



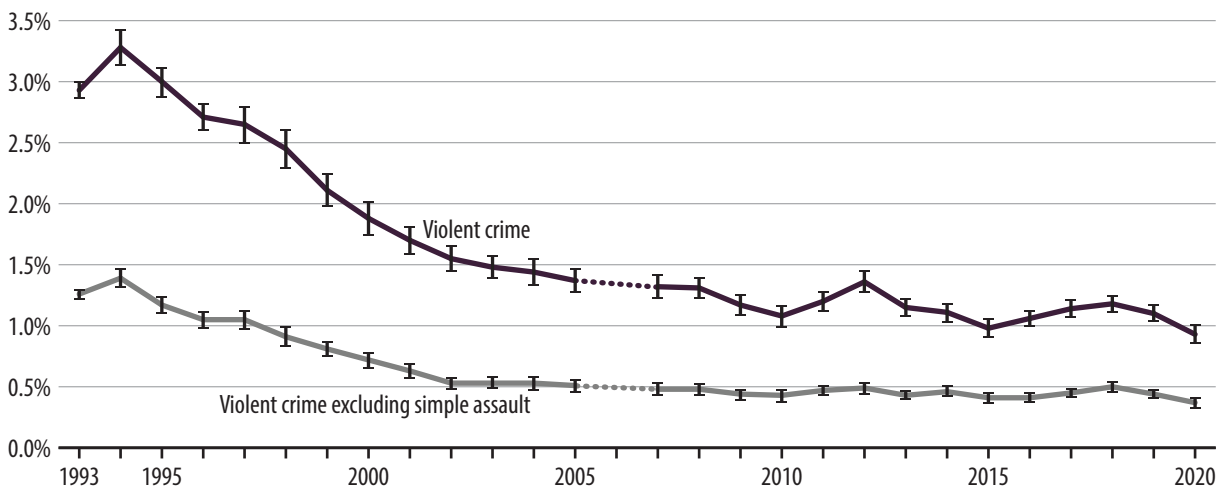
# Criminal Victimization, 2020 – Supplemental Statistical Tables

Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D., and Alexandra Thompson, *BJS Statisticians*

The prevalence of violent crime in the United States declined from 1.10% (3.1 million) of persons age 12 or older in 2019 to 0.93% (2.6 million) in 2020 (figure 1). Violent crime includes rape or sexual assault,

robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. The percentage of persons who were victims of violent crime excluding simple assault also declined during this period, from 0.44% (1.2 million) to 0.37% (1.0 million).

**FIGURE 1**  
Percent of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime and violent crime excluding simple assault, 1993–2020



Note: Estimates include 95% confidence intervals. See table 1 for definitions and appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors. Estimates for 2006 should not be compared to other years and are excluded from the figure.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993–2020.

## Highlights

- The percentage of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime declined 15%, from 1.10% (3.1 million) in 2019 to 0.93% (2.6 million) in 2020.
- The prevalence of property crime declined from 6.76% (8.5 million) of households in 2019 to 6.19% (7.9 million) in 2020.
- Regardless of the victims' sex, a greater percentage of violent incidents involved male offenders (79%) than female offenders (17%) or offenders of both sexes (3%).
- Most violent incidents against white (69%) and black (66%) victims were committed by an offender of the same race or ethnicity as the victim.
- From 2019 to 2020, the percentage of intimate partner violent victimizations for which victims received victim services decreased by more than half, from 26% to 12%.
- The rate of violent victimization committed against U.S. citizens was lower in 2020 (16.7 victimizations per 1,000 U.S. citizens) than in 2019 (21.2 per 1,000).

## List of tables

**TABLE 1.** Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020

**TABLE 2.** Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020

**TABLE 3.** Number and percent of households that were victims of property crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020

**TABLE 4.** Percent of violent incidents, by sex of victims and offenders, 2020

**TABLE 5.** Percent of violent incidents, by race or ethnicity of victims and offenders, 2020

**TABLE 6.** Percent of violent victimizations for which victims received assistance from a victim service provider, by type of crime, 2019 and 2020

**TABLE 7.** Number and rate of violent victimization, by veteran and citizenship status of victims, 2019 and 2020

**TABLE 8.** Percent and rate of violent victimization reported to police, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020

## List of figures

**FIGURE 1.** Percent of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime and violent crime excluding simple assault, 1993–2020

## List of appendix tables

**APPENDIX TABLE 1.** Estimates and standard errors for figure 1: Percent of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime and violent crime excluding simple assault, 1993–2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 2.** Standard errors for table 1: Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 3.** Standard errors for table 2: Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 4.** Standard errors for table 3: Number and percent of households that were victims of property crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 5.** Standard errors for table 4: Percent of violent incidents, by sex of victims and offenders, 2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 6.** Standard errors for table 5: Percent of violent incidents, by race or ethnicity of victims and offenders, 2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 7.** Standard errors for table 6: Percent of violent victimizations for which victims received assistance from a victim service provider, by type of crime, 2019 and 2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 8.** Standard errors for table 7: Number and rate of violent victimization, by veteran and citizenship status of victims, 2019 and 2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 9.** Standard errors for table 8: Percent and rate of violent victimization reported to police, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 10.** Population of persons age 12 or older, by demographic characteristics, 2016–2020

**APPENDIX TABLE 11.** Population of households, 2016–2020

Findings are based on the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), a self-report survey administered annually from January 1 to December 31.<sup>1</sup> Annual NCVS estimates are based on the number and characteristics of crimes that respondents experienced during the prior 6 months, excluding the month in which they were interviewed. Therefore, the 2020 survey covers crimes experienced from July 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020, with March 15, 2020 as the middle of the reference period. Crimes are classified by the year of the survey and not by the year of the crime. (See *Methodology*.)

<sup>1</sup>See *Criminal Victimization, 2020* (NCJ 301775, BJS, October 2021) for details on adjustments to the 2020 NCVS weighting procedures and 2020 NCVS estimates not included in this report.

## Prevalence estimates

### Prevalence of violent crime

- The prevalence of violent crime declined from 1.06% (2.9 million) of persons age 12 or older in 2016 to 0.93% (2.6 million) in 2020 (**table 1**).<sup>2</sup> This change was primarily driven by a decline in the prevalence of assault during this period, from 0.92% to 0.78%.<sup>3</sup>
- From 2016 to 2020, the percentage of persons who were victims of aggravated assault declined from 0.25% to 0.20%. The percentage who were victims of simple assault declined from 0.70% in 2016 to 0.61% in 2020.
- The prevalence rate of violent crime with a weapon declined from 0.28% in 2019 to 0.23% in 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Prevalence reflects the number or percentage of unique persons who were crime victims, or of unique households that experienced crime.

<sup>3</sup>In this report, statistical significance is reported at both the 90% and 95% confidence levels. See figures and tables for testing on specific findings.

