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# Update on BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey Subnational Program: First Release of Direct Subnational Estimates

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# Today's Agenda

- Update on the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) Subnational Estimation Program
- NCVS Validation of State-Level Estimates
- First Release of Statistical Estimates for the 22 Largest U.S. States
- NCVS State-Level Analysis User's Guide
- Accessing the NCVS Restricted-Use Data

# National Crime Victimization Survey Overview

- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is one of two key sources of national crime data; the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program is the other.
- NCVS data are collected on an ongoing basis by the U.S. Census Bureau from persons in households selected to be in the sample, households in sample for 3.5 years.
- The survey collects information on nonfatal violent and property crimes from persons age 12 or older, including those not reported to police, demographic information about respondents, and detailed information about crime incidents including offenders.
- It excludes homicide, commercial crimes, children age 11 or younger, homeless persons, and persons in institutions and military bases.
- Sample data are weighted to produce representative victimization estimates.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has now used the NCVS to report data on nonfatal crime patterns and trends for 50 years.



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# Building a subnational estimation program

- BJS and other stakeholders have long been interested in estimating victimization data at finer levels of geography.
- The NCVS's ability to capture both reported and unreported crime uniquely positions the survey to illuminate crime patterns and trends for subnational areas.
- BJS worked with partners to develop multiple approaches to generate these data, balancing considerations of survey cost and estimate validity and reliability.
- Based on research and preliminary testing, direct subnational estimation was planned to generate reliable estimates for the 22 most populous states, using a minimum of 3 years of data.



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# Today's **focus**: Sample Boost and Reallocation in **the 22** **largest states**

## NCVS

### Direct Estimates

#### Sample Boost and Reallocation

22 largest states; specific MSAs within 22 states

#### Reweighted Historical Data

11 largest states; 52 largest MSAs

#### Generic Area Estimates

Entire U.S., grouped by geographic or other characteristic(s)

### Indirect Estimates

#### Model-based Estimation

All 50 states; DC; large MSAs; counties

### Local Area Crime Survey

Piloted in 40 largest MSAs



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## BJS Direct Subnational Estimation Through the NCVS

**2010**

Subnational program planning begins

**2016**

Sample redesign with decennial and sample reallocation begins

**2018**

Redesigned NCVS sample fully phased in

**2021**

State-level estimate reporting assessed

**2024**

NCVS instrument redesign split sample

**2025**

New NCVS instrument

**2026**

Decennial NCVS sample redesign

**2010**

**2010–2012**

Subnational program planning and research

**2018**

**2013–2015**

NCVS pilot sample boost

**2017–2018**

Revised 2016 NCVS data file developed

**2019–2020**

Direct estimate state-level validation

**2026**

**2022–2025**

Subnational research and reporting continues

# Expected value of subnational data

- Future opportunities for analysis with the redesigned NCVS instrument
  - Expanded help-seeking questions
  - Community and police ask-all questions
  - Enhanced identity theft and hate crime questions
  - Refined questions for youth
- Opportunities for analysis with NCVS supplement data
- Opportunities for pairing NCVS subnational data with external sources
- Continued BJS research on additional subnational areas with the NCVS underway



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# Resources

- [\*Criminal Victimization in the 22 Largest U.S. States: 2017–2019\*](#) now released!
- Learn more about
  - the NCVS <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs>
  - subnational estimation with the NCVS <https://bjs.ojp.gov/subnational-estimates-program>
  - the NCVS instrument redesign <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign>
  - NCVS supplements <https://bjs.ojp.gov/ncvs-supplements>
- Subscribe (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/subscribe>) to stay up-to-date on BJS releases, also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.
- Contact Grace Kena ([grace.kena@usdoj.gov](mailto:grace.kena@usdoj.gov)) or Heather Brotsos ([heather.brotsos@usdoj.gov](mailto:heather.brotsos@usdoj.gov)) with any questions.



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# NCVS: Validation of State-Level Estimates

# Validation of State-Level Estimates

## Motivation for Evaluation

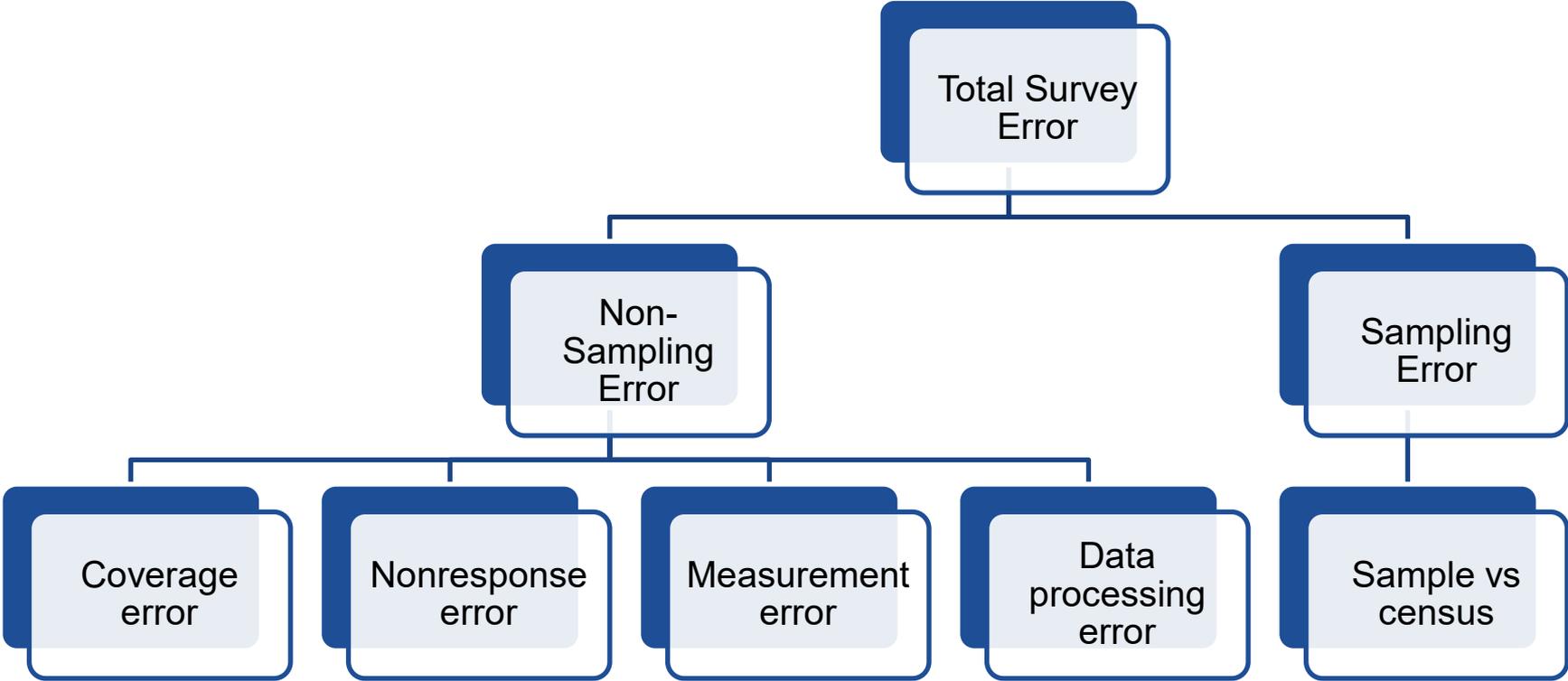
- New sample design
  - New geographic areas
- Increased sample size
- Revised weighting procedures

# Validation of State-Level Estimates

## Goals of Evaluation

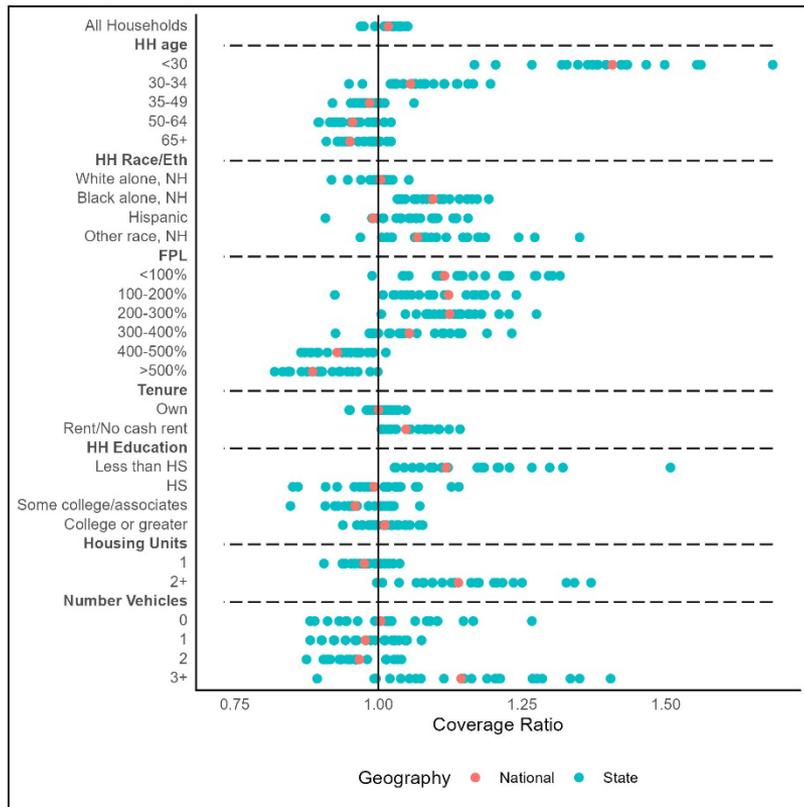
- Internal Validation
  - Total Survey Error
- External Context
  - FBI's UCR Program

