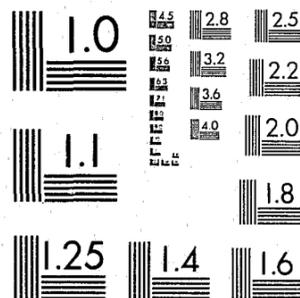


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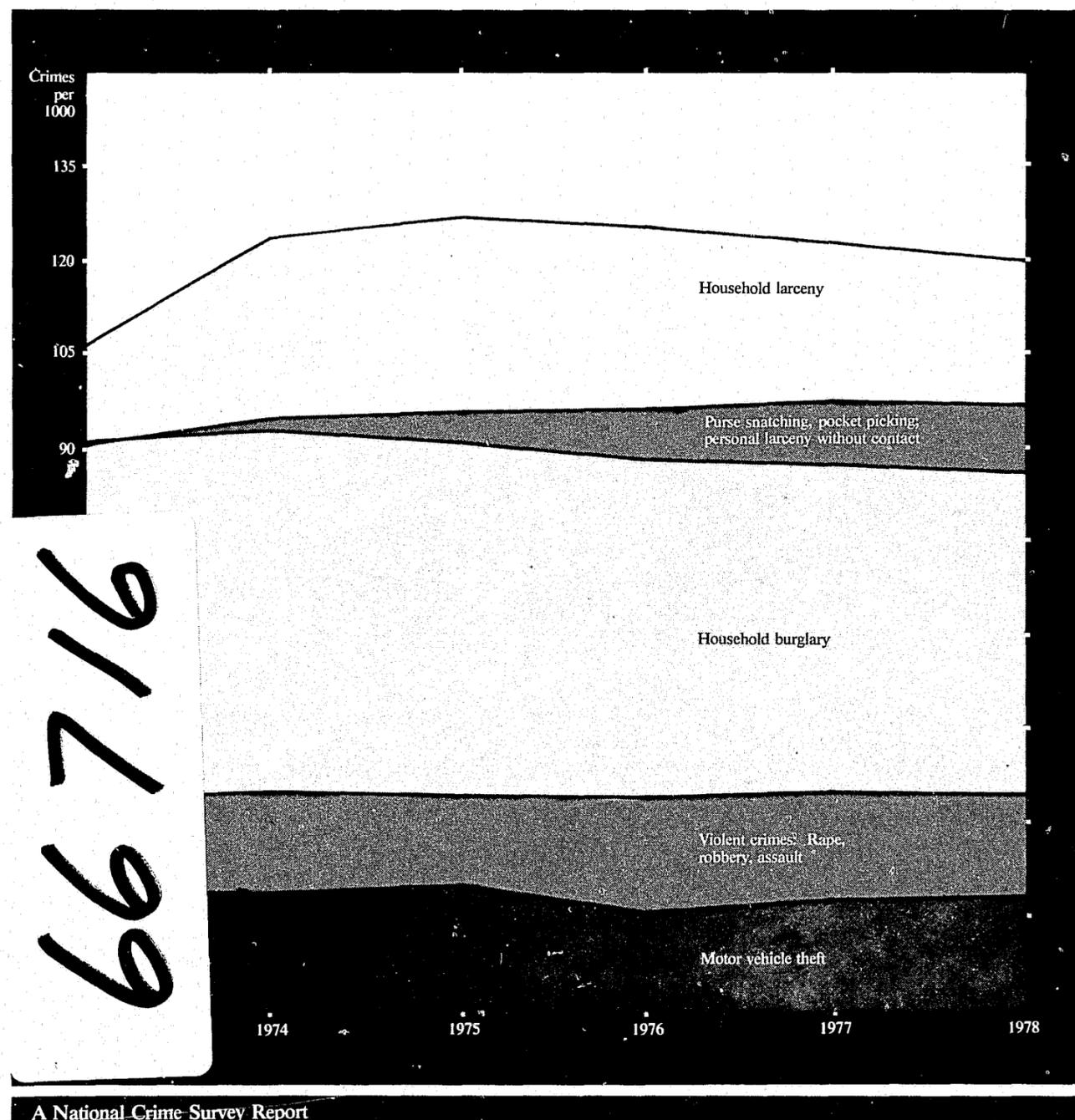
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Criminal Victimization in the U.S.: 1973-78 Trends



A National Crime Survey Report

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Criminal Victimization in the United States 1973-78 Trends

A National Crime Survey Report
NCS-N-13, NCJ-66716
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Harry A. Scarr, Ph.D.
Director

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Preface

This report presents information on trends in crime rates from 1973 through 1978, using data obtained from the National Crime Survey, a continuing survey of individuals residing in a representative sample of approximately 60,000 households across the United States. The analysis identifies trends in the following areas: victimization rates for selected major crimes, the use of weapons in the commission of violent crimes against persons, and the proportion of victimizations that were reported to the police. Since its inception in 1972, the National Crime Survey has been conducted for the Department of Justice by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The National Crime Survey focuses on certain crimes, whether completed or attempted, that are of major concern to the general public and law enforcement authorities. These are the personal crimes of rape, robbery, assault, and larceny, and the household crimes of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.¹

A description of the findings is presented in the first part of this report, along with a series of charts depicting significant trends. There is also a brief summary of changes occurring in crime rates between 1977 and 1978. To maintain comparability with previous reports which emphasized year-to-year changes, the data tables in Appendix I concentrate on changes from 1977 to 1978, except for two tables that provide information over the entire 1973 to 1978 span. Appendix II contains information on the sample design, sources of nonsampling error, and estimation procedure, as well as a discussion of the computation of standard errors.

All data in this report are estimates, subject to errors arising from the fact that the information was obtained from a sample survey rather than a complete census, and to errors associated with the collection and processing

¹Definitions of these crimes do not necessarily conform to any Federal or State statutes, which vary considerably. They are, however, compatible with conventional usage and with the definitions used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its annual publication *Crime in the United States, Uniform Crime Reports*. Refer to the Glossary at the end of this report for definitions of the crimes and other terms used in the text.

of data. Unless appropriately qualified, statements involving comparisons of two or more numbers have met the statistical test that the differences were equal to at least 2.0 standard errors, or, in other words, that differences of this size would be produced by sampling variability 5 percent of the time, at most. Such differences will be called "significant." Statements qualified by such phrases as "less conclusive" and "marginal" have met the statistical test that the differences were between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors, or that differences of this size would be produced by sampling variability 10 percent of the time, at most.

The majority of the comparisons in this report are between a victimization rate (or a percent involving weapons use or reporting to the police) for a specific crime in one year and its rate in another year. These comparisons are either for crime totals or, within a given category of crime, for various population groups (e.g., females, persons age 12-15, married persons, etc.). No statement is made with regard to the relative size of a change in the rate or percent for one crime as compared with that for another, and none is implied.

The term trend is used to describe changes in a series over time. Two kinds of trends have been identified in this report—those that move basically in one direction for at least 3 years up to the maximum of 6 years, and which always include 1978, and those that move both up and down over the course of the 6-year period. In determining the duration of a particular upward or downward trend, preference was given to the longest period for which a significant change was observed. Thus, a trend from 1973 to 1978 was selected over one of shorter duration even though the percent change for the former might be at a lower level of statistical significance. Although the change between the beginning and end of a period of increase or decrease is always statistically significant, the intermediate points may not necessarily be different from one another, and occasionally may lie outside the general direction of the trend. "Apparent" changes are those that, from inspection of the charts, seem to indicate change but which are, in fact, not statistically significant and are so described in the text.

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Summary findings

General

- Victimization rates for assault, personal larceny without contact, and household larceny were higher in 1978 than in 1973, whereas rates for robbery and residential burglary were lower across this same period.

- These changes were characteristic of the movement of these crimes between 1973 and 1978, except for household larceny which, despite an overall increase, has declined since 1975.

- Motor vehicle theft, personal larceny with contact, and rape displayed no overall changes.

Personal crimes of violence

- Assaults committed by strangers rose marginally between 1973 and 1978, with a clearcut increase exhibited for simple assault.

- The upswing in assault was concentrated in the age groups under 35, with the longest trend consisting of a qualified increase over the 6-year period for those 25 to 34.

- Victimization rates for assault by strangers fell marginally for 35- to 49-year-olds over the same period.

- The assault rates for men displayed roughly similar patterns by age group, but there were no significant trends among women.

- Robbery victimizations at the hands of strangers declined from 1973 to 1978.

- There were significant declines in robbery for all or most of this period among males, females, whites, blacks, and in the younger age groups (under 25 and especially among men).

Personal crimes of theft

- Personal larceny without contact, the principal component of crimes of theft, displayed a rising trend from 1973 to 1978.

- Women, especially those in the 20-49 age groups, showed significant rising trends. This may be related to a substantial influx of women into the labor force, which placed them in situations where they were more vulnerable to personal larceny.

- Personal larceny with contact, which is comprised of pocket picking and purse snatching, exhibited an inconclusive decline in victimization rates from 1973 to 1977, followed by some indication of a rise between 1977 and 1978.

Burglary

- Burglary rates declined about 6 percent between 1973 and 1978. Among the various age groups, the longest trend was a decrease for households headed by persons 65 and over.

- Among the subcategories of burglary, there were rate declines for forcible entry from 1975 to 1978 and for unlawful entry without force for the 1974 to 1978 period, but there was no change for attempted forcible entry.

Weapons use

- There was a decrease in the proportion of firearms used in aggravated assaults between 1974 and 1978, as well as in the number of firearms as a proportion of all weapons.

- The clearest trend was observed among victims age 12-19, for whom an increase in the use of firearms in aggravated assaults between 1973 and 1974 was followed by a decline from 1974 to 1978.

Reporting crimes to the police

- The clearest trends in reporting crimes to the police were found among victims of assault, personal larceny without contact, and household larceny. For all three there was a rise over the first part of the period (to 1976 for assault and personal larceny and to 1975 for household larceny), followed by a decline in 1978.

- Within the category of assault, these trends were most clearly reflected among victims of aggravated assault, men, and persons age 20-49.

- The reporting of burglaries to police authorities rose marginally from 1973 to 1977, with homeowners exhibiting an increase across the entire 6-year period.

- Motor vehicle thefts were reported at lower rates in 1978 than in 1975, which was reflected in a marginal decline among renters.

General trends

Most major categories of crime registered changes in incidence over the 6 years for which National Crime Survey data have been collected (see figure 1). Assault, personal larceny without contact, and household larceny registered higher victimization rates in 1978 than in 1973. On the other hand, robbery and household burglary had lower rates in 1978. An apparent decline in the motor vehicle theft victimization rate was not significant. In general, these changes were characteristic of the movement of these crimes over the period. The exception was household larceny which, despite an overall increase, has declined after 1975. Personal larceny with contact and rape, the two smallest crimes in terms of numbers of victimizations, displayed no overall change from 1973 to 1978.

The analysis which follows identifies trends in crime victimization rates, and in the case of assault and robbery, focuses on those committed by strangers. Following the presentation of trends in victimization rates, there is a discussion of movements in the use of weapons in crimes of violence and in the proportion of various offenses reported to the police.

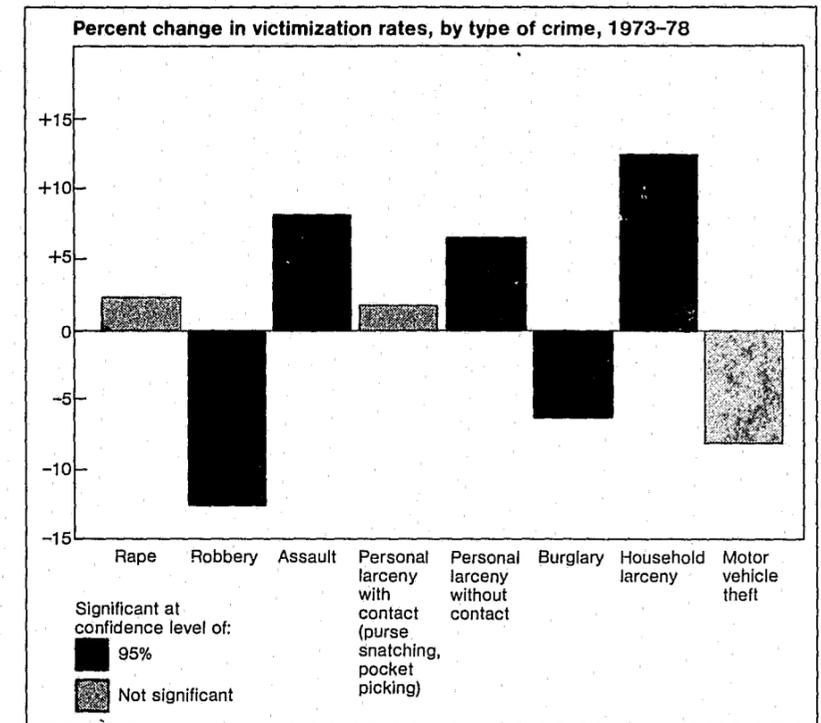


Figure 1

Personal crimes of violence

Victimization rates for assault and robbery moved in opposite directions between 1973 and 1978. Assault rose about 8 percent over this period, mainly because of an upward trend in the rate for simple assault, whereas the rate for robbery fell 13 percent. For victimizations between strangers, there was some indication of an increase between 1973 and 1978 for assault. Simple assault by unknown assailants increased clearly between 1973 and 1978, but there was no significant change for aggravated assault. In contrast to assault, robbery victimizations between strangers dropped between 1973 and 1978.

Trends in victimization rates for assault by strangers varied considerably depending upon the age of the victim (figure 2). There was some indication of an increase over the 6-year period for persons 25 to 34 years old. A different pattern was recorded for 12- to 15-year-olds and 20- to 24-year-olds; a marginal decrease from 1973 to 1976, with apparent increases thereafter; however, only the rise for the older group was significant. Among persons 35 years of age and older, victimization rates gave some indication of falling in two instances: a decline over the entire period for those 35-49 and from 1975 on for persons 50-64. Male victims of assault displayed roughly the same kind of pattern by age group as did all persons (figure 3), but there were no significant trends among females.

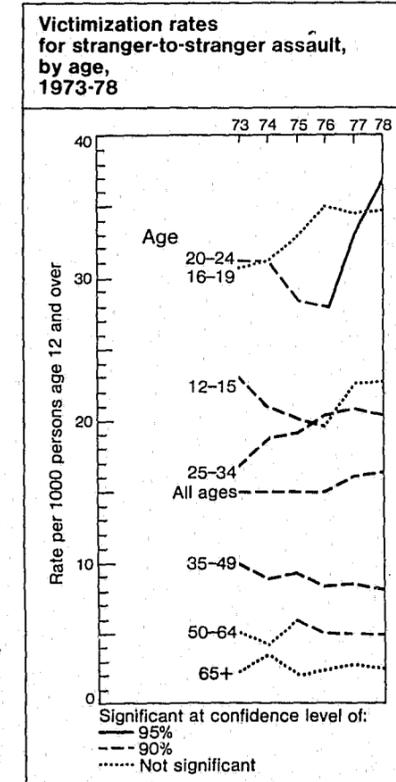


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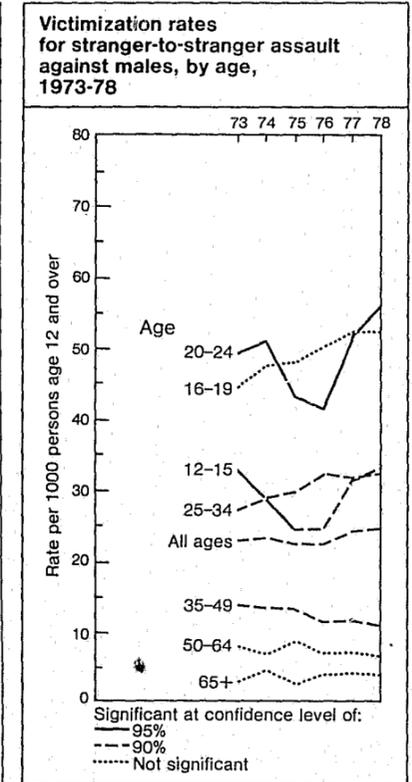


Figure 3

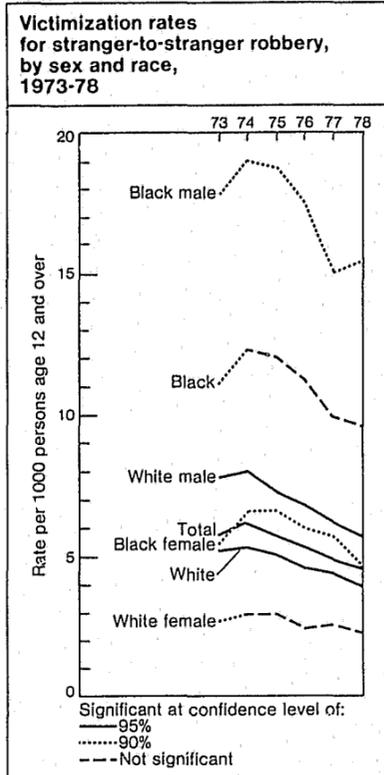


Figure 4

The decline in the overall victimization rate for stranger-to-stranger robbery from 1973 to 1978 was reflected in downward trends for various subgroups. Both men and all whites had lower victimization rates in 1978 than was the case in 1973; women and blacks also registered declines from 1974 on, although the trend for blacks was less conclusive (figure 4). The apparent drop in victimization rates among black males between 1974 and 1978 was not significant, but white males experienced a significant decline over the entire period. White women exhibited a qualified decrease over the 1974 to 1978 period, but there was no significant trend observed for black women. When age was introduced as a factor, there were more significant trends in the younger age groups, especially among men (figure 5). Males age 20-24 showed a decrease in stranger-to-stranger robbery rates from 1973 to 1978, while those 16-19 displayed lower rates over the period 1975 to 1978. There was also a drop among men 65 and over after 1976. The only females to report a change in victimization from robbery were those 20-24 from 1975 to 1978.

