



# Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey

September 2002, NCJ 194610

## Criminal Victimization 2001 Changes 2000-01 with Trends 1993-2001

By Callie Rennison, Ph.D.  
BJS Statistician

Americans age 12 or older experienced approximately 24.2 million violent and property victimizations in 2001 according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Overall criminal victimizations included about 18.3 million property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft), 5.7 million violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), and about 188,000 personal thefts (pocket picking and purse snatching).

The 24.2 million criminal victimizations in 2001 represent a decrease from 25.9 million victimizations in 2000, and furthered a downward trend that began in 1994. Criminal victimization estimates in 2001 are the lowest recorded since the 1973 estimate of 44 million victimizations when the NCVS was initiated.

The violent crime rate fell 10% from 28 to 25 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons; the personal theft rate fell 33%; and the property crime rate fell 6%, from 178 to 167 victimizations per 1,000 households, 2000-01.

Between 1993 and 2001 the violent crime rate decreased 50%, from 50 to 25 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, the personal theft rate fell 65%, and the property crime rate declined 48%.

### Highlights

**Among 5.7 million violent victimizations in 2001 — most male victims faced strangers, while most female victims faced someone they knew. The crimes against females were more likely to be reported to the police.**

Victim-offender relationship	Violent crimes		Percent of violent crimes reported to the police, 2001
<b>Male victims</b>	3,027,400		
Intimate	3%		
Other relative	4	Total	50%
Friend/acquaintance	37	<b>Male victims</b>	46%
Stranger	55	White	45
		Black	53
<b>Female victims</b>	2,716,420	Other	43
Intimate	20%	<b>Female victims</b>	53%
Other relative	9	White	53
Friend/acquaintance	37	Black	58
Stranger	32	Other	40

Note: 2% of both male and female victims did not report relationship.

- The violent crime rate fell 10%, 2000-01, due primarily to a significant decrease in the rate of simple assault, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).
- The overall property crime rate fell 6% between 2000 and 2001 because of decreases in theft and household burglary rates.
- Violent victimization and property crime rates in 2001 are the lowest recorded since the NCVS' inception in 1973.<sup>1</sup>
- For the first year since the redesign of the NCVS in 1992, in 2001 males and females were victims of simple assault at similar rates.
- Per 1,000 persons in 2001, the never married and the divorced/separated were victimized by violent crime at rates (45 and 42) about 4 times those of married and widowed persons (11 and 8).
- About half of violent victimizations and 37% of property crimes were reported to the police in 2001.
- Most violent crime victims did not face an armed offender (66%). Victims of rape/sexual assault (7%) were the least likely, while robbery victims (55%) were the most likely to face an armed offender.
- Violent crimes were less likely to involve firearms in 2001 than in the period 1993-96.

<sup>1</sup>Based on adjustments to pre-1992 estimates to account for the 1992 redesign of the NCVS.

### Victimization trends, 1973-2001

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) gathers information from a large representative sample of U.S. households. First conducted in 1973 and redesigned most recently in 1992, the survey can now trace a three-decade trend in criminal victimization in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

#### Record lows

The rates per 1,000 persons or households in 2001 for overall violent crime (25), simple assault (16), overall property crime (167), burglary (29), and theft (129) were the lowest ever recorded by the NCVS. Other crime rates registered at their lowest point but were similar to 2000 rates. These crimes included —

- 1 rape/sexual assault, 3 robberies, and 5 aggravated assaults per 1,000 persons.
- 9 motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 households.

#### Violent crime

The violent crime victimization rate fluctuated between 1973 and 1994 and has since steadily declined. The 10% decline for 2000-01 equaled declines for 1994-95 and 1995-96, but was smaller than the 15% decrease for 1999-2000.

The **robbery** rate has moved in concert with the overall violent crime rate. Initially, through 1978, the robbery rate fell, then reversed course and increased until 1981. After a decline ending in 1985, the robbery rate rose slowly until 1994 when it decreased until 1997. Since 1997 the rate has not changed significantly from one year to the next.

The rate of **aggravated assault** declined with some interruptions from 1974 to the mid-1980's. Following several years of minimal changes, the aggravated assault rate increased 1990-93. Between 1994 and 2000 the aggravated assault rate fell steadily. Between 2000 and 2001 the rate of aggravated assault did not change.

**Simple assault**, the most common form of violent crime measured by the NCVS, increased 1974-1977 then remained stable until 1979. The rate then declined until 1989, when it increased through 1994. After 1994 the rate fell steadily to its current lowest recorded level of 16 simple assaults per 1,000 persons.

#### Property crime

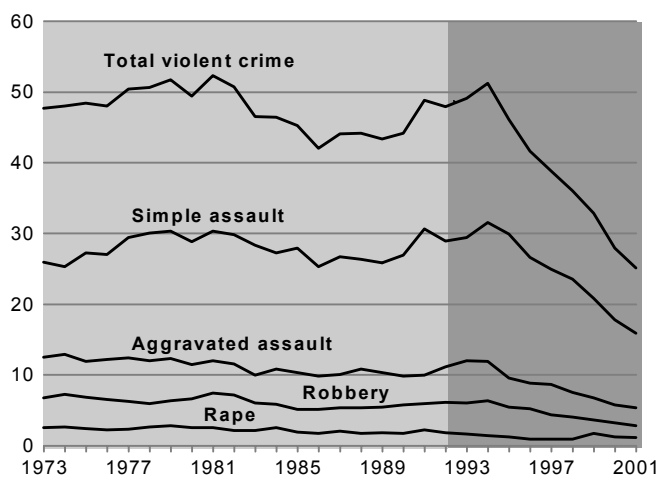
Aside from an increase between 1973 and 1974, property crime rates have fallen through the duration of the NCVS.

The **burglary** rate, after a period of slow decline interrupted by an increase from 1980 to 1981, fell each year thereafter. The 2001 burglary rate was about a third of the 1973 adjusted rate.

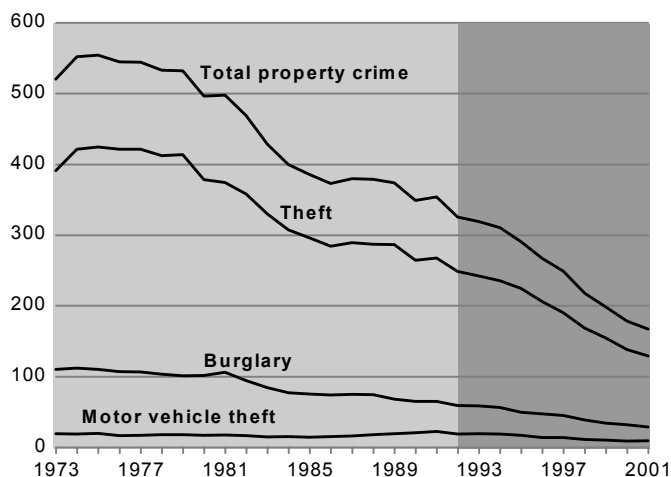
The **motor vehicle theft** rate, despite some periods of increase, primarily declined, 1973-2000. From 2000 to 2001 the rate was stable. The 2001 rate of 9 motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 households was about half the 1973 rate of 19 per 1,000 households.

The **theft** rate increased between 1973 and 1974, then stabilized until 1977. After 1978 theft rates declined steadily, reaching the current lowest recorded rate of 129 thefts per 1,000 households in 2001.

**Violent crime victimization rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, 1973-2001**



**Property crime victimization rate per 1,000 households, 1973-2001**



<sup>2</sup>For more information about the redesign, see *The Effects of the Redesign on Victimization Estimates* (NCJ 164381), National Crime Victimization Survey (NCJ 151169), National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign: Fact Sheet (NCJ 151170), Technical Background (NCJ 151172), and the Questions & Answers (NCJ 151171).

Note: From 1973 through 1991 data were collected under the National Crime Survey (NCS) and have been adjusted to be comparable to data collected under the redesigned methods of the NCVS that began in 1992.

**Criminal victimization, from 2000 to 2001**

*Violent crime*

The NCVS collects data on nonfatal crimes against persons age 12 or older, reported and not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households in the United States. Information on homicide comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of the FBI.

*Violent crimes measured by the NCVS*

Overall violent victimization refers to rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault taken as a whole. The overall violent victimization rate declined 10% from 28 to 25 victimizations per 1,000 persons, 2000-01 (table 1).

Of the major violent crimes covered by the NCVS, simple assault was the sole crime that decreased, 2000-01 (18 to 16 simple assaults per 1,000 persons). Apparent decreases in rates for rape/sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault were not significant.

The rates at which males, whites, and non-Hispanics were victimized by violent crimes declined, 2000-01. Males experienced a 17% drop; whites a 10% drop; and non-Hispanics a 12% drop in violence, 2000-01. Statistically significant changes in rates of violent victimization did not occur for females, Hispanics, blacks, and persons of "other" races (Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, and American Indians considered together).

