

## Section 2: The criminal event



This section gives an overview of crime as it exists in the state using data that addresses such questions as: What is a crime? What do crime rates really measure?

What is the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor? How are crimes defined? What are some common crimes?

When and where does most crime occur? What are the characteristics of the most serious crimes?

What do we know about crime victims? About crime on college campuses? About workplace violence?

## The criminal event

### What is a crime?

Crimes are acts and behaviors defined by law for which a formally sanctioned punishment is specified. What is included in the definition of a crime varies across federal, state and local jurisdictions. Accurately and consistently defining a crime is the first step toward the goal of obtaining accurate crime statistics.

### What do crime rates really measure?

To be included in crime statistics, the act must be reported to law enforcement. Not all crimes are reported to police agencies, and not all reported crime results in an arrest. Consequently, crime statistics collected by law enforcement agencies typically fall into two categories: information on *known offenses* and *persons arrested* by police departments.

An offense is “cleared by arrest” or solved for crime reporting purposes when at least one person is (1) arrested, or (2) charged with the commission of the offense and turned over to the court for prosecution (whether following arrest, court summons, or police notice-to-appear). Also, although no physical arrest is made, a clearance by arrest can be claimed when the offender is a person under 18 years of age and is cited to appear in juvenile court or before other juvenile authorities.

Several crimes may be cleared by the arrest of one person, or the arrest of many persons may clear only one crime. Further, if several persons are involved in the commission of a crime and only one is arrested and charged, the crime is listed as cleared by arrest. If the other person(s) involved in the crime are arrested at a later date, no record will be made of a clearance by arrest since the offense was already cleared following the arrest of the first person.

*The number of offenses and not the number of persons arrested are counted in the clearances recorded by law enforcement.*

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, approximately half of the nation’s violent crimes and between 16 and 18 percent of nonviolent crimes are cleared by arrest. These figures have remained stable for decades. In 2003, two out of three murders were cleared by arrest but only 13 percent of burglaries were cleared.

Colorado law enforcement agencies discontinued reporting clearance rates to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in 1995.

### How do felonies differ from misdemeanors?

Criminal offenses are classified according to how they are handled by the criminal justice system. Most jurisdictions recognize two classes of offenses: felonies and misdemeanors.

A felony is defined by the Colorado Constitution as any criminal offense punishable by death or imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Misdemeanors are often less serious crimes resulting in a fine, a sentence to the county jail or probation supervision.

### What are some other common crimes in the United States?

**Drug abuse violations** are offenses related to growing, manufacturing, possessing, using, selling, or distributing narcotic and dangerous non-narcotic drugs. A distinction is made between possession and sale or manufacturing.

**Sex crimes** refer to a broad category of crimes that have a sexual element.

**Fraud offenses** include the practice of deceit or intentional misrepresentation of fact with the intent of depriving a person of property or legal rights.

**Status Offenses** are acts that are illegal only if committed by a juvenile, for example, truancy.

### What are white-collar crimes?

White collar crimes include a wide range of illegalities including embezzlement, bribery, fraud, theft of services, theft of trade secrets, forgery, smuggling, tax evasion, obstruction of justice, telemarketing fraud, Internet fraud, identity theft, and cyber-crime. A key element of these crimes includes whether the violator’s position of fiduciary trust, power, technical knowledge, or influence has provided the opportunity to abuse lawful institutions for unlawful purposes. The FBI has defined white-collar crime as “... a crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his occupation” and “those illegal acts which are characterized by deceit, concealment, or violation of trust and which are not dependent upon the application or threat of physical force or violence.”

**Identity theft** occurs when someone uses the name, Social Security number, credit card number or other identifying information of another person, without permission to commit fraud or other crimes. Thieves use a variety of methods to gain access to personal information from businesses or institutions. They steal records

from employers, bribe an employee who has access to these records, or hack into the organization's computers. Information about individuals is obtained by rummaging through trash and stealing mail, by fraudulently obtaining credit reports (posing as a landlord, for example), and by stealing credit and debit card numbers using a special information storage device in a practice known as "skimming." Thieves may also complete a "change of address form" to divert mail to another location, illegally obtain personal information from the victim's home, and scam information directly from the victim by posing as a legitimate business person or government official. These offenders can take out loans, establish phone services, open or drain bank accounts, file for bankruptcy under the victim's name to avoid paying debts incurred or to avoid eviction, and give the victim's name to police during an arrest.

Consumer Sentinel is the complaint database developed and maintained by the Federal Trade Commission since 1997. In 2003, it received 516,740 consumer fraud and identity theft complaints, up from 404,000 in 2002. In an analysis of 26 metropolitan areas with a population of 2,000,000 or more, Denver ranked 13th in the rate of identity theft with 96 victims per 100,000 residents. Colorado ranked 8th in the nation in the identity theft rate in 2003: There were 81 victims per 100,000 residents. Identity theft in Colorado was most often linked to credit cards or bank accounts.

**Consumer Fraud** is another category of white-collar crime that is growing with increased use of the Internet. Identity theft, discussed above, comprises approximately 20 percent of all consumer fraud cases reported to the Federal Trade Commission. The other crimes that constitute consumer fraud include: the promise of a loan that requires an initiation fee, worthless credit card loss protection and insurance programs, medical billing scams, business (including work-at-home) opportunities, non-delivery of goods, delivery of goods of lesser value than advertised, misleading information related to dietary supplements, weight loss products or services, misleading travel packages, and so on. Colorado ranked 5th nationwide in the rate of fraud complaints per 100,000 residents reported to the FTC in 2003. Of these, 25 percent of complaints in Colorado were linked to Internet auctions, and 15 percent to Home Shopping/Catalog Sales.

**Sources:** U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations (2002, 1989). *White-Collar Crime Study*. Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office. Identity theft: What's it all about? Federal Trade Commission (2003) available at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheftmini.pdf>.

Table 2.1. Types of identity theft reported by Colorado victims, 2004

Rank	Identity theft type	Percentage*
1	Credit card fraud	22%
2	Bank fraud**	22%
3	Employment-related fraud	15%
4	Phone or utilities fraud	15%
5	Government documents or benefits fraud	6%
6	Loan fraud	6%
	Other	26%
	Attempted identity theft	6%

**Notes:** \*Percentages are based on the 4409 victims reporting from Colorado. Percentages add to more than 100 because approximately 19% of victims from Colorado reported experiencing more than one type of identity theft.

\*\*Includes fraud involving checking and savings accounts and electronic fund transfers.