**TABLE 1**  
Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020

Type of crime	Number of victims <sup>a</sup>					Percent of persons <sup>b</sup>				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
<b>Total violent crime<sup>c</sup></b>	2,882,320 ‡	3,106,340 †	3,254,250 †	3,059,060 †	2,599,620	1.06% †	1.14% †	1.18% †	1.10% †	0.93%
Rape/sexual assault	162,940	208,960	347,090 †	212,230	192,820	0.06	0.08	0.13 †	0.08	0.07
Robbery	312,310	402,430 †	363,210	337,720	306,410	0.11	0.15 †	0.13	0.12	0.11
Assault	2,497,500 †	2,595,780 †	2,668,820 †	2,586,170 †	2,176,320	0.92 †	0.95 †	0.97 †	0.93 †	0.78
Aggravated assault	680,770 ‡	646,540	694,260 †	697,190 †	556,010	0.25 †	0.24	0.25 †	0.25 †	0.20
Simple assault	1,903,860 ‡	2,024,880 †	2,058,870 †	1,965,410 †	1,685,000	0.70 †	0.74 †	0.75 †	0.71 †	0.61
<b>Violent crime excluding simple assault<sup>d</sup></b>	1,123,190	1,225,800 †	1,367,270 †	1,216,400 †	1,026,020	0.41%	0.45% †	0.50% †	0.44% †	0.37%
<b>Selected characteristics of violent crime</b>										
Domestic violence <sup>e</sup>	514,350	559,820 ‡	636,540 †	521,870	454,330	0.19%	0.21% †	0.23% †	0.19%	0.16%
Intimate partner violence <sup>f</sup>	273,900	308,560	368,980 †	310,320	253,170	0.10	0.11	0.13 †	0.11	0.09
Stranger violence	1,276,710	1,370,020	1,411,500 ‡	1,393,650	1,243,930	0.47	0.50	0.51 †	0.50	0.45
Violent crime with an injury	663,920	722,560	841,280 †	735,430	667,230	0.24	0.27	0.31 †	0.27	0.24
Violent crime with a weapon	767,320	776,770 ‡	838,630 †	788,920 †	651,000	0.28 ‡	0.29 †	0.30 †	0.28 †	0.23

Note: Details may not sum to totals because a person may experience multiple types of crime. Violent crime categories include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault, and they include threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of those crimes. Violent crime categories such as domestic violence and violent crime with an injury are not mutually exclusive from other violent crime categories or from other characteristics. See appendix table 2 for standard errors and appendix table 10 for person populations.

\*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Number of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one violent victimization during the year.

<sup>b</sup>Percentage of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one violent victimization during the year.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes homicide because the National Crime Victimization Survey is based on interviews with victims.

<sup>d</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>e</sup>Includes the subset of violent victimizations that were committed by intimate partners or family members.

<sup>f</sup>Includes the subset of violent victimizations that were committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016–2020.

## Prevalence of violent crime by demographic characteristics of victims

- The percentage of males who experienced violent crime declined from 1.17% of males age 12 or older in 2019 to 0.97% in 2020 (table 2). The percentage of females who were victims of violent crime declined from 1.04% to 0.90%.
- From 2019 to 2020, the percentage of persons who were victims of violent crime declined from 1.07% to 0.93% among white persons and from 1.28% to

0.86% among Hispanic persons. During this period, there were no statistically significant differences among persons of other racial or ethnic categories.

- The prevalence of violent victimization declined for persons ages 12 to 17 (from 1.61% to 1.03%) and persons ages 25 to 34 (from 1.50% to 1.20%) from 2019 to 2020.

**TABLE 2**  
**Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020**

Victim demographic characteristic	Number of victims <sup>a</sup>		Percent of persons <sup>b</sup>	
	2019	2020*	2019	2020*
<b>Total</b>	3,059,060 †	2,599,620	1.10% †	0.93%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	1,579,530 †	1,312,980	1.17% †	0.97%
Female	1,479,540 †	1,286,640	1.04 †	0.90
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White <sup>c</sup>	1,836,520 †	1,593,170	1.07% †	0.93%
Black <sup>c</sup>	367,030	361,940	1.10	1.07
Hispanic	610,690 †	417,570	1.28 †	0.86
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>c,d</sup>	90,560	80,100	0.49	0.42
Other <sup>c,d,e</sup>	154,250	146,840	2.65	2.61
<b>Age</b>				
12–17	400,830 †	257,330	1.61% †	1.03%
18–24	504,420 ‡	407,520	1.70	1.39
25–34	677,100 †	545,700	1.50 †	1.20
35–49	651,210	635,540	1.06	1.04
50–64	612,010	546,740	0.98	0.88
65 or older	213,490	206,780	0.40	0.38
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	1,567,440 †	1,300,620	1.60% †	1.31%
Married	820,940 ‡	697,610	0.63 ‡	0.54
Widowed	90,700	75,910	0.60	0.49
Divorced	417,300	405,100	1.54	1.48
Separated	156,050 ‡	109,820	3.14	2.28

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data. Violent crime categories include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault, and they include threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of those crimes. See appendix table 3 for standard errors and appendix table 10 for person populations.

\*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Number of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one violent victimization during the year.

<sup>b</sup>Percentage of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one violent victimization during the year.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>d</sup>Categories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

<sup>e</sup>Includes American Indians and Alaska Natives and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.

## Prevalence of property crime

- In 2020, 6.19% of households experienced one or more property victimizations (burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of household theft), which was a statistically significant decline from the 7.37% of households in 2016 (table 3).
- The prevalence of burglary or trespassing declined 20% from 2019 (1.22%) to 2020 (0.97%).
- There was a statistically significant decline in other types of household theft from 5.53% in 2019 to 5.17% in 2020.
- The prevalence rate of motor vehicle theft did not differ significantly from 2019 (0.33%) to 2020 (0.32%).

**TABLE 3**

### Number and percent of households that were victims of property crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020

Type of crime	Number of victimized households <sup>a</sup>					Percent of households <sup>b</sup>				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
<b>Total</b>	9,825,060	9,145,690 †	9,080,490 †	8,545,770 †	7,915,500	7.37% †	7.43% †	7.27% †	6.76% †	6.19%
<b>Burglary/trespassing<sup>c</sup></b>	2,037,320	1,842,730 †	1,851,420 †	1,537,190 †	1,239,860	1.53% †	1.50% †	1.48% †	1.22% †	0.97%
Burglary <sup>d</sup>	1,455,720	1,273,410 †	1,333,600 †	1,040,730 †	860,860	1.09 †	1.03 †	1.07 †	0.82 †	0.67
Trespassing <sup>e</sup>	671,650	639,620 †	585,190 †	530,440 †	404,210	0.50 †	0.52 †	0.47 †	0.42 †	0.32
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	470,880	438,860	424,360	411,140	413,880	0.35%	0.36%	0.34%	0.33%	0.32%
<b>Other theft<sup>f</sup></b>	7,803,350	7,330,960 †	7,261,840 †	6,991,800 †	6,611,210	5.85% †	5.96% †	5.82% †	5.53% †	5.17%

Note: Details may not sum to totals because a household can experience multiple types of property crime. The National Crime Victimization Survey household weighting adjustment was updated for 2017 onward, which decreased the estimated number of households and the number of households experiencing property crime by about 8%. As a result, the number of property crimes for 2016 should not be compared to 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020. Property crime rates are unaffected by this change. See appendix table 4 for standard errors and appendix table 11 for household populations. See *Methodology*.

