

## Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

### A National Crime Survey Report

# **Criminal Victimization 1989**

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During 1989, persons age 12 or older living in the United States experienced 19.7 million victimizations involving violence or personal theft, according to the National Crime Survey (NCS). In addition, 16.1 million household crimes (burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft) were committed. The NCS measures selected noncommercial crimes regardless of whether or not they were reported to the police. The NCS does not collect data on homicides. About 37% of the crimes measured by the NCS that occurred in 1989 were reported to the police, a proportion similar to that recorded in 1988.<sup>1</sup>

While the overall level of crime did not change from the 1988 level, the number of certain types of crimes was noticeably different in 1989. The number of burglaries decreased by 7.3% from 1988; the number of household larcenies increased by 6.4%; and there is some evidence that the number of motor vehicle thefts also increased.<sup>2</sup>

Crime rates, the number of crimes per 1,000 persons or households, also showed significant changes for burglary. Measurable declines were apparent not only in overall burglary rates but also in rates for

<sup>1</sup>For definitions of the crimes measured by the National Crime Survey and a description of NCS operations, see *Measuring Crime*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-75710, February 1981.



<sup>2</sup>Because the numbers in this report are estimates based on a sample, some apparent differences may reflect sampling variation. Such differences are described in the report as not statistically significant or not measurably different. Unless one of these designations is used, any difference described reflects at least a 90% certainty that the difference is not the result of sampling variation. See the discussion on page 7. completed burglary, forcible entry, and unlawful entry without force. The rate of household larceny also changed, but unlike the burglary rate, it rose 5% to a point marginally above the 1988 rate.

Crime rates varied in different regions of the United States; for example, the household crime rate rose significantly in the South and dropped significantly in the Midwest. The rate of personal crime in the Midwest also showed a significant decline.

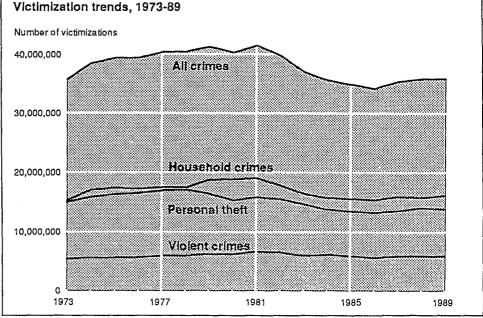
While the overall level of crime has not changed since 1988, the level of crime has decreased significantly since 1981, the peak year for victimizations. The number of violent crimes in 1989 was 11% lower than in 1981, and there were 15% fewer household crimes (table 1 and figures 1-3).

#### October 1990

The data in this Bulletin update the preliminary estimates of victimization in 1989, which were released in May of this year.

The National Crime Survey (NCS) measures both crimes reported to the police and crimes that were not reported. Nearly two-thirds of all NCS crimes, including slightly more than half of all violent crimes, are not reported to the police, and this year's survey shows that the reporting rate has remained stable.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D. Director





#### No change in personal crime

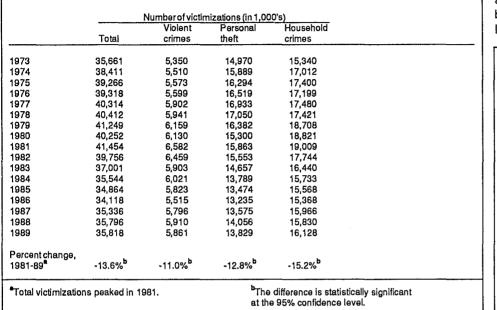
The personal crime levels in 1989 exhibited no significant changes from 1988 except for personal larcenies without contact resulting

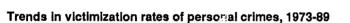
Table 1. Victimization levels for selected crimes, 1973-89

in losses of less than \$50 (table 2). The corresponding rate decreased 10%. The only other rate change among the personal crime categories was a marginal decline in completed larceny.

