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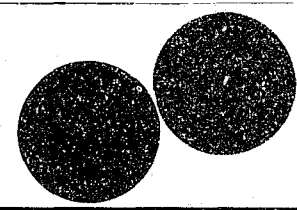
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# Crime Data Brief

## The Costs of Crime to Victims

By Patsy A. Klaus, BJS Statistician

Crime victims in 1992 lost \$17.6 billion in direct costs, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These costs included losses from property theft or damage, cash losses, medical expenses, and amount of pay lost because of injury or activities related to the crime. The crimes included in this figure are rape, robbery, assault, personal and household theft, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Crimes include attempts as well as completed offenses.

- Economic loss of some kind occurred in 71% of all personal crimes. These crimes included rape, robbery, assault, and personal theft. For crimes of violence (rape, robbery, assault) economic loss occurred in 23% of victimizations. Household crimes of burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft involved economic loss in 91% of all victimizations.

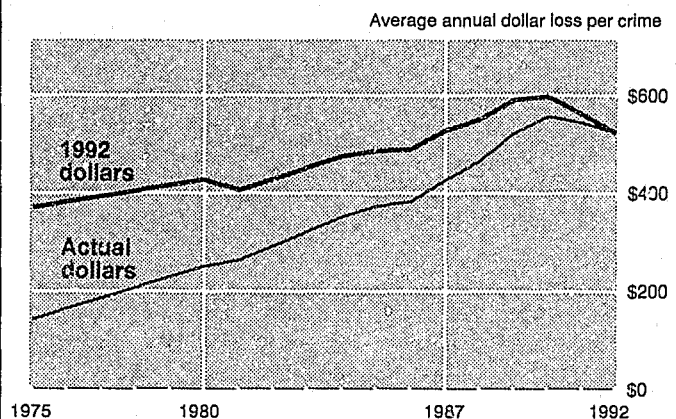
- In 1992, a total of 33,649,340 victimizations occurred. Twenty-three percent of all U.S. households were victimized in 1992; the total number of households experiencing one or more victimizations was 22,093,000.

- Economic loss occurred in 13,371,400 personal crimes and 13,515,140 household crimes — a total of 26,886,580\* victimizations. In 4.4% of these victimizations, the loss was of no monetary value but involved the loss of something that the victim regarded as having value.

Average loss per crime, 1992	
Mean loss, all crimes*	\$524
<b>Personal crimes</b>	<b>\$218</b>
Crimes of violence	206
Rape	234
Robbery	555
Assault	124
<b>Household crimes</b>	<b>\$914</b>
Personal and household theft	221
Burglary	834
Motor vehicle theft	3,990

Note: Data include all forms of economic loss, medical expenses, and time lost from work because of the crime.  
\*Includes crimes involving no loss.

The average loss per crime increased 1975-92



Note: During the 1975-92 period, according to the Current Population Survey, household money income adjusted for inflation remained relatively unchanged. Data are interpolated for 1976-79 and 1982-83.

- Among crimes that involved loss —

- About 12% of personal crimes and 24% of household crimes involved economic losses of \$500 or more.

- For personal crimes, 11% of whites and 15% of blacks lost \$500 or more. For household crimes, 23% of whites and 25% of blacks had such losses.

- In robberies at least \$250 or more was taken from the victim in about a fourth (26%) of all victimizations. Black victims lost this amount in 41% of the victimizations, and white robbery victims, in 19%.

- Lost property was not recovered in 89% of personal crimes (90% for whites; 89% for blacks) and 85% of household crimes in 1992 (85% for whites; 82% for blacks).

Median loss for crimes of theft, 1992

All crimes, with or without loss	\$26
<b>Crimes involving loss</b>	
Robbery	\$89
Theft	55
Burglary	50
Motor vehicle theft	3,600

Note: Data include only direct property losses and do not include medical expenses or other costs.

\*This number is larger than the number of victimized households, since a household is counted only once, regardless of the number of victimizations that occurred.