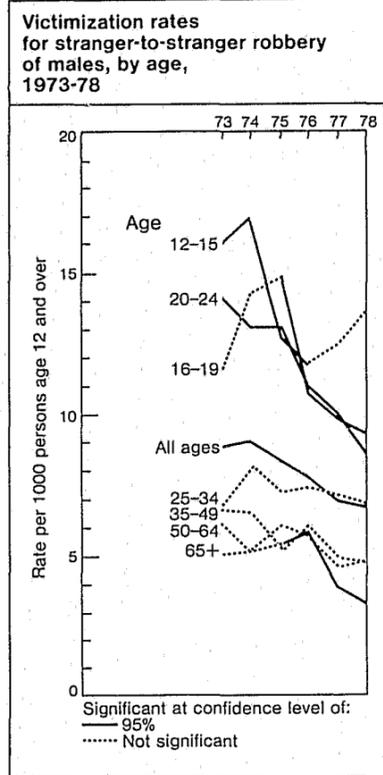


Figure 5

Personal crimes of theft

Victimization rates from personal larceny without contact, the principal component of crimes of theft, increased over the 1973 to 1978 period, recording a rise of about 6 percent. Most age groups showed significant trends, although this was more true for females than it was for males. Overall, women exhibited an increase in victimization rates from non-contact larceny, but there was no clearcut trend for men. Women in the age groups from 20 to 49 gave strong evidence of rising victimization rates over the 6-year period under study (figure 6). In light of this trend, it is interesting to note that while the total number of women in this age range increased by 10 percent from 1973 to 1978, there were 28 percent more women 20 to 49 in the civilian labor force in 1978 than there were in 1973.¹ It is conceivable that this substantial influx of women into the labor force placed many of them in situations where they were more vulnerable to personal larceny, as, for example, in offices or other workplaces. A less conclusive increase in non-contact larceny rates was reported for women 50 to 64. Running counter to the generally upward movement of rates for this crime was the experience of women in the youngest age

¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment and Earnings*, Vol. 20, No. 4 and Vol. 25, No. 11.

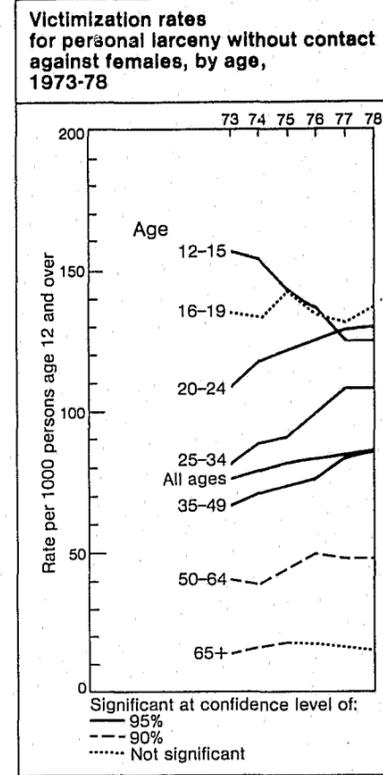


Figure 6

group, among whom a significant drop occurred over the period. In addition to white women, who displayed a rising victimization rate over the 1973 to 1978 period, both black and Hispanic women reported rising victimization rates, the latter from 1975 to 1978 and the former showing a marginal increase after 1974.

There were not as many significant trends in victimization rates for male victims of personal larceny without contact for the various age groups (figure 7). The rates for men 25-34 displayed a marginal increase over the 6-year period; those in the next two older age groups registered increases—from 1973 to 1977 for those 35-49 and from 1973 to 1976 for 50- to 64-year-olds. These rising rates were followed, in both instances, by marginal declines. The two youngest age groups exhibited a different pattern—falling victimization rates from 1973 to 1976, with apparent (but not significant) increases after that date. For both groups, the 1978 victimization rate was below that reported for 1973, although this was less certain for males age 16-19. There were no significant trends for white, black, or Hispanic males.

Personal larceny with contact, which is comprised of pocket picking and purse snatching, exhibited an inconclusive decline in rates from 1973 to 1977, followed by some indication of a rise between 1977 and 1978.

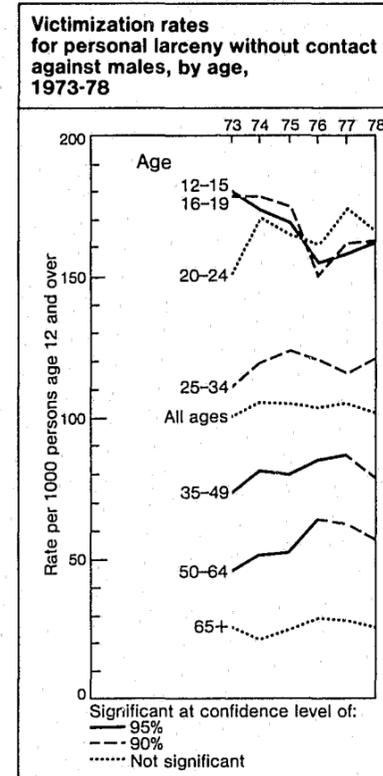


Figure 7

Similarly, a pattern of marginal decline and increase was reported by all females, but there was no similar significant trend for males.

Burglary

The victimization rate for household burglary declined about 6 percent between 1973 and 1978. Households headed by elderly persons (65 and over) also experienced a decrease in burglaries over the entire period (figure 8). Other age groups reported lower rates for shorter periods of time—in households with 20- to 34-year-old heads, there was a decline between 1974 and 1978, whereas there was a less conclusive decrease between 1975 and 1978 in households where the head was between 35 and 49. An apparent increase for the youngest age group (12-19) between 1976 and 1978 was not significant.

The overall decline in the victimization rate for burglary was reflected in lower rates for both owners (between 1975 and 1978) and renters (1974 to 1978). Both white and black homeowners experienced declines in victimization—blacks from 1973 to 1978 and whites from 1975 to 1978. No significant trends were evident among black or white renters.

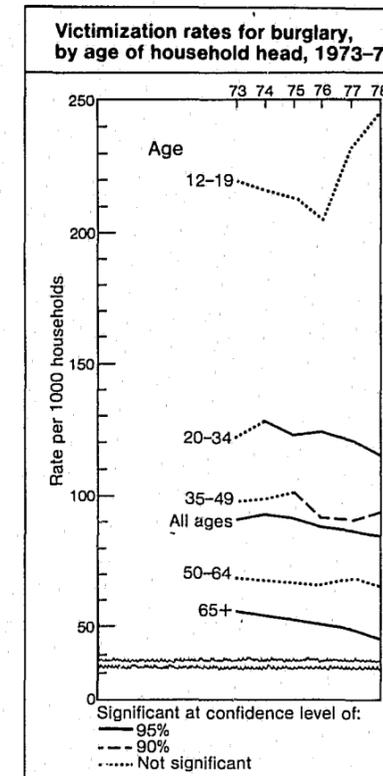


Figure 8

Among the subcategories of burglary, there were significant declines for forcible entry from 1975 to 1978 and for unlawful entry without force for the 1974-78 period, but not for attempted forcible entry. Victimization rates for forcible entry declined over the entire 1973 to 1978 period in households headed by elderly persons and, for shorter periods of time, where the household heads were from 20-49 years old. For the youngest age group, there was some evidence of a contrary trend—an increase from 1975 to 1978. Significantly lower rates for unlawful entry were confined to two age groups: those 50-64 across the entire period under study and those 20-34 from 1974 to 1978.

Weapons use

Trends in weapons use in the commission of violent crimes are heavily influenced by the dominance of weapons in aggravated assaults. Weapons have been present in about 95 percent of aggravated assault victimizations and in about three-fourths of all violent crimes² in the 6 years covered by the National Crime Survey. Although there has been essentially no change in the widespread use of weapons in aggravated assault, there was a

²Simple assaults are excluded from this calculation because any assault involving a weapon is classified as an aggravated assault.

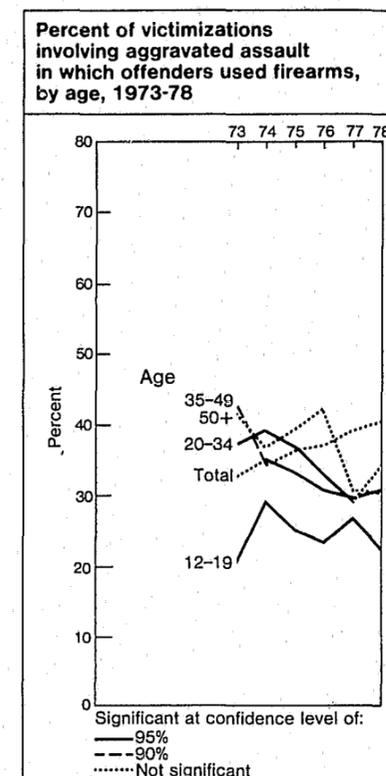


Figure 9

decrease in the employment of firearms in assaults between 1974 and 1978, as well as in the proportion of firearms in victimizations where a weapon was present.

These declines in the use of firearms affected a number of age groups, but in different ways (figure 9). The clearest trend was observed among 12-19-year-olds where an increase in the use of firearms in all aggravated assault victimizations between 1973 and 1974 was followed by a decline from 1974 to 1978. Decreased use of firearms against 20-34-year-old victims occurred between 1973 and 1977, but an apparent upturn from 1977 to 1978 was not significant. In the next oldest age class, 35-49, there was a decline of borderline significance between 1973 and 1974 in the use of firearms, followed by an apparent (but not significant) increase between 1974 and 1978. An apparent decline among aggravated assault victims age 50 and over between 1976 and 1978 was also not significant.

There was no significant change in the use of weapons or firearms in robbery victimizations during the 1973 to 1978 period.

Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, 1973-78

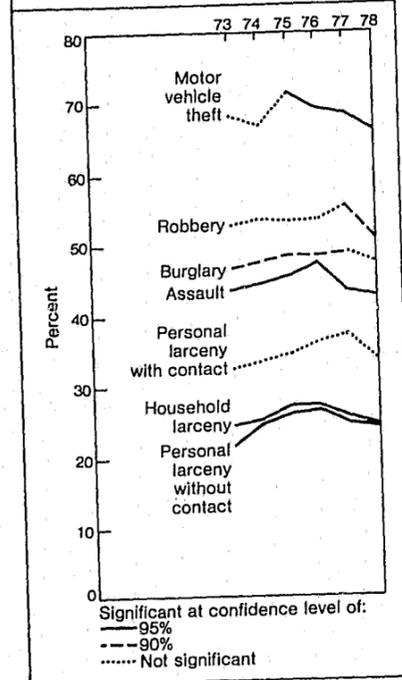


Figure 10

Reporting crimes to the police

Significant trends in reporting crimes to the police were found among victims of assault, personal larceny without contact, household larceny and motor vehicle theft, and less conclusively for those who endured burglary victimizations (figure 10). The other two crimes discussed in this report, robbery and personal larceny with contact, showed little in the way of trends in police notification rates.

The percentage of all assaults reported to the police rose about 9 percent from 1973 to 1976, but fell about 10 percent between 1976 and 1978. Reporting rates for male victims of assault behaved in similar fashion, although the increase from 1973 to 1976 was not conclusive (figure 11). Reporting rates for female assault victims also rose and fell over these same years, although both changes were of marginal significance. This pattern of increasing rates of police reporting followed by a decrease characterized aggravated assault, but not simple assault, where the only significant change was a decline from 1976 to 1978. Examination of specific age groups indicates that meaningful change was concentrated in the 20-49 age groups. For example, there were relatively fewer assaults reported to the police for men in these age categories in 1978 than there were in 1976. A pattern of decrease also characterized victims of aggravated assault in these

Percent of assault victimizations reported to the police, by sex and type of assault, 1973-78

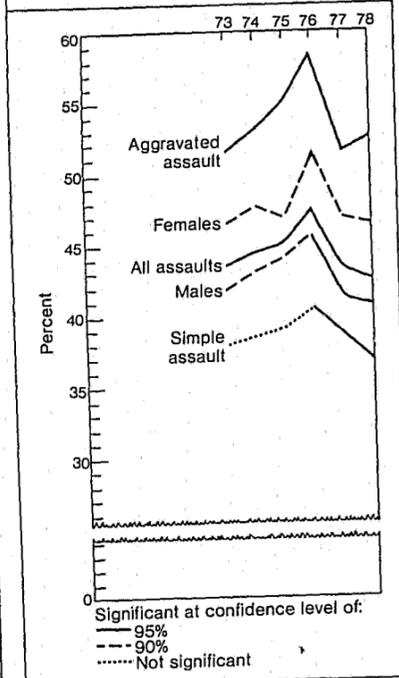


Figure 11

age groups, although the evidence for those 35-49 was less conclusive. There was some indication of a decline in police notification on behalf of simple assault victims in the 20-34 age category during this same period.

The apparent rising trend in police reporting of robbery victimizations from 1973 to 1977 was not significant. However, the drop between 1977 and 1978 was of marginal significance.

There was a clearcut pattern in the proportion of all personal larcenies without contact that were reported to police authorities. As in the case of assault, there was a rising trend from 1973 to 1976, succeeded by a declining rate from 1976 to 1978 (figure 12). This trend was reflected in the movement of reporting rates for women and for 20-34-year-olds. A trend that peaked one year earlier, in 1975, and declined from there to 1978 was found for men as a group and for all persons age 35-49, although the evidence for the latter was less conclusive. Personal larcenies against persons 65 and over gave some indication of decreased rates of police reporting from 1975 to 1978. Increased reporting to police for crimes involving 12-19-year-olds between 1973 and 1975 and for those 50-64 between 1973 and 1976 were not followed by significant trends.

The most definite trends in reporting victimizations to the police for the three household crimes were observed for larceny. The rate

Percent of personal larceny without contact victimizations reported to the police, by age, 1973-78

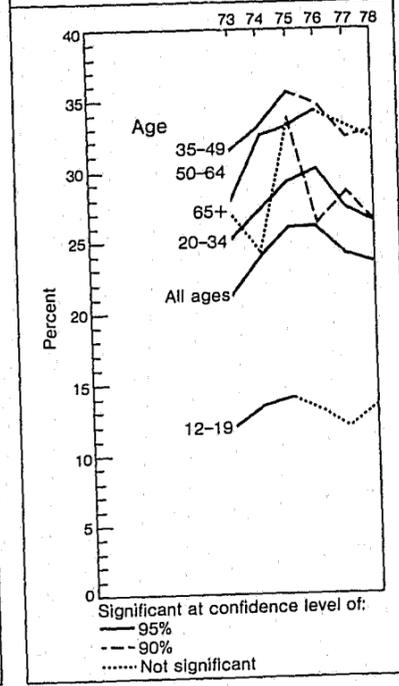


Figure 12

at which the authorities were notified rose about 9 percent between 1973 and 1975 and fell approximately 10 percent by 1978 (figure 13). Similarly, a pattern of increase and decrease was observed for homeowners, but the only discernible trend for renters was a borderline decrease between 1976 and 1978. Police notification rates for household larceny incidents against black renters were marginally lower in 1978 than was true for 1975, but there was no definite trend for black homeowners.

The reporting of burglaries to police authorities rose less conclusively from 1973 to 1977, but the apparent drop between 1977 and 1978 was not statistically significant (figure 14). There was some indication of a rising trend across the 1973 to 1978 period for homeowners. On the other hand, burglary incidents directed against renters were reported at lower rates in 1978 than was the case in 1975. This decline also occurred for black renters but was not conclusive. There were no trends worthy of note for the three subcategories of burglary—forcible entry, unlawful entry without force, and attempted forcible entry. Reporting of motor vehicle theft to the police declined from 1975 to 1978. This trend was also reflected in a marginal decrease for renters, but there was no significant change for homeowners.