**Source:** Federal Trade Commission (2005). *National and State Trends in Fraud and Identity Theft: January–December 2004*, page 21 available at <http://www.consumer.gov/sentinel/pubs/Top10Fraud2004.pdf>.

### Sources of crime reporting: Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

These two sources of crime information, UCR and NCVS, concentrate on measuring a limited number of well-defined crimes. They do not include all possible criminal events. Both data sources use commonly understood definitions rather than legal definitions of crime. The UCR data reflect crimes known to law enforcement and are typically reported by the FBI as "offenses" and "arrests." The NCVS data reflect crime victimization experiences of individuals over the age of 12 living in thousands of U.S. households. These two sources of crime information are described in detail below.

### The UCR index shows trends in eight major crimes

In 1927, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) formed a committee to create a uniform system for gathering police statistics. The goal was to develop a national system of statistics that would overcome variations in the way crimes were defined in different parts of the country. The FBI's UCR program began in 1929 by collecting data on seven major crimes: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Arson was added as the eighth UCR Index offense

in 1978. Crimes in the index were selected based on seriousness, frequency of occurrence and likelihood of coming to the attention of police, and are used as the basis for evaluating changes in the volume of crime.

UCR data are compiled monthly from data obtained from state and local law enforcement jurisdictions. Participation in the UCR Program is voluntary on the part of law enforcement agencies. In 2001, law enforcement agencies that participate in the UCR Program represented nearly 90 percent of the U.S. population.

UCR data in Colorado are collected and analyzed by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The information is collected from local law enforcement agencies. The information is then transmitted to the FBI to be included in national statistics

To ensure these data are uniformly reported, the FBI provides contributing law enforcement agencies with a handbook that explains how to classify and score offenses and provides uniform crime offense definitions. Acknowledging that offense definitions may vary from state to state, the FBI cautions agencies to report offenses not according to local or state statutes but according to those guidelines provided in the handbook. Most agencies make a good faith effort to comply with established guidelines.

### The NCVS

The National Crime Victimization Survey began in 1973 to provide information about crimes that might not be reported to police. It also was developed to provide

**Since crime is a sociological phenomenon influenced by a variety of factors, the FBI discourages data users from ranking agencies and using the data as a measurement of law enforcement effectiveness.**

detailed information of victims and trends over time. The survey was significantly redesigned and updated in 1993 to improve the questions and broaden the scope of crimes measured.

The NCVS collects data twice each year from 42,000 households. Each household stays in the sample for three years, and new households are rotated into the sample on an ongoing basis. The U.S. Census Bureau

### **Total serious violent crime**

*The number of homicides recorded by police plus the number of rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults from the victimization survey whether or not they were reported to the police.*

### **Victimizations reported to the police**

*The number of homicides recorded by police plus the number of rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults from the victimization survey that victims said were reported to the police.*

### **Crimes recorded by the police**

*The number of homicides, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults included in the Uniform Crime Reports of the FBI excluding commercial robberies and crimes that involved victims under age 12.*

### **Arrests for violent crimes**

*The number of persons arrested for homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI.*

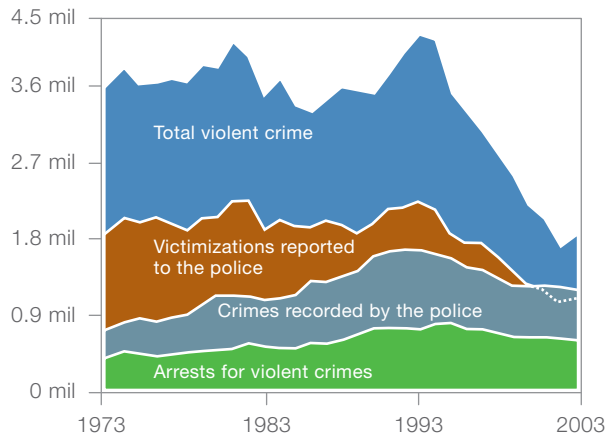
**Source:** Bureau of Justice Statistics, Key Crime and Justice Facts at a Glance available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/cv2.htm>.

conducts individual interviews on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, the agency mandated to manage the Survey.

Crimes suffered by individuals and households—when those crimes were committed against victims age 12 and over—are the events counted by the NCVS.

The NCVS collects detailed information on the frequency and nature of the crimes of rape, sexual assault, personal robbery, aggravated and simple assault, household burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft. It does not measure homicide or commercial crimes (such as burglaries of stores). The information collected includes information about victims (age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, income, and education level), offenders (sex, race, approximate age and victim-offender relationship) and the crime (time, place, use of weapons, nature of injury and economic consequences). Questions include experiences of victims with the criminal justice system, self-protective measures used by the victim, and possible substance abuse by offenders.

Figure 2.1. Nationwide: Four measures of a violent crime



**Source:** Bureau of Justice Statistics, Key Crime and Justice Facts at a Glance available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/cv2.htm>.

The NCVS was designed to complement the UCR program, but the two sources of crime data have important differences. The two programs measure an overlapping but non-identical set of crimes. The NCVS includes crimes both reported and not reported to law enforcement and it excludes crimes against children under the age of 12. Unlike the NCVS, the UCR data includes information on homicide, arson, commercial crimes and crime against children under the age of 12. Further, the crime rates are calculated using different bases. The UCR rates are per capita (number of crimes per 100,000 persons) whereas the NCVS rates are per household (number of crimes per 1,000 households). The number of households may not grow at the same rate each year as the total population, so trend data for property crimes measured by the two programs may not be comparable. In addition, the NCVS is based on a sample and so a margin of error exists, as with all samples. The UCR includes actual counts of offenses reported by law enforcement jurisdictions.

Table 2.2. How do UCR and NCVS compare?

	Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)	National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
Offenses Measured:	Homicide Rape Robbery (Personal and Commercial) Assault (Aggravated) Burglary (Commercial and Household) Larceny (Commercial and Household) Motor Vehicle Theft Arson	Rape/Sexual Assault Robbery (Personal) Assault (Simple and Aggravated) Burglary (Household) Larceny (Personal and Household) Motor Vehicle Theft Vandalism
Scope:	Crimes reported to police in most jurisdictions.	Crimes reported and not reported to police; committed against victims age 12 or older; data are for the nation as a whole.
Collection Method:	Police department reports to FBI.	Survey interview. In 2002, 42,430 households and 76,050 people age 12 or older were interviewed, representing a 92.4% response rate of eligible households.
Kinds of Information:	Crime counts, persons arrested, crime clearances, law enforcement officers killed and assaulted and characteristics of homicide victims.	Details about victims (age, race, sex, education, income, and relationship to offender) and crimes (time and place of occurrence, whether reported to police, use of weapons, economic consequences).
Sponsor:	Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation	Department of Justice U.S. Census Bureau

**Source:** "The Justice System," Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/justsys>.

### Where does most crime occur?

In 2003, the latest year for which data are available, about a quarter of incidents of violent crime occurred at or near the victim's home.

