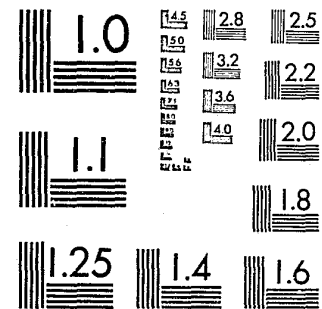


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CRIMINOLOGY

NCJ-

Criminal Victimization in the United States: A Description of Trends from 1973 to 1977. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 45 p. 1979.

Sponsoring Agency: National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, LEAA.

The National Crime Survey has collected data for 5 full years, from 1973 to 1977, making it possible to examine trends beyond year-to-year change. During this period, most of the crimes measured by the survey exhibited change that was statistically significant, either for all 5 years or for lesser time intervals. Assault, personal larceny without contact, and household larceny registered higher victimization rates in 1977 than in 1973. In contrast, personal larceny with contact, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft had lower rates in 1977, although only the decline for vehicle theft was clearcut. In addition to examining overall crime trends, this report deals with violence between strangers, violent crimes that resulted in serious injury to the victims, and the proportions of various crimes reported to the police. These findings are described in terms of common victim attributes, such as age, sex, and race. 16 charts, 17 tables.

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CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES

A Description of Trends  
from 1973 to 1977

A National Crime Survey Report  
SD-NCS-N-10

May 1979

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration  
National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

Henry S. Dogin, Administrator

Homer F. Broome, Jr.  
Deputy Administrator for Administration

Benjamin H. Renshaw  
Acting Assistant Administrator  
National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Richard W. Dodge, Crime Statistics Analysis Staff, Bureau of the Census, under the supervision of Adolfo L. Paez; statistical assistance was provided by Siretta L. Kelly. In the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, general supervision was supplied by Charles R. Kindermann, assisted by Patsy A. Klaus. Collection and processing of the data used in this report were conducted in the Bureau of the Census under the general supervision of Marvin M. Thompson, Demographic Surveys Division, assisted by Linda R. Murphy and Robert L. Goodson. The report was reviewed for technical matters in the Statistical Methods Division, under the supervision of Margaret E. Schooley, assisted by Myron J. Katzoff, Lawrence Altmayer, and Masato Asanuma.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

United States. National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service.

Criminal victimization in the United States.

(A national crime survey report. Report No. SD-NCS-N-10).

1. Victims of crime--United States. 2. Crime and criminals--United States. I. Title. II. Series  
HV6791.U55 364 75-619157

Preface

This report is another in the series based on data from the National Crime Survey. The survey provides criminal justice officials and policy makers as well as the general public with new insights into crime, its victims, and the impact of criminal behavior on society. It also furnishes profiles of victims and, for certain sectors of society, indicates the relative risk of being victimized. Victimization surveys, such as the National Crime Survey, distinguish between stranger-to-stranger crime and domestic violence, and between armed and strong-arm assaults and robberies. They can tally some of the costs of crime in terms of injury or economic loss sustained, and they provide a basis for understanding why certain criminal acts are not reported to law enforcement authorities. The National Crime Survey is designed, carried out, and analyzed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

To provide a perspective on underlying trends, the discussion in this report centers on changes in victimization rates during the 1973-77 period for those crimes of major interest to the public. Previous studies have focused on year-to-year changes in the rates at which persons age 12 and over and households across the Nation have been victimized. Although changes occurring between 1976 and 1977 are outlined in this report (and detailed tables are presented in Appendix I), the main emphasis is to describe longer range trends.

The data in this report are derived from personal interviews with a representative national sample of individuals residing in approximately 60,000 households. The survey focuses on crimes that victims are able and willing to report to interviewers. For individuals, these are rape, robbery, assault, and personal larceny; and for households, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. (The commercial portion of the National Crime Survey, which measured burglary and robbery against business establishments, was suspended during 1977.) Murder and kidnaping are not covered. Neither are commercial crimes nor the so-called victimless crimes, such as drunkenness, drug abuse, or prostitution. Nor are crimes of which the victim may be unaware, such as buying stolen property, or crimes in which the victim has shown a willingness to participate in illegal activity, such as gambling.

Eliminated from consideration are crimes reported as occurring to U.S. residents outside the country and those involving foreign visitors to this country; it can be assumed, however, that the number of such crimes is extremely small. Also excluded from this report are "series victimizations." These are groups of three or more similar crimes incurred by a victim unable to identify separately the details of each event, such as the specific time and place of occurrence.

Attempts to compare information in this report with data collected from police departments by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and

published in its annual report, Crime in the United States, Uniform Crime Reports, should only be made with the understanding that there are substantial differences in coverage between the survey and police statistics. A major difference arises from the fact that police statistics on the incidence of crime derive principally from reports that persons make to the police, whereas survey data include crimes not reported to the police, as well as those that are brought to official attention. Personal crimes covered in the survey relate only to persons age 12 and over; police statistics include victims of all ages. The survey does not measure some offenses, e.g., homicide, kidnaping, white-collar crimes, and crimes against commercial establishments that are included in police statistics, and the counting and classifying rules for the two programs are not fully compatible. Moreover, unlike the crime rates developed from police statistics, which are based on incidents, those cited in this report are based on victimizations. A victimization is a specific criminal act as it affects a single victim. For crimes against persons, the number of victimizations is somewhat greater than the number of incidents because some crimes are committed simultaneously against more than one victim.

All data in this report are estimates and are subject to errors arising from the fact that the information was obtained from a sample survey rather than a complete census and to errors associated with

the collection and processing of data. The sources of error and technical data on survey design and estimation procedures are given in Appendix II.

Unless appropriately qualified, all statements in this report have met the statistical test that the differences were at least equal to 2.0 standard errors, or, in other words, that the chances were at least 95 out of 100 that a difference did not result solely from sampling variability. Statements qualified by such phrases as "less conclusive," "apparent," and "marginal" have met the statistical test that the differences were between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors, or that the chances were at least 90 out of 100 that a difference did not result solely from sampling variability. Such phrases are also used in statements that are footnoted to indicate the differences were between 1.4 and 1.6 standard errors, or at a minimum confidence level of 84 percent. Usually, apparent differences that did not meet these criteria have not been discussed; where they are discussed, the differences are explicitly identified as lacking statistical significance by the use of such terms as "no significant change," "stable," and "apparently unchanged." The use of such words as stable and unchanged in discussing differences in rates or percents between years should be understood in the strict sense of having no statistical significance; it does not mean that they are necessarily the same or even very close together.

