Agenda

- ❑ Housekeeping notes
- ❑ Speaker introductions and presentations
  - ❑ Stalking Victimization, 2019
    - ❑ Jenna Truman | Rachel Morgan
  - ❑ Criminal Victimization, 2020
    - ❑ Lexy Thompson
  - ❑ Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009-2019
    - ❑ Erika Harrell
  - ❑ The Dark Figure of Hate Crime Under Reporting
    - ❑ Frank Pezzella
  - ❑ Psychological distress, formal help-seeking behavior, and the role of victim services among violent crime victims
    - ❑ Tasha Youstin | Julie Siddique
- ❑ Q&A
- ❑ NCVS Resources and Closing

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Presentation overview

- Overview of the Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Discussion of the National Crime Victimization Survey and its supplements
- Supplemental Victimization Survey (stalking supplement) methodology and components of stalking definition
- Findings from BJS statistical report *Stalking Victimization, 2019*

Bureau of Justice Statistics

What is the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)?

- BJS is the United States' primary source for criminal justice statistics

- Statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice and is one of thirteen principal federal statistical agencies throughout the Executive Branch
    - Activities of these agencies are predominantly focused on the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of information for statistical purposes

- Mission of BJS is to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government

- BJS was first established on December 27, 1979, under the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979 *(Public Law 96-157; the 1979 Amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, Public Law 90-351)*

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National Crime Victimization Survey and its supplements

What is the National Crime Victimization Survey?

- Currently sponsored and directed by the BJS
- First full year of data collection in 1973 as the National Crime Survey
- Redesigned and renamed National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in 1992
- One of two of the nation's major sources of information on criminal victimization (with the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program)
- Goals –
  - Measure the crimes not reported to police
  - Provide an independent calibration for the UCR program
  - Provide an indicator of crime outside of indicators generated by police
  - Provide a measure of victim risk
  - Serve as an index of changes in police reporting in the population

How are NCVS data collected?

- Administered by U.S. Census Bureau interviewers to persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households
- Panel design – seven interviews over a course of 3.5 years
- Interview mode – first interview in person, subsequent interviews conducted either in person or by phone
- Self-report survey – persons asked about criminal victimizations experienced during the prior 6 months
- Incident based – collects information about each victimization incident

What data are collected in the NCVS?

- Nonfatal violent crimes (rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault)

- Personal larceny (purse snatching and pocket-picking)

- Property crimes (burglary/trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other theft)

- Provides data on characteristics of victims and crimes for the population and for subgroups

- Main source of national data on topics including   *reporting to police, hate crime, intimate partner violence, crimes against persons with disabilities, injury, nonfatal firearm violence, and cost of crime*

- More information on the BJS website – https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs

NCVS supplements

- In addition to the core NCVS, short topical surveys or *supplements* are administered at the end of the NCVS interview to eligible respondents

- Typically in the field for 6 months: January–June or July–December

- Supplements allow BJS to capture the changing landscape of crime

- Current supplements include:
  - Identity Theft Supplement (ITS)
  - Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS)
  - School Crime Supplement (SCS)
  - Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS)
  - Supplemental Victimization Survey (SVS) – stalking

SVS data collection

- To date, there have been 3 administrations of the SVS: 2006, 2016, 2019

- Purposely left the term "stalking" out of the supplement name in order to minimize respondent bias. There are many definitions of stalking and some people may not know what the term "stalking" means

- SVS was administered to
  - NCVS eligible respondents *age 18 or older* in the 2006 administration
  - NCVS eligible respondents *age 16 or older* in the 2016 and 2019 administrations

SVS instrument

- Instrument redesigned for the 2016 SVS administration
  - Redesigned to include updates from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2005 and 2013, specifically elements of presence (within U.S. waters or territorial jurisdictions), intimidation, emotional distress, and cyberstalking
  - 2019 instrument was largely the same version as 2016, but with minor modifications based on the 2016 administration and interviewer feedback
  - 2016 and 2019 data are comparable; 2006 data are **not** comparable

Components of stalking

SVS stalking definition includes 5 elements –

1. Unwanted contacts or behaviors
2. **Repeated course of conduct** – experienced same behavior or contact more than once or experienced two or more different behaviors one time
3. **Actual fear** – fear for their safety or safety of someone they know
4. Substantial emotional distress
5. **Reasonable fear** – a reasonable person would be fearful because of threat of harm or actual harm to them or someone close to them

SVS definition of stalking

A **repeated course of conduct** that either caused the person **substantial emotional distress** or to **fear** for their safety or the safety of someone else, or that would cause a **reasonable** person to **fear** for their safety or the safety of someone they know

Findings from
Stalking Victimization, 2019

Prevalence of stalking

- About 1.3% (3.4 million) of all persons age 16 or older were victims of stalking in 2019

- The percentage of persons who experienced stalking declined from 1.5% in 2016 to 1.3% in 2019

FIGURE 1
Prevalence of stalking, by type of stalking, 2016 and 2019

Percent of all persons age 16 or older
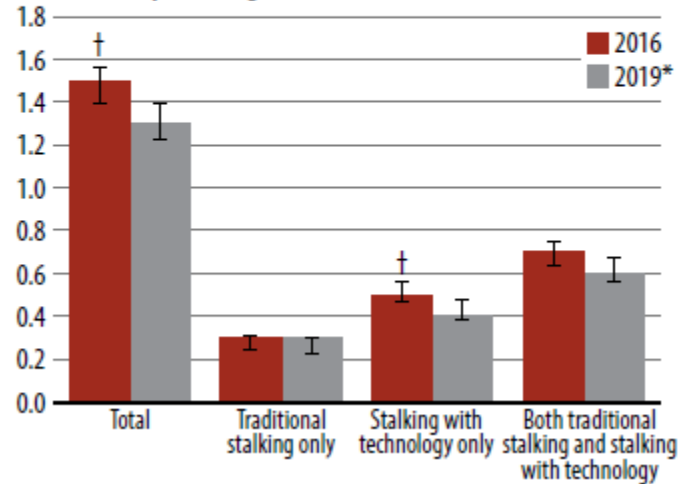
*Comparison year
†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

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Types of *traditional* stalking behavior

TABLE 1
Persons age 16 or older who were victims of stalking, by type of stalking behavior, 2019

Type of stalking behavior	Number of stalking victims[a]	Percent of stalking victims	Percent of all persons[b]
Total	3,419,710	100%	1.3%
Any traditional stalking	2,300,830	67.3%	0.9%
Followed or watched	1,344,250	58.4	0.5
Showed up at/rode by/drove by places	1,122,720	48.8	0.4
Harassed/repeatedly asked friends/family for information	955,470	41.5	0.4
Waited at home/work/school/any other place	718,100	31.2	0.3
Left/sent unwanted items	507,800	22.1	0.2
Sneaked into home/car/any other place	391,880	17.0	0.2

- In 2019, the most frequently reported *traditional* stalking behaviors included the offender following and watching the victim (58%) or showing up at, riding by, or driving by places where the offender had no business being (49%)

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Types of stalking *with technology* behavior

TABLE 1
Persons age 16 or older who were victims of stalking, by type of stalking behavior, 2019

Type of stalking behavior	Number of stalking victims[a]	Percent of stalking victims	Percent of all persons[b]
Total	3,419,710	100%	1.3%
Any stalking with technology	2,738,470	80.1%	1.1%
Made unwanted phone calls/left voice messages/sent text messages	1,802,160	65.8	0.7
Sent unwanted emails/messages using the Internet or social media	1,493,980	54.6	0.6
Monitored activities using social media	873,850	31.9	0.3
Posted/threatened to post inappropriate/unwanted/personal information[c]	802,040	29.3	0.3
Spied on or monitored activities using technology	610,180	22.3	0.2
Tracked whereabouts with an electronic device/application	394,000	14.4	0.2

