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National Crime Victimization Survey

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Criminal Victimization 1994

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In 1994 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced approximately 42.4 million crimes. Thirty-one million (73%) were property crimes, 10.9 million (26%) were crimes of violence, and approximately a half million (1%) were personal thefts.

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) indicates there were 51 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older and 308 property crimes per 1,000 households.

The National Crime Victimization Survey measures personal and household offenses, including crimes not reported to police, by interviewing all occupants age 12 or older in a nationally representative sample of U.S. households.

Violent crimes include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and both aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murders from FBI data on homicides reported to the police (see box on page 3).

Pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching comprise personal theft. Property crimes consist of household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and thefts of other property.

Highlights

Criminal victimization experienced in the U.S. in 1994

	Number in millions	Rate per 1,000 ^a	Percent of measured crime	Percent of this crime reported to police
All crimes	42.4	--	100%	36%
Violent crime	10.9	51	26%	42%
Simple assault	6.6	31	16	36
Aggravated assault	2.5	12	6	52
Robbery	1.3	6	3	55
Rape/Sexual assault	.4	2	*	32
Personal theft^b	.5	2	1%	33%
Property crime	31.0	308	73%	34%
Property thefts	23.8	236	56	27
Household burglary	5.5	54	13	50
Motor vehicle theft	1.8	18	4	78

--Not applicable.

*Less than .1%.

^aPer 1,000 persons age 12 or older, or per 1,000 households

^bIncludes pocket picking and purse snatching.

- In 1994 for every 1,000 persons age 12 or older, there occurred:
 - 2 rapes or attempted rapes
 - 3 assaults with serious injury
 - 4 robberies with property taken.

- The violent crime rate has been essentially unchanged since 1992, following a slight increase between 1985 and 1991. Property crime continued a 15-year decline.

- The young, blacks, and males were most vulnerable to violent crime:
 - 1 in 9 persons age 12 to 15, compared to 1 in 196 age 65 or more
 - 1 in 16 blacks, compared to 1 in 20 whites
 - 1 in 17 males, compared to 1 in 24 females

- Compared to those households with annual incomes of \$15,000 or more, persons in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 were:
 - 3 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted
 - 2 times more likely to be robbed
 - 1½ times more likely to be a victim of an aggravated assault.

- Almost two-thirds of victims of completed rapes did not report the crime to the police.
- Two-thirds of victims of rape or sexual assault knew their assailants.
- A third of robbery victims were injured as a result of the incident.

10.9 million violent crimes in 1994

The 10.9 million violent victimizations included: 430 thousand rapes/sexual assaults, 1.3 million robberies, over 2.5 million aggravated assaults, and 6.6 million simple assaults (table 1).

FBI data indicated 23,305 homicides and nonnegligent manslaughters were reported to police during 1994 (see box on page 3).

In terms of crime rates, for every 1,000 persons age 12 or older, there were 51 victims of violence, including:

- 1 sexual assault,
- 2 rapes or attempted rapes per 1,000,
- 6 completed or attempted robberies,
- 12 aggravated assaults, and
- 31 simple assaults.

Murders were the least frequent violent victimization — about 9 murder victims per 100,000 persons.

Attempted violent crimes accounted for 71% (7.7 million) of the 10.9 million crimes of violence. Attempted violent crimes included attempted rapes, attempted robberies, and attempted or threatened violence — including threats with weapons.

Almost a quarter (2.7 million) of all violent victimizations resulted in an injury to the victim. Minor injuries include bruises, black eyes, or broken teeth. Rape, gun shot or knife wounds, or other injuries requiring hospitalization constitute serious harm.

In 1994 a third of all robberies resulted in an injury to the victim. In 36% of completed and 24% of attempted robberies the victim sustained an injury.

There was little or no change between 1993 and 1994 in most NCVS measured crimes. Comparisons between these years are discussed in more detail on page 5.

31 million burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and household thefts

In 1994 the NCVS measured 31 million household burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and thefts of other property, accounting for 73% of the more than 42 million victimizations. During the year, households experienced 1.8 million motor vehicle thefts, 5.5 million household burglaries, and 23.8 million thefts of other property.

