



# A New Measure of Prevalence for the National Crime Victimization Survey

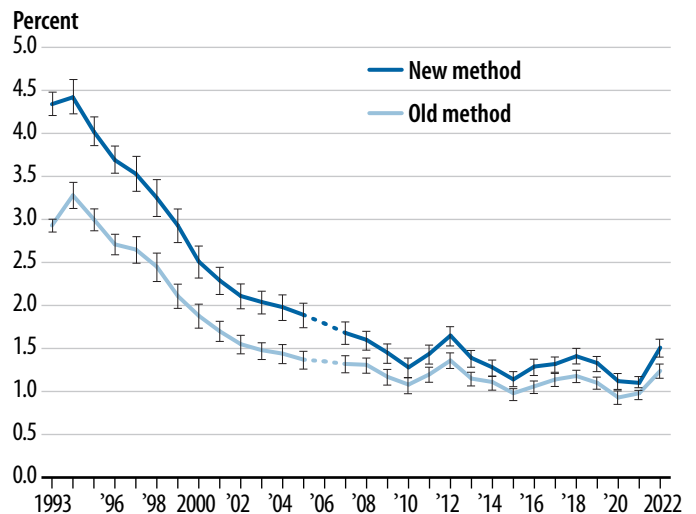
Emily Berg, PhD, *BJS Visiting Fellow*, and Susannah N. Tapp, PhD, *BJS Statistician*

Individuals age 12 or older participate in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), providing an array of information related to their experiences of crime. This large-scale annual survey, administered by the U.S. Census Bureau on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, produces important measures of the extent of victimization in the United States. The NCVS's design, however, poses unique challenges for calculating one such measure, the prevalence rate. Prevalence reflects the number or percentage of unique persons who were victims of crime, or of unique households that were victimized, at least once during a given period. One concern is that the true prevalence of crime may be underestimated.

To overcome the problems associated with the old procedure, a new method of estimating prevalence will be implemented, starting with the *Criminal Victimization, 2023* report. This report describes that new method. It discusses the limitations of the old prevalence measure first, followed by guiding principles for the new prevalence measure. A description of the new method is third, followed by a comparison of estimates using both methods. Additional details on the development of the new prevalence measure, including the theoretical underpinnings of the new procedure and an in-depth description of the new prevalence weight, are provided in the companion report, *National Crime Victimization Survey: Prevalence Estimation Methods* (NCJ 308745, BJS, April 2024).

Prevalence rates for violent crime (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) were

**FIGURE 1**  
Percent of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime, by prevalence estimation method, 1993–2022



Note: Violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Estimates for 2006 should not be compared to other years. See *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (NCJ 224390, BJS, December 2008) for more information on changes to the 2006 National Crime Victimization Survey. See appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993–2022.

consistently higher from 1993 to 2022 when estimated using the new method than when using the old method (figure 1). The difference decreased over time as the prevalence rates themselves declined.

## The National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 persons in about 150,000 U.S. households. Persons age 12 or older are interviewed on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes and household property crimes, both reported and not reported to police. For more information, see the NCVS data collection webpage (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs>) and *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).



## Limitations of the old prevalence measure

The NCVS design and estimation procedures are tailored more for estimating victimization rates than prevalence rates. As a result, the NCVS prevalence estimates may be biased. This concern arises from three main limitations:

1. *Victims with only one victimization are overcounted:* If every person in the population experienced exactly one victimization, then the prevalence rate would equal the victimization rate. The old NCVS prevalence estimates distort this theoretical relationship between prevalence and victimization rates. Units with only one victimization receive an unduly heavy weight, while units with multiple victimizations are underweighted. This is one source of bias in the NCVS prevalence estimates.
2. *Individuals may be observed in only one 6-month interval of a year:* A second source of bias occurs because individuals may be interviewed in only one half of the year. This can occur due to nonresponse or intentional features of the NCVS's rotating panel design. Individuals remain in the NCVS sample for 7 consecutive 6-month intervals and are then rotated out. As a result, some persons were interviewed once only during the first half of the year because that was their last intended interview and others were interviewed once only during the second half of the year because that was their first intended interview. This presents a problem for estimating prevalence rates. Suppose the person experienced no victimizations during the 6-month time frame in which they were interviewed but did experience a victimization in the other half of the year. The old NCVS prevalence estimate would incorrectly classify this individual as someone who did not experience a victimization in that year. This can cause the NCVS estimates to underestimate the true prevalence rates.
3. *No bounding adjustment is applied:* NCVS respondents are asked to report on crimes that they experienced in the 6 months preceding the month of the interview. An individual, however, may mistakenly report crimes that they experienced before the 6-month interview period. This problem is called "telescoping" and leads to bias in the NCVS estimates if unaccounted for. Using reported incidents from the prior interview to confirm duplicate reports is called bounding. Since 2007, a bounding adjustment has been applied to the first interview to avoid telescoping bias. The bounding adjustment is calculated for property crimes and violent crimes separately and applied to the final household or

person weights to create the victimization weight for each incident. The NCVS victimization rates incorporate a bounding factor that adjusts for telescoping. The prevalence rates do not incorporate this bounding factor because the victimization weight is not used to produce prevalence estimates. Failure to account for the possibility of telescoping is a third source of bias in the old NCVS prevalence estimates.

## Guiding principles of the new prevalence measure

A new method for estimating prevalence was developed to address the limitations of the old procedure. The new method is called the one-victimization adjustment method (OVAM) procedure. The details of the new OVAM method are documented in *National Crime Victimization Survey: Prevalence Estimation Methods* (NCJ 308745, BJS, April 2024). This report provides an overview of the basic principles that underlie the new OVAM estimation method:

1. *Preserve the theoretical relationship between victimizations and victims:* A victimization rate is defined as the ratio of the number of victimizations in the population to the total population size. The prevalence rate is defined as the ratio of the number of unique victims to the total population size. If every individual experienced exactly one victimization, then the number of unique victims is equal to the number of victimizations, and the prevalence and victimization rates are identical. The new procedure modifies the NCVS victimization weights to preserve this relationship. When using the new method, the prevalence and victimization rates are the same for individuals who experienced only one victimization. This can also be interpreted as a form of nonresponse adjustment that implicitly accounts for the issue that an individual may not be interviewed in one half of the year.
2. *Incorporate a bounding factor:* The new method of estimating prevalence incorporates a bounding factor to account for telescoping. The OVAM method begins with an initial weight and then applies several modifications to that initial weight. A key feature of the OVAM procedure is that the initial weight is the NCVS victimization weight. The victimization weight already incorporates a bounding adjustment to mitigate the effect of telescoping. By starting with the victimization weight, the new method incorporates a bounding adjustment.

