



# Crime Data Brief

July 1994, NCJ-148199

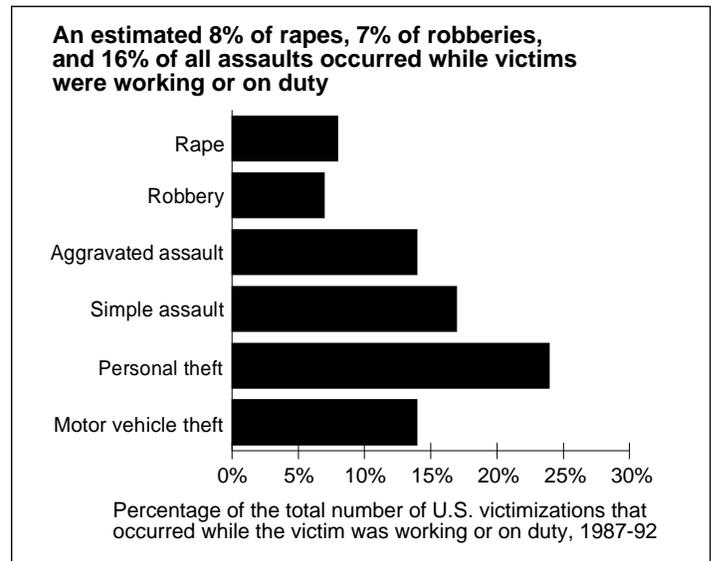
## National Crime Victimization Survey

# Violence and Theft in the Workplace

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Each year nearly 1 million individuals become victims of violent crime while working or on duty. These victimizations account for 15% of the over 6½ million acts of violence experienced by U.S. residents age 12 or older. In addition, over 2 million personal thefts and over 200,000 car thefts occur annually while persons are at work. This report analyzes data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1987-92 to describe these crimes. (See the NCVS box on page 2.)

- Crime victimizations occurring in the workplace cost about half a million employees 1,751,100 days of work each year, an average of 3.5 days per crime. This missed work resulted in over \$55 million in lost wages annually, not including days covered by sick and annual leave.



### Annually, 1987-92 —

- Nearly 1 million violent victimizations occurred while victims were working or on duty

- These victimizations resulted in almost 160,000 injuries

Type of crime	Average annual number	
	Victimizations	Injuries
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	971,517	159,094
Rape*	13,068	3,438
Robbery	79,109	17,904
Aggravated assault	264,174	48,180
Simple assault	615,160	89,572

\*Injuries are those in addition to the rape.

- Among people victimized while working, men were more likely than women to experience a violent crime. However, women were just as likely as men to become the victims of theft while working.

- Victims of violence at work were less likely to be injured than victims of violence that occurred away from work. Sixteen percent of violent victimizations which occurred while the victim was working resulted in physical injuries; 10% of these injuries required medical care.

- Among only those persons injured by a crime victimization at work, an estimated 876,800 workdays were lost annually, costing employees over \$16 million in wages, not including days covered by sick and annual leave.

- 6 out of 10 incidents of workplace violence occurred in private companies. While government employees make up approximately 18% of the total U.S. workforce, 30% of the victims of violence in this sample were Federal, State, or local government employees. Several factors may be responsible for this overrepresentation, including a potentially high risk of victimization for particular government occupations, such as public safety personnel.

- Victims who were working were as likely to face armed offenders as those victimized while not working. Over 30% of victims who were working during a violent victimization faced armed offenders. Almost a third of these offenders had a handgun.

• Although men who were victimized while working were more likely to be attacked by a stranger, women were more likely to be attacked by someone known to them. Five per-

Victim-offender relationship	Percent victimizations	
	Female	Male
Stranger	40%	58%
Casual acquaintance	35	30
Well known	19	10
Relative	1	1
Intimate	5	1

cent of the women victimized at work were attacked by a husband, ex-husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend.

• Over half of all victimizations sustained at work were not reported

to police. When individuals were asked why they did not report, 40% said they believed the incident to be a minor or a private matter. An additional 27% did not report to police because they reported the victimization to another official, such as a company security guard.

**Victims of violence at work were less likely to be injured than persons victimized while not working, 1987-92**

Characteristic	Percent of violent victimizations, by activity of victim	
	Working	Not working
<b>Offender was armed</b>		
No	62%	56%
Yes	32	35
Not ascertained	6	9
<b>Sustained injuries</b>		
No	84%	69%
Yes	16	31
Required medical care	10	16
Lost worktime because of injuries	6	5
<b>Incident reported to police</b>		
No	56%	52%
Yes	43	47
Not ascertained	1	1

**According to victims of violent crime at work who identified more precisely the location, over a third of the crimes occurred in commercial establishments, 1987-92**

Place where victimization occurred	Percent of victimizations occurring at work where victim identified location
<b>Total</b>	100%
<b>Type of work setting</b>	
Private company	61%
Government employee (Federal, State, or local)	30
Self-employed	8
Working without pay	1
<b>Location where victimization occurred</b>	
Restaurant, bar, or nightclub	13%
Office, factory, or warehouse	14
Other commercial establishment	23
On school property	9
Parking lot/garage	11
On public property (such as streets and parks)	22
Other	8

The National Crime Victimization Survey conducts interviews with over 100,000 individuals age 12 or older annually. Respondents who reported a violent victimization and said they were either working or on duty when asked, "What were you doing when the incident happened?" represent the sample for this report. This group does not include those victims who said they were on their way to or from work. For more information about the NCVS methodology, see *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1992*, NCJ-145125, March 1994.