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Buneau of Justice Statistics Special Recent



By Lisa D. Bastian BJS Statistician

From 1979 to 1986 the more than 18 million Hispanics in the United States suffered an average each year of 439,000 violent crimes (rapes, robberies, and assaults) and 830,000 personal thefts. In addition, households headed by a Hispanic had an annual average of 1.2 million burglaries, household thefts, or motor vehicle thefts.

These data come from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Survey (NCS), an ongoing survey of approximately 100,000 persons age 12 or older, interviewed twice a year in about 50,000 households. Other findings about Hispanic victims include the following:

• For the entire 1979-86 period, Hispanics experienced higher rates of victimization from violent crime than did non-Hispanics. For every 1,000 Hispanics age 12 or older, there were 11 robberies and 12 aggravated assaults; for every 1,000 non-Hispanics, there were 6 robberies and 10 aggravated assaults.

 The annual rate of violent crime committed against Hispanics dropped after 1983 from about 44 crimes per 1,000 to about 31 per 1,000 in 1985.

• Hispanics suffered a higher rate of household crimes — burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft — than did non-Hispanics. For the whole period there was an annual average of 266 household victimizations per 1,000 households headed by a Hispanic, compared to 205 crimes per 1,000 non-Hispanic households.

January 1990

Hispanics comprise the fastest growing ethnic or racial group in the United States. The National Crime Survey, the Nation's second largest ongoing household survey, sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, provides detailed information on how crime affects this important segment of our society. This report updates a BJS study of Hispanic victims published in 1981.

Perhaps the major finding of this analysis of NCS data for 1979-86 is that compared to other groups Hispanics are victimized particularly by robbery. The report presents a variety of findings on this and other crimes that Hispanics suffer.

> Joseph M. Bessette Acting Director

• The higher victimization rate for Hispanics can be partly explained by their being more likely than the rest of the population to have characteristics associated with high crime rates. For example, Hispanics tend to be younger, poorer, and more concentrated in cities than non-Hispanics; however, even when these differences are controlled for, Hispanics still had higher robbery victimization rates.

• The street was the most common place for violent crimes to occur. Forty-five percent of the robberies of Hispanics, 51% of the robberies of black victims, and 34% of the robberies of whites were on the street.

Hispanic victimization: Overview, 1979-86

	Average annual humber
Crimes of violence	438,639
Drimes of theft	829,865
lousenoid crimes	1,172,225
Neepons in violent crime	
ictimizations	
Victimizations involving	
aweapon	199,177
Robberies with a knife	29,369
Robberies with a gun	22,384
njuries in violent attacks*	
Senaus	23,750
Minor	105.896
Reporting victimizations to	
he police (all crimes)	
Victimizations reported	837.026
Victimizations not	
reported	1,579,186
Crimes of violence	e e it i i
Victimizations reported	211,063
Victimizations not	
reported	224,599
lumber of offenders in violent	
rimevictimizations	
Victimizations involving	
a single offender	253,076
Victimizations involving two	
or more offenders	178,168
Robberies	71,206
Aggravated assaults	53,829
- AB, at aton apparents	

tions in which the presence of injury was not ascertained. Victimizations were classified according to the most serious injury received.

• Hispanic victims of violent crime were more likely to be accosted by a stranger (65%) than were white victims (58%) or black victims (54%). Conversely, Hispanic victims were the least likely (12%), and blacks, the most likely (22%) to be accosted by someone well known to them. Overall, Hispanics were about as likely as whites and blacks to report a victimization to the police.

• Hispanic and black robbery victims were more likely to face an offender with a weapon (57% of each group) than whites (43%). Black robbery victims were the most likely to be confronted by an offender with a gun (29%), and Hispanics were the most likely to face a robber with a knife (25%).

Hispanics in the United States

Hispanics comprise about 8% of the total U.S. population. The Hispanic population is concentrated in nine States — California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona,

State of residence		
Total	100%	
California	34	
Texas	21	
New York	11	
Florida	8	
Illinois	4	
Arizona		
New Jersey	3	
New Mexico	3	
Colorado	2	
Other States	11 -	
Nation of origin		
Total	100%	
Mexico	62	
Puerto Rico	13	
Cuba Control and Couth	5	
Central and South America	10	
Other Hispanic	12 8	
Other Hispanic	D :	
Unemployment rate*	9%	
Educational attainment ^b		
Less than 5 years		
ofschool	12%	
Four years of high		
school or more	51	
Four years of college		
or more	10	
Size of family		
Total	100%	
Two persons	26	
Three persons	24	
Four persons	25	
Five persons	14	
Six persons	7	
Seven or more persons	5	

Source: The Hispanic population in the United States; March 1988 (Current Population Reports). Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

*Figures are based on the total Hispanic population 16 years old or older.

^bFigures are based on the total Hispanic population 25 years old or older. New Jersey, New Mexico, and Colorado. Nearly three-fourths of Hispanics live in the South or the West.

Immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries accounted for about a third of all newcomers to the United States from 1961 to 1987. In 1988 persons who traced their heritage to Mexico comprised 62% of all Hispanics in the United States. Those with a Puerto Rican heritage were 13% of the U.S. Hispanic population; Central and South Americans, 12%; Cuban Americans, 5%; and other Hispanics, Including persons descended from early Spanish colonists, 8%.

This report, based upon household interviews conducted for the NCS from 1979 to 1986, discusses characteristics of the Hispanic population in the United States in terms of criminal victimization. It examines the major crimes that Hispanics have sustained, the nature of crime situations, and how the victims responded to crime.