The majority of the comparisons in this report are between a victimization rate (or a percent involving weapons use or reporting to the police) for a specific crime in one year and its rate in another year. These comparisons are either for crime totals or, within a given category of crime, for various population groups (e.g., females, persons age 12-15, married persons, etc.). No statement is made with regard to the relative size of a change in the rate or percent for one crime as compared with that for another, and none is implied.

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General trends

Except for rape, all major categories of crime registered significant changes in incidence over the 5 years for which National Crime Survey data have been collected (see chart 1). Assault, personal larceny without contact, and household larceny registered significantly higher victimization rates in 1977 than in 1973. In contrast, robbery,\* personal larceny with contact, household burglary,\* and motor vehicle theft had lower rates in 1977, although only the decline for vehicle theft was clearcut.

The following analysis identifies trends in crime victimization rates within the period 1973 to 1977. In general, a trend is defined as a significant upward or downward movement in rates extending throughout all or most of this period. That is to say, a victimization rate for a particular crime was significantly higher (or lower) at the end of a period than it was at the beginning, although the intermediate points might not all necessarily have been different from one another or from the end points, and occasionally might even fall outside the general direction of the trend. Exceptions to this definition included 1-year reversals of a 4-year trend which might indicate a turning point, or a combination of significant upward or downward movements in rates, i.e., a significant increase from 1973 to 1975, followed by a significant decline from 1975 to 1977. As

more annual National Crime Survey data are accumulated, significant trends can be more readily discerned and more sophisticated trend analyses can be performed.

The discussion ignores crimes for which there was essentially no change or measurable change was confined to a single year, i.e., household larceny, which increased substantially between 1973 and 1974 and has remained more or less stable ever since. The analysis of crimes of violence is limited to assault and robbery victimizations between strangers, since these represent the greater law enforcement problem. Other ways of looking at violence, by tracing patterns of injury and hospitalization, are examined. Personal larceny with and without contact and burglary all show long-range trends that are described. Concluding this presentation of crime data is a discussion of trends in the use of weapons in crimes of violence and in the proportion of various crimes reported to the police.

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#### Personal crimes of violence

Victims of crime who are injured during the commission of the crime are clearly a matter of great concern to the general public and to the agencies of law enforcement. Significant physical injuries occur in a relatively small proportion of all reported victimizations by crimes of violence. Of the 5,900,000 victimizations from crimes of violence reported in the National Crime Survey in 1977, 910,000 cases involved injury arising from rape (both completed and attempted), robbery involving serious assault, and aggravated assault resulting in injury. While trends are difficult to identify, two clearcut changes occurred during the 1973-77 period: a decrease in the injury rate between 1975 and 1977 for blacks victimized by strangers, and a lowering of the rate of injury from 1976 to 1977 for black females. The other changes were of a less conclusive nature: \* a decline from 1976 to 1977 in the incidence of injury, among persons of Hispanic origin, and for men in the same ethnic category.

Indications of a decline in serious personal crime were supported by data on the rate of hospitalization. The proportion of all victims of crimes of violence who received hospital treatment,

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either in the emergency room or through regular admission, although showing no change from 1973 to 1975, dropped significantly from 1975 to 1977. However, a less refined measure, the proportion of personal crime victims who needed medical attention, did not change in a meaningful way.

Victimization rates for assault and robbery moved in opposite directions between 1974 and 1977. Assault rose about 8 percent during this period, mainly because of an upward trend in the rate for simple assault, whereas the rate for robbery declined 13 percent. Exclusive of incidents where the offender was related to or acquainted with the victim, the overall victimization rate for assault exhibited a marginal increase between 1975 and 1977,\* whereas simple assault rose markedly from 1974 to 1977. In contrast, stranger-to-stranger robbery showed a definite decline between 1974 and 1977.

Trends in victimization rates for assault by strangers varied considerably by age (chart 2). The clearest trend was an increase throughout the 5-year period for persons 25 to 34 years old. A less conclusive rise in victimization was reported by 16- to 19-year-olds from 1973 to 1976.\* In contrast, two other age groups, those 12 to 15 and 20 to 24, gave some indication of a falling victimization rate between 1973 and 1976, although the older group displayed a definite rise from 1976 to 1977. The only significant change for persons 35 and older was an apparent decline between 1975 and 1977

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in assault victimizations for those 50 to 64. A marginal decline in this same age group was the only significant trend exhibited by females.\* Males, on the other hand, displayed a number of changes over the years under study (chart 3).

Declines in stranger-to-stranger robbery, in addition to the overall decrease from 1974 to 1977, were registered by both whites and blacks, among males more so than females, and in general at the lower end of the age scale. Whites and blacks (as well as males of each race) recorded lower victimization rates over the 1974 to 1977 period, although the change for blacks was less definite (chart 4). Males clearly were less victimized by strangers in 1977 than was the case in 1974, but the experience of females did not show a definite trend. Examination of robbery victimizations of men reveals that the declines were concentrated essentially in the three youngest age groups (chart 5). Males 20-24 showed a decrease in victimization from 1973 to 1977, with younger men registering declines for shorter intervals. The only age category of women to show significant change were those age 20 to 24, who reported a drop in victimization during the 1975 to 1977 time interval. Although persons 50 and above tend to have much lower victimization rates from crimes of violence than younger persons, there was an apparent decrease in victimization of the elderly (65 and over)

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by robbery between 1975 and 1977. There was also a suggestion of declining victimization among men in the 50 to 64 year age category in the 1975 to 1977 time period.\*

#### Personal crimes of theft

Victimization rates from personal larceny without contact, the principal component of crimes of theft, increased throughout the 1973 to 1977 period, recording an overall rise of about 8 percent. This upward trend was evident in the 25 to 34 and 35 to 49 age groups and also, from 1973 to 1976, in the experience of those 50 to 64 (chart 6). In contrast, noncontact larceny victimizations of 12- to 15-year-olds declined throughout the 5-year period. Although males as a group showed no clear trends, breakdowns by age indicated movement in varying directions (chart 7). Increasing victimization rates were reported for 35- to 49-year-olds from 1973 to 1977 and for those 50 and over for part of the period. Men in the 25 to 34 year age group displayed a rising trend from 1973 to 1975, but this was followed by some indication of a decline.\* In the two youngest age categories, the movement was generally down, although 16- to 19-year-olds registered a qualified increase between 1976 and 1977.\* Women showed an increase in victimization rates from personal larceny without contact between 1973 and 1977 (chart 8). This