Percent of household larceny victimizations reported to the police, by form of household tenure, 1973-78

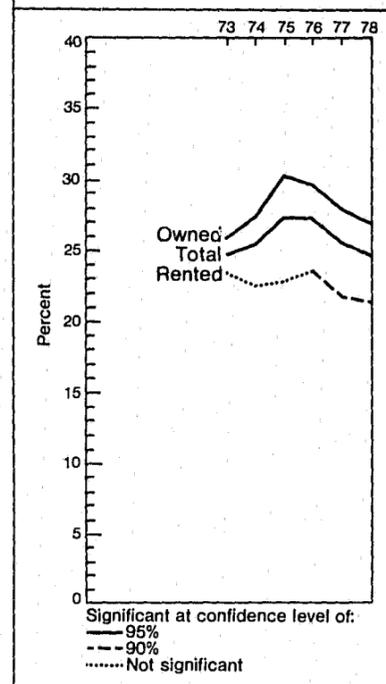


Figure 13

Percent of burglary victimizations reported to the police, by form of household tenure, 1973-78

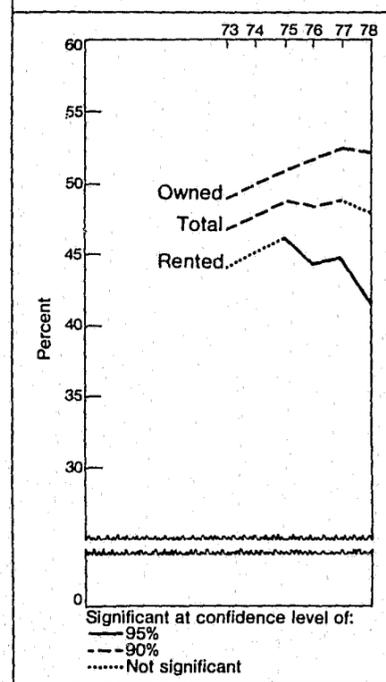


Figure 14

General findings for 1977-78

Crime victimization rates were more or less stable between 1977 and 1978 for the major categories of crime. The only significant change was the qualified increase in the rate for personal larceny with contact, reversing what had been a marginal downturn between 1973 and 1977. No significant changes were noted in weapons use in crimes of violence, nor in the employment of firearms in these crimes. The rates at which the major crimes were reported to the police also did not appear to change substantially. The proportion of robberies reported to the police decreased between these 2 years in a borderline manner, but an apparent decline in the reporting of crimes of violence as a group was not significant. Significant 1977-78 changes in victimization rates, weapons use, and police reporting among selected subgroups in the population may be found by consulting the tables in Appendix 1.

Appendix I

Survey data tables

The statistical data tables in this appendix contain selected data for the United States from the National Crime Survey comparing 1977 with 1978. There are also two tables depicting changes from 1973 to 1978.

- Tables 1-7 present data on changes in victimization rates for crimes against persons.
- Tables 8-12 provide information on changes in household victimization rates.
- Tables 13 and 14 present information on changes in the proportion of all weapons and of firearms used in violent crimes.
- Table 15 portrays changes in the reporting of crimes to the police for the two sectors—persons and households.
- Tables 16 and 17 indicate changes in victimization rates from 1973 to 1978 for the personal and household sectors.

All statistical data gathered by the survey are estimates, which vary in their degree of reliability and are subject to errors associated with the fact that they were developed from a sample survey rather than a complete enumeration. The constraints on interpretation and other uses of these data, as well as guidelines for determining their reliability, are set forth in Appendix II. As a general rule, however, estimates based on about 10 or fewer sample cases have been considered unreliable, although the standard error of these estimates for 1977-78 change can be determined from the formula given in Appendix II, if desired. Such estimates, qualified by footnotes to the tables, were not used for analytical purposes. The minimum reliable estimates are 12,000 for all tables.

All changes have been computed from unrounded rates and percentages. The resulting percent change has been rounded to one decimal point, as have the rates or percents on which the change was based. Tables 1 and 8, the basic tables for the personal and household sectors, respectively, contain one standard-error confidence intervals for each percent change, as do the comparable tables for 1973 to 1978 change. One standard-error confidence intervals are also indicated on Table 15 for changes in reporting to the police for the two sectors.

Significant changes on all data tables are indicated by either one asterisk, denoting a change of at least 2 standard errors, or two asterisks, for a change of between 1.6 and 2 standard errors.

Each table also contains estimates of the size of every relevant group upon which the rates are based. These estimates reflect adjustments to independent estimates of the population.

List of tables:

1977 and 1978

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Personal crimes

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Personal crimes of violence

2. By type of crime, victim-offender relationship, and race, 10

Personal crimes

3. By sex, race, or Hispanic origin, and type of crime, 11

4. By sex, age, and type of crime, 12

5. By sex, marital status, and type of crime, 14

6. By annual family income and type of crime, 15

7. By place of residence and type of crime, 16

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8. By type of crime, 17

9. By age of head of household and type of crime, 17

10. By race of head of household, tenure, and type of crime, 18

11. By race or Hispanic origin of head of household, annual family income, and type of crime, 19

12. By place of residence and type of crime, 20

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13. By type of crime, 21

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Personal crimes of violence

14. By type of crime, 21

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Personal and household crimes

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1973 and 1978

Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over—

Personal crimes

16. By type of crime, 24

Change in victimization rates—

Household crimes

17. By type of crime, 24

Table 1. Personal crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons 12 and over,
by type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over)

Type of personal crime	Rate		Percent change, 1977-1978	Standard error ¹
	1977	1978		
Crimes of violence	33.9	33.7	-0.5	2.5
Rape	0.9	1.0	+9.0	17.0
Robbery	6.2	5.9	-5.3	5.8
Robbery and attempted robbery				
with injury	2.2	1.9	** -15.3	8.9
From serious assault	1.2	1.0	-17.1	11.8
From minor assault	1.0	0.9	-13.1	13.6
Robbery and attempted robbery				
Without injury	4.0	4.0	+0.5	7.5
Assault	26.8	26.9	+0.2	2.9
Aggravated assault	10.0	9.7	-2.9	4.6
With injury	3.1	3.3	+5.5	8.9
Attempted assault with weapon	6.9	6.4	-6.6	5.4
Simple assault	16.8	17.2	+2.1	3.7
With injury	4.3	4.3	-1.2	7.2
Attempted assault without weapon	12.5	12.9	+3.2	4.3
Crimes of theft	97.3	96.8	-0.5	1.4
Personal larceny with contact	2.7	3.1	** +17.7	10.5
Purse snatching	0.8	1.0	+28.2	20.6
Pocket picking	1.9	2.1	+12.8	12.1
Personal larceny without contact	94.6	93.6	-1.0	1.5
Total population age 12 and over	174,093,000	176,215,000		

NOTE: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹For an illustration of the use of standard errors, see Appendix II.

Table 2. Personal crimes of violence (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by type of crime, victim-offender relationship, and race

(Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over)¹

Type of personal crime	Victimizations by strangers								
	For all victims ¹			For white victims			For black victims		
	Rate	1978	Percent change 1977-1978	Rate	1978	Percent change 1977-1978	Rate	1978	Percent change 1977-1978
Crimes of violence	21.4	21.2	-0.5	21.2	20.9	-1.1	23.7	24.1	+1.9
Rape	0.6	0.7	+22.8	0.6	0.6	+9.1	0.7	1.6	+122.9
Robbery	4.9	4.5	-7.0	4.3	3.9	-8.5	9.9	9.5	-4.5
Robbery and attempted robbery with injury	1.7	1.4	-15.6	1.4	1.3	-12.6	3.7	2.6	** -30.6
From serious assault	1.0	0.8	-20.4	0.8	0.7	-8.8	2.5	1.0	* -61.0
From minor assault	0.7	0.6	-8.7	0.6	0.5	-18.8	1.2	1.6	+33.9
Robbery and attempted robbery without injury	3.2	3.1	-2.5	2.8	2.7	-6.0	6.2	6.9	+11.3
Assault	15.9	16.0	+0.7	16.4	16.4	+0.4	13.0	13.1	+0.3
Aggravated assault	6.3	6.2	-0.6	6.3	6.2	-1.3	6.6	6.7	+1.5
With injury	1.8	1.9	+9.7	1.8	2.0	+6.6	1.3	1.9	+44.8
Attempted assault with weapon	4.5	4.3	-4.2	4.5	4.3	-4.5	5.3	4.8	-9.5
Simple assault	9.6	9.8	+1.5	10.1	10.2	+1.5	6.4	6.4	-1.1
With injury	2.1	2.0	-3.3	2.2	2.1	-5.0	1.3	1.8	+40.8
Attempted assault without weapon	7.5	7.7	+2.7	7.9	8.1	+3.3	5.1	4.6	-11.3
Total number of persons in the group	174,093,000	176,215,000		152,409,000	154,021,000		19,298,000	19,650,000	

Type of personal crime	Victimizations by nonstrangers								
	For all victims ¹			For white victims			For black victims		
	Rate	1978	Percent change 1977-1978	Rate	1978	Percent change 1977-1978	Rate	1978	Percent change 1977-1978
Crimes of violence	12.6	12.5	-0.6	11.9	12.1	+1.6	18.3	16.5	-9.6
Rape	0.3	0.3	-12.5	0.3	0.2	-25.0	*0.3	*0.6	+77.4
Robbery	1.3	1.4	+1.5	1.1	1.3	+15.0	3.1	2.0	* -36.9
Robbery and attempted robbery with injury	0.6	0.5	-14.5	0.4	0.5	+9.3	1.5	*0.5	* -65.8
From serious assault	0.3	0.2	-4.0	0.2	0.2	+46.7	1.0	*0.4	* -59.6
From minor assault	0.3	0.2	-23.3	0.3	0.3	-10.7	*0.4	*0.1	* -81.0
Robbery and attempted robbery without injury	0.8	0.9	+11.3	0.7	0.8	+18.6	1.7	1.5	-10.8
Assault	10.9	10.9	-0.4	10.4	10.5	+1.0	14.9	14.0	-5.8
Aggravated assault	3.7	3.5	-7.0	3.3	3.1	-6.1	7.3	6.6	-9.5
With injury	1.3	1.4	(Z)	1.2	1.2	(Z)	2.5	2.5	+1.2
Attempted assault with weapon	2.4	2.1	-11.0	2.1	1.9	-9.2	4.8	4.1	-14.9
Simple assault	7.2	7.4	+3.1	7.1	7.4	+4.3	7.6	7.4	-2.2
With injury	2.3	2.3	(Z)	2.2	2.3	+4.5	2.5	2.1	-16.7
Attempted assault without weapon	4.9	5.1	+4.1	4.9	5.1	+4.1	5.0	5.3	+5.0
Total number of persons in the group	174,093,000	176,215,000		152,409,000	154,021,000		19,298,000	19,650,000	

Z Less than 0.05.
*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹Includes data on "other" races, not shown separately.
²Rate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 3. Personal crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by sex, race or Hispanic origin, and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over)

Sex and race or Hispanic origin	Number of persons in the group	Crimes of violence	Rape	Robbery			Assault			Crimes of theft	Personal larceny	
				Total	With injury	Without injury	Total	Aggravated	Simple		With contact	Without contact
Both sexes ¹												
1977 rate	174,093,000	33.9	0.9	6.2	2.2	4.0	26.8	10.0	16.8	97.3	2.7	94.6
1978 rate	176,215,000	33.7	1.0	5.9	1.9	4.0	26.9	9.7	17.2	96.8	3.1	93.6
Percent change		-0.5	+9.0	-5.3	** -15.3	+0.5	+0.2	-2.9	+2.1	-0.5	** +17.7	-1.0
White												
1977 rate	152,409,000	33.0	0.9	5.4	1.9	3.5	26.8	9.6	17.2	98.2	2.2	96.0
1978 rate	154,021,000	33.0	0.8	5.2	1.7	3.5	26.9	9.3	17.7	97.7	2.7	95.0
Percent change		-0.2	-3.4	-3.5	-7.5	-1.4	+0.6	-2.9	+2.7	-0.5	** +22.2	-1.0
Black												
1977 rate	19,298,000	41.9	1.0	13.0	5.2	7.9	27.9	13.9	14.0	90.0	5.7	84.3
1978 rate	19,650,000	40.6	2.1	11.4	3.1	8.4	27.1	13.3	13.8	90.3	6.2	84.1
Percent change		-3.1	+108.9	-12.1	* -40.6	+6.6	-2.9	-4.2	-1.6	+0.4	+8.9	-0.2
Persons of Hispanic origin												
1977 rate	8,387,000	40.1	1.9	7.5	3.0	4.5	30.7	11.0	19.6	89.8	3.2	86.6
1978 rate	8,936,000	37.4	*0.5	10.3	3.5	6.8	26.6	12.7	13.9	96.6	5.3	91.2
Percent change		-6.6	* -72.7	+36.9	+16.7	+50.8	-13.2	+14.9	* -29.1	+7.5	+67.5	+5.3
Total males ¹												
1977 rate	83,397,000	46.4	0.2	8.7	3.1	5.6	37.5	15.5	22.1	107.9	2.4	105.5
1978 rate	84,377,000	45.7	0.2	8.3	2.6	5.7	37.2	14.7	22.5	105.6	2.7	102.9
Percent change		-1.5	+46.7	-4.9	-16.8	+2.0	-1.0	-4.9	+1.9	-2.2	+9.1	-2.5
White males												
1977 rate	73,428,000	45.3	*0.1	7.5	2.5	4.9	37.7	15.1	22.6	108.1	2.0	106.2
1978 rate	74,202,000	44.8	0.2	7.1	2.3	4.8	37.5	14.2	23.2	106.0	2.3	103.7
Percent change		-1.0	+69.2	-4.3	-7.6	-2.6	-0.6	-5.6	+2.7	-2.0	+17.7	-2.3
Black males												
1977 rate	8,798,000	57.4	*0.4	19.8	8.2	11.6	37.3	19.8	17.5	104.6	5.9	98.7
1978 rate	8,956,000	53.6	*0.2	17.5	4.4	13.1	36.0	19.5	16.5	102.4	5.5	96.9
Percent change		-6.6	-54.3	-11.6	* -46.5	+13.0	-3.5	-1.4	-5.9	-2.1	-6.1	-1.8
Males of Hispanic origin												
1977 rate	3,960,000	49.6	*0.0	11.4	4.3	7.0	38.2	17.3	20.9	96.8	*2.6	94.2
1978 rate	4,199,000	53.7	*0.0	16.0	5.8	10.2	37.8	19.6	18.1	101.2	*2.8	98.4
Percent change		+8.4	0.0	+40.7	+33.5	+44.7	-1.1	+13.6	-13.3	+4.5	+8.8	+4.4
Total females ¹												
1977 rate	90,696,000	22.4	1.6	4.0	1.4	2.5	16.9	4.9	12.0	87.5	2.9	84.6
1978 rate	91,838,000	22.8	1.7	3.7	1.2	2.5	17.4	5.1	12.3	88.7	3.5	85.1
Percent change		+1.4	+6.4	-6.1	-12.7	-2.8	+2.7	+3.0	+2.5	+1.4	** +24.2	+0.6
White females												
1977 rate	78,981,000	21.7	1.6	3.5	1.3	2.2	16.6	4.5	12.2	89.0	2.4	86.5
1978 rate	79,819,000	22.0	1.4	3.4	1.2	2.3	17.2	4.7	12.5	90.0	3.1	87.0
Percent change		+1.5	-10.2	-2.0	-7.9	+1.4	+3.3	+5.4	+2.5	+1.2	+25.5	+0.5
Black females												
1977 rate	10,500,000	29.0	1.6	7.4	2.6	4.8	20.0	9.0	11.1	77.7	5.6	72.2
1978 rate	10,694,000	29.7	3.8	6.4	2.0	4.4	19.6	8.1	11.5	80.2	6.8	73.4
Percent change		+2.7	+140.4	-13.3	-25.2	-7.1	-2.1	-9.5	+3.8	+3.2	+22.5	+1.7
Females of Hispanic origin												
1977 rate	4,427,000	31.6	3.5	4.1	*1.8	*2.3	23.9	5.4	18.5	83.5	3.7	79.8
1978 rate	4,737,000	23.0	*1.0	5.3	*1.5	3.8	16.7	6.5	10.2	92.4	7.5	84.9
Percent change		* -27.2	* -72.6	+28.7	-19.2	+66.1	* -30.1	+20.0	* -44.8	+10.7	+104.9	+6.4

*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹Includes data on "other" races, not shown separately.
²Rate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 4. Personal crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by sex, age, and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons in each age group)

