



Bureau of Justice Statistics

# Bulletin

## National Crime Victimization Survey

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# Criminal Victimization, 2009

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In 2009, U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced an estimated 20 million violent and property victimizations, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These criminal victimizations included an estimated 4.3 million violent crimes, 15.6 million property crimes, and 133,000 personal thefts. Rates of violent and property crime in 2009 were at the lowest overall levels recorded since 1973, the first year for which victimization estimates from the survey were produced.

The overall victimization rate for violent crimes declined from 19.3 to 17.1 victimizations per 1,000 persons between 2008 and 2009 (table 1). A decline in simple assault (down 13%) contributed to the overall decline in the violent crime rate during this period. Due to a decline in the rate of theft (down 6%), the overall property crime rate also declined between 2008 and 2009.

Rates for every type of violent and property crime measured by the NCVS declined from 2000 to 2009. During the 10-year period, the violent crime rate declined by 39% and the property crime rate decreased by 29%. Declines ranged from 57% for rape or sexual assault to 19% for household burglary among the individual types of crimes.

**Table 1**  
Criminal victimization, numbers, rates, and percent change, by type of crime, 2008 and 2009

Type of crime	Number of victimizations		Rates <sup>a</sup>		Percent change 2008-2009 <sup>b</sup>
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
All crimes	21,312,400	20,057,180	~	~	
<b>Violent crime<sup>c</sup></b>	4,856,510	4,343,450	19.3	17.1	-11.2%*
<b>Serious violent crime<sup>d</sup></b>	1,595,590	1,483,040	6.3	5.8	-7.7%
Rape/sexual assault <sup>e</sup>	203,830	125,910	0.8	0.5	-38.7**
Robbery	551,830	533,790	2.2	2.1	-4.0
Assault	4,100,850	3,683,750	16.3	14.5	-10.8*
Aggravated	839,940	823,340	3.3	3.2	-2.7
Simple	3,260,920	2,860,410	12.9	11.3	-12.9*
<b>Personal theft<sup>f</sup></b>	136,710	133,210	0.5	0.5	-3.3%
<b>Property crime</b>	16,319,180	15,580,510	134.7	127.4	-5.5%*
Household burglary	3,188,620	3,134,920	26.3	25.6	-2.6
Motor vehicle theft	795,160	735,770	6.6	6.0	-8.4
Theft	12,335,400	11,709,830	101.8	95.7	-6.0*

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. Total population age 12 or older was 252,242,520 in 2008 and 254,105,610 in 2009. Total number of households was 121,141,060 in 2008 and 122,327,660 in 2009. See appendix table 1 for standard errors.

~Not applicable.

\*Difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level. Differences are described as higher, lower, or different in text.

\*\*Difference is significant at the 90%-confidence level. Differences are described as somewhat, slightly, marginally, or some other indication in text.

<sup>a</sup>Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households.

<sup>b</sup>Percent change calculated based on unrounded estimates.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes murder because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>d</sup>Includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>e</sup>See *Methodology* for discussion on changes in the rate of rape/sexual assault between 2008 and 2009.

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

### Highlights

- An estimated 4.3 million violent crimes, 15.6 million property crimes, and 133,000 personal thefts were committed against U.S. residents age 12 or older in 2009.
- Rates of violent (down 39%) and property (down 29%) crimes decreased between 2000 and 2009.
- The overall rate of firearm violence declined from 2.4 to 1.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older between 2000 and 2009.
- Armed offenders committed 22% of all violent crime incidents in 2009, including 8% by offenders with a firearm.
- Violence against males, blacks, and persons age 24 or younger occurred at higher or somewhat higher rates than the rates of violence against females, whites, and persons age 25 or older in 2009.
- Females knew their offenders in almost 70% of violent crimes committed against them; males knew their offenders in 45% of violent crimes committed against them.
- About half (49%) of all violent crimes and about 40% of all property crimes were reported to the police in 2009. Violent crimes against females (53%) were more likely to be reported than violent crimes against males (45%).

For a list of publications in this series, go to <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbse&sid=6>.

The 2008 to 2009 year-to-year decline in violent and property crimes was consistent with findings from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, which found declines in the rates of both violent (down 6.1%) and property crimes (down 5.5%) reported to the police. Because the NCVS and UCR measure an overlapping but not identical set of offenses and use different methodologies, exact congruity between the estimates cannot be expected. Both programs have generally demonstrated similar year-to-year increases or decreases in the levels of violent and property crimes during the survey's 38-year history.

A major difference between the programs is the type of data collected. The NCVS obtains estimates of both crimes reported and those not reported to the police. The UCR collects data on reported crimes only. According to victims interviewed for the NCVS, 49% of violent crimes and 39% of property crimes were reported to the police in 2009. (For additional information about the differences and similarities between the NCVS and UCR, see the *Nation's Two Crime Measures*, BJS Web, May 2003.)

### The NCVS collects information from victims of nonfatal violent crimes and property crimes

The NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes reported and not reported to the police against persons age 12 or older from a national representative sample of U.S. households. It produces national rates and levels of personal and property victimization, as well as information on the characteristics of crimes and victims, and the consequences of victimization to victims. Information on homicide presented in this report was obtained from the FBI's UCR program.

Violent crimes measured by the NCVS include rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft. The survey also measures personal theft, which includes pocket picking and purse snatching.

In 2009, 38,728 households and 68,665 individuals age 12 and older were interviewed for the NCVS. Each household was interviewed twice during the year. The response rate was 91.8% of households and 87.0% of eligible individuals.