\*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Number of households that experienced at least one property victimization during the year.

<sup>b</sup>Percentage of households that experienced at least one property victimization during the year.

<sup>c</sup>Includes unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of places, including a permanent residence, other residence (e.g., a hotel room or vacation residence), or other structure (e.g., a garage or shed). Includes victimizations where the offender stole, attempted to steal, or did not attempt to steal. Excludes trespassing on land.

<sup>d</sup>Includes only crimes where the offender committed or attempted a theft.

<sup>e</sup>Includes crimes where the offender did not commit or attempt a theft. Excludes trespassing on land.

<sup>f</sup>Includes the taking or attempted unlawful taking of property or cash without personal contact with the victim.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016–2020.

## Incident estimates

### Incidents by sex of offenders

- Regardless of victim sex, a greater percentage of violent incidents involved male offenders (79%) than female offenders (17%) or offenders of both sexes (3%) in 2020 (table 4) (statistical testing performed and not shown).<sup>4</sup>
- In 2020, females were offenders in a greater percentage of violent incidents against females (22%) than against males (12%).
- Males in 2020 were offenders in a greater percentage of violent incidents against males (84%) than against females (75%).

<sup>4</sup>An incident is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims.

**TABLE 4**  
Percent of violent incidents, by sex of victims and offenders, 2020

Victim sex	Number of violent incidents	Offender sex			
		Total	Male	Female	Both male and female
Total	3,854,690	100%	79.4%	17.2%	3.4%
Male*	1,910,660	100%	84.3	12.2	3.4
Female	1,944,020	100%	74.5 †	22.0 †	3.4

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. An incident is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims. Offender sex is based on victims' perceptions of offenders. Includes incidents in which the perceived offender sex was reported. Offender sex was unknown in 8% of incidents. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020.

### Incidents by race or ethnicity of offenders

- In 2020, the largest percentage of violent incidents committed against white (69%) and black (66%) victims were intraracial (i.e., committed by an offender of the same race or ethnicity as the victim) (table 5).
- Of violent incidents against Hispanic victims in 2020, statistically similar percentages involved offenders who were Hispanic (41%) or white (33%), while a lower percentage involved offenders who were black (20%).

**TABLE 5**  
Percent of violent incidents, by race or ethnicity of victims and offenders, 2020

Victim race/ethnicity <sup>a</sup>	Number of violent incidents	Offender race/ethnicity				
		Total	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic <sup>c</sup>	Other <sup>b,d</sup>
White <sup>b</sup>	2,214,390	100%	69.2%*	16.6% †	11.1% †	3.1% †
Black <sup>b</sup>	498,620	100%	14.1 †	65.7*	11.8 †	8.4!
Hispanic <sup>c</sup>	571,850	100%	33.2	19.5 †	41.3*	6.0 †

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. An incident is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims. Offender race/ethnicity is based on victims' perceptions of offenders. Includes incidents in which the perceived offender race/ethnicity was reported. Offender race/ethnicity was unknown in 16% of incidents. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group is intraracial incidents (i.e., incidents in which victims and offenders were the same race/ethnicity), and compared to incidents with a different offender race/ethnicity across the same victim race/ethnicity.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>Victims of other races are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>c</sup>If victims perceived any of the offenders in a multiple-offender incident to be of Hispanic/Latino origin, the offenders were classified as Hispanic.

<sup>d</sup>Includes Asians, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives, persons of two or more races, and multiple offenders of various races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020.



## Victimization estimates

### Assistance from victim service providers

- In 2020, victims received assistance from a victim service provider (VSP) in 6% of violent victimizations (table 6).<sup>5</sup> This was not statistically different from the percentage in 2019 (8%).
- The percentage of violent crime victimizations excluding simple assault and the percentage of simple assault victimizations for which victims received assistance did not change significantly during this period.
- From 2019 to 2020, the percentage of intimate partner violent victimizations for which victims received VSP assistance decreased by more than half, from 26% to 12%.
- The percentage of violent crime victimizations involving an injury for which victims received assistance from a VSP declined from 18% in 2019 to 8% in 2020.

<sup>5</sup>Victimizations reflect the total number of times that people or households were victimized by crime.

**TABLE 6**  
Percent of violent victimizations for which victims received assistance from a victim service provider, by type of crime, 2019 and 2020

Type of crime	2019	2020*
<b>Violent crime<sup>a</sup></b>	7.7%	5.9%
Violent crime excluding simple assault <sup>b</sup>	10.8	6.6
Simple assault	6.0	5.6
<b>Intimate partner violence<sup>c</sup></b>	26.1% †	12.3%
<b>Violent crime with an injury</b>	17.9% †	8.2%
<b>Violent crime with a weapon</b>	7.1%	6.0%

Note: See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Includes threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of those crimes. Excludes homicide because the National Crime Victimization Survey is based on interviews with victims.

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>c</sup>Includes the subset of violent victimizations that were committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.

### Violent crime by veteran and citizenship status of victims

- In 2020, veterans (persons currently or previously on active duty) experienced 18.3 violent victimizations per 1,000 veterans (table 7), which was not statistically different from the rate in 2019 (19.0 per 1,000).<sup>6</sup>
- The rate of violent victimization of nonveterans declined from 19.5 per 1,000 nonveterans in 2019 to 16.1 per 1,000 in 2020.

<sup>6</sup>While the NCVS defines veterans as both active-duty personnel and those previously on active duty, most NCVS respondents are those previously on active duty.

**TABLE 7**  
Number and rate of violent victimizations, by veteran and citizenship status of victims, 2019 and 2020

Victim veteran/ citizenship status	2019		2020*	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 <sup>a</sup>	Number	Rate per 1,000 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total violent victimizations<sup>b</sup></b>	5,813,410 †	21.0 †	4,558,150	16.4
<b>Veteran status<sup>c</sup></b>				
Veteran <sup>d</sup>	347,370	19.0	329,080	18.3
Nonveteran <sup>e</sup>	4,525,550 †	19.5 †	3,758,430	16.1
<b>Citizenship status</b>				
U.S. citizen	5,499,420 †	21.2 †	4,373,730	16.7
U.S.-born citizen <sup>f</sup>	5,296,270 †	22.4 †	4,188,720	17.6
Naturalized U.S. citizen	203,150	8.8	185,010	7.8
Non-U.S. citizen	267,700 ‡	17.7	160,370	11.4

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Rate is per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Includes threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of those crimes. Excludes homicide because the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is based on interviews with victims.

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons age 18 or older.

<sup>d</sup>The NCVS defines veterans as both active-duty personnel and those previously on active duty. Most NCVS respondents are those previously on active duty.

<sup>e</sup>Includes persons who never served in the U.S. Armed Forces or who completed training in the Reserves or National Guard only.

<sup>f</sup>Includes persons born in the United States, in a U.S. territory, or abroad to U.S. parents.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.

- The 2020 rate of violent victimization against U.S. citizens (16.7 victimizations per 1,000 U.S. citizens) was lower than the rate in 2019 (21.2 per 1,000). This was driven by a decline in the violent victimization rate for U.S.-born citizens (from 22.4 to 17.6 per 1,000 U.S.-born citizens).
- The number of non-U.S. citizens who experienced violent crime declined from 267,700 persons in 2019 to 160,370 in 2020. There was no statistically significant change in the rate of violent victimization for non-U.S. citizens during this period.