	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Male	32.9	27.3	-17.0%*
Female	23.2	23.0	-0.9
White	27.1	24.5	-9.6%*
Black	35.3	31.2	-11.6
Other	20.7	18.2	-12.1
Hispanic	28.4	29.5	+3.9%
Non-Hispanic	27.7	24.5	-11.6*

\*2000-01 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Table 1. Criminal victimization, 2000-01**

Type of crime	Number of victimizations (1,000's)		Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)		
	2000	2001	2000	2001	Percent change, 2000-01
<b>All crimes</b>	25,893	24,216	...	...	
<b>Personal crimes<sup>a</sup></b>	6,597	5,932	29.1	25.9	-11.0%*
Crimes of violence	6,323	5,744	27.9	25.1	-10.0*
Completed violence	2,044	1,828	9.0	8.0	-11.1
Attempted/threatened violence	4,279	3,916	18.9	17.1	-9.5 <sup>†</sup>
Rape/sexual assault	261	248	1.2	1.1	-8.3
Rape/attempted rape	147	146	0.6	0.6	0.0
Rape	92	84	0.4	0.4	0.0
Attempted rape	55	63	0.2	0.3	50.0
Sexual assault	114	102	0.5	0.4	-20.0
Robbery	732	631	3.2	2.8	-12.5
Completed/property taken	520	427	2.3	1.9	-17.4
With injury	160	174	0.7	0.8	14.3
Without injury	360	253	1.6	1.1	-31.3*
Attempted to take property	212	204	0.9	0.9	0.0
With injury	66	68	0.3	0.3	0.0
Without injury	146	136	0.6	0.6	0.0
Assault	5,330	4,865	23.5	21.2	-9.8*
Aggravated	1,293	1,222	5.7	5.3	-7.0
With injury	346	392	1.5	1.7	13.3
Threatened with weapon	946	831	4.2	3.6	-14.3
Simple	4,038	3,643	17.8	15.9	-10.7*
With minor injury	989	845	4.4	3.7	-15.9 <sup>†</sup>
Without injury	3,048	2,798	13.4	12.2	-9.0
Personal theft <sup>b</sup>	274	188	1.2	0.8	-33.3*
<b>Property crimes</b>	19,297	18,284	178.1	166.9	-6.3%*
Household burglary	3,444	3,140	31.8	28.7	-9.7*
Completed	2,909	2,687	26.9	24.5	-8.9 <sup>†</sup>
Forcible entry	1,038	1,057	9.6	9.6	0.0
Unlawful entry without force	1,872	1,630	17.3	14.9	-13.9*
Attempted forcible entry	534	453	4.9	4.1	-16.3 <sup>†</sup>
Motor vehicle theft	937	1,009	8.6	9.2	7.0
Completed	642	724	5.9	6.6	11.9
Attempted	295	285	2.7	2.6	-3.7
Theft	14,916	14,135	137.7	129.0	-6.3*
Completed <sup>c</sup>	14,300	13,672	132.0	124.8	-5.5*
Less than \$50	4,707	4,696	43.4	42.9	-1.2
\$50-\$249	5,297	4,814	48.9	43.9	-10.2*
\$250 or more	3,177	3,176	29.3	29.0	-1.0
Attempted	616	463	5.7	4.2	-26.3*

Note: Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury. The total population age 12 or older was 229,215,290 in 2001 and 226,804,610 in 2000. The total number of households was 109,568,450 in 2001 and 108,352,960 in 2000.

... Not applicable.

\*The difference from 2000 to 2001 is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

<sup>†</sup>The difference from 2000 to 2001 is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>b</sup>Includes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

<sup>c</sup>Includes thefts with unknown losses.

The rate at which never married persons were victims of violent crime fell 13% from 51 to 45 victimizations per 1,000, 2000-01. Apparent declines in the rate of violent victimization experienced by married, widowed and divorced/separated persons were not significant.

	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Never married	51.4	44.7	-13.0%*
Married	12.8	11.4	-10.9
Widowed	8.1	7.7	-4.9
Divorced/separated	42.2	42.0	-0.5

\*2000-01 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Many apparent changes in the rate of violent victimization experienced by persons in different age categories were not significant, 2000-01.

Moreover, persons in age categories historically associated with high rates of violence — ages 16-19 and 20-24 — had no measurable declines in rates from 2000 to 2001.

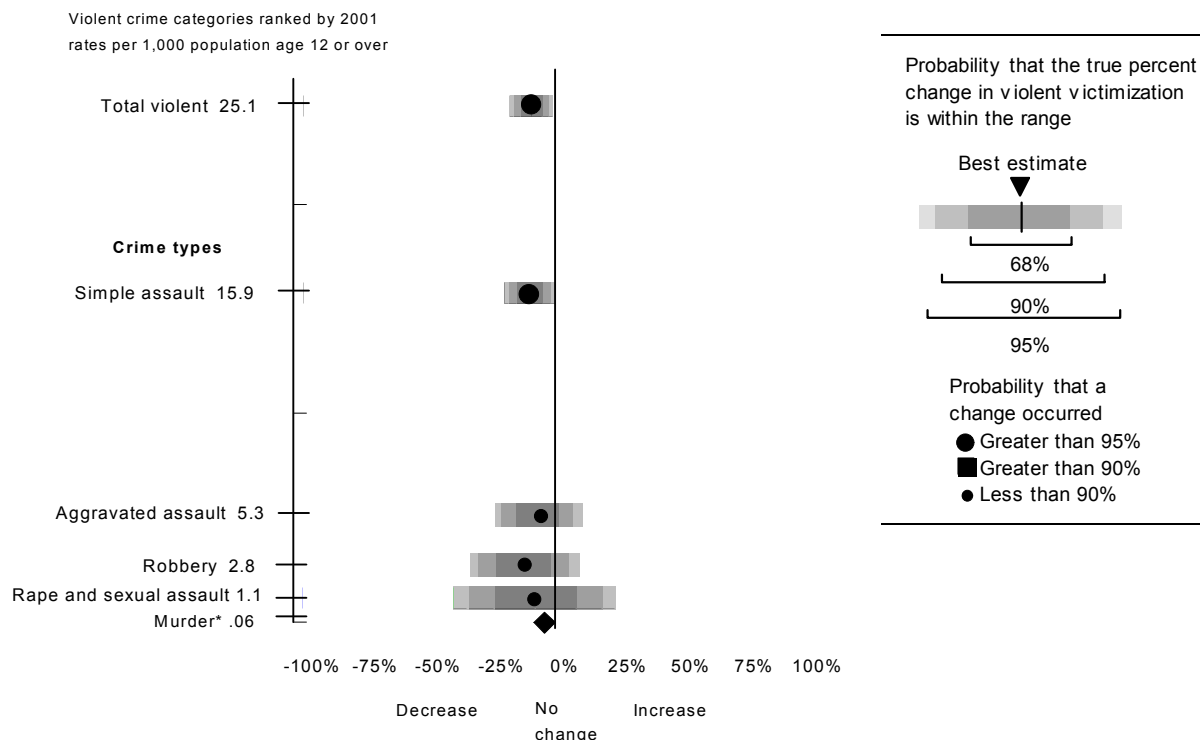
	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2000	2001	Percent change
12-15 years	60.1	55.1	-8.3%
16-19 years	64.3	55.8	-13.2
20-24 years	49.4	44.7	-9.5
25-34 years	34.8	29.3	-15.8 <sup>†</sup>
35-49 years	21.8	22.9	+5.0
50-64 years	13.7	9.5	-30.7 <sup>*</sup>
65+ years	3.7	3.2	-13.5

2000-01 difference is significant at the —  
<sup>\*</sup>95%-confidence level. <sup>†</sup>90%-confidence level.

Persons age 25 to 34 experienced violence at slightly decreased rates (35 to 29 per 1,000), while those age 50 to 64 experienced violence at a rate that was 31% lower in 2001 than in 2000.

### Change in violent victimization, by category, 2000-01

#### Annual percent change in violent victimization by category, 2000-01



Note: The change in murder rates is presented as a point because the source of the data, the Uniform Crime Reports, is not derived from sample data. The homicide data point is for 2000. For further explanation of the graph, see the BJS Technical Report *Displaying Violent Crime Trends Using Estimates from the*

*National Crime Victimization Survey*, NCJ 167881. <sup>\*</sup>The murder rate is for persons of all ages.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, and FBI, Uniform Crime Reports.

The figure shows the estimated annual percentage change in victimization rates from 2000 to 2001 for the categories that comprise violent crime: homicide, rape and sexual assault, aggravated assault, simple assault, and robbery.

The crime categories are displayed vertically according to their 2001 rates per 1,000 population age 12 or older. Total violent (the sum of all

types) is first with the highest rate, and murder is last with the lowest rate.

Because the National Crime Victimization Survey relies on a sample of households, the rates and numbers from it are estimates and are not exact. Each horizontal bar shows the range within which the true percent change in rates from year to year is likely to fall.

If a bar is clear of the “No change” line, one may be

reasonably certain a change occurred. If a bar crosses the “No change” line, there is a possibility that there was no change. The degree of certainty depends on where the bar crosses the line. A line shadows the bottom and a side of those bars representing crime categories in which a statistically significant year-to-year change occurred.