Of the almost 5.5 million household burglaries, 4.6 million, or 83%, were completed burglaries. In the remaining 0.9 million (17%), the offender attempted forcible entry. In a third of the completed burglaries, the burglar forced entry into the home; in two-thirds, the burglar gained entry through an unlocked door or open window.

Table 1. Criminal victimizations and victimization rates, 1993-94: Estimates from the redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey

Type of crime	Number of victimizations (1,000's)		Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
All crimes	43,547	42,359 ^a
Personal crimes¹	11,365	11,349	53.7	53.1
Crimes of violence	10,848	10,860	51.3	50.8
Completed violence	3,213	3,205	15.2	15.0
Attempted/threatened violence	7,635	7,654	36.1	35.8
Rape/Sexual assault	485	433	2.3	2.0
Rape/attempted rape	313	316	1.5	1.5
Rape	160	168	.8	.8
Attempted rape	152	149	.7	.7
Sexual assault	173	117 ^b	.8	.5 ^a
Robbery	1,291	1,299	6.1	6.1
Completed/property taken	815	795	3.9	3.7
With injury	274	288	1.3	1.3
Without injury	541	507	2.6	2.4
Attempted to take property	476	504	2.3	2.4
With injury	96	122	.5	.6
Without injury	381	382	1.8	1.8
Assault	9,072	9,128	42.9	42.7
Aggravated	2,563	2,478	12.1	11.6
With injury	713	679	3.4	3.2
Threatened with weapon	1,850	1,799	8.7	8.4
Simple	6,509	6,650	30.8	31.1
With minor injury	1,356	1,466	6.4	6.9
Without injury	5,153	5,184	24.4	24.3
Personal theft ²	517	489	2.4	2.3
Property crimes	32,182	31,011 ^a	322.1	307.6 ^a
Household burglary	5,984	5,482 ^a	59.9	54.4 ^a
Completed	4,824	4,573	48.3	45.4
Forcible entry	1,856	1,725	18.6	17.1
Unlawful entry without force	2,968	2,847	29.7	28.2
Attempted forcible entry	1,160	910 ^a	11.6	9.0 ^a
Motor vehicle theft	1,961	1,764	19.6	17.5 ^b
Completed	1,291	1,172	12.9	11.6
Attempted	670	591	6.7	5.9
Theft	24,238	23,765	242.6	235.7 ^b
Completed ³	23,020	22,743	230.4	225.6
Less than \$50	9,653	9,377	96.6	93.0
\$50-\$249	7,682	7,874	76.9	78.1
\$250 or more	4,253	4,251	42.6	42.2
Attempted	1,218	1,022 ^a	14.3	10.1 ^a

Note: Completed violent crimes include completed rape, sexual assault, completed robbery with and without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury. The total population age 12 or older was 211,524,770 in 1993; in 1994 it was 213,747,400. The total number of households in 1993 was 99,926,400; in 1994 it was 100,808,030.

...Not applicable.

^aThe difference is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^bThe difference is significant at the 90% confidence level.

¹The victimization survey cannot measure murder because of the inability to question the victim.

²Includes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

³Includes thefts in which the amount taken was not ascertained. In 1993 this category accounted for 1,433,000 victimizations and in 1994, 1,241,000.

Of the 22.7 million completed thefts of property, there were 9.4 million (41%) property thefts of less than \$50, 7.9 million (35%) between \$50 and \$249, 4.3 million (19%) of \$250 or more, and 1.2 million (5%) in which the property value was not known.

Murder in the United States, 1994

In its annual compilation of local police agency statistics for 1994, the FBI reported 23,305 murders and nonnegligent manslaughters — a 5% decrease from the previous year.

The national murder rate was 9 per 100,000 inhabitants.

In its annual report *Crime in the United States*, the FBI defines murder as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. The incidence of murder varies by U.S. region, and characteristics of murder victims vary according to sex, race, and age.

The South and the West, with 56% of the population, accounted for almost 66% of all homicides

Region	Percent	
	Homicides	U.S. population
Total	100%	100%
South	42	35
West	23	21
Midwest	20	24
Northeast	16	20

Supplemental demographic information was available for 22,076 murder victims. About 51% of these victims were black, 46% were white, and the remainder were Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.