# Total Survey Error Paradigm

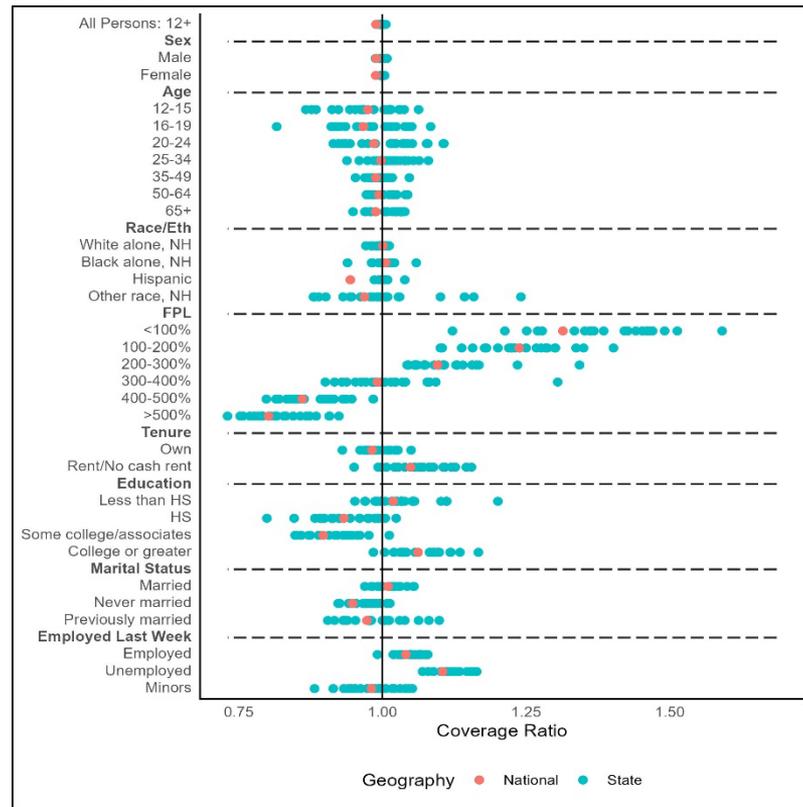


# Coverage Error

## Household

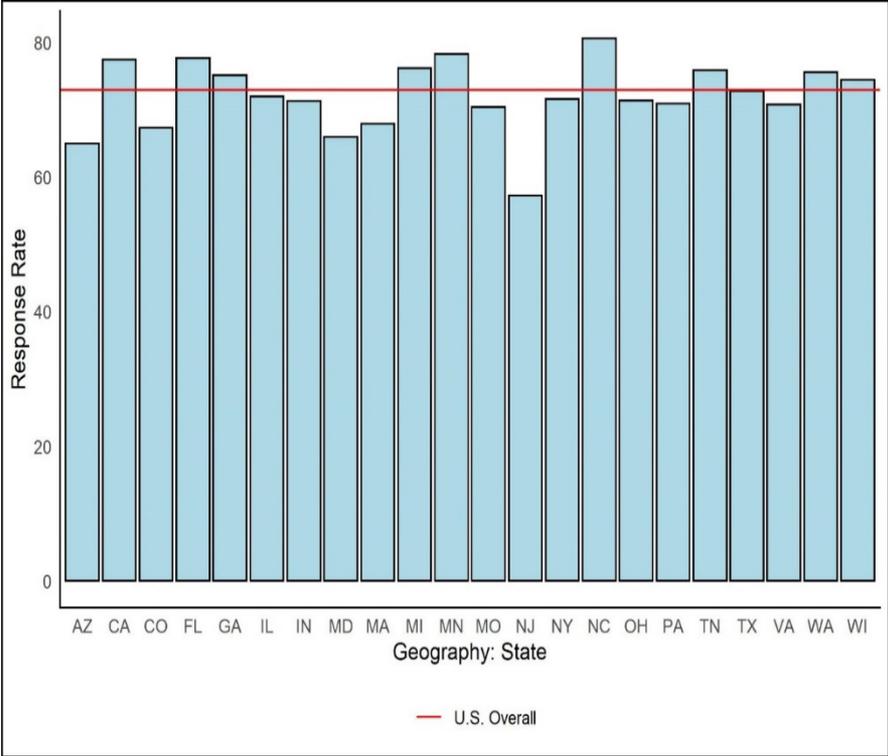


## Person

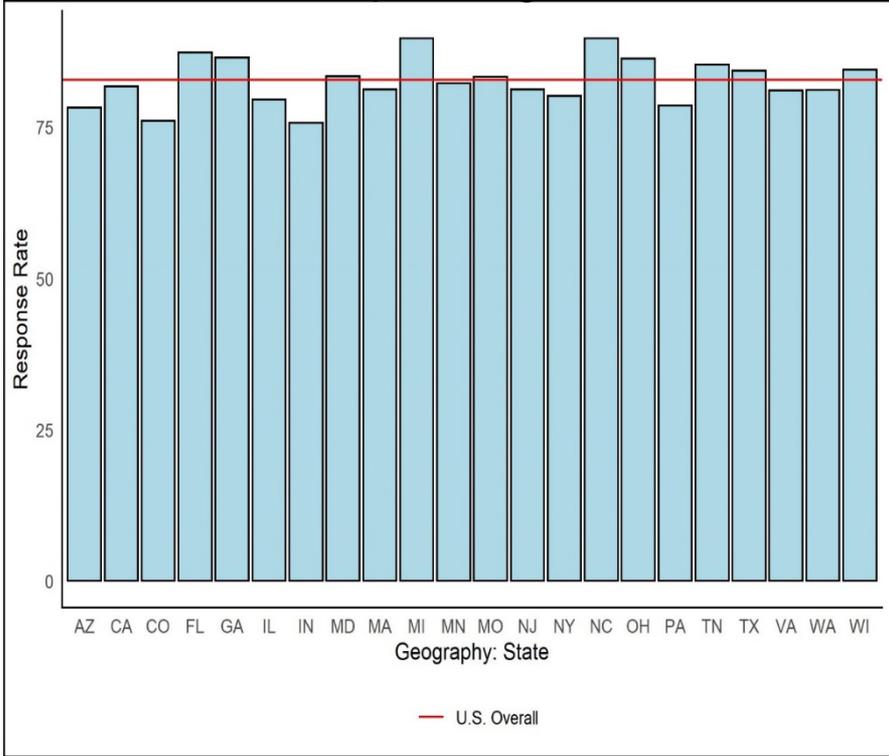


# Nonresponse Error: Overall

## Household

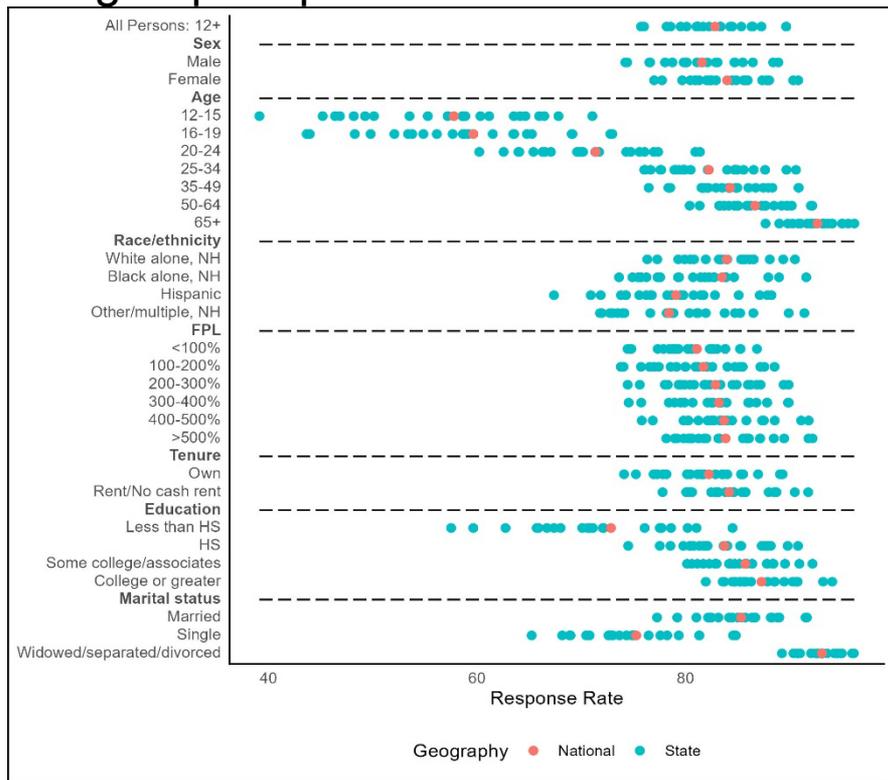


## Person within responding households

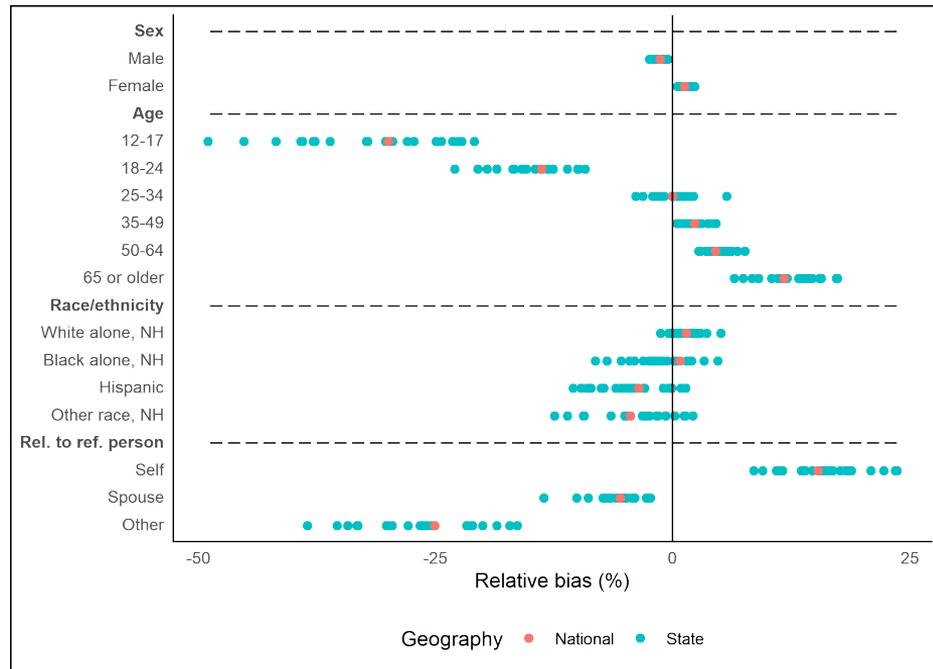


# Nonresponse Error: Subdomains

## Subgroup response rates

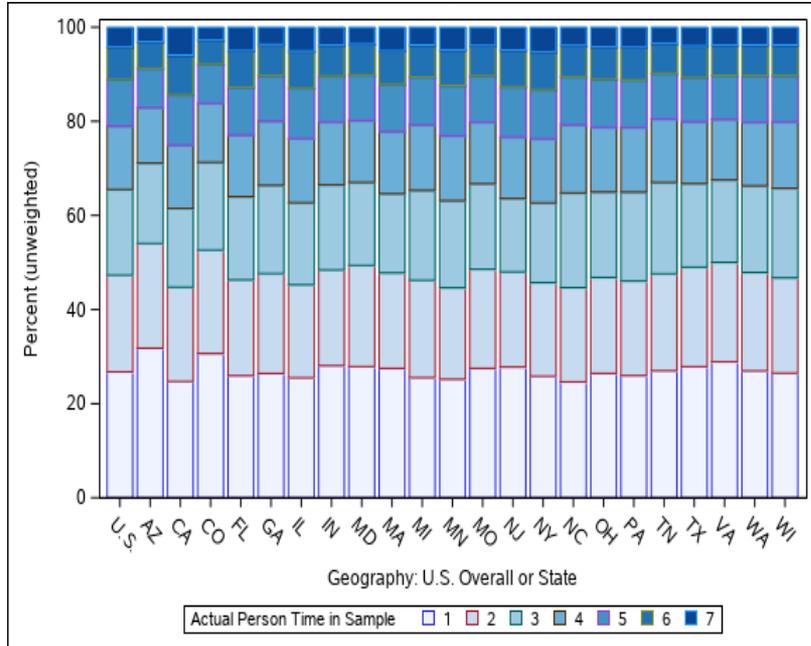


## Percent relative bias

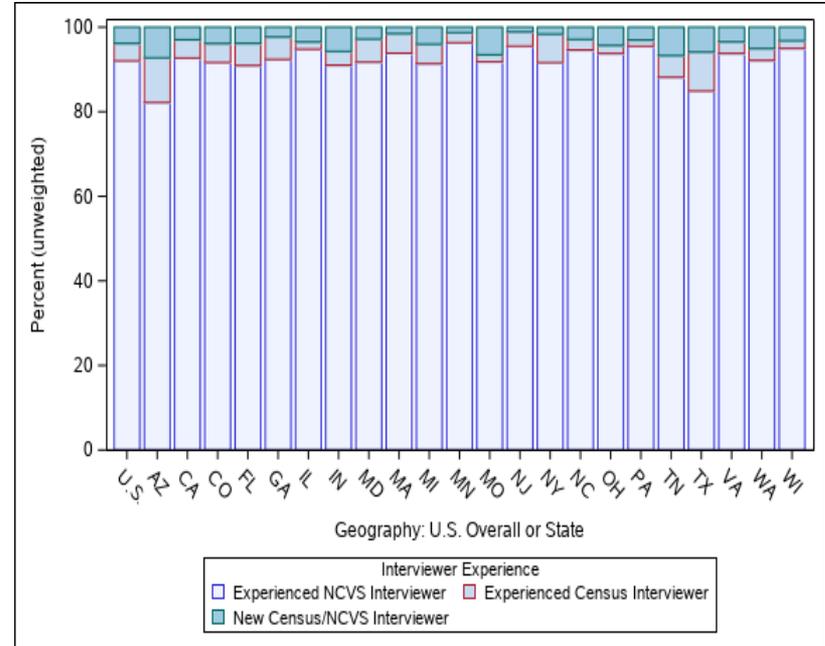


# Measurement Error

## Person Time-in-Sample

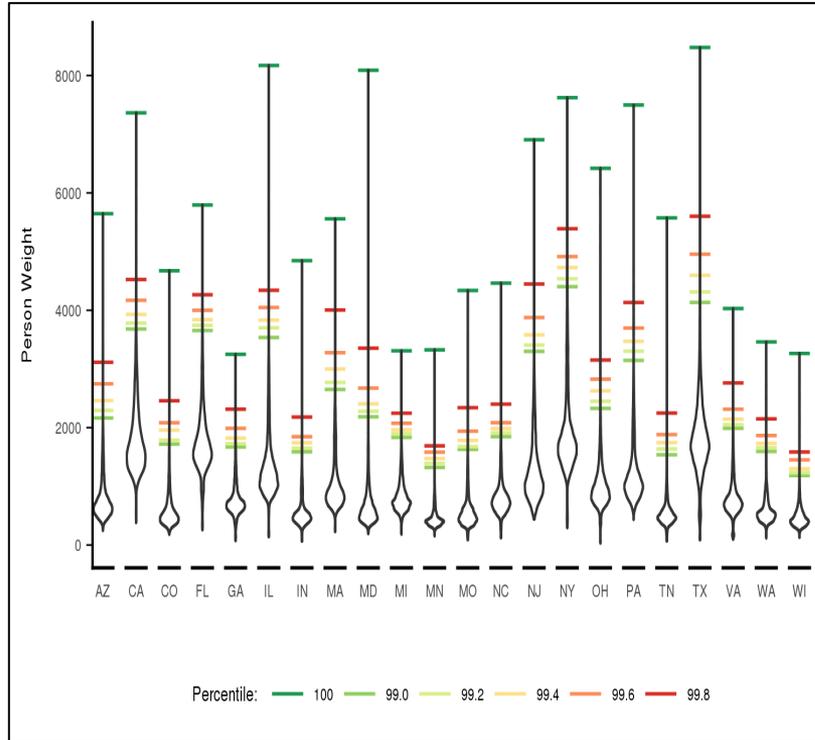


## Interviewer Experience

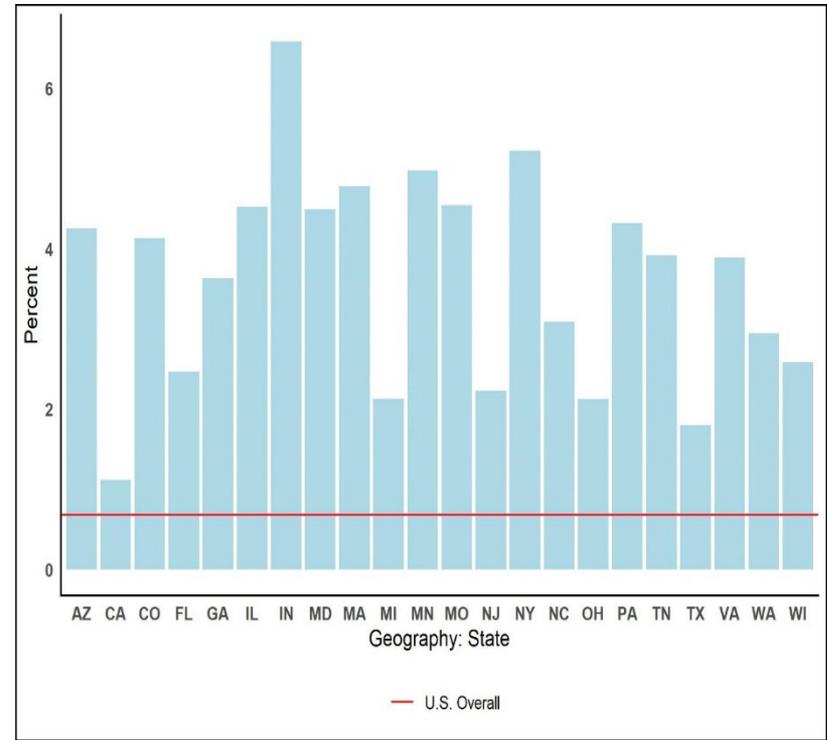


# Data Processing Error: Weight Distribution

## Weight Variability: Person-level

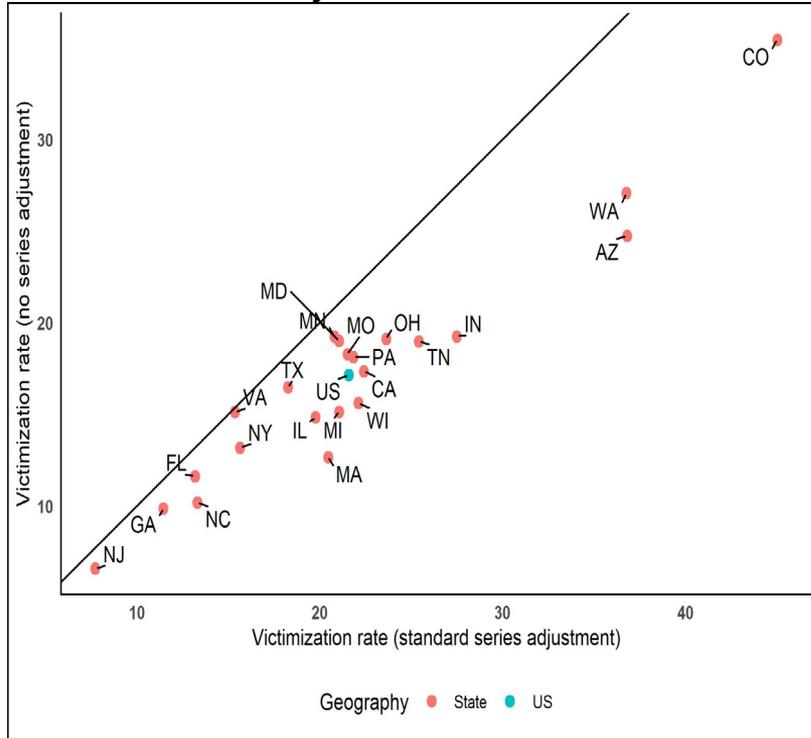


## Extreme Weights: Person-level

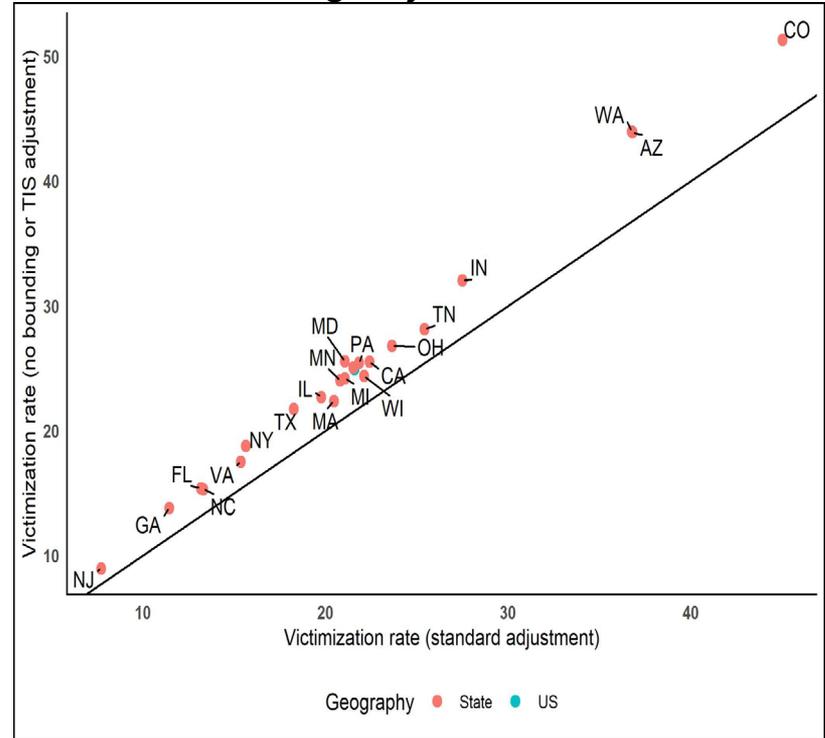


# Data Processing Error: Weight Adjustments

## Series Crime Adjustment: Violent Crime

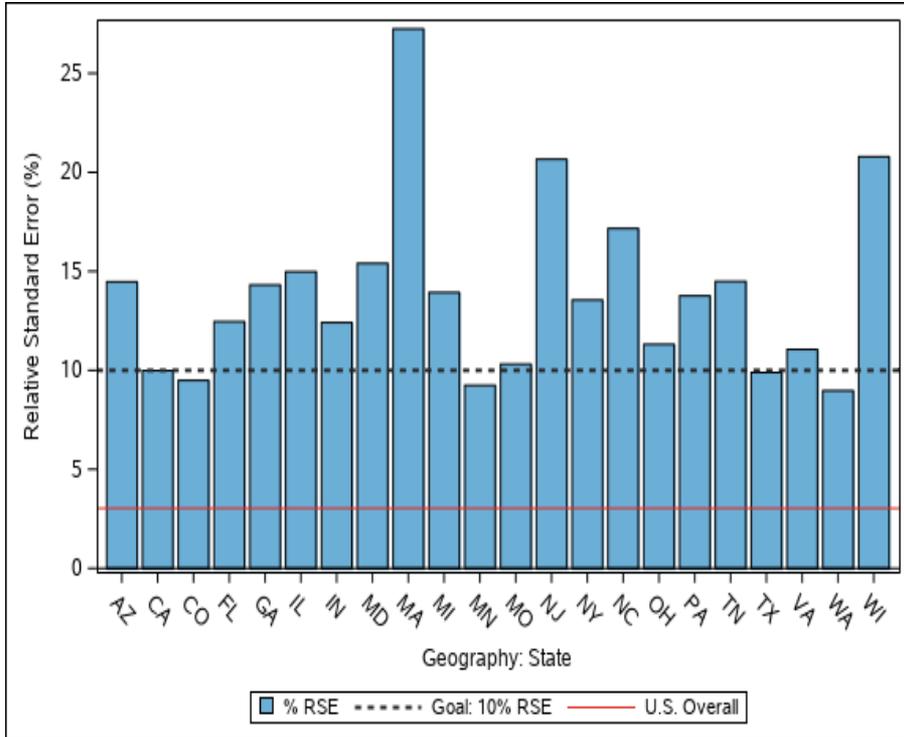


## TIS and Bounding Adjustments: Violent Crime



# Sampling Error: Precision – Overall Crime Types

## Relative Standard Error: Violent Crime



## Relative Standard Error and Unreliable Estimates

Type of Crime	Relative Standard Error				Number of States with Estimates Flagged as Unreliable