### Reporting violent crime to police by demographic characteristics of victims

- Among males, the rate of violent victimization reported to police declined from 7.5 victimizations per 1,000 males in 2019 to 6.2 per 1,000 in 2020 (table 8). For females, the rate of violent victimization reported to police declined from 9.6 victimizations per 1,000 females to 7.0 per 1,000 during this same period.
- From 2019 to 2020, there were no statistically significant changes in the percentages of violent victimizations reported to police based on victim sex, age, marital status, or household income.
- From 2019 to 2020, there was a statistically significant decline in the percentage of violent victimizations reported to police for crimes committed against Hispanic persons (from 49% to 34%) and persons of other races (from 41% to 27%).
- There was a statistically significant decline in the rate of violent victimization reported to police for crimes committed against Hispanic persons (from 10.4 per 1,000 Hispanic persons to 5.4 per 1,000).
- The rate of violent victimization reported to police declined from 8.4 to 4.3 victimizations per 1,000 persons ages 12 to 17 and from 8.9 to 6.0 victimizations per 1,000 persons ages 50 to 64 from 2019 to 2020.
- From 2019 to 2020, the rate of violent victimization reported to police declined for never-married persons (10.9 per 1,000 never-married persons to 8.2 per 1,000) and separated persons (39.6 per 1,000 separated persons to 21.5 per 1,000).
- For persons living in households earning less than \$25,000 annually, the rate of violent victimization reported to police declined from 15.8 to 11.3 per 1,000 from 2019 to 2020.

**TABLE 8**  
Percent and rate of violent victimizations reported to police, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020

Victim demographic characteristic	Percent		Rate per 1,000 <sup>a</sup>	
	2019	2020*	2019	2020*
Total	40.9%	40.2%	8.6 †	6.6
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	35.7%	37.1%	7.5 ‡	6.2
Female	45.9	43.1	9.6 †	7.0
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White <sup>b</sup>	37.0%	39.9%	7.8	6.5
Black <sup>b</sup>	49.2	50.4	9.2	8.8
Hispanic	48.8 †	33.8	10.4 †	5.4
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b,c</sup>	44.0	63.2	3.7	4.7
Other <sup>b,c,d</sup>	40.8 ‡	26.7	29.6 †	13.1
<b>Age</b>				
12–17	24.0%	24.6%	8.4 ‡	4.3
18–24	37.9	36.6	14.1	10.8
25–34	46.4	44.5	11.6	9.5
35–49	44.4	42.6	8.6	7.8
50–64	47.1	41.0	8.9 †	6.0
65 or older	41.9	48.5	2.5	2.2
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	34.8%	34.3%	10.9 †	8.2
Married	45.4	46.9	5.2	4.3
Widowed	47.3	61.5	5.0	4.2
Divorced	46.2	42.8	13.2	10.3
Separated	61.7	51.1	39.6 ‡	21.5
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$25,000	41.8%	41.1%	15.8 †	11.3
\$25,000–\$49,999	44.7	44.0	8.8	7.6
\$50,000–\$99,999	43.1	36.6	7.2 ‡	5.3
\$100,000–\$199,999	33.0	42.9	5.3	5.1
\$200,000 or more	29.5	29.6	5.3	3.9

Note: Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Includes threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of those crimes. Excludes homicide because the National Crime Victimization Survey is based on interviews with victims. See appendix table 9 for standard errors and appendix table 10 for person populations.

\*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Rate is per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>c</sup>Categories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

<sup>d</sup>Includes American Indians and Alaska Natives and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.



# Methodology

## Survey coverage

The Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection carried out by the U.S. Census Bureau. The NCVS is a self-report survey that is administered annually from January 1 to December 31. Annual NCVS estimates are based on the number and characteristics of crimes that respondents experienced during the prior 6 months, excluding the month in which they were interviewed. Therefore, the 2020 survey covers crimes experienced from July 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020, with March 15, 2020 as the middle of the reference period. Crimes are classified by the year of the survey and not by the year of the crime.

The NCVS is administered to persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. It collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, and personal larceny (purse snatching and pocket picking)) and household property crimes (burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of theft).

The survey collects information on threatened, attempted, and completed crimes. It collects data both on crimes reported and not reported to police. Unless specified otherwise, estimates in this report include threatened, attempted, and completed crimes. In addition to providing annual level and change estimates on criminal victimization, the NCVS is the primary source of information on the nature of criminal victimization incidents.

Survey respondents provide information about themselves (including age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization. For each victimization incident, respondents report information about the offender (including age, sex, race, ethnicity, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (including time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and experiences with the criminal justice system.

Household information, including household-level demographics (e.g., income) and property victimizations committed against the household (e.g., burglary or trespassing), is typically collected from

the reference person. The reference person is any responsible adult member of the household who is not likely to permanently leave the household. Because an owner or renter of the sampled housing unit is normally the most responsible and knowledgeable household member, this person is generally designated as the reference person and household respondent. However, a household respondent does not have to be one of the household members who owns or rents the unit.

In the NCVS, a household is defined as a group of persons who all reside at a sampled address. Persons are considered household members when the sampled address is their usual place of residence at the time of the interview and when they have no primary place of residence elsewhere. Once selected, households remain in the sample for 3.5 years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months, either in person or over the phone, for a total of seven interviews.

First interviews are typically conducted in person, with subsequent interviews conducted either in person or by phone. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households that have been in the sample for the full 3.5-year period. The sample includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings, and excludes persons living on military bases or in institutional settings such as correctional or hospital facilities.

## Measurement of crime in the National Crime Victimization Survey

NCVS data can be used to produce several types of estimates, including victimization, incident, and prevalence rates. Victimization rates measure the extent to which violent and property victimizations occur in a specified population during a specified time. Victimization numbers show the total number of times that people or households are victimized by crime. For crimes affecting persons, NCVS victimization rates are estimated by dividing the number of victimizations that occur during a specified time (T) by the population at risk for those victimizations and then multiplying the rate by 1,000.

$$\text{Victimization rate}_T = \frac{\text{Number of victimizations experienced by a specified population}_T}{\text{Number of unique persons (or households) in the specified population}_T} \times 1,000$$

For *victimization rates*, each victimization represents one person (for personal crimes) or one household (for property crimes) affected by a crime.<sup>7</sup> Every victimization experienced by a person or household during the year is counted. For example, if one person experiences two violent crimes during the year, both are counted in the victimization rate. If one household experiences two property crimes, both are counted in the victimization rate. Victimization estimates are presented in tables 6 through 8 in this report.

*Incident rates* are another measure of crime. The number of incidents is the number of specific criminal acts involving one or more victims. If every victimization had one victim, the number of incidents would be the same as the number of victimizations. If there was more than one victim, the incident estimate is adjusted to compensate for the possibility that the incident could be reported several times by multiple victims and thus be overcounted. For example, if two people were robbed during the same incident, this crime would be counted as one incident and two victimizations. Incident estimates are presented in tables 4 and 5.

