



Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey

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

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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
Male victims	3,027,400		
Intimate	3%		
Other relative	4	Total	50%
Friend/acquaintance	37	Male victims	46%
Stranger	55	White	45
		Black	53
Female victims	2,716,420	Other	43
Intimate	20%	Female victims	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 1973.¹
- 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.

¹Based 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.²

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

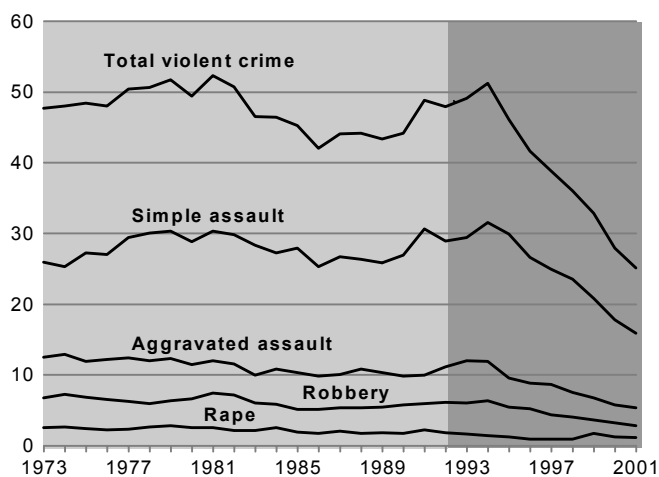
Aside from an increase between 1973 and 1974, property crime rates have fallen through the duration of the NCVS.

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.

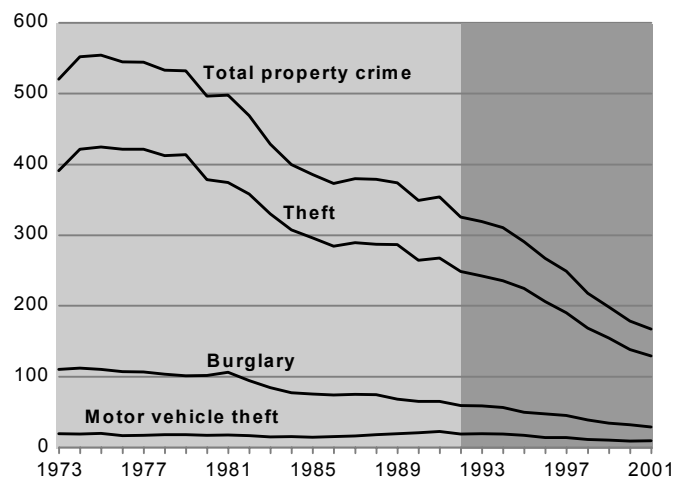
The **motor vehicle theft** rate, despite some periods of increase, primarily declined, 1973-2000. From 2000 to 2001 the rate was stable. The 2001 rate of 9 motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 households was about half the 1973 rate of 19 per 1,000 households.

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



²For 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
All crimes	25,893	24,216	
Personal crimes^a	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 [†]
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 [†]
Without injury	3,048	2,798	13.4	12.2	-9.0
Personal theft ^b	274	188	1.2	0.8	-33.3*
Property crimes	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 [†]
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 [†]
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 ^c	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.

[†]The difference from 2000 to 2001 is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

^aThe NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

^bIncludes pocket picking, purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

^cIncludes 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.

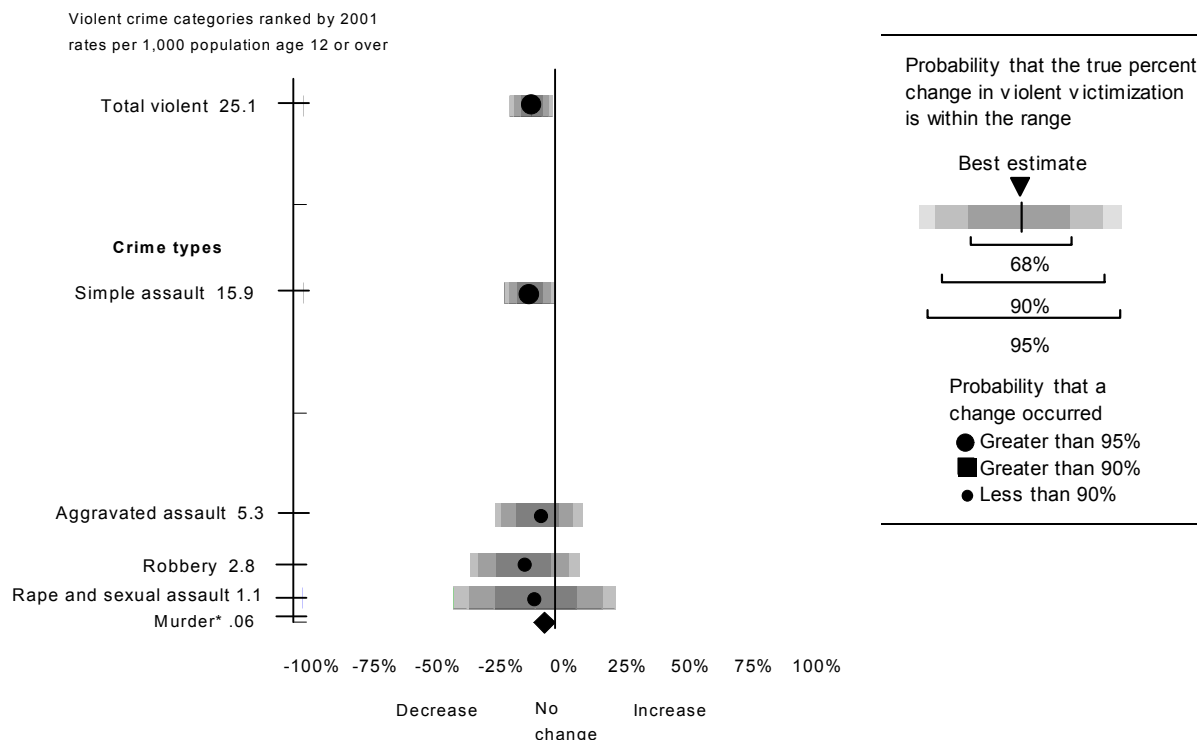
	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2000	2001	Percent change
12-15 years	60.1	55.1	-8.3%
16-19 years	64.3	55.8	-13.2
20-24 years	49.4	44.7	-9.5
25-34 years	34.8	29.3	-15.8 [†]
35-49 years	21.8	22.9	+5.0
50-64 years	13.7	9.5	-30.7 [*]
65+ years	3.7	3.2	-13.5

2000-01 difference is significant at the —
^{*}95%-confidence level. [†]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. ^{*}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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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 [‡]

*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 100,000.² 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%.

²The 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% [‡]
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. [‡]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, 2000-01.³

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.

³In 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	
Gender								
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
Age								
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*
Race								
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*
Hispanic origin								
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		
Household income								
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
Marital status								
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*
Region								
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
Residence								
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
All victims										
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%
Male victims										
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%*
Female victims										
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%
No weapon	3,770,390	66%	212,350	86%	212,590	34%	3,345,450	69%
Weapon	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
Don't know	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.

