

Criminal Victimization, 2019

SUMMARY | NCJ 255113

SEPTEMBER 2020

The portion of U.S. residents age 12 or older who were victims of one or more violent crimes excluding simple assault decreased from 0.50% in 2018 to 0.44% in 2019 (down 12%). The number of victims age 12 or older declined from 1.4 million in 2018 to 1.2 million in 2019, marking the first statistically significant decrease in the number of persons who were victims of violent crime excluding simple assault since 2015. These statistics are based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the nation's largest crime survey.

Other prevalence estimates

There were 880,000 fewer victims of serious crimes (generally felonies) in 2019 than in 2018, a 19% drop. From 2018 to 2019, 29% fewer black persons and 22% fewer white persons were victims of serious crimes. Serious-crime victims are those who experienced a serious violent crime or whose household experienced a completed burglary or completed motor-vehicle theft.

Victimization estimates

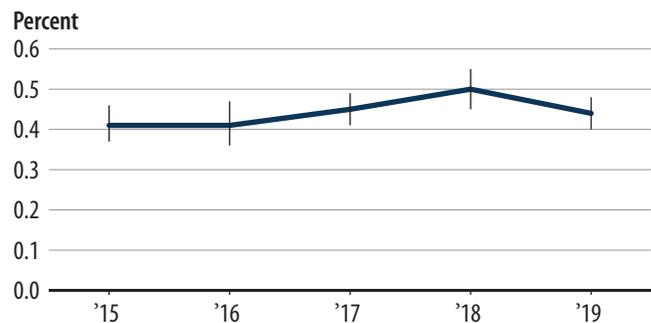
From 2018 to 2019, the rate of violent crime excluding simple assault declined 15%, from 8.6 to 7.3 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. This decrease was driven partly by a decline in rape or sexual assault victimizations, which declined from 2.7 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2018 to 1.7 per 1,000 in 2019.

This year, BJS provides new classifications of urban, suburban, and rural areas, with the goal of presenting a more accurate picture of where criminal victimizations occur. Based on the NCVS's new classifications, the rate of violent victimization in urban areas declined from 26.5 to 21.1 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, a 20% decrease from 2018 to 2019.

Reporting crimes

Based on the 2019 survey, less than half (41%) of violent victimizations were reported to police. The percentage of violent victimizations reported to police

Percent of U.S. residents age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime excluding simple assault, 2015-2019



Note: Estimates include 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCVS, 2015-2019.

was lower for white victims (37%) than for black (49%) or Hispanic victims (49%).

Incident estimates

In 2019, there were 5.4 million total violent incidents involving victims age 12 or older. The portion of violent incidents involving black offenders (25%) was 2.3 times the portion involving black victims (11%), while the portion involving white offenders (50%) was 0.8 times the portion involving white victims (62%) and the portion involving Asian offenders (1.0%) was 0.4 times the portion involving Asian victims (2.3%).

Property crime

The rate of property crime declined 6% from 2018 to 2019 (from 108.2 to 101.4 victimizations per 1,000 households). This decline in property victimizations was partly due to a 22% decrease in the burglary rate from 2018 to 2019 (from 15.0 to 11.7 burglary victimizations per 1,000 households). The rate of burglary victimization declined to the lowest level since the NCVS was redesigned in 1993.

The full report (*Criminal Victimization, 2019*, NCJ 255113), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.