## Victimization, incident, and prevalence estimates using the NCVS

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) was designed with four primary objectives: (1) to develop detailed information about the victims and consequences of crime, (2) to estimate the number and types of crimes not reported to the police, (3) to provide uniform measures of selected types of crimes, and (4) to permit year-to-year comparisons (*National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016 Technical Documentation*, NCJ 251442, December, 2017). The survey enables the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to generate representative estimates of criminal victimization for the population as a whole and for segments of the population, such as males and females, persons of certain age groups, members of various racial and ethnic groups, groups by location of residence, other population subgroups, and as of 2016, the top 22 most populous states.

Currently, NCVS data can be used to produce:

- **Victimization estimates**—The total number of times that persons or households were victims of crime. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is the number of victims of that crime. Each crime against a household is counted as having a single victim: the affected household.
- **Prevalence estimates**—The number or percentage of unique persons who were crime victims, or of unique households that experienced crime.
- **Incident estimates**—The number of specific criminal acts involving one or more victims.

To demonstrate the rationale for the new prevalence measure, it is important to distinguish between a prevalence rate and a victimization rate.

*Prevalence rates* are estimated by dividing the number of unique victims or victimized households in the specified population by the total number of persons or households in the population. Specifically, the prevalence rate is defined as:

$$\text{Prevalence rate} = \frac{\text{Number of victims in a population}}{\text{Number of persons in a population}}$$

*Victimization rates* are the number of victimizations per 1,000 persons. Victimization rates measure the extent to which violent and property victimizations occur in a specified population during a specified time. Victimization counts show the total number of times that people or households are criminally victimized. An example of a victimization rate is the number of robberies that occurred per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2022. A person who experienced two robberies within the past year would be counted twice in the victimization rate but only once in the prevalence rate. Specifically, the victimization rate is defined as:

$$\text{Victimization rate} = \frac{\text{Number of victimizations in a population}}{\text{Number of persons in a population}}$$

*Incident rates* are another measure of crime. The number of incidents is the number of specific criminal acts involving one or more victims. If every victimization had one victim, the number of incidents would be the same as the number of victimizations. If there was more than one victim, the incident estimate is adjusted to compensate for the possibility that the incident could be reported several times by multiple victims and thus be overcounted. For example, if two people were robbed during the same incident, this crime would be counted as one robbery incident but two robbery victimizations.

The key distinction between a victimization and a prevalence estimate is whether the numerator consists of the number of victimizations or the number of victims. Prevalence depends on the percentage of affected persons within a population and does not take into account the number of victimizations each victim experiences. These rates tell about the risk of experiencing at least one crime in a given period. If each violent incident involved one person who experienced one victimization, victimization, prevalence, and incident rates would be the same.

Both victimization and prevalence rates provide information about the level of and risk for crime. Using these rates together provides a better understanding of how the nature of crime evolves over time. For example, there may be more victims, more victimizations per victim, or both. If there are more victimizations per victim (an increase in repeat victimization), a person's risk of experiencing any victimization has not changed, but their risk for repeated victimization if they are a victim has increased. If the prevalence rate increases but the victimization rate does not, more individuals have been victims of crime.

Historically, the NCVS was designed to provide data to create victimization, not prevalence, estimates. Reporting focused on victimization and incident estimates. However, prevalence estimates are beneficial to data users. Starting in 2013, BJS has also presented NCVS-based prevalence estimates. Prevalence estimates were calculated using the old method through *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023). For more information on how prevalence has historically been calculated using NCVS data, see *Measuring the Prevalence of Crime with the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 241656, BJS, September 2013).

3. *Control to the population:* A final adjustment ensures that controls for the total population are preserved. In the old procedure, the sum of the weights for every person in the population is the estimate of the total population. The new method incorporates a final adjustment to ensure that the OVAM weights also have this property. After this adjustment, the sum of the OVAM weights for every individual is equal to the standard NCVS value for the total population.

The new OVAM estimation method accounts for the three limitations inherent in the old procedure for estimating prevalence. As such, the new estimates are less biased than the old NCVS estimates. The new estimates tend to exceed NCVS estimates based on the old method, confirming that the old NCVS prevalence estimates have underestimated the true prevalence rates.

### Calculating weights using the new one-victimization adjustment method

Members of the NCVS sample are interviewed every 6 months across 3.5 years for a total of seven interviews. Annual estimates are based on two 6-month interviews in a year. Persons and households are counted once per year, while victimization estimates are based on observations from both 6-month periods. Person weights (WGTPERCY) and household weights (WGTHHCY) are created to represent the number of persons or households in the population that a sampled unit represents. Victimization weights (WGTVICCY) are created similarly to reflect the number of victimizations in a 6-month period that a given victimization represents. When a respondent reports a series crime, the interviewer completes one incident report for all incidents with the details of the most recent incident. In order to count all instances of this incident, the series weight (SERIES\_WEIGHT) is the victimization weight multiplied by the number of times (up to 10) the incident occurred. Because incidents sometimes have more than one victim, the incident weight (SERIES\_IWEIGHT) is the series victimization weight divided by the number of victims in the incident. For more information on weights in the NCVS, see *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016 Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, December 2017). Prevalence calculations using the old method use the WGTPERCY weight for persons and WGTHHCY weight for households regardless of the number of interviews and

## Survey weights and prevalence estimates

The survey weight is integral to the construction of the new prevalence measure. Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) are weighted to produce annual estimates of victimization for persons age 12 or older living in U.S. households. The nature of a stratified, multistage cluster design means that not all households have an equal probability of being in the sample. The initial NCVS weights reflect the unequal selection and other aspects of the complex sample design. Subsequent weighting adjustments account for nonresponse and control to known population totals. Weighting the data is essential to ensure that population and victimization estimates are representative of all persons age 12 or older in the United States.