As used in this report, the term "Hispanic" is an ethnic category that can include persons of any race. In discussions where the non-Hispanic category has been broken down by race, members of the resulting categories are referred to as whites and blacks rather than white non-Hispanics and black non-Hispanics. Asians, Native Americans, or members of any other races have been excluded from these breakdowns (see *Methodology*).

Trends in crime rates

From 1979 to 1983 the annual average rate of violent crime committed against Hispanics age 12 or older was about 44 per 1,000; this rate began to decline in 1984 (table 1). In 1985 the rate dropped significantly, to 31 violent crimes per 1,000, and remained near this level through 1986. (Because the numbers in this report are estimates based on a sample, some apparent differences may reflect sampling variation. Any difference described reflects at least a 90% certainty that the difference is not the result of sampling variation. See *Methodology* for further discussion of reporting of significant differences.)

During this period the rate of violent crime committed against non-Hispanics fluctuated. The rate per 1,000 non-Hispanics age 12 or older dropped from 38 violent victimizations in 1979 to 36 in 1980 but rose again to about 39 in the year following. In 1983, a year earlier than the beginning of the decline in the violent crime rate for Hispanics, the rate for non-Hispanics dropped significantly and then declined slowly through 1986.

For Hispanics a fall in the rate of personal theft preceded the decline in the violent crime rate. The rate went down significantly in 1984 to 66 thefts per 1,000 Hispanics and remained near this level in 1985 and 1986. The personal theft rate for non-Hispanics dropped in several

Table 1. Victimization rates for personal and household crimes, by ethnicity, 1979-86

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Hispanics									
Crimes of violence	44	45	43	45	43	39	31	29	
Crimes of theft	84	78	88	88	74	66	61	66	
Household crimes	299	278	291	279	253	262	240	237	
Non-Hispanics			· ·	'					
Crimes of violence	38	36	39	38	34	34	32	31	
Crimes of theft	95	85	87	84	79	74	71	69	
Household crimes	242	233	231	213	194	181	177	172	

significant steps from 95 thefts per 1,000 in 1979. The level fell, first in 1980, then again in 1982, 1983, and 1984, declining to a low of 69 thefts per 1,000 in 1986.

In contrast to the personal crime victimization rates for Hispanics, the rates of household crime fluctuated, declining significantly in 1983, increasing slightly in 1984, and then dropping to a new low in 1985. In 1985 for every 1,000 households headed by a Hispanic, there were 240 burglaries, stolen vehicles, or household thefts. The rate of household crimes against non-Hispanic households declined from 242 crimes per 1,000 households in 1979 to a low of 172 per 1,000 in 1986.

Crime victimization rates for Hispanics and non-Hispanics

For the period 1979-86 Hispanics experienced higher violent crime rates than did non-Hispanics (table 2). Relative to their number, Hispanics were robbed or seriously assaulted more often than other persons. For every 1,000 persons age 12 or older, there were 11 robberies of Hispanics, compared to 6 of non-Hispanics. The 12 aggravated assaults per 1,000 Hispanics exceeded the rate of 10 assaults per 1,000 non-Hispanics.

Aggravated assaults involve either a weapon or a serious injury like broken bones, teeth knocked out, loss of consciousness, or an unknown injury requiring 2 or more days in the hospital. For the less serious simple assaults, the Hispanics' victimization rate dld not differ from that of non-Hispanics. Nor did Hispanics and non-Hispanics differ significantly in their rate of victimization by rape.

Hispanics from 1979 to 1986 had higher rates of victimization than non-Hispanics for household crimes: 266 household crimes per 1,000 households headed by a Hispanic versus 205 crimes per 1,000 non-Hispanic households. The rate of burglary was a fifth larger for Hispanic households than for non-Hispanic households. For every 1,000 Hispanic households there were 144 larceny thefts and 26 thefts of vehicles, while for every 1,000 non-Hispanic households there were 114 larcenies and 15 motor vehicle thefts.

Demographic characteristics of the Hispanic population in the NCS

During the 1979-86 period, 36% of the Hispanic population estimated by the NCS, compared to 26% of non-Hispanics, were older than age 11 and younger than age 25 (table 3). A fifth of the Hispanics, but nearly a third of the non-Hispanics, were age 50 or older.

Hispanics and non-Hispanics were concentrated in different categories of marital status and education. A higher percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics had never married (36% versus 29%). Less than half of all Hispanics had completed high school, compared to two-thirds of the non-Hispanics. Seventeen percent of Hispanics and 31% of non-Hispanics had attended at least 1 year of college.

About a third of non-Hispanic individuals had annual family incomes under \$15,000, but half of the Hispanics were at that level. About 17% of Hispanics and 31% of non-Hispanics were at the other end of the scale, belonging to families earning \$25,000 or more.

Table 2. Victimization rate, by type

Type of crime	Hispanic	Non- Hispanic
<u></u>		
Crimes of violence	39.6	35.3
Rape	1.0	1.0
Robbery	10.5	6.1
Aggravated assault	12.0	9.7
Simple assault	16.3	18.6
Crimes of theft Personal larceny	74.9	80.3
with contact Personal larceny	5.1	2.9
without contact	69.8	77.4
Household crimes	265,6	204.5
Burglary	95.4	75.3
Household larceny	143.9	113.8
Motor vehicle theft	26.2	15.4

Note: Characteristics of the victim are used for crimes of violence and theft; characteristics of the head of household are used for household crimes. Victimization rates are average annual victimization rates per 1,000 persons or households. Unemployed Hispanics accounted for 10% of the Hispanic population who belonged to the labor force; 7% of the non-Hispanics who worked for gain were unemployed. Thirty-four percent of Hispanics and 36% of non-Hispanics did not participate in the labor force; they were students, homemakers, retirees, persons unable to work for gain, or other nonparticipants.