- Two-thirds of victims of stalking *with technology* received unwanted phone calls, voice messages, or text messages in 2019
- 22% of stalking *with technology* victims said the offender spied on them or monitored their activities using technology
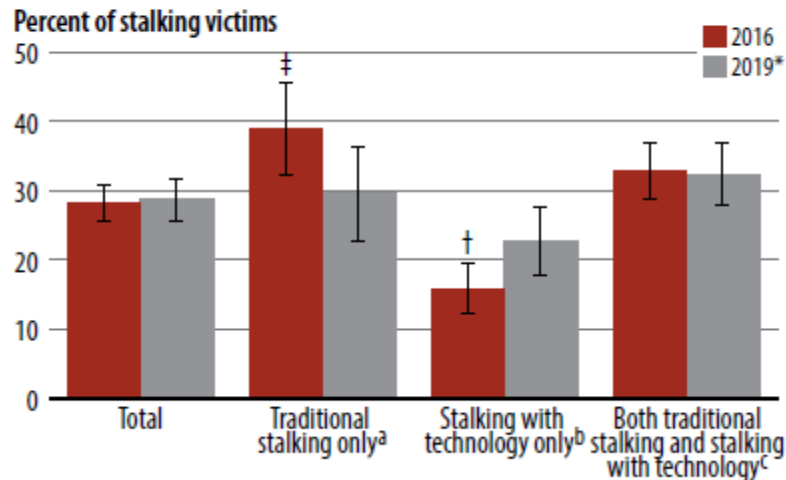
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Reporting stalking to police

- About a third (29%) of all stalking victims reported the victimization to police in 2019

- Victims who experienced both types of stalking reported to police more often (32%) than victims who experienced stalking with technology only (23%)

- From 2016 to 2019 –
  – reporting to police declined among traditional stalking victims (from 39% to 30%)
  – reporting to police increased among stalking with technology victims (from 16% to 23%)

FIGURE 2
Percent of stalking victims who reported to police, by type of stalking, 2016 and 2019

*Comparison year
†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡ Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

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Demographic characteristics of stalking victims

In 2019 –

- Females (1.8%) were stalked more than twice as often as males (0.8%)
- Persons ages 20 to 24 (2.0%) were stalked more often than persons ages 35 or older (0.6%–1.5%)
- Compared to white persons (1.3%), stalking prevalence was higher among persons of two or more races (3.9%) and persons who were American Indian or Alaska Native (3.3%)
- Persons living in households earning less than $25,000 annually (2.1%) were stalked more often than persons living in households earning $25,000 or more annually (0.9%–1.3%)

Most stalking victims knew their stalker

TABLE 5
Percent of stalking victims, by type of stalking and victim-offender relationship, 2019

Type of victim-offender relationship	Total stalking	Traditional stalking only[a]	Stalking with technology only[b]	Both traditional stalking and stalking with technology[c*]
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Known	67.2%	55.8% †	54.3% †	80.9%
Intimate partner[d]	24.8	11.2 †	17.6 †	35.5
Current partner	5.8	2.8 !	5.6	7.2
Ex-partner	19.0	8.4 †	12.0 †	28.3
Other relative	4.8	6.2	4.6	4.3
Well-known/casual acquaintance	37.6	38.4	32.1 †	41.1
Friend/ex-friend	7.2	6.6	9.3	6.0
Acquaintance/in-law or relative of spouse or ex-spouse/friend of one of the offenders/other	12.6	9.6 ‡	11.1	15.0
Roommate/housemate/boarder/neighbor	8.4	14.4 ‡	4.3 †	8.8
Professional acquaintance[e]	9.4	7.9	7.5 ‡	11.4
Stranger	18.1%	30.1% †	19.3% †	12.2%
Unknown[f]	13.9%	12.8% †	26.0% †	6.0%

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Self-protective actions taken by victims

TABLE 7
Percent of stalking victims, by type of stalking and victim's self-protective actions, 2019

Self-protective action taken	Total stalking	Traditional stalking only[a]	Stalking with technology only[b]	Both traditional stalking and stalking with technology[c*]
Any self-protective action taken	77.7%	51.2%	81.5%	86.2%
Changed day-to-day activities	24.2	20.8 †	12.5 †	33.6
Blocked unwanted calls/messages/other communications	62.6	20.2 †	73.8	72.6
Self-defensive action/security measure[d]	22.9	27.5	12.3 †	28.3
Changed personal information	26.8	7.2 †	28.3	34.1
Applied for a restraining/protection/ no-contact order	8.8	5.9 †	5.0 †	12.5

- About 24% of stalking victims changed their day -to-day activities to protect themselves or stop the unwanted contacts or behaviors
- Victims of both stalking types were more than twice as likely to have applied for a restraining, protection, or no -contact order as victims of traditional or technology stalking only
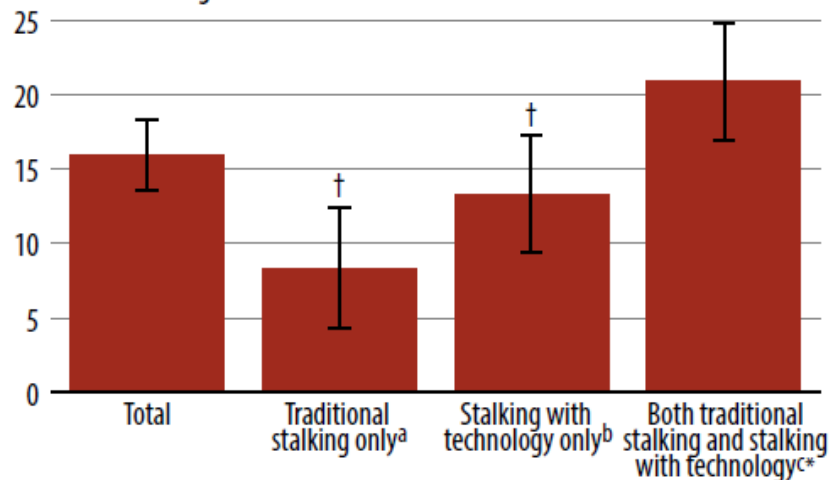
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Assistance from victim service providers

- About 1 in 6 stalking victims sought victim services
- Victims of both stalking types were more likely to have sought services than victims of traditional or technology stalking only
- Of the victims who sought services, 74% received them
- More than 60% of stalking victims who received victim services obtained counseling or therapy

FIGURE 3

Percent of stalking victims who sought victim services, by type of stalking, 2019

Percent of stalking victims

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

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Stalking statistical report and data file release

- Additional findings from the 2019 SVS data are available in the report: https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/stalking-victimization -2019

- The public-use data file was also released through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data for public download and analyses: https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/37950

Stalking Victimization, 2019

Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D., and Jennifer L. Truman, Ph.D., *BJS Statisticians*

In 2019, an estimated 1.3% (3.4 million) of all U.S. residents age 16 or older were victims of stalking (figure 1). This was a statistically significant decrease from 2016 (1.5%) that was largely driven by a decline in stalking with technology only, from 1.3 million victims in 2016 to 1.1 million in 2019. (See appendix table 1.) In comparison, the number of victims of traditional stalking only or both traditional and technology stalking did not change significantly during this period. Stalking includes repeated unwanted contacts or behaviors that caused the victim to experience fear or substantial emotional distress or would cause a reasonable person to experience fear or substantial emotional distress.

Findings are based on the 2019 Supplemental Victimization Survey (SVS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey. From July 2019 to December 2019, the SVS asked persons age 16 or older about their experiences with stalking during the 12 months preceding the interview. This report details the demographic characteristics of victims who were stalked

FIGURE 1
Prevalence of stalking, by type of stalking, 2016 and 2019

Percent of all persons age 16 or older
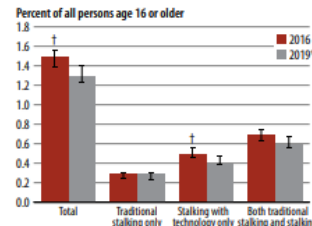
Note: Estimates include 95% confidence intervals. See appendix table 1 for definitions. See appendix table 2 for estimates, standard errors, and stalking definitions.
*Comparison year.
†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Supplemental Victimization Survey, 2016 and 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS

- About 1.3% (3.4 million) of all persons age 16 or older were victims of stalking in 2019.
- The percentage of persons who experienced stalking declined from 1.5% in 2016 to 1.3% in 2019.
- Less than a third (29%) of all stalking victims reported the victimization to police in 2019.
- In 2019, females (1.8%) were stalked more than twice as often as males (0.8%).
- In 2019, an estimated 67% of victims of both traditional stalking and stalking with technology were fearful of being killed or physically harmed.

