

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that the number of persons age 12 or older who had been victims of violent crime during the prior six months increased from 2.7 million in 2015 to 2.9 million in 2016 (up 9% from 2015) and 3.1 million in 2017 (up 17% from 2015). Overall, the portion of persons age 12 or older who had been victims of violent crime increased from 0.98% in 2015 to 1.14% in 2017. The rise was primarily driven by an increase in simple assault (which is generally non-felony assault). Year-to-year, there was a statistically significant increase in the total number of residents age 12 and over who were victimized by violent crime from 2015 to 2016, while no statistically significant increase was found from 2016 to 2017.

Crime type

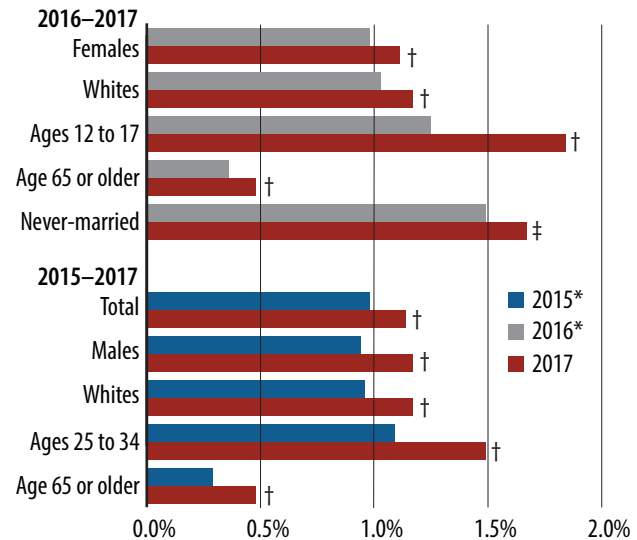
The rate of robbery victimizations rose from 1.7 per 1,000 residents age 12 or older in 2016 to 2.3 per 1,000 in 2017. Meanwhile, the burglary rate dropped from 23.7 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2016 to 20.6 per 1,000 households in 2017.

Overall, property crime decreased from 2016 to 2017, falling from 118.6 victimizations per 1,000 households to 108.4. This decrease followed an increase in property crime the previous year, from 110.7 victimizations per 1,000 households in 2015 to 118.6 in 2016.

Victim demographics

From 2015 to 2017, the percentage of persons who had been victims of violent crime during the prior 6 months increased among males, whites, those ages 25 to 34, those age 50 and older, and those who had never been married. During this period, the number of male victims age 12 or older increased by 323,200, and the number of white victims increased by 338,000. From 2016 to 2017, the portion of persons victimized by violent crime increased among females, whites, those ages 12 to 17, those age 65 and over, and those who were divorced or had never been married. The portion of Asians victimized by violent crime, however, dropped from 2016 to 2017.

Prevalence rate of violent crime, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2016–2017 and 2015–2017



Note: The prevalence rate is the percentage of persons age 12 or older who experienced at least one violent crime victimization during the year.

*Comparison year.

†Significant difference from comparison year at the 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison year at the 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Public-Use Files.

Reporting to police

From 1993 to 2017, the rate of violent victimization declined 74%, from 79.8 to 20.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. The survey indicated that the rate of violent victimization reported to police declined 73% during this period, from 33.8 to 9.2 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

Based on the 2017 survey, 45% of violent victimizations and 36% of property victimizations were reported to police. This was similar to the percentage of violent victimizations (44%) and property victimizations (35%) reported to police a year earlier. The percentage of rapes or sexual assaults that were reported to police rose from 23% in 2016 to 40% in 2017.

The full report (*Criminal Victimization, 2017*, NCJ 252472), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.