



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Updates from the Bureau of Justice Statistics on the National Crime Victimization Survey

December 14, 2021 | 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Agenda

1. Recent Developments in Modernizing the National Crime Victimization Survey Instruments
Jennifer Truman, PhD
2. Transitioning from the NVAT to the NDASH: Developing a New Data Visualization Tool for the NCVS
Grace Kena, MPP
3. Financial Fraud in the United States: Survey Development and Statistical Estimates from the 2017 Supplemental Fraud Survey
Rachel Morgan, PhD
4. Investigating the Nature of Identity Theft Using the 2018 Identity Theft Supplement
Erika Harrell, PhD
5. Q&A Session





Bureau of Justice Statistics

Recent Developments in Modernizing the National Crime Victimization Survey Instruments

Jennifer L. Truman, Ph.D.
Statistician

December 14, 2021 | Webinar: Updates from the BJS on the NCVS

Presentation Overview

- Quick overview of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- Impact of COVID-19 on the NCVS
- NCVS Redesign updates



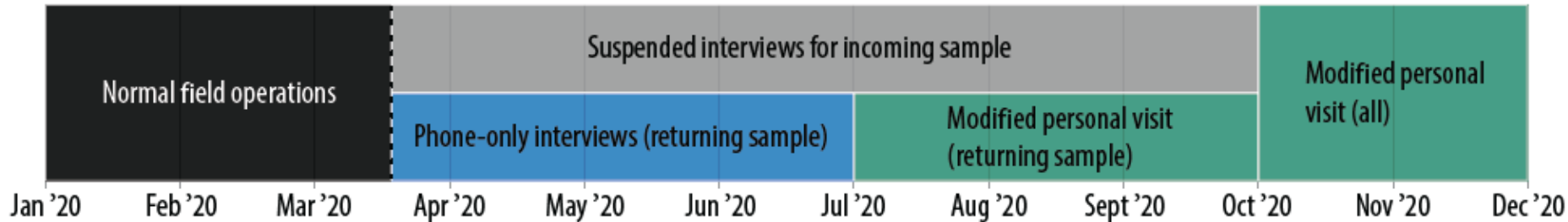
The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- In a typical year, the NCVS is administered from January 1 to December 31
- NCVS administered to persons age 12 or older from national representative sample of U.S. households
- Respondents can be interviewed in-person or by telephone, with new households interviewed in-person
- Selected households remain in sample for 3.5 years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months (total of 7 interviews)
- NCVS collects information on nonfatal violent and property crimes reported and not reported to police



Impact of COVID-19 on the NCVS in 2020

National Crime Victimization Survey field operation procedures, 2020



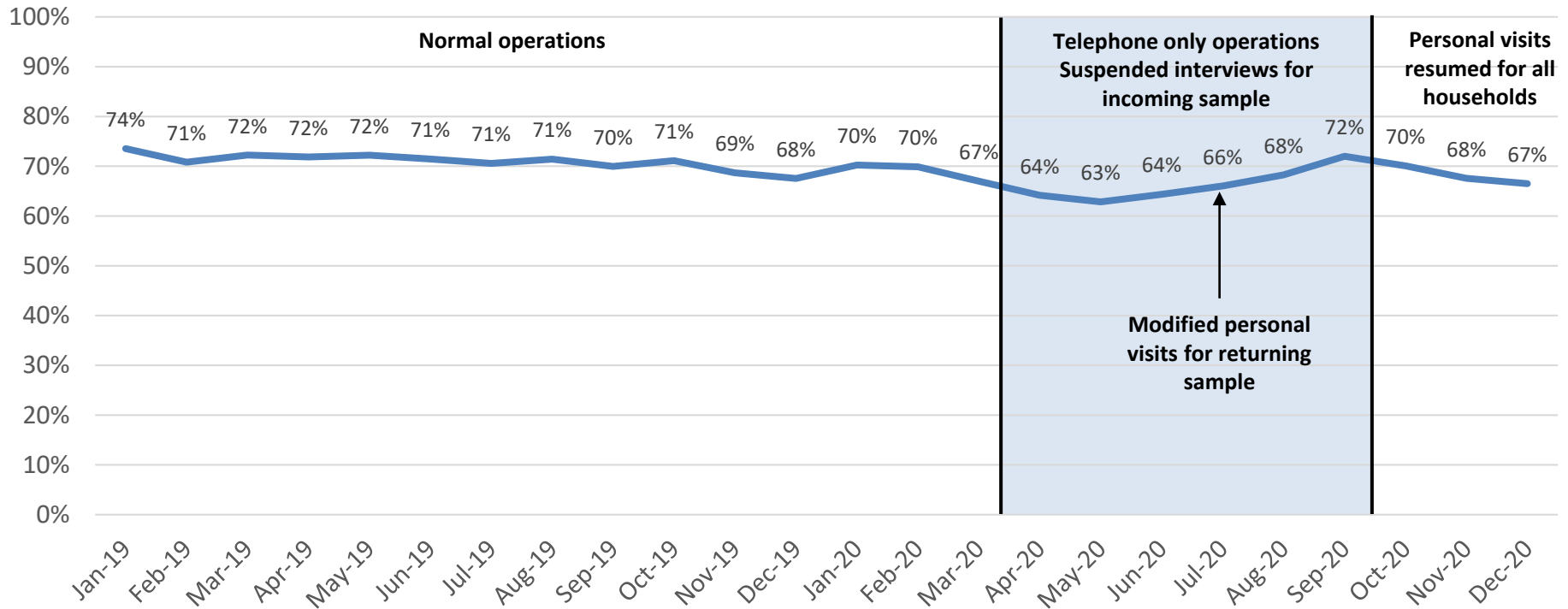
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020.



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COVID-19 impact on NCVS response rates

Monthly household response rate for the NCVS, 2019–2020



2020 NCVS weighting adjustments

- BJS, in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau, examined 2020 data
- Several adjustments were applied to the 2020 NCVS data in order to ensure comparability with past and future years of NCVS data:
 - Weights for incoming sample in the first and fourth quarters of 2020 were doubled to compensate for the suppressed incoming sample in the second and third quarters
 - Household weights for the types of groups quarters included in the NCVS were controlled to match historical values
 - Household control weights were developed to weight household distributions by sample type

For more information on the 2020 response rates and weighting adjustments, 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/series/95>)



NCVS Redesign

A new NCVS instrument

- Modernize survey instrument design and methodology
- Generate better and more comprehensive measures of crime
- Engage non-victim respondents and collect more contextual information
- Add questions on citizens' perceptions of safety, disorder, police legitimacy, and satisfaction with police
- Expand information collected on victim experiences
 - Knowledge about victim service use
 - Citizen satisfaction with police
 - Understanding of the consequences of victimization



Key changes

- Use behaviorally specific language
- Increase yes/no responses
- New crime type – vandalism
- Use screener to guide crime incident report (CIR)
- Expand the information collected from victims to–
 - Improve understanding of the consequences of victimization
 - Address gaps in knowledge about use of victims’ services
 - Measure victims’ reactions and satisfaction with their encounters with police
 - Enhance collection of reactions by victims



Interleaving approach

Redesigned NCVS

Current NCVS

Q36a. Items stolen? Yes

Q37a. Other than incidents already mentioned, break in?
No

Q41a. Other than incidents already mentioned, attack?
No

Interleaving

Q1a. Items stolen? Yes

Q1_1A. As part of this incident, break-in? Yes

Q1_1D. As part of this incident, attack or threatened attack? No

Non-Interleaving

Q1a. Items stolen? Yes

Q2a. Break-in? Yes

Q2b. Was this part of other incident? Yes

Q3a. Attack? Yes

Q3b. Was this part of other incident? No

Going into CIR, what do we know about this incident?

Something was stolen

Something was stolen, there was a break-in



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Screeners flow

Crime screeners:
theft, motor vehicle theft,
break-in, vandalism,
attack, unwanted sexual
contact, catch-all

(IF YES TO SCREENER):
How many times?

(IF 6 OR MORE TIMES):
Incidents similar?
(IF SIMILAR):
Details to distinguish?



Date incident (month/year)

(IF OTHER INCIDENTS):
Was this incident part of
any other incident?
(IF YES):
Which one?

Short incident description



Non-crime questions

- Police performance
 - Contact with police
 - Views of police, e.g. respect, effectiveness, trust
- Community measures
 - Worry about crime
 - Issues in neighborhood, e.g. graffiti, abandoned buildings
- Questions asked of **all** respondents
- Administer **police** questions in **Jan–June** and **community** in **July–Dec**
- Items engage the majority of respondents who have no crimes to report
- Measures have utility for small area estimation and understanding patterns of reporting to police



Respondent communications refresh



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20531

October 2019

Dear Resident,



Why did I receive this letter?

Your address has been scientifically selected to take part in the **National Survey of Crime and Safety (NSCS)**. **Your address cannot be replaced.** To make sure the results are statistically valid, only people at the selected addresses can take part in the survey.



What is the NSCS?

The NSCS asks about people's experiences with crime in the last 12 months. It also asks people's opinions about neighborhood safety and the local police. For more details, please see www.bjs.gov/content/nscs.cfm.



Who developed the NSCS?

The NSCS was developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), a part of the U.S. Department of Justice, with assistance from Westat, a social science research company.



What should I expect?