#### Household crime levels varied

The overall rate of household crime remained stable at 170 victimizations per 1,000 households. The level of overall household crime also remained stable, but the level of attempted household crime increased 10.3%, a significant amount. The level of household burglary decreased significantly as did the levels of completed burglary and unlawful





Number of victimizations per 1.000 population

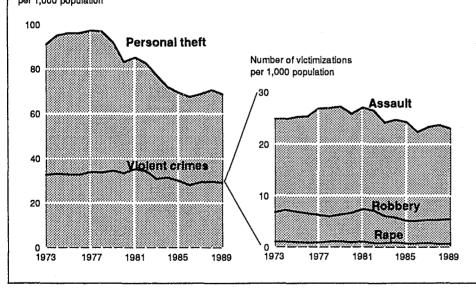
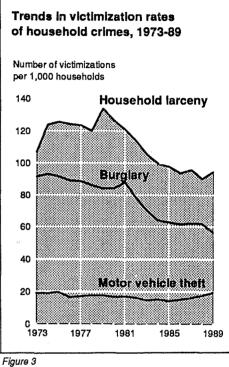


Figure 2



entry without force. The number of forcible entries also declined, but only marginally. The corresponding rates for these crimes all showed significant declines, and the 1989 burglary rate was significantly lower than in any year since the beginning of the NCS in 1973 (tables 3 and 4).

Table 2. Changes in victimization levels and rates for personal and household crimes, 1988-89

	Number	ofvictimizati	ions (1,000's)	Vic	timization	rates	
			Percent	·		Percent	
		1000	change,	1000	4000	change,	
·	1988	1989	1988-89	1988	1989	1988-89	
All crimes	35,796	35,818	.1%		•••	• •••	
Personal crimes	19,966	19,691	-1.4%	100.1	97.8	-2.3%	
Crimes of violence	5.910	5,861	-1.4%	29.6	29.1	-2.3 %	
Completed	2,180	2,196	.7	10.9	10.9	2	
Attempted	3,730	3,665	-1.7	18.7	18.2	-2.7	
Rape	127	135	6.3	.6	.7	5.2	
Robbery	1,048	1,092	4.2	5.3	5.4	3.2	
Completed	684	744	8.7	3.4	3.7	7.6	
With injury	263	300	14.3	1.3	1.5	13.1	
Without injury	421	443	5.2	2.1	2.2	4.2	
Attempted	364	348	-4.2	1.8	1.7	-5.2	
With injury	110	348 94	-4.2	.6	.5	-15.9	
Without injury	253	94 255	-15.0	.6 1.3	.5 1.3	-15.9 -,6	
Assault	4,734	4,634	.4 -2.1	23.7	23.0	6	
	4,734	4,634	-2.1	23.7 8.7	23.0	-3.1	
Aggravated Completed with injury							
Completed with injury	571	586	2.7	2.9	2.9	1.7	
Attempted assault	4 4 74	1 070	-70	E 0		00	
with weapon	1,171	1,079	-7.9 8	5.9	5.4	-8.8 -1.8	
Simple	2,993	2,969 820	8 -4.6	15.0	14.7	-1.8	
Completed with injury	860	620	-4.0	4.3	4.1	-5.5	
Attempted assault	0 100	0.140	7	10.7	10.7	•	
without weapon	2,133	2,149	.7		10.7	3	
Crimes of theft	14,056	13,829	-1.6	70.5	68.7	-2.6	
Completed	13,242	12,996	-1.9	66.4	64.5	-2.8	
Attempted	815	834	2.3	4.1	4.1	1.3	
Personal larceny	400	<b>5 40</b>	40.0				
with contact	489	543	10.9	2.5	2.7	9.9	
Purse snatching	155	162	3.9	.8	.8	3.0	
Pocketpicking	334	381	14.2	1.7	1.9	13.1	
Personal larceny			<b>.</b> .				
without contact	13,567	13,287	-2.1	68.0	66.0	-3.0	
Completed	12,795	12,491	-2.4	64.2	62.0	-3.3 <sup>b</sup>	
Less than \$50	5,642	5,126	-9.1	28.3	25.5	-10.0 <sup>ª</sup>	
\$50 or more	6,681	6,838	2.3	33.5	34.0	1.3	
Amount not available	473	527	11.5	2.4	2.6	10.4	
Attempted	772	795	3.1	3.9	4.0	2,1	
Household crimes	15,830	16,128	1.9%	169.6	169.9	.2%	
Completed	13,555	13,619	.5	145,2	143.5	-1.2	
Attempted	2,275	2,509	10.3	24.4	26.4	8.5	
Household burglary	5,777	5,352	-7.3	61.9	56.4	-8.8 <sup>a</sup>	
Completed	4,585	4,111	-10.3	49.1	43.3	-11.8ª	
Forcible entry	1,986	1,813	-8.7 <sup>b</sup>	21.3	19.1	-10.2ª	
Unlawful entry	.,500	.,					
without force	2,599	2,298	-11.6 <sup>*</sup>	27.8	24.2	-13.0 <sup>ª</sup>	
Attempted forcible entry	1,191	1,241	4.2	12.8	13.1	2.5	
Household larceny	8,419	8,955	6.4	90,2	94.4	4.6 <sup>b</sup>	
Completed	7,896	8,327	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	84.6	87.8	3.7	
Less than \$50	3,418	3,413	5.5 1	36.6	36.0	-1.8	
\$50 or more	4,109	4,482	9.1	44.0	47.2	-1.8 7.3 <sup>6</sup>	
Amount not available	370	4,482	16.9	44.0	47.2	7.3 15.0	
Attempted	523	432 628	20.2	4.0	4.6	18.2	
AUGUIUIBU			20.2 11.4 <sup>b</sup>				
	1 634						
Motor vehicle theft	1,634	1,820		17.5	19.2	9.6	
	1,634 1,073 561	1,820 1,180 640	11.4 10.0 14.0	17.5 11.5 6.0	19.2 12.4 6.7	9.6 8.2 12.1	

