



Criminal Victimization, 2018

SUMMARY | NCJ 253043

SEPTEMBER 2019

The longstanding general trend of declining violent crime in the United States, which began in the 1990s, has reversed direction in recent years, based on findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), one of two major sources of crime statistics in the United States. Meanwhile, the long-term decline in property crime has continued in recent years.

Prevalence estimates

After declining 62% from 1994 to 2015 (the most recent year in which a 1-year decline was observed), the number of violent-crime victims increased from 2015 to 2016, and again from 2016 to 2018. Among U.S. residents age 12 or older, the number of violent-crime victims rose from 2.7 million in 2015 to 3.3 million in 2018, an increase of 604,000 victims. This overall rise was driven by increases in the number of victims of rape or sexual assault, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

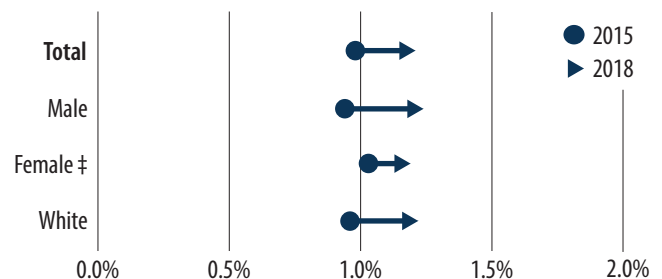
From 2015 to 2018, the portion of U.S. residents age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime rose from 0.98% to 1.18% (up 20%) (see figure). Over that span, the portion of white persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime rose from 0.96% to 1.19% (up 24%), the portion of males who were victims rose from 0.94% to 1.21% (up 29%), and the portion of females who were victims rose from 1.03% to 1.16% (up 13%).

Victimization estimates

The total number of violent victimizations (that is, the total number of times people experienced violent crime) rose from 5.0 million in 2015 to 6.4 million in 2018, while the rate of violent victimization rose from 18.6 to 23.2 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

From 2017 to 2018, the rate of completed (as opposed to attempted or threatened) violent victimizations increased from 5.6 to 6.9 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, while the rate of rape or sexual assault victimizations increased from 1.4 to 2.7 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

Percent of U.S. residents age 12 or older who were violent-crime victims, 2015 and 2018



Note: Differences shown are significant at a 95% confidence level except where otherwise indicated.

‡Significant difference from 2015 to 2018 at 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCVS, 2015 and 2018.

Incident estimates

There was no statistically significant 1-year change in the number of violent-crime victims age 12 or older from 2017 to 2018; however, the number of violent incidents (the number of specific criminal acts involving a victim) rose from 5.2 million to 6.0 million.

Based on the 2018 survey, the offender was of the same race or ethnicity as the victim in 70% of violent incidents involving black victims, 62% of those involving white victims, 45% of those involving Hispanic victims, and 24% of those involving Asian victims.

Reporting crimes

From 2015 to 2018, the rate of violent victimizations not reported to police rose from 9.5 to 12.9 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, while the rate reported to police showed no statistically significant change.

Property crime

While violent crime rose in recent years, property crime fell, as the portion of households that were victims of property crime decreased from 7.99% in 2014 to 7.27% in 2018, while the portion that were victims of burglary dropped from 1.27% to 1.07%.

The full report (*Criminal Victimization, 2018*, NCJ 253043), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.