1. A Westat interviewer (with a Westat ID) will come to your home.
2. They will ask a few questions about the people who live at this address.
3. All household members age 12 or older will be asked to complete the survey.



What do I do now?

Before the interviewer visits, you can call **1-855-849-6119** or send an email to NCS@westat.com to schedule an appointment at a time that is convenient for you. For most people, the interview will take between 20 and 40 minutes.



Why should I participate?

- **Help your community.** Communities can use these data to help improve the effectiveness of local law enforcement.
- **Help schools.** The U.S. Department of Education can use these data to measure the prevalence of school victimization.
- **Help employers.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can use these data to understand violence in the workplace.



Confidential and Private

Your confidentiality is ensured by law. The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose as required by law (Title 34, U.S. Code, Section 1023).

Thank you for participating in this important research study.

Sincerely,

Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics
U.S. Department of Justice

CB

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the National Survey of Crime and Safety (NSCS)?

The NSCS asks about people's experiences with crime in the last 12 months, regardless of whether these experiences were reported to the police. It also asks people's opinions about neighborhood safety and the local police. The survey is asked of adults and youth age 12 or older in selected U.S. households.

Why should I participate?

This survey will provide a better picture of crime and safety in communities such as yours, and improve the government's understanding of these issues in your area and across the country.

How was I selected for this survey?

Your address, not you personally, was selected for this study. Because this is a scientific study, your answers represent not only you and your household, but also thousands of households like yours.

How will my information be protected?

BJS, its employees, and its data collection agents (Westat) will only use the information provided for statistical or research purposes pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 10134, and will not disclose respondent information in identifiable form to anyone outside of the BJS project team without your consent. All personally identifiable information collected under BJS's authority is protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231. Any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, per the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. § 151), federal information systems are protected from malicious activities through cybersecurity screening of transmitted data.

How long will the survey take?

It will take about five minutes to first gather information about your household. Then for each adult and youth age 12 or older, the actual survey takes between 20 to 40 minutes, depending on each person's answers to the questions.

Do I have to participate?

You do not have to participate and if you do participate, you can skip any question you do not want to answer. But we do hope you choose to participate - Your household's cooperation is important to ensure we capture an accurate picture of crime and safety in the United States.

Why is this information being collected by Westat and not the Department of Justice?

Westat has been contracted by the Department of Justice to conduct this survey. Westat is a well known independent research firm located in Rockville, Maryland.

Who can I call with questions?

If you would like further information about the survey, you can contact NSCS Support at Westat at 1-855-849-6119 or send an email to NCS@westat.com. You can also visit the BJS website at www.bjs.gov/content/nscs.cfm. If you have questions about your rights and welfare as a research participant, please call the Westat Human Subjects Protections office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your first name, the name of the research study that you are calling about (National Survey of Crime and Safety), and a phone number beginning with the area code. A Westat IRB representative will return your call as soon as possible.





How long will the interview take?

Between 20 - 40 minutes, depending on your responses to the questions.

How will my privacy be protected?

All the information you give to this study will be kept private.

- Your answers will not be connected with your name.
- Your name and contact information will be kept separately in secure computer files.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this survey about?

The NSCS asks about people's experiences with crime in the last 12 months, regardless of whether these experiences were reported to the police. It also asks people's opinions about neighborhood safety and the local police. The survey is asked of adults and youth age 12 or older in selected U.S. households.

Who is conducting this survey?

The Bureau of Justice Statistics within the Department of Justice has asked Westat, a research organization based in Rockville, Maryland, to conduct the study.

How is the information collected?

Someone from Westat will come to your home to interview you and other members of your household.

How was I selected for this study?

Your address was scientifically selected to be a part of our sample.

For more information about this study, please contact:

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Jennifer Truman
810 7th St., NW
Washington, DC 20531
202-307-0765
askbjs@usdoj.gov

Westat
Jean Hicks, NSCS Help
1600 Research Blvd
Rockville, MD 20850
1-855-849-6119
NSCS@westat.com

10/20/2022

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OMB No. 1021-0368 Expires 9/30/2022

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Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 25 minutes. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Westat

NATIONAL SURVEY OF CRIME AND SAFETY (NSCS)

Sponsored by the
U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Statistics



A national survey on crime and safety issues



Examples of brochure formats we have tested – all respondents

What is the National Survey of Crime and Safety?

The NSCS is a national survey that is collecting information on crime and safety issues in communities in the United States.

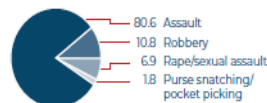
The primary goal of the NSCS is to provide information about people's perceptions of community safety, their local police, and their experiences with victimization and crime in the past year. The NSCS is adapted from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), administered by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS is the nation's only source of information about crime victimization not reported to the police.

Current NCVS content was developed in 1992; our communities and the nature of crime have changed in the years since then; the NSCS has been designed to fill these gaps.

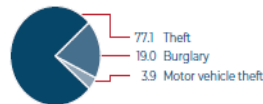
NCVS data, like those shown in Figure 1, are used to track trends in crime and safety and develop policies.

Figure 1.

2017 Personal Crimes (Percentage of total victimizations)



2017 Property Crimes (Percentage of total victimizations)



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017

Why should I participate?

Your cooperation is important to help ensure that the federal government has accurate and reliable information about crime and safety in neighborhoods like yours. Your address has been scientifically selected to represent your own household and hundreds more like it. We think you will find the survey interesting, and you will be helping the U.S. Department of Justice to understand crime and safety issues in different communities around the U.S.

Who is being interviewed?

The NSCS is a study of all persons age 12 or older. The interviewer will ask to interview each adult in your household, and will ask for permission to interview any youth ages 12 to 17 who live there.

Do I have to participate?

Participation in this study is voluntary, but your participation will help ensure that the results of the study accurately represent your community. You can skip any question that you don't want to answer and can stop the interview at any time.

Your NSCS interviewer

NSCS Interviewer Cell Phone:

What information is collected on this survey?

- Types and numbers of crimes experienced
- Safety practices in communities
- Policing in neighborhoods
- Details of crimes, including:
 - When and where crimes occur
 - Economic loss
 - Injuries
 - Police involvement
 - Weapons used
 - Victim services needed and used



Why is my child's participation important?

Youth participation in the NCVS is extremely important!

NCVS data provide crucial information about a range of topics, including crime and safety in schools and communities, trends in violent and property crime and the response of law enforcement to reports of victimization.

Regardless of whether or not your child has experienced crime, their participation in the NCVS can help researchers and public officials in your community and beyond better understand and address crimes against youth.

Your child's responses not only represent your household, but also hundreds of other similar households that are not surveyed.

Your child's participation contributes to local and national research and policy:

- Law enforcement, judicial, correctional and victim service agencies use NCVS data to improve their effectiveness and planning.
- The U.S. Department of Education uses NCVS data to measure the prevalence and nature of student victimizations at and away from school.
- Researchers use NCVS data to study trends in criminal victimization across geographic areas and demographic groups.

Recent NCVS Publications



For more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey, please visit:

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ncvs.html

For questions about youth participation in the NCVS, please contact:

505-566-5989
NCVS@Census.gov



Youth Participation in the

2020 National Crime Victimization Survey

United States
Census
Bureau

Examples of brochure formats we have tested – youth respondents

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

What is the National Crime Victimization Survey?

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a nationwide survey designed to obtain detailed information about experiences of criminal victimization, including theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, robbery, assault and rape. The NCVS involves interviews of households scientifically sampled from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. All household members ages 12 and older are invited to participate in a series of interviews.

What is the purpose of the NCVS?

The purpose of the NCVS is to collect nationally representative information about criminal victimization. Unlike other national data collections on crime, the NCVS includes all experiences of criminal victimization both reported and not reported to the police.

Who conducts the NCVS?

The NCVS is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau with funding from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) of the U.S. Department of Justice. The Census Bureau collects, edits, and processes the information. BJS conducts data analyses and publishes final results.

What will my child be asked to do?



As with the adults in your household, all children ages 12-17 will be invited to participate in the NCVS.



Each participating youth will be asked to take part in a series of one-on-one interviews.



Interviewers will ask about crimes the youth has experienced.



Interviews take, on average, 25 minutes to complete and are conducted with participating children once every six months for three years.



Interviews can be completed in-person or by phone.



Interviewers are Census Field Representatives who have undergone background checks.



Participation in the NCVS is voluntary. Permission from a parent or guardian is required for youth.

How will my child's data be used?

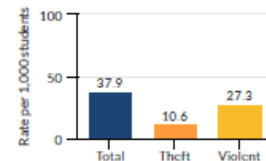
Will my child be identified?

All information provided by your child will be kept confidential. The Census Bureau and the Bureau of Justice Statistics are prohibited by federal law from releasing your child's responses in any way that could allow them to be identified.

What will be done with my child's data?

Your child's NCVS data will be stripped of all personally identifying information (e.g. name, address) and compiled with data provided by other participants into a final data set. This data set will be analyzed by the BJS and released to the public for use in statistical research. The chart below is an example of how NCVS data are used.