Bar lengths vary from crime to crime, dependent upon a variety of factors such as

sample size and rarity of the event. Because homicide rates are derived from nonsample data, the value for the 1999-2000 homicide rate change is given as a point estimate and not as a range of estimates. Murder rates have no variance associated with their point estimates, though some discrepancies exist between UCR rates and *Vital Statistics* of the National Center for Health Statistics.

Persons in households with incomes of less than \$7,500 a year experienced a 23% decline in the rate of violence, 2000-01.

	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	60.3	46.6	-22.7%*
\$7,500-\$14,999	37.8	36.9	-2.4
\$15,000-\$24,999	31.8	31.8	0.0
\$25,000-\$34,999	29.8	29.1	-2.3
\$35,000-\$49,999	28.5	26.3	-7.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	23.7	21.0	-11.4
\$75,000 or more	22.3	18.5	-17.0 <sup>‡</sup>

\*2000-01 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Apparent decreases in the rate of violence experienced by residents of the South, Northeast, and the West — historically associated with the highest rate of nonfatal violence — were not significant, 2000-01. A decline in the rate of violence occurred for Midwesterners, as the rate fell 20% from 30 to 24 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons during this time.

	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Northeast	23.5	20.2	-14.0%
Midwest	30.4	24.4	-19.7*
South	24.9	23.8	-4.4
West	33.9	32.3	-4.7
Urban	35.1	33.2	-5.4%
Suburban	25.8	22.3	-13.6*
Rural	23.6	21.1	-10.6

\*2000-01 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

Suburbanites experienced violent victimization at a rate lower in 2001 than in 2000. Between 2000 and 2001, the rate of violence experienced by suburbanites fell 14% from 26 to 22 victimizations per 1,000 persons. No measurable change emerged in the rate of violence experienced by residents in urban and rural areas, 2000-01.

**Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter measured by the UCR**

The murder and nonnegligent manslaughter rate fell 3.1% between 1999 and 2000 from a rate of 5.7 to 5.5

murders per 100,000.<sup>2</sup> The numbers of murders and nonnegligent homicides estimated in 2000 and 1999 were almost identical — 15,517 and 15,522, respectively.

For the South there was a rate of 6.8 victims per 100,000 inhabitants. The West and the Midwest had a murder rate of 5.1 per 100,000. The Northeast experienced murder at the lowest rate of all regions — 4 per 100,000 persons. Murder rates declined in all regions between 1999 and 2000. The largest decline occurred in the West (6.5% less), while the smallest took place in the South (1.5% less).

Cities experienced an increase of 0.7% in murder between 1999 and 2000. Cities with less than 10,000 persons experienced the greatest increase in murder (11.7%), while cities with a population of 250,000 or more experienced a decline in the murder rate of 0.3%.

<sup>2</sup>The FBI reported in its preliminary release of crime data an increase of 3.1% in murder during 2001. Based on the 2000 level of 15,517 murders, the percentage represents 481 additional murders in 2001. The estimated murder rate in 2001 of 7.2 per 100,000 would be higher than the rates for 1999 and 2000, the lowest levels since the mid-1960's. See <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>>.

**Property crime**

	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2000	2001	Percent change
White	173.3	165.1	-4.7% <sup>‡</sup>
Black	212.2	179.7	-15.3*
Other	171.3	163.6	-4.5
Hispanic	227.0	224.1	-1.3%
Non-Hispanic	173.4	161.3	-7.0*

2000-01 difference is significant at the — \*95%-confidence level. <sup>‡</sup>90%-confidence level.

The NCVS includes as property crimes burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft considered together. Between 2000 and 2001 the overall property crime rate fell 6% from 178 to 167 crimes per 1,000 households (table 1).

The decline in overall property crime rates is explained by significant decreases in household burglary and theft between 2000 and 2001. The decrease in the household burglary rate was driven by slight declines in the rate of completed household burglary, attempted forcible entry and a significant decrease in the rate of unlawful entry without force. The drop in the theft rate resulted from decreases in completed thefts of between \$50 and \$249 and attempted theft, 2000-01.

**Murder in the United States, 2000**

In 2000, the year in which the most recent data are available, the FBI reported a total of 15,517 murders or nonnegligent homicides. The total represents a .03% decrease from the 15,522 murders recorded in 1999. The FBI defines murder in its annual *Crime in the United States* as the willful, nonnegligent killing of one human being by another. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program gathers statistics on murder from over 16,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies.

Murder rates differ based on victim characteristics, but the relationship between victim characteristics and incidence of homicide tends to remain the same. In 2000:

- Males accounted for 76% of all murder victims.
- When the race of the victim was known, white persons accounted for 6,263 and black persons accounted for 6,193 of all homicide victims.
- 44% of murder victims knew the offender; 13% of victims were murdered by a stranger; and victim-offender relationship was unknown for 43%.
- Firearms were used in 66% of murders committed in 2000.
- Males (89%) and females (91%) were most often murdered by males.
- Arguments were the circumstance leading to murder for 29% of murders.

Property crime rates decreased between 2000 and 2001 for black and non-Hispanic households. The rate for white households was only slightly lower in 2001. No measurable change occurred for households of persons of "other" races or of Hispanics, 2000-01.<sup>3</sup>

Households with an annual income of less than \$7,500 and those with incomes between \$25,000 and \$34,999 experienced property crimes at lower rates in 2001 than they did in 2000. Persons in households with incomes of \$75,000 or more annually were victims of property crimes at rates slightly lower in 2001 than in 2000.

	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	220.9	184.6	-16.4%*
\$7,500-\$14,999	167.1	181.6	+8.7
\$15,000-\$24,999	193.1	179.2	-7.2
\$25,000-\$34,999	192.2	170.4	-11.3*
\$35,000-\$49,999	192.9	176.4	-8.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	181.9	178.8	-1.7
\$75,000 or more	197.2	180.0	-8.7†

2000-01 difference is significant at the — \*95%-confidence level. †90%-confidence level.

Apparent decreases in the property crime rates of households in the Midwest and the West were not significant, 2000-01. Households in the Northeast were property crime victims at a rate 14% lower in 2001 compared to 2000 and Southern households were victims of property crime at slightly lower rates in 2001 than in 2000 (a 6% decrease). Rural households were property crime victims at rates 14% lower in 2001 than in 2000.

<sup>3</sup>In this report, "other races" and "others" are defined as Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, and American Indians considered together.

	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Northeast	143.7	123.9	-13.8%*
Midwest	181.9	172.3	-5.3
South	167.8	157.5	-6.1†
West	223.4	216.4	-3.1
Urban	222.1	212.8	-4.2%
Suburban	163.7	156.7	-4.3
Rural	152.6	131.9	-13.6*

2000-01 difference is significant at the — \*95%-confidence level. †90%-confidence level.

Similarly households in rented residences were victims of property crime at rates 8% lower in 2001 than in 2000.

	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Owned	153.4	146.3	-4.6%
Rented	228.3	209.6	-8.2*

\*2000-01 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

### Characteristics of violent crime victims, 2001

Teens and blacks — the persons often the most vulnerable to violent victimiza-

tion in the past — continued to be more vulnerable than others to violent victimization in 2001 (table 2).

### Gender of victim

Males were victims of robbery, total assault, and aggravated assault at rates higher than females, and females were victims of rape or sexual assault at rates greater than males during 2001. For the first year since the redesign of the NCVS in 1992, in 2001 males and females were victims of simple assault at similar rates. In all previous years, males were victims of simple assault at higher rates than females.

### Age of victim

In general the younger the person, the higher rate of violent victimization. In 2001 persons age 12 to 15 and age 16 to 19 experienced overall violence at similar rates, which were higher than rates of persons in older categories. Beginning with the 20-24 age category,

**Table 2. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by gender, age, race, and Hispanic origin, 2001**

Characteristic of victim	Population	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						Personal theft
		Violent crimes						
		All	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Total	Assault Aggra-vated	Simple	
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	111,074,760	27.3	0.2*	3.8	23.2	6.5	16.7	0.8
Female	118,140,540	23.0	1.9	1.7	19.4	4.2	15.1	0.9
<b>Age</b>								
12-15	16,277,310	55.1	1.7*	5.2	48.3	8.7	39.6	0.5*
16-19	16,125,600	55.8	3.4	6.4	46.1	12.3	33.8	3.0
20-24	18,957,780	44.7	2.4	4.2	38.1	10.7	27.4	1.8
25-34	37,555,740	29.3	1.1	3.6	24.6	6.5	18.1	1.0
35-49	65,211,500	22.9	1.0	2.1	19.7	5.2	14.5	0.4*
50-64	42,217,420	9.5	0.2*	1.2	8.2	2.0	6.2	0.3*
65 or older	32,869,960	3.2	0.1*	1.3	1.8	0.4*	1.4	0.7*
<b>Race</b>								
White	191,215,270	24.5	1.0	2.6	20.8	5.1	15.7	0.8
Black	28,385,340	31.2	1.1	3.6	26.4	8.1	18.3	0.8*
Other	9,614,690	18.2	1.6*	2.4*	14.2	2.6*	11.6	1.7*
<b>Hispanic origin</b>								
Hispanic	25,437,380	29.5	1.1*	5.3	23.1	6.6	16.6	0.7*
Non-Hispanic	202,132,190	24.5	1.1	2.4	21.0	5.2	15.8	0.8

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included.

\* Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

the rate at which persons were victims of overall violent crime declined significantly as the age category increased.

*Race of victim*

Blacks were victims of overall violence, total assault, and aggravated assault at rates higher than whites or "others." Also in 2001 blacks were victims of simple assault at rates similar to the rates of whites and higher than the rates of "others." Rates of rape/sexual assault and robbery were similar for whites, blacks, and persons of "other races" in 2001.

*Hispanic origin of victim*

During 2001 compared to non-Hispanics, Hispanics were victims of overall violence at somewhat higher rates and robbery at significantly higher rates. No measurable difference in the rates of other violence crime categories emerged.

*Household income*

Few differences were found between household income levels as to whether persons were more or less vulnerable to violent crimes in 2001 (table 3). Persons in households with an annual income under \$25,000 were robbed at a significantly higher rate than persons in households earning more. Persons whose household had an annual income of under \$50,000 were significantly more likely than persons in higher income households to experience assault overall.

*Marital status*

For all categories of violent crime considered in 2001, persons who had never married and those who were divorced or separated were victimized at similar rates. In addition, never married and divorced/separated persons were victimized at rates higher than married and widowed persons, across all types of crime.

**Table 3. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by household income, marital status, region, and location of residence of victims, 2001**

Characteristic of victim	Population	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						
		Violent crimes					Personal theft	
		All	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Assault Aggravated	Simple		
<b>Household income</b>								
Less than \$7,500	9,178,150	46.6	3.7	4.7	38.2	16.1	22.1	1.0*
\$7,500 - \$14,999	16,276,910	36.9	1.6*	4.4	31.0	8.9	22.1	0.8*
\$15,000 - \$24,999	24,993,740	31.8	2.0	4.3	25.5	7.8	17.6	0.9*
\$25,000 - \$34,999	25,901,020	29.1	1.3	2.2	25.6	4.5	21.0	1.0*
\$35,000 - \$49,999	31,998,650	26.3	1.1	2.4	22.9	6.0	16.8	0.6*
\$50,000 - \$74,999	34,786,680	21.0	0.8	2.3	17.9	3.7	14.1	0.6*
\$75,000 or more	40,799,640	18.5	0.6*	1.6	16.3	3.1	13.1	0.6
<b>Marital status</b>								
Never married	72,594,400	44.7	2.1	5.0	37.6	9.6	28.1	1.8
Married	116,743,830	11.4	0.3	1.1	10.0	2.5	7.5	0.2*
Divorced/separated	24,631,090	42.0	2.0	4.8	35.2	9.0	26.2	0.8*
Widowed	13,713,590	7.7	0.4*	1.8*	5.5	1.1	4.5	0.8*
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast	43,544,930	20.2	0.7	2.7	16.7	3.7	13.1	1.1
Midwest	54,661,340	24.4	1.2	2.1	21.2	5.1	16.0	1.1
South	81,955,920	23.8	1.1	3.0	19.6	5.5	14.2	0.4
West	49,053,110	32.3	1.2	3.1	27.9	6.8	21.1	1.0
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	63,821,430	33.2	1.9	4.9	26.5	7.5	19.0	1.7
Suburban	109,473,240	22.3	0.9	2.2	19.2	4.3	14.9	0.5
Rural	55,920,620	21.1	0.5*	1.4	19.2	5.0	14.2	0.4

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included.

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Married and widowed persons were victims of rape/sexual assault and robbery at similar rates. Widowed persons were victims of overall violent crime, total, aggravated and simple assault at the lowest rate of all groups considered.

*Region*

Western residents were victimized by violent crime overall, total assault, and simple assault at the highest rates in 2001. Northeastern residents were victims of overall violence at rates significantly or somewhat lower than in all other regions. Midwestern and Southern residents were victimized at similar rates for all violent crimes except robbery. Midwesterners were robbed at rates somewhat lower than Southerners during 2001. No other differences in rates of robbery emerged among the other regions.

*Residence*

Whatever the type of crime considered, urban residents experienced violence at rates higher than suburban and rural residents in 2001. Urbanites were violent crime victims at rates about 50% greater than rates for suburban residents, and 60% greater than rates for rural residents during 2001. For every crime except robbery suburban and rural residents were victimized at similar rates. Suburban residents were robbed at a rate about 60% greater than the rate for rural residents.

**Table 4. Victim and offender relationship, 2001**

Relationship with victim	Violent crime		Rape or sexual assault		Robbery		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>All victims</b>										
Total	5,743,820	100%	248,250	100%	630,690	100%	1,222,160	100%	3,642,720	100%
Nonstranger	3,094,490	54%	162,820	66%	184,240	29%	586,370	48%	2,161,060	59%
Intimate	638,410	11	38,720	16	60,930	10	109,680	9	429,080	12
Other relative	340,070	6	5,210	2*	13,670	2*	57,490	5	263,710	7
Friend/acquaintance	2,116,010	37	118,900	48	109,640	17	419,200	34	1,468,280	40
Stranger	2,546,090	44%	75,010	30%	434,440	69%	599,110	49%	1,437,540	40%
Relationship unknown	103,240	2%	10,420	4%*	12,010	2%*	36,680	3%	44,130	1%
<b>Male victims</b>										
Total	3,027,400	100%	22,930	100%*	427,330	100%	721,700	100%	1,855,440	100%
Nonstranger	1,310,480	43%	15,400	67%*	90,880	21%	299,410	42%	904,790	49%
Intimate	91,400	3	0	0*	11,140	3*	38,330	5	41,930	2
Other relative	104,900	4	0	0*	0	0*	24,260	3*	80,630	4
Friend/acquaintance	1,114,180	37%	15,400	67%*	79,740	19%	236,810	33%	782,220	42%
Stranger	1,669,740	55%	7,530	33%*	331,520	78%	406,860	56%	923,830	50%
Relationship unknown	47,180	2%	0	0%*	4,930	1%*	15,440	2%*	26,820	1%*
<b>Female victims</b>										
Total	2,716,420	100%	225,320	100%	203,360	100%	500,460	100%	1,787,280	100%
Nonstranger	1,784,020	66%	147,420	65%	93,360	46%	286,970	57%	1,256,270	70%
Intimate	547,010	20	38,720	17	49,800	25	71,350	14	387,140	22
Other relative	235,170	9	5,210	2*	13,670	7*	33,220	7	183,070	10
Friend/acquaintance	1,001,830	37	103,490	46	29,890	15	182,390	36	686,060	38
Stranger	876,350	32%	67,480	30%	102,920	51%	192,250	38%	513,710	29%
Relationship unknown	56,050	2%	10,420	5%*	7,090	4%*	21,250	4%*	17,310	1%*

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding. \*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

**Characteristics of the crime event**

*Victim-offender relationship*

Females identified friends or acquaintances as the offender(s) in a substantial portion of the violence that they experienced (table 4). Thirty-seven percent of overall violent crime and 46% of rapes/sexual assaults were committed by a person the female victim called a friend or acquaintance. Thirty-six percent of female victims of

aggravated assault said the offender(s) was a friend or acquaintance.

About a third of all female victims of violent crime, and rape/sexual assault stated the offender(s) was a stranger. Among female robbery victims, 51% identified the offender as a stranger.

As has been the case historically, a higher percentage of males than females were victimized by strangers. Fifty-five percent of male victims of

violence stated that the offender was a stranger. Similarly 56% of male victims of aggravated assault and 78% of male robbery victims identified the offender as a stranger.

Male victims knew the perpetrator in about 4 in 10 violent crimes during 2001. Of violent crimes sustained by males, a friend or acquaintance committed 37% of overall violent crime, 33% of aggravated assaults, and 42% of simple assaults.

**Table 5. Presence of weapons in violent crimes, 2001**

Presence of offender's weapon	Violent crime		Rape or sexual assault		Robbery		Simple and aggravated assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	5,743,820	100%	248,250	100%	630,690	100%	4,864,890	100%
<b>No weapon</b>	3,770,390	66%	212,350	86%	212,590	34%	3,345,450	69%
<b>Weapon</b>	1,508,330	26%	18,310	7%*	345,470	55%	1,144,550	24%
Firearm	524,030	9	5,550	2*	197,170	31	321,310	26
Knife	373,090	7	10,370	4*	88,430	14	274,280	6
Other	508,780	9	2,380	1*	49,820	8	456,580	9
Type not ascertained	102,420	2	0	0*	10,040	2*	92,380	2
<b>Don't know</b>	465,100	8%	17,590	7%*	72,630	12%	374,890	8%

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding. If the offender was armed with more than one weapon, the crime is classified based on the most serious weapon present.

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.