- Most (67%) stalking victims knew their stalker.
- Victims of both types of stalking in 2019 were more likely to be stalked by an intimate partner (35%) than victims of only traditional stalking (11%) or only stalking with technology (18%).
- Victims of both stalking types were more than twice as likely to have applied for a restraining, protection, or no-contact order as victims of traditional or technology stalking only.
- In 2019, about 16% of all stalking victims sought victim services and 74% of the victims who sought services received them.

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Questions?

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Presentation overview

- Overview of the National Crime Victimization Survey

- Discussion of the impact of COVID-19 on survey operations

- Adjustments made after data collection

- Findings from BJS statistical reports *Criminal Victimization, 2020* and *Criminal Victimization, 2020 – Supplemental Statistical Tables*

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- Nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization.
- Collects information on rape/sexual assault, robbery, simple and aggravated assault, personal larceny, household burglary/trespassing, motor vehicle theft, other theft.
- Collects information on crimes reported and not reported to police.
- Ongoing since 1973.

Modified survey operations

- In a typical year, all new households entering the panel (incoming sample) are interviewed in person, while returning sample households are interviewed either in person or over the phone.
- Starting mid-March 2020, all incoming sample interviews were suspended and all returning sample interviews were shifted to telephone calls.

FIGURE 2
National Crime Victimization Survey field operation procedures, 2020

Normal field operations			Suspended interviews for incoming sample						Modified personal visit (all)		
			Phone-only interviews (returning sample)			Modified personal visit (returning sample)					
Jan '20	Feb '20	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sept '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20
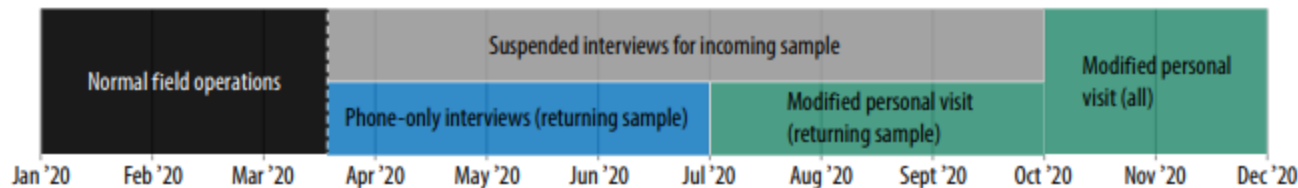
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020.

Response rates

FIGURE 3
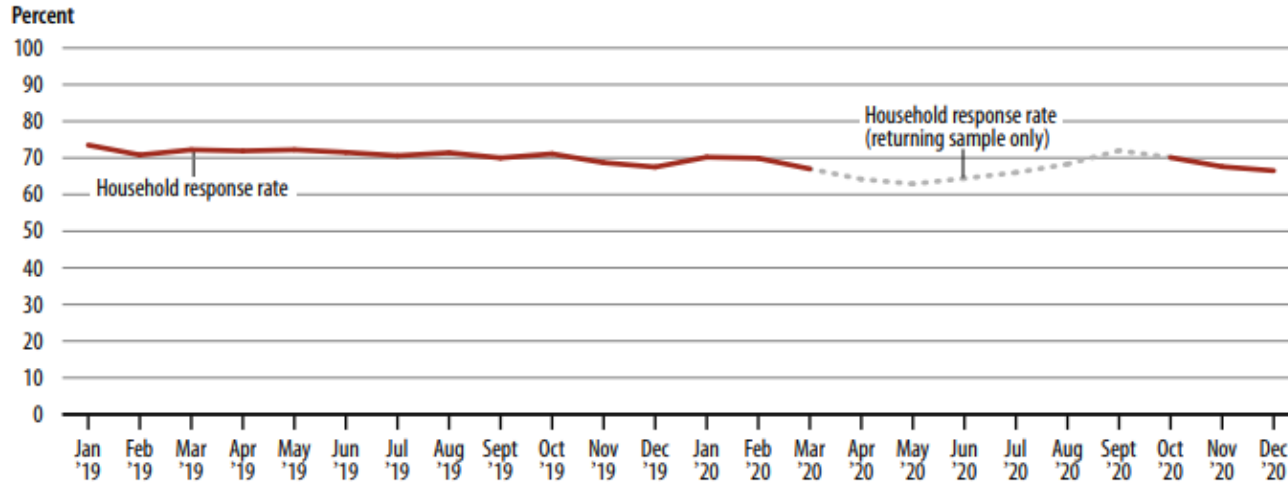**Monthly household response rates for the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019–2020**

Note: See appendix table 3 for estimates.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019–2020.

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2020 pandemic weighting adjustments

- BJS, in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau, examined the 2020 data to determine what adjustments were needed to ensure comparability with past and future years of NCVS data.

- A series of simulations using 2019 NCVS data were developed to assess differences related to field operations.

- As a result, several adjustments were applied to 2020 NCVS data –
  - Weights for the incoming sample in the first and fourth quarters of 2020 were doubled to compensate for the suppressed incoming sample in the second and third quarters.
  - Household weights for the types of group quarters included in the NCVS were controlled to match historical values.
  - Household control weights were developed to weight household distributions by sample type.

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Adjustments for outlier weights

- From 2020-21, BJS conducted research to better understand the impact of outlier weights on victimization estimates.
- Through this research, BJS found that the top 1% of individual cases (in terms of series-adjusted weighted victimizations) accounted for 10–15% of the annual victimization estimate for person-level crime types and 5% for household-level crime types in most years.
- To mitigate impact of these cases, BJS in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau, applied a framework that identifies extreme cases, applies an adjustment, and reallocates the excess weight to nonoutlier cases (starting with the 2020 data).
- The adjustment approach results in a minor reduction in annual victimization rates and standard errors with no discernable impact on trends in victimization estimates over time.

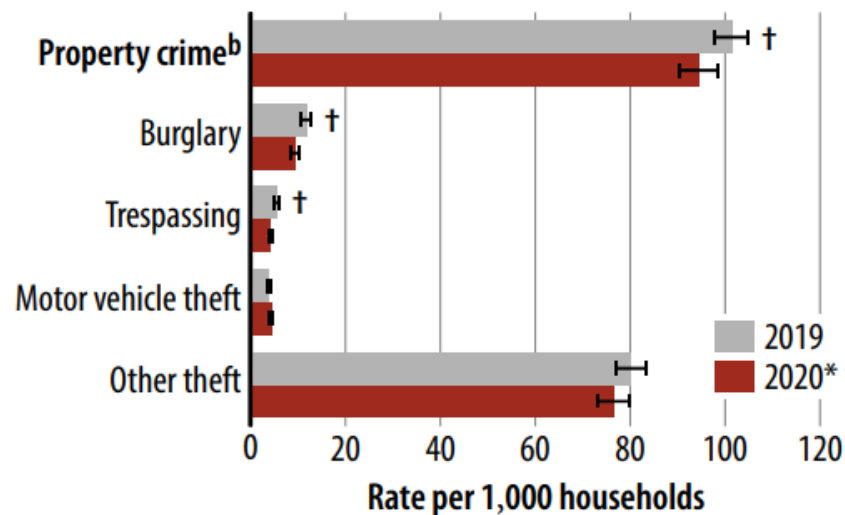Bureau of Justice Statistics

Crime from 2019 to 2020

FIGURE 1
Rate of victimization, by type of crime, 2019–2020
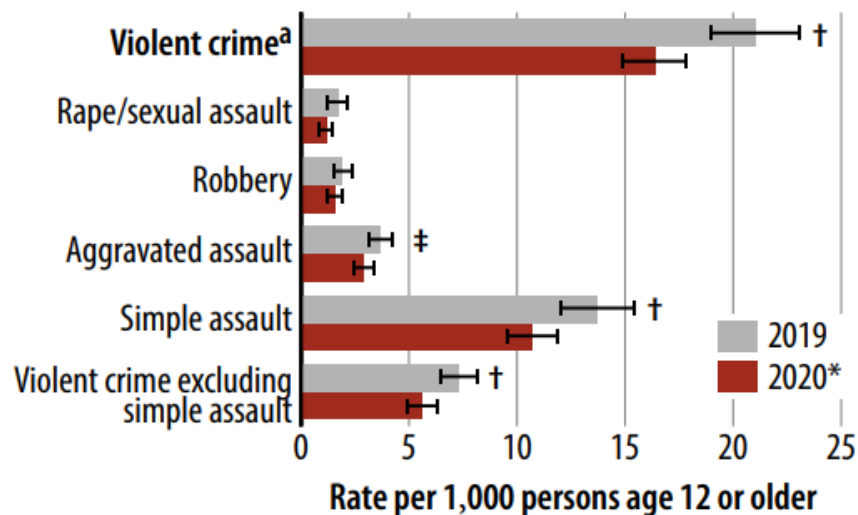
*Comparison year.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