Victims were likely to be male and relatively young: 78% were male and 65% were under age 35. About 11% were under age 18.

Forty-seven percent of murder victims were related to or acquainted with their assailants; 13% of victims were murdered by strangers, while 40% of victims had an unknown relationship to their murderer.

Husbands or boyfriends killed 28% of female murder victims; wives or girlfriends, 3% of male victims.

Expressed as rates per 1,000 households, there were 54 burglaries, 18 motor vehicle thefts, and 236 property thefts.

Victimizations reported to law enforcement authorities

Overall, 42% of the violent crimes committed in 1994 were reported to

police (table 2). Thirty-six percent of rapes, 20% of attempted rapes, and 41% of sexual assaults were brought to the attention of law enforcement authorities. Fifty-five percent of robberies, 52% of aggravated assaults, and 36% of simple assaults were reported to police.

Table 2. Victimizations reported to the police, 1993-94: Estimates from the redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey

Type of crime	Number of victimizations reported (1,000's)		Percent of victimizations reported to the police	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
All crimes	15,299	15,187	35.1%	35.9%
Personal crimes^a	4,654	4,673	40.9%	41.2%
Completed violence	4,514	4,513	41.6	41.6
Completed violence	1,723	1,752	53.6	54.7
Attempted/threatened violence	2,791	2,761	36.5	36.1
Rape/Sexual assault	140	137	28.8	31.7
Rape/attempted rape	106	90	34.0	28.3
Rape	56	61	34.7	36.1
Attempted rape	51	29	33.4	19.6
Sexual assault	33	47	19.4	40.7
Robbery	724	719	56.1	55.4
Completed/property taken	551	512	67.6	64.4
With injury	189	192	69.0	66.7
Without injury	362	320	66.9	63.1
Attempted to take property	173	207	36.3	41.1
With injury	46	65	48.3	53.4
Without injury	127	142	33.3	37.2
Assault	3,650	3,657	40.2	40.1
Aggravated	1,362	1,278	53.2	51.6
With injury	414	411	58.1	60.6
Threatened with weapon	948	867	51.3	48.2
Simple	2,288	2,379	35.2	35.8
With minor injury	671	727	49.5	49.6
Without injury	1,617	1,652	31.4	31.9
Personal theft ^b	140	160	27.0%	32.6%
Property crimes	10,646	10,514	33.1%	33.9%
Household burglary	2,924	2,770	48.9	50.5
Completed	2,492	2,425	51.7	53.0
Forcible entry	1,391	1,308	75.0	75.8
Unlawful entry without force	1,101	1,117	37.1	39.2
Attempted forcible entry	432	345	37.3	37.9
Motor vehicle theft	1,523	1,379	77.7	78.2
Completed	1,206	1,083	93.4	92.4
Attempted	317	296	47.4	50.0
Theft	6,198	6,365	25.6	26.8
Completed ^c	5,850	6,061	25.4	26.6
Less than \$50	1,147	1,218	11.9	13.0
\$50-\$249	1,987	2,097	25.9	26.6
\$250 or more	2,424	2,462	57.0	57.9
Attempted	348	304	28.6	29.8

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

^aThe victimization survey cannot measure murder because of the inability to question the victim. Personal crimes include purse snatching and pocket picking, not shown separately under personal theft.

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

^cIncludes thefts in which the amount taken was not ascertained.

Victims reported approximately a third of all property crimes. Motor vehicle theft was the most frequently reported property crime (78%), and theft of other property the least reported crime (27%).

The 1994 data indicated patterns in reporting to police. For example, victims were more likely to report incidents to police where:

- violent crimes were completed
- an injury resulted
- items valued at \$250 or more were stolen
- forcible entry occurred.

Victims cite many reasons for deciding whether or not to report particular crimes to law enforcement authorities.*

*For analysis of reasons why victims reported or did not report crimes, see *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993*, BJS, NCJ-15157.

Victims of violent incidents most often cite as a reason for reporting the crime to the police the desire to prevent future acts of violence. Victims also reported incidents because they thought it was the right thing to do.