Nationally representative estimates of prevalence are currently calculated using the adjusted person-level weight (WGTPERCY) for violent crimes and personal larceny and the household-level weight (WGTHHCY) for property crime. In addition to ensuring data are nationally representative, these weights include an adjustment to account for households and individuals who were selected for the survey but were unavailable or refused to participate. For more information on weighting, see *National Crime Victimization Survey 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).

The weights WGTPERCY and WGTHHCY are appropriate for estimating the total number of people or households in specified domains. However, these weights are problematic for the purpose of estimating prevalence rates. Specifically, the use of these weights leads to estimates of prevalence that are susceptible to the sources of bias discussed above. The new prevalence weight aims to overcome the problems associated with the use of WGTPERCY and WGTHHCY.

victimizations. The new weight (WGT\_OVAM) uses a combination of WGTVICCY and either WGTPERCY or WGTHHCY as appropriate. To create OVAM weights, all persons in the NCVS are put into one of four groups:

- no victimizations in either interview period
- one interview and at least one victimization
- two interviews and one victimization
- two interviews and at least one victimization in each interview.

There are three steps used to calculate the new prevalence weight WGT\_OVAM (figure 2). This weight is created using the existing weights WGTPERCY (for personal crime) or WGTTHHCY (for household crime) and WGTVICCY. For personal crime, the steps are:

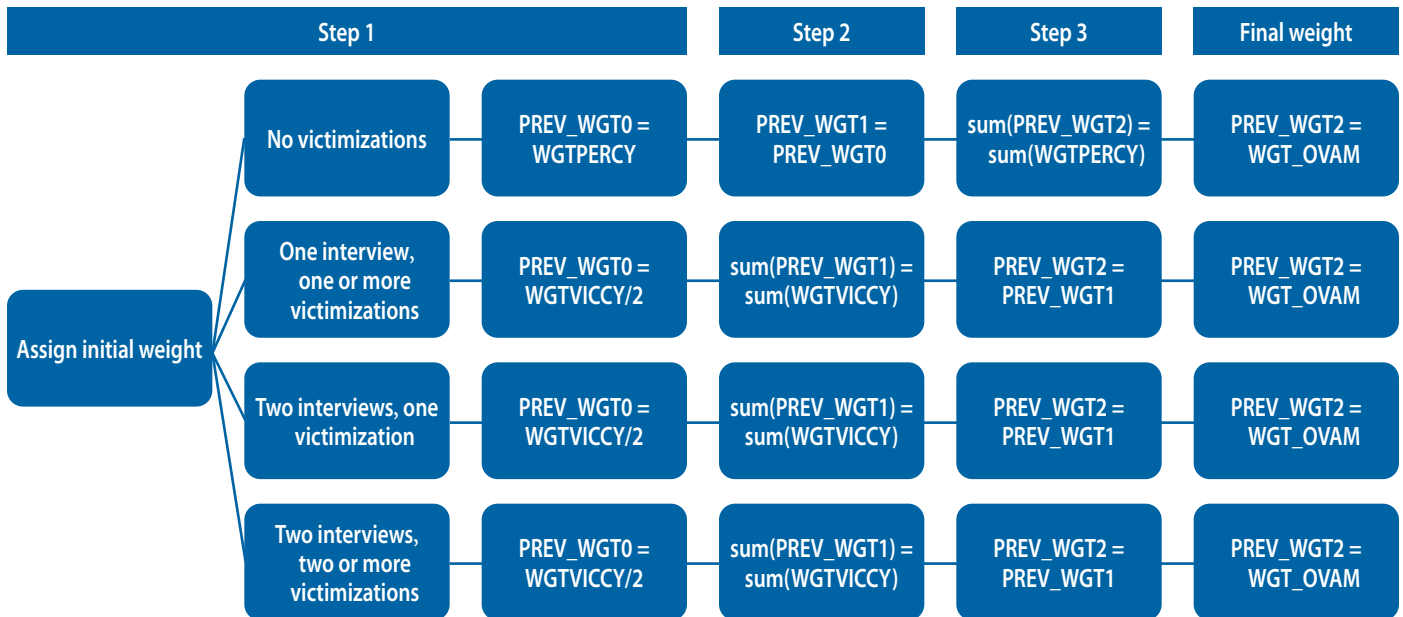
1. Assign initial weight (PREV\_WGT0)
  - a. *No victimizations*: If no crime incidents are reported, then  $PREV\_WGT0 = WGTPERCY$ , the person-level weight.
  - b. *At least one victimization*:  $PREV\_WGT0 = WGTVICCY/2$ . Each household and person is counted once per year, while victimizations are counted separately across 6-month periods. Therefore, the unbounded victimization weights are twice as large as the household and person weights for each individual sample unit. To account for this, WGTVICCY is divided by 2 to create an annual victimization weight and ensure that victims are not double counted. For more information, see “Weight details” in the National Crime Victimization User Guide (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/38604/datadocumentation>). How the weight is calculated depends on the number of interviews and victimizations:
    - i. *One interview, one victimization*: If one victimization is reported for a person who

had one interview, then  $PREV\_WGT0 = WGTVICCY/2$  for that interview.

- ii. *Two interviews, one victimization*: If a person is interviewed twice and reports one victimization, then  $WGTVICCY/2$  is assigned to both interviews. WGTVICCY comes from the interview with the incident.
- iii. *Two interviews, one or more victimizations in each interview*: If a person is interviewed twice and reports one or more victimizations at each interview, the initial weight is  $WGTVICCY/2$  for each interview, calculated separately.

2. First calibration (PREV\_WGT1)
  - a. *No victimizations*: If no crime incidents are reported, then  $PREV\_WGT0$  is used without adjustment.
  - b. *At least one victimization*: Weights are adjusted for persons with at least one victimization (in either one or two interviews) so that the sum of WGTVICCY is equal to the sum of  $PREV\_WGT1$ .  $PREV\_WGT0$  is multiplied by a ratio obtained by taking the sum of WGTVICCY divided by the sum of the prevalence weight. This ensures that those with only one victimization are not given unduly high weights.