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded numbers. Victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households. The population age 12 or older grew from 199,412,460 in 1988 to 201,375,630 in 1989, an increase of 1%. The number of households grew from 93,362,150 to 94,899,080 between 1988 and 1989, an increase of 1.6%. . .Not applicable.

The difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>b</sup>The difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

<sup>c</sup>There were 1.2 rapes per 1,000 women age 12 or older in 1988 and 1.2 in 1989. Household larceny levels rose significantly from 1988 to 1989, not only for the overall crime category but also for completed household larceny, household larceny resulting in losses of \$50 or more, and attempted household larceny. The 1989 rates for household larceny and household larceny resulting in losses of \$50 or more showed marginally significant increases over the 1988 rates. Motor vehicle theft rates in 1989 were not significantly different from the 1988 rates; however, there is some evidence that the level of motor vehicle theft increased by a significant amount.

#### The West had highest crime rate

Despite a marginally significant decrease in personal crime, the West, with 120 personal crimes per 1,000 persons and 215 household crimes per 1,000 households, still had the highest crime rates of the Nation's four regions (table 5). The Northeast retained the lowest overall crime rates, even after a marginal increase in household crimes. The Northeast had 75 personal crimes per 1,000 persons and 126 household crimes per 1,000 households. The Midwest and the South showed no measurable differences in their rates for personal crimes (96 versus 101 per 1,000 persons); however, the Midwest experienced a significant decrease of 7.3% in its personal crime rate. The household crime rate declined significantly in the Midwest and increased significantly in the South. Thus, the South had a significantly higher rate of household crime than the Midwest (184 versus 151 per 1,000 households).

Table 3. Victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973-89

	1973	1074	1075	1070	1977							,000 hou			1007	40.00	4000
·····	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Personal crimes	123.6	128.1	128.9	128.7	131.2	130.5	126.4	116.3	120.5	116.8	107.9	103.2	99.4	95.6	98.0	100.1	97.8
Crimes of violence	32.6	33.0	32.8	32.6	33.9	33.7	34.5	33.3	35,3	34.3	31.0	31.4	30.0	28.1	29.3	29.6	29.1
Rape	1.0	1.0	.9	.8	.9	1.0	1.1	.9	1.0	.8	8.	.9	.7	.7	.8	6,	.7
Robbery	6.7	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.6	7.4	7.1	6.0	5.7	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.4
Assault	24.9	24.8	25.2	25.3	26.8	26.9	27.2	25.8	27.0	26.4	24.1	24.7	24.2	22.3	23.3	23.7	23.0
Aggravated	10.1	10.4	9.6	9.9	10.0	9.7	9.9	9.3	9.6	9.3	8.0	9.0	8.3	7.9	8.0	8,7	8.3
Simple	14.8	14.4	15.6	15.4	16.8	17.2	17.3	16.5	17,3	17.1	16.2	15.7	15.9	14.4	15.2	15.0	14.7
Crimes of theft	91.1	95.1	96.0	96.1	97.3	96.8	91.9	83.0	85,1	82.5	76.9	71.8	69.4	67.5	68.7	70.5	68.7
Personal larceny																	
With contact	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2,5	2.7
Without contact	88.0	92.0	92,9	93.2	94.6	93.6	89.0	80.0	81.9	79.5	74.0	69,1	66.7	64.7	66.1	68.0	66.0
Household orimes	217.8	235,7	236.5	229.5	228.8	223.4	235.3	227.4	226.0	208.2	189.8	178,7	174,4	170.0	173.9	169,6	169.9
Household burglary	91.7	93.1	91.7	88.9	88.5	86.0	84.1	84.3	87,9	78.2	70.0	64.1	62.7	61.5	62.1	61.9	56.4
Household larceny	107.0	123.8	125.4	124.1	123.3	119.9	133.7	126.5	121,0	113.9	105.2	99.4	97.5	93.5	95.7	90,2	94,4
Motor vehicle theft	19.1	18.8	19.5	16.5	17.0	17.5	17.5	16.7	17.1	16.2	14.6	15.2	14.2	15.0	16.0	17.5	19.2

