BJS Bureau of Justice Statistics

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

Data Collection Status: Active
Frequency: Annual
Latest Data Available: 2023

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Collection Period: 1973–2023

The BJS National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 persons in about 150,000 households. Persons are interviewed on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (i.e., rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (i.e., burglary/trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of theft) both reported and not reported to the police. Survey respondents provide information about themselves (e.g., age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization. For each victimization incident, the

NCVS collects information about the offender (e.g., age, race and Hispanic origin, sex, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (e.g., time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of the injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and victim experiences with the criminal justice system.

Methodology

Survey coverage

Non-response and weighting adjustments

Standard error computations

Methodological changes to the NCVS in 2006

NCVS revised 2016 estimates

Questionnaires

Publications and Products

Data and Documentation

Codebooks and Datasets
NCVS CAPI Interviewing Manual for Field Representatives
NCVS Participant Materials
National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation

Participation Rates and Population Counts

Date Created: May 18, 2009

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