

# The Nature and Extent of Criminal Victimization



# Integrate Crime Victims' Issues Into University and College Curricula

The project is designed to:

- Broaden college and university students' awareness of crime victims' issues and knowledge of appropriate responses.
- Increase the number and diversity of students exposed to and educated in crime victims' issues.
- Give victim issues a new level of prominence in university and college curricula.

# Resources for Students

Campus resources to list typically include:

- Counseling.
- Health services.
- College chaplain/Faith community.
- Dean of students.
- Women's centers.
- Campus police.

# Resources for Students

Local community resources to list typically include:

- Rape crisis center.
- Domestic violence shelter agency.
- Local or county victim-witness office (often a part of the prosecutor's office).

# National Resource Information

National Resource Information

Student Handout

# Direct Victims

Direct victims are those directly harmed by criminal activity.

Crimes with direct victims include:

- Crimes of violence.
- Property crimes.

Crimes without direct victims include:

- Illegal possession of narcotics.
- Gambling.

# Police Data Sources (UCR / NIBRS)

- Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) provides data on crimes reported to police.

- Collects information on eight types of crime:

Homicide

Robbery

Rape

Aggravated assault

Burglary

Theft

Motor vehicle theft

Arson

# Police Data Sources

Limitations of the UCR include:

- Only covers eight categories of offenses.
  - ◆ Example: Includes aggravated assaults but not simple assaults.
- Only provides information on offenses reported to police.
  - ◆ More than half of crimes are not reported to the police.
- Under-reports crimes known to the police because of the FBI's hierarchy rule, which requires police to report only the highest offense committed in a single incident.
- Does not provide specific information on incidents.
  - ◆ Characteristics of victim and offender, and injuries received are not included in UCR.

# Police Data Sources

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an enhancement of the UCR:

- Provides details about 46 types of crimes.
- Specific information about each incident is included.
- Even though participation is increasing, there is not enough yet to make it a reliable source for crime estimation.

# Victimization Data Sources

- Collected by the National Crime Victim Survey (NCVS).
- Designed to complement UCR.
- Interviews victims anonymously about crimes committed against them.
- Each year roughly 45,000 households are interviewed comprising between 75,000-95,000 persons age 12 and older.

# Victimization Data Sources

- Interviews are used to determine frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in U.S.
- Survey reports likelihood of victimization of the population for rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault (both aggravated and simple), theft, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft.
- Breaks the population into segments: women, elderly, members of various racial groups, city dwellers, and other groups.

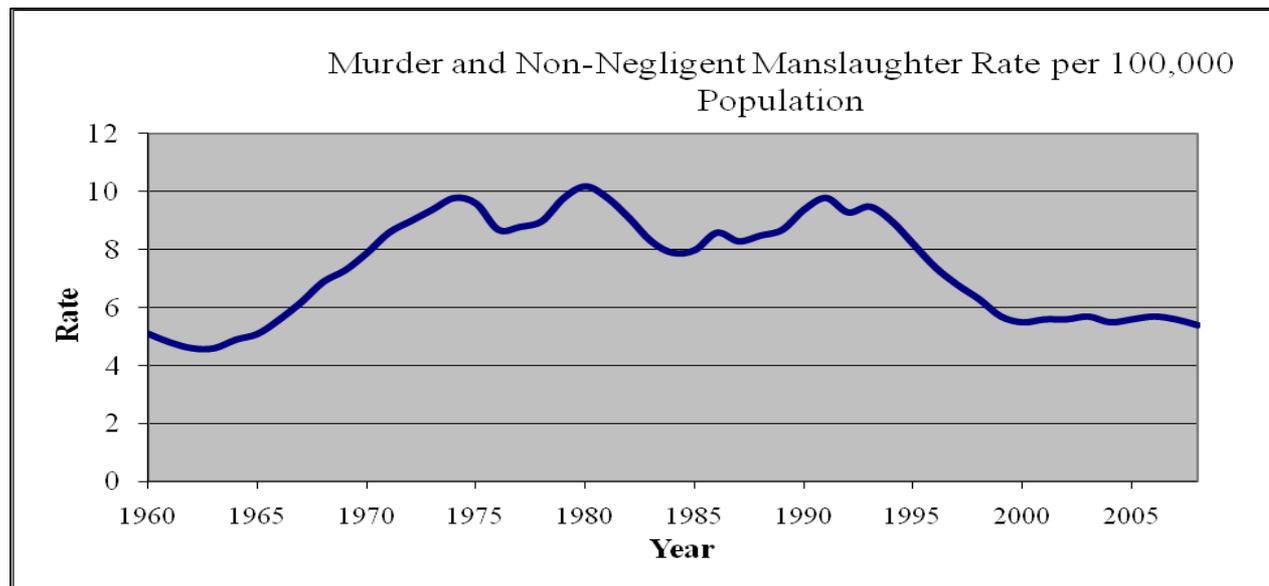
# 1. Criminal Homicide

Criminal Homicide is the one crime that we can use UCR and NIBRS data for accounting for victimization because:

- Nearly all homicides are reported to police.
- UCR has homicide reports that provide detailed information about incident.
- Standard victimization surveys cannot be used, because the victim is deceased.

