



Crime Data Brief

The Costs of Crime to Victims

By Patsy A. Klaus, BJS Statistician

Crime victims in 1992 lost \$17.6 billion in direct costs, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These costs included losses from property theft or damage, cash losses, medical expenses, and amount of pay lost because of injury or activities related to the crime. The crimes included in this figure are rape, robbery, assault, personal and household theft, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Crimes include attempts as well as completed offenses.

- Economic loss of some kind occurred in 71% of all personal crimes. These crimes included rape, robbery, assault, and personal theft. For crimes of violence (rape, robbery, assault) economic loss occurred in 23% of victimizations. Household crimes of burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft involved economic loss in 91% of all victimizations.

- In 1992, a total of 33,649,340 victimizations occurred. Twenty-three percent of all U.S. households were victimized in 1992; the total number of households experiencing one or more victimizations was 22,093,000.

- Economic loss occurred in 13,371,400 personal crimes and 13,515,140 household crimes — a total of 26,886,580* victimizations. In 4.4% of these victimizations, the loss was of no monetary value but involved the loss of something that the victim regarded as having value.

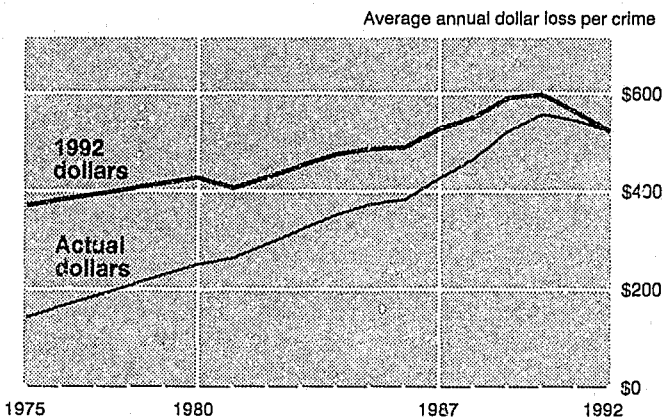
Average loss per crime, 1992

Mean loss, all crimes*	\$524
Personal crimes	\$218
Crimes of violence	206
Rape	234
Robbery	555
Assault	124
Household crimes	\$914
Personal and household theft	221
Burglary	834
Motor vehicle theft	3,990

Note: Data include all forms of economic loss, medical expenses, and time lost from work because of the crime.
*Includes crimes involving no loss.

*This number is larger than the number of victimized households, since a household is counted only once, regardless of the number of victimizations that occurred.

The average loss per crime increased 1975-92



Note: During the 1975-92 period, according to the Current Population Survey, household money income adjusted for inflation remained relatively unchanged. Data are interpolated for 1976-79 and 1982-83.

- Among crimes that involved loss —

- About 12% of personal crimes and 24% of household crimes involved economic losses of \$500 or more.

- For personal crimes, 11% of whites and 15% of blacks lost \$500 or more. For household crimes, 23% of whites and 25% of blacks had such losses.

- In robberies at least \$250 or more was taken from the victim in about a fourth (26%) of all victimizations. Black victims lost this amount in 41% of the victimizations, and white robbery victims, in 19%.

- Lost property was not recovered in 89% of personal crimes (90% for whites; 89% for blacks) and 85% of household crimes in 1992 (85% for whites; 82% for blacks).

Median loss for crimes of theft, 1992

All crimes, with or without loss	\$26
Crimes involving loss	
Robbery	\$89
Theft	55
Burglary	50
Motor vehicle theft	3,600

Note: Data include only direct property losses and do not include medical expenses or other costs.

Victims receiving medical care, by type of crime and where care was received, 1992

Type of crime	Number of victims receiving medical care	Total	At the scene	Atown, neighbor's, or friend's house	Health unit or first-aid station	Doctor's office or clinic	Emergency room at hospital or clinic	Hospital	Other
Crimes of violence	1,419,940	100.0%	6.7%	30.1%	2.3%*	11.5%	31.8%	14.1%	3.6%
Rape	68,070	100.0	.0*	.0*	.0*	20.4*	47.7*	24.7*	7.2*
Robbery	355,570	100.0	7.4*	38.8	1.0*	10.0*	25.5	9.8*	7.5*
Assault	996,290	100.0	6.9	29.0	2.9*	11.4	33.0	15.0	1.9*

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Respondents may have received medical attention at more than one location; however, percent distribution is based on locations of medical care.

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

- About 31% of all victims of crimes of violence (robbery and assault) in 1992 sustained some physical injury. Thirty percent of whites and 32% of blacks sustained injury.