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Victim demographics

From 2019 to 2020, rates of violent victimizations –

- Decreased for males (from 21.2 to 16.6 per 1,000) and females (from 20.8 to 16.2 per 1,000).
- Decreased among white persons (from 21.0 to 16.2 per 1,000) and Hispanic persons (from 21.3 to 15.9 per 1,000).
- Against youth ages 12 to 17 declined 51% (from 35.2 to 17.4 per 1,000). The rate also declined for those ages 50-64.
- Declined for persons never married, married, and widowers, and did not change for other marital statuses.
- Declined for persons living in households earning less than $25,000 annually and for persons in households earning between $100,000 and $199,999 annually

Violent victimization, excluding simple assault, also trended downward across several victim demographics.

Firearm violence

- Number and rate of firearm victimizations declined from 2019 to 2020.

- The percentage of firearm victimizations reported to police did not change during this time period.

TABLE 8
Firearm violence, 2019–2020

	2019	2020*
Total violent victimizations	5,813,410 †	4,558,150
Firearm victimizations	481,950 †	350,460
Rate of firearm victimization[a]	1.7 †	1.3
Firearm victimizations reported to police		
Number	290,790 †	212,470
Percent	60.3%	60.6%

Note: Includes violent crimes in which the offender possessed, showed, or used a firearm. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.
*Comparison year.
†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Victim Services

- In 2020, victims accessed victim services in 6% of victimizations.

- The percentage of victimizations where the victim accessed services declined from 2019 to 2020 for victims of intimate partner violence (from 26% to 12%) and violent crime with an injury (from 18% to 8%).

TABLE 6

Percent of violent victimizations for which victims received assistance from a victim service provider, by type of crime, 2019 and 2020

Type of crime	2019	2020*
Violent crime[a]	7.7%	5.9%
Violent crime excluding simple assault[b]	10.8	6.6
Simple assault	6.0	5.6
Intimate partner violence[c]	26.1% †	12.3%
Violent crime with an injury	17.9% †	8.2%
Violent crime with a weapon	7.1%	6.0%

Note: See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison year.

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

Victim and offender demographics

By sex of victims and offenders

TABLE 4
Percent of violent incidents, by sex of victims and offenders, 2020

Victim sex	Number of violent incidents	Offender sex			
		Total	Male	Female	Both male and female
Total	3,854,690	100%	79.4%	17.2%	3.4%
Male*	1,910,660	100%	84.3	12.2	3.4
Female	1,944,020	100%	74.5 †	22.0 †	3.4

By race/ethnicity

TABLE 5
Percent of violent incidents, by race or ethnicity of victims and offenders, 2020

Victim race/ethnicity[a]	Number of violent incidents	Offender race/ethnicity				
		Total	White[b]	Black[b]	Hispanic[c]	Other[b,d]
White[b]	2,214,390	100%	69.2%*	16.6% †	11.1% †	3.1% †
Black[b]	498,620	100%	14.1 †	65.7*	11.8 †	8.4 !
Hispanic[c]	571,850	100%	33.2	19.5 †	41.3*	6.0 †

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

Prevalence of violent crime

FIGURE 1
Percent of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime and violent crime excluding simple assault, 1993–2020
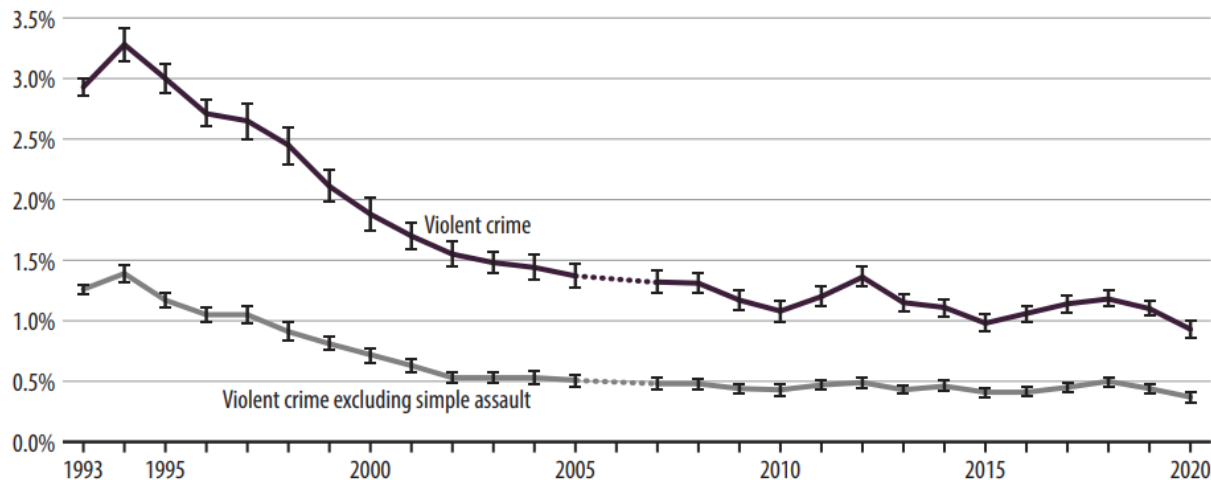
Note: Estimates include 95% confidence intervals. See table 1 for definitions and appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors. Estimates for 2006 should not be compared to other years and are excluded from the figure.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993–2020.

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Questions?

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Background

2 reasons for examining this issue :

- **Federal mandate**: Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act of 1998 (U.S. Code 105-301)
  - Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) must annually provide data on nonfatal violent crime against persons with disabilities

- **Research gap:** Most studies of crime against persons with disabilities are limited to one particular setting and not generalizable to the nation
  - BJS produces the only national study devoted to crime against persons with disabilities

Measuring disability within the NCVS

1. Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing? (Hearing)

2. Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses? (Vision)

3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty—
    concentrating, remembering, or making decisions (Cognitive)
    walking or climbing stairs (Ambulatory)
    dressing or bathing? (Self-care)

4. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? (Independent living)

Measuring disability within the NCVS, cont.