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Table 4 identifies statistically significant differences between the rates for 1989 and each preceding year.

	1973-89	74-89	75-89	76-89	77-89	78-89	79-89	80-89	81-89	82-89	83-89	84-89	85-89	86-89	87-89	88-89
Personal crimes	-20.9%	-23,7%	-24.1%	-24.0%	-25.4%	-25.1%	-22.7%	-15,9%	-18.8%	-16.3%	-9.4%	-5.3%	-1.6%*	2.3%*	2*	-2.3*
Crimes of violence	-10.6	-11.7	-11.4	-10.6	-14.1	-13.7	-15.7	-12.5	-17.6	-15.1	-6.1	-7.2	-3.0*	3.5*	7*	-1.8*
Rape	-29.5	-31.6	-26.4	-20.2*	-24.7	-30.9	-38.0	-28.7	-29.5	-17.3*	-17.3*	-28.7	-5.6*	1.5*	-10.7*	4.7*
Robbery	-19.6	-24.5	-19.8	-16.1	-12.9	-8.0*	-13.4	-17.4	-26.9	-23.4	-10.1*	-5.1*	6.9*	5.4*	2.5*	3.0*
Assault	-7.5	-7.3	-8.6	-8.9	-14.1	-14.3	-15.4	-10.6	-14.7	-12.8	-4.7*	-6.9	-5.0*	3.1*	-1.1*	-3.1*
Aggravated	-17.9	-20,4	-13.9	-16.1	-17.1	-14.7	-16.6	-10.7	-14.2	-11.2	3.9*	-8.1*	*	5.1*	3.0*	-5.3*
Simple	-,4*	2.1*	-5.3*	-4.3*	-12.3	-14.1	-14.7	-10.6	-14.9	-13.7	-8.9	-6.2*	-7.5	2.1*	-3.3*	-1.8*
Crimes of theft Personal larceny	-24,6	-27.8	-28,5	-28.5	-29.4	-29.0	-25,3	-17.3	-19.3	-16.8	-10.7	-4.4	-1.1*	1.8*	*	-2.6*
With contact	-12.1*	-13.2*	-12.6*	-6.6"	1.9"	-13.5*	-5,9*	-10.9*	-16.9	-11.8*	-8.5*	-2.2*	.4*	-1.1*	5.1*	10.2*
Without contact	-25,0	-28.3	-29.0	-29.2	-30.3	-29.5	-25,9	-17.5	-19.4	-17.0	-10.8	-4.5	-1.1*	1.9*	2*	-3.0*
Household crimes	-22.0%	-27.9%	-28.2%	-25.9%	-25.7%	-23.9%	-27.8%	-25.3%	-24.8%	-18.4%	-10.4%	-4.9%	-2.6%"	*	-2.3%*	.2%
Household burglary	-38.5	-39.4	-38,5	-36.6	-36.3	-34.4	-32,9	-33.1	-35.9	-27.9	-19.4	-12.0	-10.0	-8.2	-9.2	-8.9
Household larceny	-11,8	-23.8	-24.7	-23.9	-23.4	-21.3	-29.4	-25.4	-22.0	-17.1	-10.3	-5.1	-3.2*	.9*	-1.4*	4.6
Motor vehicle theft	.5*	1.9*	-1.5*	16.5	13.0	9.5*	9.5*	14.9	12.1	18.7	31.5	26.0	34.8	27.9	19.6	9,6*

Note: Percent change was calculated using rates that -Less than 0.05%. were rounded to the nearest hundredth.