**Table 2**  
Rates of criminal victimization and percent change, by type of crime, 2000 and 2009

Type of crime	Victimization rates <sup>a</sup>		
	2000	2009	Percent change 2000-2009 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Violent crime<sup>c</sup></b>	27.9	17.1	-38.7%*
Rape/sexual assault	1.2	0.5	-56.9*
Robbery	3.2	2.1	-34.9*
Assault	23.5	14.5	-38.3*
Aggravated	5.7	3.2	-43.1*
Simple	17.8	11.3	-36.8*
<b>Personal theft<sup>d</sup></b>	1.2	0.5	-56.6%*
<b>Property crime</b>	178.1	127.4	-28.5%*
Household burglary	31.8	25.6	-19.4*
Motor vehicle theft	8.6	6.0	-30.5*
Theft	137.7	95.7	-30.5*

Note: The total population age 12 or older was 226,804,610 in 2000 and 254,105,610 in 2009. The total number of households in 2000 was 108,352,960 and 122,327,660 in 2009. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

\*Difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

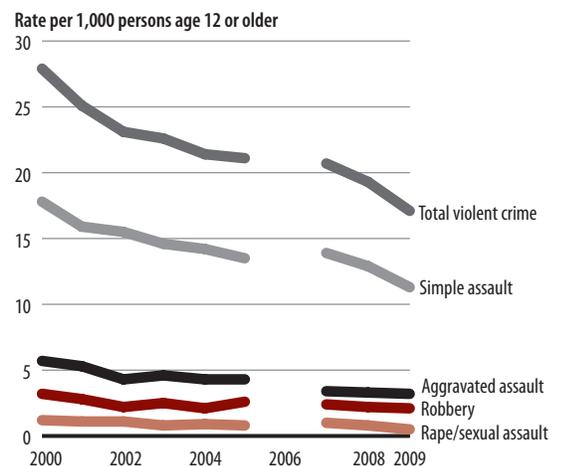
<sup>a</sup>Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older for violent crime or per 1,000 households for property crime.

<sup>b</sup>Differences between the annual rates shown do not take into account changes that may have occurred during interim years. Percent change calculated on unrounded estimates.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes murder because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

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

**Figure 1**  
Violent crime rates overall fell by 39% from 2000 to 2009



Note: Excludes data for 2006. See *Methodology*.

## Violent and property crime rates remain at historic lows in 2009

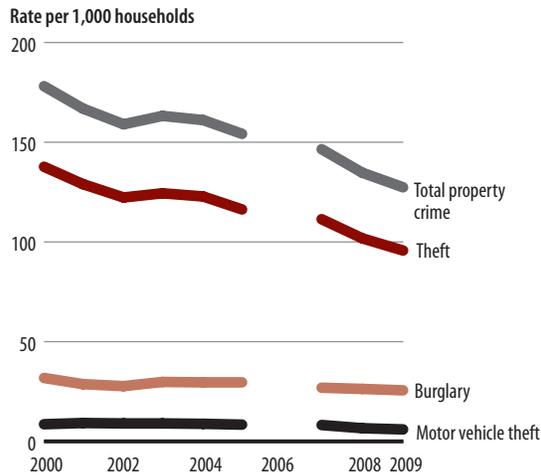
The rate of every major violent and property crime measured by the NCVS declined between 2000 and 2009 (table 2, figure 1).<sup>1</sup> The overall violent crime rate has decreased since 1994, a trend that continued through 2009 (down 39%). Violent crime rates had remained generally stable between 2003 and 2007 and declined from 2007 to 2009.

During the 10-year period from 2000 to 2009, trends in the rates of victimization varied by the type of crime. The rate of rape or sexual assault remained generally stable from 2000 to 2007 before declining between 2007 and 2009 (table 3). Rates of robbery fell in the first 5-year period between 2000 and 2004 and remained stable for the second period. Rates for both aggravated assault and simple assault fell between 2000 and 2009.

The trend in a declining rate of overall property crime that began in 1974 continued through 2009. The rate of overall property crime fell by 29% during the 10-year period (figure 2). Rates of bur-

glary declined from 2000 to 2002 and remained generally stable between 2002 and 2009. The rate for property theft fell in both the first and second half of the 10-year period, with a greater decline from 2005 to 2009 than from 2000 to 2004. Rates of motor vehicle theft remained generally stable between 2000 and 2007, and fell in 2008. There was no change in the rate of motor vehicle theft from 2008 to 2009.

**Figure 2**  
Property crime rates overall fell by 29% from 2000 to 2009



Note: Excludes data for 2006. See *Methodology*.

<sup>1</sup>The discussion of victimization rate trends excludes NCVS estimates for 2006 because of the methodological inconsistencies between the data for that year and other years. See *Methodology and Criminal Victimization, 2006 Technical Notes*, BJS Web, December 2007.