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trend was strongly supported by the experience of women in the age groups from 20 to 49. In this connection, it is interesting to note that while the total number of women in this age range increased by 8 percent from 1973 to 1977, there were 20 percent more women 20 to 49 in the civilian labor force in 1977 than there were in 1973.\*\* It is conceivable that this substantial movement of women into the labor force placed many of them in situations where they were more vulnerable to personal larceny, as, for example, in offices or other workplaces. Increases in personal larceny without contact for briefer periods were shown by females 50 to 64 and 65 and over, although the latter increase was not conclusive. As with men, the two youngest age groups reported generally declining rates--throughout the period for 12- to 15-year-olds and an apparent decrease from 1975 to 1977 for those 16 to 19.\* Persons of Hispanic origin displayed an increase in victimization from personal larceny without contact from 1975 to 1977, as did Hispanic females. Black females showed some indication of increased victimization rates during the period from 1974 to 1977, with black males reporting a marginal increase from 1973 to 1975, but no significant trend thereafter.

Personal larceny with contact, which is comprised of pocket picking and purse snatching, declined from 1974 to 1977. There was some indication of a decrease over the same period for males, with females showing an apparent falling victimization rate from 1975

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to 1977 (chart 9).\* Males in the 25 to 34 age bracket reported a lower rate in 1977 than was true of 1974. The only other age group to register significant change was the elderly, with an apparent declining victimization rate from 1974 to 1977.

#### Burglary

The serious household crime of burglary declined about 5 percent between 1974 and 1977, as measured by the victimization rate. Mirroring the overall decrease in burglary victimization was the decline in the same period for white households. Households headed by elderly persons 65 and older registered a marginal decrease in burglaries over the entire 1973 to 1977 period (chart 10).\* The only other age group to report a significant change were persons 35 to 49, with a decrease between 1975 and 1977.

Among the subcategories of burglary, unlawful entry was lower in 1976 than it had been in 1974. An apparent slight rise between 1976 and 1977 was not significant, and, in fact, the 1977 victimization rate for unlawful entry was still down significantly from the 1974 figure. Renters experienced a drop in unlawful entry between 1973 and 1976, with no meaningful change between 1976 and 1977. In the more serious category of forcible entry, although there were no trends in the rates for all persons, renters had

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apparently lower rates in 1977 than in 1974. Black renters experienced a decline during the same period, whereas blacks in general reported a declining trend from 1973 to 1977, although neither of these findings was conclusive. Black owners exhibited a significant drop in forcible entry burglary between 1973 and 1975, with no discernible trend after that date. No significant trends were evident for attempted forcible entry.

#### Weapons use

There was evidence of a decline in the use of weapons in the commission of crimes of violence during the 5 years under study. Use of any weapons in victimizations involving crimes of violence was down from 1974 to 1977, as was the proportion of victimizations in which firearms were used. Firearms also constituted a declining share of all weapons used in victimizations during this time period. No significant trends were observed in weapons use in conjunction with robbery or its subcategories. By definition, the direct involvement of weapons in assaults results in the victimization being classified as aggravated assault. The proportion of weapons present in aggravated assaults is very high--averaging about 95 percent in the 5 years covered in the National Crime Survey. Although this ratio has remained essentially unchanged, there was a measurable decrease in the employment of firearms between 1974 and 1977, whether considered as a percentage of all aggravated assaults or of those in which a weapon was present.

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The observed declines in weapon use affected all age classes of victims, but not in uniform ways (chart 11). Focusing on crimes of violence as a whole, the most pervasive trend was apparent among victims 20-34 years old, where weapons use declined from 1974 to 1977 for all three categories: weapons as a proportion of all victimizations, the percent of all victimizations in which firearms were used, and the percent of firearms used in victimizations where a weapon was in evidence. (The decreased use of firearms as a proportion of all weapons extends back to 1973.) Decreases in overall weapons use were observed in other age groups. For example, among 12- to 19-year-olds, the percent of weapons use in 1977 was below the 1973 level, whereas victims 35 to 49 experienced a lower percentage of weapons use in incidents of violent crime in 1977 than in 1974. Moving contrary to the general trend were persons 50 years and above, who exhibited an apparent increase in the proportion of victimizations in which weapons were used between 1973 and 1976.\* The decrease between 1976 and 1977 was marginal.\* Victims in this same age group were subjected to an apparent increased use of firearms from 1973 to 1975,\* but the percentage of such use declined thereafter.

#### Reporting crimes to the police

Significant trends in reporting crimes to the police were evident among victims of assault, personal larceny without contact, burglary, and household larceny (chart 12). The other crimes did not exhibit

trends in overall police reporting rates, although they did so in selected population groups.

The proportion of total assault victimizations reported to the police rose about 9 percent from 1973 to 1976, but fell between 1976 and 1977 (chart 13). Reported victimization rates for males from all assaults behaved in similar fashion, although the increase in reporting from 1973 to 1976 was not conclusive. This same pattern of long-term increase followed by a 1-year reversal characterized police notification rates for aggravated assault, but simple assault showed no significant trend. Examination of specific age groups indicates that these trends were concentrated for the most part among victims under 35. This was especially true for victims of aggravated assault, where the trend for persons 20 to 34 paralleled that for all assault victims, and there was less conclusive evidence of a similar trend for 12- to 19-year-olds.\* Victimization from simple assault exhibited an apparent upward movement in reporting rates from 1973 to 1976 among 12- to 19-year-olds.\*

Black teenagers showed an increasing tendency to report assault victimizations to the police between 1973 and 1976, but there was no significant change from 1976 to 1977. There was no similar long-term trend for young whites. Among the older age groups, the longest observable trend in reporting assault victimizations was a qualified increase from 1974 to 1977 in the rate for men 50 to 64.\*

There were only a few trends of measurable significance in the percent of robbery victimizations reported to the police during the period from 1973 through 1977. The bulk of these involved persons 50 years of age and older. There was some indication of a decline in police reporting in the robbery without injury category by persons 50 to 64 between 1974 and 1977.\* Blacks in this age group exhibited a marginal decrease in the rate at which they notified the authorities between 1975 and 1977.\* On the other hand, an apparent upward trend in police reporting was noted over these 2 years for females 20 to 34 and males 65 and over.