\*The difference is *not* statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Table 5. Victimization rates for personal and household crimes, by region, 1988-89

		No	ortheast		Mid	iwest		Sou	ith		We	st
	1988	1989	Percentchange, 1988-89	1988	1989	Percent change, 1988-89	1988	1989	Percentchange, 1988-89	1988		Percentchange, 1988-89
Personal crimes	73.2	74.7	2.0%	103.2	95.7	-7.3%	99.3	100.5	1.2%	126.4	120.0	-5.0% <sup>b</sup>
Crimes of violence	21.4	23.1	8.1	28.8	26.6	-7.5	28.9	30,3	4.7	40,8	36.4	-10.6 <sup>ª</sup>
Robbery	5.7	6,7	18.4	4.0	3.8	-5.0	4.8	5.7	18.8	7.2	5.5	-23.1
Assault	15.1	15.9	5.5	23.9	21.8	-8.7	23.7	24.0	1.4	32.8	30.2	-7.9
Aggravated	4.7	4.9	5.5	8.9	7.1	-19.5	9.8	9,4	-3.6	11.1	11.1	.8
Simple	10.4	11.0	5.5	15.1	14.7	-2.3	13.9	14.6	4.9	21.8	19.1	-12.4 <sup>b</sup>
Crimes of theft Personal larceny	51.8	51.6	-,5	74.4	69.1	-7.2 <sup>b</sup>	70.4	70.3	2	85.7	83.6	-2.4
With contact	3.6	3.9	10.0	2.1	2.6	22.7	2.1	2.1	-2.7	2.2	2,6	15.6
Without contact Total population age 12	48.3	47.6	-1.3	72.3	66.5	-8.1 <sup>ª</sup>	68.2	68.2	1	83.4	81.0	-2.9
orolder (in 1,000's)	41,888	42,687	7 1.9%	48,536	47,917	-1.3%	69,547	70,683	3 1.6%	39,441	40,089	1.6%
Household crimes Household burglary	115.4 38.0	126.3 39.1	9.4% <sup>b</sup> 2.7	166.3 63.1	150.5 50.5	-9.5% <sup>®</sup> -20.0 <sup>®</sup>	172.8 68.5	184.0 68.5	6.5% <sup>®</sup> 1	224.2 73.6	215.0 60.6	-4.1% -17.7
Household larceny	59.4	65.7	10.6	87.6	87.9	.3	87.8	96.9	10.3 <sup>n</sup>	129.4	128.1	-1.0
Motor vehicle theft Total number of	18.0	21.5	19.7	15.6	12.1	-22,2ª	16.5	18.6	13.0	21.2	26.3	24.3 <sup>b</sup>
households (in 1,000's)	19,415	19.877	7 2.4%	22,909	22,990	.4%	32,366	33,168	3 2,5%	18,672	18,864	1.0%

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded numbers. Crimes of violence rates include rape. The difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>b</sup>The difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

#### No change in reporting to the police

In 1989, 37% of all crimes were reported to the police, nearly the same percentage as in 1988 (table 6 and figure 4). The reporting rates for certain personal crimes, such as

violent crime, were down. Overall, 34% of personal crimes and 41% of household crimes were reported. Household larceny and crimes of theft, particularly personal lar-ceny without contact, had the lowest levels of reporting: Almost 3 out of every

10 of these offenses were reported to the police. The police were informed of three-fourths of all motor vehicle thefts; therefore, this crime retains the highest rate of reporting of any crime measured by the NCS.

Table 6. Reporting victimizations to the police, 1973-89

	1070	1071	1075	1070	4077						the polic		1005			1000	1000
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
All crimes	32%	33%	35%	35%	34%	33%	33%	36%	35%	36%	35%	35%	36%	37%	37%	36%	37%
Personal crimes	28%	30%	32%	32%	30%	30%	30%	33%	33%	33%	32%	33%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
Crimes or Lolence	46	47	47	49	46	44	45	47	47	48	47	47	48	50	48	48	45
Rape	49	52	56	53	58	49	51	41	56	53	47	56	61	48	52	45	51
Robbery	52	54	53	53	56	51	55	57	56	56	53	54	54	58	55	57	51
Assault	44	45	45	48	44	43	42	45	44	46	46	45	46	48	46	46	43
Aggravated	52	53	55	58	51	53	51	54	52	58	56	55	58	59	60	54	52
Simple	38	39	39	41	39	37	37	40	39	40	41	40	40	41	38	41	38
Crimes of theft Personal larceny	22	25	26	27	25	25	24	27	27	27	26	26	27	28	28	27	29
With contact	33	34	35	36	37	34	36	36	40	33	36	31	33	38	36	35	30
Without contact	22	24	26	26	24	24	24	27	26	27	26	26	27	28	27	27	29
Household crimes	38%	37%	39%	38%	38%	36%	36%	39%	39%	39%	37%	38%	39%	41%	40%	40%	41%
Household burglary	47	48	49	48	49	47	48	51	51	49	49	49	50	52	52	51	50
Household larceny	25	25	27	27	25	24	25	28	26	27	25	27	27	28	27	26	28
Motor vehicle theft	68	67	71	69	68	66	68	69	67	72	69	69	71	73	75	73	76