**FIGURE 2**  
Steps for calculating weights for personal crimes using the one-victimization adjustment method



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023.

## Series adjustment

An important aspect of the calculation of the new one-victimization adjustment method weight that is implicit in the detailed methodology report relates to series crimes. An adjustment for series crimes is incorporated when calculating the number of victimizations that an individual experiences.

A modification for series crimes is incorporated in the new prevalence weight. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) records a series victimization when the respondent reported six or more similar crimes during the 6-month reference period and was unable to recall or describe each event in detail. Such experiences may include intimate partner violence or bullying by schoolmates. To handle these repeated victimizations, the NCVS employs a series victimization protocol. Survey procedures allow NCVS interviewers to identify and classify these similar victimizations as series victimizations and to collect detailed information on only the most recent incident in the series. In 2022, series victimizations accounted for 1.5% of all victimizations and 3.3% of all violent victimizations.

The series crime adjustment impacts the count of the number of crimes that an individual experienced. If there was exactly one victimization, the series adjustment is set to one (no adjustment needed). If a series was reported and the respondent reported between 2 and 10 incidents, the series adjustment is set to the number of reported incidents. If the respondent reported more than 10 incidents, the series adjustment is set to 10 because the NCVS caps the total number of incidents at 10 to reduce the effect of outliers. The series adjustment is multiplied by the violent indicator when calculating the number of incidents per person.

If the respondent experienced a violent victimization but it was a series victimization with five incidents, then the respondent is counted as having five violent victimizations with the series adjustment. Without the series adjustment, the respondent would have been counted as having exactly one victimization. For more information on calculating repeat victimization estimates using the NCVS, see *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimization in the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 237308, BJS, April 2012).

### 3. Second calibration (PREV\_WGT2)

- a. *No victimizations*: If no crime incidents are reported, weights are adjusted so the sum of WGTPERCY is equal to the sum of PREV\_WGT1. PREV\_WGT1 is multiplied by a ratio obtained by taking the sum of WGTPERCY divided by the sum of the prevalence weight. This ensures that the population remains unchanged.
- b. *At least one victimization*: If a person reports at least one victimization (in either one or two interviews), PREV\_WGT1 is used without adjustment.

### 4. Final weight (WGT\_OVAM): The result of the second calibration is set to the new weight, WGT\_OVAM, for all persons.

For household crimes, the same steps are followed, but WGTHHCY is used instead of WGTPERCY. For more information on how to calculate OVAM weights, see *National Crime Victimization Survey: Prevalence Estimation Methods* (NCJ 308745, BJS, April 2024).

## Comparisons in prevalence rates using the old and new adjustment methods

Estimates have been created using the old weighting methods (WGTPERCY and WGTHHCY) and the new weighting method (WGT\_OVAM) for several types of crime. Overall violent crime and specific types of violent crime over time were considered first, followed by subdivisions defined by demographic characteristics. Property crime and specific types of property crime over time were then evaluated.

### Violent victimization, 2018–2022

Over the 5-year period from 2018 to 2022, the percentage of persons age 12 or older in the United States who experienced at least one violent victimization was higher using the new prevalence weight than the old person-level weight (**table 1**). Prevalence of the various types of violent crimes were higher using the new method than the old method. This general trend was stable across types of crime.

**TABLE 1****Percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by type of crime and prevalence estimation method, 2018–2022**

Type of crime	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)
<b>Total violent crime</b>	1.18%	1.41%	1.10%	1.33%	0.93%	1.12%	0.98%	1.10%	1.24%	1.51%
Rape/sexual assault <sup>a</sup>	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.11	0.14
Robbery	0.13	0.16	0.12	0.15	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.17
Assault	0.97	1.16	0.93	1.12	0.78	0.94	0.82	0.92	1.03	1.24
Aggravated assault	0.25	0.30	0.25	0.30	0.20	0.24	0.22	0.24	0.31	0.37
Simple assault	0.75	0.90	0.71	0.86	0.61	0.73	0.63	0.71	0.75	0.91
<b>Violent crime excluding simple assault<sup>b</sup></b>	0.50%	0.59%	0.44%	0.53%	0.37%	0.45%	0.40%	0.44%	0.54%	0.67%

Note: Percentages are based on persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one violent victimization during the year. Details may not sum to totals because a person may experience multiple types of crime. Includes threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of crimes. Excludes homicide because the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is based on interviews with victims. See appendix table 19 in *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023) for person populations. See appendix table 2 in this report for standard errors.

<sup>a</sup>See *Methodology* for details on the measurement of rape or sexual assault in the NCVS.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018–2022.

## Violent victimization by victim demographic characteristics, 2021–2022

The old and new prevalence rates of violent victimization were examined for groups defined by sex, race or Hispanic origin, age, marital status, and household income in 2021 and 2022. The percentages of persons experiencing violent crime were uniformly higher using the new prevalence weight than the old method (table 2).

The magnitude of the difference was also fairly stable across the demographic categories. Differences between estimates produced using each method were greater in 2022 than in 2021 due to the overall higher prevalence of violent crime in 2022 across demographic groups. For more details on changes in prevalence of violent crime for demographic subgroups during this period, see table 15 in *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023).

**TABLE 2**  
**Percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by victim demographic characteristics and prevalence estimation method, 2021 and 2022**

Victim demographic characteristic	2021		2022	
	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)
<b>Total</b>	0.98%	1.10%	1.24%	1.51%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	1.07%	1.20%	1.26%	1.53%
Female	0.89	1.00	1.22	1.49
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>				
White <sup>a</sup>	0.94%	1.05%	1.23%	1.48%
Black <sup>a</sup>	1.13	1.28	1.39	1.71
Hispanic	1.05	1.17	1.22	1.47
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>a,b</sup>	0.53	0.64	0.82	1.01
Other <sup>a,c</sup>	2.24	2.42	2.54	3.09
<b>Age</b>				
12–17	0.78%	0.86%	1.72%	2.03%
18–24	1.58	1.69	1.83	2.20
25–34	1.33	1.49	1.76	2.18
35–49	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.51
50–64	0.92	1.05	1.03	1.24
65 or older	0.40	0.47	0.55	0.68
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	1.36%	1.53%	1.82%	2.22%
Married	0.58	0.64	0.69	0.81
Widowed	0.47	0.56	0.66	0.84
Divorced	1.51	1.72	1.78	2.11
Separated	2.31	2.47	2.76	3.55
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$25,000	1.66%	1.88%	2.15%	2.65%
\$25,000–\$49,999	0.96	1.08	1.25	1.51
\$50,000–\$99,999	0.94	1.03	1.17	1.39
\$100,000–\$199,999	0.69	0.80	0.88	1.09
\$200,000 or more	0.71	0.82	1.11	1.28

