence, 61

Police

activity during initial contact, 108  
response to reported incident, 106

Reporting to police, 91

Victims

age, 96  
ethnicity, 92  
gender, 92  
race, 92

reasons for, 101

reasons for not, 102-103

nonstrangers, 94-95, 104

strangers, 94-95, 104

Series victimizations, 110 (*See* Definition)

Time of occurrence, 59

Victims

activity at time of incident, 64

**PURSE SNATCHING/POCKET PICKING (continued)**

age, 3-4, 9, 96

distance from home, 65

ethnicity, 7-8

family income, 14-15

gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12-13

head of household, 13

marital status, 11-12

race, 5-6, 9, 15, 85-86, 103

**R**

**RACE**

Offender, 48

age, 45

multiple-offender victimizations, 45-46, 48

single-offender victimizations, 40, 42

Victims of

Personal crimes

aggravated assault, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 35, 40, 42, 43a, 45-46, 69, 94

assault, 5-6, 9, 15, 30, 35, 40, 42, 43a, 45-46, 48, 69, 75, 77, 79-80, 82, 88, 94, 103

purse snatching/pocket picking, 5-6, 9, 15, 82, 85-86, 92, 103

rape/sexual assault, 5-6, 9, 15, 30, 40, 42, 43a, 45-46, 69, 82, 88, 94, 103

robbery, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 40, 42, 43a, 45-46, 48, 69, 75, 77, 79-80, 82, 85-86, 88, 94, 103

simple assault, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 35, 40, 42, 43a, 45-46, 69, 94

Property crimes (head of household), 16

age, 18

economic loss, 82

ethnicity, 97

family income, 21-23

household burglary, 16, 21, 82, 85-86, 88, 90, 97, 105

motor vehicle theft, 16, 23, 82, 85-86, 88, 90, 97, 105

property recovery, 86

residence

ownership of (tenure), 97

theft, 16, 18, 22, 82, 85-86, 88, 90, 97, 105

time from work, 88, 90

value of loss, 85

Violent crimes, 5, 42, 48

age, 9-10, 69, 75

days lost from work, 88, 90

economic loss, 82

family income, 15, 75

gender, 6, 10, 30, 69, 75

injury, 75

medical

care, 79-80

expenses, 77

insurance coverage, 78

property recovery, 86

reasons for not reporting, 103, 105

reporting to, 91b, 92, 94, 97

- self-protective measures, 69, 71
- theft loss, 85-86
- value of loss, 85
- victim-offender relationship

**RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT, (See Definition)**

- Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109
- Loss
  - economic, 81-82
  - time from work, 87-89
- Number of incidents, 26-27
- Offender
  - age, 39, 45
  - alcohol/drug use, 32
  - gender, 38, 44
  - multiple-victimizations, 44-46, 49
  - number of, 37
  - race, 40, 42, 46
  - single-victimizations, 38-43
  - victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 43, 49
  - weapons used, 66
- Physical force, who used first, 67
- Place of occurrence, 61, 63
- Police response to reported incident, 106
- Reporting to police, 91
- Victims
  - age, 96
  - ethnicity, 95
  - gender, 93
  - race, 94, 103
  - reasons for, 101
  - reasons for not, 102-104
- Self protective measures, 68-70, 72-73
- Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)
- Time of occurrence, 59
- Victim-offender relationship
  - nonstrangers, 27-28, 37, 43a, 63, 66, 68, 93-95, 104
  - strangers, 27-31, 37, 43, 43a, 49, 63, 66, 68, 93-95, 104
- Victims
  - activity at time of incident, 64
  - age, 3-4, 9, 29, 69, 96
  - characteristics of household, 13
  - distance from home, 65
  - ethnicity, 7-8, 43a, 95
  - family income, 14-15
  - gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12-13, 29-31, 43a, 69, 93
  - marital status, 11-12, 31
  - medical care, 76
  - number of, 36
  - race, 5-6, 9, 15, 30, 42, 43a, 69, 88, 94, 103

**RENTERS, See Ownership**

**REPORTING TO POLICE, See Police**

**ROBBERY, (See Definition)**

- Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109
- Loss
  - economic, 81-83
  - property stolen, 84
  - recovery of, 86
  - theft, 85-86
  - time from work, 87-89
  - value of, 85
- Number of incidents, 26-27
- Offender

- nonstrangers, 43a, 75, 94
- strangers, 30, 35, 43a, 75, 94
- Weapons used, 71

- age, 39, 41, 45, 47
- alcohol/drug use, 32
- armed, 60, 62
- gender, 38, 44
- multiple-victimizations, 44-49

**ROBBERY (continued)**

- number of, 37
- race, 40, 42, 46, 48
- single-victimizations, 38-43
- unarmed, 60, 62
- victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 43, 49
- weapons used, 66

Physical force, who used first, 67

Place of occurrence, 61-63

Police

- activity during initial contact, 108

- response time to victim, 107

- response to reported incident, 106

Reporting to police, 91

Victims

- age, 96
- ethnicity, 95
- gender, 93
- race, 94, 103

- reasons for, 101

- reasons for not, 102-104

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Time of occurrence, 59-60

Victim-offender relationship

- nonstrangers, 27-28, 37, 43a, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-80, 93-95, 104

- strangers, 27-31, 37, 43, 43a, 49, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-80, 93-95, 104

Victims

- activity at time of incident, 64

- age, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 41, 47, 69, 75, 79, 96

- distance from home, 65

- ethnicity, 7-8, 43a, 95

- family income, 14-15, 75

- gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 43a, 69, 75, 79-80, 93

- head of household, 13

- injury, 75

- marital status, 11-12, 31

medical

- care, 76, 79-80

- expenses, 77

- number of, 36

- race, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 42, 43a, 48, 69, 75, 77, 79-80, 85-86, 88, 94, 103

- self-protective measures, 68-70, 72-74

**SCHOOL CRIMES, 61-64**

**SELF-PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN, by**

Victims of

Personal crimes

- aggravated assault, 68-70, 72-74

- assault, 68, 70, 72-74

- rape/sexual assault, 68, 70, 72-73

- robbery, 68-70, 72-74

- simple assault, 68-70, 72-74

Violent crimes  
age, 69  
gender, 69, 71  
measure taken by, 72  
harmful, 74

**SERIES VICTIMIZATION**, 110 (See Definition)

**SEX**, See Gender

**SEXUAL ASSAULT**, See Rape/Sexual Assault

**SIMPLE ASSAULT**, (See Definition)

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109

Aggravated assault, See also Aggravated

Loss

economic, 81, 83

time from work, 87

Number of incidents, 26-27

Offender

age, 39, 45

alcohol/drug use, 32

gender, 38, 44

multiple-offender victimizations, 44-46, 49

number of, 37

race, 40, 42, 46

single-offender victimizations, 38-43

victim-offender relationship, 33-34, 43, 49

weapons used, 66

Physical force who used first, 67

Place of occurrence, 61

Police

activity during initial contact, 108

response time to victim, 107

response to reported incident, 106

Reporting to police, 91

Victims

age, 96

ethnicity, 95

gender, 93

race, 94

reasons for, 101

reasons for not, 102

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Time of occurrence, 59

Victim-offender relationship

nonstrangers, 27-28, 37, 43a, 66, 68, 93-95

strangers, 27-31, 35, 37, 43, 43a, 49, 37, 66, 68, 93-95

Victims

activity at time of incident, 64

age, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 35, 69, 96

distance from home, 65

ethnicity, 7-8, 43a, 95

family income, 14-15, 35

gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 35, 43a, 69, 93

head of household, 13

marital status, 11-12, 31, 35

medical care, 76

number of, 36

race, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 35, 42, 43a, 69, 94

self-protective measures, 68-70, 72-74

**SINGLE-OFFENDER VICTIMIZATIONS**, See Offenders

**STOLEN PROPERTY**, See Loss

helpful, 73

race, 69, 71

type of measures, 70-71

victim-offender relationship

strangers or nonstrangers, 68

## T

**THEFT**, (See Definition)

Agency type providing assistance to victim, 109

Loss

economic, 81-83

property stolen, 84

recovered of, 86

time from work, 87-90

value of, 85, 100

Number of

persons in household, 24

units in structure, 25

Place of occurrence, 61

Distance from home, 65

Police

activity during initial contact, 108

response time to victim, 107

response to reported incident, 106

Reporting to police, 91

Victims

ethnicity, 99

family income, 99

gender, 93a

head of household, 97, 105

race, 97, 105

value of loss, 100

reasons for, 101

reasons for not, 102, 105

Series victimizations, 110 (See Definition)

Time of occurrence, 59

Type of, 22

Victims (head of household)

activity at time of incident, 64

age, 18-19

distance from home, 65

ethnicity, 17, 97

family income, 20, 22

gender, 93a

race, 16, 18, 22, 85-86, 88, 90, 97, 105

residence, ownership of (tenure), 18, 97-98

**TIME OF OCCURRENCE**, 59-60

**TYPE OF CRIMES**, 1

## V

**VICTIMS**

Activity at time of incident, 64

Age, 3-4, 9-10, 29, 35, 41, 47, 69, 75, 78-79, 82

Distance from home, 65

Ethnicity, 7-8, 43a, 82

Family income, 14-15, 35, 75, 78, 82

Gender, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, 29-31, 35, 43a, 69,  
71, 75, 78-80, 82  
Head of household, 13  
Injury, 75  
Loss  
VICTIMS (continued)  
Marital status, 11-12, 31, 35  
Medical  
    care, 79-80  
    expenses, 77  
    insurance coverage, 78  
Number of, 36  
Police  
    activity during initial contact, 108  
    reasons for not reporting, 103, 104  
    reporting to police, 91b, 92-96  
    response time to victim, 107  
Race, 5-6, 9-10, 15, 30, 35, 42, 43a, 48, 69, 71,  
    75, 77-80, 82, 85-86, 88, 90, 103  
Self-protective measures, 68-74  
Victim-offender relationship  
    nonstrangers, 27, 43a, 68, 75, 77, 79-80, 93-95  
    strangers, 27, 29-31, 43, 43a, 49, 68, 75, 77, 79-80,  
    93-95  
Weapons used, 71

economic, 81-83  
recovered of, 86  
theft, 85-86  
time from work, 87-90  
value of, 85  
Police  
Reasons for not reporting, 104  
Reporting to, 94-95

#### **VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP**

Assault, 75, 77, 79-80  
Injury, 75  
Medical  
    care, 79-80  
    expenses, 77  
Multiple-offender victimizations, 49  
Nonstrangers, 27-28, 37, 43a, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-  
    80, 93-95, 104  
Number of  
    offenders, 37  
    victimizations, 28  
Place of occurrence, 63  
Police  
    reasons for not reporting, 104  
    reporting to, 94-95  
Robbery, 75, 77, 79-80  
Single-offender victimizations, 38-39, 43  
Strangers, 27-31, 37, 43a, 49, 63, 66, 68, 75, 77, 79-  
    80, 93-95, 104  
Victims  
    age, 35  
    ethnicity, 43a  
    family income, 35  
    gender, 35, 43a  
    marital status, 35  
    race, 35, 42, 43a  
    self-protective measures, 68  
Weapons use, 66

#### **VICTIMIZATION RATES, 1**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**, See Family Violence/or  
Gender (Victim-Offender Relationship)