**Presence of weapons**

Except for robbery most victims of violent crimes did not face an armed offender (table 5). In 2001, 66% of violent crime victims were victimized by unarmed offender(s). Rape and sexual assault victims (7%) were the least likely and robbery victims (55%), the most likely, to face an armed offender. Overall, 9% of the victims of violence were confronted by an offender with a firearm, 7% faced an offender armed with a knife, and 11% stated the offender was armed with a weapon other than a firearm or knife.

The type of weapon varied by the type of violence. For example, 2% of victims of rape or sexual assault faced an offender armed with a firearm, compared to 31% of robbery victims and 26% of assault victims. Similarly, 4% of rape/sexual assault victims were confronted by an offender brandishing a knife, compared to 14% of robbery victims and 6% of assault victims.

The percentage of violent crimes with a weapon present declined between 1993 and 2001 (table 6). A weapon was present during 30% of all violent crimes in 1993, compared to 26% in 2001. A smaller percentage of violent crimes were committed with a firearm in 2001 compared to 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996. Each year from 1993 to 1996, between 11% and 12% of all violent crimes were committed with a firearm present. In 2001, 9% of all violent crimes were committed with a firearm present.

**Table 7. Property crime victimization, by race, Hispanic origin, household income, region, locality, and home ownership of households victimized, 2001**

Characteristic of household or head of household	Number of households, 2001	Victimizations per 1,000 households			
		Total	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
<b>Race</b>					
White	91,732,200	164.1	26.6	8.2	130.3
Black	13,827,190	179.7	42.8	16.1	120.8
Other	4,009,070	163.6	27.6	8.4	127.6
<b>Hispanic origin</b>					
Hispanic	9,862,250	224.1	33.0	19.8	171.4
Non-Hispanic	98,954,490	161.3	28.3	8.2	124.9
<b>Household income</b>					
Less than \$7,500	5,777,210	184.6	58.0	8.4	118.3
\$7,500 - \$14,999	9,523,740	181.6	37.1	11.5	133.0
\$15,000 - \$24,999	12,782,170	179.2	36.2	10.3	132.8
\$25,000 - \$34,999	12,455,200	170.4	33.3	9.8	127.4
\$35,000 - \$49,999	14,447,520	176.4	23.0	10.6	142.8
\$50,000 - \$74,999	14,609,900	178.8	20.2	7.8	150.8
\$75,000 or more	16,668,470	180.0	22.7	7.4	149.9
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	20,776,040	123.9	18.7	6.9	98.3
Midwest	26,422,420	172.3	33.6	8.2	130.5
South	39,731,130	157.5	29.7	8.7	119.1
West	22,638,860	216.4	30.2	13.4	172.8
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	31,767,270	212.8	37.3	15.1	160.4
Suburban	50,841,090	156.7	24.3	8.5	123.9
Rural	26,960,100	131.9	26.7	3.6	101.6
<b>Home ownership</b>					
Owned	73,957,330	146.3	23.8	7.3	115.2
Rented	35,611,120	209.6	38.8	13.1	157.8

**Characteristics of victims of property crime, 2001**

*Race of head of household*

Blacks were victims of burglary and motor vehicle theft at rates higher than those of whites and "others" during 2001 (table 7). During the same year whites and "others" were victims of all types of property crimes at similar

rates. Blacks, whites, and "others" were property theft victims at similar rates during 2001.

*Hispanic origin of head of household*

Hispanics experienced overall property crime, motor vehicle theft, and theft at rates greater than those of non-Hispanics, 2001. The burglary rates for the two groups were similar.

**Table 6. Presence of weapons during a violent crime, 1993-2001**

Presence of offender's weapon	Percent of violent crime and presence of weapons, 1993-2001									
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
<b>No weapon present</b>	63%	64%	65%	64%	66%	68%	67%	67%	66%	
<b>Weapon present</b>	30%	28%	26%	27%	26%	24%	25%	26%	26%*	
Firearm	12	12	11	11	9	8	8	8	9*	
Knife	8	7	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	
Other type of weapon	9	9	9	9	10	8	9	10	9	
Type not ascertained	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2*	
<b>Don't know if weapon was present</b>	7%	8%	9%	9%	8%	9%	8%	7%	8%	

\*The 1993-2001 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

*Annual household income*

No relationship between annual household income and the rate of total property crime emerged in 2001. Similarly, no difference in rates of motor vehicle theft were noted among adjacent income categories. Comparing burglary rates between adjacent income categories shows that households earning \$7,499 or less annually were burglarized at a rate greater than that for households with incomes between \$7,500 and \$14,999. Households with annual incomes of \$25,000 to \$34,999 were burglarized at a rate higher than that for households with incomes between \$35,000 and \$49,999.

With one exception no differences in theft rates between income categories emerged. Households with incomes of \$35,000 to \$49,999 annually were theft victims at a rate slightly higher than that for households with incomes of \$25,000 to \$34,999.

*Region, locality, and home ownership*

Western households sustained the highest rate of overall property crime during 2001. Midwestern households experienced the second highest rate of property crime during this time. Northeastern households were victims of overall property crime at the lowest rate, and Southern households the second lowest rate of overall property crime during 2001.

Northeastern households were burglarized at rates lower than those for all other regions, while Southern, Western, and Midwestern households were burglarized at similar rates. Households in the West experienced motor vehicle theft at rates higher than those for households in all other regions.

Urban households were the most vulnerable to all types of property crime during 2001. Suburban households experienced all forms of property crime except burglary at rates higher than those for rural households. No measurable difference in suburban and rural rates of burglary emerged during 2001.

Property crime occurred at higher rates among households renting than among households owning the residence.

**Reporting to the police**

Forty-nine percent of all violent victimizations and 37% of all property crimes were reported to the police during 2001. Of the violent crimes in 2001, 39% of rape/sexual assault, 61% of robbery, 59% of aggravated assault and 45% of simple assault were brought to the attention of the police. Motor vehicle theft continued to be the property crime reported to the police at the highest percentage (82%). Fifty-four percent of burglaries and 30% of theft were reported to the police, 2001.

	Percent of crime reported to police, 2000-01		
	2000	2001	Percent change
Violent crime	47.9%	49.4%	3.1%
Rape/sexual assault	48.1	38.6	-19.8 <sup>a</sup>
Robbery	56.3	60.5	7.5
Aggravated assault	56.7	59.2	4.4
Simple assault	43.6	44.9	2.3
Personal theft	35.0%	35.2%	0.6%
Property crime	35.7%	37.0%	3.6%
Burglary	50.7	53.7	6.9
Motor vehicle theft	80.4	81.6	1.5
Theft	29.5	30.1	2.0

Note: For percentage of crimes reported to the police, 1993-2000, see *Criminal Victimization 2000, Changes 1999-2000, with Trends 1993-2000*, NCJ 187007.

<sup>a</sup>The change in the percentage of rapes/sexual assaults reported to the police, 2000-01, is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

*Reporting crime to the police, 2000-01*

The percentage of victimizations reported to police in 2001 remained statistically similar to 2000 levels regardless of the crime considered.

*Reporting and victim characteristics*

Violent victimization of females was reported to police in higher percentages than the victimization of males during 2001 (53% and 46% respectively).

The gender difference in reporting of violence to police existed to varying degrees depending on the race of the victim. A higher percentage of violence against white females compared to white males was brought to the attention of the police. Apparent differences in reporting to police between males and females in other categories of race were not statistically significant.

Considering only males, the percentage of violent victimizations reported to the police did not differ significantly across racial categories or by Hispanic origin. With one exception among females, concerning violent crimes reported to the police, there were no differences in the percentages across racial categories or by Hispanic origin. Violent crimes against black females were reported to the police in percentages slightly greater than those against "other" females.

Victim gender, race and Hispanic origin	Percent of crime reported to the police, 2001	
	Violent	Property
Total	49.4%	37.0%
<b>Male</b>	45.9%	37.2%
White	44.8	37.1
Black	53.2	40.9
Other	43.2	29.6
Hispanic	55.2	33.3
Non-Hispanic	44.1	37.6
<b>Female</b>	53.3%	36.8%
White	52.7	36.4
Black	58.0	39.6
Other	39.6	30.5
Hispanic	52.9	30.0
Non-Hispanic	53.3	37.6

**Victimization trends, 1993-2001**

Trends in this section use 1993 as the beginning point because it was the first full year of NCVS data collected after the redesign was applied.

The rate of every major violent and property crime measured in the NCVS — rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, burglary

theft, and motor vehicle theft — fell significantly between 1993 and 2001 (table 8).

***Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter***

Based on FBI data for 2000 (the most recent year available), the rate and overall number of murders in the United States continued a steady decline that began in 1993. According

to estimates, 15,517 murders occurred in 2000, compared to 24,350 recorded in 1993.

While homicide numbers and rates change, victim characteristics remain unchanged. For example, whites and blacks each continue to comprise about half of murder victims. (See box and footnote on page 5 for additional information on murder and on the preliminary UCR estimates for 2001.)