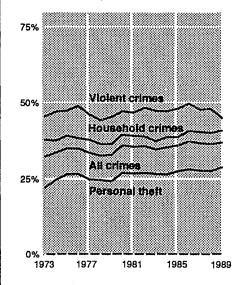
Robbery

1981



#### **General trends**

Percent of crimes reported



#### Violent crime trends

#### Percent of crimes reported

75%

50%

25%

0%

1973

1977

#### Household crime trends

Percent of crimes reported

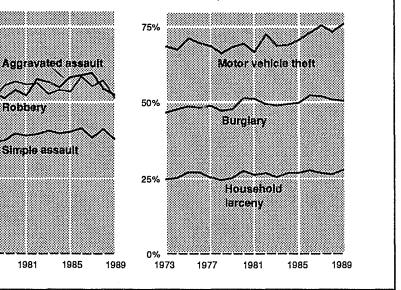


Figure 4

#### **Characteristics of victims**

As in the past, crime rates varied considerably according to the demographic characteristics of victims. Males, younger persons, blacks, Hispanics, residents of central cities, and the poor tended to have higher risks of victimization than persons who did not share these characteristics (table 7).

Males sustained significantly higher rates of violent crimes than females. For example, for every 1,000 males there were 11.9 aggravated assaults, for every 1,000 females, 4.9. Males were also at greater risk of being victims of personal theft than were femalas.

Blacks were more likely than whites to be victimized in a violent crime; the rate for robbery, for example, was 12.9 per 1,000 persons for blacks and 4.4 per 1,000 whites or members of other racial groups. However, the rates of personal theft for the three racial categories did not differ significantly.

Persons under age 25 had higher victimization rates for both crimes of violence and crimes of theft than did older persons. For each age group 25 or older, the crime rates for violence and personal theft were significantly lower than the rates for the next younger category.

Although similar to non-Hispanics in the rate of personal theft, Hispanics had a significantly higher violent crime rate. For example, for every 1,000 Hispanics there were 11.7 robberies, compared to 4.9 robberies for every 1,000 non-Hispanics.

In general, persons from households with low incomes sustained a higher risk of violent crimes than persons from wealthier households. For example, persons residing in a household with less than \$7,500 in income had significantly higher rates for both robbery and assault than did persons from any other income group. This pattern did not apply to crimes of theft; those persons with a household income of less than \$7,500 had personal theft rates that were not significantly different from those persons with a household income of \$50,000 or more.

Table 7. Victimization rates for persons age 12 or older, by type of crime and sex, age, race, ethnicity, income, and locality of residence of victims, 1989

			Crim	esofviol				
		_			Assault		Crimes	
	Total	Total"	Robbery	Total	Aggravated	Simple	of theft	
Sex								
Male	109.6	37.0	7.6	29.3	11.9	17.4	72.6	
Female	86.8	21.8	3.4	17.2	4.9	12.3	65.0	
Age								
12-15	162.2	62.9	9.5	52.3	14.2	38.2	99.3	
16-19	189.1	73.8	10.4	61.5	23.2	38.3	115.3	
20-24	175.3	57.8	9.1	47.1	17.2	29.9	117.5	
25-34	118.6	34.9	7.0	27.1	9.7	17.4	83.7	
35-49	84.5	20.8	4.5	15.7	6.3	9.5	63.8	
50-64	48.7	7.9	2.4	5,5	2.0	3.5	40.8	
65 or older	23.5	3.9	1.5	2.2	1.2	1.0	19.6	
Race								
White	97.0	28.2	4.4	23.1	8.0	15.1	68.8	
Black	105.0	36.0	12.9	22.1	10.0	12.1	69.0	
Other	91.7	27.3	4.4	22.9	7.8	15.1	64.3	
Ethnicity								
Hispanic	109.9	39.4	11.7	27.1	10.3	16.8	70.6	
Non-Hispanic	96.8	28.3	4.9	22.7	8.1	14.6	68.5	
Family income								
Less than \$7,500	121.4	50.2	12.3	36.3	13.0	23,2	71.2	
\$7,500-\$9,999	83.6	31.8	6.0	24.9	9.2	15.7	51.8	
\$10,000-\$14,999	96.3	34.8	7.4	26.8	8.9	17.9	61.5	
\$15,000-\$24,999	94.9	29.3	4.0	24.6	8.8	15.8	65.6	
\$25,000-\$29,999	97.8	27.9	4.7	23.0	8.0	15.0	69.9	
\$30,000-\$49,999	91.4	23.1	3.3	19.3	6.3	13.0	68.4	
\$50,000 or more	98.1	20.0	3.3	16.5	6.3	10.2	78.1	
Residence								
Central city	126.1	38.3	9.8	27.5	10.6	16,9	87.9	
Suburban	97.2	27.2	4.2	22.4	7.6	14.8	70.0	
Nonmetropolitan								
areas	67.3	22.0	2.5	19.0	6.8	12.2	45.3	