Common locales for violent crimes were on streets other than those near the victim's home (17 percent), at school (14 percent), or at a commercial establishment (7 percent).

About one in four violent crimes occurred in or near the victim's home. About half occurred within a mile from home and 76 percent within five miles.

Only 4 percent of victims of violent crime reported that the crime took place more than fifty miles from their home.

Twenty-two percent of victims of violent crime reported being involved in some form of leisure activity away from home at the time of their victimization. Twenty-three percent said they were at home, and another 19 percent mentioned they were at work or traveling to or from work when the crime occurred.

### School violence

Nationally, school violence has reduced significantly in the past few years.

In 2003, the most recent year that data are available, in a national sample of students ages 12 through 18, about 88,000 were victims of serious violent crimes at school (down from 161,000 in 2001), and about 309,000 away from school.

Between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000 in the United States there were sixteen school-associated homicides of school age children.

In 2003, 21 percent of students reported the presence of street gangs in their schools.

In bi-annual national surveys conducted between 1993 and 2003, about 7 to 9 percent of students in grades 9 to 12 reported being threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in the past 12 months.

In 2003, about 6 percent of students reported carrying a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school

Table 2.3. Percentage of students who carried a gun on one or more of the past 30 days

	Total		Males		Females	
	Percentage	n	Percentage	n	Percentage	n
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>373</b>
<b>Age</b>						
15 or younger	3.9	358	5.4	168	2.1	187
16 or 17	4.7	344	8.6	175	0.6	167
18 or older		44		24		19
<b>Grade</b>						
9th	3.3	212		95	1.7	116
10th	4.2	236	6.7	120	0.9	113
11th	5.4	166		88		77
12th	5.6	126		61		65
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
African American		41		22		17
Hispanic/Latino	4.9	184		88		94
White	3	432	5.2	212	0.5	219
All other races		54		30		23
Multiple race		32		14		17

**Note:** Blank/shaded cells reflect too few cases to calculate a valid percentage.

**Source:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, available at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/yrebs/2003COH%20Summary%20Tables.pdf>.

property in the past 30 days, a decline from 12 percent in 1993.

In Colorado, 7.6 percent of boys and 1.6 percent of girls said they carried a gun on at least one occasion in the last 30 days.

**When does most crime occur?**

Overall, in 2002, violent crimes were slightly more likely to occur during the day than at the night. However some crimes exhibited different patterns.

In 2002, 53 percent of incidents of violent crime occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Almost two-thirds of rapes/sexual assaults occurred at night -- 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**How much serious crime is there?**

Ten percent of major offenses reported to police in Colorado in 2003 were violent.

Major offenses include homicide, serious assault, robbery, rape, burglary and motor vehicle theft. Robbery is the violent crime that occurs most frequently.

In 2003, a total of 243,459 adult and juvenile arrests were made, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. This is a decrease of 7 percent from 2002.

Homicides and auto theft decreased in 2003 by more than 10 percent compared to the previous year. In fact, the 2003 homicide rate was the lowest since 1965. The motor vehicle theft rate peaked in 1970 at 588 per 100,000 residents compared to a rate of 441 in 2003. Motor vehicle thefts accounted for 36 percent of the major offenses reported.

Burglary was the most common major offense reported by CBI. A total of 29,830 burglaries were reported to CBI by law enforcement agencies in 2003. Burglaries accounted for 54 percent of the major offenses reported to law enforcement. Forced entry accounted for 55 percent of the burglaries.

**Is crime increasing or decreasing?**

Overall, nationwide and in Colorado, crime is at its lowest point since 1970.

The crime rate decreased significantly between 1992 and 2000. It remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2003.

A few crimes increased in the past few years. Motor vehicle theft increased between 1999 and 2002 but went down again in 2003. This pattern also occurred in burglary and homicide rates.

Table 2.4. Colorado index crime rate: 1970-2003, rate per 100,000

Year	Population	Index offense rate
1970	2207259	5318.2
1971	2283000	5517.0
1972	2357000	5593.6
1973	2437000	5495.8
1974	2496000	6165.8
1975	2534000	6675.5
1976	2583000	6782.4
1977	2619000	6827.5
1978	2670000	6832.4
1979	2772000	7051.1
1980	2878407	7333.5
1981	2963000	7353.2
1982	3045000	7079.9
1983	3139000	6627.1
1984	3178000	6471.1
1985	3231000	6919.1
1986	3267000	7031.9
1987	3296000	6451.3
1988	3290000	6178.3
1989	3317000	6039.4
1990	3294394	6053.7
1991	3377000	6074.1
1992	3470000	5958.8
1993	3566000	5526.8
1994	3656000	5318.4
1995	3747000	5396.3
1996	3823000	5118.5
1997	3893000	4650.4
1998	3971000	4487.5
1999	4056000	4063.4
2000	4301261	3982.6
2001	4417714	4218.9
2002	4506542	4347.8
2003	4550688	4286.1

**Notes:** When data are unavailable, the cells are blank or the year is not presented. State offense totals are based on data from all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas. Rates are the number of reported offenses per 100,000 population.

**Sources:** FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data available at <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/RunCrimeStatebyState.cfm>.

The robbery rate has continued to increase since 2000, with the 2003 rate logging a 3.8 percent increase over 2002.

**With the crime rate at a near-historic low, it is likely to increase over the next few years.**

**How do violent and property crimes differ?**

Violent crime refers to events such as homicide, rape and assault that may result in injury to a person. Robbery is also considered a violent crime because it involves the use or threat of force against a person.

Property crimes are unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of force against an individual. Larceny, burglary and motor vehicle theft are examples of property crimes.

**The violent crime rate is at a historic low**

From 1960 to 1970, the national violent crime rate per 100,000 population (as measured by FBI index crimes of manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) rose 126 percent. From 1970 to 1980 the violent crime rate rose 65 percent. From 1980 to 1990 it rose 23 percent.

