



Bureau of Justice Statistics

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Codebooks for:

NCVS Select - Personal Population

NCVS Select - Personal Victimization

Legacy Version, 1993–2024

Overview of the National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. 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.

Information about the NCVS Select datasets

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 1993-2024 and include data collected with the **legacy version** of the NCVS instrument. 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.

2024 NCVS instrument redesign and split sample

The NCVS was last redesigned in 1992, more than three decades ago. Much has changed since that time, both in the level of public acceptance of surveys and in the nature of crime. To address this, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducted a multiyear effort to improve the efficiency, reliability, and utility of the NCVS. Through this effort, BJS redesigned the entire survey instrument, which includes a household roster, a victimization screener, and a detailed crime incident report. For more information on the NCVS instrument redesign, see <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign>.

BJS coordinated with the U.S. Census Bureau to administer both the legacy instrument and the redesigned instrument concurrently in 2024, using a split-sample design. The sample was divided so that approximately half of the households were interviewed using the redesigned instrument and half were interviewed using the legacy instrument. This design allows BJS to report criminal victimization data during the phase-in and produce two sets of victimization estimates for 2024. It will also allow for the continued production of year-to-year comparisons of victimization estimates, which is critical to understanding changes in crime and victimization in the United States and is a strength of the NCVS data collection.

In a typical year, NCVS data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 persons in approximately 150,000 households. The NCVS sample design has two stages. For more information on the NCVS sample design, see *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017). The first stage of sampling involves the definition, stratification, and selection of primary sampling units (PSU), which are defined as large metropolitan areas, counties, or groups of counties. The second stage of sampling occurs at the housing unit level. Within the PSUs selected, the sampling process identifies addresses to be included in the sample, and interviews are conducted with persons and households at those addresses.

The 2024 split sample was applied to the second-stage sample selection. The sample was randomly split so that half of the NCVS sample cases in each PSU received the legacy instrument and half received the redesigned instrument. This allowed the total 2024 sample—both the sample that received the legacy instrument and the sample that received the redesigned instrument—to be similar to recent years.

The data in this 2024 NCVS API includes the data collected from the 2024 legacy instrument only.

Splitting the sample in half while continuing to produce nationally representative estimates results in a decrease in estimate precision during the instrument transition period. For the 2024 collection year, BJS will archive two sets of data files: one for the 2024 legacy data and one for the 2024 redesigned data. Each of these sets of data files will include weights that adjust the half sample to known population totals. The sample that received the legacy instrument included 109,341 persons age 12 or older in 69,396 households. Because NCVS weights are adjusted to known population totals for each half of the sample, weights in 2024 were greater than in a typical year leading to more variation in estimates and higher standard errors. Despite the loss of estimate precision in 2024, BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau determined that the stability gained from maintaining the current sample size over the long term outweighed the loss of statistical precision.

For more information about the instrument redesign methodology and split sample, see *Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign* (NCJ 304055, BJS, March 2022), *Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign: Operational Pilot Test and Split Sample* (NCJ 306051, BJS, June 2023) and <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign>.

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	1993-2024	N/A
Age	Respondent age on the last day of the month before the interview	ager	1 2 3 4 5 6	12-17 18-24 25-34 35-49 50-64 65 or older
Sex	Respondent sex	sex	1 2	Male Female
Hispanic origin	Respondent Hispanic origin	hispanic	1 2 98	Hispanic Non-Hispanic Residue
Race	Respondent race	race	1 2 3 4 5	White Black American Indian/ Alaska Native Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ¹ More than one race
Race/Hispanic origin	Respondent race and Hispanic origin	race_ethnicity	1 2 3 4 5 6	Non-Hispanic white Non-Hispanic black Non-Hispanic American Indian/ Alaska Native Non-Hispanic Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ² Non-Hispanic more than one race Hispanic
Annual household income	Total income of all members of the household for the 12 months preceding the interview. Categories available from 1993-2024 with imputed data, starting 2015 Q1.	hincome1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 98	Less than \$7,500 \$7,500 to \$14,999 \$15,000 to \$24,999 \$25,000 to \$34,999 \$35,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$74,999 \$75,000 or more Residue

¹Includes persons who identify as both Asian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.²Ibid.

NCVS Select – Personal Population

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Annual household income- imputed	Imputed income categories, starting 2017 Q1	hincome2	-1 1 2 3 4 5	Invalid until 2017 Q1 Less than \$25,000 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$99,999 \$100,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 or more
Marital status	Respondent marital status	marital	1 2 3 4 5 98	Never married Married Widowed Divorced Separated Residue
Population size	The size range for the place in which the housing unit is located, starting 1995 Q3	popsize	-1 0 1 2 3 4 5	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Not a place Under 100,000 100,000-249,999 250,000-499,999 500,000-999,999 1 million or more
Region	Region of respondent residence. The states have been divided into four groups or census regions, starting 1995 Q3.	region	-1 1 2 3 4	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Northeast Midwest South West
Household MSA	Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)	msa	1 2 3	Principal city within MSA Not part of principal city within MSA Outside MSA
Household locale	Location of respondent residence based on BJS geography definitions, starting 2020 Q1	locality	-1 1 2 3	Invalid until 2020 Q1 Urban Suburban Rural
Education level	Respondent level of education	educatn1	1 2 3 4 5 98	No schooling Grade school Middle school High school College Residue