Among victims who chose not to report a violent crime to the police, many indicated that they felt the matter was private or personal in nature.

Victims of personal and property thefts frequently reported the incidents to enable recovery of their stolen property and to collect insurance, or chose not to report because they had been able to recover their property or because the theft attempt had been unsuccessful.

Characteristics of victims of violence

Males, blacks, Hispanics, the young, the poor, and inner city dwellers were the most vulnerable to violence (table 3).

Except for rape/sexual assault, every violent crime victimization rate for males was higher than for females.

Males were about twice as likely as females to experience robbery and aggravated assault. However, there were 4 rapes or sexual assaults per 1,000 females age 12 or older compared to 0.2 rapes per 1,000 males.

Blacks were more likely than whites or persons of other races — Asians or Native Americans — to be victims of robbery or aggravated assault.

In 1994 there were 16.6 aggravated assaults per 1,000 black persons, 10.9 per 1,000 whites, and 11.9 per 1,000 persons in other racial categories. The victimization rates for rape/sexual assault were not significantly different among the three racial groups.

Persons under age 25 had higher violent victimization rates than those 65 or older. Persons age 16 to 19 were about 30 times more likely than persons age 65 or older to be victimized by assault.

Hispanics had higher violent crime rates than Non-Hispanics.

Persons from households with lower incomes were more vulnerable to violent crime than those from higher income households. Persons with household incomes of less than \$15,000 per year had significantly higher violent crime rates for all categories of violent crime when compared with those who had household incomes of \$15,000 or more per year.

Table 3. Victimization rates for persons age 12 or older, by type of crime, sex, age, race, ethnicity, income, and locality of residence of victims, 1994

Characteristics	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older								
	All crime	Crimes of violence				Total	Assault		Personal theft
		All crimes of violence	Rape/Sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated		Simple		
Sex									
Male	61.7	59.6	.2	8.1	51.3	15.3	35.9	2.0	
Female	45.1	42.5	3.7	4.1	34.7	8.1	26.6	2.5	
Age									
12-15	117.4	114.8	3.1	12.0	99.7	22.2	77.6	2.6	
16-19	125.9	121.7	5.1	11.8	104.8	33.7	71.1	4.2	
20-24	102.5	99.2	5.0	11.3	82.9	26.6	56.4	3.3	
25-34	63.2	60.9	2.9	7.5	50.6	13.7	36.9	2.3	
35-49	41.4	39.5	1.6	5.2	32.8	7.6	25.2	1.9	
50-64	16.8	15.1	.2*	2.3	12.6	3.3	9.3	1.7	
65 or older	7.2	5.1	.1*	1.4	3.6	1.2	2.4	2.1	
Race									
White	51.5	49.4	1.9	4.8	42.7	10.9	31.8	2.1	
Black	65.4	61.8	2.7	14.0	45.0	16.6	28.4	3.6	
Other	49.1	47.6	2.5*	9.0	36.1	11.9	24.2	1.6*	
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	63.3	59.8	2.6	9.8	47.4	16.2	31.2	3.5	
Non-Hispanic	51.9	49.8	2.0	5.6	42.1	11.1	31.0	2.1	
Household income									
Less than \$7,500	88.3	83.6	6.7	11.1	65.8	20.5	45.3	4.7	
\$7,500-\$14,999	60.8	58.6	3.3	7.1	48.1	13.8	34.3	2.2	
\$15,000-\$24,999	51.7	49.9	2.3	5.9	41.7	13.2	28.5	1.8	
\$25,000-\$34,999	51.3	49.3	1.2	4.6	43.5	11.3	32.3	2.0	
\$35,000-\$49,999	49.3	46.8	.9	4.8	41.1	10.1	31.0	2.6	
\$50,000-\$74,999	47.6	46.1	.8	4.2	41.1	9.5	31.6	1.5	
\$75,000 or more	42.7	40.0	.9*	4.5	34.6	8.0	26.5	2.7	
Residence									
Urban	67.6	63.6	2.7	10.9	50.1	14.8	35.2	4.0	
Suburban	51.8	49.6	1.8	5.1	42.7	11.0	31.7	2.2	
Rural	39.8	39.2	1.7	2.6	34.9	9.2	25.8	.6	

Note: The victimization survey cannot measure murder because of the inability to question the victim.