Sex and age	Number of persons in the group	Crimes of violence	Rape	Robbery			Total	Assault			Crimes of theft	Personal larceny	
				Total	With injury	Without injury		Total	Aggravated	Simple		With contact	Without contact
Both sexes													
1977 rate	174,093,000	33.9	0.9	6.2	2.2	4.0	26.8	10.0	16.8	97.3	2.7	94.6	
1978 rate	176,215,000	33.7	1.0	5.9	1.9	4.0	26.9	9.7	17.2	96.8	3.1	93.6	
Percent change		-0.5	+9.0	-5.3	** -15.3	+0.5	+0.2	-2.9	+2.1	-0.5	** +17.7	-1.0	
12-15													
1977 rate	15,963,000	56.5	1.6	10.9	2.7	8.2	44.0	13.1	30.9	144.2	2.3	141.9	
1978 rate	15,454,000	57.0	1.3	10.9	2.0	8.9	44.7	13.0	31.8	145.6	1.9	143.8	
Percent change		+0.8	-16.6	+0.2	-24.5	+8.1	+1.6	-1.4	+2.8	+1.0	-18.5	+1.3	
16-19													
1977 rate	16,505,000	67.7	2.7	9.5	3.2	6.4	55.5	23.0	32.4	149.8	2.7	147.0	
1978 rate	16,466,000	68.9	2.5	9.8	2.4	7.3	56.6	20.9	35.7	152.6	2.9	149.7	
Percent change		+1.7	-7.3	+2.3	-23.2	+15.0	+2.0	-9.2	+10.0	+1.9	+6.6	+1.8	
20-24													
1977 rate	19,433,000	63.3	1.7	9.1	3.7	5.4	52.5	19.7	32.8	153.9	3.5	150.4	
1978 rate	19,767,000	66.9	2.4	8.7	3.2	5.5	55.8	22.0	33.9	152.4	4.9	147.5	
Percent change		+5.7	+41.3	-5.1	-14.6	+1.5	+6.4	+11.4	+3.5	-1.0	+38.6	-1.9	
25-34													
1977 rate	32,816,000	42.0	0.9	6.3	2.6	3.7	34.8	13.3	21.5	114.7	2.7	112.0	
1978 rate	33,708,000	39.9	1.1	5.9	1.9	4.0	33.0	12.6	20.4	117.0	2.8	114.2	
Percent change		-4.9	+13.8	-5.9	-25.1	+7.6	-5.2	-5.5	-5.1	+2.0	+4.4	+2.0	
35-49													
1977 rate	33,913,000	19.9	0.4	4.5	1.4	3.1	15.1	5.6	9.5	87.0	2.5	84.5	
1978 rate	35,607,000	19.9	0.4	4.6	1.8	2.8	15.0	4.9	10.1	84.4	2.4	81.9	
Percent change		-0.1	(Z)	+1.6	+27.0	-10.0	-0.5	-13.2	+7.0	-3.0	-2.4	-3.0	
50-64													
1977 rate	32,022,000	12.8	0.1	4.3	1.3	2.9	8.4	3.3	5.1	57.4	2.5	54.9	
1978 rate	32,264,000	11.4	0.3	3.3	1.3	2.1	7.8	2.9	4.9	55.7	4.0	51.8	
Percent change		-10.7	+154.5	-21.9	-6.0	** -29.1	-7.3	-13.9	-2.9	-3.0	** +57.4	-5.7	
65 and over													
1977 rate	22,441,000	7.5	0.1	3.4	1.9	1.4	4.0	1.2	2.8	23.6	2.4	21.2	
1978 rate	22,948,000	7.9	0.1	3.0	1.2	1.8	4.7	1.8	3.0	23.0	2.9	20.1	
Percent change		+4.9	-8.3	-10.4	** -37.6	+27.3	+18.3	+47.1	+6.0	-2.5	+19.3	-5.0	
Males													
1977 rate	83,397,000	46.4	0.2	8.7	3.1	5.6	37.5	15.5	22.1	107.9	2.4	105.5	
1978 rate	84,377,000	45.7	0.2	8.3	2.6	5.7	37.2	14.7	22.5	105.6	2.7	102.9	
Percent change		-1.5	+46.7	-4.9	-16.8	+2.0	-1.0	-4.9	+1.9	-2.2	+9.1	-2.5	
12-15													
1977 rate	8,124,000	76.5	0.5	17.2	4.3	12.8	58.8	19.4	39.3	160.8	3.3	157.6	
1978 rate	7,866,000	75.6	0.4	18.8	3.5	15.3	56.4	18.4	38.0	164.0	3.0	161.0	
Percent change		-1.2	-23.1	+9.3	-19.2	+19.0	-4.0	-5.3	-3.4	+2.0	-8.0	+2.2	
16-19													
1977 rate	8,206,000	92.0	0.2	13.3	4.8	8.6	78.5	37.2	41.3	165.5	3.6	161.8	
1978 rate	8,195,000	86.4	0.5	11.3	3.2	8.2	74.5	30.7	43.9	166.4	3.8	162.6	
Percent change		-6.2	+206.3	-14.9	-33.1	-5.1	-5.1	** -17.6	+6.2	+0.6	+5.5	+0.5	
20-24													
1977 rate	9,510,000	87.5	0.5	12.8	5.0	7.8	74.2	29.9	44.3	176.6	3.6	173.0	
1978 rate	9,656,000	90.5	1.0	10.2	3.6	6.7	79.3	33.1	46.2	170.5	4.5	166.1	
Percent change		+3.5	+117.4	-20.2	-29.3	-14.3	+6.8	+10.7	+4.3	-3.4	+22.9	-4.0	
25-34													
1977 rate	16,122,000	54.8	0.1	8.5	3.6	4.9	46.2	19.8	26.4	117.7	1.8	115.9	
1978 rate	16,556,000	54.7	0.1	8.0	2.2	5.9	46.6	20.1	26.5	123.1	2.2	120.9	
Percent change		-0.2	(Z)	-5.8	* -39.7	+19.1	+0.8	+1.4	+0.4	+4.6	+19.9	+4.4	
35-49													
1977 rate	16,949,000	24.9	0.0	5.9	2.0	3.9	19.1	7.8	11.2	88.4	2.3	86.1	
1978 rate	17,302,000	25.5	0.0	6.4	3.0	3.4	19.1	7.0	12.1	80.3	1.7	78.7	
Percent change		+2.2	0.0	+8.5	+50.0	-12.6	+0.2	-10.7	+7.9	* -9.2	-28.8	** -8.7	
50-64													
1977 rate	15,211,000	16.8	0.1	5.2	1.6	3.6	11.5	4.9	6.5	64.5	1.8	62.8	
1978 rate	15,350,000	15.3	0.0	5.3	1.7	3.6	10.0	3.4	6.6	59.0	2.7	56.3	
Percent change		-8.5	-100.0	+1.9	+1.8	+2.0	-12.7	** -31.4	+1.5	-8.6	+50.8	** -10.2	
65 and over													
1977 rate	9,274,000	10.5	0.0	4.2	2.1	2.0	6.4	1.7	4.7	30.2	1.8	28.4	
1978 rate	9,453,000	10.0	0.0	3.6	1.7	1.9	6.4	2.1	4.3	28.9	2.1	26.8	
Percent change		-5.2	0.0	-13.5	-21.2	-4.9	-0.2	+24.7	-8.9	-4.3	+20.6	-5.8	

Table 4. Continued
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by sex, age, and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons in each age group)

Sex and age	Number of persons in the group	Crimes of violence	Rape	Robbery			Total	Assault			Crimes of theft	Personal larceny	
				Total	With injury	Without injury		Total	Aggravated	Simple		With contact	Without contact
Females													
1977 rate	90,696,000	22.4	1.6	4.0	1.4	2.5	16.9	4.9	12.0	87.5	2.9	84.6	
1978 rate	91,838,000	22.8	1.7	3.7	1.2	2.5	17.4	5.1	12.3	88.7	3.5	85.1	
Percent change		+1.4	+6.4	-6.1	-12.7	-2.8	+2.7	+3.0	+2.5	+1.4	** +24.2	+0.6	
12-15													
1977 rate	7,839,000	35.8	2.7	4.4	0.9	3.4	28.8	6.6	22.2	126.9	1.3	125.6	
1978 rate	7,589,000	37.7	2.3	2.7	0.4	2.3	32.7	7.3	25.4	126.6	0.7	125.9	
Percent change		+5.2	-15.0	-37.0	-51.1	-33.4	+13.5	+10.6	+14.3	-0.3	-46.3	+0.2	
16-19													
1977 rate	8,299,000	43.7	5.3	5.8	1.6	4.2	32.7	9.0	23.7	134.2	1.9	132.4	
1978 rate	8,271,000	51.6	4.6	8.2	1.7	6.5	38.9	11.3	27.6	139.0	2.0	136.9	
Percent change		+18.0	-13.6	+41.8	+5.6	+54.9	+18.8	+24.9	+16.6	+3.5	+8.6	+3.5	
20-24													
1977 rate	9,924,000	40.1	2.9	5.6	2.4	3.2	31.6	9.9	21.7	132.1	3.4	128.7	
1978 rate	10,111,000	44.4	3.8	7.2	2.8	4.4	33.4	11.3	22.1	135.1	5.2	129.8	
Percent change		+10.7	+29.4	+27.6	+14.3	+38.2	+5.7	+13.8	+2.1	+2.2	+55.2	+0.9	
25-34													
1977 rate	16,694,000	29.7	1.8	4.1	1.6	2.5	23.8	7.1	16.7	111.8	3.6	108.2	
1978 rate	17,153,000	25.7	2.0	3.8	1.7	2.1	19.8	5.4	14.5	111.1	3.5	107.6	
Percent change		** -13.3	+14.0	-6.1	+6.8	-15.0	** -16.6	** -23.9	-13.5	-0.6	-2.5	-0.5	
35-49													
1977 rate	17,964,000	15.2	0.8	3.2	0.9	2.4	11.3	3.5	7.8	85.6	2.6	83.0	
1978 rate	18,305,000	14.7	0.7	2.9	0.7	2.2	11.1	2.8	8.3	88.2	3.2	85.0	
Percent change		-3.6	-2.7	-10.6	-23.0	-6.0	-1.8	-18.6	+5.6	+3.0	+19.8	+2.5	
50-64													
1977 rate	16,810,000	9.2	0.1	3.4	1.1	2.3	5.7	1.9	3.8	51.0	3.2	47.8	
1978 rate	16,914,000	7.8	0.5	1.5	0.9	0.7	5.8	2.4	3.4	52.7	5.1	47.7	
Percent change		-14.5	+285.7	* -55.2	-17.1	* -71.8	+2.5	+27.8	-10.1	+3.4	+60.8	-0.4	
65 and over													
1977 rate	13,167,000	5.4	0.2	2.8	1.8	1.0	2.3	0.9	1.4	19.0	2.9	16.1	
1978 rate	13,495,000	6.4	0.2	2.6	0.9	1.7	3.6	1.5	2.1	18.9	3.5	15.4	
Percent change		+19.2	-14.3	-7.0	* -51.1	+70.6	+54.5	+74.7	+42.4	-0.4	+18.9	-3.8	

Z Less than 0.05.
*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
†Rate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 5. Personal crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by sex, marital status, and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over)

Sex and marital status	Number of persons in the group	Crimes of violence	Rape	Robbery			Assault			Crimes of theft	Personal larceny	
				Total	With injury	Without injury	Total	Aggravated	Simple		With contact	Without contact
Both sexes¹												
1977 rate	174,093,000	33.9	0.9	6.2	2.2	4.0	26.8	10.0	16.8	97.3	2.7	94.6
1978 rate	176,215,000	33.7	1.0	5.9	1.9	4.0	26.9	9.7	17.2	96.8	3.1	93.6
Percent change		-0.5	+9.0	-5.3	** -15.3	+0.5	+0.2	-2.9	+2.1	-0.5	** +17.7	-1.0
Never married												
1977 rate	50,854,000	59.6	1.7	10.3	3.4	7.0	47.6	17.3	30.2	144.8	3.8	141.0
1978 rate	51,758,000	60.0	1.7	10.2	2.9	7.4	48.1	17.1	30.9	147.2	4.0	143.2
Percent change		+0.6	+1.2	-1.2	-14.9	+5.6	+1.1	-1.0	+2.2	+1.7	+5.9	+1.6
Married												
1977 rate	99,514,000	19.7	0.3	3.1	1.0	2.1	16.3	6.1	10.2	75.5	1.8	73.7
1978 rate	99,831,000	18.6	0.3	2.8	0.8	2.0	15.5	5.5	10.0	73.2	2.0	71.2
Percent change		-5.9	+30.8	-11.5	** -25.7	-4.7	-5.4	-11.1	-2.1	-3.1	+6.6	-3.4
Separated or divorced												
1977 rate	11,401,000	66.5	2.8	16.1	7.2	8.9	47.5	19.4	28.1	137.9	4.8	133.1
1978 rate	12,211,000	68.7	3.7	14.1	7.0	7.1	50.8	19.6	31.2	133.6	8.1	125.5
Percent change		+3.3	+31.3	-12.4	-2.2	-20.5	+6.9	+1.1	+10.9	-3.1	** +69.4	-5.7
Widowed												
1977 rate	11,874,000	11.0	² 0.6	5.1	2.5	2.6	5.3	1.6	3.7	37.4	2.7	34.6
1978 rate	12,004,000	10.2	² 0.0	4.9	1.9	3.0	5.3	2.3	3.0	38.3	4.1	34.2
Percent change		-7.2	-100.0	-3.4	-23.9	+16.5	(Z)	+47.5	-20.1	+2.4	+50.4	-1.3
Males¹												
1977 rate	83,397,000	46.4	0.2	8.7	3.1	5.6	37.5	15.5	22.1	107.9	2.4	105.5
1978 rate	84,377,000	45.7	0.2	8.3	2.6	5.7	37.2	14.7	22.5	105.6	2.7	102.9
Percent change		-1.5	+46.7	-4.9	-16.8	+2.0	-1.0	-4.9	+1.9	-2.2	+9.1	-2.5
Never married												
1977 rate	27,043,000	78.4	² 0.3	14.6	4.7	³ 9.9	63.5	25.4	38.0	161.5	4.0	157.5
1978 rate	27,618,000	78.6	² 0.4	14.6	4.2	10.5	63.6	24.8	38.8	161.7	4.1	157.7
Percent change		+0.2	+29.0	-0.1	-11.5	+5.3	+0.2	-2.5	+1.9	+0.1	+1.5	+0.1
Married												
1977 rate	50,090,000	27.3	² 0.1	4.2	1.5	2.7	23.1	9.5	13.6	76.8	1.5	75.3
1978 rate	50,075,000	25.4	(² Z)	3.5	1.0	2.5	21.9	8.3	13.7	73.1	1.3	71.8
Percent change		-7.0	-40.0	-17.3	** -30.7	-9.9	-5.0	-12.8	+0.5	** -4.8	-10.2	-4.7
Separated or divorced												
1977 rate	4,187,000	75.5	² 0.0	21.8	10.6	11.2	53.7	28.1	25.6	157.0	3.5	153.6
1978 rate	4,567,000	79.0	² 1.3	20.9	9.3	11.7	56.8	28.2	28.7	148.1	7.6	140.5
Percent change		+4.6	(Y)	-4.2	-12.7	+4.0	+5.8	+0.2	+12.0	-5.7	+119.7	-8.5
Widowed												
1977 rate	1,861,000	25.6	² 0.0	12.7	² 5.2	7.5	12.9	² 3.4	9.6	58.3	² 3.2	55.1
1978 rate	1,921,000	15.7	² 0.0	10.1	² 3.7	6.4	² 5.6	² 2.7	² 2.9	41.5	² 4.8	36.7
Percent change		** -38.6	0.0	-20.0	-28.5	-14.9	* -56.8	-19.0	* -70.1	* -28.8	+48.4	* -33.3
Females¹												
1977 rate	90,696,000	22.4	1.6	4.0	1.4	2.5	16.9	4.9	12.0	87.5	2.9	84.6
1978 rate	91,838,000	22.8	1.7	3.7	1.2	2.5	17.4	5.1	12.3	88.7	3.5	85.1
Percent change		+1.4	+6.4	-6.1	-12.7	-2.8	+2.7	+3.0	+2.5	+1.4	** +24.2	+0.6
Never married												
1977 rate	23,811,000	38.2	3.3	5.4	1.8	3.6	29.5	8.1	21.4	125.7	3.5	122.3
1978 rate	24,140,000	38.7	3.2	5.2	1.4	3.8	30.3	8.4	22.0	130.5	3.8	126.7
Percent change		+1.3	-1.8	-5.2	-26.2	+5.6	+2.8	+3.3	+2.6	+3.8	+11.3	+3.6
Married												
1977 rate	49,424,000	12.0	0.5	2.0	0.5	1.5	9.6	2.7	6.8	74.3	2.2	72.1
1978 rate	49,756,000	11.7	0.7	2.0	0.5	1.6	9.0	2.6	6.3	73.3	2.6	70.7
Percent change		-3.0	+40.4	+0.5	-13.5	+5.4	-6.0	-3.6	-6.8	-1.3	+17.8	-1.9
Separated or divorced												
1977 rate	7,214,000	61.2	4.5	12.7	5.2	7.6	44.0	14.3	29.6	126.8	5.6	121.2
1978 rate	7,644,000	62.5	5.2	10.0	5.7	4.3	47.3	14.5	32.8	125.0	8.5	116.5
Percent change		+2.1	+15.8	-21.4	+9.7	* -42.8	+7.5	+1.1	+10.6	-1.4	+51.4	-3.9
Widowed												
1977 rate	10,013,000	8.3	² 0.7	3.6	2.0	1.6	3.9	1.3	2.7	33.5	2.6	30.8
1978 rate	10,083,000	9.1	² 0.0	3.9	1.5	2.3	5.3	2.3	3.0	37.7	4.0	33.7
Percent change		+10.4	-100.0	+6.6	-21.8	+41.7	+34.6	+80.8	+13.2	+12.5	+50.6	+9.2

Y Not defined.