Rate of Victimization Against Students Aged 12 - 14 by Type of Victimization in 2017



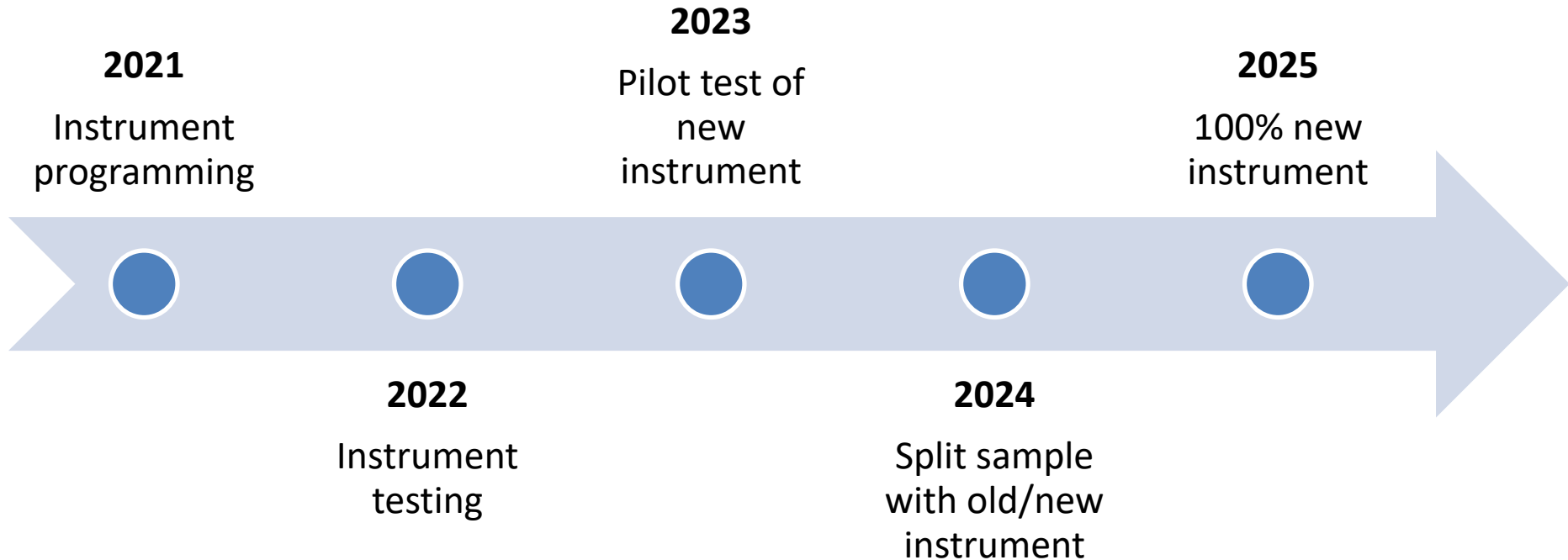
Next steps for the NCVS instrument redesign

- First reports on findings from the NCVS Redesign Field Test will be coming soon
- Additional reports on findings from the Field Test also planned
- Implementation of redesigned instrument with the U.S. Census Bureau
 - Instrument programming and testing
 - Small pilot test of redesigned instrument and protocols
 - Split-sample test with old and new designs



Next steps for the NCVS instrument redesign (cont.)

preliminary schedule, subject to change



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Transitioning from the NVAT to the N-DASH: Developing a New Data Visualization Tool for the National Crime Victimization Survey

Grace Kena, Erika Harrell, Alexandra (Lexy) Thompson

December 14, 2021 | Updates from the Bureau of Justice Statistics on the National Crime Victimization Survey

Background

Background

- First launched in 2012, the National Victimization Analysis Tool (NVAT) has been very effective and widely used.
- Before the NVAT, reports and data files were the only ways to access data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).
- The development of the NVAT provided a direct and user-friendly way to work with NCVS data beginning in 1993.
- Given advancements in technology during the prior decade, by 2019, the NVAT had become dated.
- Analysts from the Victimization Statistics Unit (VSU) began work, through a cooperative agreement with RTI International, to create a more modern and visually engaging tool.



NVAT Quick, Custom Table Pages

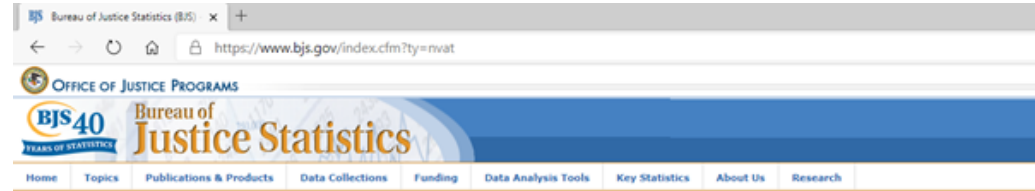


NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool (NVAT)

Home Quick Tables Custom Tables Methodology Terms & Definitions Supporting Documents

Trend type	Select trend period		
Victimization type			
Violent victimization	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Property victimization	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Burglary/trespassing, motor-vehicle theft, and theft	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Reporting to the police			
Violent victimization by reporting to the police	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Property victimization by reporting to the police	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Victim-offender relationship (including intimate partners, other relatives, acquaintances, and strangers)			
Violent victimization by victim-offender relationship	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Violent victimization by victim-offender relationship and sex	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Violent victimization by victim-offender relationship and age	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019
Violent victimization by victim-offender relationship and reporting to the police	2015-2019	2010-2019	1993-2019

Please note:
2016 data were updated in January 2019. See *Criminal Victimization, 2016: Revised* (NCJ252121) for more information.



NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool (NVAT)

Home Quick Tables Custom Tables Methodology Terms & Definitions Supporting Documents

Please select an option for the type of victimization

- Personal Victimization**
Personal victimization includes all violent victimization (i.e., rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) and personal theft.
- Household Victimization**
Household victimization includes all property victimization (i.e., burglary/trespassing, motor-vehicle theft, and theft).

Select Victimization Type

Personal Victimization

Years	Victimization Type *	First Variable	Second Variable
1993 - 2019	<input type="checkbox"/> Violent Victimization <input type="checkbox"/> Violent crime excluding simple assault <input type="checkbox"/> Rape/sexual assault <input type="checkbox"/> Robbery <input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated assault <input type="checkbox"/> Simple assault <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Theft/Larceny	View All Criteria	View All Criteria



* Required

Generate Results Reset Form



Bureau of Justice Statistics

NVAT Custom Table Output

NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool (NVAT) Report															
Number of violent victimizations by sex and race/Hispanic origin, 1993-2019															
Select: Numbers [Standard Error] Rates [Standard Error] Percent [Standard Error]  															
Victimization Type	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Violent victimization	16,822,618	17,059,005	15,202,202	14,059,520	13,425,406	12,010,551	10,600,716	8,502,602	7,476,599	7,424,550	7,679,050	6,726,060	6,947,795	8,430,430	6,8
Male	9,890,974	9,522,449	8,657,214	7,860,483	7,198,457	6,834,976	5,485,896	4,808,841	3,828,331	3,756,215	4,014,497	3,553,478	4,043,662	4,481,909	3,7
Non-Hispanic white	7,612,181	7,048,616	6,566,956	5,831,356	5,412,980	5,278,231	4,136,973	3,538,862	2,661,055	2,736,005	2,834,421	2,599,308	2,754,122	2,944,641	2,6
Non-Hispanic black	1,193,544	1,115,068	900,020	1,016,161	971,073	649,527	627,020	571,910	406,891	394,895	528,177	373,015	559,561	638,369	406
Non-Hispanic other	278,944	327,877	312,465	266,182	182,322	349,703	117,740	130,611	124,494	81,817	209,060	241,656	277,796	322,119	185
Hispanic	806,306	1,030,889	877,773	746,784	632,082	557,515	604,163	567,459	635,892	543,498	442,838	339,500	452,182	576,781	476
Female	6,931,644	7,536,555	6,544,987	6,199,037	6,226,949	5,175,576	5,114,820	3,693,760	3,648,268	3,668,335	3,664,553	3,172,582	2,904,133	3,948,520	3,0
Non-Hispanic white	5,125,350	5,699,401	4,577,453	4,659,471	4,587,555	3,765,655	3,743,522	2,681,567	2,498,306	2,696,626	2,655,467	2,249,287	1,997,030	2,541,659	1,9
Non-Hispanic black	1,037,165	997,126	1,085,022	752,264	939,576	770,006	897,427	524,182	585,822	628,934	447,725	464,202	353,076	655,803	591
Non-Hispanic other	204,775	170,458	154,939	128,651	141,864	181,801	127,657	71,024	152,486	77,919	199,594	177,159	184,513	323,050	252
Hispanic	564,355	669,570	727,574	658,652	557,955	458,114	346,214	416,987	411,654	264,857	361,768	281,934	369,515	428,008	294

Footnotes

- * Special tabulations from the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool (NVAT).
- * Detail may not sum to total due to rounding and/or missing data.
- * Beginning in 2003, BJS implemented methodological changes to reflect new guidelines from the Office of Management and Budget for the



N-DASH Goals

- The team's goal was to use the NVAT as a launchpad for developing a more modern tool that would:
 - Reproduce and enhance the NVAT's core functionality
 - Increase the speed and capability of conducting analyses of nearly 30 years of data
 - Add visualization elements to NCVS estimate displays
 - Broaden the reach to and engagement of data users
 - Enhance ease of use through layout organization and additional explanatory text



Development

N-DASH Development

- As a first step, we worked to develop a list of desired elements for the new tool, considering likely users, key components of the NVAT to replicate, and inputs from other websites and data tools.
- From Jan to Sept 2020, we worked closely with RTI to build a concept for the dashboard, and then to finalize content, layout, and design options.
- RTI's team included data scientists, web and software developers, senior researchers, research statisticians, and a data visualization specialist.



