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National Crime Survey

Criminal victimization in the U.S.:

1983 (final report), NCJ-96459, 10/85
1982 (final report), NCJ-92820, 11/84
1973-82 trends, NCJ-90541, 9/83
1981 (final report), NCJ-90208
1980 (final report), NCJ-84015, 4/83
1979 (final report), NCJ-76710, 12/81

BJS special reports:

The risk of violent crime, NCJ-97119, 5/85
The economic cost of crime to victims, NCJ-93450, 4/84
Family violence, NCJ-93449, 4/84

BJS bulletins:

Households touched by crime, 1984, NCJ-97689, 6/85
The crime of rape, NCJ-96777, 3/85
Household burglary, NCJ-96021, 1/85
Criminal victimization 1983, NCJ-93869, 6/84
Violent crime by strangers, NCJ-80829, 4/82
Crime and the elderly, NCJ-78614, 1/82
Measuring crime, NCJ-75710, 2/81

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The National Crime Survey: Working papers, vol. I: Current and historical perspectives, NCJ-75374, 8/82

vol. II: Methodological studies, NCJ-90307, 12/84
Crime against the elderly in 26 cities, NCJ-76706, 1/82

The Hispanic victim, NCJ-69261, 11/81
Issues in the measurement of crime, NCJ-74682, 10/81

Criminal victimization of California residents, 1974-77, NCJ-70944, 6/81

Restitution to victims of personal and household crimes, NCJ-72770, 5/81

Criminal victimization of New York State residents, 1974-77, NCJ-66481, 9/80

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Rape victimization in 26 American cities, NCJ-55878, 8/79

Criminal victimization in urban schools, NCJ-56396, 6/79

Crime against persons in urban, suburban, and rural areas, NCJ-53551, 7/79

An introduction to the National Crime Survey, NCJ-43732, 4/78

Local victim surveys: A review of the issues, NCJ-39973, 8/77

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Justice expenditure and employment, 1982 (BJS bulletin), NCJ-98327, 8/85

Justice expenditure and employment in the U.S.: 1980 and 1981 extracts, NCJ-96007, 6/85
1971-79, NCJ-92596, 11/84
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BJS bulletins and special reports:

Capital punishment 1984, NCJ-98399, 6/85
Prison admissions and releases, 1982, NCJ-97995, 7/85

Prisoners in 1984, NCJ-97118, 4/85
Examining recidivism, NCJ-96501, 2/85
Returning to prison, NCJ-95700, 11/84
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1979 survey of inmates of State correctional facilities and 1979 census of State correctional facilities:

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Career patterns in crime, NCJ-88672, 6/83

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BJS special reports:

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Predicting sentences in Federal courts: The feasibility of a national sentencing policy, NCJ-33685, 10/78

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Computer crime:

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Electronic fund transfer and crime, NCJ-92650, 2/84

Computer security techniques,

NCJ-84049, 9/82
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Legislative resource manual, NCJ-78890, 9/81

Expert witness manual, NCJ-77927, 9/81

Criminal justice resource manual, NCJ-61550, 12/79

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A guide to dissemination, NCJ-40000, 1/79
Compendium of State legislation: NCJ-48981, 7/78
1981 supplement, NCJ-79652, 3/82

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Victim/witness legislation: An overview, NCJ-94365, 12/84

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U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics



Criminal Victimization of District of Columbia Residents and Capitol Hill Employees— Summary