# 1. Criminal Homicide

An examination of UCR data shows that the criminal homicide rate rose steadily to a peak of 10.2 homicides per 100,000 population in 1980 and has declining somewhat steadily since then.



## In 2008:

- 16,272 people were victims of murder and non-negligent manslaughter.
- A rate of 5.4 homicides per 100,000 population down considerably from the peak rate of 10.2 in 1980.
- 78.2% of victims were male. 90% of offenders were male.
- 49.0% of victims were white, 48.6% black, and 2.3% were from other races.

## In 2008:

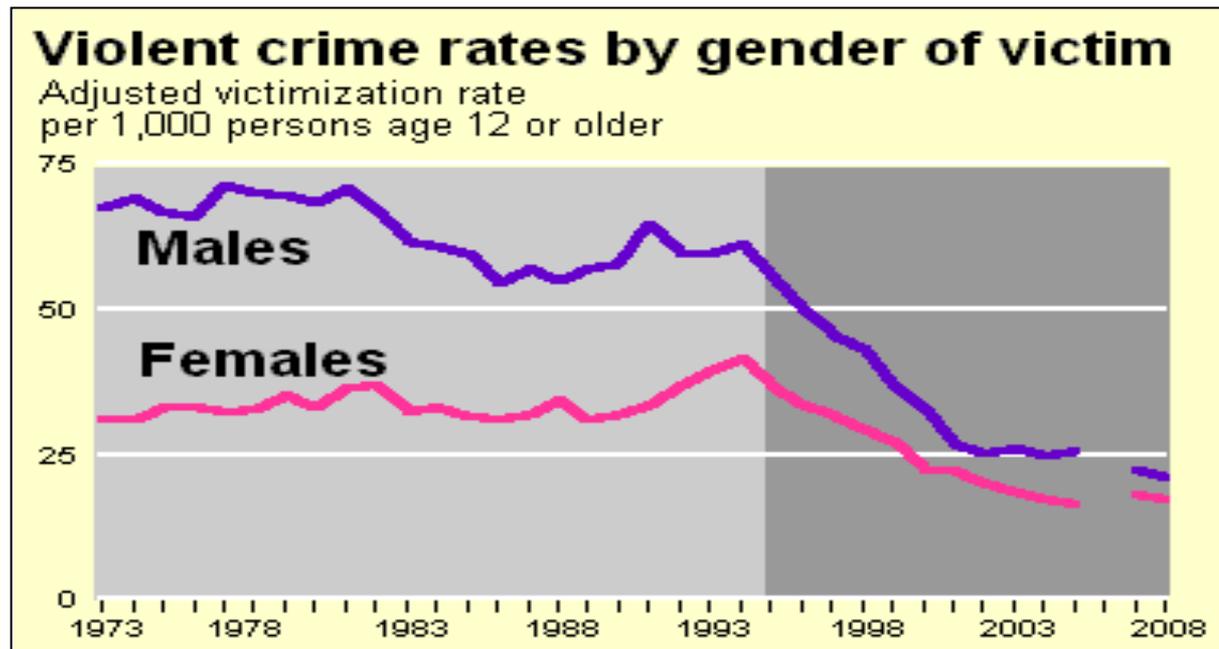
- 51.5% of offenders were black, 46.2% were white, and 2.4% were from other races.
- 23.3% of victims were slain by family members, 22.0% were murdered by strangers, and 54.7% were killed by acquaintances (neighbor, friend, boyfriend, etc.).
- 71.9% of the homicides involved firearms.
- Handguns comprised 88.3% of identified firearms.

## 2. Other Crimes of Violence

- Rapes and other offenses are not often reported to police.
- NCVS surveys are relied on heavily for information.
- These surveys cover:
  - ◆ Rape and sexual assault.
  - ◆ Robbery.
  - ◆ Assault (both simple and aggravated).
  - ◆ Data do not cover victims under age 12.