**Table 3**  
National crime victimization rates and percent change in rates, by type of crime, 2007-2009

Type of crime	Rates per 1,000 persons or households			Percent change <sup>a</sup>		
	2007	2008	2009	2007-2008	2007-2009	2008-2009
<b>Violent crime<sup>b</sup></b>	20.7	19.3	17.1	-6.9%	-17.3%*	-11.2%*
Rape/sexual assault <sup>c</sup>	1.0	0.8	0.5	-18.5	-50.0*	-38.7**
Robbery	2.4	2.2	2.1	-8.3	-12.0	-4.0
Assault	17.3	16.3	14.5	-6.0	-16.2*	-10.8*
Aggravated	3.4	3.3	3.2	-2.9	-5.6	-2.7
Simple	13.9	12.9	11.3	-6.8	-18.8*	-12.9*
<b>Personal theft<sup>d</sup></b>	0.8	0.5	0.5	-30.1%*	-32.4%*	-3.3%
<b>Property crime</b>	146.5	134.7	127.4	-8.1%*	-13.1%*	-5.5%*
Burglary	26.9	26.3	25.6	-2.2	-4.7	-2.6
Motor vehicle theft	8.2	6.6	6.0	-19.9*	-26.6*	-8.4
Theft	111.4	101.8	95.7	-8.6*	-14.1*	-6.0*
<b>Population</b>						
Persons age 12 or older	250,344,870	252,242,520	254,105,610			
Households headed by persons age 12 or older	119,503,530	121,141,060	122,327,660			

Note: See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

\*Difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

\*\*Difference is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Percent change calculated based on unrounded estimates.

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

<sup>c</sup>See *Methodology* for discussion on changes in the rate of rape/sexual assault.

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

## Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, 2008-2009

Violent crime as measured by the FBI through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes include burglary, larceny theft, and motor vehicle theft. The UCR measures crimes reported to the police against both persons and businesses. For information about the differences and similarities of the NCVS and UCR, see the *Nation's Two Crime Measures*, BJS Web, May 2003.

According to results released by the FBI, the rates of violent crimes reported to police as measured by the UCR declined by 6.1% between 2008 and 2009 (table 4). The rates of property crimes reported to police declined by 5.5% between 2008 and 2009. The UCR reported declines in the numbers of every crime measured.

**Table 4**  
Percent changes in the rates of crimes reported in the UCR, 2008-2009

Crime measured by the UCR	Percent change in the rates of crimes reported
<b>Violent crime</b>	-6.1%
Murder	-8.1
Forcible rape	-3.5
Robbery	-8.8
Aggravated	-5.0
<b>Property crime</b>	-5.5%
Burglary	-2.2
Larceny theft	-4.8
Motor vehicle theft	-17.8

Note: See *Crime in the United States, 2009* at <<http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/index.html>>.

### Victim characteristics in 2009 remained similar to those in previous years

Similar to previous NCVS findings, males, blacks, and persons age 24 or younger continued to be victimized at higher or somewhat higher rates than females, whites, and persons age 25 or older (table 5). (See statistical differences defined in *Methodology*.)

#### Gender of victim

Males were victims of violent crime at rates slightly higher than females, indicating a continuing convergence of male and female victimization. Differences between male and female rates of simple assault were not statistically significant in 2009. This has occurred twice since 2000, in 2001 and 2007. Consistent with previous years, males experienced higher rates of robbery and aggravated assault than females. Females were more likely than males to be victims of rape or sexual assault.

#### Race of victim

Blacks were more likely than whites to be victims of overall violent crime, robbery, and aggravated assault, and somewhat more likely than whites to be victims of rape or sexual assault. Blacks also experienced higher rates than persons of other

racings (American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander) of overall violence, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Persons of two or more races were victims of overall violent crime at higher rates than whites and persons of other races, and somewhat higher rates than blacks.

#### Hispanic origin of victim

In 2009, Hispanics and non-Hispanics were equally likely to experience overall violent crime, rape or sexual assault, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Similar to NCVS findings for previous years, Hispanics were victims of robbery at rates higher than those of non-Hispanics.

#### Age of victim

Overall victimization rates for violent crime declined with victim age in 2009, a finding consistent with previous years. Generally, persons age 25 or older experienced violent victimization at lower rates than younger persons. Persons ages 12 to 15 experienced simple assault at rates higher than persons age 20 or older, and slightly higher rates than persons ages 16 to 19.

**Table 5****Rates of violent crime, by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and age of victim, 2009**

Demographic characteristics of victim	Population	Total	Violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older				
			Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Total assault	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	124,041,190	18.4	0.2 <sup>^</sup>	2.7	15.6	4.3	11.3
Female	130,064,420	15.8	0.8	1.6	13.5	2.3	11.2
<b>Race</b>							
White	206,331,920	15.8	0.4	1.6	13.7	2.7	11.0
Black	31,046,560	26.8	1.2	5.6	19.9	6.8	13.0
Other race*	13,982,530	9.8	-- <sup>^</sup>	0.5 <sup>^</sup>	9.3	1.9 <sup>^</sup>	7.4
Two or more races	2,744,600	42.1	-- <sup>^</sup>	5.2 <sup>^</sup>	36.9	9.3 <sup>^</sup>	27.5
<b>Hispanic origin</b>							
Hispanic	35,375,280	18.1	0.5 <sup>^</sup>	3.4	14.2	3.2	11.0
Non-Hispanic	218,238,010	17.0	0.5	1.9	14.6	3.3	11.3
<b>Age</b>							
12-15	16,230,740	36.8	0.9 <sup>^</sup>	3.1	32.8	6.9	25.9
16-19	17,203,070	30.3	0.6 <sup>^</sup>	5.2	24.6	5.3	19.3
20-24	20,620,150	28.1	0.8 <sup>^</sup>	3.5	23.8	7.5	16.3
25-34	41,073,240	21.5	0.8 <sup>^</sup>	2.8	17.9	4.5	13.4
35-49	64,323,190	16.1	0.4 <sup>^</sup>	2.0	13.7	2.6	11.1
50-64	56,651,170	10.7	0.3 <sup>^</sup>	1.1	9.3	1.9	7.5
65 or older	38,004,060	3.2	0.2 <sup>^</sup>	0.4 <sup>^</sup>	2.5	0.3 <sup>^</sup>	2.2