Place of residence played an important role in crime rates. For personal crimes of both violence and theft, central city residents had significantly higher rates than suburbanites, who had significantly higher rates than those living in nonmetropolitan areas.

Place of residence also played a role in the rate of household crimes. As with personal crime, central city households were victimized more often than suburban households (table 8). Households in nonmetropolitan areas had the lowest crime rates.

Households headed by blacks were victimized more than those headed by whites or persons of other racial groups. Likewise, households headed by Hispanics had higher household crime rates than did households headed by non-Hispanics.

Households that rented their residence had a household crime rate of 224 per 1,000 households, while households that owned or were in the process of buying their residence had the significantly lower rate of 140.

#### Survey methodology and sampling error

The National Crime Survey measures personal and household offenses, including crimes not reported to the police, by interviewing all the occupants of the housing units selected to comprise a representative sample. Each housing unit is interviewed at 6-month intervals, with interviews for different residences spaced out over the year. In 1989, approximately 97,000 people in 48,000 housing units were interviewed about the crimes they had experienced in the previous 6 months. These numbers reflect a 96% response rate.

Each person interviewed is asked about the crimes he or she may have experienced over the previous 6 months. Because responses to questions may be erroneously recorded, questions may not be answered correctly, or some people may forget to mention crimes, a certain amount of error is inherent to the data. The NCS was designed to eliminate as many of these errors as possible.

Another source of error comes from taking a sample instead of a complete census. Since the NCS cannot question everyone. a sampling error (standard error) is associated with every number in this report. In general, if the difference between two numbers is greater than twice the standard error for that difference, then the two numbers can be declared significantly different at the 95% confidence level. This means that about 95% of the time the two numbers are truly different, and roughly 5% of the time the sample will be imprecise enough that it detects a difference which does not actually exist. Similarly, if the difference is greater than 1.6 standard errors, the results are significant at the 90% confidence level. Everything described in the text as significantly different is at or above the 90% confidence level. If the difference between two numbers is less than 1.6 standard errors, then the two numbers are described as not measurably different.

#### **Preliminary estimates**

In May 1990 the Bureau of Justice Statistics released preliminary NCS victimization levels, rates, and police reporting data for 1989. For most crimes the preliminary rate estimates were close to the final ones. For example, the rate for crimes of violence decreased 1.2% from 29.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons in the preliminary estimate to 29.1 in the final estimate (table 9).<sup>3</sup>

Preliminary numbers indicated that all personal crimes except the completed robbery level had not changed measurably from 1988. Final estimates confirmed the earlier findings, except for completed robbery, which remained unchanged from 1988, and the rate of completed personal larceny with contact, which increased marginally.

<sup>3</sup>For a complete discussion of preliminary estimation procedures, see *Criminal Victimization, 1983*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-93869, June 1984.