Table 3. Selected demographic characteristics of Hispanic and non-Hispanic NCS respondents, 1979-86

Demographic characteristics	Hispanic	Non- Hispanic
Sex	4 C	
Total	100%	100%
Male	48	48
Female	52	52
Age		
Total	100%	100%
12-15	- 11	7
16-19	11	8
20-24	14 24	11
25-34 35-49	24 22	21
50-64	13	18
65+	6	14
Marital status*		
Total	100%	100%
Married	52	56
Widowed	4	7
Divorced		
or separated	9	- 8
Never married	36	29
Family income		
Total	100%	100%
Less than \$7,500	23	15
\$7,500-14,999	27	19
\$15,000-24,999	23	23
\$25,000-49,999	-14	24
\$50,000 or more	3	7
Notascertained	10	11
Education	1000	4000/
Total	100%	100%
0-8 years	38 20	17
9-11 years	20	35
12 years 1-3 years of college	25	16
	11	10
4 or more years of college	6	15
Not ascertained	- 1	1
Occupation		
Total	100%	100%
Labor force		
Employed	59	61
Unemployed	7	5
Non-labor force		
Homemakers	20	19
Students	5	4
Persons unable to v	vork 2	. 2
Retirees	3	7
Other	4 .	4

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Percentages are average annual percentages.

*The category "marital status not ascertained" is not displayed.

Less than half of the Hispanic households owned their homes; 57% rented.Two-thirds of non-Hispanic heads of households were home owners.

More than 1 of every 2 Hispanic households were located in a central city, compared to fewer than 1 in 3 non-Hispanic households (table 4). While 14% of Hispanic households were located in nonmetropolitan areas, 31% of non-Hispanic households were outside cities and their suburbs.

The relationship between persons having certain demographic characteristics and their likelihood of falling victim to crime has been shown in research by BJS and others.¹ For each characteristic discussed above, Hispanics were concentrated in those categories associated with higher crime rates. Compared to non-Hispanics, a larger percentage of Hispanics were —

- younger and less likely to be over age 50
- unmarried
- Iess well educated
- earning a low income
- nonprofessional, with a higher unemployment rate
- · renters rather than owners

• city dwellers instead of suburbanites or residents of nonmetropolitan areas.

Given the higher representation of Hispanics in high-crime-risk categories, when Hispanic and non-Hispanic victims with the same characteristics are compared, the Hispanics' higher overall rate of criminal victimization often disappears.

¹*The risk of violent crime*, BJS Special Report, NCJ-97119, May 1985.

Detailed examination of selected characteristics of Hispanic and non-Hispanic victims

For most crimes Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals sharing the same demographic characteristics had generally comparable victimization rates, except for robbery and, to a lesser extent, aggravated assault. Some support for and exceptions to this generalization can be found in an analysis of criminal victimization while taking into account education, employment, home ownership, and place of residence.

Education

Hispanics more often fell victim to robbery than did non-Hispanics, regardless of the victims' educational background (table 5). Among persons with less than a ninthgrade education, non-Hispanics suffered a higher rate of simple assault than Hispanics.

Table 4. Selected characteristics of Hispanic and non-Hispanic NCS households, 1979-86

Household characteristics	Hispanic	Non- Hispanic
Home ownership		
Total	100%	100%
Own	43	65
Rent	57	35
Location of residence		
Total	100%	100%
Central city	51	29
Suburban	35	40
Nonmetropolitan	14	31
Family income		
Total	100%	100%
Less than \$7,500	28	20
\$7,500-14,999	27	21
\$15,000-24,999	21	22
\$25,000-49,999	12	21
\$50,000 or more	2	5
Notascertained	10	11
Note: Detail may not t rounding. Percentage percentages.		

Table 5. Victimization rate, by type of crime, ethnicity, and educational attainment, 1979-86

				Col	ege	
	Elementary	Hig	n school		4 or	
Type of crime	school	9-11		1-3	more	
and ethnicity	0-8 years	years	12 years	years	years	
Crimes of violence*						
Hispanic	31.7	53.6	37.1	53.8	30.5	
Non-Hispanic	32.7	45.1	31.7	43.6	27.7	
Robberv						
Hispanic	11.0	12.4	8.9	12.1	5.6	
Non-Hispanic	6.8	8.0	5.4	6.4	4.5	
Aggravated assault						
Hispanic	7.8	18.1	12.7	15.6	9.4	
Non-Hispanic	7.5	13.6	9.4	12.0	6,4	
Simple assault						
Hispanic	12.3	21.9	15.0	24.7	15.3	
Non-Hispanic	17.6	22,2	16.1	23.9	16.3	
Crimes of theft					1	
Hispanic	52.6	81.6	81.2	111.1	104.7	
Non-Hispanic	63.9	80.4	70.0	103.0	99.1	
Personal larceny with contact						
Hispanic	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.5	4.1	
Non-Hispanic	2.8	2.8	2.5	3.2	3.4	
Personal larcony without contact						
Hispanic	47.3	76.8	76.3	105.6	100.7	
Non-Hispanic	61.1	77.6	67.5	99.8	95.8	

Note: Victimization rates are average annual victimization rates per 1,000 persons. Levels of educational attainment refer to the highest grade completed. The category "educational attainment

4

not ascertained" is not displayed.