	Mean	Min	Median	Max	
<b>Violent crime</b>	13.90	8.97	13.66	27.24	0
Rape/sexual assault	36.73	20.88	38.83	49.66	5
Robbery	29.13	16.70	26.42	58.39	2
Assault	15.14	9.89	15.09	31.21	0
Aggravated assault	23.10	11.64	21.86	52.78	1
Simple assault	17.05	9.09	16.70	34.74	0
<b>Violent crime excluding simple assault</b>	18.11	10.78	16.64	31.52	1
<b>Selected characteristics of violent crime</b>					
Domestic violence	29.43	17.35	26.46	48.37	0
Intimate partner violence	36.10	16.57	37.62	60.96	2
Stranger violence	18.13	10.09	17.07	26.33	0
Violent crime involving injury	23.41	15.02	21.57	38.97	1
Violent crime involving a weapon	21.80	11.60	20.88	45.86	1
<b>Property crime</b>					
Burglary	15.03	8.61	13.86	22.83	0
Motor vehicle theft	22.38	10.14	21.99	34.50	3
Other theft	6.64	3.62	6.93	9.13	0

Estimates are flagged as unreliable when the relative standard error is greater than 50% or the numerator of the estimate is based on 15 or fewer sample cases.

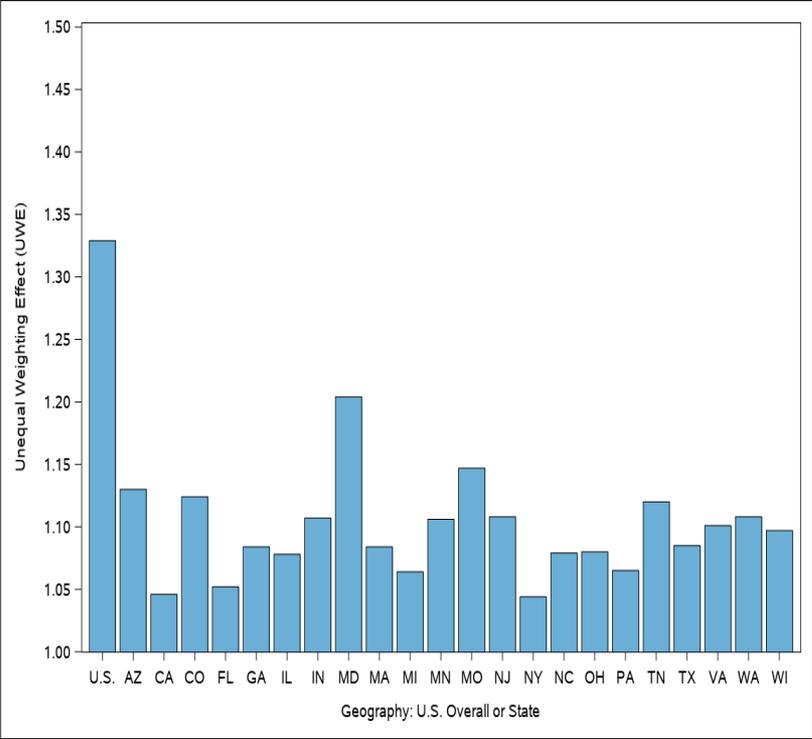
# Sampling Error: Precision – Violent Crime Subdomains

Victim demographic characteristic	Relative Standard Error				Number of States with Estimates Flagged as Unreliable
	Mean	Min	Median	Max	