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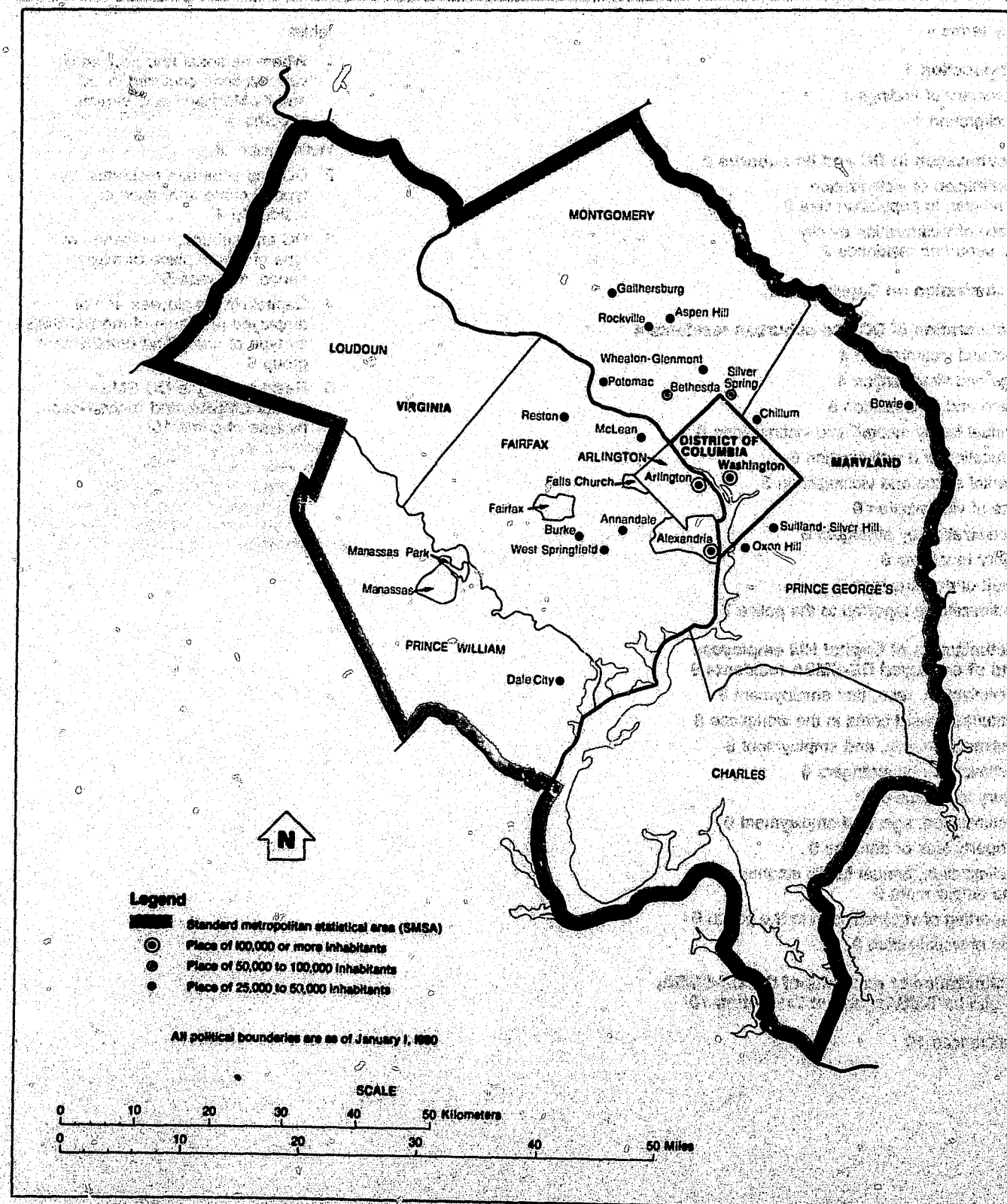
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District of Columbia Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area



Key terms

DC—District of Columbia.

suburbs—Suburbs of the District of Columbia within the DC-SMSA consist of:

Maryland counties (Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's)
Virginia counties (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William)
Independent Virginia cities (Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park).

Capitol Hill—The area of the District of Columbia that is the site of the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress, and other congressional agencies, as well as some nearby private businesses and residential neighborhoods.

Capitol Hill employees—Employees of selected congressional agencies located on Capitol Hill. "Capitol Hill employee" refers to any person who at any time during 1982 was employed by any of the following Capitol Hill congressional agencies:

U.S. Senate
U.S. House of Representatives
Library of Congress
Architect of the Capitol
Office of Technology Assessment
Congressional Budget Office.

other employees—Employed DC-SMSA residents. The term applies to any resident of the DC-SMSA at the time of the DC survey who was employed any time between May 1982 and April 1983.

SMSA—Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. For statistical purposes, the Office of Management and Budget divides the United States into distinct geographical areas known as SMSAs. Each SMSA includes a central city, and the complete title of an SMSA identifies the central city or combined central city and associated core cities. Generally, an SMSA consists of a central city plus the counties contiguous to the central city.

DC-SMSA—Washington, DC-MD-VA Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (1980 definition). The DC-SMSA consists of the District of Columbia and the suburbs listed above.

similar SMSAs—All SMSAs in the Nation (including the DC-SMSA) with a central city population of a size comparable to that of the District of Columbia (between ½ and 1 million population). The DC-SMSA is one of 20 such SMSAs:

Baltimore, MD
Boston, MA
Cleveland, OH
Columbus, OH
Dallas, TX
Denver, CO
District of Columbia
Indianapolis, IN
Jacksonville, FL
Kansas City, MO-KS
Memphis, TN-AR
Milwaukee, WI
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
New Orleans, LA
Phoenix, AZ
Pittsburgh, PA
San Antonio, TX
San Diego, CA
Seattle-Everett, WA
St. Louis, MO-IL

DC study—Title for the congressionally mandated study of crime victimization in the District of Columbia. Results of the study are presented in this report. These results are based on three crime victimization surveys: the DC survey, the Capitol Hill survey, and the National Crime Survey.

DC survey—A crime victimization survey of residents of DC and of the suburbs. The survey was conducted in 1983.

Capitol Hill survey—A crime victimization survey of employees of selected congressional agencies located on Capitol Hill. The survey was conducted in 1983.

National Crime Survey (NCS)—The NCS is an ongoing survey of criminal victimization based on interviews with a nationally representative sample of some 128,000 persons from some 60,000 households.

BJS—Bureau of Justice Statistics. BJS, an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, sponsored the DC study.

Introduction

To gain information to help Congress and the DC law enforcement agencies reduce crime in the Nation's Capital, Congress directed the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to study the victimization of DC citizens and of congressional employees of Capitol Hill agencies (Public Law 97-257). Results of that study are presented in full in *Criminal Victimization of District of Columbia Residents and Capitol Hill Employees* (Cox and Collins 1985). This report summarizes the results.