## 2. Other Crimes of Violence

Like homicide, all categories of other violent offenses show a decline from the 1980s. This has occurred for both male and female victims.



## NCVS Data From 2008 Show:

- Males experienced higher victimization rates than females, for all types of violent crime except rape and sexual assault.
- Blacks experienced higher victimization rates than other races, for all types of violent crime except simple assault.
- Victimization rates decreased with age.

## NCVS Data From 2008 Show:

- Male victims knew the offenders in half of all aggravated and simple assaults against them; female victims knew the offenders in approximately 70% of assaults against them.
- Strangers committed 61% of robberies against men and 45% of robberies against women.
- Divorced or separated persons and never married persons experienced similar rates of overall violence.
- A gun, knife, or other object was used as a weapon in an estimated 20% of all incidents of violent crime.

## Additional Analyses Revealed:

- Males are more likely to be the victims of violent crime, females are more likely to be victimized by family violence.
- Workplace violence accounted for 18% of all violent crime between 1993 and 1999.
- Police officers, correctional officers, taxicab drivers, private security workers, and bartenders had the highest rates of victimizations of the occupations examined.

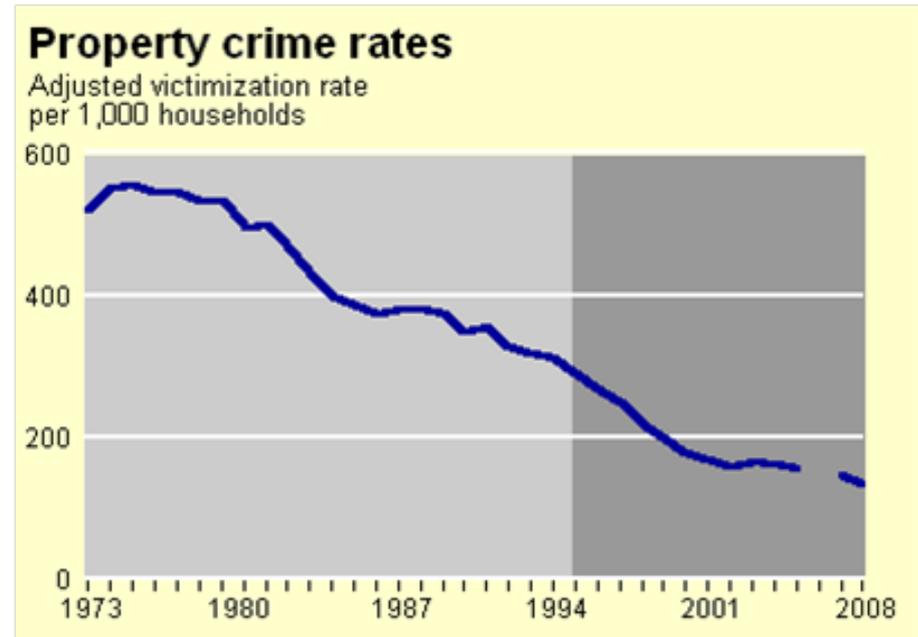
## Additional Analyses Revealed:

- About 32% of students ages 12-18 reported in 2007 being bullied at school within the past 6 months.
- Age-adjusted rates of nonfatal violent crimes against persons with disabilities are 1.5 times higher than the rates for persons without disabilities.
- Victims of violent crimes perceived their assailants to be gang members in 5% of crimes that occurred in 2008.

## 3. Property Crimes

NVCS data cover the following property crimes:

1. Household burglary
2. Theft
3. Motor vehicle theft



Property crimes show a decline from the 1980s, but in 2008 there were still over 16 million people who were the victims of property crimes.

## NCVS Data From 2008 Show:

- Lower income households had higher rates of property crime.
- Differences between property crime rates for households in the lowest and highest income groups were smaller for theft than for burglary.
- Larger households experienced higher rates of property crime than smaller households.
- Those in the highest income bracket (\$75,000 or more) are most likely to experience identity theft.

# Limitations

- Does not include children under age 12.
- Only includes cases reported to interviewers.
- Does not have third party assessment of facts as in police reports.
- Has screening questions that are not always state of the art.
- Does not assure privacy for respondents.
- Is a survey of addresses, not people.

# Fear vs. Reality

- Women tend to be more fearful than men of becoming victims of crime, but men have higher rates of victimization.
- The elderly have the least risk of victimization, but fear criminal victimization the most.
- Fear of victimization may lead to limiting activities thus lowering risk of victimization.
- Media gives an erroneous representation of crime, making it seem like crime is more prevalent/serious than it actually is.