

Welcome to the “National Crime Victimization Survey Knowledge Corner.” This short video will provide an overview of our data tool, the National Crime Victimization Survey Data Dashboard, or N-DASH.

Homepage

The N-DASH is an interactive data visualization tool which allows you to analyze data from the National Crime Victimization Survey, or NCVS. It allows you to produce a variety of statistical estimates, graphics, and data tables. You can generate estimates of nonfatal personal and property victimization by select characteristics.

There are two ways to access the N-DASH.

One way is to go to the home page of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, click on Data view, Data Analysis Tools, and scroll down to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) Dashboard (N-DASH) Tool section, and click on the Resource link.

The second way to access the N-DASH is by typing the N-DASH’s URL into your browser’s address window. The URL for the tool is ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/Home. This is the N-DASH home page. It has three main sections: the Tool Overview, Quick Graphics, and Custom Graphics.

Tool Overview

The Tool Overview provides a summary of what the N-DASH offers and some instructions on how to use the tool. It’s very helpful for first-time users who want to learn about the N-DASH prior making their own visualizations. It gives information on the types of estimates that the N-DASH provides, including crime types and units of measurement. It also shows available comparison views and crime characteristics, as well as options for filtering and displaying visualizations. The Tool Overview can also be downloaded as a PDF and be saved for later use.

Quick Graphics

This is the Quick Graphics page. It has preset graphics, which highlight key estimates from the NCVS. These victimization estimates are requests that BJS often receives from data users. It’s a great starting point to get an idea of the visualizations and data available on the N-DASH.

There are six sections on the Quick Graphics page: Violent Victimization, Property Victimization, Reporting to Police, Victim-Offender Relationship, Weapon Use, and Victim Services use.

Each section has a set of interactive visualizations containing estimates based on NCVS data. Running your mouse over a victimization causes a pop-up box to appear called a Tool Tip. Within the Tool Tip are the year of NCVS data from which the data was generated, the estimate itself, such as a rate per 1,000 persons or households, 95% confidence interval, and standard error of the estimate.

Below each visualization are three buttons: the Show Table button shows estimates from the visualization in tabular form; the Download button downloads that table as a CSV file; and the Download PNG/image button downloads a PNG file of the visualization. To view the downloaded CSV or PNG file, you would press the button to download the file and then either click on the file at the bar at the bottom of the browser window or go to the Downloads folder on your computer to open the file.

Custom Graphics

This is the Custom Graphics landing page. It has three sections: Multi-year trend comparison, which provides estimates for all years of NCVS data going back to 1993; Single year comparison, which generates estimates from a single year of NCVS data; and Year-to-year comparison, which provides estimates for two individual years of NCVS data. Each section contains two pages, one that focuses on viewing estimates by crime type, and the other focusing on viewing estimates by victim or incident characteristics.

On each page are options that you can choose from, such as the variable for which to display estimates, a unit, whether confidence intervals and reference lines are displayed, and which crime to present. As with the Quick Graphics, below the created visualization are the Show Table, Download Table, and Download PNG/image buttons. More information about on how to use the Custom Graphics pages is available in a separate video entitled, “National Crime Victimization Survey Knowledge Corner: N-DASH Custom Graphics.”

User’s Guide

The User’s Guide is another reference document for the N-DASH. It contains information on what the N-DASH is, what data it includes, and how to use the tool. Such as this section on Units of Measurement and Interpreting Dashboard Results, and this section on How To Cite Data From the Tool. The User’s Guide also includes supplementary information about the NCVS itself, such as information on the collection and reporting of race and Hispanic origin in the survey. As with the Tool Overview, the User’s Guide can be downloaded as a PDF for later use.

Terms & Definitions

The Terms and Definitions page contains an alphabetized list of defined terms used throughout the N-DASH. All crime types, demographic characteristics, and incident characteristics available in the tool are defined here. Other terms used in the tool are defined here as well. Here are a couple of terms and their definitions: Hispanic, Medical treatment for physical injuries, and Robbery.

NCVS page

And lastly, you can access the NCVS Data Collection page from the tool. This brings you to a page on the BJS website that gives you even more information about the NCVS.

Final Thanks

If you have any questions about the N-DASH, please email AskBJS@usdoj.gov with the word “N-DASH” in the subject line and your email will be forwarded to BJS statisticians with topical experience.

Thank you.