The focus is on criminal victimization of District of Columbia residents and Capitol Hill employees. Data on the DC suburbs, on the DC-SMSA, on similar SMSAs, and on the Nation are given only for the sake of comparison.

To set the victimization experiences of DC residents and Capitol Hill employees in perspective, data are compared on the victimization of—

- (1) Residents of DC and of its Maryland and Virginia suburbs within the DC-SMSA
- (2) Residents of the DC-SMSA, of similar SMSAs, and of the Nation
- (3) Capitol Hill employees and other employed residents of the DC-SMSA

The emphasis is on crimes of major concern to the public and to law enforcement officials. They include robbery, assault (including rape), burglary, larceny, and vandalism.

Summary of findings

- On a population basis, DC was more likely than its suburbs to be the place where DC-SMSA residents were victimized by violent crime (especially robbery).
- While DC residents did not experience significantly higher overall rates of violent victimization than suburban residents, they did experience higher robbery rates than suburban residents.
- While DC residents were more likely than black DC residents to be victimized by violent crime.
- Except for larceny without contact, victimization rates were no higher against Capitol Hill employees than against other employed people residing in the DC-SMSA.
- Victimization rates were generally no higher against DC-SMSA residents than against residents of SMSAs of a similar size.
- Suburban residents were more likely than DC residents to say crime in the DC area was worse than in other urban areas.
- Capitol Hill employees were more likely than other employees to say their jobs were safe from crime.

Background

Findings are based on three surveys sponsored by BJS: (1) the DC survey, (2) the Capitol Hill survey, and (3) the National Crime Survey (NCS).

The first two surveys were done at the specific request of Congress. The DC survey involved telephone interviews with 1 of every 295 DC residents and, for comparison purposes, 1 of every 579 residents of the DC suburbs. The Capitol Hill survey involved telephone interviews with 1 of every 14 congressional employees of Capitol Hill agencies. Both surveys collected victimization data for May 1982–April 1983. The NCS is an ongoing survey of crime victimization and involves interviews with nationally representative samples of U.S. citizens; 1977–1981 data from the NCS were used to compare victimization levels between the DC-SMSA and similar SMSAs.

The DC and Capitol Hill surveys were carried out at the direction of Congress by the Research Triangle Institute under contracts OJARS-83-C-002 and OJP-85-C-003 with the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The two surveys were closely modeled after the methodology of the National Crime Survey.

The target population for the DC survey was the civilian, noninstitutionalized resident population age 12 and older. Therefore, institutionalized people and children under age 12 were not represented in the study's findings.

The target population for the Capitol Hill Survey was the 1982 employees of congressional offices and organizations, excluding elected members of Congress. These offices and organizations included the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Library of Congress, the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of Technology Assessment, and the Congressional Budget Office.

Not all victimizations reported in these surveys occurred in DC or in nearby areas. Some victimizations occurred while respondents were traveling or staying outside the District of Columbia.

Unless noted otherwise, rate or percentage differences discussed in this report were tested and found statistically significant at or beyond the 95% confidence level.

Victimization in DC and its suburbs

Distribution of victimization in relation to population size

Table 1 shows that within the DC-SMSA—

- only 20.9% of the DC-SMSA residents lived in DC, but 31.8% of the violent crimes against them, including about half of all robberies, occurred there.

The percentages of crimes of theft or damage in DC and its suburbs more closely mirrored the population sizes of these places. Nevertheless, such crimes also tended to occur disproportionately in DC:

- While only 20.9% of the people lived in DC, 27.7% of the crimes of theft or damage occurred there. The subcategory of personal vandalism was an exception; it occurred in DC in proportion to DC's population size.
- 22.8% of DC-SMSA households were located in DC and about the same percentage of burglaries (20.3%) and household larcenies (19.8%) occurred there.
- Household vandalism occurred more often in the suburbs than would be expected on the basis of population size.

Population estimates do not tell how much time residents of other areas spent in Northwest DC, but it is clear that personal crimes were more common in Northwest DC than in the three other DC sectors:

- In 1980, only 9.8% of DC-SMSA residents lived in Northwest DC, but large percentages of the violent victimizations, including 30.1% of the robberies, occurred there.
- However, within the DC-SMSA 11.3% of the households and 11.2% of the DC-SMSA burglaries were in Northwest DC.

Place of victimization by city vs. suburban residence

Most crimes against DC residents occurred in DC, and most crimes against suburban residents occurred in the suburbs.

- 87.6% of violent crimes against DC residents were in DC; only 8% were in the suburbs.

- 87.5% of crimes of theft or damage against DC residents were in DC.

Except for household crimes, suburban residents were victimized less often in the suburbs than DC residents were victimized in DC:

- Only 69% of violent crimes against suburban residents were in the suburbs; 87.6% of such crimes against DC residents were in DC.

- In crimes of theft or damage, suburban residents were much less likely to be victimized in the suburbs than were DC residents to be victimized in DC.