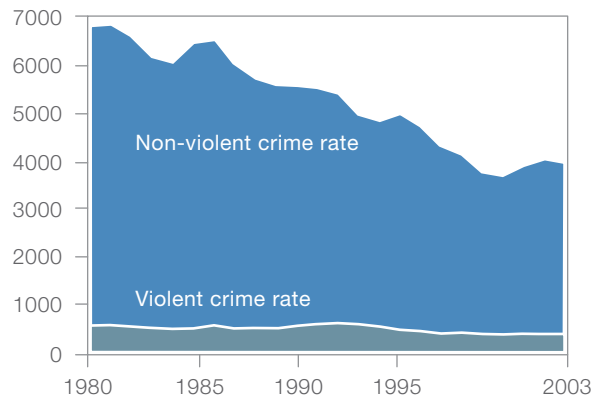
The violent crime rate in Colorado began to decline in 1994.

**In 2002 the U.S. violent crime rate was at the lowest level ever recorded**

The violent crime rate increased to a peak in 1981 interrupted only by a 1-year decline in 1980. For the following 5 years until 1986, the rate decreased. From 1986 to 1993 the rate of violent crime increased to a level slightly below the 1981 peak. A decline in the violent crime rate began in 1994 and has continued through 2002 to the *lowest level ever recorded*.

Also violent crimes perpetrated against men have declined significantly since the mid-1970s. Violent victimizations for both males and females have declined since 1994. Nevertheless, males, blacks and youths remain most vulnerable to become victims of violent crime.

Figure 2.2. Colorado's violent vs. non-violent crime rates, 1980-2003, rate per 100,000



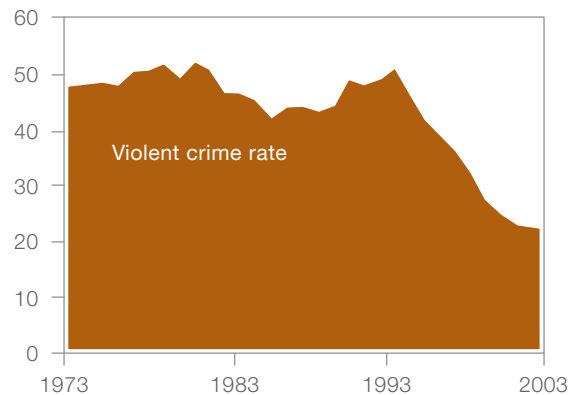
**Sources:** Bureau of Justice Statistics Data Online. Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report 2002 through 2003.

Table 2.5. Changes in violent crime rate over the decades

Decade	U.S. Total	Colorado
1960-1970	126%	260%
1970-1980	65%	51%
1980-1990	20%	-1%
1990-2001	-25%	-50%

**Source:** Brownstein, Henry (1996). *The Rise and Fall of a Violent Crime Wave: Crack Cocaine and the Construction of a Social Crime Problem*, Criminal Justice Press, Monsey, NY.

Figure 2.3. Nationwide: Violent crime rates



**Source:** National Crime Victimization Survey and Uniform Crime Reports. Homicide rates for 2003 are estimated based on 2003 Preliminary Annual Release data available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/viort.htm>.



## Characteristics of the most serious crimes

### Homicide

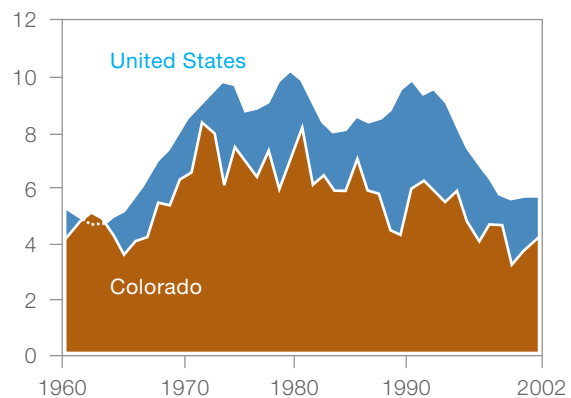
Causing the death of another person without legal justification or excuse.

#### Facts

- Homicide is the least frequent violent crime.<sup>1</sup>
- Nationwide, the homicide rate has been declining since 1990. In fact, in 2000, the national homicide rate was at its lowest point since 1967.<sup>2</sup>
- In Colorado, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator remained unknown or unreported in nearly half of the 194 homicides reported to CBI in 2003. For cases when the relationship was known, about 15 percent were stranger killings.
- About 33 percent of female murder victims compared to 4 percent of the males were killed by an intimate.
- In 2003, a firearm was used in 49 percent of Colorado homicides. A knife was used in 16 percent of homicides.
- Non-whites compared to whites in Colorado and nationwide are at a greater risk of being a homicide victim.

- In 2003 gangs accounted for fewer than 3 percent of homicides in Colorado according to the circumstances surrounding the crime recorded by police.
- Twenty-nine percent of homicides followed arguments.
- Circumstances were unknown for about one-third of homicides.
- Nationwide, older teens and young adults are at the greatest risk of becoming a homicide victim.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 2.4. Colorado and U.S. homicide rates, 1960-2002, rate per 100,000



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics available at <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/RunCrimeStatebyState.cfm>.

Table 2.6. Colorado homicides for which race information was available: Offender race by victim race, 2003

		Offender race					TOTAL
		Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	American Indian/Alaskan Native	White	Unknown	
Victim race	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Black	0	16	0	5	12	33
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	2	0	2	4
	White	4	8	3	90	45	150
	Unknown	0	9	0	30	0	39
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>228</b>

Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation Supplemental Homicide Report, 2003.

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, Keys Facts at a Glance, available from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, Keys Facts at a Glance, available from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, Keys Facts at a Glance, available from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm>.

Table 2.7. Colorado homicides: Selected circumstances, 1994-2002\*

Year	Domestic Violence	Gang Killings 16 and up	Juvenile Gang Killings Under 16
1994	57	15	2
1995	70	8	8
1996	64	3	15
1997	45	11	4
1998	52	12	8
1999	46	10	1
2000	47	1	0
2001	52	5	3
2002	63	10	0

**Note:** \*2002 was the last time this table was available.

**Source:** Colorado Bureau of Investigation Supplemental Homicide Reports, 1994-2002.

Table 2.8. Colorado and U.S. homicide rates

	Colorado	United States
1960	4.2	5.1
1970	6.2	7.9
1980	6.9	10.2
1990	4.2	9.4
2000	3.1	5.5

**Source:** Crime in Colorado 2003 available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/supplemental\\_reports/homicide.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/supplemental_reports/homicide.htm).

Homicide rates fluctuate significantly in Colorado's larger jurisdictions. The next three tables (opposite page) will represent the homicide trends and characteristics reported by Denver, Aurora, and Colorado Springs Police Departments.