There was a clearcut pattern in the proportion of personal larcenies without contact that were reported to the police during the 1973 to 1977 period. The trend for all such larcenies was a 21-percent rise in reporting from 1973 to 1976 and a reversal between 1976 and 1977 amounting to about 7 percent (chart 14). This same general trend was exhibited by females and 20- to 34-year-olds. Persons 50 to 64 increased their reporting between 1973 and 1976, but there was no evidence of a meaningful decline from 1976 to 1977. A slightly different pattern, increased reporting rates from 1973 to 1975 coupled with decreases between 1975 and 1977, was found for 12- to 19-year-olds, persons 35 to 49, and all males.

There were somewhat fewer significant trends in police reporting rates among black victims of personal larceny, even though the general pattern was remarkably similar to that for all persons. The difference is accounted for by the larger standard errors associated with the smaller group of black victims. Overall, blacks reported more personal larceny victimizations to the authorities in 1975 than was the case in 1973, but the decline between 1975 and 1977 was less conclusive. Blacks in the two youngest age groups showed an apparent increased reporting rate from 1973 to 1975,\* with both groups experiencing a significant decline between 1975 and 1977. In the 35- to 49-year-old age category there was a marginal rise in reporting by blacks from 1973 to 1976, but the apparent decline subsequently was not significant.

Reporting to authorities by victims of personal larceny with contact showed almost no meaningful change. Analysis is hampered by the low incidence of this crime. An apparent gradual rise in police reporting overall from 1973 to 1977 was not even significant at the 1 standard-error level, well below the minimum level of acceptability. Breakdowns of victims of personal larceny with contact by age, sex, and race revealed only an apparent decrease in black reporting between 1975 and 1977.\* An ostensible trend in the opposite direction in white reporting rates for the same period was not significant.

Turning to the household crimes of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft, there was an apparent increase in the proportion of burglaries that came to police attention over the 1973 to 1977 period. However, the most persistent trend was an increase in the rate at which burglaries were reported to police by homeowners, which amounted to about 7 percent during this period from (chart 15). White homeowners exhibited a similar trend. Blacks, on the other hand, showed an apparently lower reporting rate in 1977 over the 1975 figure,\* as did black renters. Unlawful entry was the only subcategory of burglary to display an overall trend: a rising reporting rate from 1974 to 1977, although the evidence for this was not conclusive.\* There was also some indication of increased reporting by homeowners over this period. The only observable trend for victimizations resulting from forcible entry was an increase in reporting to the police from 1973 to 1975 by black homeowners, followed by an apparent decline between 1975 and 1977.\* There was some indication of a decrease in the rate of police notification by white victims of attempted forcible entry from 1974 to 1977.\*

The dominant trend in the reporting of household larceny victimizations to the police was an increase in the rate from 1973 to 1975, succeeded by a decline in the next 2-year period (chart 16). This pattern held true for all household larceny victimizations and for those experienced by homeowners, although in neither case was the drop from 1975 to 1977 conclusive. There was some indication of a decrease in reporting among black renters between

1975 and 1977, but an apparent increase in the earlier period was not significant. Homeowners displayed a tendency to report attempted household larcenies at increasing rates between 1973 and 1976;\* a lower rate in 1977 did not represent a meaningful change. The only trends observable in the reporting of motor vehicle thefts to the authorities were a marginal decrease among renters in the 1975 to 1977 period,\* and an apparent drop registered by black renters.

General findings for 1976 to 1977 change

Assault was the only major crime measured by the National Crime Survey to show a definite change in the rate of victimization between 1976 and 1977, increasing by 6 percent. This increase was concentrated in the subcategory of simple assault, which rose 9 percent, whereas there was no measurable change in the victimization rate for aggravated assault. There was no significant change in victimization rates for the other major crimes included in the survey--rape, robbery, personal and household larceny, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Unlike the pattern in 1975-76, there was no real change in the use of weapons during personal confrontation crimes, or in the proportion of firearms in all incidents where weapons were employed. In three of the major crimes there was a significant change between 1976 and 1977 in the rate at which the police were notified--and all of these changes were declines. Reporting of assault offenses to the authorities dropped 8 percent and was primarily centered among victims of aggravated assault. The other decreases in police reporting were in the two most common crimes, personal larceny without contact and household larceny, where the changes in 1977 were, respectively, 7 percent and 6 percent below 1976 levels. Significant 1976-77 changes in victimization rates among various subgroups in the population may be found by consulting the tables in Appendix I.

Footnotes

\*Significant at the 84 percent confidence level.

\*\*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 20, No. 4 and Vol. 24 No. 11

Appendix I  
Survey data tables

The statistical data tables in this appendix contain selected data for the United States from the National Crime Survey comparing 1976 with 1977. There are also two tables depicting changes from 1973 to 1977.

o Tables 1-7 present data on changes in victimization rates for crimes against persons.

o Tables 8-12 provide information on changes in household victimization rates.

o Tables 13 and 14 present information on changes in the proportion of all weapons and of firearms used in direct contact incidents.

o Table 15 portrays changes in the reporting of crimes to the police for the two sectors--persons and households.

o Tables 16 and 17 indicate changes in victimization rates from 1973 to 1977 for the personal and household sectors.

All statistical data gathered by the survey are estimates, which vary in their degree of reliability and are subject to errors associated with the fact that they were developed from a sample survey rather than a complete enumeration. The constraints on interpretation and other uses of these data, as well as guidelines for determining their reliability, are set forth in Appendix II. As a general rule, however, estimates based on zero or on about

10 or fewer sample cases have been considered unreliable, although the standard error of these estimates for 1976-77 change can be determined from the formula given in Appendix II, if desired. Such estimates, qualified by footnotes to the tables, were not used for analytical purposes. The minimum reliable estimates are 10,000 for all tables.

All changes have been computed from unrounded rates and percentages. The resulting percent change has been rounded to one decimal point, as have the rates or percents on which the change was based. Tables 1 and 8, the basic tables for the personal and household sectors, respectively, contain confidence intervals for each percent change, as do the comparable tables for 1973 to 1977 change. Confidence intervals are also indicated on Table 15 for changes in reporting to the police for the two sectors. These intervals are expressed as percentage points at the 1 standard-error level.

Significant changes on all data tables are indicated by either one asterisk, denoting a change at the 2 standard-error level, or two asterisks, for a change at the 1.6 standard-error level. Tables 16 and 17, depicting change from 1973 to 1977, also indicate change at the 1.4 standard-error level by three asterisks.

Each table also contains estimates of the size of every relevant group upon which the rates are based. These estimates reflect adjustments to independent estimates of the population.