- **From January 2007-June 2016**:
  - Disability questions on the NCVS-2 (incident form)
  - Produce victimization rates with population data from the American Community Survey (ACS)

- **July 2016 forward**:
  - Disability questions on the NCVS-1 (screener questionnaire)
  - Production of population estimates by disability status and type using NCVS data
  - Produce victimization rates by disability status and type

Age distribution and disability status, 2017-2019

Percent of persons

With Disabilities
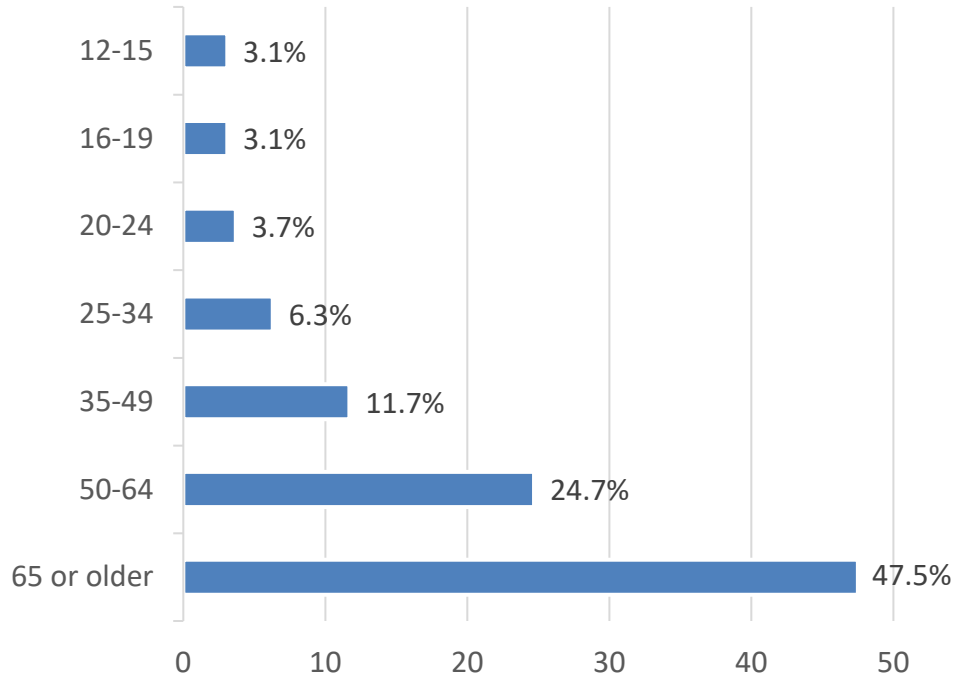
Age	Percent
12-15	3.1%
16-19	3.1%
20-24	3.7%
25-34	6.3%
35-49	11.7%
50-64	24.7%
65 or older	47.5%

Without Disabilities

Age	Percent
12-15	6.5%
16-19	6.5%
20-24	8.4%
25-34	17.8%
35-49	23.8%
50-64	22.6%
65 or older	14.5%
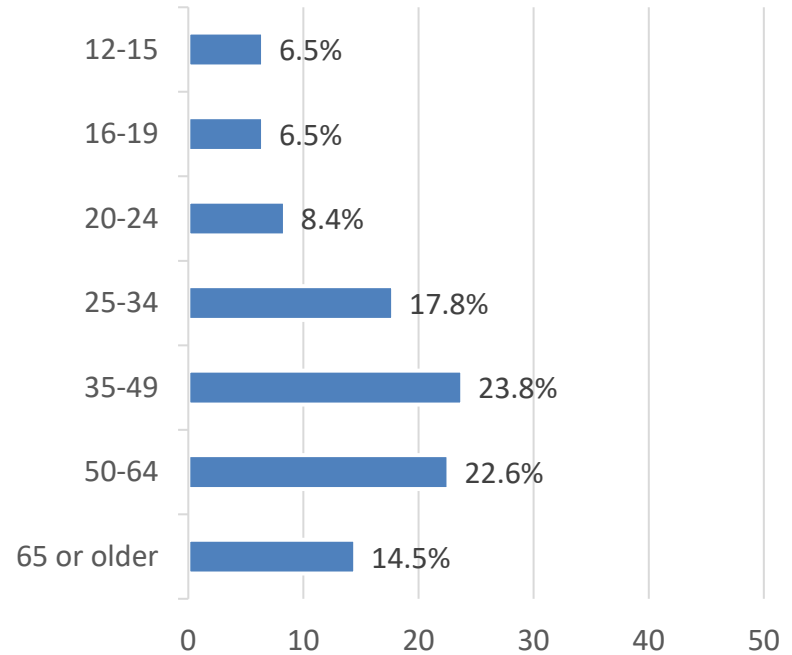
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017-2019.

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Age adjustment of violent victimization rates for persons w/o disabilities

1. Generate weighted number of violent victimizations by age group for persons without disabilities

2. Generate weighted population for each age group for persons without disabilities

3. Generate age-group specific rates- for each age group, divide estimates from (1) by (2) and multiply by 1,000

4. Generate weight for each age group- for each age group, divide the number of persons with disabilities in that age group by the total number of persons with disabilities across all age groups

5. For each age group, multiply (3) by (4).

6. Sum results of (5) across all age groups=age adjusted violent victimization rate for persons without disabilities

Age-adjusted rates - 2017-2019 violent victimization rate (w/o disabilities)

	(1) Weighted number of violent victimizations	(2) Weighted populations	(3) Age group specific rate=(1)/(2)* 1000	(4) Weight= # with disabilities/ total with disabilities	(5) Age specific rate * weight
12-15	1,359,810	46,238,381	29.41	0.03	0.91
16-19	1,154,348	46,812,937	24.66	0.03	0.76
20-24	1,728,902	60,015,674	28.81	0.04	1.05
25-34	2,983,163	127,236,968	23.45	0.06	1.48
35-49	2,986,460	170,549,307	17.51	0.12	2.05
50-64	2,156,495	161,706,710	13.34	0.25	3.29
65 or older	596,212	103,775,353	5.75	0.47	2.73
			Sum of (5)		12.27

Report Findings

Rate of violent victimization, by disability status, 2009–2019 (2-year rolling averages)

Rate per 1,000
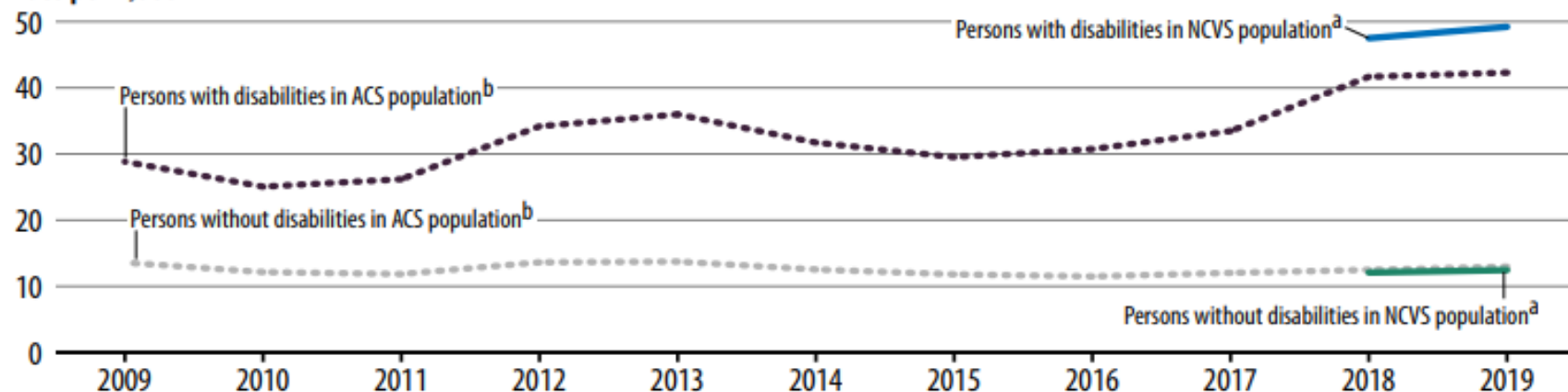
Note: Based on the noninstitutionalized U.S. resident population age 12 or older. The definition of noninstitutional population differs by survey. See *Methodology*. Estimates are based on 2-year rolling averages. For each year, rates for the population without a disability were adjusted using direct standardization with the population with a disability as the standard population. See appendix table 2 for estimates and standard errors.

[a]Rates were calculated with population data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

[b]Rates were calculated with population data from the American Community Survey (ACS).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2008–2019; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008–2019.

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Rate of violent victimization, by type of crime and disability status, 2017–19

Type of crime	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	
		Age-adjusted[a]*	Unadjusted
Violent crime	46.2 †	12.3	18.1
Violent crime, excluding simple assault	17.9 †	4.0	6.3
Rape/sexual assault	4.1 †	0.9	1.6
Robbery	5.6 †	1.1	1.6
Aggravated assault	8.2 †	2.0	3.1
Simple assault	28.3 †	8.3	11.8

Note: Based on the noninstitutionalized U.S. resident population age 12 or older. Rates are per 1,000 persons. Excludes persons with unknown disability status (1% of population). See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

*Comparison group with age-adjusted rates compared to rates for persons with disabilities.