Note: Violent crimes measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey include rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

--Rounds to less than 0.05 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

<sup>^</sup>Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

\*Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

**Lower income households and larger households experienced higher property crime rates**

Lower income households experienced property crime at higher rates than higher income households. In general, lower income households had higher rates of overall property crime and household burglary, compared to higher income households (table 6). Households in the lowest income category—less than \$7,500 per year—had the highest overall property crime rate, and were victims of property crime at a rate that was about 1.6 times higher than households earning \$75,000 per year or more.

Household burglary, property theft, and motor vehicle theft rates varied across income categories. Burglary rates of households in the lowest income category were about 3 times higher than households earning \$75,000 per year or more. Households earning less than \$7,500 per year

were more likely to experience property theft than households in all other income categories. Rates of motor vehicle theft were higher for households earning \$35,000 to \$49,999 per year than households earning \$50,000 per year or more.

Consistent with previous years of the NCVS, larger households experienced property crime at higher rates than smaller households in 2009. Overall property crime rates were greater for larger households compared to smaller households. For property theft and motor vehicle theft, patterns across households of different sizes were similar to that of overall property crime. Households with six or more persons experienced more overall property crime, household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and property theft than smaller households. Households with six or more persons were about 3 times more likely to be victims of property crime than single person households.

**Table 6**  
**Property crime rates, by household income and household size, 2009**

Characteristics of household	Number of households	Victimizations per 1,000 households			
		Total	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
<b>Household income</b>					
Less than \$7,500	4,062,990	201.1	44.4	6.0	150.7
\$7,500-\$14,999	6,770,380	157.0	46.3	8.3	102.4
\$15,000-\$24,999	10,188,470	141.6	35.3	6.5	99.8
\$25,000-\$34,999	10,326,980	134.1	32.3	6.5	95.3
\$35,000-\$49,999	13,868,310	139.7	26.7	10.2	102.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	14,818,560	120.0	19.3	4.5	96.2
\$75,000 or more	23,765,460	124.9	15.1	4.2	105.6
<b>Number of persons in household</b>					
1	35,316,700	91.8	26.8	3.7	61.3
2 or 3	60,992,130	118.6	22.8	5.7	90.1
4 or 5	22,414,460	184.6	26.7	8.6	149.4
6 or more	3,604,360	267.5	55.4	17.1	195.0

Note: See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

**Victims knew the offenders in 45% of violent crimes against men and 68% of violent crimes against women in 2009**

Females have generally been most often victimized by someone they knew, while males have been more likely or equally likely to be victimized by a stranger. This pattern continued during 2009 (table 7).

Females knew their offenders in almost 70% of violent crimes committed against them. Females who were victims of violence were more likely to be victimized by someone they knew (a non-stranger) than a stranger for all measured violent crimes, except robbery.

The percentages of overall violence, rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault committed by strangers were higher for males than for females. Male victims of overall violent crime were slightly more likely to have been victimized by strangers than by nonstrangers. For rape or sexual assault and robbery, males were more likely to have been victimized by

strangers than nonstrangers. Offenders known to both male and female victims were most often identified as friends or acquaintances. For overall violent crime and assault, males and females were equally likely to have been victimized by an acquaintance. For rape or sexual assault, females were more likely than males to have been victimized by an acquaintance. For robbery, males were more likely than females to have been victimized by an acquaintance.

The greatest difference between violent crime committed against males and females was the percentage committed by intimate partners. The NCVS defines intimate partners as current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends. The percentage of female victims (26%) of intimate partner violence was about 5 times that of male victims (5%). There were no significant differences in the numbers and rates of intimate partner victimizations for males and females from 2008 to 2009 (table 8).

**Table 7**  
**Relationship between victim and offender, by gender of victim, 2009**

Relationship to victim	Violent crime		Rape/sexual assault		Robbery		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Male victims</b>										
<b>Total</b>	2,283,200	100%	19,820	100% <sup>^</sup>	329,070	100%	529,550	100%	1,404,760	100%
<b>Nonstranger</b>	1,029,710	45%	5,090	26% <sup>^</sup>	108,130	33%	247,800	47%	668,690	48%
Intimate partner*	117,210	5	--	-- <sup>^</sup>	--	-- <sup>^</sup>	33,150	6 <sup>^</sup>	84,050	6
Other relative	130,530	6	--	-- <sup>^</sup>	22,380	7 <sup>^</sup>	--	-- <sup>^</sup>	108,150	8
Friend/acquaintance	781,980	34	5,090	26 <sup>^</sup>	85,750	26	214,640	41	476,490	34
<b>Stranger</b>	1,180,000	52%	14,720	74% <sup>^</sup>	205,800	63%	275,920	52%	683,560	49%
<b>Relationship unknown</b>	73,490	3%	--	--% <sup>^</sup>	15,140	5% <sup>^</sup>	5,840	1% <sup>^</sup>	52,510	4%
<b>Female victims</b>										
<b>Total</b>	2,060,250	100%	106,100	100%	204,720	100%	293,790	100%	1,455,650	100%
<b>Nonstranger</b>	1,390,720	68%	84,240	79%	94,890	46%	189,610	65%	1,021,980	70%
Intimate partner*	538,090	26	43,200	41	41,590	20	52,350	18	400,950	28
Other relative	181,670	9	--	-- <sup>^</sup>	21,710	11 <sup>^</sup>	19,850	7 <sup>^</sup>	140,110	10
Friend/acquaintance	670,960	33	41,040	39	31,590	15 <sup>^</sup>	117,410	40	480,920	33
<b>Stranger</b>	633,850	31%	21,860	21% <sup>^</sup>	97,250	48%	104,180	36%	410,550	28%
<b>Relationship unknown</b>	35,690	2% <sup>^</sup>	--	--% <sup>^</sup>	12,570	6% <sup>^</sup>	--	--% <sup>^</sup>	23,110	2% <sup>^</sup>

