



The National Crime Victimization Survey and National Incident-Based Reporting System: A Complementary Picture of Crime in 2023

Rachel E. Morgan, PhD, and Lizabeth Remrey, PhD, *BJS Statisticians*

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), managed by the FBI, are the two primary sources of crime victimization data collected by the federal government.¹ Using distinct approaches, the two collections measure a set of criminal offenses that are similar but not identical, which leads to differences in estimates between the two data sources. To obtain nonfatal victimization data, the NCVS interviews persons age 12 or older about crimes they experienced, both reported and not reported to police. NIBRS collects data on fatal and nonfatal crime incidents recorded by law enforcement agencies. Taken together, the two collections provide a comprehensive picture of crime in the United States.

This report compares key statistical estimates for multiple crime types for 2022 and 2023 and describes similarities and differences between the two data collections. Restricting the NCVS to violent crime reported to police and excluding the crime type of simple assault aligns the NCVS and NIBRS measures as closely as possible.

Key statistical estimates for 2022 and 2023

Based on the NCVS, the total violent victimization rate (reported and not reported to police) was 22.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2023 (not shown in table).² This rate was not significantly

different from the rate in 2022 (23.5 per 1,000).³ The rate of property victimization (reported and not reported to police) in 2023 was 102.2 victimizations per 1,000 households, which also was not significantly different from the 2022 rate (101.9 per 1,000).

In 2023, the NCVS rate of violent crime excluding simple assault reported to police was 4.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, and the rate of property crime reported to police was 30.6 victimizations per 1,000 households (table 1). Neither rate was statistically different from the 2022 rate. From 2022 to 2023, the rate of robbery reported to police decreased from 1.6 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older to 1.1 per 1,000.

By comparison, the NIBRS rate of violent crime excluding simple assault saw a decrease, from 4.1 per 1,000 persons in 2022 to 3.9 per 1,000 in 2023. The 2023 property crime rate was 20.2 crimes per 1,000 persons, which was also lower than the 20.9 per 1,000 in 2022.

Key methodological differences

The overall crime estimates from these two sources trend in a similar way over time. However, estimates from NIBRS and the NCVS in a given year may differ because the two data collections use different methods to measure an overlapping but nonidentical set of offenses.

- *Crimes included.* NIBRS includes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and commercial crimes (including burglary of commercial establishments), while the NCVS excludes those crime types.

¹For more information on the NCVS, see BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey webpage (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs>). For more information on NIBRS estimates, see BJS's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) webpage (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/national-incident-based-reporting-system-nibrs>) and the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) webpage (<https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/nibrs>).

²See *Criminal Victimization, 2023* (NCJ 309335, BJS, September 2024) for these and other NCVS estimates from BJS (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/criminal-victimization-2023>) and the Crime Data Explorer for additional NIBRS estimates from the FBI (<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/nibrs-estimates>).

³In this report, statistical significance is reported at both the 90% and 95% confidence levels. All comparisons made in text are statistically significant unless otherwise stated. See table 1 for testing on specific findings.

- **Crime type definitions.** The NIBRS and NCVS definitions of crime types differ slightly.
 - For example, NIBRS defines burglary as forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, or attempted forcible entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The NCVS defines burglary as the unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of places, including a permanent residence, other residence (e.g., a hotel room or vacation residence), or other structure (e.g., a garage or shed) where there was a completed or attempted theft.
 - The rape or sexual assault definitions in the NCVS and NIBRS largely align, with the exception of threatened rape, which is included in NCVS estimates of rape or sexual assault but not captured in NIBRS as a sex offense. For the full list of crime type definitions, see the *2025 NIBRS User Manual*⁴ and *Criminal Victimization, 2023* (NCJ 309335, BJS, September 2024).
- **Unit of measurement for property crimes.** The NIBRS property crime rates are per person, while the NCVS rates are per household. Because the number of households may not grow each year at the same rate as the total population, trend data for rates of property crime measured by the two programs may not be entirely comparable.
- **Data collection methods.** NCVS estimates are based on interviews with a nationally representative sample of persons age 12 or older in U.S. households and are weighted to account for survey nonresponse. NIBRS estimates are based on counts of crimes recorded by law enforcement agencies and are weighted to account for incomplete reporting.

⁴See <https://le.fbi.gov/informational-tools/ucr/ucr-technical-specifications-user-manuals-and-data-tools>.