Z Less than 0.05.

*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.

**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹Includes data on persons whose marital status was not ascertained.

²Rate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 6. Personal crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by annual family income and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over)

Annual family income	Number of persons in the group	Crimes of violence	Rape	Robbery			Assault			Crimes of theft	Personal larceny	
				Total	With injury	Without injury	Total	Aggravated	Simple		With contact	Without contact
Total¹												
1977 rate	174,093,000	33.9	0.9	6.2	2.2	4.0	26.8	10.0	16.8	97.3	2.7	94.6
1978 rate	176,215,000	33.7	1.0	5.9	1.9	4.0	26.9	9.7	17.2	96.8	3.1	93.6
Percent change		-0.5	+9.0	-5.3	** -15.3	+0.5	+0.2	-2.9	+2.1	-0.5	** +17.7	-1.0
Less than \$3,000												
1977 rate	10,353,000	54.0	1.8	13.7	5.6	8.1	38.5	15.7	22.8	92.3	4.6	87.6
1978 rate	8,919,000	56.3	2.8	11.7	3.2	8.5	41.8	15.2	26.7	92.6	6.4	86.3
Percent change		+4.4	+59.0	-14.6	* -42.8	+5.2	+8.6	-3.5	+17.0	+0.4	+37.4	-1.6
\$3,000-\$7,499												
1977 rate	31,765,000	39.8	1.5	7.7	3.1	4.6	30.6	12.2	18.3	79.2	3.4	75.8
1978 rate	29,769,000	38.8	1.3	7.9	2.6	5.4	29.7	12.8	16.8	76.6	3.8	72.8
Percent change		-2.4	-16.6	+3.0	-16.3	+15.6	-3.0	+4.7	-8.1	-3.3	+13.1	-4.0
\$7,500-\$9,999												
1977 rate	15,691,000	35.8	1.2	7.9	2.9	5.0	26.7	9.4	17.4	88.1	3.3	84.8
1978 rate	14,727,000	37.8	² 0.7	5.8	1.7	4.0	31.4	12.7	18.7	92.6	4.4	88.2
Percent change		+5.7	-45.5	** -26.8	** -39.2	-19.6	+17.5	** +36.0	+7.5	+5.1	+32.1	+4.1
\$10,000-\$14,999												
1977 rate	36,794,000	32.4	0.5	5.6	1.9	3.7	26.3	9.4	16.9	97.0	2.0	95.0
1978 rate	32,787,000	32.7	0.7	5.3	2.2	3.0	26.7	9.4	17.3	92.9	2.3	90.6
Percent change		+0.9	+39.2	-5.6	+16.7	-17.5	+1.4	-1.0	+2.9	-4.2	+18.8	-4.7
\$15,000-\$24,999												
1977 rate	42,646,000	30.5	0.5	4.8	1.5	3.3	25.2	8.9	16.3	108.1	1.8	106.3
1978 rate	45,935,000	29.6	0.8	4.2	1.3	3.0	24.5	8.8	15.7	105.2	2.2	103.0
Percent change		-3.1	+56.6	-11.7	-17.0	-9.2	-2.7	-0.8	-3.9	-2.7	+19.9	-3.1
\$25,000 and over												
1977 rate	18,824,000	28.4	² 0.6	3.8	1.0	2.7	24.1	8.5	15.6	129.3	2.0	127.2
1978 rate	24,062,000	30.5	0.6	5.1	0.8	4.3	24.8	6.2	18.6	130.9	2.7	128.2
Percent change		+7.3	+8.6	+35.4	-22.1	+56.4	+3.0	* -26.8	+19.1	+1.3	+35.6	+0.7

*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.

**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹Includes data on persons whose income level was not ascertained.

²Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 7. Personal crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by place of residence and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over)

Place of residence	Number of persons in the group	Crimes of violence	Rape	Robbery			Assault			Crimes of theft	Personal larceny	
				Total	With injury	Without injury	Total	Aggravated	Simple		With contact	Without contact
All places of residence												
1977 rate	174,093,000	33.9	0.9	6.2	2.2	4.0	26.8	10.0	16.8	97.3	2.7	94.6
1978 rate	176,215,000	33.7	1.0	5.9	1.9	4.0	26.9	9.7	17.2	96.8	3.1	93.6
Percent change		-0.5	+9.0	-5.3	** -15.3	+0.5	+0.2	-2.9	+2.1	-0.5	**+17.7	-1.0
Total in metropolitan areas												
Inside central cities												
1977 rate	50,209,000	47.2	1.2	12.0	4.5	7.5	34.1	13.1	21.0	112.9	5.0	107.9
1978 rate	50,445,000	45.9	1.6	9.9	3.3	6.6	34.5	14.1	20.4	118.9	6.4	112.5
Percent change		-2.8	+33.6	* -17.2	* -26.9	-11.3	+1.0	+7.5	-3.1	*+5.3	**+28.4	**+4.2
Outside central cities												
1977 rate	68,460,000	33.7	1.0	4.9	1.6	3.4	27.8	9.8	18.0	107.2	2.1	105.1
1978 rate	69,462,000	34.7	0.9	6.0	1.8	4.2	27.8	8.4	19.4	106.8	2.3	104.5
Percent change		+3.0	-6.3	**+21.5	+13.2	**+25.4	(Z)	* -14.9	+8.1	-0.4	+9.1	-0.6
Metropolitan areas with central cities of 1,000,000 or more												
Inside central cities												
1977 rate	14,920,000	50.4	1.1	17.9	7.1	10.8	31.5	13.3	18.2	103.3	9.7	93.6
1978 rate	15,052,000	49.5	1.9	17.2	5.3	11.9	30.4	13.5	16.9	111.1	11.7	99.4
Percent change		-1.8	+76.4	-3.6	** -25.5	+10.7	-3.5	+1.6	-7.1	+7.6	+21.1	+6.2
Outside central cities												
1977 rate	16,799,000	37.0	1.5	6.8	2.1	4.6	28.8	10.3	18.4	108.7	2.5	106.2
1978 rate	16,730,000	36.3	0.9	6.2	2.3	3.9	29.2	8.4	20.9	109.3	3.0	106.3
Percent change		-1.8	-38.7	-8.6	+5.6	-15.1	+1.7	-19.2	+13.4	+0.5	+22.9	(Z)
Metropolitan areas with central cities from 500,000 to 999,999												
Inside central cities												
1977 rate	10,309,000	50.9	1.4	13.9	5.0	8.9	36.5	13.5	23.1	123.8	4.0	119.9
1978 rate	10,035,000	48.3	1.7	11.0	3.4	7.6	35.7	13.0	22.7	129.2	5.1	124.1
Percent change		-5.1	+286.0	-21.3	-32.8	-15.0	-2.4	-3.7	-1.6	+4.4	+29.8	+3.5
Outside central cities												
1977 rate	16,078,000	36.2	1.1	4.9	1.7	3.2	30.2	10.7	19.5	115.1	2.2	112.8
1978 rate	16,467,000	40.2	1.2	8.9	1.5	7.4	30.1	9.4	20.7	116.0	2.8	113.2
Percent change		+11.2	+8.4	**+82.8	-12.3	*+134.3	-0.3	-12.0	+6.2	+0.9	+25.1	+0.4
Metropolitan areas with central cities from 250,000 to 499,999												
Inside central cities												
1977 rate	9,963,000	47.5	1.8	9.0	3.4	5.6	36.8	14.3	22.5	116.0	2.4	113.6
1978 rate	10,067,000	43.8	1.2	5.1	2.4	2.7	37.6	15.4	22.2	121.7	3.9	117.8
Percent change		-7.8	-35.4	* -43.4	-30.7	* -51.2	+2.3	+7.8	-1.2	+4.9	+62.6	+3.7
Outside central cities												
1977 rate	15,371,000	32.8	0.8	3.8	1.6	3.2	28.2	9.6	18.6	115.0	2.8	112.2
1978 rate	15,783,000	32.9	0.7	4.7	1.9	2.8	27.5	9.4	18.1	110.9	2.5	108.4
Percent change		+0.2	-14.6	+23.7	+220.3	-11.9	-2.5	-1.8	-2.9	-3.5	-9.5	-3.4
Metropolitan areas with central cities from 50,000 to 249,999												
Inside central cities												
1977 rate	15,018,000	41.4	1.3	6.7	2.3	4.4	33.4	12.0	21.4	112.9	2.8	110.1
1978 rate	15,291,000	42.3	1.4	5.2	1.9	3.3	35.7	14.7	21.0	117.9	3.7	114.2
Percent change		+2.0	+3.8	-22.4	-17.9	-24.8	+6.8	+22.1	-1.8	+4.4	+32.5	+3.7
Outside central cities												
1977 rate	20,212,000	29.5	1.5	4.4	1.8	2.6	24.7	8.8	15.8	93.7	1.1	92.6
1978 rate	20,483,000	30.2	0.8	4.5	1.6	2.9	24.9	6.7	18.2	94.0	1.1	92.9
Percent change		+2.3	+72.3	+3.5	-10.6	+13.3	+0.8	* -24.3	+14.8	+0.3	-7.0	+0.4
Total in nonmetropolitan areas												
1977 rate	55,423,000	22.1	0.6	2.6	1.0	1.7	18.9	7.3	11.6	70.9	1.2	69.7
1978 rate	56,308,000	21.6	0.5	2.2	0.7	1.5	18.9	7.4	11.5	64.6	1.2	63.4
Percent change		-2.2	-3.6	-16.9	-26.0	-12.1	-0.1	+0.7	-0.4	* -8.8	-1.6	* -9.0

Z Less than 0.05.
*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹Rate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 8. Household crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates, by type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 households)

Type of household crime	Rate		Percent change, 1977-1978	Standard error ¹
	1977	1978		
Burglary	88.5	86.0	-2.9	2.3
Forcible entry	30.1	28.2	** -6.2	3.9
Unlawful entry	38.8	37.4	-3.5	3.5
Attempted forcible entry	19.7	20.4	+3.5	5.2
Household larceny	123.3	119.9	-2.7	1.9
Completed larceny ²	114.0	111.7	-2.0	2.0
Less than \$50	71.3	66.5	* -6.7	2.5
\$50 or more	37.3	40.1	**+7.3	3.8
Attempted larceny	9.3	8.3	** -11.0	6.8
Motor vehicle theft	17.0	17.5	+3.2	5.6
Completed theft	10.4	11.0	+5.6	7.3
Attempted theft	6.5	6.5	-0.8	8.8
Total households	76,412,000	77,980,000		

*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹For an illustration of the use of standard errors, see Appendix II.
²Includes amount not reported.

Table 9. Household crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates, by age of head of household and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 households)

Age of household head	Number of households in the group	Burglary			Household larceny			Motor vehicle theft			
		Total	Forcible entry	Unlawful entry	Attempted forcible entry	Total	Completed	Attempted	Total	Completed	Attempted
Total											
1977 rate	76,412,000	88.5	30.1	38.8	19.7	123.3	114.0	9.3	17.0	10.4	6.5
1978 rate	77,980,000	86.0	28.2	37.4	20.4	119.9	111.7	8.3	17.5	11.0	6.5
Percent change		-2.9	** -6.2	-3.5	+3.5	-2.7	-2.0	** -11.0	+3.2	+5.6	-0.8
12-19											
1977 rate	1,090,000	234.6	59.8	135.8	40.0	193.5	180.0	13.5	26.3	21.5	14.9
1978 rate	1,022,000	246.6	72.2	139.0	35.5	239.4	225.9	13.4	52.6	30.4	22.2
Percent change		+5.1	+20.8	+2.3	-9.0	**+23.7	**+25.6	-1.0	+99.7	+41.4	+357.2
20-34											
1977 rate	22,741,000	120.0	43.6	48.4	28.0	169.4	156.1	13.3	24.1	14.2	9.9
1978 rate	23,440,000	115.8	38.4	47.5	29.8	166.2	155.9	10.4	24.3	15.1	9.2
Percent change		-3.5	* -11.7	-1.9	+6.4	-1.9	-0.2	* -21.6	+7.5	+6.3	-7.3
35-49											
1977 rate	18,887,000	91.9	30.1	43.4	18.6	143.8	132.8	11.0	20.2	12.5	7.7
1978 rate	19,310,000	93.2	27.7	44.6	20.9	141.9	131.3	10.7	19.3	12.7	6.6
Percent change		+1.3	-8.0	+3.0	+12.6	-1.3	-1.2	-3.2	-4.5	+1.6	-14.6
50-64											
1977 rate	18,526,000	69.6	24.3	30.0	15.4	95.4	88.9	6.6	15.1	9.7	5.4
1978 rate	18,643,000	66.3	25.8	25.8	14.7	87.8	80.5	7.3	15.4	9.7	5.7
Percent change		-4.8	+6.5	** -14.0	-4.6	** -8.0	* -9.5	+11.7	+2.4	(Z)	+6.5
65 and over											
1977 rate	15,168,000	49.7	15.0	22.3	12.4	57.4	53.2	4.2	3.8	2.4	1.5
1978 rate	15,566,000	45.2	13.5	20.4	11.3	53.6	50.7	2.9	5.2	3.1	2.1
Percent change		-9.1	-10.2	-8.5	-8.7	-6.7	-4.7	** -31.9	+35.7	+32.2	+41.2

Z Less than 0.05.
*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹Rate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 10. Household crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates, by race of head of household,
tenure, and type of crime**

(Rate per 1,000 households)

Race of household head and tenure	Number of households in the group	Burglary				Household larceny			Motor vehicle theft		
		Total	Forcible entry	Unlawful entry	Attempted forcible entry	Total	Completed	Attempted	Total	Completed	Attempted
All races¹											
1977 rate	76,412,000	88.5	30.1	38.8	19.7	123.3	114.0	9.3	17.0	10.4	6.5
1978 rate	77,980,000	86.0	28.2	37.4	20.4	119.9	111.7	8.3	17.5	11.0	6.5
Percent change		-2.9	** -6.2	-3.5	+3.5	-2.7	-2.0	** -11.0	+3.2	+5.6	-0.8
Owned or being bought											
1977 rate	49,557,000	74.1	24.8	33.4	16.0	112.9	104.3	8.6	13.8	8.5	5.3
1978 rate	50,909,000	71.0	22.9	32.3	15.9	107.8	100.5	7.4	13.8	8.8	5.0
Percent change		-4.1	-7.8	-3.3	-0.4	** -4.5	-3.7	** -14.6	-0.1	+3.2	-5.1
Rented											
1977 rate	26,855,000	115.2	39.9	48.7	26.5	142.4	131.9	10.6	22.9	14.0	8.9
1978 rate	27,071,000	114.1	38.3	47.1	28.7	142.7	132.7	10.0	24.5	15.2	9.3
Percent change		-1.0	-4.1	-3.5	+8.4	+0.2	+0.7	-5.3	+7.3	+8.9	+4.8
White											
1977 rate	67,254,000	83.9	26.8	38.5	18.6	124.0	115.0	9.0	16.4	10.2	6.3
1978 rate	68,538,000	82.6	26.1	37.7	18.8	119.5	111.5	8.0	16.9	10.2	6.6
Percent change		-1.6	-2.8	-2.0	+1.1	** -3.7	-3.1	-10.8	+2.7	+0.6	+6.1
Owned or being bought											
1977 rate	45,446,000	71.6	22.8	33.3	15.5	112.4	104.1	8.3	13.0	8.1	4.9
1978 rate	46,601,000	69.7	21.7	32.9	15.2	107.0	99.8	7.2	13.2	8.2	5.0
Percent change		-2.6	-4.7	-1.4	-1.8	** -4.8	-4.2	-13.3	+1.8	+1.5	+2.2
Rented											
1977 rate	21,808,000	109.7	35.3	49.3	25.1	148.3	137.8	10.5	23.6	14.5	9.1
1978 rate	21,937,000	109.9	35.4	48.0	26.5	146.1	136.3	9.8	24.6	14.5	10.1
Percent change		+0.3	+0.4	-2.5	+5.5	-1.5	-1.1	-6.5	+4.2	+0.1	+10.8
Black											
1977 rate	8,252,000	122.4	55.4	38.5	28.4	116.3	104.7	11.6	21.1	13.0	8.1
1978 rate	8,458,000	114.7	46.0	35.4	33.3	120.6	110.9	9.7	21.5	16.6	4.8
Percent change		-6.3	* -17.0	-8.2	+17.3	+3.7	+5.8	-15.8	+1.6	+27.5	* -40.2
Owned or being bought											
1977 rate	3,719,000	102.0	47.6	31.9	22.4	116.5	104.6	11.8	23.1	14.5	8.6
1978 rate	3,845,000	85.0	35.4	25.6	24.0	118.3	108.8	9.5	19.6	15.2	4.3
Percent change		* -16.6	* -25.6	-19.8	+6.8	+1.6	+4.0	-19.4	-15.4	+5.1	* -49.7
Rented											
1977 rate	4,534,000	139.1	61.9	43.9	33.3	116.1	104.8	11.3	19.5	11.8	7.7
1978 rate	4,613,000	139.5	54.9	43.5	41.1	122.4	112.5	9.9	23.1	17.8	5.3
Percent change		+0.3	-11.3	-1.0	+23.4	+5.5	+7.4	-12.6	+18.3	+50.5	-31.0

*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹Includes data on "other" races, not shown separately.