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

<sup>^</sup>Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

--Rounds to less than 0.5 percent

\*Defined as current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

**Table 8**  
**Number and rate of intimate partner violence, by victims' gender, 2008 and 2009**

Gender of victim	2008		2009	
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Male	88,120	0.7	117,210	0.9
Female	504,980	3.9	538,090	4.1

Note: See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

\*Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

### Weapons were used in 22% of all violent crimes in 2009

For overall violent crime, firearms, knives, and other weapons were used in about equal proportions (table 9). Robbery (47%) was the most likely offense to involve an armed offender. Firearms were the most often used weapon in robberies (28%).

Between 2000 and 2009, the overall rate of firearm violence declined from 2.4 to 1.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older (table 10). Firearms were used in about 8% of all violent crime incidents in 2009. During the 10-year period, about 6% to 9% of all violent crime incidents were committed with firearms (not shown in table).

### Nearly half of all violent crimes and about 40% of all property crimes were reported to the police in 2009

During 2009, a greater percentage of violent victimizations (49%) were reported to the police, compared to property crimes (39%) (table 11). The percentage of robberies reported to the police

(68%) was somewhat higher than the percentage for aggravated assault (58%), and higher than the percentage for simple assault (42%). For property crimes, motor vehicle theft (85%) was the crime most frequently reported to the police.

The percentage of violent crimes reported to the police was generally stable from 2000 to 2009 (figure 3). There was no significant difference between the percentage of violent crimes reported in 2000 (48%) and 2009 (49%). For property crime, the percentage reported to the police varied during the 10-year period. The percentage of property crimes reported to the police in 2009 (39%) was higher than the percentage reported in 2000 (36%), and somewhat higher than those reported in 2001 (37%) and 2007 (37%).

In 2009, violent crimes against females (53%) were more likely to be reported than violent crimes against males (45%) (table 12). Overall, violent crimes against blacks were slightly more likely to be reported than violent crimes against whites (not shown in table). The percentage of violent crimes reported to the police did not differ

**Table 9**  
**Presence of weapons in violent incidents, by type, 2009**

Presence of offender's weapon	Violent crime		Rape/sexual assault		Robbery		Simple and aggravated assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	4,130,140	100%	125,910	100%	516,060	100%	3,488,160	100%
<b>No weapon</b>	2,999,560	73%	106,660	85%	244,880	48%	2,648,020	76%
<b>Weapon</b>	904,820	22%	12,970	10% <sup>^</sup>	241,910	47%	649,940	19%
Firearm	326,090	8	--	-- <sup>^</sup>	142,780	28	183,310	5
Knife	235,380	6	10,480	8 <sup>^</sup>	48,470	9	176,430	5
Other	281,420	7	2,490	2 <sup>^</sup>	39,200	8	239,740	7
Type not ascertained	61,930	2	--	-- <sup>^</sup>	11,470	2 <sup>^</sup>	50,470	1
<b>Don't know</b>	225,760	6%	6,280	5% <sup>^</sup>	29,270	6% <sup>^</sup>	190,200	6%

Note: Percentage may not sum to 100% because of rounding. If the offender was armed with more than one weapon, the crime was classified based on the most serious weapon present. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

<sup>^</sup>Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

--Rounds to less than 0.5 percent.

**Table 10**  
**Firearm use in violent crime, 2000 and 2009**

Firearm use in crime	2000	2009
Incidents	428,670	326,090
Victimizations	533,470	352,810
Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	2.4	1.4*
Percent of all violent incidents	7.0%	7.9%

\*Difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Table 11**  
**Percent of violent and property crimes reported to the police, 2009**

Type of crime	Percent reported
<b>Violent crime</b>	48.6%
Rape/sexual assault	55.4
Robbery	68.4
Aggravated assault	58.2
Simple assault	41.9
<b>Property crime</b>	39.4%
Burglary	57.3
Motor vehicle theft	84.6
Theft	31.8

Note: See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

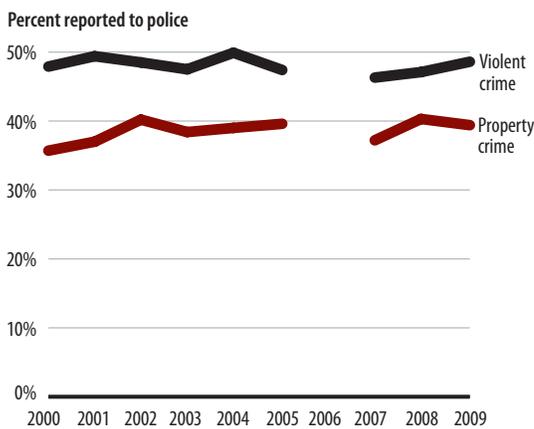
for males or females in different racial groups. Violent crimes against black females were more likely to be reported to the police than those against white males, and slightly more likely than those against males of other races. For both males and females, there were no differences among Hispanics and non-Hispanics in the likelihood of reporting violent crime to the police.