Appendix II  
Information on the sample  
and the reliability of the estimates

Survey results contained in this report are based on data gathered from persons living in households throughout the Nation and from persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Crews of merchant vessels, Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks, and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates, did not fall within the scope of the survey. Also excluded were U.S. citizens residing abroad and foreign visitors to this country. With these exceptions, individuals age 12 and over living in housing units designated for the sample were eligible to be interviewed.

Each interviewer's first contact with a unit selected for the survey was in person, and, if it was not possible to secure interviews with all eligible members of the household during this initial visit, telephone interviews were permissible thereafter. The only exceptions to the requirement for a personal interview applied to 12- and 13-year-olds, where interviewers were instructed to obtain proxy responses from a knowledgeable adult member of the household, and to incapacitated persons and to individuals who were absent from the household during the entire field interviewing period, where a proxy respondent was permitted. Survey records were processed and weighted, yielding results representative both of the Nation's population as a whole and of various sectors within society.

Sample design and size

Estimates from the survey are based on data obtained from a stratified multistage cluster sample. In designing the sample, the first stage consisted of the formation of primary sampling units comprising counties or groups of counties, including every county in the Nation. Approximately 1,930 of these units were so formed and grouped into 376 strata. Among these strata, 156 represented single areas and thus came into the sample with certainty. These strata, designated self-representing areas, generally contained the larger metropolitan areas. The remaining 220 strata were formed by combining areas that shared certain characteristics, such as geographic region, population density, population growth rate, proportion of nonwhite population, etc. From each stratum, one area was selected for the sample, the probability of selection having been proportionate to the area's population; areas so chosen are referred to as being non-self-representing.

The remaining stages of sampling were designed to ensure a self-weighting probability sample of dwelling units and group quarters within each of the selected areas.<sup>1</sup> This involved a systematic selection of enumeration districts' (geographic areas used for the 1970 Census), with the probability of selection being

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<sup>1</sup>Self-weighting means that each sample household had the same initial probability of being selected.

proportionate to their 1970 population size, followed by the selection of clusters of approximately four housing units from within each enumeration district. To account for units built after the 1970 Census, a sample was drawn, by means of an independent clerical operation, of permits issued for the construction of residential housing. Jurisdictions that do not issue permits were included by means of a sample of area segments. The resulting sample of new construction units, though yielding a relatively small proportion of the total sample, will account for an increasing share as the decade progresses.

A total of approximately 73,000 housing units and other living quarters were designated for the sample. For purposes of conducting the field interviews, the sample was divided into six groups, or rotations, each of which contained housing units whose occupants were to be interviewed once every 6 months over a period of 3 years. The initial interview was for purposes of bounding, i.e., establishing a time frame to avoid duplicative recording of information in subsequent interviews. Each rotation group was further divided into six panels. Individuals occupying housing units within one-sixth of each rotation group, or one panel, were interviewed each month during the 6-month period. Because the survey is continuous, additional housing units are selected in the manner described and assigned to rotation groups and panels for subsequent incorporation into the sample. A new rotation group enters the sample every 6 months replacing a group phased out after being in the sample for 3 years.

Among the 73,000 housing units designated for the sample that were to provide information relating to calendar years 1976 and 1977, interviews were obtained at 6-month intervals from the occupants of about 60,000. The large majority of the remaining 13,000 units were found to be vacant, demolished, converted to nonresidential use, or were ineligible for some other reason. However, approximately 2,600 of the 13,000 units were occupied by persons who, although eligible to participate in the survey, were not interviewed because they could not be reached after repeated visits, declined to be interviewed, were temporarily absent, or were otherwise unavailable. Thus, interviews were obtained in about 96 percent of all eligible housing units, and about 98 percent of the occupants of these households participated in the survey.

#### Estimation procedure

In order to enhance the reliability of the estimates presented in this report, the estimation procedure incorporated extensive auxiliary data on those characteristics of the population that are believed to bear on the subject matter of the survey. These auxiliary data were used primarily in the various stages of ratio estimation.

The estimation procedure is performed on a quarterly basis to produce estimates of the volume and rates of victimization. Sample data from 8 months of field interviewing are required to produce a quarterly estimate. For example, as shown on the accompanying chart,

data collected during the months of February through September are required to produce an estimate for the first quarter of any given calendar year. In addition, each quarterly estimate is made up of equal numbers of field observations in which a specific month of occurrence was from 1 to 6 months prior to the time of interview. Thus, incidents occurring in January may be reported in a February interview, 1 month ago, or in a March interview, 2 months ago, and so on up to 6 months ago for interviews conducted in July. One purpose of this arrangement is to minimize expected biases associated with the tendency of respondents to place criminal victimizations in more recent months during the 6-month recall period than when they actually occurred. Similarly, annual estimates are derived by accumulating data from the four quarterly estimates which, in turn, are obtained from a total of 17 months of field interviewing, from February of one year through June of the following year.

The first step in the estimation procedure was the inflation of the sample data by the reciprocal of the probability of selection. An adjustment was then made to account for occupied units (and for persons in occupied units) that were eligible for the survey but where it was not possible to obtain an interview.

Month of interview by month of recall

(X's denote months in the 6-month recall period)

Month of interview	Period of reference (or recall)											
	First quarter			Second quarter			Third quarter			Fourth quarter		
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
January												
February	X											
March	X	X										
April	X	X	X									
May	X	X	X	X								
June	X	X	X	X	X							
July	X	X	X	X	X	X						
August		X	X	X	X	X	X					
September			X	X	X	X	X	X				
October				X	X	X	X	X	X			
November					X	X	X	X	X	X		
December						X	X	X	X	X	X	
January							X	X	X	X	X	X
February								X	X	X	X	X
March									X	X	X	X
April										X	X	X
May											X	X
June												X
July												

The distribution of the sample population usually differs somewhat from the distribution of the total population from which the sample was drawn in terms of such characteristics as age, race, sex, residence, etc., characteristics that are closely correlated with crime victimization measurements made from the sample. Because of this, various stages of ratio estimation were employed to bring the distributions of the two populations into closer agreement, hence reducing the variability of the sample estimates. Two stages of ratio estimation were used in producing data relating both to crimes against persons and households.

The first stage of ratio estimation was applied only to data records obtained from sample areas that were non-self-representing. Its purpose was to reduce the error arising from the fact that one area was selected to represent an entire stratum. For various categories of race and residence, ratios were calculated reflecting the relationships between weighted 1970 Census counts for all sample areas in each region and the total population in the non-self-representing parts of the region at the time of the Census.