*Include data on rape not shown as a separate category.

Occupation

Only Hispanics and non-Hispanics not in the labor force differed significantly in their rates of victimization for certain crimes (table 6). Of persons not in the labor force, for every 1,000 Hispanics there were 29 violent crimes; for non-Hispanics, 20 violent crimes. Hispanic homemakers were nearly twice as likely to have experienced violent crimes as non-Hispanic homemakers. Non-Hispanic students with a rate of 123 per 1,000 persons experienced significantly more thefts than Hispanic students (86 per 1,000).

Home ownership

Among those families who owned or were buying a home, Hispanics had higher rates of all household crimes than non-Hispanics (table 7.) For example, the Hispanics' rate of motor vehicle theft was about twice that that of non-Hispanic residence owners. Hispanics, whether owners or renters, were robbed relatively more often than non-Hispanics.

Location of household

Hispanic households in nonmetropolitan areas, suburbs, and central cites were victimized more often than non-Hispanic households (table 8). Hispanic households in central cities lost motor vehicles to theft at a significantly higher rate than non-Hispanic households (29 versus 24 per 1,000 households). In the suburbs, Hispanics, compared to non-Hispanics, had higher rates of households larcency and motor vehicle theft, while in the nonmetropolitan areas, households headed by Hispanics experienced burglary and larceny at rates higher than those of non-Hispanic households.

In central cities and suburbs, Hispanics were robbed more often than non-Hispanics, while non-Hispanics were more often the victims of personal theft. Table 6. Victimization rate, by type of crime, ethnicity, and employment status, 1979-84

	Crimes of	violence	Crimos	oftheft	
Employment		Non-		Non-	
status	Hispanic	Hispanic	Hispanic	Hispanic	
Labor force	48.0	42.4	89.4	96.1	
Employed	43.8	39.3	88.6	95.1	
Private sector	44.0	37.5	86.2	94.7	
Government	42.9	48.5	104.0	97.2	
Unemployed	84.8	84.1	97,1	108.2	
Non-labor force	29.4	19.8	51,3	47.4	
Homemakers	26.5	14.3	48.3	40.2	
Students	40.5	52.9	86.1	123.1	
Persons unable to wor	k 29.5	22.9	27.0	28.5	
Retirees	18.1	8.0	33.2	23.4	

Note: Victimization rates are average annual victimization rates per 1,000 persons.

Table 7. Annual rate of victimiza-

and home ownership, 1979-86				
Type of crime		olds that:		
and ethnicity	Owned	Rented		
Crimes of violence*				
Hispanic	28.4	50.5		
Non-Hispanic	23.8	63.2		
Robbery				
Hispanic	5.6	15.4		
Non-Hispanic	3.5	12.4		
Aggravated assault				
Hispanic	9.2	14.7		
Non-Hispanic	6.5	17.6		
Simple assault				
Hispanic	13.3	19.2		
Non-Hispanic	13.4	31.2		
Crimes of theft				
Hispanic	69.6	80.0		
Non-Hispanic	67.1	112.3		
Personallarceny				
with contact				
Hispanic	3.2	7.0		
Non-Hispanic	1.8	5.4		
Personal larceny				
without contact				
Hispanic	66.5	73.0		
Non-Hispanic	65.3	106.9		
Housenold crimes				
Hispanic	243.4	282.1		
Non-Hispanic	171.0	266.9		
Burglary				
Hispanic	78.9	107.8		
Non-Hispanic	60.7	102.6		
Household larceny				
Hispanic	140.1	146,7		
Non-Hispanic	98.4	142.4		
Motor vehicle theft				
Hispanic	24.3	27.7		
Non-Hispanic	12.0	21.9		

Note: Characteristics of the victim are used for crimes of violence and theft; characteristics of the head of household are used for household crimes. Victimization rates are average annual victimization rates per 1,000 persons or households. Include data on rape not shown as a separate category.

Table 8. Victimization rate, by type of crime, ethnicity, and location of residence, 1979-86

	Average annual crime rate of persons or households in: Nonmetro-				
Type of crime and ethnicity	Central city	Suburbs	politan area		
Crimes of violence* Hispanic Non-Hispanic	45.7 48.5	34.1 33.9	32.3 26.0		
Robbery Hispanic Non-Hispanic Aggravated assault	14.8 11.7	7.5 5.0	3.4 2.7		
Hispanic Non-Hispanic	12.9 13.1	10.6 9.1	12.2 7.7		
Simple assault Hispanic Non-Hispanic	17.0 22.2	15.5 19.0	16.0 14.9		
Crimes of theft Hispanic Non-Hispanic	78.1 96.7	75.6 85.9	82.1 59.2		
Personal larceny with contact Hispanic Non-Hispanic Personal larceny without contact Hispanic Non-Hispanic	7.5 6.1 70.5 90.6	3.3 2.2 72.3 83.7	1.0 1.1 61.1 58.2		
Household crimes Hispanic Non-Hispanic	277.0 263.7	259.1 196.3	239.8 160.5		
Burglary Hispanic Non-Hispanic	104.1 99.3	87.2 68.8	84.4 61.6		
Household larceny Hispanic Non-Hispanic Motor vehicle theft	143.7 140.8	144.3 112.0	143.7 91.2		
Hispanic Non-Hispanic	29.3 23.6	27.7 15.6	11.7 7.7		

Note: Characteristics of the victim are used for crimes of violence and theft; characteristics of the head of household are used for household crimes. Victimization rates are average annual victimization rates per 1,000 persons or households.

Include data on rape not shown as a separate category.

