

Module 2

Crime and Victims of Crime

OVC Can Help You Put the Pieces Together



OVCTTAC

Learning Objectives

- ❖ **Discuss the prevalence of crime in the U.S.**
- ❖ **Identify two major resources that are used as indicators of crime.**
- ❖ **Identify key issues impacting victims of crime and specific issues impacting victims of crime with disabilities.**

Violent Crime in the U.S.

- ❖ **Has violent crime increased or decreased over the past year?**
- ❖ **Have hate crimes increased or decreased over the past year?**

Two Major Resources



- ❖ **Uniform Crime Reports – crimes reported by law enforcement.**

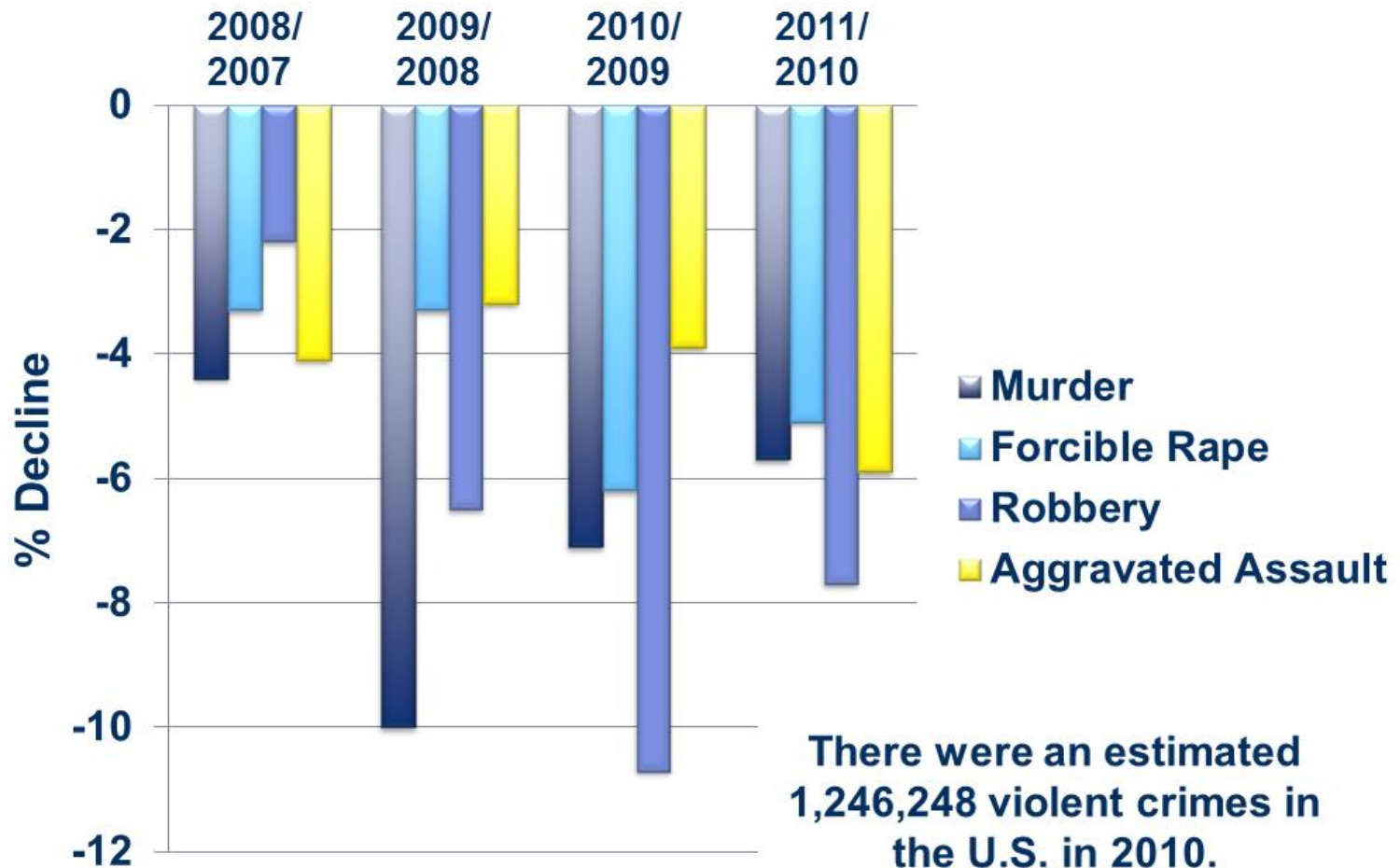


- ❖ **National Crime Victimization Survey – reported and unreported crime from victim's perspective.**