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

[a]Rates for the population without a disability were adjusted using direct standardization with the population with a disability as the standard population. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–19.

Violent victimization rate for persons with disabilities was **nearly four times** the age-adjusted rate for persons without disabilities

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Bureau of Justice Statistics

While accounting for 12% of the U.S. population age 12 or older, **persons with disabilities** were victims of
- 26% of violent crime,
- 29% of violent crime, excluding simple assault,
- 25% of simple assaults.

From 2017 to 2019,

- Among males, the rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was **triple** that of persons w/o disabilities. Among females it was **more than four times** as much.
- Within each racial/ethnic group, persons with disabilities had a violent victimization rate that was **at least triple** that of those without disabilities.
- For those age 64 or younger, those with disabilities had victimization rates that were **at least triple** that of those without disabilities.
- For those age 65 or older, there was **no difference** in rates by disability status.

Rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities, by disability type and type of crime, 2017–19

Disability type	Violent crime	Violent crime, excluding simple assault	Simple assault
Hearing	23.6 †	9.4 †	14.2 †
Vision	47.6 †	26.0 †	21.6 †
Cognitive*	83.3	34.6	48.7
Ambulatory	34.7 †	15.0 †	19.7 †
Self-care	37.1 †	16.6 †	20.5 †
Independent living	38.4 †	20.2 †	18.1 †

Note: Based on the noninstitutionalized U.S. resident population age 12 or older. Includes persons with multiple disability types. Rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, except for the rates for independent living disabilities, which are per 1,000 persons age 15 or older. See *Methodology*. Violent crime, excluding simple assault, includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–19.

Violent crime rates for victims with **cognitive disabilities** were **highest**

Compared to those without disabilities, violent crime **victims with disabilities were** :

- Less likely to be attacked by a stranger (41% vs 32%).
- More likely to be attacked by a relative other than an intimate partner (7% vs 14%).
- Less likely to have the crime reported to police (45% vs 38%).
- Less likely to have rape/sexual assaults reported to police (36% vs 19%).

Resources

- Report: https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0919st.pdf
- NCVS: https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs

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OVERVIEW

"We need to do a better job of tracking and reporting hate crimes to fully understand what is happening in our communities and how to stop it. There are jurisdictions that fail to report hate crime statistics. Other jurisdictions claim there were no hate crimes in their community- a fact that would be welcome if true. We must impress upon our state and local counterparts the need to track and report hate crimes. It is not something we can ignore or sweep under the rug" (Former FBI Director James B. Comey, 2014)

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Since 1992 police agency participation in the Hate Crime Reporting program increased from 2771 to14,500 (75%) of the estimated 17,500 (Foxman, 2013)

- Between 2004-2012 UCR Annual HC reported a mean of 8770 single bias incidents per year

- During 2004-2012 NCVS reported a mean of 269K HC victimizations per year of which 106K victims claim to have reported (Wilson, 2014)*

- **Theoretical Explanations for Disparity between UCR and NCVS estimates of Hate Crimes:**

  - Victims Underreport: notorious AA strained relations with police; LGBT & Muslims fear of secondary victimization; Undocumented Hispanics fear deportation; language barriers; cultural differences (stigma); Normalization of HC by Disabled victims; fear of retaliation

  - Police Misclassify HC: 90% of police participating agencies report "zero" HC (Pezzella, 2017); Non-HC reporting police agencies report "zero" HC. Both Individual officer and police agency factors encourage and discourage reporting; ambiguity in legal definitions of HC; absence of training; in effective implementation of top down HC policy regarding enforcement

-

POLICE HC PARTICIPATION AND REPORTING TRENDS HATE CRIME

HYPOTHESES

- Hypothesis 1- Hate crime victims in comparison to their ordinary crime counterparts are less likely to report their victimizations to law enforcement.

- Hypothesis 2 –Misperception of police legitimacy increases the likelihood that hate crime victims will not report their victimization to police

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Are bias crime victimizations less likely to be reported to law enforcement than non-bias crime victimizations?

- What are the most prevalent reasons victims choose for not reporting bias victimizations to police?

- What are the most prevalent reasons victims do choose to report bias victimizations to police?

DATA/SAMPLE

- National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS): Collection Year Incident-Level Extract Files

- Research Question 1:

  - 2014 NCVS

- Research Questions 2 & 3:

  - 2010-2014 NCVS (five-year average)

CRIMINAL OFFENSES

- Violent Victimizations Only
  - Rape/Sexual Assault
  - Robbery
  - Aggravated Assault
  - Simple Assault

BIAS MOTIVATIONS

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender
- Disability
- Association
- Perceived Characteristics

DEPENDENT VARIABLE

- <u>Reported Victimization to Police</u>: Dichotomous

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

- Bias Motivated Victimization*

- Situational Factors: Any Weapon Used, Any Physical Injuries, Any Psychological Trauma

- Offender Variables: Multiple Offenders, Offender was a Stranger, Perceived Drug/Alcohol Use

- Victim Characteristics: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Educational Attainment, Age

ANALYSIS

- Descriptive Statistics

- Logistic Regression (step-wise models)
  - Reported to Police (No, Yes)

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR STUDY VARIABLES- 2014 NCVS VIOLENT VICTIMIZATIONS

Variables	N	%	Variables	N	%
Total Violent Victimizations	4,197,034	100.0%			
Reported Victimization to Police			**Perceived Offender Alcohol/Drug Use**		
No	2,089,295	49.8%	No Perceived Drug/Alcohol Use*	2,910,635	69.3%
Yes	2,041,027	48.6%	Perceived Drug/Alcohol Use	1,286,399	30.7%
Bias Motivated			**Victim Gender**		
No	3,825,479	91.1%	Female*	2,123,227	50.6%
Yes	371,556	8.9%	Male	2,073,807	49.4%
Any Weapon Used			**Victim Race**		
No	3,180,449	75.8%	White*	3,198,510	76.2%
Yes	1,016,585	24.2%	Non-White	998,524	23.8%
Any Physical Injuries			**Victim Hispanic Origin**		
No	3,079,499	73.4%	Non-Hispanic*	3,557,281	84.8%
Yes	1,117,535	26.6%	Hispanic	639,753	15.2%
Any Psychological Trauma			**Victim Educational Attainment**		
No	1,063,071	25.3%	Education: Less than H.S.*	1,070,128	25.5%
Yes	3,133,964	74.7%	Education: H.S. or GED	968,218	23.1%
Number of Offenders			Education: More than H.S.	2,128,816	50.7%
One Offender*	3,343,445	79.7%	**Victim Marital Status**		
Multiple Offenders	741,844	17.7%	Single*	3,078,273	73.3%
Victim-to-Offender Relationship			Married	1,082,444	25.8%
Offender(s) is Known*	2,604,116	62.0%	**Victim Age**		
Offender(s) is Stranger	1,344,147	32.0%	Age: 12 to 34	2,301,334	54.8%

LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODELS EXPLAINING DECISIONS TO REPORT VIOLENT VICTIMIZATIONS

Variable	Equation 1			Equation 2			Equation 3			Equation 4		
	Coef.	O.R.	%	Coef.	O.R.	%	Coef.	O.R.	%	Coef.	O.R.	%
Bias Motivated	-0.064	0.938	-6.2	-0.060	0.942	-5.8	-0.152	0.859	-14.1	-0.195	0.823	-17.7
Situational Variables												
Any Weapon Used				0.661	1.936	93.2	0.596	1.815	81.5	0.625	1.868	86.8
Any Physical Injuries				0.605	1.832	83.2	0.584	1.794	79.4	0.643	1.902	90.2
Any Psychological Trauma				0.610	1.841	84.1	0.635	1.886	88.6	0.587	1.798	79.8
Offender Variables												
More than 1 Offender							0.396	1.486	48.6	0.416	1.516	51.6
Offender(s) is Stranger							0.058	1.060	6.0	0.018	1.018	1.8
Perceived Drug/Alcohol Use							0.075	1.078	7.8	0.027	1.027	2.7
Victim Characteristics												
Male										-0.112	0.894	-10.6
Non-White										0.429	1.536	53.6
Hispanic										0.186	1.204	20.4
Education: H.S. or GED										0.193	1.212	21.2
Education: More than H.S.										0.325	1.384	38.4
Marital Status: Single										-0.056	0.945	-5.5
Age: 12 to 34										-0.641	0.527	-47.3
Constant	-0.018	0.982		-0.795	0.452	-54.8	-0.902	0.406	-59.4	-0.774	0.461	-53.9

Note. Coef. = log odds; O.R. = odds ratio; % = percent change in simple odds, (calculated as O.R. - 1).
All Coefficients Statistically Significant at $p < .001$.