On the surface, it appeared that the risk of violent crime was greater in DC than the suburbs. However, the evidence was inconclusive because the amount of time DC-SMSA residents spent in DC was not known. If suburban residents spent a large part of their working and leisure hours in DC, their exposure to the risk of being victimized outside the suburbs would have been high. Perhaps exposure explained why so many victimizations of suburban residents occurred in DC.

Victimization on Capitol Hill

Capitol Hill was the scene of—

- 6.5% of all the violent victimizations of DC-SMSA residents
- an estimated 8.7% of the robberies and 3.7% of the burglaries.

Table 1 (Victimization of DC-SMSA residents, May 1982–April 1983)

Where personal and household victimizations occurred in DC and in its Maryland and Virginia suburbs

Percent distribution^a

Type of crime	DC				Maryland			Virginia		Sample size
	Total ^b	North-east	North-west	South-east	Total ^c	Montgomery	Prince George's	Total ^d	Areas adjacent to DC	
(Percent distribution of DC-SMSA population ^e)	20.9%	4.9%	9.8%	5.2%	43.0%	18.9%	21.7%	38.1%	28.6%	na
Personal crimes										
Crimes of violence	31.8	4.4	19.0	5.9	37.8	8.5	22.7	24.5	19.0	359
Robbery	50.2	7.8*	30.1	10.9	35.1	3.5*	24.0	10.3*	7.1*	84
Assault	28.0	4.4*	15.6	4.7	37.3	7.6	20.5	27.2	20.7	172
Threat to injure	22.0	1.2*	15.3	3.7*	41.4	14.6	25.7	32.6	22.9	92
Crimes of theft or damage	27.7	5.0	16.6	4.1	37.9	13.3	20.1	28.6	21.3	946
Personal larceny with contact	28.6	3.8	18.3	5.5	38.1	12.7	19.5	28.8	19.4	307
Personal larceny without contact	30.3	6.0	17.5	3.6	37.3	12.8	20.7	28.5	20.0	504
Personal vandalism	16.9	4.0*	9.6	2.9*	39.8	16.2	18.8	39.3	29.8	135
(Percent distribution of DC-SMSA households ^f)	22.8	4.8	11.3	5.1	40.7	19.6	20.2	38.5	31.0	na
Household crimes										
Burglary	20.3	6.1	11.2	2.7*	39.9	13.7	18.4	38.6	26.4	173
Household larceny	19.8	5.3*	9.6	2.6*	42.0	20.8	13.7	31.9	23.9	106
Household vandalism	11.3	0.6*	5.0*	5.7*	34.4	9.6*	17.9	51.5	32.5	83

na = not applicable.

^aEstimate, based on 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

^bPercentages do not add to 100 because some victimizations took place outside of DC, Maryland, and Virginia, and some victims did not know or did not report where victimizations occurred.

^cDC includes the four sectors: Northeast, Northwest,

Southeast, and Southwest. The sample size was too small to show the Southwest separately.

^dMaryland includes the DC-SMSA suburbs of Charles County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County, as well as other Maryland locations. The sample sizes were too small to show areas other than Montgomery County and Prince George's County separately.

^eVirginia includes the areas adjacent to DC of Arlington

County, Fairfax County, Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax City and the nonadjacent suburban areas of Loudoun County, Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park, as well as other Virginia locations. The sample sizes for the nonadjacent areas were too small to show these areas separately.

^fCensus data for 1980 were used to calculate the DC-SMSA distribution of population and households.

Victimization of DC and suburban residents

This section compares the rates of victimization per 1,000 persons age 12 or older and per 1,000 households (1) by type of crime and (2) by characteristics of the victims (table 2).

DC residents were victimized—

- by violent crimes at a rate not significantly higher than were suburban residents (73.8 vs. 60.7)
- by burglary at a rate not significantly higher than were suburban residents (59.5 vs. 55.8)
- at rates not significantly different from suburban residents in crimes of theft or damage (158.5 vs. 172.9) and in household larceny (30.7 vs. 38.0)
- more often than suburban residents in robbery (29.0 vs. 11.8)
- less often than suburban residents in personal vandalism (11.8 vs. 29.7) and in household vandalism (15.8 vs. 34.6).

Table 2. (Victimization of DC and suburban residents, May 1982–April 1983)

Personal and household victimizations

Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 and older and per 1,000 households

Type of crime and place of residence	
Personal crimes	
Crimes of violence	
DC	73.8
Suburbs	60.7
DC-SMSA	63.4
Robbery	
DC	29.0
Suburbs	11.8
DC-SMSA	15.4
Assault	
DC	30.5
Suburbs	31.3
DC-SMSA	31.2
Threat to injure	
DC	14.3
Suburbs	17.6
DC-SMSA	16.9
Crimes of theft or damage	
DC	158.5
Suburbs	172.9
DC-SMSA	169.9
Personal larceny with contact	
DC	61.5
Suburbs	58.0
DC-SMSA	52.9
Personal larceny without contact	
DC	85.2
Suburbs	82.6
DC-SMSA	91.1
Personal vandalism	
DC	11.8
Suburbs	29.7
DC-SMSA	26.0
Total population age 12 and older (in thousands)	
DC	554
Suburbs	2,121
DC-SMSA	2,676
Household crimes	
Burglary	
DC	59.5
Suburbs	55.8
DC-SMSA	56.6
Household larceny	
DC	30.7
Suburbs	38.0
DC-SMSA	38.4
Household vandalism	
DC	15.8
Suburbs	34.6
DC-SMSA	30.5
Total number of households (in thousands)	
DC	254
Suburbs	908
DC-SMSA	1,162
Sample size	
DC	1,133
Suburbs	1,883
DC-SMSA	3,016

Sex and victimization

Among DC residents—

- males were more likely than females to be victims of violent crimes and of robbery

- male and female rates did not differ for any other type of crime.