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	17.64	12.47	16.79	27.13	0
Female	18.24	11.31	16.78	36.72	0
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>					
White	17.73	10.32	17.43	29.96	0
Black	32.67	18.58	29.90	67.65	3
Hispanic	31.59	12.68	29.44	67.56	4
Other	42.79	23.61	38.52	88.10	10
<b>Age</b>					
12–17	35.09	14.63	33.32	79.42	4
18–24	29.89	18.83	30.31	48.70	1
25–34	25.52	14.04	24.19	38.13	0
35–49	26.20	10.87	24.58	68.00	1
50–64	26.46	15.83	24.04	59.42	2
65 or older	31.53	19.77	29.70	56.60	6
<b>Marital status</b>					
Never married	18.16	12.32	17.11	31.08	0
Married	24.36	14.24	22.33	61.78	1
Previously married	22.76	14.95	21.41	40.54	1
<b>Education</b>					
Less than high school	25.27	14.25	24.02	41.75	1
High school graduate or equivalent	25.26	16.44	22.58	39.63	0
Some college	22.33	15.55	19.90	37.81	0
College degree or greater	22.70	12.57	21.40	42.76	0
<b>Household income</b>					
Less than \$25,000	21.82	9.69	21.19	46.92	1
\$25,000–\$49,999	21.79	12.12	21.66	38.51	1
\$50,000–\$74,999	29.36	18.77	28.64	52.55	1
\$75,000 or more	22.88	11.30	21.22	44.88	0

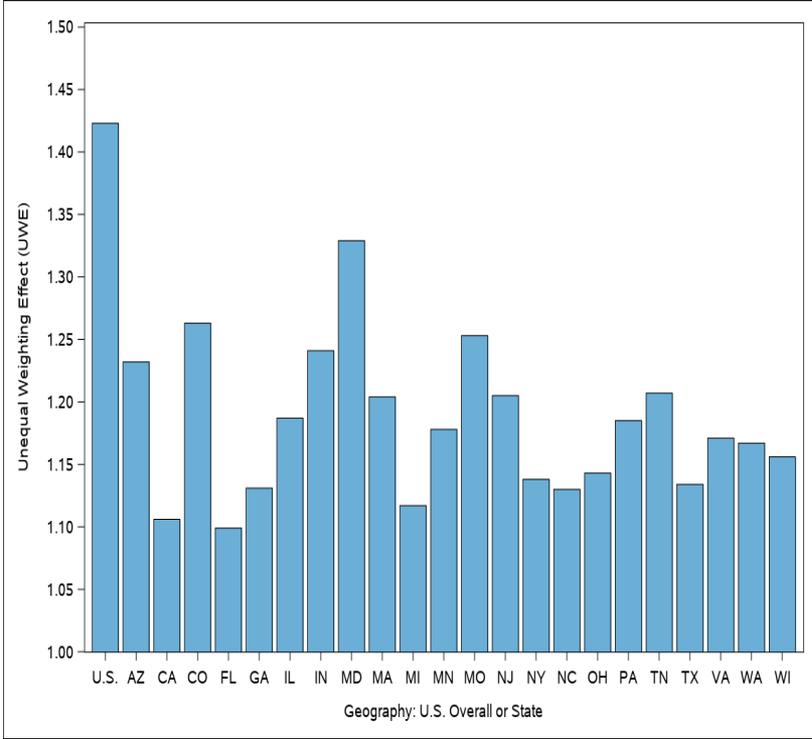
Estimates are flagged as unreliable when the relative standard error is greater than 50% or the numerator of the estimate is based on 15 or fewer sample cases.