VICTIM REASONS FOR REPORTING FOR REPORTING TO POLICE

Reasons for Reporting Bias Victimization

VICTIM REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING TO POLICE

Reasons for Not Reporting Bias Victimization

Reason	Value
Reported to a Different Official	22.3
Not Important To Police	16.7
Personal Matter	15.6
Minor Crime, No Loss	15.1
Other Reason	12.2
Fear of Reprisal	11.1
Police Inefficient	7.5
Protect Offender	7.0
Police Biased	5.0
Lack of Proof	4.5
Too Inconvenient	3.1
Child Offender	2.8
Not Clear It was a Crime	2.5
Advised Not to Report	2.2

LIMITATIONS
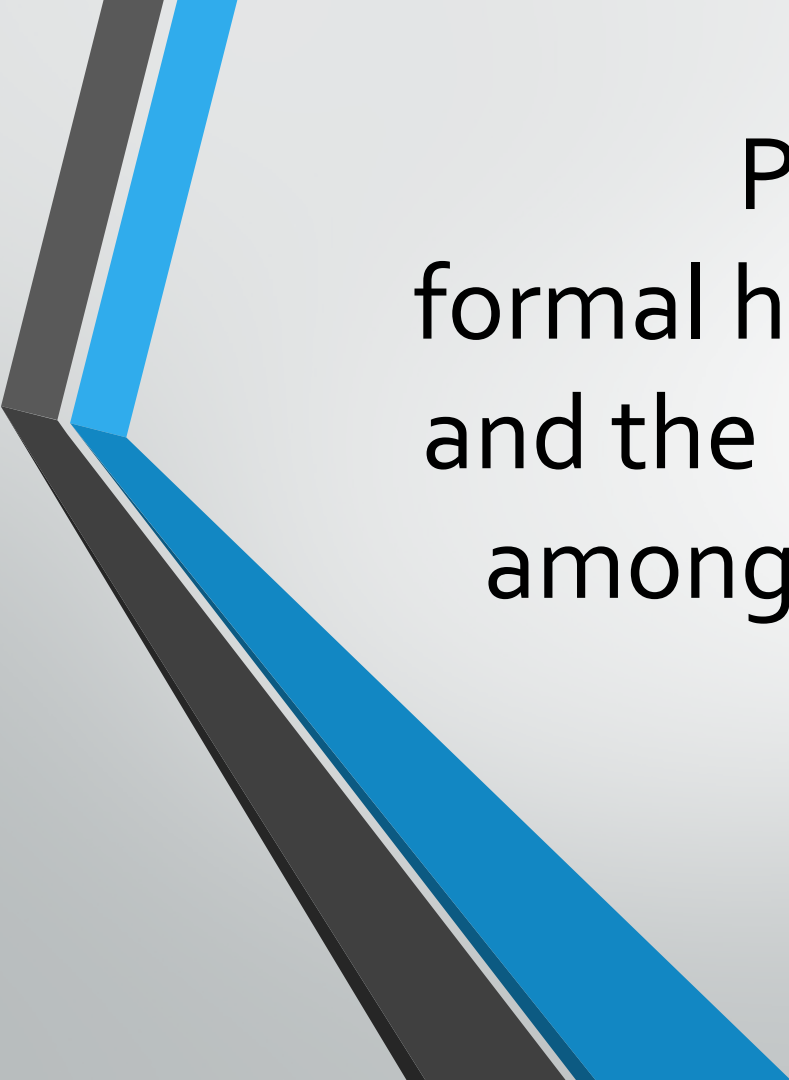
- Some crimes overlooked by NCVS – vandalism and <u>intimidation offenses</u>

- Perception of victim as to bias motivation

- Specific bias types cannot be addressed with data
  - Sexual Orientation ≠> gay, lesbian, transgender
  - Racial Bias ≠> African American, white

DISCUSSION

- Victims of bias crime were significantly less likely to report victimizations to police.

- Almost 30% of the Reasons Bias Crime Victims do not report concern issues of police legitimacy

- 52% of the reasons why victims did report was to stop the incident or prevent future incidents against themselves or others

- Findings reflect need to for enhanced police-community relations and engagement

FURTHER RESEARCH

- Analyze likelihood of injury across bias motivations

- Study for psychological trauma from property victimizations that were bias motivated

- Examine patterns and relationships to victim characteristics (e.g. juveniles)

Psychological distress, formal help-seeking behavior, and the role of victim services among violent crime victims

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Introduction

- A significant number of violent victimizations occur every year, with the most recent estimates from the NCVS indicating 5.7 million violent victimizations in 2016 (Morgan & Kena, 2017).

- Violent victimizations, including the crimes of robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault, and rape and sexual assault can result in serious harms to victims.

- While physical harms, such as bruises and broken bones, are more easily recognized and measured, the extent of mental and emotional health consequences may be more difficult to calculate.

Psychological Distress

- The term psychological distress is often used as an indicator of mental health, though the exact construct can vary from study to study.

- Drapeau, Marchand, and Beaulieu-Prévost state that in research, psychological distress "is often applied to the undifferentiated combinations of symptoms ranging from depression and general anxiety symptoms to 90 personality traits, functional disabilities and behavioural problems" (Drapeau, Marchand, & Beaulieu-Prévost, 2012, p. 105).

- Current research in the field has consistently revealed a relationship between criminal victimization and experiencing psychological distress.

Help–Seeking Behavior of Crime Victims

- Help-seeking generally refers to the behavior of actively seeking help from other people.

- Help-seeking "is about communicating with other people to obtain help in terms of understanding, advice, information, treatment, and general support in response to a problem or distressing experience" (Rickwood, Deane, Wilson, & Ciarrochi, 2005, p. 4)

- Two main types of help-seeking have been identified through prior research

  - Informal: seeking help from friends, family, or other informal social networks

  - Formal : seeking help from professionals who have a legitimate and recognized professional role that qualifies the helper to provide relevant advice, support, or treatment

Current Study

- Prior research has established that victimization, particularly violent victimization, can cause significant distress to victims; however, the relationship between victim demographics, post-victimization level of psychological distress, and formal help-seeking behaviors is much less clear.

- The purpose of this study is to better specify the relationship between victim demographics, level of psychological distress, and formal help-seeking behavior.

Research Questions

- 1: Which victim and offense characteristics are predictive of the violent crime victims who report the highest levels of psychological distress?

- 2: Which factors predict the utilization of formal help-seeking for symptoms of psychological distress among violent crime victims?

- 3: Which victim and offense characteristics predict involvement with victim services?

