Codebooks for:

NCVS Select - Personal Population

NCVS Select - Personal Victimization

1993-2021

Last Updated September 2022

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 persons in about 150,000 households. Persons are interviewed on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States.

The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (i.e., rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (i.e., burglary/trespassing, motor-vehicle theft, and other types of theft) both reported and not reported to the police. Survey respondents provide information about themselves (e.g., age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization.

The NCVS was designed with four primary objectives: (1) to develop detailed information about the victims and consequences of crime, (2) to estimate the number and types of crimes not reported to the police, (3) to provide uniform measures of selected types of crimes, and (4) to permit comparisons over time and types of areas. Beginning in 1992, the survey categorizes crimes as "personal" or "property."

Each respondent is asked a series of screener questions designed to determine whether she or he was victimized during the 6-month period preceding the first day of the month of the interview. The data include type of crime, location of the crime, relationship between victim and offender, characteristics of the offender, and whether the crime was reported to police.

Basic demographic information such as age, race, gender, and income are also collected to enable analysis of crime by various subpopulations.

NCVS Select datasets offer a curated set of variables collected through the NCVS. The complete set of variables and additional documentation are available through the public use data files in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/95).

This codebook contains variable names, variable descriptions, values, and value labels for variables in both the NCVS Select personal victimization and personal population datasets.

NCVS Select – Personal Population contains demographic information of respondents. All respondents, regardless of whether they reported a personal crime victimization, are included in this file.

NCVS Select – Personal Victimization contains personal crime victimizations. Personal crimes include rape and sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal theft/larceny (purse snatching/pocket picking). Persons that did not report a personal crime victimization are not included in this file. Victimizations that took place outside of the United States are excluded from this file.

These datasets use a collection year basis for 1993-2021. A collection year contains records from interviews conducted from January through December of the given year. Under the collection year format, victimizations are counted in the year the interview is conducted, regardless of when the crime incident occurred. For more information on the NCVS, please visit https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs. For questions regarding this dataset, please contact askbjs@usdoj.gov.

NCVS Select -Personal Population

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Person ID	Unique person identifier	idper	Unique identifier	N/A
Year and quarter	Year and quarter data was collected	yearq	YYYY.Q	N/A
Year	Year data was collected	year	1993-2021	N/A
Age	Respondent age on	ager	1	12-17
	the last day of the month before the		2	18-24
	interview		3	25-34
			4	35-49
			5	50-64
			6	65 or older
Sex	Respondent sex	sex	1	Male
			2	Female
Hispanic origin	Respondent Hispanic origin	hispanic	1	Hispanic
			2	Non-Hispanic
			88	Residue
Race	Respondent race	race	1	White
			2	Black
			3	American Indian/ Alaska Native
			4	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
			5	More than one race
Race/ethnicity	Respondent race and Hispanic origin		1	Non-Hispanic white
			2	Non-Hispanic black
			3	Non-Hispanic American Indian/ Alaska Native
			4	Non-Hispanic Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander
			5	Non-Hispanic more than one race
			6	Hispanic

NCVS Select -Personal Population

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Annual household	Total income of all	hincome1	1	Less than \$7,500
income	members of the household for the 12 months preceding the		2	\$7,500 to \$14,999
			3	\$15,000 to \$24,999
	interview. Categories available from 1993-		4	\$25,000 to \$34,999
	2021 with imputed data, starting 2015		5	\$35,000 to \$49,999
	Q1.		6	\$50,000 to \$74,999
			7	\$75,000 or more
			88	Unknown
Annual household	Imputed income	hincome2	-1	Invalid until 2017 Q1
income- imputed	categories, starting 2017 Q1		1	Less than \$25,000
			2	\$25,000 to \$49,999
			3	\$50,000 to \$99,999
			4	\$100,000 to \$199,999
			5	\$200,000 or more
Marital status	Respondent marital	marital	1	Never married
	status		2	Married
			3	Widowed
			4	Divorced
			5	Separated
			88	Residue
Population size	The size range for the place in which the housing unit is located, starting 1995 Q3		-1	Invalid until 1995 Q3
			0	Not a place
			1	Under 100,000
			2	100,000-249,999
			3	250,000-499,999
			4	500,000-999,999
			5	1 million or more
Region	Region of respondent residence. The states have been divided	region	-1	Invalid until 1995 Q3
			1	Northeast
	into four groups or census regions,		2	Midwest
	starting 1995 Q3.		3	South
			4	West
Household MSA	Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)	msa	1	Principal city within MSA
			2	Not part of principal city within MSA
			3	Outside MSA