Note: Percentages are based on persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one violent victimization during the year. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data. Includes threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault). Excludes homicide because the National Crime Victimization Survey is based on interviews with victims. See appendix table 19 in *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023) for person populations. See appendix table 3 in this report for standard errors.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>b</sup>Includes persons who identified as Asian only or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only. Categories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native only or as two or more races. Categories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2021 and 2022.



### Property victimization, 2018–2022

Over the 5-year period from 2018 to 2022, the percentage of households experiencing at least one property crime was higher using the new method than the old method (table 3). Property crime includes burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of household theft. From 2018 to 2022, the old weight consistently produced lower estimates than the new weight. This was true across all types of property crime. The magnitude of the difference between the two methods is more stable over time than across types of property crime.

### The future of prevalence estimation at BJS

BJS plans to adopt the new OVAM method when producing official criminal victimization prevalence estimates. When estimating change over time, users should not compare the OVAM estimates to previously published estimates based on the old method. The estimates for all years of interest should be calculated with the new method by using the OVAM weights.

**TABLE 3****Percent of households victimized, by type of property crime and prevalence estimation method, 2018–2022**

Type of property crime	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)
<b>Total</b>	7.27%	8.22%	6.76%	7.66%	6.19%	7.10%	6.25%	6.81%	6.65%	7.61%
<b>Burglary/trespassing<sup>a</sup></b>	1.48%	1.68%	1.22%	1.38%	0.97%	1.10%	0.98%	1.06%	0.97%	1.12%
Burglary <sup>b</sup>	1.07	1.22	0.82	0.94	0.67	0.76	0.64	0.69	0.67	0.77
Trespassing <sup>c</sup>	0.47	0.52	0.42	0.48	0.32	0.36	0.36	0.40	0.32	0.38
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	0.34%	0.39%	0.33%	0.37%	0.32%	0.37%	0.38%	0.40%	0.45%	0.52%
<b>Other theft<sup>d</sup></b>	5.82%	6.57%	5.53%	6.25%	5.17%	5.93%	5.17%	5.64%	5.53%	6.31%

Note: Percentages are based on households that experienced at least one violent victimization during the year. Details may not sum to totals because a household may experience multiple types of crime. See appendix table 20 in *Criminal Victimization, 2022* (NCJ 307089, BJS, September 2023) for household populations. See appendix table 4 in this report for standard errors.

<sup>a</sup>Includes 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). Includes victimizations where the offender stole, attempted to steal, or did not attempt to steal. Excludes trespassing on land.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only crimes where the offender committed or attempted a theft.

<sup>c</sup>Includes crimes where the offender did not commit or attempt a theft. Excludes trespassing on land.

<sup>d</sup>Includes other unlawful taking or attempted unlawful taking of property or cash without personal contact with the victim.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018–2022.

## Methodology

### Survey coverage

The Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection carried out by the U.S. Census Bureau. The NCVS is a self-report survey that is administered annually from January 1 to December 31. Annual NCVS estimates are based on the number and characteristics of crimes that respondents experienced during the prior 6 months, excluding the month in which they were interviewed. Therefore, the 2022 survey covers crimes experienced from July 1, 2021 to November 30, 2022, with March 15, 2022 as the middle of the reference period. Crimes are classified by the year of the survey and not by the year of the crime.

The NCVS is administered to persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. It collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, and personal larceny (purse snatching and pocket picking)) and household property crimes (burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of theft).

The survey collects information on threatened, attempted, and completed crimes. It collects data both on crimes reported and not reported to police. Unless specified otherwise, estimates in this report include threatened, attempted, and completed crimes. In addition to providing annual level and change estimates on criminal victimization, the NCVS is the primary source of information on the nature of criminal victimization incidents.

Survey respondents provide information about themselves (including age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization. For each victimization incident, respondents report information about the offender (including age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (including time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and experiences with the criminal justice system.

Household information, including household-level demographics (e.g., income) and property victimizations committed against the household (e.g., burglary or trespassing), is typically collected from the reference

person. The reference person is any responsible adult (age 18 or older) member of the household who is unlikely to permanently leave the household. Because an owner or renter of the sampled housing unit is normally the most responsible and knowledgeable household member, this person is generally designated as the reference person and household respondent. However, a household respondent does not have to be one of the household members who owns or rents the unit.

In the NCVS, a household is defined as a group of persons who all reside at a sampled address. Persons are considered household members when the sampled address is their usual place of residence at the time of the interview and when they have no primary place of residence elsewhere. Once selected, households remain in the sample for 3.5 years, and all eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months, either in person or over the phone, for a total of seven interviews per person.

First interviews are typically conducted in person, with subsequent interviews conducted either in person or by phone. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households that have been in the sample for the full 3.5-year period. The sample includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings, and excludes persons living on military bases or in institutional settings such as correctional or hospital facilities.

### Nonresponse and weighting adjustments

The 2022 NCVS data file includes 143,794 household interviews. Overall, 64% of eligible households completed interviews. Within participating households, interviews with 226,962 persons were completed in 2022, representing an 82% unweighted response rate among eligible persons from responding households.

Victimizations that occurred outside of the United States were excluded from this report. In 2022, about 0.4% of the unweighted victimizations occurred outside of the United States.

NCVS data are weighted to produce annual estimates of victimization for persons age 12 or older living in U.S. households. Because the NCVS relies on a sample rather than a census of the entire U.S. population, weights are designed to adjust to known population totals and to compensate for survey nonresponse and other aspects of the complex sample design.