*Prevalence rates* are a third measure that reflect a population's risk of experiencing one or more criminal victimizations. They describe the level of victimization, like victimization rates, but are based on the number of unique persons or households in the population experiencing at least one victimization during a specified time. Prevalence estimates are presented in figure 1 and tables 1 through 3.

The key distinction between a victimization rate and a prevalence rate is whether the numerator consists of the number of victimizations or the number of unique victims. For example, a person who experienced two robberies within the past year would be counted twice in the victimization rate but only once in the prevalence rate. Prevalence rates are estimated by dividing the number of unique victims or victimized households in the specified population by the total number of persons or households in the population and multiplying the rate by 100, yielding the percentage of the population victimized at least once in a period.

<sup>7</sup>In the NCVS, personal crimes are personal larceny (purse snatching and pocket picking) and violent victimizations (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault). Homicide is not included because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims. Property crimes are burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other theft.

$$\text{Prevalence rate}_T = \frac{\text{Number of unique victims (or victimized households) in a specified population}_T}{\text{Number of unique persons (or households) in the specified population}_T} \times 100$$

For more information about measuring prevalence in the NCVS, see the most recent version of *Measuring the Prevalence of Crime with the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 241656, BJS, September 2013).

### Nonresponse and weighting adjustments

The 2020 NCVS data file includes 138,327 household interviews. Overall, 67% of eligible households completed interviews. Within participating households, interviews with 223,079 persons were completed in 2020, representing an 82% unweighted response rate among eligible persons from responding households.

Victimizations that occurred outside of the United States were excluded from this report. In 2020, about 0.4% of the unweighted victimizations occurred outside of the United States.

NCVS data are weighted to produce annual estimates of victimization for persons age 12 or older living in U.S. households. Because the NCVS relies on a sample rather than a census of the entire U.S. population, weights are designed to adjust to known population totals and to compensate for survey nonresponse and other aspects of the complex sample design.

NCVS data files include person, household, victimization, and incident weights. Person weights provide an estimate of the population represented by each person in the sample. Household weights provide an estimate of the household population represented by each household in the sample. After proper adjustment, both person and household weights are also typically used to form the denominator in calculations of crime rates.

For personal crimes, the incident weight is derived by dividing the person weight of a victim by the total number of persons victimized during an incident, as reported by the respondent. For property crimes measured at the household level, the incident weight and the household weight are the same, because the victim of a property crime is considered to be the household as a whole. The incident weight is most frequently used to calculate estimates of offenders' and victims' demographics.

Victimization weights used in this report account for the number of persons victimized during an incident and for high-frequency repeat victimizations (i.e., series victimizations). Series victimizations are similar in type to one another but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall each event or describe each event in detail. Survey procedures allow NCVS interviewers to identify and classify these similar victimizations as series victimizations and to collect detailed information on only the most recent incident in the series.

The weighting counts series victimizations as the actual number of victimizations reported by the victim, up to a maximum of 10. Doing so produces more reliable estimates of crime levels than counting such victimizations only once, while the cap at 10 minimizes the effect of extreme outliers on rates.

According to the 2020 data, series victimizations accounted for 1.1% of all victimizations and 2.7% of all violent victimizations. Additional information on the enumeration of series victimizations is detailed in the up-to-date report *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimizations in the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 237308, BJS, April 2012).

The 2020 NCVS weights include an additional adjustment to address the impact of modified field operations due to COVID-19. For more information on the weighting adjustments applied in 2020, see *Source and Accuracy Statement for the 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey* in the NCVS 2020 Codebook (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/38090/datadocumentation>). See *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017) for more information about standard weighting procedures in the NCVS.

Beginning in 2020, BJS incorporated another factor to moderate the contribution of outlier weights on NCVS estimates. For more information on this methodology, see *Source and Accuracy Statement for the 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey* in the NCVS 2020 Codebook (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/38090/datadocumentation>).

### **Changes to the household weighting adjustment in 2017**

The 2017 NCVS weights included a new adjustment so household weights reflect independent housing unit totals available internally at the U.S. Census

Bureau. This new adjustment was applied only to household weights and does not affect person weights. Historically, the household weights were adjusted to reflect independent totals for the person population. This new weighting adjustment improves on the prior one and better aligns the number of estimated households in the NCVS with other U.S. Census Bureau household survey estimates.

Due to this new adjustment, the 2017 NCVS estimate for the number of households was about 8% lower than the 2016 NCVS estimate. As a result, the estimate of the number of households affected by property crime was also about 8% lower. When making comparisons of property crime at the household level between 2017 and prior years, compare victimization or prevalence rates. Rates are unaffected by this change in weighting methodology because both the numerator and denominator are equally affected.

Comparisons of the number of households that were victimized between 2017 and prior years are inappropriate due to this change in weighting methodology. For more information on the standard weighting procedures in the NCVS, see the *Nonresponse and weighting adjustments* in this report and *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).

### **Standard error computations**

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as with the NCVS, caution must be used when comparing one estimate to another or when comparing estimates over time. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including the amount of variation in the responses and the size of the sample. When the sampling error around an estimate is taken into account, estimates that appear different may not be statistically significant.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error may vary from one estimate to the next. Generally, an estimate with a smaller standard error provides a more reliable approximation of the true value than an estimate with a larger standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors have less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

For complex sample designs, there are several methods that can be used to generate standard errors around a point estimate (e.g., numbers, percentages, and rates). These include direct variance estimation and generalized variance function (GVF) parameters.

BJS used a specialized version of Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR) estimation using Fay's method to generate standard errors around the victimization and incident estimates.<sup>8</sup> BRR estimation is a type of direct replication variance estimation. Under replicate variance estimation, a set of replicate weights (e.g., the NCVS typically has a set consisting of 160 replicate weights) is used to capture the sampling variance. Fay's method is used for surveys that have rare outcomes in which the entire sample is necessary to properly estimate the variance. The standard errors for victimization estimates in this report (see appendix tables 7 through 9) were estimated using BRR and differ from those reported in prior *Criminal Victimization* bulletins, which used GVF parameters. Year-to-year statistically significant differences may also vary from previous reports.

For prevalence estimates, BJS used BRR and Taylor Series Linearization (TSL) methods to generate standard errors. The TSL method directly estimates variances through a linearized function by combining variance estimates from the stratum and primary sampling units (PSUs) used to sample households and persons.<sup>9</sup> In the NCVS, the design parameters used for computing TSL variances are PSEUDOSTRATA (stratum) and HALFSAMPLE (PSU). These design parameters are available for all years except the first half of 1993 and all of 2016; therefore, BRR methods were used for 2016 prevalence estimates.

Although not used in this report, another method used to produce standard errors for NCVS estimates is through GVF parameters. The U.S. Census Bureau produces GVF parameters for BJS, which account for aspects of the NCVS's complex sample design and represent the curve fitted to a selection of individual standard errors, using a specialized version of BRR based on Fay's method.

GVBs express the variance as a function of the expected value of the survey estimate.<sup>10</sup> The GVF parameters are generated by fitting estimates and

their relative variance to a regression model, using an iterative weighted least-squares procedure where the weight is the inverse of the square of the predicted relative variance. For more information on GVBs, see the most recent version of the *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017). GVF parameters are available in the codebooks published with the NCVS public use files through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data ([www.icpsr.umich.edu/nacjd](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/nacjd)).