### Victims receiving medical care, by type of crime and where care was received, 1992

Type of crime	Number of victims receiving medical care	Total	At the scene	At own, neighbor's, or friend's house	Health unit or first-aid station	Doctor's office or clinic	Emergency room at hospital or clinic	Hospital	Other
Crimes of violence	1,419,940	100.0%	6.7%	30.1%	2.3%*	11.5%	31.8%	14.1%	3.6%
Rape	68,070	100.0	.0*	.0*	.0*	20.4*	47.7*	24.7*	7.2*
Robbery	355,570	100.0	7.4*	38.8	1.0*	10.0*	25.5	9.8*	7.5*
Assault	996,290	100.0	6.9	29.0	2.9*	11.4	33.0	15.0	1.9*

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Respondents may have received medical attention at more than one location; however, percent distribution is based on locations of medical care.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

- About 31% of all victims of crimes of violence (robbery and assault) in 1992 sustained some physical injury. Thirty percent of whites and 32% of blacks sustained injury.

- For crimes of violence involving injuries in which medical expenses were known, 65% involved costs of \$250 or more. These findings were similar for whites (65%) and blacks (66%).

- In 1992, 69% of the victims who were injured had health insurance or were eligible for public medical services. Seventy percent of all whites and 66% of all blacks had insurance coverage or eligibility for public medical services.

- About 8% of all victims lost time from work in 1992 as a result of a crime of violence and 6% as a result of a household crime.

- About the same percentages of blacks and whites lost time from work for personal crimes (whites, 5%; blacks, 6%). However, when time was lost, 67% of blacks lost 1-5 days, compared with 43% of whites. For personal crimes of theft, 77% of blacks lost 1-5 days, compared with 31% of whites.

The economic costs to victims reported in this crime data brief include only those that had occurred before the interview, which was 6 months or less after the crime. Medical costs may continue to accumulate for months or years after a victimization; these are not included. The victim is not specifically asked about psychological counseling, although some victims may have included this as a medical cost. Increases to insurance premiums as a result of filing claims, decreased productivity at work, moving costs incurred when moving as a result of victimization, intangible costs of pain and suffering, and other similar costs are also not included.

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### Amount of loss, based upon crimes involving economic loss, 1992

	Total victimizations	No monetary value	\$1-\$249	\$250-\$499	\$500 or more	Don't know
<b>Personal crimes</b>						
Crimes of violence <sup>a</sup>	13,371,440	5.3%	57.3%	8.6%	12.7%	16.2%
Robbery	876,800	1.3*	60.0	9.1	17.7	11.6
Assault	639,170	10.3	55.4	7.6	4.0	22.8
Personal theft	11,822,760	1.8	68.6	9.4	11.8	8.3
<b>Household crimes</b>						
Burglary	13,515,140	2.2	53.6	9.5	23.8	10.9
Burglary	4,009,560	3.9	39.8	11.7	31.3	13.4
Household theft	7,748,500	1.5	69.4	9.5	9.6	9.9
Motor vehicle theft	1,757,080	1.4*	15.0	5.1	69.1	9.4

\*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes rape, not shown separately because of the relatively few victims reporting monetary loss.

### Total economic loss to victims of crime, 1992

<b>All crime victims</b>	\$17,646,000,000
<b>Victims with losses</b>	
<b>Personal crimes</b>	\$4,110,000,000
Crimes of violence	1,362,000,000
Rape	33,000,000
Robbery	680,000,000
Assault	649,000,000
Crimes of personal theft	2,748,000,000
Larceny with contact	76,000,000
Larceny without contact	2,672,000,000
<b>Household crimes</b>	\$13,536,000,000
Burglary	3,970,000,000
Household larceny	1,750,000,000
Motor vehicle theft	7,816,000,000

### 1.8 million victims in 1992 lost 6.1 million days from work, an average of 3.4 days per crime

	Percent of all victimizations with lost time
<b>All personal crimes</b>	5.2%
Crimes of violence	7.6
Crimes of theft	3.9
<b>All household crimes</b>	6.1
Burglary	5.2
Larceny	4.0
Motor vehicle theft	17.2

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(Revised February 1994)

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