NCVS data files include person, household, victimization, and incident weights. Person weights provide an estimate of the population represented by each person in the sample. Household weights provide an estimate of the household population represented by each household in the sample. After proper adjustment, both person and household weights are also typically used to form the denominator in calculations of crime rates.

For personal crimes, the incident weight is derived by dividing the person weight of a victim by the total number of persons victimized during an incident, as reported by the respondent. For property crimes measured at the household level, the incident weight and the household weight are the same, because the victim of a property crime is considered to be the household as a whole. The incident weight is most frequently used to calculate estimates of offenders' and victims' demographics.

Victimization weights used in this report account for the number of persons victimized during an incident and for high-frequency repeat victimizations (i.e., series victimizations). Series victimizations are similar in type to one another but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall each individual event or describe each event in detail. Survey procedures allow NCVS interviewers to identify and classify these similar victimizations as series victimizations and to collect detailed information on only the most recent incident in the series.<sup>1</sup>

The weighting counts series victimizations as the actual number of victimizations reported by the victim, up to a maximum of 10. Doing so produces more reliable estimates of crime levels than counting such victimizations only once, while the cap at 10 minimizes the effect of extreme outliers on rates.

According to the 2022 data, series victimizations accounted for 1.5% of all victimizations and 3.3% of all violent victimizations. Additional information on the enumeration and survey procedures of series victimizations is detailed in *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimizations in the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 237308, BJS, April 2012).

### Revised 2016 data file

For 2016, BJS increased the NCVS sample size to facilitate the ability to produce state-level victimization estimates for the 22 most populous states. At the

same time, the sample was adjusted to reflect the U.S. population counts in the 2010 decennial census. These changes resulted in a historically large number of new households and first-time interviews in the first half of 2016 and produced challenges in comparing 2016 results to prior data years.

Working with the U.S. Census Bureau, BJS subsequently devised the methodology that was used to create the revised 2016 NCVS data file. The result was revised criminal victimization estimates that were nationally representative for 2016 and could be compared with prior and future years. For more information, see the *National Crime Victimization Survey revised 2016 estimates* text box (pp. 3–4) and *Methodology* (pp. 15–18) in *Criminal Victimization, 2016: Revised* (NCJ 252121, BJS, October 2018).

### Changes to the household weighting adjustment in 2017

In 2018, the 2017 NCVS weights included a new adjustment so household weights reflect independent housing unit totals available internally at the U.S. Census Bureau. This new adjustment was applied only to household weights and does not affect person weights. Historically, the household weights were adjusted to reflect independent totals for the person population. This new weighting adjustment improved on the prior one and better aligns the number of estimated households in the NCVS with other U.S. Census Bureau household survey estimates.

Due to this new adjustment, the 2017 NCVS estimate for the number of households was about 8% lower than the 2016 NCVS estimate. As a result, the estimate of the number of households affected by property crime was also about 8% lower. When making comparisons of property crime at the household level between 2017 and prior years, compare victimization or prevalence rates. Rates were unaffected by this change in weighting methodology because both the numerator and denominator are equally affected.

Comparisons of the number of households that were victimized between 2017 and prior years are inappropriate due to this change in weighting methodology. For more information on weighting in the NCVS, see *Nonresponse and weighting adjustments* in this report and *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).

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<sup>1</sup>For more details on series victimizations in the NCVS, see *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimizations in the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 237308, BJS, April 2012).

## Weighing adjustments in 2020

The 2020 NCVS weights include an additional adjustment to address the impact of modified field operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the weighting adjustments applied in 2020, see the Source and Accuracy Statement for the 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey in the NCVS 2020 Codebook (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/38090/datadocumentation>) and *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).

Beginning in 2020, BJS incorporated another factor to moderate the contribution of outlier weights on NCVS estimates. For more information on this methodology, see the Source and Accuracy Statement for the 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey in the NCVS 2020 Codebook (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/38090/datadocumentation>) and *National Crime Victimization Survey: Assessment of Outlier Weights* (NCJ 302186, BJS, October 2021).

## Standard error computations

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as with the NCVS, caution must be used when comparing one estimate to another or when comparing estimates over time. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including the amount of variation in the responses and the size of the sample. When the sampling error around an estimate is taken into account, estimates that appear different may not be statistically significant.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error may vary from one estimate to the next. Generally, an estimate with a smaller standard error provides a more reliable approximation of the true value than an estimate with a larger standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors have less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

For complex sample designs, there are several methods that can be used to generate standard errors around a point estimate (e.g., numbers, percentages, and rates). These include direct variance estimation and generalized variance function (GVF) parameters.

For prevalence estimates in this report, BJS used Taylor Series Linearization (TSL) methods to generate standard errors around these estimates. The TSL method directly estimates variances through a linearized function

by combining variance estimates from the stratum and primary sampling units (PSUs) used to sample households and persons.<sup>2</sup> In the NCVS, the design parameters used for computing TSL variances are V2117 (stratum) and V2118 (PSU). These design parameters are available for all years except the first half of 1993 and all of 2016; therefore, alternative methods were used for estimates and standard errors for 2016 in this report.

Estimates and standard errors of the estimates in this report may be used to generate a confidence interval around the estimate as a measure of the margin of error. The following example illustrates how standard errors may be used to generate confidence intervals:

Based on the 2022 NCVS using the old method, the prevalence of violent victimization in 2022 was 1.24% of persons age 12 or older. (See table 1). Using the TSL method of direct variance estimation, BJS determined that the estimated victimization rate has a standard error of 0.042%. (See appendix table 2.) A confidence interval around the estimate is generated by multiplying the standard error by  $\pm 1.96$  (the t-score of a normal, two-tailed distribution that excludes 2.5% at either end of the distribution). Therefore, the 95% confidence interval around the 1.24% from 2022 is  $1.24 \pm (0.042 \times 1.96)$  or (1.16% to 1.33%). In other words, one would expect the true population parameter (percentage of violent crime) to fall within the interval estimates 95% of the time.

Confidence intervals for flagged estimates should be interpreted with caution, as large standard errors may result in a lower bound estimate of less than zero. For this report, BJS also calculated a coefficient of variation (CV) for all estimates, representing the ratio of the standard error to the estimate. CVs (not shown in tables) provide another measure of reliability and a means for comparing the precision of estimates across measures with differing levels or metrics.