N-DASH Development Cont.

- Key decisions areas included –
 - Scope – How much of the NCVS data would we include? What measures?
 - Presentation – Which graphics types would best represent the data but also be clear?
 - Content – How much explanatory text was enough? Which download options to include?
 - Design – What color schemes would be appealing and mesh with the BJS website?



TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF THINKING

Big Picture!

Needed both
types for
creating the
N-DASH!

Detail-oriented!



1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16



BJS

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Main NVAT and N-DASH Components

NVAT

- Home
- Quick Tables
- Custom Tables
- Methodology
- Terms & Definitions
- Supporting Documents
 - Datasets and codebooks
 - NCVS main page
 - Population Counts
 - Participation rates
 - Publications
 - Questionnaires
 - Terms & Definitions
 - User's Guide

N-DASH

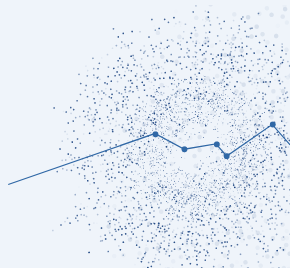
- Tool Overview/Home
- Quick Graphics
- Custom Graphics
 - Multi-Year Trends
 - Single-Year Comparison
 - Year-to-Year Comparison
 - Each by crime type, characteristic
- User's Guide
- Terms & Definitions
- NCVS Data Collections Page
- Supporting Documents
 - *Same content as NVAT*
 - Also, NCVS Technical Documentation



N-DASH Development Cont.

- RTI created a draft version of the N-DASH on their development site, informed by small-scale internal user testing.
- At BJS, we then
 - conducted multiple rounds of testing in consultation with the full VSU,
 - discussed features, functionality, and structure with the BJS technical team to ensure compatibility within our environment, and
 - shared the tool and discussed plans with BJS leadership.
- In Sept 2020, a fully-functional, initial iteration of the N-DASH was completed.





NCVS Dashboard (N-DASH)

This dynamic analysis tool allows you to examine National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data on both personal and property victimization, by select victim, household, and incident characteristics.


The NCVS is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. It is an annual data collection sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The NCVS collects information from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households on nonfatal crimes, reported and not reported to the police, against persons age 12 or older.

Site last updated: 11/10/2021

This tool

This tool presents estimates from the NCVS as interactive data visualizations, providing users with a variety of views and analysis types to investigate questions of interest. Click one of the links or tabs on this page to get started.

For more information, see:

[User's Guide](#)[Terms & Definitions](#)[Main NCVS page](#)

Tool Overview

An introduction to this tool's use, terms, and functions.



Quick Graphics

A selection of charts covering key topics of interest.

Or,
head to



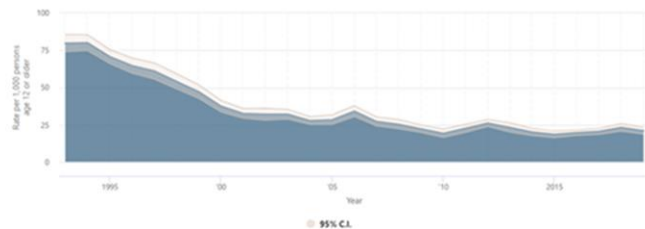
Custom Graphics

Create custom charts based upon selected topics of interest.



VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION

Violent Victimizations, 1993 to 2019



*95% C.I.: 95% confidence interval.

*S.E.: Standard error.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993 to 2019

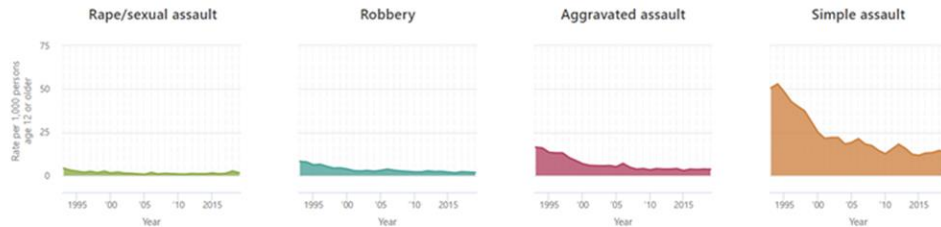
Show Table

Download Table

Download PNG

N-DASH Quick Graphics

Rape/Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Simple Assault, 1993 to 2019



*95% C.I.: 95% confidence interval.

*S.E.: Standard error.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1993 to 2019

An individual larger chart view of any of these smaller comparison charts can be generated via custom graphics via the the multi-year-trends(characteristic view, by selecting 'person' under 'View Settings: VICTIMIZATION TYPE', and the crime type of interest under 'Data Filter Settings: CRIME TYPE'

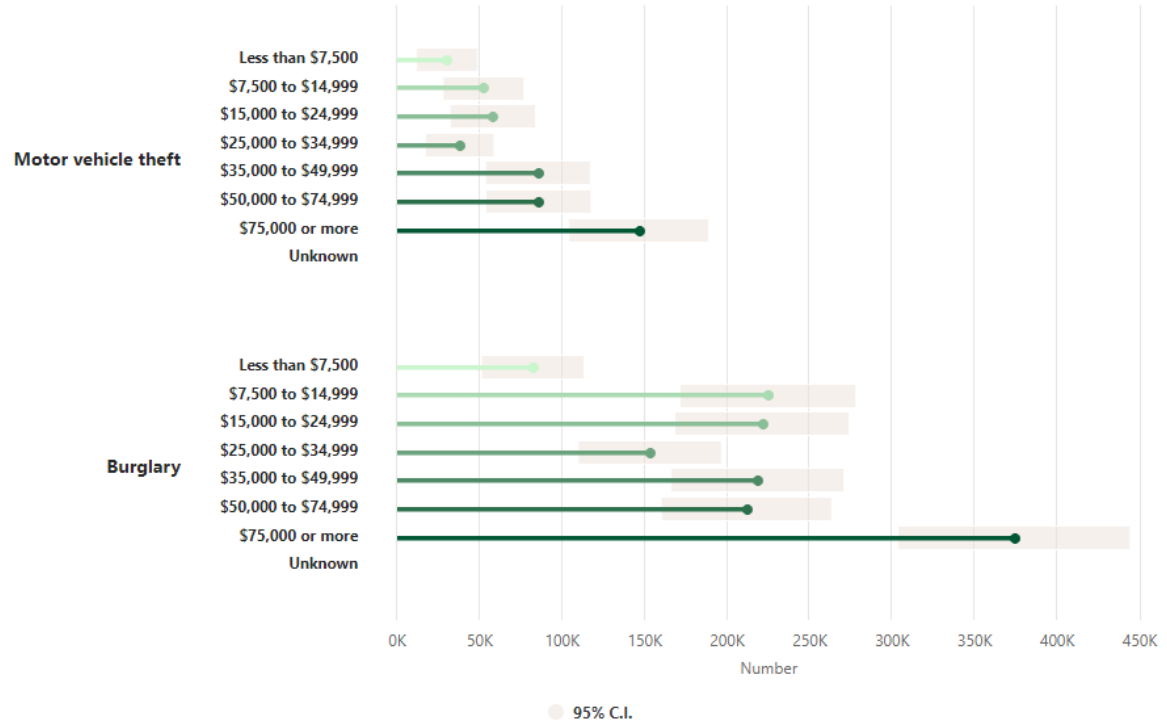
Show Table

Download Table

Download PNG

N-DASH Custom Graphic

Number of Victimizations by Crime Type by Household Income, 2019



*95% C.I.": 95% confidence interval.

"S.E.": Standard error.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019. <https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/single-year-comparison/crimeType>

N-DASH LAUNCH

N-DASH Improvements

- After the initial version of the tool was finalized, the team continued making improvements, including:
 - conducting user testing with BJS staff in different units,
 - participating in usability analysis testing with Verint, and
 - undergoing multiple rounds of revision and testing with RTI.
- During this time, BJS released a new agency website.



N-DASH Improvements Cont.

- To prepare for the N-DASH launch, we worked with RTI, the BJS technical team, the Office of the Chief Information Officer and others to:
 - implement necessary changes,
 - conduct several additional rounds of review and testing, and
 - confirm that internal technical requirements were met to ensure a successful deployment of the site on the BJS website.





The N-DASH was launched in Nov 2021!



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Demo

The N-DASH Online

- N-DASH: <https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/Home>
- Other BJS data tools:
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/data/data-analysis-tools>
- We welcome your feedback on our new tool!
Send any comments to AskBJS@usdoj.gov



Grace Kena, Erika Harrell, Lexy Thompson

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Bureau of Justice Statistics

Financial fraud in the United States: Survey development and statistical estimates from the 2017 Supplemental Fraud Survey

Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D.