# Sampling Error: Unequal Weighting Effects

## Household



## Person



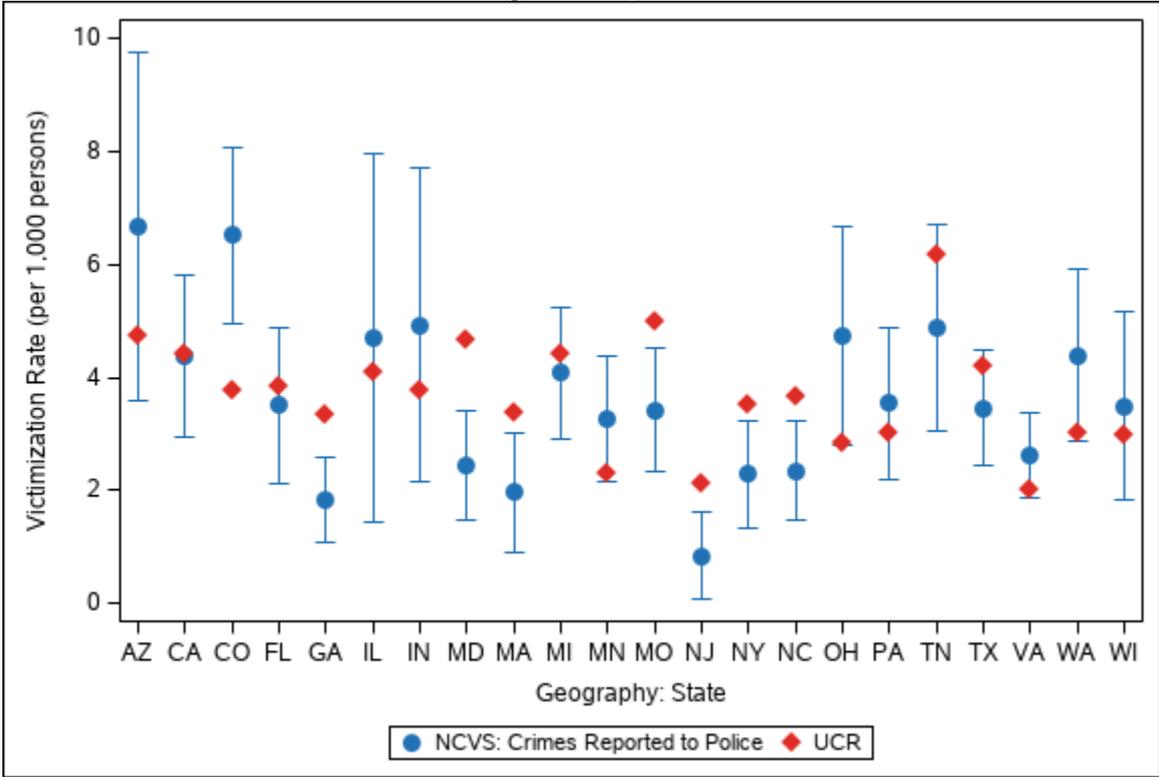
# External Context

## Key Differences between the NCVS and FBI's UCR Program

Characteristic	NCVS	UCR
Crimes against persons younger than 12	Excluded	Included
Murder, non-negligent manslaughter, crimes against commercial establishments	Excluded	Included
Sexual assault involving grabbing or fondling	Included	Excluded
Property crime rates	Per household	Per person
Verbal threats	Included for some crime types (e.g., rape, assault)	Generally excluded
Crimes not reported to the police	Included	Excluded

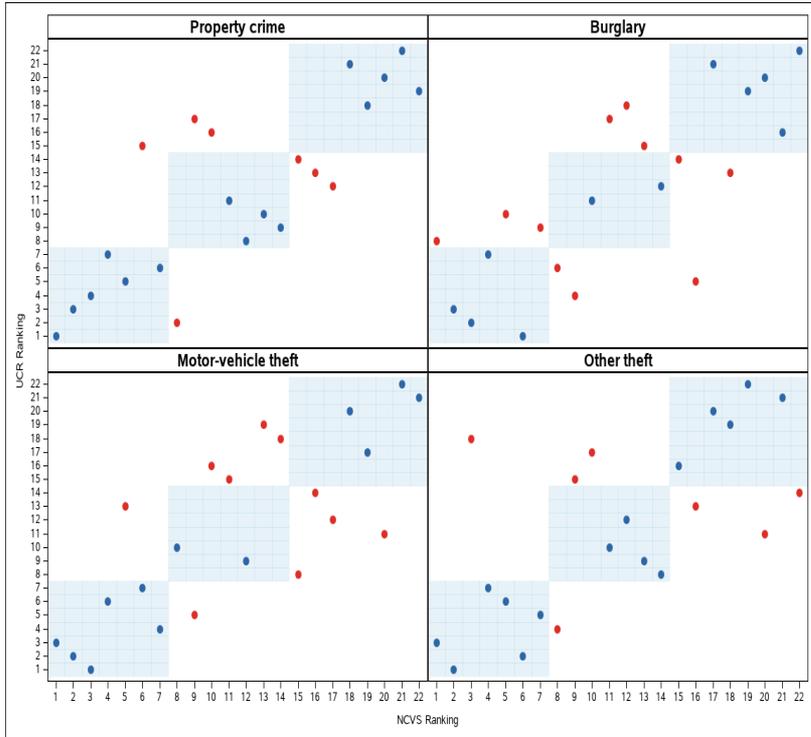
# External Context: NCVS and UCR Victimization Rates

## Violent Crimes Excluding Simple Assaults

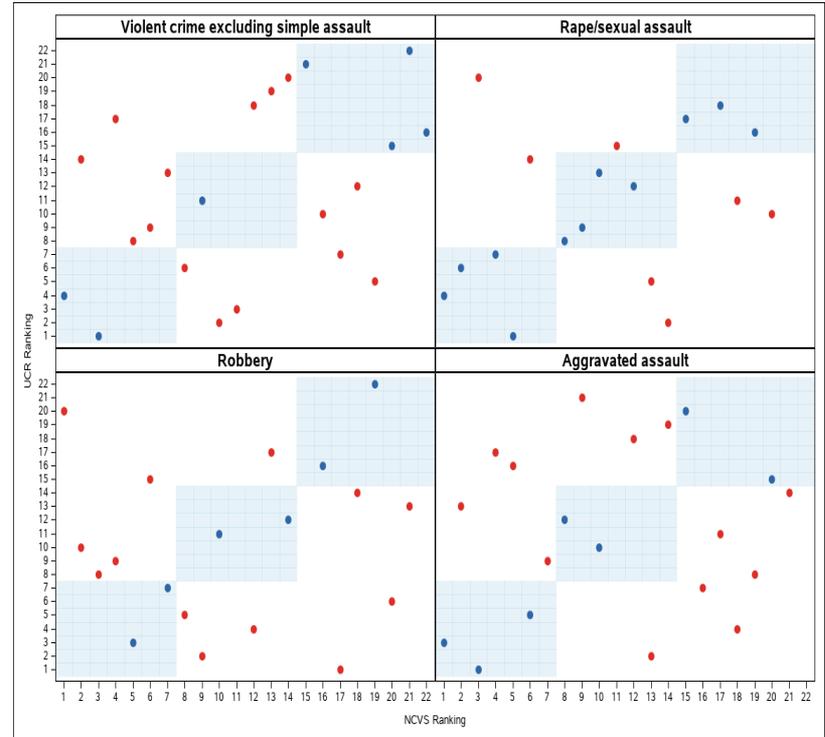


# External Context: NCVS and UCR State Rankings

## Household crimes



## Personal crimes



# Validation of State-Level Estimates: Summary of Findings

Evaluation Criteria	Level of Concern			Notes
	Low	Moderate	High	
Coverage Error		X		Estimates in some states may not be representative if underrepresented groups or overrepresented groups are systematically different with respect to victimization.
Nonresponse Error		X		Higher levels of nonresponse for some population subgroups may negatively impact precision and increase nonresponse bias.
Measurement Error	X			Distribution of TIS and interviewer experience generally stabilized by 2017 after the phase-in of the new design.
Data Processing Error		X		State-level estimates are more susceptible than national-level estimates to being influenced by respondents with a large series weight because of the smaller sample sizes.
Sampling Error	X			Few estimates were flagged as unreliable.
Comparisons with UCR	X			Differences can generally be attributed to methodological differences between the NCVS and UCR.