About half of Hispanic and black victims of violent crime faced armed offenders (45% and 49%, respectively), compared to about a third of whites (32%) (table 11). For robbery, 57% of Hispanics and blacks faced an armed offender, compared to 43% of whites. Black robbery victims were the most likely to be confronted by an offender with a gun (29%), and Hispanics were most likely to face an offender with a knife (25%).

Table 11. Presenc in violent crimes ,		pe of v	/eapons	3
Type of crime,				
presence and				
type of weapon	Hispanic	White	Black	_
Crimes of violence*				
Total	100%	100%	100%	
No weapon	48	61	42	
Weapon	45	32	49	
Gun	15	10	20	
Knife	15	8	14	
Other	13	12	13	
Weapon type				
unknown	2	2	2	
Notknown or not				
ascertained if armed	1 7	7	10	
Robbery				
Total	100%	100%	100%	
No weapon	33	44	30	
Weapon	33 57	43	30 57	
Gun	19	43 16	57 29	
Knife	25	15	16	
Other	- 11	10	10	
Weapon type				
unknown	2	2	2	
Notknown or not				
ascertained if arm	ed 9	11	12	
Aggravated assault	Ь			
Total	100%	100%	100%	
No weapon	3	6	3	
Weapon	97	94	97	
Gun	32	29	36	
Knife	27	22	27	
Other	34	39	30	
Weapon type			30	
unknown	4	4	3	
Notknown or not	**	4	3	
ascertained if arm	ed ^e		1	

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Although some respondents may have reported more than one weapon present, victimizations have been classified according to a hierarchy of weapons use: any gun present, any knife present, other weapon present but type not ascertained, no weapon, and not known or not ascertained if weapon present.

--Less than 0.5%.

^aInclude data on rape and simple assault not shown as separate categories.

^bInvolves attack with a weapon or attack without a weapon which results in serious injury.

^oEstimates for Hispanics and blacks are based on 10 or fewer sample cases; see *Methodology*. Like black victims, about a third of the Hispanics were robbed by a person having no weapon. Robbers of whites had no weapon 44% of the time.

Outcomes from violent crime

Hispanic, white, and black victims who were attacked sustained injuries of similar severity (table 12). When robbed and attacked, whites were more likely to be injured than blacks (64% versus 56%). No significant differences distinguished the racial or ethnic groups in the percentages of attacks resulting in serious injury.

Although whites were injured more often than blacks or Hispanics in an attack during a robbery, for all violent crimes resulting in injury, black victims more frequently

Type of crime		it of attack ms who v	
and injury	Hispanic	White	Black
Crimes of violence	•		
Total	100%	100%	100%
No injury	39	37	38
Injury	61	63	62
Serious	11	10	15
Minor	50	53	47
Robbery			
Total	100	100	100
No injury	41	36	44
Injury	59	64	56
Serious	12	14	13
Minor	47	50	42
Aggravated ass	ault ^b		
Total	100	100	100
No injury	27	23	22
Injury	73	77	78
Serious	27	30	33
Minor	46	48	45

Note: Subgroup percentages may not total to the overall category because of rounding. Figures exclude rape injuries, those victimizations in which the presence of injury was not ascertained, and violent victimizations involving threats but not attacks. Although some respondents may have reported more than one type of injury, victimizations have been classified according to the most serious injury received. Serious injury includes knife, gunshot, or bullet wounds; broken bones and teeth; internal injuries; being knocked unconscious; or other injuries requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. Minor injuries include bruises, cuts, scratches, black eyes, swelling, or other injuries requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Include data on rape and simple assault not

shown as separate categories.

^bInvolves attack with a weapon or attack without a weapon which results in serious injury.

received some type of medical care (table 13). Hispanics were no more or less likely than blacks or whites to receive medical attention, to receive care in an emergency room or hospital, or to stay overnight in a hospital.

Crimes against Hispanic, black, and white victims were reported to the police with

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Table 13. Presence care received by vic 1979-86	and type tims of v	e of me violent	dical crime,
Type of crime	Percen	t of injurl	oe ·
and medical care	Hispanic		Black
anamodicalcalc	mopunio	TT III C	
Onland a fullation and			
Crimes of violence	100%	100%	100%
Total	49	54	39
No care received	49	54	39
Medical care	51	46	61
received	51	40	D1
Outside an emer-			
gency room			
or hospital	23	23	24
In an emergency			
room or hospital	28	23	37
Did not stay	- 4	÷	
overnight	22	20	29
Stayed overnight	7	3	9
Robbery			
Total	100%	100%	100%
No care received	53	52	42
Medical care			
received	47	48	58
Outside an emer-			
gency room			
or hospital	20	22	25
in an emergency			
room or hospital	27	26	33
Did not stay			
overnight	21	20	28
Stayed overnigi	nt 7	5	5
, , , ,			
Aggravated assault ^b			
Total	100%	100%	100%
No care received	33	40	25
Medical care		-10	23
received	67	60	75
Outside an emer-	07	00	15
Outside an emer-			
gency room	25	23	00
or hospital	20	23	23
in an emergency	40	ó7	- 50
room or hospital	43	37	52
Did not stay		~~	
overnight	29	30	35
Stayed overnig	ht 13	- 7	17

Note: Subgroup percentages may not total to the overall category because of rounding. Although some respondents may have reported more than one type of medical treatment, victimizations have been classified according to a hierarchy based upon the most intensive treatment received.

*include data on rape and simple assault not shown as separate categories.