NCVS Select – Personal Population

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Education level	Respondent level of education, starting 2003 Q1	educatn2	-1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 98	Invalid until 2003 Q1 No schooling Grade school Middle school Some high school High school graduate Some college and associate degree Bachelor's degree Advanced degree Residue
Veteran status	Respondent veteran status, asked of persons age 18 or older, starting in 2017 Q1	veteran	-2 -1 0 1 98 99	Invalid until 2017 Q1 Under age 18 Not a veteran Veteran Residue Out of universe
Citizenship status	Respondent citizenship status, starting 2017 Q1	citizen	-1 1 2 3 98 99	Invalid until 2017 Q1 Born U.S. citizen Naturalized citizen Non-U.S. Citizen Residue Out of universe
Person population weight	Population weight to use on person population data	wgtpercy	numeric	N/A

NCVS Select – Personal Victimization

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	1993-2023	N/A
Age	Respondent age on the last day of the month before the interview	ager	1 2 3 4 5 6	12-17 18-24 25-34 35-49 50-64 65 or older
Sex	Respondent sex	sex	1 2	Male Female
Hispanic origin	Respondent Hispanic origin	hispanic	1 2 98	Hispanic Non-Hispanic Residue
Race	Respondent race	race	1 2 3 4 5	White Black American Indian/ Alaska Native Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ³ More than one race
Race/Hispanic origin	Respondent race and Hispanic origin	race_ethnicity	1 2 3 4 5 6	Non-Hispanic white Non-Hispanic black Non-Hispanic American Indian/ Alaska Native Non-Hispanic Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ⁴ Non-Hispanic more than one race Hispanic
Annual household income	Total income of all members of the household for the 12 months preceding the interview. Categories available from 1993-2024 with imputed data, starting 2015 Q1.	hincome1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 98	Less than \$7,500 \$7,500 to \$14,999 \$15,000 to \$24,999 \$25,000 to \$34,999 \$35,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$74,999 \$75,000 or more Residue
³ Ibid. ⁴ Ibid.				

NCVS Select – Personal Victimization

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Annual household income- imputed	Imputed income categories, starting 2017 Q1	hincome2	-1 1 2 3 4 5	Invalid until 2017 Q1 Less than \$25,000 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$99,999 \$100,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 or more
Marital status	Respondent marital status	marital	1 2 3 4 5 98	Never married Married Widowed Divorced Separated Residue
Population size	The size range for the place in which the housing unit is located, starting 1995 Q3	popsize	-1 0 1 2 3 4 5	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Not a place Under 100,000 100,000-249,999 250,000-499,999 500,000-999,999 1 million or more
Region	Region of respondent residence. The states have been divided into four groups or census regions, starting 1995 Q3.	region	-1 1 2 3 4	Invalid until 1995 Q3 Northeast Midwest South West
Location of residence	Classification of respondent residence based on the Office of Management and Budget definition of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)	msa	1 2 3	Principal city within MSA Not part of principal city within MSA Outside MSA
Household locale	Location of respondent residence based on BJS geography definitions, starting 2020 Q1	locality	-1 1 2 3	Invalid until 2020 Q1 Urban Suburban Rural
Education level	Respondent level of education	educatn1	1 2 3 4 5 98	No schooling Grade school Middle school High school College Residue

NCVS Select – Personal Victimization

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

NCVS Select – Personal Victimization

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Victim services	Specifies whether victims received any help or advice from victim service agencies	vicservices	1 2 3 98	Yes No Do not know Residue
Location of crime	Specifies where the victimization occurred	locationr	1 2 3 4 5	At or near victim's home At or near friend's, neighbor's, or relative's home Commercial place, parking lot, other public area School Other location
Victim-offender relationship	Classification of respondent relationship to the offender for crimes involving direct contact	direl	1 2 3 4 5 6	Intimates Other relatives Well known/casual acquaintance Strangers Do not know relationship Do not know number of offenders
Presence of weapon	Specifies whether a weapon was present during the victimization	weapon	1 2 3	Yes No Do not know if offender had weapon
Weapon category	Type of weapon	weapcat	0 1 2 3 4 5	No weapon Firearm Knife Other type weapon Type weapon unknown Do not know if offender had weapon
Injury	Specifies whether bodily hurt or damage was sustained by a victim as the result of criminal victimization	injury	0 1	Not injured Injured
Type of injury	Specifies the type of bodily hurt or damage sustained by respondent	serious	1 2 3 4 98	No injury Serious injury Minor injury Rape w/o other injuries Residue

NCVS Select – Personal Victimization

Descriptive name	Short description	Variable name	Values	Value labels
Medical treatment for physical injuries	Specifies whether respondent received medical treatment for injuries from crime	treatment	0 1 2 3 98	Not injured Not treated Treated at scene, home, medical office, or other location Do not know Residue
Offender age	Offender age	offenderage	1 2 3 4 5 98	11 or younger 12-17 18-29 30 or older Multiple offenders of various ages Residue
Offender sex	Offender sex	offendersex	1 2 3 4 98	Male Female Both male and female offenders Unknown Residue
Offender race/Hispanic origin	Offender race/Hispanic origin, starting 2012 Q1	offtracenew	-1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 10 11	Invalid until 2012 Q1 Non-Hispanic white Non-Hispanic black Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native Non-Hispanic Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic more than one race Hispanic Unknown race/Hispanic origin Mixed race group of offenders Unknown number of offenders
Victimization weight	Annual victimization weight	wgtviccy	numeric	N/A
Series	Specifies whether incident is a series crime	series	1 2	Not a series crime Series crime
Series adjusted victimization weight	Series adjusted victimization weight	newwgt	numeric	N/A