Table 2.9. Colorado's 10 leading causes of deaths by age group: 1996-1998

Rank	Age groups										
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
1	Congenital Anomalies 278	Unintentional Injuries 86	Unintentional Injuries 59	Unintentional Injuries 86	Unintentional Injuries 635	Unintentional Injuries 613	Unintentional Injuries 682	Malignant Neoplasms 1,613	Malignant Neoplasms 2,772	Heart Disease 16,336	Heart Disease 19,728
2	SIDS 142	Congenital Anomalies 28	Malignant Neoplasms 22	Suicide 30	Suicide 281	Suicide 348	Malignant Neoplasms 603	Heart Disease 1,085	Heart Disease 1,760	Malignant Neoplasms 11,852	Malignant Neoplasms 17,116
3	Short Gestation 141	Homicide 19	Congenital Anomalies 6	Malignant Neoplasms 19	Homicide 175	Malignant Neoplasms 161	Suicide 447	Unintentional Injuries 487	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 414	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 4,552	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 5,147
4	Maternal Complications 56	Malignant Neoplasms 14	Homicide 6	Homicide 13	Malignant Neoplasms 55	HIV 126	Heart Disease 378	Suicide 331	Cerebrovascular 317	Cerebrovascular 4,503	Cerebrovascular 5,128
5	Placenta Cord Membranes 54	Pneumonia & Influenza 10	Heart Disease 4	Congenital Anomalies 9	Heart Disease 31	Homicide 123	HIV 219	Liver Disease 269	Unintentional Injuries 294	Pneumonia & Influenza 2,540	Unintentional Injuries 4,392
6	Perinatal Infections 34	Heart Disease 6	Benign Neoplasms 2	Heart Disease 9	Congenital Anomalies 18	Heart Disease 91	Liver Disease 191	Cerebrovascular 178	Liver Disease 194	Unintentional Injuries 1,415	Pneumonia & Influenza 2,868
7	Unintentional Injuries 33	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 4	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 2	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 3	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 11	Liver Disease 27	Homicide 110	Diabetes 122	Diabetes 193	Diabetes 1,225	Suicide 1,916
8	Respiratory Distress Synd. 30	Meningitis 3	Diabetes 2	Septicemia 3	Benign Neoplasms 8	Diabetes 22	Cerebrovascular 99	Bronchitis Emphysema Asthma 116	Suicide 163	Atherosclerosis 1,155	Diabetes 1,640
9	Homicide 25	Other Intestinal 2	9 Tied	Pneumonia & Influenza 2	Complicated Pregnancy 6	Congenital Anomalies 20	Diabetes 69	Pneumonia & Influenza 102	Pneumonia & Influenza 119	Alzheimer's Disease 1,013	Atherosclerosis 1,188
10	Intrauterine Hypoxia 22	Septicemia 2	9 Tied	2 Tied	3 Tied	Cerebrovascular 18	Pneumonia & Influenza 63	HIV 74	Septicemia 56	Nephritis 673	2 Tied

**Source:** Department of Health and Human Services. State Injury Profile for Colorado, page 7 available at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/StateProfiles/sip\\_co.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/StateProfiles/sip_co.pdf).

Table 2.10. Characteristics of homicides reported by the Denver Police Department, 1985-2002

Year	% Gun	% Knife	% Other/Unknown
1985	53.5	26.8	19.7
1986	57.6	18.5	23.9
1987	48.1	32.9	19.0
1988	36.2	39.1	24.6
1989	45.5	27.3	27.3
1990	46.3	29.9	23.9
1991	49.4	23.0	27.6
1992	57.6	27.2	15.2
1993	61.8	22.4	15.8
1994	67.5	15.7	16.9
1995	54.3	19.8	25.9
1996	60.3	17.5	22.2
1997	49.3	13.0	37.7
1998	64.7	15.7	19.6
1999	47.6	22.2	30.2
2000	50.0	25.0	25.0
2001	46.7	15.6	37.8
2002	64.7	13.7	21.6

**Note:** Data are presented only for those years in which the number of homicides from the UCR is available and at least two-thirds of those homicides were reported in the SHR.

**Sources:** Number of homicides is from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Characteristics of homicides are from the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) available at <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Homicide/Local/JurisbyJuris.cfm>.

Table 2.11. Characteristics of homicides reported by the Aurora Police Department, 1985-2002

Year	% Gun	% Knife	% Other/Unknown
1985	70.0	20.0	10.0
1986	63.6	9.1	27.3
1987	40.0	30.0	30.0
1988	50.0	25.0	25.0
1989	14.3	14.3	71.4
1990	50.0	25.0	25.0
1991	0.0	54.5	45.5
1992	62.5	0.0	37.5
1993	63.2	10.5	26.3
1994	81.8	0.0	18.2
1995	72.7	27.3	0.0
1996	36.4	45.5	18.2
1997	47.1	17.6	35.3
1998	82.1	10.7	7.1
1999	45.5	36.4	18.2
2000	59.1	9.1	31.8
2001	64.7	23.5	11.8
2002	75.0	6.3	18.8

**Note:** Data are presented only for those years in which the number of homicides from the UCR is available and at least two-thirds of those homicides were reported in the SHR.

**Sources:** Number of homicides is from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Characteristics of homicides are from the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) available at <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Homicide/Local/JurisbyJuris.cfm>.

Table 2.12. Characteristics of homicides reported by the Colorado Springs Police Department, 1985-2002

Year	% Gun	% Knife	% Other/Unknown
1985	53.8	7.7	38.5
1986	52.2	17.4	30.4
1987	66.7	6.7	26.7
1988	36.4	18.2	45.5
1989	55.6	11.1	33.3
1990	66.7	11.1	22.2
1991	50.0	15.4	34.6
1992	70.6	5.9	23.5
1993	63.2	10.5	26.3
1994	50.0	21.4	28.6
1995	55.6	11.1	33.3
1996	66.7	8.3	25.0
1997	56.3	31.3	12.5
1998	75.0	0.0	25.0
1999	75.0	12.5	12.5
2000	33.3	33.3	33.3
2001	42.9	28.6	28.6
2002	60.0	28.0	12.0

**Note:** Data are presented only for those years in which the number of homicides from the UCR is available and at least two-thirds of those homicides were reported in the SHR.

**Sources:** Number of homicides is from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Characteristics of homicides are from the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) available at <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Homicide/Local/JurisbyJuris.cfm>.

### Forcible rape

Unlawful sexual penetration by force or without legal or factual consent regardless of the victim's age, or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Only forcible rapes where the victim is a female are counted under this category.