**Table 8. Rates of criminal victimization and percent change, 1993-2001**

Type of crime	Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)					Percent change <sup>a</sup>			
	1993	1994	1999	2000	2001	1993-01	1994-01	1999-01	2000-01
<b>Personal crimes<sup>b</sup></b>	52.2	54.1	33.7	29.1	25.9	-50.4%*	-52.1%*	-23.1%*	-11.0%*
Crimes of violence	49.9	51.8	32.8	27.9	25.1	-49.7*	-51.5*	-23.5*	-10.0*
Completed violence	15.0	15.4	10.1	9.0	8.0	-46.7*	-48.1*	-20.8*	-11.1
Attempted/threatened violence	34.9	36.4	22.6	18.9	17.1	-51.0*	-53.0*	-24.3*	-9.5 <sup>†</sup>
Rape/sexual assault	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.1	-56.0*	-47.6*	-35.3*	-8.3
Rape/attempted rape	1.6	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	-62.5*	-57.1*	-33.3*	0.0
Rape	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	-60.0*	-42.9*	-33.3 <sup>‡</sup>	0.0
Attempted rape	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	-57.1*	-57.1*	0.0	50.0
Sexual assault	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.4	-50.0*	-33.3 <sup>‡</sup>	-50.0*	-20.0
Robbery	6.0	6.3	3.6	3.2	2.8	-53.3*	-55.6*	-22.2*	-12.5
Completed robbery	3.8	4.0	2.4	2.3	1.9	-50.0*	-52.5*	-20.8 <sup>‡</sup>	-17.4
With injury	1.3	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.8	-38.5*	-42.9*	0.0	14.3
Without injury	2.5	2.6	1.5	1.6	1.1	-56.0*	-57.7*	-26.7 <sup>‡</sup>	-31.3*
Attempted robbery	2.2	2.3	1.2	0.9	0.9	-59.1*	-60.9*	-25.0 <sup>‡</sup>	0.0
With injury	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	-25.0	-50.0*	0.0	0.0
Without injury	1.8	1.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	-66.7*	-64.7*	-33.3*	0.0
Assault	41.4	43.3	27.4	23.5	21.2	-48.8*	-51.0*	-22.6*	-9.8*
Aggravated	12.0	11.9	6.7	5.7	5.3	-55.8*	-55.5*	-20.9*	-7.0
With injury	3.4	3.3	2.0	1.5	1.7	-50.0*	-48.5*	-15.0	13.3
Threatened with weapon	8.6	8.6	4.7	4.2	3.6	-58.1*	-58.1*	-23.4*	-14.3
Simple	29.4	31.5	20.8	17.8	15.9	-45.9*	-49.5*	-23.6*	-10.7*
With minor injury	6.1	6.8	4.4	4.4	3.7	-39.3*	-45.6*	-15.9 <sup>‡</sup>	-15.9 <sup>‡</sup>
Without injury	23.3	24.7	16.3	13.4	12.2	-47.6*	-50.6*	-25.2*	-9.0
Personal theft <sup>c</sup>	2.3	2.4	0.9	1.2	0.8	-65.2*	-66.7*	-11.1	-33.3*
<b>Property crimes</b>	318.9	310.2	198.0	178.1	166.9	-47.7%*	-46.2%*	-15.7%*	-6.3%*
Household burglary	58.2	56.3	34.1	31.8	28.7	-50.7*	-49.0*	-15.8*	-9.7*
Completed	47.2	46.1	28.6	26.9	24.5	-48.1*	-46.9*	-14.3*	-8.9 <sup>‡</sup>
Forcible entry	18.1	16.9	11.0	9.6	9.6	-47.0*	-43.2*	-12.7 <sup>‡</sup>	0.0
Unlawful entry without force	29.1	29.2	17.6	17.3	14.9	-48.8*	-49.0*	-15.3*	-13.9*
Attempted forcible entry	10.9	10.2	5.5	4.9	4.1	-62.4*	-59.8*	-25.5*	-16.3 <sup>‡</sup>
Motor vehicle theft	19.0	18.8	10.0	8.6	9.2	-51.6*	-51.1*	-8.0	7.0
Completed	12.4	12.5	7.5	5.9	6.6	-46.8*	-47.2*	-12.0	11.9
Attempted	6.6	6.3	2.4	2.7	2.6	-60.6*	-58.7*	8.3	-3.7
Theft	241.7	235.1	153.9	137.7	129.0	-46.6*	-45.1*	-16.2*	-6.3*
Completed <sup>d</sup>	230.1	224.3	149.0	132.0	124.8	-45.8*	-44.4*	-16.2*	-5.5*
Less than \$50	98.7	93.5	53.2	43.4	42.9	-56.5*	-54.1*	-19.4*	-1.2
\$50-\$249	76.1	77.0	54.0	48.9	43.9	-42.3*	-43.0*	-18.7*	-10.2*
\$250 or more	41.6	41.8	31.7	29.3	29.0	-30.3*	-30.6*	-8.5 <sup>‡</sup>	-1.0
Attempted	11.6	10.8	5.0	5.7	4.2	-63.8*	-61.1*	-16.0 <sup>‡</sup>	-26.3*

Note: Victimization rates may differ from those reported previously because the estimates are now based on data collected in each calendar year rather than data about events within a calendar year. (See *Survey methodology* on page 13.) Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury.

In 1993 the total population age 12 or older was 211,524,770; in 1994, 213,135,890; in 1999, 224,568,370; in 2000, 226,804,610 and in 2001 229,215,290. The total number of households in 1993 was 99,927,410; in 1994, 100,568,060; in 1999, 107,159,550; in 2000, 108,352,960; and in 2001, 109,568,450.

\*The difference between the indicated years is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

<sup>†</sup>The difference between the indicated years is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

<sup>‡</sup>Differences in annual rates shown in each column do not take into account any changes that may have occurred during interim years.

<sup>b</sup>The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>c</sup>Includes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

<sup>d</sup>Includes thefts with unknown losses.

**Violent crime**

The overall violent crime rate fell 50% from 50 to 25 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older between 1993 and 2001 (figure 1). Other significant declines occurred in rates of rape/sexual assault (down 56%), robbery (down 53%), aggravated assault (down 56%), and simple assault (down 46%). Rates for completed/attempted rape and attempted robbery without injury were among those showing the greatest decline between 1993 and 2001.

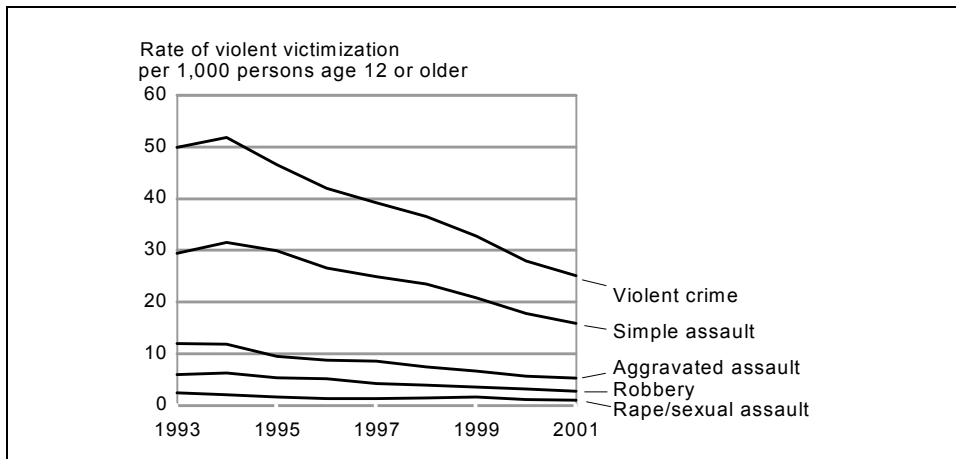


Figure 1

**Personal theft**

Rates of personal theft (purse snatching and pocket picking) decreased 65% from 2.3 personal thefts in 1993 to 0.8 per 1,000 persons in 2001.

**Property crime**

From 1993 through 2001, the rate of overall property crime fell, as did the rate for each major type of property

crime examined (figure 2). Rates of household burglary fell 51%; motor vehicle theft fell 52%; and theft fell 47%. Of the categories of property crime considered, attempted burglary

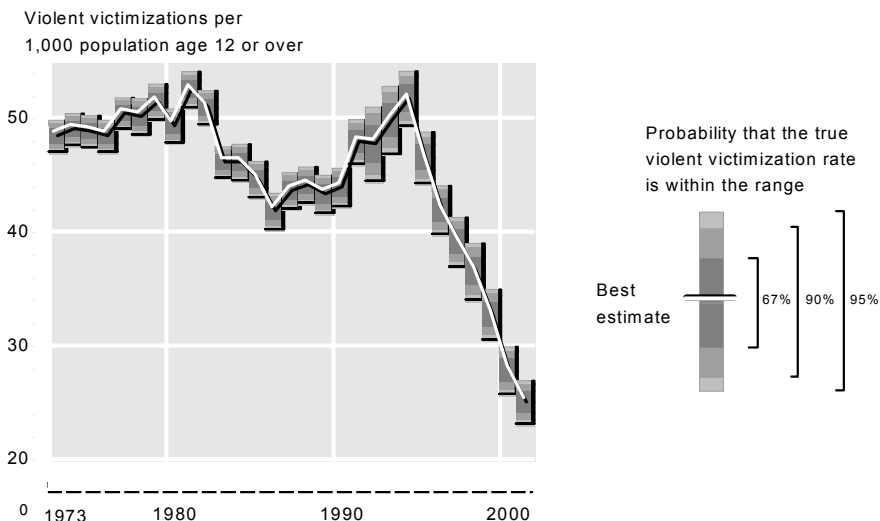
**Trends in violent victimization**

Because the National Crime Victimization Survey relies on a sample of households, the rates and numbers from it are estimates and are not exact.