Direct variance estimation—BRR and TSL—is generally considered more accurate than GVBs in terms of how closely the variance estimate approximates the true variance. With direct variance estimation, each estimate is generated based on the outcome being estimated rather than being generated based on a generalized function.

BJS conducted statistical tests to determine whether differences in estimated numbers, percentages, and rates in this report were statistically significant once sampling error was taken into account. Using statistical analysis programs developed specifically for the NCVS, all comparisons in the text of this report were tested for significance. The primary test procedure was the Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. Findings described in this report as increases or decreases passed a test at either the 0.05 level (95% confidence level) or 0.10 level (90% confidence level) of significance. Figures and tables in this report should be referenced for testing on specific findings.

Estimates and standard errors of the estimates in this report may be used to generate a confidence interval around the estimate as a measure of the margin of error. The following example illustrates how standard errors may be used to generate confidence intervals:

Based on the 2020 NCVS, 0.93% of persons age 12 or older were victims of violent crime in 2020. (See table 1.) Using the TSL method of direct variance estimation, BJS determined that the estimated percentage has a standard error of 0.040%. (See appendix table 2.) A confidence interval around the estimate is generated by multiplying the standard error by  $\pm 1.96$  (the t-score of a normal, two-tailed distribution that excludes 2.5% at either end of the distribution). Therefore, the 95% confidence interval around the 0.93% estimate from 2020 is 0.93%  $\pm$  (0.040%  $\times$  1.96) or (0.856% to 1.013%). In other words, if BJS used the same sampling method to select different samples and computed an interval

---

<sup>8</sup>Wolter, K. M. (2007). *Introduction to variance estimation* (2nd ed.). Springer.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.



estimate for each sample, it would expect the true population parameter (prevalence of violent crime) to fall within the interval estimates 95% of the time.

Confidence intervals for flagged estimates should be interpreted with caution, as large standard errors may result in a lower bound estimate less than zero. For this report, BJS also calculated a coefficient of variation (CV) for all estimates, representing the ratio of the standard error to the estimate. CVs (not shown in tables) provide another measure of reliability and a means for comparing the precision of estimates across measures with differing levels or metrics.

### Revised 2016 data file

For 2016, BJS increased the NCVS sample size to facilitate the ability to produce state-level victimization estimates for the 22 most populous states. At the same time, the sample was adjusted to reflect the U.S. population counts in the 2010 decennial census. These changes resulted in a historically large number of new households and first-time interviews in the first half of 2016 and produced challenges in comparing 2016 results to prior data years.

Working with the U.S. Census Bureau, BJS subsequently devised the methodology that was used to create the revised 2016 NCVS data file. The result was revised criminal victimization estimates that were nationally representative for 2016 and could be compared with prior and future years. See *National Crime Victimization Survey revised 2016 estimates text box* (pp. 3–4) and *Methodology* (pp. 15–18) in *Criminal Victimization, 2016: Revised* (NCJ 252121, BJS, October 2018) for more information.

### NCVS measurement of rape or sexual assault

The NCVS uses a two-stage measurement approach in the screening and classification of criminal victimization, including rape or sexual assault. In the first stage of screening, survey respondents are administered a series of short-cue screening questions designed to help respondents think about different experiences they may have had during the reference period. (See NCVS-1 at [https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncvs19\\_bsq\\_q3q4.pdf](https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncvs19_bsq_q3q4.pdf).)

This design improves respondents' recall of events, particularly for incidents that may not immediately come to mind as crimes, such as those committed by family members and acquaintances. Respondents who

answer affirmatively to any of the short-cue screening items are subsequently administered a crime incident report (CIR) designed to classify incidents into specific crime types. (See NCVS-2 at [https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncvs19\\_cir\\_q3q4.pdf](https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncvs19_cir_q3q4.pdf).)

**First stage of measurement.** Two short-cue screening questions are specifically designed to target sexual victimization. The questions in the following section on rape or sexual assault victimization come directly from the NCVS instrument:

1. (Other than any incidents already mentioned,) has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways - (Exclude telephone threats) -
  - a. With any weapon, for instance, a gun or knife
  - b. With anything like a baseball bat, frying pan, scissors, or stick
  - c. By something thrown, such as a rock or bottle
  - d. Include any grabbing, punching, or choking,
  - e. Any rape, attempted rape or other type of sexual attack
  - f. Any face to face threatsOR
  - g. Any attack or threat or use of force by anyone at all? Please mention it even if you are not certain it was a crime.
2. Incidents involving forced or unwanted sexual acts are often difficult to talk about. (Other than any incidents already mentioned,) have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by -
  - a. Someone you didn't know
  - b. A casual acquaintanceOR
  - c. Someone you know well?

With regard to sexual victimization, respondents may screen into a CIR if they respond affirmatively to other short-cue screening questions. For instance, a separate screening question cues respondents to think of attacks or threats that took place in specific locations, such as at home, work, or school. Respondents who recall a

sexual victimization that occurred at home, work, or school and answer affirmatively would be administered a CIR even if they did not respond affirmatively to the screening question targeting sexual victimization.

**Second stage of measurement.** The CIR is used to collect information on the attributes of each incident. The key attributes of sexual violence that are used to classify a victimization as a rape or sexual assault are the type of attack and physical injury suffered. Victims are asked if “the offender hit you, knock[ed] you down, or actually attack[ed] you in any way”; if “the offender TR[IED] to attack you”; or if “the offender THREATEN[ED] you with harm in any way?” The survey participant is classified as a victim of rape or sexual assault if they respond affirmatively to one of these three questions and then responds that the completed, attempted, or threatened attack was—

- rape
- attempted rape
- sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape
- verbal threat of rape
- verbal threat of sexual assault other than rape
- unwanted sexual contact with force (grabbing, fondling, etc.)
- unwanted sexual contact without force (grabbing, fondling, etc.).

If the victim selects one of the following response options to describe the attack, they are also classified as a victim of rape or sexual assault if the injuries suffered as a result of the incident are described as—

- raped
- attempted rape
- sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape.

**Coercion.** The CIR does not ask respondents if psychological coercion was used, nor make any explicit reference to the victim being unable to provide consent

(e.g., in incidents involving drug or alcohol use). One screening question targeted to rape and sexual assault asks respondents if force or coercion was used to initiate unwanted sexual activity.

The final classification of incidents by the CIR results in the following definitions of rape and sexual assault used in the NCVS:

**Rape.** Coerced or forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category could include incidents where the penetration was from a foreign object such as a bottle. It includes attempted rape, threatened rape, male and female victims, and incidents involving victims and offenders who are the same sex or different sexes.

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

---

**Classification of rape and sexual assault in the National Crime Victimization Survey**

Measure	Element of sexual violence
Completed rape	Type of attack = rape Type of injury = rape
Attempted rape	Type of attack = attempted rape Type of injury = attempted rape
Threatened rape	Type of threat = verbal threat of rape with weapon Type of attempted attack/threat = verbal threat of rape
Sexual assault	Type of attack = sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape Type of injury = sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape Type of attempted attack/threat = unwanted sexual contact with force Type of attempted attack/threat = unwanted sexual contact without force Type of attempted attack/threat = verbal threat of sexual assault other than rape

Note: Victim is determined to be present in all measures of rape and sexual assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020.