TABLE 1
Rate of crime per 1,000 reported to police in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2022 and 2023

Type of crime	Rate per 1,000 persons			
	2022 NIBRS ^a	2023 NIBRS ^{a*}	2022 NCVS	2023 NCVS [*]
Violent crime excluding simple assault	4.07 †	3.88	4.70	4.42
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	0.07	0.06	~	~
Rape/sexual assault	0.45 †	0.40	0.40	0.78
Robbery	0.70	0.69	1.58 ‡	1.09
Aggravated assault	2.85	2.73	2.72	2.55
	Rate per 1,000 persons		Rate per 1,000 households	
	2022 NIBRS ^a	2023 NIBRS ^{a*}	2022 NCVS	2023 NCVS [*]
Property crime	20.86 †	20.15	32.44	30.61
Burglary	2.76 †	2.53	4.53	3.80
Motor vehicle theft	2.97	3.31	4.42	4.39

Note: NIBRS violent and property crime rates were calculated per 1,000 persons. NCVS violent crime rates were calculated per 1,000 persons, and NCVS property crime rates were calculated per 1,000 households. The 2022 NIBRS estimates presented in this table were updated to reflect data transmitted to NIBRS after the 2022 cutoff date. See *Key methodological differences* for more information. Visit the FBI’s Crime Data Explorer to view the confidence intervals associated with each of the NIBRS estimates. See *Criminal Victimization, 2023* (NCJ 309335, BJS, September 2024) for standard errors for NCVS estimates.

*Comparison year.
 †Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.
 ‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.
 ~Not applicable.

^aIncludes crimes against commercial establishments and crimes against persons age 11 or younger, persons who are homeless, and persons who are institutionalized. These populations are included in NIBRS but not in the NCVS.
 Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2022 and 2023; and Bureau of Justice Statistics and Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System Estimation Program, 2022 and 2023.

- **Time period.** Annual NCVS estimates are based on the number and characteristics of crimes that survey respondents experienced during the prior 6 months, excluding the month in which they were interviewed. Therefore, the 2023 survey covers crimes experienced from July 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023, with March 15, 2023, as the middle of the reference period. Crimes are classified by the year of the survey and not by the year of the crime.

Annual NIBRS estimates are based on data reported to law enforcement, which typically reflect the incident date. That means 2023 data include all incidents that occurred in 2023 that were reported to law enforcement by the time data were transmitted to the FBI or aggregated elsewhere. Data that are transmitted to the FBI after the cutoff date are still considered part of that year's data, but they are not published until the data release the following year. For example, 2022 data that did not make the cutoff date were not included in the original 2022 estimates but were included in the updated 2022 estimates that were published with the original 2023 estimates. For this reason, estimates for the prior year will differ slightly from what was previously published.

- **Populations covered.** The NCVS does not measure crimes against persons who are homeless or who live in institutional settings (e.g., nursing homes and correctional institutions) or on military bases. The NCVS also does not measure crimes against children age 11 or younger. NIBRS measures crimes against all

persons in the United States, including crimes against children age 11 or younger. In some states, mandatory reporting laws require that certain crimes against youth are reported. Due to these factors, the age distribution of crimes measured in NIBRS differs from that of the NCVS.

Transition to NIBRS

In 2021, the FBI established NIBRS as the national standard for law enforcement crime data reporting. NIBRS collects detailed information on reported crime, including demographic characteristics of crime victims, offenders, and persons arrested; details of the incident type and location; the types of weapons used; and important relationships between victims and offenders. Estimates from NIBRS data are used to examine patterns and trends in crime since 2021. For more information about estimating crime based on NIBRS, see *Estimation Procedures for Crimes in the United States Based on NIBRS Data* (NCJ 305108, BJS and FBI, August 2022).⁵

For additional information about the differences in crime measurement between the NCVS and the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, of which NIBRS is a part, see *The Nation's Two Crime Measures, 2011–2020* (NCJ 303385, BJS, February 2022).⁶

⁵See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/estimation-procedures-crimes-united-states-based-nibrs-data>.

⁶See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/nations-two-crime-measures-2011-2020>.



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

This report was written by Rachel E. Morgan, PhD, and Lizabeth Remrey, PhD. Emilie Coen, DrPH, James T. Hubbell, PhD, and Susannah N. Tapp, PhD, verified the report.

Kathryn A. Sweeney, PhD, and Eric Hendrixson edited the report. Tina Dorsey and Jeffrey Link produced the report.

November 2025, NCJ 309439



NCJ 309439

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