BJS Statistician

December 14, 2021

Presentation Overview

- BJS and the collection of victimization statistics
- NCVS utility for measuring fraud
- Development of the NCVS Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS)
 - What is fraud? How is it different than identity theft?
 - Elements necessary to be fraud
 - Types of fraud
 - Screener and incident form development
- Statistical estimates produced from the SFS data



BJS and the collection of victimization statistics

- BJS is authorized to collect statistics on victimization under the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979 (Title 34 U.S.C. § 10132)
- 2016 National Academy of Sciences report recommended that BJS focus on measuring “new and emerging crime types” and not just current street crimes on the NCVS
- Strength of the NCVS is its ability to capture hard-to-measure and personally sensitive crimes that have a low likelihood of being reported to police or other agencies (National Research Council, 2008)



NCVS utility for measuring fraud

- Nationally representative
 - Good coverage and high response rates for populations most at risk/key populations
- Ask respondent about personal experiences with fraud
 - Captures information about the response and impact on the victim
 - Ability to measure frauds reported and not reported to police/consumer complaints
 - Official police statistics will not reflect the true magnitude of the fraud problem
- Large sample sizes allow for disaggregation of estimates by key characteristics
- Routine administration would allow for the assessment of change over time



What is the difference between financial fraud and identity theft?

- BJS defines and measures financial fraud and identity theft separately and therefore, they are separate NCVS supplemental surveys.
- Fraud is defined as –
 - acts that “*intentionally and knowingly deceive the victim*” by misrepresenting, concealing, or omitting facts about promised goods, services, or other benefits and consequences that are nonexistent, unnecessary, never intended to be provided, or deliberately distorted for the purpose of monetary gain.” (Financial Fraud Research Center taxonomy authored by Beals, DeLiema & Deevy, 2015)
- Identity theft is defined as –
 - misuse or attempted misuse of an existing account or misuse or attempted misuse of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes such as getting medical care or providing false information to the police during an arrest.
- Identity theft is similar to other types of personal theft – the theft of information typically occurs beyond the victim’s consent, knowledge, and control



What is the Supplemental Fraud Survey?

- Supplement to the NCVS that was administered to NCVS respondents age 18 or older from October – December 2017
 - ~51,200 persons completed the SFS interview
- First nationally representative data examining seven types of personal financial fraud
- Respondents were asked about their experiences with these fraud types within the 12 months preceding the interview.
- More details about the SFS
 - <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/supplemental-fraud-survey-sfs>



SFS instrument development

Fraud type	Expected benefit or outcome for victim	Examples
Charity	A contribution to a charitable cause or organization.	Bogus natural-disaster relief, law enforcement charity scams, and personal crowdfunding sites for bogus causes.
Consumer investment	A larger return on an investment.	Ponzi schemes, penny stock fraud, oil and gas exploration scams, and bond fraud.
Consumer products and services	Obtaining the agreed-upon consumer product or service.	Technology support scams, automotive repair scams, weight-loss product scams, and online marketplace scams.
Employment	Acquiring a paid job.	Work-at-home scams, government job-placement scams, and nanny scams.
Phantom debt collection	Avoiding the consequences of failing to pay a debt that the victim is told he or she owes and must act on.	Government debt-collection scams and medical-debt scams.
Prize and grant	Winning a prize, grant, lottery, or other windfall of money.	Prize promotion and sweepstakes scams, lottery scams, fake government grant offers, and foreign prince letter scams.
Relationship and trust	Fostering or continuing a personal and sometimes intimate relationship.	Friend or relative imposter scams and in-person or online romance scams.



SFS instrument development

Screener instrument

- Each eligible person age 18 or older is asked screener questions for each of the 7 types of fraud.
 1. Consumer investment
 2. Consumer products & services
 3. Employment
 4. Prize & grant
 5. Phantom debt collection
 6. Charity
 7. Relationship & trust
- The 7 fraud types are mutually exclusive and can be summed to calculate a comprehensive estimate of personal financial fraud.

Incident instrument

- If a respondent indicates they experienced a type of fraud, they receive an incident instrument focused on that specific type of fraud.
- If they experienced 2 types of fraud based on the screener instrument, they receive 2 incident forms focused on those 2 types, and so on.
- Incident forms have questions specific to the fraud type but also general questions included on all incident forms.



BJS statistical report and data file release

- In April 2021, BJS released a statistical report with the first findings from the 2017 SFS data (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ffus17.pdf>).
- The public-use data file was also released through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data for public download and analyses (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/37825>).



Financial Fraud in the United States, 2017

Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D., BJS Statistician

In 2017, an estimated 3.0 million persons, or about 1.25% of those age 18 or older, reported that they were victims of personal financial fraud during the prior 12 months (figure 1). About 2.0 million persons (0.81%) reported experiencing fraud related to consumer products and services, the most commonly reported type of financial fraud (table 1).

Findings are from the 2017 Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS), the first data collection of its kind under the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The SFS collected data on the experiences of adults with seven types of personal financial fraud during the 12 months preceding their interview. This report describes the prevalence of personal financial fraud, victim characteristics, and whether the fraud was reported to police or others. For more information on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) definition of fraud and the fraud types measured in the SFS, see the *Measurement of personal financial fraud victimization* text box and *Methodology*.

FIGURE 1
Percent of persons age 18 or older who experienced at least one incident of personal financial fraud in the past 12 months, by type of fraud, 2017



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident for that fraud type. Percentages of victims do not sum to totals because persons could experience multiple types of fraud. See appendix table 8 for estimates and standard errors.
1. Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Supplemental Fraud Survey, 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017—

- About 3.0 million (1.25%) persons age 18 or older were victims of financial fraud.
- About 2.0 million (0.81%) persons age 18 or older reported experiencing consumer products and services fraud.
- About 1.7 million females experienced financial fraud, compared to 1.4 million males.
- About 14% of financial fraud victims reported the incident to police.
- About three-quarters of financial fraud victims reported the incident to their family and friends (77%), two-fifths reported the incident to a company's customer service (42%), and one-third reported the incident to their bank, credit card company, or other payment provider (31%).
- More than half of financial fraud victims reported experiencing socioemotional problems as a consequence of the incident (53%).
- Financial fraud victims lost \$1,090 on average and more than \$3.2 billion in total.

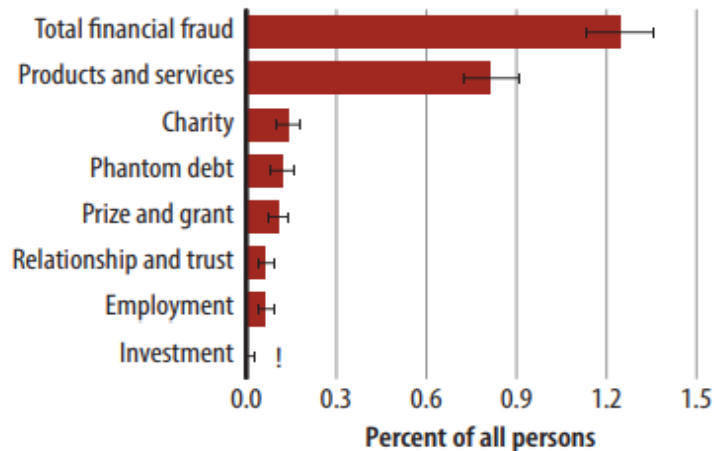
Prevalence of financial fraud

In 2017 –

- About 3 million persons age 18 or older (1.25%) were victims of personal financial fraud.
- About 2 million persons age 18 or older (0.81%) experienced consumer products and services fraud.

FIGURE 1

Percent of persons age 18 or older who experienced at least one incident of personal financial fraud in the past 12 months, by type of fraud, 2017



Number of fraud types experienced

- The majority of fraud victims experienced one type of fraud.

TABLE 2

Victims age 18 or older who experienced personal financial fraud, by number of fraud types experienced, 2017

Number of fraud types experienced	Number of victims	Percent of victims	Standard error	
			Number of victims	Percent of victims
Total financial fraud	3,039,200	100%	144,867	~
One type	2,882,500	94.8	141,046	1.05%
Two or more types	156,700	5.2	32,458	1.04

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Supplemental Fraud Survey, 2017.



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Demographic characteristics of fraud victims

- Nearly 1.7 million females experienced fraud compared to 1.4 million males.
- A smaller percentage of white persons were victims of financial fraud than black persons and persons who were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or two or more races.
- There were no statistically significant differences in the **rate** of victimization by the victim's age.

TABLE 4

Victims age 18 or older who experienced personal financial fraud, by demographic characteristics, 2017

Demographic characteristic	Number of victims	Percent of all persons
Total	3,039,200	1.25%
Sex		
Male*	1,373,050	1.16%
Female	1,666,150 †	1.33
Race/ethnicity		
White ^{a*}	1,884,740	1.19%
Black ^a	474,260 †	1.67 †
Hispanic	449,950 †	1.15
Asian ^a	124,030 †	0.90
Other ^{a,b}	106,220 †	2.19 ‡
Age		
18–24*	377,690	1.28%
25–34	526,560 ‡	1.22
35–49	701,810 †	1.19
50–64	840,160 †	1.35
65 or older	592,990 †	1.18

*Comparison group

† Significant difference from comparison group at the 95% confidence level.

‡ Significant difference from comparison group at the 90% confidence level.



Demographic characteristics of fraud victims

- The prevalence of never-married persons who experienced fraud was higher than the percentage for married persons but lower than the percentage for divorced persons.
- Persons in households that earned between \$50,000 - \$99,999 annually experienced lower rates of fraud than those who earned less than \$50,000 or between \$100,000 - \$199,999.