The other method used to produce standard errors for NCVS estimates is through GVF parameters. The U.S. Census Bureau produces GVF parameters for BJS, which account for aspects of the NCVS's complex sample design and represent the curve fitted to a selection of individual standard errors, using a specialized version of Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR) based on Fay's method. (See explanation below.) GVFs express the variance as a function of the expected value of the survey estimate. The GVF parameters are generated by fitting estimates

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

and their relative variance to a regression model, using an iterative weighted least-squares procedure where the weight is the inverse of the square of the predicted relative variance. For more information, see *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017). GVF parameters are available in the codebooks published with the NCVS public-use files through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/nacjd>). For the 2016 standard error of the percentage of violent crime using the OVAM method, BJS created a GVF model to approximate the standard error.

Another method to produce standard errors for NCVS estimates is through a specialized version of BRR estimation using Fay’s method. BRR estimates are used for 2016 standard errors using the old method. BRR estimation is a type of direct replication variance estimation. Under replicate variance estimation, a set of replicate weights (e.g., a set of OVAM replicate weights generated obtained by applying the OVAM weight construction method to each of the existing 160 replicate weights) is used to capture the sampling variance. Fay’s method is used for surveys that have rare outcomes in which the entire sample is necessary to properly estimate the variance.

### NCVS measurement of rape or sexual assault

The NCVS uses a two-stage measurement approach in the screening and classification of criminal victimization, including rape or sexual assault. In the first stage of screening, survey respondents are administered a series of short-cue screening questions designed to help respondents think about different experiences they may have had during the reference period. (See NCVS-1 (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs#surveys-0>).

This design improves respondents’ recall of events, particularly for incidents that may not immediately come to mind as crimes, such as those committed by family members and acquaintances. Respondents who answer affirmatively to any of the short-cue screening items are subsequently administered a crime incident report (CIR) designed to classify incidents into specific crime types. (See NCVS-2 (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs#surveys-0>).

**First stage of measurement.** Two short-cue screening questions are specifically designed to target sexual victimization:

## Classification of rape and sexual assault in the National Crime Victimization Survey

Measure	Element of sexual violence
Completed rape	Type of attack = rape Type of injury = rape
Attempted rape	Type of attack = attempted rape Type of injury = attempted rape Type of threat = verbal threat of rape with weapon
Threatened rape	Type of attempted attack/threat = verbal threat of rape
Sexual assault	Type of attack = sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape Type of injury = sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape Type of attempted attack/threat = unwanted sexual contact with force Type of attempted attack/threat = unwanted sexual contact without force Type of attempted attack/threat = verbal threat of sexual assault other than rape

Note: Victim is determined to be present in all measures of rape and sexual assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2022.

1. Other than any incidents already mentioned, has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways—
  - a. with any weapon, such as a gun or knife
  - b. with anything like a baseball bat, frying pan, scissors, or stick
  - c. by something thrown, such as a rock or bottle
  - d. by grabbing, punching, or choking
  - e. any rape, attempted rape, or other types of sexual attack
  - f. any face-to-face threats
  - g. any attack or threat or use of force by anyone at all? Please mention it even if you are not certain it was a crime.
2. Incidents involving forced or unwanted sexual acts are often difficult to talk about. Other than any incidents already mentioned, have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by—
  - a. someone you did not know
  - b. a casual acquaintance
  - c. someone you know well?

With regard to sexual victimization, respondents may screen into a CIR if they respond affirmatively to other short-cue screening questions. For instance, a separate screening question cues respondents to think of attacks or threats that took place in specific locations, such as at home, work, or school. Respondents who recall a sexual victimization that occurred at home, work, or school and answer affirmatively would be administered a CIR even if they did not respond affirmatively to the screening question targeting sexual victimization.

**Second stage of measurement.** The CIR is used to collect information on the attributes of each incident. The key attributes of sexual violence that are used to classify a victimization as a rape or sexual assault are the type of attack and physical injury suffered. Victims are asked if “the offender hit you, knock[ed] you down, or actually attack[ed] you in any way”; if “the offender TR[IED] to attack you”; or if “the offender THREATEN[ED] you with harm in any way?” The survey participant is classified as a victim of rape or sexual assault if they respond affirmatively to one of these three questions and then respond that the completed, attempted, or threatened attack was—

- rape
- attempted rape
- sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape
- verbal threat of rape
- verbal threat of sexual assault other than rape
- unwanted sexual contact with force (grabbing, fondling, etc.)
- unwanted sexual contact without force (grabbing, fondling, etc.).

If the victim selects one of the following response options to describe the attack, they are also classified as a victim of rape or sexual assault if the injuries suffered as a result of the incident are described as—

- rape
- attempted rape
- sexual assault other than rape or attempted rape.

**Coercion.** The CIR does not ask respondents if psychological coercion was used, nor make any explicit reference to the victim being unable to provide consent (e.g., in incidents involving drug or alcohol use). One screening question targeted to rape and sexual assault asks respondents if force or coercion was used to initiate unwanted sexual activity.

The final classification of incidents by the CIR results in the following definitions of rape and sexual assault used in the NCVS:

**Rape.** Coerced or forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category could include 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.** 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 include such things as grabbing or fondling.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1**

**Estimates and standard errors for figure 1: Percent of persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime, by prevalence estimation method, 1993–2022**