**Table 11. Household crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates, by race or Hispanic origin
of head of household, annual family income,
and type of crime**

(Rate per 1,000 households)

Annual family income, race of household head, or Hispanic origin	Number of households in the group	Burglary				Household larceny			Motor vehicle theft		
		Total	Forcible entry	Unlawful entry	Attempted forcible entry	Total	Completed	Attempted	Total	Completed	Attempted
All races¹											
1977 rate	76,412,000	88.5	30.1	38.8	19.7	123.3	114.0	9.3	17.0	10.4	6.5
1978 rate	77,980,000	86.0	28.2	37.4	20.4	119.9	111.7	8.3	17.5	11.0	6.5
Percent change		-2.9	** -6.2	-3.5	+3.5	-2.7	-2.0	** -11.0	+3.2	+5.6	-0.8
Less than \$7,500											
1977 rate	23,195,000	101.5	34.7	44.0	22.9	108.9	101.1	7.8	12.2	7.9	4.3
1978 rate	21,652,000	100.2	31.0	44.5	24.7	107.3	100.6	6.8	12.4	8.3	4.0
Percent change		-1.3	** -10.6	+1.1	+8.1	-1.4	-0.5	-13.1	+1.6	+6.1	-6.7
\$7,500-\$14,999											
1977 rate	22,538,000	86.3	31.2	35.0	20.1	134.8	124.3	10.5	17.4	11.2	6.2
1978 rate	21,095,000	82.8	28.6	33.4	20.8	128.5	119.2	9.3	19.7	12.3	7.4
Percent change		-4.1	-8.3	-4.6	+3.3	-4.7	-4.1	-11.7	+13.5	+10.4	+19.0
\$15,000 and over											
1977 rate	22,566,000	83.9	26.9	40.9	16.2	135.2	124.5	10.7	21.7	12.2	9.6
1978 rate	26,217,000	80.3	25.2	37.0	18.1	132.4	123.0	9.4	20.2	12.4	7.8
Percent change		-4.4	-6.3	** -9.4	+11.6	-2.0	-1.2	-11.9	-6.9	+2.2	** -18.6
White¹											
1977 rate	67,254,000	83.9	26.8	38.5	18.6	124.0	115.0	9.0	16.4	10.2	6.3
1978 rate	68,538,000	82.6	26.1	37.7	18.8	119.5	111.5	8.0	16.9	10.2	6.6
Percent change		-1.6	-2.8	-2.0	+1.1	** -3.7	-3.1	-10.8	+2.7	+0.6	+6.1
Less than \$7,500											
1977 rate	18,751,000	94.2	29.0	44.0	21.1	109.6	102.1	7.5	12.8	8.1	4.8
1978 rate	17,351,000	93.9	27.2	44.1	22.6	107.2	100.7	6.5	11.6	7.7	3.8
Percent change		-0.3	-6.3	+0.2	+7.0	-2.2	-1.4	-13.2	-10.0	-4.3	-19.4
\$7,500-\$14,999											
1977 rate	20,232,000	81.2	27.7	34.5	19.0	133.9	123.9	10.0	16.4	10.4	6.0
1978 rate	18,761,000	80.0	27.1	34.1	18.8	128.0	119.6	8.4	18.6	11.0	7.6
Percent change		-1.5	-2.3	-1.1	-1.1	-4.4	-3.5	-15.4	+13.5	+6.1	+26.3
\$15,000 and over											
1977 rate	21,142,000	82.7	25.9	40.9	15.9	135.5	125.2	10.3	19.8	11.5	8.3
1978 rate	24,447,000	79.5	23.9	38.2	17.4	132.2	122.8	9.4	19.9	11.8	8.0
Percent change		-3.9	-7.8	-6.5	+9.0	-2.5	-1.9	-9.1	+0.7	+3.0	-2.7
Black¹											
1977 rate	8,252,000	122.4	55.4	38.5	28.4	116.3	104.7	11.6	21.1	13.0	8.1
1978 rate	8,458,000	114.7	46.0	35.4	33.3	120.6	110.9	9.7	21.5	16.6	4.8
Percent change		-6.3	* -17.0	-8.2	+17.3	+3.7	+5.8	-15.8	+1.6	+27.5	* -40.2
Less than \$7,500											
1977 rate	4,161,000	128.7	57.7	41.4	29.6	102.7	94.5	8.2	8.2	6.4	² 1.9
1978 rate	4,042,000	129.2	48.3	45.8	35.2	103.6	95.8	7.8	14.3	10.1	4.2
Percent change		+0.4	-16.2	+10.6	+18.6	+0.9	+1.4	-5.6	+73.6	+59.4	+121.9
\$7,500-\$14,999											
1977 rate	2,079,000	133.7	66.1	36.5	31.1	142.3	127.2	15.1	28.1	19.8	8.4
1978 rate	2,082,000	106.1	41.4	27.5	37.2	136.5	122.4	14.1	27.9	22.2	² 5.7
Percent change		* -20.6	* -37.3	-24.6	+19.5	-4.1	-3.8	-6.9	-0.6	+12.6	-31.7
\$15,000 and over											
1977 rate	1,147,000	104.3	45.3	35.8	23.2	130.3	111.3	19.0	55.9	25.0	31.0
1978 rate	1,404,000	102.6	50.2	20.9	31.5	133.9	123.1	10.8	25.9	22.5	² 3.4
Percent change		-1.6	+10.9	* -41.7	+35.6	+2.8	+10.7	** -43.3	* -53.7	-10.0	* -88.9
Persons of Hispanic origin¹											
1977 rate	3,282,000	105.2	42.5	36.2	26.5	146.0	137.5	8.5	27.2	15.8	11.4
1978 rate	3,486,000	107.9	41.6	38.5	27.8	151.8	141.8	10.0	28.0	13.4	14.6
Percent change		+2.6	-2.0	+6.3	+5.1	+3.9	+3.1	+17.2	+3.0	-15.1	+28.1
Less than \$7,500											
1977 rate	1,379,000	127.5	49.8	44.8	32.9	120.8	115.6	² 5.1	25.7	10.3	15.5
1978 rate	1,357,000	102.2	41.8	37.8	22.6	150.9	143.0	² 7.9	19.1	9.8	9.3
Percent change		** -19.9	-16.1	-15.7	-31.4	+25.0	+23.6	+54.3	-25.9	-4.5	-40.2
\$7,500-\$14,999											
1977 rate	1,082,000	91.7	33.2	26.9	31.5	161.3	152.1	² 9.2	24.7	19.1	² 5.6
1978 rate	1,142,000	98.7	40.5	38.7	19.5	166.0	154.7	11.4	29.3	11.9	17.3
Percent change		+7.6	+21.8	+43.6	** -38.0	+3.0	+1.7	+23.8	+18.5	-37.4	+207.1
\$15,000 and over											
1977 rate	506,000	78.8	31.8	37.2	² 9.8	177.8	161.2	² 16.6	27.1	² 12.3	² 14.8
1978 rate	648,000	92.1	² 16.8	38.3	37.0	150.3	139.3	² 11.0	33.1	² 17.7	² 15.4
Percent change		+16.9	** -47.2	+2.9	+279.1	-15.5	-13.6	-33.9	+21		

Table 12. Household crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates, by place of residence and type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 households)

Place of residence	Number of households in the group	Burglary											
		Burglary			Household larceny			Motor vehicle theft			Change in percent with weapons, 1977-1978		
		Total	Forcible entry	Unlawful entry	Attempted forcible entry	Total	Completed	Attempted	Total	Completed		Attempted	
All places of residence													
1977 rate	76,412,000	88.5	30.1	38.8	19.7	123.3	114.0	9.3	17.0	10.4	6.5		
1978 rate	77,980,000	86.0	28.2	37.4	20.4	119.9	111.7	8.3	17.5	11.0	6.5		
Percent change		-2.9	** -6.2	-3.5	+3.5	-2.7	-2.0	** -11.0	+3.2	+5.6	-0.8		
Total in metropolitan areas													
Inside central cities													
1977 rate	23,492,000	111.5	42.9	40.2	28.4	141.0	130.1	10.9	24.3	15.0	9.3		
1978 rate	23,827,000	110.0	41.4	39.9	28.7	140.2	129.7	10.5	23.6	14.8	8.9		
Percent change		-1.3	-3.4	-0.7	+1.0	-0.6	-0.3	-3.6	-2.9	-1.7	-4.5		
Outside central cities													
1977 rate	28,729,000	86.7	29.3	38.8	18.6	135.8	124.5	11.3	18.3	10.3	8.0		
1978 rate	29,475,000	85.0	27.1	38.0	20.0	131.2	122.4	8.8	19.7	11.8	7.9		
Percent change		-1.9	-7.4	-2.1	+7.0	-3.4	-1.7	** -21.7	+7.5	+13.7	-0.4		
Metropolitan areas with central cities of 1,000,000 or more													
Inside central cities													
1977 rate	7,105,000	90.5	36.2	30.2	24.2	92.6	86.1	6.5	32.8	19.6	13.2		
1978 rate	7,174,000	96.5	42.1	26.6	27.8	100.2	92.2	8.0	30.8	19.9	10.9		
Percent change		+6.5	+16.2	-11.8	+4.9	+8.2	+7.0	+23.3	-6.0	+1.5	-17.2		
Outside central cities													
1977 rate	7,057,000	87.4	32.9	34.4	20.1	137.6	126.0	11.6	23.3	12.4	10.9		
1978 rate	7,123,000	87.4	29.8	36.7	21.0	124.6	113.3	11.2	23.2	12.3	10.9		
Percent change		(Z)	-9.6	+6.5	+4.7	** -9.4	** -10.0	-2.9	-0.5	-1.4	+0.6		
Metropolitan areas with central cities from 500,000 to 999,999													
Inside central cities													
1977 rate	4,828,000	135.0	52.7	46.4	36.0	159.1	146.6	12.6	26.4	15.5	10.9		
1978 rate	4,837,000	123.0	42.9	48.8	31.3	156.0	142.1	13.9	23.4	12.7	10.7		
Percent change		-8.9	** -18.6	+5.2	-12.9	-2.0	-3.0	+10.3	-11.2	-18.0	-1.5		
Outside central cities													
1977 rate	6,727,000	83.5	29.8	37.4	16.3	132.2	118.8	13.4	21.5	10.9	10.6		
1978 rate	6,999,000	85.3	23.4	40.3	21.5	130.6	122.3	8.3	23.9	15.8	8.2		
Percent change		+2.1	** -21.5	+7.9	+32.1	-1.2	+29.5	** -37.8	+11.1	+44.7	-23.4		
Metropolitan areas with central cities from 250,000 to 499,999													
Inside central cities													
1977 rate	4,588,000	125.0	49.9	44.5	30.6	154.0	143.7	10.3	20.6	13.1	7.5		
1978 rate	4,727,000	112.7	42.1	40.3	30.2	160.9	150.1	10.8	23.9	14.0	9.9		
Percent change		-9.8	-15.5	-9.3	-1.3	+4.5	+4.5	+4.3	+16.2	+7.0	+32.5		
Outside central cities													
1977 rate	6,526,000	93.5	28.6	43.2	21.8	146.4	135.3	11.1	18.3	10.6	7.8		
1978 rate	6,719,000	94.7	34.1	38.0	22.6	143.7	136.3	7.4	18.6	10.2	8.4		
Percent change		+1.2	+19.2	-11.9	+3.6	-1.9	+0.7	** -33.2	+1.5	-3.4	+8.4		
Metropolitan areas with central cities from 50,000 to 249,999													
Inside central cities													
1977 rate	6,971,000	107.6	38.3	43.2	26.0	169.2	154.5	14.7	16.8	11.4	5.4		
1978 rate	7,089,000	113.1	39.4	47.0	26.8	156.2	145.5	10.7	16.4	11.6	4.8		
Percent change		+5.2	+2.7	+8.7	+2.9	-7.7	-5.8	** -27.5	-2.6	+1.3	-10.9		
Outside central cities													
1977 rate	8,419,000	83.3	26.2	40.2	16.9	128.9	119.5	9.5	11.6	7.9	3.6		
1978 rate	8,634,000	75.4	22.5	37.1	15.7	127.4	119.1	8.4	14.2	9.3	5.0		
Percent change		-9.5	-14.2	-7.5	-6.7	-1.2	-0.3	-11.5	+23.0	+16.8	+37.0		
Total in nonmetropolitan areas													
1977 rate	24,191,000	68.3	18.6	37.3	12.4	91.2	85.9	5.4	8.2	6.1	2.1		
1978 rate	24,679,000	63.9	16.8	34.3	12.8	86.9	81.5	5.4	9.0	6.5	2.5		
Percent change		-6.5	-9.7	-8.2	+3.5	-4.8	-5.1	+0.9	+9.9	+7.8	+15.6		

Z Less than 0.05.
*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Table 13. Personal crimes of violence (1977 and 1978)
Change in percent of incidents in which offenders used weapons, by type of crime

Type of crime	1977		1978		Change in percent with weapons, 1977-1978
	Number of incidents	Percent with weapon present	Number of incidents	Percent with weapon present	
Rape	141,000	28.5	164,000	21.6	-23.9
Robbery	899,000	45.4	891,000	48.2	+6.2
With injury	330,000	44.7	289,000	45.9	+2.7
Without injury	569,000	45.8	602,000	49.3	+7.6
Aggravated assault	1,358,000	93.4	1,363,000	94.6	+1.3

Table 14. Personal crimes of violence (1977 and 1978)
Change in percent of incidents (and armed incidents) in which offenders used firearms, by type of crime

Type of crime	1977		1978		Percent change, 1977-1978	1977		1978		Percent change, 1977-1978
	Total number of incidents	Percent of incidents with firearm present	Total number of incidents	Percent of incidents with firearm present		Number of incidents with weapon present	Percent of incidents with firearm present	Number of incidents with weapon present	Percent of incidents with firearm present	
Rape	141,000	10.5	164,000	5.9	-43.5	40,000	37.0	35,000	27.4	-25.8
Robbery	899,000	15.7	891,000	15.6	-0.6	408,000	34.5	429,000	32.3	-6.3
With injury	330,000	11.2	289,000	10.1	-9.5	148,000	25.0	133,000	22.0	-11.9
Without injury	569,000	18.3	602,000	18.2	-0.3	261,000	39.9	297,000	37.0	-7.5
Aggravated assault	1,358,000	27.1	1,363,000	28.1	+4.0	1,268,000	29.0	1,290,000	29.7	+2.6

¹Percent, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 15. Personal and household crimes (1977 and 1978)
Change in reporting to the police, by type of crime and race**