The figure shows the violent victimization rate trend line, 1973-2001: Each vertical bar shows the range within which the true victimization rate is likely to fall for the indicated year. The white trend line represents the best estimate — the most likely value for the rate in each year — which is the published estimates. There is a greater likelihood that the true rate will fall near the best estimate, and the bars reflect that likelihood: The darker the bar segment, the greater the likelihood.

The precision of estimates derived from samples is related to the sample size. In general, the larger the sample, the more precise the estimate and smaller the range bars. Some year-to-year changes are so large that contiguous bars do not touch (1980-81, 1982-83, 1990-91, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1999-00 and 2000-01), suggesting a change

**The best estimate and range of estimates**



Note: Because of changes made to NCVS, data prior to 1992 are adjusted to make them comparable to data collected under the redesigned methodology.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 1973-2001.

in the year-to-year victimization rate—a statistically significant difference.

Overlap in the bars from 1986 to 1990 suggests, but does not guarantee, that the year-to-year differences in victimization estimates are too small to conclude that a change in the victimization rate occurred. There may be significant year-to-year changes even when the bars overlap slightly, as in 2000-01, because of the strong correlation between crime rates in successive years.

Even with the range of possible victimization rates, general trends are apparent. Violent crime rates increased from the early 1970's to the early 1980's, then fell until the mid-1980's. For several years in the late 1980's, violent crime rates were stable, but increased in the early 1990's and fell 1994-2001.

For more information about this graph, see the BJS Technical Report *Displaying Violent Crime Trends Using Estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey*, March 1998, NCJ 167881.

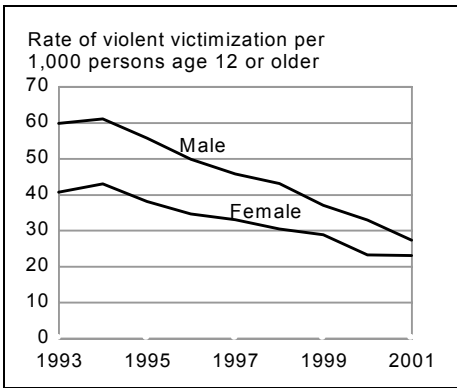


Figure 2

by forcible entry and attempted theft rates were among those showing the greatest decline, 1993-2001.

**Characteristics of victims**

With few exceptions, persons in most demographic categories — gender, race, Hispanic origin, and household income — experienced significant decreases in violent victimization, 1993-2001 (figures 2, 3, and 4 and appendix table 1). The rate of violent victimization for each group fell significantly, 1993-2001, with two exceptions: rates of violence against persons of “other races” and against Hispanics demonstrated no measurable change (appendix table 1).

Among groups examined the largest decline in the rate of violent crime occurred among black persons and individuals in households with annual incomes of less than \$7,500. Males experienced 4.7 fewer violent crimes (per 1,000 males) on average each year, 1993-2001. Persons in households with incomes of less than \$7,500 annually experienced an average of 4.9

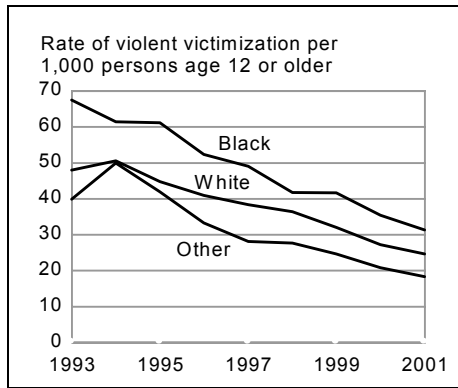


Figure 3

fewer violent crimes (per 1,000 persons) each year, 1993-2001.

Between 1993 and 2001 the rate at which all property crimes were committed in the United States fell for every group considered (figures 5, 6, and 7 and appendix table 2). The greatest decline in the property crime rate occurred for Hispanic households, which experienced an average of 28.7 fewer property crimes (per 1,000 Hispanic households) each year, 1993-2001.

**Survey methodology**

This Bulletin presents data on non-lethal violence and property crimes from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and data on homicide from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting program. The NCVS collects data on nonfatal crimes against persons age 12 or older, reported and not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of households in the United States. The NCVS provides information about victims (age, gender, race, ethnicity, marital status, income, and educational level),

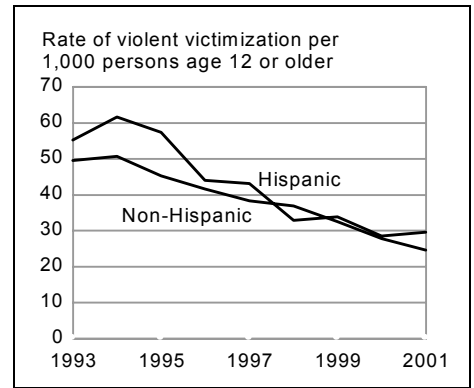


Figure 4

offenders (gender, race, approximate age, and victim-offender relations), and criminal offenses (time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences).

In 2001, 43,680 households and 79,950 people age 12 or older were interviewed. For the 2000 NCVS data presented here, the response rate was 93.0% of eligible households and 89.3% of eligible individuals.

Estimates were calculated from data collected during the calendar year being estimated. That is, the data include victimizations that were identified in interviews conducted in 2001. Because of the retrospective nature of the survey, the estimates include some incidents that actually occurred during the previous year. Analyses comparing the victimization data collected in a calendar year to data occurring in a calendar year the victimization occurred (a *data year*) show small differences in estimates. For example, the 1995 violent crime rate was 44.5 (per 1,000) using data year data, compared to 46.6 using calendar year data. Differences in estimates

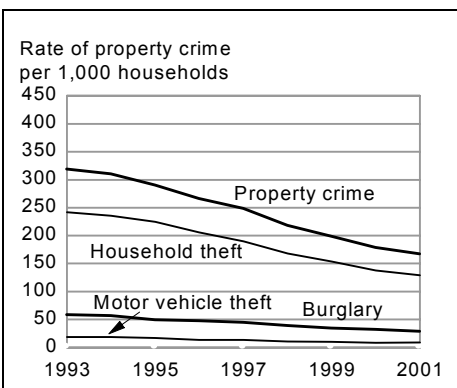


Figure 5

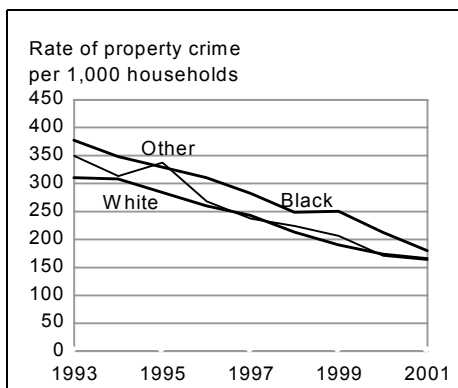


Figure 6

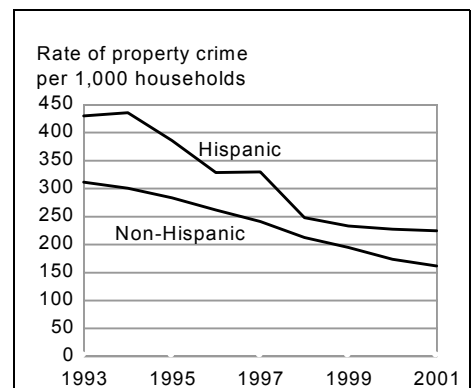


Figure 7

obtained from data year and calendar year methods are greater during periods of changing rates and less during periods of stable rates.

#### *Standard error computations*

Comparisons of estimates discussed were tested to determine if the differences were statistically significant. Differences described as *higher*, *lower*, or *different* passed a hypothesis test at the .05 level of statistical significance (95%-confidence level). That is, the tested difference was greater than twice the standard error of that difference. For comparisons of estimates which were statistically significant at the 0.10 level (90%-confidence level), differences are described as *somewhat*, *marginal*, or *slight*.

Caution is required when making comparisons of estimates not explicitly discussed in the Bulletin. What may appear to be a large difference in estimates may not test as statistically significant at the 95%- or even the 90%-confidence level. Significance testing calculations were conducted at BJS using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS by the U.S. Census Bureau. These programs consider the complex NCVS sample design when calculating generalized variance estimates.

#### *Testing trends and annual differences in violent and property victimization*

When a statement is made describing differences in estimates between two years, it was tested for significance using a computer program designed specifically for the NCVS. These tests determine whether an estimate in one year differs from that of another, regardless of intervening estimate variation. For instance, the percent changes in victimization rates in table 8 were based on such a test.