^bInvolves attack with a weapon or attack without a weapon which results in serious injury. Thus, a large share of aggravated assaults result in some type of medical care being received. About half of Hispanic and black victims of violent crime faced armed offenders (45% and 49%, respectively), compared to about a third of whites (32%) (table 11). For robbery, 57% of Hispanics and blacks faced an armed offender, compared to 43% of whites. Black robbery victims were the most likely to be confronted by an offender with a gun (29%), and Hispanics were most likely to face an offender with a knife (25%).

Table 11. Presence in violent crimos , 1	and ty 979-86	pe of v	/eapon:	3
Type of crime,				
presence and				
type of weapon H	ispanic	White	Black	_
Crimes of violence [®]				
Total	100%	100%	100%	
No weapon	48	61	42	
Weapon	45	32	49	
Gun	15	10	20	
Knife	15	8	14	
Other	13	12	13	
Weapon type				
unknown	2	2	2	
Notknown or not				
ascertained if armed	7	7	10	
Robbery				
Total	100%	100%	100%	
Noweapon	33	44	30	
Weapon	57	43	57	
Gun	19	16	29	
Knife	25	15	16	
Other	11	10	10	
Weapon type	• •	10	10	
unknown	2	2	2	
Notknown or not	-			
ascertained if arme	d 9	11	12	
asestanteanantie		.,		
Aggravated assault ^b				
Total	100%	100%	100%	
No weapon	3	6	3	
Weapon	97	94	97	
Gun	32	29	36	
Knife	27	22	27	
Other	34	39	30	
Weapon type				
unknown	4	4	3	
Notknown or not				
ascertained if arme	d°	~=	1	

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Although some respondents may have reported more than one weapon present, victimizations have been classified according to a hierarchy of weapons use: any gun present, any knife present, other weapon present but type not ascertained, no weapon, and not known or not ascertained if weapon present.

--Less than 0.5%.

^aInclude data on rape and simple assault not shown as separate categories.

^binvolves attack with a weapon or attack without a weapon which results in serious injury. ^cEstimates for Hispanics and blacks are based

on 10 or fewer sample cases; see Methodology.

Like black victims, about a third of the Hispanics were robbed by a person having no weapon. Robbers of whites had no weapon 44% of the time.

Outcomes from violent crime

Hispanic, white, and black victims who were attacked sustained injuries of similar severity (table 12). When robbed and attacked, whites were more likely to be injured than blacks (64% versus 56%). No significant differences distinguished the racial or ethnic groups in the percentages of attacks resulting in serious injury.

Although whites were injured more often than blacks or Hispanics in an attack during a robbery, for all violent crimes resulting in injury, black victims more frequently

Type of crime		nt of attack ms who v	
and injury	Hispanic	White	Black
Crimes of violence			
Total	100%	100%	100%
No injury	39	37	38
Injury	61	63	62
Serious	11	10	15
Minor	50	53	47
Robbery			
Total	100	100	100
No injury	41	36	44
Injury	59	64	56
Serious	12	14	13
Minor	47	50	42
Aggravated assau	llt ^b		
Total	100	100	100
No injury	27	23	22
Injury	73	77	78
Serious	27	30	33
Minor	46	48	45

Note: Subgroup percentages may not total to the overall category because of rounding. Figures exclude rape injuries, those victimizations in which the presence of injury was not ascertained, and violent victimizations involving threats but not attacks. Although some respondents may have reported more than one type of injury, victimizations have been classified according to the most serious injury received. Serious injury includes knife, gunshot, or bullet wounds; broken bones and teeth; internal injuries; being knocked unconscious; or other injuries requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. Minor injuries include bruises, cuts, scratches, black eyes, swelling, or other injuries requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Include data on rape and simple assault not shown as separate categories.

^bInvolves attack with a weapon or attack without a weapon which results in serious injury.

received some type of medical care (table 13). Hispanics were no more or less likely than blacks or whites to receive medical attention, to receive care in an emergency room or hospital, or to stay overnight in a hospital.

Crimes against Hispanic, black, and white victims were reported to the police with

Table 13. Presence care recelved by vic 1979-86	and type tims of v	e of me violent	dical crime,
Type of crime and medical care	Percen Hispanic		les Black
Crimes of violence [®]			
Total	100%	100%	100%
No care received Medical care	49	54	39
received	51	46	61
Outside an emer-	-		
gency room			
or hospital	23	23	24
In an emergency	20		
room or hospital	28	23	37
Did not stay			
overnight	22	20	29
Stayed overnight	7	3	9
Robbery			
Total	100%	100%	100%
No care received	53	52	42
Medical care			
received	47	48	58
Outside an emer-			
gency room			
or hospital	20	22	25
In an emergency			
room or hospital	27	26	33
Did not stay			
cvernight	21	20	28
Stayed overnig		5	5
		-	•
Aggravated assault ^b			
Total	100%	100%	100%
No care received	33	40	25
Medical care		-10	25
received	67	60	75
Outside an emer-		00	75
gency room			
or hospital	25	23	23
in an emergency	25	20	LU
room or hospital	43	37	52
Did not stay		57	JC
overnight	29	30	35
			17
Stayed overnig	11 13	7	14
	:		

Note: Subgroup percentages may not total to the overall category because of rounding. Although some respondents may have reported more than one type of medical treatment, victimizations have been classified according to a hierarchy based upon the most intensive treatment received.

^ainclude data on rape and simple assault not shown as separate categories.

^bInvolves attack with a weapon or attack without a weapon which results in serious injury. Thus, a large share of aggravated assaults result in some type of medical care being received. similar frequency (table 14). Crimes most often reported were crimes of violence; victims of all racial or ethnic groups reported about half the violent victimizations. About a quarter of all personal thefts were reported to the police. Motor vehicle thefts were reported by each group in the largest proportions.