TABLE 4

Victims age 18 or older who experienced personal financial fraud, by demographic characteristics, 2017

Demographic characteristic	Number of victims	Percent of all persons
Total	3,039,200	1.25%
Marital status		
Never married*	946,150	1.35%
Married	1,261,770 †	1.00 †
Widowed	244,510 †	1.62
Divorced	487,550 †	1.83 †
Separated	89,220 †	1.91
Household income		
Less than \$25,000	715,460	1.51% †
\$25,000–\$49,999	831,230	1.29 ‡
\$50,000–\$99,999*	841,860	1.02
\$100,000–\$199,999	509,820 †	1.34 ‡
\$200,000 or more	140,840 †	1.22

*Comparison group

† Significant difference from comparison group at the 95% confidence level.

‡ Significant difference from comparison group at the 90% confidence level.



Reporting fraud to police

TABLE 5

Victims age 18 or older who reported personal financial fraud to police, by type of fraud, 2017

Type of fraud	Number of victims	Percent of victims who reported to police
Total financial fraud ^a	3,039,200	14.0%
Relationship and trust	155,190	37.0 †
Phantom debt	296,620	31.5 †
Prize and grant	263,690	17.2
Employment	150,460	12.7 †
Products and services*	1,982,240	10.0
Charity	341,950	8.9 †

*Comparison group. Compared to each fraud type and not total fraud.

† Significant difference from comparison group at the 95% confidence level.



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Reporting fraud to other agencies or persons

TABLE 6

Victims age 18 or older who reported personal financial fraud to select persons or groups, by type of person or group, 2017

Type of person/group ^a	Percent of victims who reported to person/group	Standard error
Family/friend	77.0%	1.99%
Company's customer service	41.7	2.33
Bank/credit card company/other payment provider ^b	31.4	2.19
State/local consumer agency ^c	11.6	1.51
Federal consumer agency ^{d*}	10.2	1.43
Lawyer	6.8	1.18
Someone else	4.7	0.99



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Financial losses for fraud victims

- *A victim had to lose money in the incident for it to be classified as fraud.*
- In total, victims lost more than **\$3.2 billion** in 2017, about half of which was due to consumer products and services fraud (\$1.9 billion).

TABLE 7

Financial losses among victims age 18 or older who experienced at least one financial fraud incident in the past 12 months, by type of fraud, 2017

Type of fraud	Mean	Median	Total losses ^a
Total financial fraud ^{b,c}	\$1,090	\$200	\$3,249,735,930
Relationship and trust	\$3,610 †	\$400	\$588,648,770 †
Phantom debt	\$1,320 †	\$700	\$454,967,830 †
Products and services*	\$880	\$100	\$1,871,082,030
Employment	\$850	\$400	\$135,497,060 †
Prize and grant	\$430 †	\$200	\$116,171,410 †
Charity	\$70 †	\$30	\$27,323,360 †

*Comparison group. Compared to each fraud type and not total fraud.

† Significant difference from comparison group at the 95% confidence level.

‡ Significant difference from comparison group at the 90% confidence level.

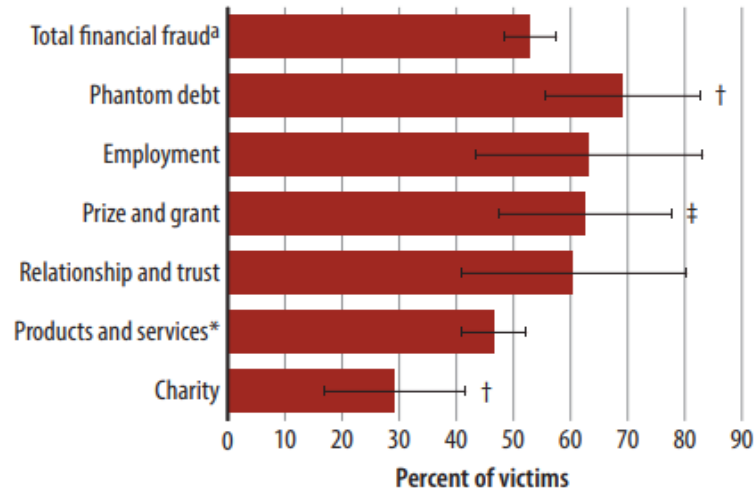


Socioemotional consequences of fraud

- *Socioemotional problems include feelings of moderate to severe distress; significant problems with work or school, such as trouble with a boss, coworkers, or peers; or significant problems with family members or friends.*
- More than half of all financial fraud victims reported experiencing socioemotional problems as a consequence of the victimization (53%).

FIGURE 2

Percent of victims age 18 or older who experienced socioemotional problems as a result of personal financial fraud, by type of fraud, 2017



*Comparison group. Compared to each fraud type and not total fraud.

† Significant difference from comparison group at the 95% confidence level.

‡ Significant difference from comparison group at the 90% confidence level.



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Post-SFS data collection methodological work

- SFS prevalence estimates were lower than originally anticipated
- BJS conducted methodological work to assess data quality and statistical estimates before publishing the statistical report
- Numerous data sources exist on the prevalence and nature of financial fraud. *Each of these sources use different definitions, employ different methodologies, and have limitations.*
 - Other surveys may have more inclusive definitions of fraud
 - SFS screener questions may have been too narrow or specific and inadvertently screened out fraud victims who met the definition but didn't think the questions addressed their experiences
 - NCVS methodology (mode of administration, burden, crime context)
 - Combination of factors
- BJS concluded there were legitimate reasons that the estimates were lower than anticipated. SFS prevalence rates are valid.



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Bureau of Justice Statistics

Investigating the Nature of Identity Theft Using the 2018 Identity Theft Supplement

Erika Harrell, Ph.D.

BJS Statistician

November 2021

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

What is the National Crime Victimization Survey?

- Started in 1972 as the National Crime Survey
- Redesigned and renamed National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in 1992
- One of two of the nation's major sources of information on criminal victimization (with the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program)
- Administered by U.S. Census Bureau interviewers to nationally representative sample of persons age 12 or older in U.S. households
- Collects data on nonfatal violent crime, personal larceny, household property crime
- More information on the BJS website - <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs>



NCVS Supplements

- In addition to the core NCVS survey, short topical surveys or *supplements* are administered at the end of the NCVS interview to eligible respondents.
- Typically in the field for 6 months: January-June or July-December
- Supplements allow BJS to capture the changing landscape of crime.
- Between 2017 and 2019, BJS administered 5 different supplements on a rotating basis:
 - **Identity Theft Supplement (ITS)**
 - Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS)
 - School Crime Supplement (SCS)
 - Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS)
 - Supplemental Victimization Survey (SVS) – stalking
- More information on NCVS supplements: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/ncvs-supplements>



Identity Theft Supplement (ITS)

What is the Identity Theft Supplement?

- Administered to persons age 16 or older who completed an NCVS interview
- Collects data on 5 types of identity theft in the previous 12 months:
 - Misuse or attempted misuse of an existing bank account
 - Misuse or attempted misuse of an existing credit card account
 - Misuse or attempted misuse of another type of existing account
 - Misuse or attempted misuse of personal information to open a new account
 - Other misuses or attempted misuses of personal information (e.g. providing victim's driver's license to police to avoid identification during arrest)
- ITS Webpage: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/identity-theft-supplement-its>



What is the Identity Theft Supplement? (cont.)

- Previously administered in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018
- 2018 ITS:
 - Conducted January – June 2018
 - Final sample size: 102,400 persons age 16 or older
 - Asked about identity theft that occurred in the past year and prior to the past year
 - Emphasis: past year identity theft
- Currently in the field through December 2021



NCVS reports using ITS data

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Special Report

National Crime Victimization Survey Supplement
Victims of Identity Theft, 2008

Lynn Langhin and Michael Phelan, Ph.D., BJS Statisticians

Approximately 11.7 million persons, representing 7% of all persons age 16 or older in the United States, were victims of one or more types of identity theft within a 2-year period (Figure 1). The most common type of identity theft, experienced by 6.2 million people during the 2-year reporting period, was the unauthorized use of an existing credit card account.

This report is based on data from the 2008 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). From January to June of 2008, the NCVS-ITS collected data from persons who had experienced one or more attempted or successful incidents of identity theft during the 2 years preceding their interviews.



Highlights

- An estimated 11.7 million persons, representing 7% of all persons age 16 or older in the United States, experienced at least one type of identity theft in a 2-year period.
- The unauthorized use or attempted misuse of an existing credit card was the most prevalent type of identity theft (70% of all victims).
- Among the 98% of identity theft victims who knew their identifying information was obtained, nearly 50% believed the theft occurred while making a purchase.
- Although the total financial cost of identity theft was nearly \$17.5 billion over a 2-year period, less than a quarter (23%) of identity theft victims realized an out-of-pocket financial loss from the victimization.

- About 42% of the financial theft, harvest, or the theft of
- About 17% of
- About 17% of
- About 17% of

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Victims of Identity Theft, 2012

Erika Harrell, Ph.D. and Lynn Langhin, Ph.D., BJS Statisticians

Approximately 16.8 million persons or 7% of all U.S. residents age 16 or older, were victims of one or more incidents of identity theft in 2012 (Figure 1). Among identity theft victims, existing bank (57%) or credit card accounts (49%) were the most common types of misused information.

This report uses data from the 2012 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). From January to June 2012, the ITS collected data from persons who experienced one or more attempted or successful incidents of identity theft during the 12 months preceding their interviews.