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# First Release of Statistical Estimates for the 22 Largest States

# Presentation overview

- Statistical estimates and findings from *Criminal Victimization in the 22 Largest U.S. States, 2017-2019*



## Criminal Victimization in the 22 Largest U.S. States, 2017–2019

Grace Kena, MPP, and Rachel E. Morgan, PhD, *BJS Statisticians*

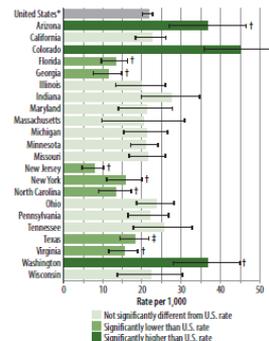
Among the 22 most populous states, 3 had violent victimization rates that were higher than the rate for the United States (21.6 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older) during the aggregate period of 2017 to 2019 (figure 1). Seven states had rates that were lower. These findings are based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).<sup>1</sup> The NCVS is the nation's primary source of data on criminal victimization, including crimes reported and not reported to police. Violent victimization in the NCVS includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault.

This is the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) first release of subnational nonfatal violent and property victimization data collected directly through the NCVS. To produce direct subnational victimization statistics, BJS redesigned the NCVS sample in 2016 to accommodate precise estimates with data aggregated over a minimum of 3 years.<sup>2</sup> This report presents selected state-level estimates of violent and property victimization for the 3-year aggregate period of 2017–19 in the 22 largest U.S. states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

<sup>1</sup>In this report, significance is reported at the 95% and 90% confidence levels. See figures and appendix tables for testing on specific findings. Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this report.

<sup>2</sup>BJS increased the size of the NCVS core sample and reallocated its distribution to enable production of state-level victimization estimates for the 22 states and certain metropolitan areas within those states. See *Criminal Victimization, 2016: Revised* (NCJ 252121, BJS, October 2018).

**FIGURE 1**  
Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in the 22 largest states, 2017–19



Note: Violent victimization includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Estimates include 95% confidence intervals. The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (E-3008-P120-307). See appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors. See appendix table 7 for person population estimates.

\*Comparison group.  
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.  
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Restricted-use data, 2017–2019.



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# 22 states in the NCVS direct subnational estimation program



Source: BJS, NCVS, 2017-19

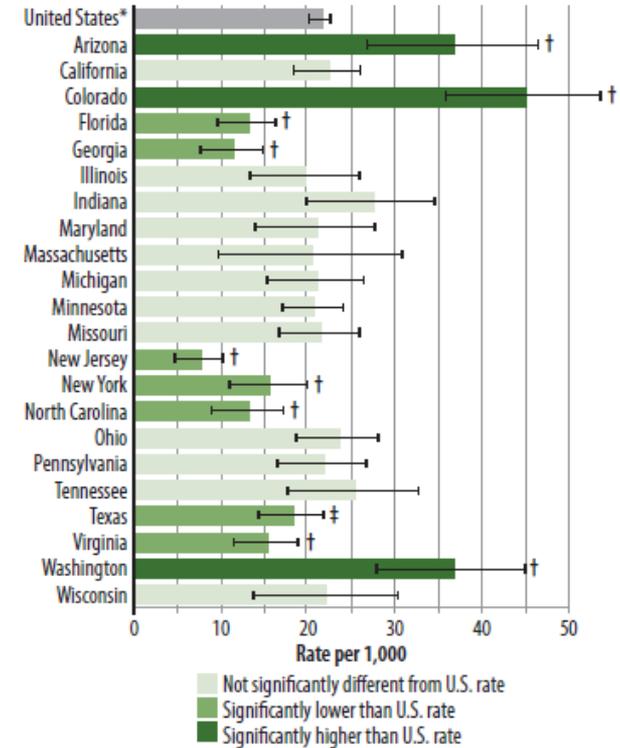


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# Rate of violent victimization

- Violent victimization includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault.
- **U.S. rate of violent victimization was 21.6 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older**
- Violent victimization rates **exceeded** the U.S. rate in 3 of the 22 most populous states
  - Colorado (45.0 per 1,000)
  - Arizona (36.8 per 1,000)
  - Washington (36.8 per 1,000)
- Seven states had **lower** rates than the U.S. rate
- Remaining 12 states were **not statistically different** from the U.S. rate



\*Comparison group.

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

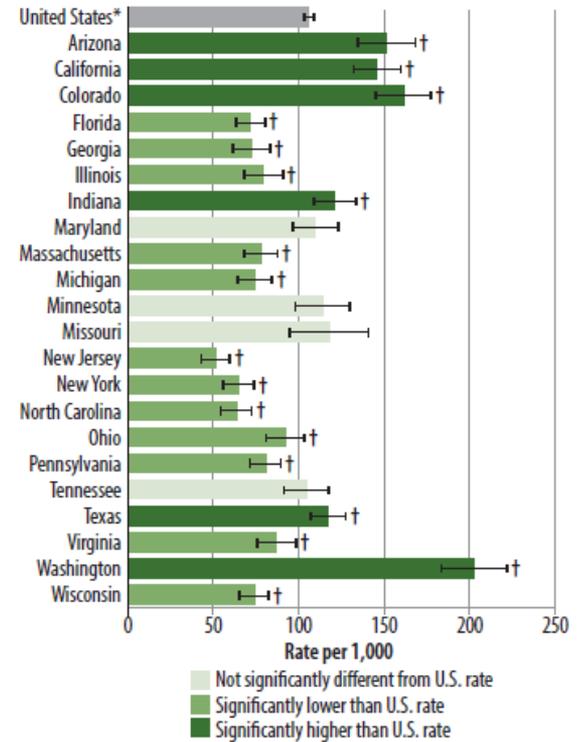
#Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.



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# Rate of property victimization

- Property victimization includes burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of household theft.
- **U.S. rate of property victimization was 105.9 victimizations per 1,000 households**
- Property crime rates were higher than the U.S. rate in 6 of the 22 largest states
  - Washington, Colorado, Arizona, California, Indiana, and Texas
- Property crime rates were **lower** than the U.S. in 12 states
- In 4 states, the property crime rate was **not statistically different** than the U.S. rate
  - Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, and Tennessee



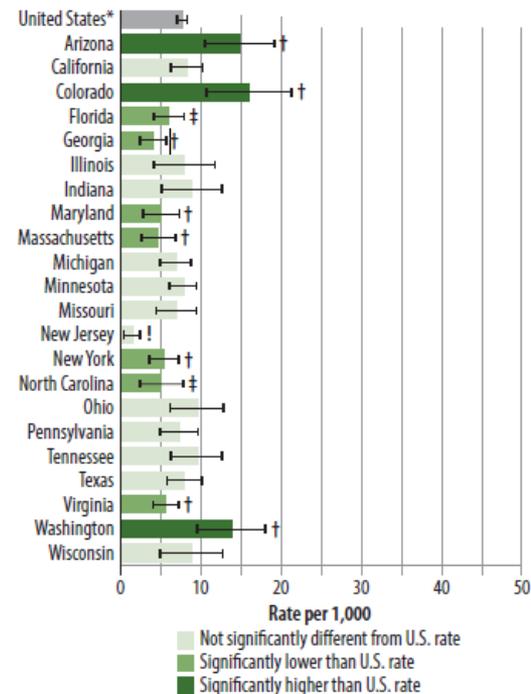
\*Comparison group.  
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.



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# Rate of violent victimization excluding simple assault

- During the 3-year period, the rate of violent victimization excluding simple assault was 7.7 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.
- Arizona, Colorado, and Washington had rates **higher** than the U.S. rate
- Seven states had a **lower** rate of violent victimization excluding simple assault than the U.S. rate
  - Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia
- Rates in the 12 remaining states **were not statistically different** from the U.S. rate



\*Comparison group.

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

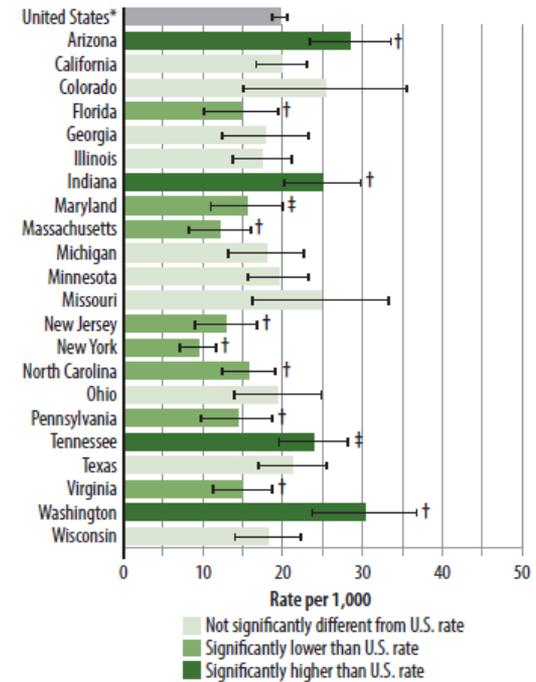
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.



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# Rate of burglary victimization

- Burglary is the unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a place where there was a completed or attempted theft.
- **The burglary victimization rate in the U.S. was 19.7 victimizations per 1,000 households**
- Four states had **higher** rates than the U.S.
  - Washington, Arizona, Indiana, and Tennessee
- Eight states had rates **lower** than the U.S. rate
- The remaining 10 states were **not statistically different** than the U.S. rate



\*Comparison group.

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

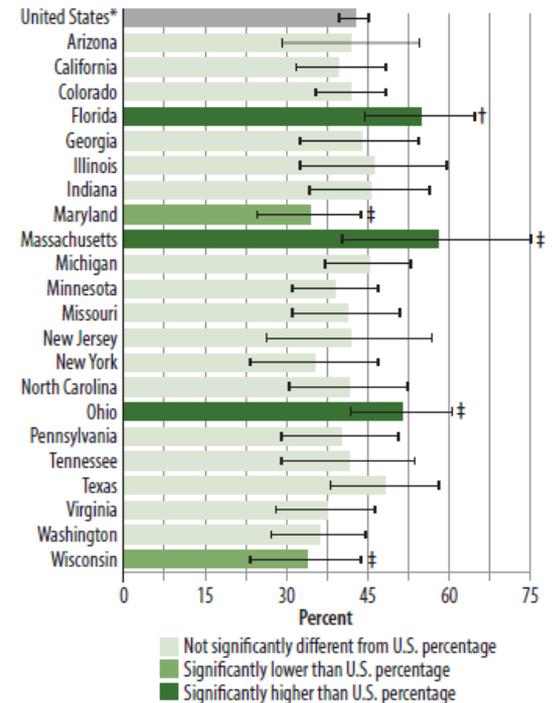
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.



