



Bureau of Justice Statistics

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

Codebooks for:

NCVS Select - Household Population

NCVS Select - Household Property Victimization

1993–2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These datasets use a collection year basis for 1993-2022. A collection year contains records from interviews conducted from January through December of the given year. Under the collection year format, victimizations are counted in the year the interview is conducted, regardless of the year when the crime incident occurred. For more information on the NCVS, please visit <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs>. For questions regarding this dataset, please contact askbjs@usdoj.gov.

NCVS Select – Household Population

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Household ID	Unique household identifier	idhh	Unique identifier	N/A
Year and quarter	Year and quarter data was collected	yearq	YYYY.Q	N/A
Year	Year data was collected	year	1993-2022	N/A
Age of head of household	Respondent age on the last day of the month before the interview	hhage	1 2 3 4 5 99	12 to 19 20 to 34 35 to 49 50 to 64 65 or older Out of universe
Sex of head of household	Respondent sex	hhsex	1 2 99	Male Female Out of universe
Hispanic origin of head of household	Respondent Hispanic origin	hhhisp	1 2 98 99	Hispanic Non-Hispanic Residue Out of universe
Race of head of household	Respondent race	hhrace	1 2 3 4 5 99	White Black American Indian/Alaska Native Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander More than one race Out of universe
Race/Hispanic origin of head of household	Respondent race and Hispanic origin	hhrace_ethnicity	1 2 3 4 5 6 99	Non-Hispanic white Non-Hispanic black Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native Non-Hispanic Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic more than one race Hispanic Out of universe
Annual household income	Total income of all members of the household for the 12 months preceding the interview. Categories available from 1993-2022 with imputed data, starting 2015 Q1.	hincome1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 98 99	Less than \$7,500 \$7,500 to \$14,999 \$15,000 to \$24,999 \$25,000 to \$34,999 \$35,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$74,999 \$75,000 or more Residue Out of universe

NCVS Select – Household Population

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Annual household income-imputed	Imputed income categories, starting 2017 Q1	hincome2	-1 1 2 3 4 5 99	Invalid until 2017 Q1 Less than \$25,000 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$99,999 \$100,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 or more Out of universe
Household size	The total number of people residing in the household, including those under age 12	hnumber	1 2 3 4 98	1 2-3 4-5 6 or more Residue
Population size	The size range for the place in which the housing unit is located, starting 1995 Q3	popsize	-1 0 1 2 3 4 5	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Not a place Under 100,000 100,000-249,999 250,000-499,999 500,000-999,999 1 million or more
Region	Region of respondent residence. The states have been divided into four groups or census regions, starting 1995 Q3.	region	-1 1 2 3 4	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Northeast Midwest South West
Household MSA	Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)	msa	1 2 3	Principal city within MSA Not part of principal city within MSA Outside MSA
Household locale	Location of respondent household based on BJS geography definitions, starting 2020 Q1	locality	-1 1 2 3	Invalid until 2020 Q1 Urban Suburban Rural
Household population weight	Population weight to use on household population data	wgthhcy	Numeric	N/A

NCVS Select – Household Property Victimization

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Household ID	Unique household identifier	idhh	Unique identifier	N/A
Year and quarter	Year and quarter data was collected	yearq	YYYY.Q	N/A
Year	Year data was collected	year	1993-2022	N/A
Age of head of household	Respondent age on the last day of the month before the interview	hhage	1 2 3 4 5	12 to 19 20 to 34 35 to 49 50 to 64 65 or older
Sex of head of household	Respondent sex	hhsex	1 2	Male Female
Hispanic origin of head of household	Respondent Hispanic origin	hhhisp	1 2 98	Hispanic Non-Hispanic Residue
Race of head of household	Respondent race	hhrace	1 2 3 4 5	White Black American Indian/Alaska Native Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander More than one race
Race/Hispanic origin of head of household	Respondent race and Hispanic origin	hhrace_ethnicty	1 2 3 4 5 6	Non-Hispanic white Non-Hispanic black Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native Non-Hispanic Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic more than one race Hispanic
Annual household income	Total income of all members of the household for the 12 months preceding the interview. Categories available from 1993-2022 with imputed data, starting 2015 Q1.	hincome1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 98	Less than \$7,500 \$7,500 to \$14,999 \$15,000 to \$24,999 \$25,000 to \$34,999 \$35,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$74,999 \$75,000 or more Residue

NCVS Select – Household Property Victimization

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Annual household income-imputed	Imputed income categories, starting 2017 Q1	hincome2	-1 1 2 3 4 5	Invalid until 2017 Q1 Less than \$25,000 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$99,999 \$100,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 or more
Household size	The total number of people residing in the household, including those under age 12	hnumber	1 2 3 4	1 2-3 4-5 6 or more
Population size	The size range for the place in which the housing unit is located, starting 1995 Q3	popsize	-1 0 1 2 3 4 5	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Not a place Under 100,000 100,000-249,999 250,000-499,999 500,000-999,999 1 million or more
Region	Region of respondent residence. The states have been divided into four groups or census regions, starting 1995 Q3.	region	-1 1 2 3 4	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Northeast Midwest South West
Household MSA	Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)	msa	1 2 3	Principal city within MSA Not part of principal city within MSA Outside MSA
Household locale	Location of respondent household based on BJS geography definitions, starting 2020 Q1	locality	-1 1 2 3	Invalid until 2020 Q1 Urban Suburban Rural
Aggregate type of crime	Aggregate type of crime; property crime includes burglary/ trespassing, motor-vehicle theft, theft	newcrime	3	Property crime
Type of crime	Type of crime	newoff	6 7 8	Burglary/trespassing Motor-vehicle theft Theft

NCVS Select – Household Property Victimization

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Reporting to police	Specifies whether the crime was reported to police	notify	1 2 3 98	Yes No Do not know Residue
Victim services	Specifies whether victims received any help or advice from victim service agencies	vicservices	1 2 3 98	Yes No Do not know Residue
Location of crime	Specifies where the victimization occurred	locationr	1 2 3 4 5	At or near victim's home At or near friend's, neighbor's, or relative's home Commercial place, parking lot, or other public area School Other location
Victimization weight	Annual victimization weight	wgtviccy	numeric	N/A
Series	Specifies whether incident is a series crime	series	1 2	Not a series crime Series crime
Series adjusted victimization weight	Series adjusted victimization weight	newwgt	numeric	N/A