



Department of Justice

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VICTIMS REPORT 9 PERCENT FEWER VIOLENT CRIMES LAST YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. Violent crimes fell more than 9 percent last year, the Department of Justice announced today. According to preliminary estimates by the Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), there were an estimated 9.9 million violent crimes during 1995, compared to about 10.9 million during 1994.

BJS Director Jan Chaiken noted, "The drop in crime last year is consistent with what we know from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports."

Dr. Chaiken said the decline in the violent victimization rate began in 1994 and interrupted a rising trend that had existed since the mid-1980s, while crimes of theft continued a 20year pattern of decreasing rates.

BJS estimates there were 39.6 million personal and household crimes of theft and violence during 1995, compared to 42.4 million the year before, which is a 6.6 percent decline.

Last year rape decreased almost 18 percent, robbery fell 14 percent, aggravated assault declined 19 percent and purse

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snatching and pocket picking were down 18 percent.

There were 5.5 percent fewer property crimes a year ago than in 1994--29.3 million compared to 31 million the year before. The rate of property crimes--burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft--was 288 per 1,000 households; down from 308 per 1,000 in 1994.

Murders are not included in BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey because of an inability to interview victims. According to the FBI's preliminary 1995 data, murder estimates fell 8 percent from the level of the previous year. The FBI publishes the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies annually.

During 1995, the BJS survey of crime victims asked approximately 100,000 people 12 years old and older in 49,000 households about crimes they might have experienced during the previous six months. Therefore, the BJS survey is able to include both crimes reported to police and those that go unreported.

About 14.4 million of the violent and property crimes were reported to the police during 1995, down from the 15.2 million reported the previous year. About 63 percent of all crimes were never brought to official attention.

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Final 1995 victimization estimates will be available later this year. Beginning at 4:30 p.m. EDT, Tuesday, September 17, the survey's graphs and tables will be available on BJS's Internet home page by clicking on "What's new at BJS" and then clicking at the [Social Statistics Briefing Room](#). The BJS webpage address is:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

Additional BJS materials may be obtained from the BJS fax-on-demand (301/251-5550) or calling the BJS Clearinghouse 1-800/732-3277.

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**Table 1. National Crime Victimization Survey:
Victimization levels and rates, preliminary 1995**

	Number of victimizations			Victimization rates		
	1994	Preliminary 1995	Percent change	1994	Preliminary 1995	Percent change
All crimes surveyed	42,359,370	39,582,880	-6.6%*	
Personal crimes	11,348,630	10,268,280	-9.5%*	53.1	47.6	-10.3%*
Crimes of violence	10,859,700	9,866,200	-9.1%*	50.8	45.7	-10.0%*
Completed violence	3,205,230	2,896,800	-9.6*	15.0	13.4	-10.4*
Attempted/threatened violence	7,654,470	6,969,540	-8.9*	35.8	32.3	-9.8*
Rape/Sexual assault	432,700	354,670	-18.0	2.0	1.6	-18.8**
Rape/Attempted rape	316,140	260,310	-17.7	1.5	1.2	-18.4
Sexual assault ^a	116,570	94,580	-18.9	0.5	0.4	-19.6
Robbery	1,298,590	1,123,720	-13.5**	6.1	5.2	-14.2*
Completed/property taken	795,030	697,650	-12.2	3.7	3.2	-13.0
Attempted to take property	503,560	425,140	-15.6	2.4	2.0	-16.3**
Assault	9,128,400	8,390,010	-8.1*	42.7	38.9	-8.9*
Aggravated	2,477,940	2,010,370	-18.9*	11.6	9.3	-19.6*
With injury	678,540	516,460	-23.9*	3.2	2.4	-24.6*
Threatened with weapon	1,799,400	1,494,470	-16.9*	8.4	6.9	-17.7*
Simple	6,650,470	6,382,580	-4.0	31.1	29.6	-4.9
With minor injury	1,466,070	1,446,790	-1.3	6.9	6.7	-2.2
Without injury	5,184,400	4,936,940	-4.8	24.3	22.9	-5.6
Purse snatching/pocket picking	488,930	402,590	-17.7%**	2.3	1.9	-18.4%*
Total population age 12 or over	213,747,400	215,697,770		
Property crimes	31,010,740	29,318,100	-5.5%*	307.6	288.1	-6.3%*
Household burglary	5,482,300	4,848,350	-11.6*	54.4	47.7	-12.4*
Completed	4,572,560	4,172,940	-8.7*	45.4	41.0	-9.6*
Attempted forcible entry	909,750	687,940	-24.4*	9.0	6.8	-25.1*
Motor vehicle theft	1,763,540	1,603,980	-9.0**	17.5	15.8	-9.9*
Completed	1,172,200	1,086,170	-7.3	11.6	10.7	-8.2
Attempted	591,340	517,800	-12.4	5.9	5.1	-13.2*
Theft ^b	23,764,900	22,883,060	-3.7*	235.7	224.9	-4.6*
Completed	22,743,000	22,035,450	-3.1**	225.6	216.6	-4.0*
Attempted	1,021,900	856,800	-16.2*	10.1	8.4	-16.9*
Total number of households	100,808,030	101,747,040		

Note: Detail may not add to total 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 over (personal crimes) or per 1,000 households (property crimes). Final estimates for 1994 are based on crimes occurring in 1994; preliminary estimates for 1995 are based on interviews conducted in 1995.