- For crimes of violence involving injuries in which medical expenses were known, 65% involved costs of \$250 or more. These findings were similar for whites (65%) and blacks (66%).

- In 1992, 69% of the victims who were injured had health insurance or were eligible for public medical services. Seventy percent of all whites and 66% of all blacks had insurance coverage or eligibility for public medical services.

- About 8% of all victims lost time from work in 1992 as a result of a crime of violence and 6% as a result of a household crime.

- About the same percentages of blacks and whites lost time from work for personal crimes (whites, 5%; blacks, 6%). However, when time was lost, 67% of blacks lost 1-5 days, compared with 43% of whites. For personal crimes of theft, 77% of blacks lost 1-5 days, compared with 31% of whites.

The economic costs to victims reported in this crime data brief include only those that had occurred before the interview, which was 6 months or less after the crime. Medical costs may continue to accumulate for months or years after a victimization; these are not included. The victim is not specifically asked about psychological counseling, although some victims may have included this as a medical cost. Increases to insurance premiums as a result of filing claims, decreased productivity at work, moving costs incurred when moving as a result of victimization, intangible costs of pain and suffering, and other similar costs are also not included.

February 1994, NCJ-145865

Amount of loss, based upon crimes involving economic loss, 1992

	Total victimizations	No monetary value	\$1-\$249	\$250-\$499	\$500 or more	Don't know
Personal crimes						
Crimes of violence ^a	13,371,440	5.3%	57.3%	8.6%	12.7%	16.2%
Robbery	876,800	1.3*	60.0	9.1	17.7	11.6
Assault	639,170	10.3	55.4	7.6	4.0	22.8
Personal theft	11,822,760	1.8	68.6	9.4	11.8	8.3
Household crimes						
Burglary	13,515,140	2.2	53.6	9.5	23.8	10.9
Burglary	4,009,560	3.9	39.8	11.7	31.3	13.4
Household theft	7,748,500	1.5	69.4	9.5	9.6	9.9
Motor vehicle theft	1,757,080	1.4*	15.0	5.1	69.1	9.4

*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes rape, not shown separately because of the relatively few victims reporting monetary loss.

Total economic loss to victims of crime, 1992

All crime victims	\$17,646,000,000
Victims with losses	
Personal crimes	\$4,110,000,000
Crimes of violence	1,362,000,000
Rape	33,000,000
Robbery	680,000,000
Assault	649,000,000
Crimes of personal theft	2,748,000,000
Larceny with contact	76,000,000
Larceny without contact	2,672,000,000
Household crimes	\$13,536,000,000
Burglary	3,970,000,000
Household larceny	1,750,000,000
Motor vehicle theft	7,816,000,000

1.8 million victims in 1992 lost 6.1 million days from work, an average of 3.4 days per crime

	Percent of all victimizations with lost time
All personal crimes	5.2%
Crimes of violence	7.6
Crimes of theft	3.9
All household crimes	6.1
Burglary	5.2
Larceny	4.0
Motor vehicle theft	17.2

Bureau of Justice Statistics reports

(Revised February 1994)

Call toll-free 800-732-3277 to order BJS reports, to be added to one of the BJS mailing lists, or to speak to a reference specialist in statistics at the Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 179, Dept. BJS-236, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0179. For drugs and crime data, call the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, 1600 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850, toll-free 800-666-3332.

BJS maintains these mailing lists:

- Law enforcement reports
- Federal statistics
- Drugs and crime data
- Justice expenditure and employment
- Privacy and security of criminal histories and criminal justice information policy
- BJS bulletins and special reports
- State felony courts
- Corrections
- National Crime Victimization Survey
- Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics (annual)

Single copies of reports are free; use NCJ number to order. Postage and handling are charged for bulk orders of single reports. For single copies of multiple titles, up to 10 titles are free; 11-40 titles \$10; more than 40, \$20; libraries call for special rates.

Public-use tapes of BJS data sets and other criminal justice data are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (formerly CJAIN), P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (toll-free 800-999-0960).