- Unauthorized use or attempted use of an existing account, such as a credit or debit card, checking, savings, telephone, online, or insurance account (reported to be fraud or misuse of an existing account).

Highlights

The purpose of this report is to describe the prevalence of identity theft, its victims, and the characteristics and effects of this crime. The 2012 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) provided the data for this report.

- About 7% of persons age 16 or older were victims of identity theft in 2012.
- The majority of identity theft victims (80%) received the fraudulent use of existing sensitive information, such as credit card or bank account information.
- Victims who had personal information used to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes were more likely than victims of other account fraud to experience financial, credit, and relationship problems and severe emotional distress.

- About 14% of identity theft victims experienced out-of-pocket losses of \$1 or more. Of these victims, about half suffered losses of \$100 or more.
- One half of identity theft victims who were able to resolve any associated problems did so in a day or less, among victims who had personal information used for fraudulent purposes, 20% spent a month or more resolving problems.
- About 50% of identity theft victims reported moderate or severe emotional distress as a result of the incident.
- Direct and indirect losses from identity theft totaled \$14.7 billion in 2012.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
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Revised November 13, 2017

September 2015, NCJ 248991

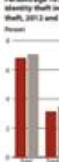
Victims of Identity Theft, 2014

Erika Harrell, Ph.D., BJS Statistician

An estimated 21.6 million persons, or 7% of all U.S. residents age 16 or older, were victims of one or more incidents of identity theft in 2014 (Figure 1). This was similar to findings in 2012. Among identity theft victims, existing bank (54%) or credit card accounts (50%) were the most common types of misused information.

During 2014, 70% of persons experienced at least one incident of the misuse of an existing credit card account. About 5% experienced the misuse of an existing bank account. Less than 1% experienced the misuse of an existing account (either that a bank or credit card account) or the misuse of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes.

This report uses data from the 2014 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). From January to June 2014, the ITS collected data from persons who experienced one or more attempted or successful incidents of identity theft during the 12 months preceding their interviews.



- Highlights
- About 7% of persons age 16 or older were victims of identity theft in 2014, similar to findings in 2012.
 - The majority of identity theft victims (80%) experienced the fraudulent use of existing account information, such as credit card or bank account information.
 - The number of older victims of identity theft increased from 2.1 million in 2012 to 2.4 million in 2014.
 - About 14% of identity theft victims experienced out-of-pocket losses of \$1 or more. Of these victims, about half suffered losses of less than \$100.

- Half of identity theft victims reported any amount of loss.
- Among victims of identity theft who were able to resolve any associated problems, about 50% resolved problems in a day or less.
- An estimated 50% reported moderate or severe emotional distress as a result of the incident.

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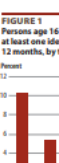
January 2019, NCJ 251147

Victims of Identity Theft, 2016

Erika Harrell, Ph.D., BJS Statistician

In 2016, an estimated 26 million persons, or about 10% of all U.S. residents age 16 or older, reported that they had been victims of identity theft during the prior 12 months (Figure 1). Five percent of residents age 16 or older had experienced at least one incident involving the misuse of an existing credit card, and 5% had experienced the misuse of an existing bank account. One percent of persons had experienced the misuse of an existing account other than a credit card or bank account.

One percent of U.S. residents age 16 or older had experienced the misuse of their personal information to open a new account. Less than 1% had experienced the misuse of their personal information for other fraudulent purposes, such as for getting medical care, a job, or government benefits.



According to the 17.7 million persons age 16 or older who experienced one or more incidents of identity theft with known losses of \$1 or more, total losses across all incidents of identity theft totaled \$17.5 billion in 2016 (see below).

Note: Details do not sum to totals because persons could experience more than one type of identity theft. See appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors. *Comparison group. †Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2016.

Highlights

- In 2016, 10% of persons age 16 or older had been victims of identity theft during the prior 12 months.
- For 85% of identity theft victims, the most recent incident involved the misuse or attempted misuse of only one type of existing account, such as a credit card or bank account.
- One percent of persons age 16 or older experienced the opening of a new account or other misuse of personal information apart from misuse of an existing account.
- An estimated 12% of identity theft victims had out-of-pocket losses of \$1 or more; 50% either had no out-of-pocket losses or had losses of less than \$1.

- More than half (55%) of identity theft victims who resolved associated financial or credit problems did so in one day or less.
- About 10% of identity theft victims said they experienced severe emotional distress as a result of the incident.
- An estimated 7% of identity theft victims reported the crime to police.
- For continuing covarates (those that were in the sample in both 2014 and 2016), the portion of the population that experienced identity theft increased from 7% in 2014 to 10% in 2016.

2018 ITS report and data file release



Victims of Identity Theft, 2018

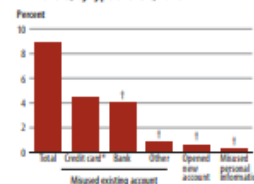
Erika Harrell, Ph.D., BJS Statistician

In 2018, an estimated 23 million persons, or about 9% of all United States residents age 16 or older, reported that they had been victims of identity theft during the prior 12 months (figure 1). Five percent of residents age 16 or older had experienced at least one incident involving the misuse of an existing credit card, and 4% had experienced the misuse of an existing bank account. One percent reported the misuse of their personal information to open a new account. Less than 1% had experienced the misuse of their personal information for other fraudulent purposes, such as for getting medical care, a job, or governmental benefits.

Financial losses due to identity theft totaled \$15.1 billion among the 16.3 million victims age 16 or older with known losses of \$1 or more (70% of all victims).

This report uses data from the 2018 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey. From January to June 2018, the ITS collected data from persons about their experience with identity theft during the 12 months preceding the interview.

FIGURE 1
Persons age 16 or older who had experienced at least one identity-theft incident in the past 12 months, by type of theft, 2018



Note: Details do not sum to total because persons could experience more than one type of identity theft. Excludes persons who reported discovering the most recent identity-theft incident prior to the reference period (12 months before the Identity Theft Supplement interview). Includes persons who did not know when they discovered the most recent incident (9% of victims). In 2018, there were 238 million persons age 16 or older living in noninstitutionalized, residential settings in the United States. See appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2018.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, about 9% of persons age 16 or older had been victims of identity theft during the prior 12 months.
- For 90% of identity-theft victims, the most recent incident involved only the misuse or attempted misuse of at least one type of existing account, such as a credit card or bank account.
- Monetary losses across all incidents of identity theft totaled \$15.1 billion in 2018.
- Among victims who resolved the financial and credit problems associated with their identity theft, more than half (55%) did so in 1 day or less.
- Victims of new account misuse (15%) and personal information misuse (17%) were more likely to experience severe emotional distress than victims of the misuse of only one type of existing account (7%).
- An estimated 7% of identity-theft victims reported the crime to police, and 88% contacted a credit card company or bank.
- Half of all victims of identity theft (51%) were in households with incomes of \$75,000 or more.



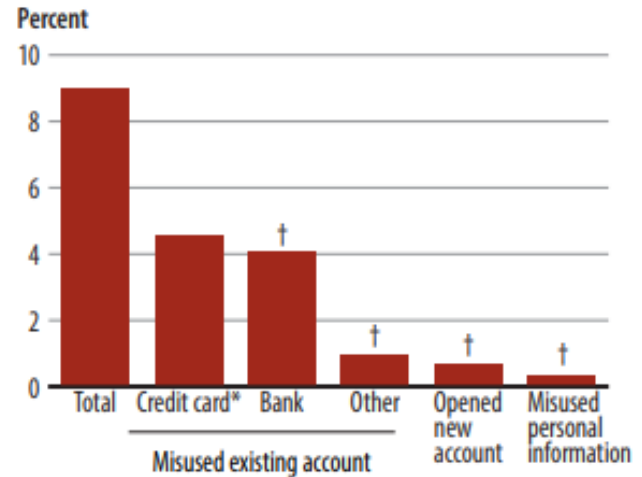
Prevalence of identity theft

In 2018 –

- An estimated 23 million persons, or about 9% of all United States residents age 16 or older, reported that they had been victims of identity theft during the prior 12 months.
- Five percent experienced at least one incident involving the misuse of an existing credit card; 4% had experienced the misuse of an existing bank account.

FIGURE 1

Persons age 16 or older who had experienced at least one identity-theft incident in the past 12 months, by type of theft, 2018



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Most recent incident of identity theft

- For about 90% of victims of identity theft, the most recent incident involved only the misuse or attempted misuse of at least one type of existing account.
- A total of 1.9 million victims (8% of victims) experienced multiple types of identity theft during the most recent incident.

TABLE 3

Victims of identity theft, by type of most recent incident of theft, 2018

Type of identity theft	Number of victims	Percent of all persons age 16 or older	Percent of all victims
Total	23,183,020	9.0%	100%
Misused only one type of existing account	19,663,220	7.6%	84.8%
Credit card*	9,650,050	3.7	41.6
Bank	8,467,070 †	3.3 †	36.5 †
Other	1,546,110 †	0.6 †	6.7 †
Opened new account only	996,000 †	0.4% †	4.3% †
Misused personal information only	634,780 †	0.2% †	2.7% †
Misused multiple types	1,889,010 †	0.7% †	8.1% †
Existing account only ^a	1,295,940 †	0.5 †	5.6 †
Other ^b	593,070 †	0.2 †	2.6 †

*Comparison group.