The percentage of property crimes reported to the police for households headed by males and those headed by females did not differ. For households that had a white or black male head of household, property crimes were more likely to be reported than property crimes against households headed by males of other races. Reporting did not differ by racial group for households that had a female head of household. No difference emerged in the percentage of property crimes reported between Hispanic and non-Hispanic households, regardless of whether the head of household was male or female.

**Rates of violent crimes reported to the police remained stable, and rates of property crime reported to the police declined between 2008 and 2009**

There was no statistical difference between the 2008 and 2009 rates of violent crimes reported to the police (table 13). The rate of property crimes reported to the police declined from 2008 to 2009 due to a decline in the rate of theft reported to the police.

**Figure 3**  
**Reporting of violent crime has remained stable since 2000**



Note: Excludes data for 2006. See *Methodology*.

**Table 12**  
**Percent of crimes reported to the police, by gender, race, and Hispanic origin, 2009**

Characteristics of victims	Violent	Property
<b>Total</b>	48.6%	39.4%
<b>Male</b>	44.5%	40.2%
White	43.2	40.8
Black	52.8	41.7
Other race*	38.6	30.7
Hispanic	46.2	36.7
Non-Hispanic	44.2	40.9
<b>Female</b>	53.2%	38.7%
White	52.1	38.6
Black	58.7	39.2
Other race*	56.4	40.1
Hispanic	48.7	34.5
Non-Hispanic	54.0	39.4

Note: Total includes estimates for persons identifying with two or more races, not shown separately. Racial categories displayed are for persons who identified with one race. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

\*Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

**Table 13**  
**Rates and percent change of crimes reported to the police, by type of crime, 2008 and 2009**

Type of crime	Rates <sup>a</sup>		Percent change 2008-2009 <sup>b</sup>
	2008	2009	
<b>Violent crimes<sup>c</sup></b>	9.1	8.3	-8.3%
<b>Serious violent crimes<sup>d</sup></b>	3.7	3.6	-3.3%
Rape/sexual assault	0.3	0.3	-18.0
Robbery	1.3	1.4	8.6
Assault	7.4	6.6	-10.8
Aggravated	2.1	1.9	-8.6
Simple	5.3	4.7	-11.7
<b>Personal theft<sup>e</sup></b>	0.3	0.2	-25.7%
<b>Property crimes</b>	54.3	50.2	-7.4%*
Household burglary	14.8	14.7	-0.7
Motor vehicle theft	5.2	5.1	-2.6
Theft	34.2	30.4	-11.1*

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Total population age 12 or older was 252,242,520 in 2008 and 254,105,610 in 2009. Total number of households was 121,141,060 in 2008 and 122,327,660 in 2009. See appendix table 11 for standard errors.

\*Difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

\*\*Difference is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households.

<sup>b</sup>Percent change calculated based on unrounded estimates.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes murder because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>d</sup>Includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault

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

## Methodology

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes, reported and not reported to the police, against persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households.

Violent crimes measured by the NCVS include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft.

The survey results presented in this report are based on data gathered from residents living throughout the United States, including persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates, were not included in the scope of this survey.

Each housing unit selected for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) remains in the

sample for 3 years, with each of seven interviews taking place at 6-month intervals. An NCVS field representative's first contact with a household selected for the survey is in person. The field representative may conduct subsequent interviews by telephone. To elicit more accurate reporting of incidents, the NCVS uses a self-respondent method that requires a direct interview with each person 12 years or older in the household—except under certain specific conditions. Proxy interviews accounted for about 3% of all NCVS interviews in 2009.

Annual collection year estimates of the levels and rates of victimization are derived by accumulating estimates quarterly. The weights of all crimes reported during the interviews in that year are summed, regardless of when the crime occurred. The base for the collection year rate for personal crimes is the sum of all person weights. The base for the property crime rates is the sum of all household weights. For more detail, see the *Methodology in Criminal Victimization in the United States, Statistical Tables*, BJS Web, March 2010.

### Appendix Table 1

#### Standard errors for criminal victimization, numbers and rates, by type of crime, 2008 and 2009

Type of crime	Standard error of the number of victimizations		Standard error of the rates	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
All crimes	446,804	396,003	~	~
Violent crimes <sup>a</sup>	201,595	190,805	0.80	0.75
Serious violent crimes <sup>b</sup>	103,032	99,110	0.41	0.39
Rape/sexual assault	31,719	24,078	0.13	0.10
Robbery	55,479	54,264	0.22	0.21
Assault	181,862	172,398	0.72	0.68
Aggravated	70,674	69,862	0.28	0.27
Simple	158,238	147,615	0.63	0.58
Personal theft <sup>c</sup>	25,485	24,834	0.10	0.10
Property crimes	385,717	344,331	3.18	2.82
Household burglary	142,834	130,649	1.18	1.07
Motor vehicle theft	60,166	53,639	0.50	0.44
Theft	328,139	291,973	2.71	2.39

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 1.