Differences Between UCR and NCVS

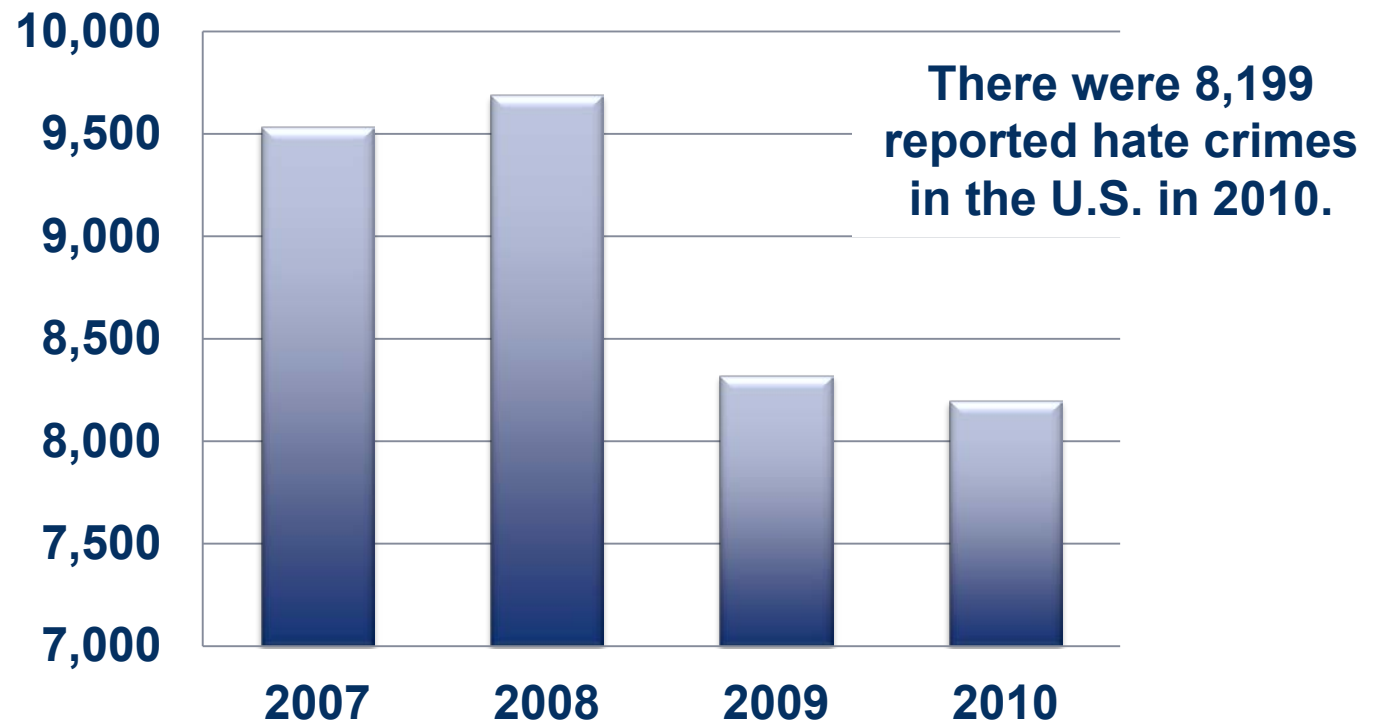
	UCR	NCVS
Geographic coverage	National and state estimates, local agency reports.	National estimates.
Collection method	Reports by law enforcement to the FBI on a monthly basis.	Survey of 42,093 households and 77,852 individuals age 12 or older were interviewed.
Measures	Index crimes (7 serious crimes) reported by law enforcement.	Reported and unreported crime; details about the crimes, victims, and offenders.

