

Between 2004 and 2013, adolescent offenders ages 12 to 17 committed more than a fifth (22%) of all nonfatal violent victimizations. In comparison, adolescents made up 10% of the U.S. population age 12 or older during that time. Adolescents ages 12 to 17 committed 50 nonfatal violent victimizations per 1,000 adolescents during 2004–13. This was slightly higher than the rate committed by young adults (45.2 per 1,000 persons ages 18 to 29) and more than 3.5 times higher than the adult rate (13.7 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 30 or older).

Data are from the National Crime Victimization Survey, which collects victims' self-reported experiences with crime from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. The findings include only victimizations where victims reported the perceived age of offenders and at least one known offender was age 12 or older.

### Lone offenders and co-offenders

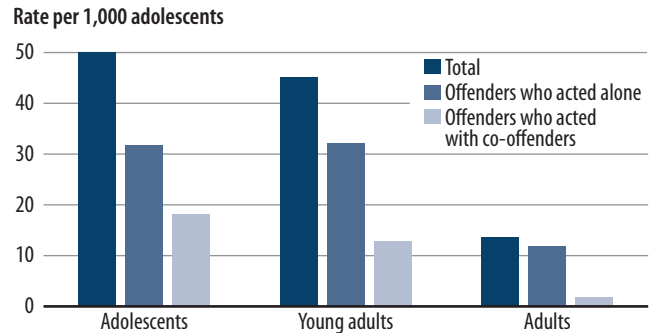
More violent victimizations were committed by adolescents who acted alone (64%) than those who acted with co-offenders (36%). Nearly three-quarters of adolescents who committed violent victimizations alone were male (72%), more than half (59%) were white, and a quarter (26%) were black.

When violent victimizations were committed by adolescents who acted with at least one other person, co-offenders were most commonly other adolescents (59%) or young adults (28%). Males accounted for 62% of violent victimizations committed by groups of adolescents and 64% of those committed by adolescents with young adults. Co-offenders were all white or all black in nearly three-quarters (75%) of violent victimizations committed by adolescents and in more than two-thirds (70%) of victimizations committed by adolescents who acted with young adults.

### What types of crimes were committed?

When adolescents ages 12 to 17 acted alone or with other adolescents, they were more likely to commit simple assaults than serious violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault). When adolescents acted alone, more than three-quarters (77%) of victimizations were simple assault and about a quarter (23%) were serious violent crimes. When adolescents acted with other adolescents, 71% percent of victimizations were simple assault and 29% were serious violent crimes. In comparison, almost half (47%) of the violent victimizations that adolescents committed with young adults were serious violent crimes.

### Violent victimizing rates, by offender age group and co-offending status, 2004–13



Note: Violent victimizations include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Victimitizing rates are calculated as the number of victimizations committed by a specific age group divided by the total population of that age group. Excludes victimizations in which the offender age group was unknown or all known offenders were age 11 or younger. For this report, adolescents are persons ages 12 to 17, young adults are persons ages 18 to 29, and adults are persons age 30 or older. See appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004–13.

Fewer than 1 in 5 (17%) violent victimizations committed by adolescents involved a weapon. Weapons were used in a greater percentage of serious violent victimizations when an adolescent acted alone (61%) than when adolescents acted with other adolescents (50%). When adolescents committed serious violent victimizations with young adults, a weapon was used 70% of the time.

### Who were adolescents' victims?

Victims were adolescents in 66% of serious violent victimizations committed by adolescents who acted alone and in 69% of those committed by adolescents who co-offended with other adolescents. Victims were young adults or older in 63% of serious violent victimizations by adolescents acting with young adults.

Forty-eight percent of serious violent victimizations committed by adolescents who acted alone were perpetrated against well-known or casual acquaintances, compared to 42% of those committed by groups of adolescents and 21% of those in which adolescents acted with young adults. About two-thirds (67%) of serious violent victimizations committed by adolescents who co-offended with young adults were perpetrated against strangers.

The full report (*Co-Offending Among Adolescents in Violent Victimitizations, 2004–13*, NCJ 249756), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