NCVS Select -Personal Population

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Household locale	Location of household based on BJS geography definitions, starting	locality	-1	Invalid until 2020 Q1
			1	Urban
			2	Suburban
	2020 Q1		3	Rural
Education level	Respondent level of	educatn1	1	No schooling
	education		2	Grade school
			3	Middle school
			4	High school
			5	College
			88	Residue
Education level	Respondent level of	educatn2	-1	Invalid until 2003 Q1
	education, starting 2003 Q1		1	No schooling
			2	Grade school
			3	Middle school
			4	Some high school
			5	High school graduate
			6	Some college and associate degree
			7	Bachelor's degree
			8	Advanced degree
			98	Residue
Veteran status	Respondent veteran status, starting in 2017	veteran	-2	Invalid until 2017 Q1
			-1	Under age 18
			0	Not a veteran
			1	Veteran
			8	Residue
			9	Out of universe
Citizenship status	Respondent	citizen	-1	Invalid until 2017 Q1
	citizenship status, starting 2017 Q1		1	Born U.S. citizen
			2	Naturalized citizen
			3	Non-U.S. Citizen
			8	Residue
			9	Out of universe
Person population weight	Population weight to use on person population data	wgtpercy	numeric	N/A

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Person ID	Unique person identifier	idper	Unique identifier	N/A
Year and quarter	Year and quarter data was collected	yearq	YYYY.Q	N/A
Year	Year data was collected	year	1993-2021	N/A
Age	Respondent age on	ager	1	12-17
	the last day of the month before the		2	18-24
	interview		3	25-34
			4	35-49
			5	50-64
			6	65 or older
Sex	Respondent sex	sex	1	Male
			2	Female
Hispanic origin	Respondent Hispanic	hispanic	1	Hispanic
	origin		2	Non-Hispanic
			88	Residue
Race	Respondent race	race	1	White
			2	Black
			3	American Indian/ Alaska Native
			4	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
			5	More than one race
Race/ethnicity	Respondent race and	race_ethnicity	1	Non-Hispanic white
	Hispanic origin		2	Non-Hispanic black
			3	Non-Hispanic American Indian/ Alaska Native
			4	Non-Hispanic Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander
			5	Non-Hispanic more than one race
			6	Hispanic
Annual household	Total income of all members of the	hincome1	1	Less than \$7,500
income	household for the 12		2	\$7,500 to \$14,999
	months preceding the interview. Categories		3	\$15,000 to \$24,999
	available from 1993-		4	\$25,000 to \$34,999
	2021 with imputed data, starting 2015 Q1.		5	\$35,000 to \$49,999
			6	\$50,000 to \$74,999
			7	\$75,000 or more
			88	Unknown

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Annual household		hincome2	-1	Invalid until 2017 Q1
income- imputed	categories, starting 2017 Q1		1	Less than \$25,000
	-		2	\$25,000 to \$49,999
			3	\$50,000 to \$99,999
			4	\$100,000 to \$199,999
			5	\$200,000 or more
Marital status	Respondent marital	marital	1	Never married
	status		2	Married
			3	Widowed
			4	Divorced
			5	Separated
			88	Residue
Population size	The size range for	popsize	-1	Invalid until 1995 Q3
	the place in which the housing unit is		0	Not a place
	located, starting 1995 Q3		1	Under 100,000
	1,7,5 0,5		2	100,000-249,999
			3	250,000-499,999
			4	500,000-999,999
			5	1 million or more
Region	Region of respondent	region	-1	Invalid until 1995 Q3
	residence. The states have been divided into four groups or census regions, starting 1995 Q3.		1	Northeast
			2	Midwest
			3	South
			4	West
Location of residence	Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas	msa	1	Principal city within MSA
			2	Not part of principal city within MSA
			3	Outside MSA
Household Locale-	(MSAs) Location of	locality	-1	Invalid until 2020 Q1
BJS geography	household based		1	Urban
definitions	on BJS geography definitions, starting 2020 Q1		2	Suburban
			3	Rural
Education level	Respondent level of	educatn1	1	No schooling
	education		2	Grade school
			3	Middle school
			4	High school
			5	College
			88	Residue