	Old method (WGTPERCY)				New method (WGT_OVAM)			
	Estimate	Standard error	Confidence interval		Estimate	Standard error	Confidence interval	
			Lower bound	Upper bound			Lower bound	Upper bound
1993	2.93%	0.038%	2.856%	3.004%	4.34%	0.069%	4.206%	4.474%
1994	3.28	0.075	3.132	3.427	4.42	0.100	4.226	4.619
1995	3.00	0.064	2.872	3.123	4.02	0.086	3.855	4.191
1996	2.71	0.059	2.595	2.827	3.69	0.080	3.537	3.850
1997	2.65	0.078	2.495	2.800	3.53	0.102	3.329	3.729
1998	2.45	0.084	2.283	2.611	3.25	0.109	3.033	3.461
1999	2.11	0.072	1.972	2.253	2.93	0.099	2.732	3.120
2000	1.88	0.071	1.741	2.018	2.51	0.094	2.324	2.693
2001	1.70	0.060	1.585	1.818	2.29	0.079	2.131	2.442
2002	1.55	0.055	1.444	1.659	2.11	0.074	1.965	2.257
2003	1.48	0.049	1.382	1.574	2.04	0.067	1.906	2.169
2004	1.44	0.057	1.328	1.550	1.98	0.076	1.830	2.127
2005	1.37	0.053	1.267	1.474	1.89	0.072	1.749	2.031
2006	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2007	1.32	0.050	1.223	1.420	1.68	0.065	1.555	1.811
2008	1.31	0.045	1.219	1.396	1.60	0.057	1.486	1.708
2009	1.17	0.046	1.083	1.261	1.45	0.057	1.335	1.558
2010	1.08	0.049	0.980	1.172	1.28	0.059	1.161	1.394
2011	1.20	0.044	1.113	1.287	1.44	0.057	1.326	1.548
2012	1.36	0.046	1.274	1.455	1.65	0.057	1.534	1.756
2013	1.15	0.040	1.072	1.228	1.39	0.049	1.290	1.482
2014	1.11	0.042	1.024	1.187	1.28	0.049	1.180	1.371
2015	0.98	0.042	0.902	1.065	1.14	0.050	1.044	1.240
2016	1.06	0.036	0.988	1.130	1.29	0.049	1.192	1.382
2017	1.14	0.038	1.065	1.215	1.32	0.046	1.227	1.408
2018	1.18	0.037	1.110	1.254	1.41	0.046	1.324	1.504
2019	1.10	0.036	1.034	1.175	1.33	0.045	1.239	1.414
2020	0.93	0.040	0.856	1.013	1.12	0.047	1.031	1.217
2021	0.98	0.035	0.911	1.048	1.10	0.041	1.018	1.178
2022	1.24	0.042	1.161	1.327	1.51	0.054	1.402	1.614

Note: Violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

--Estimates for 2006 should not be compared to other years. See *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (NCJ 224390, BJS, December 2008) for more information on changes to the 2006 National Crime Victimization Survey.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993–2022.



## APPENDIX TABLE 2

Standard errors for table 1: Percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by type of crime and prevalence estimation method, 2018–2022

Type of crime	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)
<b>Total violent crime</b>	0.037%	0.046%	0.036%	0.045%	0.040%	0.047%	0.035%	0.041%	0.042%	0.054%
Rape/sexual assault	0.012	0.015	0.008	0.010	0.009	0.010	0.009	0.010	0.010	0.013
Robbery	0.011	0.013	0.011	0.014	0.012	0.015	0.011	0.012	0.013	0.018
Assault	0.033	0.041	0.033	0.041	0.035	0.042	0.031	0.037	0.037	0.047
Aggravated assault	0.016	0.019	0.017	0.021	0.017	0.020	0.014	0.017	0.018	0.022
Simple assault	0.032	0.040	0.028	0.035	0.031	0.036	0.026	0.031	0.031	0.039
<b>Violent crime excluding simple assault</b>	0.023%	0.029%	0.021%	0.027%	0.024%	0.029%	0.022%	0.025%	0.026%	0.033%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018–2022.

### APPENDIX TABLE 3

**Standard errors for table 2: Percent of persons who were victims of violent crime, by victim demographic characteristics and prevalence estimation method, 2021 and 2022**

Victim demographic characteristic	2021		2022	
	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTPERCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)
<b>Total</b>	0.035%	0.041%	0.042%	0.054%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	0.055%	0.064%	0.055%	0.070%
Female	0.041	0.048	0.058	0.072
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>				
White	0.042%	0.050%	0.051%	0.065%
Black	0.105	0.127	0.121	0.160
Hispanic	0.086	0.104	0.086	0.104
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.089	0.109	0.111	0.145
Other	0.386	0.437	0.327	0.408
<b>Age</b>				
12–17	0.120%	0.140%	0.208%	0.254%
18–24	0.136	0.151	0.150	0.181
25–34	0.101	0.115	0.108	0.138
35–49	0.063	0.073	0.072	0.088
50–64	0.062	0.074	0.058	0.073
65 or older	0.042	0.053	0.045	0.058
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	0.071%	0.081%	0.085%	0.110%
Married	0.040	0.046	0.043	0.054
Widowed	0.070	0.092	0.106	0.141
Divorced	0.110	0.133	0.119	0.145
Separated	0.352	0.397	0.338	0.452
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$25,000	0.100%	0.117%	0.133%	0.167%
\$25,000–\$49,999	0.058	0.069	0.077	0.094
\$50,000–\$99,999	0.054	0.060	0.064	0.084
\$100,000–\$199,999	0.057	0.069	0.071	0.087
\$200,000 or more	0.075	0.092	0.114	0.130

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2021 and 2022.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Standard errors for table 3: Percent of households victimized, by type of property crime and prevalence estimation method, 2018–2022**

Type of property crime	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)	Old method (WGTHHCY)	New method (WGT_OVAM)
<b>Total</b>	0.119%	0.132%	0.118%	0.133%	0.124%	0.144%	0.111%	0.124%	0.113%	0.133%
<b>Burglary/trespassing</b>	0.051%	0.058%	0.047%	0.054%	0.041%	0.047%	0.045%	0.050%	0.041%	0.049%
Burglary	0.046	0.053	0.039	0.045	0.034	0.038	0.036	0.039	0.032	0.037
trespassing	0.024	0.029	0.026	0.030	0.022	0.026	0.028	0.032	0.025	0.030
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	0.024%	0.028%	0.024%	0.028%	0.026%	0.029%	0.023%	0.026%	0.026%	0.031%
<b>Other theft</b>	0.113%	0.125%	0.108%	0.122%	0.110%	0.128%	0.101%	0.113%	0.098%	0.115%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018–2022.

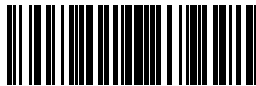


The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

This report was written by Emily Berg, PhD, and Susannah N. Tapp, PhD. Alexandra Thompson verified the report.

Edrienne Su edited the report. Jeffrey Link produced the report.

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