---



**APPENDIX TABLE 1**

**Estimates and standard errors for figure 1: Percent of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime and violent crime excluding simple assault, 1993–2020**

Year	Violent crime						Violent crime excluding simple assault					
	Number of persons		Percent of persons				Number of persons		Percent of persons			
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	95% confidence interval		Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower bound	Upper bound					Lower bound	Upper bound	
1993	6,179,940	86,686	2.93%	0.038%	2.856%	3.004%	2,654,090	50,781	1.26%	0.023%	1.213%	1.304%
1994	6,990,270	182,244	3.28	0.075	3.133	3.427	2,965,900	90,291	1.39	0.040	1.313	1.470
1995	6,446,770	163,323	3.00	0.064	2.871	3.123	2,514,400	83,061	1.17	0.036	1.099	1.239
1996	5,889,910	150,960	2.71	0.059	2.596	2.827	2,278,270	82,498	1.05	0.035	0.979	1.118
1997	5,820,310	219,722	2.65	0.078	2.494	2.801	2,306,400	100,289	1.05	0.040	0.970	1.128
1998	5,429,610	204,271	2.45	0.082	2.286	2.608	2,022,980	104,805	0.91	0.043	0.827	0.997
1999	4,744,180	161,025	2.11	0.072	1.972	2.253	1,821,830	70,205	0.81	0.032	0.749	0.873
2000	4,263,640	173,859	1.88	0.071	1.741	2.019	1,622,850	82,634	0.72	0.035	0.648	0.783
2001	3,899,760	163,080	1.70	0.060	1.584	1.819	1,448,910	76,785	0.63	0.032	0.569	0.696
2002	3,593,690	145,715	1.55	0.055	1.445	1.659	1,222,940	61,350	0.53	0.025	0.479	0.577
2003	3,537,510	139,425	1.48	0.049	1.382	1.575	1,277,400	67,957	0.53	0.025	0.484	0.583
2004	3,478,620	157,411	1.44	0.057	1.328	1.551	1,276,560	77,171	0.53	0.031	0.468	0.588
2005	3,350,630	153,848	1.37	0.052	1.268	1.473	1,238,410	70,482	0.51	0.027	0.453	0.560
2006	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2007	3,308,010	128,862	1.32	0.051	1.222	1.420	1,210,660	69,266	0.48	0.028	0.428	0.539
2008	3,298,910	119,940	1.31	0.045	1.219	1.396	1,210,980	64,122	0.48	0.026	0.429	0.531
2009	2,978,170	124,579	1.17	0.046	1.083	1.261	1,107,630	63,144	0.44	0.024	0.389	0.483
2010	2,753,160	128,035	1.08	0.049	0.980	1.172	1,094,280	74,952	0.43	0.029	0.371	0.484
2011	3,089,720	129,545	1.20	0.045	1.112	1.287	1,205,460	60,858	0.47	0.022	0.425	0.511
2012	3,575,900	130,914	1.36	0.047	1.274	1.456	1,271,770	74,512	0.49	0.027	0.432	0.539
2013	3,041,170	109,612	1.15	0.040	1.072	1.229	1,145,350	56,413	0.43	0.021	0.393	0.474
2014	2,948,540	112,590	1.11	0.042	1.024	1.188	1,235,290	66,223	0.46	0.025	0.415	0.512
2015	2,650,670	115,649	0.98	0.041	0.902	1.065	1,099,400	60,817	0.41	0.023	0.363	0.452
2016	2,882,320	98,610	1.06	0.036	0.988	1.130	1,123,190	59,666	0.41	0.022	0.370	0.456
2017	3,106,340	105,403	1.14	0.038	1.065	1.215	1,225,800	57,738	0.45	0.021	0.409	0.491
2018	3,254,250	106,453	1.18	0.037	1.110	1.254	1,367,270	65,626	0.50	0.023	0.451	0.542
2019	3,059,060	101,966	1.10	0.036	1.034	1.175	1,216,400	59,953	0.44	0.021	0.398	0.481
2020	2,599,620	108,881	0.93	0.040	0.856	1.013	1,026,020	66,478	0.37	0.024	0.321	0.416

--Estimates for 2006 should not be compared to other years. See *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (NCJ 224390, BJS, December 2008) for more information on changes to the 2006 National Crime Victimization Survey.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993–2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Standard errors for table 1: Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020**

Type of crime	Number of victims					Percent of persons				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total violent crime</b>	98,610	105,403	106,453	101,966	108,881	0.036%	0.038%	0.037%	0.036%	0.040%
Rape/sexual assault	22,990	18,642	33,619	22,482	24,065	0.008	0.007	0.012	0.008	0.009
Robbery	28,206	34,671	30,657	30,947	32,588	0.010	0.013	0.011	0.011	0.012
Assault	92,481	97,147	92,852	94,118	96,250	0.034	0.035	0.033	0.033	0.035
Aggravated assault	50,020	43,542	43,726	46,549	46,890	0.018	0.016	0.016	0.017	0.017
Simple assault	78,887	83,931	89,167	78,655	84,023	0.029	0.031	0.032	0.028	0.031
<b>Violent crime excluding simple assault</b>	59,666	57,738	65,626	59,953	66,478	0.022%	0.021%	0.023%	0.021%	0.024%
<b>Selected characteristics of violent crime</b>										
Domestic violence	35,899	36,762	44,973	36,583	40,970	0.013%	0.013%	0.016%	0.013%	0.015%
Intimate partner violence	25,976	27,569	33,587	28,984	27,659	0.010	0.010	0.012	0.010	0.010
Stranger violence	65,338	71,404	70,402	69,343	76,962	0.024	0.027	0.025	0.025	0.028
Violent crime with an injury	48,732	41,379	47,606	49,955	47,154	0.018	0.015	0.017	0.018	0.017
Violent crime with a weapon	50,710	50,006	46,485	50,036	50,350	0.019	0.018	0.017	0.018	0.018

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016–2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Standard errors for table 2: Number and percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020**

Victim demographic characteristic	Number of victims		Percent of persons	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
<b>Total</b>	101,966	108,881	0.036%	0.040%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	73,179	77,669	0.054%	0.059%
Female	63,367	69,214	0.044	0.048
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White	69,559	80,913	0.040%	0.048%
Black	34,928	38,158	0.105	0.111
Hispanic	49,069	41,534	0.100	0.086
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	16,252	19,176	0.087	0.102
Other	21,537	22,716	0.331	0.395
<b>Age</b>				
12–17	40,242	31,302	0.162%	0.125%
18–24	41,157	42,294	0.134	0.141
25–34	47,319	45,349	0.099	0.102
35–49	43,256	44,712	0.068	0.072
50–64	42,167	39,842	0.068	0.064
65 or older	20,589	22,685	0.039	0.042
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	70,920	77,760	0.070%	0.077%
Married	48,375	44,921	0.037	0.035
Widowed	15,213	13,334	0.099	0.087
Divorced	27,233	31,078	0.100	0.114
Separated	19,334	19,080	0.369	0.383