Between DC and suburban residents, the rate of—

- robbery was higher against DC than suburban males (44.7 vs. 15.0)
- personal vandalism was higher against suburban males (32.4 vs. 12.6)
- personal vandalism was also higher against suburban than DC females (27.1 vs. 11.1).

Age and victimization

Generally, victimization rates were lower against older people than against the young but, for several types of crime, the rates peaked at ages 20–34 rather than at ages 12–19.

Against DC residents—

- the violent crime rate was 86.4 for ages 12–19 and 125.4 for ages 20–34 but 27.7 for ages 50 and older
- the drop in the violent crime rate after age 34 was quite sharp
- rates for crimes of theft or damage decreased with age, and the drop after age 34 was also quite sharp.

Few statistically significant differences in victimization rates were found between DC and suburban residents in the same age groups, but the rate of—

- violent crime against persons ages 20–34 was higher for DC than suburban residents (125.4 vs. 80.2)
- crimes of theft or damage against persons ages 35–49 was lower for DC than suburban residents (134.7 vs. 185.7).

Race and victimization

Racial patterns in victimization differed somewhat between DC and the suburbs, and the violent victimization pattern for DC residents was inconsistent with the national pattern.

Crime victimization surveys have often found that blacks are more highly victimized by violent crime than whites (Akiyama 1981, BJS 1981, Langan and Innes 1985, Nelson 1984, St. Louis 1977).

However, as shown in table 3, among DC residents—

- the violent crime victimization rate was much higher against whites (110.2) than against blacks (57.4)
- the larceny-without-contact rate was also higher against whites (111.6) than against blacks (75.4).

By contrast, the pattern among suburban residents more closely followed the national pattern—

- black suburban residents appeared to experience a higher rate of violent victimization than white suburban residents (72.7 vs. 59.1), but the difference was not significant.

Multiple regression analyses were done to determine if the white-black differences for crimes of violence and larceny without contact remained when variation explained by a number of factors was statistically controlled. Variables included in the regression models were age, sex, marital status, employment, education, income, length of residence, and place of residence (DC or suburbs). These factors were known to vary with victimization, and so their inclusion with race in the regression models was a robust test of whether race was, by itself, related to victimization in DC. The regression findings confirmed that the risk of becoming a violent crime victim was greater for DC whites than DC blacks; they also confirmed that the risk of larceny without contact was greater for DC whites than DC blacks.

The DC pattern differed from the national pattern, but it did not differ from that found in the previous survey of crime victimization conducted in the District of Columbia in 1974 (LEAA 1977, table 19); nor did it differ from the pattern found in other cities where victimization surveys were conducted during the early 1970's. In DC and in 9 other cities surveyed during the 1970's, whites were found to have higher violent victimization rates than blacks.¹ Moreover, aggregate NCS data for 1977–81 also revealed that DC whites ran a higher risk of violent crime than DC blacks.

¹During the 1970's, BJS-sponsored victimization surveys were conducted during two separate years in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Newark, Portland, and St. Louis; and one year in Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Houston, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Oakland, Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco, and the District of Columbia. Besides the District of Columbia, whites were found to have higher violent victimization rates than blacks in New Orleans, Oakland, San Francisco, Atlanta (both years), Dallas (1 year), Denver (1 year), Portland (1 year), and St. Louis (1 year).

Table 3. (Race and victimization of DC and suburban residents, May 1982–April 1983)

Victimizations by race of victim

Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 and older^a

Type of crime and place of residence	White	Black
Crimes of violence		
DC	110.2	57.4
Suburbs	59.1	72.7
DC-SMSA	63.6	64.5
Robbery		
DC	34.4	26.2
Suburbs	11.0	18.8*
DC-SMSA	13.0	22.7
Assault		
DC	45.3	23.4
Suburbs	29.3	40.7
DC-SMSA	30.7	31.5
Threat to injure		
DC	30.5	7.7*
Suburbs	18.9	13.5*
DC-SMSA	19.9	10.4
Crimes of theft or damage		
DC	188.0	147.0
Suburbs	175.3	167.5
DC-SMSA	176.4	156.5
Personal larceny with contact		
DC	59.5	61.6
Suburbs	53.5	40.7
DC-SMSA	54.0	51.8
Personal larceny without contact		
DC	111.6	75.4
Suburbs	87.6	116.4
DC-SMSA	89.7	94.6
Personal vandalism		
DC	17.0	10.0
Suburbs	34.3	10.4*
DC-SMSA	32.7	10.2
Total population age 12 and older (in thousands)		
DC	164	376
Suburbs	1,718	330
DC-SMSA	1,882	708
Sample size		
DC	573	1,258
Suburbs	2,971	565
DC-SMSA	3,544	1,823

^aEstimate, based on 10 or fewer sample cases; statistically unreliable.