#### Facts

- A 1998 confidential survey of Colorado men and women by the Department of Public Health and Environment found that 14 percent of women and 2 percent of men reported experiencing a completed rape at some point in their life.<sup>4</sup>
- The 1998 Colorado study estimated that fewer than 16 percent of rapes were reported to law enforcement.
- The National Violence Against Women study found that 21.6 percent of victims were younger than age 12 when they were first raped, and 32.4 percent were ages 12 to 17.

<sup>4</sup> Colorado Sexual Assault Prevention Program and the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (1999). *Sexual Assault in Colorado: Results of a 1998 Statewide Survey*. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Injury Epidemiology Program, Denver, Colorado.

(Forcible rape facts, continued)

- The NVAW study found that 3 percent of total rapes resulted in a conviction and 2 percent of total rapes resulted in incarceration.<sup>5</sup>
- The *Rape In America* study found that only 22 percent of the women were raped by strangers:<sup>6</sup>
  - 9 percent were raped by HUSBAND/EX
  - 11 percent were raped by FATHER/STEP
  - 10 percent were raped by BOYFRIEND
  - 16 percent were raped by OTHER RELATIVES
  - 29 percent were raped by OTHER NON-RELATIVES
  - 3 percent refused to answer

## Robbery

Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another, by force or threat of force.

### Facts

- Robbery rates in Colorado increased about 3 percent a year between 2000 and 2003.<sup>7</sup>
- Robberies accounted for 6.5 percent of the major offenses reported in Colorado in 2003.<sup>8</sup>
- A firearm was used in one-third of the Colorado robberies in 2003.<sup>9</sup>
- Nationwide in 2003, 74 percent of males and 43 percent of females were robbed by a stranger.<sup>10</sup>
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that about 60 percent of robberies were reported to police in 2000.<sup>11</sup>
- The NCVS found robbery was less likely to have been reported to the police when the victim thought the offender was a gang member.<sup>12</sup>

## Assault

Unlawful intentional inflicting, or attempted inflicting, of injury upon the person of another. Aggravated assault involves serious bodily injury or unlawful threat or attempt to inflict bodily injury or death by means of a deadly dangerous weapon with or without actual infliction of injury. Simple assault is the unlawful intentional inflicting of less than serious bodily injury without a deadly or dangerous weapon or an attempt or threat to inflict bodily injury without a deadly or dangerous weapon.

### Facts

- Nationally, about 3 percent of the nation's households experienced an aggravated or simple assault in 2000.
- After increasing for a few years in the early 1990s, the aggravated assault rate in Colorado was lower in 2003 than it was in 1980.<sup>13</sup>
- Although the size of the state population in Colorado increased by over 35 percent between 1980 and 2002, the raw number of assaults increased only 11 percent.<sup>14</sup>
- The 2000 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that 58 percent of aggregated assaults and 44 percent of simple assaults were reported to police.
- Survey respondents reported that violent crime was most often not reported to the police because it was considered a "private/personal matter," "was not important enough," or because it was "reported to another official."<sup>15</sup>
- Nationally, the aggravated assault rate in 2002 was one-third what it was in 1973. The simple assault rate in 2002 was nearly half of the 1973 rate.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes (2000). *Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*. National Institute of Justice and the Center for Disease Control. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 183781.

<sup>6</sup> Kilpatrick, D.G., Edmunds, C.N., & Seymour, A. (1992). *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*. National Center for the Victims of Crime Center and the Medical University of South Carolina Treatment Center. Charleston, South Carolina.

<sup>7</sup> Crime in Colorado 2003, Colorado Bureau of Investigations available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/default.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> Crime in Colorado 2003, Colorado Bureau of Investigations available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/default.htm>.

<sup>9</sup> Crime in Colorado 2003, Colorado Bureau of Investigations available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/default.htm>.

<sup>10</sup> Crime in the United States 2003, Federal Bureau of Investigations available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>.

<sup>11</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003), *Special Report: Reporting crime to the police, 1992-2000*, NCJ 195710.

<sup>12</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003), *Special Report: Reporting crime to the police, 1992-2000*, NCJ 195710.

<sup>13</sup> <http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/stats3.htm>.

<sup>14</sup> <http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/stats3.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003), *Special Report: Reporting crime to the police, 1992-2000*, NCJ 195710.

<sup>16</sup> FBI *Annual Crime Report*, 2003, preliminary findings.

## Burglary

Unlawful entry of any fixed structure, vehicle, or vessel used for a residence, industry, or business, with or without force, with the intent to commit a felony or a theft.

### Facts

- The burglary rate in Colorado in 2003 was one-third the rate it was in 1980.<sup>17</sup>
- Burglary rates in Colorado decreased by over five percent between 2002 and 2003.<sup>18</sup>
- Between 1994 and 2000, household burglaries decreased nationwide by over 40 percent.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that 53 percent of the nation's burglaries were reported to police in 2000.
- Nationally, 77 percent of completed burglaries in 2000 involved forced entry; for the remainder of the burglaries, entry was unlawful but not forced.

## Larceny-theft

Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property other than a motor vehicle from the possession of another, by stealth, without force and without deceit, with intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property. Larceny includes pocket picking and purse snatching.

### Facts

- Larceny and theft rates in Colorado were down 2002 by 36 percent between 2002 and 1980.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that 62 percent of purse snatchings and 28 percent of pocket picking was reported to the police in 2000.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that about one in ten households was victimized by theft in 2000, and urban respondents were more likely to report a theft than were rural respondents.
- Nationwide, larceny rates have been declining for many years.

## Motor vehicle theft

Unlawful taking or attempted taking of a self-propelled road vehicle owned by another, with the intent of depriving the owner of it permanently or temporarily.

### Facts

- The raw number motor vehicle thefts in Colorado nearly doubled between 1980 and 2002.
- The rate of MVTs per 100,000 residents increased from 448 in 1980 to 514 in 2002. However, the motor vehicle theft rate decreased in Colorado by nearly 7 percent between 2002 and 2003.
- Nationally, the 2002 motor vehicle theft rate was half the 1973 rate.
- Only 20 percent of vehicles are stolen between 6am and 6pm.
- 76 percent of MVTs are reported to police. Of these, about 45 percent of vehicles are recovered.

## Arson

Intentional damaging or destruction or attempted damaging or destruction by means of fire or explosion of the property without the consent of the owner, or of one's own property or that of another by fire or explosives with or without the intent to defraud.