Type of crime and race	1977		1978		Percent change, 1977-78	Standard error ¹
	Number of victimizations	Percent reported to the police	Number of victimizations	Percent reported to the police		
All races ²						
Crimes of violence	5,902,000	46.1	5,941,000	44.2	-4.2	2.7
Rape	154,000	58.4	171,000	48.8	-16.5	12.2
Robbery	1,083,000	55.5	1,038,000	50.6	** -9.0	5.3
Robbery with injury	386,000	66.1	330,000	65.4	-1.1	7.5
From serious assault	215,000	75.3	179,000	68.2	-9.4	8.2
From minor assault	172,000	54.7	151,000	62.1	+13.4	15.0
Robbery without injury	697,000	49.6	708,000	43.6	** -12.1	7.1
Assault	4,664,000	43.5	4,732,000	42.7	-2.0	3.3
Aggravated assault	1,738,000	51.5	1,708,000	52.7	+2.4	4.7
With injury	541,000	61.1	577,000	63.1	+3.4	6.8
Attempted assault with weapon	1,196,000	47.2	1,131,000	47.5	+0.6	6.2
Simple assault	2,926,000	38.8	3,024,000	37.0	-4.8	4.5
With injury	755,000	47.4	756,000	47.5	+0.3	7.7
Attempted assault without weapon	2,170,000	35.8	2,268,000	33.4	-6.7	5.4
Crimes of theft	16,933,000	24.8	17,050,000	24.6	-0.8	2.6
Personal larceny with contact	461,000	37.2	549,000	33.7	-9.4	10.9
Purse snatching	135,000	46.4	177,000	37.7	-18.6	15.3
Pocket picking	326,000	33.3	372,000	31.7	-4.9	14.6
Personal larceny without contact	16,472,000	24.5	16,501,000	24.3	-0.6	2.7
Burglary	6,765,000	48.8	6,704,000	47.1	-3.5	2.4
Forcible entry	2,300,000	72.5	2,200,000	70.3	-3.0	2.6
Unlawful entry	2,962,000	39.1	2,916,000	37.9	-3.1	4.5
Attempted forcible entry	1,503,000	31.6	1,588,000	31.8	+0.4	7.5
Household larceny	9,418,000	25.4	9,352,000	24.5	-3.8	3.4
Completed larceny ³	8,708,000	25.3	8,707,000	24.7	-2.6	3.6
Less than \$50	5,445,000	14.4	5,186,000	12.5	* -13.2	6.1
\$50 and over	2,853,000	47.4	3,124,000	45.5	-4.1	3.8
Attempted larceny	710,000	26.4	645,000	21.4	** -19.1	11.2
Motor vehicle theft	1,297,000	68.4	1,365,000	66.1	-3.5	3.7
Completed theft	768,000	88.6	859,000	87.7	-1.0	2.5
Attempted theft	499,000	36.2	506,000	29.2	** -19.4	10.4
White						
Crimes of violence	5,035,000	45.0	5,080,000	43.9	-2.5	3.1
Rape	133,000	58.6	129,000	47.3	-19.4	13.4
Robbery	822,000	55.0	801,000	50.0	-9.1	6.1
Robbery with injury	284,000	64.4	265,000	64.5	+0.1	9.0
From serious assault	144,000	71.6	147,000	67.0	-6.5	10.3
From minor assault	139,000	56.9	119,000	61.4	+7.9	15.7
Robbery without injury	538,000	50.1	536,000	42.9	** -14.4	7.9
Assault	4,080,000	42.6	4,149,000	42.6	(Z)	3.6
Aggravated assault	1,459,000	50.4	1,432,000	52.7	+4.7	5.3
With injury	463,000	59.3	487,000	62.0	+4.6	7.7
Attempted assault with weapon	996,000	46.2	945,000	48.0	+3.7	7.0
Simple assault	2,621,000	38.2	2,718,000	37.3	-2.6	4.8
With injury	669,000	45.3	674,000	47.7	+5.3	8.7
Attempted assault without weapon	1,952,000	35.8	2,044,000	33.8	-5.6	5.8
Crimes of theft	14,966,000	25.0	15,051,000	24.8	-0.7	2.8
Personal larceny with contact	337,000	39.7	416,000	34.3	-13.6	11.6
Purse snatching	95,000	53.5	131,000	40.5	** -24.4	15.2
Pocket picking	242,000	34.2	285,000	31.5	-8.0	16.2
Personal larceny without contact	14,628,000	24.6	14,634,000	24.5	-0.4	2.9
Burglary	5,644,000	49.0	5,662,000	47.9	** -4.2	2.6
Forcible entry	1,804,000	73.9	1,788,000	71.0	-4.0	2.8
Unlawful entry	2,590,000	39.7	2,586,000	37.9	-4.7	4.7
Attempted forcible entry	1,250,000	32.3	1,289,000	31.7	-1.8	8.0
Household larceny	8,342,000	26.0	8,191,000	25.1	-3.6	3.7
Completed larceny ³	7,736,000	25.9	7,640,000	25.2	-2.5	3.8
Less than \$50	4,917,000	14.9	4,636,000	12.7	* -14.4	6.2
\$50 and over	2,468,000	48.8	2,663,000	47.2	-3.4	4.0
Attempted larceny	605,000	28.1	550,000	23.3	-17.0	11.8
Motor vehicle theft	1,105,000	68.3	1,156,000	64.4	-5.7	4.0
Completed theft	683,000	87.7	701,000	87.5	-0.3	2.8
Attempted theft	422,000	36.8	455,000	28.8	* -21.5	10.8

**Table 15. Continued
Change in reporting to the police, by type of crime and race**

Type of crime and race	1977		1978		Percent change, 1977-78	Standard error ¹
	Number of victimizations	Percent reported to the police	Number of victimizations	Percent reported to the police		
Black						
Crimes of violence	809,000	51.9	798,000	47.1	-9.3	6.4
Rape	19,000	62.2	42,000	53.5	-14.1	27.6
Robbery	251,000	56.8	225,000	52.9	-6.9	11.0
Robbery with injury	99,000	70.0	60,000	66.6	-4.9	15.1
From serious assault	69,000	82.4	27,000	69.0	-16.2	16.5
From minor assault	31,000	42.5	33,000	64.6	+52.0	52.8
Robbery without injury	152,000	48.2	165,000	47.9	-0.6	16.4
Assault	538,000	49.2	532,000	44.1	-10.5	8.3
Aggravated assault	268,000	56.4	262,000	52.9	-6.2	10.5
With injury	73,000	70.0	87,000	70.6	+0.8	14.7
Attempted assault with weapon	195,000	51.3	175,000	44.1	-14.1	13.3
Simple assault	270,000	42.1	270,000	35.5	-15.6	12.9
With injury	74,000	58.8	77,000	48.8	-17.1	17.8
Attempted assault without weapon	196,000	35.8	193,000	30.2	-15.5	17.3
Crimes of theft	1,736,000	23.2	1,775,000	23.0	-0.9	8.6
Personal larceny with contact	110,000	30.5	122,000	29.8	-2.3	27.6
Purse snatching	34,000	*29.5	41,000	*24.9	-15.5	45.1
Pocket picking	76,000	30.9	81,000	32.2	+4.1	34.6
Personal larceny without contact	1,626,000	22.7	1,653,000	22.5	-1.0	9.0
Burglary	1,010,000	47.3	970,000	48.1	+1.7	6.7
Forcible entry	457,000	67.2	389,000	67.2	(Z)	6.8
Unlawful entry	318,000	33.2	299,000	40.3	+21.5	18.2
Attempted forcible entry	235,000	27.5	282,000	29.9	+8.5	21.4
Household larceny	960,000	20.7	1,020,000	19.3	-7.2	11.8
Completed larceny ³	864,000	21.1	937,000	19.9	-5.9	12.3
Less than \$50	467,000	9.1	467,000	9.5	+3.6	29.8
\$50 and over	341,000	38.6	421,000	32.9	-14.8	11.7
Attempted larceny	95,000	17.2	82,000	*11.9	-30.7	36.6
Motor vehicle theft	174,000	71.6	182,000	78.1	+9.0	9.5
Completed theft	107,000	93.5	140,000	92.1	-1.5	4.9
Attempted theft	67,000	36.4	41,000	30.2	-17.0	33.6

*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.

**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Less than 0.05.

¹For an illustration of the use of standard errors, see Appendix II.

²Includes data on "other" races, not shown separately.

³Includes amount not reported.

*Percent, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 16. Personal crimes (1973 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over)

Type of personal crime	Rate		Percent change, 1973-1978	Standard error ¹
	1973	1978		
Crimes of violence	32.6	33.7	+3.6	2.8
Rape	1.0	1.0	+2.1	16.8
Robbery	6.7	5.9	*-12.6	5.6
Robbery and attempted robbery				
with injury	2.4	1.9	*-20.0	9.0
From serious assault	1.3	1.0	** -22.1	11.8
From minor assault	1.0	0.9	-17.3	13.8
Robbery and attempted robbery without injury	4.4	4.0	-8.6	7.2
Assault	24.9	26.9	*+8.0	3.4
Aggravated assault	10.1	9.7	-3.8	4.9
With injury	3.1	3.3	+6.1	9.5
Attempted assault with weapon	7.0	6.4	-8.0	5.7
Simple assault	14.8	17.2	*+16.0	4.6
With injury	3.7	4.3	**+14.7	9.2
Attempted assault without weapon	11.1	12.9	*+16.5	5.4
Crimes of theft	91.1	96.8	*+6.2	1.7
Personal larceny with contact	3.1	3.1	+1.6	9.3
Purse snatching	1.1	1.0	-7.4	14.7
Pocket picking	2.0	2.1	+6.0	11.9
Personal larceny without contact	88.0	93.6	*+6.4	1.7
Total population age 12 and over	164,363,000	176,215,000		

NOTE: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.
*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
**Statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.
¹For an illustration of the use of standard errors, see Appendix II.

Table 17. Household crimes (1973 and 1978)
Change in victimization rates, by type of crime

(Rate per 1,000 households)

Type of household crime	Rate		Percent change, 1973-1978	Standard error ¹
	1973	1978		
Burglary	91.7	86.0	*-6.2	2.3
Forcible entry	29.7	28.2	-5.1	4.2
Unlawful entry	41.9	37.4	*-10.8	3.4
Attempted forcible entry	20.0	20.4	+1.6	5.5
Household larceny	107.0	119.9	*+12.1	2.4
Completed larceny ²	99.4	111.7	*+12.3	2.5
Less than \$50	68.7	66.5	-3.2	2.8
\$50 and over	26.9	40.1	*+48.8	6.2
Attempted larceny	7.6	8.3	+8.7	9.3
Motor vehicle theft	19.1	17.5	-8.2	5.2
Completed theft	12.6	11.0	*-12.7	6.2
Attempted theft	6.4	6.5	+0.6	9.6
Total households	70,442,000	77,980,000		

NOTE: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.
*Statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.
¹For an illustration of the use of standard errors, see Appendix II.
²Includes amount not reported.

Appendix II

Information on the sample and the reliability of the estimates

Survey results contained in this report are based on data gathered from persons living in households throughout the Nation and from persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Crews of merchant vessels. Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks, and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates, did not fall within the scope of the survey. Also excluded were U.S. citizens residing abroad and foreign visitors to this country. With these exceptions, individuals age 12 and over living in housing units designated for the sample were eligible to be interviewed.

Each interviewer's first contact with a unit selected for the survey was in person, and, if it was not possible to secure interviews with all eligible members of the household during this initial visit, telephone interviews were permissible thereafter. The only exceptions to the requirement for a personal interview applied to 12- and 13-year-olds (where interviewers were instructed to obtain proxy responses from a knowledgeable adult member of the household) and to incapacitated persons and individuals who were absent from the household during the entire field interviewing period (where a proxy respondent was permitted).

Sample design and size

Estimates from the survey are based on data obtained from a stratified multistage cluster sample. The primary sampling units (PSUs) comprising the first stage of sampling were counties, groups of counties, or large metropolitan areas. The larger PSUs were included in the sample with certainty and are called self-representing (SR) PSUs. For the Nation as a whole, there were 156 SR PSUs. The remaining PSUs, called non-self-representing (NSR) PSUs, were combined into 220 strata by grouping PSUs that shared certain characteristics in common, such as geographic region, population density, population growth rate, proportion of persons belonging to races other than white, etc. From each stratum, one area was selected for the sample, the probability of selection having been proportionate to the area's population.

The remaining stages of sampling were designed to ensure a self-weighting probability sample of dwelling units and group quarters within each of the selected areas.¹ This involved a systematic selection of enumeration districts (geographic areas used for the 1970 Census), with the probability of selection being proportionate to their 1970 population size, followed by the selection of clusters of approximately four housing units from within each enumeration district. To account for units built after the 1970 Census, a sample was drawn of permits issued for the construction of residential housing. Jurisdictions that do not issue permits were included by means of a sample of area segments. The resulting sample of new construction units, though yielding a relatively small proportion of the total sample, has accounted for an increasing share with the passage of time since the 1970 Census.

¹Self-weighting means that each sample household had the same initial probability of being selected.

A total of approximately 73,000 housing units and other living quarters were designated for the sample. For purposes of conducting the field interviews, the sample was divided into six groups, or rotations, each of which contained housing units whose occupants were to be interviewed once every 6 months over a period of 3 years. The initial interview was for purposes of bounding, i.e., establishing a time frame to avoid duplicative recording of information in subsequent interviews. Each rotation group was further divided into six panels. Individuals occupying housing units within one-sixth of each rotation group, or one panel, were interviewed each month during the 6-month period. Because the survey is continuous, additional housing units are selected in the manner described and assigned to rotation groups and panels for subsequent incorporation into the sample. A new rotation group enters the sample every 6 months replacing a group phased out after being in the sample for 3 years.

Among the 73,000 housing units designated for the sample that were to provide information relating to calendar years 1977 and 1978, interviews were obtained at 6-month intervals from the occupants of about 60,000. The large majority of the remaining 13,000 units were found to be vacant, demolished, converted to nonresidential use, or were ineligible for some other reason. However, approximately 2,600 of the 13,000 units were occupied by persons who, although eligible to participate in the survey, were not interviewed because they could not be reached after repeated visits, declined to be interviewed, were temporarily absent, or were otherwise unavailable. Thus, interviews were obtained in about 96 percent of all eligible housing units, and about 98 percent of the occupants of these households participated in the survey.

Estimation procedure

In order to enhance the reliability of the estimates presented in this report, the estimation procedure incorporated extensive auxiliary data on those characteristics of the population that are believed to bear on the subject matter of the survey. These auxiliary data were used primarily in the various stages of ratio estimation.

The estimation procedure is performed on a quarterly basis to produce estimates of the volume and rates of victimization. Sample data from 8 months of field interviewing are required to produce a quarterly estimate. For example, as shown on the accompanying chart, data collected during the months of February through September are required to produce an estimate for the first quarter of any given calendar year. In addition, each quarterly estimate is made up of equal numbers of field observations in which a specific month of occurrence was from 1 to 6 months prior to the time of interview. Thus, incidents occurring in January may be reported in a February interview (1 month ago) or in a March interview (2 months ago) and so on up to 6 months ago for interviews conducted in July. One purpose of this arrangement is to minimize expected biases associated with the tendency of respondents to place criminal victimizations in more recent months during the 6-month reference period than when they actually occurred. Similarly, annual estimates are derived by accumulating data from the four quarterly estimates which, in turn, are obtained from a total of 17 months of field interviewing, from February of one year through June of the following year.

The first step in the estimation procedure was the inflation of the sample data by the reciprocal of the probability of selection. An adjustment was then made to account for occupied units (and for persons in occupied units) that were eligible for the survey but where it was not possible to obtain an interview.

The distribution of the sample population usually differs somewhat from the distribution of the total population from which the sample was drawn in terms of such characteristics as age, race, sex, residence, etc., characteristics that are closely correlated with crime victimization measurements made from the sample. Because of this, various stages of ratio estimation were employed to bring the distributions of the two populations into closer agreement, hence reducing the variability of the sample estimates. Two stages of ratio estimation were used in producing data relating both to crimes against persons and crimes against households.

Month of interview by month of reference
(X's denote months in the 6-month reference period)

Month of interview	Period of reference (or recall)											
	First quarter			Second quarter			Third quarter			Fourth quarter		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
January												
February	X											
March	X	X										
April	X	X	X									
May	X	X	X	X								
June	X	X	X	X	X							
July	X	X	X	X	X	X						
August		X	X	X	X	X	X					
September			X	X	X	X	X	X				
October				X	X	X	X	X	X			
November					X	X	X	X	X	X		
December						X	X	X	X	X	X	
January							X	X	X	X	X	X
February								X	X	X	X	X
March									X	X	X	X
April										X	X	X
May											X	X
June												X
July												

The first stage of ratio estimation was applied only to data records obtained from sample areas that were non-self-representing. Its purpose was to reduce the error arising from the fact that one area was selected to represent an entire stratum. For various categories of race and residence, ratios were calculated reflecting the relationships between the total population in the non-self-representing parts of the region at the time of the Census and the estimate of that population based on the sample PSUs.

The second stage of ratio estimation was applied on a person basis and brought the distribution of the persons in the sample into closer agreement with independent current estimates of the distribution of the population by various age-sex-race categories.

Regarding the estimation of crimes against households, characteristics of the wife in a husband-wife household and characteristics of the head of household in other types of households were used to determine which second-stage ratio estimate factors were to be applied. This procedure is thought to be more precise than that of uniformly using the characteristics of the head of household, since sample coverage generally is better for females than for males.

