



Bureau of Justice Statistics

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Codebooks for:**

**NCVS Select - Household  
Population**

**NCVS Select - Household  
Property Victimization**

**1993–2021**

**Last Updated September 2022**

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The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 persons in about 150,000 households. Persons are interviewed on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States.

The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (i.e., rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (i.e., burglary/trespassing, motor-vehicle theft, and other types of theft) both reported and not reported to the police. Survey respondents provide information about themselves (e.g., age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization.

The NCVS was designed with four primary objectives: (1) to develop detailed information about the victims and consequences of crime, (2) to estimate the number and types of crimes not reported to the police, (3) to provide uniform measures of selected types of crimes, and (4) to permit comparisons over time and types of areas. Beginning in 1992, the survey categorizes crimes as “personal” or “property.”

Each respondent is asked a series of screener questions designed to determine whether she or he was victimized during the 6-month period preceding the first day of the month of the interview. The data include type of crime, location of the crime, relationship between victim and offender, characteristics of the offender, and whether the crime was reported to police. Basic demographic information such as age, race, gender, and income are also collected to enable analysis of crime by various subpopulations.

A “household respondent” is also asked to report on crimes against the entire household (e.g., burglary, motor-vehicle theft).

NCVS Select datasets offer a curated set of variables collected through the NCVS. The complete set of variables and additional documentation are available through the public use data files in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/95>).

This codebook contains variable names, variable descriptions, values, and value labels for variables in both the NCVS Select household victimization and household population datasets.

*NCVS Select – Household Population* contains demographic information of participating households. All responding households, regardless of whether they reported a household property crime victimization, are included in this file.

*NCVS Select – Household Property Victimization* contains property crime victimizations. Property crimes include burglary, theft, motor-vehicle theft, and vandalism. Households that did not report a property crime victimization are not included in this file. Victimization that took place outside of the United States are excluded from this file.

These datasets use a collection year basis for 1993-2021. A collection year contains records from interviews conducted from January through December of the given year. Under the collection year format, victimizations are counted in the year the interview is conducted, regardless of the year when the crime incident occurred. For more information on the NCVS, please visit <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs>. For questions regarding this dataset, please contact [askbjs@usdoj.gov](mailto:askbjs@usdoj.gov).

NCVS Select – Household Population

| Descriptive name                                 | Short description  | Variable name    | Values                           | Value labels  |
|--|--|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Household ID</b>                              | Unique household identifier                                      | idhh             | Unique identifier                | N/A   |
| <b>Year and quarter</b>                          | Year and quarter data was collected                              | yearq            | YYYY.Q                           | N/A   |
| <b>Year</b>                                      | Year data was collected  | year             | 1993-2021                        | N/A   |
| <b>Age of head of household</b>                  | Respondent age on the last day of the month before the interview | hhage            | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>99      | 12 to 19<br>20 to 34<br>35 to 49<br>50 to 64<br>65 or older<br>Out of universe  |
| <b>Sex of head of household</b>                  | Respondent sex   | hhsex            | 1<br>2<br>9                      | Male<br>Female<br>Out of universe   |
| <b>Hispanic origin of head of household</b>      | Respondent Hispanic origin                                       | hhhispanic       | 1<br>2<br>88<br>99               | Hispanic<br>Non-Hispanic<br>Residue<br>Out of universe  |
| <b>Race of head of household</b>                 | Respondent race  | hhrace           | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>99      | White<br>Black<br>American Indian/Alaska Native<br>Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander<br>More than one race<br>Out of universe  |
| <b>Race/Hispanic origin of head of household</b> | Respondent race and Hispanic origin                              | hhrace_ethnicity | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>99 | Non-Hispanic white<br>Non-Hispanic black<br>Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native<br>Non-Hispanic Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander<br>Non-Hispanic more than one race<br>Hispanic<br>Out of universe |

## NCVS Select – Household Population

| Descriptive name                       | Short description  | Variable name | Values                                      | Value labels   |
|--|--|---------------|---|--|
| <b>Annual household income</b>         | Total income of all members of the household for the 12 months preceding the interview. Categories available from 1993-2021 with imputed data, starting 2015 Q1. | hincome1      | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>88<br>99 | Less than \$7,500<br>\$7,500 to \$14,999<br>\$15,000 to \$24,999<br>\$25,000 to \$34,999<br>\$35,000 to \$49,999<br>\$50,000 to \$74,999<br>\$75,000 or more<br>Unknown<br>Out of universe |
| <b>Annual household income-imputed</b> | Imputed income categories, starting 2017 Q1  | hincome2      | -1<br>1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>99           | Invalid until 2017 Q1<br>Less than \$25,000<br>\$25,000 to \$49,999<br>\$50,000 to \$99,999<br>\$100,000 to \$199,999<br>\$200,000 or more<br>Out of universe                              |
| <b>Household size</b>                  | The total number of people residing in the household, including those under age 12   | hnumber       | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>98                      | 1<br>2-3<br>4-5<br>6 or more<br>Residue  |
| <b>Population size</b>                 | The size range for the place in which the housing unit is located, starting 1995 Q3  | popsize       | -1<br>0<br>1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5            | Invalid until 1995 Q3<br>Not a place<br>Under 100,000<br>100,000-249,999<br>250,000-499,999<br>500,000-999,999<br>1 million or more  |
| <b>Region</b>                          | Region of respondent residence. The states have been divided into four groups or census regions, starting 1995 Q3.   | region        | -1<br>1<br>2<br>3<br>4                      | Invalid until 1995 Q3<br>Northeast<br>Midwest<br>South<br>West   |
| <b>Household MSA</b>                   | Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)                          | msa           | 1<br>2<br>3                                 | Principal city within MSA<br>Not part of principal city within MSA<br>Outside MSA  |