### Facts

- 12 percent of arsons in 2003 in Colorado were residential. Nearly 18 percent of arsons targeted motor vehicles.
- The loss of property due to arson crimes in Colorado in 2003 was estimated at \$10,457,470.00.
- In Colorado, anyone can call 89-ARSON to reach the arson hotline 24-hours a day to provide tips to help arson investigators.
- Arson crimes are hard to solve – nationwide, only 16 percent of cases ended in arrests in 2002.<sup>19</sup>
- Vandalism is the leading cause of arson. An Insurance Research Council study suggests only 14 percent of arson suspects are motivated by a desire to defraud an insurance company but other studies find it higher. Between 20 and 25 percent of arson fires are drug-related.<sup>20</sup>
- Children are responsible for almost half of the arson fires set in the United States.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/stats3.htm>.

<sup>18</sup> Crime in Colorado 2003, Colorado Bureau of Investigations available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/default.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

Table 2.13. Colorado arson report, 2003

Property classification	Number of offenses	Value of property loss
Single family	184	\$1,535,901.00
Multi family	97	\$4,113,598.00
Storage facility	47	\$81,694.00
Industrial/ manufacturing	8	\$-
Commercial	60	\$1,838,671.00
Community or public	79	\$88,277.00
All other structures	46	\$181,431.00
Motor vehicles	273	\$1,606,328.00
Other mobile property	20	\$90,305.00
All other property	672	\$921,265.00
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,519*</b>	<b>\$10,457,470.00</b>

**Note:** \*The grand total includes 33 attempted arsons.

**Source:** Crime in Colorado 2003, Colorado Bureau of Investigations available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/supplemental\\_reports/arson.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/supplemental_reports/arson.htm).

(Arson facts, continued)

- According to the FBI, the nation as a whole had an arson rate of 32.4 per 100,000 people in 2002. Arson rates were highest in cities with populations of 250,000 or more, at 58.6 per 100,000 inhabitants, compared with all cities at 36.5. The arson rate for suburban counties was 27.0 and lowest for rural counties at 16.6. Arson in structures was the most frequently reported type in 2002, at 41.3 percent of the total, while mobile properties, composed of motor vehicles, trailers and the like accounted



Meet arson investigator Erin.

**Source:** Colorado Bureau of Investigation, available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/mc/arson\\_canine.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/mc/arson_canine.htm).

for 33.1 percent of arsons. Other types of arsons accounted for the remaining 25.7 percent.<sup>22</sup>

- CBI recently introduced another arson dog to the arson detection dog team. Originally CBI had only one arson dog, Erin, to protect the entire state. Now Spencer and his Agent Ellis will serve southern Colorado. These dogs are trained and certified in the detection of liquids that may be used to ignite fires.

### What do we know about victims of crime?

- In 2002 (the most recent year for which data are available), 3 percent of the households in the United States had a member age 12 or older that experienced one or more violent crimes as measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These crimes included rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault.
- Simple assault was the type of violent crime most often sustained.
- In 2002, 13 percent of households had a member age 12 or older that experienced one or more property crimes. Crimes measured were purse snatching and pocket picking, household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft. Theft was the most frequent type crime sustained.
- Between 1994 and 2002 the extent to which households experienced crime declined. About 1 in 7 households experienced one or more crimes in 2002, compared to 1 in 4 households in 1994.
- Households in urban areas (19 percent) were more likely to experience one or more crimes than suburban households (13 percent) and rural households (11 percent) in 2002.
- Compared to other regions, households in the West were more likely to be victims of crimes measured by the NCVS.

### Who are victims of crime?

The risk of victimization depends on a combination of factors.

- In general, the younger the person, the more likely they were to experience a violent crime.
- Except for rape/sexual assault, males had higher rates of criminal victimization than females for violent crime.

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>

Table 2.14. U.S. violent crime rates by age of victim, 1973-2003\*

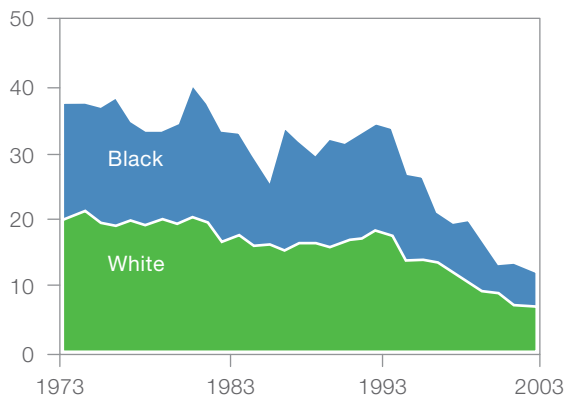
	Age of victim						
	12-15	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
1973	81.8	81.7	87.6	52.4	38.8	17.2	9.1
1974	77.5	90.6	83.5	58.6	37.5	15.5	9.5
1975	80.3	85.7	80.9	59.5	36.9	17.8	8.3
1976	76.4	88.8	79.7	61.5	35.9	16.1	8.1
1977	83.0	90.2	86.2	63.5	35.8	16.8	8.0
1978	83.7	91.7	91.1	60.5	35.8	15.0	8.4
1979	78.5	93.4	98.4	66.3	38.2	13.6	6.2
1980	72.5	91.3	94.1	60.0	37.4	15.6	7.2
1981	86.0	90.7	93.7	65.8	41.6	17.3	8.3
1982	75.6	94.4	93.8	69.6	38.6	13.8	6.1
1983	75.4	86.3	82.0	62.2	36.5	11.9	5.9
1984	78.2	90.0	87.5	56.6	37.9	13.2	5.2
1985	79.6	89.4	82.0	56.5	35.6	13.0	4.8
1986	77.1	80.8	80.1	52.0	36.0	10.8	4.8
1987	87.2	92.4	85.5	51.9	34.7	11.4	5.2
1988	83.7	95.9	80.2	53.2	39.1	13.4	4.4
1989	92.5	98.2	78.8	52.8	37.3	10.5	4.2
1990	101.1	99.1	86.1	55.2	34.4	9.9	3.7
1991	94.5	122.6	103.6	54.3	37.2	12.5	4.0
1992	111.0	103.7	95.2	56.8	38.1	13.2	5.2
1993	115.5	114.2	91.6	56.9	42.5	15.2	5.9
1994	118.6	123.9	100.4	59.1	41.3	17.6	4.6
1995	113.1	106.6	85.8	58.5	35.7	12.9	6.4
1996	95.0	102.8	74.5	51.2	32.9	15.7	4.9
1997	87.9	96.3	68.0	47.0	32.3	14.6	4.4
1998	82.5	91.3	67.5	41.6	29.9	15.4	2.8
1999	74.4	77.5	68.7	36.4	25.3	14.4	3.8
2000	60.1	64.4	49.5	34.9	21.9	13.7	3.7
2001	55.1	55.9	44.9	29.4	23.0	9.5	3.2
2002	44.4	58.3	47.6	26.4	18.2	10.7	3.4
2003	51.6	53.1	43.5	26.5	18.6	10.3	2.0

**Notes:** \*Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 and over. Because of changes made to the victimization survey, data prior to 1992 are adjusted to make them comparable to data collected under the redesigned methodology. Estimates for 1993 and beyond are based on collection year while earlier estimates are based on data year. Due to changes in the methods used, these data differ from earlier versions.

