



Criminal Victimization, 2020

SUMMARY | NCJ 301775

OCTOBER 2021

From 2019 to 2020, the total violent victimization rate declined 22%, from 21.0 to 16.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey, the decrease in violent victimization (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) was driven primarily by a decline in assault. The rate of simple assault declined from 13.7 per 1,000 in 2019 to 10.7 per 1,000 in 2020, and the rate of aggravated assault dropped from 3.7 to 2.9 per 1,000.

Violent victimization

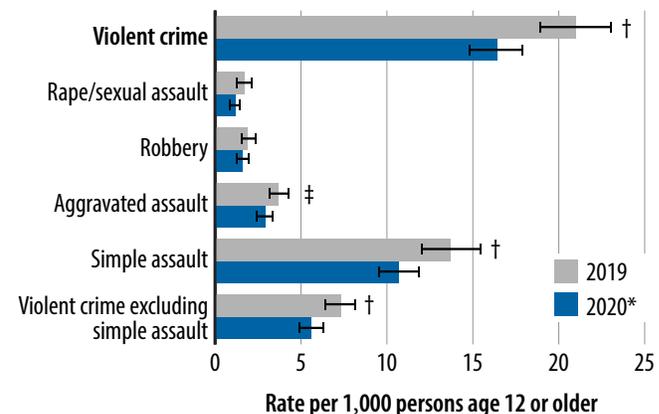
The violent victimization rate decreased by about a quarter among persons who were male or female (down 22% each), Hispanic (down 25%), white (down 23%), ages 50 to 64 (down 23%), earning less than \$25,000 a year (down 27%), and earning \$100,000 to \$199,999 annually (down 27%) from 2019 to 2020. The largest decline during this period (51%) was among persons ages 12 to 17.

From 2019 to 2020, there was a decline in the rate of firearm victimizations (down 24%, from 1.7 to 1.3 per 1,000). During this same time period, the rate of violent victimization fell in suburban areas (down 25%) but did not change in urban and rural areas.

Property victimization

The rate of property crime victimization declined for the second year in a row, from 101.4 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2019 to 94.5 per 1,000 in 2020. The decline in property crime (burglary, residential trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of household theft) during this period was due to decreases in the rates of burglary and trespassing. Burglary declined 19% (from 11.7 to 9.5 per 1,000), and trespassing declined 24% (from 5.5 to 4.1 per 1,000). From 2019 to 2020, there were no statistically significant changes in the rates of motor vehicle theft and other household theft.

Rate of violent victimization, 2019–2020



*Comparison year.

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

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

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

Reporting to police

About 40% of violent victimizations and 33% of property victimizations were reported to police in 2020. From 2019 to 2020, the rate of violent crime reported to police declined from 8.6 to 6.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. Similarly, the rate of unreported violent crime declined from 12.1 to 9.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. The decreases for the reported and unreported rates of violent crime were both driven by declines in assault.

The rate of domestic violence reported to police declined 42%, from 2.2 per 1,000 in 2019 to 1.3 per 1,000 in 2020. Similarly, the rate of intimate partner violence reported to police decreased 51% (from 1.5 to 0.7 per 1,000). However, the rates of domestic violence and intimate partner violence not reported to police in 2020 were similar to the rates in 2019.

The full report (*Criminal Victimization, 2020*, NCJ 301775), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.