Although relative to their population Hispanics were robbed more often than non-Hispanics, those robberies were reported to the police less frequently than robberies of either blacks or whites. Hispanics reported 47% of the robberies, compared to 57% for whites and 55% for blacks.

When violent crimes were not reported to the police, the victims most often gave as a reason that the crime was a private matter or that they considered it inconsequential (table 15). Fear of reprisal was least frequently given as a reason for not reporting these crimes.

Robbery victims most often cited lack of proof as the reason for not reporting a victimization to the police. Whites more than Hispanics or blacks failed to report robberies because they felt these victimizations were private matters (20% of whites who had not reported, 9% of Hispanics, and 15% of blacks). Similarly, 17% of white robbery victims who had not reported to the authorities said that the incldent was not important enough, compared to 12% of Hispanics and 13% of blacks.

Among nonreporting black and Hispanic victims of robbery, personal theft, and household crimes, comparatively similar

Table 14. Victimizations reported to the police, 1979-86

	Percent of v reported wh Hispanic		
Crimes of violence	48%	48%	52%
Rape	50	51	57
Robbery	47	57	55
Aggravated assau	ult 62	57	59
Simple assault	38	41	43
Crimes of theft Personal larceny	24	27	24
With contact	31	37	35
Without contact	24	27	24
Household crimes	36	38	40
Burglary	48	49	52
Household larcen	y 23	27	23
Motor vehicle the		69	75

percentages said that they did not call the police because they felt that the police would think the incident unimportant or would do little to respond.

Single-offender versus multipleoffender victimizations

During the 1980's gang activity appears to have increased, contributing to the street violence that exists in many central city neighborhoods. In some Hispanic communities, a majority of the male youth may at some time belong to a gang.³

The NCS does not gather data on the offenders' ethnicity or on gang violence as a separate category. It does, however, measure victimizations involving multiple offenders, which may represent the impact of gang activity.

Of the violent crimes, robbery most frequently involved multiple offenders, and Hispanics, as noted earlier, were more likely than blacks or whites to be robbed (table 16). Offenders in groups committed

³Ruth Horowitz, "Community tolerance of gang violence," *Social Problems*, 34:5 (1987), pp. 439-46.

		Not		Not	Police		Reported	
Type of crime		important	Lack	important	would		crime	Other
and race or ethnicity	Private	enough to	of	enough	not do	Fearof	to some-	and no
ofvictim	matter	respondent	proof	to police	anything	reprisal	one else	knowr
Crimes of violence ^b								
Hispanic	22%	20%	12%	11%	8%	7%	10%	29%
White	31	23	8	7	5	5	13	24
Black	26	20	-11	10	8	4	11	26
Robbery								
Hispanic	9	12	21	12	14	. 8	6	42
White	20	17	18	9	9	6	9	36
Black	15	13	20	13	14	5	7	38
Aggravated assault								
Hispanic	29	18	9	12	9	9	8	27
White	33	19	9	7	5	6	10	27
Black	30	20	. 9	9	8	5	10	23
Simple assault								
Hispanic	26	26	8	10	5	5	14	22
White	33	26	5	7	3	5	14	21
Black	30	25	7	8	4	3	14	20
Sular								
Crimes of theft	3%	27%	20%	10%	4%	1%	20%	37%
Hispanic								
White	4 5	32	21	7	3 4	••	21	35
Black	þ	24	22	9	4		21	34
lousehold crimes								
Hispanic	6%	28%	19%	12%	8%	1%	4%	42%
White	8	33	22	10	5	1	4	39
Black	9	25	22	12	7	1	5	42

Note: Some respondents may have cited more than one reason for not recording victimizations to the police. Therefore, detail will not total 100%. --Less than 0.5%.

*includes reasons given by respondents such as:

the police would be inefficient, ineffective, or insensitive.

^binclude data on rape not shown as a separate category.

Table 16. Number of offenders In violent crime victimizations, 1979-86

number of offenders His	spanic	White	Black
Crimes of violence			
Total	100%	100%	100%
Single offender	58	72	66
Two or more offenders	41	26	33
Notknown or			
notavailable	2	2	1
Rape			
Total	100%	100%	100%
Single offender	86	84	80
Two or more offenders	14 •	15	18
Notknown or			
notavailable	0	1	2
Robbery			
Total	100%	100%	100%
Single offender	39	53	45
Two or more offenders	61	45	54
Notknown or			
notavailable	*	2	1
Appravated assault			
Total	100%	100%	100%
Single offender	56	68	72
Two or more offenders	41	28	26
Notknown or			
notavallable	3	3	2
Simple assault			
Total	100%	100%	100%
Single offender	70	78	75
Two or more offenders	29	21	23
Notknown or			
notavailable	2	1	1

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

--Less than 0.5%.

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases; see Methodology.

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61% of the robberies of Hispanics, 54% of the robberies of blacks, and 45% of the robberies of whites. For aggravated assault as well as robbery, Hispanics relatively more often than whites or blacks fell victim to multiple offenders: 41% of the aggravated assaults against Hispanics, 28% against whites, and 26% against blacks. For simple assault by two or more persons, Hispanics and blacks did not significantly differ. There was some evidence, however, that a higher proportion of simple assaults by multiple offenders were against Hispanics than against whites.