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Standard errors for table 3: Number and percent of households that were victims of property crime, by type of crime, 2016–2020**

Type of crime	Number of victimized households					Percent of households				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	188,207	166,394	169,072	163,275	176,573	0.141%	0.124%	0.119%	0.118%	0.124%
Burglary/trespassing	64,413	67,513	66,270	61,066	53,779	0.048%	0.053%	0.051%	0.047%	0.041%
Burglary	57,417	58,760	58,052	50,120	44,286	0.043	0.047	0.046	0.039	0.034
Trespassing	37,262	32,638	30,960	32,806	28,553	0.028	0.026	0.024	0.026	0.022
Motor vehicle theft	37,809	31,188	29,684	30,870	33,842	0.028%	0.025%	0.024%	0.024%	0.026%
Other theft	160,814	148,890	153,323	147,443	155,184	0.120%	0.112%	0.113%	0.108%	0.110%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016–2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Standard errors for table 4: Percent of violent incidents, by sex of victims and offenders, 2020**

Victim sex	Number of violent incidents	Offender sex		
		Male	Female	Both male and female
Total	202,384	1.72%	1.62%	0.61%
Male	159,682	2.40	2.29	0.86
Female	121,737	2.41	2.33	0.86

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6****Standard errors for table 5: Percent of violent incidents, by race or ethnicity of victims and offenders, 2020**

Victim race/ethnicity	Number of violent incidents	Offender race/ethnicity			
		White	Black	Hispanic	Other
White	163,255	2.89%	2.30%	1.86%	0.81%
Black	60,575	3.78	5.36	3.53	5.10
Hispanic	74,010	5.33	4.05	6.45	2.91

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 7****Standard errors for table 6: Percent of violent victimizations for which victims received assistance from a victim service provider, by type of crime, 2019 and 2020**

Type of crime	2019	2020
Violent crime	1.24%	0.74%
Violent crime excluding simple assault	2.47	0.97
Simple assault	1.41	1.01
Intimate partner violence	6.25%	3.18%
Violent crime with an injury	3.79%	1.72%
Violent crime with a weapon	1.70%	0.89%

Note: Standard errors in this report may vary from previously published standard errors. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 8**

Standard errors for table 7: Number and rate of violent victimizations, by veteran and citizenship status of victims, 2019 and 2020

Victim veteran/ citizenship status	2019		2020	
	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000
<b>Total violent victimizations</b>	295,287	1.07	219,870	0.79
<b>Veteran status</b>				
Veteran	57,195	3.09	47,555	2.63
Nonveteran	242,306	1.05	185,575	0.80
<b>Citizenship status</b>				
U.S. citizen	293,843	1.13	216,837	0.83
U.S.-born citizen	290,129	1.23	215,345	0.91
Naturalized U.S. citizen	36,065	1.55	44,729	1.88
Non-U.S. citizen	48,337	3.22	34,036	2.39

Note: Standard errors may vary from previously published standard errors. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 9**

Standard errors for table 8: Percent and rate of violent victimization reported to police, by type of crime and demographic characteristics of victims, 2019 and 2020

Victim demographic characteristic	Percent		Rate per 1,000	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
<b>Total</b>	2.27%	2.36%	0.52	0.43
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	2.83%	3.54%	0.49	0.60
Female	3.14	2.83	0.85	0.58
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White	2.92%	3.26%	0.67	0.54
Black	4.90	5.20	1.39	1.33
Hispanic	4.75	4.66	1.19	0.72
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	12.02	12.10	1.51	1.90
Other	4.98	6.78	5.91	3.98
<b>Age</b>				
12–17	5.55%	6.11%	2.18	1.06
18–24	4.09	5.38	2.04	2.16
25–34	6.52	3.82	1.09	1.17
35–49	3.53	5.56	0.86	0.92
50–64	4.56	4.23	1.26	0.74
65 or older	7.90	4.85	0.39	0.37
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	3.02%	3.48%	0.89	0.79
Married	3.70	4.70	0.59	0.53
Widowed	9.10	7.78	1.22	0.82
Divorced	4.36	4.27	1.71	1.15
Separated	7.51	6.21	9.79	4.26
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$25,000	4.15%	3.69%	1.85	1.14
\$25,000–\$49,999	4.31	4.61	1.07	1.13
\$50,000–\$99,999	3.94	4.65	0.85	0.60
\$100,000–\$199,999	4.17	5.28	0.72	0.84
\$200,000 or more	9.00	7.11	1.99	0.86

Note: Standard errors may vary from previously published standard errors. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 and 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 10****Population of persons age 12 or older, by demographic characteristics, 2016–2020**

Demographic characteristic	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	272,204,190	272,468,480	275,325,390	276,872,470	278,082,260
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	132,525,350	132,432,710	133,907,490	134,693,660	135,260,190
Female	139,678,840	140,035,770	141,417,890	142,178,810	142,822,080
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>					
White <sup>a</sup>	172,882,890	171,454,370	171,493,180	171,423,480	171,267,760
Black <sup>a</sup>	33,623,820	32,699,520	33,132,390	33,397,100	33,688,820
Hispanic	44,470,950	45,481,910	46,997,610	47,890,870	48,640,170
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>a,b</sup>	16,430,300	17,472,290	18,094,710	18,335,230	18,867,300
Other <sup>a,b,c</sup>	4,796,230	5,360,390	5,607,500	5,825,790	5,618,230
<b>Age</b>					
12–17	25,043,610	24,911,170	24,917,160	24,941,440	24,992,970
18–24	30,301,000	29,883,550	29,838,720	29,646,500	29,353,220
25–34	44,303,050	44,327,500	44,946,880	45,289,720	45,294,090
35–49	61,158,070	60,878,870	61,429,050	61,483,410	61,393,010
50–64	63,332,410	62,955,630	62,940,810	62,643,880	62,477,170
65 or older	48,066,050	49,511,760	51,252,780	52,867,520	54,571,810
<b>Marital status</b>					
Never married	95,415,230	96,211,120	97,152,920	97,943,560	99,468,100
Married	127,704,070	127,923,650	128,744,200	129,699,090	129,399,370
Widowed	15,053,020	14,832,940	15,166,010	15,160,640	15,350,940
Divorced	27,189,410	26,776,250	27,360,570	27,184,390	27,280,860
Separated	5,022,050	4,937,290	5,129,600	4,970,250	4,810,270

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin, (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>b</sup>Categories are collapsed to be consistent with violent crime estimates.

<sup>c</sup>Includes American Indians and Alaska Natives and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016–2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 11****Population of households, 2016–2020**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	133,365,270	123,085,790	124,824,660	126,433,890	127,945,770

Note: The 8% decline in the household population from 2016 to 2017 is due to a new adjustment that modified the household weights. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016–2020.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Doris J. James is the acting director.

This report was written by Rachel E. Morgan and Alexandra Thompson. Erika Harrell verified the report.

David Fialkoff edited the report. Carrie Epps-Carey produced the report.

February 2022, NCJ 303936



NCJ 303936

**Office of Justice Programs**  
**Building Solutions • Supporting Communities • Advancing Justice**  
[www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)