**VIOLENT CRIMES**, See Personal Crimes

### **W**

**WEAPONS used**, 66, 70-71

Table 91. Personal and property crimes, 2008:

**Percent distribution of victimizations, by type of crime and whether or not reported to the police**

Sector and type of crime	Number of victimizations	Percent of victimizations reported to the police			
		Total	Yes <sup>a</sup>	No	Not known or not available
<b>All crimes</b>	<b>21,312,400</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Personal crimes</b>	<b>4,993,220</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Crimes of violence	4,856,510	100 %	47.1	51.5	1.4
Completed violence	1,362,210	100 %	58.5	40.6	1.0 *
Attempted/threatened violence	3,494,300	100 %	42.6	55.8	1.6
Rape/sexual assault	203,830	100 %	41.4	58.6	0.0 *
Rape/Attempted rape	123,010	100 %	44.9	55.1	0.0 *
Rape	52,470	100 %	64.9 *	35.1 *	0.0 *
Attempted rape <sup>b</sup>	70,540	100 %	30.0 *	70.0	0.0 *
Sexual assault <sup>c</sup>	80,810	100 %	36.1 *	63.9	0.0 *
Robbery	551,830	100 %	60.5	39.5	0.0 *
Completed/property taken	372,180	100 %	66.8	33.2	0.0 *
With injury	141,600	100 %	72.7	27.3	0.0 *
Without injury	230,590	100 %	63.2	36.8	0.0 *
Attempted to take property	179,640	100 %	47.4	52.6	0.0 *
With injury	64,290	100 %	34.5 *	65.5	0.0 *
Without injury	115,350	100 %	54.6	45.4	0.0 *
Assault	4,100,850	100 %	45.5	52.8	1.7
Aggravated	839,940	100 %	62.0	35.3	2.7 *
With injury	252,580	100 %	74.1	25.9	0.0 *
Threatened with weapon	587,360	100 %	56.8	39.4	3.9 *
Simple	3,260,920	100 %	41.3	57.2	1.5
With minor injury	616,200	100 %	49.2	48.6	2.1 *
Without injury	2,644,720	100 %	39.4	59.2	1.3 *
Purse snatching/pocket picking	136,710	100 %	57.6	38.5	3.8 *
Completed purse snatching	18,260 *	100 %*	100.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *
Attempted purse snatching	10,140 *	100 %*	0.0 *	100.0 *	0.0 *
Pocket picking	108,310	100 %	55.9	39.3	4.8 *
<b>Property crimes</b>	<b>16,319,180</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Household burglary	3,188,620	100 %	56.2	42.3	1.5
Completed	2,598,960	100 %	57.7	40.7	1.5
Forcible entry	1,191,290	100 %	73.9	23.5	2.6 *
Unlawful entry without force	1,407,670	100 %	44.0	55.3	0.7 *
Attempted forcible entry	589,660	100 %	49.5	49.1	1.3 *
Motor vehicle theft	795,160	100 %	79.6	19.8	0.6 *
Completed	593,360	100 %	91.1	8.9	0.0 *
Attempted	201,800	100 %	45.8	52.0	2.2 *
Theft	12,335,400	100 %	33.6	65.3	1.0
Completed	11,740,750	100 %	33.5	65.5	1.0
Less than \$50	2,859,180	100 %	19.5	79.5	1.0 *
\$50 - \$249	4,169,140	100 %	26.0	73.3	0.7 *
\$250 or more	3,265,320	100 %	54.0	44.9	1.1 *
Amount not available	1,447,100	100 %	36.3	61.9	1.8 *
Attempted	594,660	100 %	37.0	61.9	1.1 *

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Figures in this column represent the rates at which victimizations were reported to the police, or "police reporting rates."

<sup>b</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape.

<sup>c</sup>Includes threats.

Table 91b. Violent and property crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police,  
by type of crime and sex and race or ethnicity of victims**

Characteristic	Crimes of violence <sup>a</sup>	Property crimes
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.1 %</b>	<b>40.3 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	44.2	41.6
White only	44.1	42.1
Black only	50.4	39.4
Other race only <sup>b</sup>	30.7	36.8
Two or more races <sup>c</sup>	34.4 *	45.8
<b>Female</b>	50.4	39.0
White only	47.9	37.1
Black only	68.5	48.7
Other race only <sup>b</sup>	46.7	33.7
Two or more races <sup>c</sup>	23.4 *	36.0
<b>Male</b>		
Hispanic	44.0	36.7
Non-Hispanic	44.3	42.6
<b>Female</b>		
Hispanic	54.1	35.4
Non-Hispanic	50.0	39.7

Note: Excludes data on persons whose ethnicity was not ascertained.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes data on rape, sexual assault, not shown

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander if only one of these races is given.

<sup>c</sup>Includes all persons indicating two or more races.

Table 92. Personal crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police,  
by selected characteristics of victims and type of crime**

Characteristic	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police		
	All personal crimes	Crimes of violence <sup>a</sup>	Purse snatching/ pocket picking
<b>Total</b>	47.3 %	47.1 %	57.6 %
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	44.3	44.2	47.3 *
Female	51.0	50.4	67.7
<b>Race<sup>b</sup></b>			
White only	46.3	45.8	63.3
Black only	58.9	59.2	50.5 *
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	48.5	48.5	49.6 *
Non-Hispanic	47.2	46.9	59.3

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes data on rape, sexual assault, robbery, and both aggravated and simple assault, not shown separately.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes data on persons of "Other" races and persons indicating two or more races.

Table 93. Violent crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, victim-offender relationship, and sex of victims**

Type of crime	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police								
	All victimizations			Involving strangers			Involving nonstrangers		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>47.1 %</b>	<b>44.2 %</b>	<b>50.4 %</b>	<b>47.9 %</b>	<b>44.5 %</b>	<b>54.8 %</b>	<b>46.2 %</b>	<b>43.7 %</b>	<b>48.0 %</b>
Completed violence	58.5	58.2	58.8	68.2	65.6	73.3	51.4	47.8	53.3
Attempted/threatened violence	42.6	39.5	46.6	41.6	38.1	49.0	43.7	42.0	45.0
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	41.4	12.7 *	48.3	52.7 *	0.0 *	52.7 *	35.5	12.7 *	45.1
Robbery	60.5	55.1	68.4	63.4	59.0	73.6	54.1	38.9 *	62.9
Completed/property taken	66.8	61.8	74.1	72.2	67.9	83.8	58.3	44.1 *	67.3
With injury	72.7	80.0	61.6 *	85.0	86.4	78.1 *	55.1 *	53.0 *	55.9 *
Without injury	63.2	50.4	81.5	64.8	54.5	85.5	60.5	40.4 *	77.5 *
Attempted to take property	47.4	41.4	56.5	50.3	44.4	61.6 *	31.0 *	0.0 *	42.7 *
With injury	34.5 *	51.8 *	12.3 *	39.5 *	51.8 *	17.3 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *
Without injury	54.6	36.1 *	84.9 *	56.6	40.3 *	89.1 *	44.3 *	0.0 *	73.0 *
Assault	45.5	43.2	48.4	44.8	41.7	51.6	46.3	45.4	46.9
Aggravated	62.0	61.3	62.8	62.9	56.2	76.8	61.0	69.5	54.0
With injury	74.1	83.5	63.1	82.7	78.4	94.7 *	66.5	92.6	51.7
Threatened with weapon	56.8	52.5	62.7	55.5	47.0	71.8	58.2	61.1	55.5
Simple	41.3	38.3	44.9	39.7	37.8	44.1	42.7	39.0	45.3
With minor injury	49.2	45.1	53.1	55.8	54.5	59.5 *	46.5	37.4	52.0
Attempted threat without weapon	39.4	36.9	42.7	37.6	35.5	42.4	41.4	39.5	42.8

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.



Table 93a. Property crimes, 2008:

**Number and percent distribution of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, and sex of head of household**

Type of crime	Number and percent of all victimizations reported to the police					
	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Property crimes</b>	<b>6,573,830</b>	<b>40.3 %</b>	<b>3,315,380</b>	<b>41.6 %</b>	<b>3,258,450</b>	<b>39.0 %</b>
Household burglary	1,792,630	56.2	854,740	59.7	937,890	53.4
Completed	1,500,510	57.7	718,760	61.0	781,750	55.0
Forcible entry	880,490	73.9	425,020	69.4	455,470	78.7
Unlawful entry/without force	620,030	44.0	293,740	51.9	326,280	38.7
Attempted forcible entry	292,120	49.5	135,980	53.7	156,140	46.4
Motor vehicle theft	633,010	79.6	338,030	79.9	294,980	79.3
Completed	540,550	91.1	281,210	90.0	259,340	92.4
Attempted	92,460	45.8	56,820	51.3	35,640 *	39.1 *
Theft	4,148,180	33.6	2,122,610	34.8	2,025,580	32.5
Completed	3,928,190	33.5	2,022,090	34.8	1,906,090	32.2
Less than \$50	556,500	19.5	324,830	23.2	231,680	15.9
\$50 - \$249	1,083,820	26.0	503,790	25.4	580,030	26.5
\$250 or more	1,762,440	54.0	939,330	54.5	823,110	53.4
Amount not available	525,420	36.3	254,150	35.7	271,280	36.9
Attempted	220,000	37.0	100,510	34.7	119,480	39.2

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 94. Violent crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, victim-offender relationship, and race of victims**

Type of crime	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police					
	All victimizations		Involving strangers		Involving nonstrangers	
	White only	Black only	White only	Black only	White only	Black only
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>45.8 %</b>	<b>59.2 %</b>	<b>46.8 %</b>	<b>55.0 %</b>	<b>44.8 %</b>	<b>66.0 %</b>
Completed violence	59.1	67.2	70.1	67.1	52.7	67.4
Attempted/threatened violence	41.3	54.0	41.2	47.5	41.3	65.0
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	43.5	49.5 *	55.6 *	56.3 *	39.9	37.2 *
Robbery	63.3	62.9	70.0	64.0	53.2	58.4 *
Completed/property taken	66.8	66.1	76.1	69.4	56.4	58.4 *
With injury	67.4	100.0 *	92.3	100.0 *	46.8 *	100.0 *
Without injury	66.4	55.2	67.5	59.9	64.8 *	44.1 *
Attempted to take property	55.4	55.3 *	60.4	55.3 *	37.8 *	0.0 *
With injury	54.8 *	45.9 *	64.5 *	45.9 *	0.0 *	0.0 *
Without injury	55.5	63.0 *	59.2 *	63.0 *	44.3 *	0.0 *
Assault	44.2	59.1	43.8	51.1	44.5	69.4
Aggravated	56.5	83.1	59.8	72.9	52.9	92.2
With injury	72.2	96.2	82.9	100.0 *	61.7	94.2 *
Threatened with weapon	49.9	76.6	50.8	64.6 *	48.9	90.7
Simple	41.2	49.8	39.5	44.5	42.7	57.8
With minor injury	51.6	62.1	54.8	59.8 *	50.5	65.1 *
Attempted threat without weapon	39.0	46.1	37.8	40.4	40.2	55.3

Note: Excludes data on persons with races other than white only and black only.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 95. Violent crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, victim-offender relationship, and ethnicity of victims**