~Not applicable

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

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

### Methodological changes to the NCVS in 2006

As discussed in the previous editions in this bulletin series, *Criminal Victimization, 2006* and *Criminal Victimization, 2007*, methodological changes implemented in 2006 impacted the estimates for that year to an extent that they were considered to be not comparable to those of previous years. Evaluation of 2007 and later data from the NCVS conducted by BJS and the Census Bureau have found a high degree of confidence that estimates for these years are consistent with and comparable to those for 2005 and previous years. For this reason, discussion of trends in the rates of crime in this report excludes 2006. BJS and the Census Bureau continue to examine the impact of the methodological changes on survey estimates. The reports, *Criminal Victimization, 2006* (December 2007), *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (December 2008), *Criminal Victimization, 2008* (September 2009), are available on the BJS Website at <<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov>>.

### Statistical differences defined

BJS tested the comparisons between the percentages and rates for *Criminal Victimization, 2009* to determine if observed differences were statistically significant. Differences described as higher, lower, or different passed a test at the 0.05 level

of statistical significance (95%-confidence level). Differences described as somewhat, slightly, marginally, or some indication passed a test at the 0.10 level of statistical significance (90%-confidence level). Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this bulletin.

### Change in the rape/sexual assault rate for 2008 to 2009

While the change in the rape/sexual assault rate for 2008 to 2009 is significantly different at the 90%-confidence level, care should be taken in interpreting this change because the estimates of rape/sexual assault are based on a small number of cases reported to the survey. Therefore, small absolute changes and fluctuations in the rates of victimization can result in large year-to-year percent change estimates. For 2009, the estimate of rape/sexual assault is based on 36 unweighted cases compared to 56 unweighted cases in 2008. The measurement of rape and sexual assault represents one of the most serious challenges in the field of victimization research. Rape and sexual assault remain sensitive subjects that are difficult to ask about in the survey context. As part of the on-going redesign of the NCVS, BJS is exploring methods for improving the reporting of these crimes.

**Appendix Table 2**  
Standard errors for rates of criminal victimization, by type of crime, 2000 and 2009

Type of crime	Standard error of the victimization rates	
	2000	2009
<b>Violent crimes<sup>a</sup></b>	1.05	0.75
Rape/sexual assault	0.14	0.10
Robbery	0.26	0.21
Assault	0.94	0.68
Aggravated	0.38	0.27
Simple	0.78	0.58
<b>Personal theft<sup>b</sup></b>	0.14	0.10
<b>Property crimes</b>	3.66	2.82
Household burglary	1.24	1.07
Motor vehicle theft	0.51	0.44
Theft	3.16	2.39

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 2.

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

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

**Appendix Table 3**  
Standard errors for national crime victimization rates, by type of crime, 2007-2009

Type of crime	Standard error of the rates		
	2007	2008	2009
<b>Violent crime<sup>a</sup></b>	0.83	0.80	0.75
Rape/sexual assault	0.13	0.13	0.10
Robbery	0.22	0.22	0.21
Assault	0.74	0.72	0.68
Aggravated	0.27	0.28	0.27
Simple	0.65	0.63	0.58
<b>Personal theft<sup>b</sup></b>	0.12	0.10	0.10
<b>Property crime</b>	2.87	3.18	2.82
Burglary	1.07	1.18	1.07
Motor vehicle theft	0.53	0.50	0.44
Theft	2.47	2.71	2.39

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 3.

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

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

**Appendix Table 4**  
**Standard errors for rates of violent crime, by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and age of victim, 2009**

Demographic characteristic of victim	All	Standard error of the rates of violent victimizations				
		Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	All assault	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	1.10	0.08 <sup>^</sup>	0.35	1.00	0.46	0.82
Female	0.99	0.17	0.25	0.90	0.31	0.80
<b>Race</b>						
White	0.84	0.10	0.21	0.77	0.28	0.67
Black	2.33	0.41	0.95	1.96	1.06	1.53
Other race*	1.84	-- <sup>^</sup>	0.38 <sup>^</sup>	1.79	0.76 <sup>^</sup>	1.58
Two or more races	8.29	-- <sup>^</sup>	2.77 <sup>^</sup>	7.73	3.75 <sup>^</sup>	6.63
<b>Hispanic origin</b>						
Hispanic	1.76	0.24 <sup>^</sup>	0.68	1.53	0.66	1.32
Non-Hispanic	0.86	0.11	0.23	0.78	0.31	0.67
<b>Age</b>						
12-15	3.61	0.48 <sup>^</sup>	0.92	3.38	1.42	2.96
16-19	3.16	0.37 <sup>^</sup>	1.18	2.81	1.20	2.45
20-24	2.81	0.40 <sup>^</sup>	0.88	2.56	1.34	2.07
25-34	1.84	0.29 <sup>^</sup>	0.57	1.65	0.75	1.39
35-49	1.30	0.16 <sup>^</sup>	0.39	1.18	0.45	1.04
50-64	1.07	0.15 <sup>^</sup>	0.30	0.99	0.40	0.87
65 or older	0.64	0.14 <sup>^</sup>	0.21 <sup>^</sup>	0.56	0.18 <sup>^</sup>	0.52

Note: Violent crimes measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey include rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 5.

<sup>^</sup>Based upon 10 or fewer sample cases.