Violent criminals were usually under age 30, but multiple-offender victimizations were particularly likely to involve very young offenders. Offenders under age 21 predominated in multiple-offender victimizations, except for aggravated assault (table 17). In multiple-offender victimizations, no ethnic or racial group was more likely to be victimized by offenders of any particular age.

Violent offenders and their victims tended to be similar in age. Black and white victims in each age range were confronted most frequently by an offender or offenders in the same category (table 18). This association also occurred for Hispanic victims up to the age of 29. However, Hispanics age 30 or older were about as likely to be victimized by an offender or offenders in their twenties (27%) as by offenders age 30 or older.

Table 17. Number and age of offenders in violent crime victimizations, 1979-86

		:	Perceived	age of offer	nders	4	
Type of crime, number of offenders, and race or ethnicity of victim	Total	Under 21	21-29	30 or over	Mixed ages	Not known or not ascertained	
Crimes of violence*							
Single offender	1000	0.00/	000	000		3%	
Hispanic victims	100% 100	32% 29	36%	29%		3%	
White Black	100	29 28	36 36	32 32		3	
Two or more offenders	100	20	30	32		3	
Hispanic victims	100	43	15	6	28	9	
White	100	41	17	6	28	8	
Black	100	39	15	7	28	11	
DIECK	100	39	10	1	20		
Robbery							
Single offender							
Hispanic victims	100%	44%	33%	17%		6%	
White	100	33	42	21		3	
Black	100	33	39	20		8	
Two or more offenders							
Hispanic victims	100	43	18	4	25	9	
White	100	40	19	6	25	10	
Black	100	40	15	7	25	12	
Aggravated assault							
Single offender							
Hispanic victims ^b	100%	26%	41%	32%		1%	
White	100 /8	26	37	35		3	
Black	100	25	35	39		2	
Two or more offenders	100	25				-	
Hispanic victims	160	39	11.	6	33	11	
White	100	36	17	7	33	7	
Black	100	29	14	8	34	14	
	100	20	14	Ň		14	
Simple assault						1	
Single offender							
Hispanic victims	100%	32%	34%	31%		3%	
White	100	30	35	33		2	
Black	100	30	36	32		3	
Two or more offenders						_	
Hispanic victims	100	48	15	7	24	5	
White	100	46	16	6	26	6	
Black	100	46	16	4	26	8	

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of

rounding.

^alinclude data on rape not shown as a separate category.

^bThe estimate for "not known or not ascertained" is based on 10 or tewer sample cases; see *Methodology*.

W-11- 40	Ages of victims and				4070 00
	A TOR AT VICTIME SAT	Attendere in	VICIONT Crimo	Victimizatione	1 u/u _xh

	. Perceived age of offenders						
Age and race or ethnicity of victim	Total	Under 21	21-29	30 or over	Mixed ages	Not known or not as- certained	Number of offenders unknown
Crimes of violence							
Age under 21							
Hispanic	100%	62%	16%	8%	9%	3%	1%
White	100	61	19	10	6	3	1
Black	100	60	18	10	7	5	1
Age 21-29							
Hispanic	100	21	38	21	14	4	1 *
White	100	17	45	25	9	3 -	. 1
Black	100	13	48	23	10	5	.1
Age 30 or over							
Hispanic	100	21	27	30	11	9	2
White	100	18	28	40	7	5	3
Black	100	17	22	40	10	9	2

Methodology

The NCS collects data on crime from a nationally representative sample of households. When a household is selected for inclusion in the sample, household members age 12 or older are interviewed every 6 months for 3 years. During each interview information is obtained about the personal victimizations, if any, experienced by the interviewee in the 6 months preceding the interview. One member, generally over age 18, is also designated the household respondent, from whom information is obtained about all crimes committed against the household during the preceding 6 months.

The NCS measures both attempted and completed incidents of rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault; personal thefts with and without contact; and the household crimes of burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft. In 1986 approximately 100,000 persons were interviewed in about 50,000 households.

In this report the Hispanic category includes all individuals of the following Spanlsh origins regardless of racial identity: Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban Central or South American, and any other Spanish origin. Non-Hispanics are individuals of any origin not listed above, including respondents for whom origin is not known or not ascertained.

Series crimes are three or more similar incidents that a victim cannot describe in detail separately. Series crimes are included in this report and counted as one victimization. The characteristics of the victimization are those of the most recent event in the series.

Estimation procedures

An incident is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims, while a victimization refers to the criminal act as it affects a single victim. Therefore, because personal crimes may have more than one victim, the number of victimizations is determined by the number of victims of the crime. With respect to household crimes, a household is the sole victim of that crime. Thus, in this report, data covering the period 1979-86 have been victim-weighted, using standard NCS weighting procedures, to obtain the national estimates presented. For a more detailed description of NCS estimation procedures, see appendix III of *Criminal victimization in the United States*, 1987 (NCJ-115524).

Reliability of comparisons

All comparisons made in this report were tested to determine whether the differences between groups were statistically significant. The comparisons are significant at the 90% confidence level; most are also significant at the 95% confidence level. Statistical significance at the 95% confidence level requires that the estimated difference between the values being compared is greater than twice the standard error of this difference.

Tables note when estimates are based on 10 or fewer sample cases; standard errors cannot be computed accurately for such estimates. It is particularly inadvisable to compare these with other estimates based on a small sample size.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Reports are prepared principally by BJS staff. This report was written by Lisa D. Bastian. Catherine J. Whitaker and Ida Hines provided statistical assistance. Thomas Hester edited the report. Marilyn Marbrook administered publication, assisted by Yvonne Boston, Tina Dorsey, and Jayne Pugh.

January 1990, NCJ-120507

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