Type of crime	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police					
	All victimizations		Involving strangers		Involving nonstrangers	
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>48.5 %</b>	<b>46.9 %</b>	<b>45.7 %</b>	<b>48.3 %</b>	<b>52.5 %</b>	<b>45.5 %</b>
Completed violence	60.8	58.2	72.4	67.3	45.4 *	52.1
Attempted/threatened violence	42.9	42.6	34.2	42.8	55.9	42.4
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	22.2 *	43.7	100.0 *	49.3 *	0.0 *	40.5
Robbery	54.6	62.1	55.3	66.2	51.1 *	54.4
Completed/property taken	76.4	64.8	87.7	68.5	51.1 *	59.5
With injury	76.7 *	72.3	100.0 *	83.1	0.0 *	57.8 *
Without injury	76.4	59.3	84.6 *	58.4	59.4 *	60.8
Attempted to take property	28.4 *	55.4	28.4 *	62.0	0.0 *	31.0 *
With injury	33.3 *	36.0 *	33.3 *	49.4 *	0.0 *	0.0 *
Without injury	19.4 *	61.4	19.4 *	65.5	0.0 *	44.3 *
Assault	48.2	45.3	40.5	45.4	57.1	45.1
Aggravated	62.1	61.9	57.5	64.2	73.6 *	59.8
With injury	75.8 *	73.8	69.6 *	87.6	100.0 *	64.4
Threatened with weapon	55.3	57.0	50.2 *	56.6	65.4 *	57.5
Simple	42.7	41.2	30.6	40.7	53.6	41.6
With minor injury	44.9 *	49.7	48.4 *	56.9	42.7 *	46.9
Without injury	42.2	39.2	27.1 *	38.7	57.0	39.7

Note: Excludes data on persons whose ethnicity was not ascertained.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 96. Personal crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police,  
by type of crime and age of victims**

Type of crime	Percent of victimizations reported to the police				
	12-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65 or older
<b>All personal crimes</b>	<b>34.3 %</b>	<b>53.1 %</b>	<b>52.3 %</b>	<b>51.1 %</b>	<b>46.0 %</b>
Crimes of violence	33.9	53.0	51.7	50.7	46.7
Completed violence	53.0	55.5	69.8	67.0	64.9 *
Attempted/threatened violence	25.1	51.9	45.7	47.6	43.3
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	28.1 *	37.3 *	64.9 *	16.3 *	66.7 *
Robbery	51.0	55.2	73.8	78.3 *	100.0 *
Completed/property taken	52.7	68.2	78.0	80.7 *	100.0 *
With injury	52.8 *	75.6	92.7 *	100.0 *	100.0 *
Without injury	52.7	61.8	70.1 *	78.4 *	100.0 *
Attempted to take property	46.8 *	29.7 *	66.8 *	72.8 *	0.0 *
With injury	57.8 *	0.0 *	25.6 *	100.0 *	0.0 *
Without injury	34.5 *	42.8 *	82.5 *	63.3 *	0.0 *
Assault	31.6	53.5	47.9	49.2	41.1
Aggravated	51.8	63.6	72.8	60.3	42.8 *
With injury	72.2	68.5	100.0 *	69.2 *	0.0 *
Threatened with weapon	37.9	60.9	66.0	58.7	42.8 *
Simple	27.2	50.4	42.0	46.2	40.8 *
With minor injury	47.5	45.4	55.5	61.9 *	33.4 *
Without injury	21.9	51.8	39.1	44.4	41.2 *
Purse snatching/pocket picking	47.7 *	60.2 *	68.1 *	61.6 *	41.5 *

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 97. Property crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, form of tenure, and race and ethnicity of head of household**

Type of crime	Percent of victimizations reported to the police														
	Both forms					Owned					Rented				
	All house-holds <sup>a</sup>	White only	Black only	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	All house-holds <sup>a</sup>	White only	Black only	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	All house-holds	White only	Black only	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
<b>Property crimes</b>	<b>40.3 %</b>	<b>39.7 %</b>	<b>44.9 %</b>	<b>36.0 %</b>	<b>41.1 %</b>	<b>41.8 %</b>	<b>41.2 %</b>	<b>47.3 %</b>	<b>36.9 %</b>	<b>42.5 %</b>	<b>38.1 %</b>	<b>37.1 %</b>	<b>43.0 %</b>	<b>35.2 %</b>	<b>38.9 %</b>
Household burglary	56.2	54.2	63.8	51.6	57.0	57.6	54.8	71.8	50.6	58.5	54.6	53.3	58.4	52.4	55.0
Completed	57.7	54.7	68.5	53.1	58.5	58.4	55.6	74.2	50.1	59.5	56.9	53.3	64.8	55.5	57.2
Forcible entry	73.9	70.4	83.7	59.6	77.3	77.9	74.7	90.8	55.2	82.3	69.0	64.3	78.0	63.4	70.6
Unlawful entry without force	44.0	42.9	50.0	43.2	44.1	42.5	42.4	47.2 *	40.5 *	42.6	46.1	43.8	51.4	44.9	46.4
Attempted forcible entry	49.5	51.5	48.2	45.6	50.3	53.2	49.3	64.6	52.6 *	53.3	46.4	53.5	35.3	39.4	47.7
Motor vehicle theft	79.6	80.7	81.3	78.1	80.0	79.2	81.7	79.0	70.9	81.1	80.1	79.2	83.1	85.6	78.5
Completed	91.1	90.4	96.8	97.2	89.8	89.5	88.2	95.4	93.5	88.8	93.2	94.0	97.9	100.0	91.2
Attempted	45.8	52.6	35.8 *	40.0 *	47.9	47.9	59.8	37.8 *	40.9 *	51.1	43.4	44.4	33.8	38.4	44.6
Theft	33.6	34.1	32.8	28.7	34.6	35.9	36.2	34.9	30.8	36.6	30.3	30.6	31.0	26.8	31.2
Completed	33.5	33.9	32.6	28.9	34.3	35.5	35.9	35.1	31.4	36.1	30.3	30.7	30.5	26.6	31.3
Less than \$50	19.5	19.0	24.4	13.8	20.3	21.4	22.1	16.2 *	11.3 *	22.7	16.4	13.5	29.7	16.3	16.5
\$50 - \$249	26.0	27.2	22.5	20.2	27.1	28.2	29.1	25.6	20.2	29.3	23.0	24.2	19.8	20.2	23.7
\$250 or more	54.0	54.8	50.8	47.0	55.5	56.1	56.0	55.4	54.5	56.4	50.9	52.9	46.8	40.1	54.0
Amount not available	36.3	35.9	36.2	33.8	36.7	38.5	37.7	40.3	37.8	38.6	32.0	31.4	32.1	29.7	32.7
Attempted	37.0	37.8	36.8 *	26.1 *	39.2	42.4	43.8	27.8 *	21.9 *	45.9	29.0	28.6	45.5	30.7	28.6

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes data on persons other than white only and black only, not shown separately.

Table 98. Property crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police,  
by type of crime and form of tenure**

Type of crime	Percent of victimizations reported to the police		
	Both forms	Owned	Rented
<b>Property crimes</b>	<b>40.3 %</b>	<b>41.8 %</b>	<b>38.1 %</b>
Household burglary	56.2	57.6	54.6
Completed	57.7	58.4	56.9
Forcible entry	73.9	77.9	69.0
Unlawful entry without force	44.0	42.5	46.1
Attempted forcible entry	49.5	53.2	46.4
Motor vehicle theft	79.6	79.2	80.1
Completed	91.1	89.5	93.2
Attempted	45.8	47.9	43.4
Theft	33.6	35.9	30.3
Completed	33.5	35.5	30.3
Less than \$50	19.5	21.4	16.4
\$50 - \$249	26.0	28.2	23.0
\$250 or more	54.0	56.1	50.9
Amount not available	36.3	38.5	32.0
Attempted	37.0	42.4	29.0

Table 99. Property crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police,  
by type of crime and annual family income**

Type of crime	Percent of victimizations reported to the police						
	Less than \$7,500	\$7,500- \$14,999	\$15,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$34,999	\$35,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$74,999	\$75,000 or more
<b>Property crimes</b>	<b>35.1 %</b>	<b>34.6 %</b>	<b>36.0 %</b>	<b>37.5 %</b>	<b>42.7 %</b>	<b>40.3 %</b>	<b>43.4 %</b>
Household burglary	53.7	43.4	56.7	57.2	57.4	62.1	68.0
Completed	60.7	51.2	55.4	51.7	59.3	61.2	69.2
Forcible entry	73.3	65.7	71.3	64.6	83.1	74.5	83.5
Unlawful entry without force	45.5 *	41.4	43.7	36.1	40.8	50.7	58.0
Attempted forcible entry	35.0 *	22.5 *	62.1 *	79.6	52.4	67.0 *	55.4 *
Motor vehicle theft	75.0 *	65.2 *	79.4	84.5	80.6	77.9	87.9
Completed	80.5 *	83.7 *	88.8	93.8	95.2	96.2	94.3
Attempted	37.5 *	21.5 *	0.0 *	36.3 *	32.6 *	35.7 *	68.1 *
Theft /a	24.8	28.5	28.4	29.1	36.5	32.5	37.5
Completed	23.7	30.6	28.5	28.5	36.4	32.7	36.7
Less than \$50	12.1 *	11.0 *	21.4	14.1	22.7	15.7	21.4
\$50 - \$249	18.6	28.0	21.5	23.9	27.0	28.9	27.5
\$250 or more	34.3	45.4	47.6	54.6	58.3	52.6	59.0
Amount not available	41.7 *	51.2 *	30.3 *	26.4	44.1	29.5	36.6
Attempted	80.4 *	4.9 *	28.3 *	46.9 *	38.2 *	30.5 *	51.0

Note: Excludes data on persons whose family income level was not ascertained.

\* Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

a/ Theft includes crimes previously classified as "Personal larceny without contact" and "Household larceny."

Table 100. Property crimes, 2008:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police,  
by value of loss and type of crime**

Value of loss <sup>a</sup>	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police			
	All property crimes	Household burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
<b>All losses<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>39.6 %</b>	<b>58.9 %</b>	<b>91.1 %</b>	<b>33.5 %</b>
Less than \$10 <sup>c</sup>	27.6	66.1 *	0.0 *	25.7
\$10 -\$49	17.0	13.9 *	0.0 *	17.3
\$50-\$99	21.8	32.6 *	49.9 *	20.9
\$100-\$249	29.8	40.5	0.0 *	28.5
\$250-\$499	46.4	48.4	65.0 *	45.9
\$500-\$999	52.7	67.9	60.6 *	47.7
\$1,000 or more	79.6	82.4	92.8	71.2

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>The proportions refer only to losses of cash and/or property and exclude the value of property damage.

<sup>b</sup>Includes data for victims who did not provide a specific value for their losses.

<sup>c</sup>Includes items that had no value.