National Crime Victimization Survey

The costs of crime to victims (BJS Crime Data Brief), NCJ-145865, 1/94
Violence against women, NCJ-145325, 1/94
Highlights from 20 years of surveying crime victims: 1973-92, NCJ-144525, 10/93
Criminal victimization in the U.S.: 1991 (final), NCJ-139563, 1/93
1973-90 trends, NCJ-139564, 1/93
Crime and older Americans information package, NCJ-140091, 4/93, \$15
Crime victimization in city, suburban, and rural areas, NCJ-135943, 6/92
School crime, NCJ-131645, 9/91
Teenage victims, NCJ-128129, 5/91
The Nation's two crime measures: Uniform Crime Reports and the National Crime Survey, NCJ-122705, 4/90
Redesign of the National Crime Survey, NCJ-111457, 3/89
The seasonality of crime victimization, NCJ-111033, 6/88
Victimization and fear of crime: World perspectives, NCJ-93872, 1/85, \$9.15
The National Crime Survey: Working papers, Vol. I, History, NCJ-75374, 8/82
Vol. II, Methodology, NCJ-90307, 12/84, \$9.90

BJS bulletins

Criminal victimization 1992, NCJ-144776, 11/93
Crime and the Nation's households, 1992, NCJ-143288, 9/93
The crime of rape, NCJ-96777, 3/85
Measuring crime, NCJ-75710, 2/81

BJS special reports

Elderly victims, NCJ-138330, 10/92
Handgun crime victims, NCJ-123559, 7/90
Black victims, NCJ-122562, 4/90
Hispanic victims, NCJ-120507, 1/90
The redesigned National Crime Survey: Selected new data, NCJ-114746, 1/89
Motor vehicle theft, NCJ-109978, 3/88
Violent crime trends, NCJ-107217, 11/87
Robbery victims, NCJ-104638, 4/87
Violent crime by strangers and non-strangers, NCJ-103702, 1/87
Preventing domestic violence against women, NCJ-102037, 8/86
Crime prevention measures, NCJ-100438, 3/86
The use of weapons in committing crimes, NCJ-99643, 1/86

BJS technical reports

New directions for NCS, NCJ-115571, 3/89
Series crimes: Report of a field test, NCJ-104615, 4/87

Corrections

BJS bulletins and special reports

Capital punishment 1992, NCJ-145031, 12/93
HIV in U.S. prisons and jails, NCJ-143292, 9/93
Prisoners in 1992, NCJ-141874, 5/93
Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990, NCJ-134724, 7/92
Women in prison, NCJ-127991, 4/91
Violent State prisoners and their victims, NCJ-124133, 7/90
Prison rule violators, NCJ-120344, 12/89
Recidivism of prisoners released in 1983, NCJ-116261, 4/89
Drug use and crime: State prison inmate survey, 1986, NCJ-111940, 7/88
Time served in prison and on parole, 1984, NCJ-108544, 12/87
Profile of State prison inmates, 1986, NCJ-109926, 1/88
Imprisonment in four countries, NCJ-103967, 2/87

Prisoners at midyear 1993 (press release), NCJ-143960, 9/93
Correctional populations in the U.S.: 1991, NCJ-142729, 8/93
1990, NCJ-134946, 7/92
Survey of State prison inmates, 1991, NCJ-136949, 5/93
Census of State and Federal correctional facilities, 1990, NCJ-137003, 6/92
Prisons and prisoners in the United States, NCJ-137002, 4/92
National Corrections Reporting Program: 1991, NCJ-145861, 2/94
1990, NCJ-141879, 5/93
State and Federal Institutions, 1926-86: Race of prisoners admitted, NCJ-125618, 6/91
Historical statistics on prisoners, NCJ-111098, 6/88

Census of jails and survey of jail inmates

BJS bulletins and special reports

Jail inmates, 1992, NCJ-143284, 8/93
Drunk driving: 1989 Survey of Inmates of Local Jails, NCJ-134728, 9/92
Women in jail, 1989, NCJ-134732, 3/92
Drugs and jail inmates, NCJ-130836, 8/91
Profile of jail inmates, 1989, NCJ-129097, 4/91
Population density in local jails, 1988, NCJ-122299, 3/90
Census of local jails, 1988, NCJ-121101, 2/90

Census of local jails, 1988:

Summary and methodology, vol. I, NCJ-127992, 3/91
Data for individual jails in the Northeast, Midwest, South, West, vols. II-V, NCJ-130759-130762, 9/91
Census of local jails, 1983: Selected findings, methodology, summary tables, vol. V, NCJ-112795, 11/88

Probation and parole

BJS bulletins and special reports

Probation and parole: 1990, NCJ-133285, 11/91
1989, NCJ-125833, 11/90
Recidivism of young parolees, NCJ-104916, 5/87

Juvenile corrections

Children in custody: Census of public and private juvenile detention, correctional, and shelter facilities, 1975-85, NCJ-114055, 6/89
Survey of youth in custody, 1987 (special report), NCJ-113365, 9/88