*Rates not reported for races other than white and black because of insufficient data.

Victimization of DC and suburban residents

Annual family income and victimization

Among DC residents—

- the violent victimization rate, by annual family income, was higher in the \$10,000–\$29,999 income bracket than in the \$30,000+ bracket (100.9 vs. 60.0). (No statistically significant difference was found between the less-than-\$10,000 bracket and the two other income brackets.)

- differences in the rates of crimes of theft or damage for the three income groups were not statistically significant.

Between DC and suburban residents—

- the only statistically significant difference was for the \$10,000–\$29,999 family income bracket, where the rate of larceny with contact was higher against DC than suburban residents (77.7 vs. 42.1).

Marital status and victimization

Among DC residents—

- victimization rates were higher against the single than the married in crimes of violence (92.6 vs. 35.8) and crimes of theft or damage (180.1 vs. 133.5).

Between DC and suburban residents—

- the violent crime rate against the single was higher for DC residents (92.6 vs. 75.7)

- the robbery rate against the single was twice as high for DC residents (36.7 vs. 18.0)

Victimization by strangers

In crimes of theft or damage against DC residents—

- 76% of the time the victim could not say whether the offender was a stranger or a nonstranger

- when the victim did know who committed such a crime, more often than not the offender was a stranger.

In violent crimes against DC residents—

- 86% of the time the victim could say whether the offender was a stranger or a nonstranger; in about two-thirds of all victimizations the offender was identified as a stranger.

Between DC and suburban residents—

- most differences in the distribution of victimizations by strangers were not substantial or were not statistically significant.

Theft or damage loss

Property loss or damage figures for DC and suburban residents showed that property loss was often, though not exclusively, associated with property crimes, such as larceny and burglary offenses. Property loss or damage also occurred in crimes not commonly thought to involve property, such as in an assault where the offender breaks the victim's glasses.

In victimizations of DC residents, property was lost or damaged in—

- more than 90% of crimes of theft or damage and household crimes (except burglary)

- 76.5% of all burglaries (the remaining burglaries involved illegal entry without property loss or damage)

- 78.1% of all robberies (but such loss or damage was less often the case in other violent crimes; 23.2% of assaults resulted in property loss).

In victimizations of DC and of suburban residents, the percentage that resulted in property loss or damage was—

- higher in violent crimes against DC residents

- similar for DC and suburban residents in personal larceny and household crimes.

Victimizations reported to the police

Typically, less than half of all victimizations are reported to the police. Some types of crime are more likely than others to be reported. In general, the more serious the crime the more likely it is to be reported to the police (Langan 1978, Skogan 1984). The differences in the rates of reporting to the police by DC and by suburban residents were not statistically significant. Most robberies and burglaries were brought to police attention.

Education and victimization

To see whether education level was related to victimization, adult residents of the DC-SMSA were divided into two education groups—

- (1) High school or less
- (2) Beyond high school.

Among DC residents, victimization rates were higher against the "beyond high school" group than against the "high school or less" group in—

Crimes of violence
(92.4 vs. 49.0)

Crimes of theft or damage
(203.4 vs. 117.2)

Larceny without contact
(109.4 vs. 58.3).

Between DC and suburban residents—

- in the "high school or less" group, differences in victimization rates were not statistically significant

- in the "beyond high school" group, victimization rates were higher against DC residents for robbery (34.5 vs. 12.3) and for larceny with contact (77.0 vs. 49.6), but they were higher against suburban residents for personal vandalism (36.4 vs. 17.0).

Site of victimization

The distribution of victimization between DC and suburban residents was examined for (1) home or vacation home, (2) at work, (3) to or from work, (4) public place, and (5) all other places.

Among DC residents—

- violent crimes, except threats to injure, were most likely to occur in a public place (48.2%). Such crimes were next most likely to occur at home or at a vacation home (30.5%)

- among the victimizations most likely to occur at home or at a vacation home were crimes of theft or damage (49%), personal vandalism (69.6%), and personal larceny (39.1% with contact, 53.2% without contact). Personal larceny with contact was next most likely to occur in a public place (25%).

Between DC and suburban residents—

- the percentage of assaults that occurred in the victim's home or vacation home was higher against DC residents (39.9% vs. 9.8%)

- crimes of theft or damage against DC and suburban residents were distributed in roughly the same percentages across all site-of-occurrence categories.

Injury to victims

Some incidents of violent crimes result in physical injury to the victim. Others involve intimidation without injury—as in a robbery where the victim was not injured or in an assault with a gun where the offender shot at the victim but missed.

Violent crimes resulted in physical injury to—

- 36.7% of the victims who lived in DC
- 20.1% of the victims who lived in the suburbs.