In producing estimates of personal incidents (as opposed to those of victimizations), a further adjustment was made in those cases where an incident involved more than one person, thereby allowing for the probability that such incidents had more than a single chance of coming into the sample. Thus, if two persons were victimized during the same incident, the weight assigned to the record for that incident (and associated characteristics) was reduced by one-half in order to avoid double counting of incidents. A comparable adjustment was not made in estimating crimes against households, as each separate criminal act was defined as involving only one household. When a personal crime was reported in the survey as having occurred simultaneously with a commercial crime, it was assumed that the incident was essentially commercial in nature and, therefore, it was not counted as an incident of personal crime. However, the details of the event as they related to the victimized individual were included in the survey results.

Victimizations in a series

Victimizations that occurred in a series of three or more for which the victim was unable to describe the details of each event have been excluded from the analysis and data tables in this report. Because respondents had difficulty pinpointing the dates of these acts, this information was recorded by the season (or seasons) of occurrence within the 6-month reference period and tabulated by the quarter of the year in which the data were collected. But, for the majority of crimes, the data were tabulated on the basis of the specific month of occurrence to produce quarterly estimates. Although no direct correspondence exists between the two sets of data, near compatibility between reference periods can be achieved, for example, by comparing the data on victimizations in a series gathered by interviewers from April 1977 through March 1978 with the regular victimizations for calendar year 1977. This approach results in an

87.5 percent overlap between reporting periods for the two data sets.²

An examination of series data shows that these crimes tend disproportionately to be either assaults, more often simple than aggravated, or household larcenies for which the amount of loss was valued at less than \$50. Although victimizations in a series, if combined with the main body of crime data, would increase the reported levels and rates of crime, it is believed that there would be very little impact on year-to-year change in victimization rates.

Reliability of the estimates

The particular sample employed for this survey was one of a large number of possible samples of equal size that could have been used applying the same design and selection procedures. Estimates derived from different samples would differ from each other. The standard error of a survey estimate is a measure of the variation among the estimates from all possible samples and is, therefore, a measure of the precision with which the estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. The procedure, as illustrated below, provides a method to construct interval estimates such that a known proportion of the intervals would contain the average of all possible samples. For example, the chances are about 68 out of 100 that the survey estimate would differ from the average result for all possible samples by less than one standard error. Similarly, the chances are about 90 out of 100 that the difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error; about 95 out of 100 that it would be less than 2.0 times the standard error; and 99 out of 100 that it would be less than 2.5 times the standard error. The 68-percent confidence interval is defined as the range of values given by the estimate minus the standard error and the estimate plus the standard error; the chances are 68 out of 100 that a figure from a complete census would be within that range. Likewise, the 95-percent confidence interval is defined as the estimate plus or minus two standard errors.

In addition to sampling error, the estimates presented in this report are subject to nonsampling error. Major sources of such error are related to the ability of respondents to recall victimization experiences that occurred during the 6 months prior to the time of interview. Research on the capacity of victims to recall specific kinds of crime, based on interviewing persons who were victims of offenses drawn from police files, indicates that assault is the least well recalled of the crimes measured by the National Crime Survey. This may stem in part from the observed tendency of victims not to report crimes committed by offenders known to them, especially if they are relatives. In addition, it is suspected that, among certain groups, crimes that contain the elements of assault are a part of everyday life and thus, are simply forgotten or are not considered worth mentioning to a survey interviewer. Taken together, these recall problems may result in a substantial understatement of the "true" rate of victimization from assault.

²Beginning with data collected in January 1979, the precise number of events in a series (or the victim's best estimate) is determined and if the dates of occurrence of these events span more than one quarter, the events are allocated to the appropriate time periods. Thus, it will be possible to combine series crimes more readily with the bulk of crime reports and assess the impact of series crimes more clearly. However, since the details of only the most recent event in a series are obtained by the interviewer, the comparison will not be exact to the extent that the event reported is not typical of the entire series.

Another source of nonsampling error related to the recall capacity of respondents is their inability to place the criminal event in the correct month, even though it is placed in the correct reference period. This source of error is partially offset by the requirement for monthly interviewing and by the estimation procedure described earlier. An additional problem involves telescoping, or bringing within the appropriate 6-month period incidents that occurred earlier—or, in a few instances, those that happened after the close of the reference period. The latter is believed to be relatively rare because 75 to 80 percent of the interviewing takes place during the first week of the month following the reference period. In any event, the effect of telescoping is minimized by the bounding procedure described above. The interviewer is provided with a summary of the incidents reported in the preceding interview and, if a similar incident is reported, it can then be determined from discussion with the respondent whether the reported incident is indeed a new one.

Methodological research undertaken in preparation for the National Crime Survey indicated that substantially fewer incidents of crime were reported when one household member reported for all persons residing in the household than when each household member was interviewed individually. Therefore the self-response procedure was adopted as a general rule; allowances for proxy response under the contingencies discussed earlier are the only exceptions to this rule.

Despite these attempts to minimize the effect of victim recall problems, memory lapses inevitably occur. Some evidence of the extent of this problem will be obtained from the findings of a reinterview program in which a sample of approximately 5 percent of the interviewed cases in each month are interviewed a second time by a supervisor or a senior interviewer. Differences between the original interview and the reinterview are reconciled by discussion between the reinterviewer and the respondent. However, no reliable results are yet available from this program.

Additional nonsampling errors can result from incomplete or erroneous responses, systematic mistakes introduced by interviewers, possible biases associated with the sample rotation scheme, and improper coding and processing of data. Many of these errors would also occur in a complete census. Quality control measures, such as interviewer observation and the reinterview program, as well as edit procedures in the field and at the clerical and computer processing stages, are used to minimize errors made by respondents and interviewers. As calculated for this survey, the standard errors partially measure only the random nonsampling errors arising from these sources; they do not, however, take into account any systematic biases in the data.

Computation and application of standard errors

Specific standard errors for changes in rates and in the percent of crimes reported to the police for the survey are incorporated in Tables 1, 8, 15, 16, and 17 of Appendix I. They correspond to the 68 percent confidence interval. In order to meet the requirements for statistical reliability adopted for this report, these figures must be multiplied by 1.6 or 2.0 to obtain the 90-percent and 95-percent confidence intervals, respectively. All differences in rates or percents that meet these criteria have been indicated on the data tables.

The procedure for computing specific standard errors for changes in rates or percents for crimes against persons or households not indicated on the data tables is given in the following formula:

Standard error of a relative change in victimization rates for personal or household crimes

$$\left(\frac{r_2 - r_1}{r_1} \right) = \frac{r_2}{r_1} \sqrt{b \left(\frac{1 - r_2}{y_2 r_2} + \frac{1 - r_1}{y_1 r_1} \right)}$$

The symbols are defined as follows:

- r_1 — the rate for the first year of the comparison expressed in decimals (i.e., a rate of 52 per 1,000 becomes .052).
- y_1 — the number of persons or households in the group on which the rate is based.
- r_2 — the rate for the second year of the comparison in decimals.
- y_2 — the number of persons or households in the group on which the rate is based.
- b — a constant which is based on the full sample and was obtained when generalizing the standard errors ($b = 1,986$ for comparisons between 1977 and 1978).

To illustrate the use of this formula, Table 10 of this report shows that the victimization rate from household larceny in households occupied by persons who owned their homes decreased 4.5 percent from 1977 to 1978. Substituting the appropriate victimization rates and population bases in the formula yields:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Standard error of the relative change} \\ & \left(\frac{.10780 - .11288}{.11288} \right) \\ & = 0.955 \sqrt{1986 \left(\frac{1 - .10780}{50,909,300 (.10780)} \right.} \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{1 - .11288}{49,557,200 (.11288)} \right) \\ & = 0.955 \sqrt{1986 \left(\frac{.8922}{5,488,023} + \frac{.88712}{5,594,017} \right)} \\ & = 0.955 \sqrt{1986 (.000001626 + .000001586)} \\ & = 0.955 \sqrt{1986 (.000003212)} \\ & = 0.955 \sqrt{.0006379} \\ & = 0.955 (.02526) \\ & = 0.02412 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the confidence interval at 1 standard error is approximately 2.4 percentage points around the decrease of 4.5 percent, or 4.8 percentage points

at the 2 standard-error level. The one standard error confidence interval for the true percent change is thus the interval between -6.9 and -2.1 (-4.5 plus and minus 2.4).

The ratio of a relative difference to its standard error determines its level of statistical significance. In this report, for example, a difference with a ratio of 2.0 or more would be called significant; and a difference with a ratio of from 1.6 to 2.0 would be called marginally or less conclusively significant. In the above example, the ratio of the difference (4.5) to its standard error (2.4) equals 1.87. The decrease in the victimization rate for household larceny among homeowners from 1977 to 1978 was therefore marginally significant.

In Tables 13-15, percents rather than rates are used so that the decimal point should be moved two places to the left, rather than three, when inserting values for r_1 and r_2 in the formula (i.e., 41.7 percent becomes .417).

Glossary

Age—The appropriate age category is determined by each respondent's age as of the last day of the month preceding the interview.

Aggravated assault—Attack with a weapon resulting in any injury and attack without a weapon resulting either in serious injury (e.g., broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness) or in undetermined injury requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault with a weapon.

Annual family income—Includes the income of the household head and all other related persons residing in the same household unit. Covers the 12 months preceding the interview and includes wages, salaries, net income from business or farm, pensions, interest, dividends, rent, and any other form of monetary income. The income of persons unrelated to the head of household is excluded.

Assault—An unlawful physical attack, whether aggravated or simple, upon a person. Includes attempted assault with or without a weapon. Excludes rape and attempted rape, as well as attacks involving theft or attempted theft, which are classified as robbery.

Attempted forcible entry—A form of burglary in which force is used in an attempt to gain entry.

Burglary—Unlawful or forcible entry of a residence, usually, but not necessarily, attended by theft. Includes attempted forcible entry.

Central city—The largest city (or "twin cities") of a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA), defined below.

Forcible entry—A form of burglary in which force is used to gain entry (e.g., by breaking a window or slashing a screen).

Head of household—For classification purposes, only one individual per household can be the head person. In husband-wife households, the husband arbitrarily is considered to be the head. In other households, the head person is the individual so regarded by its members; generally, that person is the chief breadwinner.

Hispanic origin—Persons who report themselves as Mexican-Americans, Chicanos, Mexicans, Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central or South Americans, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Household—Consists of the occupants of separate living quarters meeting either of the following criteria: (1) Persons, whether present or temporarily absent, whose usual place of residence is the housing unit in question, or (2) Persons staying in the housing unit who have no usual place of residence elsewhere.

Household crimes—Burglary, household larceny, or motor vehicle theft. Includes both completed and attempted acts.

Household larceny—Theft or attempted theft of property or cash from a residence or its immediate vicinity. Forcible entry, attempted forcible entry, or unlawful entry is not involved.

Incident—A specific criminal act involving one or more victims and offenders. In situations where a personal crime occurred during the course of a commercial crime, it was assumed that the incident was primarily directed against the business, and, therefore, it was not counted as an incident of personal crime. However, details of the outcome of the event as they related to the victimized individual would be reflected in data on personal victimizations.

Larceny—Theft or attempted theft of property or cash without force. A basic distinction is made between personal larceny and household larceny.

Marital status—Each household member is assigned to one of the following categories: (1) Married, which includes persons having common-law unions and those parted temporarily for reasons other than marital discord (employment, military service, etc.); (2) Separated and divorced. Separated includes married persons who have a legal separation or have parted because of marital discord; (3) Widowed; and (4) Never married, which includes those whose only marriage has been annulled and those living together (excluding common-law unions).

Metropolitan area—Abbreviation for "Standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA)," defined below.

Motor vehicle—Includes automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, and any other motorized vehicles legally allowed on public roads and highways.

Motor vehicle theft—Stealing or unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle, including attempts at such acts.

Nonmetropolitan area—A locality not situated within an SMSA. The category covers a variety of localities, ranging from sparsely inhabited rural areas to cities of fewer than 50,000 population.

Nonstranger—With respect to crimes entailing direct contact between victim and offender, victimizations (or incidents) are classified as having involved nonstrangers if victim and offender either are related, well known to, or casually acquainted with one another. In crimes involving a mix of stranger and nonstranger offenders, the events are classified under nonstranger. The distinction between stranger and nonstranger crimes is not made for personal larceny without contact, an offense in which victims rarely see the offender.

Offender—The perpetrator of a crime; the term generally is applied in relation to crimes entailing contact between victim and offender.

Offense—A crime; with respect to personal crimes, the two terms can be used interchangeably, irrespective of whether the applicable unit of measure is a victimization or an incident.

Outside central cities—See "Suburban area," below.

Personal crimes—Rape, robbery, assault, personal larceny with contact, or personal larceny without contact. Includes both completed and attempted acts.

Personal crimes of theft—Theft or attempted theft of property or cash, either with contact (but without force or threat of force) or without direct contact between victim and offender. Equivalent to personal larceny.

Personal crimes of violence—Rape, robbery, or assault. Includes both completed and attempted acts.

Personal larceny—Equivalent to personal crimes of theft. A distinction is made between personal larceny with contact and personal larceny without contact.

Personal larceny with contact—Theft of purse, wallet, or cash by stealth directly from the person of the victim, but without force or the threat of force. Also includes attempted purse snatching.

Personal larceny without contact—Theft or attempted theft, without direct contact between victim and offender, of property or cash from any place other than the victim's home or its immediate vicinity. In rare cases, the victim sees the offender during the commission of the act.

Race—Determined by interviewer observation, and asked only about persons not related to the head of the household who were not present at the time of interview. The racial categories distinguished are white and black.

Rape—Carnal knowledge through the use of force or the threat of force, including attempts. Statutory rape (without force) is excluded. Includes both heterosexual and homosexual rape.

Robbery—Theft or attempted theft, directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon.

Robbery with injury—Theft or attempted theft from a person, accompanied by an attack, either with or without a weapon, resulting in injury. An injury is classified as resulting from a serious assault, irrespective of the extent of injury, if a weapon was used in the commission of the crime, or if not, when the extent of the injury was either serious (e.g., broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness) or undetermined but requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. An injury is classified as resulting from a minor assault when the extent of the injury was minor (e.g., bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling) or undetermined but requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization.

Robbery without injury—Theft or attempted theft from a person, accompanied by force or the threat of force, either with or without a weapon, but not resulting in injury.

Simple assault—Attack without a weapon resulting either in minor injury (e.g., bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling) or in undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault without a weapon.

Standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA)—Except in the New England States, a standard metropolitan statistical area is a county or group of contiguous counties that contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000.¹ In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In the New England States, SMSAs consist of towns and cities instead of counties. Each SMSA must include at least one central city, and the complete title of an SMSA identifies the central city or cities.

Stranger—With respect to crimes entailing direct contact between victim and offender, victimizations (or incidents) are classified as involving strangers if the victim so stated, or did not see or recognize the offender, or knew the offender only by sight. In crimes involving a mix of stranger and nonstranger offenders, the events are classified under nonstranger. The distinction between stranger and nonstranger crimes is not made for personal larceny without contact, an offense in which victims rarely see the offender.

Suburban area—On data tables, suburban areas are categorized as those portions of metropolitan areas situated "outside central cities."

Tenure—Two forms of household tenancy are distinguished: (1) Owned, which includes dwellings being bought through mortgage, and (2) Rented, which also includes rent-free quarters belonging to a party other than the occupant and situations where rental payments are in services.

Unlawful entry—A form of burglary committed by someone having no legal right to be on the premises even though force is not used.

Victim—The recipient of a criminal act; usually used in relation to personal crimes, but also applicable to households.

¹This definition is the one used for the 1970 Census. Although it has since been redefined by the Office of Management and Budget, the 1970 definition has been used in the National Crime Survey in order to maintain comparability throughout the decade.

Victimization—A specific criminal act as it affects a single victim, whether a person or household. In criminal acts against persons, the number of victimizations is determined by the number of victims of such acts; ordinarily, the number of victimizations is somewhat higher than the number of incidents because more than one individual is victimized during certain incidents, and because personal victimizations that occurred in conjunction with commercial crimes are not counted as incidents of personal crime. Each criminal act against a household is assumed to involve a single victim, the affected household.

Victimization rate—For crimes against persons, the victimization rate, a measure of occurrence among population groups at risk, is computed on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 resident population age 12 and over. For crimes against households, victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of incidents per 1,000 households.

Victimize—To perpetrate a crime against a person or household.

Weapons use—Weapons use applies both to situations in which weapons served for purposes of intimidation or threat, and to those in which they actually were employed as instruments of physical attack.

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5: Ill., Ind., Mich., Minn., Ohio, Wis., NCJ-17934

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