Declining Violent Crime (UCR)



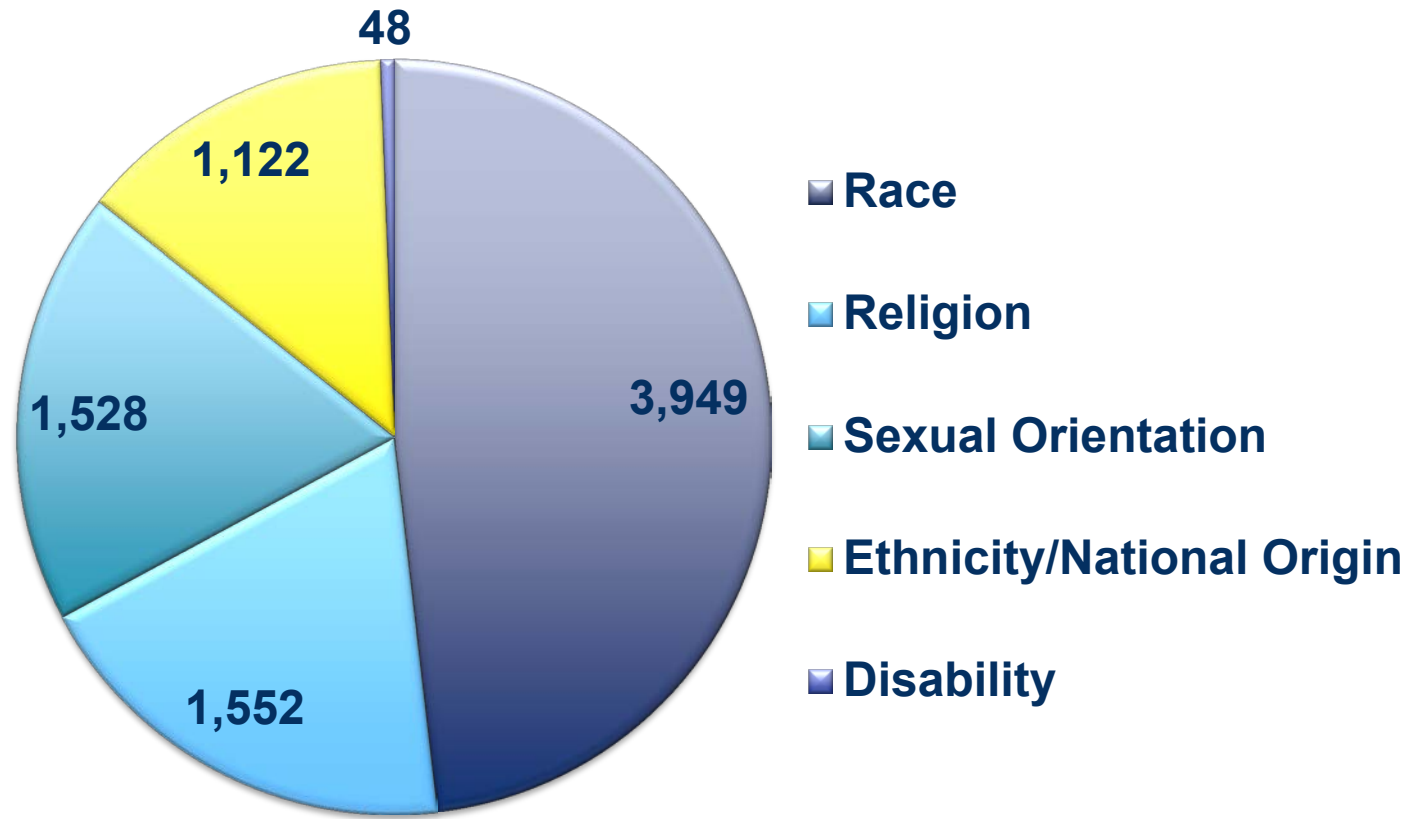
Declining Hate Crime (UCR)

**Hate Crimes (Victims)
2007 - 2010**



Hate Crime by Bias (UCR)

2010 Breakdown by Bias



Crime Against People with Disabilities (NCVS, 2008-2010)

This report is based on data collected in the National Crime Victimization Study.

Data show that young and middle-aged people with disabilities experience higher rates of violence than people of similar ages who do not have disabilities.

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

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Statistical Tables
December 2010, NCJ 231328

National Crime Victimization Survey, 2008
Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2008

Erika Harrell, Ph.D., and Michael R. Rand
BJS Statisticians

In households in the United States, persons age 12 or older with disabilities experienced approximately 730,000 nonfatal violent crimes and 1.8 million property crimes in 2008 (table 1). This excludes persons living in institutions. Nonfatal violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and property theft. Disability is defined as a sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or longer that makes it difficult for a person to perform activities of daily living.

