

In 2015, U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced an estimated 5.0 million violent victimizations (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes reported and not reported to police from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. From 2014 to 2015, there was no statistically significant change in the overall violent crime rate. From 1993 to 2015, the rate of violent crime declined from 79.8 to 18.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

## Property crime

There was a decrease in the overall property crime rate, which includes household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft, between 2014 (118.1 victimizations per 1,000 households) and 2015 (110.7 per 1,000). This decline was driven primarily by a decrease in theft. The rate of theft declined from 90.8 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2014 to 84.4 per 1,000 in 2015. Similar to the trend in violent crime, the property crime rate declined over the longer term, decreasing from 351.8 victimizations per 1,000 households in 1993.

## Prevalence of crime

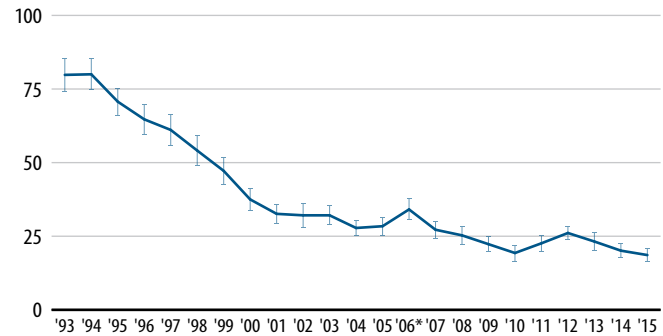
In 2015, 0.98% of all persons age 12 or older (2.7 million persons) experienced at least one violent victimization, and 0.41% (1.1 million persons) experienced at least one serious violent victimization (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault). Among households in the United States, 7.60% (10.0 million) of all households experienced one or more property victimizations.

## Characteristics of crime victims

The rate of violent victimization committed against males decreased from 21.1 victimizations per 1,000 males in 2014 to 15.9 per 1,000 in 2015. In 2015, persons age 65 or older had a lower rate of violent victimization (5.2 per 1,000) than any other age group studied. From 2014 to 2015, there were no statistically significant differences in the rates of violent or serious violent crime by victim race or Hispanic origin, marital status, or household income. In 2015, the rates of violent crime and property crime were higher in urban areas than the rates in suburban and rural areas. There were no statistically significant differences in the rates of violence across any of the four regions (Northeast, West, South, or

## Violent victimization, 1993–2015

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older



Note: Estimates include 95% confidence intervals. See appendix table 1 for estimates and standard errors.

\*See *Criminal Victimization, 2007* (NCJ 224390, BJS web, December 2008) for information on changes in the 2006 NCVS.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1993–2015.

Midwest) in 2015. Property crime rates were highest in the West (144.7 victimizations per 1,000 households) and lowest in the Northeast (81.6 per 1,000).

## Reporting crimes to police

In 2015, less than half (47%) of violent victimizations and more than half (55%) of serious violent victimizations were reported to police. A greater percentage of robberies and aggravated assaults (62% each) were reported than simple assaults (42%) and rape or sexual assaults (32%). From 2014 to 2015, there were no statistically significant changes in the percentages of violent or serious violent victimizations reported to police. However, property victimizations reported to police declined from 37% to 35%. The percentage of household burglaries and motor vehicle thefts reported to police also declined during the same period.

## Victim assistance

In 2015, the percentage of violent crime victimizations in which assistance was received from a victim service agency was 9.1%, similar to the percentage in 2014. The percentage of violent victimizations involving a weapon where assistance was received from a victim service agency increased from 7.2% in 2014 to 15.0% in 2015.

The full report (*Criminal Victimization, 2015*, NCJ 250180), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

