



## Bureau of Justice Statistics Fact Sheet

December 2007

# Criminal Victimization, 2006

- The 2006 national crime victimization estimates are not comparable to previous years because of changes in methodology.

- The methodological changes included: a new sample, a change in the method of handling first-time interviews with households, and a change in the method of interviewing:

- selected areas were dropped from the sample while others were added
- first-time interviews were included in the data for analysis
- computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) replaced paper and pencil interviewing (PAPI)

- Annual comparisons can be made in the continuing areas of the 2005 and 2006 portions of the NCVS sample, primarily in urban and suburban areas.

- Crime victimization rates in urban and suburban areas remained stable between 2005 and 2006.

Type of crime	2005		2006		Percent change
	Number	Rate <sup>a</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>a</sup>	
Violent <sup>c</sup>	3,577,220	22.1	3,672,940	23.3	5.6% <sup>b</sup>
Personal theft	168,050	1.0	138,520	0.9	-15.2 <sup>b</sup>
Property	12,598,090	162.8	12,133,460	159.1	-2.3 <sup>b</sup>

Note: Based on data from continuing urban and suburban areas only. Continuing areas were in the sample in both 2005 and 2006.

<sup>a</sup>Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households.

<sup>b</sup>Percent changes between 2005 and 2006 are not statistically significant.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes murder because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

- In 2006 rural areas were most affected by the methodological changes. Eighty-three percent of rural households were in new sampling areas, compared with 14% of households in urban areas and 15% in suburban areas.

- The new sample required hiring and training a large number of new interviewers in the new areas. New interviewers may generate more counts of victimizations due to recency of training.

- Based on the experience of the U.S. Census Bureau, computer-assisted personal interviewing has been associated with improved, but higher survey estimates because the computerized questionnaire reduces the possibilities for interviewer and processing errors.

- The rate of violent crime in continuing urban areas, 30 victimizations per 1,000 individuals age 12 or older, was unchanged from 2005. In suburban areas, the rate of violent crime was 19 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, unchanged from 2005.

- The overall patterns of victimization at the national level can be examined even though the overall national data cannot be used for yearly trend estimates.

- In 2006—

- U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced an estimated 25 million crimes of violence and theft in 2006.
- The violent crime rate was 24.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older; for property crimes it was 159.5 per 1,000 households.
- Males experienced 26 violent victimizations per 1,000 males age 12 or older; females, 23 per 1,000 females age 12 or older.
- Blacks experienced higher rates of violence (33 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older) than whites (23 per 1,000).
- Of offenders victimizing males in 2006, 5% were described as intimates and 47% as strangers. In contrast, of offenders victimizing females 21% were described as intimates and 29% as strangers.
- An estimated 25% of all violent crime incidents were committed by an armed offender. The presence of a firearm was involved in 9% of these incidents.
- 49% of all violent victimizations and 38% of all property crimes were reported to the police; 57% of robberies and 59% of aggravated assaults were reported to the police.