About 37% of the violent crimes against persons with disabilities in 2008 were serious violent crimes: rape or sexual assault (40,000), robbery (116,000), or aggravated assault (115,000). Persons with disabilities also were victims of about 459,000 simple assaults in 2008.

These statistical tables present data on the victimization experiences of persons with disabilities from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), including comparisons to persons without disabilities, comparisons by types of disabilities, victim characteristics, and crime characteristics. To identify victims of crime who had disabilities, the NCVS adopted the survey questions about disabilities from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Because the NCVS does not identify persons in the general population with disabilities, data from the ACS were used to estimate rates of victimization for people with and without disabilities. (See *Methodology* for more information on the data sources and data limitations.)

Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act (Public Law 105-301), 1998

The Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act mandated that the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) include statistics on crimes against people with disabilities and the characteristics of the victims of those crimes. The act was designed "to increase public awareness of the plight of victims of crime with developmental disabilities, to collect data to measure the magnitude of the problem, and to develop strategies to address the safety and justice needs of victims of crime with developmental disabilities."

Section 5 of the act directed the Department of Justice to include statistics relating to "the nature of crimes against people with developmental disabilities, and the specific characteristics of the victims of those crimes" in the NCVS. This is the second report in the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) series on crime against people with disabilities. The first report, *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2007*, NCJ 227814, October 2009, is available on the BJS Website. Because of changes in the questionnaire, comparisons between 2007 and 2008 should not be made. (See *Methodology* for more information on changes to the NCVS and ACS questionnaires.)

For a list of publications in this series, go to <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbs&id=65>.

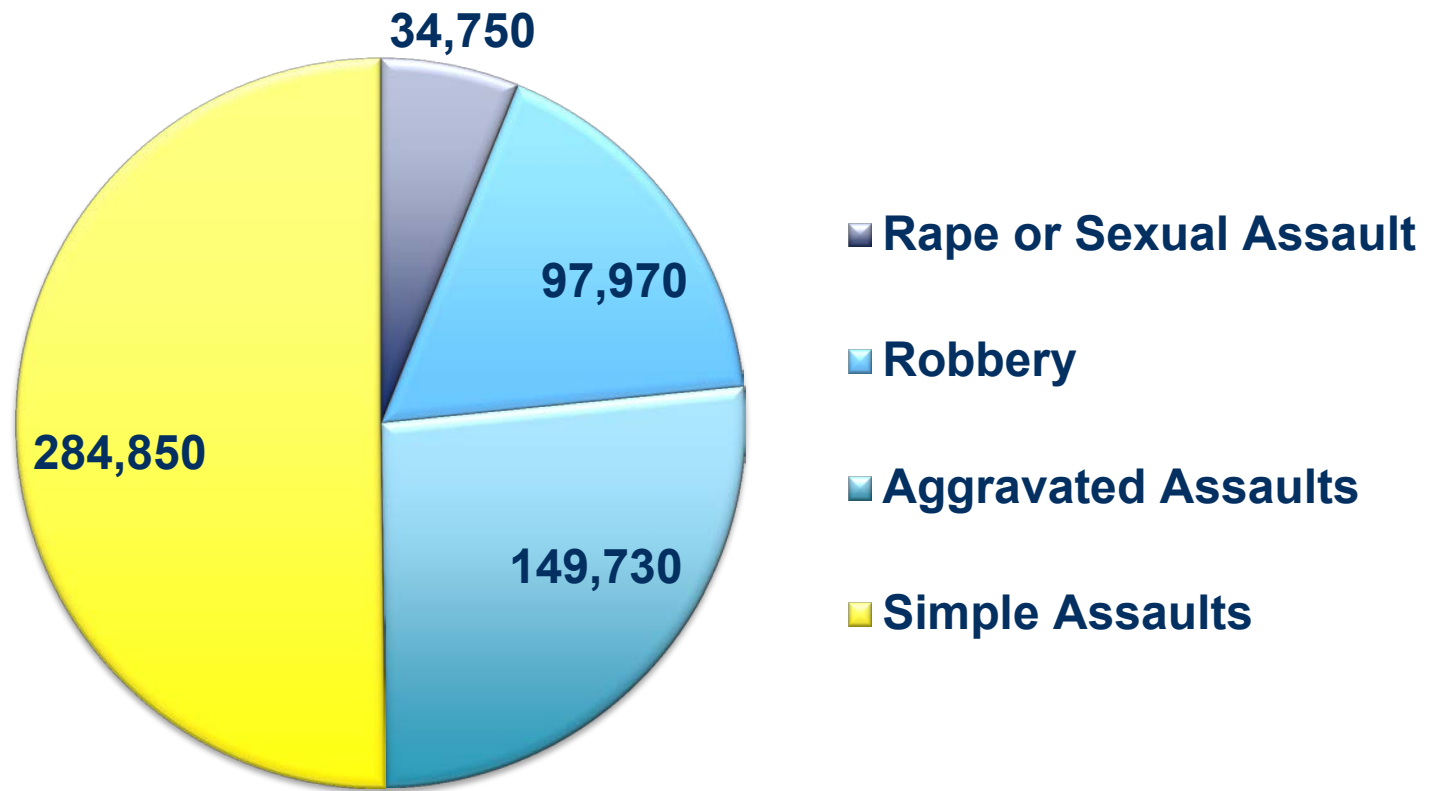
TABLE 1.
Estimated number of violent and property crimes against persons, by type of crime and victim disability status, 2008