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

Type of crime	Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	
	Annual household income of less than \$15,000	Annual household income of \$15,000 or more
Violent crime	68.6	46.9
Rape/sexual assault	4.7	1.3
Robbery	8.7	4.9
Aggravated assault	16.5	10.6
Simple assault	38.8	30.2

Higher property crime victimization rates: households of blacks, Hispanics, the poor, urban dwellers, and renters

Minorities, urban dwellers, and those who rent their homes experienced the highest rates of property crime. The impact of income varied, depending on the type of property crime.

Black households suffered higher rates of property victimization for all property crime than did white households (341 versus 302 per 1,000 households, respectively).

Hispanic households had a significantly higher rate of property crime victimization than non-Hispanics (426 incidents per 1,000 households versus 298, respectively) (table 4).

Households earning \$50,000 or more annually had a theft rate 50% higher than those households earning less than \$7,500 annually. Households earning under \$7,500 a year suffered almost twice the rate of household burglary compared to those with the highest annual earnings.

City residents experienced higher rates of property crime (376 per 1,000 households) than either suburban residents (296) or rural area dwellers (246).

Renters had significantly higher property crime rates than home owners.

Recent trends

Between 1993 and 1994 there were no changes in violent crimes measured by NCVS, except for a decline in sexual assault. While sexual assault decreased, the overall rape/sexual assault category showed no change.

Motor vehicle theft and property theft rates showed statistically significant declines between 1993 and 1994. There was some evidence of declines in the rates and levels of overall property crimes, household burglary, attempted forcible entry, and attempted theft.

Since its inception in 1973, the survey has identified fluctuations in crime levels and rates over extended periods. Because of the survey design, the data presented in this bulletin are not directly comparable with data collected prior to 1993. While some crimes exhibit short-term changes that differ from previous longer-term trends, many patterns discernible for 1992-94 continue general trends in crime rates that existed during previous years.

Violent crime rates generally declined from 1981 to 1986 (a drop of 20%), and then rose from 1986 to 1991 (up 15%). Since 1992, violent crime victimization rates have remained generally stable. Both victimization levels and rates show little change in 1992, 1993, and 1994 (table 5).

Robbery rates increased slightly during the late 1980's, but never reached the peak rates experienced earlier in the decade. Since 1992 the robbery rate has remained unchanged.

Aggravated assault levels have shown yearly fluctuations but the overall trend was slightly downward from 1974 to 1991. Neither the increase in aggravated assault from 1992 to 1993 nor the decrease from 1993 to 1994 is statistically significant.

Table 4. Property victimization rates, by type of crime, race, ethnicity, income, residence, and form of tenure of head of household, 1994

Characteristics	Victimizations per 1,000 households			
	Total	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
Race				
White	301.9	51.7	15.6	234.6
Black	341.3	70.8	26.6	243.8
Other	334.9	64.3	34.1	236.5
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	425.5	71.0	39.9	314.5
Non-Hispanic	298.0	53.1	15.6	229.3
Household income				
Less than \$7,500	295.8	78.6	13.9	203.2
\$7,500-\$14,999	296.6	65.4	15.2	216.0
\$15,000-\$24,999	307.0	60.5	16.3	230.2
\$25,000-\$34,999	307.1	50.9	20.0	236.3
\$35,000-\$49,999	325.8	51.6	17.0	257.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	356.3	39.6	20.7	296.0
\$75,000 or more	356.6	40.9	17.7	297.9
Residence				
Urban	376.4	69.4	29.3	277.7
Suburban	296.5	46.5	15.6	234.3
Rural	246.4	49.6	6.9	189.8
Form of tenure				
Home owned	272.2	45.5	14.5	212.2
Home rented	371.2	70.3	22.8	278.1

Table 5. Victimization rates and comparison of changes in victimization rates for violent and property crimes, 1992-94