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# Percent of violent victimizations reported to police

- About 2 in 5 violent victimizations (43%) were reported to police nationwide during 2017-19.
- Across the 22 states, 34% to 58% of violent victimizations were reported to police
- The percentage of violent crimes reported to police was **higher** than the U.S. in 3 states
  - 58% in Massachusetts, 55% in Florida, and 51% in Ohio
- The percentage was **lower** than the U.S. in 2 states
  - 34% in both Maryland and Wisconsin



\*Comparison group.

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

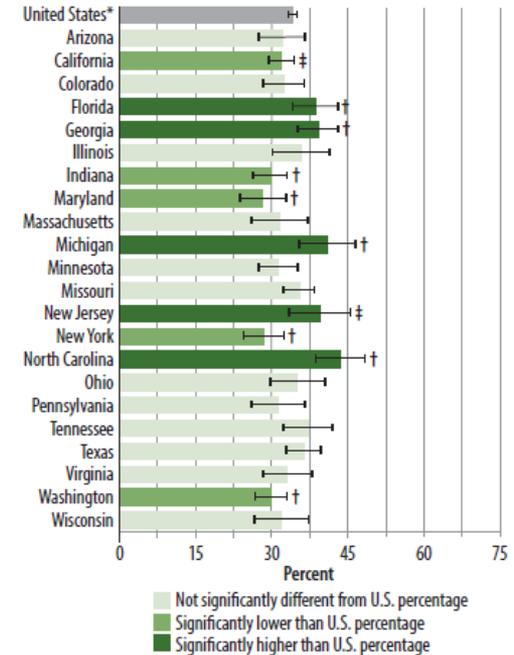
#Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.



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# Percent of property victimizations reported to police

- About one in three property victimizations (34%) were reported to police during 2017-19.
- Between 28% and 44% of property crimes were reported to police across the 22 largest states.
- The percentage was **higher** than the U.S. in 5 states
  - North Carolina, Michigan, New Jersey, Georgia, and Florida
- The percentage was **lower** than the U.S. in 5 states
  - California, Indiana, Washington, Maryland, and New York
- For the 12 remaining states, the percentage was



\*Comparison group.

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

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



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# BJS statistical report and resources

- *Criminal Victimization in the 22 Largest U.S. States, 2017-2019* statistical report  
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/criminal-victimization-22-largest-us-states-2017-2019>
- NCVS Subnational Estimates Program webpage  
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/subnational-estimates-program>
- Sign up for JUSTSTATS to get notifications about BJS publications and products releases  
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/subscribe>
- Follow BJS on Twitter and Facebook



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# NCVS State-Level Analysis User's Guide

# Purpose

## Guidelines for producing state-level estimates

- Public-use vs restricted-use data files

## Recommendations for researchers

- Evaluating estimates and identifying potential issues
- Mitigation strategies

## Example code (SAS)

- Calculating victimization rates and totals
- Comparing states, subgroups, over time
- Variable crosswalk

# Public-Use vs Restricted-Use Data Files

<b>File and Geography</b>	<b>Availability of Geographic Identifiers</b>	<b>Survey Years Available for Analysis</b>	<b>Require DRB Review?</b>	<b>Minimum # of Years to Include in Analysis</b>
<b>Public-use data files</b>				
National	X	1992–present	N/A	1
Boost states		State identifiers not available for analysis at this time		
Non-boost states		State identifiers not available for analysis at this time		
Substate areas	MSA <sup>a</sup>	2000–2015	N/A	Sliding scale
<b>Restricted-use data files</b>				
National	X	2005–present <sup>b</sup>	X	1
Boost states	X	2017–present	X	3
Non-boost states	X	Direct estimation not recommended		
Substate areas	X	Direct estimation not recommended at this time		

DRB=disclosure review board; MSA=metropolitan statistical area; N/A=not applicable.

<sup>a</sup> MSA identifiers available on *National Crime Victimization Survey: MSA Public-Use Data, 2000-2015* (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2022).

<sup>b</sup> Additional years of data may be available upon request.

# Evaluating State-Level Estimates

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Method
Coverage quality <sup>a</sup>	$CR = \frac{NCVS \text{ population total}}{Gold \text{ standard population total}} \times 100\%$
Response rates	$RR = \frac{Number \text{ of respondents}}{Number \text{ sampled}} \times 100\%$
Relative Bias	$RB = \frac{Respondent \% - Sample \%}{Sample \%} \times 100\%$
Unweighted sample size <sup>b</sup>	Number of respondents – request when calculating estimates
Standard error <sup>c</sup>	Taylor Series Linearization
Relative standard error <sup>b</sup>	$RSE = \frac{Standard \text{ error}}{Point \text{ estimate}} \times 100\%$
Outlier Identification	$Contribution = \frac{Weighted \# \text{ of victimizations reported by respondent } i}{Weighted \# \text{ of victimizations reported by all respondents}} \times 100\%$

<sup>a</sup> Gold standards include the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.

<sup>b</sup> Estimates based on 15 or fewer sample cases and estimates with an RSE > 50% should be flagged as potentially unreliable. Guidelines based on standard BJS practice and DRB rounding rules for unweighted counts.

<sup>c</sup> TSL standard errors can be calculated directly by many statistical software packages including SAS, R, and SUDAAN.

# Mitigation Strategies

<b>Issue Noted with Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>		
	<b>Include More Years of Data</b>	<b>Collapse Subdomains</b>	<b>Exclude State, Crime Type, or Subdomain</b>
Coverage quality	—	1	2
Response rates	—	1	2
Relative bias	—	1	2
Small Sample Size	1	2	3
Low precision/High RSE	1	2	3
Outliers	1	2	3

# Generating Estimates: Data Files

- Restricted-use data file structure
  - 3 files: household, person, incident
  - Annual files split by quarter or half year and must be aggregated
  - Different variable names
  - Identifiers
    - Household Interview: YEARQUARTER and CTRLNUM
    - Personal Interview: YEARQUARTER, CTRLNUM, and LINENUM
  - Household and person weights need to be adjusted
    - Additional adjustments to household, person, and victimization weights to account for aggregating multiple years depending on estimate type
  - Incident file may include unclassified crimes

# Generating Estimates: Standard Errors

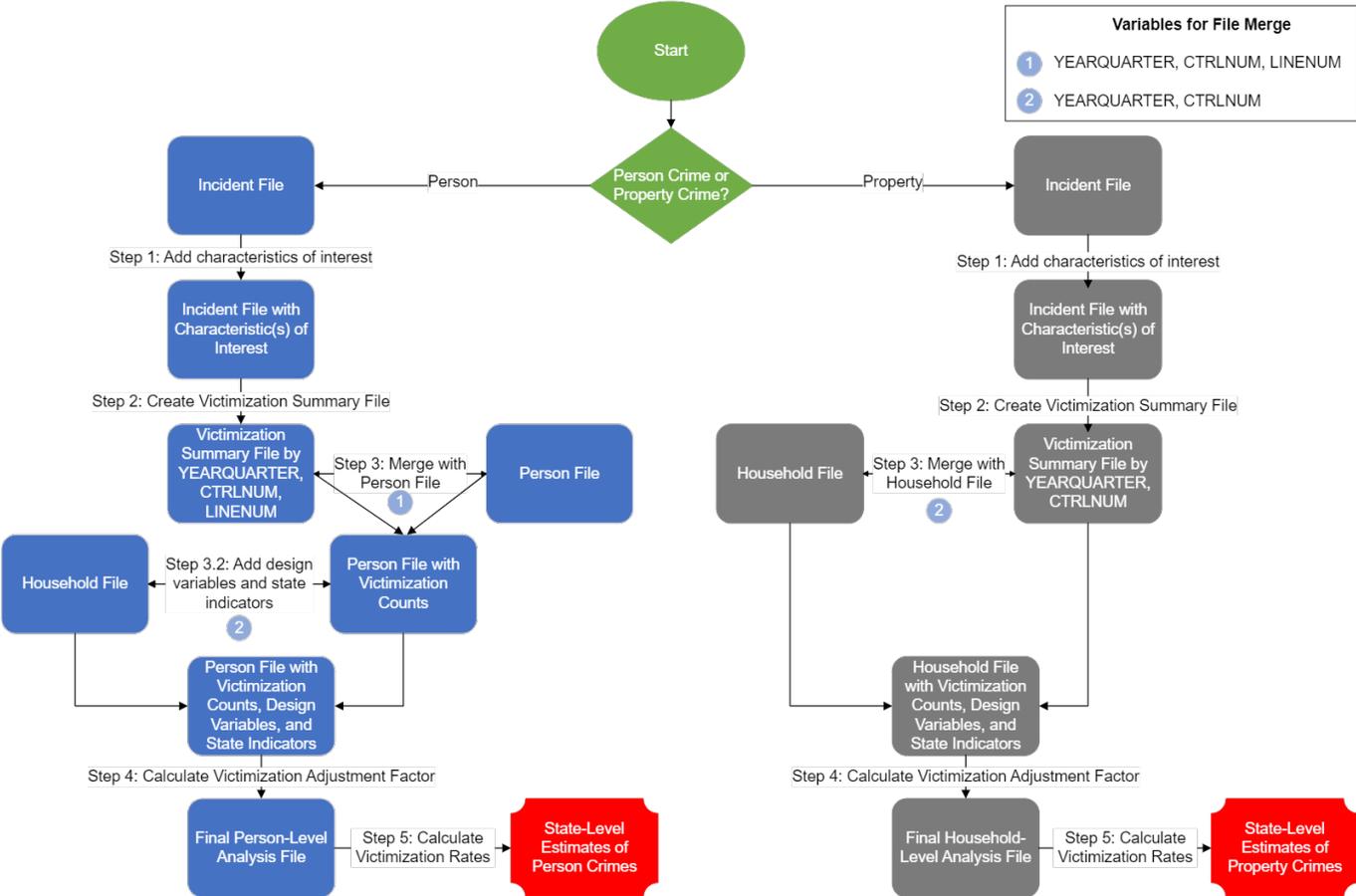
## ○ Variance Estimation

- GVF parameters only available at the national level
- Taylor Series Linearization
  - Victimization Rates: Requires merging summary victimization counts and victimization weights onto person (for personal crime types) or household (for property crime types) file
  - Victimization Totals and Proportions: Requires merging sample design information onto incident file and creating dummy records if not all PSUs represented
  - Requires Sample Design Information:
    - Pseudo-stratum: UCF\_PSEUDOSTR
    - Half-sample code: UCF\_HALFSAMPCD