Table 101. Personal and property crimes, 2008:

Percent of reasons for reporting victimizations to the police, by type of crime

Type of crime	Number of reasons for reporting	Total	Percent of reasons for reporting												
			Stop or prevent this incident	Needed help due to injury	To recover property	To collect insurance	To prevent further crimes by offender against victim	To prevent crime by offender against anyone	To punish offender	To catch or find offender	To improve police surveillance	Duty to notify police	Because it was a crime	Some other reason	Not available
<b>All personal crimes</b>	<b>2,361,580</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>1.1 *</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Crimes of violence	2,210,620	100 %	30.5	2.0	4.7	0.9 *	17.3	8.6	8.7	3.2	3.3	4.0	13.3	2.4	1.0
Completed violence	810,440	100 %	21.3	3.8 *	10.6	0.9 *	13.1	9.5	10.5	4.6	3.7	3.5	16.2	2.1	0.5
Attempted/threatened violence	1,400,180	100 %	35.9	1.0 *	1.3 *	0.9 *	19.7	8.1	7.7	2.4	3.0	4.3	11.7	2.6	1.4
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	82,280	100 %	40.1 *	6.6 *	2.4 *	0.0 *	9.4	7.3	2.4	8.5	0.0	6.1	17.1	0.0	0.0
Robbery	468,760	100 %	20.4	2.6 *	19.9	1.5 *	10.5 *	9.2	7.1	6.4	4.4	4.6	11.2	1.4	0.8
Completed/property taken	394,990	100 %	20.5	2.5 *	21.7	1.8 *	7.8	7.6	6.7	7.6	4.6	4.9	11.6	1.7	0.9
With injury	99,670	100 %	20.1 *	9.8 *	19.8 *	0.0 *	9.7 *	6.5	6.5	6.6	0.0	3.1	14.4	3.4	0.0
Without injury	295,320	100 %	20.7	0.0 *	22.3	2.4 *	7.1 *	8.0	6.8	7.9	6.2	5.5	10.7	1.1	1.2
Attempted to take property	73,770	100 %	19.7 *	3.2 *	10.3 *	0.0 *	24.9 *	17.3	9.1	0.0	3.2	3.2	9.2	0.0	0.0
With injury	16,690 *	100 %*	20.0 *	0.0 *	20.0 *	0.0 *	20.0 *	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Without injury	57,080	100 %	19.7 *	4.1 *	7.5 *	0.0 *	26.4 *	16.5	5.9	0.0	4.1	4.1	11.9	0.0	0.0
Assault	1,659,580	100 %	32.9	1.6 *	0.5 *	0.8 *	19.6 *	8.5	9.4	2.0	3.1	3.8	13.7	2.8	1.2
Aggravated	452,900	100 %	24.4	0.8 *	0.8 *	0.0 *	19.9	11.2	10.4	4.4	4.6	7.3	12.0	3.4	0.9
Simple	1,206,680	100 %	36.1	2.0 *	0.4 *	1.1 *	19.5	7.5	9.1	1.1	2.5	2.4	14.4	2.6	1.2
Purse snatching/pocket picking	150,960	100 %	10.1 *	0.0 *	26.4	3.0 *	6.1	10.4	10.3	8.1	8.3	9.0	8.3	0.0	0.0
<b>All property crimes</b>	<b>8,358,060</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Household burglary	2,634,550	100 %	13.0	0.9 *	18.1	5.1	13.0	6.1	4.9	5.0	6.7	5.8	17.9	1.4	2.0
Completed	2,297,060	100 %	11.8	1.0 *	20.5	5.6	12.9	6.7	5.2	5.3	6.2	5.6	15.8	1.4	2.1
Forcible entry	1,486,160	100 %	12.2	1.5 *	19.6	6.9	12.3	6.8	5.8	5.8	6.4	6.0	13.3	1.3	2.1
Unlawful entry without forc	810,900	100 %	11.0	0.2 *	22.1	3.1 *	14.0	6.3	4.2	4.5	5.9	4.7	20.4	1.4	2.2
Attempted forcible entry	337,490	100 %	21.6	0.0 *	1.5 *	2.2 *	13.5	2.7	2.7	3.1	9.7	7.2	32.6	1.8	1.3
Motor vehicle theft	768,540	100 %	5.2	0.4 *	33.0	9.8	9.9	4.3	5.6	2.9	6.1	4.2	17.5	0.8	0.4
Completed	686,320	100 %	3.9 *	0.5 *	36.9	9.1	9.2	4.3	5.1	3.0	5.8	3.8	17.3	0.8	0.5
Attempted	82,210	100 %	15.9 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	16.0 *	15.7 *	4.2	10.3	2.0	8.4	7.8	19.7	0.0	0.0
Theft	4,954,970	100 %	10.5	0.3 *	25.5	4.7	9.3	5.5	3.9	3.9	7.5	7.1	18.2	2.1	1.3
Completed	4,728,880	100 %	10.2	0.3 *	26.5	4.8	9.0	5.3	4.0	3.9	7.3	7.2	18.0	2.2	1.3
Attempted	226,090	100 %	17.8	0.0 *	5.6 *	3.8 *	15.4 *	10.1	1.6	4.2	12.4	5.7	21.7	0.0	1.6

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding and because some respondents cited more than one reason for reporting victimizations to the police.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 102. Personal and property crimes, 2008:

Percent of reasons for not reporting victimizations to the police, by type of crime

Type of crime	Number of reasons for not reporting	Percent of reasons for not reporting											
		Total	Reported to another official	Private or personal matter	Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	Not important enough	Insurance would not cover	Not aware crime occurred until later	Unable to recover or identify property	Lack of proof	Police would not want to be bothered	Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	Fear of reprisal
<b>All personal crimes</b>	<b>2,873,730</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>0.0 *</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Crimes of violence	2,807,200	100 %	17.4	18.9	15.8	4.5	0.0 *	0.4	0.2	2.2	9.2	3.6	7.2
Completed violence	640,610	100 %	18.0	19.2	7.9	1.8 *	0.0 *	1.2	0.4	2.1	12.0	7.1	12.2
Attempted/threatened violence	2,166,590	100 %	17.2	18.8	18.1	5.2	0.0 *	0.2	0.1	2.2	8.4	2.5	5.8
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	142,380	100 %	19.5 *	22.4 *	15.8 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.4	4.2	11.3
Robbery	294,130	100 %	10.9 *	5.1 *	9.8 *	1.5 *	0.0 *	0.0	0.9	5.8	15.7	10.1	9.9
Completed/property taken	147,630	100 %	19.5 *	3.8 *	5.1 *	2.9 *	0.0 *	0.0	1.7	4.3	17.5	7.6	15.2
With injury	47,260	100 %	21.1 *	4.2 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	15.7	9.5
Without injury	100,380	100 %	18.8 *	3.6 *	7.5 *	4.3 *	0.0 *	0.0	2.5	6.4	15.2	3.7	17.9
Attempted to take property	146,500	100 %	2.2 *	6.5 *	14.6 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0	0.0	7.2	14.0	12.7	4.6
With injury	52,870	100 %	0.0 *	9.2 *	11.2 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	7.2	6.1
Without injury	93,630	100 %	3.4 *	4.9 *	16.4 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.9	15.8	3.8
Assault	2,370,690	100 %	18.1	20.4	16.5	5.1	0.0 *	0.5	0.1	1.7	8.8	2.7	6.6
Aggravated	303,620	100 %	11.4 *	25.8	15.8	4.7 *	0.0 *	0.0	0.0	1.3	3.3	5.2	5.9
Simple	2,067,070	100 %	19.1	19.6	16.6	5.2	0.0 *	0.6	0.1	1.8	9.6	2.4	6.7
Purse snatching/pocket picking	66,520	100 %	0.0 *	9.1 *	32.6 *	4.7 *	0.0 *	12.4	5.0	5.8	10.7	0.0	0.0
<b>All property crimes</b>	<b>11,480,720</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Household burglary	1,613,070	100 %	4.9	5.8	20.6	3.8	1.9 *	9.5	4.3	7.9	16.8	7.0	2.6
Completed	1,305,110	100 %	3.2	6.1	18.3	2.4 *	2.3 *	10.7	5.3	9.3	17.3	8.1	2.3
Forcible entry	371,570	100 %	4.5 *	2.5 *	16.3	0.0 *	4.3 *	12.7	5.4	7.3	17.9	13.1	2.3
Unlawful entry without force	933,550	100 %	2.8 *	7.6	19.2	3.3 *	1.5 *	9.9	5.3	10.1	17.1	6.1	2.3
Attempted forcible entry	307,960	100 %	11.9 *	4.2 *	30.1	9.9 *	0.0 *	4.5	0.0	1.9	14.5	2.7	3.8
Motor vehicle theft	188,470	100 %	1.1 *	16.0 *	17.7 *	3.1 *	3.3 *	5.9	2.6	16.3	8.7	5.4	0.0
Completed	62,440	100 %	0.0 *	30.5 *	12.5 *	4.3 *	4.8 *	4.3	4.6	4.8	9.6	5.8	0.0
Attempted	126,020	100 %	1.6 *	8.8 *	20.2 *	2.4 *	2.5 *	6.7	1.6	22.1	8.3	5.2	0.0
Theft	9,679,190	100 %	7.2	5.1	25.6	3.5	2.3	5.4	5.9	9.3	17.4	4.6	0.7
Completed	9,264,420	100 %	7.3	5.1	25.0	3.6	2.3	5.5	6.1	9.4	17.7	4.5	0.7
Attempted	414,770	100 %	5.0 *	5.8 *	38.8	2.4 *	1.6 *	3.6	3.2	7.9	10.6	6.7	0.7

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding and because some respondents cited more than one reason for not reporting victimizations to the police.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 103. Personal crimes, 2008:

**Percent distribution of reasons for not reporting victimizations to the police, by race of victims and type of crime**

Race and type of crime	Percent of reasons for not reporting													
	Total	Reported to another official	Private or personal matter	Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	Not important enough	Insurance would not cover	Not aware crime occurred until later	Unable to recover or identify property	Lack of proof	Police would not want to be bothered	Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	Fear of reprisal	Too time consuming or inconvenient	Other reasons
<b>White only</b>														
<b>All personal crimes</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.0 *</b>	<b>0.7 *</b>	<b>0.4 *</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>
Crimes of violence	100 %	16.6	19.4	16.6	4.6	0.0 *	0.6 *	0.3 *	1.6 *	7.5	4.0	8.0	4.8	16.1
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	100 %	13.4 *	21.1 *	21.1 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	3.7 *	4.0 *	6.9 *	18.5 *	0.0 *	11.3 *
Robbery	100 %	9.7 *	3.2 *	7.0 *	2.5 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	1.5 *	1.7 *	16.8 *	12.7 *	15.0 *	9.8 *	20.1 *
Assault	100 %	17.4	20.7	17.2	5.0	0.0 *	0.6 *	0.2 *	1.5 *	6.8	3.1	6.9	4.6	15.9
Purse snatching/pocket picking	100 %	0.0 *	11.5 *	24.2 *	5.9 *	0.0 *	6.5 *	6.4 *	7.3 *	13.5 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	12.5 *	12.2 *
<b>Black only</b>														
<b>All personal crimes</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>8.3 *</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>3.1 *</b>	<b>0.0 *</b>	<b>1.4 *</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.9 *</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>0.0 *</b>	<b>2.7 *</b>	<b>6.2 *</b>	<b>17.7</b>
Crimes of violence	100 %	31.5	8.6 *	11.7	3.2 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	4.1 *	13.3	0.0 *	2.8 *	6.4 *	18.4
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	100 %	55.7 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	44.3 *
Robbery	100 %	15.8 *	0.0 *	25.6 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	9.7 *	20.2 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	9.7 *	18.9 *
Assault	100 %	32.9	12.0 *	9.3 *	4.5 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	3.0 *	13.0 *	0.0 *	3.9 *	6.2 *	15.1 *
Purse snatching/pocket picking	100 %	0.0 *	0.0 *	57.8 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	42.2 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding and because some respondents cited more than one reason for not reporting victimizations to the police. Excludes data on persons with race other than white only or black only.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault

Table 104. Personal crimes of violence, 2008:

**Percent distribution of reasons for not reporting victimizations to the police, by victim-offender relationship and type of crime**

Relationship and type of crime	Number of reasons for not reporting	Percent of reasons for not reporting													
		Total	Reported to another official	Private or personal matter	Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	Not important enough	Insurance would not cover	Not aware crime occurred until later	Unable to recover or identify property	Lack of proof	Police would not want to be bothered	Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	Fear of reprisal	Too inconvenient or time consuming	Other reasons
<b>Involving strangers</b>															
Crimes of violence	1,350,670	100 %	19.1	15.0	18.4	5.9	0.0 *	0.6 *	0.4 *	2.4 *	8.9	2.2 *	4.0	7.7	15.2
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	33,430 *	100 %*	47.9 *	13.3 *	38.8 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *
Robbery	169,580	100 %	13.1 *	4.8 *	12.6 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	1.5 *	5.5 *	17.5 *	6.6 *	8.2 *	18.1 *	12.1 *
Assault	1,147,660	100 %	19.2	16.6	18.6	7.0	0.0 *	0.7 *	0.3 *	2.0 *	7.9	1.7 *	3.6	6.4	16.1
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>															
Crimes of violence	1,456,530	100 %	15.8	22.4	13.3	3.1	0.0 *	0.3 *	0.0 *	1.9 *	9.5	4.8	10.2	2.2 *	16.5
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	108,950	100 %	10.8 *	25.1 *	8.8 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	3.0 *	3.2 *	5.5 *	14.8 *	0.0 *	28.8 *
Robbery	124,550	100 %	7.9 *	5.5 *	6 *	3.5 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	6.1 *	13.4 *	14.9 *	12.3 *	0.0 *	30.4
Assault	1,223,030	100 %	17.1	23.9	14.5	3.3	0.0 *	0.3 *	0.0 *	1.4 *	9.6	3.7	9.5	2.6 *	14.0

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Some respondents cited more than one reason for not reporting victimizations to the police.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 105. Property crimes, 2008:

**Percent distribution of reasons for not reporting victimizations to the police, by race of head of household and type of crime**

Race and reason for not reporting	All reasons provided	Reasons for not reporting			
		Total	Household burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
<b>White only</b>					
<b>Total</b>	9,214,120	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Reported to another official	607,400	6.6	3.7	1.6 *	7.1
Private or personal matter	491,910	5.3	5.6	16.5 *	5.1
Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	2,278,980	24.7	19.7	18.9 *	25.6
Not important enough	331,950	3.6	3.2	4.6 *	3.7
Insurance would not cover	209,290	2.3	2.1 *	4.9 *	2.3
Not aware crime occurred until later	548,460	6.0	9.4	8.9 *	5.3
Unable to recover or identify property	541,570	5.9	4.7	1.6 *	6.1
Lack of proof	847,850	9.2	8.1	19.8 *	9.2
Police would not want to be bothered	1,588,700	17.2	18.0	4.6 *	17.3
Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	490,310	5.3	8.3	6.3 *	4.8
Fear of reprisal	76,930	0.8	1.9 *	0.0 *	0.7
Too inconvenient or time consuming	369,760	4.0	2.7 *	2.2 *	4.3
Other reasons	831,010	9.0	12.7	9.9 *	8.4
<b>Black only</b>					
<b>Total</b>	1,480,470	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Reported to another official	117,020	7.9	9.1 *	0.0 *	7.9
Private or personal matter	90,080	6.1	8.1 *	6.4 *	5.7
Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	352,110	23.8	21.8	26.1 *	24.1
Not important enough	48,100	3.2	6.1 *	0.0 *	2.8 *
Insurance would not cover	37,570 *	2.5 *	1.5 *	0.0 *	2.8 *
Not aware crime occurred until later	105,110	7.1	11.6 *	0.0 *	6.5
Unable to recover or identify property	63,400	4.3	2.0 *	7.9 *	4.6
Lack of proof	134,090	9.1	7.6 *	7.2 *	9.4
Police would not want to be bothered	236,130	15.9	9.8 *	20.5 *	17.0
Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	35,460 *	2.4 *	1.1 *	6.2 *	2.5 *
Fear of reprisal	26,670 *	1.8 *	6.0 *	0.0 *	1.1 *
Too inconvenient or time consuming	85,410	5.8	3.8 *	0.0 *	6.3
Other reasons	149,340	10.1	11.5 *	25.8 *	9.4

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Excludes data on persons with race other than white only and black only. Some respondents cited more than one reason for not reporting victimizations to the police.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 106. Personal and property crimes, 2008:

Percent distribution of police response to a reported incident, by type of crime

Type of crime	Number of incidents	Percent of incidents						
		Total	Police came to victim	Victim went to police	Contact with police- don't know how	Police did not come	Not known if police came	Police were at the scene
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>2,057,630</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>0.0 *</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	84,440	100 %	80.5	9.0 *	0.0 *	10.5 *	0.0 *	0.0 *
Robbery	296,450	100 %	79.5	10.3 *	0.0 *	7.3 *	1.2 *	1.7 *
Aggravated assault	441,710	100 %	81.9	3.3 *	0.0 *	9.2	1.1 *	4.6 *
Simple assault	1,235,030	100 %	70.5	9.1	0.0 *	10.9	3.3	6.2
Purse snatching/pocket picking	78,790	100 %	60.5	16.1 *	0.0 *	17.2 *	0.0 *	6.1 *
<b>Property crimes</b>	<b>6,508,200</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.0 *</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Household burglary	1,772,440	100 %	85.7	1.5 *	0.0 *	7.6	4.2	1.0 *
Motor vehicle theft	624,370	100 %	80.6	4.8 *	0.0 *	12.5	0.8 *	1.3 *
Theft	4,111,380	100 %	61.3	7.4	0.0 *	26.4	3.7	1.2

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 107. Personal and property crimes, 2008:

**Percent distribution of incidents where police came to the victim,  
by type of crime and police response time**

Type of crime	Percent of incidents							
	Total	Within 5 minutes	6-10 minutes	11 minutes-1 hour	Within 1 day	Longer than 1 day	Length of time not known	Not ascertained
<b>Crimes of violence<sup>a</sup></b>	100 %	28.3	30.3	33.5	2.5	0.4 *	5.0	0.0 *
Robbery	100 %	32.3	38.8	28.3	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.6 *	0.0 *
Aggravated assault	100 %	20.9	32.6	36.4	4.8 *	0.0 *	5.4 *	0.0 *
Simple assault	100 %	31.4	28.0	31.8	2.4 *	0.1 *	6.2	0.0 *
<b>Property crimes</b>	100 %	12.8	20.2	47.8	12.6	1.9	4.7	0.0 *
Household burglary	100 %	13.6	21.8	46.9	12.6	1.9 *	3.3	0.0 *
Motor vehicle theft	100 %	12.5	22.2	49.1	11.5	1.3 *	3.3 *	0.0 *
Theft	100 %	12.5	18.9	48.0	12.7	2.0	5.9	0.1 *

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes data on rape and sexual assault, not shown separately.

Table 108. Personal and property crimes, 2008:

**Percent distribution of incidents, by police activity during initial contact with victim and type of crime**

Type of crime	Percent of incidents										
	Total	Took report	Looked around	Took evidence	Questioned witnesses/suspects	Promised surveillance	Promised to investigate	Made arrest	Other actions	Don't know	Not applicable
<b>Crimes of violence<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Robbery	100 %	44.2	16.0	5.0 *	11.7	0.3 *	9.6	7.1	4.3 *	1.0 *	0.7 *
Aggravated assault	100 %	42.7	11.2	3.3 *	17.0	0.6 *	3.5 *	12.6	7.1	0.7 *	1.3 *
Simple assault	100 %	42.1	6.3	2.9	19.7	1.8 *	4.1	13.1	7.3	1.8 *	0.9 *
Purse snatching/pocket picking	100 %	54.2	16.8 *	2.6 *	9.5 *	0.0 *	9.9 *	0.0 *	3.9 *	2.9 *	0.0 *
<b>Property crimes</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Household burglary	100 %	40.5	23.1	12.7	6.4	3.1	7.7	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.9
Motor vehicle theft	100 %	58.7	13.8	2.5 *	4.8	1.9 *	13.1	1.4 *	2.2 *	0.7 *	0.8 *
Theft	100 %	51.6	15.9	6.1	6.9	2.4	8.9	1.6	2.9	2.1	1.6

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Crimes of violence includes data on rape and sexual assault, not shown separately.



Table 109. Personal and property crimes, 2008:

## Percent distribution of the kind of agency providing assistance, by type of crime

Type of crime	Number of victimizations	Percent of agency type providing assistance						
		Total	Government	Private	Don't know type of agency	Received no assistance	Don't know if assistance was provided	Not applicable
<b>Personal crimes</b>	4,993,220	100 %	4.3	1.3	1.0	92.1	0.9	0.4 *
Crimes of violence	4,856,510	100 %	4.4	1.3	0.9	92.0	1.0	0.4 *
Completed violence	1,362,210	100 %	7.8	1.7 *	1.2 *	87.3	1.4 *	0.7 *
Attempted/threatened violence	3,494,300	100 %	3.1	1.1	0.8 *	93.9	0.8 *	0.3 *
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	203,830	100 %	5.9 *	8.8 *	3.0 *	82.3	0.0 *	0.0 *
Robbery	551,830	100 %	8.3	1.3 *	0.0 *	87.9	2.4 *	0.0 *
Assault	4,100,850	100 %	3.8	0.9 *	0.9	93.1	0.8 *	0.4 *
Aggravated	839,940	100 %	5.8	1.6 *	1.2 *	90.0	1.0 *	0.5 *
Simple	3,260,920	100 %	3.3	0.7 *	0.9	93.9	0.8 *	0.4 *
Purse snatching/ pocket picking	136,710	100 %	0.0 *	2.3 *	2.6 *	95.0	0.0 *	0.0 *
<b>Property crimes</b>	16,319,180	100 %	0.6	0.6	0.2 *	98.0	0.5	0.1 *
Household burglary	3,188,620	100 %	1.1 *	0.6 *	0.3 *	97.5	0.3 *	0.3 *
Motor vehicle theft	795,160	100 %	1.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	98.2	0.7 *	0.0 *
Theft	12,335,400	100 %	0.5	0.7	0.2 *	98.2	0.5	0.1 *

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

## **Survey Methodology for Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2008**

The survey results contained in this report are based on data gathered from residents living throughout the United States, including persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Crew members of merchant vessels, Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks, and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates, were not included in the scope of this survey. Similarly, U.S. citizens residing abroad and foreign visitors to this country were excluded. With these exceptions, individuals age 12 or older living in units selected for the sample were eligible to be interviewed.

### **Data Collection**

Each housing unit selected for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) remains in the sample for three years, with each of seven interviews taking place at 6-month intervals. An NCVS interviewer's first contact with a housing unit selected for the survey is in person. The interviewer may then conduct subsequent interviews by telephone. Each respondent is asked to recall crimes that occurred during the previous six months.