When a statement is made describing the increase or decrease of a linear trend, it was tested using a linear trend test. This test compares the slope of the trend to a horizontal line (a slope of zero). The purpose of this test is to ascertain whether the slope generated from a change in estimates differs from

a flat trend — taking into account estimate variation in intervening years.

The linear trend test is a regression equation using time as the independent variable, and the estimate of victimization as the dependent variable. A regression coefficient (*b*) and its corresponding standard error ( $\sigma$ ) are computed. Next a t-statistic — the ratio  $b/\sigma$  — is calculated. If the t-statistic is greater than 1.96 for a two-tailed test, the slope is different from zero, and if the t-statistic is greater than 1.645 for a two-tailed test, the slope is *slightly* different from zero. If the t-statistic is less than the critical value, the trend of the estimates does not differ significantly from a flat line.

Linear trend tests were applied in *Characteristics of victims* on page 13 and *Reporting to the police* on page 10. In NCVS publications prior to 1999, linear trend tests were not used.

#### *Definitions*

Violent crime is defined in this report as attempted or completed rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Definitions used in this report are as follows:

**Rape** is forced sexual intercourse, including both psychological coercion and physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle. This definition includes attempted rapes, male and female victims, and heterosexual and homosexual rape.

**Sexual assault** includes a wide range of victimizations, distinct from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include completed or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. Sexual assault also includes verbal threats.

**Robbery** is a completed or attempted theft directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon, and with or without an injury.

**Aggravated assault** is a completed or attempted attack with a weapon, whether or not an injury occurred. It is also an attack without a weapon in which the victim is seriously injured.

**Simple assault** is an attack without a weapon resulting either in no injury, minor injury (such as bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, or swelling), or an undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Simple assaults also include attempted assaults without a weapon.

**Burglary** is the unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence. This crime usually, but not always, involves theft. The illegal entry may be by force, such as breaking a window or slashing a screen, or may be without force by entering through an unlocked door or an open window. As long as the person entering has no legal right to be present in the structure a burglary has occurred. Furthermore, the structure need not be the house itself for a burglary to take place; illegal entry of a garage, shed, or any other structure on the premises also constitutes household burglary. If breaking and entering occurs in a hotel or vacation residence, it is still classified as a burglary for the household whose member or members were staying there at the time the entry occurred.

**Motor vehicle theft** includes the stealing or unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle, including attempted thefts.

**Theft** is the taking of property or cash without personal contact. Incidents involving theft of property from within the sample household would classify as theft if the offender has a legal right to be in the house (such as a maid, delivery person, or guest). If the offender has no legal right to be in the house, the incident would classify as a burglary.

**Appendix table 1. Violent victimization rates of selected demographics categories, 1993-2001**

Demographic categories	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older										Change in the rate each year per 1,000, 1993-2001	Percent change, 1993-2001
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001			
<b>Gender</b>												
Male	59.8	61.1	55.7	49.9	45.8	43.1	37.0	32.9	27.3	-4.7*	-54.3*	
Female	40.7	43.0	38.1	34.6	33.0	30.4	28.8	23.2	23.0	-2.7*	-43.5*	
<b>Race</b>												
White	47.9	50.5	44.7	40.9	38.3	36.3	31.9	27.1	24.5	-3.5*	-48.9*	
Black	67.4	61.3	61.1	52.3	49.0	41.7	41.6	35.3	31.2	-4.5*	-53.7*	
Other	39.8	49.9	41.9	33.2	28.0	27.6	24.5	20.7	18.2	-3.5	-54.3*	
<b>Hispanic origin</b>												
Hispanic	55.2	61.6	57.3	44.0	43.1	32.8	33.8	28.4	29.5	-4.0	-46.6*	
Non-Hispanic	49.5	50.7	45.2	41.6	38.3	36.8	32.4	27.7	24.5	-3.5*	-50.5*	
<b>Annual household income</b>												
Less than \$7,500	84.7	86.0	77.8	65.3	71.0	63.8	57.5	60.3	46.6	-4.9*	-45.0*	
\$7,500-\$14,999	56.4	60.7	49.8	52.1	51.2	49.3	44.5	37.8	36.9	-2.8*	-34.6*	
\$15,000-\$24,999	49.0	50.7	48.9	44.1	40.1	39.4	35.3	31.8	31.8	-2.8*	-35.1*	
\$25,000-\$34,999	51.0	47.3	47.1	43.0	40.2	42.0	37.9	29.8	29.1	-2.5*	-42.9*	
\$35,000-\$49,999	45.6	47.0	45.8	43.0	38.7	31.7	30.3	28.5	26.3	-3.8*	-42.3*	
\$50,000-\$74,999	44.0	48.0	44.6	37.5	33.9	32.0	33.3	23.7	21.0	-3.3*	-52.3*	
\$75,000 or more	41.3	39.5	37.3	30.5	30.7	33.1	22.9	22.3	18.5	-1.7*	-55.2*	

Note: These rates are based on the collection year. Thus, the 1993, 1994, and 1995 rates differ from rates published in *Changes in Criminal Victimization, 1994-95* (March 1997, NCJ 162032), which are based on data years. Values for the "change in the rate each year" is measured with the regression coefficient (b), 1993-2001, based on a linear trend test which takes into account rate fluctuations during the period. See *Survey methodology* for information.

\*1993-2001 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

†1993-2001 difference is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

**Appendix table 2. Property crime rates of selected household demographics, 1993-2001**

Demographic categories	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households										Change in the rate each year per 1,000, 1993-2001	Percent change, 1993-2001
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001			
<b>Race</b>												
White	309.7	304.8	283.4	259.9	242.3	212.6	190.0	173.3	165.1	-20.9*	-46.7*	
Black	376.6	347.8	328.8	310.0	292.0	248.0	249.9	212.2	179.7	-23.1*	-52.3*	
Other	349.6	313.1	337.4	268.4	237.4	224.5	206.3	171.3	163.6	-22.4*	-53.2*	
<b>Hispanic origin</b>												
Hispanic	429.7	435.9	385.3	328.1	329.4	267.6	232.5	227.0	224.1	-28.7*	-47.8*	
Non-Hispanic	311.0	300.3	282.8	261.2	240.8	212.5	194.6	173.4	161.3	-20.8*	-48.1*	
<b>Location</b>												
Urban	404.8	384.7	358.3	334.5	311.1	274.2	256.3	222.1	212.8	-25.6*	-47.4*	
Suburban	305.1	297.2	280.6	250.5	238.0	204.5	181.4	163.7	156.7	-21.3*	-48.6*	
Rural	246.4	245.2	228.4	206.0	191.7	173.5	159.8	152.6	131.9	-16.2*	-46.5*	
<b>Annual household income</b>												
Less than \$7,500	305.9	299.6	304.3	282.7	258.8	209.0	220.8	220.9	184.6	-15.6*	-39.7*	
\$7,500-\$14,999	285.9	299.1	267.1	247.5	236.3	229.8	200.1	167.1	181.6	-16.5*	-36.5*	
\$15,000-\$24,999	307.0	308.1	289.8	273.1	242.4	211.0	214.9	193.1	179.2	-18.4*	-41.6*	
\$25,000-\$34,999	336.7	305.2	294.8	285.1	260.3	233.8	199.1	192.2	170.4	-20.4*	-49.4*	
\$35,000-\$49,999	342.7	326.9	301.5	287.6	271.7	221.7	207.6	192.9	176.4	-22.1*	-48.5*	
\$50,000-\$74,999	374.4	364.1	333.2	284.0	270.9	248.6	213.6	181.9	178.8	-25.8*	-52.2*	
\$75,000 or more	400.3	356.0	350.4	304.6	292.8	248.6	220.4	197.2	180.0	-24.7*	-55.0*	

Note: These rates are based on the collection year. Thus, the 1993, 1994, and 1995 rates differ from rates published in *Changes in Criminal Victimization, 1994-95* (March 1997, NCJ 162032), which are based on data years.

Values for the "change in the rate each year" is measured with the regression coefficient (b), 1993-2001, based on a linear trend test which takes into account rate fluctuations during the period. See *Survey methodology* for information.

\*1993-2001 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director.

This report continues the BJS Bulletin series of *Criminal Victimization*. BJS Bulletins present the first release of findings from permanent data collection programs such as the National Crime Victimization Survey.

Callie M. Rennison, BJS Statistician, wrote this report under the supervision of Michael Rand. Marianne Zawitz, BJS Statistician, produced figures showing ranges and best estimates. Timothy C. Hart provided statistical review. Tom Hester produced and edited the report. Jayne Robinson administered final production.

September 2002, NCJ 194610

This report and additional data, analyses, and graphs about criminal victimization in the United States are available on the Internet at [Http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/)

For questions or comments about this or any BJS report, email to [ASKBJS@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:ASKBJS@ojp.usdoj.gov).

Data presented in this report can be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The archive can also be accessed through the BJS Web site. When at the archive site, search for dataset ICPSR 3140.

