



# The National Crime Victimization Survey and National Incident-Based Reporting System: A complementary picture of crime in 2022

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NCJ 307589

DECEMBER 2023

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), managed by the FBI, each measure a set of criminal offenses that are similar but not identical, which leads to differences in estimates between the two data sources. To obtain victimization data, the NCVS interviews persons age 12 or older about crimes they experienced, both reported and not reported to police. NIBRS collects data on crime recorded by law enforcement agencies. Taken together, these two measures

provide a comprehensive picture of crime in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

This report describes similarities and differences between the two data collections and compares the 2021 and 2022 statistical estimates. Restricting the NCVS to violent crime reported to police, and excluding simple assault, aligns the

<sup>1</sup>See *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023) for additional NCVS estimates from BJS and the [Crime Data Explorer](#) for additional NIBRS estimates from the FBI.

## Rate of crime per 1,000 reported to police in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2021 and 2022

Type of crime	Rate per 1,000 persons			
	2021 NIBRS <sup>a</sup>	2022 NIBRS <sup>a*</sup>	2021 NCVS	2022 NCVS*
<b>Violent crime excluding simple assault</b>	4.00	3.98	2.91 †	4.70
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	0.07	0.06	~	~
Rape/sexual assault <sup>b</sup>	0.46 †	0.42	0.25 ‡	0.40
Robbery	0.61	0.65	1.00 †	1.58
Aggravated assault	2.85	2.85	1.66 †	2.72
	Rate per 1,000 persons		Rate per 1,000 households	
	2021 NIBRS <sup>a</sup>	2022 NIBRS <sup>a*</sup>	2021 NCVS	2022 NCVS*
<b>Property crime</b>	19.44	20.65	27.82 †	32.44
Burglary <sup>c</sup>	2.73	2.75	3.66	4.53
Motor vehicle theft	2.73	2.96	3.32 †	4.42

Note: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) crime rates are normally reported per 100,000 persons but were recalculated for this report to align with the reporting of National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) crime rates per 1,000 persons. NIBRS violent and property crime rates are calculated per 1,000 persons. NCVS violent crime rates are calculated per 1,000 persons, and NCVS property crime rates are calculated per 1,000 households. See the FBI's [Crime Data Explorer](#) to review the confidence intervals associated with each of the NIBRS crime estimates. See *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023) for NCVS standard errors.

~Not applicable.

\*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Includes crimes against persons age 11 or younger, persons who are homeless, persons who are institutionalized, and crimes against commercial establishments. These populations are included in NIBRS, but out of sample for the NCVS.

<sup>b</sup>See the [Glossary](#) on the FBI's Crime Data Explorer for the Uniform Crime Reporting Program's definition of rape. See *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023) for details on the measurement of rape or sexual assault in the NCVS.

<sup>c</sup>NIBRS defines burglary as forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, or attempted forcible entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The NCVS defines burglary as the unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of places, including a permanent residence, other residence (e.g., a hotel room or vacation residence), or other structure (e.g., a garage or shed) where there was a completed or attempted theft.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2021 and 2022; and Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2021 and 2022.

NCVS and NIBRS measures as closely as possible (see table).

### Key statistical estimates for 2021 and 2022

Based on the NCVS, the total violent victimization rate, which includes victimizations reported and not reported to police, was 23.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2022. This rate was higher than the rate in 2021 (16.5 per 1,000). The rate of property victimization (reported and not reported to police) in 2022 was 101.9 victimizations per 1,000 households, which was higher than the 2021 rate of 90.3 per 1,000.

From 2021 to 2022, the rate of violent crime, excluding simple assault, reported to police increased from 2.9 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older to 4.7 victimizations per 1,000. During this same period, the rate of property crime reported to police increased from 27.8 to 32.4 victimizations per 1,000 households.

By comparison, the NIBRS violent crime rate was 4.0 per 1,000 persons in 2022, which was not statistically different from the 2021 rate. The 2022 property crime rate was 20.7 crimes per 1,000 persons, which was also not statistically different from the 2021 rate.

### Key methodological differences

The overall crime estimates from these two sources trend in a similar way over time.<sup>2</sup> However, estimates from NIBRS and the NCVS in a given year may differ because the two data collections use different methods to measure an overlapping but nonidentical set of offenses:

- *Crimes included.* NIBRS includes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and commercial crimes (including burglary of commercial establishments), while the NCVS excludes those crime types.
- *Sexual crimes.* The NIBRS and NCVS definitions of rape and sexual assault differ slightly. The NIBRS definition of rape is “the carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity,” and the measure includes the three offense types of rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object.<sup>3</sup> Attempts or assaults to commit rape are also included, and statutory rape and incest are excluded. NIBRS measures the offense of fondling as a form of criminal sexual conduct, but fondling is not included in the NIBRS definition of rape. The

NCVS definition of rape includes coerced or forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category includes incidents where the penetration was from a foreign object such as a bottle. It includes attempted rape, threatened rape, male and female victims, and incidents involving victims and offenders who are the same sex or different sexes. Sexual assault in the NCVS includes a wide range of victimizations, separate from rape, attempted rape, or threatened rape. These crimes include attacks or threatened attacks involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and includes such actions as grabbing or fondling.

- *Property crimes.* The NIBRS property crime rates are per person, while the NCVS’s are per household. Moreover, because the number of households may not grow each year at the same rate as the total population, trend data for rates of property crimes measured by the two programs may not be entirely comparable. There were 2.2 persons age 12 or older per household in 2022.
- *Data collection methods.* NCVS estimates are based on interviews with a nationally representative sample of persons age 12 or older in U.S. households. NIBRS estimates are based on counts of crimes recorded by law enforcement agencies and are weighted to compensate for incomplete reporting.
- *Populations covered.* The NCVS does not measure crimes against persons who are homeless or who live in institutional settings (e.g., nursing homes and correctional institutions) or on military bases. Nor does the NCVS measure crimes against children age 11 or younger. NIBRS measures crimes against all U.S. residents, including crimes against children age 11 or younger. In some states, mandatory reporting laws require that persons report certain crimes against youth. Due to these factors, the age distribution of crimes measured in NIBRS differs from that of the NCVS.

For additional information about the differences in crime measurement between the NCVS and the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program, of which NIBRS is a part, see *The Nation’s Two Crime Measures, 2011–2020* (NCJ 303385, BJS, February 2022). For more information on NIBRS estimates, see BJS’s [National Incident-Based Reporting System webpage](#) and the FBI’s [National Incident-Based Reporting System webpage](#). For more information on the NCVS, see BJS’s [National Crime Victimization Survey webpage](#).

<sup>2</sup>See *Criminal Victimization 2021* (NCJ 305101, BJS, September 2022) and the FBI’s [Crime Data Explorer](#).

<sup>3</sup>See the [Glossary](#) on the FBI’s Crime Data Explorer for the Uniform Crime Reporting Program’s definition of rape.