NCVS Select – Household Property Victimization

| Descriptive name                                 | Short description  | Variable name    | Values                     | Value labels   |
|--|--|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Household locale</b>                          | Location of household based on BJS geography definitions, starting 2021 Q1 | locality         | -1<br>1<br>2<br>3          | Invalid until 2020 Q1<br>Urban<br>Suburban<br>Rural  |
| <b>Household population weight</b>               | Population weight to use on household population data                      | wgthhcy          | Numeric                    | N/A  |
| <b>Household ID</b>                              | Unique household identifier  | idhh             | Unique identifier          | N/A  |
| <b>Year and quarter</b>                          | Year and quarter data was collected  | yearq            | YYYY.Q                     | N/A  |
| <b>Year</b>                                      | Year data was collected  | year             | 1993-2021                  | N/A  |
| <b>Age of head of household</b>                  | Respondent age on the last day of the month before the interview           | hhage            | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5      | 12 to 19<br>20 to 34<br>35 to 49<br>50 to 64<br>65 or older  |
| <b>Sex of head of household</b>                  | Respondent sex   | hhsex            | 1<br>2                     | Male<br>Female   |
| <b>Hispanic origin of head of household</b>      | Respondent Hispanic origin   | hhhisp           | 1<br>2<br>88               | Hispanic<br>Non-Hispanic<br>Residue  |
| <b>Race of head of household</b>                 | Respondent race  | hhrace           | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5      | White<br>Black<br>American Indian/Alaska Native<br>Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander<br>More than one race  |
| <b>Race/Hispanic origin of head of household</b> | Respondent race and Hispanic origin  | hhrace_ethnicity | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6 | Non-Hispanic white<br>Non-Hispanic black<br>Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native<br>Non-Hispanic Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander<br>Non-Hispanic more than one race<br>Hispanic |

NCVS Select – Household Property Victimization

| Descriptive name                       | Short description  | Variable name | Values                                | Value labels  |
|--|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Annual household income</b>         | Total income of all members of the household for the 12 months preceding the interview. Categories available from 1993-2021 with imputed data, starting 2015 Q1. | hincome1      | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>88 | Less than \$7,500<br>\$7,500 to \$14,999<br>\$15,000 to \$24,999<br>\$25,000 to \$34,999<br>\$35,000 to \$49,999<br>\$50,000 to \$74,999<br>\$75,000 or more<br>Unknown |
| <b>Annual household income-imputed</b> | Imputed income categories, starting 2017 Q1  | hincome2      | -1<br>1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5           | Invalid until 2017 Q1<br>Less than \$25,000<br>\$25,000 to \$49,999<br>\$50,000 to \$99,999<br>\$100,000 to \$199,999<br>\$200,000 or more                              |
| <b>Household size</b>                  | The total number of people residing in the household, including those under age 12   | hnumber       | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4                      | 1<br>2-3<br>4-5<br>6 or more  |
| <b>Population size</b>                 | The size range for the place in which the housing unit is located, starting 1995 Q3  | popsize       | -1<br>0<br>1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5      | Invalid until 1995 Q3<br>Not a place<br>Under 100,000<br>100,000-249,999<br>250,000-499,999<br>500,000-999,999<br>1 million or more                                     |
| <b>Region</b>                          | Region of respondent residence. The states have been divided into four groups or census regions, starting 1995 Q3.   | region        | -1<br>1<br>2<br>3<br>4                | Invalid until 1995 Q3<br>Northeast<br>Midwest<br>South<br>West  |
| <b>Household MSA</b>                   | Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)                          | msa           | 1<br>2<br>3                           | Principal city within MSA<br>Not part of principal city within MSA<br>Outside MSA   |
| <b>Household locale</b>                | Location of household based on BJS geography definitions, starting 2020 Q1   | locality      | -1<br>1<br>2<br>3                     | Invalid until 2020 Q1<br>Urban<br>Suburban<br>Rural   |

NCVS Select – Household Property Victimization

| Descriptive name                            | Short description   | Variable name | Values                | Value labels   |
|---|---|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Aggregate type of crime</b>              | Aggregate type of crime; property crime includes burglary/trespassing, motor-vehicle theft, theft | newcrime      | 3                     | Property crime   |
| <b>Type of crime</b>                        | Type of crime   | newoff        | 6<br>7<br>8           | Burglary/trespassing<br>Motor-vehicle theft<br>Theft   |
| <b>Reporting to police</b>                  | Specifies whether the crime was reported to police  | notify        | 1<br>2<br>3<br>88     | Yes<br>No<br>Do not know<br>Residue  |
| <b>Victim services</b>                      | Specifies whether victims received any help or advice from victim service agencies                | vicservices   | 1<br>2<br>3<br>8      | Yes<br>No<br>Don't know<br>Residue   |
| <b>Location of crime</b>                    | Specifies where the victimization occurred  | locationr     | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5 | At or near victim's home<br>At or near friend's, neighbor's, or relative's home<br>Commercial place, parking lot, or other public area<br>School<br>Other location |
| <b>Victimization weight</b>                 | Annual victimization weight   | wgtviccy      | numeric               | N/A  |
| <b>Series</b>                               | Identifies incident as a series   | series        | 1<br>2                | Not a series crime<br>Series crime   |
| <b>Series adjusted victimization weight</b> | Series adjusted victimization weight  | newwgt        | numeric               | N/A  |