### Table 8. Household victimization rates, by type of crime and race, ethnicity, income, residence, and form of tenure of head of household, 1989

	Victir	nizations per	1,000 house	aholds
	Total	Burglary	House- hold larceny	Motor vehicle theft
			·	
Race				
White	162.2	52.1	92.7	17.4
Black	228.2	88.4	109.0	30.8
Other	171.4	58.3	84.2	28.9
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	271.4	85.2	143.7	42.5
Non-Hispanic	163.0	54.5	91.0	17.5
Family income				
Less than \$7,500	193.4	82.1	98.0	13.2
\$7,500-\$9,999	162.7	62.2	88.5	12.1
\$10,000-\$14,999	178.1	56.3	103.1	18.7
\$15,000-\$24,999	170.0	55.8	93.9	20.3
\$25,000-\$29,999	175.4	53.4	103.0	19.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	158.4	46.9	91.3	20.2
\$50,000 or more	165.3	53.1	89.2	23.1
Residenco				
Central city	235.1	77.1	127.2	30.7
Suburban	149.0	48.6	83.2	17.2
Nonmetropolitan				
areas	126.2	44.2	73.2	8.8
Form of tenure				
Home owned	139.9	45.2	79.9	14.7
Home rented	224.1	76.5	120.4	27.2

#### Table 9. Preliminary and final estimates for victimization levels and rates, 1989

	(in 1,0	00's)		Vict	imization r	ates
	Prelim-		Percent	Prelim-		Percent
	inary	Final	change	inary	Final	change
Personal crimes	20,315	19,691	-3.1%	100.9	97.8	-3.1%
Crimes of violence	5,933	5,861	-1.2	29.5	29.1	-1.2
Rape	117	135	16.2	.5	.7	15.5
Robbery	1,162	1,092	-6.1	5.8	5.4	-6.1
Assault	4,661	4,634	6	23.2	23.0	6
Aggravated	1,691	1,665	-1.6	8.5	8.3	-1.6
Simple	2,969	2,969		14.7	14.7	1
Crimes of theit	14,385	13,829	-3,9	71.5	68.7	-3.9
Personal larceny						
With contact	560	543	-3.0	2.8	2.7	-2.9
Without contact	13,825	13,287	-3.9	68.7	66.0	-3.9
Household crimes	15,768	16,128	2.3%	166.0	169.9	2.4%
Household burglary	5,275	5,352	1.5	55.5	56.4	1.6
Household larceny	8,780	8,955	2.0	92.4	94.4	2.1
Motor vehicle theft	1,723	1,820	5.6	18.1	19.2	5.8
Note: Detail may not a because of rounding. calculated on the basis victimizations per 1,000	litimization of the num	rates are ber of		er 1,000 ho based on t in 0.05%.		

The preliminary estimates for household crimes showed more variability than the ones for personal crimes. Often a rate or level will increase or decrease but not be significantly different because of the number of cases comprising the estimate. As the sample size increases, the standard error decreases, and a difference that was insignificant in the preliminary estimate may gain significance. Thus, while the preliminary 1989 level for completed household larceny was higher than the 1988 level, the increase was not statistically significant. However, the final estimates indicated that the completed household larceny level had increased significantly.

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime. Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by the staff of BJS. This Bulletin was written by Joan M. Johnson and Marshall M. DeBerry, Jr. Thomas Hester edited the report. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administered report production, assisted by Yvonne Boston, Tina Dorsey, Rhonda Keith, and Jayne Pugh. Marianne Zawitz assisted in data presentation.

October 1990, NCJ-125615

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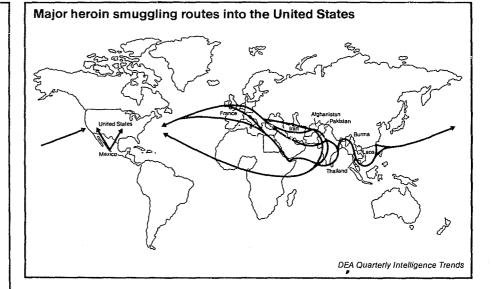
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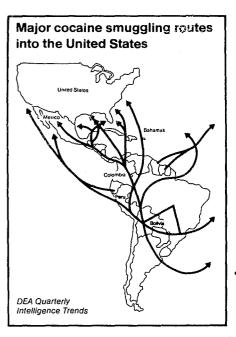
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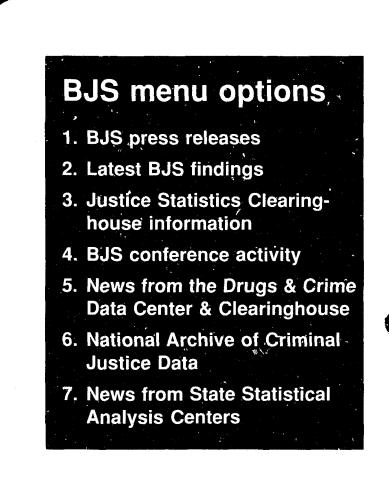
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