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



Demographic characteristics of identity theft victims

Demographic characteristic	Number of victims	Victims of identity theft	
		Percent of U.S. residential population age 16 or older ^a	Percent of all victims
Total	23,183,020	9.0%	100%
Sex			
Male*	11,219,660	9.0%	48.4%
Female	11,963,360 †	9.0	51.6 †
Race/ethnicity			
White ^{b*}	16,560,830	10.1%	71.4%
Black ^b	2,100,740 †	6.8 †	9.1 †
Hispanic	2,719,120 †	6.4 †	11.7 †
Asian ^b	1,192,880 †	7.8 †	5.1 †
Other ^{b,c}	609,440 †	10.3	2.6 †

*Comparison group.

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



Demographic characteristics of identity theft victims

Persons age 35 to 49 accounted for 24% of all U.S. residents age 16 or older, and 29% of all victims of identity theft.

About 51% of identity theft victims lived **in a household with an annual income of \$75,000 or more**, while accounting for 12% of U.S. residents age 16 or older.



Victim discovery of identity theft

TABLE 5

Ways victims discovered identity theft, by type of theft, 2018

Way victims discovered identity theft	Any identity theft	Misuse of existing account only ^{a*}	Other identity theft ^b
Total	100%	100%	100%
Contacted by financial institution about suspicious activity	43.9	46.0	12.3 †
Noticed fraudulent charges on account	20.1	21.3	2.5 †!
Noticed money missing from account	9.4	9.9	1.1 †!
Contacted financial institution to report a theft	6.6	6.9	2.4 †
Credit card declined, check bounced, or account closed due to insufficient funds	3.4	3.5	1.0 †!
Notified by company or agency	5.1	3.6	27.6 †
Received a bill or contacted about an unpaid bill	3.3	2.5	15.4 †
Problems with applying for a loan, applying for governmental benefits, or filing income taxes	1.1	0.4	11.5 †
Discovered through credit report or credit monitoring service	1.9	1.4	9.7 †
Received merchandise or card that victim did not order or did not receive product the victim ordered	0.6	0.4	4.1 †
Notified by police	0.3	0.1	3.1 †
Another way ^c	4.3	4.0	9.3 †

*Comparison group.

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

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.



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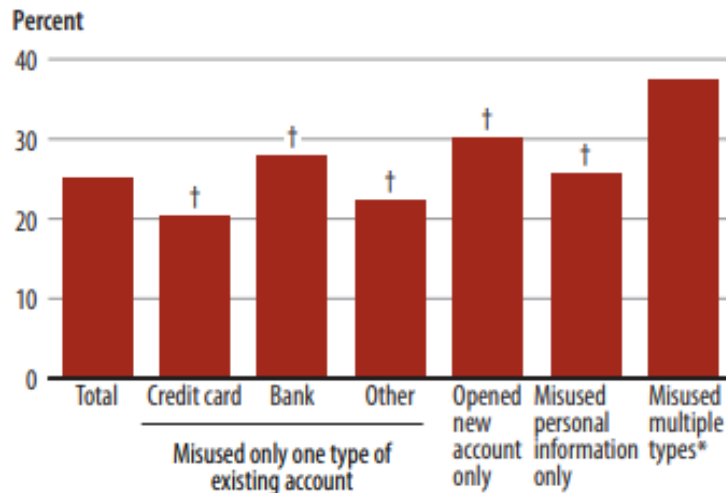
Victims who knew how offender got personal information

Based on the most recent incident of identity theft –

- One in four (25%) victims knew how the offender obtained their personal information.
- Victims of multiple types of identity theft (37%) were the most likely to know how the offender obtained their personal information.

FIGURE 2

Percent of victims of identity theft who knew how the offender obtained their personal information, by type of theft, 2018



*Comparison group.

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



Bureau of Justice Statistics

How offender obtained personal information

TABLE 6

Victims of identity theft who knew how the offender obtained their personal information, by method offender used and type of theft, 2018

Type of identity theft	Number of victims who knew how the offender obtained their personal information	Method offender used to obtain personal information					
		Total	Lost/stolen from place ^a	Purchase/transaction ^{b*}	Hacking computer/scam email or phone call	Stolen from files/misused by person with access ^c	Other
Any	5,821,510	100%	15.7% †	47.6%	7.8% †	21.7% †	7.2% †
Misused only one type of existing account	4,653,250	100%	14.3% †	53.8%	7.4% †	17.3% †	7.2% †
Credit card	1,950,340	100%	12.7 †	56.8	6.9 †	18.3 †	5.2 †
Bank	2,358,870	100%	16.7 †	57.9	5.3 †	14.1 †	6.1 †
Other	344,050	100%	6.5 †	9.1	24.8 †	34.2 †	25.4 †
Opened new account only	299,120	100%	19.9% †	3.0% †	10.6% †	55.0% †	11.6% †
Misused personal information only	162,940	100%	20.3% †	<0.1% †	8.1% †	63.5% †	8.1% †
Misused multiple types	706,190	100%	22.0% †	36.8%	9.4% †	26.9% †	5.0% †

^aComparison group.

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

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.



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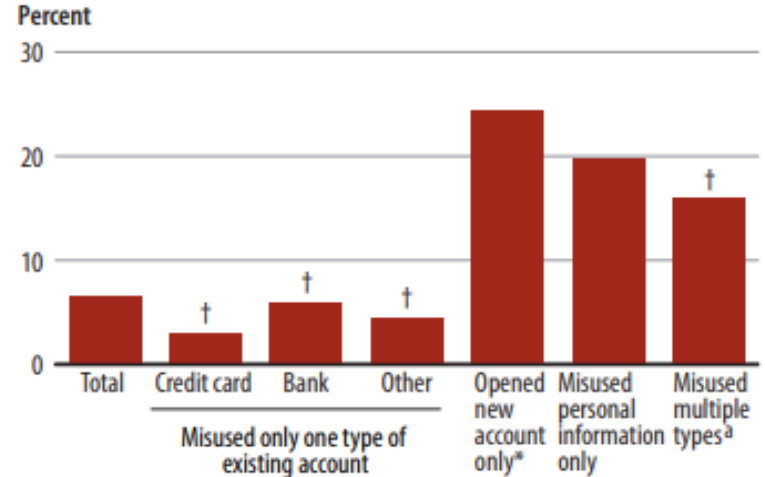
Reporting identity theft to police

Based on the most recent incident of identity theft –

- Seven percent of identity-theft victims reported the incident to police.
- Victims who experienced the misuse of personal information to open a new account (25%) were more likely to report the incident to police than victims of existing credit card misuse (3%), existing bank account misuse (6%), or misuse of another type of existing account (5%).

FIGURE 5

Victims of identity theft who reported the theft to police, by type of theft, 2018



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Financial loss from identity theft

Based on the most recent incident –

- About two-thirds (68%) of victims reported a direct financial loss of \$1 or more associated with the theft. The mean direct loss was \$800, and the median was \$200.
- Five percent of victims reported indirect losses of \$1 or more with a mean indirect loss of \$160 and a median indirect loss of \$30.
- Twelve percent of identity-theft victims had out-of-pocket losses of \$1 or more, with a mean of \$640 and a median of \$100.

Type of loss	Total identity theft
Any loss^c	
Mean	\$800
Median	\$200
Percent experiencing a loss	69.3%
Direct^{d,e}	
Mean	\$800
Median	\$200
Percent experiencing a loss	68.4%
Indirect^f	
Mean	\$160
Median	\$30
Percent experiencing a loss	4.8%
Total out of pocket	
Mean	\$640
Median	\$100
Percent experiencing a loss	12.1%
Number of victims	23,183,020



Financial loss from identity theft

Based on ALL incidents in 2018 –

- Identity theft victims had financial losses totaling **\$15.1 billion**.
- About 70% of victims experienced a financial loss of \$1 or more.

TABLE 8
Financial loss for all incidents of identity theft, 2018

Estimate	Financial loss
Total	\$15,132,093,700
Mean	\$930
Median	\$300
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	70.3%
Number of victims	23,183,020



Emotional distress due to identity theft

8% of identity-theft victims were **severely distressed** as a result of the crime.

Victims of **new account misuse** (15%) and **personal information misuse** (17%) were more likely to report severe emotional distress than victims of the **misuse of only one type of existing account** (7%).



Preventative behaviors

- 89% of persons age 16 or older took action to prevent identity theft in 2018.
- A larger percentage of victims (98%) than nonvictims (88%) took at least one preventive action.

TABLE 11

Actions persons age 16 or older took during the past 12 months to reduce the risk of identity theft, by victims and nonvictims of past-year identity theft, 2018

Type of action	Total	Victims ^a	Nonvictims ^{b*}
Any	89.0%	97.8% †	88.2%
Checked bank or credit statements	81.9	94.6 †	80.7
Shredded or destroyed documents with personal information	74.2	82.6 †	73.3
Checked credit report	50.6	67.1 †	49.0
Changed passwords on financial accounts	45.3	69.9 †	42.9
Used identity-theft security program on computer	25.2	36.7 †	24.0
Purchased identity-theft insurance or credit-monitoring service	11.9	20.4 †	11.1
Purchased identity-theft protection	8.7	15.3 †	8.1

^aComparison group.

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



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Q&A Session

Please type your questions for the panelists into the [Q&A](#) window



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Thank you!



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