Expenditure and employment

Justice expenditure and employment: 1990 (BJS bulletin), NCJ-135777, 9/92
1988 (full report), NCJ-125619, 8/91
Extracts, 1984, '85, '86, NCJ-124139, 8/91, \$12.25
Justice variable pass-through data, 1990: Anti-drug abuse formula grants (BJS technical report), NCJ-133018, 3/92

Courts

BJS bulletins

Prosecutors in State courts 1992, NCJ-145319, 12/93
1990, NCJ-134500, 3/92
Felony sentences in State courts 1990, NCJ-140186, 3/93
1988, NCJ-126923, 12/90
Pretrial release of felony defendants 1990, NCJ-139560, 11/92
1988, NCJ-127202, 2/91
Criminal defense for the poor, 1986, NCJ-112919, 9/88
BJS special reports
Murder in families, NCJ-143498, 2/94
Murder in large urban counties, 1988, NCJ-140614, 3/93
Recidivism of felons on probation, 1986-89, NCJ-134177, 2/92
Felony case processing in State courts, 1986, NCJ-121753, 2/90

National Judicial Reporting Program

1990, NCJ-145323, 12/93
1988, NCJ-135945, 1/93
Felony defendants in large urban counties, 1990: National Pretrial Reporting Program, NCJ-141872, 5/93
Felons sentenced to probation in State courts, 1986, NCJ-124944, 11/90
Felony defendants in large urban counties, 1988, NCJ-122385, 4/90
Profile of felons convicted in State courts, 1986, NCJ-120021, 1/90
Felony laws of 50 States and the District of Columbia, 1986, NCJ-105066, 2/88, \$14.60
State court model statistical dictionary: Supplement, NCJ-98326, 9/85
1st edition, NCJ-62320, 9/80, \$10.60

Privacy and security

Criminal Justice Information policy: Use and management of criminal history record information: A comprehensive report, NCJ-143501, 11/93
Survey of criminal history information systems, 1992, NCJ-143500, 11/93
Report of the National Task Force on Criminal History Record Disposition Reporting, NCJ-135836, 6/92
Attorney General's program for improving the Nation's criminal history records: BJS implementation status report, NCJ-134722, 3/92
Identifying felons who attempt to purchase firearms, NCJ-144393, 10/89
Identifying persons, other than felons, who attempt to purchase firearms, NCJ-123050, 3/90, \$9.90
Assessing completeness and accuracy of criminal history record information: Audit guide, NCJ-133651, 2/92
Forensic DNA analysis: Issues, NCJ-128567, 6/91
Statutes requiring use of criminal history record information, NCJ-129996, 6/91
Original records of entry, NCJ-125626, 12/90
Strategies for improving data quality, NCJ-115339, 5/89
Public access to criminal history record information, NCJ-111458, 11/88
Juvenile records and recordkeeping systems, NCJ-112815, 11/88
Automated fingerprint identification systems: Technology and policy issues, NCJ-104342, 4/87
Criminal justice "hot" files, NCJ-101850, 12/86
Expert witness manual, NCJ-77927, 9/81, \$11.50

BJS/SEARCH conference proceedings:

National conference on criminal justice bulletin board systems, NCJ-145327, 2/94
National conference on improving the quality of criminal history information: NCJ-133532, 2/92
Criminal justice in the 1990's: The future of information management, NCJ-121697, 5/90, \$7.70
Juvenile and adult records: One system, one record? NCJ-114947, 1/90
Open vs. confidential records, NCJ-113560, 1/88, \$7.70

Compendium of State privacy and security legislation:

1992 summary, NCJ-137058, 7/92
1992 full report (1,500pp, microfiche \$2, hard copy, NCJ-139126, \$184), 7/92

Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics

LEMAS, 1990: Data for individual agencies with 100 or more officers, NCJ-134436, 9/92

BJS bulletins and special reports

Census of State and local law enforcement agencies 1992, NCJ-142972, 7/93
Drug enforcement by police and sheriffs' departments, 1990, NCJ-134505, 5/92
State and local police departments, 1990, NCJ-133284, 2/92
Sheriffs' departments, 1990, NCJ-133283, 2/92
Police departments in large cities, 1987, NCJ-119220, 8/89
Profile of State and local law enforcement agencies, 1987, NCJ-113949, 3/89

Drugs & crime

Drugs, crime, and the justice system: A national report, NCJ-133652, 5/93
Technical appendix, NCJ-139578, 6/93
Catalog of selected Federal publications on illegal drug and alcohol abuse, NCJ-139562, 6/93
Drugs and crime facts: 1992, NCJ-139561, 3/93
State drug resources: 1992 national directory, NCJ-134375, 5/92
Federal drug data for national policy, NCJ-122715, 4/90