# Example SAS Code Available

- Victimization totals
- Victimization rates
- Victimization proportions
- Significance testing
  - Comparisons between subgroups
  - Comparisons across states
  - Comparisons over time

# Calculating Victimization Rates and TSL Standard Errors



# Example: Violent Victimization Rate for California, 2017-2019

## Step 1: Identify Records with Victimization Characteristic(s) of Interest

```
data ex1_incident;  
set incident1719; *Concatenated incident file;  
* Create an indicator of violent crime;  
VIOLENT=(1 <= TOCNEW <= 20);  
* Create an indicator for crimes that occurred outside the United States;  
EXCLUDE_OUTUS=(INCIDENTPLACE='1');  
* Calculate the number of incidents for series crimes;  
SERIESWEIGHT=SERIESWGT/VWGT;  
run;
```

# Example: Violent Victimization Rate for California, 2017-2019

## Step 2: Create a Victimization Summary File

```
proc sort data=ex1_incident; by YEARQUARTER CTRLNUM LINENUM; run;
```

```
proc means data=ex1_incident noprint;
```

```
where EXCLUDE_OUTUS=0 and VIOLENT=1; * Exclude crimes occurring outside the United States  
and subset file to crime type of interest. This also ensures the appropriate weight (VWGT) is kept on the  
file if a respondent reported both property crimes and personal crimes;
```

```
weight SERIESWEIGHT;
```

```
id VWGT;
```

```
by YEARQUARTER CTRLNUM LINENUM;
```

```
var VIOLENT;
```

```
output out=ex1_victimization_summary sum=;
```

```
run;
```

# Example: Violent Victimization Rate for California, 2017-2019

## Step 3, Part 1: Merge the Victimization Summary File onto the Person-Level File

```
proc sort data=person1719 out=ex1_person; *Concatenated person file;  
by YEARQUARTER CTRLNUM LINENUM;  
run;
```

```
data ex1_merged_file;  
merge ex1_person ex1_victimization_summary;  
by YEARQUARTER CTRLNUM LINENUM;
```

\* The incident count variable is missing for persons not included on the victimization summary file, so they are set to '0' (no victimizations of this type);

```
if VIOLENT=. then VIOLENT=0;  
run;
```

# Example: Violent Victimization Rate for California, 2017-2019

## Step 3, Part 2: Merge Design Variables and State Indicator onto the Person-Level File

```
data ex1_hhld;  
  set hhld1719; *Concatenated household-level file;  
  PSEUDOSTRATA=UCF_PSEUDOSTR*1; * Calculate a numeric PSEUDOSTRATA;  
  HALFSAMPLE=UCF_HALFSAMPCD*1; * Calculate a numeric HALFSAMPLE code;  
  STATENUM=STATE*1; * Calculate a numeric state indicator;  
  keep YEARQUARTER CTRLNUM STATENUM PSEUDOSTRATA HALFSAMPLE;  
run;  
  
proc sort data=ex1_hhld; by YEARQUARTER CTRLNUM; run;  
  
data ex1_merged_file2;  
  merge ex1_merged_file(in=in1) ex1_hhld;  
  by YEARQUARTER CTRLNUM;  
  if in1;  
run;
```

# Example: Violent Victimization Rate for California, 2017-2019

## Step 4: Calculate the Victimization Adjustment Factor

```
data ex1_analysis_file;
```

```
set ex1_merged_file2;
```

```
* Adjust the person weight;
```

```
PERSONWEIGHT2=PERSONWEIGHT/2;
```

```
* Calculate the adjustment factor;
```

```
if VWGT > 0 then ADJINC_WT=VWGT/PERSONWEIGHT2;
```

```
else ADJINC_WT=0;
```

```
* Create an analysis variable equal to the victimization count multiplied by the adjustment factor multiplied by 1,000 (to express the rate per 1,000 persons);
```

```
ANALYSISVAR=VIOLENT*ADJINC_WT*1000;
```

```
run;
```

# Example: Violent Victimization Rate for California, 2017-2019

## Step 5: Calculate the Victimization Rate and Standard Error

```
proc surveymeans data=ex1_analysis_file varmethod=taylor mean stderr;  
strata PSEUDOSTRATA;  
cluster HALFSAMPLE;  
domain statenum('6'); * California: STATENUM is a numeric variable indicating the state FIPS code;  
weight PERSONWEIGHT2; * Adjusted person weight - collection year;  
var ANALYSISVAR;  
run;
```



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# How to Access NCVS Restricted-Use Data



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# New application process for applying for NCVS restricted-use data files

- Prior to December 2022, researchers interested in applying for access to NCVS restricted-use data files (RUF) had to submit an application through the Census Bureau's Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDC)
- The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 required federal agencies to develop and implement a standardized process for access to federal restricted-use data files
- This new application process launched in December 2022



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# ResearchDataGov (RDG)



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ResearchDataGov is a web portal for discovering and requesting access to restricted microdata from federal statistical agencies

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[National Center for Education  
Statistics](#)

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[National Center for Science and  
Engineering Statistics](#)

[SSA Office of Research, Evaluation,  
and Statistics](#)

[IRS Statistics of Income Division](#)

[FRB Microeconomic Surveys Unit](#)

[SAMHSA Center for Behavioral  
Health Statistics and Quality](#)

[USDA National Animal Health  
Monitoring System](#)



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# ResearchDataGov (RDG)

- ResearchDataGov (RDG) is a web portal for discovering and requesting access to restricted microdata from federal statistical agencies.
  - <https://www.researchdatagov.org/>
- BJS will accept applications for restricted data to support projects with a demonstrated statistical or research purpose, including for evidence-building.



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# NCVS RUF in RDG

To date, NCVS RUF available for approval/access include –

- Core NCVS: 2005-2015 (2016 and later in progress)
- Identity Theft Supplement (ITS): 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018
- Police Public Contact Survey (PPCS): 2011, 2015, 2018
- School Crime Supplement (SCS): 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
- Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS): 2017
- Supplemental Victimization Survey (SVS) on stalking: 2016, 2019



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# Application materials

- To complete an application, applicants must provide information including, but not limited to,
  - **Researcher** information including contact information and institutional affiliation
  - **Project** information including research questions, project abstract, and data files requested
  - **Dissemination** information including project publications/products and requested output
- User Guide available on RDG with more details
  - [https://manager.researchdatagov.org/RDG\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](https://manager.researchdatagov.org/RDG_User_Guide.pdf)
- Additional data security requirements are required for approved applicants



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# Timeline for Application Review

- Once an application is submitted, BJS has 12 weeks to review an application and issue a determination
- Timeline from submitting an application to getting NCVS data access could still be many months



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# No changes to PUFs or BJS data products

- All BJS public-use data files (PUF) are still available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data
  - <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD>
  - *Interested researchers are strongly encouraged to look at PUF codebooks and determine if their research questions can be answered using these files instead of RUF*
- BJS data tools, data tables, and statistical reports are still available from the BJS website
  - <https://bjs.ojp.gov/>



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# Reach out to BJS!

- If you review the PUF codebook and still think your research question requires a RUF, we encourage you to reach out to BJS to get feedback before submitting an application.
- Email [AskBJS@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskBJS@usdoj.gov) with “SAP” in the subject line and include a brief abstract about your research project. You will be connected with a statistician based on your area of interest.
- More information on the BJS website at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/standard-application-process>.

# Other Webinars on Analyzing NCVS Data

Analyzing Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/media/video/66521>

University of Maryland NCVS Research Forum Session 1: NCVS Roundtable Discussion

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/media/video/6685>

University of Maryland NCVS Research Forum Session 2: NCVS Research Highlights

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/media/video/66856>

University of Maryland NCVS Research Forum Session 3: NCVS User Workshop

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/media/video/66861>



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# BJS Panelist Bios

- **Grace Kena** is a supervisory statistician at BJS with nearly 20 years of experience analyzing and reporting on federal statistical data. For the past six, Ms. Kena has overseen various substantive, technical, and communications activities for key NCVS research programs and related collections. She served as project manager for the National Victimization Statistical Support Program (NVSSP) where she worked on multiple components of subnational estimation using the NCVS. Her work and areas of interest also include hate crime, policing, survey development, writing, and enhancing dissemination strategies.
- **Dr. Rachel E. Morgan** is a statistician in the Victimization Statistics Unit at BJS. Her research interests and work focus on criminal victimization, stalking, financial fraud, and subnational estimates of crime using data from the NCVS. Dr. Morgan is also involved in the BJS Victim Services Statistical Research Program, which includes the first ever national data collections on victim service provider provision in the United States. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Central Florida.



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# RTI Panelist Bios

- **Andrew Moore** is a research statistician at RTI International with 14 years of survey research experience. His areas of interest include imputation, weighting, data analysis, and SAS programming. For the past 10 years, Mr. Moore has served as a statistical task leader on the NVSSP, where he has contributed to numerous substantive and methodological tasks aimed at enhancing the NCVS.
- **Dr. Marcus Berzofsky** is a Senior Research Statistician at RTI International. He has over 20 years of experience designing, implementing and analyzing complex survey data. For the past 10 years, he has served as the co-Principal Investigator on the NVSSP, which has helped BJS review and improve the methodology used for the NCVS. Dr. Berzofsky has authored several federal and peer reviewed publications on the NCVS methodology including reports for producing subnational estimates via direct estimation, small area estimation, and generic areas.



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# Q&A Session

Please type your questions into Q&A selecting All Panelists



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