The second stage of ratio estimation was applied on a person basis and brought the distribution of the persons in the sample into closer agreement with independent current estimates of the distribution of the population by various age-sex-race categories.<sup>2</sup>

Regarding the estimation of crimes against households, characteristics of the wife in a husband-wife household and characteristics of the head of household in other types of households were used to determine which second-stage ratio estimate factors were to be applied. This procedure is thought to be more precise than that of uniformly using the characteristics of the head of household, since sample coverage generally is better for females than for males.

In producing estimates of personal incidents (as opposed to those of victimizations), a further adjustment was made in those cases where an incident involved more than one person, thereby

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<sup>2</sup>In 1976, an error was discovered in the second stage of ratio estimation whereby a weighted estimate of noninterviewed persons within interviewed households was incorrectly added to the sample estimate of interviewed persons that already contained a factor to account for persons who were not interviewed. The effect of this double counting was that the estimates of total persons and of the level of personal victimizations were about 1 1/2 percent below what they should have been. The error was smaller for household estimates because of the lower noninterview rate for principal persons, who are primarily wives in husband-wife households. The effect of this error on the estimate of personal and household crime rates is very small since the error occurs in both the numerator and denominator of the fraction and therefore largely cancels out. Corrected rates for 1976 and earlier years are used in this report. Differences in 1974 and 1975 rates between this report and those found in the report comparing 1974 and 1975 data are due to this error. However, these differences are too slight to modify the analysis in the earlier report.

allowing for the probability that such incidents had more than a single chance of coming into the sample. Thus, if two persons were victimized during the same incident, the weight assigned to the record for that incident (and associated characteristics) was reduced by one-half in order to avoid double counting of incidents. A comparable adjustment was not made in estimating crimes against households, as each separate criminal act was defined as involving only one household. When a personal crime was reported in the household survey as having occurred simultaneously with a commercial burglary or robbery, it was assumed that the incident was essentially a commercial crime and, therefore, it was not counted as an incident of personal crime. However, the details of the event as they related to the victimized individual were included in the household survey results.

#### Series victimizations

As mentioned in the Preface, victimizations that occurred in series of three or more for which the victim was unable to describe the details of each event have been excluded from the analysis and data tables in this report. Because respondents had difficulty pinpointing the dates of these acts, this information was recorded by the season (or seasons) of occurrence within the 6-month reference period and tabulated by the quarter of the year in which the data were collected. But, for the majority of crimes, the data

were tabulated on the basis of the specific month of occurrence to produce quarterly estimates. Although no direct correspondence exists between the two sets of data, near compatibility between reference periods can be achieved, for example, by comparing the data on series victimizations gathered by interviewers from April 1976 through March 1977 with the regular victimizations for calendar year 1976. This approach results in an 87.5 percent overlap between reporting periods for the two data sets.

An examination of data on series victimizations shows that these crimes tend disproportionately to be either assaults, more often simple than aggravated, or household larcenies for which the amount of loss was valued at less than \$50. Although series victimizations, if combined with the main body of crime data, would increase the reported levels of crime, it is believed that there would be very little impact on year-to-year change in victimization rates. Efforts are underway to study the nature of series victimizations in greater detail, in order to gauge more accurately their relationship to regular victimizations.

#### Reliability of the estimates

The particular sample employed for this survey was one of a large number of possible samples of equal size that could have been used applying the same design and selection procedures. Estimates derived from different samples would differ from each other. The

standard error of a survey estimate is a measure of the variation among the estimates from all possible samples and is, therefore, a measure of the precision with which the estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. The procedure, as illustrated below, provides a method to construct interval estimates such that a known proportion of the intervals would contain the average of all possible samples. For example, the chances are about 68 out of 100 that the survey estimate would differ from the average result for all possible samples by less than one standard error. Similarly, the chances are about 84 out of 100 that the difference would be less than 1.4 times the standard error; about 90 out of 100 that the difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error; about 95 out of 100 that it would be less than 2.0 times the standard error; and 99 out of 100 that it would be less than 2.5 times the standard error. The 68 percent confidence interval is defined as the range of values given by the estimate minus the standard error and the estimate plus the standard error; the chances are 68 out of 100 that a figure from a complete census would fall within that range. Likewise, the 95 percent confidence interval is defined as the estimate plus or minus two standard errors.

In addition to sampling error, the estimates presented in this report are subject to nonsampling error. Major sources of such error are related to the ability of respondents to recall victimization experiences that occurred during the 6 months prior to the time of interview. Research on the capacity of victims to recall specific

kinds of crime, based on interviewing persons who were victims of offenses drawn from police files, indicates that assault is the least well recalled of the crimes measured by the National Crime Survey. This may stem in part from the observed tendency of victims not to report crimes committed by offenders known to them, especially if they are relatives. In addition, it is suspected that, among certain groups, crimes that contain the elements of assault are a part of everyday life and, thus, are simply forgotten or are not considered worth mentioning to a survey interviewer. Taken together, these recall problems may result in a substantial understatement of the "true" rate of victimization from assault.

Another source of nonsampling error related to the recall capacity of respondents is their inability to place the criminal event in the correct month, even though it is placed in the correct reference period. This source of error is partially offset by the requirement for monthly interviewing and by the estimation procedure described earlier. An additional problem involves telescoping, or bringing within the appropriate 6-month period incidents that occurred earlier--or, in a few instances, those that happened after the close of the reference period. The latter is believed to be relatively rare because 75 to 80 percent of the interviewing takes place during the first week of the month following the reference period. In any event, the effect of telescoping is minimized by the bounding procedure described above. The interviewer is provided

with a summary of the incidents reported in the preceding interview and, if a similar incident is reported, it can then be determined from discussion with the respondent whether the reported incident is indeed a new one.

Methodological research undertaken in preparation for the National Crime Survey indicated that substantially fewer incidents of crime were reported when one household member reported for all persons residing in the household than when each household member was interviewed individually. Therefore the self-response procedure was adopted as a general rule; allowances for proxy response under the contingencies discussed earlier are the only exceptions to this rule.

Despite these attempts to minimize the effect of victim recall problems, memory lapses inevitably occur. Some evidence of the extent of this problem will be obtained from the findings of a reinterview program in which a sample of approximately 5 percent of the interviewed cases in each month are interviewed a second time by a supervisor or a senior interviewer. Differences between the original interview and the reinterview are reconciled by discussion between the reinterviewer and the respondent. However, no reliable results are yet available from this program.