To elicit more accurate reporting of incidents, NCVS uses the self-respondent method which calls for the direct interviewing of each person 12 years or older in the household. An exception is made to use proxy interviewing instead of direct interviewing for the following three cases: 12- and 13-year-old persons when a knowledgeable household member insists they not be interviewed directly, incapacitated persons, and individuals absent from the household during the entire field-interviewing period. In the case of temporarily absent household members and persons who are physically or mentally incapable of granting interviews, interviewers may accept other household members as proxy respondents, and in certain situations non-household members may provide information for incapacitated persons.

From 1987 to June, 2007, some interviews were conducted using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI), a data collection mode which involves interviewing from centralized facilities and using a computerized instrument. In the CATI-eligible part of the sample, all interviews were done by telephone whenever possible, except for the first interview, which was primarily conducted in person. The telephone interviews were conducted by the CATI facilities in Hagerstown, Maryland and Tucson, Arizona.

Beginning in July 2006, the paper questionnaire was replaced by a Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) instrument. Each Field Representative (FR) uses a computer questionnaire on a laptop to collect NCVS data.

### **Sample Design and Size**

Survey estimates are derived from a stratified, multi-stage cluster sample. The primary sampling units (PSU's) composing the first stage of the sample are counties, groups of counties, or large metropolitan areas. Large PSU's are included in the sample automatically and are considered to be self-representing (SR) since all of them were selected. The remaining PSU's, called non-self-representing (NSR), because only a subset of them was selected, were combined into strata by grouping PSU's with similar geographic and demographic characteristics, as determined by the 2000 Census. The 2000-based PSUs were brought into the survey in 2006.

In the second stage of sampling, each selected stratification PSU is divided into four non-overlapping frames (unit, area, permit, and group quarters) from which NCVS independently selects its sample. For each selected stratification PSU, clusters of approximately four housing units or housing unit equivalents are selected from each frame. For the unit and group quarters frames, addresses come from the 2000 Census. For the permit frame, addresses come from building permit data obtained from building permit offices. This ensures that units built after the 2000 Census are included in the sample. For the area frame, sample blocks come from the 2000 Census files. Then, addresses are listed and sampled in the field.

The actual number of households and persons interviewed in the NCVS sample varies slightly from year to year. Information on the number of households and persons interviewed in the 6-month period by year is presented below. Each household was interviewed twice during the year. (Also see spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08mresp.csv>).

Number of households and persons interviewed by year

Year	Number of households interviewed	Household participation rate	Number of persons interviewed	Participation rate for persons
1996	45,390	93%	85,330	91%
1997	42,910	95%	79,470	90%
1998	43,150	94%	78,900	89%
1999	42,890	93%	77,750	89%
2000	43,400	93%	79,710	90%
2001	43,680	93%	79,950	89%
2002	42,340	92%	76,050	87%
2003	41,830	92%	74,520	86%
2004	42,180	91%	74,290	86%
2005	38,610	91%	67,020	84%
2006	37,990	91%	67,630	86%
2007	41,450	90%	73,650	86%
2008	38,060	90%	67,090	86%

In order to conduct field interviews, the sample is divided into six groups, or rotations, and each group of households are interviewed once every six months over a period of three years. From the inception of the survey until 2007, the initial interview was used to bound the interviews (bounding establishes a time frame to avoid duplication of crimes on subsequent interviews), but was not used to compute the annual estimates. Beginning in 2007, the first interview is included in the estimates. Each rotation group is further divided into six panels. A different panel of households, corresponding to one sixth of each rotation group, is interviewed each month during the 6-month period. Because the survey is continuous, newly constructed housing units are selected as described, and assigned to rotation groups and panels for subsequent incorporation into the sample. A new rotation group enters the sample every six months, replacing a group phased out after being in the sample for three years. (Also see spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08mmon.csv>).

Month of Interview by Month of Reference

(X's denote months in the 6-month reference period)

Month of interview	Period of reference within bounded period											
	First Quarter			Second Quarter			Third Quarter			Fourth Quarter		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
January												
February	X											
March	X	X										
April	X	X	X									
May	X	X	X	X								
June	X	X	X	X	X							
July	X	X	X	X	X	X						
August		X	X	X	X	X	X					
September			X	X	X	X	X	X				
October				X	X	X	X	X	X			
November					X	X	X	X	X	X		
December						X	X	X	X	X	X	
January							X	X	X	X	X	X
February								X	X	X	X	X
March									X	X	X	X
April										X	X	X
May											X	X
June												X
July												

Selection of Cases for CATI

From 1987 to March 2003, the NCVS sample PSU's fell into three groups of CATI usage: maximum-CATI PSU's, where all the segments in the PSU are CATI-eligible; half-CATI PSU's, where half of the segments in the PSU are randomly designated to be CATI-eligible; and no-CATI PSU's, where none of the segments are CATI-eligible. The level of CATI usage for each PSU was established with concern toward an optimal workload for the field interviewers. In the "half-CATI" PSU's, a random sample of about 50% of the segments in each PSU is taken and designated as CATI-eligible. From March 2003 through June 2007, addresses in all segments became eligible for CATI interviewing. CATI cases were interviewed from CATI facilities while the other sample cases were interviewed by the standard NCVS field procedures. Beginning in July 2007, CATI was discontinued as a mode of data collection.

**Collection Year Estimates**

The data presented in the tables were collected during the calendar year being estimated. Because of the retrospective nature of the survey, the estimates include some incidents that actually occurred during the previous year. Analyses comparing the victimization information collected in a calendar year (termed a collection year) to that obtained about victimizations experienced in the same calendar year (called a

data year) show only a small difference between the two methods. The differences will be greater during periods of changing crime rates and less during periods of stable rates.

### **New Race Information**

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 race category. In prior years they were asked to select a single primary race.

Racial categories presented in these tables now consist of the following: white only, black only, other race only (American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, 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). 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.

### **Estimation Procedure**

Annual collection year estimates of the levels and rates of victimization are derived by accumulating four quarterly estimates. The weights of all crimes reported during interviews in that year are summed, regardless of when the crime occurred. The base for the collection year rate for personal crime is the sum of all person weights. Likewise, the base for the property crime rates is the sum of all household weights.

The estimation procedure begins with the application of a base weight to the data from each individual interviewed. The base weight is the reciprocal of the probability of each unit's selection for the sample, and provides a rough measure of the population represented by each person in the sample. Next, an adjustment is made to account for households and individuals in occupied units who were selected for the survey but unavailable for an interview.

In addition to adjusting for unequal probabilities of selection and observation, the final weight also includes a ratio adjustment to known population totals based on the adjusted counts from the 1990 Census. Specifically, the final person weight is the product of the values of the following six component weights; the final household weight is the product of all components except the within-household non-interview adjustment component detailed below:

#### *Probabilities of selection*

- Base weight: the inverse of the sample unit's probability of selection.
- Weighting control factor: adjusts for any subsampling due to unexpected events in the field, such as unusually high growth in new construction, area segments larger than anticipated, and other deviations from the overall stratum sampling rate.

#### *Probabilities of observation (Nonresponse)*

- Household non-interview adjustment: adjusts for nonresponse at the household level by inflating the weight assigned to interviewed households so that they represent themselves and non-interviewed households.
- Within-household non-interview adjustment: adjusts for nonresponse at the person level by inflating the weight assigned to the interviewed persons so that they represent themselves and the missed interviews.

### *Post-stratification ratio adjustment to known population totals*

The distribution of the sample population may differ somewhat from that of the total population in terms of age, race, sex, residence, and other characteristics. Because of this, two stages of ratio estimation are employed to bring the two distributions into closer agreement, thereby reducing the variability of the sample estimates.

- First-stage factor: the first stage of ratio estimation is applied only to non-self-representing PSU's. Its purpose is to reduce sampling error caused by selecting one PSU to represent an entire stratum. It adjusts for race and zone of residence differences between the sample non-self-representing PSU's and the population non-self-representing PSU's (for self-representing PSU's this factor is set to 1).
- Second-stage factor: the second stage of ratio estimation is applied on an individual basis to bring the distribution of individuals in the sample into closer agreement with independent current estimates of the population according to age, sex, and race characteristics<sup>1</sup>. This factor is defined for each person to adjust for the difference between weighted counts of persons (using the above five weight components) and independent estimates of the number of persons, within the defined cells. These independent estimates are projections based on the 2000 Census population controls adjusted for the undercount.

### *Bounding Adjustment for Inclusion of First Interview*

For many years the first interview was not used in the estimation but used solely for bounding purposes. Beginning in 2007, the first interview is used in estimation. We expect first interviews to report more crimes than they should due to telescoping (including more incidents in the recall period than actually happened then). We adjust the weights used to estimate the number of victimizations and incidents of the first interview cases to account for this. The adjustment is a rolling adjustment computed each month based on the previous 12 months of data. It adjusts the first interviews to an average of the crime rates for all the different times-in-sample.

For household crimes, the characteristics of the wife in a husband-wife household and the characteristics of the head of household in other types of households are used to determine the ratio adjustment factors. This procedure is considered more precise than simply using the characteristics of the head of household since sample coverage is generally better for females than males.

For estimates involving *incidents* rather than *victimizations*, further adjustments are made to those cases where an incident involved more than one person. These incidents have more than one chance of being included in the sample so each multiple-victimization is reduced by the number of victims. Thus, if two people are victimized during the same incident, the weight assigned to that incident is the person weight reduced by one-half so that the incident cannot be counted twice. However, the details of the event's outcome as they related to the victim are reflected in the survey results. No adjustment is necessary in estimating data on household crimes because each separate crime is defined as involving only one household.

### **Series Victimizations**

A series victimization is defined as six or more similar but separate crimes which the victim is unable to recall individually or describe in detail to an interviewer. These series crimes have been excluded from the tables because the victims were unable to provide details for each event. Data on series crimes are

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<sup>1</sup> Armed forced personnel who are eligible to be interviewed are not included in the second-stage ratio estimate and receive a factor of 1.

gathered by the calendar quarter(s) of occurrence, making it possible to match the time frames used in tabulating the data for non-series crimes (See Table 110).

The effect of combining series and non-series crimes, counting each of the series crimes as a single victimization based on the details of the most recent incident, was included in the initial release of the 1980 data<sup>2</sup>. The report showed that victimization counts and rates were higher in 1979 and 1980 when the series crimes were added. However, rate changes between these two years were basically in the same direction and significantly affected the same crimes as those affected when only non-series crimes were analyzed.

### **Accuracy of Estimates**

The accuracy of an estimate is a measure of its total error, that is, the sum of all the errors affecting the estimate: sampling error as well as nonsampling error.

The sample used for the NCVS is one of a large number of possible samples of equal size that could have been obtained by using the same sample design and selection procedures. Estimates derived from different samples would differ from one another due to sampling variability, or sampling error.

The standard error of a survey estimate is a measure of the variation among that estimates from all possible samples. Therefore, it is a measure of the precision (reliability) with which a particular estimate approximates the average result of all possible samples. The estimate and its associated standard error may be used to construct a confidence interval. A confidence interval is a range of numbers which has a specified probability that the average of all possible samples, which is the true unknown value of interest in an unbiased design, is contained within the interval. About 68% of the time, the survey estimate will differ from the true average by less than one standard error. Only 10% of the time will the difference be more than 1.6 standard errors, and just one time in 100 will it be greater than 2.5 standard errors. A 95% confidence interval is the survey estimate plus or minus about twice the standard error, thus there is a 95% chance that the result of a complete census would fall within the confidence interval.