Type of crime	Victimization rates per 1,000			Percent change of victimizations per 1,000	
	1992	1993	1994	1992-94	1993-94
Crimes of violence					
Rape/Sexual assault	49.3	51.3	50.8	3.0%	-1.0%
Robbery	2.9	2.3	2.0	-31.0	-13.0
Assault	6.2	6.1	6.1	-1.6	0
Aggravated assault	40.2	42.9	42.7	6.2	-5
Simple assault	11.1	12.1	11.6	4.5	-4.1
	29.1	30.8	31.1	6.9	1.0
Personal theft*	2.3	2.4	2.3	0	-4.2%
Property crimes					
Household burglary	325.3	322.1	307.6	-5.4%	-4.5%
Motor vehicle theft	58.7	59.9	54.4	-7.3	-9.2
Theft	18.6	19.6	17.5	-5.9	-10.7
	248.0	242.6	235.7	-5.0	-2.8

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

Theft rates declined slightly in 1994 from the previous year, continuing a steady decrease that has persisted since 1979.

Burglary rates continued a downward trend that has existed since the survey began in 1973.

Motor vehicle theft rates steadily increased for several years beginning in the mid-1980's. There is some evidence of a decline in the motor vehicle theft rate from 1993 to 1994.

Except for an increase in reporting of sexual assault and theft, there were no statistically significant changes in

reporting of crimes to police between 1993 and 1994 (table 6).

Juvenile victims

Teenagers and young adults were more likely to become victims of violent crime than older persons. In 1994, about a third of all victims of violent crime were ages 12 to 19. Almost half of all victims of violence were under age 25.

In the same year, there were 111 rapes/sexual assaults, robberies, or aggravated or simple assaults for every 1,000 persons under age 25.

This rate was more than twice as high as that for persons between ages 25 and 49 and about 11 times as high as that for persons age 50 or older (table 7).

While making up 23% of the population age 12 or older, persons from 12 to 24 were victims of almost half of all violent crime

Victim's age	Percent of population 12 or older	Percent of violent victimizations
Total	100%	100%
12 to 15	7	16
16 to 19	7	16
20 to 24	8	17
25 to 34	20	23
35 to 49	28	21
50 to 64	16	5
65 or older	14	1

Table 6. Number of victimizations experienced and percent reported to the police, 1993-94

Type of crime	Victimizations			Percent reported to the police		Difference between percents, 1994-93
	Number (1,000's)		Percent change, 1993-94	1993	1994	
All crimes	43,547	42,359		-2.7%	35.1%	35.9%
Personal crimes	11,365	11,349	-.1	40.9	41.2	.3
Crimes of violence	10,848	10,860	.1	41.6	41.6	0
Rape/Sexual assault	485	433	-10.7	28.8	31.7	2.9
Rape/sexual attempted	313	316	1.0	34.0	28.3	-5.7
Sexual assault	173	117	-32.4	19.4	40.7	21.3
Robbery	1,291	1,299	.6	56.1	55.4	-.7
Assault	9,072	9,128	.6	40.2	40.1	-.1
Aggravated	2,563	2,478	-3.3	53.2	51.6	-1.6
Simple	6,509	6,650	2.2	35.2	35.8	.6
Personal theft*	517	489	5.4%	27.0%	32.6%	5.6
Property crimes	32,182	31,011	-3.6%	33.1%	33.9%	.8
Household burglary	5,984	5,482	-8.4	48.9	50.5	1.6
Motor vehicle theft	1,961	1,764	-10.0	77.7	78.2	.5
Completed	1,291	1,171	-9.3	93.4	92.4	-1.0
Attempted	670	591	-11.8	47.4	50.0	2.6
Theft	24,238	23,765	-2.0	25.6	26.8	1.2