Additional nonsampling errors can result from incomplete or erroneous responses, systematic mistakes introduced by interviewers, possible biases associated with the sample rotation scheme, and

improper coding and processing of data.<sup>3</sup> Many of these errors would also occur in a complete census. Quality control measures, such as interviewer observation and the reinterview program, as well as edit procedures in the field and at the clerical and computer processing stages, are utilized to keep such errors at an acceptably low level. As calculated for this survey, the standard errors partially measure only the random nonsampling errors arising from response and interviewer errors; they do not, however, take into account any systematic biases in the data.

#### Computation and application of standard errors

Specific standard errors for changes in rates and in the percent of crimes reported to the police for the household survey are incorporated in Tables 1, 8, 15, 16, and 17 of Appendix I. They are presented in percentage points at the 1 standard-error level of

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<sup>3</sup>An error was discovered in 1978 in the code for size of central city in the Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y. SMSA which affected both 1976 and 1977 tabulations. Corrected data are used in this report for Tables 7 and 12, which are based on place of residence. However, this error appears in published data for 1976 in the 1975-76 annual change report in these same tables, specifically for persons living in SMSA's outside central cities of 1,000,000 or more and outside those with central cities between 50,000 and 250,000 population. Only one of the 42 statistical tests applied to the corrected data yielded a different result in terms of the significance of year-to-year change. The revised figures indicate that there was an apparent decrease in the victimization rate for completed motor vehicle theft between 1975 and 1976 for residents living in SMSA's outside central cities in the 50,000-250,000 size class, whereas the published data indicated there was no significant change for this particular crime.

confidence. In order to meet the requirements for statistical reliability adopted for this report, the intervals must be multiplied by 1.6 or 2.0 to obtain the 90 percent and 95 percent confidence levels, respectively (and by 1.4 in Tables 16 and 17 to obtain the 84 percent confidence level). All differences in rates or percents that meet these criteria have been indicated on the data tables.

The procedure for computing specific standard errors for changes in rates or percents for crimes against persons not indicated on the data tables is given in the following formula:

Standard error of a relative change in victimization rates for personal crimes  $\left( \frac{r_2 - r_1}{r_1} \right)$

$$= \frac{r_2}{r_1} \sqrt{b \left( \frac{1 - r_2}{y_2 r_2} + \frac{1 - r_1}{y_1 r_1} \right)}$$

The symbols are defined as follows:

- $r_1$  - the rate for the first year of the comparison expressed in decimals (i.e., a rate of 52 per 1,000 becomes .052).
- $y_1$  - the number of persons in the group on which the rate is based.
- $r_2$  - the rate for the second year of the comparison expressed in decimals.
- $y_2$  - the number of persons in the group on which the rate is based.
- $b$  - a constant which is based on the full sample and was obtained when generalizing the standard errors ( $b = 1,603$  for comparisons in consecutive years and 1,821 for those more than a year apart).

To illustrate the use of this formula, Table 11 of this report shows that the victimization rate from forcible entry burglary in households with annual incomes from \$7,500 to \$14,999 increased 16.7 percent from 1976 to 1977. Substituting the appropriate victimization rates and population bases in the formula yields:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Standard error of the relative change} \left( \frac{.0312 - .0267}{.0267} \right) \\ &= 1.16854 \sqrt{1603 \left( \frac{1 - .0312}{22,538,000(.0312)} + \frac{1 - .0267}{23,563,000 (.0267)} \right)} \\ &= 1.16854 \sqrt{1603 \left( \frac{.9688}{703,186} + \frac{.9733}{629,132} \right)} \\ &= 1.16854 \sqrt{1603 (.00000137773 + .00000154705)} \\ &= 1.16854 \sqrt{1603 (.00000292478)} \\ &= 1.16854 \sqrt{.00468842} \\ &= 1.16854 (.068472) = .08. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the confidence interval at 1 standard error is approximately 8.0 percentage points around the increase of 16.7 percent, or 16.0 percentage points at the 2 standard-error level. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the true percent change lies between +8.7 and +24.7 (+16.7 ± 8.0).

The ratio of a relative difference to its standard error is equivalent to its level of statistical significance. For example, a ratio of 2.0 or more denotes that the difference is significant at



the 95 percent confidence level; a ratio of from 1.6 to 2.0 indicates that the difference is significant at a confidence level between 90 and 95 percent; and a ratio of less than 1.6 defines a level of confidence below 90 percent. In the above example, the ratio of the difference (16.7) to its standard error (8.0) equals 2.09. It can therefore be concluded that the increase in the forcible entry rate in households in the \$7,500 to \$14,999 income category from 1976 to 1977 was significant at the 95 percent confidence level.

Specific standard errors of change for personal crimes may be computed by using the same formula. In Tables 13-15, percents rather than rates are used so that the decimal point should be moved two places to the left, rather than three, when inserting values for  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  in the formula (i.e., 25.2 percent becomes .252).

GLOSSARY

Age--The appropriate age category is determined by each respondent's age as of the last day of the month preceding the interview.

Aggravated assault--Attack with a weapon resulting in any injury and attack without a weapon resulting either in serious injury (e.g., broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness) or in undetermined injury requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault with a weapon.

Annual family income--Includes the income of the household head and all other related persons residing in the same household unit. Covers the 12 months preceding the interview and includes wages, salaries, net income from business or farm, pensions, interest, dividends, rent, and any other form of monetary income. The income of persons unrelated to the head of household is excluded.

Assault--An unlawful physical attack, whether aggravated or simple, upon a person. Includes attempted assault with or without a weapon. Excludes rape and attempted rape, as well as attacks involving theft or attempted theft, which are classified as robbery.

Attempted forcible entry--A form of burglary in which force is used in an attempt to gain entry.

Burglary--Unlawful or forcible entry of a residence, usually, but not necessarily, attended by theft. Includes attempted forcible entry.

Central city--The largest city (or "twin cities") of a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA), defined below.

Forcible entry--A form of burglary in which force is used to gain entry (e.g., by breaking a window or slashing a screen).

Head of household--For classification purposes, only one individual per household can be the head person. In husband-wife households, the husband arbitrarily is considered to be the head. In other households, the head person is the individual so regarded by its members; generally, that person is the chief breadwinner.

Hispanic origin--Persons who report themselves as Mexican-Americans, Chicanos, Mexicans, Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central or South Americans, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Household--Consists of the occupants of separate living quarters meeting either of the following criteria: (1) Persons, whether present or temporarily absent, whose usual place of residence is the housing unit in question, or (2) Persons staying in the housing unit who have no usual place of residence elsewhere.