Data & Methods

- Data is from the National Crime Victimization Survey (2015)

- Dataset included victims of violent crimes including robbery, simple assault, aggravated assault, and sexual assault

- Dataset merged person-level, household-level, and incident-level data

- N=1,179

- Primary method of analyses was binary logistic regression modeling

Dependent Variables

- Highest Degree of Psychological Distress
  - *"Thinking about your distress associated with being a victim of this crime, did you feel _____ for a month or more?"*
  - Included worried, angry, sad, vulnerable, violated, mistrust, or unsafe
  - victims reporting 0-6 symptoms were coded as 0, and those experiencing all 7 indicators of psychological distress were coded as 1
- Formal Help-Seeking Behavior
  - Methods of help included counseling/therapy, medication, visiting a doctor or nurse, visiting an ER/hospital/Clinic, or other self-reported formal help-seeking behavior.
- Received Help from Victim-Services

Independent Variables

- Victim Characteristics
- Offense Characteristics

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics (N=1179)

Variable	Percent/Mean	Variable	Percent/Mean
Sex		**Police**	
Male	44.3%	Did Not Report	52.4%
Female	55.7%	Reported	47.6%
Age	38.04 (mean)	**Victim Services**	
		No	91.6%
Race		Yes	8.4%
White	75.9%		
Black	14.3%	**Victim-Offender Relationship**	
Other Non-White	9.8%	Stranger	30.8%
		Known	53.3%
Ethnicity		Intimate Partner	15.9%
Not Hispanic	85.7%		
Hispanic	14.3%	**Distress**	
		None or Mild	43.9%
Marital Status		Moderate or Severe	56.1%
Not Married	71.5%		
Married	28.5%	**Psychological Distress Symptoms (n=654)**	
		Worried	73.6%
Education		Angry	72.1%
No College Degree	77.9%	Sad	52.0%
College Degree	21.7%	Vulnerable	65.3%
		Violated	64.6%
Income	25K-35K	Distrustful	57.8%
		Unsafe	69.3%
Disability			
No	76.1%	**Highest Level of Psychological Distress**	
Yes	23.9%	No	84.3%
		Yes	15.7%
Type of Victimization			
Simple Assault	62.7%	**Formal Help-Seeking (n=654)**	
Aggravated Assault	19.3%	**(for moderate or severe distressed victims)**	
Robbery	12.3%	No	76.8%
Sexual Assault	5.7%	Yes	23.2%
Multiple Victimization		**Types of Help-Seeking (n=654)**	
No	54.2%	Therapy	88.2%
Yes	45.8%	Medication	27.5%
		Doctor Visit	24.2%
Perceived Hate Crime		ER/Clinic Visit	12.4%
No	93.4%	Other	4.6%
Yes	6.6%		
		Formal Help-Seeking (n=185)	
Weapon		**(for highest psychologically distressed victims)**	
No	68.7%	No	56.8%
Yes	31.3%	Yes	43.2%

Logistic Regression Models

- Model 1: High Degree of Psychological Distress

- Model 2: Formal Help-Seeking Behavior

- Model 3: Received Help from Victim Services

Model 1 Psychological Distress

Model 1 – Logistic Regression Predicting Highest Level of Psychological Distress

Variable	B	S.E.	Wald	Exp (B)
Constant	-4.150			
Female	.630	.231	7.470	1.878**
Age	.019	.007	8.372	1.019**
Black	.215	.276	.602	1.239
Other Non-White	-.080	.337	.057	.923
Hispanic	.397	.276	2.064	1.487
Married	-.288	.258	1.240	.750
College Degree	-.242	.271	.798	.785
Household Income	-.085	.024	12.676	.918***
Sexual Assault	1.767	.349	25.666	5.855***
Robbery	.441	.317	1.936	1.554
Aggravated Assault	.755	.254	8.866	2.128**
Multi-Victimization	.687	.205	11.219	1.988**
Disability	.879	.220	15.998	2.407***
Perceived Hate Crime	1.305	.327	15.945	3.687***
Weapon Present	.110	.123	.796	1.116
Physical Harm	.488	.153	10.177	1.628**
Police Notified	.257	.209	1.523	1.293
Victim Services Contact	.351	.306	1.313	1.420
Known Offender	.201	.270	.558	1.223
Intimate Partner Offender	1.336	.312	18.383	3.804***
N	1107			
-2LL	706.461			
Chi Square	253.190			
Nagelkerke R²	.353			

*p<.05; **p<.01, ***p<.001

Model 2 Formal Help-Seeking Behavior

Model 2 – Logistic Regression Predicting Formal Help-Seeking for Psychological Distress

Variable	B	S.E.	Wald	Exp (B)
Constant	-1.798			
Female	.689	.272	6.427	1.993*
Age	-.024	.008	9.587	.976**
Black	.093	.313	.089	1.098
Other Non-White	-.433	.402	1.159	.649
Hispanic	-.191	.329	.336	.826
Married	-.672	.312	4.639	.511*
College Degree	.724	.287	6.339	2.062*
Household Income	-.024	.027	.818	.976
Sexual Assault	.125	.388	.103	1.133
Robbery	-.491	.364	1.818	.612
Aggravated Assault	-.327	.296	1.217	.721
Multi-Victimization	-.050	.228	.048	.951
Disability	.933	.265	12.438	2.542***
Perceived Hate Crime	.409	.377	1.178	1.506
Weapon Present	.147	.124	1.394	1.158
Physical Harm	.210	.165	1.624	1.234
Police Notified	.160	.233	.470	1.173
Victim Services Contact	1.715	.318	29.135	5.559***
Known Offender	.304	.299	1.034	1.356
Intimate Partner Offender	.094	.356	.070	1.099
Highest Psychological Distress	1.210	.247	24.074	3.353***
N	615			
-2LL	544.837			
Chi Square	138.473			
Nagelkerke R²	.301			

*p<.05; **p<.01, ***p<.001

Model 3 Victim Services

Model 3 – Logistic Regression Predicting Involvement of Victim Services

Variable	B	S.E.	Wald	Exp (B)
Constant	-3.257			
Female	-.132	.253	.271	.877
Age	.000	.008	.001	1.000
Black	-.624	.377	2.741	.536
Other Non-White	.718	.333	4.649	2.050*
Hispanic	-.678	.377	3.224	.508
Married	-.141	.291	.236	.868
College Degree	.244	.294	.692	1.277
Household Income	-.042	.028	2.279	.959
Sexual Assault	.420	.438	.920	1.522
Robbery	.806	.330	5.962	2.240*
Aggravated Assault	.521	.299	3.043	1.684
Multi-Victimization	-.608	.242	6.305	.544*
Disability	-.109	.279	.153	.896
Perceived Hate Crime	.093	.453	.042	1.097
Weapon Present	.044	.154	.083	1.045
Physical Harm	.452	.164	7.588	1.571**
Police Notified	.746	.248	9.081	2.109**
Known Offender	.743	.315	5.581	2.103*
Intimate Partner Offender	1.275	.378	11.348	3.578***
Highest Psychological Distress	.443	.296	2.247	1.558
N	1107			
-2LL	584.932			
Chi Square	81.967			
Nagelkerke R²	.158			

*p<.05; **p<.01, ***p<.001

Results

- Factors that predict high psychological distress do not all predict formal help-seeking behavior.

  - less than half of those who were identified as having the highest level of psychological distress reported any type of formal help-seeking behavior

- Sexual assault victimization was the most salient predictor for identifying victims with the highest psychological distress

  - sexual assault victimization was not a significant predictor of formal help-seeking behavior, nor was it a significant predictor of contact with victim services.

- Contact with victim services increased the odds of formal help-seeking behavior by 5.559 and was the most salient significant predictor for formal help-seeking.

- Only 8.4% of the sample reported recieving help or advice from victim services

  - those most in need of victim services and subsequent connection to help for psychological distress are not the victims most likely to have contact with victim services

Suggestions – Policy & Future Research

- Screening tool for identifying victims with the highest risk of developing psychological distress post-victimization

- Further coordination/communication to connect victims to services, especially those who do not report their victimization to police

- Understanding barriers that prevent access or desire to use available services or to seek help following victimization

Thank You

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Discussion

NCVS Resources and Closing

❑ BJS home page, including JustStats newsletter and forthcoming products: https://bjs.ojp.gov/

❑ NCVS home page, including redesign, subnational, and supplements: https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs

❑ N-DASH: https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/Home

❑ BJS Multimedia: https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/multimedia/list

❑ Register! UMD NCVS Research Forum Session 3, NCVS User Workshop; Thursday, May 4, 1-3pm

❑ More questions?

    ❑ Follow up on specific topics with the presenters

    ❑ Send any general NCVS questions to AskBJS@usdoj.gov

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