



CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION, 2009

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In October 2010, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released the bulletin *Criminal Victimization, 2009*. Data come from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which collects data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households on nonfatal crimes against persons 12 or older, reported and not reported to the police. The NCVS measures the violent crimes of rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault, personal theft, and the property crimes of household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft. A link to the full report can be found on the BJS website: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv09.pdf>.

Victimization in 2009

- Violent and property crime rates in 2009 were at their lowest levels since the first victimization estimates from the survey were produced in 1973. During the most recent decade from 2000 to 2009, every type of violent and property crime measured by NCVS declined. The overall violent crime rate declined by 39 percent and the property crime rate fell by 29 percent during this time period. In 2009, the overall victimization rate for violent crimes was 17.1 per 1,000 persons. The property crime rate was 127.4 victimizations per 1,000 households.

Type of Crime	2009 rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and older (violent crimes) or per household (property crimes)
Violent crime	17.1
Rape/sexual assault	0.5
Robbery	2.1
Assault	14.5
Aggravated assault	3.2
Simple assault	11.3
Personal theft	0.5
Property crime	127.4
Household burglary	25.6
Motor vehicle theft	6.0
Theft	95.7

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, *Criminal Victimization, 2009*.

- Approximately 22 percent of all violent crimes, and 47 percent of robberies in particular, were committed by an armed (i.e., firearm, knife, other weapon) offender. The presence of a firearm weapon was dependent upon the type of crime committed—28 percent of robberies involved the presence of a firearm, compared to five percent of simple and aggravated assaults.
- Sixty-eight percent of females and 45 percent of males were victimized by someone they knew. Intimate partners were responsible for five percent of all violence against males and 26 percent of all violence against females.
- Property crime rates were higher in lower-income households than higher-income households. Larger households (those with six or more persons) were about three times more likely to be victims of property crime than single-person households.

Characteristics of Victims of Violent Crimes in 2009

- As with previous years, violent victimizations occurred at a higher rate for males, blacks, and persons ages 24 or younger than for females, whites, and persons ages 25 or older.
- Gender. Males were the victims of robbery and aggravated assault at rates higher than females. Females were more likely than males to be victims of rape or sexual assault. There were no statistically significant differences between genders for simple assault.
- Race and Ethnicity. Blacks were more likely than whites to be victims of overall violent crime, robbery, and aggravated assault, and were somewhat more likely than whites to be victims of rape and sexual assault. Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to be victims of robbery.
- Age. In general, crime victimization rates decreased as victims' ages increased. For violent crimes, persons from ages 12 to 24 were victimized at higher rates than persons in all other age groups.

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

Demographic characteristics of victim	Population	Violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older					
		Total	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Total assault	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
Gender							
Male	124,041,190	18.4	0.2 [^]	2.7	15.6	4.3	11.3
Female	130,064,420	15.8	0.8	1.6	13.5	2.3	11.2
Race							
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	-- [^]	0.5 [^]	9.3	1.9 [^]	7.4
Two or more races	2,744,600	42.1	-- [^]	5.2 [^]	36.9	9.3 [^]	27.5
Hispanic origin							
Hispanic	35,375,280	18.1	0.5 [^]	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
Age							
12-15	16,230,740	36.8	0.9 [^]	3.1	32.8	6.9	25.9
16-19	17,203,070	30.3	0.6 [^]	5.2	24.6	5.3	19.3
20-24	20,620,150	28.1	0.8 [^]	3.5	23.8	7.5	16.3
25-34	41,073,240	21.5	0.8 [^]	2.8	17.9	4.5	13.4
35-49	64,323,190	16.1	0.4 [^]	2.0	13.7	2.6	11.1
50-64	56,651,170	10.7	0.3 [^]	1.1	9.3	1.9	7.5
65 or older	38,004,060	3.2	0.2 [^]	0.4 [^]	2.5	0.3 [^]	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.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, *Criminal Victimization, 2009*.

Reporting Crime to the Police

- In 2009, 49 percent of violent crimes and 39 percent of property crimes were reported to police.
- Robbery was the violent crime most frequently reported to the police (68%), followed by aggravated assault (58.2%), rape/sexual assault (55.4%), and simple assault (41.9%).

- Approximately 45 percent of men and 53 percent of women reported violent crimes to law enforcement. Forty percent of men and 39 percent of women reported property crime to police.