The difference is statistically significant and is explained by assault: DC assault victims sustained injuries about twice as often as suburban assault victims.

Victimization of Capitol Hill employees and of employed DC-SMSA residents

This section compares victimization rates for Capitol Hill employees and employed residents of the DC-SMSA. The comparisons are made between the total victimization experience of the two groups (at work and in other places), not simply victimizations that occurred at work or on Capitol Hill.

Table 4 indicates that—

- victimization rates against Capitol Hill employees and other employees did not differ significantly for violence (68.2 vs. 76.3), robbery (13.6 vs. 17.9), assault (31.8 vs. 35.8), threat to injure (22.9 vs. 22.5), personal larceny with contact (57.6 vs. 61.5), or personal vandalism (39.1 vs. 30.5)
- the victimization rate for crimes of theft or damage was higher against Capitol Hill than against the other employee group (231.4 vs. 198.2)
- Capitol Hill employees were also more highly victimized by larceny without contact (134.7 vs. 106.2).

Table 4. (Victimization of Capitol Hill employees and of employed residents of the DC-SMSA, May 1982-April 1983)

Types of crime

Rates per 1,000 employees

Type of crime and employment group

Crimes of violence	
Capitol Hill employees	68.2
Other employees	76.3
Robbery	
Capitol Hill employees	13.6
Other employees	17.9
Assault	
Capitol Hill employees	31.8
Other employees	35.8
Threat to injure	
Capitol Hill employees	22.9
Other employees	22.5
Crimes of theft or damage	
Capitol Hill employees	231.4
Other employees	198.2
Personal larceny with contact	
Capitol Hill employees	57.6
Other employees	61.5
Personal larceny without contact	
Capitol Hill employees	134.7
Other employees	106.2
Personal vandalism	
Capitol Hill employees	39.1
Other employees	30.5
Total employees (in thousands)	
Capitol Hill employees	26
Other employees	1,874
Sample size	
Capitol Hill employees	1,889
Other employees	3,942

Victimization, race, and employment

In earlier analyses of victimization by place of residence, differences were seen between the victimization rates of whites and blacks according to type of crime and by residence in DC or its suburbs. This section compares the rates by employment status. Among Capitol Hill employees—

- the victimization rates in crimes of violence were not significantly different between whites and blacks (65.9 vs. 75.5) and not significantly different in the subcategories of violence
- victimization rates in crimes of theft or damage were not significantly different between whites and blacks (229.8 vs. 235.3), nor in the subcategories of theft or damage.

Within racial groups, victimization rates generally did not differ significantly between Capitol Hill and other employees. There were two exceptions:

- among white employees, the rate of larceny without contact was higher for Capitol Hill employees than other employees (134.1 vs. 105.4).
- among black employees, the rate of personal vandalism was higher among Capitol Hill employees than other employees (39.6 vs. 11.3).

Attitudes toward crime in the workplace

Respondents were asked to report their perceptions of crime safety and changes in behavior to avoid victimization.

- Capitol Hill employees were more likely than other employees to view their jobs as safe from crime (64.6% vs. 52.3%).
- Capitol Hill employees were not significantly more likely to say they avoided working certain hours because of crime (14.8% vs. 13.6%).
- Capitol Hill employees were less likely than other employees to say they avoided going certain places on the job because of crime. The percentages were fairly low, and the difference between the two groups of employed persons was not large but it was statistically significant (13.1% vs. 15.9%).

Victimization, sex, and employment

Data presented earlier showed that victimization rates, especially for violent crimes, were higher for males than females. The pattern of victimization by sex differed for the two groups of employees.

Among Capitol Hill employees, males and females generally did not experience significantly different victimization rates. There were exceptions, both contrary to what victimization surveys usually have found:

- The rate of threats to injure was higher for females than males (31.8 vs. 13.9).
- The rate of larceny with contact was higher for females than for males (74.3 vs. 43.7).

Comparisons of male and female victimization rates across the two employee groups generally showed no statistically significant differences. There were two exceptions:

- Crimes of violence against males occurred at a lower rate among Capitol Hill employees than other employees (63.8 vs. 88.9).
- Larceny without contact occurred at a higher rate among male Capitol Hill employees than other male employees (149.1 vs. 114.9).

Victimization by strangers

Two-thirds of crimes of violence were committed by strangers. The pattern was similar for property crimes; when the victim was aware of who the offender was, it was a stranger more often than someone who was known.

Between Capitol Hill and other employees, none of the differences in the percentage of victimizations attributed to strangers was statistically significant.

Injury to victims

Capitol Hill employees who were victims of violent crime were injured in 16.9% of the victimizations. Victim injury occurred more often in robberies than in assaults. Injury rates appeared to have been lower for Capitol Hill than for other employees, but differences between the two groups were not statistically significant.

Victimization, age, and employment

Higher victimization rates for young people were again found. There were some breaks in the pattern for ages 12-19 and 20-34, but the trend in victimization rates for both employee groups was clearly downward after age 34.