In addition to sampling error, the estimates in this report are subject to nonsampling error. While substantial care is taken in the NCVS to reduce the sources of nonsampling error throughout all the survey operations, by means of a quality assurance program, quality controls, operational controls, and error-correcting procedures, an unquantified amount of nonsampling error remains still.

One major source of nonsampling error is caused by nonresponse. An entire household may be not be interviewed or one or more persons within the household may not be interviewed. The weights of eligible interviewed households and persons are increased to account for those who do not respond, but nonresponse error can be introduced if the crime characteristics of the interviewed households or persons differ from those not interviewed.

Other sources of nonsampling error are related to the inability of the respondents to recall in detail the crimes which occurred during the six months prior to the interview. Research based on interviews of victims obtained from police files indicates that assault is recalled with the least accuracy of any crime measured by the NCVS. This may be related to the tendency of victims to not report crimes committed by offenders who are not strangers, especially if they are relatives. In addition, among certain groups, crimes which contain elements of assault could be a part of everyday life, and are therefore forgotten or not considered important enough to mention to a survey interviewer. These recall problems may result in an understatement of the actual rate of assault.

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<sup>2</sup> See *Criminal Victimization in the United States; 1979-80 Changes, 1973-80 Trends*, BJS Technical Report, NCJ-80838, July 1982.

Another source of nonsampling error is the inability of some respondents to recall the exact month a crime occurred, even though it was placed in the correct reference period. This error source is partially offset by interviewing monthly and using the estimation procedure described earlier. Telescoping is another problem in which incidents that occurred before the reference period are placed within the period. The effect of telescoping is minimized by using the bounding procedure previously described. The interviewer is provided with a summary of the incidents reported in the preceding interview and, if a similar incident is reported, it can be determined whether or not it is a new one by discussing it with the victim. Events which occurred after the reference period are set aside for inclusion with the data from the following interview.

Other sources of nonsampling error can result from other types of response mistakes, including errors in reporting incidents as crimes, misclassification of crimes, systematic data errors introduced by the interviewer, errors made in coding and processing the data. Quality control and editing procedures were used to minimize the number of errors made by the respondents and the interviewers.

Since field representatives conducting the interviews usually reside in the area in which they interview, the race and ethnicity of the field representatives generally matches that of the local population. Special efforts are made to further match field representatives and the people they interview in areas where English is not commonly spoken.

Standard errors measure only those nonsampling errors arising from transient factors affecting individual responses completely at random (simple response variance); they do not reveal any systematic biases in the data. As calculated in the NCVS, the standard errors would partially measure nonsampling error arising from some of the above sources, such as transient memory errors, or accidental errors in recording or coding answers, for example.

### Computation and Application of Standard Errors

Deriving standard errors which are applicable to a wide variety of items and which can be prepared at a moderate cost requires a number of approximations. Therefore, three generalized variance function (gvf) constant parameters (identified as "a," "b," and "c") were developed for use in calculating standard errors. The parameters provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item. For each year, there are four sets of parameters for use with a different sets of estimates, as described below. (Also see spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08mpar.csv>, for values).

2008 Parameter Set	a	b	c
1. Overall Person Crime Estimates	-0.00016656	3,886	2.401
2. Person Crime Domain Estimates	-0.00028189	4,071	2.760
3. Overall Property Crime Estimates	-0.00027276	2,277	2.795
4. Property Crime Domain Estimates	-0.00111221	2,965	2.684

For year-to-year comparisons, an additional parameter, (rho) is used to account for year-to-year correlation.

### Year-to-Year Correlation Between Estimates

Because of the year-to-year overlap in the sample, the same households and persons contribute to annual estimates for different years. This year-to-year correlation between estimates is measured by rho. In general:



$\rho = 0$  when estimates are for the same year

$\rho = 0$  for year-to-year comparisons

When comparing estimates that are 1 or 2 years apart, use  $\rho$  as shown below.

When comparing estimates that are more than 2 years apart, assume  $\rho=0$ .

Following are NCVS year-to-year correlation values for major crime categories.

TYPE OF CRIME	2005-07 CORRELATION	2006-07 CORRELATION	2006-08 CORRELATION	2007-08 CORRELATION
Total Crimes	0.20	0.41	0.20	0.41
Total Personal Crimes	0.15	0.30	0.15	0.30
Crimes of Violence	0.15	0.31	0.15	0.31
Rape/Sexual Assault	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04
Robbery	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04
Assault	0.15	0.30	0.15	0.30
Purse Snatching/Pocket	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03
Total Property Crimes	0.19	0.38	0.19	0.38
Burglary	0.10	0.21	0.10	0.21
Motor Vehicle Theft	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.08
Theft	0.17	0.34	0.17	0.34

If estimates are uncorrelated,  $\rho = 0$ . Hence, omitting the term containing  $\rho$  in the formula will provide an accurate standard error for the difference between uncorrelated estimates. On the other hand, if the two estimates have a strong positive correlation, omitting the last term will cause overestimation of the true standard error. (Also see spreadsheet at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08myy.csv>, for values).

Parameter set #1 is used for the overall person crime estimates. These are the person crime estimates by crime category for the whole population, not disaggregated by any victim, offender, or incident characteristics, nor any variable related to reporting to police.

Parameter set #2 is used for the person crime domain estimates. These are the person crime estimates disaggregated by victim, offender, or incident characteristics, or any variable related to reporting to police.

Parameter set #3 is used for the property crime estimates for the whole population. These are the property crime estimates by crime category for the whole population, not disaggregated by any household characteristics, nor any variable related to reporting to police.

Parameter set #4 is used for the property crime domain estimates. These are the property crime estimates disaggregated by household characteristics, or any variable related to reporting to police.

For the statistic from Table 1 that corresponds to the crime category "all crimes" (i.e., person and property crimes together), parameter set #3 should be used. When the person and property estimates are combined (i.e., all crimes) and disaggregated by victim, household, incident characteristics, as well as any variable related to reporting to police, parameter set #4 should be used for the best estimate of the corresponding variance.

Direct variances were calculated using the balanced repeated replication (BRR) method. The estimates and their corresponding variances were fit to the standard 3-parameter model to obtain the value of the parameters.

The following examples explain the procedures based upon the 2007 data. The formulas used to calculate the variances are available in accompanying spreadsheets, Sigma 1 (See spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08msig1.csv>, for values) and Sigma 2 (See spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08msig2.csv>, for values). For each example, a spreadsheet using the formulas is also provided.

Example 1. See spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08mex1.csv>, for values. This example shows how to calculate a confidence interval around the count of a personal crime, the number of completed robberies in 2008. It uses parameter set #1 because the crime is not disaggregated by any characteristics such as age or race. The Sigma 1 spreadsheet was used to calculate confidence intervals around the counts.

The example from Table 1 in 2008 shows 372,180 completed robberies. The confidence intervals were calculated by entering the appropriate data into the Sigma 1 spreadsheet. Using the parameters for overall person crime estimates (Parameter set #1), the following values were entered:

"a" parameter = -0.00016656

"b" parameter = 3,886

"c" parameter = 2.401

The population base of 372,180 completed robberies was also entered.

The results show that the 95% confidence interval around the estimated number of robbery victimizations is about equal to 372,180 plus or minus twice (1.96) the standard error, or plus or minus 86,958: a confidence interval of 285,222 to 459,138.

Example 2. See spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08mex2.csv>, for values. This example shows how to calculate a confidence interval around a rate for a personal crime by a particular variable, the rate of robberies for persons age 20 through 24 in 2008. It uses parameter

set #2 because the crime is disaggregated by the characteristic of age. The Sigma 2 spreadsheet was used to calculate confidence intervals around the rates.

The example from Table 3 in 2008 shows a robbery rate of 5.4 per 1,000 persons age 20 through 24. The confidence intervals were calculated by entering the appropriate data into the Sigma 2 spreadsheet. Using the parameters for person domain estimates (Parameter set #2), the following values were entered:

“b” parameter = 4,071  
“c” parameter = 2.760

The population base of 20,547,620 age 20 through 24 and the rate of 5.4 for robberies per 1,000 persons age 20 through 24 were also entered.

The results show that the 95% confidence interval around the estimated rate of robbery victimizations for persons age 20 through 24 is equal to 5.4 plus or minus twice (1.96) the standard error, or plus or minus 2.2: a confidence interval of 3.2 to 7.6 per 1,000 persons age 20 through 24.

Example 3. See spreadsheet at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2008/cv08mex3.csv>, for values. This example shows how to determine if the differences between two rates or percentages are statistically significant. This example compares the rates for males and females for aggravated assault. It uses parameter set #2 because the crime is disaggregated by the characteristic of gender. The Sigma 2 spreadsheet was used to determine if the differences in rates were statistically significant.

The example from Table 2 in 2008 shows an aggravated assault rate of 3.9 per 1,000 males (age 12 or older) and 2.8 per 1,000 females (age 12 or older). Using the parameters for person domain estimates (Parameter set #2), the following values were entered:

“b” parameter = 4,071  
“c” parameter = 2.760

For males (the first line for set #1), the population base of 123,071,020 males and the rate of 3.9 aggravated assaults per 1,000 males were entered. For females (the second line for set #2), the population base of 129,171,510 females and the rate of 2.8 aggravated assaults per 1,000 females were also entered.

The results show that by comparing set #1 with set #2, the differences between males and females for aggravated assault in 2008 is statistically significant.

The spreadsheet shows the ratio of a difference to the standard error or the “z” score, which is associated with a given statistical level of significance. A ratio with an absolute value of 1.96 or greater indicates that the difference is significant at the 95% confidence level (or greater); a ratio with an absolute value between 1.65 and 1.96 indicates the difference is significant at a confidence level between 90% and 95%; a ratio with an absolute value less than 1.65 denotes a confidence level less than 90%. As indicated on the spreadsheet, the ratio of the difference (1.1 per 1,000) to the standard error (0.554) is 1.98. Thus, the spreadsheet indicates that the differences between the rates for aggravated assault for males and females was statistically significant at greater than the 95% confidence level.

In BJS reports, findings are normally significant at the 95% confidence level. If the finding is significant at the 90% confidence level, words such as “some evidence” are used. The standards used are explained in the methodology section of each report.

## **Criminal Victimization Glossary**

**Age** - The appropriate age category is determined by the respondent's age on the last day of the month before the interview.

**Aggravated assault** - Attack or attempted attack with a weapon, regardless of whether or not an injury occurred and attack without a weapon when serious injury results.

*With injury* - An attack without a weapon when serious injury results or an attack with a weapon involving any injury. Serious injury includes broken bones, lost teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, and any unspecified injury requiring two or more days of hospitalization.

*Threatened with a weapon* - Threat or attempted attack by an offender armed with a gun, knife, or other object used as a weapon, not resulting in victim injury.

**Annual household income** - The total income of the household head and all members of the household for the 12 months preceding the interview. Includes wages, salaries, net income from businesses or farms, pensions, interest, dividends, rent, and any other form of monetary income.

**Assault** - An unlawful physical attack or threat of attack. Assaults may be classified as aggravated or simple. Rape, attempted rape, and sexual assaults are excluded from this category, as well as robbery and attempted robbery. The severity of assaults ranges from minor threat to incidents which are nearly fatal.