... Not applicable.

^aIncludes threats.

^bTheft includes crimes previously classified as "Personal larceny without contact" and "Household larceny."

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

**The preliminary difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

**Table 2. National Crime Victimization Survey:
Number and proportion of crimes reported to police, preliminary 1995**

	Number of crimes reported to police			Proportion reported to police		
	1994	Preliminary 1995	Percent change	1994	Preliminary 1995	Percent change
All crimes surveyed	15,186,500	14,445,930	-4.9%**	35.9%	36.5%	1.7%
Personal crimes	4,672,630	4,410,890	-5.6%	41.2%	43.0%	4.3%
Crimes of violence	4,513,070	4,257,270	-5.7%	41.6%	43.2%	3.7%
Completed violence	1,751,890	1,665,760	-4.9	54.7	57.5	5.1
Attempted/threatened violence	2,761,170	2,591,720	-6.1	36.1	37.2	3.0
Rape/Sexual assault	137,100	113,190	-17.4	31.7	31.9	0.7
Rape/Attempted rape	89,620	67,510	-24.7	28.3	25.9	-8.4
Sexual assault ^a	47,480	46,950	-1.1	40.7	49.6	22.0
Robbery	718,900	642,780	-10.6	55.4	57.2	3.3
Completed/property taken	511,960	458,160	-10.5	64.4	65.7	2.0
Attempted to take property	206,940	184,590	-10.8	41.1	43.4	5.6
Assault	3,657,070	3,502,540	-4.2	40.1	41.7	4.1
Aggravated	1,277,810	1,082,900	-15.3*	51.6	53.9	4.4
With injury	411,200	338,110	-17.8	60.6	65.5	8.0
Threatened with weapon	866,600	744,310	-14.1**	48.2	49.8	3.3
Simple	2,379,270	2,428,010	2.0	35.8	38.0	6.3
With minor injury	727,420	776,820	6.8	49.6	53.7	8.3
Without injury	1,651,850	1,651,960	0.0	31.9	33.5	4.9
Purse snatching/pocket picking	159,570	153,760	-3.6%	32.6%	38.2%	17.2
Property crimes	10,513,870	10,035,060	-4.6%*	33.9%	34.2%	1.0%
Household burglary	2,770,140	2,595,470	-6.3	50.5	53.5	6.0*
Completed	2,425,140	2,285,090	-5.8	53.0	54.8	3.3
Attempted forcible entry	345,000	311,570	-9.7	37.9	45.3	19.5*
Motor vehicle theft	1,378,920	1,209,460	-12.3*	78.2	75.4	-3.6
Completed	1,083,170	980,600	-9.5	92.4	90.3	-2.3
Attempted	295,750	230,050	-22.2*	50.0	44.4	-11.1
Theft ^b	6,364,800	6,244,700	-1.9	26.8	27.3	1.8
Completed	6,060,620	6,001,480	-1.0	26.6	27.2	2.4
Attempted	304,180	244,860	-19.5**	29.8	28.6	-4.1

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded numbers. Also see the note on table 1.

^aIncludes threats.

^bTheft includes crimes previously classified as "Personal larceny without contact" and "Household larceny."

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Table 3. Victimization levels, 1992-95

Year	Rape/ sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault	Personal theft	Burglary	Theft	Motor vehicle theft
1992	607,310	1,271,830	2,316,690	6,052,840	369,130	5,802,760	24,579,360	1,834,570
1993	485,290	1,291,020	2,562,860	6,508,930	516,980	5,984,000	24,237,780	1,960,540
1994	432,700	1,298,590	2,477,940	6,650,470	488,930	5,482,300	23,764,900	1,763,540
1995*	354,670	1,123,720	2,010,370	6,382,580	402,590	4,848,350	22,883,060	1,603,980

*Figures for 1995 are preliminary.

Table 4. Victimization rates, 1992-95

Year	Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older					Number of victimizations per 1,000 households		
	Rape/ sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault	Personal theft	Burglary	Theft	Motor vehicle theft
1992	2.9	6.1	11.1	28.9	1.8	58.6	248.2	18.5
1993	2.3	6.1	12.1	30.8	2.4	59.9	242.6	19.6
1994	2.0	6.1	11.6	31.1	2.3	54.4	235.7	17.5
1995*	1.6	5.2	9.3	29.6	1.9	47.7	224.9	15.8

*Figures for 1995 are preliminary.