\*Includes includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

--Rates round to less than 0.05 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

**Appendix Table 5**  
**Standard errors for property crime rates, by household income and household size, 2009**

Characteristics of household	Standard error of the rates of victimizations			
	Total	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$7,500	13.00	6.25	2.21	11.44
\$7,500-\$14,999	9.38	5.08	2.06	7.63
\$15,000-\$24,999	7.54	3.68	1.49	6.34
\$25,000-\$34,999	7.30	3.48	1.48	6.16
\$35,000-\$49,999	6.61	2.76	1.65	5.66
\$50,000-\$74,999	5.97	2.25	1.03	5.33
\$75,000 or more	5.05	1.60	0.80	4.63
<b>Number of persons in household</b>				
1	3.69	1.86	0.62	2.96
2 or 3	3.46	1.36	0.62	2.98
4 or 5	6.26	2.25	1.21	5.65
6 or more	15.33	7.39	4.03	13.51

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 6.

### Appendix Table 6

#### Standard errors for relationship between victim and offender, by gender of victim, 2009

Relationship to victim	Violent crime	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
	Standard error of the percent				
<b>Male victims</b>					
Nonstranger	2.5	2.1 <sup>^</sup>	2.3	2.5	2.5
Intimate*	1.0	-- <sup>^</sup>	-- <sup>^</sup>	1.1 <sup>^</sup>	1.1
Other relative	1.1	-- <sup>^</sup>	1.2 <sup>^</sup>	-- <sup>^</sup>	1.3
Friend/acquaintance	2.4	2.1 <sup>^</sup>	2.1	2.5	2.4
Stranger	2.5	2.3 <sup>^</sup>	2.5	2.5	2.5
Relationship unknown	0.8	-- <sup>^</sup>	1.0 <sup>^</sup>	0.4 <sup>^</sup>	0.9
<b>Female victims</b>					
Nonstranger	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.5
Intimate*	2.2	2.6	2.0	1.9	2.3
Other relative	1.4	-- <sup>^</sup>	1.5 <sup>^</sup>	1.2 <sup>^</sup>	1.5
Friend/acquaintance	2.4	2.5	1.8 <sup>^</sup>	2.6	2.4
Stranger	2.4	2.1 <sup>^</sup>	2.6	2.5	2.3
Relationship unknown	0.6 <sup>^</sup>	-- <sup>^</sup>	1.1 <sup>^</sup>	-- <sup>^</sup>	0.6 <sup>^</sup>

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 7.

<sup>^</sup>Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

--Percents round to less than 0.5 percent

\*Defined as current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

### Appendix Table 7

#### Standard errors for number and rate of intimate partner violence, by victims' gender, 2008 and 2009

	2008		2009	
	Standard error of the number	Standard error of the rate	Standard error of the number	Standard error of the rate
Males	20,706	0.17	23,831	0.19
Females	54,537	0.42	57,216	0.44

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 8.

### Appendix Table 8

#### Standard errors for presence of weapons in violent incidents, by type, 2009

Presence of offender's weapon	Violent crime	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Simple and aggravated assault
	Standard error of the percent			
No weapon	1.8	6.6	4.8	1.9
<b>Weapon</b>	1.6	5.3 <sup>^</sup>	4.8	1.6
Firearm	1.0	-- <sup>^</sup>	4.2	0.8
Knife	0.8	4.8 <sup>^</sup>	2.6	0.8
Other	0.9	2.4 <sup>^</sup>	2.5	1.0
Type not ascertained	0.5	-- <sup>^</sup>	1.2 <sup>^</sup>	0.3
<b>Don't know</b>	0.8	3.8 <sup>^</sup>	2.1 <sup>^</sup>	0.9

Note: If the offender was armed with more than one weapon, the crime is classified based on the most serious weapon present.

Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 9.

<sup>^</sup>Based upon 10 or fewer sample cases.

--Percents round to less than 0.5 percent

**Appendix Table 9**  
**Standard errors for percent of violent and property crimes reported to police, 2009**

Type of crime	Standard error of the percent reported
<b>Violent crime</b>	1.85
Rape/sexual assault	8.96
Robbery	4.30
Aggravated assault	3.74
Simple assault	2.15
<b>Property crime</b>	0.92
Burglary	1.74
Motor vehicle theft	2.33
Theft	0.96

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 11.

**Appendix Table 10**  
**Standard errors for percent of crimes reported to the police, by gender, race, and Hispanic origin, 2009**

Characteristics of victim	Violent	Property
<b>Total</b>	1.96	0.96
<b>Male</b>	2.51	1.27
White	2.81	1.38
Black	5.19	3.04
Other*	10.07	4.55
Hispanic	5.75	2.71
Non-Hispanic	2.68	1.36
<b>Female</b>	2.65	1.25
White	2.99	1.38
Black	5.31	2.63
Other*	15.39	5.85
Hispanic	6.10	2.77
Non-Hispanic	2.83	1.34

Note: Total includes estimates for persons identifying with two or more races, not shown separately. Racial categories displayed are for persons who identified with one race.

Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 12.

\*Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

**Appendix Table 11**  
**Standard errors for rates of crimes reported**  
**to the police, by type of crime, 2008 and 2009**

Type of crime	Standard error of the rates	
	2008	2009
<b>Violent crimes<sup>a</sup></b>	0.51	0.48
<b>Serious violent crimes<sup>b</sup></b>	0.30	0.29
Rape/sexual assault	0.07	0.07
Robbery	0.16	0.17
Assault	0.45	0.42
Aggravated	0.21	0.20
Simple	0.37	0.34
<b>Personal theft<sup>c</sup></b>	0.07	0.06
<b>Property crimes</b>	1.85	1.62
Household burglary	0.82	0.76
Motor vehicle theft	0.43	0.40
Theft	1.39	1.19

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 13.

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault

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

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