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
€	Respondent level of education, starting 2003 Q1	educatn2	-1	Invalid until 2003 Q1
			1	No schooling
			2	Grade school
			3	Middle school
			4	Some high school
			5	High school graduate
			6	Some college and associate degree
			7	Bachelor's degree
			8	Advanced degree
			98	Residue
Veteran status	Respondent veteran	veteran	-2	Invalid until 2017 Q1
	status, starting in 2017		-1	Under age 18
			0	Not a veteran
			1	Veteran
			8	Residue
Citizenship status	Respondent citizenship status, starting 2017 Q1	citizen	-1	Invalid until 2017 Q1
			1	Born U.S. citizen
			2	Naturalized citizen
			3	Non-U.S. Citizen
			8	Residue
Aggregate type of	Aggregate type	newcrime	1	Violent crime
Cillie	of crime; violent crime includes all rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault		2	Personal theft/larceny
Type of crime	Type of crime	newoff	1	Rape/sexual assault
,,,			2	Robbery
			3	Aggravated assault
			4	Simple assault
			5	Personal theft/larceny
Violent crime	Violent crime	seriousviolent	1	Violent crime
excluding simple assault	excluding simple assault includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated		2	excluding simple assault
				Simple assault
	assault		3	Personal theft/larceny
Reporting to	Specifies whether the crime was reported to police	notify	1	Yes
police			2	No
			3	Do not know
			8	Residue

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Victim services	Specifies whether	vicservices	1	Yes
	victims received any help or advice		2	No
	from victim service		3	Don't know
	agencies		8	Residue
Location of crime	Specifies where the victimization occurred	locationr	1	At or near victim's home
			2	At or near friend's, neighbor's, or relative's home
			3	Commercial place, parking lot, other public area
			4	School
			5	Other location
Victim-offender	Classification	direl	1	Intimates
relationship	of respondent relationship to the		2	Other relatives
	offender for crimes involving direct contact		3	Well known/casual acquaintance
			4	Strangers
			5	Do not know relationship
			6	Do not know number of offenders
Presence of	Specifies whether a weapon was present during the victimization	weapon	1	Yes
weapon			2	No
			3	Do not know if offender had weapon
Weapon category	Type of weapon	weapcat	0	No weapon
			1	Firearm
			2	Knife
			3	Other type weapon
			4	Type weapon unknown
			5	Do not know if offender had weapon
Injury	Specifies whether	injury	0	Not injured
	bodily hurt or damage was sustained by a victim		1	Injured
	as the result of criminal victimization			
Type of injury	Specifies the type of bodily hurt or damage sustained by respondent	serious	1	No injury
			2	Serious injury
			3	Minor injury
			4	Rape w/o other injuries
			88	Residue

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Medical treatment	Specifies whether	treatment	0	Not injured
for physical	respondent received medical treatment for		1	Not treated
injuries	injuries from crime		2	Treated at scene, home, medical office, or other location
			3	Don't know
			88	Residue
Offender age	Offender age	offenderage	1	11 or younger
			2	12-17
			3	18-29
			4	30 or older
			5	Multiple offenders of various ages
			88	Residue
Offender sex	Offender sex	offendersex	1	Male
			2	Female
			3	Both male and female offenders
			4	Unknown
			88	Residue
Offender race/	Offender race/	offtrace	-1	Invalid until 2012 Q1
ethnicity	ethnicity, starting 2012 Q1		1	Non-Hispanic white
	-		2	Non-Hispanic black
			3	Non-Hispanic American Indian/ Alaska Native
			4	Non-Hispanic Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander
			5	Non-Hispanic more than one race
			6	Hispanic
			7	Unknown race/ ethnicity
			10	Mixed race group of offenders
			11	Unknown number of offenders
Victimization weight	Annual victimization weight	wgtviccy	numeric	N/A
Series	Specifies whether	series	1	Not a series crime
	incident is a series crime		2	Series crime
Series adjusted victimization weight	Series adjusted victimization weight	newwgt	numeric	N/A