Household crimes--Burglary, household larceny, or motor vehicle theft. Includes both completed and attempted acts.

Household larceny--Theft or attempted theft of property or cash from a residence or its immediate vicinity. Forcible entry, attempted forcible entry, or unlawful entry is not involved.

Incident--A specific criminal act involving one or more victims and offenders. In situations where a personal crime occurred during the course of a commercial burglary or robbery, it was assumed that the incident was primarily directed against a commercial enterprise, and, therefore, it was not counted as an incident of personal crime. However, details of the outcome of the event as they related to the victimized individual would be reflected in data on personal victimizations.

Larceny--Theft or attempted theft of property or cash without force.

A basic distinction is made between personal larceny and household larceny.

Marital status--Each household member is assigned to one of the following categories: (1) Married, which includes persons having common-law unions and those parted temporarily for reasons other than marital discord (employment, military service, etc.); (2) Separated and divorced. Separated includes married persons who have a legal separation or have parted because of marital discord; (3) Widowed; and (4) Never married, which includes those whose only marriage has been annulled and those living together (excluding common-law unions).

Metropolitan area--Abbreviation for "Standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA)," defined below.

Motor vehicle--Includes automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, and any other motorized vehicles legally allowed on public roads and highways.

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Motor vehicle theft--Stealing or unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle, including attempts at such acts.

Nonmetropolitan area--A locality not situated within an SMSA. The category covers a variety of localities, ranging from sparsely inhabited rural areas to cities of fewer than 50,000 population.

Nonstranger--With respect to crimes entailing direct contact between victim and offender, victimizations (or incidents) are classified as having involved nonstrangers if victim and offender either are related, well known to, or casually acquainted with one another. In crimes involving a mix of stranger and nonstranger offenders, the events are classified under nonstranger. The distinction between stranger and nonstranger crimes is not made for personal larceny without contact, an offense in which victims rarely see the offender.

Offender--The perpetrator of a crime; the term generally is applied in relation to crimes entailing contact between victim and offender.

Offense--A crime; with respect to personal crimes, the two terms can be used interchangeably irrespective of whether the applicable unit of measure is a victimization or an incident.

Outside central cities--See "Suburban area," below.

Personal crimes--Rape, robbery, assault, personal larceny with contact, or personal larceny without contact. Includes both completed and attempted acts.

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Personal crimes of theft--Theft or attempted theft of property or cash, either with contact (but without force or threat of force) or without direct contact between victim and offender.

Equivalent to personal larceny.

Personal crimes of violence--Rape, robbery, or assault. Includes both completed and attempted acts.

Personal larceny--Equivalent to personal crimes of theft. A distinction is made between personal larceny with contact and personal larceny without contact.

Personal larceny with contact--Theft of purse, wallet, or cash by stealth directly from the person of the victim, but without force or the threat of force. Also includes attempted purse snatching.

Personal larceny without contact--Theft or attempted theft, without direct contact between victim and offender, of property or cash from any place other than the victim's home or its immediate vicinity. In rare cases, the victim sees the offender during the commission of the act.

Race--Determined by interviewer observation, and asked only about persons not related to the head of the household who were not present at the time of interview. The racial categories distinguished are white and black.

Rape--Carnal knowledge through the use of force or the threat of force, including attempts. Statutory rape (without force) is excluded. Includes both heterosexual and homosexual rape.

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Robbery--Theft or attempted theft directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon.

Robbery with injury--Theft or attempted theft from a person, accompanied by an attack, either with or without a weapon, resulting in injury. An injury is classified as resulting from a serious assault, irrespective of the extent of injury, if a weapon was used in the commission of the crime, or if not, when the extent of the injury was either serious (e.g., broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness) or undetermined but requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization. An injury is classified as resulting from a minor assault when the extent of the injury was minor (e.g., bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling) or undetermined but requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization.

Robbery without injury--Theft or attempted theft from a person, accompanied by force or the threat of force, either with or without a weapon, but not resulting in injury.

Simple assault--Attack without a weapon resulting either in minor injury (e.g. bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling) or in undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault without a weapon.

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Standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA)--Except in the New England States, a standard metropolitan statistical area is a county or group of contiguous counties that contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In the New England States, SMSA's consist of towns and cities instead of counties. Each SMSA must include at least one central city, and the complete title of an SMSA identifies the central city or cities.

Stranger--With respect to crimes entailing direct contact between victim and offender, victimizations (or incidents) are classified as involving strangers if the victim so stated, or did not see or recognize the offender, or knew the offender only by sight. In crimes involving a mix of stranger and nonstranger offenders, the events are classified under nonstranger. The distinction between stranger and nonstranger crimes is not made for personal larceny without contact, an offense in which victims rarely see the offender.

<sup>1</sup>This definition is the one used for the 1970 Census. Although it has since been redefined by the Office of Management and Budget, the 1970 definition has been used in the National Crime Survey in order to maintain comparability throughout the decade.

Suburban area--The county, or counties, containing a central city, plus any contiguous counties that are linked socially and economically to the central city. On data tables, suburban areas are categorized as those portions of metropolitan areas situated "outside central cities."

Tenure--Two forms of household tenancy are distinguished: (1) Owned, which includes dwellings being bought through mortgage, and (2) Rented, which also includes rent-free quarters belonging to a party other than the occupant and situations where rental payments are in services.

Unlawful entry--A form of burglary committed by someone having no legal right to be on the premises even though force is not used.

Victim--The recipient of a criminal act; usually used in relation to personal crimes, but also applicable to households.

Victimization--A specific criminal act as it affects a single victim, whether a person or household. In criminal acts against persons, the number of victimizations is determined by the number of victims of such acts; ordinarily, the number of victimizations is somewhat higher than the number of incidents because more than one individual is victimized during certain incidents and because personal victimizations that occurred in conjunction with either commercial burglary or robbery are not counted

as incidents of personal crime. Each criminal act against a household is assumed to involve a single victim, the affected household.

Victimization rate--For crimes against persons, the victimization rate, a measure of occurrence among population groups at risk, is computed on the basis of the number of victimization per 1,000 resident population age 12 and over. For crimes against households, victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of incidents per 1,000 households.

Victimize--To perpetrate a crime against a person or household.

Weapons use--For purposes of tabulation and analysis, the mere presence of a weapon constitutes "use." In other words, expressions such as "weapons use" apply both to situations in which weapons served for purposes of intimidation, or threat, and to those in which they actually were employed as instruments of physical attack.

**END**