



## **JUVENILE VICTIMIZATION AND OFFENDING 1993-2003**

### **Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services**

1970 W. Broad Street, 4th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43218-2632

Toll-Free: (800) 448-4842

Telephone: (614) 466-7782

Fax: (614) 466-0308

[www.ocjs.ohio.gov](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov)

## JUVENILE VICTIMIZATION AND OFFENDING, 1993-2003

In August 2005, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the report *Juvenile Victimization and Offending, 1993—2003*. The report is based on data collected in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR). NCVS gathers data on crimes (excluding homicide) against persons age 12 and older, reported and not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. SHR collects data on homicides reported to law enforcement. The following data and graphics were taken from this report.

- From 1993-2003, juveniles ages 12 to 14 (referred to as “younger teens”) and 15 to 17 (referred to as “older teens”) experienced annual rates of nonfatal violence 2.5 times higher than the rate for adults.
- A comparison of average annual rates of data from 1993-1995 to 2001-2003 shows that the rate of nonfatal violent crimes for younger teens, older teens, and adults fell for all crimes under study: rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

### Demographics of victims, 1993-2003 (average annual rates)

- Age. Older teens (15-17) experienced higher rates of rape/sexual assault and aggravated assault, while younger teens (12-14) experienced higher rates of simple assault. Younger and older teens had similar rates of robbery victimizations.
- Gender. Male teens had rates of violent victimization 2.5 times the average annual rate of male adults; female teens had victimization rates that were two times that of female adults.
- Race and ethnicity. White and Black younger and older teens had similar average annual rates of victimization. Younger and older non-Hispanic White teens had somewhat higher average annual rates of violent victimization than Hispanics of similar ages.
- Urban, suburban, and rural crime. For younger and older teens, urban youth had higher average annual rates of violence than suburban or rural youth.

### Characteristics of criminal events against juveniles, 1993-2003

- Weapon use. The majority of violent crimes against juveniles were committed without a weapon. A greater proportion of older teens than younger teens were the victim of a violent crime where a weapon was used (25 percent vs. 18 percent).
  - Firearms. Approximately 9 percent of older teens and 2.5 percent of younger teens were victimized by an offender with a firearm.
- Injuries. About 3 in 10 violent victimizations against youth ages 12-17 resulted in an injury. Older teens were more likely than younger teens to experience serious injury.
- Location. Over 53 percent of violent victimizations of younger teens and 32 percent of violent victimizations of older teens occurred at school.

- Time of day. Teens in both age groups experienced more violent victimizations during the day (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) than during the night. However, older teens were 2.5 times more likely than younger teens to be victimized at night.
- Reporting to police. Victimization against older teens were more likely to be reported to police than victimizations to younger teens (35 percent vs. 23 percent).
  - Most common reasons why younger teens did not report crime to police: it was reported to another official (30 percent); it was a minor crime (19 percent); it was a private/personal matter (16 percent); it was a child offender (8 percent).
  - Most common reasons why older teens did not report crime to police: it was a private/personal matter (22 percent) it was a minor crime (21 percent); it was reported to another official (17 percent); afraid/fear of reprisal (4 percent).
- Victim-offender relationship. Younger teens were less likely than older teens to be victimized by strangers (32 percent vs. 41 percent). Younger teens were more likely to be victimized by a schoolmate than were older teens. Older teens were more than 3.6 times as likely as younger teens to be victimized by an intimate (4 percent vs. 1percent, respectively).

### **Demographics of offenders, 1993-2003**

- Age. Eighty percent of teens ages 12-14 and 52 percent of teens age 15-17 perceived their offender to be a juvenile.
- Gender. Seventy-six percent of violent crimes committed by juveniles were committed by males.
- Race. Fifty-nine percent of violent juvenile crimes were committed by White offenders, and 25 percent were committed by Black offenders.
- Perceived gang involvement. Eleven percent of young teen victims and 14 percent of older teen victims perceived the offender to be part of a gang. However, across both age groups, approximately 40 percent could not determine whether the offender was a gang member.
- Drug and alcohol use. About 11 percent of older teen victims and 5 percent of younger teen victims reported that the offender was using drugs or alcohol. Across both teen age groups, approximately 40 percent could not determine whether the offender was using drugs or alcohol.

### **Homicide victims and offenders, 1993-2003**

- Homicide victimization rates fell across all age groups, with the greatest decline seen for younger teens.
- Homicide offending rates fell across all age groups, and the decline for teens was twice that of adults. Older teens had higher rates of committing a homicide than all other age groups.

- For children under age 12, a relative was responsible for 58 percent of all homicides — this is three times higher than that for younger teens and nine times higher than that for older teens. Younger and older teen victims were about equally as likely to be killed by a stranger (14 percent and 16 percent, respectively).
- Firearms were used in 83 percent of homicides against older teens and 70 percent of homicides against younger teens.

**Table 22. Homicide victimization rates per 100,000, by age, 1993-2003**

Age of victim	Homicide victimizations					Average annual rate, 1993-2003
	1993-95		2001-03		Percent change	
	Number	Average annual rate per 100,000	Number	Average annual rate per 100,000		
0-11	957	2.1	785	1.6	-21.6%	1.8
12-14	310	2.8	123	1.0	-64.7	1.7
15-17	1,442	13.4	671	5.5	-59.1	8.6
18 or older	20,448	10.6	14,669	6.8	-35.9	8.2

**Table 23. Homicide offending rates per 100,000, by age, 1993-2003**

Age of victim	Homicides committed					Average annual rate, 1993-2003
	1993-95		2001-03		Percent change	
	Number	Average annual rate per 100,000	Number	Average annual rate per 100,000		
0-11	18	0	11	0	-42.3%	0
12-14	493	4.4	161	1.3	-71.0	2.4
15-17	3,782	35.2	1,379	11.3	-68.0	20.4
18 or older	21,819	11.3	16,715	7.8	-31.5	9.0

A link to the full report can be found on the Bureau of Justice Statistics web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/jvo03.pdf>.