*Includes pocketpicking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

Table 7. Rates of violent victimizations by age of victim, 1992-94

Type of crime by age of victim	Victimization rates per 1,000			Percent distribution		
	1992	1993	1994	1992	1993	1,994
All violent crime	49	51	51	100%	100%	100%
12 to 15	114	121	115	16	17	16
16 to 19	107	117	122	15	15	16
20 to 24	98	94	99	18	16	17
25 to 34	58	59	61	24	23	23
35 to 49	39	43	40	21	23	22
50 to 64	13	17	15	4	5	5
65 or older	5	6	5	2	2	1
Robbery	6	6	6	100%	100%	100%
12 to 15	13	14	12	15	16	14
16 to 19	11	12	12	12	12	13
20 to 24	14	11	11	21	15	16
25 to 34	8	7	8	27	24	24
35 to 49	4	5	5	16	22	23
50 to 64	2	3	2	6	8	6
65 or older	2	1	1	5	3	3
Aggravated assault	11	12	12	100%	100%	100%
12 to 15	20	23	22	13	14	14
16 to 19	27	30	34	16	16	19
20 to 24	23	27	27	19	20	20
25 to 34	13	15	14	23	24	23
35 to 49	10	9	8	23	20	18
50 to 64	3	4	3	4	5	5
65 or older	1	1	1	2	1	1

These large differences in victimization rates by age occurred for each of the violent crimes measured by the survey. For example, there were 4 rape/sexual assaults per 1,000 for persons under age 25, 2 per 1,000 for those ages 25 to 49, and 0.1 per 1,000 for those age 50 or more.

Rates for robbery were twice as high for those under 25 as for those ages 25 to 49. For persons under age 25, the robbery rates were 12 per 1,000 compared with 2 per 1,000 for those persons age 50 or more.

The rates of aggravated assault were almost 3 times as high for victims under 25 as for those ages 25 to 49.

Type of crime	Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	12-24	25-49	50 or older
Violent crime	110.9	48.4	10.3
Rape/sexual assault	4.4	2.1	.1
Robbery	11.7	6.1	1.9
Aggravated assault	27.3	10.1	2.3
Simple assault	67.5	30.0	6.0

Examining violent incidents

Excluding those crimes in which the victim/offender relationship was not known, 53% of persons victimized by violence did not know their assailant. Almost 8 out of 10 robberies were committed by strangers compared to 3 out of 10 of all rapes/sexual assaults. Just over half of all rapes/sexual assaults were committed by people either well-known or casually known to the victim (table 8).

While overall violent crimes were about as likely to occur during the day as during the night, some crimes exhibited different patterns.

Fifty-three percent of incidents of violent crime occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. About two-thirds of simple assaults, compared to a third of aggravated assaults, took place during these hours. Approximately two-thirds of rapes/sexual assaults occurred at night — 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

In 1994 about a quarter of incidents of violent crime occurred at or near the victim's home. Among common locales for violent crimes were on the street other than those near the victim's home (20%), at school (13%), or at a commercial establishment (13%).

Twenty-three percent of victims of violent crime reported being involved in some form of leisure activity away from home at the time of their victimization. Twenty-two percent said they were at home, and another 22% mentioned they were at work or traveling to or from work when the crime occurred.

One in five violent crimes occurred in or near the victim's home. Including these, almost half occurred within a mile from home and about 70% within five miles. Only 5% of victims of violent crime reported that the crime took place more than fifty miles from their home.

In 3 out of 10 incidents of violent crimes, offenders used or threatened to use a weapon. NCVS defines assaults involving weapons as aggravated; thus almost all aggravated assaults (95%) involved a weapon. (Assaults without weapons are classified as aggravated if the victim suffers a serious injury.) Offenders had or used a weapon in slightly more than half of all robberies, compared with 16% of all rapes/sexual assaults.

Table 8. Victim-offender relationship, victim's activity, weapons, and characteristics of the criminal incident, by crimes of violence, 1994