Federal justice statistics

Federal drug case processing, 1985-91, with preliminary data for 1992, NCJ-144392, 2/94
Pretrial release of Federal felony defendants, 1990 (Special Report), NCJ-145322, 2/94
Federal criminal case processing, 1982-91, with preliminary data for 1992, NCJ-144526, 11/93
Compendium of Federal justice statistics: 1990, NCJ-143499, 9/93
1989, NCJ-134730, 5/92
The Federal civil justice system (BJS bulletin), NCJ-104769, 8/87

Federal offenses and offenders

BJS special reports

Prosecuting criminal enterprises, NCJ-142524, 11/93
Federal sentencing in transition, 1986-90, NCJ-134727, 6/92
Immigration offenses, NCJ-124546, 8/90
Federal criminal cases, 1980-87, NCJ-118311, 7/89

General

BJS bulletins and special reports

BJS telephone contacts, '94, NCJ-143707, 11/93
Patterns of robbery and burglary in 9 States, 1984-88, NCJ-137368, 11/92
Forgery and fraud-related offenses in 6 States, 1983-88, NCJ-132445, 1/92
International crime rates, NCJ-110776, 5/88

BJS discussion papers:

Sentencing in the Federal courts: Does race matter? The transition to sentencing guidelines, 1986-90 Summary, NCJ-145332, 12/93
Full report, NCJ-145328, 12/93, \$5
Performance measures for the criminal justice system: Papers from the BJS-Princeton Project, NCJ-143505, 10/93
Local prosecution of organized crime: Use of State RICO statutes, NCJ-143502, 1/93
Felony sentencing and jail characteristics, NCJ-142523, 6/93

Using NIBRS data to analyze violent crime: National Incident-Based Reporting System (Technical Report), NCJ-144785, 11/93
Directory of automated criminal justice information systems, 1993: Vol. 1, Law enforcement, NCJ-142645, 9/93, \$5
Vol. 2, Corrections, courts, probation/parole, prosecution, NCJ-142646, 9/93, \$4
Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1992, NCJ-143496, 9/93, \$6
State justice sourcebook of statistics and research, NCJ-137991, 9/92
Publications of BJS, 1985-89: Microfiche library, PRO30014, 5/90, \$190
Bibliography, TBO30013, 5/90, \$17.50
Publications of BJS, 1971-84: Microfiche library, PRO30012, 10/86, \$203
Bibliography, TBO30012, 10/86, \$17.50
Report to the Nation on crime and justice: Second edition, NCJ-105506, 6/88
Technical appendix, NCJ-112011, 6/88, \$8.40

See order form on last page

Please put me on the mailing list for:

- Law enforcement reports** — National data on State and local police and sheriffs' departments: operations, equipment, personnel, salaries, spending, policies, and programs
- Federal statistics** — Federal case processing: investigation through prosecution, adjudication, sentencing, incarceration
- Drugs and crime** — Sentencing and time served by drug offenders, drug use at time of crime by jail inmates and State prisoners, and other quality data on drugs, crime, and law enforcement
- Justice expenditure and employment** — Spending and staffing by Federal/State/local governments and by function (police, courts, corrections, etc.)
- Privacy and security of criminal history information and information policy** — New State legislation; maintaining and releasing intelligence and investigative records; data quality
- BJS bulletins & special reports** — Timely reports of the most current justice data
- State felony courts** — Defendant demographics and criminal history; pretrial release, prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing; State felony laws; indigent defense
- Corrections reports** — Results of sample surveys and censuses of jails, prisons, parole, probation, and other corrections data
- National Crime Victimization Survey reports** — The only ongoing national survey of crime victims
- Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics** (annual) — Broad-based data from 150+ sources (400+ tables, 100+ figures, subject index, annotated bibliography, addresses of sources)
- Send me a signup form for the **NIJ Catalog** (free 6 times a year), which abstracts both private and government criminal justice publications and lists upcoming conferences and training sessions in the field.

To be added to any BJS mailing list, please fill in this page and fax to (410) 792-4358 or fold, stamp, and mail to:

BJS Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 179, Dept. BJS-236
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0179

You will receive an annual renewal card. If you do not return it, we must drop you from the mailing list.

To order copies of recent BJS reports, attach a list of the titles and NCJ numbers of the reports you desire.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Street or box: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Criminal justice interest: _____

Put your organization
and title here if you used
home address above: _____

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

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
DOJ/BJS
Permit No. G-91

Washington, D.C. 20531

Crime Data Brief