Type of crime	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Violent crime	729,980	4,312,190
Rape/sexual assault	40,000	181,280
Robbery	115,840	451,640
Aggravated assault	115,200	737,660
Simple assault	458,900	2,672,210
Property crime	1,793,600	14,638,340
Household burglary	449,980	2,769,840
Motor vehicle theft	56,810	738,350
Theft	1,286,710	11,130,040

Note: Estimates based on the noninstitutional U.S. resident population age 12 or older in the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2008. Estimates of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount. See *Methodology* for detailed explanation.

Results of the Study

2010 Breakdown by Type of Crime



In Contrast to Crime Victims Without Disabilities...

- ❖ **People with disabilities experienced nearly double the rate of violent crime.**
- ❖ **People with disabilities experienced three times the rate of rapes or sexual assault.**
- ❖ **Females experienced double the rate of violence; males also experienced higher rates.**

In Contrast to Crime Victims Without Disabilities...

- ❖ **People with developmental disabilities are 4 to 10 times more likely to be victims of crime.**
- ❖ **More than 50% never seek assistance from legal personnel or treatment service providers.**

The Study Also Revealed...

- ❖ **More than half of violent crimes against people with disabilities were against those with more than one type of disability.**
- ❖ **Individuals with cognitive disabilities had rates of victimization higher than rates for people with all other kinds of disabilities.**

In Summary

- ❖ **Data show that crimes against people with disabilities are significantly underreported.**
- ❖ **Why?**

Why Women With Disabilities Are Less Likely To Report

- ❖ **Lack of job or independent support.**
- ❖ **Lack of shelter, housing, transportation.**
- ❖ **Isolation fostered by society's attitude toward segregation.**
- ❖ **Fear of questions about their effectiveness as parents.**

Complications in Reporting a Crime

- ❖ **Believability**
- ❖ **Health-related issues**
- ❖ **Income/employability**
- ❖ **Finances (credit history)**
- ❖ **Personal assistance needs**
- ❖ **Child custody**
- ❖ **Transportation**
- ❖ **Legal system difficulties**
- ❖ **Speech and cognition difficulties**
- ❖ **Fear of being judged too quickly**

Video

End the Silence

Refer to the Video Information Sheet to order this video.

Issues Impacting Victims of Crime

**Victimization is stressful;
if response to a crime
is not appropriate,
the impacts on a victim
can be devastating.**



Elements of Crime Victimization



**All Crime
Victims**



**Crime Victims
With
Disabilities**

Overlooked Types of Abuse

- ❖ **Withholding medication, personal care services, medical equipment (walkers, canes).**
- ❖ **Causing physical pain during routines of daily living.**
- ❖ **Physical restraints.**
- ❖ **Failing to clean/bathe the person.**
- ❖ **Controlling the person's finances without authorization.**
- ❖ **Using personal items or property without permission.**

Avoid Generalizing

- ❖ No two individuals are alike.
- ❖ No two individuals *with disabilities* are alike.
- ❖ No two individuals *with the same disability* are alike.
- ❖ Learn from the individual – find out what they need and what would be most helpful to *them!*

Review of Learning Objectives

- ❖ **Discuss the prevalence of crime in the U.S.**
- ❖ **Identify two major resources that are used as indicators of crime.**
- ❖ **Identify key issues impacting victims of crime and specific issues impacting victims of crime with disabilities.**

End of Module 2

- ❖ **Questions?**
- ❖ **Comments?**