**Burglary** ( also *Household burglary*) - Unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence. This crime usually, but not always, involves theft. The illegal entry may be by force, such as breaking a window or slashing a screen, or may be without force by entering through an unlocked door or an open window. As long as the person entering has no legal right to be present in the structure a burglary has occurred. Furthermore, the structure need not be the house itself for a burglary to take place; illegal entry of a garage, shed, or any other structure on the premises also constitutes household burglary. If breaking and entering occurs in a hotel or vacation residence, it is still classified as a burglary for the household whose member or members were staying there at the time the entry occurred.

*Completed burglary* - A form of burglary in which a person who has no legal right to be present in the structure successfully gains entry to a residence, by use of force, or without force.

*Forcible entry* - A form of completed burglary in which force is used to gain entry to a residence. Some examples include breaking a window or slashing a screen.

*Unlawful entry without force* - A form of completed burglary committed by someone having no legal right to be on the premises, even though no force is used.

*Attempted forcible entry* - A form of burglary in which force is used in an attempt to gain entry.

**Collection year** - The set of victimizations reported to NCVS in interviews conducted during the same calendar year. This set may include victimizations which occurred in the previous calendar year, due to the retrospective nature of the NCVS interview. Collection year data are used in tables beginning in 1996. See "Data year."

**Commercial crimes** - Crimes against commercial establishments of any type are not included in the survey. Commercial establishments include stores, restaurants, businesses, service stations, medical offices or hospitals, or other similar establishments. For victimizations occurring in commercial establishments, the crime is included or not included depending upon whether the survey respondent was threatened or harmed in some way or personal property was taken.

**Crime classification** - Victimitizations and incidents are classified based upon detailed characteristics of the event provided by the respondent. Neither victims nor interviewers classify crimes at the time of interview. During data processing, a computer program classifies each event into one type of crime, based upon the entries on a number of items on the survey questionnaire. This ensures that similar events will be classified using a standard procedure. The glossary definition for each crime indicates the major characteristics required to be so classified. If an event can be classified as more than one type of crime, a hierarchy is used which classifies the crime according to the most serious event that occurred. The hierarchy is: rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft.

**Data year** - The set of victimizations reported to NCVS all of which occurred within the same calendar year. For all years prior to 1996, Criminal Victimization in the United States tables are based upon data year. Beginning in 1996 and later years, tables are based upon collection year. See "Collection Year."

**Ethnicity** - A classification based on Hispanic culture and origin, regardless of race. Persons are asked directly if they are Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino before being asked about their racial category.

**Head of household** - A classification which defines one and only one person in each housing unit as the head. Head of household implies that the person rents or owns (or is in the process of buying), the housing unit. The head of household must be at least 18, unless all members of the household are under 18, or the head is married to someone 18 or older.

**Hispanic** - A person who describes himself as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central American, South American, or from some other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

**Household** - A person or group of people meeting either of the following criteria: (1) people whose usual place of residence is the same housing unit, even if they are temporarily absent; (2) people staying in a housing unit who have no usual place of residence elsewhere.

**Household Burglary** - See burglary.

**Incident** - A specific criminal act involving one or more victims and offenders. For example, if two people are robbed at the same time and place, this is classified as two robbery victimizations but only one robbery incident.

**Marital status** - Every person is assigned to one of the following classifications: (1) married, which includes persons in common-law unions and those who are currently living apart for reasons other than marital discord (employment, military service, etc.); (2) separated or divorced, which includes married persons who are legally separated and those who are not living together because of marital discord; (3) widowed; and (4) never married, which includes persons whose marriages have been annulled and those who are living together and not in a common-law union.

**Metropolitan area** - See "Metropolitan Statistical Area."

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** - The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines this as a population nucleus of 50,000 or more, generally consisting of a city and its immediate suburbs, along with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with the nucleus. MSA's are designated by counties, the smallest geographic units for which a wide range of statistical data can be attained. However, in New England, MSA's are designated by cities and towns since these subcounty units are of great local significance and considerable data is available for them. Currently, an area is defined as an MSA if it meets one of two standards:

(1) A city has a population of at least 50,000; (2) the Census Bureau defines an urbanized area of at least 50,000 people with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (or 75,000 in New England). The Census Bureau's definition of urbanized areas, data on commuting to work, and the strength of the

economic and social ties between the surrounding counties and the central city determine which counties not containing a main city are included in an MSA. For New England, MSA's are determined by a core area and related cities and towns, not counties. A metropolitan statistical area may contain more than one city of 50,000 and may cross State lines.

**Motor vehicle** - An automobile, truck, motorcycle, or any other motorized vehicle legally allowed on public roads and highways.

**Motor vehicle theft** - Stealing or unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle, including attempted thefts.

*Completed motor vehicle theft* - The successful taking of a vehicle by an unauthorized person.

*Attempted motor vehicle theft* - The unsuccessful attempt by an unauthorized person to take a vehicle.

**Multiple offenders** - Two or more persons inflicting some direct harm to a victim. The *victim-offender relationship* is determined by the offender with the closest relationship to the victim. The following list ranks the different relationships from closest to most distant: spouse, ex-spouse, parent, child, other relative, nonrelative well-known person, casual acquaintance, or stranger (See *Nonstranger* and *Stranger*).

**Non-Hispanic** - Persons who report their culture or origin as something other than "Hispanic" as defined above. This distinction is made regardless of race.

**Nonstranger** - A classification of a crime victim's relationship to the offender. An offender who is either related to, well known to, or casually acquainted with the victim is a nonstranger. For crimes with more than one offender, if any of the offenders are nonstrangers, then the group of offenders as a whole is classified as nonstranger. This category only applies to crimes which involve contact between the victim and the offender; the distinction is not made for crimes of theft since victims of this offense rarely see the offenders.

**Offender** - The perpetrator of a crime; this term usually applies to crimes involving contact between the victim and the offender.

**Offense** - A crime. When referring to personal crimes, the term can be used to refer to both victimizations and incidents.

**Personal crimes** - Rape, sexual assault, personal robbery, assault, purse snatching and pocket picking. This category includes both attempted and completed crimes.

**Place of occurrence of crime** - The location at which a crime occurred, as specified by the victim. Survey measures of crimes occurring in commercial establishments, restaurants, nightclubs, public transportation and other similar places include only those crimes involving NCVS measured crimes against persons, not the establishments. Crimes against commercial establishments and other places are not measured by the survey.

**Property crimes** - Property crimes including burglary, motor vehicle theft, or theft. This category includes both attempted and completed crimes.

**Purse snatching/Pocket picking** - Theft or attempted theft of property or cash directly from the victim by stealth, without force or threat of force.

**Race** - For this survey respondents self identify with one or more racial categories. Racial categories for this report are white only, black only, and other race only. The "other" category is composed of Asian Pacific Islanders, and American Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos, if only one of these races is given.

Persons reporting two or more races are included in the category of "more than one race". The race of the head of household is used for computing household crime demographics.

**Rape** - Forced sexual intercourse including both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category also includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle. Includes attempted rapes, male as well as female victims and both heterosexual and homosexual rape. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.

**Rate of victimization** - see "Victimization rate."

**Region** - The States have been divided into four groups or census regions:

*Midwest* - Includes the 12 States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

*Northeast* - Includes the 9 states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

*South* - Includes the District of Columbia and the 16 States of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*West* - Includes the 13 states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Robbery** - Completed or attempted theft, directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon, and with or without injury.

*Completed/property taken* - The successful taking of property from a person by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon, and with or without injury.

*Completed with injury* - The successful taking of property from a person, accompanied by an attack, either with or without a weapon, resulting in injury.

*Completed without injury* - The successful taking of property from a person by force or the threat of force, either with or without a weapon, but not resulting in injury.

*Attempted to take property* - The attempt to take property from a person by force or threat of force without success, with or without a weapon, and with or without injury.

*Attempted without injury* - The attempt to take property from a person by force or the threat of force without success, either with or without a weapon, but not resulting in injury.

*Attempted with injury* - The attempt to take property from a person without success, accompanied by an attack, either with or without a weapon, resulting in injury.

**Rural area** - A place not located inside the Metropolitan Statistical Area. This category includes a variety of localities, ranging from sparsely populated rural areas to cities with populations less than 50,000.

**Sample** - The set of housing units selected by the U. S. Census Bureau to be interviewed for the survey. All occupants of the household age 12 or older are interviewed. See methodology for sample inclusions and exclusions.

**Series** - Six or more similar but separate events, which the respondent is unable to describe separately in detail to an interviewer.

**Sexual assault** - A wide range of victimizations, separate from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. Sexual assault also includes verbal threats.

**Simple assault** - Attack without a weapon resulting either in no injury, minor injury (for example, bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches or swelling) or in undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault without a weapon.

*With minor injury* - An attack without a weapon resulting in such injuries as bruises, black eyes, cuts or in undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization.

*Without injury* - An attempted assault without a weapon not resulting in injury.

**Stranger** - A classification of the victim's relationship to the offender for crimes involving direct contact between the two. Incidents are classified as involving strangers if the victim identifies the offender as a stranger, did not see or recognize the offender, or knew the offender only by sight. Crimes involving multiple offenders are classified as involving nonstrangers if any of the offenders was a nonstranger. Since victims of theft without contact rarely see the offender, no distinction is made between strangers and nonstrangers for this crime.

**Suburban areas** - A county or counties containing a central city, plus any contiguous counties that are linked socially and economically to the central city. On data tables, suburban areas are categorized as those portions of metropolitan areas situated "outside central cities."

**Tenure** - The NCVS recognizes two forms of household tenancy: (1) owned, which includes dwellings that are mortgaged, and (2) rented, which includes rent-free quarters belonging to a party other than the occupants, and situations where rental payments are in kind or services.

**Theft** - Completed or attempted theft of property or cash without personal contact. Incidents involving theft of property from within the sample household would classify as theft if the offender has a legal right to be in the house (such as a maid, delivery person, or guest). If the offender has no legal right to be in the house, the incident would classify as a burglary.

*Completed* - To successfully take without permission property or cash without personal contact between the victim and offender.

*Attempted* - To unsuccessfully attempt to take property or cash without personal contact.

**Urban areas** - The largest city (or grouping of cities) in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (see definition of Metropolitan Statistical Area).

**Victim** - The recipient of a criminal act, usually used in relation to personal crimes, but also applicable to households.

**Victimization** - A crime as it affects one individual person or household. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is equal to the number of victims involved. 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 assumed to involve a single victim, the affected household.

**Victimization rate** - A measure of the occurrence of victimizations among a specified population group.



For personal crimes, this is based on the number of victimizations per 1,000 residents age 12 or older. For household crimes, the victimization rates are calculated using the number of incidents per 1,000 households.

**Victimize** - To commit a crime against a person or household.

**Violence, crimes of** - Rape, sexual assault, personal robbery or assault. This category includes both attempted and completed crimes. It does not include purse snatching and pocket picking. Murder is not measured by the NCVS because of an inability to question the victim.

*Completed violence* - The sum of all completed rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, and assaults. See individual crime types for definition of completed crimes.

*Attempted/threatened violence* - The unsuccessful attempt of rape, sexual assault, personal robbery or assault. Includes attempted attacks or sexual assaults by means of verbal threats. See individual crime types for definition of attempted crimes.