**Sources:** Rape, robbery, and assault data are from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The homicide data are collected by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR). Homicide estimates for 2003 are based on 2003 Preliminary Annual Release data.

- Overall, when comparing whites, blacks, and all persons of other races, blacks had the highest violent crime victimization rates. In 2002, per every 1,000 persons in that racial group, 28 blacks, 23 whites and 15 persons of others races were victimized by a violent crime.
- Blacks were disproportionately represented among homicide victims. In 1998, 4 whites, 23 blacks, and 3 persons of other races were murdered per 100,000 persons in each racial group.
- The rate of violent victimization of whites fell 29 percent and of blacks fell 38 percent, 1993-98. Over the same period, no measurable change in the victimization rates of American Indians or Asians occurred.

Figure 2.5. U.S. violent crime rates by race of victim, 1973-2003\*



**Notes:** \*Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 and over.

Serious violent crimes included are homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The National Crime Victimization Survey redesign was implemented in 1993. The data before 1993 are adjusted to make them comparable with data collected since the redesign. The adjustment methods are described in *Criminal Victimization 1973-95*. Estimates for 1993 and beyond are based on collection year while earlier estimates are based on data year. For additional information about the methods used, see *Criminal Victimization 2003*. Due to changes in the methods used, these data differ from earlier versions.

**Sources:** Rape, robbery, and assault data are from the *National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)*. Ongoing since 1972, this survey of households interviews about 75,000 persons age 12 and older in 42,000 households twice each year about their victimizations from crime. The homicide data are collected by the *FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)* from reports from law enforcement agencies.

*The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) mandated changes in the collection and reporting of race and ethnicity. Modifications implemented in 2003. See *Criminal Victimization 2003* for more information on the impact on survey estimates.*

### About the national data.

- Findings about rape, sexual assault, robbery and assault are from the *National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)*; findings about homicide are from the *Uniform Crime Reporting program of the FBI*.
- The time periods analyzed vary because the information was obtained from a variety of research reports.

- During 2002, 637,000 Hispanic persons age 12 or older were victims of rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault and simple assault.
  - Violence against Hispanics age 12 or older most often took the form of simple assault (58 percent).
  - Hispanic persons age 12 or older experienced 12 percent of all violent crime and made up 12 percent of the population.
  - Between 1993 and 2002 the rate of victimization against Hispanics fell 56 percent from 55 to 24 victimizations per 1,000.
  - In 1998, 110 American Indians, 43 blacks, 38 whites and 22 Asians were victims of violence per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in each racial group.

### College students and violent crime

In the past decade, special victimization studies have been undertaken on college campuses. Many violent crimes occurring on campus are not reported to the police. Student victims who did not report the crime they experienced to the police said it was because they considered the violence a private or personal matter.

- Female college students were about half as likely as were male college students to be victims of violent crime – an annual average of 47 violent crimes per 1,000 female students vs. 91 violent crimes per 1,000 male students.
- Female college students were substantially less likely to be victimized by a violent crime than were similarly aged women in the general population (47 per 1,000 vs. 78 per 1,000).
- Black and white college students also experienced lower rates of violent victimization than similarly aged non-students. Only Hispanic students experienced rates of violent victimization equivalent to those of the same age in the general population.
- College student victims of violence reported that the offender was perceived to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in 41 percent of



Table 2.15. Race of victim by victim's perception of offender's race, 1993-1998

Race of Offender	Percent of victims of violence			
	White	Black	Indian	Asian
White	66%	12%	58%	35%
Black	17%	76%	10%	26%
Other	9%	6%	25%	30%
Mixed races	3%	3%	4%	3%
Unknown	4%	4%	2%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Average annual victimization	8,298,140	1,480,970	134,460	178,880

**Note:** Percentages may not total 100 percent because of rounding.

**Source:** Violent Victimization and Race, 1993-1998, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, March 2001 available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/vvr98.pdf>.

incidents of violence which is about the same as for non-student victims.

- About six in 10 violent victimizations of college students involved an offender(s) not known to the victim.
- Violence against college students was less likely to be reported to police (34 percent of all victimizations) than violence against non-students (47 percent). Firearms were present in 9 percent of all violent victimizations against college students, including 7 percent of all assaults and 30 percent of all robberies.

- College or university teachers were victimized the least among occupations examined (2 per 1,000 college teachers).
- More than 80 percent of all workplace homicides were committed with a firearm. From 1993 to 1999 the number of workplace homicides declined 39 percent.
- Twelve percent of all workplace violence victims sustained injuries from the incident.
- During 1993-99, 84 percent of all workplace homicides were committed by offenders who were strangers to the victim, primarily during robberies or attempted robberies.

### Workplace violence

While working or on duty, U.S. residents experienced 1.7 million violent victimizations annually from 1993 to 1999 including 1.3 million simple assaults, 325,000 aggravated assaults, 36,500 rapes and sexual assaults, 70,000 robberies, and 900 homicides. Workplace violence accounted for 18 percent of all violent crime between 1993 to 1999.

- Between 1993 and 1999 in the United States, workplace violence accounted for 18 percent of all violent crime.
- In addition to the nonfatal violence measured by the NCVS, about 900 work-related homicides occurred annually.
- Between 1993-99, violent crime in the workplace declined 44 percent, compared to a 40 percent-decrease in the overall rate of violent crime.
- Of the occupations examined, police officers experienced workplace violent crime at rates higher than all other occupations (261 per 1,000 police officers).
- Others vulnerable to workplace violence included taxi-cab drivers, private security workers, and bartenders.

**The number of work-related homicides committed by a husband over the 7-year period was 40 times the number committed by a wife (122 versus 3, respectively).**

**Sources:**

Klaus, P.A. (2002). *Crime and the Nation's Households: 2002*, Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. (NCJ 201797).

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict\\_v.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict_v.htm).

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cnh02.pdf>.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/vvr98.pdf>.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/vvr98.pdf>.

Hart, T. C. (2003). *Violent Victimization of College Students*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. (NCJ-196143).

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/vvcs00.htm>.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/vw99.pdf>.