Among Capitol Hill employees, most differences in victimization rates between adjacent age groups were not statistically significant. There were two exceptions:

- The rate for crimes of violence for ages 20-34 was higher than for ages 35-49 (91.4 vs. 43.7).
- The larceny without contact rate for ages 35-49 Capitol Hill employees was higher than for employees age 50 and older (136.6 vs. 76.5).

Between Capitol Hill and other employees—

- the rate for larceny without contact for age 20-34 was higher against Capitol Hill employees (149.8) than against the other employee group (119.6)
- no other differences within age groups were statistically significant.

Property loss or damage

Capitol Hill employees lost property in—

- 19.3% of their victimizations in crimes of violence
- 94.1% of their victimizations in crimes of theft or damage.

Property loss differences between the two groups of employees were not statistically significant.

Victimization, annual family income, and employment

For each of the two employee groups, victimization rates were compared for personal crimes across two annual family income categories: \$10,000-\$29,999 and \$30,000 +

Among Capitol Hill employees—

- the lower income group was more likely than the higher income group to be victimized by violent crime (94.5 vs. 55.8)
- the lower income group was more likely than the higher income group to be victimized by larceny without contact (166.2 vs. 126.8).

With two exceptions, differences in victimization rates between Capitol Hill employees and other employees were usually not large or statistically significant for either of the two income groups; in the lower income group, the rate of—

- crimes of theft or damage was higher against Capitol Hill than against other employees (262.6 vs. 205.9)
- larceny without contact was higher against lower income Capitol Hill employees than against other employees (166.2 vs. 112.0).

Site of victimization

Crimes of violence against Capitol Hill employees—

- were about as likely to occur at home as in a public place and were more likely to occur in these two places than at work
- occurred about twice as often "on the way to or from work" than "at work"; 10% of the victimizations occurred at work.

In general, the data on site of victimization did not reveal substantial differences between Capitol Hill and other employees. Victimization was associated with the workplace equally often for both groups. However—

- compared to other employees, a larger percentage of violent crime against Capitol Hill employees occurred at home (30.8% vs. 21.0%)
- compared to other employees, a larger percentage of crimes of theft or damage against Capitol Hill employees occurred in public places (25.3% vs. 20.0%).

Reporting of victimizations to the police

Capitol Hill employees reported to the police—

- 34.5% of crimes of violence
- 43.0% of crimes of theft or damage.

Between Capitol Hill and other employees—

- other employees were more likely to report crimes of violence (46.2% vs. 34.5%) and assault (45.6% vs. 28.2%)
- otherwise, there were no significant differences between the two.

Victimization of residents of DC-SMSA, of similar SMSAs, and of the Nation

In Table 5, victimization rates are given for residents age 12 and older of (1) the DC-SMSA (based on the 1970 Census definition), (2) similar SMSAs (SMSAs with a central city population of 500,000 to 999,999) and (3) the Nation. The NCS data used in this report are for 1977-81.

Compared to victimization rates for residents of similar SMSAs, those for DC-SMSA residents were—

- lower for household burglary (85.1 vs. 98.4) and for household larceny (128.9 vs. 147.2)

- not significantly different for violent crime (40.6 vs. 42.1)

- higher for personal crimes of theft (128.0 vs. 113.2).

Compared to victimization rates for residents of the Nation, those for DC-SMSA residents were—

- higher for violent crime (40.6 vs. 34.1), robbery (9.3 vs. 6.5), crimes of theft (128.0 vs. 90.7), and larceny without contact (122.7 vs. 87.7)

- not significantly different for household crimes.

Comparisons were made for victimization rates of DC-SMSA and similar SMSA residents on the basis of sex, age, and race. There were few differences between DC-SMSA and similar-SMSA residents in the same demographic categories. Comparison of victimization event characteristics such as victim injury and weapons use for DC-SMSA and similar-SMSA residents also showed few differences.

Table 5. (Victimization of residents of the DC-SMSA, of similar SMSAs, and of the Nation, 1977-81 average)

Victimization of residents of the DC-SMSA, of similar SMSAs, and of the Nation

Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 and older and per 1,000 households

Type of crime	DC-SMSA*	Similar SMSAs*	Total Nation
Personal crimes			
Crimes of violence	40.0	42.1	34.1
Rape	1.3	1.3	1.0
Robbery	9.3	6.5	6.5
Assault	30.0	32.0	26.7
Aggravated assault	10.0	11.5	9.7
Simple assault	19.4	20.5	17.0
Crimes of theft	128.0	113.2	90.7
Personal larceny			
With contact	5.4	3.3	3.0
Without contact	122.7	109.9	87.7
Total population age 12 and older (in thousands)	2,492	27,066	179,056
Household crimes			
Burglary	85.1	98.4	88.1
Household larceny	128.9	147.2	124.9
Motor vehicle theft	17.5	23.2	17.2
Total number of households (in thousands)	1,110	12,130	79,793

*The DC-SMSA is a component of the national aggregate of SMSAs within the "500,000 to 999,999" size category.

*Estimates in this column are for 20 SMSAs (including Wash-

ington, D.C.) each of which had a central city population of 500,000 to 999,999 (or a combined central city and associated core city population within this range) as of April 1, 1970.

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