Characteristics of incident	Crimes of violence					
	Total violent crime	Rape/Sexual assault	Robbery	Total	Assault Aggravated	Simple
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Victim/offender relationship*						
Relatives	9%	11%	6%	9%	7%	10%
Well-known	23	35	13	24	21	25
Casual acquaintance	15	21	3	16	12	18
Stranger	53	33	77	51	60	48
Time of day						
6 a.m. to 6 p.m.	53%	31%	42%	62%	36%	62%
6 p.m. to midnight	35	37	43	37	33	33
Midnight to 6 a.m.	12	32	15	1	32	5
Location of crime						
At or near victim's home or lodging	26%	37%	24%	26%	25%	26%
Friend's/relative's/neighbor's home	7	21	4	7	9	7
Commercial places	13	7	8	14	11	15
Parking lots/garages	8	6	12	7	9	7
School	13	3	4	15	7	18
Streets other than near victim's home	20	8	37	18	26	15
Other ^a	13	17	10	13	12	13
Victim's activity						
At work or traveling to or from work	22%	8%	16%	23%	21%	24%
School	13	5	7	14	8	16
Activities at home	22	38	17	22	19	23
Shopping/errands	4	2	11	3	4	3
Leisure activities away from home	23	32	21	23	28	21
Traveling	10	6	20	9	12	7
Other	7	8	8	7	9	6
Distance from victim's home						
Inside home or lodging	5%	34%	14%	14%	12%	14%
Near victim's home	16	10	13	15	16	15
1 mile or less	24	12	29	21	22	21
5 miles or less	26	14	22	24	25	24
50 miles or less	24	23	19	22	20	22
More than 50 miles	5	6	4	4	5	4
Weapons^b						
No weapons present	71%	84%	45%	73%	5%	100%
Weapons present	29	16	55	27	95	0
Firearm	12	6	31	10	35	0
Other type of weapon ^c	17	10	25	17	60	0

*Excludes "don't know" relationships.

^aIncludes areas on street other than near victim's home, on public transportation or inside station, in apartment yard, park, field, playground, and other areas.

^bAn aggravated assault is any assault in which an offender possesses or uses a weapon or inflicts serious injury.

^cIncludes knives, other sharp objects, blunt objects, and other types of weapons.

Summary of crime characteristics

Rapes/sexual assaults

- Two-thirds were committed by someone acquainted with, known to, or related to the victim.
- Two-thirds occurred in the evening or at night.
- About 6 in 10 occurred in the victim's or someone else's home.
- More than a third occurred as the victim engaged in activities in the home; another third occurred during leisure activities away from the home.
- Offenders had a weapon in 16% of all rape/sexual assault victimizations.

Robberies

- Almost 8 in 10 were committed by strangers.
- About 4 in 10 occurred in the daytime; another 4 in 10 occurred in the evening before midnight.
- Robberies occurred in a variety of situations:
 - 1 in 5 during leisure activities
 - 1 in 5 during travel and almost 1 in 5 at home
 - 1 in 6 while at work or commuting to/from work
 - 1 in 10 while shopping
 - 1 in 14 at school.
- Weapons were present in 55% of robberies.
- More than half occurred at or within a mile of the victim's home.

Assaults

- Strangers committed 1 in 2 simple assaults and 6 in 10 aggravated assaults.
- Simple assaults were almost twice as likely as aggravated assaults to be committed during the daytime.
- For both aggravated and simple assaults, about 1 in 4 occurred at or near the victim's home.
- 25% of aggravated assaults and 15% of simple assaults occurred on streets other than near the victim's home.
- In aggravated assaults, offenders had a firearm in more than 1 in 3 incidents and another type of weapon in 6 of 10. Simple assaults do not involve the use of weapons.

Survey methodology

The National Crime Victimization Survey measures personal and household offenses, including crimes not reported to police, by interviewing all the occupants age 12 or older of housing units that have been selected to comprise a representative sample. The sample also includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Excluded are crew members of merchant vessels, Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks or temporary housing, and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates and hospital or hospice patients.

A Bureau of the Census representative interviews each housing unit at 6-month intervals, spreading out the complete sample of household interviews over the entire year. In 1994, Bureau of the Census interviewed approximately 120,000 residents in 56,000 housing units about the crimes they had experienced in the previous 6 months. Response rates were 96% of eligible housing units and 92% of individuals in interviewed households.

Since sample survey data provide the estimates in the Bulletin, these estimates are subject to sampling variation. Comparisons presented in this report are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, meaning that the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error. Statements of comparison qualified by language such as "slightly," "somewhat," or "marginal" indicate statistical significance at the 90% level (1.6 standard error).

The NCVS redesign

Data based on the redesign are not comparable to data before 1993. *Criminal Victimization 1993* was the first yearly Bulletin that presented data from the redesigned survey. A number of fundamental changes were introduced when the survey was redesigned. These changes were phased into the sample over several years. For information about these changes refer to *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993*, NCJ-151657.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

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